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Development projects worth over \$1b inaugurated

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani put 132 major development projects worth 14.79 trillion rials (about \$352.14 million) plus €594 million (nearly \$670 million) into operation in North Khorasan province, northeast of Iran, on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, for the implementation of the mentioned projects, a total of 8.4

trillion rials in addition to €594 million has been provided from government resources while 6.37 trillion rials was invested by the private sector.

The projects were in energy, urban development, agriculture, steel and mining sectors and some of them were inaugurated by the president through videoconference. ➔4

Reducing commitments intended to give diplomacy a chance: Kamalvandi

TEHRAN — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Monday that Tehran’s decision to reduce its commitments to the 2015 nuclear pact was not made out of stubbornness, rather it aims to give a chance to diplomacy.

Kamalvandi said the move was aimed to awaken the other parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

to honor their obligations, IRNA reported.

Under the nuclear accord, Iran was tasked to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

“What Iran gave up was much more than what it received, because the other side, particularly after the U.S. exit from the deal, forgot their obligations,” he lamented. ➔3

‘Disgusting, racist’: Trump slammed for attack on congresswomen

U.S. President Donald Trump’s apparent efforts to boost infighting among Democrats face a unanimous condemnations from the four progressive congresswomen, told to “go back” where they came from, as well as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“Why don’t they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came,” the president said in a tweet Sunday.

Trump was referencing Representa-

tives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib Michigan and Ayanna Pressley Massachusetts, who are engaged in a feud with Pelosi in the lower chamber of U.S. Congress, Press TV reported.

“So interesting to see ‘Progressive’ Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst. ➔13

Will Ursula von der Leyen be the Commander of the European Commission?

KAYHAN DAILY — Ursula von der Leyen, the nominee to become the next European Commission chief, is also the German Minister of Defense. During her ministry, von der Leyen incorporated Germany’s military strategies into its foreign policy. Over this time, countering threats in and out of Germany’s surrounding regions and “gaining more military power to take on more international responsibilities” became the top priorities of German forces.

Over this period, the rising tension between the United States and Russia, the withdrawal of U.S. from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Brexit, largely affected the world. These events influenced von der Leyen to devise the military and security strategies of Germany based on the new changes in international power balance and focus on improving Germany’s national defense by trying to develop the power of

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and establishing new air and space-based forces.

Von der Leyen tried to change the national and international defense system of the country to the point that she even offered making changes in the constitution.

Von der Leyen altered Germany’s military and security strategies based on the new changes in the world and especially in the Middle East; Germany started playing a more active role in protecting its security and addressing international crises. In doing so, she tried to use German army as a backup for running the foreign policy and opened a new chapter of political militarism in Germany’s history after World War II.

To reach her goals, von der Leyen even suggested spying as an influential method for pre-emptive military actions and offered €200 billion for modernizing German military facilities. In

2016, she presented the Parliament with a plan to invest €130 billion to upgrade the military forces by 2030.

Over her time, she tried to revive German army once again after the World War II. For achieving this, some sources claims, she went as far as acquiring nuclear weapons for her country.

German financial institutions denied claims of their \$10 billion investment in nuclear infrastructures, but on March 6, 2017 German weekly magazine, Der Spiegel revealed that some German banks had made huge investments on producing nuclear weapons.

Von der Leyen also showed enormous support for NATO and made major shifts in its structure even though Donald Trump believed that NATO was an obsolete treaty. Over NATO’s annual meeting in 2017, the member states agreed that NATO opens its main ruling base in Germany. ➔13

Iran, Russia to establish mutual fund for IT cooperation

TEHRAN — Iran’s National Innovation Fund and Russian Venture Company (RVC) have signed an agreement to establish a mutual fund for developing IT cooperation between the two countries, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The agreement was signed during the visit of an Iranian delegation to Russia in order to attend the International Industrial Trade Fair (INNOPROM) from July 8 to 11.

RVC is a state fund of funds and a development institute of the Russian Federation, one of Russia’s key tools in building its own national innovation system.

Biopharmaceuticals, energy, advanced manufacturing technologies, quantum technologies and digital technologies are the priorities of co-

operation between the two countries.

The Iranian delegation consisted of managing directors of 70 knowledge-based companies. Headed by the vice president for science and technology Sourena Sattari, the delegation was also composed of representatives from ministries of foreign affairs, science, and health, as well as the Trade Promotion Organization and the National Innovation Fund.

Contracts, agreements signed

Ten contracts and agreements were signed between Iranian and Russian companies, Mehr reported.

The agreements aimed to accelerate the export of Iranian knowledge-based production to Russia.

Fortunately a good platform is being shaped for boosting exports between Iran and Russia especial-

ly for knowledge-based companies, Sattari said.

The contracts were in different fields of gas and oil, virtual reality, medicine, vaccine, accelerator centers, robot-assisted surgery and video games.

In a speech at the INNOPROM 2019, Sattari presented Iran innovation ecosystem saying that Iran has one of the largest e-commerce networks in the Middle East holding over 90 percent of market share with online retail business.

He said that over 4400 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, providing technologies and services that can be used in international joint venture projects adding robot-assisted surgery, linear particle accelerator, dosimeters, Radiofrequency (RF) wireless medical devices and medical cyclotron are produced by the Iranian knowledge-based companies.



PERSPECTIVE

M.A.Saki
Deputy editor-in-chief

“We’ll see how it goes”

Here is the deal: President Trump lifted waivers on Iranian oil to strangle the country’s oil-dependent economy under the “maximum pressure” policy. Tehran won relief from international sanctions following a multilateral accord with six world powers, including the U.S., in 2015.

Trump pulled his country out of the deal in 2018 despite Tehran’s ongoing commitment to it.

In retaliation, Iran announced partial withdrawal from the accord on May 8 on the anniversary of the U.S. pullout to have sent a strong message to Washington and the other signatories that it won’t sit idly by now that the deal is not delivering economic benefits it was originally designed for. Just recently, Iran upped its uranium enrichment beyond the 3.67% limit dictated by the deal, as previously flagged by Tehran, threatening to take “stronger measures” should the European signatories of France, England, and Germany fail to buy Iranian oil and ease banking sanctions.

Iran’s gradually baking out of the nuclear deal is a consequence of Washington pulling out of it. Washington has been very careful with its rhetoric, trying to sell its maximum pressure policy as an effort to renegotiate the accord.

But, if nothing else, the campaign seeks to lay the ground for regime change by starving the country of oil revenues, ratcheting up economic pressure on Iranians, and ultimately inciting public unrest! In fact, hawkish national security advisor John Bolton has made no secret of his desire to topple the Islamic republic. In a speech made to the annual gathering of the notorious Iranian Mujahedeen Khalq (MEK) in Paris in July 2017, Bolton said, “The behavior and the objectives of the regime are not going to change, and therefore, the only solution is to change the regime itself”. The MEK was added to the State Department’s list of foreign terrorist organizations in 1997 and removed in 2012!

Washington has also taken its maximum pressure agenda too far by directing a policy of brinkmanship against Iran as evidenced in the recent saber-rattling and the deployment of warships in the Persian Gulf. In a recent escalation of affairs, a U.S. air force drone was shot down by Iran after it breached the country’s airspace. ➔3



ARTICLE

Mahnaz Abdi
Head of the TehranTimes
Economy Desk

IME strengthening link between agricultural, financial markets

Expanding the links between financial markets and commodity markets and strengthening the existing links between these markets is an approach Iran’s capital market has taken in recent years which has resulted in significant achievements in both commodity and exchange transactions in the country.

While this approach has been seriously followed up by the four exchange markets of Iran, i.e. Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran Energy Exchange (IEE), and Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME). IME’s performance in this due is in fact prominent.

Of the significant measures taken by IME to this end it could be referred to offering agriculture products at guaranteed price instead of the guaranteed purchase of these products by the government, which brought satisfaction for both farmers and the government.

In the framework of the guaranteed-purchase scheme, instead of paying the whole price to the farmers based on the guaranteed purchase, the government pays them just the difference between the base price and the price offered at the IME. In this way the financial burden on the government is reduced noticeably.

Guaranteed-price plan also brings more satisfaction for the farmers as they receive the payment sooner. And the other advantages of this plan are creating transparency in the trades and also offering the products based on the specified standards in the IME which leads to promotion of their quality.

Also, in this plan prices are set fairly because the dealers are omitted from the chain of sales.

And now, IME has a new plan for more link between commodity and financial markets and it is establishment of some agriculture products funds, as announced by IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad in an interview conducted by IRNA on Sunday. ➔4



Tea harvest festival brings travelers, nature lovers together

Farmers, clad in colorful traditional outfits, are seen during a tea harvest festival in Darbaq village, northern Iran, July 14, 2019.

The festival is annually held to promote tourism in the village, which is located in Fuman county, Gilan province.

Bounded by the Caspian Sea, Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range. Paddy cultivation dominates the region. Tobacco, fruits, vegetables, and tea (grown in the foothills above the rice fields) are also being cultivated in Gilan.

Iran-Iraq cooperation promotes regional security: Judiciary chief

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ebrahim Raeisi, the Judiciary chief, said on Monday that expansion of judiciary cooperation between Iran and Iraq promotes regional security.

“We have good cooperation with the Iraqi government in the area of fighting organized crimes and terrorism which should be expanded,” he said during a meeting with Faed Zaidan, the head of the High Judicial Council of Iraq, in Tehran.

Raeisi noted that security in the region should be maintained by regional forces and not foreign forces.

Foreign forces undermine security in the region, he added. “The best security in the region is the one which is created by the regional countries and people. Presence of the foreign powers especially the U.S. has no benefit for the regional security. Fortunately, this is common position of Iran and Iraq,” he said.

European chief diplomats insist on the need to save nuclear deal

By staff and agencies

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and a number of European foreign ministers have said they seek to discuss how to save the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.



The chief diplomats made the remarks prior their meeting in Brussels on Monday.

“Together with all the member states and our international partners, how we preserve the nuclear deal with Iran and put in place all the measures so that Iran can go back to full compliance, as it has been until a few weeks... days ago,” Express quoted Mogherini as saying prior to the meeting.

France, Germany, and the UK, the three parties to the JCPOA, issued a statement on Sunday reiterating their support for the deal.

British Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt said that the nuclear deal is not dead “yet”.

According to the BBC, he said that there is a “small window” to save the nuclear deal.

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok also said that “it is still not too late” to save the JCPOA.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that Europe has to remain united in trying to preserve the nuclear deal.

“The Europeans have to stay united on this issue,” Reuters quoted Le Drian as saying.

Margot Wallstrom, Sweden’s foreign minister, said, “We will continue to talk to the Americans as well about how counterproductive this is and we’re not helped by further escalation of the sort of conflict between the U.S. and Iran.”

According to TASS, German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth said, “Violating the nuclear agreement is completely unacceptable for us. As the European Union, we should speak with one voice on the matter.”

“It is important for us to maintain dialogue and contribute to de-escalation,” he said, adding, “The European Union has a special responsibility in this regard. It is in our national interest, as well as in the interest of the EU, to prevent further destabilization in the region.”

Finnish Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Sunday expressing support for preserving the JCPOA.

It said that Finland is still considering whether to join the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX).

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell said that that Spain would join INSTEX mechanism.

“We will do what we can to guarantee that there is no economic embargo against Iran and that European companies can continue working there,” he said.

He added, “It’s very difficult because U.S. laws applied in an extraterritorial manner, in a way that we don’t recognize, make it difficult.”

The EU announced on June 28 that INSTEX has gone into effect.

INSTEX – the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges - is a European special purpose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between Europe and Iran.

Tehran says the mechanism is far short of Iran’s expectation. Iran insists the mechanism should include Iran’s oil purchases.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran’s permanent representative to the United Nations, has likened INSTEX to a “beautiful car without gasoline”.

“The current situation of INSTEX does not suffice. This mechanism without money is like a beautiful car without gasoline,” he told reporters on June 29.

Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Helga Schmid said on Thursday that countries outside the European Union will join INSTEX.

According to AP, she said that beyond the 10 EU nations that are already part of the system, she could “share with you that more, also non-EU member states, will join.”

Apart from the three EU member nations that are party to the deal - Britain, Germany and France - seven more EU member states have recently committed to take part.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrew from the multi-nation nuclear agreement, Iran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from the sanctions’ effects.

In follow-up to that deadline, on July 7 Iran announced that it has started enriching uranium to a higher purity than the 3.67% as the Europeans missed the 60-day deadline to devise a concrete mechanism to protect the country from the U.S. sanctions.

However, Iran has said if the remaining parties take concrete steps to shield the country from sanctions it will reverse its decisions.

‘Iran says expects practical and effective steps by European partners to save JCPOA’

Mousavi says JCPOA is not a one-sided road

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign

Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Iran expects European partners to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, to take practical actions to implement the deal.

“Iran expects the European partners to the JCPOA to take practical decision and actions which are effective and responsible in the procedure of implementing the JCPOA,” he stated.

His comments came as France, Germany, and the UK issued a statement on Sunday, expressing their support for the deal.

“We, the leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, sharing common security interests, in particular upholding the non-proliferation regime, recall our continuing commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that was agreed upon four years ago with Iran, on 14 July 2015,” reads the statement.

The statement added, “Together, we have stated unambiguously on 8 May 2018 our regret and concern after the decision of the United States to withdraw from the JCPOA and to re-impose sanctions on Iran, while this country had implemented its commit-



ments under the agreement - as consistently confirmed by the IAEA until last month. Since May 2018, our three countries have made their best efforts to work with all the remaining parties to the deal to ensure that the Iranian people could continue to benefit from the legitimate economic advantages provided by the JCPOA.”

Mousavi noted that the path of imple-

menting the JCPOA is not “unilateral”.

“Persistence of voluntary moves based on the goodwill of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on the JCPOA is rooted in reciprocal rights enshrined in the JCPOA, and such a route must not be a one-sided road,” the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated.

He added that Iran will remain committed to its obligations under the deal as long as

Rouhani says U.S. has been left alone in quitting nuclear deal

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Pres-

ident Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that the U.S. has been left alone in quitting the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

“Only a fake regime and one or two small countries supported the U.S. However, the whole world stood against the U.S. and its bullying and praised our strategic patience against the U.S., which was a difficult thing to do,” he said at a session of the Administrative Council of North Khorasan.

However, he said that there is a limit to Iran’s patience.

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

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Former U.S. official says Trump has left nuclear deal because Obama negotiated it

deal, known as the JCPOA, because Obama negotiated it.

“Did anyone really need a leaked document from the UK Ambassador to know that Trump pulled out of the Iran Deal because Obama negotiated it?” he tweeted on Sunday.

Kim Darroch, the former British ambassador to the U.S., said Trump seemed to be discarding the Iran nuclear deal for

“personality reasons,” as the deal had been agreed to by Obama, the Daily Mail reported on Saturday.

Darroch said the Trump administration was “set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism” in its decision to abandon the JCPOA. The paper also reported that Darroch hinted at discord brewing between Trump’s closest aides and said the White House had

failed to produce a “day-after” plan on how to handle the aftermath of withdrawing from the deal.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has described Trump’s decision to withdraw from the nuclear deal when it was “working” as “lacking rationale, legal basis and any common sense”.

How Iran sees its standoff with the United States

By Seyyed Hossein Mousavian

My old mother is very ill, and so I have spent the last couple of weeks with her in Iran. My stay here has afforded me the opportunity to closely follow both public and official opinion during a time of rising tensions between the United States and Iran.

“What will happen to the nuclear agreement?” ordinary people have asked me. “Why did the United States violate the deal, even though Iran remained faithful to it?”

Iran’s economic situation has deteriorated since the U.S. administration of President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions after withdrawing from the deal. Government dysfunctions are partly responsible for the malaise, but Iranians nevertheless blame the United States for it. They do so because they are convinced that the party that did not keep its end of the nuclear bargain was the Trump administration, not the government of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

■ **No more “constructive engagement”**

The experience of the last three years has been a bitter one for those Iranians who had invested their hopes not only in the nuclear deal but in improving relations with the West and complying with international nuclear non-proliferation regimes.

As a consequence of recent developments, Iranian officials have started to entertain the idea of a gradual withdrawal from the JCPOA. The public has also grown receptive to this option, since the economic benefits of the agreement were abruptly cut short when the Trump administration unilaterally withdrew. More broadly, Iranian officials are calling into question the strategy of “constructive engagement and cooperation” with the West. Policymakers in Iran now see advantage in cultivating alliances with the economic and political powers of the East, such as China and Russia, instead. Public opinion, which for the last century had favored strengthening political and economic ties with Western powers, also now looks favorably on a shift toward the East.

Moreover, Iran sees increasingly little benefit to remaining a signatory to the NPT. Iranian

policymakers predict that if Iran withdraws from the JCPOA, the United States will accuse it of violating the NPT in order to get Europe’s support in referring Iran’s nuclear file to the Security Council. For the first time since it became a signatory in 1970, Iran is now seriously considering withdrawing from the NPT. The more transparency Iran has shown, the country’s officials feel, the more economic sanctions it has received. Hence, for Iran, compliance with the NPT yields no economic or political benefit—just pressure and penalties.

The Iranian public mood largely reflects the official one on this issue. The double standards on nuclear proliferation are visible even to ordinary people in Iran, and Iranians resent them. One common complaint is that Benjamin Netanyahu, whose country possesses hundreds of nuclear warheads and is not a member of NPT, has become the Middle East’s nuclear police, directing false allegations against Iran, which is a member of NPT and does not have a nuclear bomb. Many Iranians feel that the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia have banded together not only to confront Iran but to change its regime.

The United States has further undermined its standing with Iranians by designating Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. From 1980 to 1988, members of many Iranian households volunteered with the Basij and the IRGC to defend their country against an outright war of aggression initiated by Saddam Hussein’s Iraq. Among these young men are highly regarded martyrs, whose portraits are painted in murals all over Iranian cities. Many are wounded veterans. My own brother and two cousins lost their lives safeguarding Iran’s territorial integrity

in that war.

For these reasons and others, many Iranians see Trump’s policies and actions not only as hostile to the interests of the Iranian government but as an assault on the integrity of the country itself. I personally witnessed Iranians cheering when the IRGC shot down the U.S. drone from Iranian airspace over the Strait of Hormuz.

■ **A regional solution**

With little hope remaining that the JCPOA can be salvaged, and still less that Israel will ever agree to an entirely denuclearized Middle East, the maximum pressure policy of the United States and Israel practically pushes Iran to consider a policy of nuclear deterrence by balancing its capabilities against Israel’s. In this magazine in 2012, the American political scientist Kenneth Waltz even gave credence to such a strategy, suggesting that a nuclear-armed Iran would “probably be the best possible result: the one most likely to restore stability to the Middle East,” because it will create an equilibrium of power in the region.

But one major obstacle stands in the way of a nuclear-armed Iran: in 2003, the country’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, publicly issued a fatwa, or religious ruling, that prohibits the possession and accumulation of nuclear weapons. Other Shiite jurists have issued similar fatwas. Even if Iran withdraws from the JCPOA and NPT, Ayatollah Khamenei’s fatwa will prevent the country from obtaining nuclear weapons. Whether the supreme leader would reconsider his ruling if Iran were attacked remains unclear.

At the moment, Iran is countering the threat the United States and its allies pose with a posture of “resistance.” And the Trump

administration’s unrelenting hostility leads Iran’s state managers and its public to see Iran’s resistance to U.S. pressure as legitimate. The United States and its allies are waging war on Iran’s economy, politics, and security. Ayatollah Khamenei has announced. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in June that the United States is “considering a full range of options,” including military options, to address rising tensions with Iran. In response, the Iranian military establishment, too, is preparing for all eventualities, including by organizing “resistance units” all across the Middle East and Africa to confront the United States.

For all that, a negotiated solution is still possible. Leaders of countries such as Japan and France are working toward finding one. But Iran cannot simply trust their promises. Too many promises have been made and broken. Iran would need to see tangible evidence of good faith. If Trump seeks a diplomatic solution to the crisis his administration unnecessarily caused, for example, he can hardly expect to achieve one without a change in his hawkish team of national security advisers. Additionally, Washington must call a cease-fire to the economic, political, and cyber war that it is waging against Iran.

Trump has said repeatedly that he wants to negotiate with Iran in order to prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Building from Ayatollah Khamenei’s fatwa, a comprehensive agreement could be reached that would apply to the entire Middle East, forbidding all of the region’s countries from producing, stockpiling, or using nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological ones. If the United States is serious about nonproliferation, it should work with Iran, the other countries in the Middle East, and the world powers to regionalize the principles of the JCPOA, which include intrusive transparency measures and broad limits insuring that nuclear material not be diverted toward weaponization. A denuclearized Middle East would be a great, historic legacy—one that is only achievable if the United States abides by the terms and conditions of the JCPOA.

(Source: Foreign Affairs)

One common complaint is that Netanyahu, whose country possesses hundreds of nuclear warheads and is not a member of NPT, has become the Middle East’s nuclear police, directing false allegations against Iran, which is a member of NPT and does not have a nuclear bomb.

Qom Seminary slams Nigeria for mistreatment of Sheikh Zakzaky

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – The Society of Qom Seminary Teachers has strongly denounced the Nigerian government for its mistreatment of Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky, a top Shiite cleric and leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN).

Through its “inhumane and illegal” measures, backed by the U.S., the Zionist regime and the Al Saud, the Nigerian government has killed many Muslims, including the children of Sheikh Zakzaky, the society said in a statement on Monday.

In continuation of its savage actions, the Nigerian government is now seeking to poison the Shiite leader and increase pressures against Muslims in the African country, it added, according to Tasnim.

The Iranian clerics also condemned the self-proclaimed advocates of human rights around the world for their deafening silence over the suffering of the Muslim leader.

