



**Every year Iran facing a new sedition** **2**



**Over 3,000 Armenians on pilgrimage at St. Thaddeus Monastery** **10**



**Allegations of Hezbollah ruling Lebanon aimed at public provocation** **13**



**Children impressed by “Am I a Wolf?” at Russia Insomnia animation festival** **16**

## Oman's Bin Alawi holds talks with Zarif

**All countries must follow intl. navigation law: Shamkhani**

**See page 2**



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## Iran to increase commercial attachés in region

**By Ebrahim Fallahi**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's new deputy industry minister in trade affairs, Hossein Modares Khabani, said following the government's policies for increasing the country's trade with the neighbors, 10 new commercial attachés are going to be sent to neighboring countries.

Currently Iran has commercial attachés in five of its neighboring countries including Armenia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey and Pakistan and will “increase the number to

fifteen to have attachés in all the neighboring countries.”

Asked by Tehran Times about the new deputy office's plans for boosting foreign trade, Modares noted that the trade deputy of the industry ministry will be following two major policy lines, one is managing the domestic market to control the balance of the supply and demand of basic goods and to prevent inflation and the second is to increase the country's foreign trade, especially exports. **→4**

## Iran, second innovation economy in central, southern Asia: GII

**TEHRAN** — Iran is the second innovation economy in central and southern Asia, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 report.

The 2019 edition of GII report, published on July 24, dedicated to the theme Creating Healthy Lives—The Future of Medical Innovation. This edition sheds light on the role of medical innovation as

it determines the future of healthcare in the next decades.

The GII 2019 is the result of a collaboration between Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) as co-publishers, and their knowledge partners. Every year, GII ranks the innovation performance of nearly 130 economies around the world. **→11**

## Bahrain executes three activists despite intl. protests

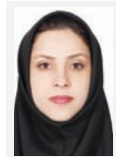
**TEHRAN** — Bahrain has executed three pro-democracy activists on two separate cases, defying widespread calls to commute the death sentences handed to the prisoners in an “unfair” mass trial.

Ahmad al-Malali, 24, and Ali Hakimal-Arab, 25, were executed at Jaw prison, south of the Bahraini capital Manama, on Friday after private meetings with their families.

Al-Malali and al-Arab were sen-

tenced to death last year in a mass trial along with another 56 men who were convicted and given jail terms on “terrorism crimes”.

The Public prosecutor's office announced the men were put to death on charges of possessing firearms and killing a police officer. The opposition al-Wefaq society condemned the executions as extrajudicial. **→13**



## ARTICLE

**Mahnaz Abdi**  
Head of the TehranTimes  
Economy Desk

## Reviving small mines on agenda

**E**stablishment of high-capacity industrial units recently in Iran indicates the need for the supply of more minerals as feedstock for these units.

And this reason besides some other ones such as sanctions on the country's economic sector have encouraged mining sector to revive the small mines which constitute 98 percent of mines in the country.

Previously, due to lack of liquidity and infrastructure, exploration projects were not seen economically viable for these mines, but now they have come under the spotlight.

And in this regard, mining sector has put a plan for reviving and renovating small mines on the agenda of its activity.

Khodadad Gharibpour, the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), has mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of “Resistance Economy”, saying that IMIDRO is strongly determined to carry out it.

The official said reviving small mines stands among the top priorities of IMIDRO in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2019).

For materializing the objective of reviving small mines, different strategies are being suggested by the related officials.

Saying that many of the small mines can be revived through a processing operation, Vajihollah Ja'fari, the managing director of Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company, suggests that the investor provides a guarantee on purchase to investee (operator of mining project), or vice versa, the investee provides a guarantee on sales to the investor.

Special facilities are also offered for reviving the small mines.

Farid Dehqan, the managing director of Mining Investment and Activities Insurance Fund, has said that this fund is due to pay loans with the interest rate of lower than 18 percent to the projects for reviving small mines.

He said reviving and renovating small mines is a national plan in line with the policies of “Resistance Economy”.

While the government is seriously following up the plan for reviving small mines, private sector's contribution is also highly needed in this field. **→4**

## Why Farsi is regaining importance abroad?

**By Quayyum Raja**

**MASHHAD** — Persian language was once a major language in present day Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Central Asia and South Asia. The Persian civilization made a significant contribution towards the development of scientific knowledge and culture. Even Germany's national poet Goethe as well as French professor Kalam of Sorbonne University and a famous Orientalist Arthen A. Pope were impressed by the contribution of the Persian civilization and described Iran as one of four main bodies of world literature. Ibn Sine's “Qanun Fi-Al-Tibb or the Canon of Medicine as described in the West, remained an unmatched Text till the 16th century and Seyyed Esmael Jorjani was one of the pioneers of the traditional medicines in 11th and 12th centuries. The contri-

bution of the leading Persian poet Abu al Qasim Ferdowsi, Sadi Shiraz, Jalaal Ud Deen (Rumi) and even Dr. Muhammad Iqbal from Kashmiri background, (alia Iqbal Lahori), who never visited Iran, but made an outstanding contribution to the Persian literature.

However, Iran badly suffered from incessant foreign invasions and its pace in the history of knowledge was slowed down, but as a heroic, somber and persistent nation, she did not allow the adversity to halt the progress. This NATURAL & NURTURED ability of the great Iranian people have once again been noted in the face of 40 years old economic sanctions imposed as a result of Islamic Revolution, which has only increased their resolve. It is this particular quality of the people of Iran, which has earned them a

trust and respect regionally and internationally among righteous and principled people.

I arrived here in Ferdowsi University only 3 weeks ago. I have seen students from Britain, European Union, Russia, Middle East, China and South Asia, who study Persian. I found it very interesting and decided to interview them about the increasing interest in Persian language and literature abroad. As the British and EU people believe in a practical wisdom, they said they wanted to study Persian for professional reasons. They have been sent by their states, which will employ them in required institutions. The Russian and Chinese said they were studying Persian as their personal interest, while the students from South Asia said they had a cultural link with Iran. **→16**

## Sanders: Not America's job to hate Iran or love Israel

**TEHRAN** — Vermont Senator and 2020 presidential hopeful Bernie in a Friday interview with Pod Save America said it is not the United States' proper role to hate a country such as Iran or love another one such as Israel.

“... what we need to do is not say we're 100% pro-Israel or 100% Pro Saudi Arabia. We hate Iran, we hate the Palestinians—that is not the role that the United States of America should be playing,” he said.

“We got to bring people together and say, you know what? We spend a whole lot of money not only in aid to Israel and to Egypt, we have spent trillions of dollars on the war on terror. Alright, we are going to sit down and by the way, I've been critical about Trump every single day of his administration, but one area I'm not critical of. He went to sit down with Kim Jong Un. You know what? I think that's okay. I think that's

the right thing to do. And I, as president of the United States will sit down in a room with the leadership of Saudi Arabia, with the leadership of Iran, with the leadership of the Palestinians, with the leadership of Israel and hammer out some damn agreements which will try to end the conflicts that exist there.”

“I mean we are giving large sums of money look, let me let me back it up before the tweets start flowing in—I lived in Israel. Actually, I worked in a kibbutz for a number of months. I have family in Israel. I am Jewish. I am not anti-Israel. Okay, I believe that the people of Israel have absolutely the right to live in peace, independence and security. End of discussion—that is what I fervently believe,” Sanders said.

“But I think what has happened is in recent years under Netanyahu, you have an extreme right-wing government with many racist ten-

dencies. The role of the United States and this is not easy—you know, believe me—Clinton tried it, Obama tried it, Jimmy Carter tried it. This is not easy stuff—is to try to finally bring peace to the Middle East and to treat the Palestinian people with a kind of respect and dignity they deserve.”

“Our policy cannot just be pro-Israel pro-Israel pro-Israel. It has got to be pro-region working with all of the people, all of the countries in that area and it's a similar position—and Hillary Clinton and I had a bit of a disagreement on this in 2016—Saudi Arabia is a vicious ugly dictatorship. That's what it is, you got to call it out. That's what it is. They do not tolerate dissent, they treat women like third-class citizens and yet they have been on wonderful ally. We followed them into this terrible war in Yemen where I'm proud to say, I helped lead the effort to get us out of that terrible war.”



## PERSPECTIVE

**Saeed Sadraian**  
Journalist

## The reflection of “the powerful Iran” in the land of revelation

**N**ow that thousands of Iranian pilgrims are on their spiritual journey to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina; it is a good time to see how Saudis and other Muslims treat Iranian citizens.

We have been in Saudi Arabia for 20 days now. I can feel the presence of other pilgrims in the soft breeze of their breath that has filled the air; the endless rows of pilgrims who are standing side by side and are praying in one direction has created a beautiful view.

In addition to this indescribable spiritual feeling that has filled the place, one other thing that catch our eyes is the different treatment that the Iranians receive this year. This new treatment has particularly surprised the Iranians who have been on Hajj Pilgrimage before.

Up to now, the Saudi officers' behavior toward Iranians has been very different from previous years. Most of people who have witnessed this different behavior over the last 20 days believe that this new attitude is a reaction to the power of Iran and the confidence that it has displayed in dealing with regional issues.

Capturing the American drone, seizing the British ship in Persian Gulf, and other numerous achievements of Iran in the region have had a great influence on Saudis and they have come to better understand a new reality called “the powerful Iran.”

Here, the subject of Iran's power in the region come up in every conversation we have with Mecca residents or other Muslims. It seems that Iran's resistance toward Americans has not only made Iranians proud, but it has also made other Muslims feel great joy and pride.

Both Shi'ite and Sunni Yemeni Muslims treat us with great respect and call us brothers. Other Muslims from Indonesia, Palestine Bangladesh and other countries show the same intimate and kind behavior toward us.

In one of the Congregational Prayers (jama'ah) we went to, a Palestinian Sunni man was standing next to me in the Maghrib prayer (sunset prayer); when I told him that I was Iranian, he put his hand on his heart and told me in Arabic, “your place is in our hearts.”

Obviously, this level of respect and admiration is rooted in the power of the Islamic Republic and the firm stance it has taken toward its enemies; a position that we have to keep maintaining. Hajj Pilgrimage is a good opportunity to assess the outcome of the confident and successful policies that we have taken both in national and international arenas.



© Tehran Times/ Ali Ezzati

## Festival of local games held in Javaher Dasht

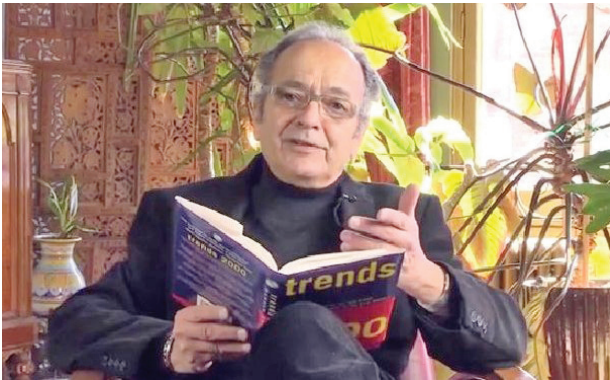
A traditional festival of local games was held in the northern village of Javaher Dasht on July 25 and 26, 2019, highlighted by various outdoor games, competitions, and entertaining programs.

The tourist village is located some 2,000 meters above sea level in Siahkalrood rural district, Chaboksar county, Gilan province.



## Expert: War on Iran? ‘Kiss the global economy goodbye’

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — If geopolitical tensions with Iran continue to escalate, we could be headed for a full scale war with catastrophic consequences on the economy, according to Gerald Celente, economic expert and publisher of The Trends Journal.



“When you have people that we are actually listening to, with brains the size of Bolton and Pompeo, you know we’re in trouble. And you know, when all else fails, they’ll take you to war,” Celente told Kitco TV in an interview on Friday. “If things keep heating up, and the people in power keep needing pressure to change things and directions, for whatever mental derangement they have in their minds, this could blow up against Iran and Iran is not going to put up with being attacked.”

## Iran should sell its oil: British ambassador

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — British Ambassador to Tehran Robert Macaire has said that Iran should sell its oil and Britain supports legitimate trade of Iran’s oil.

“We support legitimate trade of Iran’s oil and consider it a part of legitimate economic activities of Iran. We think Iran should be able to sell its oil and this issue should be told to the United States,” he told the Etemad daily in an interview published on Saturday.

He noted, “We have clearly said that we support the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal] and removal of sanctions is a part of the JCPOA which makes it possible for Iran to sell its oil. This is our position which we have announced to the United States clearly.”

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington in May 2018 from the JCPOA, which was reached between Iran and six world powers in 2015.



Afterwards, Washington re-imposed sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the deal and ordered new ones.

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

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

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

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

**■ ‘Europeans make any effort to implement JCPOA’**  
Ambassador Macaire also said that the Europeans are making any effort to implement the JCPOA and make sure that Iran is gaining economic benefits of the deal.

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Helga Schmid said on July 11 that countries outside the European Union will join INSTEX.

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

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

France, Germany, and the UK, the three European parties to the JCPOA, issued a statement on July 14 reiterating their support for the deal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Quds Force chief: Every year Iran facing a new sedition

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Over the past forty years, each year the Islamic Republic has been facing a new sedition, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps extra-territorial branch, the Quds Force, has said, emphasizing the role the clergy play in leading the country through the harsh times.

Speaking at a clerical event in the central city of Kerman on Saturday, Qassem Soleimani said the Islamic Republic is already past “major seditions”.

In particular, Soleimani pointed to the role of Imam Khomeini during and after the Islamic revolution and now by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

He also said, “There is a fundamental difference between the Shia clergy and others, namely the fact that the Shias do not have stratified categorization of clerics.”

“Quite to the contrary, the [Shia] clergy propagates abolition of stratification, unless on basis of virtue.”

In his capacity as commander of the Quds Force, Soleimani recently appointed



former Kerman mayor Mohammad Jalal-ma'ab as new chief at the Headquarters for

Reconstruction of the Holy Shrines in Iraq. Soleimani also appointed the former

chief of the headquarters, Hassan Polarak, as head of the center’s financial unit, Fars reported.

Polarak worked as an adviser to Vice-President Es’haq Jahangiri for several months in 2016.

The Headquarters for Reconstruction of the Holy Shrines has been active in Iraq since 2003, when it was established based on advice by Ayatollah Khamenei. Its mission is to reconstruct and renovate holy Shia sites in Iraq.

The headquarters’ activities in Iraq have been officially defined as “religious and urban development activities in Iraq.” It is active in various Iraqi cities including Najaf and Karbala, where major Shia shrines are located. It also has an office in Syria that is tasked with the reconstruction of Shia shrines in that country.

Some 3,000 Iranians are said to be working with the headquarters in Iraq.

The development projects usually combine religious activities with tourism, placing hotels, restaurants, shops and parking areas next to refurbished shrines.

## Oman’s Bin Alawi holds talks with Zarif in Tehran

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah held talks in Tehran on Saturday with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif. There were no details of the talks.

The Omani Foreign Ministry had announced that this visit was within the framework of bilateral relations, consultations between the two countries and recent regional developments.

Alawi, whose country has acted as an intermediary between Iran and the United States in the past, made a similar visit to Iran in May.

The visit took place as tensions have been escalating in the Persian Gulf region.

After the meeting, Zarif wrote a post on his Twitter page that read saying, “Very pleased to host my distinguished friend Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Oman’s FM, in Tehran today. Discussed effects of the US’ #EconomicTerrorism on Iran; bilateral relations, regional developments & security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.”

The United States has sent aircraft carriers, B-52 bombers, F-22 fighter jets, and several hundred troops to the region to counter what it claims Iran’s threats to the interests of America and its regional allies.

The tension is simmering as Iranian forces on July 19 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. The seizure took place 15 days after British forces impounded a supertanker carrying the Iranian oil in Gibraltar. Britain captured the supertanker by claiming that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions.

Sources who have talked on condition of anonymity have said the main goal of the Omani chief diplomat’s trip to Tehran is to help settle the current oil tanker standoff between Iran and Britain.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in a tweet on July 20, said Iran’s conduct towards the British tanker had



Oman’s FM (L) and Shamkhani embrace each other

**After a meeting with the Omani foreign minister, Zarif said in a tweet that he “discussed effects of the U.S economic terrorism on Iran; bilateral relations, regional developments and security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.”**

been fully within international maritime rules.

“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.”

## Russia urges UK, France and Germany to uphold nuclear deal obligations

*By staff and agency*  
Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called on Iran to exercise restraint and urged the UK, France and Germany to meet their obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

Speaking at a BRICS foreign ministers meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Lavrov said the U.S. steps against Iran has led to a harsh escalation in the Persian Gulf region, according to Anadolu news agency.

If the U.S. manages to break the Iran nuclear deal, it will strike a severe blow at the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, he added.

France, Germany, and the UK, the three European parties to the JCPOA, issued a statement on July 14 reiterating their support for the deal.

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani

has said Europe’s support for the nuclear deal remains just on the paper.

According to the JCPOA, which put limits on Iran’s nuclear activities, economic and financial sanctions against Iran must be terminated.

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

In follow-up to that deadline, on July 7 Iran announced that it has started enriching uranium to a higher purity than the 3.67% as the Europeans missed the 60-day deadline



to devise a concrete mechanism to protect the country from the U.S. sanctions.

Iran says a reduction in its nuclear commitments is based on Paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

(Paragraph 36 provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.)

## Tehran, Moscow to cooperate on non-ionizing radiation safety

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran and Russia will be cooperating in non-ionizing radiation safety, a division of the nuclear science, according to the outcome of a recent meeting between officials on the two sides.

Oleg Grigoryev, the chairman of the Russian Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Committee, on Saturday met with the head of Iran’s Center for Nuclear Safety System Hojjatollah Salehi to discuss venues for cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the expansion of cooperation in the field of safety of non-ionizing

radiation, including cellular antennas, IRNA reported.

Grigoryev holds the highest scientific medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences and has specialized in scientific and research activities for over 25 years.

He has been a member of the World Health Organization’s Committee of IAC-EMF since 2005 as the representative of the Russian Federation.

He traveled to Iran at the invitation of the Center for Nuclear Safety System of Iran to participate in a scientific seminar in line with exchanging the latest scientific findings and the transfer of Russia’s experience in the field.



## UK daily warns Iranian military strength may overpower British forces amid tensions

**(Press TV)** — The UK’s Daily Express paper has published a report, featuring a “shock chart”, illustrating that Iranian military strength may overpower that of Britain in various key aspects.

“A comparison of the UK and Iran’s military strength shows Britain falling behind when it comes to manpower, land and naval strength and petroleum resources,” reported the paper on Saturday.

The report cited data released by the Global Fire Power (GFP) group, demonstrating that Iran held a better standing among much of the criteria commonly used to compare a country’s potential strength for a potential military standoff.

The paper highlighted that Iran benefited from a superior number of military personnel, combat tanks, naval and artillery assets, along with nearly 40 million people fit for

service, nearly double the amount of people available to the UK.

The article also highlighted that Iran enjoyed the advantage of a significantly higher daily oil production rate, nearly five times that of Britain, adding that GFP analysts branded oil resources as the “lifeblood” needed to sustain military campaigns.

The paper noted, however, that Britain had more superior air power compared to Iran.

The comparison is, however, far from being a comprehensive one, relying solely on a rudimentary and numerical analysis of military strength. The comparison also leaves out asymmetrical military capabilities, a key factor in Iran’s defense doctrine.

The UK paper published the report citing fears of a probable military confrontation between the two countries.



# Ambassador Baeidinejad censures Jeremy Hunt's Iran policy

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to London Hamid Baeidinejad has criticized former British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt for increasing Tehran-London tensions, saying Hunt missed the chance to help Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe's release.

"During Foreign Secy Hunt's tenure, the UK's Iran policy was an abject failure; increasing tension and culminating in confrontation in the Persian Gulf after the UK's illegal confiscation of Iranian oil. Major efforts needed to de-escalate, and to move toward better understanding," Baeidinejad said in a tweet on Saturday.

On July 4, British Royal Marines in Gibraltar stormed the Iran-operated supertanker Grace 1 off the coast of Gibraltar, seizing the 300,000-ton vessel based on the accusation that it was carrying oil to Syria in possible violation of the European Union's sanctions on the war-torn Arab country.

Iran condemned the seizure of the tanker as "maritime piracy", vowing to employ all its political and legal capacities to secure the release of the vessel and uphold its rights.

Iran also denied that the supertanker was carrying oil to Syria.

Last week, tensions between Tehran and



London further escalated when Iranian forces 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.

After the incident, the British government

advised UK ships "to stay out of" the Strait of Hormuz "for an interim period."

In another tweet on Saturday, Baeidinejad said, "Mr. Hunt also wasn't able to help Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe's release, as he confused his role as a diplomat with that of a politician whose rhetoric is designed to satisfy the public. Had he continued the diplomacy his predecessor started, her case might've been resolved."

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 38, has been imprisoned in Iran for more than three years on charges of trying to orchestrate a soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic.

Last month, her husband announced that she had begun a new hunger strike to protest against her detention.

The hunger strike was followed by demonstrators protesting outside the Iranian embassy in London while blocking the entrance to the building.

"A few demonstrators continue to block today sole entrance of Iran's Embassy in London and prevented the diplomats to enter into the building," Baeidinejad said in a tweet on June 16. "Saturdays and Sundays are working days in Iran and diplomatic staff arrange some parts of their work with their capital in these two days."

## Iranians fully ready to confront aggressors

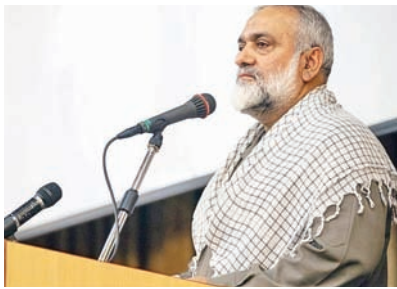
**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for coordination affairs said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic and the proud nation of Iran are fully prepared to defend the country's territories and confront any aggressor.

Pointing to the failure of conspiracies hatched by the enemies against Iran since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi said today the enemies have no power to confront the Islamic Republic.

"The enemies are totally drained and we should make use of their mistakes and errors as an opportunity to advance our big goals," Naqdi said, according to Tasnim.

The remarks came against the backdrop of rising tensions between Iran and certain Western countries, the U.S. in particular.

The Tehran-Washington tensions escalated in recent months, especially after a U.S. drone intruded into Iranian airspace and was shot down, after sever-



al warnings, by the IRGC, which the U.S. had, in a belligerent move, designated as a terrorist organization. The intruding drone was reportedly downed by homegrown air defense missile system "Khordad-3rd".

"Those who guided the drone received the warnings but did not care. Given that the drone breached Iran's airspace, the aerospace unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps shot it down," Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the aerospace unit of the IRGC, said while exhibiting the drone's wreckage.

## IRGC border guard killed in clashes with terrorists

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — An IRGC border guard was killed on Friday during clashes with terrorist groups in Iran's western province of Kurdistan.

In a statement, the IRGC said the serviceman, named Seyyed Hadi Ojagh, was injured in the clashes in the city of Sarvabad and later died en route to the hospital.

