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Iran has devised 25-year plan for ties with China 🔁





Iran's Zahra Bornaki awarded Asian Para Games silver medal 15



Leader's discourses on books published in Turkish 16



Iran draws a record 600,000 medical travelers in four months

TEHRAN — Iran hosted a record high of nearly 600,000 medical travelers during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21), nearly equal to the figure for the whole past year (March 2018-19), according to an Iranian association for the health tourism promotion.

People from the Persian Gulf littoral states, Iraq and Syria as well as Iranian expatriates residing in Canada and Germany constituted the majority of medical travelers to the Islamic Republic, who received plastic, cosmetic, open-heart and orthopedic surgeries amongst other treatments, said Mohammad Panahi, a deputy for the association, Donya-ye Egtesad reported on Tuesday.

Depreciation of Iranian rial against foreign currencies has been the main reason for the increase because it has lowered costs of traveling to Iran much more, he explained. \rightarrow 10

Ex-Tehran mayor gets death sentence for killing wife

TEHRAN — Former Tehran mayor Mohammad Ali Najafi has been sentenced to death for murdering his wife, Judiciary spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmaeili announced on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, Esmaeili said Najafi was convicted of murdering his wife, Mitra Ostad, with a handgun and was sentenced to death for his crime, Tasnim reported.

Najafi, 67, appeared in court on July 13 for the first time to stand trial.

Ostad was found dead at her home in Tehran on May 28 with gunshots in her chest. A few hours later, Najafi surrendered himself to the Criminal Police and confessed to killing his wife, citing family quarrels for the murder. →3

Accused 9/11 mastermind open to testimony against Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN — Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused al-Qaeda mastermind of the September 11, 2001 attacks, has indicated a willingness to cooperate in a lawsuit filed by victims seeking damages from Saudi Arabia, if the United States decides not to seek the death penalty against him.

Mohammed's offer was disclosed late on Friday in a letter filed in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan by lawyers representing individuals and businesses seeking billions of dollars in damages, the Wall Street Journal and Reuters news agency reported on Monday.

The Saudi government has long denied involvement in the 2001 attacks, in which hijacked airplanes crashed into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon outside Washington, DC, and a Pennsylvania field. Nearly 3,000 people died. \rightarrow 13



Europe must feel threatened!

.S. President Donald Trump and The U.S.National Security Adviser John Bolton continue to think about the breakup of the European Union and the collapse of the euro zone. Yet politicians like German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron still think they can get into a political and economic equation with the US president! This dangerous and inaccurate look has caused European authorities to become more and more vulnerable to harm! Many analysts of the international affairs have recently had a special focus on US-EU relations. Some signals and speeches by the President of the United States which are addressed to the European authorities indicate the full opposition of the White House to the European Union.

EU officials are well aware that during the recent European parliamentary elections, Donald Trump and his allies were the main supporters of nationalist and extremist parties in Europe. This has led to victory in some European countries such as Hungary, France and Britain, nationalist and anti-immigration parties. The main question is how long will the European authorities' reconciliation with the Trump administration continue?!

What is certain is that the EU is completing its own process of collapse and destruction on its own!the European officials haven't yet understood the extent of Trump's hostility to the existence of the United European. This is while the trade war between Trump and the European Union has entered a new phase since the beginning of 2018. Some American economic analysts believe that based on his protectionist policies, Trump will impose new and wider tariffs on the EU. China, Canada and Mexico in the future. European officials are now faced with a president who sees "economic protectionism" as a major policy in the field of commerce, and in the future he will try to pursue this policy even more seriously.

Undoubtedly, there will soon be more economic disputes between America and Europe. In other words, the Trade war between these two will become more intense in near future. Furthermore, countries like China and Canada will also enter this confrontation with the United States. Europe does not have much opportunity to prevent its economic and political destruction by the White House! Aren't the European authorities awake?!

Turkey's ties with NATO unaffected by S-400 purchase: Cavusoglu

TEHRAN - The situation which emerged afterAnkara purchased Russian S-400 missile systems does not affect Ankara's relations with NATO, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in Thailand on Tuesday.

"We have no issue with NATO, when you look at the statements of the secretary general... with regard to S-400s and other issues, it is not a problem to NATO," TASS quoted him as saying. "Turkey is in top five in contributions

Cavusoglu said it was "more of a bilateral issue between Turkey and the United States." The minister made the statement in Thailand, where a ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is taking place.

The top Turkish diplomat earlier met his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

The U.S. claims the S-400 will be incompatible with NATO systems, an argument Turkey

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said that it is up to Turkey to make its own decisions on weapons systems purchases.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and his U.S. counterpart Mike Pompeo had a phone conversation on July 20, in which they discussed the F-35 fighter jet program and S-400 air defense systems issues.

Cavusoglu and Pompeo discussed the F35, S-400 and Syria issues, particularly the Manbij, Idlib and safe zone issues, the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to media, said.

Following protracted efforts to purchase an air defense system from the U.S. with no success, Ankara signed a contract in 2017 to purchase the S-400s from Russia.

U.S. officials argued the Russian system would be incompatible with NATO systems and expose the F-35s to possible Russian subterfuge.

Turkey, however, emphasized the S-400 would not be integrated into NATO systems and would not pose a threat to the alliance.

It urged the formation of a commission to clarify any technical issues, but the U.S. failed to respond to this proposal.

The U.S. threatened sanctions over the purchase, with Turkey responding that any sanctions would be met in kind.

The delivery of S-400 components began last week and is ongoing, with 14 shipments of related equipment so far having landed in Turkey over the last nine days.

Deliveries are set to continue through April

Channeling liquidity into stock market to pick up production

he statistics show that stock market in Iran is moving toward more and more development and creating better condition for entrance of more

This market has experienced a 250-percent growth of index over the past three years and its value has reached 12.282 quadrillion rials (about \$285.714 billion) at the end of the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (June 21), which equals 40 percent of Iran's GDP.

Some 630 large companies, active in 40 industries, with full transparency in performance are currently present at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Increasing number of the companies, rising capital, and diversity of securities all indicate that this market is working well toward more capital funding, but it is unfortunate that despite all these promising factors, stock market's share is still low in this due.

One reason is that investors have their eyes more on the banks rather than the stock market for securing their required fund; it seems somehow logical as the banking system has a longer history in Iran compared to the stock market.

The other reason is the people's low knowledge and familiarity with the stock market. They prefer to deposit their money in the banks rather than making investment at the stock market.

Profit earned through stock market has been recently higher that the interest that banks offer and higher than the inflation rate, but people do not know that.

It is while boosting people's knowl-

edge about stock market will lead to encourage them to make investment in this market, something that will be resulted in more production and higher employment. Leading liquidity toward stock market

seems more vital given the strong will for promotion of domestic production to achieve more self-reliance and combat the sanctions. \rightarrow 4

Bahraini protesters denounce execution of young activists

TEHRAN— Bahraini people have staged demonstrations for the third consecutive night to condemn the recent execution of anti-regime activists at the hands of the regime forces.

Protesters chanted slogans against the ruling Al Khalifa regime as they took to the streets in several villages and neighborhoods on the outskirts of the capital Manama on Monday night.

According to Reuters, police fired tear gas to disperse the demonstrators in Bilad al-Qadeem

neighborhood. Meanwhile, pictures posted on social media accounts of Bahrini activists showed mass demonstrations in the district of Bani Hamra.

Bahraini people have been holding protest rallies since Saturday, when the Al Khalifah regime executed Ahmad al-Malali, 24, and Ali

Hakim al-Arab, 25.

The activists had been sentenced to death last year in a mass trial along with another 56 men who were convicted and given jail terms on "terrorism crimes.'