The society further stressed that the Nigerian government is responsible for the life of Sheikh Zakzaky, calling for his immediate release.



A number of university students also voiced their protest to the Nigerian government over detention of Sheikh Zakzaky.

Gathering in front of the Iranian Foreign Ministry building on Monday, they also criticized the ministry's inaction with regard to the issue.

Sheikh Zakzaky has been held in detention since 2015 and was charged just in April 2018 with murder, culpable homicide, unlawful assembly, disruption of public peace and other accusations. He has pleaded not guilty.

In 2016, Nigeria's federal high court ordered his unconditional release from jail following a trial, but the government has so far refused to set him free.

The top cleric, who is in his mid-sixties, lost his left eyesight in a raid which was carried out by the Nigerian army on his residence in the northern town of Zaria in December 2015.

During the raid, Zakzaky's wife sustained serious wounds too and more than 300 of his followers and three of his sons were killed. Zakzaky, his wife, and a large number of the cleric's followers have since been in custody.

Defense chief says Iran to continue boosting defense power

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iranian military forces will continue promoting their defense power, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said on Monday.

Brigadier General Hatami made the remarks in a report to the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee about the most recent developments of the region and Iran's military capabilities.

“The Defense Ministry spares no efforts to enhance the defensive power of the country, making up for an active deterrent power,” he said, IRNA reported.

Regarding the recent downing of a U.S. spy drone by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) after it violated the Iranian airspace, Hatami said, “Foreign experts were impressed by the move and Iranian military power.”

“The move made the enemies realize that Iran has the power

to defend itself,” he asserted.

He added that all the stages of shooting down the invading drone was done by the homegrown equipment and no foreign-made equipment was used in tracing, identifying, and striking the drone.

The defense chief also said that if foreigners are unwilling to help Iran in auto industry, the defense industry is able to collaborate with the Industry Ministry.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington escalated on June 20, when the Iranian military shot down the unmanned U.S. drone. The U.S. drone entered the Iranian airspace from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Amir Ali Hajizadeh rejected the U.S. claim that the doomed drone had not entered the Iranian airspace, saying, “Other countries have refuted the U.S. claim of not violating the Iranian border.”



Judiciary chief issues order on resistance economy

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi has issued a directive on implementation of the general policies of resistance economy.

The directive is aimed to facilitate competition, prohibit monopoly and prevent disruption in competition, ISNA reported on Monday.

Resistance economy, as ordered by



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is aimed at reducing Iran's dependence on oil money and promoting economic stability in the face of U.S. sanctions.

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.

The first round of sanctions went into force on August 6 and the second round, which targets Iran's oil exports and banks, were snapped back on November 4.

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

Assad underlines Syria's support for Iran against U.S. threats

TEHRAN (FNA) – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in a meeting with a senior advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, stressed that his country will stand beside Tehran against the U.S. threats and pressures.

“Syria will support Tehran against the U.S. threats and illegal acts against the Iranian nation,” Assad said during the meeting in Damascus on Monday.

During the meeting, bilateral ties between Iran and Syria, anti-terrorism war in Syria and developments in the region came under discussion.

Amir Abdollahian, for his part, informed Assad about the latest developments with regard to the Iran nuclear deal and the Iranian officials' measures to confront the U.S. hostile policies.

Amir Abdollahian had also earlier held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Expatriates Minister Walid al-Moallem.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the strategic relations



between the two countries with emphasis on the importance of working on developing them and preserving the continued high-level coordination and consultations between the two brotherly countries.

The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the region and means to overcome the challenges facing the

two countries, on top the siege and the coercive economic measures imposed by the U.S. and its allies on the two nations.

Al-Moallem expressed Syria's appreciation of the Iranian stances in support of Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and the steadfastness of its people.

He thanked the brotherly people of Iran and the Iranian leadership for the continued support for Syria in the face of the terrorist war waged against it which threatens the security and stability in the region and the world, affirming that the victories achieved in Syria are victories for Syria and its allies.

Amir Abdollahian, for his part, asserted that the Syrian-Iranian relations are deep-rooted and that the two countries are in the same trench, adding that the challenges and conspiracies targeting the two countries will only make the two brotherly peoples more determined to defend their rights in the face of the hegemony attempts which target the region as a whole.

“We’ll see how it goes”

1 → But, and only for a surreal moment, let's give Washington the benefit of the doubt and believe they want a deal. Imagine Iranian and American diplomatic teams get back to the negotiation room. And let's jettison the Europeans momentarily, whose ultimate weight has already become known to Tehran.

Washington has been very clear with its expectations, already paid for by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, consulted with Israel, and signed off on by the Oval Office. On their wish list are extensions of sunset terms, verifiable curbs

on Iran's missile program, no ties with Shiite groups in the region, pulling Iranian boots in Syria and Iraq, agreeing and respecting a Western understanding of human rights, and finally, and a huge, monopolized Iranian market for Americans to roll out their capitalist presence. The menu, of course, can be rearranged at the whim of future presidents! So, they would include an open-ended clause to the deal as a safeguard to tie in unforeseeable cases such as Iran's space program, nanotechnology.

Tehran would have caved in to the terms of the renegotiated accord, hailed by Trump as the “best deal ever renegotiated”. Well, okay! Sounds like a plan! Let's have a chicken barbecue to celebrate it, as we Iranians say, wherein Bolton gets to drink a mustache cup of home-made Loris yogurt drink! What a snooze to take thereupon!

But before that drama moment occurs, the American team has to hear out Tehran's expectation. No one has ever speculated about Tehran's favorite terms. Here are some: removing

each and every sanction against Iran, putting a ban on arms sales to Arab caliphates in the Persian Gulf for foreseeable future, cancelling any plan to transfer nuclear technology to Arab countries, notably Saudi Arabia and the UAE, getting Iran into a multinational military alliance, withdrawing all American troops from the Persian Gulf and neighboring countries, downgrading ties with Israel, etc.

Will Washington be willing to renegotiate the deal under such conditions?! “We'll see how it goes”, as Trump says.

Reducing commitments intended to give diplomacy a chance: Kamalvandi

1 → The remaining members of the 2015 agreement are E3 – Britain, Germany, France – the European Union, China and Russia.

“What Iran is doing in terms of nuclear measures is aimed at reminding the signatories of their obligations,” Kamalvandi reiterated.

As a retaliation against the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and reimposition of sanctions on Iran coupled with a failure by the European Union to compensate for the U.S. exit, Iran officially announced that it would stop selling stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water for 60 days from May 8.

Kamalvandi said Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium has exceeded the 300 kg limit, and that Iran has exceeded



the limit of 3.67 percent in uranium enrichment.

Iranian has repeatedly said if Tehran's rights are guaranteed under the agreement it is ready to reverse its decisions.

After quitting the nuclear agreement, the Trump administration has not only returned the previous sanctions that had been lifted under the JCPOA, it has added new ones.

It has even ordered a total ban on Iran's oil export, a move which has been called a declaration of economic war against the Iranian people.

The Trump administration has taken all these steps despite the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency has said Iran's nuclear activities are subject to the most intrusive inspections in history.

Leader reinstates two Guardian Council theologians, names new one

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has extended the tenure of two members of the Guardian Council for another six years.

In separate decrees on Monday, the Leader extended the tenure of Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani and Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.



He also wished for their success in their position.

In another decree, Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Hojatolislam Alireza E'rafi as a new member of the council, replacing Ayatollah Mohammad Momen who passed away earlier this year.

Under Article 99 of Iran's Constitution, the responsibility to supervise elections lays with the Guardian Council.

The body consists of six theologians appointed by the Supreme Leader and six jurists nominated by the Judiciary and approved by parliament.

Iran's next parliamentary election will be held on February 21, 2020. The candidates will have until December 7, 2019 to register.

364 tons of narcotics seized in Iran in 7 months

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Massoud Zahedian, head of the anti-narcotic police, has highlighted Iran's achievements in fighting narcotics, saying Iran has seized 364 tons of illicit drugs over the past seven months.

Zahedian also pointed to the phenomenon of illicit drugs as one of the major problems facing the world and said countering this phenomenon depends on cooperation among all countries in the world, Tasnim reported.



Iran's anti-narcotic police have made significant headway in the fight against narcotics in spite of the “unjust sanctions”, he said.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer-long border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.

Despite high economic and human costs, the Islamic Republic has been actively fighting drug-trafficking over the past decades.

The country has spent more than \$700 million on sealing its borders and preventing the transit of narcotics destined for European, Arab and Central Asian countries.

The war on drug trade originating from Afghanistan has claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Iranian police officers over the past four decades.

No sense of superiority in Vienna-Tehran relations, ambassador says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** – Iran and Austria have never had a sense of superiority or colonial attitudes toward one another, the Austrian ambassador to Tehran said on Monday.

Stefan Scholz underscored the importance of bilateral ties, saying close relations between the two sides date back to about 500 years ago, IRNA reported.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Austrian envoy said the statistics shows that the Iranian people are interested in literature and philosophy, the topics which can facilitate Vienna-Tehran cooperation.

Referring to his communication with a number of Iranian universities, the ambassador said he has found that the Iranian people are eager for dialogue in all areas, particularly in the field of science.

Touching upon Iran's achievements during the past four decades, the envoy said Iran has preserved its scientific, social and political independence during the years, and the country can be a good example for the Middle East countries.

He further hoped that the era of indiscriminate sanctions against Iran would end.

Scholz then pointed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, voicing pleasure with the signing of the international agreement in Vienna.

Iran and the six world powers – the U.S., UK, France, China, Russia and Germany – and the European Union reached the landmark nuclear agreement in Vienna on July 14, 2015. The United States withdrew unilaterally from the deal on May 8, 2018.

After leaving the JCPOA, U.S. President Donald Trump said he would impose the “highest level” of economic sanctions against Iran. His decision was taken despite the world's criticism over Washington's anti-Iran measures.

Trump re-imposed the anti-Iran sanctions in August and November 2018. He has added new ones since November based on the “maximum pressure” policy.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	253303.6
IFX	3311.29

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,317 rials
GBP	52,764 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$66.98/b
WTI	\$60.41/b
OPEC Basket	\$66.10/b
Gold	\$1,416.30/oz
Silver	\$15.36/oz
Platinum	\$842.95/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

IME strengthening link between agricultural, financial markets

1 → Referring to the creation of a proper ground for the expansion of link between agricultural and financial markets, the official said that the plan for boosting trades of agriculture products at IME has been following up through new measures such as launching derivatives market and now is the time for agriculture products funds. Establishment of such funds will be in the framework of IME's macro plans in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), as Soltani-Nejad has said on June 24 that this exchange has prepared ten macro plans to improve its performance during this year. Making the remarks, during the meeting of IME shareholders, he 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.

While IME has some prominent plans for this year, its performance has been also very positive in the past 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 launched "option" in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods for agricultural products.

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.

All these measures have led to diversity of agricultural products trades at the IME and also formation of a new chain of financial instruments at this market which will be more expanded by establishment of agricultural products funds.

Iran to cooperate with Jordan in rail industry

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) is going to cooperate with Jordan Railway Corporation (JRC) for developing railway infrastructure in the country and providing technical-engineering services as well as manufacturing fleet wagons, Mehr news agency reported on Sunday. According to the Head of RAI, Saeed Rasouli, the two sides discussed the matter on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of International Union of Railways (UIC) Regional Assembly for the Middle-East (RAME) which was held in Aqaba, Jordan on July 6.

"Our policy has always been tightening our relations with the International Union of Railways (UIC) members, as well as interaction with neighboring countries and expansion of our rail transit capacity, Rasouli told Mehr.

Mentioning a tripartite meeting which Iran, Iraq, Syria held in early July for discussing transportation cooperation, the official noted that such meetings are an indication of the importance that RAI is giving to international relations.

The official further noted that the UIC's Middle East regional office is in Tehran, however the union holds meetings every six months in one of the member countries.

Rasouli was appointed as the first vice chairman of RAME during the union's 23rd assembly.

In the event which was attended by senior officials from UIC, a number of issues such as approval of the results of 22nd meeting of RAME in Isfahan, report on the activities of International Union of Railways' RAME Regional Office in Tehran, new activities for 2019, training needs of RAME members, determination of date and venue of the next RAME meeting, and financial issues were discussed.

A week before the RAME gathering, Iran, Iraq and Syria held a tripartite meeting in Tehran for discussing expansion of transportation cooperation among the three countries.

According to Rasouli, development of rail transport, increasing transit, development of exports and imports, and implementation of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway were among the topics discussed in the meeting.

In the meeting, Rasouli expressed Iran's readiness for starting the construction operations of Shalamcheh-Basra railway, urging the Iraqi side to determine and introduce a representative company.

On the sidelines of the event, Rasouli told the press that a comprehensive tripartite document on rail transportation cooperation among the three countries was presented at the meeting, which was mainly focused on connecting the three sides through Shalamcheh-Basra railway.

The official further noted that establishing a railway link and creating transit corridors between the countries in the region are called for by high-ranking officials from all three sides.

Due to its strategic location, Iran has a privileged position which makes it potent for becoming a transit hub in the region.

Having several free trade zones, especially in the Persian Gulf region, the existence of a wide network of roads in the country, low prices for fuel and energy carriers in Iran, and a suitable rail transport network in the country are some of the country's advantages.

Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, and the UAE are members of UIC regional assembly for Middle East.

Rouhani inaugurates development projects worth over \$1b

1 → With these projects going operational, 11,784 new job opportunities have been created in the region.

Among the major projects which were inaugurated during the president's visit to the province, two steam units of Shirvan combined cycle power plant with 500 million euros of investment could be mentioned, with their implementation 320 megawatts (MW) was added to the plant's power generation capacity.

Some dam projects, Irrigation networks, water treatment plants, steel production units as well as an alumina ingot factory were other important projects inaugurated by the president.

■ Iran's first alpha alumina plant opened
In the first day of President Rouhani's



visit to the northeastern province of North Khorasan, the country's first alpha alumina production unit was inaugurated.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several high-ranking officials including Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani.

According to the unit's Managing Director Majid Ejlali, this unit has an annual production capacity of 30,000 tons of alpha-alumina.

Alpha Alumina is used in production of industrial ceramics, engineering ceramics, refractories, glazes, catalysts, as well as in oil, gas and petrochemical industries.

In his visit to Hormozgan, Rouhani was accompanied by a number of senior officials including Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani.

CBI manages to stabilize foreign currency market: report

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – The value of Iranian rial is recovering against the U.S. dollar as the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) policies for shielding the currency against the U.S. sanctions are taking effect.

According to the Governor of CBI Abdolnaser Hemmati, the foreign currency market is stabilized, ISNA reported.

The rial is strengthened about eight percent in the open market over the past month to 125,450 per dollar, according to prices compiled by Bloomberg from foreign-exchange websites and traders in Tehran.

The central bank sought ways to protect the currency with measures that include setting up a government-run foreign-exchange platform known as NIMA to quell the black

market and controlling interest rates offered by lenders.

The advance is a relief for Iranians who watched the currency plummet more than 50 percent after U.S. President Donald Trump scrapped the 2015 nuclear accord and re-imposed sanctions on the nation.

The rial on the open market is now close to the Nima rate, Hemmati said.

"The central bank's policies of controlling currency markets and bank interest rates appear to be helping," said Massoud Gholampour, an analyst at Novin Investment Bank in Tehran.

"Demand for foreign currency has dropped compared to last year," he said, adding that bans on a raft of luxury imports helped as

much as \$2 billion from being spent on imports.

In early May, Hemmati outlined CBI plans for neutralizing or relieving the impact of U.S. sanctions on the country's economy and mentioned providing liquidity and working capital to maintain and boost domestic production as one of those plans.

To find the best ways for supporting production, CBI has been regularly holding meetings with the representatives of private sector and also with the economists.

CBI's plans take two major approaches, first is that they will lead to secure finance for production activities and provide the working capital needed for such activities; and the second one is that they will not be resulted



in any deviation in the banking resources and also in higher inflation.

In this regard, the central bank's committees of liquidity and credit have investigated several plans, that one of them is "Productive Finance Plan", which will be implemented after being discussed with monetary and banking experts.

TPO to dispatch trade delegation to Germany in mid-Oct.

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) plans to dispatch a trade and marketing delegation to Germany in mid-October, the portal of the organization announced.

The delegates active in the rubbers and plastics industry sectors are to visit the 21st International K-Plastics and

Rubber Exhibition (K2019) which is due to be held in Düsseldorf, Germany during October 16-23, the portal of TPO published.

The exhibition is going to be attended by exhibitors from over 60 different countries active in a variety of areas including thermoplastics, resin and compounds,

synthetic fibers, adhesives, fillers, reinforcement fibers, plastic production equipment and machinery, measuring instruments, printing, designing and etc.

As reported, 10 Iranian companies are also participating in this exhibition to showcase the country's latest achievements and products in this industry.

‘Annual olive production expected to rise to 120,000 tons by March 2020’

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN**— Annual production of olive in Iran is expected to rise by more than a third to reach 120,000 tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020), an official from Iran's ministry of agriculture said on Sunday.

Rahmatollah Parichehr said that Iran was seeking to further optimize methods used in olive production by offering technical assistance to farmers across the country, Press TV reported.



The official said the effort is part of a scheme titled the National Plan for Development of Olive Cultivation and Processing which seeks to increase olive oil production in Iran to a level where the country would have no further needs for import.

Parichehr said that the scheme has managed to increase the lands used for planting olive trees across Iran to 92,000 hectares in 26 out of 31 provinces.

He said a total of 42 olive oil plants are currently active in Iran with a production capacity of more than 91,000 tons, adding, however, that the country is currently importing around a third of its olive oil.

Parichehr said the successful implementation of the government scheme on olive has encouraged more farmers to plant olive trees in their lands during the past years.

The official said the agriculture ministry has identified some 600,000 hectares of farming lands across Iran which have the potential to be turned into olive farms in future, adding that some 15,000 hectares of such lands would be cultivated by 2021.

In mid-June, Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati said the country is expected to experience a significant increase in agricultural production due to sufficient rainfalls this year (March 2019-March 2020).

Mentioning the heavy rainfalls across the country, the official noted that this year "we are having a great water year."

"Although in some regions like Khuzestan Province [in southwestern Iran] flood caused some concerns but the situation is now completely ideal for summer cultivation" Hojjati noted.

He further stated that, for the fourth year in a row, Iran's wheat harvest is enough to make it self-sufficient in the strategic crop.

According to the official, sufficient rainfalls across the country is going to offset the losses of crops due to unprecedented flooding in some provinces in March.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-04/114

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Design and implementation of IRIB's Imam Ali (PBUH) Data Center Network Infrastructure (Active Communication) according to the tender documents.

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Monday July 22, 2019.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 59,280 (equivalent to 5,928,000,000 Rials)** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday August 24, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday August 26, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation. It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies. Having a reliable certificate (Rank 1) received from Supreme Council of Informatics in the production fields and presenting **Main Frame** computers and computer-telecommunications data network, security of production space and information exchange, logistics services and also owning at least Rank 4 in the research and education field is mandatory.

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

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

S. Korea struggling to replace Iranian oil: report

E N E R G Y TEHRAN — South Korea's crude oil imports have fallen 12.6 percent in June to 11.49 million tons, an indication that the country is having problems replacing its oil imports from Iran.

According to a report by Reuters, the country, once one of Iran's major oil buyers, imported no crude oil from Iran for a second month in June following the end of a U.S. sanctions wavier, customs data showed on Monday.

South Korean oil buyers mainly imported condensate, an ultra-light oil, from Iran.

Shipments of Iranian oil in the first six months of the year were nearly 3.9 million tons, or 156,155 barrels per day (bpd), down 36.9 percent from 6.13 million tons during the same period a year earlier, according to customs data.

Reflecting South Korea's efforts to replace Iranian oil and diversify its crude sources,



imports from the United States nearly tripled to 1.09 million tons in June, or 264,745 bpd. It

also imported 265,403 tons of crude oil from Kazakhstan in June, up 96.2% from 135,254

tons a year earlier, the data showed.

In the first half of the year, South Korea's crude oil imports dipped 2 percent to 72.7 million tons, or 2.93 million bpd.

South Korea was among the eight countries which were granted six-month waivers from the United States in November 2018 to buy oil from Iran.

However, Washington said in April that it would not renew any exemptions for sanctions on Iran, stepping up pressure on Tehran. The waivers ended on May 2.

During January-April period South Korea's total imports from Iran reached 3.87 million tons, or 235,533 bpd as the country resumed imports of Iranian oil in January after a four-month hiatus.

The surges in Iran's oil exports came after the country's Asian buyers rushed to use the opportunity that the waivers on U.S. sanctions has provided.

Slower China GDP growth nudges oil prices lower

Oil prices slipped on Monday after China posted its slowest quarterly economic growth in at least 27 years, reinforcing concerns about demand in the world's largest crude oil importer.

According to reuters.com, Brent crude futures for September fell 15 cents, or 0.2%, to \$66.57 a barrel by 0611 GMT while U.S. crude for August was down 24 cents, or 0.4%, at \$59.97 a barrel. Both contracts last week posted their biggest weekly gains in three weeks on cuts in U.S. oil production and diplomatic tensions in the Middle East.

Refineries in the path of Tropical Storm Barry continued to operate despite flood threats while the storm has slashed U.S. Gulf of Mexico crude output by 73%, or 1.38 million barrels per day.

The "supply side is keeping prices firm," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in



Sydney.

China's economic growth slowed to 6.2% in the sec-

ond quarter from a year earlier, in line with analysts' expectations, with demand at home and abroad faltering as the Sino-U.S. trade war bites.

Still, China's industrial output and retail sales beat forecasts, "suggesting that the economy in China is healthier than we previously been pricing," McCarthy said.

China's crude oil throughput rose to a record of 13.07 million barrels per day in June, up 7.7% from a year earlier, following the start-up of two new, large refineries, official data showed on Monday.