A number of terrorists were also killed and wounded while a large amount of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed, the statement said.

It added that forces of the IRGC launched a manhunt after a number of the terrorists managed to run away.

In recent weeks, several clashes between IRGC and terrorists have broken out in western borders.

On July 2, IRGC forces dismantled a terrorist cell in the region while they were trying to infiltrate into Iranian territories.



The IRGC announced that another terrorist team that came to support the first cell were also disbanded on July 3. Also a terrorist attack claimed the lives of three IRGC servicemen on July 9 in Piranshahr, West Azarbaijan Province. The IRGC is tasked with protecting Iran's northwestern and southeastern borders.

Last week, two IRGC soldiers were killed in an armed clash with a group of terrorists in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

## Italy after de-escalation of tensions in Persian Gulf, ambassador says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Italian Ambassador to Tehran Giuseppe Perrone has said his country's goal is to reduce the tensions in the Persian Gulf, calling on Tehran to return to implementing the 2015 nuclear agreement which was unilaterally ditched last year by the United States.

"Our objective for sure is reducing tension because what's happening in the Persian Gulf is the symptom of a wider crisis, where every action generates a counter-reaction with the risk of provoking further conflict," Perrone told ADNKRONS news agency on the sidelines of a conference attended by Italian ambassadors to other countries, which took place last week in Rome.

Under these conditions the first thing to do is to lay the basis for mutual confidence between the parties and trigger a virtuous circle which is not there yet, he said.

A virtuous circle whereby Iran goes back to implementing the nuclear deal and in return receives the economic benefits that descend from that deal, he added.

The Italian envoy also said by nature negotiation implies a quid pro quo, adding

that only negotiation "can solve the current crisis, which requires finding a formula that would permit Iran to sit at the negotiation table, which is a shared objective in the international community."

Perrone also said INSTEX is an instrument with good potential but by itself is by no means sufficient, nor would it represent that change in paradigm that is required by Iran to normalize the situation.

**Ambassador Perrone says INSTEX is an instrument with good potential but by itself is by no means sufficient, nor would it represent that change in paradigm that is required by Iran to normalize the situation.**



## Iran should welcome de-escalation gesture with Arab neighbors, MP says

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** - Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, is of the opinion that Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region are seeking to de-escalate tension in the region, a movement which he says Iran should welcome.

"We should move towards de-escalation. Tension is a reality in Iran's foreign policy. Iran has many enemies that naturally cause tension. This situation should be managed. This is the opposite pint of Trump's policy of increasing tension," he told ISNA in an interview published on Saturday.

He noted, "Today, certain countries such as Saudi Arabia and the Emirates [the United Arab Emirates] have adopted a different stance which shows a kind of green light to de-escalate tension in the region. These countries have reached the conclusion that insecurity in the region harms them."

Abdullah al-Muallemi, the Saudi envoy to the United Nations, said on July 18 that Saudi Arabia seeks "diplomatic interactions" with Iran.

"Saudi Arabia does not want war with Iran, neither in Yemen and nor anywhere else," the Mehr news agency quoted him as saying. Mohammad Javad Jamali Nobandegani, the deputy chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, has said that Saudi Arabia can be a "strategic partner" of Iran if it abandons following the United States.

"If Saudi Arabia abandons animosity and stops blindly obeying America it can have a good strategic partner like the Islamic



Republic, which will be to the benefit of all regional countries and Muslims," Jamali Nobandegani told ISNA in an interview published on Friday. The MP said Iran and Saudi Arabia have a common religion and have joint borders," he said.

He added that Iran has always "extended hands of friendship to its neighbors", citing Qatar as an example in which Iran opened its arms to the country when it was surrounded from land, sea and air by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Iran has always announced that it has no fundamental problem with its neighbors and extends hands of friendship to them. As a powerful country in the Persian Gulf region, we are ready to be a

safe harbor for our neighbors," he noted.

Among the six countries member to the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Iran enjoys good relationship with Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait.

Iran also had good relationship with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. However, Saudi Arabia and the UAE changed their policy toward Iran as Tehran seriously entered nuclear negotiations with the 5+1 countries — the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany — to end more than a decade of nuclear standoff with the West. Saudi Arabia was so unhappy with the negotiations that it even sent its then foreign minister Saudi al-Faisal to Vienna, the venue of the talks, in November 2014 to undermine the process of nuclear negotiations.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also unhappy with Iran which has strongly criticized their senseless war on fellow Arab nation of Yemen. Iran has also condemned the Saudi suppression of pro-democracy movements in Bahrain.

In addition, the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia started nosediving with the new leadership in Riyadh. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has used the worst insults against Iran and compared Iran to the Nazi Germany. Donald Trump, a real estate magnate who took the helm at the White House in 2016, has also misused the frosty relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia to sell more arms to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has proposed non-aggression pact with regional Arab states to invalidate claims by the Trump administration that Iran is a threat to its southern Arab neighbors.

## Solving Persian Gulf crises entails collective wisdom: envoy

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's ambassador to Ecuador d e s k has said solving the crises facing the Persian Gulf region requires multilateral efforts and collective wisdom.

It is vital to discuss the Persian Gulf issue with figures who can contribute to resolving the challenges in the region, Saadat Aghajani said, Mehr reported.



He made the remarks at a meeting on Friday, attended by Ecuadorian professors, diplomats, media people and managers of think-tanks on the situation in the region and the U.S. destructive intervention.

The envoy criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive policies toward Tehran, saying, since Trump took office more than two years ago, Washington has shown various violent behaviors against other countries.

The U.S. attempt to create a war coalition with neighboring countries, its unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, signing big arms contracts to turn the region into a big bomb, imposing sanctions against Iran which are the signs of economic terrorism, and sending more troops to the region, as well as using psychological, intelligence and cyberwar against Iran and breaching the territorial integrity and political borders are among the U.S. warmongering and hostile activities, the ambassador explained.

Aghajani also described Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as one of the main opponents of stability in the region, saying he was after annulling the nuclear deal since the very beginning of its implementation.

He also criticized Saudi Arabia and the UAE for their positions that clearly undermine the regional interests.

The ambassador emphasized that mutual understanding and respecting the sovereignty of other states will be vital as well as removing sanctions in helping improve the region's situation.

## Iran-France relations undergo rapprochement

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Iranian embassy in Paris said that Iran-France relations have undergone rapprochement in light of presidential contacts and consultations to save the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Iranian embassy in a Twitter thread referred to various phone conversations between President Hassan Rouhani and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and also those between Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and France's Jean-Yves Le Drian as examples of indices in drawing the prospect of new chapters in two countries relations.



It also pointed to exchange of diplomatic delegations like Macron's senior diplomatic aide Emmanuel Bonne, Marielle de Sarnez, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, Member of the French National Assembly Anne Genetet and also recent visit made by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to deliver President Rouhani's message to Macron, saying all these elements show that the mutual understanding and the increasing interaction between the two countries which enjoy historical commonalities can bring about benefits in bilateral and multilateral levels for two countries in regional and international arenas.

The efforts made by President Rouhani and Macron which are based on mutual understanding and taking advantage of open diplomacy window will reinforce multilateralism, peace, stability and security, it noted. What increases the weight, credibility and the importance of such contacts is taking advantage of the background of relations and effective diplomacy for building a better world, it said.

This is a difficult but achievable mission to reduce the tensions resulted by the unilateral policies of those who lack wisdom, arms dealers, advocates of violence, sponsors of war and terrorism, Iranian diplomatic mission said.

Meanwhile, Iranian Ambassador to France Bahram Qassemi emphasized the fact that diplomacy and negotiations have always been important for Iran's foreign policy, saying French President Emmanuel Macron can play a major role in reducing current tensions. In a Twitter message released at the same time when Macron's senior diplomatic aide Emmanuel Bonne was in Tehran, Qassemi referred to Macron as president of an important European country and as Iran's traditional partner in political and economic fields and urged him to understand the sensitive international and regional situation and to play an important part in de-escalation while taking advantage of France's diplomatic position.

He added that diplomacy and negotiations have always been the important bases of Iran's foreign policy.

Qassemi noted that political dynamism and diplomatic moves in the framework of the recent measures taken by France is of great position among French elites and scholars in foreign policy field.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	252275.5
IFX	3306.11

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,768 rials
GBP	52,003 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$63.37/b
WTI	\$56.20/b
OPEC Basket	\$64.55/b
Gold	\$1,418.50/oz
Silver	\$16.41/oz
Platinum	\$868.60/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Govt.’s 4 strategies to compensate for budget deficit approved

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**– Iranian government’s four suggested strategies to compensate for budget deficit were approved during a session of Supreme Council of Economic Coordination presided by President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday, Fars news agency reported.

Transferring government’s assets, using forex reserves, selling Islamic bonds, and withdrawing 450 trillion rials (about \$10.714 billion) from National Development Fund (NDF) were the four mentioned strategies approved in that session.

During the previous session of the council on July 13, the amendments on the national Iranian budget plan for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) had been approved.

The generalities of a modified budget plan which has been restructured in line with the country’s “resilient economy”, were approved.

The modifications consist of four major parts, which are “sustainable revenue resources”, “effective expenditure”, “promoting stability, development and justice” as well as “fundamental modifications of budgetary system”.

They are aimed at reducing the country’s dependence on oil money and promoting economic stability under the umbrella term “resistance economy”, ordered by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

It was decided in that session that the council would study the priorities in the amendment plan in its next gathering.

Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers rises 16% in a quarter on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**– Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran during the first quarter of current Iranian calendar year (March 21- June 21) has risen 16 percent from that of the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported on Saturday citing the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

As reported, 250,000 refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured during the three-month period of this year, rising from 215,300 in the same time span of the past year.

Since the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Iran to pressure the country’s economy, Iran has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the sanctions and counter the U.S. actions.

Since the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Iran to pressure the country’s economy, Iran has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the sanctions and counter the U.S. actions.Improving and boosting domestic production has been one of the major strategies that Iran has been following in the past two years in order to increase its independence.

And to realize this objective, providing the required working capital for the production units and offering them facilities is one of the major measures being pursued by the government to support these units in this year which is named the year of “Pickup in Production” by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

On the occasion of the National Day of Industry (July 1), Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani mentioned helping production increase a priority of his ministry and named some of the plans they have defined in the ministry for production flourishing.

Referring to this year’s title which is pickup in production, the minister said, “Our focus in this year is to preserve the current production level, while benefitting from the most available capacities; and in this regard, a special program including 35 projects have been prepared.”

“We will spare no effort for strengthening domestic production and manufacturing of those parts that are currently imported to the country, through relying on capable domestic manpower in order to tackle the current [sanction] condition”, he added.

Removing the barriers in the way of production, reviving and renovating industrial units through cooperation of private sector, elites and university professors is attached priority by the government and specially by industry ministry, Rahmani stressed.

Iran to increase commercial attachés in region

**1 →** “Encouraging exports is not, in any way, in contrast with domestic market management, in fact it will consequently encourage production and leads to an independent and active economy,” Modares said.

The official stressed the fact that his office will take all necessary measures to support non-oil exports and to control imports to limit them to the commodities which can’t be produced inside the country.

According to the official, during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019) the industry ministry banned imports of some commodities into the country to support domestic production.

In June 2018, the minister ordered forbidding imports of 1,339 kinds of goods, classified in four groups, since they had similar domestic rivals.

Earlier this month, 148 new commodities were also added to the ministry’s black list to rise the number of such items to 1487.

Some banned products include home appliances, textile products, footwear and leather products, furniture, healthcare products, some machineries and etc.

According to Modares, implementation of such limiting rules for goods which can be produced inside the country could prevent outflow of billions of dollars.



“Following such imports limiting policies, the country’s imports fell 22 percent in the past Iranian calendar year of 1397 compared to its preceding year,” he said.

Modares further mentioned some of other programs that the deputy trade office will follow in order to increase foreign trade, including exchanging trade delegations,

holding exhibitions, registering trade marks in the neighboring countries, supporting the country’s private sector and the companies which are active in the exports area.

Elsewhere in his remarks the official noted that the new deputy of trade, which has been defined recently in the ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, is going to cover

the trade aspects of this industry and it is provisioned to have various organizations and institutions under order.

According to Modares, Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI), Institute for Trade Studies and Research, E-commerce Center, Iran National Carpet Center, Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Government Trading Corporation of Iran, and Iran’s state feed agency SLAL are going to be under this deputy office.

As for managing the domestic market, the official noted that the ministry would focus on three major aspects of supply, distribution and supervision.

The official noted that the ministry has defined a list of 100 commodity items which includes basic goods and major commodities which are needed in people’s everyday life, in order to focus on managing the market based on the supply and demand of these priority items.

“Even steel, cement, household appliances, and animal feeds are placed alongside other basic goods in this list,” he said.

Modares further stated that his office will closely supervise the market in all steps of the way including supply and distribution, to make sure that the people’s needs are met and the inflation is controlled.

TCCIMA voices Iran’s readiness for bolstering trade with Belarus

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) has voiced Iran’s readiness for boosting trade ties with Belarus, TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, Masoud Khansari, who visited the European country at the top of a trade delegation, made the remarks in an Iran-Belarus business forum which was held on Wednesday in Minsk.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including ambassadors of the two countries, officials from chambers of commerce as well as representatives of the two countries’ private sectors.

Speaking in the forum, Khansari pointed to Iran and Belarus’ potentialities and capabilities, noting that the two countries are in many cases complementary and can have wider and more diverse relationships in various areas.

“Unfortunately, in the past few years, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries has declined. The volume of trade can be increased to \$1 billion and considering the potentials of the two countries, achieving this goal is not out of reach,” he said. He further stressed that the two countries should make use of the existing capacities to boost the level of economic cooperation.

Khansari also mentioned Iranian companies’ willingness for trade with Belarus, saying that lack of banking relations is a major obstacle in the way of trade between the two countries.

He called for the two sides to find solutions to overcome this barrier.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vladimir Ulakhovich called for making much more efforts to augment Tehran-Minsk trade to \$1 billion.

**■ Joint economic committee meeting to be held next month**

Iran’s Ambassador to Belarus Mostafa Oveisi for his part said that Iranian Embassy is well-prepared to support the two sides’ businessmen for expanding trade ties.

Oveisi stressed that the Iranian and Belarus presidents have already backed expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

The official further mentioned the two countries’ joint economic committee meeting which is due to be held in the upcoming month in Belarus.

“Heading a trade delegation, Mohammadreza Modoudi, head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), will visit Belarus in the upcoming month to attend the Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee meeting,” he said.

**■ Boosting agricultural cooperation**

Later on Friday, Chairman of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Masoud Khansari and Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus Igor Brylo held talks during which the two sides agreed on facilitating exports of agricultural products like dried fruits, green house goods to Belarus and importing meat from Belarus.

In the meeting, Khansari referred to significant quality of Iranian agricultural products, saying Iran will be able to fulfill Belarus needs through exports.

Brylo for his part, said that Iran has exported \$3.5 million of agricultural products to Belarus during the first half of



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (2nd L) and Iran’s Ambassador to Belarus Mostafa Oveisi (1st L) attending an Iran-Belarus business forum in Minsk on Wednesday along with Chairman of Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vladimir Ulakhovich (2nd R).

the current year.

At the end of the meeting, both sides underlined the importance of facilitating exchange of such goods and also maintaining joint investment in the agricultural sector, especially in extra-territorial cultivation.

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

AMENDMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-03/111

Tender Holder:

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:

Purchase of Equipment for Infrastructure, Storage, Communication, Processing of IRIB Data according to the tender documents.

Place of Receiving Documents:

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:

The amount of **USD 71,744** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:

The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m.** on **Wednesday August 7, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes

The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Sunday August 11, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.

It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: **0098-21-22166313**

It is obvious that cost of publishing shall be borne by the winner of tender.

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB



# China still ships in Iranian oil despite U.S. sanctions

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** – China is still importing oil from Iran despite the reimposition of U.S. sanctions on the country, Bloomberg reported on Friday citing official customs data.

The Asian country imported 855,638 tons (about 209,000 barrels per day) of crude oil from Iran in June.

As reported, the data adds to speculation that Beijing may risk running afoul of American sanctions to secure crude supplies from the Islamic Republic.

All eyes are on China's oil purchases as Donald Trump's administration continues to clamp down on companies and individuals flouting its restrictions. The import-reliant Asian nation is one of the few remaining buyers of Iranian barrels, after other countries such as South Korea and Japan halted flows. China imported about 494,000 barrels a day of Iranian crude in the first five months of



this year, compared with more than 660,000 barrels a day in the same period in 2018. In late June, China's Jinxi Refining and Chemical Complex received a one-million-barrel cargo of Iranian oil in the first month after the Trump administration ended waivers permitting

imports of Iranian oil. Since April when the United States announced that buyers of Iranian oil should stop purchases by May 1 or face sanctions, China has been constantly opposing Washington's policies toward Iran and Chinese officials have repeatedly announced

that they will continue purchasing oil from Iran. In early May, Chinese Commerce Ministry announced the country's opposition to unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran, saying that cutting Iranian oil supplies will only worsen volatility in global energy markets.

In late May, Reuters reported that Iran delivered 130,000 tons of fuel oil to China despite the U.S. sanctions. Later in June, Bloomberg informed that China is still importing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Iran after the U.S. imposed sanctions on the country's oil industry. According to ship tracking data, the Paris-based energy researcher Kpler SAS estimated that at least five supertankers loaded Iranian LPG in May and June heading for China.

China is Iran's largest oil customer with imports of 475,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter of this year, according to Chinese customs data.

## IRENEX to hold 5th round of heavy crude oil offering on Tuesday

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will offer two million barrels of heavy crude oil at Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) on Tuesday, Shana reported.

The base price for this round of offering, which is the fifth round, is \$58.81 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 withdrawal 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.

National Iranian 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.

## Solar energy becomes biofuel without solar cells

By Cyril Widdershoven

Soon we will be able to replace fossil fuels with a carbon-neutral product created from solar energy, carbon dioxide and water. Researchers at Uppsala University have successfully produced microorganisms that can efficiently produce the alcohol butanol using carbon dioxide and solar energy, without needing to use solar cells.

According to sciencedaily.com, we have systematically designed and created a series of modified cyanobacteria that gradually produced increasing quantities of butanol in direct processes.

When the best cells are used in long-term laboratory experiments, we see levels of production that exceed levels that have been reported in existing articles. Furthermore, it

is comparable with indirect processes where bacteria are fed with sugar, says Pia Lindberg, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University.

The knowledge and ability to modify cyanobacteria so they can produce a variety of chemicals from carbon dioxide and solar energy is emerging in parallel with advances in technology, synthetic biology, genetically changing them. Through a combination of technical development, systematic methods and the discovery that as more product removed from the cyanobacteria, the more butanol is formed, the study shows the way forward for realizing the concept.

We already know it is possible to produce butanol using this process (proof-of-concept). What researchers have now been able to show

is that it is possible to achieve significantly higher production, so high that it becomes possible to use in production. In practical terms, butanol can be used in the automotive industry as both an environmentally friendly vehicle fuel -- fourth generation biofuel -- and as an environmentally friendly component of rubber for tires. In both cases, fossil fuels are replaced by a carbon-neutral product created from solar energy, carbon dioxide and water.

Even larger industries, in all trades, that currently produce high greenhouse gas emissions from carbon dioxide will be able to use the process with cyanobacteria to bind carbon dioxide and consequently significantly reduce their emissions.

Microscopic cyanobacteria are the most efficient photosynthetic organisms on earth.

In this study, we utilize their ability to efficiently capture the sun's energy and bind to carbon dioxide in the air, alongside with all the tools we have to modify cyanobacteria to produce desirable products.

The results show that a direct production of carbon-neutral chemicals and fuels from solar energy will be a possibility in the future, explains Peter Lindblad, Professor at the Department of Chemistry Ångström Laboratory at Uppsala University who is leading the project.

Research at Uppsala University is part of the larger EU Photofuel project being coordinated by vehicle manufacturer VW whose aim is to develop the next generation of techniques for sustainable manufacture of alternative fuels in the transport sector.

Second Announcement



**Iranian Offshore Oil Company (P.J.S)**  
**INVITATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (Pre-Qualification)**  
**TENDER NO: 050/98/OT**

**Chartering of One Fast Crew Boat**  
**1398.2556**

Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) intends to open Pre-Qualification for above tender with the following conditions:

**Scope of work:**

Chartering of One Fast Crew Boat

**Location:**

IOOC Oil Fields in Persian Gulf

**Performance Period:**

2 Years

**Other item shall be considered:**

- 1: Ability of submission Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian Rial 9,494,066,400 for Iranian Bidders and EURO 73,671.00 for Foreign Bidders
- 2: Ability of submission 10% of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to Company's procedure.
- 3: Proposals should be submitted with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of Package specification in deadline.
- 4: Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or part(s) thereof according to Tender Law.
- 5: The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be 3 months from the opening of financial envelopes date and extendable for one further period.
- 6: for invitation to above tender, it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the Pre-qualification.  
Bidders who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within One Week from Second Announcement by representative and collect the Pre-Qualification Forms.

Closing Date for submission of the Pre-Qualification documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of collecting Pre-Qualification documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.

Address for willing to participate and submission Pre-qualification Documents: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, #12, Touraj St., Khakzad st., Vali-e-Asr Ave., after Balal Mosque, before Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran. Tel: **+9821-23942510**

Note: Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir) on the day of Second Announcement

**Iranian Offshore Oil Company Public Relations**

First Announcement



**Iranian Offshore Oil Company (P.J.S)**  
**INVITATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (Pre-Qualification)**  
**TENDER NO: 052/98/OT**

**Chartering of One Low Draft ASD Vessel**  
**1398-2598**

Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) intends to open Pre-Qualification for above tender with the following conditions:

**Scope of work:**

Chartering of One low draft ASD Vessel

**Location:**

IOOC Oil Fields in Persian Gulf

**Performance Period:**

2 Years

**Other item shall be considered:**

- 1: Ability of submission Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian **Rial 9,870,369,720** for Iranian Bidders or **EURO 76,591.00** for Non-Iranian Bidders.
- 2: Ability of submission **10%** of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to Company's procedure.
- 3: Proposals should be submitted with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of Package specification in deadline.
- 4: Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or part(s) thereof according to Tender Law.
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**Iranian Offshore Oil Company Public Relations**

## Norway looks for bigger role in European gas markets

By Tsvetana Paraskova

Norway's oil and gas major Equinor — which provides around 25 percent of the European Union's (EU) natural gas demand — aims to play a more active role in selling its natural gas on the European market and take advantage of spot market prices where profitable.

That's the message which Equinor's top management conveyed to the market and analysts regarding natural gas sales on the conference call on the Q2 financials this week.

Most Norwegian gas sold on the European market is delivered to Germany, the UK, Belgium, and France, where Norwegian gas accounts for between 20 and 40 percent of total gas consumption.

Despite plans for more exposure to the spot market, Equinor saw in Q2 and will continue to see in Q3 benefits from forward sales of its gas, the managers said on the call.