The Manama regime carried out the death penalties despite fierce protests by the United Nations and several human rights groups, Press

Settlement goods cannot be labeled 'Made in Israel': Canadian court rules

TEHRAN— Canada's Federal Court ruled that goods produced by Israelis in the West Bank can no longer be labeled as "Made in Israel."

Challenging a previous decision by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Judge Anne L. Mactavish determined that labels describing drinks made in the settlements as Israeli products are "false, misleading and deceptive.

The decision — the latest twist in a three-yearold dispute over whether bottles from the Psagot Winery and Shiloh Winery in the West Bank can be characterized as coming from Israel — means the Canada Food Inspection Agency must decide anew how the wines should be labelled.

The decision — the latest twist in a three-yearold dispute over whether bottles from the the West Bank can be characterized as coming from Israel - means the Canada Food Inspection Agency must decide anew how the wines should be labelled.

None of the parties and interveners in the case considered the West Bank to be territory of the state of Israel, which means the labels are fundamentally inaccurate, the Federal Court ruling noted.

The court went on to say that because the goods weren't labelled as products of the West Bank, Canadians were unable to make informed $decisions\ as\ consumers,\ particularly\ if\ they\ wanted$ to "buy conscientiously."

"You can't label the products (as) 'Product of Israel' if they weren't produced in Israel. End of story," said Winnipeg resident David Kattenburg, who filed the court challenge.

In 2015, the European Union said goods produced in the settlements must not be labeled as made in Israel. Many senior officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, denounced the union for the move, suggesting that it was comparable to the Nazi boycott of Jewish goods before World War II.

Pro-Palestinian activists hailed the ruling. "It is our fervent hope that the government of [Canadian Prime Minister] Justin Trudeau will accept the Court's well-reasoned decision and will not waste yet more taxpayer dollars by appealing this decision and by continuing to facilitate Israel's naked theft of occupied Palestinian land," Kattenburg's lawyer, Dimitri Lascaris, wrote on

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Zarif to Trump: Iranians have outlasted aggressors for millennia

SPORTS TEHRAN — In response to a tweet by Donald Trump who on Monday said "the Iranians never won a war, but never lost a negotiation", Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote a post on his Twitter page saying that "for millennia, Iranians have outlasted every aggressor."

Reminding Trump of his country's defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan after Vietnam, Zarif said, "The U.S. has spent \$7 trillion and rivers of blood in our region, in its biggest failure since Vietnam.

The chief diplomat also advised Trump not to listen to the "B-Team's fake history" who want the United States to be always in war.

"Reject B-Team's fake history and its thirst for ForeverWar." The B-Team includes Trump's national security advisor John Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman and UAE Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Zayed.

Trump heading for clash with Merkel as U.S. makes formal call to form coalition against Iran: report

POLITICAL TEHRAN — U.S. President Donald Trump is heading for a clash with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after the U.S. made a formal call for Germany to join the UK and France to counter what Washington calls Tehran's threats, according to express.co.uk.

Germany has so far insisted it would not help the UK in its

conflict with Iran after the British-flagged Stenna Imperno was seized by Iranian marine on July 19.

Berlin has been left furious with the UK wanting the United States to be involved in any mission as it was Washington that withdrew from the nuclear deal signed in 2015, aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear program in exchange for termination of sanctions.

But a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Berlin said: "We have formally asked Germany to help along with France and the UK to secure the Strait of Hormuz and to fight [Iran].'



On Monday, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said he wants to see a European-led approach in terms of support from other nations in the campaign against Iran, but insisted it would also be important to have support from the U.S. to make it "viable and effective"

The foreign secretary added this should "not be a geopolitical dispute between the EU and the U.S."

But Britain's stance has left Germany fuming, and warned involving the U.S. could trigger an "enormous escalation risk".

German newspaper Suddeutsche Zeitung has reported Britain suggested in a news conference Washington want a leading role in the country's planned Operation Sentinel.

The military mission was announced by the U.S. earlier this month in immediate response to attacks on tankers in the Gulf of Oman, for which Washington has blamed Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Nils Schmid, who serves on the Committee of Foreign Affairs where he is the Social Democratic Party (SPD) parliamentary group's spokesperson, told radio station Bayerischer Rundfunk: "As Europeans, we have attached great importance to setting ourselves apart from the military confrontational logic of the Americans in the region and to focusing on diplomacy.

"That's why any European mission only makes sense if it keeps that distance to the very robust U.S. action."

He warned the British government wants to "go the American way, which is full of dangers," adding the more military present in the Persian Gulf, the greater the risk of errors being made.

Schmid said: "A shot can then trigger a big conflict. And then you are at the side of the U.S. in a war against Iran, and nobody wants that.

 $Rolf\,Mutzenich, acting\,parliamentary\,leader\,of\,the\,SPD, told$ Suddeutsche Zeitung involving the U.S. in any military mission could create an "enormous escalation risk"

He warned: "After the takeover by Boris Johnson, it remains to be seen whether the announced initiatives by the old govern-

ment are still resilient. "Britain is now returning to a robust American-flagged mil-

itary mission." Mutzenich insisted Germany will "do everything for a diplomatic solution" as part of its current membership in the UN

But in a further warning, he said: "I advise those who are now hastily committed to taking certain steps not to disturb the de-escalation talks.

The Greens in Germany also warned of the increasing dangers of involving the U.S. in a military mission could trigger. Alliance 90/The Greens, often simply Greens, is a green political party in Germany that was formed in 1993 from the merger of the German Green Party and Alliance 90.

The party's leader Annalena Baerbock told the radio station Berlin-Brandenburg the Europeans would have to make use of all diplomatic tools available to them.

She said: "That means, first and foremost, the promises you have made to Iran - that you will continue to trade with Iran after the sanctions have been imposed by Washington - you have to adhere to it now so it does not escalate."

Jurgen Trittin, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, insisted an international mandate, for example from the United Nations, would be needed for a German military mission in the Strait of Hormuz. But the Union Group Vice Chairman Thorsten Frei has not

completely ruled out another special session of Parliament during the current summer break for possible German participation in a European mission in the Persian Gulf.

He told the Rheinische Post and the General-Anzeiger: "The Federal Parliament always decides on foreign deployments of the Bundeswehr.

"In case of emergency this happens during a special session during the parliamentary summer break."

Larijani: Iran has devised 25-year plan for ties with China

Parliament speaker says U.S. animosity towards Iran, China is 'deep' and 'strategic'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Majs k lis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that the U.S. animosity towards Iran and China is "strategic" and "deep".

The U.S. animosity towards Iran and China is not tactical, rather it is strategic and deep," Larijani said during a meeting with Song Tao the head of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China.

Larijani proposed that "a strategic thinking should be followed to counter" this animosity. Larijani also said, "Consultations between Iran, China and cooperation of certain friendly countries can help counter the U.S. animosity and neutralize its consequences. However, success of this plan is contingent upon practical steps.

Elsewhere, he called for expansion of

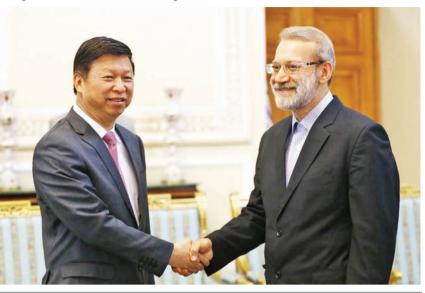
He said that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the government are interested in expansion

of Iran-China ties. The top MP said Iran has prepared a 25year plan for development of ties with China.

'To turn this plan to a joint strategic document we should negotiate with the Chinese side," Larijani stated. In February, Larijani visited China, where

holding talks with President Xi Jinping. "In that visit, Mr. Xi Jinping, the president

of China, insisted on drawing up the longterm 25-year plan for relations between the



Song Tao says, "Iran and China have chosen their path through knowing their situation and have made many achievements."

two countries," Larijani added.

For his part, Song said that China is determined to expand ties with Iran.