ANZ analysts said China's crude oil imports year-to-date still looked impressive even as imports fell in June for a second straight month.

"We believe additional crude oil quota (given) to private refiners should keep the imports upbeat in H2 2019," the bank said.

OPEC oil production falls in June on supply outages, says cartel

OPEC's crude oil output last month was the lowest volume in five years, according to the cartel's just-released Monthly Oil Market Report (Momr), Kallanish Energy learns.

According to secondary sources, OPEC in June pumped 29.60 million barrels per day (Mmbpd) — the lowest monthly output since April 2014.

As per kallanishenergy.com, last month, the largest drop in production was registered in Iran, where crude oil production fell by 142,000 Bpd, to 2.23 Mmbpd, due to the U.S. sanctions on the country's oil industry.

Production in Libya and Angola also fell significantly last month, by 58,000 Bpd and 57,000 Bpd from May, respectively. Venezuela's production dropped by 16,000 Bpd, bringing its crude oil production to

just 734,000 Bpd in June.

Among OPEC members which boosted production, Nigeria led the increases with 129,000 Bpd in June over May, while OPEC's largest producer, Saudi Arabia, raised its crude oil production by 126,000 Bpd, to 9.813 Mmbpd, still keeping its production below the kingdom's quota of 10.31 Mmbpd agreed to under the pact among members of OPEC+.

The July Momr states the 2019 global oil demand growth forecast remains at 1.14 Mmbpd, with global oil demand expected to reach 99.87 Mmbpd. In 2020, the initial forecast indicates growth of roughly 1.14 Mmbpd year-over-year, as global oil demand is anticipated to surpass the 100 Mmbpd threshold on an annual basis, to average 101.01 Mmbpd for the year, according to

Momr.

The non-OPEC oil supply growth forecast for 2019 has been revised down by 95,000 Bpd, to 2.05 Mmbpd year-over-year, standing at 64.43 Mmbpd, oilprice.com reported.

In 2020, non-OPEC oil supply is projected to grow by 2.4 Mmbpd, averaging 66.87 Mmbpd. The U.S., Brazil, Norway and Canada are forecast to be the main growth drivers, while Mexico, Colombia, the UK, Indonesia and Thailand are expected to see the largest declines.

In June, OPEC crude oil production decreased by 68,000 Bpd, to average 29.83 Mmbpd, according to secondary sources.

Demand for OPEC crude for 2019 was revised upward by 0.1 Mmbpd from the



previous report, to 30.6 Mmbpd, 1.0 Mmbpd lower than the 2018 level.

Based on the first forecasts for world oil demand and non-OPEC supply for 2020, demand for OPEC crude for 2020 is projected at 29.3 Mmbpd, 1.3 Mmbpd lower than the 2019 level, oilprice.com reported.

Renewables prop up construction activity, as well as being threat to fossil fuel exports

By Michael Mazengarb

The latest Business Outlook report from Deloitte Access Economics shows renewable energy underpinning investment in Australia's construction and engineering sectors, while also undermining the export market for thermal coal.

The Business Outlook report provides a snapshot of the Australian economy, highlighting where things are going well, and where things are starting to slow down.

The continued emergence of the global renewable energy sector looks to be having both positive and negative impacts on the Australian economy, as new projects locally has underpinned growth in construction and engineering activities, the report noted.

It also said the global shift away from fossil fuels is significantly denting the performance of the Australian resources sector, as overseas markets cool on Australian coal and gas markets. Large-scale renewable energy projects in both South Australia and Queensland have "defied a tricky political backdrop" to prop up investment in construction and engineering, as activity in some parts of the resources sector begin to slow, according to Deloitte.

Most of the recent investment in the Australian electricity sector has been driven by new renewable energy projects, particularly large-scale solar and wind farms. Deloitte sees around three-quarters of the generation projects in the development pipeline being either solar or wind projects, amounting to more than the 6,000MW of new renewables projects being committed.

Federal Government commitment to the 2,000MW expansion of the Snowy 2.0 scheme also represents a significant portion of the development pipeline. Investment has returned to the sector after it came to a standstill following the election of the Abbott Government in 2013, but the market will still be wary of a post-RET energy market after 2020.

It has largely been private investments in new renewable energy projects that have been the driver of investments in electricity projects across Australia, defying an investment environment that offers little by way of stable or effective



energy policy from the Federal Government.

Deloitte cited the completion of the \$400 million Lilyvale solar farm and the \$200 million Darling Downs solar farm as projects that have supported engineering construction activity in Queensland, which has been a welcome boost in a region that has been deflated due to a winding down of LNG infrastructure related construction.

■ Double-digit growth

Renewables have driven double-digit growth in construction activities in South Australia, as action taken to sure-up the reliability of the South Australian electricity system, primarily through investments in wind and energy storage, has attracted investment.

Tasmania is also a significant beneficiary of new renewable energy projects, with the utilities sector representing a third of all engineering works in Tasmania.

This has been led by the \$300 million Cattle Hill and \$280 million Granville Harbour wind farms, with each of these projects are dependent on the completion of a second undersea interconnector between Tasmania and the mainland.

TasNetworks recently completed its initial feasibility study for the Marinus Link, which would join the existing Basslink that provides Tasmania's connection to the rest of the National Electricity Market, securing \$56 million in funding to progress the project to the next stages of development.

The report also confirms fears that the Adani Carmichael Coal mine is a crucial proxy test for Australia's coal mining sector, with the project on the cusp of commencing construction. If Adani is ultimately successful in getting the project off the ground, there are up to six additional projects coal projects planned for the Galilee

that Deloitte sees as being likely to follow.

However, Deloitte also echoed concerns that have been raised around the future prospects for Australia's thermal coal exports. Coal exports face combined challenges from an oversupplied market, driven by growth in Indonesian exports, and diminishing demand from major customers like Japan, who are shifting towards lower-emissions sources of energy.

Deloitte highlighted that these pressures are already having a significant impact on international prices for thermal coal, with prices falling from \$120 a ton to \$70 a ton over the last 12-months.

Japan is the world's largest importer of coal, and receives 45% of the coal exported from NSW, but has cancelled two-thirds of the pipeline of new coal power stations.

■ A number of coal-fired projects

A "number of coal-fired projects in Japan — the world's largest importer of coal — have recently been cancelled. The restart of nuclear power stations and cost-competitive renewables remain key risks to the outlook for thermal coal," Deloitte said in its report.

The same warning was also sounded for Australian gas exports with growing global supplies increasing competition for customers. Prices in the Asian gas market are also pegged to oil prices, which have been subdued in anticipation of a glut in supplies predicted by the International Energy Agency.

None of these are new observations for the Australian energy sector, with industry participants calling on the Federal Government to set a direction for energy policy in Australia, out of fear that doing nothing to stimulate new investment is the absolute worst case scenario.

As the Deloitte report highlights, it has been State governments that have been able to establish an environment that allows for projects to go ahead, providing sufficient security in policy for projects to go ahead.

Hopefully, we will see the Federal Government come back to the negotiating table, to develop a national energy policy, that itself says it wants to see established, but appears keen to avoid talking about.

(Source: [reneweconomy.com.au](#))

First Announcement			
Call for public tender (First/Second publish)			
One -Stages (semi compressed) tender			
Subject of Tender: PARTS FOR BOMCO TRIPLEX MUD PUMP TYPE F-1600			
N.I.O.C 1398.2275		National Iranian Drilling Company	
Tender descriptions:			
The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No. /Indent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,207,854	Tender No.: FP/17-98/016 Indent No.: 48-22-9622031	22,398,567,120 Rial
Qualitative evaluation of tenderers			
Method	R Based on minimum scoring (60 Points) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.		
1- Applicants which have more than 4 in process contacts with NIDC are not allowed to participate in this tender. 2- Applicants which have more than 2 in process contacts with NIDC in similar subject (exclusively same subject) are not allowed to participate in another tender			
Purchasing & Submitting			
Tender Document Distribution by Company		The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth day thereof.	
Distribution Place		Hall No.113, 1 st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN 061-34148656 -06134148615	
Submitting Method		Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of 510,000 Iranian Rials under account number 4001114004020491 (Shaba No. IR 520100004001114004020491) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" issued by I.R. of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.	
Closing date		14Days after the last time of Purchasing.	
Documents Receiving Method		Address Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569	
Tender Guarantee			
Value of guarantee	1,120,000,000 Rial/ 23,891 Euro		
Type of guarantee	✓--Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ✓--Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.		
Duration of credit & quotation	Tender Guarantee & quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.		
(Foreign Procurement Dept.)			
More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr			
تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۴/۲۵ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۴/۲۶			

The ‘Asian Age’ and role of China and India

By Ravi Bhoothalingam

GLOBALTIMES — Why do some civilizations or nations flourish and others fade out? Professor Joseph Needham had an answer. Needham is well known to the Chinese people for his monumental work Science and Civilisation in China. Before becoming a world-famous sinologist, Needham was a renowned biologist who believed that over the long term, evolutionary logic influenced human behavior. His work in Chinese history led him to identify the critical factor for civilizational success as the right balance between competition and cooperation. Nations or empires which achieved such a balance with their neighbors (and even rivals) learned valuable lessons: Too much competition was destructive, too little could stifle creativity. Similarly, too much cooperation created dependence, but too little created isolation. So, how would Needham’s “long view” play out in India-China relations?

First, for a nation to flourish, its leaders must have an inspirational vision for their country. This quite clearly exists in the case of both China and India. President Xi Jinping’s vision of the “Chinese Dream” and China’s national rejuvenation has caught the imagination of the Chinese people. In India, newly re-elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated with vigor his vision of a “New India,” for a nation where 50 percent of the population is already under 25 years of age.

Second, fundamentally, India’s and China’s visions are not in conflict with each other. Both visions focus on the prosperity and all-round development of their peoples. Both nations speak the language of peace and mutuality in international relations. Most importantly, the existence of powerful external threats to the visions of both countries is a strong motivator for China-India cooperation.

These threats are not geopolitical; rather, they are existential, such as climate change and antibiotic-resistant epidemic disease, each of which could decimate the world population, of which China and India’s combined share is 40 percent. While India’s and China’s visions might be non-conflicting, could the actual steps taken by the two countries to attain their respective goals create friction between them? This has indeed happened, and there are several examples of such problems. These issues should indeed be managed, but without losing sight of the central goal - to defeat the existential threats. That requires strong economic muscle and radical scientific innovation. For this, India and China must recalibrate their competition/cooperation balance through mutual harmony and by avoiding serious differences - “No family quarrels when a storm batters at the door,” to quote an African proverb.

Third, how can India and China build such economic muscle and scientific innovation? For a start, this requires broad and deep economic engagement between China and India, the first and third largest economies in the world on PPP terms according to the World Bank. There are obvious advantages for India, whose economy (one-fifth the size of China) is about a decade behind on the development curve, and can thus benefit from Chinese investment, enterprise and technology. I outline here five key advantages that China can derive through a deep economic engagement with India on the bilateral, regional and global levels.

First, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative is ambitious and has been widely welcomed, but it has also rapidly increased China’s overall risk profile. Added to China’s internal debt, excess capacity and high capital output ratio, this means that China’s future investments must be less risky and earn better returns. India fulfills these conditions. India can absorb huge investments in infrastructure, and its political stability, well-ordered financial system and legal backbone reduce investor risk. India’s large market also makes it possible to reap the benefits of economies of scale and thus increase return on capital.

Second, China is a complex country, and so is India, in different ways. But Chinese industry - earlier in telecom and now also in the e-commerce space - has experience of how potential sales and profits in India are next only to China in volume and growth. Today, China also has the opportunity to manufacture in India as well as import from India at lower costs, thus generating large-scale local employment, a win-win result for both countries.

Third, at the regional level, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) provides an opportunity for China, India, Japan and ASEAN to accelerate the growth trajectory of Asia, already the fastest growing region in the world. Being first-to-market is the key today in most businesses, so intra-Asian trade is likely to grow faster and more profitably than trans-continental business. Therefore, to accommodate India’s need for a transition period within the RCEP accession process will be a small price for China to pay, in order to create the largest free trade area in the world, especially in these days of mounting protectionism.

Fourth, also at the regional level, Chinese and Indian plans to develop connectivity and regional infrastructure should be better coordinated to minimize operational and governance costs. Neighbors will then see that these two countries can cooperate, as well as compete. This will be a valuable and new experience for all concerned.

Last, modern science has the same lessons as Needham’s work in history. In his remarkable book Gene Machine, Nobel Prize-winning chemist (and current president of the Royal Society) Prof. Venki Ramakrishnan remarks: “... the distinction between competition and collaboration is not so clear-cut...even when scientists are competing, they are actually using one another’s advances...and are thus collaborating...” Thus, there is huge space for China-India collaboration in R&D and innovation in shared problems such as water scarcity, chaotic urbanization, high disease burdens, age/gender imbalances, and many others. Only scientific innovation can generate common and cost-effective solutions for the above-named existential problems that could otherwise overturn our national visions. When even the US and the Soviet Union could collaborate in space at the height of the Cold War, why should there be such hesitation on the part of India and China?

Hopefully, the two leaders can reset the competition/collaboration balance between the two countries, and generate powerful and creative ideas for a new path in India-China cooperation.

Boris Johnson and the mystery of leaving Europe

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — Boris Johnson has become a controversial politician in Britain in recent days. Many UK analysts believe that Boris Johnson himself does not know exactly what he wants to do with the EU’s exit plan! Johnson’s contradictory statements and stances have strengthened this trend. In any case, even if Johnson is present at the head of the British political and administrative equations, it would seem that we are witnessing a more complicated political situation in this country. Here are some of the latest analyzes and news on Boris Johnson:

■ **Boris Johnson admits he doesn’t know his own Brexit plan**

As Metro reported, Boris Johnson had to admit he didn’t know his own plans on Brexit during an interview on his strategy for leaving the EU without a deal. The Tory leadership frontrunner came unstuck, when questioned about further details on how the UK would trade with the EU after Brexit, in a bruising interview with the BBC’s Andrew Neil. Mr Johnson believes Britain can use a rule known as ‘GATT 24’ to maintain trade with the EU, if we leave the bloc without a deal on October 31. He told Mr Neil he’d secure a ‘standstill’ trade arrangement using Paragraph 5(B) of Article 24 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Mr Johnson said: ‘It might be possible, as we come out, to agree under GATT 24 paragraph 5B that both sides agree to a standstill, a protraction of their existing zero tariff, zero quota arrangements, until such a time as we do a free trade deal. However, paragraph 5(C) – which comes straight afterwards – makes it clear the policy can’t be used for a No Deal Brexit. It states that a ‘plan and schedule’ must already be in place to form a customs union or free trade area, ‘within a reasonable length of time.’ But Mr Johnson has continued to insist that he could pursue the plan, despite experts and the Governor of the Bank of England saying it is impossible. He also mocked Mr Neil during the interview who mis-stated the GATT 24 rule by saying: ‘Article 5B in GATT 24’, to which Mr Johnson replied: ‘Paragraph 5B, Article 24. Get the detail right. Get the detail right Andrew!’ However, his teasing backfired as Mr Neil immediately replied: ‘And how would you handle Paragraph 5C?’

Also Cnn reported that Boris Johnson’s sister once said that as a child, he wanted to be “World King” when he grew up. Now one of the most divisive politicians of his generation is just days away from fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming the United Kingdom’s prime minister, if polls are to be believed. The result of the governing Conservative party’s leadership contest might not be announced until July 23, but at this point, virtually no one believes that his opponent, Jeremy Hunt, can turn around the Johnson juggernaut. The crucial question being asked in the UK, at a critical moment in the nation’s history, is what exactly drives the man most likely to lead the country in under two weeks? The best way to answer this question is to understand exactly why he is so divisive. First, there’s his personal style. John-



son’s chaotic way of doing politics offends as much as it enralls. He has a history of making seemingly thoughtless comments, such as saying that women who wear Islamic face veils look “like letterboxes” or calling people from the British Commonwealth “flag-waving piccaninnies” with “watermelon smiles.” Nicky Morgan, a Conservative Member of Parliament and former Cabinet minister, sees how this could be a hindrance for Johnson when he takes office and has to face an electorate beyond his own party. “I think he recognizes now that what he says causes a reaction,” says Morgan. “He will still be asked about comments he’s made in the past and he probably wants to move on. But the fact is in today’s era, it’s hard to move on.”

But he can also be charming and makes great efforts to win people over -- especially in person. Harry Mount, a journalist who used to edit Johnson’s columns when he was a star writer at the Daily Telegraph, explains that Johnson is “great at making you feel good in public.” Despite not having worked together for more than a decade and never really having been his boss, Mount says that to this day, Johnson “greeted me with a ‘cripes, it’s my boss,’ which is flattering for me as strangers think ‘the bald guy must be powerful.’”

■ **Hero of the Brexiteers**

This ability to flatter and make others feel liked goes some way to explaining how Johnson managed to win two terms as mayor in London, where voters historically tilt toward the UK’s center-left Labour party. Second, there’s his politics -- and his political ambition. Johnson played the decisive role in making Brexit happen. In 2016, under immense pressure from the then-prime minister David Cameron to back the Remain campaign, Johnson broke ranks and backed Brexit at the last minute. This has made him the hero of the Brexiteers.

“Boris has that undefinable quality of leadership. He can persuade people to back him and go in a direction that they may

not have initially supported,” says Jacob Rees-Mogg, a longstanding Euroskeptic and Johnson supporter. “Only someone with his kind of optimism can get people behind Brexit.”

But others think that Johnson’s decision to lead the Brexit campaign was nothing more than a deliberate political move. Morgan, a Remain supporter, explains that the suspicion among some is Johnson “did this knowing that it would potentially, eventually, burnish his leadership credentials.” It’s no secret that ending up in high office was always Johnson’s aim. Mount says “it was always clear that he saw journalism as a ringside seat for the main contest, which he wanted to star in.”

It’s this naked ambition that brings us to the third and most important reason that Johnson divides opinion: his personal qualities, morality and suitability to do the job.

“The truth about Boris is that he works extremely hard. He gets up at 5 a.m., devours newspapers and would be on the phone by 6:30 a.m. wanting to discuss the day,” says Guto Harri, who served as Johnson’s director of communications while he was London mayor. “His approach is very much like a journalist. He cuts to the chase very quickly, spotting the relevant detail and seeing the wood from the trees.”

This is not a characterization that Simon Heffer, under whom Johnson worked at the Telegraph, agrees with. “He’s utterly selfish, completely oblivious to the sensitivities and needs of others and entirely unprofessional,” Heffer recalls.

“We saw this when he was mayor and he needed numerous deputies because either he was too lazy, not capable, or couldn’t be bothered with the detail of what was required to do the job properly.”

Two very different views of the same person. However, it’s entirely possible that both are true. “It’s wrong to say he has a short attention span or that he’s lazy. Give him a difficult bit of ancient Greek and he’s

happy as Larry,” explains Mount. “It’s the important stuff he finds boring and that will be difficult. He’s not going to fall over and hit the nuclear button with his arm. But he does get bored and he doesn’t do boring.”

That’s the chaotic bit; the altogether more troubling question for some is on the moral values of a man on the precipice of power.

There’s no shortage of stories about Johnson, from lurid allegations about his personal life, including affairs, to being sacked from an early journalism job for fabricating a quote. Perhaps worst of all, a recording exists of Johnson appearing to be complicit in a plot to have a journalist beaten up. The allegations prompted BBC journalist Eddie Mair to accuse Johnson of being a “nasty piece of work” to his face in an interview. In the interview with Mair, Johnson brushed off or dismissed the allegations, though was indirect in his responses.

During his time as foreign secretary, Johnson’s loose words were used as proof by Iran that jailed British-Iranian Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe had engaged in “propaganda against the regime.” Johnson later publicly apologized in the House of Commons, saying that his comments should have been clearer.

Another example of Johnson’s questionable decision-making came earlier this week, when he failed to defend Kim Darroch, the UK’s ambassador to Washington, following the leak comments in which Darroch was critical of US President Donald Trump. It has since emerged that Johnson’s lack of support prompted Darroch to resign.

“When you look at the appalling response he gave to the Kim Darroch question, you see how lacking in integrity and leadership he is,” Heffer says. “To say Johnson’s character is deeply flawed is like saying water is slightly wet. If he becomes prime minister he will be the man most deficient in probity ever to hold the post.”

CNN reached out to Johnson’s team for comment multiple times but did not receive a reply.

■ **How Johnson may win**

How can it be then, that a man so divisive is trouncing his rival so spectacularly?

One word: Brexit. The UK has been stuck in its Brexit crisis for over three years now. Jacob Rees-Mogg blames this failure on a government that has been dominated by people whom he suspects never really wanted to leave the EU. “To deliver Brexit needs a Brexiteer,” Rees-Mogg explains.

“There are two approaches. One is that Brexit is a problem to be managed. Then there’s the Boris approach, which is that Brexit is a huge opportunity.”

The single biggest reason Brexit hasn’t happened yet is that the UK’s political class can’t decide what it wants. The Withdrawal Agreement -- commonly called May’s Brexit deal -- failed to satisfy both the Europhile and Euroskeptic wings of not only the Conservatives, but across the lawmakers that sit in the UK’s House of Commons, who need to ratify any deal with Europe.

Given that May has been governing without a parliamentary majority since the 2017 election, this lack of consensus meant that, without a compromise from Brussels or buying off opposition votes, May’s deal was always doomed.

Shazia Ahad: India keeping forces brutality in Kashmir unreported

TEHRAN (FNA) — Shazia Ahad, Kashmiri scholar and activist, says India denies United Nations delegations to its various jails in Kashmir, and blocks foreign correspondents from reporting from Kashmir, impeding any reports on the use of excessive force and torture against Kashmiris.