"We have sold and are benefiting then from the long-term gas sales as of this quarter," Svein Skeie, Equinor's Senior Vice President for Performance Management and Analysis, said.

Equinor sold its natural gas at \$5.49 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) in Q2, compared to an average price of \$4.09 for the UK National Balancing Point (NBP) benchmark price. Equinor's gas price realizations will still be above the NBP price in Q3, Skeie said.

**■ To the spot market**

According to Lars Christian Bacher, Equinor's Executive Vice President and chief financial officer, the "shift that we're doing is that we want to expose more to the spot market, and we see that we benefit from having entered into contract more on a season ahead than a year ahead, and both for this quarter and we expect the same to happen for third quarter and then gradually that will fade out."

"But the shifts to more to the spot market does not limit us. On the contrary, we would like to take a more active role in placing sort of our gas volumes in the market," Bacher added.

In Q2, Equinor produced more gas than oil and liquids, but noted in its results release that the "liquids share of the production mix was low in the quarter and will increase going forward."

The higher gas production in Q2 was mostly due to the start-up of the Aasta Hansteen gas field, which contributed with around 60,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boepd), Equinor said. Aasta Hansteen gas is transported through the Polarled pipeline to the Nyhamna terminal for further export to the UK, while condensate produced at the field is loaded into tankers and transported to the market.

Even if overall production in Q2 was relatively stable on the year, Equinor's financials were impacted by "lower prices, high turnaround activity and some quarter specific items," the company said.

Equinor's production mix will include more oil once the giant Johan Sverdrup oil field starts up in November.

"We expect the liquid share of the production mix to come up again over the next couple of quarters and even more so when Johan Sverdrup comes on stream during November," Bacher said on the analyst call.

**■ The company had cut investment costs**

Eldar Sætre, Equinor's president and chief executive, said that the company had further cut investment costs for Johan Sverdrup's Phase 1 development by an additional \$346 million (3 billion Norwegian crowns), bringing total cost reductions to \$4.6 billion (40 billion crowns) since the development plan was submitted.

"With a planned startup later this year, and faster ramp-up to reach plateau production during summer next year, the project will produce and create substantial value for decades to come," Sætre said in the company's statement.

Commenting on Equinor's Q2 performance, Bernstein analysts said that the lackluster financials were mostly because of short-term factors and stressed that the update on Johan Sverdrup was the more important takeaway.

"That's where the story just got better today," Oswald Clint at Bernstein told the Financial Times.

"Capex is reduced by a further \$0.35b on the project which is incredible with only three months to go and the ramp-up is now 9 months versus 12 months previously," Clint noted.

(Source: oilprice.com)

## NSW set to overtake South Australia as top renewables generator

South Australia has been a global pioneer in the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy, but a new report has found the state is set to lose its lead in the national renewables stakes to an unlikely contender — New South Wales.

The report, the latest National Energy Emissions Update from The Australia Institute, reveals the still heavily coal power reliant state of NSW is adding new large-scale wind and solar generation at a rapid rate.

This puts New South Wales — still one of the only remaining Australian states or territories without its own renewable energy target — neck and neck in a race with Victoria to overtake South Australia in terms of total renewable generation by volume, although South Australia will likely, for a very long time, remain the state with the highest renewable share.

The update says output from grid-scale wind and solar generators in NSW has doubled over the past 14 months — delivering another happy outcome, putting it well on course to replace the ageing and increasingly unreliable Liddell coal-fired power plant.

"Renewables continue to surge on the eastern seaboard and New South Wales will soon overtake South Australia as the largest generator of wind and solar energy," says Hugh Saddler, author of the report.

"NSW maintains its steady growth in renewable generation and is competing with Victoria to take the mantle for highest wind and solar generation in the country."

"With NSW renewables growing at this pace, (they) could fill most of the generation gap left by Liddell's closure in 2022."

But Saddler also warns that, with the current growth rate of new renewable generation comparable to that of Australia's entire electricity system during the 1950s and 1960s, policy makers need to lift their game — particularly at the federal level.

The "sheer size scope of the renewable transition already taking place across the NEM is comparable to the development of Australia's original electricity grids — new electricity generation from 1953 to 1960 is proportionate in size to new wind and solar generation from 2011 to 2019," he said.

(Source: reneweconomy.com.au)



## Trump’s Saudi arms vetoes, deconstructed

By William Hartung

**LOBELOG**— Donald Trump (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff via Twitter)

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As expected, this week President Trump vetoed three Congressional resolutions that would have blocked the sale of tens of thousands of guided bombs and other equipment to Saudi Arabia because of its indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Yemen. In three separate veto messages, the administration presented an amalgam of all of its worst arguments for continuing to back the Saudi war effort.

Trump’s veto message on Senate Joint Resolution 36, which would have blocked the coproduction and transfer of over 64,000 bombs and bomb components to Saudi Arabia, is indicative of the weakness of the administration’s case for continuing to enable mass slaughter by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

The main arguments in the veto message are outlined and refuted below.

Counter Iran and Its Proxies in the Region: The Houthi rebels are not proxies of Iran. They have their own grievances and their own reasons for fighting, going back decades and related to their belief that they have been denied political input and economic equity within Yemen by the prior and current regimes. While the Houthi receive some weaponry from Iran, they do not take orders from Tehran. If anything, the continued, unbridled U.S. backing of the Saudi war effort and the humanitarian catastrophe it has caused will only drive the Houthi closer to Iran than they would otherwise be.

Enhancing Competitiveness in Key Markets: From the beginning of his administration, President Trump has vastly exaggerated the benefits to U.S. companies and American workers of arms deals with Saudi Arabia, claiming at one point that they would support 500,000 U.S. jobs. The real figure is in the 20,000 to 40,000 range, one-tenth to one-twentieth of Trump’s claim, and less than three one-hundredths of one percent of the U.S. labor force of roughly 160 million people. And many of those jobs will be based in Saudi Arabia as a result of coproduction arrangements, like the one for Raytheon Paveway bomb components that Senate Joint Resolution 36 would have stopped.

Providing Precision-Guided Munitions to Limit Civilian Casualties in Yemen: This has been a standard argument for sending guided bombs to Saudi Arabia since the start of its intervention in Yemen in 2015. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that Saudi Arabia is even attempting to avoid civilian targets. The Saudi air force has bombed water treatment plants, hospitals, marketplaces, civilian neighborhoods, weddings, a funeral, and even a school bus, including many targets that were explicitly marked as civilian facilities that should not be attacked. Saudi Arabia has possessed U.S. precision-guided munitions for years, and it has had no impact on the civilian death toll caused by the air war.

Defending U.S. Citizens and Military Personnel in Saudi Arabia: The Houthi-led coalition that is fighting Saudi Arabia and its allies in Yemen has on occasion launched missile strikes across the Saudi border in retaliation for Saudi air strikes in Yemen, including one that hit the Riyadh airport, wounding 26 people.

While concerning, these strikes pale in comparison with the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen sparked by the Saudi-UAE-led intervention, which has killed thousands of civilians and put millions at risk of famine. The best way to deal with the cross-border strikes is to end the air war and the strike/counterstrike dynamic that it has fueled, not up the ante through continuing attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Yemen.

Stopping Bomb Sales Will Undermine the Peace Process: This may be the most cynical argument of all. The Trump administration’s unequivocal military support for the Saudi regime is prolonging the war, not setting the stage for peace. If anything, it is Congressional opposition to the war that has helped get the Saudi/UAE-backed government to the peace table, however difficult the process may be, and helped persuade the UAE to scale back its involvement in the war.

Congressional opponents of the provision of U.S. arms and military support to the Saudi intervention in Yemen will now have to regroup and look for new avenues to end U.S. support for the war.

There are two promising amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act that have passed the House and await their fate in a House-Senate conference on the bill. The first, co-sponsored by representatives Ro Khanna (D-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA), would end the supply of maintenance and spare parts to Saudi coalition aircraft involved in the war in Yemen. The second, spearheaded by Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-NJ), would stop sales of air-to-ground munitions to Saudi Arabia for one year. Advocates for ending the Saudi-led killing in Yemen and their allies in Congress will continue to look for ways to end U.S. support for the war, despite the Trump administration’s fatal embrace of one of the world’s most repressive regimes.

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** —A recent poll released on Fox News has led to anger by the United States President Donald Trump. The poll is being released while many of the previous polls have predicted Trump defeat in the presidential election of 2020. By analyzing the current circumstances in the United States, one can see that the coming year will be very difficult for the US President. In this critical period, Trump is trying to prevent the American citizens from concentrating on the turbulent atmosphere ruling over the White House. It’s not still clear that how long Trump can play his role in producing cross-sectional crises to cover the deep-seated crises in the United States, but in spite of the President’s will, the game’s about to change. Recently, Trump’s performance has been seriously under the focus of American media.

Trump blasts Fox News over poll showing him losing to Biden

As Yahoo News reported, A month after Joe Biden was attacked by Sen. Kamala Harris over his record on race at the first Democratic presidential debate, the former vice president appears to have steadied himself, according to new polling released this week. And one national poll, released by Fox News, appears to have gotten under President Trump’s skin. According to CNN’s poll of polls, which averages the results of the most recent national surveys, Biden (30 percent) has opened up a wide lead over Sens. Elizabeth Warren (16 percent), Bernie Sanders (14 percent) and Harris (12 percent), who has slipped back to fourth place from second. The California senator shot up to 17 percent in the same poll immediately following the first debate, then trailing Biden by just 8 points. She now trails him by 18.

More encouraging for Team Biden is his lead in South Carolina, a state in which Harris has campaigned extensively. According to a Monmouth University survey of likely Democratic primary voters conducted earlier this week, Biden (39 percent) holds a commanding advantage over Harris (12 percent), who is followed by Sanders (10 percent) and Warren (9 percent). Notably, Biden has retained his strength among African-American voters, even over Harris, who is African-American: He leads there with 51 percent over Harris, at 12 percent.

And according to a Quinnipiac University poll released this week, Biden (50 percent) is the only candidate in the Democratic field who has more support than Trump (42 percent) among voters in Ohio. Trump has a 1-point edge (46 percent to 45 percent) over Sanders and Warren in Ohio in those theoretical general election matchups, while he is tied with Harris there. Biden also has the edge over Trump in Florida (50 percent to 41 percent), Pennsylvania (53 percent to 42 percent) and even Texas (48 percent to 44 percent), Quinnipiac found. But the poll that caught Trump’s attention was this one.

According to a Fox News survey released Thursday, Biden leads the president by 10 points (49 percent to 39 percent) among registered voters. Sanders holds a 6-point advantage over Trump (46 percent to 40 percent), but that’s within the poll’s plus-or-minus 3-point margin of error. Trump predictably took the results in stride, with the philosophical calm with which he treats all bad news.

“FoxNews is at it again,” Trump tweeted. “So different from what they used to be during the 2016 Primaries, & before — Proud Warriors! Now new Fox Polls, which have always been terrible to me (they had me losing BIG to Crooked Hillary), have me down to Sleepy Joe.”

“Even considering the fact that I have gone through a three year vicious Witch Hunt,

By Zhao Gancheng

GLOBALTIMES-Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan paid a three-day visit to the US from Sunday to Tuesday at the invitation of US President Donald Trump. US-Pakistan ties have witnessed setbacks in recent years. In early 2018, Washington suspended \$1.3 billion economic aid to Islamabad. Then why would Trump invite Khan to Washington? What did they discuss?

Afghanistan topped the agenda of the meeting between Trump and Khan. The US president may desire to seek an advantageous position for the 2020 presidential campaign by ending the war in Afghanistan.

Hence, Trump has to rely on Pakistan. Islamabad has been playing an indispensable role in Washington’s interaction with Kabul.

If the US hopes to extend its presence in Afghanistan, it needs Pakistan’s cooperation. In 2017, after just taking office, Trump increased the US military presence in Afghanistan by increasing troop numbers in the country to over 15,000. The growing number of troops also involved transporting more logistical

# Anger at Donald Trump from Fox News



perpetrated by the Lamestream Media in Collusion with Crooked and the Democrat Party, there can be NO WAY, with the greatest Economy in U.S. history, that I can be losing to the Sleepy One,” the president added. “KEEP AMERICA GREAT!”

Debate preview

Next week will bring the second round of Democratic primary debates, with 20 candidates taking the stage in Detroit over two nights on CNN. This is almost certainly the last time many candidates will participate (more on that below), so here are a few things to consider going into next week’s event: The biggest question on night one, Tuesday, is whether Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren will fight one another for the support of progressive voters or instead provide a united front on the issues where they agree. They will be surrounded by moderates who don’t share their support for Medicare for all, including Sen. Amy Klobuchar, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Rep. John Delaney, meaning plenty of opportunities for the two New England senators to debate the issue.

If Sanders and Warren work together, perhaps the main point of contention will come between former Rep. Beto O’Rourke and South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg. O’Rourke was a favorite of pundits and big donors early in the race, but his fundraising and poll numbers have slipped while Buttigieg has surged with a lucrative second quarter of fundraising. Will O’Rourke try to regain ground at Buttigieg’s expense? Tuesday night will also be the primary debate debut of Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, who failed to qualify for the first set after a late campaign launch and now takes the place of Rep. Eric Swalwell, who dropped out to focus on his reelection in California. If you enjoyed the insights of spiritualist and author Marianne Williamson the first time around, she’s also in the first grouping of candidates.

The potential for fireworks on night two is quite high. Former Vice President Joe Biden, who continues to lead in most polling, will be joined on the stage by two rivals happy to target his lengthy record. Sen. Kamala Harris went after Biden’s record on school busing last month and saw a postdebate increase in polling and fundraising, a likely incentive for her to renew her attacks. Sen. Cory Booker, who lags in polling, has been going at Biden over his record on criminal justice policy, including his support for the 1994 crime bill. Biden’s campaign replied by sniping at Booker’s record on crime when he was mayor of Newark, N.J.

“Since next week’s debate format will give Senator Booker twice as much time to make his attacks than it allows Vice President Biden to respond to them, we thought we would begin to respond now,” said Biden communications director Kate Bedingfield in a statement this week. Wednesday night will also feature former Housing Secretary Juli?n Castro, who also received positive reviews and a bump in donations from the first set of debates, along with entrepreneur Andrew Yang, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

As mentioned above, next week is the final time you’re going to see many of these candidates on a debate stage unless they have a breakout moment. The threshold to participate in September’s debates are a lot higher than the initial forums: 130,000 individual donors and hitting 2 percent or more in four polls approved by the Democratic National Committee. This is the last chance many of the candidates will get in front of a large national audience, and they’ll be looking for a way to create a viral moment — which is often achieved by going after a bigger name. The second round of Democratic primary debates will air on CNN, July 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. ET.

Speaking of debates, the Democratic National Committee has taken heat from environmentalists and progressives for not planning a forum focused on global warming and climate change.

Enter CNN, which announced this week it will host a town hall in September focused on the climate crisis. The Sept. 4 event in New York City will feature candidates who meet the DNC’s 2 percent polling threshold for its September debates. Eight candidates have met that threshold so far: Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O’Rourke, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, whose entire campaign is focused on combating climate change, has not. Inslee will, however, get a chance to debate climate change at a separate two-day climate-focused forum hosted by the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service in partnership with MSNBC in September. According to the Daily Beast, “every single presidential candidate — Republicans included — has been invited to participate” at the event, scheduled for Sept. 19 and 20.

Trump won’t let Mueller go

President Trump’s disdain for Fox News over its poll results didn’t extend to his favorite talk-show host. In what was billed as an exclusive interview a day after former

special counsel Robert Mueller’s appearance on Capitol Hill, Trump called into Sean Hannity’s primetime show on Fox News Thursday night. Except it wasn’t an interview. “I’m just going to open it up to you to go wherever you want with this,” Hannity told Trump at the beginning of the call. The president, who lashed out at reporters on the South Lawn after Mueller’s testimony, was still seething over the Russia probe. “It was a disgrace to our country,” Trump said. “It was a disgrace from every standpoint and I would say that most people have never seen anything like it. And then on top of it, you watch that performance, it was — it was shocking and very sad.”

“This should never happen to another president of the United States again,” Trump said of the Russia investigation. “This is an absolute catastrophe for our country. This was a fake witch hunt and it should never be allowed to happen to another president again.” This was treason,” he added. “This was high crimes.”

In case there’s any confusion, this was an accusation by Trump, not a confession.

Biden slips, maintains edge in Nevada primary: poll

As The Hill reported, Former Vice President Joe Biden saw his lead against other Democratic presidential contenders drop to just six points in the early caucus state of Nevada. Biden has the support of 29 percent of voters in the Silver State according to a new Morning Consult poll first reported on by The Nevada Independent, a drop from 38 percent from the same poll in May. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) comes in at second at 23 percent, though his support dropped by 2 points.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) is in at third with 11.5 percent, a 3.5 percent bump in two months, and Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) gets 10.5 percent support, a 2.5 percent increase since May. No other candidate breaks double digits in the survey.

The state’s nominating contest is a crucial test for candidates to test their support among Hispanic voters, who made up just shy of 20 percent of the caucus attendees in 2016.

The survey resembles drops Biden has seen in other statewide and national polls since his faulty debate performance in June when he was confronted by Harris about his comments about cooperating with segregationist senators during his time in Congress and past opposition to federally-mandated busing as a way to integrate schools. But a Fox News poll released this week showed him with a lead of 18 points over the rest of the primary field, resembling results from pre-debate surveys. Friday’s survey is also an ominous sign for former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, the only Hispanic running in the primary, who gets 2 percent support. Castro has banked on a strong showing at the early caucus to boost his momentum deeper into the nominating process, though he has consistently found himself in the middle or bottom tiers of Nevada surveys. The Morning Consult poll surveyed 749 voters in the first three weeks in July and has a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

Biden campaign taunts Trump with recent Fox News poll

Joe Biden’s 2020 presidential campaign tweeted Friday mocking President Trump over the results of a new Fox News poll that shows the former vice president beating him in a hypothetical match-up: real Donald Trump, we know you love the polls. We’re glad you saw the latest from Fox: Biden 49%, Trump 39. You’re losing by ten. Have a nice day.

The Hill has reached out to the Trump campaign and Fox News for comment. The boast follows two tweets by Trump lamenting the fact that the poll had him losing to Biden, whom he referred to as “Sleepy Joe.



agenda. The US is fully opposed to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and regards it as so-called China’s expansionist agenda. There are controversies over BRI in Pakistan as well. Some believe it does not benefit most ordinary people and has saddled Pakistan with huge debts, but the Pakistani government is willing to cooperate with China on the CPEC that is part of BRI. In summary, Khan’s trip to Washington will take time forward, but it remains to be seen how far relations can advance.



# The Secret of Shiites Sect

By Abdulummin Giwa

**KADUNA/ NIGERIA** — This is in response to a piece compiled by one Sharifudeen Ibrahim Muhammad based on something written by one Dr Abdussamad Umar Jibia (Associate Professor and HOD Mechatronics Engineering Department BUK) where he made some claims and assertions about the Islamic Movement leader Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky in Nigeria and the Shia school of thought.

It doesn't look like a serious presentation. Anyway he is just one of those Nigerian professors.

My assessment of this presentation is that it is just a sectarian talk and not a research. If he had researched well there would not be contradictions in the piece.

All his facts are not from referential sources but sectarian antagonism which makes the research poor and lacked 'meat' in it.

As a professor I would not write this crap because it is simply an embarrassment to scholarship.

I will address Some of the points he raised briefly:

-The concept of 'Rightly Guided Caliphs' he raised is not established in Islam but a belief of some of the Sunni schools of thought. The Shiites don't share this idea they rather believe in the Households of the Prophet SAWA.

-No person called Abdullahi bn Saba ever existed in the history of Islam. No sources have made reference to him or anything about his lineage where he comes from and so on. If bn Sabah ever existed and founded Shiism hundreds of years after the Prophet SAWA, how then did some of the great Sahabas including Ali AS become Shias before he founded it? Secondly he claimed that the Shiites killed Usman RA and stopped Ali AS that succeeded him from punishing the killers and bn Sabah existed hundreds of years after this historic claim, hoq then did he found Shiism before he even existed? This is an embarrassment to scholarship by a 'professor'.

But it is established that Muhammad bn Abdulwahhab founded the popular Wahhabi sect under the Saudi Monarchy when they took over power in the KSA. Although with the influence of the US today the Saudi royal family under Prince bn Salman is reverting from it and introducing things like halal disco, beach parties and allowing women to drive cars etc. They see Wahabism as the source of extremism that founded religious fanaticism and terrorism across the globe.



-The Shia growth in the world he explained was a figment of his own imagination and not historically established. Shi'ah is just a short form of the name 'Shiatu Ali' meaning supporters of Ali AS. Is just like you say 'Izala' instead of 'Izalatu bid'a wa iqamatu sunna'. The Shiites are those who support Ali AS as the rightful person to succeed the Prophet SAWA based on the instruction of the Prophet SAWA.

-The Shiites never fought with Usman because even as at then the leader of the Shiism Imam Ali AS was alive and even succeeded Usman RA based on popular demand that even contradicted the interest of those that killed Usman RA.

-But it is recorded by historic sources that it was Aisha RA that cursed Usman RA, calling him Na'thalan and declared uprising against him. This metamorphosed into his killing that even Tabari Islamic Historian, reported it. It started from Usman's refusal to pay additional token to Aisha RA above the one being paid to the other wives of the Prophet SAWA for their upkeep after him.

-The Shiites didn't kill Usman AS and the history of Islam never established that anywhere. It is only a sectarian bias.

-To the Shi'as, following Imam Ali AS as leader of Islamic faith did not begin after Usman RA, it was established by the Prophet SAWA at a place called Ghadir after the last Hajj performed by the Prophet SAWA. The

Prophet SAWA raised the arm of Imam Ali AS in the presence of about 70,000 Sahabas RA saying "to who soever I am a leader, this Ali is his leader after me" and all the Sahabas paid their allegiance to him. Sunni sources have established this fact as well. After the death of the Prophet SAWA some Sahabas turned back on this and refused to follow Ali AS. This is the point from which the whole Sunni-Shia saga started to date.

-Embracing Shiism by Persians was foretold by Prophet Muhammad SAWA and reported by Sunni sources as well with a popular hadith saying "had it been Islam would disappear from this world to that bright star in the sky called Surayya, a man from the men of Persia will go there and bring it back to this world."

-More so, Salman al Farisi a Sahab of the Prophet SAWA, is a Persian praised strongly by the Prophet SAWA and is a staunch follower of Imam Ali AS and he died defending him.

-Iran had no official agenda of spreading Shia that appointed Sheikh Zakzaky. It is only a figment of the writer's imagination. Sheikh ZAKZAKY started the Islamic call in the mid 70s while in the university at ABU Zaria. This call to him at that time was another option to what was spreading in the universities then of communism as against the adopted American Capitalism in Nigeria. This communism idea produced people like Bala Usman, Musa Yaradua, Balarabe Musa

and many others that excelled in Nigeria. Sheikh Zakzaky said Islam should be the option and not communism or capitalism and he started the call. It was later in 1979 that the Islamic Revolution of Iran took place. It was in the early 80's that the Sheikh visited Iran for the first time. When the revolution took place in Iran people then believed that what the Sheikh was preaching is possible since it took place in Iran.