"Iran and China have chosen their path through knowing their situation and have made many achievements. Iran and China's

experiences show that developing countries do not need to copy the Western development model and are able to be successful by

domestic development model," Song stated. Pointing to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, he said that China supports efforts to preserve the deal.

"Iran and China are facing the U.S. pressure and bullying and an objective of this trip is coordination between the two countries to counter the U.S. unilateral and hegemonic actions," he said.

Song held a separate meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

Zarif and Song exchanged views about U.S. unilateral policies and its breach of international rules and regulations and also Washington's efforts to impose its hegemony on others.

The two sides also held talks about bilateral relationship as well as regional and international issues.

 $During\ a\ meeting\ with\ Song\ on\ Monday,$ First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said that Iran expects friendly countries, including China, to buy more oil from Iran.

'We expect friendly countries to be more active in purchasing Iran's oil," Jahangiri said. He added that Iran is ready to export gas to China through Pakistan.

The U.S. has introduced a total ban on Iran's oil export.

Jahangiri also said that an Iranian economic delegation comprising from the central bank and economy ministry will travel to China in future days to iron out a plan for a financial mechanism between the countries to facilitate trade ties. The vice president expressed hope that the talks on devising the mechanism would be "constructive".

Rouhani says all bodies tasked to fight drug trade

POLITICAL TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that all the bodies and institutions are duty bound to fight drug trafficking.

During a meeting of the drug control headquarters, he said that it is a national duty to save the society, especially the youths, from drug addiction.

The president cited unemployment as a factor that contributes to addiction, adding it is necessary to "provide the necessary education" for those recovering from addiction.

He attached great importance to the use of social media in order to raise awareness of the people about addiction and fight against drug trafficking.

Rouhani added that the educational system plays a very important role in this respect.

Elsewhere, he said, "The fact that ambassadors of foreign countries are provided with information on fighting drugs is very valuable."

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

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

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

Tehran strongly condemns Saudi air raid on Yemen

POLITICAL TEHRAN—Iran's Ford e s k eign Ministry has strongly condemned the latest Saudi-led airstrikes on a market in the northern Yemeni province of Sa'ada which left dozens of civilians

In a Tuesday statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi expressed disgust at such savage and inhumane acts and offered condolences to the families of

dead or wounded.

"More than four years since the devastating war on Yemen began, the aggressors have had no achievement but the destruction of Yemen, and they want to make up for their defeats both in the political arena and on the ground by killing women, children and civilians," Mousavi regretted.

Criticizing the international community for remaining tight-lipped in the face of war Yemen, he said, "America and some European countries are accessories to these crimes by selling weapons to the aggressors and should be answerable for their actions." At least 14 civilians were killed and 25

crimes committed by aggressors against

wounded when Saudi-led warplanes conducted an airstrike on a crowded market in Yemen's northern province of Sa'ada Yemen's health ministry also said at

least 10 of the wounded were in critical condition, warning that the death toll was likely to rise.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the country's former regime back to power and crushing the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement. Over 15,000 Yemenis have been killed in the attacks since then. The Western-backed military aggression, coupled with a naval blockade, has

led to a massive humanitarian crisis in the country. The country's infrastructure has also been destroyed. On Monday, a senior UN official highlighted the plight of war-stricken Yemeni

people, urging the international community "not to turn its back" on Yemen and to honor its promises to deliver aid to the impoverished state. Four years of conflict according to the

UNDP latest report have set back Yemen by 20 years," UN Development Program administrator Achim Steiner told AFP after a visit to the country.

He also raised concerns about the humanitarian situation caused by the Saudi offensive, saying, "The world should not



turn its back on Yemen.'

"It is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world and in some respects it is getting worse because hostilities and fighting still continue and the situation for 20 million or over two thirds of Yemeni citizens require humanitarian support," he said. "Ten million people currently face the acute risk

Trump has ethical responsibility to calm tension with Iran: American expert

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Lawrence J. Korb, a senior fellow at Center for American Progress, the administration complained, the deal did not address to ries to the treaty from continuing to trade with Iran by says since Donald Trump is responsible for creating tension with Iran by quitting the 2015 nuclear deal his administration is required to take the lead by restarting negotiations with Tehran in order to prevent a war in the Persian Gulf region.

In a commentary posted on the Bulletin of American Atomic Scientists on July 29, J. Korb says the United States "has a great deal to lose by becoming embroiled in another Middle East conflict."

Following is the text of the article:

In trying to defuse the increasingly dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf region, which could lead to an inadvertent or accidental conflict between the United States and Iran, it is incumbent upon the United States to take the lead.

Not only is it the leading global power; it is primarily responsible for creating this dangerous situation by withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (aka the JCPOA and the Iran nuclear deal) in 2018.

Moreover, given the other threats that the United States faces from its strategic competitors, Russia and China, it has a great deal to lose by becoming embroiled in another Middle East conflict—particularly this conflict, which would make the war with Iraq really look like a cakewalk.

The U.S. decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 was based on two complaints. First, the Trump administration criticized parts of the JCPOA that put expiration dates or sunset provisions on some of

or alter Iranian behavior in other domains, including its ballistic missile program and support for subversive groups in the region.

As Secretary of State Pompeo said, the JCPOA "did not fundamentally alter Iranian foreign policy in ways that suit the interests of America and its Middle East allies.

If the United States had applied these criteria to its arms control agreements with the Soviet Union and Russia, there would never have been any agreements between the two nuclear super powers. For example, New START, which places limits on the deployed arsenals and delivery systems of Russian and the United States, expires in 2021 and can be extended only for another five years, something the Russians have offered to do but has not yet been accepted by the Trump administration. That's to say, New START has sunset provisions, just like the JCPOA.

Similarly, U.S. arms agreements with the former Soviet Union, like the ABM treaty or the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT I), did not require the Soviet Union to alter its foreign policy to suit the interest of the U.S. and its allies—that is, to give up control of their eastern European satellite countries or stop supporting communist regimes in North Vietnam or North Korea.

Not only did the United States with draw from the JCPOA $\,$ and reimpose U.S. sanctions, but as of May of this year, against the advice of the State Department, the United States our control of the global banking system.

The Trump administration further compounded the problem by launching a large military buildup in the region, deploying a carrier battle group, an amphibious battle group, bombers and hundreds of personnel to the region.

The president has offered to negotiate without pre-conditions and the Iranians have indicated a willingness to put items like their ballistic missile program on the table. But because it has done so much to create the impasse, the Trump administration should lead the process toward actual negotiations, relaxing some of the sanctions now in place, reinstating the waivers that allowed European allies to buy Iranian oil, and withdrawing some of its military forces.

This American action would allow Iran to come to the table without losing face and would also prevent a war that even the head of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency says, "no one is looking for."

In addition, it would allow the United States to repair relations with its European allies and allow the U.S. military to focus on more important threats.

Finally, in a new round of negotiations with Iran, the United States must realize—as it did with the Soviets and the Russians—that nuclear weapons are a critical threat, and that controlling them is an end in itself, and one that is more important, in the final analysis, than other areas of national security.

Iranians advised to avoid traveling to certain regions in Russia

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Iranid e s k an embassy in Moscow has advised Iranian citizens not to travel to Russia's northern and southern regions.

The embassy issued a statement after a number of Iranian nationals encountered problems upon arrival in some Russian airports. A report on Porsesh website said on Thursday some Iranian visitors had faced confiscation of passports and unusual questioning by police as they arrived in an airport

The embassy's statement warned Iranian citizens to avoid traveling to the northern and southern regions of Russia, where they may come under suspicion of planning to cross Russian borders illegally.

The embassy has also said carrying an entry visa alone is not enough for foreign nationals visiting Russia, adding that the Moscow government reserves the right to refuse travelers entry for insufficient documents or on suspicion of trying to use the Russian soil for migration.

