



**IRGC responds to British piracy** **2**



**Eight new homegrown pharma raw materials unveiled** **11**



**Iran defend title at Indoor Hockey Asia Cup** **15**



**“Axing” star Bahrami named best at Malaysia Golden Global Awards** **16**

# U.S. extreme adventurism biggest global challenge

**Zarif says U.S. intervention in Venezuela through instigating coup attempt is another example of U.S. malign behavior**



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (R) held talks with Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif in Caracas on Saturday. Maduro thanked Iran for supporting his country against coup plotters.

See page 2

## Iranian MPs support seizure of British tanker

**TEHRAN** — A number of Iranian MPs issued a statement on Sunday expressing support for seizure of a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The statement was signed by 160 lawmakers.

Iranian forces late on Friday impounded a British-flagged oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz for involvement in an accident

with an Iranian fishing boat, after the tanker ignored distress calls.

Allah-Morad Afifpour, head of Ports and Maritime Organization in southern Hormozgan Province, said on Saturday that the 30,000-ton Stena Impero tanker had collided with a fishing boat on its route, adding that according to law, after an accident it is necessary that the causes are investigated. ➔3

## Iran-Hamas relations growing: Kharrazi

**TEHRAN** — Kamal Kharrazi, chairman of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Sunday that liberation of Palestine, especially the noble Quds, is among the greatest causes of Iran.

During a meeting with Saleh al-Aroui, the deputy leader of Hamas, Kharrazi said that Iran has supported Palestine since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

For his part, Aroui, who was accompanied by a delegation to Tehran, praised Iran's

position in supporting the Palestinian issue.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Kharrazi said relations between Iran and Hamas are growing.

“Policies of the enemies of Islam and Palestine in supporting occupant Israel are obvious. The Palestinians are aware of these policies and have come to the conclusion that they should stand against the foreigners' plots,” stated Kharrazi, who was Iran's foreign minister from 1997-2005. ➔3

## Britain dances to Bolton's war drums against Iran: Guardian

**TEHRAN** — In a commentary published on its website on Saturday, the Guardian said John Bolton, a notorious Iran hawk, has succeeded to lure Britain into a dangerous trap to punish Iran by deceiving London to capture a tanker carrying the Iranian oil in Gibraltar, which Iran responded in kind. The British newspaper said “Britain blindly dances to the beat of Bolton's war drums” against Iran.

Following is the text of the article headlined “How Trump's arch-hawk lured Britain into a dangerous trap to punish Iran”:

John Bolton, White House national security adviser and notorious Iraq-era hawk, is a man on a mission. Given broad latitude over policy by Donald Trump, he is widely held to be driving the U.S. confrontation with Iran. ➔2



**ARTICLE**  
**Hamid Bayati**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Britain confused on policies toward Tehran: easing the tensions or increasing them

Britain has had a rough week after Iran seized British oil tanker in the strait of Hormuz. It seems that the British are confused what policy to adopt; first, British Secretary of State for Defense described the capture “hostile” and then, the British Foreign Secretary announced that they want to ease the tensions with Iran.

British government second emergency meeting

The British officials made the remarks after their second emergency meeting on Saturday. After the meeting, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt wrote on Twitter that they want to reduce the tensions; however, he claimed that the capture of Stena Impero ship in Oman waters was in breach of international laws.

According to Hunt, the British government emergency meeting has discussed the safety of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and it will submit the results to the Parliament on Monday.

On the other hand, Penny Mordaunt, the British Secretary of State has described the seizure a “hostile action.” Mordaunt has also claimed that while the British ship was being captured, another British ship which was sent to the Persian Gulf was at a 60 minute distance from them.

Tension between Iran and Britain escalated after Britain seized an Iranian oil supertanker called Grace 1 in Gibraltar on July 4th.

Britain and Gibraltar claimed that the supertanker was carrying oil to Syria, but the Iranian government announced that the tanker was heading another destination.

After the illegal seizure of Grace 1 oil tanker, Iranian officials decided to resolve the issue through diplomacy and they had a meeting with Gibraltar officials but some other entities interfered in the matter and Gibraltar announced that the oil tanker will not be released. ➔7

## National Festival of Youth Music to open next week

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

**TEHRAN** — Participants from all Iranian provinces have been selected to perform during the 13th National Festival of Youth Music.

Over 2000 musicians aged between 15 and 29 will stage classical and folk performances at the festival, which will commence on Saturday, Ali Sabetnia, the director of the Iran Music Association, the main organizer of the festival, said at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday.

A jury composed of 110 master musicians will judge the performances during the event, and review sessions will be held after performances every day.



Jury member Hossein Alizadeh attends a press conference in Tehran on July 21, 2019 to brief the media about the 13th National Festival of Youth Music. (Honaronline/Gata Ziatabari)

The organizers also plan to add a section for those musicians under 14 years old this year.

“The future of these young musicians, especially the teenagers, is one of our biggest concerns,” said Hossein Alizadeh, the celebrated tar virtuoso who is collaborating with the organizers as a jury member.

“We intend to turn the festival into an organization to help these young musicians develop their talents,” he added.

He also criticized the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting for its disregard of music.

The 13th National Festival of Youth Music will be held at several halls in Tehran until August 27.

## Bosnia buries 86 victims of 1992 massacre

**TEHRAN** — Thousands of people gathered in the Bosnian village of Hambarine for the mass funeral of 86 Bosniak Muslims who were executed by Bosnian Serbs at the start of the country's 1992-95 war.

The service was held inside a football stadium, where mourners stood behind rows of coffins draped in green cloth.

The remains of the victims were found in 2017 at the bottom of a ravine in the Koricanske Stijene mountain range in central Bosnia.

They were among some 200 Bosnian Muslims and Croats from the northwestern town of Prijedor who were shot dead by Bosnian Serb forces on August 21, 1992.

Jasna Elezovic, who came to bury the remains of her father, brother, two cousins and uncle, said their bodies were found only last year.

“It feels like it all happened yesterday ... the anguish remains the same,” she told

Reuters news agency.

The victims were being held at a detention camp near Prijedor when they were loaded onto buses and told they would be released as part of a prisoner exchange.

They were driven to the Koricanske Stijene. But instead of being freed, they were lined up on the edge of a cliff and executed. Their bodies, dumped in a steep 100-meter-deep (328-foot-deep) gorge, were covered by rocks to prevent them from being found.

Read more: How Ramo survived the Bosnian war

Nasima Mrkalj, 71, who now lives in Denmark, says a bone and two teeth belonging to her husband were unearthed during the first exhumations in 2017.

“Now, we found more remains and we have decided to bury him,” she said. “On one hand, I am satisfied, but pain is stronger

than that satisfaction.”

### Brutal killings

The massacre was one of the worst atrocities of the inter-ethnic conflict, which claimed around 100,000 lives by the time it was over.

During the war, more than 3,000 non-Serbs were killed in Prijedor alone. Tens of thousands of people were driven from their homes. Some 650 individuals are still unaccounted for.

Read more: ‘Defender of Srebrenica’ Naser Oric acquitted of war crimes

The United Nations war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has sentenced several ex-Bosnian Serb policemen for their role in the massacre. The suspected mastermind of the killings, Prijedor police chief Simo Drljaca, was killed in a shootout with NATO-led peacekeeping forces in 1997.



**ARTICLE**  
**Ebrahim Fallahi**  
Tehran Times journalist

## A review on Govt. plan to barter oil for dues to private sector

The regulatory body of the government has been recently preparing the draft for a bartering system which is set to settle the government dues to the private power plant owners and electricity contractors.

Based on this draft, nearly 400 trillion rials (about \$9.52 billion) worth of oil is going to be given to the private companies in return for the electricity that they have provided for the national network, or for the services that the contractors provided for the energy ministry.

According to the energy ministry, big companies and well-established contractors have given green light to such a mechanism in order to settle their dues.

Although this mechanism has been mentioned and foreseen in the budget law, and the government's efforts for paying its dues to the private sector, in itself, is a positive act which must be appreciated, but there is still uncertainty about the practicality of this approach.

Is this method really suitable for solving the financial problems that the government is facing regarding the private sector and the electricity industry? And if yes, what would the scale of such bartering system be? Would it cover small amounts as well?

### Govt. payment mechanisms

So far, the Iranian government have tried numerous approaches and mechanisms for settling its debts to the private sector, in times that the financial conditions are not right for clearing payments with money (like during sanctions and recession).

Bartering the dues for “treasury bills” was one of the first approaches that the government used in order to pay its dues to the electricity contractors and private power plant owners. In this method, the energy ministry would pay it dues in the form of a treasury bill which can be traded for raw materials like aluminum ingots, steel and etc. needed by the companies and contractors. ➔5



© Tehran Times / Babak Borzouyeh

## Iranian National Commission for UNESCO honors calligrapher Yadollah Kaboli

**TEHRAN** — Calligrapher Yadollah Kaboli Khansari, the 70-year-old master of shekasteh nastaliq, a style of Persian calligraphy, was honored by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO during a special ceremony in Tehran on Saturday.

The ceremony was organized at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) to celebrate his lifelong career in reviving and promoting shekasteh nastaliq. ➔16



## Zarif: Europeans should be concerned over failure to ‘assert’ themselves

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that European countries’ failure to establish an effective financial channel to trade with Iran is a “source of concern” since “they have not been able to assert themselves” despite having a larger collective economy than the United States.

Zarif made the remarks in an interview with CNN’s Fareed Zakaria broadcast on Sunday, as he was asked by Zakaria “Are you surprised by how week the Europeans have been? They talk about providing an alternative payment system. They sort of set one up. But, let’s face it. It’s not working.”

Zarif answered, “Well, it hasn’t started to work. It should. It is a source of concern. I think, more for the Europeans than for us, that they have not been able to basically assert themselves.”

“Europe is, together, a larger economy than the United States. Certainly if all European oil companies, plus the Chinese and Indians and Russians and the Japanese decide to neglect U.S. sanctions, the United States will not be able, the international economy won’t bear it for the United States to put sanctions on all of these companies,” the chief diplomat remarked.

Europe’s financial channel with Iran, called INSTEX, was set up as a trade vehicle in a bid to protect the Iranian economy from Washington’s sanctions. But its scope is severely limited, with just 10 of the European Union’s 28 nations taking part and a credit line just a fraction of pre-sanctions trade.

Crucially, INSTEX at this time only covers humanitarian goods, allowing the U.S. chokehold on key Iranian exports - notably oil - to suffocate Iran’s economy.

On Friday, The Financial Times reported that Russia wants European efforts to get around U.S. sanctions on Iran to include Tehran’s lucrative oil exports and has thrown its weight behind INSTEX.

The British news outlet quoted a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying, “The full potential of INSTEX will only be able to be deployed if it will be open to the participation of countries which are not members of the European Union.”

“If the encouraging statements by the EU... will be backed up by concrete steps and practical advances, including in relation to the use of INSTEX for servicing trading in Iranian oil, it will help stabilize the difficult situation created around the JCPOA,” said the spokesman, whose name was withheld.

If Moscow were to join the mechanism, it would be a major boost to European efforts to save the 2015 nuclear deal (known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA), which has been unravelling in recent weeks.

The JCPOA, agreed between Iran and world powers, was designed to offer sanctions relief to Iran, unfreezing billions of dollars in Iranian assets held around the globe, in exchange for Iran curbing its nuclear program.

But in 2018, President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the deal and imposed a raft of severe sanctions on Iran. Trump threatened secondary sanctions against companies operating in other countries, inviting corporate leaders to “make a choice” between doing business in Iran or the U.S.

Over the past year, Iran has been looking to European signatories to the deal for support and has said that INSTEX, if it could not help resume Iran’s oil trade, was next to useless.

If the other signatories to the JCPOA would or could not uphold their side of the deal, Iran would also begin to reduce its commitment to the agreement.

In recent weeks, Iran has begun enriching uranium to a higher degree of purity than had been agreed under the deal, while building its stockpiles of fissile material - not least because under the sanctions regime, it can’t export what it produces anyway.

European powers are open to the idea of bringing Russia into INSTEX, officials told the FT.

“The issue of whether or not INSTEX will deal with oil is a discussion that is ongoing among the shareholders,” outgoing EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said earlier this week.

## Senior Russian senator: U.S. seeks ‘advantage’ in Persian Gulf tensions

A Senior Russian lawmaker has said that the United States is “taking advantage” of tensions in the Persian Gulf in order to deploy more troops to the region, CNN reported on Saturday.

“It is already clear who will be the first to take advantage of the escalated situation in the Strait of Hormuz and in the Middle East in general: The Pentagon has just approved the transfer of troops to Saudi Arabia,” Russian senator Konstantin Kosachev said in a post on Facebook.



The Trump administration is reinforcing its controversial military relationship with Saudi Arabia by preparing to send hundreds of troops to the country amid increasing tensions with Iran, CNN learned Wednesday.

Five hundred troops are expected to go to the Prince Sultan Air Base, located in a desert area east of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, according to two U.S. defense officials. A small number of troops and support personnel are already on site with initial preparations being made for a Patriot missile defense battery as well as runway and airfield improvements, the officials said.

The decision comes as U.S. and Saudi relations remain extremely sensitive amid bipartisan congressional anger how the administration handled the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.

“Neither Iran nor the United States, by and large, are interested in a real war,” Kosachev wrote. “However, the ‘game of nerves’ and the raising of stakes will continue.”

# IRGC responds to British piracy: Larijani

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) responded to piracy by Britain by seizing a British tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday night.

Calls had grown inside Iran to respond to the British act in confiscating a supertanker carrying the Iranian oil in Gibraltar on July 4.

“The British committed piracy and the Guards responded them,” Larijani said in the Majlis.

Britain captured the supertanker by claiming that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of the EU sanctions.

In an interview with Bloomberg aired on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that the United Kingdom was not in a position to seize a ship that was carrying Iran’s oil.

He said, “That boat was not going to Syria. We cannot tell you where it was going because the United States with



its policy of zero oil sale by Iran would go prevent us from selling that oil. The United States is preventing us from do-

ing transparent oil sale. Unfortunately, because there are no EU sanctions that are applicable to non-EU member states.

## Iran says U.S. extreme unilateral adventurism biggest global challenge

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that the U.S. “extreme unilateral adventurism” is the most important challenge which is undermining the rule of law at the international level.

“A new wave of American extreme unilateral adventurism is the most important challenge that almost all of us are now facing in one way or another,” Zarif said in a statement read at the NAM foreign ministerial meeting in Caracas, Venezuela on Friday. “It is undermining the rule of law at the international level and threatens peace and stability in the whole world in different ways.”

Following is full text of his statement published by the website of Iran’s Foreign Ministry:

Allow me to begin by thanking the people and Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the excellent organization of this meeting and for your warm hospitality.

Our regular meetings and consultations as Members of the NAM signal our determination to preserve and strengthen our Movement and enhance our cooperation towards protecting the interests of our nations. In tackling the current daunting challenges and those looming ahead, we need to tap the full capacity of our Movement.

A new wave of American extreme unilateral adventurism is the most important challenge that almost all of us are now facing in one way or another. It is undermining the rule of law at the international level and threatens peace and stability in the whole world in different ways. International cooperation in many

fields, including free trade, environment, the rule of law, international organizations and more are being hit in unprecedented ways. While some nations are threatened by unilateral economic sanctions and military aggressions, others are bearing the brunt of a crude American protectionist impulse. Even many U.S. allies are subject to an unprecedented wave of intervention in their domestic affairs.

Remembering the catastrophic results of the previous wave of American unilateralism in the early 2000s, including invasions, brutalities and violent extremism, we have a duty to stand up to and repulse the new wave.

My country is at the forefront of resisting the U.S. new unilateral tendencies, which includes outright economic terrorism. Our sincere efforts to address the concern about our nuclear peaceful program, though baseless, is one among many victims of new unilateralism. The U.S. administration is defeating the Iran nuclear deal, despite the investment the whole world made to bring it about. And in the pro-

**“My country is at the forefront of resisting the U.S. new unilateral tendencies, which includes outright economic terrorism,” Zarif notes.**

## Britain blindly dances to Bolton’s war drums against Iran: Guardian

‘The Bolton gambit succeeded and Britain stumbled into an American trap’

**1 →** And in his passionate bid to tame Tehran, Bolton cares little who gets hurt – even if collateral damage includes a close ally such as Britain.

So when Bolton heard British Royal Marines had seized an Iranian oil tanker off Gibraltar on America’s Independence Day, his joy was unconfined. “Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace I laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions,” he exulted on Twitter.

Bolton’s delighted reaction suggested the seizure was a surprise. But accumulating evidence suggests the opposite is true, and that Bolton’s national security team was directly involved in manufacturing the Gibraltar incident. The suspicion is that Conservative politicians, distracted by picking a new prime minister, jockeying for power, and preoccupied with Brexit, stumbled into an American trap.

In short, it seems, Britain was set up.

The consequences of the Gibraltar affair are only now becoming clear. The seizure of Grace I led directly to Friday’s capture by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards of a British tanker, the Stena Impero, in the Strait of Hormuz. Although it has not made an explicit link, Iran had previously vowed to retaliate for Britain’s Gibraltar “piracy”. Now it has its revenge.

As a result, Britain has been plunged into the middle of an international crisis it is ill-prepared to deal with. The timing could hardly be worse. An untested prime minister, presumably Boris Johnson, will enter Downing Street this week. Britain is on the brink of a disorderly exit from the EU, alienating its closest European partners. And its relationship with Trump’s America is uniquely strained.

Much of this angst could have been

avoided. Britain opposed Trump’s decision to quit the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, the trigger for today’s crisis. It has watched with alarm as the Trump-Bolton policy of “maximum pressure”, involving punitive sanctions and an oil embargo, has radicalized the most moderate Iranians.

Yet even as Britain backed EU attempts to rescue the nuclear deal, Theresa May and Jeremy Hunt, foreign secretary, tried to have it both ways – to keep Trump sweet. They publicly supported Washington’s complaints about Iran’s “destabilizing” regional activities and missile program, and berated Iran when it bypassed agreed nuclear curbs.

Crucially, the government failed to significantly beef up protection for British-flagged vessels transiting the Persian Gulf after attacks in May and June. This was partly because a depleted Royal Navy lacks capacity to mount adequate patrols. But it was also because officials feared that by raising its military profile, Britain could be sucked into armed conflict with Iran.

For Bolton, however, drawing Britain unambiguously in on America’s side was a desirable outcome. So when U.S. spy satellites, tasked with helping block Iranian oil exports in line with Trump’s global embargo, began to track Grace I on its way, allegedly, to Syria, Bolton saw an opportunity.

The Spanish newspaper, El Pais, citing official sources, takes up the story: “The Grace 1, which flies a Panamanian flag, had been under surveillance by U.S. satellites

since April, when it was anchored off Iran. The supertanker, full to the brim with crude oil, was too big for the Suez Canal, and so it sailed around the Cape of Good Hope before heading for the Mediterranean.

“According to the U.S. intelligence services, it was headed for the Syrian oil refinery of Banias. Washington advised Madrid of the arrival of the supertanker 48 hours ahead of time, and the Spanish navy followed its passage through the Strait of Gibraltar. It was expected to cross via international waters, as many Iranian vessels do without being stopped.”

Although Spanish officials, speaking after the event, said they would have intercepted the ship “if we had had the information and the opportunity”, Spain took no action at the time. But Bolton, in any case, was not relying on Madrid. The U.S. had already tipped off Britain. On 4 July, after Grace I entered British-Gibraltar territorial waters, the fateful order was issued in London – it is not known by whom – and 30 marines stormed aboard.

Iran’s reaction was immediate and furious. It claimed Britain had acted illegally because the EU embargo on oil supplies to Syria, which Hunt claimed to be upholding, applied only to EU states and not to third countries such as Iran. In any case, Tehran said, the ship’s destination was not Syria.

Iran’s outrage was shared, to a lesser degree, by Josep Borrell, Spain’s socialist foreign minister. Borrell resented the British

**“It (Britain) has watched with alarm as the Trump-Bolton policy of “maximum pressure”, involving punitive sanctions and an oil embargo, has radicalized the most moderate Iranians.”**

## Zarif says only ‘prudence and foresight’ can calm tensions

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that only “prudence and foresight” can alleviate tensions.

“Having failed to lure @realDonaldTrump into War of the Century, and fearing collapse of his #B\_Team, @AmbJohnBolton is turning his venom against the UK in hopes of dragging it into a quagmire. Only prudence and foresight can thwart such plays,” Zarif tweeted.

In a commentary on Saturday, the Guardian said when John Bolton, White House national security adviser and notorious Iraq-era hawk, heard British Royal Marines had

seized an Iranian oil tanker off Gibraltar on America’s Independence Day, his joy was unconfined.

“Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace I laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions,” Bolton exulted on Twitter.

Bolton’s delighted reaction suggested the seizure was a surprise, the Guardian said. “But accumulating evidence suggests the opposite is true, and that Bolton’s national security team was directly involved in manufacturing the Gibraltar incident,” the newspaper commented.

“The suspicion is that Conservative politicians, distracted

cess it has not only breached the relevant Security Council resolution, but also ironically sanctioned those who try to abide by it.

The gross U.S. intervention in domestic affairs of our host, Venezuela, including through instigating the failed coup attempt in last April, is another example of the U.S. malign behavior. The novelty is that the new U.S. administration is shedding the mask and showing open and unveiled disrespect for international law and the rights of sovereign nations. The people of Venezuela, as in every other country, are the supreme authority to elect their president as they did in May 2018. They are now entitled to rise in defense of their elected president.

Likewise, the U.S. unilateral and rogue impulse is destroying any bases already set in place to resolve the Palestinian question, with the occupation at its center. The illegal U.S. moves, which aims to deny the basic rights of the Palestinian people, are exacerbating the situation in the whole Middle East. Those very few Arab regimes who have aligned themselves with these and other U.S. schemes are not only betraying the Palestinian people, but are also jeopardizing peace and security in the whole region.

Opposing unilateralism and trying to promote the rule of law at the international level have always been high on the NAM agenda since its inception. As the law-based international order is now threatened more than ever in the past, it is imperative for NAM Member States to close their ranks and focus on how to repel this threat. All of us will lose if we don’t.

incursion into Gibraltar’s territorial waters, which Madrid does not recognize. He also appears to have been annoyed that Spain was drawn in – in Tehran, the Spanish ambassador had been summoned by the foreign ministry to explain Madrid’s role. His reaction was to distance Spain from the affair. The Iranian tanker had been seized “following a request from the United States to the United Kingdom,” he said. And even though Britain was supposedly upholding EU regulations, the External Action Service, the EU’s foreign policy arm, has remained silent throughout.

Iran’s retaliation in snatching the Stena Impero has further exposed Britain’s diplomatic isolation and its military and economic vulnerability. The government has advised British ships to avoid the Strait of Hormuz, an admission it cannot protect them. But between 15 and 30 British-flagged tankers transit the strait each day. If trade is halted, the impact on energy prices may be severe.

Hunt’s appeal for international support for Britain has so far fallen on deaf ears. France and Germany excepted. China, Japan and other countries that rely on oil from the Persian Gulf show no sign of helping. The U.S. plan for a multinational coalition to protect Persian Gulf shipping has few takers. Meanwhile, Trump’s promise to back Britain has scant practical value – and carries inherent dangers.

The Bolton gambit succeeded. Despite its misgivings, Britain has been co-opted on to the front line of Washington’s confrontation with Iran. The process of polarization, on both sides, is accelerating. The nuclear deal is closer to total collapse. And by threatening Iran with “serious consequences”, without knowing what that may entail, Britain blindly dances to the beat of Bolton’s war drums.

by picking a new prime minister, jockeying for power, and preoccupied with Brexit, stumbled into an American trap,” said the article written by Simon Tisdall.

In short, it seems, Britain was set up,” the paper said. The newspaper added, “The consequences of the Gibraltar affair are only now becoming clear. The seizure of Grace I led directly to Friday’s capture by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards of a British tanker, the Stena Impero, in the Strait of Hormuz. Although it has not made an explicit link, Iran had previously vowed to retaliate for Britain’s Gibraltar “piracy”. Now it has its revenge.”



# Iranian envoy urges Britain to contain hardline elements

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to London Hamid Baedinejad has called on the British government to contain those who want to escalate Tehran-London tensions.

“UK government should contain those domestic political forces who want to escalate existing tension between Iran and the UK well beyond the issue of ships,” Baedinejad tweeted on Sunday.

“This is quite dangerous and unwise at a sensitive time in the region. Iran however is firm and ready for different scenarios,” he added.

Tensions have been built up between Iran and Britain.

Late on Friday, Iranian forces seized a British-flagged oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz for involvement in an accident with an Iranian fishing boat, after the tanker ignored distress calls.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a tweet on Saturday, said Iran’s conduct towards the British tanker had been fully within international maritime rules.