-It was much later in the 80's that people started adopting the Shiite school of thought because it was glaring to them that it was the Islam preached by the Prophet SAWA based on teaching they became convinced with.

-The Shiites don't insult Prophet and his Sahabas. Like in the Sunnis, also among the Shiites there might be patches of extremists that go out of the teachings to project fanatical views. But is wrong to characterize what such extremists do as the basic principle of the Shia school of thought, especially by a 'professor'. The Shiites are simply followers of the Prophet SAWA and his holy households AS.

-All the verses the 'professor' quoted are emotionally quoted out of context completely and have nothing to do with Shiism. They also defy the principles of Qur'anic exegesis.

-Lastly, Sheikh Zakzaky is not preaching Shiism as a sect but Islam as a system of life even though he is inclined to the Shia school of thought and those who bother to understand have since understood and are supporting and following his call while they are still Sunnis and they are many. He is calling for the establishment of a system of fairness and justice to all irrespective of tribe, race, region or religion, a reason why even some Christians subscribe to him.

Advice:

-In trying to eradicate an ideology or a belief system, concoction and lies only worsen the situation. Correct presentation about such Faith based ideology should be made based on references from the point of view of the ideology itself devoid of all sentiments and not from the point of view of the writer or his whims.

-The world is now a global village and we have access to knowledge that it is no more the monopoly of some individuals. There are a lot of books online that you can read to know the truth. People should endeavor to read to avoid being misled into sectarian extremism by some fanatics.

## U.S. secondary sanctions impeding INSTEX implementation: Finnish ex-minister

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — A former Finnish labour minister said US secondary sanctions against Tehran are preventing INSTEX, a financial mechanism proposed by the EU for securing trade ties with Iran, from becoming operational.



"The US secondary sanction have prevented the EU from fulfilling its obligations. The EU asked for waivers, which the US did not grant. Furthermore, the US has threatened to sanction companies that use INSTEX. Through INSTEX the EU has found a way to at least promote legal trade with Iran regarding non-sanctioned goods such as food and medicine. This is clearly not enough to fulfill the European commitments but is a definite and serious start. If the US carries out its threat to sanction companies using INSTEX, the Europeans face a real challenge in their relations with the US," Tarja Cronberg told Tasnim.

Cronberg is a distinguished associate fellow at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and former chair of the European Parliament's Iran delegation. She is a Finnish Green League politician who served as a member of the European Parliament from 2011 until 2014. Cronberg was Member of the Finnish Parliament 2003–2007. She chaired her party from 2005 until 2009 and was the Minister of Labour in the Finnish government from 2007 to 2009 as part of Matti Vanhanen's second cabinet.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ Iran, which had been fully complying with all of its commitments under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal despite the US pullout and the European shortfalls announced on July 7 that it was set to increase enrichment purity to levels higher than 3.67 percent after the European parties missed a deadline to fulfill their obligations. European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said recently that the signatories to the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), do not view Tehran's move to scale back some of its commitments under the agreement as significant noncompliance. The US, however, is trying to magnify this issue by insisting that Iran is moving toward atomic bombs and that its nuclear program is not peaceful. What are your thoughts on this?

A: The agreement on Iran's nuclear program demonstrates that Iran wants to remain a non-nuclear country and controls that the program is peaceful. Therefore, it is important that the remaining partners, including Iran, commit themselves to the agreement. Due to the US sanctions, the other parties (Europe, Russia and China) are unable to fulfill their economic commitments and consequently have agreed that Tehran's scaling back on its commitments is not significant. Ways should be found for all parties to fully commit to the deal.

■ US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said that Iran "can't have nuclear weapons". Iranian officials and experts argue that the US' main aim is not to halt the country's nuclear and military programs but to deprive it of nuclear technology and know-how. What are your thoughts on this?

A: The main aim of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is to prevent non-nuclear countries from accessing nuclear weapons. The Iran deal guarantees this by limiting Iran's nuclear program for a number of years and after this by Iran's full compliance with the NPT rules. This should secure a non-nuclear status. The NPT also guarantees that there is a right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology to all members including Iran. These international rules should also be respected by the US, a signatory of the NPT.

■ As you know, France, Germany, and Britain launched INSTEX in January. It only became operational last month and has been criticized by Tehran for having major limitations. Just 10 EU states are members and the mechanism's initial credit line of several million euros is a fraction of EU-Iran trade, which stood at more than €20bn annually before the US sanctions. How serious do you think the EU is about this trade mechanism? What is behind this foot-dragging?

A: This is absolutely not foot-dragging. The US secondary sanctions have prevented the EU from fulfilling its obligations. The EU asked for waivers, which the US did not grant. Furthermore, the US has threatened to sanction companies that use INSTEX. Through INSTEX the EU has found a way to at least promote legal trade with Iran regarding non-sanctioned goods such as food and medicine. This is clearly not enough to fulfill the European commitments but is a definite and serious start. If the US carries out its threat to sanction companies using INSTEX, the Europeans face a real challenge in their relations with the US.

■ Do you think that the JCPOA could be saved? Do EU nations have enough authority to salvage the international deal?

A: It can be saved and in my view, the partners-Europe, Russia, and China- should collectively commit and take responsibility to save the JCPOA, the Europeans cannot do it alone. (see <https://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/commentary/nuclear-diplomacy-at-stake-can-the-remaining-jcpo-partners-join-forces-to-save-the-deal>)

## Brazil's Bolsonaro enchanted with Trump, or smart leader

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — It's now several weeks that Brazil, led by an far-right Trumpster president, denies fuel to two Iranian ships on the pretext of the US sanctions, raising worries among the Latino nation if their country's economy should subsidize White House policies.

The two Iranian vessels, one reportedly loaded with corn, were stranded at the port of Paranagua, unable to head back to Iran due to lack of fuel.

Iran is one of the largest grain importers from Brazil and the complication with the Iranian ships is already worrying Brazilian traders about the broader impact on trade with the Islamic Republic. Brazil has emerged as a new destination for petrochemical shipments from Iran which is tapping new markets to compensate for sliding oil sales.

Brazil's state oil company Petrobras has said the ships, Bavand and Termeh which had brought urea to Brazil, appeared on a list of US sanctions. The company says there are other fuel companies that can supply the Iranian ships, but it has an effective monopoly on refueling services at Brazilian ports.

President Jair Bolsonaro said on Friday the Brazilian government has been alerting local companies about the extent of US sanctions on Iran, while he is working to forge a very close relationship with the United States.

Brazilian companies and government do heed the financial losses of violating the US sanctions and are afraid of the penalties that they would be given by Washington, but selling fuel to a ship to travel back home is not a big deal, indicating that far-right, populist President Bolsonaro's Trumpian interest surely plays a factor, otherwise, the government in Brasilia could easily handled the situation the same way that Germany did few months ago and when private sector firms declined to fuel an SDN-list designated Iranian passenger jet, the state company stepped forward and resolved the situation easily.

Yet, President Bolsonaro's administration needs to consider that this compliance may please the US pres-

ident, but is for sure not enough to keep him pleased, specially considering that President Trump always wants more and is well known for his excessive demands from friends and foes, even NATO allies. Considering that these extra-territorial sanctions are illegal as they are not only outside the UN Chapter Seven, but also come in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that guaranteed the Nuclear Deal between Iran and the world powers - entailing a removal of the sanctions - aiding or obeying the US in this illegal re-imposition of the US unilateral sanctions against Tehran is not only complicity with this violation of international law, but also extend the practice of Washington's will and decisions to the land of Brazil, undermining Brasilia's independence and sovereignty. There are great doubts if Brazilians would ever agree to let the US decide for them as they know very well that this means an exercise of the US policy at the cost of Brazil.

Still, this won't be just a single case if Brazil means to keep Trump appeased, as the Latino nation will be required to respect hundreds of US sanctions rules not just against Iran, but also against a handful nations across the world from Russia, China, North Korea to Venezuela in the same neighborhood. In fact, the US has imposed sanctions on tens of nations, and continued compliance with this illegal US policy would not only usher in gravely weakening sovereignty and independence, but also incur billions of dollars in loss.

Meantime, Iran, a major energy supplier with a very lucrative market, is a key player in the world's heartland, the Middle-East. A brief look at the growth of Iran's regional power and presence and the fast spread of its allies across the nation in the last decade could easily portray the brilliant and lustrous prospects for Tehran's friends in the Middle-East market in ten years from now. Iran and Brazil have enjoyed age-old ties with great potentials for a rapid expansion of bilateral ties and cooperation. A needless complicity with

Donald Trump's economic terrorism against Iranians is not something that would go unnoticed or forgotten. A simple cost-benefit calculus would leave no doubt that denying fuel to Iranian ships and keeping their sailors at bay for such a long time to give a moment of rejoice to the US president is not worth the huge costs as it would definitely damage the Tehran-Brasilia trade ties. For a nation whose people in a port city in the South-West identify themselves with Brazil as the dark-colored, football-crazy fans of the city sometimes bring Brazil's flag to their famous San'at-e Naft football club to "shout Abadan is a part of Brazil" it is hard to see the warm-blooded nation that they adore has now partnered in Trump's economic terrorism against them to keep their sailors from a journey back home. This comes as Brasilia could surely work a way out through consultations with the Iranian mission in the Latin state to easily evade the US sanctions. Apart from the financial and diplomatic losses, the Brazilian government would surely be forced to continue walking along the endless road of compliance with Trump's excessive demands - that are not limited to Iran - to keep him happy at the cost of their independence and sovereignty and huge financial losses as well as a growing loss of a part of their share in global markets, and still more importantly, deteriorating ties with regional influential actors that would not all be as far as Iran or Russia, but could also be as close as Venezuela and several other Latino nations like Mexico once it fails to please the US president with the Wall or stop the Caravan. Yet, with a capricious president like Donald Trump who has even despised and betrayed allied governments across the world, including Canada, President Bolsonaro may never rest assured that Trump could not turn his back on him any moment, while looking excessively a Trumpster would wear off his image as an independent politician and could cost him the future of his career in the next vote.

## American politicians use jews as pawns to excuse their meddling in Israeli elections

By Thomas Knapp

On July 23, the US House of Representatives passed (the vote went 398-17, with five voting "present") a resolution condemning the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

The resolution was an outrageous condemnation of the freely chosen economic actions of millions of Americans.

Worse, that condemnation was made on the express behalf of not just a foreign government but the specific policies of one foreign political party (Israel's Likud Party and its leader, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu). Its intended purpose is to give Likud and Netanyahu the advantage of perceived US support in Israel's upcoming election.

Worst of all, the resolution's proponents made — and now that it's passed, will continue to make — extensive use of overt, undisguised race-baiting, posturing as defenders of Jews while smearing their opponents as anti-Semites.

What are the purposes of the BDS movement? To pressure the government of Israel to meet "its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully comply with the precepts of international law by: 1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling the Wall; 2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194."

Who supports BDS?

Yes, some BDS supporters oppose the existence of the Israeli state as such, and some of them are anti-Jewish big-ots. Go figure.

Other BDS supporters are Jews, including some Israelis. Being Jewish or Israeli no more entails supporting one political party's agenda than being American does.

BDS harnesses the consciences of individuals — individuals

of all religions, nationalities, and ethnicities — to voluntary action pressuring the Israeli government to abide by the same standards of international law that the US government routinely, and with great pomp and circumstance, imposes coercive sanctions on other governments for supposedly violating.

The anti-BDS resolution is a far more overt, and likely far more effective, instance of US government meddling in Israel's elections than anything the Mueller Report credibly accuses the Russian state of doing vis-à-vis the 2016 US election.

That's disgusting.

But not as disgusting as its supporters' virulent resort to racial politics and their abuse of Jews as, to steal a phrase from a recent New York Times op-ed by Michelle Goldberg, "human shields" to distract our attention from what they're actually up to.

Shame on the House.



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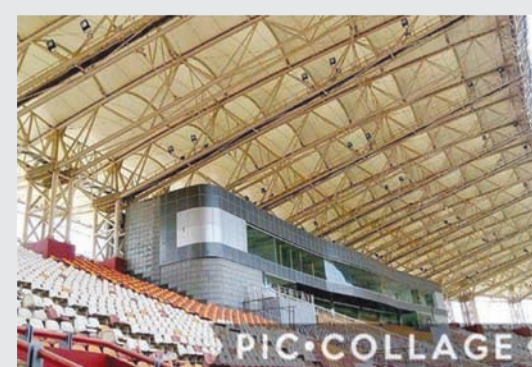
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# SpaceX successfully launches 18th cargo mission to space station

SpaceX successfully launched its 18th cargo flight to the International Space Station from Florida Thursday evening.

The rocket lifted off at 6:01 p.m., from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Earlier Air Force weather predictions indicated a low chance for launch but the weather improved dramatically, shortly before launch time. The launch was delayed on Wednesday due to rainclouds.

The Dragon spacecraft, riding on top of the rocket, is headed to deliver supplies, science equipment and a new docking mechanism that will be used for spacecraft carrying people. Liftoff occurred from Launch Complex 40.

The reusable booster for the rocket landed at the Air Force station after launch, causing sonic booms on the Space Coast and over parts of central Florida.

It's the third time SpaceX has launched this particular capsule; it previously



carried cargo into space in April 2015 and in December 2017.

The mission is expected to fly for two days before docking at ISS. NASA astronaut Nick Hague, who is on board the space station, is set to retrieve the spacecraft during the docking maneuver.

Among the private companies sending 17 research projects to the space station are Goodyear, Nickelodeon, drugmaker AstraZeneca and nScript, an Orlando company that is sending a 3D printer to space to make human tissue.

The ISS National Lab is sponsoring 25 separate payloads on SpaceX CRS-18, a new high for a resupply mission. The lab says the demand for space-based research and development continues to increase as more companies try new science experiments in a microgravity environment.

(Source: UPI)

## World's smallest fossil monkey found in Amazon jungle

A team of Peruvian and American scientists have uncovered the 18-million-year-old remains of the smallest fossil monkey ever found.

A fossilized tooth found in Peru's Amazon jungle has been identified as belonging to a new species of tiny monkey no heavier than a hamster.

The specimen is important because it helps bridge a 15-million-year gap in the fossil record for New World monkeys, says a team led by Duke University and the National University of Piura in Peru.

The new fossil was unearthed from an exposed river bank along the Río Alto Madre de Dios in southeastern Peru. There, researchers dug up chunks of sandstone and gravel, put them in bags, and hauled them away to be soaked in water and then strained through sieves to filter out the fossilized teeth, jaws, and bone fragments buried within.

The team searched through some 2,000 pounds of sediment containing hundreds of fossils of rodents, bats and other animals before they spotted the lone monkey tooth.

"Primate fossils are as rare as hen's teeth," said first author

Richard Kay, a professor of evolutionary anthropology at Duke who has been doing paleontological research in South America for nearly four decades.

A single upper molar, the specimen was just "double the size of the head of a pin" and "could fall through a window screen," Kay said.

Paleontologists can tell a lot from monkey teeth, particularly molars. Based on the tooth's relative size and shape, the researchers think the animal likely dined on energy-rich fruits and insects, and weighed in at less than half a pound—only slightly heavier than a baseball. Some of South America's larger monkeys, such as howlers and muriquis, can grow to 50 times that heft.

"It's by far the smallest fossil monkey that's ever been found worldwide," Kay said. Only one monkey species alive today, the teacup-sized pygmy marmoset, is smaller, "but barely," Kay said.

In a paper published online July 23 in the Journal of Human Evolution, the team dubbed the animal Parvimico materdei, or "tiny monkey from the Mother of God River."

Now stored in the permanent collections of the Institute

of Paleontology at Peru's National University of Piura, the find is important because it's one of the few clues scientists have from a key missing chapter in monkey evolution.

Monkeys are thought to have arrived in South America from Africa some 40 million years ago, quickly diversifying into the 150-plus New World species we know today, most of which inhabit the Amazon rainforest. Yet exactly how that process unfolded is a bit of a mystery, in large part because of a gap in the monkey fossil record between 13 and 31 million years ago with only a few fragments.

In that gap lies Parvimico. The new fossil dates back 17 to 19 million years, which puts it "smack dab in the time and place when we would have expected diversification to have occurred in the New World monkeys," Kay said.

The team is currently on another fossil collecting expedition in the Peruvian Amazon that will wrap up in August, concentrating their efforts in remote river sites with 30-million-year-old sediments.

"If we find a primate there, that would really be pay dirt," Kay said.

(Source: phys.org)

## NASA engineers deliver hardware for ESA Dark Energy mission



NASA engineers delivered critical hardware for the European Space Agency's Dark Energy mission this week. The hardware is essential to one of the instruments on the mission's Euclid spacecraft.

Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland designed, built and tested 20 pieces of sensor-chip electronics, or SCEs. The hardware will be used to amplify and digitize extremely weak signals fielded by light detectors on Euclid's Near Infrared Spectrometer and Photometer, NISP, an instrument designed to provide near infrared observations of distant galaxies.

The hardware and other instrument components must be extremely sensitive and precise, but also capable of performing under extreme conditions, including temperatures as low as minus 213 degrees Fahrenheit.

«Even under the best of circumstances, it is extremely challenging to design and build very sensitive and complex electronics that function reliably at very cold operating temperatures,» Moshe Pniel, the U.S. project manager for Euclid at JPL, said in a news

update. «This truly remarkable team, spread across two NASA centers, accomplished this task under intense schedule pressure and international attention.»

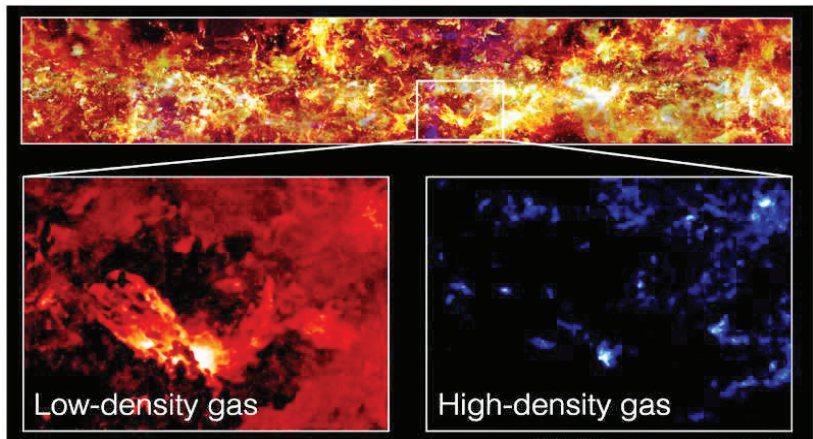
The Euclid mission is designed to study the dark energy's role in the expansion of the universe. The probe's instruments will be used to observe faraway galaxies and measure the speeds at which they are racing away from the center of the universe.

Cosmologists theorize that dark matter's gravitational forces, dark energy, are fueling the accelerating expansion of the universe. Euclid and its instruments will help scientists measure these forces and their effects on regular matter.

«Euclid's census of distant galaxies will reveal how the large-scale structure of the universe is shaped by the interplay of regular matter, dark matter and dark energy,» according to NASA. «This in turn will allow scientists to learn more about the properties and effects of both dark matter and dark energy in the universe, and to get closer to understanding their fundamental nature.»

(Source: UPI)

## Production sites of stars are rare



Astronomers using the Nobeyama Radio Observatory (NRO) 45-m telescope found that high-density gas, the material for stars, accounts for only 3% of the total mass of gas distributed in the Milky Way. This result provides key information for understanding the unexpectedly low production rate of stars.

Stars are born in gas clouds. The high-density gas pockets form in the extended, low-density gas clouds, and stars form in the very dense gas cores which evolve within the high-density gas. However, observations of distant galaxies detected 1000 times fewer stars than the production value expected from the total amount of low-density gas. To interpret the discrepancy, observations which detect both of the high-density and low-density gas with high-spatial resolution and wide area coverage were needed. However, such observations are difficult, because the high-density gas structures are dozens of times smaller than the low-density gas structures.

The Milky Way survey project "FUGIN" conducted using the NRO 45-m telescope and the multi-beam receiver FOREST

overcame these difficulties. Kazufumi Torii, a project assistant professor at NAOJ, and his team analyzed the big data obtained in the FUGIN project, and measured the accurate masses of the low-density and high-density gas for a large span of 20,000 light-years along the Milky Way. They revealed for the first time that the high-density gas accounts for only 3% of the total gas.

These results imply the production rate of high-density gas in the low-density gas clouds is small, creating only a small number of opportunities to form stars. The researcher team will continue working on the FUGIN data to investigate the cause of inefficient formation of the high-density gas.

These observation results were published as K. Torii et al. "FOREST Unbiased Galactic plane Imaging survey with the Nobeyama 45 m telescope (FUGIN). V. Dense gas mass fraction of molecular gas in the Galactic plane" as an on-line paper of the Publications of the Astronomical Society of Japan on 2019 Apr., and will be published as a special issue.

(Source: Science Daily)

## Chandra X-ray telescope celebrates 20 years in space

In July 1999, NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory took off aboard the space shuttle Columbia to scan the sky in a wavelength of light invisible to human eyes. For the last 20 years, Chandra has done just that, taking in high-energy X-rays, which can be detected only from above Earth's atmosphere.

"Chandra remains peerless in its ability to find and study X-ray sources," said Chandra X-ray Center director and astrophysicist Belinda Wilkes in a statement. "Since virtually every astronomical source emits X-rays, we need a telescope like Chandra to fully view and understand our universe."

One of the spacecraft's first images, released August 26, 1999, revealed X-rays from a neutron star or black hole at the heart of Cassiopeia A, the remnants of a star that exploded in a supernova that was seen by Tycho Brahe in 1572.

Since then, Chandra has spied on cosmic objects as diverse as merging galaxy clusters in the distant universe, black holes in the center of the Milky Way and the planet next door, Venus. Some of the phenomena Chandra investigates



today weren't even known yet when the telescope launched, such as X-rays emitted in the aftermath of clashing neutron

stars that also emitted gravitational waves.

To celebrate the observatory's 20th anniversary, NASA has released six images highlighting the breadth of what X-rays can reveal. Those images, which show X-ray data combined with optical and other types of observations, include regions where stars are born and the aftermath of their deaths, colliding galaxy clusters and the home of a supermassive black hole.

The first row of the top image above, from left to right, shows Abell 2146 (the result of a collision and merger of two massive galaxy clusters), the region around the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way, and 30 Doradus, a star-forming region located close to the Milky Way.

In the second row of the top image, from left to right, is a massive and violent star called Cygnus OB2, a star-forming region called NGC 604 in the nearby galaxy Messier 33, and a supernova remnant called G292.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## Curiosity has sent back images of the perfect spot to search for evidence of life on Mars

In a way, Mars looks like a dusty, dead, dry, boring planet. But science says otherwise. Science says that Mars used to be wet and warm, with an atmosphere. And science says that it was wet and warm for billions of years, easily long enough for life to appear and develop.