The statement also deplored the "unacceptable" treatment of a number of Iranian citizens at the airport, saying the embassy has held several meetings with Russian Foreign Ministry officials and sent a couple of letters of protest to voice objection to the treatment of Iranian travelers.

The Islamic Republic's embassy in Russia has always emphasized that Iranian nationals must be treated with respect and their rights must be protected, the statement added.

Under an agreement between Tehran and

Moscow, Iranian tourists, in groups of 5 to 50 people, can travel to Russia without an entry visa for up to 15-day stays. In November 2015, Iran and Russia

clinched the agreement on simplifying visa requirements, during Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Tehran. The accord took effect in February 2016.

In recent years, there has been a sharp rise in the number of Iranian tourists traveling to Russia, particularly to Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

Impossible to exchange seized tankers, says Iranian ambassador to Britain

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian de s k Ambassador to London Hamid Baeidinejad has said it is impossible to exchange the Iranian-seized British ship with a British-seized supertanker which was carrying Iranian oil.

"Impossible to advance a quid pro quo or barter exchange of detained UK and Iranian ships as some British media suggest," Baeidinejad tweeted on Monday.

"UK has illegally detained the ship carrying Iranian oil while the British ship is detained for violating some key safety/security regulations in Hormoz Strait," he added.

Tension emerged between Tehran and London after British troops seized a supertanker carrying Iranian oil in international waters off Gibraltar on July 4, claiming that it was transporting oil to Syria in violation of the EU sanctions.

Iran has dismissed claims the tanker was carrying oil for Syria and said technically it is impossible for the supertanker to anchor in Syria's ports.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called on Britain not to be part of the Unit-

ed States' "economic terrorism" against Iran.

On July 19, Iranian forces seized a British tanker near the Strait of Hormuz, after it tried to flee the scene of a major collision with an Iranian fishing boat.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Crops (IRGC) on Monday released audio and video footages warning the British Royal Navy warship to stay out of the way as IRGC boats move to seize the British tanker in the Persian Gulf.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday that the British move was a violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

Speaking prior to a meeting of the joint commission of the JCPOA in Vienna, Araqchi said that the signatories to the nuclear deal should not prevent Iran's oil export.

Despite the hostile act of London, British Ambassador to Tehran Robert Macaire said on Monday that easing tension in the Persian Gulf region is a priority of the British embassy.

"Easing tension will remain the first priority of the embassy and Britain," he tweeted.



Austria committed to nuclear deal, diplomat says

POLITICAL TEHRAN – The Austrian Ambassador to described by Tehran, Stefan Scholz, said on Tuesday that Vienna is committed to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

During a meeting with the governor of Gorgan, Scholz said, "All the people of Iran have the right to enjoy economic benefits of the JCPOA."

Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, and Iran have been trying to salvage the pact since the U.S. withdrew from it in May 2018 and returned sanctions and imposed new ones.

it in May 2018 and returned sanctions and imposed new ones. However, Europeans' efforts to protect trade with Iran against the U.S. sanctions have yielded nothing concrete so far.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrew from the multi-nation nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and 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. The remaining JCPOA parties held an emergency meeting in Vienna on Sunday to discuss Iran's moves in reducing its nuclear commitments and explore ways to save the nuclear deal.

Abbas Araghchi, the deputy foreign minister and a top nuclear negotiator who represented Iran in the meeting, called the talks "constructive". However, he warned Iran would continue to reduce its nuclear commitments if Europeans failed to salvage the pact.

"The atmosphere was constructive. Discussions were good. I cannot say that we resolved everything, I can say there are lots of commitments," the senior nuclear negotiator told Reuters. Helga Schmid, secretary general of the European External Action Service (EEAS), also issued a statement on Sunday saying that "participants reaffirmed their continued commitment to preserving the JCPOA."

She also said, "They recalled that both nuclear commitments and sanctions-lifting are essential parts of the agreement."

The European Union announced on June 28 that its special purpose vehicle for trade with Iran, known as 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.

Iran mustn't leave JCPOA on any account, says top MP

POLITICAL TEHRAN – Spokesman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee says Tehran must certainly not leave the nuclear agreement, also referred to as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was struck between Tehran and six world powers in 2015 but was abandoned by the U.S. in 2018.

"As a person who has opposed Barjam (JCPOA) from the very beginning and believed that Barjam would not come to fruition, I state clearly that the Islamic Republic must not leave Barjam on any account," Hossein Naqavi Hosseini said on Monday, ISNA reported.

On May 8, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the JCPOA, which Iran struck with six countries including the U.S., the UK, France, Russia, China and Germany. Under the JCPOA, Iran had agreed to limit parts of its peaceful nuclear program in exchange for the removal of all economic and financial sanctions.

onomic and financial sanctions.

After the withdrawal, the U.S. imposed

what it called the "toughest sanctions ever" against Iran, despite the international community's strong objection.

Naqavi Hosseini argued that since Iran has paid the price for the JCPOA by fulfilling all of its commitments, it must not exit the deal.

"We shouldn't have entered the agreement in the first place, but now that we did and paid the price for it, exiting it would impose costs on the country," he stated.

"We reduce our commitments and this is a proper response because Europeans are waiting for our withdrawal," the MP added.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the nuclear pact.

The announcement, which was declared by the Supreme National Security Council, stated that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities as long as sanctions are in place.

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. Elsewhere in his remarks, Naqavi Hosseini ruled out the idea of talks with the U.S. as a "red line" of the Islamic Republic.

"We do not regard Americans [worthy] to negotiate with," he said, adding that the U.S. administration of Donald Trump is wasting its time by sending mediators, giving phone numbers and waiting for Iran to call "because we will not negotiate on any account."

Trump has occasionally offered to hold dialogue with Iran, while at the same time adding to the list of sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Last month, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei categorically rejected the notion of talks, saying Iran will not at all "repeat the bitter experience" it gained from the negotiations that led to the nuclear deal and later ditched by Trump.

No wise man would enter talks with a country that has reneged on all agreements, the Leader asserted

Three steps toward resolving Iran's nuclear crisis

By Seyed Hossein Mousavian

The underlying assumptions on the part of Trump administration to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) were the following: 1) by implementing the "maximum pressure" policy, Iran's oil exports would reach zero; its financial transactions would be fundamentally hindered and Iran's economy would collapse; 2) anti-government protests would erupt to the effect that would pervade all over the country; 3) Iran would lose its regional standing and influence; and 4) all these ramifications would ultimately lead to regime change or would bring Iranians to the negotiation table from a weak position.

Since President Trump was elected, I have repeatedly emphasized that the outcome envisioned for the "maximum pressure campaign" is merely a fantasy and wishful thinking, and that Trump's withdrawal from the deal would necessarily have negative consequences whose deleterious impacts that would go far beyond the two states' bilateral relations.

It been more than two and half years since Trump's election, but none of the objectives of the ill-advised "maximum pressure" policy has been achieved. Iran's economy did not collapse, and the country's influence did not subside. Iran's military capability and technology allowed it to shoot down the most sophisticated drone that the U.S. had ever built. The United Kingdom illegally sized an Iran oil tanker, for which Iran has reciprocated by seizing a British tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's ally in the region, the Houthis, forced the Emiratis to pull back from their involvement in the Yemeni war. The Houthis were also able to attack Saudi oil pipelines with drones. These are indicators of Iran's power and influence in the region, but they also speak to a



broader crisis in the region that has been exacerbated by Trump's withdrawal from the Iran deal.

The political events and developments in the Middle East and elsewhere have so far been unfavorable to Trump's policies and preference; more important, they have been unfavorable to global peace and security. But I believe that there is still a chance to change the discourse. This would require the Trump administration to take a few concrete steps that can be game-changing moves toward ensuring peace and security in the region.