Speaking with FNA in an exclusive interview, Shazia Ahad added the Indian forces use torture as a means of extracting information “... or even forced confessions from the victims... Young men have been subjected to re-victimization where they are caught into a continuous cycle of arbitrary or illegal detentions, torture and harassment for years”.

Shazia Ahad is a Kashmiri scholar and activist. She is a researcher at Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (CCS), a Srinagar-based human rights organizations reporting and documenting Kashmiris rights status. Below is the full text of the interview:

■ Kashmir has been the scene of conflict between civilians and Indian forces for some seven decades. Still, there is little known about the conflict worldwide. Why has the conflict remained unreported?

A: Jammu and Kashmir, a region which is disputed between India and Pakistan, has been a place where the local population has been subjected to gross human rights violations including killings, torture and enforced disappearances for decades. The United Nations Security Council has passed resolutions according to which the dispute is to be resolved by giving Kashmiris their right to self determination and holding a plebiscite. Still, India has played down the conflict by always calling it an “internal matter”. India has repeatedly denied access to various United Nations Special Rapporteurs even after multiple requests have been made. Other organisations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that was working with the prisoners held in various jails in Kashmir worked under a limited mandate, due to which it could not report any human rights violations. India has been denying access to Kashmir to the



foreign journalists. So, India has been actively trying to essentially block all the information about the ground realities of Kashmir from the world in which it has succeeded to a large extent. Most recently the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, has called Kashmir as the “information black hole” due to the repeated denials of access to the area.

■ There are hundreds of thousands of Indian armed forces stationed in Kashmir. Why does India need these many forces in that region?

A: There are more than 700,000 Indian armed forces present in Jammu and Kashmir making it the most densely militarized region in the world. Kashmir has an omnipresence of permanent and temporary military establishments such as air-fields, firing ranges, cantonments, camps, barracks, bunkers, check posts, many of which function out of places meant as civilian facilities such as university campuses and research institutes, stadiums, cinema halls, schools, hospitals, recreational clubs and government rest houses.

As mentioned in the recently released report by Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) and Jammu

Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), Torture: Indian State’s Instrument of Control in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir, the disproportionate presence of Indian armed forces in Kashmir is mainly to exercise control over the general population. The widespread human rights violations, perpetrated by the Indian armed forces against Kashmiris, is a policy employed to break people’s will and to display the power and dominance over the entire population. This is reflected in the Indian Army’s Doctrine on Sub-Conventional Operations, which says, “The endeavour should be to bring about a realization that fighting a government is a ‘no win’ situation and that their anti-government stance will only delay the process of restoration of peace and normalcy.”

■ A recently released report says the Indian forces practice severe torture against Kashmiri detainees, 70% of them civilians. Why do Indian forces torture ordinary civilians?

A: The report is built on the 432 case studies. There are multiple reasons why the civilians are tortured. But before seeing the reasons of why these civilians were tortured, we have to understand the policy that the Indian State has adopted in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947 but more specifically since 1990 when the armed struggle for self determination started. The Indian State has adopted a policy of coercion and force to bring the entire population into submission and crush the popular sentiment for the political resolution of the conflict. This policy has allowed the Indian armed forces to inflict indiscriminate human rights violations in Kashmir, including torture. The State provides complete impunity to its armed forces for any human rights violations, making it complicit.

Furthermore, torture has been used as a means to extract information or even forced confessions from the victims. Torture has been used as a measure of reprisal and punishment. Young men have been subjected to re-victimization where they are caught into a continuous cycle of arbitrary or illegal detentions, torture and harassment for years.

Abe should change course

By Maa Zhi Hong

I mourn each and every service-mem-




Is that what you will tell the parents of those two soldiers who were just killed in Afghanistan? Well, we just have to be en-

But because we didn't "squash them," before 9/11 Ryan complained, "they started flying planes into our buildings." This, of course, is the recycled and easily refuted safe haven myth—the notion that the Taliban would again host transnational terrorists the moment our paltry 14,500 troops head back to Milwaukee. It's ridiculous. There's no evidence to support this desperate claim and it fails to explain why the United States doesn't station several thousand troops in the dozens of global locales with a more serious al-Qaeda or ISIS presence than Afghanistan does. Gabbard would have

Gabbard, shamefully, is the only one among an absurdly large field of candidates who has put foreign policy, specifically ending the forever wars, at the top of her presidential campaign agenda. Well, unlike just about all of her opponents, she did fight in those very conflicts. The pity is that with an electorate so utterly apathetic about war, her priorities, while noble, might just doom her campaign before it even really starts. That's instructive, if pitiful. I, too, served in a series of unwinnable, unnecessary, unethical wars. Like her, I've chosen to publicly dissent in not just strategic, but in moral, language. I join her in her rejection of U.S. militarism, imperialism, and the flimsy justifications for the Afghanistan war—America's longest war in its history. As for the other candidates, when one of them (likely) wins, let's hope they are prepared the question Tulsi so powerfully posed to Ryan: what will they tell the parents of the next soldier that dies in America's hopeless Afghanistan war?

This is a case with real political wheels and momentum. It should not go away, as its ramifications are deeper, more insightful and more shocking than people even realise. Any doubters should ask Bill Clinton and Donald Trump.




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	Closing date	Days after the last time of Purchasing 14
Documents Receiving Method	Address	Hall No. 107, 1 st floor, Tender Committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

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Value of guarantee	
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Type of guarantee	<p>✓Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.</p> <p>✓Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR 350100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.</p>
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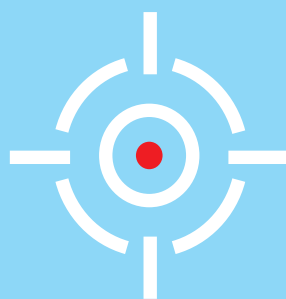
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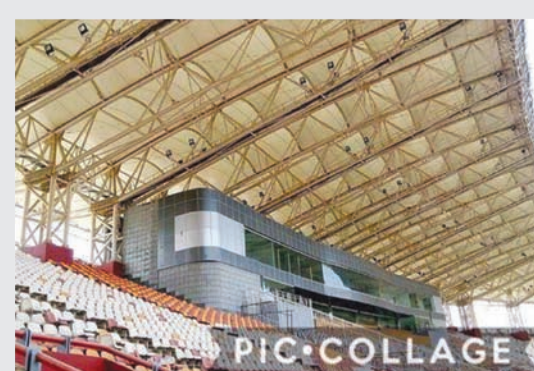
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India's second lunar mission delayed due to 'technical snag': ISRO

India's space agency said it delayed the launch of its second lunar mission, Chandrayaan-2, in the early hours of Monday due to a "technical snag" which was observed less than an hour before the scheduled liftoff.

«A technical snag was observed in launch vehicle system at T-56 minute,» the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), said in a tweet here. «As a measure of abundant precaution, Chandrayaan2 launch has been called off for today.»

The mission, which the ISRO chairman said is the most complex mission it has ever undertaken, was scheduled to launch at 09:21 p.m. GMT, or 02:51 a.m. local time on the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III rocket.

ISRO said it will announce the revised



launch date later. India successfully carried out its first lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1, nearly 11 years ago.

The 10-billion rupee (\$146 million) mission, if successful, would boost India's aspirations to catch up with global space leaders United States and China and put it in a better position to compete in the commercial space market.

A success would make India only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to perform a "soft", or controlled, landing on the moon and put a rover on it.

This would be the third attempted moon landing this year after China's successful Chang'e-4 lunar probe and spacecraft Beresheet, which failed and crashed on to the moon in April.

(Source: Reuters)

A new way of making complex structures in thin films

Self-assembling materials called block copolymers, which are known to form a variety of predictable, regular patterns, can now be made into much more complex patterns that may open up new areas of materials design, a team of MIT researchers say.

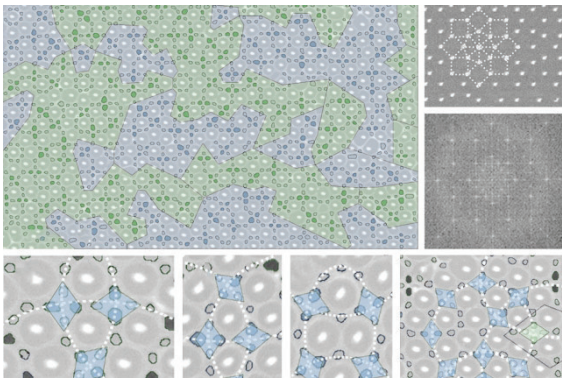
The new findings appear in the journal Nature Communications, in a paper by postdoc Yi Ding, professors of materials science and engineering Alfredo Alexander-Katz and Caroline Ross, and three others.

"This is a discovery that was in some sense fortuitous," says Alexander-Katz. "Everyone thought this was not possible," he says, describing the team's discovery of a phenomenon that allows the polymers to self-assemble in patterns that deviate from regular symmetrical arrays.

Self-assembling block copolymers are materials whose chain-like molecules, which are initially disordered, will spontaneously arrange themselves into periodic structures. Researchers had found that if there was a repeating pattern of lines or pillars created on a substrate, and then a thin film of the block copolymer was formed on that surface, the patterns from the substrate would be duplicated in the self-assembled material. But this method could only produce simple patterns such as grids of dots or lines.

In the new method, there are two different, mismatched patterns. One is from a set of posts or lines etched on a substrate material, and the other is an inherent pattern that is created by the self-assembling copolymer. For example, there may be a rectangular pattern on the substrate and a hexagonal grid that the copolymer forms by itself. One would expect the resulting block copolymer arrangement to be poorly ordered, but that's not what the team found. Instead, "it was forming something much more unexpected and complicated," Ross says.

There turned out to be a subtle but complex kind of order -- interlocking areas that formed slightly different but



regular patterns, of a type similar to quasicrystals, which don't quite repeat the way normal crystals do. In this case, the patterns do repeat, but over longer distances than in ordinary crystals. "We're taking advantage of molecular processes to create these patterns on the surface" with the block copolymer material, Ross says.

This potentially opens the door to new ways of making devices with tailored characteristics for optical systems or for "plasmonic devices" in which electromagnetic radiation resonates with electrons in precisely tuned ways, the researchers say. Such devices require very exact positioning and symmetry of patterns with nanoscale dimensions, something this new method can achieve.

Katherine Mizrahi Rodriguez, who worked on the project as an undergraduate, explains that the team prepared many of these block copolymer samples and studied them under a scanning electron microscope. Yi Ding, who worked on this for his doctoral thesis, "started looking over and over to see if any interesting patterns came up," she says. "That's when all of these new findings sort of evolved."

The resulting odd patterns are "a result of the frustration between the pattern the polymer would like to form, and the template," explains Alexander-Katz. That frustration leads to a breaking of the original symmetries and the creation of new subregions with different kinds of symmetries within them, he says. "That's the solution nature comes up with. Trying to fit in the relationship between these two patterns, it comes up with a third thing that breaks the patterns of both of them." They describe the new patterns as a "superlattice."

Having created these novel structures, the team went on to develop models to explain the process. Co-author Karim Gadelrab PhD '19, says, "The modeling work showed that the emergent patterns are in fact thermodynamically stable, and revealed the conditions under which the new patterns would form."

Ding says "We understand the system fully in terms of the thermodynamics," and the self-assembling process "allows us to create fine patterns and to access some new symmetries that are otherwise hard to fabricate."

He says this removes some existing limitations in the design of optical and plasmonic materials, and thus "creates a new path" for materials design.

So far, the work the team has done has been confined to two-dimensional surfaces, but in ongoing work they are hoping to extend the process into the third dimension, says Ross. "Three dimensional fabrication would be a game changer," she says. Current fabrication techniques for microdevices build them up one layer at a time, she says, but "if you can build up entire objects in 3-D in one go," that would potentially make the process much more efficient.

The research was funded by the Office of General Sciences of the U.S. Department of Energy. The team also included graduate student Hejin Huang.

(Source: Science Daily)

China delivers first domestic polar ice breaker Xuelong 2



China's first domestically built polar ice breaker, Xuelong 2, or Snow Dragon 2, was delivered on Thursday, according to Beijing.

China's ministry of natural resources said the ship was delivered in Shanghai and is expected to be deployed later this year to Antarctica. Xinhua news agency reported.

The ship's ceremony took place at Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai, according to China Daily.

The ship is the first domestically developed polar icebreaker for China. Beijing's first icebreaker, the Xuelong, is a converted Arctic cargo ship that was built in 1993 at Kherson Shipyard in the Ukraine.

China sought the help of Finnish engineering firm Aker Arctic in ship design. The Finnish company jointly designed the ship with the Marine Design and Research Institute of China in Shanghai, which operates under China's State Shipbuilding Corp. Construction did not start until December 2016.

The polar icebreaker is equipped to

conduct research in the Arctic and Antarctic region and has capabilities for geological and biological experimentation and surveying.

The Xuelong 2 measures 122.5 meters in length and 22.3 meters in width and has a displacement of nearly 14,000 tons.

According to Xinhua, the ship has two-direction icebreaking capabilities and can sail on 60-day expeditions.

«Xuelong 2 will become a major platform for China's oceanic environmental survey and scientific research in the polar regions,» said Qin Weijia, director of polar research at China's State Oceanic Administration.

In May, the Pentagon said China is planning to build a new «Polar Silk Road» in the North Atlantic and Arctic Circle.

The world's second-largest economy is seeking to compete with the United States and Russia for influence, the U.S. Department of Defense said earlier this year.

China has developed icebreakers and built civilian-operated research stations in Norway, Iceland and other areas of the North Atlantic, according to the Pentagon.

(Source: UPI)

Science says: Airplane turbulence can strike out of the blue



They literally don't see it coming.

"Clear-air turbulence," which evidently jolted an Air Canada flight Thursday over the Pacific Ocean, strikes almost literally out of the blue, with no visible warning in the sky ahead. An aircraft's radar can't spot it coming either.

But passengers can certainly feel it. Some on the Air Canada flight were slammed against the ceiling, and more than two dozen were taken to hospitals after it made an emergency landing in Honolulu.

Clear-air turbulence happens most often in or near the high-altitude rivers of air called jet streams. The culprit is wind shear, which is when two huge air masses close to each other are moving at different speeds. If the difference in speed is big enough, the atmosphere can't handle the strain, and it breaks into turbulent patterns like eddies in water.

Another source of turbulence is masses of air that bob up and down in the atmosphere, somewhat like waves in the ocean. They can arise spontaneously or form as air flowing over mountains is forced upward, starting the up-and-down cycle.

Weather forecasters can't be much help in warning pilots about where they'll encounter clear-air turbulence, says Thomas Guinn, a meteorology professor at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"It's probably one of the most challenging forecast problems we have right now for aviation meteorology," he said.

Paul Williams of the University of Reading in England, who is working on forecasting clear-air turbulence, said some tests suggest that specialized radar-like devices could make the atmospheric disruptions visible to pilots. But the devices are expensive and very heavy, a drawback for airplanes, so they are not widely used.

Once pilots hit a patch of turbulence, they can try to fly out of it, possibly by changing altitude, said Clint Balog, also of Embry-Riddle.

According to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, turbulence of all kinds injures about 40 passengers and crew a year on average.

(Source: AP News)

Sahara was home to some of largest sea creatures, study finds

Some of the biggest catfish and sea snakes to ever exist lived in what is today the Sahara desert, according to a new paper that contains the first reconstructions of extinct aquatic species from the ancient Trans-Saharan Seaway.

The sea was 50 meters deep and once covered 3,000sq km of what is now the world's biggest sand desert. The marine sediment it left behind is filled with fossils, which allowed the scientists who published the study to build up a picture of a region that teemed with life.

Between 100m and 50m years ago, today's arid, boulder-strewn northern Mali "looked more like modern Puerto Rico"; the sun shone on some of the earliest mangroves, and molluscs lined the shallow seabed, according to Maureen O'Leary, the paleontologist who led the study.

The study also formally named the geological units, literally putting the area on the geological map for the first time, showing how the sea ebbed and flowed over its 50m years of existence, and building up information about the K-Pg boundary, the geophysical marker of one of Earth's five major extinction events, in which the non-avian dinosaurs became extinct.

With 1.6m catfish, 12.3m sea snakes and 1.2m pycnodonts – a type of bony fish – O'Leary and the other scientists developed the idea that in the late Cretaceous and early Paleogene period, the animals were experiencing gigantism.

Evolutionary biologists have long talked about the phenomenon of island gigantism, where species that live on small islands can sometimes develop very large bodies, possibly because they have more resources or there are few predators, or both.

"We put out the idea that maybe this island gigantism can pertain to islands of water," O'Leary said. "If you get a sea that's moving in and going out, maybe it's leaving behind pockets of water in which new variables are taking place that control the body size."

Though considerably less watery and verdant today, there is no shortage of human life in the Sahara – people for whom the presence of ancient sea creatures is not news, as the team found during their expeditions in 1999, 2003 and 2009.

"The Sahara is full of people. Sometimes we would be working in what seemed like the most remote desert, and someone would just drive up on a moped. It's a very alive environment," said O'Leary, who is from Stony Brook University in the US. "The local people ... knew that the sea had passed, and they would talk about the shells that they found and know that they're marine shells."

People in northern Mali have been living through a "security nightmare", particularly since Tuareg rebels and then jihadists occupied it in 2012. While this has prevented O'Leary and the 10 other scientists – from Mali, the US and Australia – getting on the ground since 2009, it also forced them to compile their findings and come up with a comprehensive picture.

When setting off on their fourth expedition in 2009, the team got as far as Gao when they received calls urging them to abandon their trip. They did so, but it was only years later, reading the Canadian diplomat Robert Fowler's book on being kidnapped with an aide by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, that O'Leary realized what the trigger for those calls had been.

She said significant paleontological riches were buried under the sands of northern Mali, and there was also extensive archaeological work to be done, but the security situation that had left so many Malians dead or displaced meant this work would be on hold indefinitely.

"This is such a terrible thing to happen to such an interesting country with such a rich legacy. I hope that by telling our scientific story, it gets the word out that there's many important and interesting things to be known about Mali that are probably not that well understood. There's a tremendous amount of scientific work to be done there and it's impossible."

The study builds on the work of British expeditions to Mali in the 1980s which, among other things, had discovered but not written about a large turtle shell and an important collection of fossils.

The collected fossils remain Mali's property, but are on loan to the American Museum of Natural History for scientific study.

O'Leary said the fact that the Sahara was once under water showed there was a precedent for climate change and sea level rises that should give climate deniers pause for thought.

"Hopefully, by understanding these historical examples, in the current dialogue people can be more accepting that what scientists are telling them is true, and that not only is it true, but there are historical examples of much greater magnitude where the planet has changed," she said.

(Source: The Guardian)

Scientists are genetically engineering plants to store carbon deeper in the earth

It's not enough for humans to pump less carbon into the atmosphere. To address climate change, many experts say we're going to need to find a way to remove some of the emissions already polluting our air.

While some scientists are focusing on mechanical solutions to carbon capture, researchers at the Salk Institute's Harnessing Plants Initiative are taking a more organic approach, by looking for ways to optimize plants' natural ability to capture and store carbon - and they just discovered a gene that could be a game-changer.

Plants naturally capture carbon from their environment and store it underground in their root systems - the deeper and more robust the root system, the more stable the storage.

In a new study published in the journal Cell on Thursday, scientists from Salk detail their discovery that a gene called EXOCYST70A3 determines how deep the thale cress plant's roots grow in soil.

By altering the EXOCYST70A3 gene, the researchers found they could prompt the thale cress plant's root system to grow more deeply - and they say all plants contain the same gene or one similar to it.

"We are incredibly excited about this first discovery on the road to realizing the goals of the Harnessing Plants Initiative," researcher Wolfgang Busch said in a press release.

(source: sciencealert.com)

China's manned space lab to re-enter atmosphere on Friday

China's manned space lab Tiangong-2 has finished experiments and will re-enter Earth's atmosphere on July 19, authorities said on Saturday.

A small amount of debris is likely to fall into the designated safe waters of the South Pacific Ocean, the China Manned Space Engineering Office said in a statement.

China launched Tiangong-2 on September 15, 2016, after Tiangong-1, its first manned space lab.

(Source: Reuters)

Visiting Hamedan? Consider a rail route

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — The first exclusive tourist train connecting Tehran to Hamedan was inaugurated on Friday, making it easy for sightseers to get around one of the ancient world’s greatest cities.

Boarding 180 passengers, the train departed Tehran early on Friday in a round-trip schedule, letting passengers to have a one-day tour of Hamedan’s historical and natural attractions, IRNA reported.



The tour is planned to be operated once a week and with top speeds of 140 km/h along the route, with the travel time as little as three hours 20 minutes.

The rail route, was officially launched earlier in March, in a ceremony attended by several local officials and MPs. Construction operations of the rail route started in 2005.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world’s greatest cities. It was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan’s attractions to name a few.

Ancient Rome revealed in stunning detail by ‘most accurate model ever’ that took historian 35 years to build

Rome was not built in a day and the ‘most accurate’ model of ancient Rome is testament to this as it took archaeologist Italo Gismondi 35 years to build.

The Plastico di Roma imperiale (model of imperial Rome) was actually commissioned by Mussolini in 1933 and is so realistic that a few shots of it were used in the film Gladiator.

The model can be viewed today in the Museum of Roman Civilization in Rome, Italy.

It is so useful because it helps a lot of academics visualize Rome to aid their studies and gives a lot more context to famous structures, like the Colosseum, which we are used to seeing as stand alone buildings.

Roman cities were laid out so efficiently that it can also teach us more and inspire us about infrastructure in modern society.

For example, the city of Bath in England has a Roman layout and Roman baths and similarities can be seen between it and the model.

Gismondi kept adding to his model of 4th century CE Rome until three years before his death at the age of 87.