But we still don't know for sure if any life did happen there.

The scientific effort to understand Mars and its ancient habitability has really ramped up in recent years. Now that Spirit and Opportunity are gone, MSL Curiosity is carrying the workload. (NASA's InSight lander is on Mars too, but it's not looking for evidence of life or habitability.)



MSL Curiosity is driving around Gale Crater, looking for evidence that life lived there billions of years ago. Gale Crater is a dried up lake bed, and according to scientists, that's the prime location to look for evidence.

Christopher House is a Professor of Geosciences at Penn State University. He's also a participating scientist with NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission. In a press release from Penn State University, House talked about the MSL mission and what it's like to be involved on a daily basis with the ground-breaking mission.

"Gale Crater appears to have been a lake environment," House said, adding that the mission has found a lot of finely layered mudstone in the crater.

"The water would have persisted for a million years or more."

Gale Crater was chosen as the target for Curiosity because it's a complex place. Not only was it a lake bed, meaning there are minerals there that can yield clues to Martian habitability, but that lake was eventually filled with sediment.

That sediment turned to stone, which then eroded. That same process is what created Mt. Sharp, the mountain in the middle of Gale Crater, and another of Curiosity's objects of fascination.

"But the whole system, including the groundwater that ran through it, lasted much longer, perhaps even a billion or more years," he said.

"There are fractures filled with sulfate, which indicates that water ran through these rocks much later, after the planet was no longer forming lakes."

House works with the Mars Science Laboratory's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) and sedimentology and stratigraphy teams. The SAM team uses an instrument that heats up rock samples and a mass spectrometer to measure molecules released by the heated samples. The mass of the molecules helps the researchers identify the types of gases released.

House and other scientists are particularly interested in sulfur gases from sulfate and sulfide minerals because the presence of reduced sulfur minerals like pyrite, the most common sulfide mineral, would indicate that the environment could have supported life in the past. This is partly because pyrite needs the presence of organic matter to form in sediment.

House serves as a lead for the sedimentology and stratigraphy team. As the name implies, that team studies layers of rocks on the surface of Mars to try to understand the environment they formed in. House is also involved in the rover's tactical planning.

A few times every month House directs a daily teleconference with scientists around the world to plan Curiosity's operations for the next day on Mars.

"It's been fun to be involved in the daily operations, decisions like where to take a measurement, or where to drive, or whether we should prioritize a particular measurement over a different measurement given the limited amount of time on the surface," House said.

"Each day is limited by the power that the rover has and how much power the rover will need. It has been a great learning experience for how missions operate and a great opportunity to collaborate with scientists from around the world."

Though it seems to move slowly to us public observers, the pace of Curiosity's day-to-day operations is quick and detailed. According to House, we live in a golden age of planetary science, and it's both exhilarating and bewildering.

"Each time we drive, we wake up to an entirely new field of view with new rocks and new questions to ask," he said.

"It's sort of a whole new world each time you move, and so often you're still thinking about the questions that were happening months ago, but you have to deal with the fact that there's a whole new landscape, and you have to do the science of that day as well."

To House, Mars is a fascinating world, and one which we've already learned a great deal about. Mars is still a dynamic place, and we already know that it was likely habitable in the past.

"Missions like this have shown habitable environments on Mars in the past," House said.

"Missions have also shown Mars to continue to be an active world with potentially methane releases and geology, including volcanic eruptions, in the not too distant past. There's definitely great interest in Mars as a dynamic terrestrial world that is not so different than our Earth as some other worlds in our solar system."

House is right. While Mars may seem dry, desolate, cold, and lifeless, it's much more Earth-like than other worlds in the Solar System. Venus is a hellhole, Jupiter is a gigantic, radioactive ball of gas, other planets and moons are frigid, dead places far from the light of the Sun, and Mercury is just, well... Mercury.

Curiosity and all the work it does is continually expanding our scientific understanding of Mars. Back in 2014, the rover detected spikes in methane, which is often associated with organic processes. Also in 2014, it found organic carbon compounds.

In 2013, the rover also found evidence of an ancient stream-bed on Mars, proving that there was definitely water flowing on the surface in the past.

MSL Curiosity is still going strong since landing on Mars in August 2012. Its initial mission length was targeted at 687 days, but it's still going after more than 2500 days.

MSL has already revealed much about Mars, and will keep going until its radioisotope thermoelectric generator runs out of power. Anything else we learn from its mission is gravy.

(Source: sciencealert.com)



## The Silk Route city of Sheki inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage list

The Silk Route may have had its historical heyday in centuries past, but in tourism circles it has never been talked about more. The latest news is that the fabled city of Sheki has been awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO.



Colorful Xan Sarayi, palace of Khan in Sheki, Azerbaijan. (Image by ©dinozaver/Shutterstock)

Located in northwest Azerbaijan, now just a five-hour drive from the country's capital of Baku, Sheki was once an international hub for silk production. And as such, it played an important role in the famed Silk Route. Today its cobblestone streets, historic architecture and unique culture offer visitors an exceptional window into the ancient trading route.

Situated at the base of the Greater Caucasus Mountains and cut by the waters of the Gurjana River, the city is broken into two distinct parts: the historical old town – including the remarkable summer palace of the Sheki Khans – sits at an elevated position in the north, while the newer southern section flows down into the river valley itself.

The Khan's Palace, built by Huseyn Khan in 1762, was specifically called out in the UNESCO inscription, and no wonder – its 5000 examples of shebeke (coloured glass mosaics encased in decorative and structural wooden lattices) are mesmerizing.

Even more so when you try to comprehend the fact that these works of art were constructed by ancient methods without using a single nail or drop of glue. Inside the palace's rooms are also extravagant frescoes that depict everything from hunting scenes and battles to local flora and fauna. The structure housed the latter series of Sheki Khans who ruled over this area of the Caucasus until 1819 when a Russian invasion ended the khanate.

Sheki and its Khan's Palace join other Azerbaijan sites already on the UNESCO World Heritage list, namely the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (inscribed in 2007) and the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (inscribed in 2000).

(Source: Lonely Planet)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Jelling mounds and runic stones

The Jelling burial mounds and one of the runic stones are striking examples of pagan Nordic culture, while the other runic stone and the church illustrate the Christianization of the Danish people towards the middle of the 10th century.

Located in central Jutland, Denmark, Jelling was a royal monument during the reigns of Gorm, and his son Harald Bluetooth. It consists of two flat-topped mounds, 70 meters in diameter and up to 11 meters high, which are almost identical in shape and size and construction, being built of turf, carefully stacked in even layers, with the grass side facing downwards.



After introducing Christianity into Denmark, and integrating Norway with the country, Harald Bluetooth proclaimed his achievements by erecting a stone between the two mounds and building the first wooden church at Jelling.

The large runic stone is located exactly midway between the two mounds. Its incised inscription, beneath an inscribed interlaced Nordic dragon, reads "King Harald bade this monument be made in memory of Gorm his father and Thyra his mother, that Harald who won for himself all Denmark and Norway and made the Danes Christians".

Marking the beginning of the conversion of the Scandinavian people to Christianity, the Jelling Mounds, runic stones and church are outstanding manifestations of an event of exceptional importance. The complex is exceptional in Scandinavia, and the rest of Europe.

#### ■ Integrity

Expressing the value of the property, the Jelling Mounds, Runic Stones and Church collectively provide the three fundamental and significant elements. In 2006, related parts of a palisade, and indications of a much larger ship setting, were excavated. These discoveries are currently being subject to further investigations by the National Museum, and the Museum of Vejle.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Over 3,000 Armenians on pilgrimage at St. Thaddeus Monastery

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Over 3,000 Christian worshippers, who are natives of Iran or other countries, are on pilgrimage at St. Thaddeus Monastery, which is located in Iran's West Azarbaijan province.

The essential core of the pilgrimage, called Badarak, was held on Saturday, attended by guests from Iran, Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Germany, Canada and some other countries, IRNA reported.

The province's cultural heritage department has endeavored to provide the necessary infrastructure, including camping sites, sanitary services, catering services, outdoor lighting, and setting up tents for ritual ceremonies and other services, chief of the department Jalil Jabbari said.

Baptism of children and youngsters along with performances of traditional songs and dances are amongst highlights the event.

The festivity is of high importance for Iranian-Armenians who mostly come from the cities of Tabriz, Urmia, Tehran, Isfahan and Qazvin, to stage the reunion in groups and families. It also provides them an opportunity to go on holiday and visit distant relatives.



Attendees commemorate the martyrdom of St. Thaddeus, one of the twelve disciples killed while he was preaching the Gospel. The legend says, a church dedicated to him

was first built in 68 CE where Qareh Klise is standing.

Thaddeus was an apostle of Christ and the ceremony is rooted in the last supper

## Iran agrees to extend visa validity for Indian nationals



**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran has agreed to extend visa validity for Indian visitors to 90 days from 30, The Economic Times reported on Saturday.

Tehran-New Delhi ties have received a boost in recent weeks with the Islamic Republic offering one-year multiple-entry visas to Indians with the aim of deepening bilateral trade and people-to-people contact.

It comes despite India's decision to stop import of oil from its old ally and reduce the budget for Chabahar Port expansion under the shadow of U.S.-led sanctions, the report said.

The two nations are also negotiating a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty to strengthen cooperation in legal matters involving their citizens. An Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on Civil and Commercial Matters is currently being negotiated with Iran, minister of state for external affairs V. Muraleedharan told Indian Parliament on Thursday.

The proposed agreement was discussed during the India-Iran Joint Consular Committee Meeting (JCCM), held in New Delhi on May 14, with a view to its expeditious conclusion, the minister said.

In June, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani issued a decree on facilitating foreign tourist arrivals in the country, saying that visa-stamping waivers should be extended to all airports across the country.

As of last November, Iran started issuing electronic visas -- without any entry or exit stamps -- for those traveling to the country, in a bid to facilitate tourist inflow and to cope with sanctions recently reimposed by the U.S.

Iran welcomed some 7.8 million foreign nationals in the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), which shows a 52.5 percent increase year on year. The ultimate goal of the Islamic Republic is to attract 20 million foreign tourists annually by 2025.

## Flood-hit ancient bridge being restored

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A new round of restoration work has been commenced on the historical Kashkan Bridge, which suffered damage from a heavy flooding in March.

The Sassanid-era (224 CE to 651) monument is located in the western province of Lorestan.

This phase of restoration seeks to strengthen and repair foundation of the bridge in order to prevent it from collapsing, provincial tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qassemi said, Mehr reported on Friday.

"[This phase of] restoration is aimed to stabilize the status quo of the historical monument."



Urgent restoration of the bridge commenced earlier in May to fix one of pillars tilted forward at the time of the flood.

Kashkan Bridge is 300 meters long, and it originally had 11 columns and 12 arches, some parts of which are ruined or wiped away. Its height varies between 10 to 26 meters. Inscribed on the National Heritage list, the bridge is one the most spectacular attractions of the ancient region.

Days of devastating flooding and heavy rain inflicted damage to tens of cultural heritage sites in Lorestan; for instance it washed away parts of a historic hill, on top of which the famed Falak-ol-Aflak Castle is nested.

## Top tourism spots crack down as they become victim of own success

**LONDON (Thomson Reuters Foundation)** — It is not the sheer number of tourists descending on Venice that bothers Italian food blogger Monica Cesarato so much as the type of visitor.

Not so long ago Venice was considered the trip of a lifetime, said Cesarato, who runs gastronomic tours there. Visitors took days, even weeks, to explore the City of Canals, spending money in local restaurants and businesses.

Today they pile off cruise ships and coaches, go on whirlwind tours run by non-locals, take umpteen selfies and buy little more than a cheap trinket made in China.

As millions of holidaymakers head off for their summer break, increasing numbers of popular destinations are saying they cannot take much more.

The Belgian city of Bruges is cracking down on cruise ships. Paris wants to limit coaches. Prague is fed up with beer bikes – and one Thai beach has banned tourists altogether.

While tourism creates jobs and wealth, there is growing awareness of its negative impacts, from environmental damage to the destruction of neighborhoods as residents are priced out.

The problems have created a backlash, spawning anti-tourism movements and protests from Amsterdam to Rome and Dubrovnik, the Croatian city featured in the TV show "Game of Thrones".

#### ■ Soaring numbers

Mass tourism took off after World War Two. Last year there were 1.4 billion tourist arrivals, up from 25 million in 1950, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, with Europe absorbing half of them.

The nation generating the most tourists is China – 143 million trips abroad in 2017, while France and Spain receive the most visits – more than 80 million a year.

The boom is down to a fast-expanding global middle class combined with a proliferation of budget airlines and online

travel agents which have made travel cheap and easy. A Londoner can fly to the south of France for less than 20 pounds (\$25).

"The perception of going on holiday has shifted from being pretty much a privilege to becoming very much a right," said Marina Novelli, professor of tourism and international development at the University of Brighton.

She said for decades tourism authorities and ministries have only measured success in terms of increased visitor numbers.

"This model no longer works and that's probably the most important message to get out there," she said, warning that overcrowding and "Disneyfication" in some places could destroy the charms that draw tourists in the first place.

"If we look at numbers only, and we don't look in more detail at the impact – economic, social, environmental – we risk killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

#### ■ Cruise ships

Nowhere epitomises the problems as much as Venice, which attracts 30 million tourists a year to its magnificent canals and bridges.

As visitor numbers soar, the "Queen of the Adriatic" has seen its own population plummet from about 175,000 after World War Two to just over 50,000.

"We used to have a low season when Venetians had time to recuperate. Now it's all year round and Venetians don't get the city for themselves anymore," Cesarato told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Stores like bakeries and greengrocers and community services are vanishing as residents bail out. "I can only just see this getting worse and worse," she added.

UNESCO has threatened to add Venice to its list of endangered heritage sites, partly because of problems with tourism.

Calls to ban cruise ships from the center of Venice intensified this summer after one hulking liner crashed and a second had a narrow miss.

Travel experts say cruise ships – along with other day-trippers – exacerbate "over-



Policemen collect trash at Bulabog beach in the holiday island of Boracay during the first day of a temporary closure for tourists, in Philippines April 26, 2018. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

tourism" because passengers increase congestion while spending little locally.

Several European destinations including Dubrovnik, Bruges and the Greek island of Santorini, have slapped restrictions on cruise ships. Barcelona's mayor has also promised action.

#### ■ Rental apps

Another phenomenon fuelling anti-tourism protests is the rise of short-stay letting platforms such as Airbnb, which are blamed for hiking rents and changing neighborhoods.

With landlords able to make far more on holiday lets than traditional leases, housing supply has shrunk and residents have been squeezed out.

Paris has about 60,000 homes listed on Airbnb, Amsterdam 19,600, Barcelona 18,300 and Venice 8,500, according to Inside Airbnb, a website highlighting the company's impact on neighborhoods. Cities including Palma de Mallorca,

Paris, Amsterdam and London have introduced or are discussing measures to mitigate the impact.

While overtourism is most apparent in Europe's historic cities, the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) warned last month that certain cities in Asia, Latin America and Africa could be at risk if they do not plan ahead.

Nor are problems confined to cities. Thailand closed a beach made famous by the Leonardo DiCaprio movie "The Beach" indefinitely last year to give its ecosystem time to recover.

The Philippines' top holiday island of Boracay also shut for a clean-up last year after the president raged it had become a "cesspool" and warned of an environmental disaster.

The Indonesian island of Bali and Italian island of Capri both banned single-use plastics this year, the latter threatening hefty fines for violations.



# Iran, second innovation economy in central, southern Asia: GII

➔ India and Kazakhstan ranked first and third in the region.

The GII ranking of Iran also moves up four notches in comparison with 2018, which was placed 65th.

The aim of the GII report is to provide insightful data on innovation and, in turn, to assist economies in evaluating their innovation performance and making informed innovation policy considerations.

## Iran amongst most top science and technology clusters

According to GII 2019, the most top science and technology clusters are in Iran, the U.S., China, and Germany. As in the previous two years, the GII 2019 includes a special section, which presents the latest ranking of the world's largest science and technology (S&T) clusters. The top ten clusters are the same as last year. Tokyo–Yokohama tops this ranking, followed by Shenzhen–Hong Kong.

The U.S. continues to host the largest number of clusters (26), followed by China (18, two more than in 2018), Germany (10), France (5), the UK (4), and Canada (4).

Australia, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland all hosted three clusters each. In addition, there are clusters from five middle-income economies in the top 100—Brazil, India, Iran, the Russian Federation, and Turkey.

## Ten best-ranked economies by income group

Iran ranks 9th among middle-income economies in the quality of publications and 12th overall in the quality of innovation among middle-income economies.

Regarding the quality of scientific publications (Citable documents H-index), among the top 5 in the high-income group, only the U.S. and Canada are non-European economies. In the middle-income group, China takes the top position. India is 2nd, as the only lower middle-income economy in the top ranks.

## Role of government investment on research development

The report named the Iranian government as one of the factors for improvement of innovation in the country.

According to GII 2019, the government investment can help set up large funds to advance particular fields of research and to create health research centers or clusters, such as Iranian dedicated science and technology parks, the Thai Center of Excellence for Life Sciences, the Brazilian SENAI Innovation Institutes.

## Iran's experience in developing high-tech medical innovations

Over the last two decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in the health and medical sector, expanding both in market size and coverage. The ever-growing medical innovation ecosystem is supported by ongoing policy framework developments, incentives, and regulatory bodies.

In addition, the emergence and development of the biopharma sector in Iran, which is a complex, high-tech sector, hosts several successful local export firms.

## Advancement in health coverage, research, and innovation

Iran's improvement in health-related indicators has been consistent and promising. According to the Human Development Index (HDI), the mean years of life expectancy in Iran has increased dramatically from 51.1 in 1980 to 76.2 in 2018, an approximate 25-year increase over the past three decades.

From a science, technology, and innovation (STI) perspective, Iran has boosted scientific production in areas such as nano-tech, biotechnology (biotech), biomedical engineering, bioengineering, biomaterials, and biophysics. For instance, rankings have improved from either non-existent or around 60th position in the late 20th century to 4th in nano-tech, 12th in biomedical engineering, 9th in bioengineering, and 8th in biomaterials, in 2017.

The medical innovation ecosystem—supported by over 19,300 faculty members from medical universities and research institutes, and responsible for roughly 37,450 scientific papers and 1,589 patent applications in 2018—has the capacity to host various research activities.

In 2018, the National Medical Device Directorate (NMDD), reported that the Iranian medical equipment market was worth US\$2.5 billion, of which 30% be-



**Over the last two decades, Iran has made significant progress in the health and medical sector, expanding both in market size and coverage. The ever-growing medical innovation ecosystem is supported by ongoing policy framework developments, incentives, and regulatory bodies**

longed to over 1,000 domestic firms.

On a global scale, 56% of 500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian-made versions.

In pharmaceuticals, around 70% of Iran's US\$4.5 billion market is domestic products and, in 2018, 97% of pharmaceuticals consumed in the country were manufactured locally. Furthermore, in 2018, 67% of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were made locally.

## Medical innovation policy framework

Iran has integrated its healthcare system with medical education to improve health conditions. Sixty-five medical universities, responsible for both health services and medical higher education, constitute a decentralized network of provincial healthcare bodies that are managed centrally by the Ministry of Health (MOH). This network has contributed to the creation of a strong healthcare system characterized by extensive and convenient access to medical services, both in rural and urban areas.

In each province, public medical universities provide medical services, administer vaccinations, and assist in fighting local diseases. Because of countrywide distribution, the network has the ability to undertake endogenous research and innovation and train medical cadres based on local demands and epidemic situations. According to the MOH, 100% of urban and 98% of rural areas in Iran now have access to at least primary medical services.

When local products are available, public health insurances do not cover the costs of foreign drugs for patients, but they do cover from 90 to 100 percent of the total cost of the domestic equivalent. Imposing high tariffs on foreign drugs and/or medical equipment, when an equivalent is locally produced and developed to meet domestic demand, is also a tool to support medical innovation. In cases where the domestic equivalent is not available, low tariffs of 4% are set on foreign products. However, when the domestic equivalent is available and verified by the MOH, these tariffs increase from 4 percent to between 32 to 45 percent, and public health insurances will no longer cover patient medical expenses for these products.

Supporting the local production of drugs has successfully promoted domestic product share in the national pharmaceutical market, from 63.4% in 2009 to 78.6% in 2018.

In addition, exporting medical innovations is strongly encouraged by recent policies, such as the law for supporting knowledge-based firms (KBFs). This law, approved by Parliament in 2010, was introduced as a mechanism to encourage the supply side of technology and innovation in high-tech firms, benefiting the health sector. The Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology (VPST) administers this law and the Iran National Innovation Fund channels funds to the innovative and technological

activities of eligible KBFs. Eligible firms include private entities that produce high-tech products, require in-house R&D and skilled employees, are high value-added, and are difficult to imitate. In early 2019, US\$85 million had been allocated in the form of low-interest rate loans to fund 474 medical innovation projects by the IPF. Additionally, the VPST supports 4,300 KBFs, of which approximately 1,100 KBFs are private health and medical sector firms.

## Medical innovation ecosystem and its key actors

A community of vibrant young entrepreneurs in Iran has pioneered state-of-the-art medical innovations. Their efforts are reinforced by evolving government support in the form of tariff barriers, tax exemption, and guaranteed purchase.

The law for supporting KBFs has played a key role in empowering the medical innovation ecosystem. There are four dedicated Science & Technology parks, 78 incubators, and 739 research centers in a variety of medical fields affiliated with the MOH. 19 Furthermore, 68 incubators and 27 S&T parks, under the supervision of the Ministry of Science Research and Technology (MSRT), specialize in supporting medical and pharmaceutical sectors.

Accelerators and innovation centers are the most recent mechanisms used by the government and, in particular, the VPST to expand and increase the efficiency of KBFs. To date, 29 accelerators and 79 innovation centers are operational and open to medical innovators and entrepreneurs.

The major funding institution, IPF, supports medical innovation mainly by granting loans—US\$85 million to date—to facilitate KBF efforts in developing medical equipment, biotech, and advanced drugs. Another active funding body, the Iran Biotech Fund (IBT), was founded in 2015 by the Biotech Development Council, an affiliate to VPST, and is supported by joint investment from the private sector. At the end of 2017, IBT had invested US\$4 million in venture capital (VC) in 24 innovative ideas and, from its inception, has granted 350 loans—total of US\$11.7 million—to a wide range of innovative biotech ideas and projects.

## Biopharma in Iran: a unique and advanced sector

Over the last two decades, Iran's STI efforts, accompanied by policy support, in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals has resulted in a rapid increase in biotechnology scientific publications—ranking 9th in bioengineering, 9th in applied microbiology and biotechnology, and 13th in biotechnology in 2017.

Currently, there are 20 Iranian biopharma firms, seven of which are KBFs supported by the VPST. Of the 22 drugs that these firms produce, at least 10 are considered state of the art. The local development of biopharma products has resulted in savings of US\$980 million annually, created over 4000 quality jobs for Iranian scientists and researchers, and is accountable for

roughly US\$60 million of Iran's pharmaceutical exports—of which a sizeable share is exported to Europe.