It came weeks after Britain captured a supertanker carrying the Iranian oil by



claiming that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of the EU sanctions.

In his remarks, Zarif also compared Iran’s action with that of the British gov-

ernment, to which he referred to as an act of “piracy”.

“Unlike the piracy in the Strait of Gibraltar, our action in the Persian Gulf is to uphold int’l maritime rules. As I said in NY, it is IRAN that guarantees the security of the Persian Gulf & the Strait of Hormuz. UK must cease being an accessory to #EconomicTerrorism of the US.”

Hormozgan province’s Ports and Maritime Organization has said the Steno Impero tanker was using the exit lane to enter into the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel was in “contravention of international regulations” by sailing into the strait in the wrong direction and switching off its GPS tracker, the maritime organization added.

The tanker “was entering the Strait from the southern route which is an exit path, increasing the risk of accident,” it explained.

In a phone conversation on Saturday Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told his British counterpart Jeremy Hunt that the ship must go through a legal process before it can be released, the Iranian Foreign Ministry reported.

## British oil tanker escorted by warship: IRGC spokesman

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran seized the British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz despite the “resistance and interference” of a British warship which had been escorting it, the spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Saturday.

Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif said the tanker, Stena Impero, was being escorted by the British Royal Navy, Mehr reported.

It was seized after ignoring international maritime

regulations by sailing into the Strait of Hormuz in the wrong direction, Sharif stated.

The spokesman added the British tanker was seized by the Guards at the request of Hormozgan Province’s Ports and Maritime Organization.

He also said the tanker had switched off its GPS tracker in violations of international maritime regulations, using the exit lane to enter into the Strait of Hormuz instead of moving towards the entrance of the Persian Gulf, increasing the risk of accident.

On Saturday, Iran released footage of Stena Impero, showing Iranian speedboats cruising near the oil tanker as a military helicopter was flying over the vessel.

An Iranian marine could be heard communicating with the command center in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

Masked Iranian commandos then rappelled onto the deck of the tanker from the helicopter. The name of the ship can be seen in the video.

## Israel after heightening tensions in the region, MP warns

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Zionist regime is after heightening tensions in the region by purchasing F-35 jets, spokesman for the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has warned.

“Today, the Zionist regime is in possession of a stockpile of nuclear arsenals and weapons and it might set the region on fire at any moment,” Hossein Naqavi Hosseini said, Mehr reported on Sunday.

“Such actions show that they are following the policy of warmongering and adopting military games in the region,” he remarked. He said the Zionist regime is sponsoring terrorism. The lawmaker also rebuked Western countries, especially the U.S., for aggravating the situation in recent years by increasing their military cooperation with Israel.

Earlier this month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened Tehran that Israel’s F-35 fighter jets can reach “anywhere in the Middle East.”

“Lately, Iran has been threatening Israel with destruction,” Netanyahu said, standing in front of an F-35 Adir jet during a visit to the Nevatim Air Force Base in the south. “It should remember that these planes can reach every place in the Middle East, including Iran, and of course also Syria.”



Reacting to Netanyahu’s threats, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said last week that any violation of the country’s sovereignty would be faced with a crushing response.

“Any enemy which seeks to violate the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, be it at any level, will receive a decisive and crushing response it shall regret,” Brigadier General Hatami said.

Chairman of the Majlis Nuclear Committee Mojtaba Zonnour said on July 1 that should the United States attack Iran, Israel’s remaining life would be less than half an hour.

“With divine power we are fully ready. We have not intended to attack any country and 40 years of the Islamic Revolution manifests this. But if they attack, we are able to cut off any foot and any hand intruding into our soil,” he added.

## MP urges Britain to free ‘illegally-seized’ tanker in Gibraltar

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — A senior reformist lawmaker on Sunday urged Britain to immediately free the Iranian oil tanker which was illegally seized in Gibraltar on July 4.

“I, as the head of Iran-England parliamentary friendship group, tell the British foreign secretary that you illegally seized the Iranian vessel upon U.S. order. But we seized the English vessel due to its failure to abide by regulations,” said Mostafa Kavakebian, a member of the Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

“It is required that the Iranian ship would be released as soon as possible so that we would not have to impose tolls on British and U.S. ships crossing the Strait of Hormuz,” he added.

He also appreciated diplomatic efforts by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to free the oil tanker “Grace 1” and also the IRGC for impounding the British tanker, “Stena Impero”.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) confiscated Stena Impero on Friday over violation of international maritime rules.

The British tanker was confiscated at the request of the southern province of Hormozgan Ports and Maritime Organization.

The IRGC said the tanker had switched off its transponder in viola-



tions of international maritime regulations, using the exit lane to enter into the Strait of Hormuz instead of moving towards the entrance of the Persian Gulf, increasing the risk of accident.

This seizure came as British Royal Marines in Gibraltar stormed the Iran-operated 300,000-tonne Grace 1 and detained it on July 4, accusing it of carrying oil to Syria in possible violation of the European Union’s sanctions on the Arab country.

Iran condemned the move as “piracy” and summoned Britain’s ambassador in protest, highlighting that neither the tanker was headed to Syria, nor Iran is a member an EU member and subject to any European oil embargo.

“Unlike the piracy in the Strait of Gibraltar, our action in the Persian Gulf is to uphold international maritime rules,” Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif tweeted on Saturday.

## Iran-Hamas relations growing: Kharrazi

### Liberation of Palestine is a great ideal of Iran, Kharrazi reiterates

**1 →** Pointing to the U.S. proposed “deal of the century”, he said that the Palestinian people countered the plot and all the Muslims condemned it.

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

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

A Hamas delegation headed by Musa Abu Marzouq also met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Bogdanov in Moscow, the Middle East Monitor reported on July 17.

Abu Marzouq briefed the Russian official on the political developments of the Palestinian issue including the U.S. “deal of the century”, stressing that all Palestinian people reject it.

The senior Russian official confirmed that Moscow is



interested in following up on the political developments in Palestine and the region.

He stressed that Russia supports the Palestinian rights

and rejects the deal of the century, highlighting that Moscow’s absence during the Bahrain workshop was evidence of this.

The Hamas delegation reiterated that the movement is eager to achieve reconciliation with other Palestinian factions by holding general elections, forming a unity government and agreeing on a comprehensive national program.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told the visiting delegation that national unity should be a priority for all Palestinian factions, expressing his rejection of the “punitive policy” adopted by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas highlighted the difficult conditions under which Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and al-Quds (Jerusalem) live, as well as the situation for those in the diaspora.

Abu Marzouq said he believes Russia could be a “strong player” in achieving internal Palestinian reconciliation.

## Iranian MPs support seizure of British tanker

**1 →** Following the collision, those on board the fishing boat contacted the British vessel but didn’t receive any response, so they informed the Hormozgan Maritime Organization according to the legal procedures, Afifpour added.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a tweet on Saturday, said Iran’s conduct towards the British tanker had been fully

within international maritime rules. He also compared Iran’s action with a recent seizure of an Iranian tanker by the UK in Gibraltar.

“Unlike the piracy in the Strait of Gibraltar, our action in the Persian Gulf is to uphold int’l maritime rules. As I said in NY, it is IRAN that guarantees the security of the Persian Gulf & the Strait of Hormuz. UK must cease being an accessory to #EconomicTerrorism of the US.”

On Saturday, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt telephoned Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif about the issue.

Zarif said, “In contrast to the illegal move of Britain in seizing the tanker carrying the Iranian oil, our move was done based on the request of Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization.”

Zarif told Hunt that “due process” must

be followed in relation to the tanker.

On July 4, Britain captured a supertanker carrying the Iranian oil by claiming that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of the EU sanctions.

Britain has warned ships connected to the country’s shipping industry to “stay out of the area” in the interim, CNN reported on Saturday.

## Two IRGC soldiers killed in terror attack in Sistan-Baluchestan

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Two Iranian soldiers have been killed in an armed clash between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force and a group of terrorists in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.



According to the IRGC Ground Force’s Quds Base, the two soldiers were martyred in the early hours of Sunday in a gunfight with the terrorists in the Keshtegan region, near the city of Saravan.

Two other IRGC forces also sustained injuries in the clash, it added, Tasnim reported.

The two fallen soldiers have been identified as Mohsen Naqibi, an IRGC Ground Force commando from the city of Kermanshah, and Abdulkhalik Drazehi, a local member of the Basij force.

Saravan is 40 kilometers away from Iran’s border with Pakistan.

Earlier this month, a team of terrorists attacked forces of the IRGC in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, killing three servicemen.

Also in July 2018, the terrorists attacked a border post of the Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base in the western province of Kurdistan, killing 11.

The Guards is tasked with protecting Iran’s northwestern and southeastern borders.

## Al Khalifa regime to sink soon: Amir Abdollahian

**TEHRAN (MNA)** — The Al Khalifa regime, that has changed Bahrain into a laboratory for testing dirty policies of the Israeli regime, will sink soon, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker has predicted.

“Once Bahraini FM Sheikh Khalid told me that ‘Bahrain will be inundated within 100 years’,” Amir Abdollahian wrote on his Twitter page on Sunday.

“I believe Bahrain will remain but Al Khalifa regime, who has changed Bahrain into a laboratory for testing dirty policies of Israel, will sink soon,” he added.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began there in mid-February 2011.

People have been demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of the Al Khalifah regime’s crackdown. The regime has also been routinely revoking the citizenship of dissidents.

In late June 2019 and in an unprecedented interview with The Times of Israel on the sidelines of the Washington-sponsored Manama workshop on US President Donald Trump’s highly-controversial Middle East deal Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifah recognized Israel’s “right to existence,” saying the regime is “there to stay, of course.”

“Who did we offer peace to [with] the [Arab] Peace Initiative?... We offered it to Israel,” he said. “We want better relations with it, and we want peace with it.”

## About 3 million Iranians to attend Arbaeen rituals in Iraq: diplomat

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Iran’s consul general in the city of Karbala, in central Iraq, has anticipated that about three million Iranian pilgrims to take part in Arbaeen rituals slated for October 19.

The growing number of Iranian pilgrims who intend to attend the ritual and the successful holding of such a big ceremony requires precise planning, Mir-Massoud Hosseini said in a meeting with a group of IRNA directors on Sunday.



Arbaeen is a kind of a maneuver held by freedom-seeking individuals, the consul general said, adding that the ceremony is not limited to only Iranian and Iraqi Shiites.

Muslims’ march for Arbaeen started openly in 2003 after the collapse of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The Arbaeen mourning ceremony is one of the largest religious processions in the world.

It marks the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Each year, pilgrims, mainly from Iraq and Iran, stage funeral procession on foot to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	249661.6
IFX	3232.6

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	rials 42,000
EUR	rials 47,303
GBP	rials 52,506
AED	rials 11,437

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	b/\$62.47
WTI	b/\$55.76
OPEC Basket	b/\$63.10
Gold	oz/\$1,426.90
Silver	oz/\$16.29
Platinum	oz/\$849.10

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Bank loans to economic sector rise 20% yr/yr

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**— Iranian banking system offered nearly 13 quadrillion rials (over \$309.5 billion) facilities to domestic economic sectors during the past Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2018-March 20, 2019), to register a 20 percent raise in comparison with the year before, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) data showed.

As reported by IRNA, During the Iranian calendar year of 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), Iranian banks and credit institutions granted 10.833 quadrillion rials (about \$257.9 billion) of loans to domestic sectors.

Trade war taking a toll on China’s economy

By Atul Aneja

Langfang, the furniture capital of northern China, is facing a hard time. A 25% tariff hike on furniture imported from China by the Trump administration is chipping away at the already shrinking margins and jobs in the city.

Visitors to Langfang’s vast showrooms say the crowds of shoppers are thinning out. Pressure on order books has been mounting, especially after May, when the U.S. levied a 25% duty on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products.

“There has been an unmistakable impact ever since the U.S. raised tariffs,” the Asian Nikkei Review quoted Wang, a sales associate in one of the city firms, as saying. Exporters in Langfang say European and South Korean clients had already elbowed out American furniture buyers. But the U.S. numbers have further dropped after the tariff hike.

Some analysts say higher labor and other costs in China had already pushed out some of the manufacturers from Langfang to Vietnam, where production costs are much lower. But alarm bells are ringing louder in the Langfang business circles and elsewhere out of fear that the Trump administration could also clamp down on Chinese exports routed through Hanoi, with a ‘Made in Vietnam’ label. Earlier this month, the U.S. Commerce Department imposed steep duties on South Korean and Taiwanese steel products that had undergone final processing in Vietnam.

■ The commercial mood dampened

Two other factors have dampened the commercial mood in Langfang, located in Hebei province — the heart of China’s coal mining belt and steel industry. Many private steelmakers in the city have been forced to down their shutters after authorities in Beijing imposed strict pollution controls on factories.

But more pain and job losses could follow as the Central government is unhappy with the efforts of the local administration to clean up the water and toxic air, which can easily drift into neighboring Beijing. Last month, authorities in the Chinese capital admonished the Mayor of Langfang and his counterparts from five other cities for failing to meet the country’s iron laws on pollution. This followed findings by China’s Ministry of Ecology and Environment that air quality in the six cities had deteriorated. It attributed the rise in PM2.5 particles to the sluggish efforts by local authorities to enforce the country’s anti-pollution norms.

Many observers have been tempted to conclude that the slowdown in the Chinese economy, amply visible in Langfang and elsewhere, is a partial victory for the Trump administration in its trade war with China. The perception that the U.S. has won its first battle in the tariff war is taking root after the Chinese economy grew by 6.3% in the first half of 2019, the slowest in 27 years.

Soon after the numbers were out, President Donald Trump triumphantly sought to link the slowdown to the trade war by tweeting that the U.S. tariffs were having a “major effect” on China’s economy. He laced it with a warning that Washington could impose more pressure on Beijing.

■ The Chinese economy

But the hard-nosed Chinese, known for playing the long game, have been unfazed by this attempt to browbeat Beijing into a compromise. In their riposte, they asserted that the slowdown was the result of a natural transition of the Chinese economy as it moves up the value chain.

They pointed out that in tune with the changes in the global industrial landscape, high-end companies were expected to expand in China, while the low-tech industry was likely to move overseas, chasing lower labor costs and other advantages.

“Most of those pulling out are mid- to low-end firms and the impact on China’s economic growth, industry upgrading and employment is generally controllable,” said Meng Wei, a spokesperson of the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s top planning body, at a press conference.

Rejecting the possibility of an industrial exodus from China, she stressed that “it is not easy for companies to relocate, and there are a number of factors to consider, including operating costs, industrial workers, supply chain support, transportation and even manufacturing culture”.

(Source: thehindu.com)

Domestic manufacturing of imported auto parts to be strengthened

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — In mid-May, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani issued a directive on “strengthening domestic manufacturing of imported auto parts”.

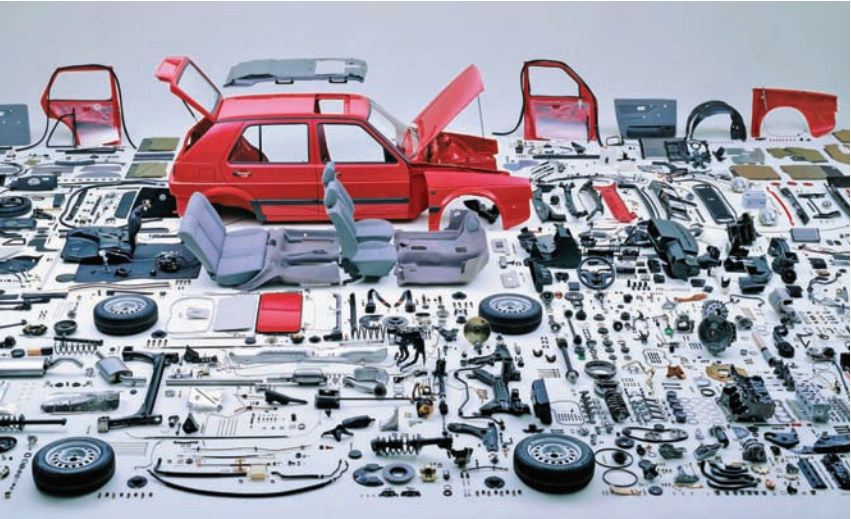
Addressing two of his deputies, Farshad Moqimi, deputy for industrial affairs, and Mohammad-Baqer Ali, the board chairman of Iran’s Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO), the minister put emphasis on using the highest potential of human resources for strengthening domestic manufacturing of auto parts which are currently imported to the country.

Highlighting the orders of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on supporting production in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), which is named the year of “Pickup in Production” by the supreme leader, Rahmani stressed that cooperation among all car makers, auto part manufacturers, knowledge-based companies and enterprises is vital for strengthening domestic manufacturing of imported auto parts.

This movement should be all-out promoted to combat sanctions and also preventing from exit of foreign currency from the country, the minister noted.

He said the policy of domestic manufacturing of auto parts should be seriously followed up, and in this due the capable manufacturers should be seriously supported.

Given that 1.25 million vehicles are anticipated to be manufactured in the country during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020), the part manufacturers will need 150 trillion rials of working capital (about \$3.571 billion) for the purchase of raw



materials and other required items.

As previously announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, Iranian car makers manufactured 42,623 vehicles during the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20, 2019).

The ministry’s data show that car manufacturing in Iran has fallen 47.2 percent in the first month of this year from 80,794 cars manufactured in the same month of the previous year.

■ 10-section plan to improve status of car makers

The ministry has also unveiled a 10-section plan on early February for improving the status of car makers, in which the two major car makers of the country have been ordered to support auto part manufacturers.

Mentioning this plan, Farshad Moqimi said: “Under the condition when the enemy has put the country’s auto manufacturing industry under the pressure, we should try to reduce our reliance on

imports in this sector specially imports of auto parts.”

On Saturday, the official announced that the country’s car makers will soon sign deals worth \$7.4 trillion rials (about €157.4 million) with domestic spare parts manufacturers, which will save the country €85 million in a year.

According to Moqimi, based on the mentioned contracts, 32 domestic car parts manufacturers will manufacture 35 different items which are currently being supplied by foreign manufacturers.

Moqimi also said that five specialized workshops and meetings are scheduled to be held this year in order to discuss and explore ways for indigenization of automobile industry.

■ Regulations for removing hurdles

Earlier this month, Moqimi had also stressed that the regulations should be in a way that remove the barriers in the way of domestic production. “When a regulation is set, it may

‘Italy still eager for trade with Iran’

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Chairman of Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Pourfallah says despite the U.S. sanctions Italian companies are still willing to engage in trade with Iran, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to Pourfallah, despite the U.S. pressures, small and medium-sized Italian enterprises have not cut their ties with Iran and Italy still holds the first place among Iran’s European trade partners.

“In the post-sanctions era when the sanctions were removed from Iran’s economy, over 1000 business firms and more than 300 companies from Italy came to Iran,” Pourfallah stated.

He noted that Italian companies are still looking to find ways to continue their economic ties with Iran, adding that every month four or five Italian companies visit Iran to hold trade talks.

“The two sides had on the agenda to boost their mutual trade to \$13 billion,” Pourfallah said.

Mentioning the negative impact of the U.S. sanctions in

the trade turnover between the two countries, the official noted that in recent years, Iran’s exports to Italy were around seven billion euros, but the sanctions reduced the figure to less than €1.8 billion.

“However, in 2018 the trade turnover between the two sides stood at €5 billion,” he added.

In early June, head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) said Italy is one of the major trade partners of Iran in the European Union and expansion of trade ties with the country is a priority for Iran.

Gholam-Hossein Shafeie made the remarks in a meeting with Italian Ambassador to Iran at the time, Mauro Conciatori. Conciatori for his part emphasized that the cooperation between Iran and Italy will be maintained at all levels.

Mentioning the growth of trade turnover between Iran and Italy in recent years and the interest of Italian businessmen and entrepreneurs in investing in Iran, Conciatori stressed, “We should not worry about the future of Iran-Italy economic relations.”



“Despite U.S. sanctions, the two countries trade turnover is currently more than 4 billion euros” Conciatori said. “We are currently in the process of “contemplating” to plan better future relations, and I’m sure we will have a bigger jump forward after this era”, he added.

TSE plans to launch prime market

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) plans to launch a new market named “prime market” in which the price range for the shares increase, TSE Head Ali Sahraei announced.

He said that only companies with a minimum transparency score of 70 (out of 100) and floating stock of at least 25 percent would be accepted in the prime market, Securities and Exchange News Agency (SENA) reported.

Sahraei also said that there is no difference regarding rules governing market makers

in this and other markets, adding that participation of market makers is mandatory in the prime market.

Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)’s main index (TEDPIX) has increased 56,220 points or 20.4 percent to 234,879 during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

As reported, some 258,055 billion securities worth 723.503 trillion rials (about \$17.226 billion) were traded through 17.999 million deals at TSE during the three-month period.

Based on the already released reports and data, Iran’s exchange markets witnessed fruitful performances and results in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019).

Applying new financial instruments in Iranian capital market was another achievements of the exchange markets during the past year, as TSE officially launched “futures” in mid-December 2018 for more risk management and Iran Mercantile Market (IME) launched “option” in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods

for agricultural products.

Futures contracts (more colloquially, futures) are financial contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset or the seller to sell an asset at a predetermined future date and price.

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.

Commodities worth \$642m traded at IME in a week

the side market of IME.

On June 24, during the meeting of IME shareholders, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad said that this exchange has prepared ten macro plans to improve its performance during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020).

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.

Soltani-Nejad has previously announced that IME accounted for 39 percent of the value of the total trades in the Iranian capital market during the past Iranian calendar year.

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

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

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



Applying new financial instruments in Iranian capital market was one of the achievements of the country’s exchange markets during the past year.

In this due, IME 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.



# 2nd phase of national smart metering program kicks off

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Power Generation and Distribution Company (known as TAVANIR) and the Iranian Electrical Power Equipment Manufacturing and Provision Company (SATKAB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for installing five million smart electricity meters.

As reported by the portal of Iranian Energy Ministry (known as Paven), with this MOU signed, the second phase of the Energy Ministry's national smart metering program (known as FAHAM) was officially started.

Based on this MOU, five million smart electricity meters will be installed across the country within the next two years.

In this stage, 2.5 million three-phase electricity consumers, including small industrial, commercial, and agricultural customers as well as three-phase household consumers, will be equipped with such smart meters along with another 2.5 million single-phase household consumers and commercial subscribers, with a priority for high-consuming subscribers.

According to Mohammad-Ali Validad, the deputy operator of FAHAM, all the mentioned electricity meters will be manufactured inside the country.

According to the official, 100,000 smart



meters will be installed in the next two months.

In early June, Paven announced that 18,650 smart electricity meters have been installed across Tehran for large-scale electricity consumers.

According to the Head of Tehran Power

Distribution Company, Reza Teimouri, of the mentioned number, 3,242 meters were installed for the agricultural sector.

In May, Validad had announced that 56,000 agricultural wells were equipped with smart electricity meters.

FAHAM is aiming to monitor the electricity consumption across the country, especially among the large-scale subscribers.

In March 2009 implementation of FAHAM was placed on the agenda of Iranian government and Energy Ministry.

The target was decreasing electricity loss at least one percent per year and 14 percent decrease in overall network loss by 2015.

FAHAM project is funded by Energy Ministry of Iran and is being executed under the supervision of Iran Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company.

Iran is facing a rising demand for electricity and the Energy Ministry has been following new policies in recent years to manage the consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the national grid.

In December 2018, Mohammad Hassan Motevalizadeh, the managing director of TAVANIR, said Iran's power industry needs six quadrillion rials (near \$142.8 billion) to keep the country's electricity infrastructure up with the rising demand.

Modifying consumption patterns and also electricity tariffs has been offered as practical solutions to reduce electricity consumption in the country.

## IRENEX to hold 13th round of offering light crude oil on Tuesday

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will offer two million barrels of light crude oil at Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The base price for this round of offering, which is the 13th round since beginning of offering light oil at IRENEX, and the sixth round in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21, 2019), is \$61.42 per barrel.

Buyers can receive their cargo up to three months after the transaction, and the delivery of the cargo in other regions is subject to NIOC approval.

Since the U.S.'s withdrew from Iran's nuclear pact in May 2018, vowing to drive Iran's oil exports down to zero, the Islamic Republic has been taking various measures to counter the U.S. actions and to keep its oil exports levels as high as possible. One of the main strategies that Iran chose to execute to help its oil exports afloat has been trying new ways to diversify the mechanism of oil sales, one of which is offering oil at the country's stock market.

NIOC offered light crude oil at IRENEX first on October 28, 2018 just few days before new U.S. sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector took effect (November 4). In the first round, NIOC could sell some 280,000 barrels of crude oil at \$74.85 per barrel. With the daily supply amount of one million barrels, the market wrapped up by selling eight 35,000-barrel cargos of oil on the day.