(Source: [thesun.co.uk](#))



ROUND THE GLOBE

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis, a serial transnational property, consists of the ruins of Sao Miguel Arcanjo in Brazil, and those of San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Senora de Loreto, and Santa Maria la Mayor in Argentina.

These are the impressive remains of Jesuit Mission settlements established in the 17th and 18th centuries on lands originally occupied by Guaraní indigenous communities.



In Brazil, the ruins of the Sao Miguel Arcanjo church constitute the most intact and complete structure among this period’s designated heritage properties. In Argentina, the four Jesuit-Guarani Missions, located in the southern Misiones province, provide an exceptional example of systematic and organized territorial occupation.

The properties’ surviving ruins depict the experience of the Society of Jesus in South America, where there emerged a singular system of spatial, economic, social, and cultural relations in 30 settlements – referred to as reducciones – that included ranches, mate plantations, and networks of trails and waterways extending across the Uruguay River and its tributaries.

This particular model of the reducciones also included smaller structures and constructions designed to support the basic functions of the settlements. Together, these elements, each closely integrated within productive lands, and each manifesting the distinct potential and complementary traits of the various settlements and the other Jesuit provinces in the region, inform this underlying interpretation, reflected by the serial heritage property in a singular and specific fashion.

Over time, these structures lost their original religious, residential, educational, and cultural functions. Today, the various Missions include fragments of walls corresponding to the original monuments (churches, dwellings, workshops, orchards).

(Source: [UNESCO](#))

Islamic architecture? Sure, but Na’in’s old mosque offers so much more

By Afshin Majlesi

Well regarded for its hospitable people, handicrafts, and ancient qanats (manmade subterranean aqueducts that brings water from the mountains), Na’in dates back to nearly 2000 years, which makes it one of the oldest continuously settled towns in the Iranian plateau.

A tour to the oasis city seems to be enjoyable and well worth if you are a fan of Islamic architecture. Na’in harbors one of the oldest mosques in the Islamic Republic.

Originally constructed in c. tenth century, Jameh Mosque of Na’in is was one of the first mosques built in Iran and is unusual in that it doesn’t conform to the usual four-iwan pattern of its time (for instance Jameh Mosque of Isfahan).

Though may seem very modest at the first sight, the exterior facade and minaret are austere beautiful and many parts of the interior (including the mihrab) are decorated with finely detailed stucco work.

Mihrab is a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that points out the qibla, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and hence the direction that Muslims should face when praying.

The mosque has a central rectangular courtyard that is surrounded with hypostyles on three sides. At one of these hypostyles the mihrab of the mosque is located.

Further interesting features include the exquisitely carved wooden minbar (a pulpit where the imam -- prayer leader -- stands to deliver sermons), which bears an inscription that identifies as being 700 years old.

There is also an underground prayer hall, designed to keep the faithful cool in summer and warm in winter. Alabaster casements have been set in the ceiling of this dug-out basement, which allows natural light to come through.

An access to the qanat below the mosque supplies water to the ablutions area. The terms “Jameh Mosque” or “Masjed-e Jameh” or “Friday Mosque” is used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Na’in lies 170 km north of Yazd and 140 km east of Isfahan. Like much of the Iranian plateau, it has a desert climate, with a maximum temperature of 41 °C in summer, and a minimum of -9 °C in winter.

During the ancient times the city was at the junction of a desert road that connected Tabas and Mashhad, it used to be an important crossroad on converging trade routes since Sassanid times. Na’in was known for its ceramics and



textiles; today it’s primarily known for fine hand-knotted carpets and for hand-loomed camel-wool cloaks, which are produced in the neighboring villages.

Under travelers’ eyes

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the mosque have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

“Great and different”

If you travel around Isfahan and Kerman and Yazd provinces defiantly you’ll see variety of mosques with almost the same design but this one is totally different .Different material different interior design. (Shervin1359 from Huntington Beach, California; Reviewed July 2019)

“At the third oldest mosque in Iran”

While travelling from Yazd to Isfahan, the old city of Na’in will be certainly on your way. A short stop and a visit to the “third” oldest mosque in Iran: the Jame Mosque of Na’in! This mosque dates probably from the 9th or 10th centuries and was built in the famous “Khorasani” architectural style, which combines perfectly Islamic and pre-Islamic influences. It is still used as a congregational mosque! Don’t miss the pulpit, the wood and stone carvings, the alabaster works, the central courtyard with beautiful porches, the fantastic brickworks and the 28m high minaret. Visit also its basement, with tunnels and water channels, which is believed to have housed - centuries ago - a Zoroastrian Fire Temple. Just amazing! But remember, the breathtaking mosques are way ahead, right at your next stop: the awesome city of Isfahan. Enjoy! (LuizDutraNeto from Rio de Janeiro, RJ; Reviewed February 2019)

12% rise in foreign tourist visits to historical sites in Fars

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Visits by international travelers to historical sites in Fars province rose 12 percent during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) compared to the same period a year earlier.

The Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has registered 147,389 foreign nationals visiting museums and historical sites across the southern province during the period, provincial tourism chief Mosayeb Amiri said on Monday, CHTN reported.

Meanwhile, a total of 2,013,337 visits by domestic sightseers were recorded during the three months, the official said.

Hafezieh, a memorial garden where illustrious Persian poet Hafez is laid to rest, was named the most-visited site and it received 588,979 visitors, he said.



UNESCO-registered Persepolis, and Sadi mausoleum, where a great figure of classical Persian literature is entombed, were ranked the second and third, receiving 381,342 and 357,094 visitors respectively, Amiri added.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country’s most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars, or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

Winners of Iranshahr Terminal design contest announced

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Winners of an international contest for the design of Iranshahr Terminal were announced on July 7 in the presence of the CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport City Ali Rostami.

Gerkan, Marg & Partners (GMP), an international architectural company based

in Hamburg, Germany; Iranian-German architect and designer Hadi Tehrani; and Kincl Ltd., an architectural company based in Zagreb, Croatia, were ranked 1st to 3rd respectively, according to IKAC news service.

Iranshahr Terminal is projected to become Iran’s biggest airport terminal’ with

an annual capacity of 100 million passengers upon completion.

In its first phase of development, the terminal will have a capacity of 25 million passengers annually, which will increase to 100 million passengers per year once the final phase of development is completed.



This family’s road trip never ends

By Emily Harteau

When you are a child, time has a way of unspooling slowly, purely set to our natural rhythm. As we grow older, time is punctuated by appointments and alarm clocks, and we forget how to live at our own pace.

When we set off on an overland road trip in a van five years ago, we wanted to slow down time again by raising a family on the road and use their questions about nature and life as our curriculum. We are world-schooling our kids.

Many factors determine our plans. Weather and finances help us decide which activities we do, where to camp and how long to stay. We have a loose idea of where we want to be for, say, a season, or if we need to meet someone somewhere in three months.

We have traveled throughout Central and South America, visiting one stunning landscape after the other. We hope that we are raising children who will grow up to cherish the natural wonders of the world.

Watching children play in nature is the best reminder of how to remain present. Above, we were on the trail to the

famed towers in Torres del Paine National Park in Southern Chilean Patagonia. We had hiked up and set a base camp at Campamento Los Torres, gone to bed early, then awoke at 4:45 a.m. in the dark for an early morning push to watch the sun rise over the gorgeous spires.

From the highlands of La Paz, Bolivia, it took us three days to drive to the Amazon basin. After a few days by boat from Rurrenabake, we met some locals who had just rescued this baby howler monkey the night before. They discovered it crying alone on the forest floor, and guessed that it was an orphan.

When we saw these incredible rock faces in the Potosi department of Bolivia, we decided we’d have to stop to climb them. We consulted local shepherds at Estancia Churata, who confirmed that bolted sport-climbing routes were there. The sight on the ground, though, awed us. Llamas grazed in the verdant pasture, watered by a trickling stream that flowed down the center of the valley.

We stopped to look for whales and other wildlife in the Atlantic from the top of Faro Punta Delgada lighthouse in Argentina. The Valdes Peninsula of Northern Patagonia is on the UNESCO World Heritage list for its bounty of fauna.

El Tatio geysers in the Atacama desert of northern Chile sits above 14,000 feet in elevation, making them among the highest geyser fields in the world. The fumaroles, steam plumes and bubbling, bursting geysers put on an impressive natural exhibition. We love the breadth and diversity we’ve encountered on the road.

We crossed one of the countless glacial rivers in Los Glaci-ares National Park in Argentina and took a break to let Colette lay on her belly to drink deeply from a stream. She exclaimed “THAT is the best water I have ever tasted!”

The kids think that living in a tiny house with wheels is pretty cool because it means having a beach house one week, a mountain cabin the next. One week, above, we were 100 miles into the vast Salar de Uyuni, the world’s largest salt flats, in southwest Bolivia, exploring one of the islands.

On another trip, below, we pitched camp in Los Glaci-ares National Park in Argentina with a view of Cerro Torre soaring in the background. Backcountry explorations with children require additional planning but pays you back handsomely.

(Source: [The New York Times](#))

Five homegrown nano sport products introduced

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Iran Nano-technology Innovation Council introduced five nano products for sports during the startup SPORTEX, which was held from July 9 to 12 in Tehran.

Here is the brief description of these nano products manufactured by three Iranian knowledge-based companies.

Nano fabrics

An Iranian knowledge-based company has manufactured nano fabrics for sport wears.

Nano-composite fabrics have many useful functions including cooling the skin in summer, transferring the body moisture to the environment, rapidly drying textiles, increasing blood circulation, increasing cheerfulness, decreasing vascular cramps, and eliminating the bad smell of sweat and at the same time allowing the skin to continue its natural breathing, according to SPORTEX website.

One of the fabrics has the ability to rapidly transfer the body moisture to the environment. The presence of micrometric channels in the cross-sectional area of the fiber results in a faster transfer of moisture to a wider level of tissue; therefore, it can increase the evaporation of moisture from the garment.

The heat required for evaporation is provided by the body, and this results in a feeling



of dryness and cooling for the person wearing the cooling garment. These features will not be lost by repeated washing of these fiber.

Another kind of the fabric can reflect infrared radiations, and thus cool down the body. This product can reflect infrared

radiations and have the ability to retransmit these radiations into the body.

When the infrared radiation penetrates the skin, it contacts the molecules of protein, collagen, fat and water. By creating micrometric fluctuations, a thermal reaction is

created which increases the temperature of the body tissue. As blood vessels expand, circulation increases.

Curcumin nanomicellar soft gel

Produced by an Iranian knowledge-based company, the soft gel is composed of yellow pigment in curry spice. Turmeric is the principal curcuminoid in the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* Linn. The plant is belonging to ginger family (Zingiberaceae) and is native in India and south-east Asia.

Curcumin may help protect against exercised-induced oxidative stress. Moreover, exercise and sports are notoriously hard on the joints. But numerous studies have shown that curcumin may help support joint health and promote a healthy inflammatory response after vigorous exercise.

Electric muscle stimulation suit

A knowledge-based company and a sport club have jointly designed an electric muscle stimulation suit.

EMS is the elicitation of muscle contraction using electric impulses. The impulses are generated by a device and delivered through electrodes to the skin surface above the muscles to be stimulated. The impulses cause the muscles to contract, so the result is similar to the actual movement and regular contractions of the muscles.

Iranian sport startups network unveiled Tehran Times Technology Desk

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian sport startups network was unveiled during a ceremony at the Pardis technology park on Sunday.

Launching the network jointly by the National Technomart and the Sport for All Federation is the first step toward promoting knowledge-based sports and activities, the Pardis technology park website reported.

The network aims to develop market for sport equipment and meet the technological needs of sport ecosystem.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth is ready to find market for startups active in the field of sport, said Abdolhamid Ahmadi, an official with the ministry. The Pardis technology park is ready



to launch sport accelerator centers with cooperation of the private sector, said Akbar Qanbarpour, an official with the technology park.

Sport startups should continue their way with consistency and hope, he added.

Iranian students win medals at Malaysian innovation exhibition

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Four Iranian students won medals during the 3rd International Young Scientists Innovation Exhibition (IYSIE) 2019, which was held from July 8 to 12 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Maral Mehdiinia, Mahla Soukhtanlou and Arian Mirzaei won three gold medals in physics and engineering and Maneli Iranmanesh won a bronze medal in biosciences.

Organized by Malaysia Young Scientists Organization, IYSIE hosted participants from 15 countries around the world including Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Taiwan, Nepal and India.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas with one another and more than



200 innovative research projects focusing on this year's theme, "Innovation Enriches Humanity", were showcased.

Projects were classified into five categories namely environmental sciences, physics and engineering, life sciences, computer sciences and mathematics.

Best practices for incorporating emerging tech

Today's technologies can do incredible things, but the latest innovations can also be complex, confusing and costly. That may leave you feeling like you want and need to implement more tech yet wondering how.

If you think you're behind the times, know that you're not alone. According to a PointSource survey, most of the 679 decision makers who responded said they're not using cutting-edge tech like blockchain or AI right now. In addition, the survey found that two-thirds of respondents were still in the discovery phase or considering vendors to usher in the use of these emerging tech tools.

With so many different types of hardware and software to choose from, making the business case for one technology over the others isn't easy. Beyond that, new tech raises tricky questions about ROI, long-term costs, data security issues and many more.

Given how difficult it is to add new tech

and how damaging it is to make the wrong choice, it's tempting to dismiss the latest innovations and hold off on any new technology until it reaches mainstream status. But it doesn't take a tech evangelist to see that the future of business is digital. And as the saying goes, you either evolve or die.

As you plan to make additions to your own digital toolkit, rely on these best practices for selecting and incorporating new tech:

■ Anoint one employee your emerging tech advocate

Adaptability is a major asset in business, but many companies are inherently resistant to change. When you need to implement a new technology, though, that mindset simply won't fly. "Develop a strategy to ensure the company can attract, develop or partner to have the right team to adopt the technology," advises Isaac Kunkel, senior vice president of consulting services for the blockchain developer Chainyard. "This is particularly

important in today's tight job market where technology skills, especially emerging tech, are in high demand."

If incorporating technology is truly your priority, take it a step further and make it someone's primary responsibility. Task that person with scouting new technologies, forming relationships with vendors and explaining the value of the technologies under consideration to decision makers in the organization. Having a staff member primarily responsible for considering new tech solutions is a big commitment, but it's worth it. Having an emerging technology advocate on staff ensures your company is always thinking about what comes next.

■ Align new tech solutions with your goals.

Focus on understanding how a tech solution impacts your company's top priorities, whether that's luring new customers, moving into new markets, cutting costs or what have

you. For example, when eBay was looking to attract more customers, it partnered with Australian retailer Myer to give customers the ability to browse Myer's products using VR technology. Ultimately, the point of implementing new tech is to do things better, not just differently.

Take note of how companies in your industry have implemented the tech solutions you're considering. And discuss that same tech with vendors and other industry experts. Select technologies that serve your goals, even if doing so cannibalizes part of your current products and services. If you want to see what happens when a company doesn't embrace new tech in favor of existing business products and practices, just look to Blockbuster. The video-rental chain opted for business as usual rather than getting on board the streaming services train (and we all know how that turned out).

(Source: forbes.com)

How AI is transforming agriculture

Agriculture and farming is one of the oldest and most important professions in the world. Humanity has come a long way over the millennia in how we farm and grow crops with the introduction of various technologies. As the world population continues to grow and land becomes more scarce, people have needed to get creative and become more efficient about how we farm, using less land to produce more crops and increasing the productivity and yield of those farmed acres. Worldwide, agriculture is a \$5 trillion industry, and now the industry is turning to AI technologies to help yield healthier crops, control pests, monitor soil and growing conditions, organize data for farmers, help with workload, and improve a wide range of agriculture-related tasks in the entire food supply chain.

■ AI helping analyze farm data

Farms produce hundreds of thousands of data points on the ground daily. With the help of AI, farmers can now analyze a variety of things in real time such as weather conditions, temperature, water usage or soil conditions collected from their farm to better inform their decisions. For example, AI technologies help farmers optimize planning to generate more bountiful yields by determining crop choices, the best hybrid seed choices and resource utilization.

AI systems are also helping to improve harvest quality and accuracy -- what is known as precision agriculture. Precision agriculture uses AI technology to aid in detecting diseases in plants, pests, and poor plant nutrition on farms. AI sensors can detect and target weeds and then decide which herbicides to apply within the right buffer zone. This helps to prevent over application of herbicides and excessive toxins that find their way in our food.

Farmers are also using AI to create seasonal forecasting



models to improve agricultural accuracy and increase productivity. These models are able to predict upcoming weather patterns months ahead to assist decisions of farmers. Seasonal forecasting is particularly valuable for small farms in developing countries as their data and knowledge can be limited. Keeping these small farms operational and growing bountiful yields is important as these small farms produce 70% of the world's crops.

In addition to ground data, farmers are also taking to the sky to monitor the farm. Computer vision and deep learning algorithms process data captured from drones flying over their fields. From drones, AI enabled cameras can capture images of the entire farm and analyze the images in near-real time to identify problem areas and potential improvements. Unmanned drones are able to cover far more land in much less time than humans on foot allowing

for large farms to be monitored more frequently.

■ AI tackles the labor challenge

With less people entering the farming profession, most farms are facing the challenge of a workforce shortage. Traditionally farms have needed many workers, mostly seasonal, to harvest crops and keep farms productive. However, as we have moved away from being an agrarian society with large quantities of people living on farms to now large quantities of people living in cities less people are able and willing to tend to the land. One solution to help with this shortage of workers is AI agriculture bots. These bots augment the human labor workforce and are used in various forms. These bots can harvest crops at a higher volume and faster pace than human laborers, more accurately identify and eliminate weeds, and reduce costs for farms by having a round the clock labor force.

Additionally, farmers are beginning to turn to chatbots for assistance. Chatbots help answer a variety of questions and provide advice and recommendations on specific farm problems. Chatbots are already being used in numerous other industries with great success.

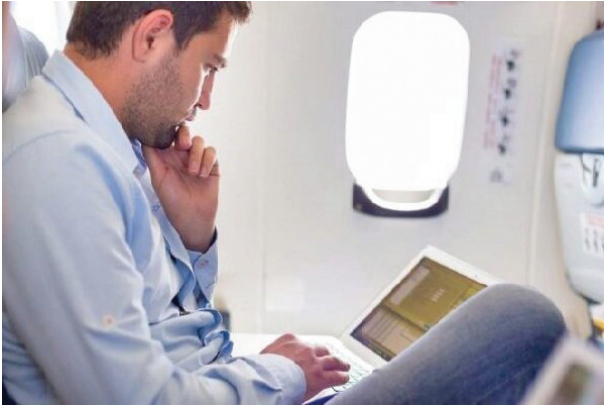
Through the use of AI and cognitive technologies farms across the world are able to run more efficiently, with less workers than before while still meeting the world's food needs. There is no more fundamental need than the need of food, and this will never go away. Fortunately, the use of AI will allow farms of all sizes to operate and function keeping our world fed. Through the use of agricultural AI and cognitive technologies, farms across the world are able to run more efficiently to produce the fundamental staples of our dietary lifestyles.

(Source: forbes.com)

Iranian airlines to offer inflight Wi-Fi

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The Iranian airlines will be equipped with satellite WiFi in the near future, the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) announced, Mehr reported on Sunday.

Morteza Barari said that the ISA and the Civil Aviation Organization have held several meetings in order to meet the needs of passengers for internet.



"According to the agreements, the aviation organization will provide an airplane for the space agency for testing the inflight WiFi," he noted.

The inflight WiFi is totally different from base transceiver station (BTS) that is provided by some operators, he said, adding, BTS cannot provide good coverage during flights.

BTS is a piece of equipment that facilitates wireless communication between user equipment and a network.

■ How does inflight WiFi work?

According to the Reader's Digest, having to switch your devices off on airplanes is frustrating, especially when you're on a business trip and need to stay in touch with the office or flying solo with kids on a long-haul journey. The good news is that wireless internet access is becoming available on more and more airlines in place of traditional inflight entertainment.

Satellite WiFi uses a network of orbiting satellites to allow connection. The satellite is linked to ground stations, and the airplane connects using a satellite antennae on the top of the fuselage. Again, the plane uses whichever satellite is nearest as it travels. Satellite WiFi operates on two different bandwidths: narrow band and broadband. Both allow passengers full internet access, although the narrower options are less suitable for streaming movies.

Ways to protect your tech this summer

If you love your tech as much as we do, odds are you want to take your gadgets everywhere. Unfortunately, while you may love the pool and the beach, your cellphone does not. Protect your tech by showing it a little summer lovin' and keep it safe with these tips.

■ Watch the temperature

Extremely warm or cold temperatures can have noticeable effects on your phone's battery, display and synthetic housing components. There's even a possibility of the ominously named "heat-related death," which is exactly as horrible as it sounds. Like your skin, the best way to protect your tech is to keep it in the shade. If you do find that your phone has overheated in the sun, let it cool gradually. Do not put it in the refrigerator or freezer.



If your summer vacation involves a parka and snow boots, make sure you keep your phone in an inside pocket, close to your body, to prevent it from freezing or going through frequent temperature changes, which can cause visual distortions in the display.

Use a cooling pad when you're working on a laptop outdoors, even if you don't use one at home. Increased temperatures mean even new laptops could easily overheat in the summer sun. Also, cleaning your laptop fan will ensure it's running properly and keeping your laptop cooler. Again, the best protection is to keep it in the shade.

■ Keep it dry

If you're looking for a little more protection, say, for boating or swimming, try a waterproof case like one from DryCASE. The "case" is more like a heavy duty Ziploc bag with a few added features, including a buoyant air band (so it will float if you happen to drop it in the water) and a waterproof headphone jack. The bag is big enough to fit any cellphone, regardless of size, and can be vacuum sealed to conserve space.