First, upon the invitation of the United Nations secretary general, the United States should agree to attend an urgent meeting with foreign ministers of Iran and the other signatories of the JCPOA (the UK, France, Germany, China and Russia) that aims to reach an agreement on reducing tensions and containing the current developments that could lead to a military confrontation. In this meeting, the illegal economic sanctions that were re-imposed by Trump administration

should be temporarily lifted, so that a constructive debate and dialogue can start between Washington and Tehran. Gestures of goodwill, such as exchanging prisoners, by both states can be helpful to facilitate the process of reducing tensions. Second: The world powers (minus the United States) believe that the world's most comprehensive nuclear agreement, namely the JCPOA, should be revived. By all official accounts, the JCPOA was working swell in achieving one crucial objective: to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. President Trump has repeatedly said that he is looking to achieve the same objective, that is "for Iran to remain a non-nuclear state." The JCPOA is the most robust and comprehensive international mechanism that can prevent Iran-or any other country for that matter-to acquire a nuclear weapon. Therefore, if the United States is serious about nonproliferation, it should work with Iran, the regional and the world powers to regionalize the principles of the JCPOA, which would ensure zero nuclear bombs in Iran and the region. A de-nuclearized Middle East is the only sustainable solution, and the JCPOA has created the new foundation to achieve this goal.

Third, and as indicated in the Article 5 of UN Security Council Resolution 598, to contain the escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf and to secure a steady supply of energy to the world market while preventing any military confrontation, Iran, the Arab countries around the Persian Gulf, and the five permanent members of the Security Council will need to have direct contact. A sustainable peace and security arrangement in the region will necessarily require the stakeholders to hold direct talks. In this respect, direct contact between Iran and Saudi Arabia is all the more necessary.

(Source: thebulletin.org)

Majlis Energy Committee members visit Fordow nuclear site

TEHRAN – Chairman and members of the de s k Majlis Energy Committee visited the Fordow nuclear enrichment site on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Fereidoun Hassanvand, the committee chairman, was accompanied by ten members on the committee.



A number of managers from the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) were also visiting the site.

The MPs were briefed about the latest activities surrounding the nuclear industry.

In addition to visiting the Shahid Alimohammadi enrichment unit, the committee members toured different parts of the nuclear site including the stable isotopes section.

Tehran open to talks if U.S. pays sanctions damages: Mirsalim

TEHRAN – Former presidential candidate Mostafa Mirsalim

POLITICAL

says Iran is open to talks with the U.S. only

if the U.S. compensates for the damage it
inflicted on Iran through sanctions.

inflicted on Iran through sanctions.

Speaking with the Mehr news agency on Tuesday, Mirsalim criticized Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for saying Iran would enter negotiations if the U.S. lifts sanctions.

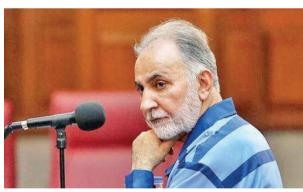
"Lifting the sanctions is not enough and the U.S. also must compensate for the damage it has inflicted on Iran, if there is going to be negotiation between Iran and the U.S.," he suggested. After the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018, the Trump administration has imposed several rounds of sanctions against Iran, which include a total ban on Iran's oil exports.

Ex-Tehran mayor gets death sentence for killing wife

1 → Najafi, a senior member of the Servants of Construction Party, was elected mayor of Tehran in August 2017, but resigned in April 2018 for what he called poor health conditions.

He had also served as deputy president under Mohammad Khatami and Hassan Rouhani, and as education minister under Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

During his Tuesday press conference, Esmaeili also announced



that Mohammad Hadi Razavi has been sentenced to 20 years in prison and 74 lashes for disrupting the country's economy. Razavi is the son-in-law of Labor Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari.

He had been charged with embezzlement and "disruption of the economy" after receiving 2.11 trillion rials (around \$51m) in loans from banks, which he has failed to pay back.

Some countries show green light to Iran's 'nonaggression pact': envoy

TEHRAN (MNA) — Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait, Mohammad Irani, said on Tuesday that some countries have accepted to join Iran's proposed non-aggression pact. The Iranian ambassador said that Tehran welcomes any cooperation with Muslim countries and reinforcing relations with Iraq, which would be in favor of all the regional countries.

About Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia, He said "we do believe in having negotiations and try our best to resolve issues through talks and a mediator." "If the Saudis are ready, we are also inclined to conduct negotiations." he said

Hailing the efforts of Emir of Kuwait for keeping the region peaceful, Irani named the conditions proper for expansion of Iran-Kuwait ties. Irani, elsewhere, noted that there are a large number of countries which do not agree with the U.S.-led sanctions against Iran including Russia, China, and the EU besides regional countries such as Turkey, Iraq and central Asian countries. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on May 26 that he had proposed the "regional non-aggression pact" with Persian Gulf Arab countries during his three-day trip to Iraq. Zarif said Iran sought the best of relations with the Persian Gulf littoral countries and would welcome any proposals for dialogue and de-escalation toward that end.

The regional non-aggression pact is expected to pave the way for neighboring countries to build trust and have constructive interaction.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	252898.1
IFX	3325.82

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,798 rials
GBP	51,148 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$64.13/b
WTI	\$57.28/b
OPEC Basket	\$63.79/b
Gold	\$1,429.00/oz
Silver	\$16.50/oz
Platinium	\$884.20/oz

Sources: oil price.com, Money metals.com

Bartering agreements with neighbors discussed

ECONOMY TEHRAN— During the 31st session of the Economic Promotion and Information Dissemination Headquarters held on Monday, different economic issues of the country were discussed, among them signing of bartering agreements with the neighboring countries was an important subject, IRNA reported.

The meeting was chaired by Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli and attended by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Head Chalam-Hassein Shafaia



The other subjects discussed in the meeting were the recent rising price of commodities, online taxis, rising airplane ticket prices, and clearance of goods from the customs.

Boosting non-oil exports to the neighbors in the framework of bartering which needs no banking transactions has come under the spotlight as a strategy to combat the U.S. sanctions on the country's economy.

Tehran hosts conference on boosting production via reviving small mines

ECONOMY TEHRAN— A national conference on description boosting production through reviving and developing small mines was held at Eram Hotel in Tehran on Tuesday, IRIB reported.

The conference was attended by Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini, Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Khodadad Gharibpour, a number of directors and experts in mining sector, entrepreneurs active in projects related to the small mines, and some economists who offered their suggested strategies for reviving the small mines in the country.

Attracting the government's aids for operating small mines, and recognizing investors and investees for reviving these mines in line with materializing "Resistance Economy" were some objectives of the event.

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

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. Head of IMIDRO has mentioned this plan as one of the most significant plans of "Resistance Economy", saying that

his organization 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).

While the government is seriously following up the plan

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

Also, it should not be ignored that reviving those mines requires specific machinery and technology. And as the owners of the mines do no afford buying those expensive machinery, different methods and approaches should be adopted in a way that exploiting the small mines will be economically viable.

'Iran's economy strong enough to withstand U.S. sanctions'

d e s k of Majlis Economic Committee said on Tuesday that the country's economy has the capacity to pass through the unjust U.S. sanctions, IRIB reported.

Mentioning the recent improvements in the value of Iranian rial against the U.S. dollar due to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) policies for shielding the currency against the U.S. sanctions, Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi noted that this upward trend will continue through the rest of the year.

He further mentioned the government's policies for encouraging domestic production, saying that "Fortunately, replacing imports with domestic production and consequently eliminating unnecessary commodities from the market has led to a balance in the currency market."

He also underlined the significance of the CBI's new policies in organizing the forex market and noted that the central bank's decisions in moving towards stabilization of this market and formation of



the integrated forex market has been an important positive sign for the country's economy.