Offering gas condensate at IRENEX came after the successful offering of crude oil at this market. The first offering was done on February 13, which failed to attract customers.

And then the turn came to heavy crude. Offering heavy crude at IRENEX came after NIOC offered light crude at this stock market in eight round.

Iranian National Oil Company sold 70,000 barrels of heavy crude oil at IRENEX for the first time on April 30. In the first round one million barrels of heavy crude was offered at a base price of \$60.68.

NIOC's representative in IRENEX has said that the company will continue offering oil at IRENEX, Mehr news agency reported.

"Offering oil and gas condensate in the international ring of IRENEX has become a legal obligation, and it will definitely be a lasting move," Amir Hossein Tebyanian said in a press conference hosted by Mehr news agency at the place of the agency in early July.

Briefing the press about the procedures and processes of NIOC's oil and gas condensate offerings at IRENEX, the official noted that physical sales of oil at IRENEX is just the first step and the main goal is to activate other financial instruments, and offer Iranian crude in the regional stock markets.

"We will continue offering oil at the IRENEX in order to institutionalize the necessary procedures which are a



prerequisite for improving IRENEX to the level of world class stock exchanges," he said.

According to the official, IRENEX was initially founded in an attempt to permit the Iranian private sector export crude oil since Washington aims to cut Iran's oil sales.

However now, foreign buyers have also expressed willingness to engage in IRENEX oil offerings and welcoming the idea, NIOC is preparing necessary bases for them to be able to do so.

## Global oil markets - OPEC vs U.S. Shale rivalry escalates

By Jameel Ahmad

At the beginning of July, OPEC finally pulled the trigger on extending production cuts into 2020, putting an end to the suspense in the Oil markets and escalating its rivalry with the U.S. Shale industry.

In contrast, the U.S. domestic Oil industry is set to hit new record production levels after reaching 11 million barrels per day (mbpd) on average in 2018. U.S. output is set to increase to 12.4 mbpd in 2019 and 13.3 mbpd in 2020, driven by growth in the Permian Basin and New Mexico.

Most importantly, the U.S. has reduced its Oil imports to an average of 0.6 mbpd in 2019 and is on the verge of becoming a net exporter of crude Oil by the fourth quarter of this year. By 2020, the U.S. is expected to export an average of 0.5 mbpd of crude Oil and petroleum products, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA).

The U.S. Shale counterweight is likely to keep Oil price benchmarks in check despite OPEC's supply cuts, especially if we factor in the reason for the cartel's decision.

OPEC clearly does not have high expectations for world demand for Oil over the next year, meaning it wants to limit supplies to maintain prices at least at their current levels.

### ■ The slower global growth

The organization projects demand for its Oil to decline by 1.3 mbpd to 29.27 mbpd

because of slower global growth in the wake of U.S.-China trade disputes.

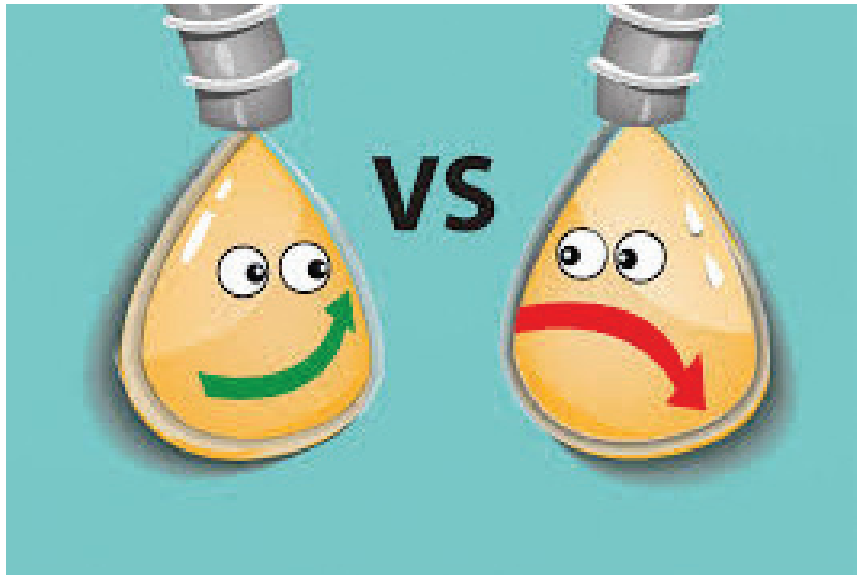
The softer outlook for world Oil demand is also held by the EIA, at the time of writing. The EIA estimates that in the short-term, global Oil stocks will rise by 0.1 mbpd in 2019 and 2020. Rising Oil stocks reflect weaker global Oil demand, currently seen growing at the level of 1.1 mbpd in 2019 and 1.4 mbpd in 2020, says the EIA in its July Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) report.

As a result of rising U.S. production and falling global demand for Oil, average Brent Crude prices are seen ranging between \$59.58 – \$63.00 per barrel (pb) between 2019 and 2020, according to the most recent STEO.

If this scenario holds true, it may affect the Persian Gulf on several levels, starting with a relatively stable course for Oil prices on the upside. A more predictable price environment would be helpful to local Oil exporters, especially compared to the 2014-2016 period when crude Oil prices were highly volatile and extremely weak.

### ■ The emerging markets

At this stage, the U.S. is still a net importer of crude Oil, giving Persian Gulf exporters time to plan their approach to maintaining their market share. In addition, the outlook for the D is weakening, so D-denominated Oil sales are more affordable in emerging markets where the



Persian Gulf Oil exporters traditionally have a stronger foothold.

It's true that emerging markets in Asia have taken a hit because of the U.S.-China trade dispute, resulting in less economic growth and a slower increase in demand for Oil, but there is still the possibility of a reversal of fortunes if renewed trade negotiations lead to a deal before the end of the year.

On the downside, the challenges posed by the U.S. Shale industry to OPEC's emerging

market Oil sales should not be underestimated.

Already, the U.S. plans to increase crude Oil exports to large emerging markets like India as it seeks to gain market share. Unless the U.S. and China can settle their trade differences, the weakening outlook for global demand for crude Oil gives OPEC little room to maneuver and supports the case for continuing production cuts to maintain 'market re-balancing' price targets.

(Source: ameinfo.com)

## A review on govt. plan to barter oil for dues to private sector

**1 →** Another mechanism was using "clearing bills", in this method the government would offset its debts to the companies and contractors with the taxes and legal bills which they were supposed to pay to the government in order to operate.

Many experts and analysts believe that such approaches are suffering from significant shortcomings and loopholes. For instance, in many cases, the value of the government's treasury bills could decrease drastically at the time that the company or contractor wants to use them, or the manufacturers and companies doesn't supply the items covered in the bills, so many of the owners of such bills will be forced to sell them to middlemen in the market for lower prices in order to use the money with more flexibility.

### ■ The new approach

Analysts and experts in the country's power industry believe that, like many other methods which have been implemented so far, the oil-for-due mechanism has its own shortcomings and drawbacks.

They argue that this mechanism only good for big companies and contractors with large amounts of due payments, and the small and medium-sized companies and enterprises would not benefit much from such bartering system.

The ministry of energy has said that this method is intended to settle state debts to large contractors. This means that the government itself believes that the developed method works only for large contractors or large companies. But, it should be noted that the number of big contractors which have the means to receive, transport and sell oil in or outside the country is not that much and many of the companies, active in the energy industry are small and medium-sized companies.

This suggests that the target population which the government has considered for this mechanism is not that rational and the statistical pool considered for this method is very limited and small.

It is also said that since this new mechanism requires the coordination between two different ministries, namely energy ministry and the oil ministry, inevitability some unforeseen issues might emerge in the process.

### ■ Final thoughts

Many of the experts and scholars in the country's energy industry believe that if the energy ministry wants to take measures to address its debts to the private sector, it should find a comprehensive and inclusive solution, one that covers the whole industry, since as I mentioned before only a limited number of companies in the country have the ability or means to use oil as a payment method.

The best way to address the financial issues which the energy ministry is facing is to remove the subsidies which is applied for the electricity bills for households and commercial consumers.

There is a huge gap between the real value of electricity and the price with which it is provided to the consumers in Iran. Closing this gap (only if partially) would solve many of the financial problems that this industry is currently facing.

Emending the power industry's economy requires emendation in the country's economic structure at a macro level, but unfortunately there doesn't seem to be any will for going in that direction anytime soon.

## Solar power from Australia to light up Singapore

The world's largest solar farm that could light up Singapore's glittering shopping malls and office towers will be built on the barren dunes there.



According to asiatictimes.com, it was reported that a huge amount of panels as well as supporting battery storage devices with a combined capacity of 10 gigawatts would be spread across 15,000 hectares of land there to ensure the solar farm could make the most of the outback's clear skies and bright sunshine.

The bulk of the green electricity generated by this \$14.1 billion project would be exported to the city-state in Southeast Asia – equivalent to roughly one-fifth of its annual electricity consumption – via high-voltage submarine cables that will stretch about 3,800 kilometers.

The Northern Territory project to power Singapore, however, is still at a relatively early stage of planning.

The Guardian and Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao reported that it could take four years for the massive solar farm to lock in finance, with production scheduled to start mid-to-late next decade. Yet the project is now under the auspices of both governments in Singapore and Australia's Northern Territory state government.

Singapore aims to shed its reliance on expensive gas-fired power generation and on supplies from Malaysia and Indonesia, while Australia, with the best renewable energy resource in the developed world, also aims to export more green energy instead of liquefied natural gas and heavy-polluting coal.

Sun Cable, the company that will carry out the ambitious power generation and transmission project, said prefabricated solar cells would be used to capture "one of the best solar radiance reserves on the planet" and the advent of high-voltage, direct-current submarine cables would cut the cost and minimize power loss and change the flow of energy between the continents.

Another similar proposal to send electricity to an inland hydrogen manufacturing hub and also to Indonesia is being discussed in Australia as well.

## Moving to renewables will be slow and costly, but worth it

The global demand for energy is growing stronger each year. The effects of global warming have put people in situations where they require the use of more energy. It has been at its fastest rate since 2010 according to the research note from the specialists of UBS Monday.

As stated by sciencetimes.com, the note also says that although there remains to be a "growing desire" to make the significant shift from the burning of fossil fuels to the use of renewable resources, the demand for more stability in terms of harvesting technology in renewable resources remains. It added that while the resources of renewable fuel supplies are expected to increase at a rather faster pace, the diverse nature of the renewable energy sources will slow down the process. Sometimes, the lack of technology makes it seemingly impossible for the world to be fossil fuel-free.

The "aspiration to diversify energy sources to include more renewable sources of energy, we believe that the demand for coal, natural gas and oil will continue to rise in the coming years," said UBS analysts in their research report.

"We also believe that the supply of renewable energy resources will continue to rise in the coming years, but the pace it will be moving will not be able to keep up with the demand. The diversification of energy sources will not be shifting any faster than how it is today. The transition would be happening slowly. It will be gradual, and it will take time."

However, the research team emphasized the importance of growing possible renewable resources and referred to it as something that is "essential". This step is "necessary in

securing the energy that the future needs". It is not just about having enough energy from renewable sources.

More importantly, the use of renewable resources of energy comes with its own set of benefits and these should be "key motivators" for the development of the renewables in the long run.

The note also says that diversification is also essential to "mitigate the risk of possible instability in the availability of energy and its price." This would then become pertinent in times when supply and demand don't seem to meet in the middle, it added.

In the long run, the desire to shift from fossil fuel burning to renewable resources will be beneficial. The road to the shift may be slow, but when it remains steady, the world will eventually be carbon-free and thriving.



## European leaders should stop kowtowing to U.S. bullying: American analyst

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — A California-based political analyst hailed the world's growing resistance to the US domination and said European leaders "should stop kowtowing to Washington's bullying" to avoid hurting their own interests.

European Leaders Should Stop Kowtowing to US Bullying: American Analyst

"European leaders should stop kowtowing to Washington's bullying and stand up for the interests of their own citizens," Rick Sterling from San Francisco Bay said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

"Washington's economic wars on Iran, Russia and China are hurting not helping their interests," the analyst added. Sterling is a retired aerospace engineer who now writes about international issues. As a member of the Syria Solidarity Movement and a prominent analyst, his works and interviews have appeared in media outlets around the world.



The following is the full text of the interview:

■ International developments are full of examples of how regional and trans-regional countries have successfully adopted strategies of resistance against oppression and unilateralism that have borne good results. As you know, countries like Iran, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, and Palestine have protected their national sovereignty against foreign threats and achieved many gains through this strategy. In contrast, some countries have adopted a strategy of appeasement or reconciliation when being hounded and bullied by world powers. Given the experiences of these resistance countries, what do you think about their approach and the concept of resistance?

A: Resistance requires flexibility but firmness on principle. We have seen what happens when there is compromise without guarantees. In the early 1990s, the Soviet Union acceded to the West believing the promises that the standard of living would improve and NATO would not expand. Instead, the Russian economy collapsed, oligarchs flourished and NATO increasingly threatens Russia. It's only since Russia charted an independent course that their economy improved and foreign policy was restored. The Palestinian Liberation Organization offers another example. Under the Oslo Agreements, the PLO dropped resistance and recognized the state of Israel. They expected mutual recognition, but instead Israel broke its promises and commitments.

Despite the broken promises, resistance to domination by the US and allies is growing. Western domination of Russia has failed. Israel has failed to crush Palestine. Saudi Arabia has failed to conquer Yemen. The US has failed to topple the popular governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua or Cuba. After 8 years of effort and bloodshed, the US and allies have failed to defeat Syria and its allies. The US, NATO, Israel and Saudi Arabia wanted to crush the "axis of resistance" but instead they have made it stronger.

■ Do you think countries that currently toe the line of major powers like the US ought to emulate these experiences of resistance countries to protect their independence and stand against unilateralism?

A: When the US interferes or dominates another country, it's always bad for the people there. Iran experienced this directly after the 1953 coup. More recently, the 2009 coup in Honduras has resulted in enormous corruption and violence. In Colombia, the US-dominated government has overseen death squads and the collapse of the peace process. In Brazil, the new US-friendly right wing government is reducing health care while encouraging environmental destruction and indigenous massacres. With shocking international silence and complicity, the US has subverted international law, the UN Charter and international bodies such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It is crucially important for all people, including those living in the US, to stop US global bullying and restore international law and the UN Charter.

■ In an op-ed article written for Tasnim, the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, warned the European countries of the risks of inaction regarding the US administration's unilateral policies, saying the current EU leaders will be held accountable for Europe's future challenges. Shamkhani criticized Europe for becoming an unimportant and passive actor that accepts humiliation at the hands of the US and has to live with the destructive effects of Washington's unilateralism that have affected several international treaties. What is your take on that? Isn't it better for the EU to stand up to US bullying and unilateralism?

A: European leaders should stop kowtowing to Washington's bullying and stand up for the interests of their own citizens. Washington's economic wars on Iran, Russia and China are hurting not helping their interests. In addition, the Trump administration is demanding that all NATO countries increase military spending to 2% of their GDP. These are huge sums of money which can only be done by increasing taxes and reducing social services. It will make war and violence in Europe more likely. The US administration evidently wants European countries to follow its example: a government which primarily serves an economic elite and military industrial complex. The sad truth is that in the US, there are about 670 billionaires alongside MILLIONS of people who have no housing or healthcare and millions more in prison. Instead of following the USA, Europe should look out for its own interests and people. It is the USA which needs to become a "normal" nation again.

# Theft of Silwan highlights the injustice of the Israeli occupation

By Jonathan Cook

ANTIWAR-Israeli police forced out the Siyam family from their home in the heart of occupied East Jerusalem last week, the final chapter in their 25-year legal battle against a powerful settler organization. The family's defeat represented much more than just another eviction. It was intended to land a crushing blow against the hopes of some 20,000 Palestinians living in the shadow of the Old City walls and Al Aqsa mosque. Dozens of families in the Silwan neighborhood have endured the same fate as the Siyams, and the Israeli courts have approved the imminent eviction of many hundreds more Palestinians from the area.

But, unlike those families, the Siyams' predicament briefly caught public attention. That was because one of them, Jawad Siyam, has become a figurehead of Silwan's resistance efforts. Mr. Siyam, a social worker, has led the fight against Elad, a wealthy settler group that since the early 1990s has been slowly erasing Silwan's Palestinian identity, in order to remake it as the City of David archaeological park.

Mr. Siyam has served as a spokesman, drawing attention to Silwan's plight. He has also helped to organize the community, setting up youth and cultural centers to fortify Silwan's identity and sense of purpose in the face of Israel's relentless oppression. However, the settlers of Elad want Silwan dismembered, not strengthened.

Elad's mission is to strip away the Palestinian community to reveal crumbling relics beneath, which it claims are proof that King David founded his Israelite kingdom there 3,000 years ago. The history and archeological rationalizations may be murky, but the political vision is clear. The Palestinians of Silwan are to be forced out like unwelcome squatters.

An Israeli human rights group, Peace Now, refers to plans for the City of David as "the transformation of Silwan into a Disneyland of the messianic extreme right wing". It is the most unequal fight imaginable — a story of David and Goliath, in which the giant fools the world into believing he is the underdog.



It has pitted Mr. Siyam and other residents against not only the settlers, but the US and Israeli governments, the police and courts, archaeologists, planning authorities, national parks officials and unwitting tourists. And, adding to their woes, Silwan's residents are being forced to fight both above and below ground at the same time.

The walls and foundations of dozens of houses are cracking and sinking because the Israeli authorities have licensed Elad to flout normal safety regulations and excavate immediately below the community's homes. Several families have had to be evacuated.

Late last month Elad flexed its muscles again, this time as it put the finishing touches to its latest touristic project: a tunnel under Silwan that reaches to the foot of Al Aqsa.

On Elad's behalf, the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, and Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt, wielded a sledgehammer to smash down a symbolic wall inaugurating the tunnel, which has been renamed the Pilgrimage Road. Elad claims — though many archaeologists doubt it — that in

Roman times the tunnel was a street used by Jews to ascend to a temple on the site where today stands the Islamic holy site of Al Aqsa.

The participation of the two US envoys in the ceremony offered further proof that Washington is tearing up the peacemaking rulebook, destroying any hope the Palestinians might once have had of an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Friedman called the City of David complex — at the core of occupied Palestinian Jerusalem — "an essential component of the national heritage of the State of Israel". Ending the occupation there would be "akin to America returning the Statue of Liberty".

While Israel, backed by the US, smashes Silwan's foundations, it is also dominating the sky above it. Last month Israel's highest planning body approved a cable car from Israeli territory in West Jerusalem into the center of Silwan. It will connect with the City of David and a network of boardwalks, coffee shops and touristic tunnels, such as like the Pilgrimage Road, all run by Elad settlers, to slice apart Silwan. And to signal how the

neighborhood is being reinvented, the Israeli municipality enforcing the occupation in East Jerusalem recently named several of Silwan's main streets after famous Jewish rabbis. Former mayor Nir Barkat has said the goal of all this development is to bring 10 million tourists a year to Silwan, so that they "understand who is really the landlord in this city".

Few outsiders appear to object. This month, the tourism website TripAdvisor was taken to task by Amnesty International for recommending the City of David as a top attraction in Jerusalem. And now, Elad has felled the family of Jawad Siyam in a bid to crush the community's spirits and remaining sense of defiance. As it has with so many of Silwan's homeowners, Elad waged a decades-long legal battle against the family to drain them of funds and stamina.

The Siyams' fate was finally sealed last month when the Israeli courts extended the use of a 70-year-old, draconian piece of legislation, the Absentee Property Law, to Silwan. The law was crafted specifically to steal the lands and homes of 750,000 Palestinian refugees expelled in 1948 by the new state of Israel. Ownership of the Siyams' home is shared between Jawad's uncles and aunts, some of them classified by Israel as "absentees" because they now live abroad. As a result, an Israeli official with the title Custodian of Absentee Property claimed ownership of sections of the house belonging to these relatives, and then, in violation of his obligations under international law, sold them on to Elad. Police strong-armed the family out last week. To add insult to injury, the court also approved Elad seizing money raised via crowdfunding by more than 200 Israeli peace activists, with the aim of helping the Siyams with their legal costs. Palestinians such as Jawad Siyam exist all over the occupied territories — men and women who have given Palestinians a sense of hope, commitment and steadfastness in the face of Israel's machinery of dispossession.

When Israel targets Jawad Siyam, crushes his spirits, it sends an unmistakable message not only to other Palestinians, but to the international community itself, that peace is not on its agenda.

## Europe Is Stuck between the United States and Russia

By Lyle J. Goldstein

NATIONALINTEREST-For those monitoring Russia policy, the Democratic Party debates proved something of a welcome relief. After all the ink and airtime devoted to Russia in American media over the last three years, questions related to Russia hardly came up at all. It has indeed been profoundly disturbing for this sometimes "Russia-hand" to watch the total conflation (and yes, denigration) of American foreign policy with domestic politics in regards to this crucial bilateral relationship.

Still, it seems U.S.-Russia relations are hardly out of the woods. Many foreign-policy aficionados did not take kindly to President Donald Trump appearing to share a joke over alleged election meddling with President Vladimir Putin at the G20 in Osaka. All joking aside, the reality is that this most fundamental relationship continues to list badly and is in real danger of sinking in the abyss. Despite having a U.S. president that is allegedly pro-Russian, the United States and Russia have now witnessed the dangerous escalation of military conflicts in both Ukraine and Syria, the deployment of more U.S. forces into Eastern Europe, along with ever larger NATO exercises along Russia's flanks, not to mention the near complete collapse of essential arms control initiatives, along with a dangerous political crisis over the future of Venezuela.

Perhaps these tendencies should not be surprising, given a generation of American foreign policy elites raised on watching The Americans. And European friends have been able to enjoy the similarly titillating Occupied, a Norwegian series depicting a Russian conquest of that country. Who needs truth or rationality when all can be cleverly explained by Hollywood's geopolitically inclined "artists" or the Norwegian equivalent? Never mind that Maria Butina was never in the same league as the beguiling Kerri Russell. However, let us return to reality and briefly examine the crucial issue of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline that will connect Russia and Germany to see where the interminable Russia hysterics now lead.

An article from late June in the Russian language business-oriented newspaper Kommersant reviewed the current bidding, noting that the Congress could be close to passing a law entitled "Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act of 2019." According to this article, "In fact, the legislation is aimed against 'Nord Stream-2' and 'Turkish Stream'."

"With some evident relief, the article notes that the "law is not likely to directly influence the building of the gas pipeline" under the Baltic, and that line is expected in this analysis to be completed in November 2019. Likewise, the "Turkish Stream" pipe is already laid across the Black Sea, so its completion will not be blocked by U.S. legislation, according to this report.

The fate of the Baltic route apparently depends to a high degree on the Swiss firm Allseas. The Kommersant article observes that the Swiss company does not have major projects in the United States. Another analysis in the newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta agrees, contending that Allseas is a "family business" and, furthermore, that its "orders with Gazprom are very important to the business." The second analysis explains that the pipe is now being laid in Finnish waters, and that such underwater work is 60 percent complete.

Citing the expert Igor Yushkov from the Finance University of the Russian government, the point is made



that Russia faces some risk because Gazprom does not possess the capabilities to lay the pipe on its own. It is reported that the only candidate Russian vessel, the Professor Cherski currently remains at anchor "without moving" in the very distant Pacific port of Nachodka. But, in the end, Yushkov projects that "the gas pipeline will nevertheless be completed." He maintains that "in Europe, everyone knows extremely well why the USA is so actively opposing North Stream. He accuses Washington of wanting to demonstrate the undependability of Moscow as a supplier, to raise the price, and to gain market share for American gas producers.

America's hostility toward the new Russian pipelines is rather bipartisan, but the mood in Berlin in decidedly unsympathetic to Washington's concerns. After the last few years of tumult, it seems the German foreign policy elite is not so enthusiastic about American leadership. For example, a February 2019 analysis published by the Berlin-based SWP (Institute for International and Security Affairs), Europe's largest think tank, argues that the American attempt to limit Russian gas imports to Europe is "aimed squarely at the German federal government, which was described by President ... Trump as a 'prisoner of Russia.'" In the very first sentence of the analysis, the authors candidly state: "The increased use of economic instruments of power in U.S. policy towards Russia is negatively affecting European and German interests."

The German analysis is based primarily on price calculations, but also opposes American restrictions on European autonomy, noting the impact of new U.S. sanctions on Russia for "EU-based companies. . . is serious." Left unspoken, of course, are the very substantial geopolitical arguments that actually favor German-Russian partnership. Was not the bloodiest battle of the bloodiest campaign of the bloodiest war in world history fought between these titans? After nearly three centuries of ferocious rivalry over Eastern Europe, moreover, it is not time to focus on peace, partnership and prosperity?