For laptops, cameras and other large items, there is a DryCASE backpack option available, which will keep your tech dry in the event of a thunderstorm, or if you plan to take your SLR on your kayaking trip. If you actually do use your laptop poolside, our best advice is to be very careful.

If you happen to drop your unprotected phone in the water: Don't panic. Take out the battery and SIM card, then dry the device in a bag or bowl of white rice overnight to remove excess moisture. You may also want to take your phone to a technician before you completely lose hope.

■ Case by case

Hikers and backpackers planning to take laptops out into the great outdoors should have a padded bag or case that will support computers over rough terrain. Plastic laptop skins will protect your tech against scratches and other physical damage, but won't be much help when it comes to small debris and jolting car rides. Either buy a padded sleeve, or opt for a bag or case that has padding all around your computer, not just up against your back, so that the other contents of your bag won't damage your laptop.

Like always, you should have a case and screen protector on your cellphone or tablet to prevent damage and scratches. If you're serious about keeping your tech safe, consider getting an Otterbox or other heavy-duty case, as opposed to the more fashionable (but ultimately less effective) hard plastic cases.

(Source: mashable.com)

Billions of air pollution particles found in hearts of city dwellers

The hearts of young city dwellers contain billions of toxic air pollution particles, research has revealed.

Even in the study's youngest subject, who was three, damage could be seen in the cells of the organ's critical pumping muscles that contained the tiny particles. The study suggests these iron-rich particles, produced by vehicles and industry, could be the underlying cause of the long-established statistical link between dirty air and heart disease.



The scientists said the abundance of the nanoparticles might represent a serious public health concern and that particle air pollution must be reduced urgently. More than 90% of the world's population lives with toxic air, according to the World Health Organization, which has declared the issue a global "public health emergency".

The scientists acknowledged some uncertainties in their research, but Prof Barbara Maher, of Lancaster University, said: "This is a preliminary study in a way, but the findings and implications were too important not to get the information out there."

Maher and colleagues found in 2016 that the same nanoparticles were present in human brains and were associated with Alzheimers-like damage, another disease linked to air pollution.

While all ages were affected, Maher said she was particularly concerned about children.

"For really young people, the evidence is now of very early-stage damage both in the heart and the brain," she said. "We have a likely candidate [particle] able to access both organs, with the pathological evidence to show damage is happening."

A recent comprehensive review concluded that air pollution may be damaging every organ and virtually every cell in the human body, as tiny particles are inhaled, move into the blood stream and are transported around the body. Much of the evidence of harm, from diabetes to reduced intelligence to increased miscarriages, is epidemiological, as harmful experiments on people are unethical. But one study in 2018 found air pollution particles in the placentas of women who had given birth.

The new research is the first direct evidence that iron-rich nanoparticles may cause heart disease. Tiny particles were already known from laboratory tests to be seriously damaging to human cells and to be a significant component of roadside air pollution.

Maher said: "Putting an abundance of iron-rich nanoparticles right into the sub-cellular components of the heart's muscle tissue, that's not where you want them to be sitting. They are inside the mitochondria, which are damaged and appear abnormal. Mitochondria are your energy source, making sure your heart pumps effectively."

Mark Miller, an expert on the cardiovascular effects of air pollution, from the University of Edinburgh but not part of the research, said: "While there are some uncertainties from the study, it highlights how important it is to better understand the way particles in air pollution may cause harm to different areas of the body.

"More effort is needed to reduce particle emissions from vehicles, especially to remove the number of vehicles on the road by encouraging people to walk and cycle for short journeys."

(Source: The Guardian)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

The spread of foot and mouth disease

(March 1, 2001)

Following an outbreak in the UK of foot and mouth disease, concern is growing that hundreds of thousands of farm animals will have to be slaughtered across Europe.

Foot and mouth disease is highly **contagious**. The **virus** can be spread in a number of ways and can even be carried by the wind over 500 kilometers. While it can often be **lethal** to young pigs, sheep and cows, it rarely kills adult animals but it does leave them with long term **chronic** problems - dairy cows in particular have greatly reduced **milk yields**.

Vaccines are available but are costly and only offer relatively **short-term protection** so the animals need regular **booster** vaccinations. This is the reason why British animals are not vaccinated.

Modern intensive farming - where large herds are kept in **close proximity** and travel extensively - also adds to the **likelihood** of rapid spread of the disease. Foot and mouth is found on every continent and **periodic** outbreaks occur in most countries. However, full scale **epidemics** are less common in countries where it is **endemic**. The local animals often have some natural **immunity** to the disease and farming tends to be much less intensive. While foot and mouth does have an impact on farmers in these regions, it is countries like Britain that **have no trace** of the disease which is more likely to suffer a major epidemic.

Words

foot and mouth: a very serious disease that affects cattle, goats, sheep and pigs.

contagious: a contagious disease can be caught by contact with people or things that are infected with it
virus: a kind of germ that can cause disease
lethal: something lethal can kill people or animals

chronic: very severe and lasting a long time

milk yields: the quantities of milk produced

vaccines: substances given to people or animals to prevent them getting a disease

short-term protection: protection that lasts for a little while only
booster: an extra injection that renews the effectiveness of a previous vaccine injection

close proximity: near to

likelihood: the chance that something will happen

periodic: happening occasionally

epidemics: occurrences of diseases which spread quickly and affect a large number of people or animals

endemic: naturally or commonly occurring

immunity: protection

to have no trace: to have no sign of, to be free of

Comprehensive waste management plan to be prepared for Tehran

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — A comprehensive plan for waste management in the capital will be prepared in a collaborative initiative between the waste management organization and the urban research and planning center, both affiliated to Tehran Municipality.

Ali Abdoli, head of the waste management organization, made the remarks in the first conference of environmental challenges centering on plastic waste held on July 14 in Tehran.

"Certainly, waste management requires the necessary infrastructure and planning, so we decided to develop a scientific and specialized plan in this regard in cooperation with the urban research and planning center," he said.

"So far, a contract has been signed with a research company to start preparing the plan," he added, ISNA reported on Sunday.

"With a comprehensive waste management plan, we can take steps towards scientific and optimal management of waste in the capital," he further highlighted.

He went on to say that domestic solid waste disposal has a large economic value and will yield financial benefits if it is reused.

"Today, as citizens, we must strive to purchase goods exactly in accordance with our needs," he noted, adding, unfortunately, there are currently consumable products in waste landfills.

However, during last year due to various factors such as rising commodity prices, waste generation in Tehran has dropped by 1,400 tons per day, he highlighted.

In this regard, the efforts of the municipalities to prevent the transfer of massive wastes to the landfills and paying attention to waste segregation at source are not deniable, he added.

Abdoli also stated that the role of citizens in the production of waste is certainly very effective and they can play a key role in managing their consumption in the field of waste production.

"Therefore, we need to promote the culture of using less plastic containers", he said, adding, undoubtedly, citizens can



segregate the waste at source, minimize waste production and reduce much of waste collection and management costs.

Meanwhile, Sadr-o-din Alipour, the director of environment and sustainable development department of Tehran Municipality, said that the use of plastic is on the rise among Iranians, as over 3,000 tons of plastic waste is generated per day in the country, which reaches 1 million tons in a year.

In April, Kiyomars Kalantari, director general of Tehran province's department of environment, said that everyday 8,000 tons of waste is being transferred to landfills in Tehran but not even 1 kilogram of it is recycled as waste segregation at source is not being practiced.

Scheme to reduce disposable plastic use

During the event, Fereydoun Heydari, the mayor of Tehran District 5, announced that a scheme will be implemented in the district to reduce the use of disposable plastic.

Concerns raise for waste management among the municipality and Tehraners, as disposable plastic containers, which require decades to be recycled, are widely visible in every corner of the city, he lamented.

"It is essential to change plastic use patterns, and in this regard, we need to increase awareness of citizens about the effects of releasing single-use plastic in the environment," he suggested.

"In the past, people used their own non-plastic shopping bags, paper envelopes or baskets instead of plastic bags, however, with the development of new societies, 1 percent of the total waste generated in the country account for plastic waste, which has dire consequences on the environment," he regretted.

"As a role model we try to develop an optimal program for cultural development which mainly centers on persuading the residents to reduce the consumption of plastic containers," he concluded.

While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over reliant on single-use or disposable plastic with severe environmental consequences. Around the world, 1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute. Every year we use up to 5 trillion disposable plastic bags. In total, 50 percent of the plastic we use is single use, according to World Environment website.

NGOs must cooperate

Ali Moridi, head of soil and water office at the Department of Environment (DOE),

told ISNA on Sunday that NGOs must help the executive bodies in decision making for special issues which need special skills.

He further called on the NGOs to join hands in both fields of raising public awareness and waste management planning.

This year, a sufficient budget has been allocated for waste management and NGOs can cooperate in the implementation process, he concluded.

Waste management, a beneficial issue

Eskandar Omidinia, deputy chief of DOE, also said that waste is of great importance for the DOE, as waste management can bring financial benefit for the country while increasing the environmental safety.

He went on to say that many countries around the world make \$14 profit per dollar spent on waste management.

"As well as water and soil contribute to public health and quality of lives, waste should not be overlooked either," he noted.

"Today's waste condition is the result of our individual's performance, and the advent of new technologies without culture and education has caused many disruptions," he said, adding, "once we succeed when waste management is linked with the people's income generation."

The main priority of the DOE is to foster public awareness on waste management issues based on a sustainable development approach, he further highlighted.

Waste management in metropolises, especially in northern cities of the country, has become a serious issue for the past few years. Unfortunately, waste segregation at source is not being fully practice in the country.

Effective segregation of wastes means that less waste goes to landfill which makes it cheaper and better for people and the environment. It is also important to segregate for public health. In particular, hazardous wastes can cause long term health problems, so it is very important that they are disposed of correctly and safely and not mixed in with the normal waste coming out of home or office.

Giant jellyfish as big as diver appears off Cornish coast

A giant jellyfish has been spotted off the coast of Cornwall.

Sea creature nicknamed 'dustbin-lid jellyfish'.

Lizzie Daly came across the huge barrel jellyfish while diving near Falmouth on Saturday.

She said the sea creature was as big as her body and the largest of its kind that she had seen.

The biologist and wildlife presenter was diving as part of her Wild Ocean Week campaign, which aims to celebrate our oceans while raising money for the Ma-

rine Conservation Society.

Barrel jellyfish are the largest species of jellyfish found in UK waters.

They normally gravitated towards warmer coastal waters in late spring and often wash up on British beaches in May or June, sometimes in their hundreds, according to The Wildlife Trusts.

They get their nickname of "dustbin-lid jellyfish" from the fact they can grow to the size of a dustbin lid.

Their sting is not usually harmful to humans, but they can still sting when dead.

(Source: The Independent)

2 metro stations in Tehran to become operational

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Two subway stations in line 7 of Tehran underground transport system will become operational by the end of the next Iranian calendar month (August 22), Ali Emam, the CEO of Tehran Urban & Suburban Railway Operation Company, has said.

Subway line 7 is 22 kilometers long. With 23 stations the line also connects southeastern Tehran to northwestern parts of the city. The subway line was first partially opened in June 2017 but was closed due to safety issues in November 2017. Tehran subway line 7 was partially reopened in

mid-July with 5 stations stretching over 6 kilometers.

Over the next month, two more stations in line 7 stretching to 8.5 kilometers will come on stream, he stated, YJC reported on Monday.

Tehran subway system consists of five operational lines, stretching to 170 kilometers, and the lines 6 and 7 are partially opened. The lines link south to north, east to west and are gradually covering more neighborhoods. By completing the two aforementioned lines 70 kilometers will be added to the current railways.

100 buses in Tehran transport fleet renovated within 4 months



SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Some 100 buses operating in the capital's public transport fleet have been renovated since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Tehran bus operating company's director general has said.

"We accept that the current condition of some buses is not desirable, but we are working to provide the best service using the whole capacities available," Fars quoted Peyman Sanandaji as saying on Monday.

Since the beginning of this year, 100 buses offering services in transport fleet have undergone renovation and retrofitting measures in terms of cooling and heating systems, appearance and power system, he explained.

So, buses are supposed to turn on cooling or heating system, and in case of refusal the passengers can register their complaint and it will soon be pursued, he highlighted.


He further expressed hope that the government will soon allocate the necessary budget to renovate all the buses in the public transportation system.

Given that the public transport system is old and aging, a plan was proposed in the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018) by President Hassan Rouhani to renovate the public transport fleet, according to which 19,000 new buses, 48,000 new minibuses and 6,000 trucks should replace clunker ones.

Mehdi Jamalinejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development, has said that some 22,000 buses are operating in the country's public transport fleet, 16,000 of which are clunkers, accounting for 70 percent of the volume of bus transport system.

Globally transportation accounts for about 21 percent of greenhouse emissions. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has predicted that transport sector emissions of carbon dioxide will increase by 92 percent between 1990 and 2020. Most importantly the age of the transport fleet, the technology used within it and the extent to which such vehicles are maintained as well as the availability of appropriate fuel can decide the amount of emission attributed to the transport sector.

Some health or environmental officials believe that over 70 percent of pollutants in Tehran is produced by clunker buses.




N.I.O.C
1398.2311

First Announcement
Call for Public Tender

Two – Stages (Compressed) Tender renewal

Subject of Tender: (Provision of 3 Cargo Vessels for support Drilling Projects

Located in Persian Gulf)



National Iranian Drilling Company

Tender Descriptions :

The Tender Holder	Registration No. Through National Electronic Tendering System (http://iets.nporg.ir)	Tender No.	Estimated Value (AED)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3,197,214	98/33/06-5316	27,000,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenders

method	<input type="checkbox"/> based on minimum scoring (minimum quality score is 60) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.
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Purchasing & submitting of Tender documents

Distribution of tender documents by NIDC	Distribution Starting Date	Starting date for receiving (The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement). Last time for receiving (ended on the following Tenth day thereof)
	Distribution place	Contracts Department– Part A – First Floor – Operational Building – NIDC – Higher than Airport Square – Pasdaran Blvd. – Ahvaz- Iran- 061-34146525
Submitting method	Submitting one original bank fund receipt in the amount of 990,000 Iranian rails under account number 4001114004020491 in name of "NIDC incomes centralized fund" issued by Central Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. (Shaba No.: IR 520100004001114004020491) Submitting formal request for the purpose of receiving of tender documents.	
	Closing date	14 Days after the last time of purchasing of tender documents. (Proposal pockets including A. Guarantee B. Tender documents which is signed and stamped C. Financial proposal with pre-qualification papers and documents including (full versions of working resume based on pre-qualification forms with related CD) should be delivered at the same time)
Tender Envelopes Delivery Date	Delivery address	Hall no. 107,1st floor, tender committee, operation building, national Iranian drilling company, airport square, Ahvaz, Iran. Tel : +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender guarantee

Value of guarantee	Five billion and Seventy sixty four million (5,764,000,000) Rials or Five hundred three thousand and Nine hundred Seventy Six (503,976) AED.
Acceptable	✓Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtained activity license from the central bank of the Islamic republic of Iran.
Type of guarantee	✓Submitting one original bank fund receipt under account number 4001114006376636 in name of "NIDC saving centralized account" by the central bank of Islamic republic of Iran. (Shaba No.: IR 350100004001114006376636)
Duration of credit for quotation / Tender Guarantee	Tender guarantee should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one more time in ceiling of initial validity duration.

(Contracts Department)

Guarantee and More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۸/۴/۲۵نوبت دوم ۹۸/۴/۲۶

‘Disgusting, racist’: Trump slammed for attack on congresswomen

➔ most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run,” the president wrote.

‘Make America Great Again’

Pelosi said Trump’s comments reaffirm her previous estimation that the president intends to ‘Make America Great Again.’

“When @realDonaldTrump tells four American Congresswomen to go back to their countries, he reaffirms his plan to ‘Make America Great Again’ has always been about making America white again,” Pelosi said on Twitter.

“Our diversity is our strength and our unity is our power... Rather than attack Members of Congress, he should work with us for humane immigration policy that reflects American



values,” added the California Democrat. Omar, a Muslim congresswoman, was

born in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu and immigrated to the U.S. as a refugee, while

the three other liberal Democrats were all born in the U.S.

“You are stoking white nationalism because you are angry that people like us are serving in Congress and fighting against your hate-filled agenda,” said Omar, further citing a quotation from the assassinated U.S. politician, Robert F. Kennedy. “America’s answer to the intolerant man is diversity, the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired.”

Tlaib, another Muslim congresswoman, took the chance to call for Trump’s impeachment.

“Want a response to a lawless & complete failure of a President?” Tlaib tweeted. “He is the crisis. His dangerous ideology is the crisis. He needs to be impeached.”

According to Politico, Trump’s attack against the Democrats has given them “a common opponent to rally against.”

U.S. mission in Baghdad serves as Mossad, Daesh headquarters: Iraqi MP

TEHRAN— A senior Iraqi parliamentarian warns that the U.S. embassy in Baghdad is involved in “suspicious activities,” saying agents of the Israeli spy agency Mossad and the Daesh terrorist group have been spotted regularly visiting the diplomatic mission.

“The U.S. embassy in Baghdad has turned into a center for Israel’s Mossad and ISIS (Daesh) terrorists,” Hassan Salem was quoted as saying by the Iraqi Arabic-language al-Sumariya news website.

Salem said the U.S. embassy is interfering in Iraq’s internal affairs by spying, spreading rumors and hatching plots.

“The U.S. embassy’s violation of laws and forgetting its responsibilities based on the international laws mean that the center could not be called an embassy and therefore, its closure is legally necessary,” the Iraqi lawmaker said.

U.S. giving Daesh head protection

Salem had earlier suggested that U.S. forces in Ain al-Assad military base were protecting Daesh ringleader Ibrahim al-Samarrai, aka Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in the western desert of Iraq’s Anbar province.

“Al-Baghdadi is using the Anbar desert as a safe haven, while the U.S. forces provide him with all means of support from their station at the Ain al-Assad military base in Anbar province,” Salem said in February.

The Iraqi MP argued then that America’s support for al-Baghdadi “stems from Washington’s fear of a draft bill on expelling foreign troops from Iraq, which the parliament

intends to vote on during the new legislative term.”

Also in February, former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki for the first time divulged explosive secrets about how the United States supported Daesh and intentionally allowed the Takfiri terror outfit to gain power in Iraq so that Washington could creep back into the Arab country.

He said the administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama had played a key role in the creation of Daesh by allowing the terrorist group to overrun Iraqi territories.

In March, an Iraqi security expert also revealed that the American embassy in Iraq was carrying out suspicious measures, describing the mission as a US-Israeli operations room that sought to destabilize the region.

Abbas al-Ardawi was quoted by the Arabic-language al-Ma’aloumeh news website as saying that U.S. administration was exerting pressures on Baghdad and killing time to prolong its deployment in Iraq.

He said the relocation of terrorists from the town of Baqouz in Eastern Syria to the U.S. bases in Iraq was aimed to stir security tensions in the country and find a pretext for continued deployment of American forces.

Al-Ardawi said Iraqi lawmakers certainly wanted all U.S. forces to be expelled from the country as soon as possible given the fact that the Iraqi army.

Another senior Iraqi expert had in January warned of Washington’s attempts to increase its influence in Iraq,



saying Israeli spies and Daesh terrorists were present at across U.S. bases in Iraq.

Hafez Al-e Basharah told al-Ma’aloumeh news website that the U.S. was attempting to boost its presence in Iraq and the American forces had been stationed in the southern parts of Baghdad.

He went on to say that the U.S. forces did not allow any Iraqis to enter their bases in the country in an attempt to conceal the realities from the public opinion.

According to Press TV, Israeli intelligence agents were also operating from the bases, where Takfiri terrorists also received shelter and training, he added.

S. Korea calls Japan reports of North Korea sanctions breach ‘grave challenge’

TEHRAN— South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Monday Japan’s reported accusations that South Korea had exported banned goods to North Korea posed a “grave challenge” amid a growing dispute over Japanese export curbs.

Japan has tightened restrictions on the export of three materials used in high-tech equipment, citing “inadequate man-

agement” of sensitive items exported to South Korea.

The curbs were seen as a response to a South Korean court ruling last year ordering a Japanese company to compensate South Koreans who were forced into labor during World War II.

Japanese officials have cited “inadequate management” of sensitive items exported to

South Korea as a reason behind the curbs, as well as lack of information sharing on export controls.

Adding to tensions, Japan’s NHK and FNN broadcasters reported that hydrogen fluoride, one of the three materials covered by the curbs that can also be used in chemical weapons, had been shipped to North Korea after being exported to the South.

South Korea has said the reports were groundless and it has been doing a better job than Japan in keeping track of illicit exports.

North Korea was slapped with sanctions for its missile and nuclear weapons programs which it pursued for years in defiance of U.S. Security Council resolutions, Reuters reported.

Yemen rivals meet on board vessel for talks on Hudaydah

TEHRAN — Under the auspices of a United Nations committee, representatives from Yemen’s government and Houthis met for a second day on Monday on board a ship to discuss a plan to pull out forces from the key port city of Hudaydah, as well as a ceasefire deal.

The meetings, which were last held in February, kicked off on Sunday at the Antarctic Dream vessel in the Red Sea, some 30km off Hudaydah on Yemen’s western coast, AL Jazeera reported.

The UN chartered the vessel as neutral territory between the two rival sides to hold the two-day meetings of the Re-deployment Coordination Committee (RCC), which is led by former Danish Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard.

The government and the Houthis are tasked with withdrawing forces from Hudaydah as part of the ceasefire deal that

was reached last December in Sweden’s capital, Stockholm.

■ Saudi forces suffer heavy losses in Yemeni retaliation

Yemeni army and popular committees have killed or injured 10 Saudi-paid militiamen in Saudi Arabia’s south-western region of Jizan.