Pour-Ebrahimi went on mentioning Iran's decision in taking new steps in reducing the country's obligations to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and said a new atmosphere has emerged in the country in the face of sanctions, in particular, the Supreme National Security Council decision in reducing the country's adherence to JCPOA in order to address economic demands, has made it clear for Europeans that they need to take action.

"I believe Iran now has the upper hand in the economic negotiations with the Europe and the chances of positive economic circumstances in the future are getting higher," he said.

"Lack of compliance to the U.S. sanctions by countries such as Russia, China and Turkey, has led to a breakthrough from the sanctions and a sign of their failure," he added.

Channeling liquidity into stock market to pick up production

Current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) has been named as the year of "Pickup in Production" by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and "Flourishing Production" is a plan seriously followed up by the government and private sector in this year.

up by the government and private sector in this year.
"Flourishing Production" defines a heavy duty for all state-run and private bodies of the country, and stock market can play a key role to fulfill this duty given its significant performance which includes capital funding in a rapid, transparent and low-cost way for the enterprises, production units and industries.

As the inflation rate has been in a rising trend in the current year, production units will require more

working capital; and it is the time that stock market can make a bridge to lead the liquidity toward production.

But the important point to be considered is that to materialize this objective the stock market and its performance should be clearly and vastly introduced not only to the people but also to the researchers and decision makers.

Flourishing production and promoting employment requires the stock market to absorb the liquidity to provide capital for production units and such thing is achievable when the people's knowledge of this market is elevated and they learn well about shareholding and investment making in different stock markets.



Iran, Australia stress expansion of banking ties

ECONOMYdes Sk Governor of Central
Bank of Iran (CBI) Akbar Komijani held
talks with the Australian Ambassador to
Tehran Ian Biggs on Tuesday to discuss
expansion of banking and economic re-

According to the CBI portal, in the meeting the two sides underlined the

great potentials and capacities for economic cooperation between Iran and Australia and called for removing barriers in the way of trade between the two countries.

Komijani pointed to the financial and banking relations as the first step in the development of economic relations between the two sides and said. "Iran and Australia have the necessary economic capacities and banking and business infrastructure and thus we can hope to expand cooperation in various fields."

Biggs for his part expressed dissatisfaction with the two countries' current level of trade, saying "We still do not have desirable banking relations between the two countries and it is necessary to establish such ties in order to increase the volume of trade."

At the end of the meeting, the two sides agreed to schedule meetings between the heads of central banks, as well as the ministers of economy, industry and agriculture to identify ways for developing economic relations within the framework of international laws and regulations.

Trans-shipment from Iran's ports rises 19% in 4 months yr/yr

ECONOMY

d e s k

TEHRAN — Trans-shipment of goods from ports of Iran rose 19 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), compared to the same time span of the past year, Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Mohammad Rastad announced.

The official said that the growth has been achieved in the face of the United States' unilateral sanctions against Tehran which entail restrictions on the country's maritime activities, Fars news agency reported. Asserting that Iran has defied the U.S. unilateral sanctions

Asserting that Iran has defied the U.S. unilateral sanctions and maritime restriction, Rastad said that Iranian ports have registered 1,255,670 tons of goods for trans-shipment during the mentioned four-month period which shows a 19.6 percent growth in comparison with the corresponding period in 2018.



The official went on saying that according to the statistics, Iranian ports have loaded and unloaded 19,545,640 tons of goods in the same period which posts a 3.3 percent rise in non-oil exports in a year-on-year comparison. He added that the ports have also witnessed a 3.4 percent growth in shipping oil and non-oil cargos with a total volume of 52,617,754 tons.

Iranian officials started planning for policies to counter the U.S. possible sanctions a year before Donald Trump entered into office in early 2017. The policies are now proving effective as economic indexes are indicating inefficacy of the U.S. pressures. Last Sunday, Iranian Industry Minister Reza Rahmani said that despite U.S. efforts to cripple Tehran's economy, year-on-year comparison shows that the country's domestic production has increased in the first quarter of the Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

As trade war bites, China's factories set for third month of shrinking activity

Factory activity in China is expected to have contracted for the third month in a row in July, a Reuters poll showed, underlining the intensifying strains on the world's second-biggest economy from a protracted trade war with the United States.

As stated by reuters.com, the official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for July is set to have edged up to 49.6 from June's reading of 49.4, according to the median forecasts of 34 economists. That still left it below the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction on a monthly basis. Another month of weak manufacturing activity is likely to fuel expectations for Beijing to add to a flurry of support measures put in place over the past year, especially as the Sino-U.S. trade war drags on and becomes costlier.

A "cooling property market, suppressed by official policy, and a slowing global economy have further knocked China's manufacturing sector last month," said Nie Wen, economist at Hwabao Trust.

China observers have said that Beijing's recent growth-boosting measures will take time to filter through to the broader economy, and many analysts are of the view that further stimulus is needed to prevent a deeper downturn and to help stabilize growth.

whiturn and to help stabilize growth. Asia's powerhouse economy

Growth in Asia's powerhouse economy slowed to a 27-year low in the second quarter, showing just why policymakers from India to Australia to Europe and the United States are worrying about the China-effect on global cuttout.

Sluggish demand at home and abroad has led to a months-long spell of depressed activity

for China's manufacturers, and a sharp U.S. tariff hike announced in May threatens to crush already-thin profit margins.

Some manufactures have cut this year's sales target as clients delay purchase orders in a wait-and-see approach, while others have already relocated their production capacity to neighboring countries to avoid the tariff hit.

Profits earned by China's industrial firms contracted in June after briefly gaining the previous month. Earnings at these big firms have been softening since the second half of 2018 due to the broadening economic pressures, with many putting off business decisions and scaling back manufacturing investment.

The official PMI and its sister survey on the services sector will be released on Wednesday, the second day of U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators' meeting in Shanghai for their first in-person talks since a G20 truce last month.

Expectations for progress during the twoday Shanghai meeting are low, so officials and businesses are hoping Washington and Beijing can at least detail commitments for "goodwill" gestures and clear the path for future negotiations.

In a row that has dragged on for more than a year, the world's two largest economies have slapped billions of dollars of tariffs on each other's imports, disrupting global supply chains and shaking financial markets.

"We think the current U.S.-China trade truce will prove fleeting, with Trump likely to expand tariffs to nearly all imports from China by early next year," Capital Economics

rote in a note.

The fiscal stimulus
So far, Beijing has relied on a combination of



fiscal stimulus and monetary easing to weather the economic slowdown, including hundreds of billions of dollars in infrastructure spending and tax cuts for companies.

But the economy has been slow to respond, and business confidence remains shaky, weighing on investment.

Market watchers believe the People's Bank of China (PBOC) is more likely to follow any U.S. Federal Reserve rate cut that is widely expected this week by trimming its key short-term money market rates, instead of cutting its benchmark policy rate for the first time in four years.

China's Central Bank Governor Yi Gang said the country's current interest rate level is appropriate, adding that whether the PBOC follows the Fed in cutting interest rates will depend on China's own economic conditions. The Politburo, a top decision-making body of the ruling Communist Party, is expected to meet later this month to discuss economic

and policy issues for the rest of 2019.

China still sees more aggressive action like interest rate cuts as a last resort should the dispute get uglier, Reuters reported last week citing government advisers involved in internal policy discussions.

"We expect more policy support to be deployed in the second half of the year, but the strength won't be bigger than last year as the government wants to have room to maneuver for any future shocks," said Nie. He expects authorities will announce more measures in the Politburo meeting to boost consumption and development of high-tech industries.

A private business survey - the Caixin/ Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) - which focuses more on small and medium-sized Chinese firms - is also expected to show factory activity stuck in contraction last month, with the reading ticking up slightly to 49.6 from 49.4 in June.

10,000 tons of gasoline to be offered at IRENEX for 1st time

al Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) will offer 10,000 tons of gasoline produced in Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) at the international ring of Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) on Wednesday, IRIB reported.