Instead of Americans trying every form of stunt to decouple Russia from Europe, they should alternatively strive

for enhanced interdependence and an inclusive European security architecture that offers Moscow a seat at the table. It is not all that far-fetched as the recent news regarding Russia's reinstated voting rights at the Council of Europe suggest. Positive movement on the delicate issue of Ukraine can help along the process of reconciliation, moreover. Russia's early 2019 agreement to enable German and French experts to monitor the Kerch Strait is certainly a move in the right direction.

Still, more than a few opportunists, on both sides of the Atlantic, continue to try to stoke hostilities with Russia. One shudders to think how many cyber-security firms would be put out of business if Russia's relationship with the West were to substantially improve. Many Washington think tanks would also have to shed legions of young "hybrid warfare" experts.

One dependable way to get the media talking up the Russian threat once more will be to chew over the July 2014 downing of Malaysian airliner yet again. That sad and preventable tragedy took the lives of 283 people. No journalists, however, have apparently thought to ask why it was that a civilian airliner was allowed to over-fly an active war zone, which had already witnessed the shoot down of numerous aircraft in the months prior to this incident. Of course, that would probably shift blame to both the airline and also the air-controllers who plan routes at the Dutch airport of origin, not to mention European aviation authorities.

As any military analyst knows well, the "fog of war" is intense and civil wars are particularly cruel. Aware of that fundamental reality, Europe, Russia and the United States should join together to save the wounds of the last five years, putting aside the stampede to place all blame on one side or the other. Volodymyr Zelensky appears to have defied the "experts," and been elected with a landslide victory on a platform of peace and compromise. If and when such a peace initiative genuinely materializes, that effort should be supported to the utmost. The peoples of Eastern Europe, and Ukraine in particular, need healing and reconciliation, not further escalation, nor irrational and inefficient economic "decoupling."



What does the latest poll say?

# Elizabeth Warren thinks about victory

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** — Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat candidate in the 2020 presidential election, has been able to compete with people like Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Kamala Harris in the recent polls. It is unclear, however, whether Elizabeth Warren could win her rivals in the Democratic primaries.

NBC News poll: Biden, Sanders and Warren lead 2020 field

Former Vice President Joe Biden is leading the pack of 2020 Democratic presidential candidates, with Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren tied behind him, according to a new NBC News/SurveyMonkey online poll.

The poll, conducted after the first Democratic debate in late June, shows 25 percent of respondents would vote for Biden if a primary or caucus was held today, while Sanders, I-Vt., and Warren of Massachusetts each garnered 16 percent. Sen. Kamala Harris of California was close behind, with 14 percent, and South Bend, Ind., Mayor Peter Buttigieg registered at 8 percent. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke and Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey each snared 3 percent, while the rest of the 24 person field came in at 2 percent or less.

The poll was conducted between July 2 and July 16, after 20 of the Democratic candidates went head-to-head in the first primary debate in Miami, which was hosted by NBC News, MSNBC and Telemundo over two nights. The survey also found that President Donald Trump's overall approval rating ticked upward to 48 percent in July, compared to 45 percent in a NBC News/SurveyMonkey online poll in September. The president's disapproval rating decreased to 51 percent, compared to 54 percent in the September poll. The survey also shows the Trump administration's frequent messaging about a crisis on the border appears to be having an effect on public opinion.

A total of 22 percent of respondents said immigration is the issue that matters the most to them right now, up from 15 percent in September. That was slightly more than the number of people who identified health care or jobs as the most important issue — both garnered 21 percent. Fourteen percent said the environment was their top concern. In September, 25 percent of respondents had identified jobs and the economy as the most important issue. The new poll found 68 percent of Americans said the condition of the national economy is "very good" or "fairly good," down 1 percentage point from September.

The poll found most Americans don't like Congress: Seventy-five percent of respondents "somewhat disapprove" or "strongly disapprove" of the way Congress is handling its job. That number was up a tick from 74 percent in September. Only 24 percent of respondents approved of the job the body is doing, about even with the September poll. A majority of Americans are also in favor of keeping abortion legal. Asked if they would "like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe v. Wade decision," 64 percent of respondents said no. A small majority were also in favor of paying higher taxes to improve schools and infrastructure in their states. Fifty-four percent said they'd be "very willing" or "somewhat willing" to pay higher taxes to improve public schools, while 59 percent said they'd be very or somewhat willing to pay higher taxes to fund improvements to roads and bridges.

**■ Warren, Biden Campaigns Appear to Find Loophole Around Paid Internships**

As The Dailybeast reported, Unpaid interns are practically non-existent among Democratic presidential campaigns in 2019. But some top-tier candidates appear to be finding a creative way to tap unpaid talent: offering vague "fellowship" opportunities as volunteer positions.

There's no singular definition for a "fellow" among 2020 candidates and most this cycle don't offer the option. But two leading contenders, former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), give applicants who are selected a chance to participate in the campaign as volunteer fellows, without requiring compensation or academic credit. "Volunteers are asked to do something, workers are told," Renée Hagerty, an executive council member for the Campaign Workers Guild, said. "Everyone who's performing work on a campaign should be paid."

For Biden's campaign, the "Team Joe Organizing Fellowship" consists of an eight-week program that includes weekly online trainings in grassroots and digital organizing, according to the listing, which closed this week. Unlike the internship program, which is paid \$15 per hour, the fellowship program makes no mention of wages, academic credit, or time commitments.

Warren's campaign features one joint application with



three options: paid internship, volunteer fellowship, or volunteer fellowship for academic credit. Applicants are allowed to select more than one when applying.

Warren's deputy communications director Chris Hayden told The Daily Beast their internship program "offers a limited number of paid, full-time campaign experiences on a competitive basis" and that "interns commit to working 30 hours a week, and have access to paid health insurance in addition to their weekly salary."

"The campaign also offers a volunteer fellowship program, which provides similar training and work experiences with a smaller time commitment," Hayden added. "Many of our campaign fellows receive stipends from educational institutions or other third-parties, and everyone in our intern and fellowship programs has access to cost-free supporter housing while they're working in-state."

Still, Guillermo Creamer, co-founder of the non-profit group Pay Our Interns, said there's a "gray area" that emerges from having both paid and unpaid options, creating a "fine line" between the roles. "It is interesting that some campaigns can still think about having both," Creamer said. "The question now is: is fellowship the scapegoat for not paying individuals?"

Multiple activists who spoke to The Daily Beast declined to call out individual campaigns, saying they're generally pleased with the progress this cycle on the paid internship front, what some see as the first hurdle to overcome. But the separate volunteer fellowship option has led several activists to question the program's cost-benefit analysis.

"What's actually the difference?" Creamer said when asked about paid internships versus unpaid fellowships. "Campaigns have to be the ones who identify that."

Coming off the heels of a strong second quarter of fundraising, Biden and Warren each crystallized their spots in the top of the Democratic pack both in polls and in money raised. Biden brought in \$21.5 million, while Warren reported \$19.1 million. The large sums are even stronger reasons to pay fellows for work, rather than doling out fancy titles in exchange, some activists pointed.

"At Biden for President, interns are employees who are paid by the hour (capped at 30 hours a week)," a campaign spokesperson wrote in an email. "Whereas fellows are part of an educational experience which we hope will equip them to be effective organizers in the future, and are not employees of the campaign."

"Bosses have been coming up with reasons and excuses and caveats for not paying people since the dawn of time," Hagerty said, without commenting on any campaign specifically. "This is another version that fits into a middle-class narrative of prestige."

Legally, there's no definition in the campaign finance world that would distinguish internships from fellowships, an official from the Campaign Legal Center said. "Campaigns are given pretty broad leeway for how they spend their money. They can provide any title they want," the official added.

In a field of nearly two dozen contenders, other candidates offer several different fellowship models. Sens. Kamala Harris (D-CA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and former Texas

Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) offer paid fellowships, while Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) requires unpaid fellows to receive academic credit in order to participate in the program. The majority of other candidates offer paid internships.

While some activists view the practice as a delicate balance between opening a door to those who seek the experience and a loophole for campaigns to use free labor, not everyone agrees the practice is problematic.

"There's utilitarian reasons for campaigns and there's utilitarian reasons for the workforce," Janice Fine, an assistant professor of labor studies and employment relations at Rutgers University, said. For some, fellowships can be a vital way to gain experience with a specific candidate or area of expertise, without having to commit to a set number of hours or responsibilities, she added.

"A lot of these jobs are just for the experience," Alan Seals, a labor economist and professor of economics at Auburn University, agreed. "The worst thing [campaigns] can do is say 'no they're all employees now and you've got to pay them minimum wage.' It would be an absolute disaster."

But that argument is what some activists say is part of the problem, and that there needs to be a clear pay-for-work metric that mirrors the fair wage platforms campaigns are pushing on the trail. "It smacks of hypocrisy," Hagerty said. "No candidate wants to be a hypocrite."

**■ Elizabeth Warren doesn't have To 'look at his heart' to know Trump is Racist**

As huffington post reported, Sen. Elizabeth Warren has a plan for everything, it seems ? except for calling President Donald Trump a racist.

At a time when Trump is being widely condemned for his racist Twitter tirade against four congresswomen ? and even though he has used the name "Pocahontas" as a slur against Warren on multiple occasions ? the Massachusetts Democrat declined to directly call the president a racist.

ut she willingly described his words and deeds as racist. When CNN's Manu Raju asked Warren on Tuesday if she considered Trump to be racist, the Democratic presidential candidate sought to change the subject to the bigger issue: how Trump's actions affect the country at large. "I just think what the president has said is appalling, and he's trying to stir up as much hatred and dissension in this country as possible," Warren said, according to Mediaite. "Because it serves his political ends. He thinks if he can set American against American, that somehow he prospers. But I'll tell you this, the United States suffers."

Raju asked her again: "Is the president a racist?" "Look at his remarks," Warren replied. "He's made racist remarks, and he's been racially hateful to people. That's what matters."

Raju pressed on, perhaps feeling that the senator was beating around the issue.

She responded that the journalist didn't need a direct answer from her when there is tons of evidence from Trump himself.

"I don't have to look at his heart ? that's not the point," Warren said. "He behaves ? look at what he's done, it's racist. What he's done over and over and over ? it's not the first time."



Both China and the US want to end the trade war. But China apparently is calmer than the US. The US ignited the trade war in the first place. Despite Trump's declaration that "trade wars are good and easy to win," the reality is that the US is feeling increasing pain from the trade war. There is a consensus in the US to get tough on China, but opinions differ

on whether the US should resort to a trade war. The longer the trade war lasts, the more the US economy will suffer.

Consequently, the Trump administration will face more domestic opposition against its trade policy, casting a shadow on the prospects of reelection in 2020.

Of course, the trade war is also hurting China, but China is able to endure it. Although the Chinese economy is facing downward pressure, it is carrying out unprecedented economic restructuring and reform, which will increase the potential for economic development. The GDP growth rate in the second quarter was 6.2 percent despite the trade war, which proves that China is able to withstand the trade war.

Over the past rounds of talks, the US was supposed to have felt China's endurance on economic challenges as well as its firmness and resolve in not yielding to pressure. China's confidence is bolstered up by its economic momentum and institutional advantage.

China has repeatedly said it is sincere in holding trade talks with the US, but won't accept a deal that would constrain its development. Future trade negotiations are expected to be conducted on equal footing and take into account each side's reasonable concerns.

## Britain confused on policies toward Tehran: easing the tension or increasing them

**1 →** After this, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei announced that the British government's illegal seizure of the Iranian supertanker was an act of "piracy" and will not go "unanswered".

Testing a failed plan

Hardliners in Britain are now saying that more pressure must be placed on Iran and some are even proposing the renewal of sanctions; however, this is a poor strategy that has been already tested by their closest ally, the United States, and has never come to any success.

Britain is proposing that the European Union puts more pressure on Iran; however, London and Brussels are not at their best relationship right now as they have disagreements over a variety of subjects including Brexit.

Relying on U.S. empty promises

Britain and Gibraltar who seized Grace 1 for satisfying U.S., are now in a conundrum. Washington, who first encouraged Britain to capture the Iranian oil tanker, has now bailed on Britain and is not having any intensions to support Britain in releasing its tanker that has been seized by Iran.

Now, London has resorted to the United Nations Security Council to release its ship. Obviously, if the western countries take on a hostile stand toward Iran in this situation, it will only exacerbate the security of the Persian Gulf region and will be to the benefit of no one.

The only strategy that can take Britain out of this crisis is to stay away from U.S. and try to resolve the issues with Iran directly.

Anyway, right now, Britain's internal situation is also unsteady as the country will have a new Prime Minister in few days, so whatever the British officials say now cannot be trusted, because the country's cabinet is changing and the new cabinet may have new members who have other opinions.

The West and the Middle-Eastern countries must be patient What is interesting now is that some countries like Bahrain are now acting like the seized ship belonged to them!

Taking such a firm and aggressive stance is very strange because the Arab countries around the Persian Gulf don't have a steady situation themselves and are in constant conflict with one another, each trying to topple the others.

Europe is now struggling to save the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, but the hardliners such as the hawkish B-team (comprised of US National Security Adviser John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan) may try to exaggerate the seizure of this ship by Iran and take it as an advantage to incite Britain and Europe into taking a more aggressive position toward Iran.

Now, Britain and Europe have only two options. First is to join U.S. who is now alone in its battles with Iran, or to be patient and try to resolve the issue through diplomacy.

Following U.S. is obviously the wrong decision as U.S. has taken this path before and leads to nowhere but failure.

## Syrian crisis and new regional order

By Younes Koulivand

**TEHRAN** — The Middle East has undergone several geopolitical transformations over the decades since World War II.

Today the Middle East is enduring another transformation, perhaps the most consequential ones. But before speaking about this transformation, we should mention the past transformations:

The Cold War Regional Order in the Middle East

From the 1946 to 1962, almost all former European colonial holdings became independent Arab states. Jordan and Saudi Arabia, fell squarely into the camp of the United States, Syria, Libya, Iraq and Egypt (up until 1978), aligned themselves with the Soviet Union. Turkey, Iran and Israel all tacked towards the west, and the U.S. camp.

The Collapse of the Cold War Regional Order and American Unipolarity in the region

The political order that was established during the Cold War started to fray even before the formal collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, for example:

1. In 1977 Egypt's President Anwar Sadat stunned the Arab world and the West by going to Jerusalem, forging a peace treaty with Israel in 1978, and falling into the us camp.

2. In 1979, U.S. ally Iran underwent an Islamic revolution. Anyway the formal collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that delivered the biggest geopolitical shock to the Middle East. Especially former Soviet allies, like Syria .

At the end of the Cold War we have a resistance front, consisting of Iran and Syria along with non-state actors Hezbollah and Hamas, against the United States and its regional allies.

Syrian Crisis and New Regional Order

In the Syrian Crisis we have some facts that tell us we are facing a new regional order in the west Asia:

1. Assad

Iran sees the survival of Assad and its government is crucial to Irans regional interests. But the United States and its allies had another view, for example;

1. The future of Syria must be determined by its people, but President Bashar al-Assad is standing in their way," Obama said in a written statement. "For the sake of the Syrian people, the time has come for President Assad to step aside."

President Obama wasn't alone Cameron, Hillary, Hollande said the same but where are they now? Assad is still standing... these criminals are not.

2. Geneva talks and Initiation of Astana talks

Geneva Conference on Syria was initiated in 2012 by the then UN peace envoy to Syria Kofi Annan, and attended by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, a representative of China, British Foreign Secretary Hague, and Kofi Annan, Without Iran but in 2016, the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Russia agreed, pursuant to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254, to hold Syria peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan. But this time without the United States.

3. Pompeo Hearing

Senator Mendez in p h showed him a picture of Iran, Russia, Turkey summit on Syria and asked Pompeo where is the United States?

Conclusion

Even though Russia and the United States are engaged in the region's hotspots today they are mostly driven by local and regional factors and Iran is able to be a super power in the Middle East.

## Why the U.S. is more anxious for a trade deal than China

By Yu Jincui

**GLOBALTIMES** —Which side, Washington or Beijing, is more anxious to reach a deal to end the damaging trade war that has lasted over a year? It's clear the answer is the US, after President Donald Trump tried to paint China as the losing side in the prolonged trade war on Twitter Monday.

Let's take a look at how the US-launched trade war against China has impacted the US economy. The trade war is pushing the US rural economy toward a full-blown meltdown. US manufacturing is sinking into recession and the country's debt is about to hit a record. There have been an increasing number of reports on Western media about damage the trade war has caused, saying consumers, farmers and manufacturers are all victims. All these show that the US is facing mounting pressure to end the trade war with China.

Trump's tweets are actually indicative of US desire to exert pressure on China for a trade deal. Although China-US trade talks have been "back on track" since a highly anticipated meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit in June, it's too early to say if a trade deal could eventually be reached.



# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt in Elahieh  
4th floor, 180 sq.m 3 Bdrs.  
furn, spj, tennis court  
elevator, parking, **\$3500**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Apt in Vanak  
8th floor, 115 sq.m 2 Bdrs.  
furn, nice view, elevator  
parking, **\$2000**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Luxury Apt in Zafarani  
12th floor, 270 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
furn, equipped kitchen, spj  
coffee shop, roof garden  
parking, **\$4000**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Apt in Jordan  
almost new, 5th floor, 100 sq.m  
2 Bdrs., furn, balcony, lobby roof  
top, parking, **\$2000**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Mahmoodieh Apt in  
brand new, 170 sq.m 3 Bdrs.  
furn, spj, balcony, parking  
**\$1800**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

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

## Villa

Duplex Villa in Niavaran  
600 sq.m land, 700 sq.m built up, 5  
Bdrs., furn, terrace  
beautiful garden, outdoor swim  
ming pool, parking  
**\$8500**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Duplex Villa in Fereshteh  
500 sq.m, 6 Bdrs., unfurn outdoor  
swimming pool renovated, yard,  
parking  
**\$6500**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Duplex Villa in Pasdaran  
550 sq.m land, 630 sq.m built up, 4  
Bdrs., unfurn, outdoor swimming  
pool, renovated parking, **\$4000**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

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

**Suitable for Embassies**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Villa in North Kamranieh  
duplex, 750 sq.m land, 500 sq.m  
built up, unfurn, servant quarter,  
renovated  
2 parking spots  
**Price: negotiable**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation**  
**Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

**Hot Line: 28141**  
**info@parsdiplomatic.com**

**www.parsdiplomatic.com**

## Building & Office

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

Whole Building  
in South Qeytarieh  
brand new, 6 floors, 1580 sq.m  
totally 27 Bdrs., unfurn, elevator  
storage, 16 parking spots  
**\$17000**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Whole Building in  
Shariati - Soheil  
2 floors, 600 sq.m totally  
8 Bdrs., 6 bath rooms  
one 40 sq.m suit, renovated  
3 storages, 3-side entrances  
12 parking spots  
**\$6000**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Whole Building in  
Saadat Abad  
administrative office license  
brand new, 3 units, 900 sq.m land  
384 sq.m totally, elevator  
storage, parking  
**Price: negotiable**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Whole Building in Zafarani  
brand new, 5 floors, 5 apts each  
apt 175 sq.m with 3 Bdrs.  
10 parking spots  
**\$10000**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

## Ideal Offers

Apt in Zafarani  
1st floor, 50 sq.m flat  
yard, parking, **\$800**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

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

Apt in South Dibaji  
almost new, 4th floor, 150 sq.m,  
3 Bdrs., furn, balcony sauna  
swimming pool  
storage, parking, **\$1200**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Apt in Shariati - Mirdamad  
110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn  
storage, parking, **\$700**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Apt in Jordan  
1st floor, 90 sq.m  
1 Bdr., furn, parking  
**\$800**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

Apt in Fereshteh  
5th floor, 125 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
fully furn, spj, billiard table  
elevator, storage, parking spot  
**\$1300**  
**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

Apt in North Shariati  
4th floor, 75 sq.m 2 Bdrs.  
furn, good light, elevator parking,  
**\$700**  
**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

**PARSIAN Real Estate**

**SHANON**  
Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com  
+989121907875  
Tel : 88745542

<b>Elahieh (\$2200)</b> 200sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F	<b>Farmanieh Apt (\$2200)</b> 180sq.m, 3bdrs (S/p, S, J, & F.F)	<b>Jordan Villa (\$4000)</b> 5bdrs, 1200sq.m S/p, yard, & F.F
<b>Jordan (\$1400)</b> 2bdrs, 120sq.m S/p, S, J, & F.F	<b>Darrous Apt (\$2000)</b> 220sq.m, 3bdrs (S/p, S, J, & F.F)	<b>Fereshteh bldg (\$7000)</b> 4storey, 10bdrs yard

**1st CHOICE REAL ESTATE**

Mr. Ghanizadeh  
Nobody does it better

LOOKING FOR RENTAL PROPERTY?  
Call: 22041212 - 09121081212  
Visit: WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM  
E-mail: property@firstchoiceco.com  
مسکن انتخاب اول - غنی زاده 1987 Since

TEHRAN TIMES

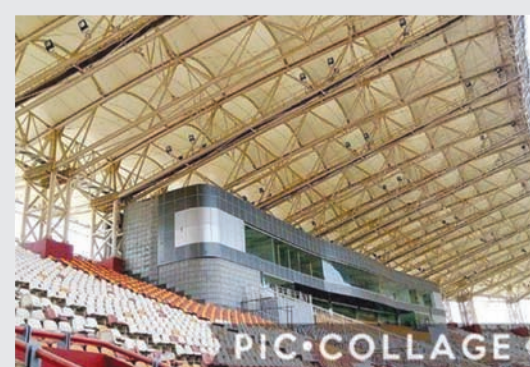
Iran's Leading  
International Daily  
Advertising Dept



Tel:

021 - 430 51 450

## Modern Stadium of Martyrs of Khuzestan Football Club (KFC)



**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

ATIGHECHI MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

**NEGOTIATION SUPPORT**

How do you plan for success?  
What does it look like?

Enquire at  
salam@atighechi.com  
(009821) 22330984

**Office for Rent in Jordan**  
220 sq.m, luxury  
administrative office  
with full facilities  
Suitable for Foreign  
Companies  
Nazari  
**(09122361930)**



# Astronauts hailed as heroes 50 years after historic moon landing

Capping a week of celebrations over the historic Apollo 11 mission, Vice President Mike Pence joined astronaut Buzz Aldrin on Saturday at the launch pad in Florida that sent the moonwalker and his two crew mates to space for humankind's first steps on the lunar surface 50 years ago.

Pence joined NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine and Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon behind his fellow astronaut Neil Armstrong, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center for a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing that enthralled people around the world in 1969.

"If Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins are not heroes, then there are no heroes," Pence told a crowd of dozens of space industry executives and NASA staff in the Operations and Checkout building, the 58-foot-tall (18 meters) chamber that once housed the Apollo 11 command module for testing. "We honor these men today, and America will always honor our Apollo astronauts."

Armstrong, the first man on the moon, died in 2012 at age 82. Collins, the command module pilot who stayed in lunar orbit while Aldrin and Armstrong hopped around the lunar surface collecting samples, did not attend the ceremony. Aldrin is 89 and Collins 88.

"Apollo 11 is the only event in the 20th century that stands a chance of being widely remembered in the 30th century," Pence said.



The building is now home to NASA's Orion crew capsule, the spacecraft designed to carry astronauts back to the moon by 2024 in what Bridenstine calls the Artemis program, named after the Greek goddess and twin sister of Apollo. The capsule on deck for the program's first operational mission in 2022 was sitting beside the stage.

"The Orion is in the same cell as where Apollo was stacked 50 years ago. So we've come full circle," said Glenn Chin,

deputy manager at the Orion productions operations office.

Pence, chairing the White House's National Space Council, announced in March an accelerated schedule for NASA to return astronauts to the moon by 2024, halving the U.S. space agency's previous timeline to get there by 2028 and requesting from Congress a \$1.6 billion boost to NASA's fiscal 2020 budget request.

"The American space program is coming

back. It's coming back with a vengeance," Bridenstine said at Saturday's ceremony. "We all love Apollo. But in the Artemis program we go to the moon sustainably, and this time we have a very diverse, highly qualified astronaut corps that includes women."

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday indicated he was not interested in a mission going back to the moon, despite his administration's plans for it. Trump instead repeated his interest in a NASA mission that would take astronauts directly to Mars, a vastly more challenging and costly endeavor.

"To get to Mars, you have to land on the moon, they say. Any way of going directly without landing on the moon? Is that a possibility?" the Republican president asked Bridenstine during an event in the White House Oval Office.

Bridenstine responded, "Well, we need to use the moon as a proving ground, because when we go to Mars, we're going to have to be there for a long period of time, so we need to learn how to live and work on another world." But Collins, attending the event, said he favored going directly to Mars.