Although the quantity of biopharma products sold in the local market is not comparable to conventional drugs, three of the top five pharmaceutical manufacturers—in terms of total sales in 2017—are CinnaGen, ExirPharma, and AryoGen. These three manufacturers hold 11.2% of the pharmaceutical market share.

National necessity, foreign currency saving, self-reliance, ambition, public incentives, and public policies have afforded Iranian medical researchers and entrepreneurs the opportunity to design and develop medical equipment and advanced drugs.

Despite the sizeable share of local medical products in the Iranian market, further domestic innovation requires economies of scale that cannot be attained solely by tariff barriers and market protection. To achieve economies of scale, local firms must export their products. It is imperative that the government systematically continues to facilitate and monitor the export of medical products.

Even with many successes, Iranian firms face barriers to continued innovation, such as lack of customized public support, branding, international acceptance, and standards.

Overcoming these barriers would require establishing a coordinated policy framework and creating synergies between current policies. Several policy recommendations to strengthen medical innovation and increase economic impact include:

- The scale of the domestic health market is not large enough to justify the development of costly and long-lasting medical innovations. To deter exclusive reliance on the domestic market, strong policy measures should be established to encourage local firms to export their products.

The export process can be lengthy, which suggests that enhancing accreditation infrastructure and standardization facilities would encourage exports more than, for example, access to low-rate loans.

- Government support of local firms has proved to be beneficial; therefore, government should increasingly trust and encourage local firms to engage in high-end medical innovations.

- As leading firms play an important role in the economy, the government should adequately support them in the development of medical innovations and the creation of a dynamic knowledge regime. This would entail enforcing fewer formalities on leading firms, facilitating medical exports, and assisting with the import of raw materials and production equipment. To this end, the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology has devised Pioneer KBFs, a direct communication line to gather information about the needs and challenges of leading firms and to address these in the shortest time possible. The Ministry of Health is encouraged to adopt a similar approach to facilitate and support leading firms.

- According to local firms, some foreign firms that import medical equipment do not face the same difficulties experienced by locals, specifically in obtaining permissions and certifications needed to launch their product in the market. Giving procurement and tender priority to domestic products and firms over the foreign equivalent should be reinforced by the Ministry of Health. In other words, government should take measures to limit foreign medical imports, especially products of lower quality, as a means to encourage local firms to engage in medical research and innovation, as is the case with many other countries.

- Current funding systems that support medical innovation are largely risk-averse. Although institutional mechanisms—such as the Iran Biotech Fund and the Innovation and Prosperity Fund—have helped to mitigate innovation risks, there is a need to enhance efficiency and availability of funding, particularly venture capital. Formulating a comprehensive technology and innovation funding system in the health sector by socializing some of the inherent risks—for example, through guaranteed public procurements and grants in the medical innovation process—could be the starting point to attract more private funding.

## University of Tehran to host IoT summer school on energy management

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** – University of Tehran's science and technology park will host an internet of thing (IoT) summer school from August 10, ISNA reported on Saturday.

With the theme of energy management during peak electricity time, the nine-day event aims to train 10 teams of three to four members.



Focusing on the IoT-based products including embedded systems, communication networks, IoT platforms, applications and services, the teams should offer a minimum viable product (MVP).

The selected teams are supported by accelerators at the park. According to the Technology for Efficiency website, the IoT means the connection of devices over time to a network. IoT environment collects information from devices and enables informed decisions for everyone. In every industry, every gadget, every machine, and every household item, there are elements of the IoT. The world is transforming into a living, breathing ecosystem of machines that can all communicate with each other and deliver on tasks that are much more personal and efficient than before.

## Things you didn't know Google Search could do until now

Google is way more powerful than most people realize. Regular searches are helpful, but they don't even scratch the surface of Google's abilities. Sometimes, your basic search inquiries may not be enough or you need a tip to get the best results.

Fair warning: You can't mention Google without also mentioning tracking. Fortunately, a slew of sites and services compete with Google and don't track you. Tap or click here for Google alternatives for Gmail, YouTube, and Chrome.

But if you'd like to distant yourself from Google Search itself, tap or click here for search sites that don't track you.

That said, there is a range of cool Google tricks you can use to narrow your results even further. It's high time you learned what your search bar could do.

## Get more options on your Google search results page

With rare exception, Google will spit up thousands of links for any search. This is great, in theory, but most relevant information shows up on the first couple of pages. So what happens if you don't find what you're looking for in the first few seconds? You get annoyed, and you wonder what the issue is – bad search, or Google being weird?

One way to mitigate this feeling is to expand the number of results on the first page, so you don't have to click through as many individual pages to find what you're looking for.

Simply click Settings underneath the right-hand side of the search bar on your results page and you're taken to a page where you can adjust the number of results you see. Move the slider in the direction you want, but note that the more results you select per page, the slower Google will appear to run.

## Search verbatim for more refined results

Sometimes Google doesn't exactly "get it" when it comes to your search terms. The search engine tends to rely on context, after all. If you want more literal search results, all you'll need to do is activate Verbatim searches.

This makes it that all search results must have your search terms included exactly as they appear. To activate Verbatim searches, click Tools on your results page, then hover over All results and click to select the Verbatim option. Alternatively, you can also type your search terms in quotation marks for the same effect ("like this").

## Remove old searches from your search history

I have covered how to remove your Google search history many times, but the company has made it easier to remove specific searches from your history (so you don't end up with weird advertisements or irrelevant results on future searches).

To make the change, click or tap this link to visit Google's Delete activity page. When you follow Google's instructions and click the Try it link, you'll be able to search for specific topics and delete them by clicking the three dots symbol.

Now you'll have cleaner results and more relevant ads when you browse.

## Search for books, news, and movies

Most people know how to find images and videos, using the tabs at the top. But Google knows how much the internet loves different kinds of media, so the search engine has curated specific topics to bring you more relevant results about what you're looking up.

Take Books and News, for example. Right under the search bar (if you don't already see Books), you can click the menu item that says more to search among books and news articles specifically – much like you would with an image search. This prevents you from seeing results that aren't related to what you're looking for. As for movies, Google handles its searches without any extra work on your part. Simply type in the name of a movie, and you'll be greeted with cast info, links to Wikipedia, and even showtimes and tickets if it's a movie that's still in theaters.

## Plot directions right from your Google search bar

You're probably already familiar with Google Maps, but did you know you can get directions without even needing to open Maps itself? All you need to do is type in "directions to [destination]" from [location]" and the search engine results will take care of the rest.

You can switch between car, public transportation, and walking directions if you choose to.

(Source: msn.com)

## The AI transformation of sports: Wimbledon 2019 broadcasting

As the 2019 Wimbledon Championships drew to a close, Novak Djokovic overcame Roger Federer in one of the most memorable and exciting finals ever witnessed. Thanks to A.I. technologies, audiences could view more action from the tournament's 660 matches than ever before. The 13-day competition spans 18 courts with hundreds of players competing, making it a near-impossible task to package highlights together for every game. Even with a vastly impracticable team of hundreds of

editors, the scale of the task would make it formidable. That's where IBM's A.I. technology Watson has stepped in. Sam Seddon, IBM Sports and Entertainment Sponsorship lead for the U.K., mentioned "What we've created is a system that is incredibly well-versed at understanding tennis from an excitement point of view. That's 'excitement' defined in a way that an A.I. can understand it. We humans may appreciate tennis; the A.I. is looking at the

same thing in terms of data." So how can the excitement of a tennis game be broken down into data points that A.I. can process? The A.I. development team had the task of establishing the elements of what makes an excellent highlight. To build a framework for identifying the exciting moments from matches, the team utilized player reactions, the excitement of the crowd, and on-court actions as data points. A.I. can analyze these elements and identify the crucial moments of

each match. From player gestures to crowd noise, the data points enable A.I. to rank every point of a game in order of excitement and compile those moments into a highlights package. However, like every A.I. technology project, tackling bias is an issue that must be overcome. While the player's facial expressions could be used as a data point, the unique variations of individual player's reactions could harm accuracy and distort results.

(Source: forbes.com)



## 2,000 residential units to be built for flood survivors

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and the Ministry of Health inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 2,000 houses for those affected by flood, ISNA reported on Saturday. The housing units will be built with donations made by medical universities' staff, students and faculty members. Alireza Asgarian, director for public participation at the Foundation, and Sima Sadat Lari, director for student affairs at the Ministry of Health, signed the MOU.



As per the agreement, medical universities across the country, with the participation of their students, faculty members and other benefactors, will build and equip 2,000 residential units for the flood-hit families covered by the Foundation, Asgarian explained.

Each houses will cost 200 million rials (about \$5,000) in urban areas and 150 million rials (nearly \$3,500) in rural areas, which will be partially paid by the medical community and the Foundation, he said.

Through the MOU, medical students and faculty member are committed to provide 2,000 housing units with necessary household appliances to help flood-ravaged families, he concluded.

Heavy rainfall, beginning on March 19 has led to flooding in 28 out of 31 provinces of Iran affecting 42,269,129 inhabitants in 253 cities and causing widespread damage to municipal facilities, including health centers and hospitals.

## New global warming study definitively proves climate deniers wrong

Climate change “deniers” who claim the rapid temperature rise experienced by the world is part of a natural cycle have been proven wrong by a new study, experts said after it revealed that global warming is happening at an “unprecedented” scale that far exceeds temperature fluctuations during the last two millennia.

Warming in the 20th century, seen over 98 per cent of the world, is in “stark contrast” to previous warm and cool periods such as the “Little Ice Age” when frost fairs were famously held on a frozen Thames, according to the findings in published in the journal Nature.

These occurred on a regional basis and others were seen in different parts of the world.

Researchers examined climate changes over the past 2,000 years which were thought to have been global in nature, such as the medieval warm period from 800 to 1200 AD and the Little Ice Age between 1300 and 1850.

It found that warmer and cooler periods before the Industrial Revolution, when human activity started to put out large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels, were not “globally coherent”.

During the Little Ice Age for example, the coldest temperatures were seen during the 15th century in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, during the 17th century in north-western Europe and south-eastern North America, and during the mid-19th century over other regions.

The researchers also said the previous periods are in line with natural variability of the climate.

(Source: The Independent)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Weapons for Taiwan

(April 25, 2001)

China has condemned plans by the United States to sell sophisticated new weapons systems to Taiwan. From Beijing, Rupert Wingfield Hayes reports.

Beijing is clearly **extremely** unhappy at the **arms** package Washington is reported to be offering Taiwan. In its first response China's foreign ministry called the arms sales a **grave violation** of China's **sovereignty** and a rude **interference** in China's internal affairs.

The arms package being offered to Taiwan will reportedly include four powerful navy **destroyers**, eight diesel submarines and sophisticated submarine hunting aircraft. These are the most advanced weapons to be sold to Taiwan by any country in at least a decade. But while Beijing's **initial response** is **robust** it is far from being **hysterical**.

China may be waiting for Washington to make a formal announcement of the deal before making a full response. But the **measured tone** may also reflect relief here that the arms package does not include the most sophisticated weapons Taiwan had been asking for, in particular the Aegis naval air defense system. Beijing has made it clear the sale of the Aegis system to Taiwan would have been **tantamount** to Washington declaring a new military **alliance** with an island that China claims is an **integral** part of its own territory.

■ **Words**  
**extremely:** very  
**arms:** weapons  
**grave violation:** a very serious break of a promise or agreement  
**sovereignty:** the power that a country has to govern itself or to govern other countries  
**interference:** becoming involved in something when it does not concern you  
**destroyers:** a kind of warship  
**initial response:** first reaction or reply  
**robust:** strong  
**hysterical:** in a state of uncontrolled anger or panic  
**measured tone:** a careful and deliberate way of speaking or dealing with something  
**tantamount to:** almost exactly the same as  
**alliance:** union  
**integral:** important and essential

(Source: BBC)

# Students in 8,000 schools offered rescue, relief training

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) trained students from 8,000 public and private schools on rescue and relief operations in order to enhance their skills and capabilities during natural disasters or incidents, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Since the Iranian calendar year 1392 (March 2013-March 2014), a scheme of relief and rescue courses for the students was held annually by the IRCS in different schools of the country, aiming to familiarize the participants with standards in natural and man-caused incidents rescue.

Students are trained on disaster management, fire extinguishing, treatments for specific injuries, and how to behave in various incidents, or how to save themselves or their families at an accident, IRCS director Ali-Asghar Peyvandi said.

Referring to the fact that more than 2 million students have so far been trained through the scheme over the past 7 years, he said that «We are currently involved in



training participants from 8,000 schools.” Given that Iran is prone to natural dis-

asters, it is important to train students on precautions and rescue operations to

increase effectiveness and limit liability during emergency operations, in addition to reducing casualties in times of disasters and calamities, he explained.

“The main focus of the scheme is mainly on saving people in man-made accidents, and our target audience is not only the students but also their families,” he noted.

He went on to say that students who have been trained on these issues could help their families during the time when earthquake shook Kermanshah province or flood haunted many provinces across the country.

“We teach different age groups at schools, but the priority is with high school students,” he stated, adding, currently, some 300,000 students on 8th grade have participated in the courses.

Safe harbor, carrying the injured, Basic Life Support (BLS), bleeding control, wound management, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), emergency shelter (tenting) and firefighting are among the training courses, he concluded.

## Water donation campaign aims to ease drought in 4 provinces

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) will launch a campaign for the second time to solicit public donations to ease water stress in four provinces of the country.

Called Nazr-e Ab (literally meaning water donation), the campaign will start on August 1 and will run until September 11 in four provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman and Hormozgan aiming at soliciting water donations for the regions suffering severe water scarcity and people can participate with donating bottled water, water tanks or cash, nationwide.

It was first held last year (starting on August 5, 2018) in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan which went into trouble after Hamoun wetland drained and the rainless sky left many in dire need of drinking water.

The campaign has two main aspects; the first one centers on water supply issues including desalination of water, rehabilitation of qanats, improving wells and water quality, filtering and sanitation of reservoirs. And the second aspect focuses on health issues including health care services, free diagnosis, and etc., Mohammad Nasiri, head of the Red Crescent Society volunteer organization explained.

Last year, 800 billion rials (about \$19 million) has been allocated in this regard by the benefactors, he added, IRNA reported on Saturday.

This year, also some water tanks will be installed in villages struggling with water shortages so that villagers can access clean drinking water day and night, in addition to distributing food packages and bottled water, he also said.

Although, the country has received above



normal rainfall this year, some provinces still suffering water scarcity, he noted.

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), Iran has received 313.8 millimeters rainfall while the long-term averages are 225.7 millimeters which indicates that the country met above normal averages. However, last year during the same period, 160 millimeters of precipitation reported nationwide.

Precipitation in Sistan-Baluchestan province increased to 127.5 millimeters from 29.9 millimeters in the previous water year, demonstrating a 325.5 percent rise. The amount also raised in comparison to the long-term average of 112.5 mm, amounting to 13.3 percent.

Khuzestan province also experienced increased rainfall during this crop year, receiving 523.3 millimeters of rain while it reported to rain 204.1 millimeters in the previous water year, showing a 156.4 percent rise, while it also increased in comparison to the long-term mean of 319.3 mm.

But long-standing 20-year-old drought in the region is forcing many to have to provide their water from tank trucks delivering water to the areas.

## Charity foundation to build 110 schools for the deprived

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated to Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam also known as Setad-e Ejraiye Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam, will construct some 110 schools in deprived areas across the country by the end of this year (March 20, 2020).

The main focus of the foundation is on employment and economic empowerment of the underprivileged, but development measures in deprived areas is also on agenda, Ali Vaezinejad, the Foundation's deputy director for construction and infrastructure affairs, said.

Among the development plans, educational buildings are the most important field that we are trying to provide for those residing in deprived areas, he noted, adding, “Our main goal is to achieve sustainable development in those areas.”

He went on to highlight that knowledge, education, and literacy levels are among the main factors of development, adding, “So, we decided to take steps toward this issue building schools.”

However, the Foundation only provides the budget in this regard and the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools will take construction measures, he added.

Referring to the Foundation's target to build some 1,670 schools across the country, he stated: “We have so far inaugurated 1,111 schools and will build the rest in the near future.”

Most of the schools are constructed in the provinces of Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, as well as rural and deprived areas, he added.

Currently, 2,500 schools are being supported by the Foundation which



educate some 160 students, he noted, YJC reported on Saturday.

“In Tehran, we have not built any schools, but in its surrounding areas there are some educational units built by Barekat Foundation,” he also said.

“We tend to provide these vulnerable groups of the society with 110 educational buildings, and 10 of which will be constructed in quake-stricken Kermanshah province,” he concluded.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, also known as Setad-e Ejraiye Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam, was founded in 1989. In the Iranian calendar year 1386 (March 2017-March 2018) Barekat Charity Foundation- the social arm of the organization- with the aim of promoting social justice was established.

Socio-economic empowerment of the communities by encouraging entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructure such as water supply schemes, power grid, and road building, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, granting non-repayable loans and insurance especially in less developed areas and regions most affected by 1980s war and natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

## Underwater glacial melting up to 100 times faster than thought, study finds

Underwater glacial melting is happening up to 100 times faster than previously thought, a major study has found.

For the first time, researchers directly measured the melting of tidewater glaciers below the waterline.

They found existing models were “wildly inaccurate”. Study co-author Rebecca Jackson, of Rutgers University-New Brunswick in the US, said: “We found that melt rates are significantly higher than expected across the whole underwater face of the glacier — in some places 100 times higher than theory would predict.”

Until now, scientists did not know how fast these glaciers — which are found in Greenland, Alaska and Antarctica — were melting under the surface.

Researchers previously used water and air temperature, as well as ocean currents, to measure the melt speed.

But the latest study, published in the journal Science, found that ocean salinity and the shape of the glacier was also important.

“We have opened the door to correcting these models and allowing other researchers to use our method to explore other tidewater glaciers around the world,” lead researcher Dr David Sutherland told The Independent.

The oceanographer, from the University of Oregon, added that his team's data “provides a new constraint for improving those models and points to the ocean as an important trigger for ice loss”.

Scientists studied the underwater melting of LeConte

Glacier, which flows into LeConte Bay in south Juneau in Alaska between 2016 and 2018.

They used sonar to scan and profile the underwater face of the glacier. They also measured the speed of currents, temperature and salinity of the meltwater flow.

Iceberg calving was detected using time-lapse photography, and weather station data measured surface melt. The team believe their approach could be used to study melting rates at other types of glaciers.

This latest study adds to research that suggests assumptions about underwater melting at glaciers need to be revisited — because of the alarming effects of the phenomenon on rising sea levels.

(Source: The Independent)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## DOE not convinced to transfer water from Caspian Sea

Studies carried out so far has not yet convinced the Department of Environment (DOE) to transfer water from the Caspian Sea to central Iran, Parvin Farshchi, deputy director of the DOE for marine affairs has said. Over the past few years Iran has faced recurrent drought spells and low precipitation and the value of water has become more tangible, Khabaronline quoted Farshchi as saying on Saturday. She further explained that water transfer from the Caspian Sea to central Iran has been a matter of interest for some years now and in the [Iranian calendar year of] 1389 (March 2010-March 2011) various research and studies on the issue were conducted.

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “extra-, extro-”

- **Meaning:** outside or beyond
- **For example:** Chris's behavior that morning was quite **extraordinary**.

## PHRASAL VERB

### Think back

- **Meaning:** to think about things that happened in the past
- **For example:** Thinking back, it amazes me how we survived on so little sleep.

## IDIOM

### Cool as a cucumber

- **Explanation:** calm and composed, especially in times of stress
- **For example:** Practicing meditation has helped me to be as cool as a cucumber in times of trouble.

## سازمان محیط زیست؛ برای انتقال آب خزر مجاب نشده ایم

پروین فرشچی معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: مطالعاتی که ما را به انتقال آب خزر به فلات مرکزی مجاب کند، هنوز تکمیل نشده است. به گزارش روز شنبه خبرآنلاین پروین فرشچی در خصوص وضعیت آبی کشور گفت: طی این سال‌ها با خشکسالی و کمبود بارش روبه‌رو بودیم، بنابراین ارزش‌گذاری آب ملموس‌تر مطرح‌شده است.

معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست درباره مسائل مطرح‌شده در خصوص انتقال آب خزر به فلات مرکزی گفت: این موضوع از سال‌ها پیش مطرح بوده و در سال ۱۳۸۹ نیز مطالعات گوناگونی در این حوزه صورت گرفته است.



# Bahrain executes three activists despite intl. protests

➔ The regime in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom carried out the death penalties despite fierce protests by the United Nations and several human rights groups and

The Bahrain Centre for Human Rights said that the families of the two had received phone calls from Jaw prison for private visits - a procedure that usually precedes execution.

Reports had also been emerged of an increased security presence around the jail.

Bahraini law requires death row inmates to receive a family visit on the same day that they are killed.

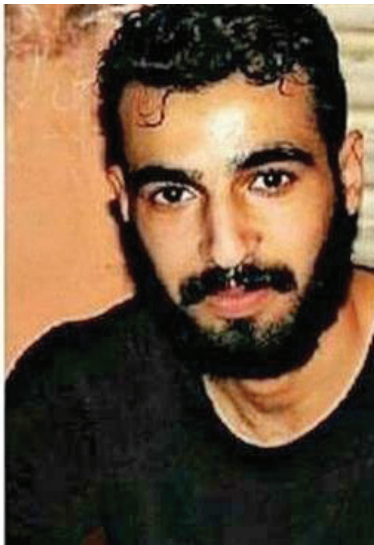
Mullali and Arab were arrested separately in February 2017.

They were convicted of "terrorism of offenses" and sentenced them to death in January 2018 during a mass trial marred by allegations of torture and serious due process violations.

The Bahraini Court of Cassation upheld the death penalties against the two men in May 2019.



Reports said that King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah ratified the verdict. According to Press TV, a London-based



Bahraini activist rights group, the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD), said "the executions mark one

of Bahrain's darkest days".

"It appears that the Bahraini regime planned this meticulously, timing the executions to coincide with U.S., EU and UK legislative recesses in order to avoid international scrutiny," BIRD's Director Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) had called on the Bahraini king to immediately revoke the executions and spare the two young men from "such a cruel death."

"If the executions are indeed imminent, then the king has committed a grave injustice by ratifying the death sentences of the two men despite the allegations of torture and other serious due process concerns," said Lama Fakih, acting Middle East director at HRW. "He should right the wrong by immediately revoking the death sentences."

Additionally, Amnesty International said that al-Malali and al-Arab had been tortured in custody through electric shocks and beatings.

## Sudan says 87 killed when security forces broke up protest in June

**TEHRAN** — The head of a Sudanese investigation into the violent break up of a protest by security forces said on Saturday that 87 people were killed and 168 wounded in the June 3 incident in Khartoum, citing a higher death toll than previous official estimates.

Fath al-Rahman Saeed, the head of the investigative committee appointed by the public prosecutor, said some members of the security forces fired live ammunition at protesters who were holding a sit-in to demand the military cede power.