The army’s sniper unit, supported by fighters from allied Popular Committees, killed and injured 10 mercenaries east of al-Doud Mountain in Jizan on Sunday, Yemen’s Arabic-language al-Masirah news website cited an unnamed Yemeni military source as saying.

On Thursday, Yemeni forces took control of several military positions east of the mountain. Also on Sunday, Yemeni forces targeted with artillery shells gatherings of Saudi soldiers in Arar position in Jizan.

Qatar opens largest naval base amid U.S.-Saudi military drills

TEHRAN — Qatar, which is home to the biggest U.S. military base in the Middle East, has opened its own largest naval base amid ongoing tensions with Saudi Arabia, currently holding joint military drills with American forces.

The al-Daayen coastguard base in Semaisima was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by Qatar’s Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani and commander of U.S. Naval Forces in the Middle East Vice Admiral Jim Malloy Sunday.

Qatar’s interior ministry said in a tweet that the base, spread over 640,000 square meters, aims to “facilitate the securing of all territorial waters of the state and border posts.”

The base, it said, includes a “sophisticated seaport”, training and medical facilities, civil defense offices and operating rooms.

Malloy, commander of the U.S. Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said the new base presented “a wonderful opportunity for us

to interface more strongly with the Qatari coast guard.”

Asked whether the base was going to be used against Iran, Malloy said the move was “all about maritime security, that’s what our focus is”.

Last month, the U.S. Air Force deployed its F-22 Raptor stealth jet fighters to its military base in Qatar amid tensions in the strategic region following Washington’s provocations against Tehran and Iran’s downing of an intruding U.S. spy drone near the Strait of Hormuz.

The Sunday ceremony also witnessed the launch of a new fleet of boats, including Hercules 150 types - which are 48 meters long and can stay at sea six days without refueling - and the Hercules 75 types, which are 24 meters long.

The base’s inauguration comes amid a bitter row between Doha and a Riyadh-led coalition of regional Arab regimes.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates,

Bahrain and Egypt cut off diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5, 2017, after officially accusing the country of “sponsoring terrorism.” Doha denies the allegation.

Despite acting as mediator between Qatar and the quartet, the U.S. is apparently benefiting from the rift.

Last week, Qatar agreed to buy “tremendous amounts of military equipment” and Boeing planes from the U.S. following a visit by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Washington.

“They are investing very heavily in our country,” U.S. President Donald Trump said. Riyadh is also a big buyer of the American weapons.

During Trump’s visit to Riyadh in May 2017, Saudi Arabia agreed to buy \$110 billion worth of U.S. weapons and signed “investment” deals worth billions more.

The arms sales to Riyadh, which has been carrying out a war of aggression against the impoverished people of Yemen since 2015,

have caused fierce global outcry.

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said last month that Congress would block Trump’s future arms sales to the kingdom.

“There will be a vote to remove any authority to make those sales to Saudi Arabia,” Pelosi said during an interview with Fareed Zakaria hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations.

■ Saudi, U.S. launch joint military drill

Also on Sunday, the Saudi Royal Land Forces and the U.S. Army launched a military drill at the main exercise center at the King Khaled Military City in the kingdom’s Northern Region.

General Saleh bin Ahmed al-Zahrani praised the participation of U.S. forces in the Commander 2019 drill.

The exercise reportedly aims to develop and strengthen Saudi-American joint relations within the framework of plans and programs of the Saudi Royal Land Forces.

Will Ursula von der Leyen be the Commander of the European Commission?

➔ The base is supposed to coordinate NATO forces in Europe. By this agreement, U.S. nuclear weapons will be kept in Germany and will be modernized over the new few years.

Over Von der Leyen’s administration, German army has assumed many important missions, including air protection of Baltic States, investigative operations in Syria and Iraq, military presence in Afghanistan as well as defense and supervision missions in the Mediterranean Sea and Africa.

Von der Leyen also received complete support from German Parliament who agreed to her plans, including operations against ISIS, areal and navy missions, technical help and investigative missions in the Mediterranean Sea. Parliament even agreed that German Army enhance its Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) from Syria and Iraq to the Persian Gulf region as well.

Over the last few years, the German air force has run more than 1500 investigative flights over Syria. The German tanker aircrafts have run about 800 sorties to refuel over 4000 fighters that belonged to western coalitions.

Von der Leyen also opened a military base in Azraq in Jordan where AWACS and Panavia Tornado aircrafts are located. In exchange for having military bases in Jordan, Germany paid about €1 billion to Jordan government under the name of funds for developments.

Over the last four years that von der Leyen was the defense minister, Germany became one of the biggest exporters of military equipment, sending weapons worth billions of dollars to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

By Von der Leyen’s strategies, fighting terrorism and ISIS became a very serious matter to Germany and the country started a military coalition with European allies and the U.S., this coalition has been the most comprehensive and concentrated joint operation that Germany has ever launched after the World War II.

Over von der Leyen administration, Germany used fighting terrorism to justify its presence in the Middle East and the region was greatly affected by Germany’s security and geostrategic paradigms.

It seems that German officials are now adopting their policies toward Middle East solely based on “countering security threats” and “fighting terrorism”; rather than looking at the region as a real community with its own geo-economic parameters.

With becoming the president of European Commission, von der Leyen gains some great advantages; her military background will enhance Germany’s economic power in the European Commission and make it harder for London to leave the European Union.

Obviously, with von der Leyen as the president of the European Commission, Britain has only three options, the next Prime Minister may continue the policies of Theresa May and will be forced into resignation that leads into more frustration for Britain; second, it can leave the European Union without an agreement that is a lose-lose situation; third it can run a new referendum. In any of these three scenarios, London will have a very little chance of success if Germany rules over the European Commission. In conclusion, if von der Leyen becomes the president of European Commission, Britain will have to relive the nightmare of World War II.

Trump administration sets ‘new bar’ for immigrants seeking asylum

TEHRAN — Immigrants seeking asylum in the United States from Mexico must now also first seek protection from a so-called third party country, the Trump administration said on Monday.

The Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, in a joint statement, said the new interim rule would set a “new bar” for immigrants trying to enter across the southern U.S. border “by placing further restrictions or limitations on eligibility for aliens who seek asylum in the United States,” Reuters reported.

China hosting African military leaders for week-long security forum in Beijing

TEHRAN — Beijing is hosting African military leaders for a week-long summit aimed at strengthening China-Africa military relations, with discussions expected to mainly focus on peace and security across the continent.

The Defense Ministry kicked off China-Africa Peace and Security Forum on Sunday with the presence of African defense ministers and military chiefs in Beijing.

High-ranking military attaches and army representatives from virtually all African countries are attending the event.

“The main point of the forum will be more technical and specialized exchanges,” said Wang Hongyi, a researcher from the Institute of West Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

“Security cooperation between China and Africa is what African countries have requested, something the United Nations has promoted and, of course, it is also conducive to protecting Chinese interests in Africa,” Wang added.

The security forum is being held as China is also strengthening its investments across the continent, through the multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, which is also known as the “new Silk Road.”

The trade infrastructure project, which is also on the agenda in the summit, announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013, envisions the construction of railways, roads and ports across the globe to connect China by land and sea to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The plan, however, has many critics, who believe the project could bury African nations under debt to China, calling it Beijing’s “debt trap.”

Beijing says when it comes to “the debt problem, there really is not that much Chinese debt in Africa.”

China’s growing military presence in Africa has already prompted the United States to take countermeasures amid a long-running trade dispute between Washington and Beijing.

According to Press TV, China overtook the U.S. in 2010 as the continent’s largest trading partner.

Scores killed, millions displaced as monsoon batters South Asia

TEHRAN— More than 100 people have been killed and two million forced from their homes across Nepal, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh as rain-triggered floods and landslides left a trail of destruction in parts of South Asia.

The death toll was the highest in Nepal, where torrential

rains unleashed mudslides and caused rivers to overflow, killing at least 67 people, officials said on Monday.

The annual deluge, which hit the country on Thursday, has so far displaced at least 10,000 people there.

According to Al Jazeera, the downpours have eased but authorities still fear the death toll could rise, according to

police spokesman Bishwaraj Pokharel, who gave the latest number of dead and missing from floods and landslides.

“There are the challenges of resettlement of the displaced as many houses ... have been swept away. We are also cautious about the risk of epidemics due to polluted water,” Pokharel told AFP news agency.

Casillas to join Porto staff during heart attack recovery

Iker Casillas will join the Porto staff while he recovers from the heart attack he suffered two months ago, the Spanish goalkeeper and Portuguese club announced on Monday.

In a statement, Porto said Casillas will be the “liason between the players, coach and management”, a role that could be extended to other functions within the club.

“I’m going to do something different from what I used to do, which was to be on the field. I will try to do my best to help my teammates,” the 38-year-old told the club website.

The former Real Madrid and Spain captain underwent emergency surgery on May 1 after suffering a heart attack during training. He left the hospital five days later, admitting that his professional future was uncertain.

His agent Carlo Cutropia told sports daily O Jogo that he cannot yet resume training and will have to wait for doctors to say whether he can return within “one, two or three months”.

Casillas joined Porto in 2015 and extended his contract by one year in March. Club president Jorge Pinto da Costa has said he wants Casillas to be playing for Porto at 40.

He has 167 Spain caps, winning the 2010 World Cup and two European Championships, and also played more than 700 games for Real Madrid, where he won five La Liga titles, three Champions League and a handful of other major trophies.

Since moving to Porto he also added the 2018 Portuguese league title to his heaving trophy cabinet.

(Source: AFP)

282 held over unrest in France after Algeria football win

A total of 282 people were arrested in France after unrest following the Algerian football team’s qualification for the final of the Africa Cup of Nations, the interior ministry said Monday.

Riotous celebrations erupted around the country after Algeria beat Nigeria 2-1 in the semi-final. The arrests were made nationwide on Sunday evening, the ministry said.

Some of the arrests were also linked to unrest surrounding events marking France’s national day celebrations on Sunday.

Unruly scenes erupted in Paris, Marseille and Lyon. Fifty people were arrested in the French capital and there were incidents between football fans and police on the Champs-Élysées avenue.

Dozens of cars were torched overnight in the eastern city of Lyon.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner on Monday congratulated police and firemen for their “speedy reaction and professionalism which contained the violence and to the perpetrators” being apprehended.

Of those arrested, 249 people were in custody.

Last Thursday, when Algeria defeated Ivory Coast to reach the semi-finals, fans went on the rampage in central Paris, looting shops.

On the same day in the southern city of Montpellier, an Algerian football supporter celebrating his team’s win lost control of his car at high speed and ran into a family, killing a woman and seriously injuring her baby.

Paris and Marseille are home to large minority communities of Algerian origin. Football celebrations, with supporters brandishing large national flags, have on occasion been a source of tensions.

(Source: France 24)

Sources: Lakers’ Davis to skip Team USA camp

Opting to focus on next season with the Los Angeles Lakers, Anthony Davis has decided not to participate in the upcoming USA Basketball training camp and FIBA Basketball World Cup, sources confirmed to ESPN.

League sources familiar with the situation confirmed to ESPN’s Dave McMenamin and Ramona Shelburne that Davis is not ruling out playing for the 2020 Olympic team, but wants to spend this offseason focusing on the 2019-20 season with his new team and helping the Lakers contend for a championship.

Yahoo Sports first reported Davis’ decision not to participate in next month’s USA Basketball training camp in Las Vegas and to remove his name from consideration for September’s FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Davis was a member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic squad and the national team that played in the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup.

He was officially introduced as a Laker on Saturday after he was acquired in a blockbuster deal that sent Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, Josh Hart, the draft rights to No. 4 overall pick De’Andre Hunter, two first-round picks, a first-round pick swap and cash to the New Orleans Pelicans. The Lakers also dealt Moritz Wagner, Isaac Bonga, Jemerrio Jones and a second-round pick to the Washington Wizards as part of the trade.

(Source: ESPN)

Belmadi hopes African coaches will get more

Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi hopes that next Friday’s Africa Cup of Nations final against Senegal will persuade more countries to put their trust in the region’s managers.

Both teams are led by local coaches in their early 40s with ex-Algeria international Belmadi in charge of the Desert Foxes and Senegal under the leadership of Aliou Cisse, who played for the Lions of Teranga when they last reached the final in 2002.

“It’s a great message that we have sent to those responsible for football in all countries in Africa, it’s amazing,” Belmadi told reporters after his side beat Nigeria 2-1 with a stoppage-time free kick by Riyad Mahrez on Sunday.

“I’ve known Cisse for a very long time, we used to play against each other when we were both in France. The only difference between us is that he’s been with his team for four years and I have been here for one.

“To play this final against Senegal, against my friend, is amazing. I hope the decision-makers can think more about this and put trust in our young coaches.”

Regarding the match itself, Belmadi said his team should have scored more than one goal in the first half but lost their way a little before fighting back.

“We knew it would be a tough game because of the quality of our opponents,” he said.

(Source: Reuters)

Lack of love fuels Djokovic desire to be top dog



Maybe when the fans start serenading Novak Djokovic in a Centre Court love-in it will be time for the Serb to call it a day.

When he starts receiving the same adoration reserved almost exclusively for Roger Federer in Sunday’s epic Wimbledon final, maybe his resolve will soften, his hunger for the fight diminish, his love of “sticking it to them” fade.

“Hopefully, in five years’ time I can be hearing the same chants,” the 32-year-old Serb said as he signed off his news conference following a five-set win over Federer which sealed a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th Grand Slam crown.

Sunday’s triumph, in which he saved two match points and soaked up 94 winners off the Federer racket before clawing his way over the line in the longest Wimbledon singles final, confirmed Djokovic as the ultimate tennis anti-hero.

Apart from those in his box, it seemed the entire crowd were rooting for Federer. They even booed him near the end when he angrily whacked a court-side microphone.

While Federer and Rafael Nadal are still swinging their rackets, he will behind them in the popularity stakes.

Sheer bloody-mindedness, as well as outrageous talent, is the reason Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, aged almost 38, 33 and 32

respectively, remain out of reach for their pursuers and the reason they share 54 Grand Slam titles, including the last 11.

But while Federer paints the court with strokes of magic and the swashbuckling Nadal plays tennis like a superhero, Djokovic is the master of attrition, winning by a thousand cuts.

No matter that he is arguably the best returner the game has ever seen, is the best athlete and has an engaging personality, there

is only so much love to go around.

■ Incredible feats

For now Djokovic will not care, and if anything will use a perceived lack of fanfare for his incredible feats as fuel to keep collecting Grand Slam titles and move past Federer and Nadal to the top of the all-time list.

“Whether I’m going to be able to do it or not, I don’t know. I mean, I’m not really looking at age as a restriction of any kind for me at least,” Djokovic, the only man since

Rod Laver to have held all four Grand Slams simultaneously, said on Sunday.

“It just depends how long I’m going to play, whether I’m going to have a chance to make historic number one or slams.

“It depends not only on myself, it depends on circumstances in life,” the father of two added.

Had Federer converted one of the two match points that came his way at 8-7 in the fifth set he would have moved six Grand Slams clear of Djokovic.

Instead it is four, and having won five of the last six on offer Djokovic appears to be in the middle of a period of domination that shows no sign of ending.

He will go into the U.S. Open as red-hot favourite to retain his title and when next year begins he will have his eyes fixed on winning an eighth Australian Open crown.

Former coach Boris Becker says the race is now on and believes all three will add to their tallies.

But time, perhaps, is on Djokovic’s side. “He’s a year younger than Nadal and five younger than Federer — we all know he fancies overtaking them,” Becker said. “Honestly, I think he can, but I wouldn’t say that for sure.”

(Source: Reuters)

Caster Semenya v IAAF: a ground-breaking gender test case



Caster Semenya’s battle with world athletics’ governing body over testosterone-curbing regulations for female athletes will likely have long-lasting ramifications for gender definition in sport as a whole.

The South African, a two-time Olympic 800m gold medallist, is locked in a bitter dispute with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), and both parties are awaiting a ruling from Switzerland’s supreme court on Semenya’s appeal against the regulations.

Semenya is classified a woman, was raised as a woman and races as a woman.

But for the IAAF, women like Semenya, with certain masculine attributes due to differences of sexual development (DSD), are classified, biologically, as men. It is a position hotly contested by South African officials.

The IAAF, seeking “to ensure fair competition for all women”, argues that DSD athletes, like Semenya, born with the “46 XY” chromosome rather than the XX chromosome most females have, would have an advantage in all events based on their levels of testosterone that are in the male range.

“Does the IAAF have the legitimacy to define the sex of somebody, to question that person’s civil state?” asks anthropologist Philippe Liotard, an expert in discrimination in sport.

“This ruling is judging the identity of that person.”

In the build-up to the 2009 world cham-

pionships in Berlin, where Semenya went on to win gold in the 800m, the South African had to undergo gender verification testing to confirm her eligibility to compete in the women’s category.

She was subsequently put on medication to reduce her testosterone levels, spending six months sidelined by the IAAF.

“The IAAF used me in the past as a human guinea pig to experiment with how the medication they required me to take would affect my testosterone levels,” Semenya said last month.

Sociologist Beatrice Barbusse, a specialist in sexism in sport, added: “Sport has been built on this dichotomy between men and women on a binary concept of sexes.

“There’s not a biological split between men and women but a continuity because there are people like Caster Semenya, who find themselves in neither camp.

“You can only imagine in 50 years when we’ve reached a sufficiently raised societal level to accept that there’s no longer a compulsory categorisation of sex.

“This affair could completely shake up the organisation of sport in the future.”

World sport’s highest court, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), found that the new regulations “were a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of achieving the IAAF’s legitimate objective of fair and meaningful competition in female athletics”.

(Source: Eurosport)

Newly crowned motorsport champion punished for unsportsmanlike behavior



Formula E world champion Jean-Eric Vergne has been ordered to complete a day of community service for unsportsmanlike behavior in the penultimate race of the season in New York.

Vergne became the sport’s first ever double winner over the weekend -- successfully defending his crown from last season -- after title hopefuls Mitch Evans and Lucas di Grassi tangled on the final lap to gift the Frenchman seventh place.

New York played host to the double-header that rounded off the season, with one E-Prix on Saturday and another on Sunday.

In Saturday’s race, Vergne twice requested over the team radio that DS Techeetah teammate Andre Lotterer stop on the track in order to introduce a safety car and allow him to return to the pits and fix his damaged car.

“Tell Andre to stop ... to bring out the Safety Car,” Vergne said, according to the stewards’ report.

Vergne’s punishment from the FIA -- motorsport’s governing body -- does not affect his title win or race results from the New York double-header.

“Mr. Vergne said that these messages were conveyed in the following context: He knew that [Lotterer] had sustained damage in an incident, had broken the front wing and had lost time as a result such that it was no longer in contention for a points finish in Round 12.

“He held concerns for his safety and that of other drivers due to debris on track and made the request to his engineer that [Lotterer] be requested to stop for that reason only.

“[Vergne] said that he recognizes that his messages could be misunderstood. He acknowledged, with the benefit of hindsight, the messages were inappropriate, particularly having been made on an open channel which is available to the public and which he was aware could be monitored by Race Officials.

“The Stewards noted that [the] engineer did not respond to the messages from Mr. Vergne. The Stewards accept the explanation of Mr. Vergne but it is the obligation of a sportsman at this level to act in a fair and correct manner and as a role model to other drivers at all levels of motorsport.”

The last time the organization handed out similar punishment was to Formula One driver Max Verstappen for his shove on Esteban Ocon following a crash at the 2018 Brazilian Grand Prix.

Dutchman Verstappen was ordered to “observe stewards” at this season’s Marrakesh E-Prix at one of his two days’ community service.

The FIA has yet to specify how Vergne will carry out his community service but it must be completed within the next six months.

(Source: CNN)

Hamilton says win down to planning, not luck



for the guy running second, because if you put them on the same tyre, this is probably how the race is going to end -- turn one or lap one would lock in the result.

“We felt that, picking up on their suggestion, it would provide an interesting race. We knew they would be racing each other, but maybe with a different strategy so that’s what we tried.

“In hindsight, I think the argument (for variation of strategies) has value and I think we need to look at it.

■ Two-stop plan

Hamilton rejected a late pit-stop for new tyres on his way to a record sixth home victory and an extended 39-point

lead on Bottas in the title race.

“Did we know that we could do a one-stop with it?” he said. “Not really. But as soon as I got onto it, it was quite strong and didn’t look like it was particularly starting to give up any time soon. So I decided to stay out.”

He added that it had been his original plan to stay out on his opening stint until around lap 22.

“If I’d done another lap, I would have come out on my fresh ‘hards’ and I could have just sat behind him (Bottas) if I wanted to and then he would have had to pit,” he said.

“I would still have had that 21-seconds gap so it didn’t really make any difference.”

In the meeting, Bottas had suggested that a one-stop strategy was ‘out of the question’ for him and stayed with a classic, if conservative, two-stop plan.

“I really enjoyed the early fight with Lewis and then, after my pit stop, I was controlling the gap to him, but then the Safety Car came out and he got a free stop and came out ahead of me ...

“I hoped there might be other chances, but I had to make another stop for a different compound anyway. The tyre life ultimately much better than expected so a one-stop was possible, but our simulations before the race had predicted a two-stop was the fastest option.”

Despite his disappointment, Bottas was consoled by encouraging words from Wolff who suggested he had taken step towards retaining him for next year.

(Source: AFP)

Iran’s Jafari wins bronze at World Para Powerlifting Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Amir Jafari Arangeh d e s k from Iran claimed a bronze medal at the Nur-Sultan 2019 World Para Powerlifting Championships on Monday.

The Iranian athlete finished in third place with 197kg in the Men’s Up to 65kg.

Jafari cleared the bar at 193kg and failed in his third attempt for 201kg.