The Artemis program's objective is to conduct a series of manned and unmanned missions to the moon, using its surface as a proving ground for technologies that could lay the ground work for the longer and more complex missions to Mars as soon as 2033, Bridenstine has said.

(Source: Reuters)

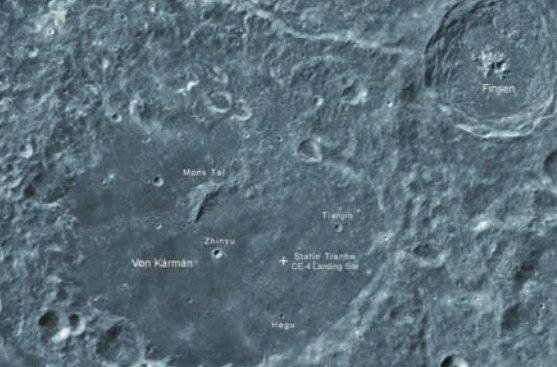
## China's plans to solve the mysteries of the moon

Fifty years ago, on July 20, 1969, the world watched as Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon. Since then, space agencies around the globe have sent rovers to Mars, probes to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and beyond, yet humanity's curiosity and fascination with the Moon has never abated.

China, in collaboration with several countries, is now at the forefront of lunar exploration. In an article published on July 18 in Science, researchers laid out what the China Lunar Exploration Program (CLEP) has accomplished since their launch in 2007 and their plans into the next three decades.

"Fifty years after Neil Armstrong took, 'one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind' as the first human to set foot on the Moon, China's CE-4 lander and Yutu 2 rover left the footprints of humanity's first robotic visit to the surface of the far side of the Moon," said LI Chunlai, article author and the Deputy Director-General of National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academies of Science (NAOC).

The exploration of the far side of the Moon led to the unexpected discovery of possible lunar mantle material on the surface - a potential indicator of the severity of asteroid impacts in the early days of the Moon. The Chinese missions also led to the highest resolution global image



and topographic data of the Moon to date.

"CLEP has brought Chinese lunar science to a great stage of development," LI said, noting the program has pushed technology forward with regard to lunar remote sensing, lunar geomorphology and lunar geology.

CLEP's next mission is set to launch in early 2020. Dubbed Chang'E 5 for the Chinese moon goddess, the goal of this mission is to collect lunar rock and soil that will be sent to Earth in a sample-return vehicle. It'll be the first sample-return mission of any country since 1976.

This technological advancement - bringing samples to Earth - signals the third phase of CLEP.

LI and his team hope these developments will eventually translate to great strides in scientific application through a Lunar Scientific Research Station. The plan is to have the station in place by 2030 to carry out technical verification and scientific validation of various experiments, with the ultimate goal of hosting astronauts for long-term stays on the Moon.

First, though, there's work to be done. CLEP's planned lunar exploration and scientific studies would be significantly limited by current technology, according to LI. While China has made remarkable progress through CLEP, international collaboration is critical for the next phase of lunar exploration.

"The Moon belongs to all of us. Just as the Apollo program played a positive role in promoting the development of human society, China will work with countries around the world in its forward-looking lunar and deep space exploration projects," LI said. "We hope to cooperate with other countries in the exploration, research and utilization of the Moon to jointly create a better future for humanity through achievements in space science and technology."

(Source: eurekaalert.org)

## Gulp! Jurassic mammal was the first one able to eat politely



A shrew-like primitive mammal that inhabited China 165 million years ago represents a milestone in mammalian evolution, scientists said on Thursday, boasting a key anatomical trait in its throat that helped usher in the era of polite table manners.

Scientists described an exquisitely preserved Jurassic Period fossil from Inner Mongolia of a furry critter called Microdocodon gracilis. It was a lightly built, long-tailed, insect-eating tree-dweller roughly 5 inches (14 cm) in length that lived in a warm lakeshore environment alongside feathered dinosaurs and flying reptiles called pterosaurs.

Before Microdocodon, land vertebrates including amphibians, reptiles and predecessors to the mammalian lineage had resorted to gulping large chunks of food or swallowing prey whole, as crocodiles do today, relying largely on jaw strength or gravity to guide the meal down the throat. A revolutionary change present in Microdocodon's throat allowed for more finesse in muscle-powered swallowing and, thus, genteel dining.

Microdocodon is the earliest-known creature whose hyoid bones in the throat are configured as in modern mammals. The delicate hyoids connect the back of the mouth, or pharynx, to the openings of the esophagus, which is the tube connecting the throat to the stomach, and the larynx, the "voice box" that provides an air passage

to the lungs.

Unlike its evolutionary predecessors that possessed hyoids in a sturdy rod-like configuration, Microdocodon's hyoids had mobile joints and were arranged in a "U" shape that let it chew food in the mouth and then swallow it along with liquids one small lump at a time rather than in big, ungainly gulps.

"We, the mammals, distinguish ourselves from other vertebrates by chewing our food into tiny morsels for good digestion," said University of Chicago paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo, senior author of the research published in the journal Science. "The innovation to chew our food goes hand-in-hand with our sophisticated hyoid apparatus that enables us to swallow the chewed food, to drink water, and also for mammalian babies to suckle milk."

This apparatus for active swallowing apparently evolved in combination with the advent of complex teeth that let primitive mammals chew and then swallow this predigested food for more efficient energy intake, added University of Bonn paleontologist Thomas Martin, another senior author of the study.

Primitive mammals appeared during the Triassic Period roughly 210 million years ago. Mammals became Earth's dominant land animals after the dinosaurs were wiped out 66 million years ago by an asteroid impact.

(Source: Reuters)

## Astronauts arrive at space station 50 years after moon landing



NASA astronaut Andrew Morgan isn't going to the moon, but he celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission with a trip to the International Space Station on Saturday.

Morgan was joined inside the Soyuz MS-13 spacecraft by Luca Parmitano of the European Space Agency and Alexander Skvortsov of the Russian space agency Roscosmos. The trio blasted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 12:28 p.m. EDT and docked with the ISS at 6:48 p.m. EDT.

They opened the hatch between the Soyuz spacecraft and the ISS around 9 p.m. EDT. Skvortsov was the first inside the ISS, followed by Morgan and Parmitano.

NASA space station program manager Kirk Shireman congratulated the three-man crew on its successful launch and docking.

"Thank you, Mr. Shireman," Morgan said. "The crew feels great, and I feel great. I've got my first views out the windows of the ISS, and it's beautiful as I imagined. Thanks for everyone's support."

It was 50 years to the day after Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin touched down at Tranquility Base.

Morgan, 43, wasn't born until seven years after the historic feat.

"We have already given a small, small tribute to the Apollo 11 mission and it

is represented in the [Expedition 60] patch we are all wearing," Parmitano told reporters Friday. "If you give a close look to our patch, you will see that it is a sort of reflection of the Apollo 11 patch. The Apollo 11 patch had an eagle landing on the moon with the Earth in the background. We reversed that; we have a constellation in the shape of an eagle over the Earth symbolizing that we are close to the Earth for our job. And the moon in the background is in the same phase that it was 50 years ago for the moon landing."

Morgan, Skvortsov and Parmitano will join Alexey Ovchinin of Roscosmos and NASA astronauts Christina Koch and Nick Hague, who arrived at the orbiting laboratory in March.

"The Expedition 60 crew will continue work on hundreds of experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science and Earth science aboard humanity's only permanently occupied microgravity laboratory," according to NASA.

Over the last week, the three new crew members underwent a variety of medical tests to provide a baseline for comparison. The same tests will be performed when the astronauts return to Earth. The research will help scientists better understand how exposure to microgravity conditions influence human health.

(Source: UPI)

## If this type of dark matter existed, people would be dying of unexplained 'gunshot' wounds

Dark matter, the mysterious substance that makes up most of the mass of the universe, has proved notoriously hard to detect. But scientists have now proposed a surprising new sensor: human flesh.

The idea boils down to this: If a certain type of dark matter particle existed, it would occasionally kill people, passing through them like a bullet. Because no one has died from unexplained gunshotlike wounds, this type of dark matter does not exist, according to a new study.

Still, there are other ways to detect this particular type of dark matter and researchers should keep looking, says Katherine Freese, a theoretical physicist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor who wasn't involved in the study but has studied the effects of dark matter on humans. "We don't know what dark matter is, so we shouldn't write things off," she says.

Dark matter makes up about 85% of the mass of the universe, but the substance itself remains a mystery. One theory posits that it consists of weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs). These particles would be abundant, but so shy about interacting with ordinary matter that only very sensitive detectors would have a crack at catching them. So far, they've evaded detection in large tanks of liquid xenon and argon; kept in underground laboratories, these tanks would be able to sense the signals from WIMPs without interference from sources such as cosmic rays.

A less mainstream dark matter candidate, known as macros, would form heavier particles. While macros would be much rarer than WIMPs, any collisions with ordinary matter would be violent, leaving an obvious trace. The new study explores what those traces might look like if the macros hit people.

Glenn Starkman and Jagjit Singh Sidhu, theoretical physicists at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, were originally searching for traces of macros in granite slabs when a colleague made a suggestion. "Why can't you just use humans as a detector?" they recall Robert Scherrer, a co-author and theoretical physicist at Vanderbilt University in Nashville saying. "The energies you're talking about, these things would probably at best maim a person, at worst kill a person."

The team forged ahead with the idea and modeled macros that would have a similar effect to a fatal shot from a .22 caliber rifle. Such particles would be minuscule, but very heavy, and thus release the same amount of energy as a bullet as it passes through a person. Their calculations focused on the millions of people living in Canada, the United States, and Western Europe over the past decade because researchers say these countries have more reliable data on how many people died and from what causes.

In this sample, scientists would expect to see a handful of reports of unexplained deaths from invisible dark matter "bullets." But there were none, the researchers report this week on the preprint server arXiv. These deaths would not go unnoticed—they would leave victims dead or dying with a tubular wound where their flesh was vaporized.

This experiment doesn't rule out heavy macro dark matter altogether, Scherrer says. It merely eliminates a certain range of them. Heavier macro dark matter would not occur frequently enough to measure, Freese notes, and other forms wouldn't kill people.

"There is probably still room for very heavy dark matter," says Paolo Gorla, a particle physicist at Italy's underground Gran Sasso National Laboratory, who is not involved with the study.

(Source: sciencemag.org)

## 'Crystal clocks' used to time magma storage before volcanic eruptions

The molten rock that feeds volcanoes can be stored in the Earth's crust for as long as a thousand years, a result which may help with volcanic hazard management and better forecasting of when eruptions might occur.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge used volcanic minerals known as 'crystal clocks' to calculate how long magma can be stored in the deepest parts of volcanic systems. This is the first estimate of magma storage times near the boundary of the Earth's crust and the mantle, called the Moho. The results are reported in the journal Science.

"This is like geological detective work," said Dr Euan Mutch from Cambridge's Department of Earth Sciences, and the paper's first author. "By studying what we see in the rocks to reconstruct what the eruption was like, we can also know what kind of conditions the magma is stored in, but it's difficult to understand what's happening in the deeper parts of volcanic systems."

"Determining how long magma can be stored in the Earth's crust can help improve models of the processes that trigger volcanic eruptions," said co-author Dr John MacLennan, also from the Department of Earth Sciences. "The speed of magma rise and storage is tightly linked to the transfer of heat and chemicals in the crust of volcanic regions, which is important for geothermal power and the release of volcanic gases to the atmosphere."

The researchers studied the Borgarhraun eruption of the Theistareykir volcano in northern Iceland, which occurred roughly 10,000 years ago, and was fed directly from the Moho. This boundary area plays an important role in the processing of melts as they travel from their source regions in the mantle towards the Earth's surface. To calculate how long the magma was stored at this boundary area, the researchers used a volcanic mineral known as spinel like a tiny stopwatch or crystal clock.

Using the crystal clock method, the researchers were able to model how the composition of the spinel crystals changed over time while the magma was being stored. Specifically, they looked at the rates of diffusion of aluminium and chromium within the crystals and how these elements are 'zoned'.

"Diffusion of elements works to get the crystal into chemical equilibrium with its surroundings," said MacLennan. "If we know how fast they diffuse we can figure out how long the minerals were stored in the magma."

The researchers looked at how aluminium and chromium were zoned in the crystals, and realized that this pattern was telling them something exciting and new about magma storage time. The diffusion rates were estimated using the results of previous lab experiments. The researchers then used a new method, combining finite element modelling and Bayesian nested sampling to estimate the storage timescales.

"We now have really good estimates in terms of where the magma comes from in terms of depth," said Mutch. "No one's ever gotten this kind of timescale information from the deeper crust."

Calculating the magma storage time also helped the researchers determine how magma can be transferred to the surface.

(Source: Science Daily)



## Iranian crafter practices toreutics art of Seljuk era

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Amir-Reza Seyyedi is among Iranian crafters who are making efforts to revive ancient Iranian skills and arts. He has just completed a lavishly embossed plate using the same techniques that were practiced during the Seljuk-era (1037–1194).



Geometric, plant and animal motifs has been embossed as ornamentation of the copper tinned plate, some examples of which are being kept at the National Museum of Iran, according to the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism that sponsors such trends.

The term toreutics refers to artistic metalworking, hammering gold or silver or other materials, engraving, or using repousse and chasing to form minute detailed reliefs or small engraved patterns.

Toreutics claims great antiquity. The skill is said to be practiced in the Bronze Age and was well established centuries before the shaft graves. Toreutics flourished to an unusual degree among the peoples of Asia Minor, Assyria, Babylon, and passed from thence to ancient Persia.

## Paris grapples with mass tourism amid growing local hostility

Every day on Boulevard Saint-Michel, near the Notre-Dame Cathedral in the heart of Paris's Latin Quarter, buses unload thousands of tourists. Armed with selfie sticks, they clog up traffic and jostle with locals trying to get on with their lives.

“Saint-Michel is a typical location for tourists and on some evenings it gets really hard,” said Arnaldo Gomes, a 70-year-old building superintendent who’s been living in the area since 1974. “There are so many groups and they can be very noisy and even dirty.”

Parisians are used to tourists, but mass tourism — where groups move in packs — is beginning to annoy the residents of the City of Love, especially around landmarks like Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, and the Louvre museum. Although the backlash against such tourists is nowhere near as severe as in Venice and Barcelona, many in the French capital are calling on the local government to better manage flows.

France, which remains the world’s top tourist destination, is targeting 100 million visitors in 2020, up from 89.3 million in 2018. Paris gets about 25 million tourists a year — more than 10 times the city’s population — placing it just behind Bangkok and London in world rankings. The city drew 83 million euros (\$94 million) last year in direct revenue from the so-called “taxe de séjour.” About 500,000 jobs are directly or indirectly linked to tourism, or 9.3 percent of the city’s salaried workforce.

In May, the Louvre, home to the Mona Lisa and Venus de Milo, closed its doors after staff and security employees went on strike, saying they couldn’t handle the “suffocating” crowds. It reopened after the museum proposed a system of mandatory reservations and promised to hire more staff and spread out renovation projects.

(Source: Skift)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Pre-Hispanic town of Uxmal

A UNESCO World Heritage site, the pre-Hispanic town of Uxmal features a bazaar layout of the buildings, which date from between 700 and 1000, reveals a knowledge of astronomy.



The Pyramid of the Soothsayer, as the Spaniards called it, dominates the ceremonial center, which has well-designed buildings decorated with a profusion of symbolic motifs and sculptures depicting Chaac, the god of rain. The ceremonial sites of Uxmal, Kabah, Labna and Sayil are considered the high points of Mayan art and architecture.

The main characteristic of Puuc architecture is the division of the facades of buildings into two horizontal elements. The lower of these is plain and composed of carefully dressed blocks broken only by doorways.

The upper level, by contrast, is richly decorated with symbolic motifs in a very plastic style; the individual blocks make up a form of mosaic. There are sculptures over the doorways and at the corners of the upper level, almost invariably composed of representations of the head of Chaac, the rain-god.

Some of the most important buildings at the site are the Pyramid of the Soothsayer, the Quadrangle of the Nuns, the Governor’s Palace, the House of the Tortoises, the Ball Court, as well as the still not extensively investigated Southern Complex, which includes the Great Pyramid and the Pigeon House.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Lake Ovan: A charming destination for eco-tourists

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Lake Ovan, locally called Daryacheh-ye Ovan, is a small alpine resort situated in Alamut region, Qazvin province.

Embraced by the mighty Arborz mountain range, the lake is frequented by domestic and even international visitors especially on holidays and in summertime, however, it has long been a charming destination when it comes to eco-tourism due to having magnificent and spectacular views.

Lake Ovan is suitable for fishing, swimming and riding boats in summer while in fall it hosts migratory birds such as swan, goose and duck. In winter, the lake can be used for sports such as skiing and ice skating while its surface becomes slippery with ice in winter.

An interesting point about the lake is that it doesn’t receive any water from the surrounding rivers, and the only water source is atmospheric precipitation and springs on the lake floor.

Surrounded by Evan, Varbon, Zavardasht and Zar-abaaad villages, the lake is located in an altitude of 1800 meters above sea level, and according to seeiran.ir, its maximum length is 325 meters, and it has a width of 275 meters. The deepest section of the lake is 7.5 meters and extends over 70,000 square meters.

The excess water of the lake, which is actually overflow of this lake, forms a small river which irrigates farmlands in the villages of Kushk and Ain. Most residents of these two villages either breed livestock or work on their lands.

Lake Ovan is freezing in winter and sometimes in autumn, and it is considered a suitable haven for migratory birds such as swans, geese, and ducks.

Due to the elevation of 1800 meters and the cold weather of this area in the winter, the lake surface is frozen and allows skiers to Ice skating. On the other hand, the weather is very glorious for fishing, swimming, and boating in the summertime.

### ■ What animals can be spotted?

Animals such as goat, leopard, brown bear, fox, jackal, wolf, wild boar, marten, caracal, eagle, cinereous vulture, kestrel, hawk, owl, partridge, cuckoo, woodpecker, roller, chough and various kinds of sparrow, frog, turtles and crabs can be spotted across the lands that encircle the lake, according to hipsia.com. It is also a resort for aquatic creatures such as trout, carp and fish ducks.

### ■ Access to the lake

The lake can be reached via a road which connects Qazvin to eastern Alamut. Starting from the south towards the north, there is village at beginning of the road, called



A general view of Lake Ovan

Shinqor. After passing a relatively high hill there is a flat area called Rajae-e-dasht. A few kilometers after this point, where the road branches off, Moalem-kalaye road should be taken. At the last fork, there is a narrow road towards the north which directly goes to the lake.

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

### ■ “Amazing view”

It worth visiting here if you have the plan to get in Alamut area! I liked that! I headed to there from lambaste castle and it was a little far but I could have a tiny picnic around the lake for some relaxation. (adriantraveler1990 from Moscow, Russia; visited August 2018)

### ■ “Picturesque, but not much more”

Not really worth the effort of going there. It is picturesquely

located in the mountains, and if you’re nearby, why not. But that’s about it. (wrightone50 from Lower Austria, Austria; visited in September 2018)

### ■ “First class nature”

Beautiful and relaxing place the area is perfect for hiking. Could spend many days to relax there but there are not much possibilities as guest house or hotel. (homit99 from Erlangen, Germany; visited April 2018)

### ■ “Don’t miss it!!”

A very nice setting in amongst the mountains and a village. Not many birds here as I thought there would be. Only disappointment was the litter everywhere. The ticket entry box was not manned when I was there but you may be unlucky. Best photo is from the above road before going down to the lake. (Gtirman from Brisbane, Austria; visited October 2017)

## Parthian-era citadel to undergo restoration

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The crumbling Narin citadel, which is said to date from the time of Parthian Empire (247 BC – 224 CE), is about to undergo renovation set to last two months and cost 910 million rials (about \$22,000), CHTN reported on Sunday.

The plan, unveiled by the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization in June, will restore foundation and façade of the mudbrick citadel using building material that is the same as the original.

Narin citadel is located near the city of Na’in in Isfahan province, central Iran.

“This overhaul will be done with the use of mud, bricks and cob in perfect harmony with the original elements of the castle,” Isfahan province’s tourism chief Fereydoun Allahyari said.

In terms of structure and history, Narin citadel is very similar to its fellow, Narin citadel of Meybod that is situated in Yazd province, the official said.

By completion of archaeological and architectural



studies, more information can be gained from the history of the monument as well as the social scene of the people who lived in the central Iranian plateau, he explained.

Na’in is one of the oldest continuously settlements in central Iran, located on the junction of the desert road to Tabas and Mashhad. The city has been an important crossroad on converging trade routes for thousands of years. It is well regarded for its handicrafts as well.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures.

At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran. The empire, located on the Silk Road trade route between the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean Basin and the Han dynasty of China, became a center of trade and commerce.

## Summer holiday rush as deals spark last-minute travel boom

Busiest weekend on record expected as Britons grab cut-price breaks after Brexit uncertainty.

The great British holiday getaway was usually the most anticipated weekend of the year, a culmination of months of fretting and planning. But this is the year of the last-minute summer.

Huge numbers of people have delayed making bookings thanks to a messy cocktail of weather, politics and a plunging pound. Travel agents, tour operators, hotels and B&Bs all say they have been battling Brexit uncertainty to get people to make bookings for months.

Yet in the last few weeks, the yen for travel appears to have returned. More than 8,800 planes took off on Friday – the final tally will probably break records, according to the National Air Traffic Control Service – with two million travelers due to fly out of the UK over the weekend, said travel agents’ association Abta.

Those staying in the UK are also heading off, making 13.4m car journeys throughout the weekend – 4m more than this time last year – although there were the usual problems: a crash on the M5 led to 70 miles of tailbacks in Devon and Somerset.

David Hope of GfK, a market research firm which monitors package holiday sales, said travel companies had been discounting fiercely to overcome political problems. “It’s been massively impacted by Brexit,” he said, pinpointing the moment when people were put off booking holidays as 16 December 2018 – the date when a cabinet discussion about post-Brexit travel arrangements was leaked to a newspaper.

“It was saying basically ‘after Brexit don’t travel’. Before that, at the end of November, bookings were 10% up. After the leak, bookings immediately dropped by 18% and they have struggled ever since, until the government changed the Brexit date to 31 October. It



Passengers wait to board a Ryanair flight at Gatwick. (Photograph: Hannah McKay/Reuters)

could be coincidental, but it mirrors exactly when the leak happened. We’re now seeing bookings 1% ahead of summer 2018.”

The good news for travel companies may not last if planned strikes at several airports go ahead. Easyjet baggage handlers at Stansted and about 4,000 staff at Heathrow are due to walk out for two days if the pay disputes between employers and the Unite trade union are not resolved, with further two-day strikes planned. Talks continue at conciliation service Acas. Workers at Gatwick and British Airways pilots are also holding strike ballots.

The fall in the value of the pound is also prompting more people to search for all-inclusive holidays, according to Travel Supermarket’s Emma Coulthurst. “The storm of Brexit and its impact on currency exchange rates has seen many delay booking and prices come down as a result of the drop in demand,” she said. “There are many family holidays available from as little as £300 per person or less for a family of four this summer school holiday. That’s unheard of.”

Spain – particularly Tenerife and Mallorca – remain the most popular places to go, but Coulthurst reported a surge in interest in Turkey, especially the southern coastline near Antalya.

The biggest gainer is Tunisia, whose tourism industry collapsed after the terror attacks in 2015. UK nationals made 155,000 trips to Tunisia in 2018, according to the Office for National Statistics, but this year should see levels similar to 2015’s 411,000 visitors.

Sardinia, the Costa Dorada near Barcelona, and Bulgaria are also all up, Coulthurst said, at the expense of Orlando, Dubrovnik and Dubai. A According to Brett Gerrett of Sunvil, an independent travel agent in southwest London. “I haven’t seen fares in this position in the last six years. They started low, went high, and came back down again. It’s been a very strange year.” Gerrett was at Heathrow early on Friday in an effort to beat the crowds. “We’re on the tarmac at the moment. I’m on a BA flight going to Madrid and I’ve paid £119 for a

club seat - and it’s the second day of the summer holidays. We’ve had people coming in, not complaining exactly, but making a point to us that they paid high prices in advance and now it’s lower. Nobody ever does that.” Travelers with more money to spend were also leaving things late. Pete Brudenell, of luxury villa firm, CV Villas, said June bookings were up by more than half, particularly for Portugal and Turkey.

Staycationers in the UK banking on a reprisal of last year’s long hot summer will be pleased to see temperatures hit 30C in parts of England this week. But owners of B&Bs and self-catering accommodation have also been hit by the last-minute summer.

“We’re getting shorter stays and later bookings,” said Ali Kayley, who runs a glamping and holiday cottage business at Westley Farm in the Cotswolds. “People are booking in the same week, and that wasn’t happening a year ago.”