He told a news conference that three officers had violated orders by moving forces into the sit-in area outside the Defense Ministry, a focal point for protests that had led to the ouster of long-time President Omar al-Bashir on April 11.

Saeed said 17 of those killed were in the square occupied by protesters in the worst bout of violence since Bashir was

toppled, adding that 48 of the wounded were hit by bullets.

An order was also issued to whip protesters, he added.

The Health Ministry had previously put the death toll at 61, while opposition medics have said 127 people were killed and 400 wounded in the dispersal.

"Some outlaws exploited this gathering and formed another gathering in what is known as the Columbia area, where negative and illegal practices took place," Saeed said.

"It became a security threat, forcing the authorities to make necessary arrangements to clear the area," he said.

According to Reuters, there was no immediate reaction to his comments from the opposition coalition Forces of Freedom and Change, which is negotiating with the ruling military council to finalize an agreement for a three-year transition to elections.

## U.S. House panel seeks grand jury evidence to assess Trump impeachment

**TEHRAN** — The Democratic-led U.S. House Judiciary Committee asked a federal court for access to grand jury evidence from the Mueller probe that lawmakers say they need to determine whether to begin impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

Democratic lawyers from the House of Representatives filed a 53-page petition in U.S. District Court seeking permission to review evidence involving interactions between Trump campaign officials and Russian agents, and Trump's alleged efforts to direct former White House Counsel Don McGahn to remove Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

According to Reuters, the action moved the House one step closer to impeachment, a politically contentious issue that has divided Democrats as Congress prepares to pivot to the 2020 election season.

"We have just given notice that we are actively considering articles of impeachment ... that is as serious a step as we should take

at this time," an attorney for the committee told reporters during a background briefing held after the filing.

A separate committee lawsuit expected early next week to compel McGahn to testify before the panel will also cite the need to decide on impeachment, though McGahn could avoid court action by agreeing to appear as a result of negotiations, aides said.

The grand jury evidence, which is protected from outside scrutiny by federal law, was compiled by Mueller's 22-month probe of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and Trump's efforts to impede the investigation.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler told a news conference that since Justice Department policy prohibits prosecution of a sitting president, the House of Representatives is the only institution of government capable of holding Trump accountable for actions outlined in the Mueller report.

## Amnesty: Saudi cleric facing unjust death sentence

**TEHRAN** — Amnesty International has warned the Saudi regime against executing prominent Muslim cleric Sheikh Salman al-Awdah, calling on Riyadh to drop the politically-motivated charges leveled against the dissident and release him from jail.

Lynn Maalouf, the Middle East Research Director at Amnesty International, said on Friday that the London-based human rights organization has serious concerns that the 61-year-old clergyman could be sentenced to death and executed, when he stands trial at the so-called Specialized Criminal Court in the capital Riyadh on July 28.

"We are gravely concerned that Sheikh Salman al-Awdah could be sentenced to death and executed. Since his arrest almost two years ago, Sheikh al-Awdah has gone through a terrible ordeal, including prolonged pre-trial detention, months of solitary confinement, incommunicado detention,

and other ill-treatment - all flagrant violations to his right to a fair trial," Maalouf said.

She further highlighted that Sheikh al-Awdah's forthcoming trial as well as those of other activists, including the 37 men who were executed last April, are politically-motivated and meant to silence independent voices in Saudi Arabia, Press TV reported.

"Sheikh al-Awdah has been calling for a more inclusive society that would end the marginalization of Saudi Shia citizens. For this, he is being punished. In the same way, women and advocates of women's rights, who have called for greater rights, are similarly being punished. What gains are the authorities hoping to achieve by treating their own citizens this way? Instead of moving ahead with this sham trial, they must immediately and unconditionally release Sheikh al-Awdah and drop all charges against him," Maalouf pointed out.



## Israel 'the main cause of terrorism in world': Mahathir Mohamad

**TEHRAN** — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad says the occupation of Palestinian territories as part of attempts to form an illegal entity, called Israel, has been the main cause of terrorism in the world.

In remarks quoted by Turkey's state-owned Anadolu news agency on Saturday, Mahathir stressing that if the causes of terrorism were not dealt with, then it would be difficult to put a stop to them.

"The main thing that we think we should always stress is the causes of terrorism. Today, there is already a consensus almost to blame terrorism on Muslims," said the Malaysian premier who was in Turkey on an official visit.

"But the fact you said, after the seizure of Palestine, and the disregard of international law by Israel, this has led to so-called acts of terrorism. But in order to get rid of terrorism, we need to know the reason why they terrorize unless you treat the causes of terrorism, you are not going to be able to stop terrorism," he said.

Mahathir called on the Tel Aviv regime to allow Palestinians to return back and reclaim their property, or at least agree on stopping the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements.

"And if we know, beside this, the causes for terrorism, and we treat them, we take action to stop this injustice perpetrated



on the Palestinians, I think there will be less terrorism or no terrorism all over the

world," he said.

Mahathir has previously dubbed Israel as "a state of robbers", saying his country enjoys friendly relations with every country in the world except Israel.

About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds.

According to Press TV, Jerusalem al-Quds remains at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with Palestinians hoping that the eastern part of the city would eventually serve as the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

## Trump threatens tariffs against 'foolish' Macron

**TEHRAN** — U.S. President Donald Trump has vowed "substantial" retaliation against France for a tax targeting American technology companies, threatening to impose tariffs on French wine and blasting French President Emmanuel Macron's "foolishness."

"If anybody taxes them, it should be their home Country, the USA. We will announce a substantial reciprocal action on Macron's foolishness shortly," Trump tweeted on Friday.

Later in the Oval Office, Trump told reporters the tax decision by Paris was wrong and he threatened duties on French wine.

According to Press TV, France is the world's top wine exporter in terms of revenue and the U.S. is the world's largest consumer of wine and the largest import market.

"France put on a tax on our companies ... wrong thing to do. They should not have done that," Trump said.

"Might be on wine or something else," he told reporters. "we'll be announcing that fairly soon."



"I've always liked American wines better than French wines. Even though I don't drink wine. I just like the way they look, OK?" Trump added.

The U.S. president also said he maintains a "good relationship" with his French counterpart, saying he had just spoken with Macron on the phone.

"But they shouldn't have done this. They're used to taking advantage of the United States, but not with me as President," Trump continued.

The French parliament this month passed the "digital tax" law, which affects about 30 multinational firms from the U.S., China, Germany, Spain and Britain, but mainly targets American technology giants like Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon.

The French law requires taxing digital companies for income even if their headquarters are in other countries. Other European nations, including the UK and Germany, are considering similar taxes.

Trump and Macron spoke by telephone on Friday and discussed the tax and next month's summit of the Group of 7 rich nations in France, the White House said.

## Allegations of Hezbollah ruling Lebanon aimed at public provocation, turmoil: Nasrallah

**TEHRAN**— The secretary general of Hezbollah has roundly dismissed claims that the Lebanese resistance movement is exerting control over the Beirut government, emphasizing that such lies are aimed at inciting public opinion and plunging Lebanon into turmoil.



"In Lebanon, some people try to portray Hezbollah as the leader of the country and in control of all state institutions. I tell you this is the biggest lie in the history of Lebanon," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah stated in a televised speech broadcast live from the Lebanese capital of Beirut on Friday evening.

He warned that those making such unsubstantiated claims are actually giving the Saudi and Israeli regimes, among other enemies, the chance to hatch and advance their plots against Lebanon.

"They know they are lying and their aim is to hold Hezbollah accountable for the current economic situation," Nasrallah pointed out.

"Hezbollah has never sought to create parliamentary obstruction...Hezbollah has never hid behind anyone or any media outlet. It has long stood up against cowards," he said.

The Hezbollah chief then expressed regret over the Lebanese government's recent crackdown on businesses hiring Palestinian workers without permits, arguing that the issue has been "politicized."

"Concerning the employment of foreign citizens in Lebanon, we have always stated that Palestinians are different from foreign workers as the latter have home countries to return to, but Palestinians don't. Palestine is under occupation (of the Israeli regime) indeed," Nasrallah said.

The Hezbollah secretary-general then called on Lebanese political factions to look at the issue of Palestinian refugees working in the country from a humanitarian perspective, Press TV reported.

Nasrallah also condemned the recent demolition of a cluster of Palestinian homes on the edge of occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds, which has sparked international criticism.

## Venezuela's top court blocks Guaido's bid to rejoin TIAR regional defense treaty

**TEHRAN**— Venezuela's top court has rejected a decision by the opposition-controlled legislature to rejoin a regional military treaty, saying the move could provide a legal framework for foreign military intervention in the Latin American country.

The Supreme Tribunal of Justice (TSJ) in Venezuela said on Friday that the National Assembly's decision to rejoin the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR) had no legal basis.

"The court rules the decision of the legislature to rejoin the Inter-American Treaty on Reciprocal Assistance is null and does not have any legal force as it threatens the rule of law in the country," judge Juan Jose Mendoza said at a session broadcast on Twitter.

Any attempts to use this treaty "should be considered as a hostile action toward national sovereignty," Mendoza added.

The Venezuelan parliament controlled by the opposition approved on Tuesday the proposal to rejoin the TIAR, which was signed in 1947 in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro by 23 countries, including the United States.

The treaty stipulates that an attack against one signatory is considered as an attack against all other signatories as well.

President Nicolas Maduro's predecessor, late president Hugo Chavez, withdrew the country from the defense pact in 2012. Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua also walked out of the treaty.

According to Press TV, opposition leader Juan Guaido, who oversees the defunct National Assembly, claimed that rejoining the treaty would allow Caracas to establish "international alliances" to "protect and defend the people and Venezuelan sovereignty."

## UN blacklists Saudi, Israel as top child killers of 2018

**TEHRAN**— The United Nations has for the third year put Saudi Arabia and its allies in their military campaign against Yemen on the world body's blacklist of child killers.

According to a report by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in 2018, the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen killed or injured 729 children, nearly half the total child casualties of the year.

The UN chief's report, which was presented to the Security Council on Friday, also states that Palestinian casualties caused by the Israeli regime, mainly its military, hit a four-year high in 2018.

The report shows that 59 Palestinian children were killed - 56 by Israeli forces - and another 2,756 were injured last year.

Guterres urged "Israel to immediately put in place preventive and protective measures to end the excessive use of force."

"I condemn the increasing number of child casualties, which are often a result of attacks in densely populated areas and against civilian objects, including schools and hospitals," Guterres said in the report, produced by UN Children and Armed Conflict envoy Virginia Gamba and issued in Guterres' name.

The report does not subject those listed to action; however, it shames parties to conflicts in the hope of pushing them to stop killing children. According to Press TV, diplomats say Saudi Arabia and Israel both have exerted pressure in recent years in a bid to stay off the list, but no to avail. In reaction to the Friday report, Saudi Ambassador to the UN Abdallah Al-Mouallimi claimed that "every child's life is precious" to Riyadh, and questioned the sourcing and accuracy of the report, describing the numbers as "exaggerated."



## Juve to offer United Dybala for Lukaku

Juventus are ready to make a bid for Manchester United forward Romelu Lukaku which would include Paulo Dybala as part of the deal, according to ESPN FC sources.

Lukaku is a target for Juve's Serie A rivals Inter Milan and sources have told ESPN FC he is keen to join the Nerazzurri and work under manager Antonio Conte, who he recently labelled the "best manager in the world."

Injuries have prevented Lukaku from making any appearances during United's preseason tour of the Far East and, so far, the Old Trafford club's £80 million valuation of the Belgium international has not been met.

Despite spending €75m to sign Matthijs de Ligt from Ajax, Juve are looking for one more big signing and sources have told ESPN FC they are preparing to offer Dybala to United as part of a bid for Lukaku. Though, it remains unclear whether Dybala would be interested in moving to Old Trafford.

Tottenham have also been linked with an £80m move for Dybala in the English media.

Sources told ESPN FC that United have already rejected a £54m bid from Inter for Lukaku. One way the San Siro club could raise funds to meet United's valuation of the ex-Chelsea forward is to offload Mauro Icardi, who has been told he has no future at the club.

Icardi has been heavily linked with a move to Juventus -- while Napoli are also monitoring the situation -- but so far there has been no official bid for the Argentine.

Lukaku joined United from Everton in 2017 and was the first-choice forward under Jose Mourinho.

However, the Portuguese manager's replacement Ole Gunnar Solskjaer appears to prefer Marcus Rashford in attack.

(Source: Soccernet)

## Real increasingly confident on Pogba

Real Madrid are increasingly confident they could sign Paul Pogba from Manchester United this summer, sources at the Bernabeu have told ESPN FC.

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is keen to land Pogba, although club president Florentino Perez has needed convincing after spending over €300 million on new players already this summer.

Pogba and his agent Mino Raiola both publicly pressed for a move away from United earlier this summer, although more recently, the World Cup winner's attitude has been praised by manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer during the team's preseason tour of Asia.

Perez told Zidane during a meeting in Montreal last week that it would be "difficult" to sign Pogba this summer given that United do not want to sell. Zidane then asked Perez and director general Jose Angel Sanchez to make another effort and now Madrid sources have said that, although United are holding out for €180m, there is a feeling they can find an agreement.

Marco Asensio will miss a large part of the upcoming campaign after suffering a serious knee injury. However, different sources have told ESPN FC that Zidane believes he has enough resources in attack to cope without the Spain international and is instead demanding the club make a last effort to bolster the midfield with Pogba.

(Source: ESPN)

## Atletico Madrid have evidence against Barcelona in Griezmann case

Atletico Madrid CEO Gil Marin has revealed that the club's complaint to \LaLiga and the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) against Barcelona is based on evidence that he has obtained.

Los Rojiblancos claim that the Blaugrana reached an agreement with the Frenchman before his release clause dropped from 200 million euros to 120 million euros.

"We filed a complaint with LaLiga and the RFEF, [but] we will not work on claiming the difference," Marin told ESPN.

"We are now having conversations with the legal services, as we don't want to create unwanted damage between the two clubs and the complaint will continue its path.

"When there is a decision, we will say whether we will go to justice. "I know that there is [evidence] because I have it, [but we will] let things go their way."

(Source: Marca)

## Bale set for '£1 million a week' Jiangsu Suning move - reports

Real Madrid forward Gareth Bale was Friday on the verge of signing a "£1 million a week" deal with Chinese Super League outfit Jiangsu Suning, reports claimed.

The 30-year-old Welshman has already been told by Real coach Zinedine Zidane that he does not form part of his future plans at the Spanish giants.

Spanish daily Marca claimed that Bale, who has been at Real since 2013 since signing from Tottenham, will earn 22 million euros per season in China and that the deal is almost finalised.

However, later reports by Sky Sports in England suggested the player's representatives were negotiating a mind-boggling £1 million a week contract before the Chinese transfer window shuts on Wednesday.

Real boss Zidane said last weekend he thought it would be "best for everyone" if Bale's departure could be arranged quickly -- comments Bale's agent branded "disrespectful" of a player who helped the side to a Spanish league title and four Champions Leagues since arriving from Tottenham six years ago.

Zidane then insisted Monday he meant no disrespect before Bale came on as a substitute in a midweek 3-2 friendly win over Arsenal in the United States.

"He had a good game and I'm happy for him," Zidane said. "I do not know what's going to happen, for now he's with us. It did not change anything."

Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett has already insisted that any deal which sees the Welshman leave the Bernabeu would have to be a permanent one and not one that sees him shipped out on loan.

"There will be no makeshift deals to get him out of the club," said Barnett.

(Source: AFP)

# Two dead in Korean nightclub balcony collapse at world swim meet

Two people died and 16 were injured, including athletes taking part in swimming's world championship, after a balcony collapsed under the weight of party-goers at a South Korean nightclub, police said Saturday.

The balcony at the Coyote Ugly club close to the athletes' village was a mangled wreck after it gave way and plummeted around five meters (16 feet) onto people below, sending hundreds of terrified clubbers running to the exit screaming.

Eight athletes including an Olympic gold medalist -- US water polo player Kaleigh Gilchrist, who won at the Rio Games -- were caught up in the tragedy.

"An internal balcony collapsed at a club in Gwangju, killing two," said Song Gi-ju, a detective with the Gwangju Metropolitan Police Agency.

"We have a total of 16 injured and among them 10 are foreigners. Of the 10, eight are athletes participating in the championships."

Song said the two dead were locals and not involved in the swimming championships, adding that police were investigating the possibility the balcony may have been illegally constructed.

The owner of the club -- which was packed with more than 300 people as the balcony crumbled -- will be investigated on charges of accidental homicide, police added.

The eight injured athletes include three Americans, two New Zealanders, one Dutch,



one Brazilian and one Italian.

"A structure collapsed all of a sudden with people standing on it. Screams filled the area with broken parts flying all over," said a 32-year-old who was injured in the collapse, according to South Korea's Kukmin Ilbo newspaper.

"The site of the collapse was at the center of

the club where customers were most heavily located," said the party-goer, surnamed Kim. - 'Awful tragedy' -

A 38-year-old and a 27-year-old were rushed to hospital in grave condition but both died from their injuries, according to local media.

The world championships organizing committee said most of the athletes were

## Swimming - Australia's Jack admits to positive dope test



Shayna Jack, who withdrew from the Australia team for the swimming world championships, admitted to testing positive for a banned substance on Saturday.

The 20-year-old freestyle swimmer, who won two relay silvers and a bronze at the 2017 world championships, made the admission in an Instagram post.

"It is with great sadness and heartache that I had to leave due to allegations of having a prohibited substance in my system," she wrote.

"I did NOT take this substance knowingly. Swimming has been my passion since I was 10 years old and I would never intentionally take a banned substance that would disrespect my sport and jeopardise my career.

"Now there is an ongoing investigation and my team and I are doing everything we can to find out when and how this substance has come into contact with my body."

Swimming Australia said it had been notified by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) of an adverse test result following an out-of-competition test on June 26.

It then provisionally suspended Jack from the team, ruling her out of competing in Gwang-

ju, and accompanied her back to Australia from a training camp being held in Japan.

"As you would expect we are bitterly disappointed with allegations a swimmer has a prohibited substance in her system although it is important to point out that the matter is yet to be determined," said Swimming Australia CEO Leigh Russell.

The news will be a major embarrassment for Australian swimming given Jack's team mate Mack Horton played a leading role in protests against Sun Yang at the world championships.

The Chinese swimmer is competing under the shadow of a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appeal against governing body FINA's decision to clear the 27-year-old of wrongdoing during the random drug test last September.

Horton declined to join Sun on the podium after their 400 meters freestyle final while Briton Duncan Scott refused to shake his hand or pose for photos with him after the 200.

Brazil's Joao de Lucca was the latest to show his displeasure at Sun's presence, refusing to shake his hand on Friday after the 4x200m freestyle relay heats.

(Source: Eurosport)

## Liverpool CEO using on-field success to catch commercial giants

Manchester United may dominate Liverpool when it comes to generating commercial revenue, but the Anfield side's chief executive Peter Moore, using his knowledge of the new-age fan, told Reuters that may soon all change.

Liverpool's accounts for the 2017-18 financial year showed a record pre-tax profit for a football club, as turnover increased in the 12 months to May 2018 by 90 million pounds to 455 million, also a record.

Their run to last year's Champions League final, and the sale of Philippe Coutinho to Barcelona, helped their cause, but data released by Deloitte for the 2017-18 financial year showed Liverpool still sit way off United and Manchester City.

Moore, though, insists the gap is closing and is hoping to use Liverpool's success in the Champions League this year as a springboard to catch up.

"United got ahead years ago, recognising the global appeal of English football," Moore said in the United States on the club's pre-season tour. "We are catching fast, our revenue continues to grow.

"Since winning the Champions League, brands are becoming more interested in Liverpool. We have had EA Sports come on as our global gaming partner, AXA as our official insurance partner, who are now on our training gear, MG as our official automotive partner, xxBet as our betting partner.

"These have all been finalised in the last few months, meaning we can continue to grow our top-line revenues. We have a portfolio of top class brands now."

### ■ A new fan type

It is nothing new for the big clubs to garner income from



a variety of sponsorship deals, with United famed for having commercial partners in everything from car tyres to wine, but it is not all just advertising.

Liverpool-born Moore, having previously spent 10 years as head of EA (Electronic Arts) Sports and before that vice-president of Microsoft's interactive entertainment business, is well positioned to target the modern-day, gaming obsessed fan.

"There are many similarities between a global company and a football club these days, especially one that has hundreds of millions of people that interact with it," Moore added.

"One of the things I learned in video gaming is something called 'LTV' -- life time value. There has been a shift to free-to-play games, it is no longer about just selling the disc and then saying see you later.

"Now it is about saying 'look it is free, but then go buy these avatars, go buy these skins'. Then, rather than buy

## Costa hits four as Atletico smash Real Madrid 7-3



Diego Costa scored four goals as Real Madrid were embarrassed 7-3 by rivals Atletico Madrid in the final match of their United States tour in New Jersey on Friday.

Real fielded a strong side once again, with new signings Eden Hazard and Luka Jovic starting up front and Gareth Bale again on the bench, but were 5-0 down at the end of a shambolic first half.

Atletico fielded a host of new arrivals, including club record signing Joao Felix, who immediately caught Real cold on the counter before playing Costa in for his opening goal in the first minute.

The 120 million euro (\$133 million) signing Felix got among the goals himself seven minutes later before Angel Correa, an early substitute for the injured Alvaro Morata, shocked Real with a third in the 19th minute.

Saul Niguez capitalised on more slack defending from Real to thread through to Costa who fired in the fourth with just 28 minutes on the clock.

Costa capped a disastrous half for Real in stoppage time, winning a penalty before converting from the spot.

The punishment did not stop after

treated for minor injuries and have returned to their accommodation.

USA Water Polo said Gilchrist suffered a deep left leg laceration and underwent surgery Saturday at a Gwangju hospital.

Fellow US water polo players Paige Hauschild and Johnny Hooper were given stitches for an arm and hand injury respectively, it said.

"This is an awful tragedy," said Christopher Ramsey, CEO of USA Water Polo.

"Players from our men's and women's teams were celebrating the women's world championship victory when the collapse occurred. Our hearts go out to the victims of the crash and their families."

Ramsey added that all the American water polo players were "safe".

The Australian water polo team were also present but escaped without injury.

The New Zealand men's captain told Radio Sport: "We were just dancing and then the next minute we dropped five or six meters and everyone started rushing out of the club after that.

"We, I guess, fell on top of the heads of other people that were beneath us."

Swimming's world body FINA said it would "activate all measures to ensure health care and assistance is provided whenever necessary".

"FINA deeply regrets the situation and sends its best wishes to any victims of this accident," it added.

(Source: AFP)

one disc at 40 pounds each year, gaming companies were getting 60, 80, 100 pounds per year, gradually...

"Over a period of years, global fans will come to Anfield on occasion, buy shirts, buy programmes, subscribe to LFCTV, you name it. There are a myriad of ways a fan can engage with us."