The base price for each ton at this offering is set at \$581.

The minimum amount of sales will be 1000 metric tons and the purchased product is going to be delivered at the PGSR storage in southern Iran.

As decided at IRENEX, the applicants have to initially pay 10 percent of the value of the contract in rials or other foreign currencies and in case their bidding is accepted they must pay the rest to receive the purchased cargo.

The buyer company will also be required to pay for loading and unloading costs at the source of delivery.

According to the Managing Director of IRENEX Ali Hosseini, Afghanistan is the export destination for the 10,000-ton cargo of the first offering.

Hosseini mentioned that like crude oil,



offering of gasoline will also be held every week with the same amount.

For the time being, purchasing the offered gasoline is solely limited to companies (legal entities) and it is bound to be done under contracts with NIOC and Iranian and foreign companies are required to provide evidence and legal documents to prove their legitimacy.

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

In the past few years, Iranian think-tanks and energy experts have been repeatedly

stating that the country should increase its refining capacity in order to lessen the economy's reliance on crude sales. In this regard, one of the main strategies of the National Iranian Oil Company in recent years has been focusing on the country's

Earlier this month, the Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh announced that the country's daily gasoline production exceeded 110 million liters to mark a new record in the country's gasoline production history.

The NIOPDC reports indicates that the country's daily gasoline production has witnessed a 5 million barrels increase in the past six months.

The increased in the gasoline output has been mostly due to the inauguration of the third phase of PGSR.

President Rouhani inaugurated the third phase of the refinery in a ceremony on February 18 participated by the oil minister.

The refinery in Bandar Abbas, the capital city of southern province of Hormozgan, is the first of its kind designed based on gas condensate feedstock.

'PEDEC projects in Makran, West Karoun running smoothly'

E N E R G Y TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) said despite the slight hiccups caused by the floods in the spring all the oil projects in the West Karoun are running smoothly and the company is also pursuing its oil projects in

Speaking to Shana on Monday, Touraj Dehqani said although West Karoun witnessed a slight decline in oil output due to several flash floods in spring this year, more than 300,000 barrels of oil is currently being recovered from the joint oilfields of the region and plans are underway to increase oil production in the region. Dehqani also touched upon the latest progresses in Goreh-Jask Oil Pipeline in Makran coastal strip, saying that $\hbox{``With $\$2$ billion of investment, the pipeline would carry crude}\\$ oil through three provinces of Bushehr, Fars and Hormozgan in southern Iran." The project entails laying 1,000 km of pipeline, construction of an export terminal and the required compres-

sors, installing measuring equipment, storage facilities, etc. The official went on mentioning the power supply issue in

the West Karoun region, saying that "Uninterrupted production of oil in the West Karoun region depends on the continuous and reliable supply of electricity, which is why construction of the West Karoun Power Plant is of particular importance.'

He further noted that the first phase of Karoun Power Plant is nearly finished and will go operational soon.

"According to the plan, within the next two months, electricity supply for Yadavaran Oilfield and West Karoun Pump House would be ensured," he said. Elsewhere in his remarks, the official stated that an electrical submersible pump (ESP) had been installed in North Yaran Oilfield in line with a project to maintain productivity of the joint field.

According to PEDEC, the pump is installed at the 2,300-meter $\,$ depth inside a 7-inch pipe lining.North Yaran development project is underway for a 30,000 barrels per day production capacity. The production goal was reached back in 2016 but output declined after a while and ESPs were needed to ensure productivity of the field. The first ESP was installed in the field



The PEDEC head further added that his company had started cooperating with the University of Tehran for carrying out studies on technological development of Azadegan Oilfield.

He also said plans were underway to enhance the producon capacity of Yadavaran Field within the next few months, adding maximum efficient recovery in the field is considered in the production enhancement project.

Iran achieves self-sufficiency in overhauling gas turbines

ENERGY TEHRAN — Managing Director of National Iranian Gas Transmission Company (NIGTC) said the country has become self-sufficient in overhauling the national network's gas turbines, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

"All the recent overhaul operations of the company's gas turbines have been carried out using the capacity of domestic contractors," Saied Tavakoli said.

According to the official overhauling every gas turbine by domestic operators saves the company €350,000.

According to Tavakoli, by implementing preventive maintenance (PM) and Condition Monitoring (or, colloquially, CM) programs by Iranian experts NIGTC has been able to extend the service life of this equipment by up to 5 percent over the time specified by the manufacturer.

Earlier this month, Tavakoli announced that Iranian experts have achieved the know-how for producing vibration monitoring and protection systems for gas transmission lines.

Tavakoli said that the domestically-made systems would be 20 times more cost-efficient than foreign samples. The official noted that with this control panels being manufactured inside the country, the requirements for such systems will be completely met and there would be no need to import them anymore.

In May 2018, Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from an international deal with Iran, for-



mally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and in November the sanctions were reimposed on the country's energy sector.

Since then, most of the foreign companies and manufacturers of industry equipment which were collaborating with Iran, cut their ties threatened by the consequences of having economic ties with Tehran.In this regard, the country has been taking all necessary measures to push through the situation and withstand the pressures imposed by the sanction.

Therefore, moving toward domestic production and constructing all the necessary equipment and maintaining them inside the country has become a top priory for the Iranian government in the past few years.

Oil prices rise as market eyes likely Fed rate cut

Oil prices rose for a fourth day on Tuesday on optimism the U.S. Federal Reserve will this week cut interest rates for the first time in $more\,than\,10\,years, supporting\,fuel\,demand$ growth in the world's biggest oil user.

According to reuters.com, Brent crude LCOc1 rose 46 cents, or 0.7%, to \$64.17 a barrel by 0651 GMT, after gaining 0.4% the previous session.

U.S. crude CLc1 was up 41 cents or 0.7%, at \$57.28 a barrel, having risen 1.2% on Monday.

Lower U.S. interest rates would "support a continuation in global expansionary activities and fuel demand growth" for the second half of 2019, Benjamin Lu, an analyst at Phillip Futures in Singapore, said in a note.

"If the Fed is a little more dovish and prices in a 75 basis points cut ... we might see oil pushing up towards \$60," Lu said by phone, referring to U.S. crude.

over oil prices," he added.

U.S. central bankers were to begin their two-day meeting later on Tuesday and are expected to lower borrowing costs for the first time since the depths of the financial crisis more than a decade ago.

U.S. President Donald Trump said a small rate cut "is not enough." Economic growth in the United States slowed less than expected in the second quarter, strengthening the outlook for oil consumption but, elsewhere, disappointing economic data has increased concerns about slower growth. U.S. and Chinese negotiators also meet

this week for their first in-person talks since Still, "demand side concerns are the shadow agreeing to a truce to their trade dispute at the Group of 20 meeting last month.

However, expectations for progress during the two-day Shanghai meeting are low, so officials and businesses are hoping Washington and Beijing can at least detail commitments for "goodwill" gestures and clear the path for future negotiations.

Supply risks are still a concern as tensions remained high around the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's



Singapore to stop 'Sling' LNG indices, sheds hopes of main price hub

By Jessica Jaganathan

Singapore Exchange will stop producing and publishing its spot price indices - Sling - for liquefied natural gas (LNG), less than four years after their launch, dashing the city-state's hopes of becoming Asia's main pricing hub for the fuel.

Sling - short for SGX LNG Index Group - indices will be published until Oct. 31 this year, provided "there is sufficient data for an accurate and robust index to be published", Energy Market Company (EMC) said in an undated statement on its website.

Sling was developed jointly by EMC, the market operator of Singapore's wholesale electricity market, and Singapore Exchange (SGX) SGX.SI, and introduced in late 2015 in a bid to develop Singapore as a price hub for the super-chilled fuel. EMC is a wholly owned unit of Asian Gateway Investments, which is also a SGX subsidiary.