She said there had been a marked decline in the number of European visitors: “We get lots of German and Dutch families and our numbers are considerably down this year.” Some European guests were put off by fears they would need a visa to get into the UK: “One of our regular guests from Holland was due to come in April, and he wanted a guarantee that he would get his money back.”

Joss Croft, the chief executive of travel body UKinbound, said hotels and operators serving American and Chinese visitors were doing well. “But 15% of my members are seeing a decrease in Germany and France, and Europeans make up 60% of our inbound visitors,” he said. “But a bigger concern is where on earth they’re going to get the staff from – a lot of EU people have left, French speakers, Spanish speakers. People that were previously getting 25 applicants for each job are now not getting any.”

(Source: The Guardian)



# How trans fats affect male fertility?

By Setareh Jahandideh

**TEHRAN** — Dietary trans fatty acids can have negative effects on sperm quality, but how it happens?

Scientists in Royan Research Institute tried to answer the question.

Many studies have suggested that trans fatty acids can have negative effects on semen quality; however, the process is still unclear, says Dr. Alireza Alizadeh from Royan Institute.

Trans fat, also called fatty acids or trans fatty acids, is a type of unsaturated fat that occurs in small amounts in meat and milk fat. It became widely produced industrially from vegetable and fish oils in the early 20th century for use in margarine and later also in snack food, packaged baked goods, and for frying fast food.

According to Dr. Alizadeh, fat tissues are one of the places where hormones are produced, so the first question was if fatty acids can affect the expression of genes that are involved in fat tissues (Adipose tissues).

These genes, he said, are related to steroid metabolism.

“The main question is can fatty acids alter the synthesis pathways of these genes? This means that the expression of genes are changed and the balance is disrupted; subsequently, the level of progesterone and estrogen is changed and this will influence



fertility,” said Dr. Alizadeh.

Gene expression is the process by which information from a gene is used in the synthesis of proteins.

According to Dr. Alizadeh, the findings revealed changes in expression of genes involved in estrogenic metabolism rather than those engaged in androgenic metabolism after

**The results suggested that trans fats mainly changed estrogen metabolism, that could lead to hormone imbalance in men.**

fatty acids consumption.

“The results suggested that trans fats mainly changed estrogen metabolism, that could lead to hormone imbalance in men and negatively affect sperm parameters,” he said.

“In recent years, the quality of fat tissues (Adipose tissues) has come under greater focus as studies suggest that the quality of fat tissues is more important than their quantity. For example, we see many fat men who are perfectly fertile, so the quality of AT and its constituent fatty acids seem to be far more important,” he added.

The study was tested on male rats, and it can lead to further examinations on human and more definite results.

Concern about male reproductive health has grown in recent years to become a major preoccupation in some developed countries. A possible decline in human sperm concentration was suggested in the early seventies following studies in the U.S.

According to Health Line, infertility affects about one in every six couples, and researchers estimate about one in every three cases is due to fertility problems in the male partner alone.

Semen quality and male fertility depends on a variety of factors including age, environment, lifestyle, physical activity, genetic background and occupation.

## Foreign patients desire for transplant surgery in Iran: academic

**HEALTH d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Foreign patients desire for undergoing transplantation surgeries in Iran due to reasonable prices as well as good medical services in the country, said Ali Jafarian, a professor of general surgery at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Mehr reported on Saturday.

Organ donors to foreign patients should be from their alive family members and their documents should be certified by the interior ministry of their country and approved by their embassy before hospitalization in Iran, he explained.

Liver transplantation centers are now active in the cities of Kerman, Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Mashhad and Tehran to meet the needs of patients, he announced.

Jafarian said that 30 kidney transplantation centers are now active in Iran, which is adequate for offering services to the patients, he said.

### ■ Organ donation rate in Iran

Organ transplantation is one of the great advances in modern medicine, but unfortunately, the need for organ donors is much greater than the number of people who actually donate.

Organ donation in Iran set a record high in the first Iranian calendar month Farvardin (March 21-April 20) compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Health announced.

Last year (March 2018-March 2019) some 923 cases of organ donation were recorded in the country.

In February, the transplantation and treatment department at the Ministry of Health announced that the organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years.

Although Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard.

If Iran moves ahead with the current trend, it will achieve 45 percent increase by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

According to the figures revealed by International Registry in Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT) Spain leads the world in organ donation.

Figures published for 2017 reveal that 2,183 people in Spain became organ donors last year after they died. That's 46.9 pmp — a standard way of measuring the rate of donation in a country. The Independent reported in July 2018.

According to the data published on IRODaT by the end of 2017 Iran's per million population of actual deceased organ donors was 11.43. In 1996 Iran's per million population of actual deceased organ donors was 0.1, which compared to the current per million people in the population (pmp) shows a great increase.



Some 5,000 people die of brain death annually in Iran, out of 3,000 brain deaths reported last year being qualified to be organ donors, only 926 donated their organs.

In May 2018, Masih Daneshvari hospital's manager Ali Akbar Velayati said that some 10,000 people are waiting in transplant lists and every day some 10 people waiting for an organ lost their lives.

## Debunking common misconceptions about ADHD

As is unfortunately the case with many other mental health conditions, there are numerous misconceptions that surround ADHD.

These misunderstandings about the condition are harmful to the folks within the community. They can result in problems such as delays in diagnosis and accessing treatment, not to mention leaving people feeling judged or misunderstood.

Take my patient Vanessa. She spent years struggling at school, both in high school and college. During these years she was unable to retain information she had spent hours learning, and constantly felt anxious at the thought of the things she had to do.

It wasn't until she sought the help of a psychiatrist while at college and was diagnosed with ADHD that she understood why this was happening to her.

Had Vanessa been diagnosed at an earlier age, she may have been given the appropriate tools to help her through school.

According to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, about 9 percent of children have ADHD, while around 4 percent of adults have it. Chances are you know someone with the condition.

In light of May being Mental Health Awareness month, I've pulled together five myths about ADHD that need dispelling now, in hopes of shedding light on the reality of this condition.

### ■ Girls don't get ADHD

In general, girls aren't as hyperactive or display as many behavioral issues compared

to boys, so people often don't recognize ADHD in girls.

As a result, girls are less likely to be referred for treatment and less likely to be identified with ADHD by teachers compared to their male classmates.

The problem with this myth is that, because girls with ADHD often go untreated, their condition can progress, increasing issues with mood, anxiety, antisocial personality, and other comorbid disorders in adulthood.

It's for this reason that it's really important to improve our ability to identify girls with ADHD and provide them with the support they need.

### ■ Poor parenting causes ADHD

Some of my adult patients with ADHD will bring their parents into their appointments. During these sessions, I often find that the parents will share their guilt of wishing they could've done more to help their kid succeed and control their symptoms.

This often stems from the myth that “poor parenting” causes ADHD.

But the fact is, this is not the case. For example, blurting out words, restlessness, hyperactivity, and impulsivity are symptoms that can be problematic in quiet public settings. Though structure is important for a person with ADHD, constant punishing for these symptoms can be more detrimental in the long run.

But because many would view this type of behavior as the child simply being “poorly mannered,” parents often find themselves

being judged for not being able to control their child.

This is why professional interventions such as psychotherapy and medications are often required.

### ■ People with ADHD are lazy

Many of my patients with ADHD explain that they're often accused of being lazy, which leaves them feeling guilty for not being as productive and motivated as others expect them to be.

Folks with ADHD tend to need more structure and reminders to get things done — especially activities that require sustained mental effort. But because symptoms of ADHD may manifest as disinterest, disorganization, and a lack of motivation unless it's related to an activity they truly enjoy, this may be mistaken for laziness.

The reality, however, is that people with ADHD truly want to succeed but struggle to initiate and complete what others may consider “simple” tasks.

Even sorting through mail or answering an email can be daunting because it requires a lot more sustained mental energy for someone with this condition.

This myth can be especially harmful as these judgments can leave people with a sense of failure, which can progress to poor self-esteem and lacking confidence to pursue ventures in life.

### ■ Having ADHD 'isn't that serious'

While ADHD isn't life-threatening, it can have serious implications on a person's

overall quality of life. People with ADHD are more likely to have anxiety, mood, and substance use disorders compared to the general population.

Meanwhile, one common experience among my patients with ADHD is that it's difficult to keep up with work responsibilities and they're constantly monitored or on probation.

This means they live in continual fear of losing their jobs and not being able to keep up financially, which can take a toll on their personal life.

Folks with ADHD may require more time to complete tasks in order to thrive. Unfortunately, while these sorts of accommodations may be available in educational settings — think longer test-taking time or quiet exam rooms — employers may not be as willing to accommodate.

### ■ ADHD isn't a real medical disorder

Research has demonstrated differences between a brain with ADHD and one without it, in addition to differences in how brain chemicals such as dopamine, norepinephrine, and glutamate operate.

The parts of the brain involved especially impact our “executive functions,” such as planning, organizing, and initiating tasks.

Twin studies also suggest that ADHD has a genetic component, where in identical twins, if one twin has ADHD, the other is likely to have it as well.

(Source: healthline.com)

## 70,000 foreign patients admitted to Iranian hospitals last year

**HEALTH d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian hospitals admitted 70,000 foreign patients over the last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2018 – March 2019), said the head of medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

According to Saied Hashemzadeh, 169 hospitals which have the necessary permits, admit foreign patients in Iran, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Some 90% of foreign patients in Iran are from Afghanistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and other countries around the Persian Gulf, said Hashemzadeh.

“The number of foreign patients in Iran grew by 1.5 percent over the last year compared to its preceding year; and this year we expect the figure to double as we have done some medical marketing,” he said.

“Only over the first three months of the current year (March 21 – June 21), 17,000 foreign patients were admitted to Iranian hospitals,” he added.

Medical tourism made an economic contribution of around \$1.2 billion to the country in the last Iranian calendar year (March 2017-March 2018), according to data compiled by the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

In April 2018, the rotating presidency of the International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was handed to the Islamic Republic for a three-year term.

In May 2018, Mohammad Jahangiri who presides over a national center for developing health tourism said that Iran has the capacity to annually earn \$7 billion in medical and health tourism, though the sector now brings in only one-seventh or even lesser of the sum.

Iran has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in [calendar year] 1404.

## Eight new homegrown pharma raw materials unveiled

**HEALTH d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Eight new pharmaceutical raw materials produced by a domestic company in Karaj, Alborz province, were unveiled during a ceremony on Sunday, Mehr reported.

Tamsulosin Hydrochloride, Naltrexone Base, Pioglitazone and Sitagliptin Phosphate were amongst the products.

The company exported about eight million dollars of its products in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) and it is estimated to increase the figure to ten million dollars this year.

The company has already exported its products to 43 countries and created 450 jobs directly by manufacturing 54 raw materials for medicine.

In early July, the Iranian Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) announced that 120 factories in the country produce medicine and 70 factories produce pharmaceutical raw materials. There are also 56 distributing companies and 12,000 pharmacies all around the country.

In February, the then IFDA director Mehdi Pirsalehi said that 120 homegrown medicines came onto Iran's market over the past Iranian calendar year despite U.S. sanctions against the country.

## Can we blame procrastination on our genes?

People often assume that procrastination is a choice and that the personality trait — which sees people delay necessary tasks — is a sign of laziness. However, new research suggests that genes may play a role.

A new study explores the genetic roots of procrastination.

Previous research has associated both biological and psychological factors with procrastination. The results of a 2018 study showed that people with a tendency to procrastinate had a bigger amygdala — the section of the brain that processes emotions.

The same research team has now studied whether there is an association between the trait and genetics.

After examining identical and fraternal twins, the authors of a previous study, which featured in Psychological Science, concluded that 46% of the tendency to procrastinate might be down to genes. However, researchers still do not know the specific genetic difference that could result in this trait.

Dr. Erhan Genç, from Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany, believes that he may now have the answer. But, there is a catch: it only relates to women.

Together with colleagues from his university and researchers from the Technical University of Dresden, Dr. Genç carried out a genetic analysis of 278 healthy men and women.

The results of the new research appear in the Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience journal.

The researchers paid particular attention to one gene that makes an enzyme called tyrosine hydroxylase (TH). This gene helps regulate the production of dopamine — a chemical messenger that plays a role in brain processes such as attention, memory, and motivation. The expression of the TH gene differs among individuals, leading to varying levels of dopamine and other neurotransmitters in individual brains. Previous studies have already linked increased dopamine levels with impulsive behavior.

“The neurotransmitter dopamine has repeatedly been associated with increased cognitive flexibility in the past,” notes Dr. Genç. “This is not fundamentally bad but is often accompanied by increased distractibility.”

The chemical's ability to affect cognitive control may, therefore, affect whether a person delays a task or performs it efficiently.

### ■ A female effect

As well as undergoing a genetic analysis, each participant in Dr. Genç's study answered a questionnaire to determine their level of control over their actions.

While the researchers struggled to find a correlation in male participants, the story was different for females.

Women who carried a variant of the TH gene reported having less control over their actions and were more likely to be procrastinators. They were also genetically more likely to have higher dopamine levels.

However, the team could not find a link between their previous amygdala findings and differences in the TH gene.

This lack of connection suggests that more than one factor may be responsible for procrastination and that these factors may work independently of each other.

(Source: Medical News Today)

## NICICO to invest €1.8 for sustainable development: CEO

Chief Executive of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi said on Thu. that his company will make €1.8 billion worth of investment for sustainable development.

The company attained high copper concentrate production record as much as 1,180,000 tons last year (ended March 20, 2019), he said, adding, “last year, the company witnessed the maximum production volume of copper containing mineral as much as 298,000 tons since its commissioning.”

He made the remarks on the sidelines of Ordinary Annual General Assembly meeting of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) and added, “NICICO sold

more than 10,000 billion tomans worth of copper last year (ended March 20, 2019), with the average price of \$6,500 in each ton. Of total 10,000 billion tomans worth of sales of the company, 5,000 billion tomans of which was gained as profit.”

In response to a question why copper industry of the country should move towards development and production growth, he addressed shareholders of the company and added, “study of status of copper metal shows that five factors affect the demanding trend of this metal, total of which should be considered in the field of development and any decision should be made in accordance to it.”

Lack of proper alternative for copper, increase of consumption of copper by countries in the world including China, United States and Germany [these countries account for 61.5 share of copper consumption volume in the world.], strategy of the US for renovating infrastructures, improving fundamental factors such as electrical cases, airports, aerospace industries, moving towards taking advantage of electric vehicles and cars, discovery of new copper reserves in the world and getting lion's share of producing 830 million tons of extractable minerals have been cited as the main five factors for making decision in implementation of development projects.”



## Persian leopards’ natural reproduction turned unsuccessful

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — A Persian leopard couple's hormonal interventions to mate naturally at Tehran Zoological Garden for conservation purposes has turned out to be unsuccessful, YJC reported on Saturday.



Kija, the female leopard, and Gaspar, the male one, are both healthy kept in captivity for natural reproduction. In late February, after diagnosing the female leopard and checking the male leopard sperm, their reproductive health has been ensured, so they undergone hormonal interventions in order to increase the probability of estrous detection and insemination. “But after 100 days, diagnosis conducted on the female leopard, and we found out that it is not pregnant, unfortunately,” Iman Memarian, Tehran Zoological Garden veterinarian said.

“We will not give up and try again to finally achieve success in captive breeding or artificial insemination of Persian leopards,” he added. The Persian leopard is listed as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List; the population is estimated at fewer than 871–1,290 mature individuals and considered declining.

According to the Department of Environment, 156 leopards have been killed in Iran from 2005 to 2014, nearly 20 leopards a year. Studies indicate that currently there are less than 500 leopards nationwide.

Persian leopards are mainly threatened by poaching, depletion of their prey base due to poaching, human disturbances, habitat loss due to deforestation, fire, agricultural expansion, overgrazing, and infrastructure development.

In Iran, primary threats are habitat disturbances followed by illegal hunting and excess of livestock in the leopard habitats. The leopards’ chances for survival outside protected areas appear very slim.

## How melting plastic waste could heat homes

It is a problem bedeviling households across the UK: what can we do with the mountains of food-spattered plastic waste left in our bins? Now a group of scientists say they have the answer – by using the detritus of domestic life to heat homes.

Researchers at the University of Chester have found a way to use dirty plastic waste to produce hydrogen, which can heat homes and fuel cars without producing greenhouse gas emissions. The process uses a glass kiln, heated to 1,000C, to instantly break down unrecyclable plastic to release a mix of gases including hydrogen.

The technology will be used commercially for the first time at a plant near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire later this year after a pair of “waste-energy” companies agreed to invest.

Peele Environmental, the owner of the plant, said the project could help keep 25 million tonnes of “contaminated” plastics, which cannot be recycled, from ending up in landfills or the ocean. Hydrogen could play a key role in helping the UK meet its climate targets by replacing traditional gas used for decades in stoves, radiators and boilers. It could also replace petrol and diesel in cars, vans and buses.

(Source: The Guardian)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Reactions to Milosevic arrest

(April 4, 2001)  
The Serbian interior minister, Dusan Mihajlovic, said on Tuesday that Slobodan Milosevic could face charges for serious crimes which carry the death penalty. On Sunday his officers carried out the arrest of the former Yugoslav leader. Paul Anderson sent this report from Belgrade. Speaking to reporters in Vienna, Serbia's interior minister said there were **indications** that Slobodan Milosevic was involved in serious crimes, which **on conviction**, can carry the death penalty. He didn't **specify** what crimes he was referring to, but said if proof was found, the police would **ask for charges to be brought**. Yesterday, two days after Mr Milosevic's arrest, a senior advisor to President Kostunica, said investigations were proceeding into the former Yugoslav leader's involvement in the dozens - some say hundreds - of **political assassinations** and abductions. To lay charges, the police will have to find Milosevic **associates** linked to the killings, who are willing to testify in court that they received **verbal orders** from the top. Mr Milosevic left no **paper trail** to assist investigators. But even if they do and they secure a conviction, it's extremely unlikely a death sentence would be **handed down** and carried out. It would be too **politically explosive** here and would look like the revolutionary justice which President Kostunica has said he wants to avoid. It would also finish off expectations in the West, that Yugoslavia will surrender Mr Milosevic to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, to face charges of genocide and **crimes against humanity**. The new Yugoslav authorities can't afford to **antagonize** the West by closing off that option.

■ **Words**  
**indications:** an indication is a sign which gives you an idea of what may happen or has happened  
**on conviction:** if the court judges that he is guilty  
**specify:** if you specify something, you state it precisely  
**ask for charges to be brought:** ask that he should be formally accused of committing a crime  
**political assassinations:** murders which are carried out as political acts  
**associates:** colleagues who supported him  
**verbal orders:** instructions which were not written down  
**paper trail** : a trail may be signs left by someone: here, documents relating to what he had done  
**handed down:** made by a court  
**politically explosive:** it could cause a situation which may have serious or dangerous effects  
**crimes against humanity:** actions which are morally or legally wrong humanity means all the people of the world  
**antagonize:** if you antagonize someone, you make them feel angry or hostile towards you

# Tehran Municipality installs RVMs to contain plastic pollution

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Municipality has installed 50 reverse vending machines (RVMs) across the capital to encourage the citizens to contain plastic pollution and promote waste segregation at source, YJC reported on Sunday.

RVMs are smart collectors for reusable plastic, glass and aluminum bottles and containers, which carry a capacity to recycle 2000 to 2500 bottles.

Several days after national plastic-bag-free day, the municipality managed to purchase the RVMs and install them on Shahrvand Markets in different parts of the city, which was inaugurated with the Tehran mayor Pirouz Hanachi in attendance.

Since the Iranian calendar year 1391 (March 2012-March 2013), Iran observes July 12 as plastic-bag-free day annually, on which several schemes and programs are carried out across the capital, aiming to raise awareness about plastic pollution which is negatively impacting daily lives.

Masoud Sariolghalam, director for Shahrvand Markets, said that this technology is being exploited for the first time in the country.

Emphasizing on the incentive policy to collect valuable waste, he explained that when citizens give their bottles of glass and plastic to the RVMs, they receive a receipt that should write their name and phone number on it, then place it in the lottery box.

Each month, the municipality will



grant prizes to the holder of phone number drawn at random; the prize is an electronic bike, he added.

The device can simultaneously compress the bottles and save the barcodes, material, glass color, and type of containers, he also explained.

“We can take steps toward waste segregation at source using this device, in addition to reduce waste disposal costs,” he noted.

He went on to say that through the machines we can receive recyclable wastes from the citizens conveniently and fast, and send them to recycling centers.

Another important feature of using RVMs is involving the citizens in waste recycling and separation, he added.

He concluded that one of the reasons why citizens did not take waste separation at source seriously was that they have not

been involved in the process, which, with the arrival of such devices, will be more familiar with the separation and recycling of waste.

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.

Sadr-o-din Alipour, the director of environment and sustainable development department of Tehran Municipality, has 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.

Ali Moridi, head of soil and water office at the Department of Environment, has said that while reduction of waste generation and separation of waste at source are the two major processes in waste management, in Iran the focus is mainly on the last phase of waste management which is waste disposal.

## ‘Wildfire losses increase 90-fold in Tehran’

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Wildfire incurred losses to the capital's protected areas during the first three months of this year (started on March 21), which was 90 times more than the same period last year, commander of Tehran province environment protection unit has said.

During the aforementioned period, wildfire swept for 25 times in the protected lands of Tehran, turning 314 hectares of the lands into ashes, ISNA quoted Mohammad Reza Khishtandar as saying on Sunday.

This is while, last year only 5 cases of wildfire reported in these areas affecting some 3.5 hectares, he lamented, adding that therefore, losses brought by the massive fires have increased 90-fold this year.

Due to unprecedented rainfall, vegetation growth increased covering vast areas of the country, so, the smallest flame of fire can spread rapidly in areas covered with vegetation, he explained.

Based on the latest data published by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization, since the current crop year (September 23, 2018), precipitation in the country increased to 312 from 159.3 millimeters in the previous water year, demonstrating a 95.9 percent rise. The amount also raised in comparison to the long-term average of 223.2



mm, amounting to 39.6 percent.

All the wildfires occurred in the capital was due to human-caused ignition, as even a negligently discarded cigarette can lead to wildfire sparks blazing through the rangelands and forests, he noted.

Referring to the lack of fire extinguishing facilities in Tehran department of environment, he said, “This year we have distributed fire extinguishing containers among the

forces and rangers, which can carry 20 liters of water, along with a limited number of car accessories for firefighting.”

Unfortunately, protected areas are almost impassable and firefighters cannot enter the areas to put out the fire, so, most of the fire extinguishing operations are done by the rangers, he added.

“Our current facilities are not sufficient for such wildfires, and we need to be equipped more both in terms of rangers and fire extinguishing facilities,” he highlighted.

Ali Abbasnejad, the commander of the forest protection unit of Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization said in early July that over 95 percent of wildfires in the country are due to human-caused ignition from unattended campfires, debris, and negligently discarded cigarettes.

During the month of Khordad (May 21-June 21), wildfires increased by 35 percent compared to the same period last year, while human-started wildfires accounted for 95 percent of the whole massive fire, he added.

Also, Jamshid Mohabbat Khani, head of the Department of Environment's protection unit has said that some 400 hectares of the protected areas turned into ashes due to raging wildfire, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year, with Tehran setting record highs for wildfire within two first months of this year.

## 10 foster applicants per child in Iran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — There are 10 applicants for fostering each child in the country, the Welfare Organization's director for children affairs said on Sunday, adding this issue has prevented the child adoption process to speed up.

The organization is hosting three care centers for these children, two centers are taking care of boys with a capacity of 190 boys and there is a center for girls with a capacity of 25 girls, Montazer Shahr said.

Currently, there are 130 boys aged 12 or above and 60 boys aged 12 or younger, he stated, IRNA reported.

Referring to the conditions of losing custody of a child, he explained that if the judicial authority recognizes that a parent or both are not qualified of taking care of their child, the court can deny custody, and grant the custody of the children to another parents.

He went on to say that the Welfare Organization is not acting a barrier toward child

adoption, in fact the high number of applicants have decreased the process's pace, adding, parents not having children or tending to adopt a child can refer to the website and sign up for adoption.

Applicants are then invited to ensure that they have the required qualifications, including being mentally healthy and not having criminal records or addiction, he stated, adding, the applicants also must have a decent job and proper income to afford the children's needs.

After the parent's qualifications are approved, they will be on the waiting list to adopt the child, he noted.

Single women aged 30 or above also can apply to foster a child, while families having no children are prioritized, he highlighted.

Darioush Bayatnejad, Tehran province's welfare organization director, said that the child adoption process being piloted in Tehran through the website will speed up and it will

be soon operational nationwide.