### ■ Matchday experience

With the Premier League possessing such a global appeal, top English clubs spend much of their pre-season in far-flung destinations, to bring the match-going experience to their legions of worldwide fans.

United spent their close season in Australia, Singapore and China, Chelsea in Japan, Tottenham Hotspur in China, and Arsenal and Liverpool in the U.S.

Around 107,127 fans packed stadiums to watch three of Liverpool's friendlies, though they will be able to get closer during the regular season through modern technology.

"We have embarked on a huge project with IBM to build up all of our network capabilities all so we can engage our fans in a deeper way," Moore added.

"There is a series that we do called 'Inside Anfield', previously unseen footage, in the tunnel, in the dressing room - the spontaneous stuff, rather than the press interviews. Liverpool fans lap it up."

On the pitch, Liverpool played the patient approach, waiting one year after failing in their first attempt to sign Virgil van Dijk, for example. The Dutch defender was instrumental in last season's Champions League success.

(Source: Mirror)



# Bangladesh confirms friendly with Iran but nothing finalized

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is in negotiations with Iran to play an international friendly against the current top-ranked Asian football country in the world, likely to be held in Qatar’s capital Doha during the first week of September.

BFF admitted its negotiations with Iran Football Federation, which has not been confirmed yet.

“We have been in talks with two-three higher-ranked Asian countries to play a friendly before our first game in the World Cup Qualifiers in September. The negotiation with Iran is in advanced level but nothing is finalized yet, even the date of the friendly,” said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag Wednesday.

It was also learnt that the BFF has approached two other middle-east countries, including Saudi Arabia, to arrange a friendly as Shohag said they are reluctant to play one friendly before the Afghanistan game.

Shohag also said they are trying to arrange a training camp in Qatar before the game.

Iran are currently the top team among the AFC member association countries in world ranking, and placed 23rd in the world.

Having featured in the last two World Cups, Iran aim to make it three in a row, having been placed in the same group with Iraq, Bahrain, Cambodia and Hong Kong.

The eight group winners and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.



## Italy thump Spain to win men’s water polo title

**GWANGJU, South Korea (Reuters)** — Italy won the men’s water polo gold medal at the World Aquatics Championships after an effervescent performance gave them a 10-5 win over rivals Spain in Saturday’s final.

It was the fourth world title for the Italians, who pulled away after a balanced first period and finished the 16-team tournament with a perfect 6-0 record.

Both teams secured berths in the 2020 Olympic Games by reaching the final and the Italians celebrated their second gold medal under coach Alessandro Campagna, who jumped into the pool with his jubilant players to celebrate.

In the day’s curtain-raiser, 2017 champions Croatia clinched the bronze medal with a 10-7 defeat of Hungary on the back of six goals from Maro Jokovic.

Felipe Perrone netted twice for the Spaniards in the opening period which ended 2-2 but from there on it was a lop-sided contest as the rampant Italians rifled in three



successive goals in the second.

Another 3-0 run after the break gave the champions a massive 8-3 lead, as the Italians shared the workload in

attack while they stifled the Spaniards at the other end.

Spain were unable to launch a fight back in the fourth quarter and French-born center Michael Bodegas put the icing on the cake for Italy with a spectacular effort with his back facing goal.

Following the women’s defeat by Australia in Friday’s third-place match, Hungary’s men suffered the same fate and missed out on a podium finish after the left-handed Jokovic tormented his markers throughout the contest.

The 31-year old winger, who was named the tournament’s most valuable player, kept finding the back of the net from all angles while goalkeeper Marko Bijac pulled off a string of good saves at the other end.

Olympic and European champions Serbia, who deployed a second-string side after qualifying for next year’s Olympics by winning the World League in Belgrade last month, finished fifth after a 13-9 win against Australia.

## Late show puts Iran on top after action-packed opening



All six teams got on the scoresheet, but Islamic Republic of Iran were the only one to emerge victorious, racing to the top of table on Matchday One of the CAFA U-16 Championship in Tajikistan on Friday.

Hossein Abdi’s charges outlasted Turkmenistan to earn a 3-1 win, with Kyrgyz Republic’s match against Afghanistan and the headline clash between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan ending in entertaining draws.

**■ IRAN 3-1 TURKMENISTAN**  
Iran got their campaign off to the best possible start, scoring two late goals to claim three early points against Turkmenistan in Hisor.

In searing 35-degree heat, the Iranians took early charge of the match, with Sajjad Gol Mohammadi opening the scoring in the 15th minute.

Turkmenistan, however, still looked likely to grab a point when Batyr Sahedov levelled the tie with 10 minutes remaining, but a 66th-minute penalty from substitute Yadegar Rostami restored Iran’s lead, before Aliakbar Ranjbar put the result beyond doubt deep into added time, giving his side a two-point buffer on top of the table.

**■ KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 2-2 AFGHANISTAN**  
Kyrgyz Republic looked set for an

opening win of their own when leading 2-0 at half-time against Afghanistan, but Wahidulah Wahidi’s side stormed back to earn a share of the spoils in a 2-2 draw in Dushanbe.

With promising Galatasaray youth team skipper Beknaz Almazbekov in their starting line-up, Kyrgyz Republic went 1-0 up through Aalambek Abylkasymov in the 17th minute, then doubled their lead thanks to Nurseit Azamatov’s goal three minutes before the break.

But Nurlan Bukuev’s side couldn’t hold on, as two second-half goals for Afghanistan – first from Mehdi Ebrahmi in the 44th minute, then from Ahmad Zireka seven minutes later – ensured the sides finished with one point apiece.

**■ UZBEKISTAN 1-1 TAJIKISTAN**

In the final match of the opening day, defending champions Uzbekistan were held to a 1-1 draw by the tournament hosts thanks to a late equaliser from Tajikistan’s Aini Alijoni.

Azamat Abduraimov’s Uzbekistan side led at half-time thanks to a 28th-minute goal from Pakhtakor forward Rustam Turmurodov, but Tajikistan wouldn’t be denied as Alijoni delivered the equalizer 11 minutes before full-time to earn a point in Dushanbe.

(Source: the-afc)

## FIFA lecturer: Alireza Faghani best in Asia



**IRNA** — FIFA lecturer Mohd Salleh Subkhiddin emphasizing that “Alireza Faghani” is the best referee in Asia, noted that the media should not exert pressure on the referees and cause their stress in judgment.

Mohd Salleh Subkhiddin said on Saturday in the pre-season class of premier league of Iran for referees on the use of the video assistant referee (VAR), “When you use this technology in domestic matches, we will use Iranian referees in matches under the cover of FIFA and AFC. It is very important for FIFA to choose referees to judge at the World Cup that they have dominance on the video referee assistance system.

He went on to say that concurrent with the VAR class held in Iran, we invited some Iranian referees to Malaysia, one of whom was Mouod Bonyadifar and the other was Alireza Faghani. Bonyadifar had a lot of information about the VAR system and was successful in the class.

FIFA lecturer on the presence of young referees in this class said, “For the first time, I witness this pre-season arrangement for the referees and the Iranian Football Association has implemented it well. Since soccer is a combination of experience and power, this gathering can help the Iranian

referees to succeed. So I cannot say how the age is important.”

Referring to Iran’s referees’ condition, he said, “So far, I have not seen a particular mistake by Iran’s referees in major competitions, and the media are exerting pressure on them inside the country. The media should not be in the pursuit of mistake in judging, but media should highlight the scenes that judges are judging well.”

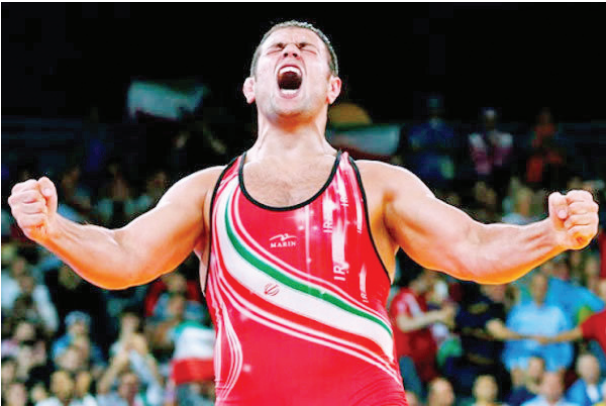
FIFA lecturer, emphasizing that the level of refereeing in Iran is high, added, “We do not really have a referee in Asia at the level of Faghani, which can judge so well at the World Cup.” Of course, the difference between the other referees with Faghani is that he constantly changes for his purpose, and then he will endure the difficulties and make progress.

“In other words, if young referrers want to reach this level, they should continue to learn and continue to progress beyond these courses,” he added. “If you think the same classes are enough to succeed, here is the end of dreams.”

Referring to the federation’s attempt to implement the video referee system, Subkhiddin stated, “The conditions in any country’s soccer determines the use of this system.”

## Iran’s Komeil Ghasemi awarded 2012 gold medal

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Komeil Ghasemi from Iran was awarded the 2012 gold medal following the International Olympic Committee’s announcement they are stripping Uzbekistan’s Artur Taymazov of his gold medal for a doping violation.



It was the second such violation in the 120 kg division.

The other finalist, Davit Modzmanashvili, a Georgian representative, was also disqualified after the IOC found a banned substance in his samples, announced in January 2019.

Taymazov, who defeated Ghasemi in the men’s freestyle 120 kg semifinals, had his results vacated for the second time in his career after being previously stripped of his 2008 gold medal at 120 kg following a re-testing of his samples in April 2017.

The silver medal went to Bilyal Makhov from Russia and American Tervel Dlagnev claimed the bronze medal.

## Iran’s Hodaiei into 2019 ITTF Challenge Series semis

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Amirhossein Hodaiei advanced to semi-final round of the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Pyongyang Open.

Hodaiei defeated no. 3 seed Scotland’s Gavin Rumgay (11-5, 11-9, 5-11, 12-10, 12-10) in Pyongyang.

Hodaiei now faces An Ji Song, the no.2 seed, in the penultimate round; he withstood a spirited recovery by DPR Korea colleague, Kim Ok Chan (11-8, 11-7, 15-13, 7-11, 14-16, 14-12).

Also, Iran’s promising youngster Amin Ahmadian lost to Kim Song II from DPR Korea in quarter-final 4-0 (11-8, 11-7, 11-7, 11-8).

## Saipa win Shohada Cup title

**PLDC** — Saipa football team won the fourth edition of the Shohada Cup on Friday.

Saipa, who defeated Persepolis 2-0 on Wednesday, beat Shahin Bushehr 3-1 in the final match and won the title.

Persepolis defeated Nirooy-e Zamini 4-0 at Tehran’s Share-Qods Stadium.

Farshad Ahmadzadeh opened the scoring for Persepolis in the 14th minute and Ali Alipour made it 2-0 seven minutes into the second half.

Mehdi Torabi (58) and Amir Roostaei (85) were also on the target.

The first edition of Shohada Cup was held in 2012, where Tractor Sazi won the title after defeating Esteghlal 2-1.

Saba claimed the title of the second edition, edging past Persepolis 1-0.

Tractor Sazi once again won the title in the third edition after defeating Saipa 3-0.

## Tokyo 2020: Robots revealed!

Four new futuristic robots have been unveiled by the Organising Committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The robots will be deployed to assist spectators, athletes and officials at competition venues and to relay sound, images and physical feedback from venues to those watching remotely.



The Tokyo 2020 Robot project aims to ensure the Tokyo 2020 Games will be the most innovative ever, with the new robots expected to provide visiting fans and those watching remotely with an experience they are unlikely to forget.

The robot project will help realise one of Tokyo 2020’s core visions – “Unity in Diversity” – aiming to foster a welcoming environment for all athletes, visitors and those unable to attend venues who want to experience the Games remotely at other locations in Japan.

The new models include attractive Tokyo 2020 Mascot-type robots – Miraitowa and Someity – developed by Toyota Motor Corporation, an industry expert in the field of robot technology who are providing support for the project.

Tokyo 2020 Mascot-type robots will welcome athletes and guests at Games venues and other Games-related locations with human-like movements such as shaking hands and waving, and with a variety of facial expressions.

Cameras mounted on the robots’ foreheads will allow them to recognise when people are nearby and to react to them. Tokyo 2020 and Toyota are additionally discussing a number of ways for the Mascot robots to make it easier and more enjoyable for children to experience the Games.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

## Vermaelen signs for Vissel Kobe

Belgian international defender Thomas Vermaelen has become the latest high profile player to move to Vissel Kobe, the Japanese club announced on Saturday.

The 33-year-old, whose contract with Barcelona has now expired, will team up with David Silva, Lucas Podolski and his former Barca captain Andres Iniesta.

Vermaelen, who is reported to have turned down an offer to join Vincent Kompany at Anderlecht, passed his

medical and visited the club’s training complex.

“I’m very excited to be here to help the team, to improve the team,” he told a news conference in Kobe, western Japan, ahead of a friendly between Barcelona and Vissel Kobe, which the Spanish champions subsequently won 2-0.

“I will do all my best to make this team better and I will show you that I will give my everything for this club,” he said. Vermaelen said he planned to share his experience at

Barcelona with the Japanese club, saying: “I try to bring the complete package into this team.”

Vermaelen began his career at Ajax before moving on to Arsenal and Barcelona with a loan spell at Roma.

He has played 74 times for Belgium, most recently in the 3-0 Euro qualifier win against Scotland in June.

Vissel Kobe are currently 15th in the 18-team J-league.

(Source: AFP)



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A counsel gained after lost property is much more precious than the property itself.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Children impressed by “Am I a Wolf?” at Russia Insomnia animation festival

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moein’s acclaimed movie “Am I a Wolf?” won the Children’s Dreams award at the 7th Insomnia International Animation Film Festival in Kaluga, Russia, the organizers have announced.



A scene from Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moein’s acclaimed movie “Am I a Wolf?”.

The movie tells the story of children who perform the familiar story of the wolf and the yearlings in school as a puppet show. The nanny goat grieving for its yearlings and the angry wolf in its solitude face each other.

Produced at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, “Am I a Wolf?” has been screened in several international events and won awards from some of them. The short animated movie was honored with a New Face Award at the 22nd Japan Media Arts Festival in May.

The Insomnia Grand Prix went to “Five Minutes to Sea” by Russian director Natalia Mirzoyan, while “Sweet Night” by Lia Bertels from Belgium won the Professional Prize, which is awarded to the best film in the international competition of professionals.

The Debyutoria Prize, the award for best film in the international competition of young filmmakers, was presented to “Daughter” by Daria Kashcheeva from the Czech Republic.

“Flow”, a Netherlands-France co-production directed by Adriaan Lokman, received the Equilibristics Prize for experimental film.

The Special Prize was given to “Toomas Beneath the Valley of the Wild Wolves” directed by Chintis Lundgren from Estonia, France and Croatia.

The Special Distinction of the Jury was shared among “A Bus” by Chinese director Wenyu Li, “Lola the Living Potato” by Leonid Shmelkov from France and Russia, and “The Diver” by Ula Voitova from France.

The award for best music video went to “Bouge Ton Coeur” by Andrea Schneider from Switzerland.

The Insomnia International Animation Film Festival was held from July 18 to 22.

## Why Farsi is regaining importance abroad?

**1 →** Most of the Iraqi said they have religious connection with Iran and improving relationship between Iran and Iraq is making Persian as a second language for them and Iran and Iraq are becoming as a second home for each other. This was a very delightful revelation as all right-minded Muslims long for unity and stability. Most of the students are either graduate or postgraduate. One dentist from Lebanon named Ahmed Muhammad Ali spoke to me at length. He said he first came to Iran 3 years ago and felt guilty that his perception before coming to Iran was negative due to false propaganda against Iran. He fell in love with culture and so said a female student from Srinagar, Kashmir. Ahmed added that Iran has best medical and educational facilities in the region and even people from those Arab countries, whose relations are not good with Iran, wish to come here. Iran is both cost effective and culturally enjoyable. People are welcoming and strangers don’t feel strange.

To sum up, Iran was once a cradle of civilization and I hope it will become a cradle again.

# Sabzevar street named after writer Mahmud Dowlatabadi’s novel “Kelidar”

**A R T TEHRAN** — A desk street in Sabzevar, the hometown of celebrated Iranian novelist Mahmud Dowlatabadi, has been named after his book “Kelidar”. The city council of northeastern Iranian town of Sabzevar in Khorasan Razavi Province announced on Saturday.

“The street has been named after the book to celebrate this magnum opus,” Sabzevar City Council spokesman Masud Pasandideh told the Persian service of ISNA.

The writer was born in the Dowlatabad Village of Sabzevar in 1940. Self-educated and forced to work from childhood, Dowlatabadi spent part of his younger adult years as a stage actor in Tehran.

His monumental 3,000-page saga “Kelidar” narrates the lives of Kurdish tribes and peasants from a poverty-stricken village in Khorasan Province during the mid-1940s.

“Desert Strata”, “The Trip”, “The Legend of Baba Sobhan”, “The Cowherd”, “Aqil”, “Man” and “Missing Soluch” are among Dowlatabadi’s noteworthy credits.

“Kelidar” is the name of a mountain situated in proximity to the cities of Sabzevar, Neyshabur and Quchan.



Mahmud Dowlatabadi in an undated photo.

## IIDCYA hosts fair for children’s wordless picture books from overseas

**C U L T U R E TEHRAN** — An exhibition of children’s wordless picture books published by companies overseas is currently underway at the central library of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) in Tehran.

A selection of 55 books has been put on view at the exhibit entitled “The Book of Silence”.

“Journey” by Aaron Becker, “Flotsam” by David Wiesner and “Float” by Daniel Miyaresare, all from the U.S., are among the books.

The book fair also displays “Le lutin des arts” (The Elf of the Arts) by French illustrator Chiara Carrer, “Pool” by Korean artist Jihyeon Lee, “En el Silencio del Bosque” (In the Silence of the Forest) by Spanish illustrator Cristina Pérez Navarro and “Leaf” by Australian author Stephen Michael King.

The exhibition will run until August 22 at



A poster for “The Book of Silence”, an exhibition of children’s wordless picture books, underway at the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran.

the library located at 24 Khalid Islambouli St., Beheshti Ave.

## Iranian shorts to go on screen at Argentina’s UNCIPAR

**A R T TEHRAN** — A lineup of four Iranian short films will compete in the 41st Argentine and International Film and Video Festival – UNCIPAR, in the city of Pinamar.

“Breathing” by Farshid Ayyubinejad is among the films. It is about several workers who work in a stone factory and are forced to hide in a dark room every time the insurance agent visits the factory.

Another entry, “Child Eater” by Mohammad Kart, is about a teenage boy laborer who falls in love with a teenage girl.

The lineup also includes “Are you volleyball?!” by Mohammad Bakhshi. It tells the story of a group of Arabic-speaking asylum seekers who arrive at the border of an English-speaking country and can go no further.

There are scuffles with the border guards every day until volleyball becomes



A scene from “Breathing” by Farshid Ayyubinejad.

the catalyst that improves relations.

“Azadeh” by Mir Abbas Khosravinejad will also go on screen at the UNCIPAR, which will be held from August 17 to 19.

## Books from Western literature appear in Persian

**C U L T U R E TEHRAN** — Three books from the Western literature have recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

“Ernest Hemingway” by Philip Young and “Soren Kierkegaard” by Stephen Crites have been published by Now Publications. American writer Aimee Bender’s novel “The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake” has also been published by Khazeh Publications.

Translated into Persian by Shiva Safari, “Ernest Hemingway” introduces the American writer Ernest Hemingway.

Young is considered to be the first serious Ernest Hemingway scholar. Indeed his scholarship brought him into conflict with Hemingway himself.

In his 1948 biography of Hemingway, written for his doctoral dissertation, Young argued that Hemingway’s writing was strongly affected by an injury Hemingway received in 1918, while serving in World War I.

Hemingway strongly objected to this theory, quoting him as saying, “How would you like it if someone said that everything you’d done in your life was because of some



This combination photo shows the front covers of the Persian copies of Stephen Crites’ “Soren Kierkegaard” (L) and Philip Young’s “Ernest Hemingway”.

trauma?” Hemingway fought to have the publication of Young’s biography stopped, but after exchanging correspondence with Young, Hemingway agreed to let the book be published.

## Leo Rojas to return for new concert in Tehran

**A R T TEHRAN** — Ecuadorian pan flutist Leo Rojas, famous for his hit song “The Lonely Shepherd”, will be coming again to Tehran to give a new concert.

The performance will take place at the Grand Hall of the Interior Ministry on August 13.

Earlier in March, Rojas gave concerts at Tehran’s Milad Tower. Silvio d’Anza,

the Croatian-German singer, accompanied the 34-year-old musician in the concerts named “Son of the Sun”.

Rojas was born in Ecuador and is best known for winning the 2011 season of the German casting show Das Supertalent. Rojas moved to Spain in 2000 and then to Germany, living in Berlin with his Polish wife. He often performed as a street musician until a passer-by informed him about the

casting show.

He became a contestant in the show’s fifth season, succeeding to the semi-finals with his rendition of “El Condór Pasa” and then winning the show by playing “Einsamer Hirte” (“The Lonely Shepherd”).

Rojas’ version of “The Lonely Shepherd” was released as a single shortly after the show’s finale, followed by his first full-length album, “Spirit of the Hawk”.

## Iranian literati to review American poetry

**C U L T U R E TEHRAN** — A number of Iranian literati will come together in a session at Tehran’s Book City Institute on Tuesday to review American author Christopher Beach’s “The Cambridge Introduction to Twentieth-Century American Poetry” translated into Persian by Kamran Ahmadgoli and Bahador Baqeri.

Published in 2011 by Cambridge University Press, the book gives the readers a brief introduction to the various movements, schools and groups of American poets in the twentieth century. It helps readers to understand and analyze modern and contemporary poems.

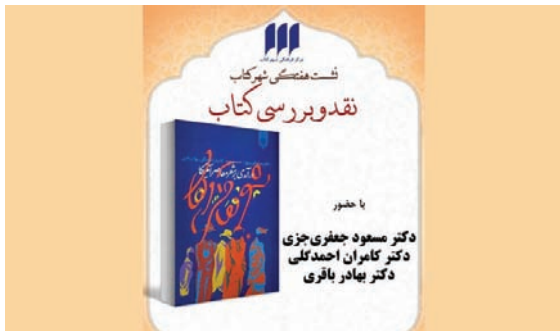
The first part of the book deals with the transition

from the nineteenth-century lyric to the modernist poem, focusing on the work of major modernists such as Robert Frost, T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Wallace Stevens, Marianne Moore and W. C. Williams.

In the second half of the book, the focus is on groups such as the poets of the Harlem Renaissance, the New Critics, the Confessionals and the Beats. In each chapter discussions of the most important poems are placed in the larger context of literary, cultural and social history.

The translators of the book and scholar Masud Jafari are scheduled to deliver speeches at the meeting, which will begin at 4 pm.

A Persian version of the book has recently been published by Khamush Publications in Tehran.



A poster for a meeting Tehran’s Book City Institute will hold on July 30 to review “The Cambridge Introduction to Twentieth-Century American Poetry” by American author Christopher Beach.