Malaysia’s Bonnie Gustin won the gold medal with 207 and Algeria’s Hocine Bettir claimed the silver with 194kg.

All eyes are on the Kazakh capital city of Nur-Sultan as the strongest Paralympians fight for the World Para Powerlifting Championships title between 13-20 July.

A total of 441 athletes from 78 nations aim to win one of the 20 gold medals up for grabs.

The IPC Powerlifting World Championships, is an event organized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Competitors with a physical disability compete, and in a few events athletes with an intellectual disability compete. First held in 1994, the competition is held every four years.

The first IPC Powerlifting World Championships were held in Uppsala, Sweden in 1994.

On 30 November 2016, the IPC, which serves as the international federation for 10 disability sports, including powerlifting, adopted the «World Para» brand for all 10 sports. The world championship events in all of these sports were immediately rebranded as «World Para» championships.



Brazil emerge victorious over Iran at 2019 IFCPF World Cup



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran d e s k failed to book a place in the 2019 International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) World Cup semifinals after losing to Brazil 2-1 on Sunday.

Iran will meet the Netherlands in the 5th-8th classification side on Tuesday.

The 2019 IFCPF World Cup features 16 of the world’s top Para 7-a-side

teams that qualified through IFCPF Regional Championships and the IFCPF rankings.

Ukraine enter the tournament as reigning world champions after winning the 2017 IFCPF World Championships.

The tournament has brought a total of sixteen participants teams together.

The competition is being held from July 2 to 19 in Seville, Spain.

Iran suffer third successive defeat at William Jones Cup



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran d e s k U23 basketball team suffered their third successive defeat at the 41st William Jones Cup on Sunday.

Iran started the campaign with a 98-72 loss against Philippines’ Mighty Sports on Friday and then lost to hosts Chinese Taipei Blue 91-88 on Saturday.

The team also lost to South Korea

83-79 on Day 3.

Iran will meet Canadian representative UBC Thunderbirds on Tuesday.

The 2019 William Jones Cup is the 41st staging of the international basketball tournament in Taiwan.

The men’s tournament is being held from July 12 to 21, 2019 while the women’s tournament will be contested on July 24-28.

Iran’s Narges Afshin chosen to officiate at Asian Women’s Volleyball C’ship

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian woman referee Narges d e s k Afshin has been chosen to officiate at the 2019 Asian Women’s Volleyball Championship.



The competition will be held in South Korea from Aug. 17 to 25.

Iran have been drawn along with hosts South Korea and Singapore in Pool A.

Top eight teams of this tournament will qualify for the 2020 AVC Women’s Volleyball Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Mehdi Taremi to play in Primeira Liga

PLDC — Mehdi Taremi has left Qatari club Al-Gharafa to join a Portuguese team.

The name of the Taremi’s destination has not been revealed but Mehr news agency has reported he will pen a three-year contract with his new team.

Persepolis is also looking to sign its former striker but it seems Taremi is going to continue his career abroad.

Taremi had been also linked with a move to Turkish and Greek teams.

He was a member of Iran national football team in the 2018 World Cup and 2019 AFC Asian Cup

Iran chess player wins bronze in Bergamo 2019

IRNA — Iranian Chess player Amir Masoud Moradi received a bronze medal in International Chess Open, Bergamo, Italy 2019, which was held on July 12-14.

Speaking to IRNA, spokesman of Hamedan chess committee Hamid Foroughi said the event was held in presence of the world top chess players.

He added that Moradi with four victories, 2 draws and 5 points stood on the third place.

He had earlier received medal at Asian youth championships.

FIE hails Iranian fencers’ progress

IRNA — The international governing body of Olympic fencing (FIE) in a video clip praised the progress of Iranian fencers over the last few years.

The clip starts with pictures of Iranian sabre fencers Mojtaba Abedini and Ali Pakdaman in 2016 Olympic and then screens Abedini’s victory.

It also refers to Iranian national sabre fencing team in 2012 and 2019 which stood on the 4th place.

Iranian fencing team is now in 2019 World Fencing Championships which will be underway until July 23 in Budapest, Hungary.

Earlier, Iranian team stood on the second place in after South Korea in 2019 Asian Fencing Championships which was held in Chiba, Japan on June 13-18.

Meanwhile, Abedini received a bronze medal after defeating Chinese rival in individual category.

Iran athlete breaks record of slalom skating in world

IRNA — Iranian athlete Reza Lesani has broken the record of speed slalom skating in Barcelona 2019, World Roller Games.

During the event which is still underway in Spain, Iranian squad competed in hockey, skateboarding, freestyle, alpine and speed fields.



Reza Lesani and Romina Salek ranked third and Amir Mohammad Savari stood on the second place.

Lesani with the record of 4.118 broke the world record.

Earlier, Iranian hockey team was defeated by Latvia, Slovakia and Mexico and overpowered India and stood on the 18th position in the world.

The eleven-day intensive competition was held with the attendance of over 4,000 athletes in very diverse disciplines such as Alpine, Artistic, Roller Freestyle, Downhill, Inline Freestyle, Inline Hockey, Rink Hockey, Roller Derby, Scooter, Speed and Skateboarding.

Russia golden again with second straight Men’s VNL title

Russia successfully defended its FIVB Volleyball Nations League title by defeating USA 3-1 (25-23, 20-25, 25-21, 25-20) on Sunday, and for the second year in a row winning the gold-medal match against the host country. Last year the Russians beat host France to claim the first-ever VNL title.

Earlier today Poland won the bronze medal match with a 3-0 (25-17, 25-23, 25-21) win over Brazil.

Russia wing spiker Dmitry Volkov led the gold medalists with 17 points, including 13 via attack, two blocks and two aces. Wing spiker Egor Kliuka contributed 14 points in the victory, including a stellar 11-of-14 hitting, two aces and a block.

“It feels fantastic because we are very proud,” said Volkov, who was named to the VNL Dream Team. “We are missing a lot of our top players, so we didn’t expect to win. We are very happy. With a new coach, we have a new team and played very strong throughout the VNL.”

As part of a balanced offence led by setter and captain Igor Kobzar, Russia had four players in double-figure scoring with middle Ivan Iakovlev tallying seven kills on 10 attacks, a team-high four blocks and an ace. Opposite Victor Poletaev added 11 points in the win.

Kliuka and Iakovlev were also selected the VNL Dream Team for Russia.

Russia held a 10-7 block advantage and a slim 7-6 margin in aces, while USA produced a 51-49 edge in attack points. Russia benefited from 29 USA errors in the match, 11 of which came in the opening set.

“I think we were patient because we knew USA was a great passing team,” Russia coach Tuomas Sammervuo said after winning the gold. “We wanted to play a long match because they also played five sets late. Maybe their serving and passing wouldn’t be as effective. We started the game in trouble with our opposite, but then he was able to get the most important balls down when we really needed it. It was a team effort, to believe and to trust in each other. We played as a team.”



■ 2019 FIVB Volleyball Nations League - Dream Team

Best Outside Hitters: Egor Kliuka and Dmitri Volkov (both Russia), Bartosz Bednorz (Poland)

Best Middle Blockers: Max Holt (USA), Ivan Iakovlev (Russia)

Best Libero: Erik Shoji (USA)

Best Setter: Micah Christenson (USA)

MVP/Best Opposite: Matt Anderson (USA)

Outside hitter Taylor Sander paced USA with a match-high 20 points through 17 kills on 29 attacks, two aces and a block. Matt Anderson, named the tournament’s most valuable player/best opposite, scored 19 points on 18 kills and an ace.

“We managed to control Matt Anderson, the key player, and Taylor Sander in attack,” Sammervuo said. “Blocking was a difference while their reception broke down.”

With an influx of youth on Russia’s team, Sammervuo praised his squad for coming through for another title.

“I am happy because we have some new players at this level and big roles for the first time,” Sammervuo said. “So that is great.”

Sammervuo agreed with Volkov on the team’s expectations to win the VNL this year with many of the top players missing. Instead of looking to win the tournament, the team’s

expectations were more short term.

“I think we didn’t expect to win when we started,” Sammelvuo said. “We focused on getting better day by day.”

The 2019 VNL is the second year of existence of the competition. USA was attempting to become the first country to win both gender titles in an FIVB top annual world-level tournament. USA defeated Brazil 3-2 to win the women’s VNL title earlier this month in China. Brazil was the last country to win both gender titles of FIVB’s top annual world-level tournaments in the same year as they won the World League and World Grand Prix in 2009. Both the World League and World Grand Prix were discontinued after the 2017 season.

USA had defeated Russia 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-20) earlier in the Finals Round pool play, though Russia fielded a starting lineup mainly of reserves as both teams had already qualified for the semifinals.

■ Bronze Medal Match

In the bronze medal match, Poland was led by Bartosz Bednorz and his 21 points, including 15 attack points, four blocks and two aces. Lukasz Kazmarek added 11 points and captain Karol Klos added 10 points. Team stats reflected the nature of Poland’s victory as they held a 14-4 block advantage and 6-2 margin in aces. Poland also benefitted from 19 Brazil errors.

“I cannot describe it,” Klos said. “It is an amazing feeling. With so many young guys, altogether pushing one way all tournament – an incredible feeling.”

Poland defeated Brazil for the second time in the VNL Finals with the first victory being a surprising five-set win to open pool play. Bednorz felt his team was on a mission, and it came from within the players, beyond the skills on the court.

“I think our character and big heart on the court helped win this match,” Bednorz said.

“Today we pushed from the beginning to the end,” Klos said. “We beat Brazil with such a young team, with great players. It is a great pleasure to play with these guys.”

(Source: FIVB)

Al Ahli Saudi FC land Bosnian midfielder Saric

AFC Champions League hopefuls Al Ahli Saudi FC have confirmed the signing of Bosnian midfielder Elvis Saric from Korea Republic’s Suwon Samsung Bluewings.

The 28-year-old Dubrovnik native has agreed a three-year deal with the Saudi Arabian giants, and is set to join up with his new teammates – and recently appointed head coach Branko Ivankovic – at the club’s training camp in Austria on Tuesday.

Saric’s move comes just 12 months after he joined Suwon following stints with several top-flight club’s in both Croatia and Bosnia.

Capped 14 times by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Saric is now expected to play a role in Al Ahli’s eagerly anticipated AFC Champions League Round of 16 clash with domestic rivals Al Hilal SFC.

Saric appeared four times for Suwon

during their 2018 AFC Champions League campaign, and his experience may yet be a key factor when the two sides meet on August 6 and 13.

Al Ahli opened their pre-season campaign with a 3-2 win over Croatian outfit NK Varazdin on Sunday thanks to goals from Omar Al Somah, Hussain Al Moqahwi and Abdulfattah Asiri.

(Source: the-afc)



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Test a person to see if you find a reason for rage.

Imam Ali (AS)

“The Lovers’ Wind” coming to Iranian theaters

A R T TEHRAN — A restored copy of “The Lovers’ Wind”, French filmmaker and producer Albert Lamorisse’s 1970 documentary about the daily life and natural attractions of Iran, is scheduled to be screened at the Art and Experience Cinema halls in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan on Wednesday.



A poster for French filmmaker Albert Lamorisse’s 1970 documentary “The Lovers’ Wind”.

Critic Mehrdad Farahani will attend a review session that will be held after a screening of the film at Hall 5 at Tehran’s Charsu Cineplex at 8 pm, the organizers announced on Monday.

The Isfahan City Center Cineplex and Honare Shahre Aftab Cineplex in Shiraz will also screen the movie at the same time.

The screenings, which are part of the Art and Experience Cinema’s Summer Program for the review of Iranian classics, will be organized in collaboration with the National Film Archive of Iran.

The first part of the program was allocated to screening a movie featuring behind the scenes views on Iranian new wave film “The Cow” directed by Dariush Mehrjui in 1969.

Born in 1922 in Paris, Lamorisse died in a helicopter crash while filming “The Lovers’ Wind”.

“The Lovers’ Wind” was released in 1978 and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature just months before the Islamic Revolution.

Manuchehr Anvaar worked as a translator and narrator of the film, and composers Hossein Dehlavi and Abolhassan Saba also cooperated in this production.

In 2016, the 34th Fajr International Film Festival reviewed the restored version of “The Lovers’ Wind” in in the Preserved Classics section.

Iran’s “Beloved” wins awards at Italian Sole Luna Doc Film Festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Yasser Talebi’s acclaimed movie “Beloved” has won two awards at the Sole Luna Doc Film Festival in Palermo, Italy, the organizers have announced.

The film received the best photography award and the High School Students Award in the Journey Section.



A scene from Iranian director Yasser Talebi’s documentary “Beloved”.

The film is about an 82-year-old woman who prefers a hard, solitary herder’s existence with her cows to a more comfortable life among people.

“The jury of the festival found the relationship between the character and the camera in ‘Beloved’ to be particularly moving that spoke to the narrative of both isolation, strength and beauty,” the organizers said in a statement.

“Island of the Hungry Ghosts” by Gabrielle Brady from Russia was selected as best documentary and Marlene Rabaud from Congo was picked as best director for her film “Congo Lucha”.

The Sole Luna Doc Film Festival was held from July 7 to 13.

IIDCYA honors “architect of dreams” Ahmad Jafari

A R T TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) honored the U.S.-based Iranian architect Ahmad Jafari who is called the “architect of dreams” due to his designs for theme parks in the world.

A book titled “The Architect of Dreams”, which recounts the story of Jafari’s collaborations with Walt Disney Imagineering in designs of several parks and resorts as well as his design for the Hezaro Yek Shahr theme park in Tehran, was unveiled during the ceremony on Sunday.

Speaking at the ceremony, architect Seyyed Mohammad Beheshti said, “Stories are very important in architecture and architects want their works to carry stories within them.”

“Mr. Jafari is the only architect whose works have their own stories. His duty is to tell stories and I have not seen an architect like him among the Iranian architects,” he added.

“The storytelling in his works is unique and is accompanied by playfulness, naughtiness and elegance. His storytelling involves all people especially children and young adults. Fantasy dominates in most of his works,” Beheshti noted.

He expressed his happiness that Iran enjoys such a great architect and said, “His precious design for the Hezaro Yek Shahr theme park in his homeland needs to be praised. I hope the obstacles will be removed and the project commences.”

IIDCYA director Fazel Nazari also spoke at the ceremony and said, “It is pleasant to see an Iranian is praised for what he has created in foreign countries, but what is more pleasant is that the creator of these beauties has returned to make these beauties at home as well.”

Jafari has returned home 50 years after living abroad to share his experiences with Iranian youth.

“The people who think about the future are the ones that care about children and young adults. The future is not made with oil and gas, but children and young adults are our main asset. Mr. Jafari pays due attention to this asset and he tries our dreams come true,” he added.

For his part, Jafari also made a short speech at the ceremony.

“I talk with my hands but I cannot talk much with my tongue. My only wish is wherever the Iranian children are



Architect Ahmad Jafari (R) received an award for lifetime achievements from IIDCYA director Fazel Nazari in Tehran on July 14, 2019. (Fars/Hamid Tavakkoli)

living, they keep the lights of their dreams bright and do not let their wishes fade away,” he said.

“The institute can help me take this book to the children living in every corner of the country. My last wish is to carry out and accomplish the project of Hezaro Yek Shahr, which has made the young architects of my country get together on one project,” he concluded.

A collection of Jafari’s designs were also showcased in an exhibition at the IIDCAY gallery.

Born in 1938 in Arak, Jafari graduated from University of Tehran with M.A. in architecture in 1962. In 1963, he

moved to the United States and studied architecture at the University of Utah.

He then joined the Disneyland engineering department as an architect in 1966. He served as an architect and art director at the Walt Disney Company from 1966 to 2004.

“All of us still see your ‘design’ fingerprints scattered in the parks throughout the world... your creativity has helped define the environment that Disney built. It is indeed a very small club of people who can claim to have had such involvement and influence,” Disney official Val Usle once said about Jafari.

Nekooei brothers to make new season of “Roobi and Chickens”



A scene from “Roobi and Chickens” co-directed by Babak and Behnoud Nekooei.

A R T TEHRAN — Babak and Behnoud Nekooei plan to make the third season of the animated series “Roobi and Chickens”, Behnoud told the Persian service of Honaronline on Monday.

The setting for the serial is on a farm, where a rooster lives in peace with his family, while Roobi, a smart blue fox in their neighborhood, intends to ruin the peaceful atmosphere.

Based on Iranian folklore stories, “Roobi and Chickens” tries to promote teamwork and the importance of the family in each season.

“Roobi and Chickens: A Passenger from Space” was selected as best series of the year at the Tenth Iran Independent Animation Celebration in November 2018.

The Nekooei brothers made the previous seasons of “Roobi and Chickens” at their Gonbad Caboud Studio, which plans to produce the new season in 13 episodes. The series will be continued for six seasons.

The new season of “Roobi and Chickens” is scheduled to be broadcast on Iranian TV during the Noruz holiday beginning on March 21, 2020.

Five actors to receive lifetime achievement honors at Shahr festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian actors Ali Nasirian, Dariush Asadzadeh, Masud Rayegan, Roya Teimurian and Parvaneh Masumi will be honored with lifetime achievement awards at the 7th Shahr International Film Festival, Hashem Mirzakhani, the director of the festival, said in a press conference in Tehran on Monday.

Nasirian started his career with Dariush Mehrjui’s 1969 cult film “The Cow”. He has also collaborated in numerous acclaimed cinema, TV and theater productions.

95-year-old Asadzadeh has played in over 100 movies and TV series, including “The Green House” co-directed by Bijan Birang and Masud Rassam, “The Spouse” by Mehdi Fakhimzadeh and “Samandun” by Nasser Hashemi.

Rayegan is famous for his brilliant acting in director Reza Mirkarimi’s 2005 drama “So Close, So Far”, which brought him a nomination for best actor award at the 23rd Fajr International Film Festival.

Teimurian has staged remarkable performances in plays such as “Les Misérables” by Behruz Garibpur, “Hera” by Nasrollah Qaderi, “Inspector” by Alireza Kushk-Jalali, and “The House of Bernarda Alba” by Ali Rafiei.

Her roles in TV series such as “Rana” by Davud Mirbaqeri, “The Tenth Night” by Hassan Fat’hi, and “Edge of Darkness” by Saeid Soltani are also worth mentioning.

Masumi has collaborated with prominent Iranian director Bahram Beizai in “Downpour” in 1972 and “The Stranger and the Fog” in 1974.

Her roles in TV series such as “Imam Ali (AS)” by Davud Mirbaqeri and “Prophet Josef (AS)” by Farajollah Salahshur are among her noteworthy credits.

The organizers also plan to pay tribute to legendary actor Jamshid Mashayekhi during the opening ceremony of the event, which will be held in Tehran on Wednesday.

Mashayekhi, who starred in such acclaimed movies as “Kamalolmolk” and “Chrysanthemum”, died on April 2 at the age of 85.

Over sixty films from different countries, including Iran, England, Japan, Poland, France, Russia, Norway and the U.S., will go on screen in various sections of the festival.

A jury composed of filmmakers Jordan Hollander from the U.S., Abbas Yousefi from Syria and Puran Derakhshandeh and Peyman Maadi from Iran will judge

Khayyam Intl. Exhibition of Photography goes to Sabzevar



A poster for the 6th Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography in Sabzevar.

A R T TEHRAN — A selection of top works displayed during the 6th Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography is showcasing at an exhibition in the northeastern town of Sabzevar.

The exhibition was previously held in ten other cities, the latest of which was organized in collaboration with the Zuri-Beltza Photographic Association in the Spanish city of Bilbao, the director of the exhibition, Ali Samei, said in a press release on Monday.

The exhibit will continue Sabzevar’s Talare Shahr until July 22, however, the

tour will continue in several other cities.

The 6th Khayyam International Exhibition of Photography was first opened at the Iranian Academy of Arts in Tehran in January. It toured several Iranian cities and later was taken to Konya in Turkey and Bilbao in Spain.

Iran’s Focus Photo Club organizes the exhibition annually with the help of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and FIAP.

The Khayyam exhibit aims to elevate the art of photography and provide facilities for more interaction between Iranian and world photographers.



Pictures of the actors, which will be honored for their lifetime achievements during the 7th Shahr International Film Festival, are on display during a press conference at Tehran’s Mellat Cineplex on July 15, 2019.

the movies in the official competition.

An exhibition of photos and paintings by 50 artists will also be held on the sidelines of the festival, which will run until July 22 with the motto of “Responsible Citizen, Healthy City”.

The festival is organized every year under the auspices of Tasvire Shahr Institute at the Art and Cultural Organization of the Tehran Municipality.

Remains found in Oregon believed to be actor Charles Levin

SELMA, Ore. (AP) — Remains found in a remote area of Oregon are believed to be of missing actor Charles Levin, who played numerous roles on television comedies such as “Seinfeld” and “Night Court.”

Levin, 70, was reported missing from Grants Pass on July 8 by his son after he hadn’t heard from his father for several days,

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

He owned an orange 2012 Fiat and was “almost always in the company of his fawn-colored pug dog, Boo Boo Bear,” Grants Pass public safety said in a news release last week seeking information about Levin’s whereabouts.

On Friday, search and rescue crews

narrowed down a search area based on an emergency cellphone ping. A resident located Levin’s car in a remote and almost impassable road Saturday. Inside the car, troopers found the remains of Levin’s dog. Crews searching steep and rugged terrain found the human remains.

There is a “high probability” the remains are

those of Levin, The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety said Sunday. The medical examiner will make the final identification.

Levin’s TV credits include “Alice,” “Hill Street Blues,” “Doogie Howser, M.D.,” “Night Court” and “Seinfeld.” Levin also had roles in movies, including “The Golden Child,” “Annie Hall” and “This is Spinal Tap.”