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

Ahmad Khaki, deputy head of Tehran's welfare organization for social affairs, said that the number of children adopted in Tehran increased by 25 percent in [the Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017 – March 2018) compared to the year before, as some 500 children were adopted by Tehraners last year (ended March 2019).

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



are able to apply for adoption.

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

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Guardian Council ratifies bill on soil conservation

The Guardian Council ratified the bill on soil conservation which has been passed by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) earlier in February, Masoumeh Hosseinpour, director general of department for parliamentary and legal affairs at the Department of Environment (DOE) has announced. As per the law, any trade or export of soil is prohibited, and only the excretion of minerals or exportation of low amounts of soil for research purposes is excluded after meeting the legal process, she noted.

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “uni-”

- **Meaning:** single
- **For example:** *unicorn* is a mythical animal represented as a horse with a single straight horn.

## PHRASAL VERB

### Part with something

- **Meaning:** to give something to someone else, although you do not want to
- **For example:** I'm reluctant to part with any of the kittens, but we need the money.

## IDIOM

### Off the cuff

- **Explanation:** to say something without any previous thought or preparation
- **For example:** He handles off-the-cuff interviews very well.

## لایحه حفاظت از خاک توسط شورای نگهبان تایید شد

مدیر کل دفتر حقوقی و امور مجلس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست اظهار داشت: لایحه حفاظت از خاک بعد از تصویب مجلس شورای اسلامی، به تایید شورای نگهبان رسید.

به گزارش گروه محیط زیست خبرگزاری فارس، معصومه حسین پور، گفت: در قانون حفاظت از خاک انتقال خاک به خارج از کشور ممنوع است و فقط خروج مواد معدنی و مقادیر کم خاک به منظور امور پژوهشی پس از رعایت فرایند قانونی مربوط مستثنی است.



# Iraqi forces begin 2nd phase of operation against Daesh sleeper cells

**TEHRAN** — Iraqi military forces have launched the second phase of a major operation to hunt down the remnants of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group north of the capital Baghdad and surrounding areas.

“Under the guidance of the Commander-In-Chief of Iraqi forces (Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi), supervision of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), and following successful realization of goals defined in the first phase of the Will of Victory Operation, the second phase was launched at dawn on Saturday,” the second-in-command of the JOC, Lieutenant General Abdul Amir Rash-eed Yarallah, said in a statement.

The statement added that the second phase aims to “to beef up security and stability in areas north of Baghdad and surrounding areas in the provinces of Diyala, Salahuddin and Anbar.”

It said that units from the Baghdad Operations Command, command operations from Diyala, Samarra and Anbar, the Federal Police Command, rapid response teams, voluntary Hashd al-Sha’abi fighters and the special forces regiment of the Operations



Department of the Chief of Staff of the Army as well as the Special Task Force of the Directorate of Military Intelligence are participating in the offensive.

The statement further noted that the offensive is supported by fighter jets from

the Iraqi Air Force and the U.S.-led coalition purportedly fighting Daesh.

According to Press TV, Iraq’s army and the voluntary forces began the first phase of the Will of Victory Operation early on July 7, the military said in a statement, adding

that the operation would last several days and was aimed at securing the province of Anbar and the central and northern regions of Salahuddin and Nineveh.

“We press on the hands of our heroic forces that will achieve victory with the will of its heroes against the gangs of Daesh,” Abdul-Mahdi said.

“May God protect you and make you victorious,” he added.

Former Iraqi prime minister Haider al-Abadi declared the end of military operations against Daesh in the country on December 9, 2017.

On July 10 that year, he had formally declared victory over Daesh in Mosul, which served as the terrorists’ main urban stronghold in Iraq.

In the run-up to Mosul’s liberation, Iraqi army soldiers and volunteer Hashd al-Sha’abi fighters had made sweeping gains against Daesh.

Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January 2017 after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the west on February 19 last year.

## Pompeo calls Turkish FM to express dismay over purchase of Russian S-400

**TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has expressed his displeasure over Turkey’s purchase of Russian S-400 missile defense system – despite Washington’s objection and threat of sanctions – during a phone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The development was announced Saturday in an official statement by the U.S. Department of State, which added that Pompeo also discussed Ankara’s “security concerns” along the Turkey-Syria border while reiterating Washington’s “obligation to ensure the protection of local partners working with the United States” in Syria.

Reuters also cited Turkish foreign ministry sources as saying that the two top diplomats also discussed the U.S. F-35 fighter jet program, just two days after Washington confirmed Turkey’s expulsion from the program that involved joint manufacture of the ad-

vance war plane and training of Turkish pilots to fly the aircraft.

“The U.S. and other F-35 partners are aligned in this decision to suspend Turkey from the program and initiate the process to formally remove Turkey from the program,” said U.S. Under Secretary Of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord last week.

Used by NATO and other U.S. allies, the F-35 stealth fighter jet is dubbed the world’s most advanced jet fighter. Washington has expressed concerns that deploying the S-400 with the F-35 would allow Russia to gain too much inside information of the stealth system, Press TV reported.

“The F-35 cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities,” the White House said in a statement last Wednesday.

Ankara, however, reacted by blasting Washington’s



measures against Turkey with a foreign ministry statement saying: “This one-sided step neither complies with the spirit of alliance nor is it based on legitimate reasons.”

## British Airways, Lufthansa suspend flights to Cairo

**TEHRAN** — British Airways and Lufthansa have suspended flights to Egypt’s capital, Cairo, over unspecified security concerns, giving no details about what may have prompted the move.

“We constantly review our security arrangements at all our airports around the world, and have suspended flights to Cairo for seven days as a precaution to allow for further assessment,” British Airways said in a statement on Saturday.

When asked for more details about why flights had been suspended and what security arrangements the airline was reviewing, a spokeswoman responded: “We never discuss

matters of security.”

Meanwhile, a spokesperson from Lufthansa, which operates flights to Cairo from Munich and Frankfurt, said: “As safety is the number one priority of Lufthansa, the airline has temporarily suspended its flights to Cairo today as a precaution, while further assessment is being made.

The German airline said it plans to resume its flights on Sunday.

### Security checks

Three Egyptian airport security sources told Reuters news agency that British staff had been checking security at Cairo airport on Wednesday and Thursday. They gave

no further details.

Ahmed Fawzi, chairman of the Cairo Airport Company, told Egyptian newspaper Al Shorouk that British Airways did not inform them of any concerns regarding airport security prior to cancelling flights.

Egyptian newspaper, Al Masry al Youm, cited Egypt’s ministry of civil aviation, which emphasized the one-week suspension did not mean a permanent halt to flights.

The British Foreign Office updated its travel advisory on Saturday to add a reference to the British Airways suspension, advising travelers affected to contact the airline.

Egypt’s Ministry of Civil Aviation said

in a statement late on Saturday that it had contacted the British Embassy in Cairo which had confirmed that the decision to suspend the flights was not issued by Britain’s transport or foreign ministries.

The ministry added that it would add more flights from Cairo to London starting on Sunday “to facilitate transporting passengers during this period”.

Aviation expert Alex Macheras told Al Jazeera that “airlines have no obligation ... to explain to passengers their reasoning. As passengers, we should have all faith in the airlines and if they are choosing not to fly then it is for the benefit of the passengers.”

## Two UK ministers to quit if Boris Johnson wins

**TEHRAN** — UK Chancellor Philip Hammond and UK Justice Secretary David Gauke announced Sunday they will resign if Boris Johnson wins the Tory party leadership contest and becomes prime minister, with Gauke warning that a no-deal Brexit would lead to national “humiliation.”

Johnson, who is largely expected to come first in the leadership contest that ends Tuesday, has said he is willing to take Britain out of the EU on October 31 without a withdrawal agreement if the bloc is not willing to renegotiate that deal, particularly concerning the Irish backstop provision that is detested by many Brexiters.

“I understand that his conditions for serving in his government would include accepting a no-deal exit on the 31st of October,” Hammond said on the BBC’s Andrew Marr show. “That is not something I could ever sign up to.”

“It’s very important that a prime minister is able to have a chancellor who is closely aligned with him in terms of policy,” he added. “And I therefore intend to resign.”

Gauke, who has served in Prime Minister Theresa May’s cabinet since she took office in June 2016, told the Sunday



Times that “the appropriate thing” for him was to resign if Johnson took over.

“If the test of loyalty to stay in the cabinet is a commitment to support no-deal on October 31 — which, to be fair to him, Boris has consistently said — then that’s not something I’m prepared to sign up to,” he said.

The paper also reported that up to six Tory MPs are considering defecting to the Liberal Democrats if Johnson

becomes prime minister, depriving him of a parliamentary majority.

Gauke said that even if Britain left without a deal, it would still have to negotiate some other agreement with the EU, which is its biggest trading partner. Such a negotiation would then have to be pursued from a position of greater weakness.

“In a period of time where there is no parliamentary majority, there’s political uncertainty and a lack of stability, I worry that the UK then will essentially be supplicants,” he said.

“We’ll go through the pain of no-deal, and then we will have no choice but to go back to the EU but in a weaker negotiating position. I fear that, frankly, there is a humiliation for us there if we go down that route,” he added.

According to Politico, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney warned in the Sunday Times that a no-deal Brexit “would cause huge damage to us all.”

While stressing that the Brexit withdrawal agreement was not up for renegotiation, he stressed that the EU was willing to seek a “future relationship” agreement that makes the backstop “unnecessary.”

## S. Korea: Drill with U.S. to go ahead despite North’s warning

**TEHRAN** — South Korea says a joint military exercise with the U.S. will go ahead as planned next month, despite North Korea’s warning that the drill could wreck denuclearization talks.

North Korea said on Tuesday U.S. President Donald Trump had reaffirmed in a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un last month that the joint drills would be halted.

Pyongyang said the planned exercise is “clearly a breach” of the two leaders’ agreement and that proceeding with it would jeopardize nuclear talks with the United States.

“The nature of the exercise is not offensive... and is for strengthening the alliance,” Choi Jong-kun, the secretary for peace planning to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said on Saturday.

Choi said Washington would have consulted with the government in Seoul if Trump had agreed

to suspend the war games during his talks with Kim on the North Korean border last month.

“As far as I know, President Trump did not promise the cancellation of this upcoming military exercise,” Choi said. “If he had done that...we would have been consulted and organized it and used it very strategically.”

Speaking with Reuters, Choi later said the military drills planned for August would largely involve computer simulations and

not troops in the field.

There are close to 30,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, and their annual drills with thousands of South Korean soldiers have always infuriated the North.

North Korea has strongly denounced joint military exercises between South Korea and the U.S., saying they pose an “all-out challenge” to efforts towards peace on the Korean Peninsula.

to the website of the Civil Protection.

Efforts to douse the flames using around 20 airplanes and helicopters had been halted as night fell.

A civilian who suffered serious injuries was evacuated by helicopter to Lisbon, Luis Belo Costa, the commander of the civil protection for the region said.

Four firefighters were also reported injured, and a further three were hurt after their fire engine collided with another.

The army said in a statement it was dispatching 20 soldiers and machinery to open routes “to facilitate access” for the firefighters.

Several national highways have been closed and a number of villages in the region have been evacuated as a precaution, the civil protection said.

The most threatening of the three fires was 90 percent under control according to Belo Costa, AFP reported.

## Several killed in twin attacks in Pakistan’s Dera Ismail Khan

**TEHRAN** — At least eight people have been killed and more than 30 wounded in twin attacks in the northwestern Pakistani town of Dera Ismail Khan, according to police.

Gunmen on motorcycles first attacked a police post in the west of the city, killing two policemen early on Sunday, district police chief Saleem Riaz said. The four attackers fled the scene.

Later, a female suicide bomber detonated her explosives when the policemen’s bodies were brought to a government hospital. “In addition to those killed in the [firing], two policemen and four civilians were killed in the hospital explosion,” Riaz said.

At least 30 people were wounded from the force of the explosion at the District Headquarters hospital, he added.

“About seven kilograms of explosives were used,” Riaz said.

The Tehreek e-Taliban Pakistan armed group claimed responsibility in an emailed statement, saying the attack was “in revenge” for the killing of a commander by police in Dera Ismail Khan.

The statement also said the suicide-bomb attacker was a man, naming him as Abu Obaida Ghazi, in contradiction to the initial police reports that it was a female bomber.

Pakistan has been battling the Tehreek e-Taliban Pakistan and its allies since the group was formed in 2007, aiming to impose a strict interpretation of law on the country.

According to Al Jazeera, a series of military operations has weakened the group, displacing it from its erstwhile headquarters in Pakistan’s northwestern tribal areas, which Dera Ismail Khan neighbors.

Overall violence has dropped from its peak in 2009, but sporadic attacks against security and civilian targets do continue to occur, however.

## Comic-turned-president’s party seeks Ukraine parliament majority

**TEHRAN** — Zinaida Kononenko, 63, has voted in every presidential and parliamentary election in Ukraine, hoping that the country’s political leaders would improve living standards.

“Every time, they failed,” the deputy director of a kindergarten, said on Sunday after casting her ballot in Ukraine’s snap parliamentary election.

“But this time, it’s going to be different because these new guys are not professional politicians; they haven’t learned how to steal,” Kononenko said at a polling station in central Kiev.

The “new guys” come from Servant of the People, a party of political novices named after a television series that three months ago propelled its leader, the comedian Volodymyr Zelensky, to Ukraine’s presidency.

In the series, Zelensky played a destitute and divorced schoolteacher whose diatribe about Ukraine’s political establishment made him a YouTube star and then president, against all political odds.

According to Al Jazeera, Tthe 41-year-old actor ran for presidency in real life, trouncing President Petro Poroshenko in elections in April and winning almost 73 percent of the votes. But Ukraine’s powerful parliament, known as Verkhovna Rada, was dominated by Poroshenko’s loyalists, and Zelensky’s first step as president was to announce a snap parliamentary election in the hopes of securing an outright majority.

## Iraqi PM orders investigation into drone attack on Hashd Sha’abi camp

**TEHRAN**— Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi has ordered a probe into an attack by an unmanned aircraft on a base belonging to fighters from pro-government Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), better known by the Arabic name Hashd al-Sha’abi, in Salahuddin Province.

Abdul-Mahdi, also the commander-in-chief of Iraqi forces, issued a directive “to form a fact-finding committee composed of the Joint Operations Command (JOC), representatives of the Air Force Command, Air Defense Command and Hashd al-Sha’abi to investigate what really happened at Martyrs Camp.”

Arabic-language al-Ahad TV television network reported on Friday that a drone had dropped explosives onto the base near the town of Amerli, located about 170 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad, in the early hours of the day, killing at last one PMU fighter and injuring four others.

Video footage broadcast by Iraqi channels showed a blaze burning at the site and plumes of thick smoke billowing. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Moreover, the Iraqi al-Etejah television network reported that an American B350 reconnaissance plane had flown over the area a few days earlier, Press TV reported.

## Palestinians protest Israeli-planned demolitions in West Bank village

**TEHRAN** — Dozens of Palestinians have protested a pending mass demolition plan by Israel against a village located in East Jerusalem al-Quds in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The protest was held by around 50 Palestinians at the village of Sur Baher on Saturday.

The Associated Press cited witnesses as saying that Israeli forces arrived and used tear gas canisters and stun grenades to disperse the protesters.

A wall that the Israeli regime has been building since 2000 under the pretext of keeping out the Palestinians regularly protesting the regime’s occupation and aggression runs through the village.

The regime alleges that 10 Palestinian-owned buildings have been built too close to the barrier and is set to tear them down.

In June, Israel’s supreme court rejected a petition by the owners to cancel the demolitions. A deadline for the residents to abandon the houses expired on Friday.

“I don’t have any other place to live. I don’t have an alternative,” Reuters cited Ismail Obeideh, a father of six and the owner of one of the houses, as saying.

According to Press TV, Israel claims that the owners had failed to obtain “building permits” from the regime.



## Peerless Peaty crushes 100m breaststroke world record

Britain's Adam Peaty shattered his own 100 metres breaststroke world record Sunday as he chased a third successive world title. The Olympic champion stormed home to win his semi-final in a time of 56.88 seconds, becoming the first swimmer to break 57 seconds and eclipsing his previous mark by just over two tenths. Peaty has not been beaten for five years over 100 metres breaststroke in major competition and he never looked in any danger in the second men's semi-final on day one in Gwangju. The tattooed pin-up, chasing a hat-trick of world doubles in the 50m and 100m, went out strong, turning 0.12 inside world record pace as fellow Briton James Wilby struggled to keep up. Peaty punched the air after the roar of the crowd told him he had finally broken the magical 57-second barrier. Wilby and Japan's Yasuhiro Koseki finished two seconds behind the peerless Peaty in an almost embarrassingly lopsided race. China's Yan Zibei won the first semi-final in 58.67 to qualify second behind Peaty for Monday's final.

(Source: AFP)

## Bayern beat Real 3-1 in Texas as clubs unveil new signings

Bayern Munich beat Real Madrid 3-1 in an entertaining International Champions Cup match in Houston on Saturday. Both sides gave debuts to high-profile acquisitions in a game that featured appearances from 41 different players. Real, who started with a full-strength side that included a debut for former Chelsea attacking midfielder Eden Hazard went 1-0 down after just a quarter of an hour. David Alaba cut the ball back from the left and although Corentin Tolisso's first shot was saved off the line he hammered the rebound into the roof of the net to put the Germans 1-0 ahead. Real, though, had the better of the first half with only Manuel Neuer's presence and Karim Benzema's profligacy preventing them from drawing equal in a relaxed but end-to-end match. Bayern made five changes at the start of the second half and Real made 11, with Ferland Mendy and Rodrygo for Real and defenders Lucas Hernandez and Benjamin Pavard for Bayern among the big-name off-season arrivals making their debuts. Real's young and speedy forwards started the second period on top but instead it was two of Bayern's substitutes who helped seal the result. First Robert Lewandowski held off his marker to turn midway through the second half and fire a low shot home from 12 meters out and then Serge Gnabry took advantage of sloppy defending to score from a similar position two minutes later. Rodrygo got a consolation goal from a free kick with six minutes to go after the most controversial moment of the match.

(Source: Reuters)

## Italian magistrate who led “Clean Hands” graft probes dies

Francesco Saverio Borrelli, the Italian magistrate who headed the “Clean Hands” corruption investigations in the early 1990s that swept away an entire political class, has died, his family said on Saturday. He was 89 and died in a Milan hospital. As the lead prosecutor in Italy's biggest political scandal since World War Two, Borrelli headed a probe which led to the arrest of hundreds of business and political figures and destroyed the careers of many. While the Clean Hands pool of prosecutors, which also included Antonio Di Pietro, were hailed as heroes by many Italians, people caught up in the affair still resent what they saw as a heavy-handed or even politically motivated crusade. Italy's establishment was swift to praise Borrelli's achievements on Saturday. “(He was a) magistrate of the highest order, committed to the affirmation of the supremacy and respect of the law, who faithfully served the republic,” President Sergio Mattarella said in a statement. Critics were less kind: “He led a coup against the state,” Bobo Craxi, son of former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, was quoted as saying by Italian news agencies. Craxi fled Italy in 1994 after being placed under investigation for graft by the Clean Hands team. He was convicted in absentia and died in self-imposed exile in 2000. As the old order collapsed, media mogul Silvio Berlusconi entered politics and was elected prime minister in 1994. But his rise to power only exacerbated the conflict between the judiciary and politicians, with the Clean Hands team turning its sights on Berlusconi's large business empire.

(Source: Eurosport)

## China’s Sun blazes to record fourth 400m freestyle world crown

China's Sun Yang stormed to 400 metres freestyle gold at the world swimming championships Sunday, retaining his title and winning it for a record fourth time. The controversial triple Olympic champion clocked three minutes, 42.44 seconds in Gwangju with fierce Australian rival Mack Horton taking silver in a repeat of the 2017 result. Sun, facing fresh allegations of violating doping protocols coming into the eight-day meet, slapped the water and roared in delight, savouring his moment as he sat on the lane rope. As he climbed out of the pool after claiming the first gold medal of the eight-day swimming competition, Sun pumped his fist at the crowd and bellowed in delight. Greeted by deafening cheers from flag-waving Chinese fans screaming his name, Sun sauntered onto the pool deck in headphones and goggles. After a conservative first 200m, he pulled away inexorably over the second half to claim his 10th world title. Horton claimed silver in 3:43.17 and Italian Gabriele Detti bronze in 3:43.23 for a carbon copy of the 2017 podium in Budapest. Sun and Horton have also clashed outside the pool with the Aussie labelling him a “drug cheat” before pipping him to gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics over a three-month suspension Sun previously served for taking a banned stimulant he claimed was for a heart problem.

(Source: Guardian)

# Ageless Pacquiao beats Thurman for welterweight crown



The man had a heart illness and could have gotten “excited” and “overjoyed” upon watching Thurman getting knocked down, Marikina police said, but added doctors had yet to issue a medical report.

Pacquiao is considered a national hero by many as his athletic feats have put the Philippines on the boxing map. His rags-to-riches rise from high school dropout to millionaire champion is a source

of inspiration in a nation mired in poverty. In Pacquiao's heyday, authorities said his fights stopped traffic and crime. But Pacquiao, also an elected senator, stirred controversy when he entered politics as he endorsed the death penalty and issued gay slurs in 2016 for which he later apologized. President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman hailed his ally's victory. “Our pound-for-pound King did not show any signs of intimidation as he embodied what a Filipino spirit is all about - a fighter,” Salvador Panelo said in a statement. Some Pacquiao fans said while their idol had proven his mettle, he showed signs of aging. “He can still fight but not a long bout because he gets tired. A younger fighter would have more endurance than an older fighter,” said Willieboy Ramos, 50. Pacquiao, who reversed a 2016 decision to retire, repeatedly says boxing is his passion and he still feels young. Philippine boxing chief Ed Picson said only Pacquiao could decide on his future. “His place in world boxing as a legend is secure ... He has nothing more to prove,” said Picson, secretary general of the Association of Boxing Alliances in the Philippines.

(Source: CNN)

## Zidane a ‘disgrace’ over Bale exit comments - agent



Gareth Bale's agent has branded Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane a “disgrace” after the Frenchman revealed that the La Liga giants were ready to offload the Wales star in a matter of days. Zidane left Bale out of the Real squad for Saturday's 3-1 exhibition loss to Bayern Munich in Houston, and after the match he revealed he had been dropped because the club were “working on his departure”, adding that he hoped it happens soon, “for everyone's sake”. “Zidane is a disgrace, he shows no respect for a player that has done so much for Real Madrid,” Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett told AFP. Asked whether Bale is close to leaving Madrid, Barnett added: “We are working on it”. Bale has been frozen out in Madrid by Zidane despite helping his side to a Spanish title and four Champions Leagues since arriving from Tottenham Hotspur six year ago. His brace, including a brilliant bicycle kick, sank Liverpool in the 2018 final, but he was shunted aside by Zidane as soon as he returned to the Real bench in early March. After Zidane's reappointment, Bale played 90 minutes in just three of the

remaining 11 matches, was left out completely four times and frequently substituted when he did play. He was denied a chance to say goodbye at the end of last season when he was left on the bench in a 2-0 loss to Real Betis that saw Zidane's side submerged with boos and whistles. However Zidane insists that his treatment of the 30-year-old forward “is nothing personal”, even though Bale would be welcome at some of Europe's biggest clubs. “There comes a time when things are done because they need to be done,” Zidane added after the Bayern defeat. “I've not got anything against him. We have to make decisions and change things, that's all there is to it. “I don't know if this will happen in 24 or 48 hours' time. The situation will change and it's for the best for everyone.” Bale joined Real Madrid to much fanfare, a blockbuster transfer fee and a big salary that may prove to be an obstacle for all but the richest teams. He has three seasons left on his deal and has been linked to Tottenham, Manchester United and Bayern.

(Source: AFP)

## Griezmann ‘cried with joy’ at Barca move



Antoine Griezmann admitted on Sunday that he was moved to tears of happiness when his big-money move to Barcelona finally came through after a controversial exit from former club Atletico Madrid. The World Cup winner is in Tokyo with Barca ahead of a clash with Chelsea on Tuesday after the La Liga giants shelled out 120 million euros (\$135 million) to match his release clause amid a blistering row between the player and the two clubs. “I called my father and I started crying with joy because the transfer was all done, it all was over,” Griezmann said in an interview with sports daily Marca. “I was with my friends, with my wife, with my children and it was an incredible moment.” The 28-year-old added he was targeting European glory with Barcelona after two humiliating exits for the Catalans from the Champions League in the last two years -- to Roma and Liverpool -- after throwing away commanding first-leg leads. “If you ask the fans, they will tell you (they want to win) all three titles (La Liga, Champions League and Copa del Rey), and that goes for the players and the leaders

too, and me too,” he said. Shortly after Barca had announced the signing of Griezmann, Atletico complained they and the Frenchman had negotiated the deal before the buy-out price dropped from 200 million euros at the start of July, adding that they had already “begun appropriate procedures” to defend their “rights and legitimate interests”. Spanish media claim that Atletico will go to FIFA to argue that Barca owe them more than the fee they eventually paid earlier this month. Griezmann almost signed with Barcelona a year ago but instead opted in June 2018 to sign a new five-year deal at the Wanda Metropolitano. But in May this year he announced he would be leaving at the end of the season, with Atletico claiming he told them of a deal with Barca before a 3-0 defeat to Juventus which dumped them out of the Champions League at the last 16 stage. Griezmann scored 133 goals in 257 appearances for Atletico since he joined them in 2014 from Basque club Real Sociedad, who scouted the attacker when he was just 14.

(Source: Mirror)

## Harden: New move will look like a travel; it’s not



when I'm here in the U.S., I see kids your guys' age that are working on step-backs, working on moves, because it's going to gain you an opportunity to be better than the rest of your peers. And that's what I'm going for. “So until they call it a travel, if they start calling it, I'll continue to find ways and find ways to get creative and make my impact on the game.”

James Harden says he tries to come up with something innovative every offseason, something more creative than his latest move. Two years ago, Harden perfected the step-back jumper. Last summer, the Houston Rockets guard perfected the side step-back jumper. In a Q&A session Friday with young fans at a promotional event attended by local Houston media, Harden said he will be working on yet another move this summer, and this one might make referees do a double take. Asked by one kid why he started to do “that traveling step-back,” Harden responded: “In the NBA, especially at the highest level of basketball, you got to find ways to get better every single year. You got to find ways to create an advantage every single year. And that's what I'm doing. It's not a travel. “This year, I'm going to come up with something more creative, and it's gonna look like a travel but it's not. Honestly! Even when I was on a tour, in Europe or China, or even

## De Gea saga to end with six-year deal

David De Gea's new Manchester United contract is set to keep him at Old Trafford for the next six years, sources have told ESPN FC. The Spaniard is expected to pen his new deal, worth more than £110 million, before the start of the season to bring an end to 18 months of talks. Sources told ESPN FC the goalkeeper, rated as one of the best in the world, has been given assurances that United remain committed to challenging for the Premier League and Champions League after a sixth-place finish last season saw Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side forced to settle for a place in the Europe League. His new contract will keep him at the

club until he is 34 and he will be eligible for a testimonial in two years after moving to Old Trafford from Atletico Madrid in 2011. Sources also told ESPN FC one of the reasons behind his decision to stay at United, shunning interest from Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain, was the support he received from Solskjaer during a disastrous end to

the season. A series of high profile mistakes, including a terrible gaffe in the 3-0 defeat to Barcelona at Camp Nou in April, hit his confidence, but despite calls for the 28-year-old to be dropped he kept his place -- a gesture appreciated by De Gea.

(Source: Soccernet)



# Igor Kolakovic names Iran squad for Olympic qualification

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team head coach Igor Kolakovic has announced his 13-man team for the 2019 FIVB Men's Volleyball Inter-continental Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Iran will raise the curtain on the competition with a match against Cuba on Aug. 9 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Team Melli will play Mexico and Russia in the following days, respectively.

**■ Squad:**

Saeid Marouf, Mohammad Mousavi, Milad Ebadipour, Farhad Ghaemi, Pouria Fayazi, Amir Ghafour, Mohammadjavad Manavinezhad, Ali Shafiei, Masoud Gholami, Aliasghar Mojarad, Javad Karimi, Mohammadreza Moazen and Shahram Mahmoudi.

Porya Yali and Mohammadreza Hazratpour will be added to the team after the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship ends.

**■ Men's pools:**

**Pool A:** Brazil, Egypt, Bulgaria, Puerto Rico

**Pool B:** USA, Belgium, Netherlands, Korea

**Pool C:** Italy, Serbia, Australia, Cameroon

**Pool D:** Poland, France, Slovenia, Tunisia

**Pool E:** Russia, Iran, Cuba, Mexico

**Pool F:** Canada, Argentina, Finland, China

The winners of these pools to be played in single round-robin format in August will join hosts Japan in the volleyball competition at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The Olympic qualification process will continue in January 2020 with each of the five continental confederations (AVC, CAVB, CEV, CSV, NORCECA) organizing its own Olympic qualification tournament to advance one team each per gender to Tokyo 2020.

The Olympic Games in Tokyo are from July 24 to August 9, 2020.



**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Iran claimed two more gold medals at the 2019 Asian Karate Federation Senior Championship on Sunday.

Iranian Female Team Kumite defeated Japan 2-1 in the final match and claimed a gold medal.

Iran's Male Kumite Team also took a gold medal after defeating Saudi Arabia 3-0 in the final match.

Zabihollah Poorshab (Male Kumite -84 Kg), Taravat Khaksar (Female Kumite -55) and Hamideh Abbasali (Female Kumite +68kg) had already won three gold medals in the competitions held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Female Team Kata and Rozita Alipour (Female Kumite -61kg) won two silver medals.

Bahman Askari (Male Kumite -75 Kg), Sajad

Ganjzadeh (Male Kumite +84kg), Fatemeh Sadeghi Dastak and Male Team Kata also claimed four bronze medals.

The competition brought nearly 400 competitors from 33 countries together in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Japan defended the title by winning six gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

Iran came second by claiming five gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

Uzbekistan finished in third place with three gold, one bronze and two bronze medals.

This year's edition of the AKF Senior Championship was the 16th, with the first having been held in Taiwan's capital Taipei in 1993.

## Yoshida's Singapore Lions ready to roar



Newly appointed Singapore head coach Tatsuma Yoshida is optimistic about his team's chances in Round Two of the Asian Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 despite being drawn in a tough group.

Singapore were drawn in Group D with Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Palestine and Yemen - who have all played in the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019.

The Lions, ranked 162 in the world, will face stiff competition in the qualifying campaign when they kick off against Yemen on September 5 and Palestine five days later.

Three-time AFC Asian Cup champions Saudi Arabia will be next on October 10 and Yoshida admitted Singapore face a huge challenge.

"I think it is a very tough group. We respect all the teams in the group," said the 45-year-old, the first Japanese to coach the Singapore national team.

The Chiba native signed a two-year deal with the Football Association of Singapore in May this year replacing V. Sundram Moorthy.

Yoshida however is no stranger to Singapore, having played for Jurong FC in 2002, before injury forced him to hang up his boots.

Despite the tough group, Yoshida is optimistic of Singapore's chances as he believes the players have the potential to grow.

"They are all enjoying their football and would want to continue developing their football."

The last time Singapore made an appearance in the AFC Asian Cup Finals was 35 years ago in 1984, during the time of Malek Awab, Razali Saad and David Lee, when they qualified automatically as hosts.

Singapore ended their campaign in the group stages with a win and a draw and will be aiming for a place in the Finals again in 2023.

(Source: the-afc)

## Kluivert set for Barca return in club restructure



Barcelona's director of football Pep Segura could be leaving the club in the next few days as part of a new revolution to the sporting structure of the club, sources have told ESPN FC.

Sporting director Eric Abidal will take on a role with even more responsibility in the new organization alongside his assistant Ramon Planes, while former player Patrick Kluivert will return to the club having spent the past months working as Clarence Seedorf's assistant with the Cameroon national team.

Josep Maria Bartomeu, the club's president, has been working on these changes for a couple of weeks and the position of Segura, who previously worked as Liverpool's youth academy technical manager, has been called into question within the club.

Segura's bad relationship with the

board worsened following Barca's elimination from the Champions League in the semifinals against Liverpool, who managed to overturn a 3-0 deficit from the first leg to reach the final and win the trophy. His position has weakened even more after the club's vice-president decided to resign on July 3.

Barring a surprise at the last minute, Segura will leave his position in the upcoming days and Abidal will take control of the professional football area alongside Planes. The two are preparing the team for next season and so far, they have signed Frenkie de Jong, Neto and Antoine Griezmann. They have also managed to balance the books with the sale of players who were not in Ernesto Valverde's plans such as Jasper Cillessen, Andre Gomes and Denis Suarez.

(Source: ESPN)

## Iran defend title at Indoor Hockey Asia Cup

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Iran's men won the title of the Indoor Hockey Asia Cup for the eighth time on Sunday.

The Iranian team defeated Kazakhstan 10-0 in the final match in Chonburi, Thailand.



Iran defeated Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, the Philippine and Uzbekistan en route to the final.

Earlier on the day, Malaysia claimed a bronze medal after defeating Uzbekistan 6-3.

On Saturday, Iran's women's team finished in sixth place.

The ASHF Indoor Asia Cup is an international men's and women's indoor field hockey tournament governed by the Asian Hockey Federation (ASHF).

It was introduced in 2008 for men's competition and the women's competition was added a year later in 2009.

## Iranian boxer joins professional martial arts organization

**IRNA** — Iranian boxer Mohammad Golrokh, after reaching an agreement with ARM SPORT (professional martial arts organization), has joined the prestigious sports organization and in October is going to fight in the ring in Turkey.

Golrokh, who has seriously been engaged in professional boxing for the past few years, has reached agreement with ARM SPORT, and his first fight within the organization will be in Turkey this October.

The boxer was previously fighting for the GBC professional organization and has won 2 valuable victories so far.

Golrokh's first glorious victory was in Thailand in 2016 that he succeeded in knockout of his opponent. He won his second win in the last year's Night Boxing Championship.

On August 23, the Iranian boxer will go to the ring within the framework of the GBC to seize the 91 kilogram golden belt in Thailand in -91 kilogram category.

## Brazilian Fernando Canesin on Esteghlal radar

**TASNIM** — Iranian football club Esteghlal are going to sign Brazilian attacking midfielder Fernando Canesin Matos.

The 27-year-old player is currently playing at Belgian club Oostende.

Esteghlal are going to sign Canesin as a replacement for Ayanda Patosi who joined Emirati side Bani Yas last week.

Canesin started his playing career in Anderlecht in 2011.

He has played 188 matches for Oostende and scored 19 goals.

Esteghlal have recently signed Malian forward Cheick Diabaté.

## Persepolis eye Albanian forward Bekim Balaj

**PLDC** — Bekim Abdyl Balaj is a new option to join Iranian football club Persepolis.

Balaj was a member of Russia football team Akhmat Grozny last season but left the club as a free agent upon the expiration of his contract. The 28-year-old player has played 21 times for Albania national football team and scored four goals.

Balaj has also played at Tirana, Sparta Prague and Gençlerbirliği.

Persepolis have been also linked with Bosnian striker Nermin Haskic.

The Iranian team are going to defend the title in Iran Professional League.

## Omar Abdulrahman to leave Al Hilal SFC

Saudi Arabian giants Al Hilal SFC have opted not to renew the contract of influential midfielder Omar Abdulrahman.

The United Arab Emirates international joined Al Hilal in a blaze of publicity from Al Ain last August, but was subsequently sidelined for most of the season after he damaged an anterior cruciate ligament just two months after signing for the two-time AFC Champions League runners-up.

Despite subsequently recovering from the injury, Abdulrahman is now set to leave Al Hilal after failing to agree a new contract.

"The club's management started talks with the player before our training camp in Europe, as he had asked to renew his contract before that camp even though there was still one month remaining on his contract," Al Hilal said in a statement.

"Because of his previous injury, we wanted to renew the player's contract after he had passed a medical test. The player passed the medical examination and then demanded an increase in the financial part of the contract."

"We adjusted our offer, and gave him 24 hours to reply, to make sure that we get this matter resolved quickly. We have extended the deadline several times, but we have still to receive a reply."

"We have therefore decided to end the negotiations and we thank Omar Abdulrahman for the time he spent with the club, and wish him all the best for the future."

Under recently installed head coach Razvan Lucescu, Al Hilal are scheduled to meet domestic rivals Al Ahli Saudi FC in the first leg of their 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16 showdown on August 6, before hosting the return fixture a week later.

(Source: the-afc)

## Xavi targets more success with Al Sadd SC



Spain and Barcelona great Xavi has declared that he is looking to repeat the incredible success he enjoyed as a player in his new role as head coach of Qatar giants Al Sadd SC.

The two-time FIFA World Cup winner retired from competitive football in May following a stellar career which also saw him claim a plethora of Spanish La Liga and UEFA Champions League crowns.

Having bowed out on a high thanks to 2018-19 Qatar Stars League title success as a player with Al Sadd, the 39-year-old is adamant that his thirst for silverware remains the same as his charges prepare for a new domestic campaign and knockout stage action in the 2019 AFC Champions League.

"I am grateful to Al Sadd for the trust they gave me. It is true that this is the first time for me as a coach, but it is a great feeling," he said.

"I know all the players, and the staff with me here are very experienced. They have worked with many clubs in

different countries, which will help me a lot.

"Everyone knows that I love attacking football and retaining the ball. I was used to being a winner as a player, and I now want to win [just as much] after becoming a coach."

Xavi was, however, also quick to admit that the initial

mission ahead of Al Sadd is a difficult one, not least because of the three meetings they will have with Qatari rivals Al Duhail SC next month.

Al Sadd are scheduled to face Al Duhail over two legs in the 2019 AFC Champions League Round of 16 on August 6 and 13, before tackling them once again in the Qatar Super Cup on August 17.

"Al Duhail are among the best teams not only in Qatar, but also in the Middle East," Xavi explained.

"We know them well, and we have a challenge ahead of us in both the AFC Champions League and the [Qatar] Super Cup."

"I promise Al Sadd fans that we will give our best. I can't promise the results, but we will compete strongly in all competitions and we will produce our best because we are the best team in Qatar."

(Source: the-afc)



**INTERNATIONAL DAILY**  
**www.tehrantimes.com**  
 ■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
 ■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» **Editorial Dept.:** Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
 editor@tehrantimes.com  
 » **Switchboard Operator:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
 » **Advertisements Dept.:** Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450  
 » **Public Relations Office:** Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
 » **Subscription & Distribution Dept.:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
 » **www.eshtarak.ir** Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.  
 Tel: 88911433  
 » **Webmaster:** webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
 » **Printed at:** Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
 P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
 Zip Code: 1599814713

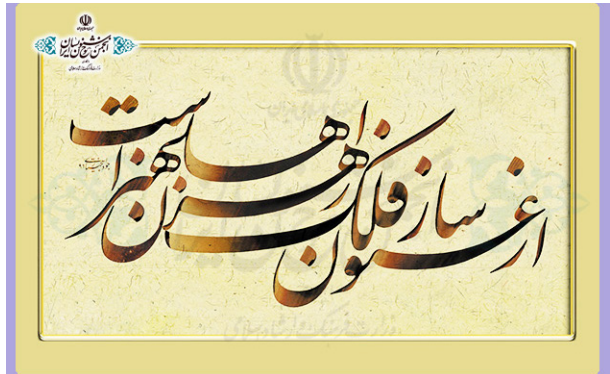
**GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Do not be insolent to him who taught you speech and do not boast of your eloquence before him who inspired your wisdom and educated you.

*Imam Ali (AS)*

## Tehran gallery showcases works by artists of Borujerdi origin

**A R T TEHRAN** — A group of top artists of Borujerdi origin is displaying a collection of their works in an exhibition at Tehran's Qoqnu Gallery. Among the artists are calligrapher Javad Bakhtiari, musician and painter Loris Tjeknavorian, painter Morteza Gudarzi-Dibaj and graphic designer Mohsen Ehteshami.



A calligraphy work by Javad Bakhtiari.

In a short speech made during the opening ceremony of the exhibition on Friday, Bakhtiari paid tribute to the late painter and poet, Mohammad-Ebrahim Jafari, who was also from the town of Borujerd in Lorestan Province.

His proposal to establish a society of Borujerdi artists was also warmly welcomed at the ceremony.

"Being from Borujerd is a great honor for me," Tjeknavorian said and added, "Whatever I have is from this land."

"Borujerd enjoys an ancient history and has been home to many prominent artists and great personalities, a number of whom I see at this exhibition," he stated.

The opening ceremony went on with an improvisation by Tjeknavorian who created a painting he called "The Spring of Borujerd". Qoqnu manager Mehran Yusefi also accompanied him with a piano recital.

A group of musicians composed of violinist Tina Yusefi, pianist Amirali Mahmudi and cellist Mahta Alinian gave a classical performance, which was accompanied by a poem recitation by Abdorreza Faridzadeh.

The exhibition will run until July 25 at the gallery located at 37 Nafisi Blvd. in the Ekbatan neighborhood.

## Iranian National Commission for UNESCO honors calligrapher Yadollah Kaboli

**1 →** Speaking during the meeting, Iranian National Commission for UNESCO director Hojjatollah Ayyubi said, "Master Kaboli helped introduce the art of Persian calligraphy to the West."

"Like florists who pick beautiful flowers, calligraphers select the best poems and remarks to inscribe and bring them to our houses. They keep our poetry and literature alive and make them more spectacular," Ayyubi said.

"There are many famous stars shining in the sky of Iran and we need more stars to shine in the sky of our land these days," he stated.

"Today the calligraphers are the standard-bearers of Iran's culture and civilization, and calligraphy is one of the major elements of Persian culture and the world of Noruz, which I call the land of the Sun," he asserted.

NLAI director Ashraf Borujerdi called Kaboli a great cultural and social asset of the country who has made great efforts to transfer the precious art of calligraphy to the younger generations.

"Master Kaboli has offered us a written history of knowledge of this country with his precious inscriptions over the past 50 years," Borujerdi concluded.

An exhibition Kaboli's calligraphy works also opened at the library on Saturday.

Among Kaboli's noteworthy credits is his book "Sama in Sama", a 352-page book published by the Gooya House of Culture and Art in 2015. The book contains a selection of Kaboli's shekasteh nastaliq.

# Prometheus Theater to perform "Hippolytus" at Arcate d'arte Festival

**A R T TEHRAN** — The Iranian troupe Prometheus Theater will be performing their latest production "Hippolytus" during the Arcate d'arte Festival in the Italian city of Bergamo on Friday, the organizers have announced.

Farzad Amini is the director of the troupe and a cast composed of Hadis Bahrani-Yarahmadi, Bahram Abbassifar, Zahra Suri, Raha Soleimani, Rozita Sabzeqabaei, Ali Tarimi and Niayesh Nahavandi.

"Hippolytus" is the Ancient Greek tragedy of Euripides, in which Hippolytus' stepmother Phaedra falls in love with him.

The play represents a lucid image of depravity and its social consequences. Hippolytus is the symbol of a human chivalry destined to fail in a society, in which everyone pursues their own individual satisfaction.

Amini will also hold a session to discuss the topic "Tragedy and Tragic Body".

"The tragic body of the actor for me is the modern expression of the spirit of tragedy and the theater is the instrument to operate on the 'form'," Amini said in a statement published by the festival's organizers.

The Arcate d'arte Festival is organized every year by the Teatro Tascabile di Bergamo, which was founded in 1973 by Renzo Vescovi.

The festival opened on June 1 and will run until August 31.



A member of Iranian director Farzad Amini's troupe Prometheus Theater acts in a scene from Euripides' "Hippolytus" at Tehran's Hafez Hall on June 29, 2016.

## Documentary and Experimental Film Center to review "Beloved"



A scene from "Beloved" by Yaser Talebi.

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) will screen Yasser Talebi's acclaimed documentary "Beloved" today.

The screening session will be followed by a review session, which will be attended by Talebi and critic Nima Abbaspur, the DEFC announced in a press release published on Sunday.

"Beloved" 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 documentary has received many awards at several international festivals.

The most recent honors were bestowed on July 13 during the Sole Luna Doc Film Festival in Palermo, Italy. The film received the best photography award and the High School Students Award in the Journey Section.

It was also honored at the 67th Trento Film Festival in May in Italy. The film received the jury special mention and a UNESCO honorable mention.

In addition, "Beloved" has taken first place among the top five mid-length films selected by audience votes at the Hot Docs festival in Canada, Toronto in May.

The screening session is open to the public at the center.

## "Axing" star Sara Bahrami named best at Malaysia Golden Global Awards



Sara Bahrami acts in a scene from "Axing" by Behruz Shoeibi.

**A R T TEHRAN** — Sara Bahrami won the award for best actress for her role in the Iranian drama "Axing" at the 3rd Malaysia Golden Global Awards, a public relations team for the movie announced on Sunday.

"Axing" by director Behruz Shoeibi was nominated in six categories, including best film, best director, best actor and best actress.

The film is about Mahsa, an addicted woman who thinks that her girl is dead but when she finds out that

her daughter is alive and lives with her father (Mahsa's ex-husband), she decides to take her back. This forces her to face her ex-husband and his new wife.

"Axing" has also won the AAFCCJ Award, which is presented by the Armenian Association of Film Critics and Cinema Journalists at the 16th Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan, Armenia on July 16.

It also won the audience award at the London Iranian Film Festival in November 2018.

## Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra to perform in Milad Tower

**A R T TEHRAN** — The Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra will give a concert under the baton of conductors Loris Tjeknavorian and Arash Amini

at Milad Tower on August 3.

Pieces by Farhad Fakhreddini, Hossein Dehlavi and several other Iranian composers have been selected to be

performed during the concert.

The orchestra will perform in company with distinguished Iranian saxophonist Foad Hejazi.

## "Star Trek" favorites to return with Patrick Stewart in "Picard"

**SAN DIEGO (Reuters)** — The upcoming "Star Trek" series about Jean-Luc Picard will reunite the beloved starship commander with android officer Data and other characters from the long-running space franchise, the cast revealed to fans at San Diego Comic-Con on Saturday.

British actor Patrick Stewart, who is returning to the role of Picard that he played from 1987 to 1994 in the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" as well as four feature films, unveiled a trailer for the new series in front of 6,500 fans who packed a convention hall.

The footage from "Star Trek: Picard" included surprise appearances by Data (Brent Spiner) from "Next Generation" and Seven of Nine (Jeri Ryan) from "Star Trek: Voyager." Both actors joined Stewart on stage and drew loud applause and cheers.

Stewart, 79, had repeatedly refused efforts to lure him back as Picard. Discussions with writers of the new series changed his mind, Stewart said.

"I knew something very unusual was going to happen and I wanted to be a part of it," Stewart said. "I'm very, very happy to be here."



British actor Patrick Stewart speaks at San Diego Comic-Con in San Diego, California, U.S. July 20, 2019. (Reuters/Lisa Richwine)

"Picard", set to be released next year, will be available in the United States on CBS Corp's CBS All Access streaming service and in 200 other markets on Amazon.com Inc's Prime Video.

The new series will pick up Picard's life 20 years after the character last appeared on screen. The trailer showed a retired Picard living a quiet life running a family vineyard until he meets a young woman in danger and puts together a new crew to return to space.

"What the hell are you doing out here, Picard? Saving the galaxy?" Seven of Nine asks.

Other returning stars from "Next Generation" include Jonathan Del Arco (Hugh), Jonathan Frakes (Riker) and Marina Sirtis (Troi).

Executive producer Alex Kurtzman said the new series shows Picard at a time when he is questioning some of his life choices but still "standing up for what matters."

"Age has not changed his resolve. It's just changed his circumstances," Kurtzman said. "Picard has to soul search, and to soul search you need a dark night of the soul to come out lighter and brighter."

Producers also announced they plan to release six new "Short Treks" episodes of 10 to 15 minutes each. One will be a teaser for the "Picard" series. They also are at work on a "Star Trek" podcast and animated series "Lower Decks."

## Jolie in "Eternals", Ali as "Blade" highlight Marvel's new slate

**SAN DIEGO (Reuters)** — Walt Disney Co's Marvel Studios on Saturday unveiled a slate of upcoming superhero films that includes "The Eternals" starring Angelina Jolie, "Blade" featuring Mahershala Ali, and a "Thor" sequel with Natalie Portman as a female Thor.

The announcements at San Diego Comic-Con charts Marvel's course following the April release of mega-blockbuster "Avengers: Endgame", which Disney said was set to top 2009 film "Avatar" by Sunday as the highest-grossing movie of all time.

Jolie appeared on stage in front of 6,500 cheering fans, along with other "Eternals" cast members including Kumail Nanjiani and Salma Hayek. The story about a group of immortal aliens is set for release in November 2020.

"I'm going to work 10 times harder," Jolie

said when asked how she would approach the role. "We all know what the task is ahead, and we know what you deserve, and so we are all going to be working very hard so I am in training and thrilled."

Disney also revealed it will release "Thor: Love and Thunder," the fourth movie in the "Thor" series, in November 2021. Portman will take up the superhero's hammer as a female goddess of thunder.

The films are part of Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) that started with 2008's "Iron Man."

Other coming movies include "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness", which director Scott Derrickson described as "the first scary MCU movie" and "Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings" starring Simu Liu, Awkwafina and Chinese actor Tony Leung.