EMC will discontinue the Sling indices after low participation over the past few years, an SGX spokeswoman told Reuters in an emailed statement. SGX delisted the futures and swaps settling on these indices with effect from July 29, the spokeswoman added.

"LNG remains an important commodity for SGX. Following our acquisition of the Baltic Exchange in 2016, we are refocusing our efforts on the carriage of LNG as an internationally traded seaborne commodity," she said,



adding that the company will shift efforts toward delivering indices for LNG shipping.

LNG freight indices

Through the Baltic Exchange, it has created a number of LNG freight indices, the first of which was launched in March and it plans to launch two more indices by the vear-end, she said.

Sling comprises three indices - Singapore Sling, North Asia Sling and Dubai/Kuwait/India Sling.

It was not immediately clear if any contracts are currently using the Sling indices as pricing reference.

While SGX has been keen to promote itself in the LNG commodity space, it has faced competition from more established pricing agencies and has failed to gain a foothold," said Chong Zhi Xin, associate director of Southeast Asia Power, Gas, Coal and Renewables at research firm IHS Markit.

S&P Global Platts' Japan Korea Marker (JKM) in which liquidity has been growing rapidly over the past two years fast becoming the main benchmark for spot cargoes in Asia and appears to have nudged out competitors in

"On the path to commoditization, liquidity tends to congregate around certain price markers. This was the case for LNG as well, and the Sling was just not one of them," said Edmund Siau, an LNG analyst at FGE.

The Sling spot index is the average of expert assessments contributed by a portfolio of market participants including producers, consumers and traders who are active in the physical LNG market, according to EMC website.

Singapore, Asia's main oil trading hub, has been xpanding its LNG infrastructure by increasing storage capacity and also adding capabilities to bulk-break

(Source: reuters.com)

Russia squeezes out Saudis in Asia market share race

Saudi Arabia is struggling in its key economic and geopolitical ambition to position itself as the key substitute in Asia in general and China in particular for lost Iranian barrels due to re-imposed sanctions by the U.S.

As per oilprice.com, although some of the headline figures appear to offer some scope for Saudi optimism, a look beneath the surface shows the situation is far from rosy, with threats from both U.S. and Russian supplies. Indeed, with the recent scare over contaminated barrels now apparently behind it, Russia is also ramping up its threat against increased U.S. supplies as well, signaling a broader burgeoning relationship with the Asian powerhouse of China.



Specifically, over the January to May period, Saudi state-owned behemoth, Aramco, seemed to hold its own in China, Asia's biggest oil consumer. According to the latest figures from China's General Administration of Customs, the country imported 223.858 million barrels of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, up 9.8% from the 203.811 million barrels of a year earlier.

It is crucial to note, however, that this positive position was due to the addition of two new independent refinery customers -Zhejiang Petrochemical Co., and Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian). Hengli, with a total capacity of 400,000 barrels per day (bpd), signed a term contract with Aramco in late 2018 to buy 130,000 bpd from it, whilst Zhejiang Petrochemical, also with a 400,000 bpd total capacity, agreed to take 116,000 bpd from Aramco on a term basis. This latter deal coincided with Aramco offering to take a 9% stake in Zhejiang Petrochemical. Without these two deals, Saudi would again have lost its top crude supplier position for China to Russia, which supplied 220.201 million barrels and held a 14.6% market share in China for the January to May period.

Crude oil from Saudi Arabia

A similar – but worse – theme was evident with the other big Asian customers of South Korea and Japan. South Korea bought in 126.648 million barrels of crude oil from Saudi Arabia over the January to May period, a 1.2% drop compared to 128.229 million barrels received in the same period a year ago. Japan, meanwhile, imported around 5.5% less crude from Saudi over the period, a total of 1.169 million bpd.

For Russia, the ongoing OPEC+ production cap deal allows it a lot more flexibility that it allows Saudi Arabia. "Russia sort of produces whatever it wants whenever it wants, according to the dynamics of the oil price not the dynamics of the OPEC+ deal, as it knows that Saudi has to toe the production cap line as an example to the rest of the OPEC producers but Russia merely has to lend its vocal support to the deal to keep Saudis happy, and Russia will effect real cuts if and when the oil price action requires it," Sam Barden, chief executive officer of global energy trading firm, SBI Markets, in Melbourne told OilPrice.com.

The "Kremlin was also the earliest of all the major oil producers – with the exception of the U.S. itself perhaps – to position itself to make up the supply shortfall that was going to be caused by the new U.S. sanctions on Iran, as its ESPO East Siberia-Pacific Ocean blend was a very good substitute for the Iran blends in high demand in Asia," he said. The original idea was that this increase to Asia could be achieved simply by boosting crude oil output in East Siberia but this did not occur as early as was needed, so it was necessary to make some adjustments to crude oil intended for Europe, both in terms of quality and quantity.

By the end of 2017, ESPO crude export levels had quadrupled since 2010, to nearly 1.2 million bpd, and are set to increase to around 1.6 million bpd in 2020, according to Russia's Energy Ministry. These numbers include long-term deliveries to China via the Skovorodino-Mohe pipeline offshoot from the ESPO trunk network as well as spot cargoes via the port of Kozmino on the

Oil exports from Baltic port

This drive to capture as much of the Asia market – especially that of China – as soon as possible was a key reason for the drop in quality seen in ESPO flows to Europe, even before the recent contamination with Russian crude manifested itself. As early as November 2017, Russian national pipeline monopoly Transneft stated that the sulphur content of Urals oil exports from the Baltic port of Ust-Luga and the Druzhba pipeline running to Europe would increase to a critical level of 1.8% in 2017 – the very edge of the level considered allowable for Urals crude, according to the quality range set by the Russian standards agency Rosstandart and then would continue to rise, as more low-sulphur crude oil is shipped to China. According to an-end December press release on Transneft's own website, the sulphur content in Urals produced by Tatneft and Bashneft was more than 2.0-2.3%

Given these logistical developments and the ever-closer relationship between Russia and China in other energy projects (the mammoth 'Power of Siberia' gas pipeline running from Russia into China is 99% complete) and security (Russia was an original founder alongside China of the political, economic, and security alliance, the 'Shanghai Cooperation Organization'), it is entirely unsurprising that the vast majority of China's state-run and independent sectors continue to favor Russia's ESPO blend. In June, the ESPO blend was the top feedstock crude for China's independent refineries, with 16.273 million barrels imported, up 33.3% from May's 12.168 million barrels, according to various independent industry data. This shift back to Russian supplies has also been exacerbated by the worsening security fears attached to doing business with Saudi Arabia in the current geopolitical

"In addition to the better security profile, the easier general logistics, the voyage times for Russia ESPO are shorter than those for Saudi grades, the lot sizes are more flexible, and it yields more gasoil as well, which is very useful for a lot of these Chinese refiners," said Betamatrix's Emadi.

"Moreover, Russia is offering term contract deals that are framed in such a way that for a certain amount of crude oil bought by key Asian customers every month for whatever number of years, these customers will also be given the right to buy oil derivatives, including various petrochemical products, at deeply discounted prices." he concluded.

Pepe Escobar: Process to end U.S. Dollar as world reserve currency long, but has already started

TEHRAN (FNA) - Investigative journalist Pepe Escobar says Trump has no clear insight into the world economy, and adopts policies which are accelerating the process to end the rule of the US Dollar as the world reserve currency.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with FNA, Pepe Escobar said Beijing may choose the "nuclear option" and trade the oil only in the yuan, "this could be collapse of the petro-dallar. Then, we will have the beginning of a new era of international relations that will be the near end of the Dollar as the world reserve currency".

Pepe Escobar is a Brazilian journalist and the correspondent-at-large at Asia Times. He has extensively covered the central Asia, and the Middle East developments. He appears as an analyst on various TV channels. Below is the full text of the interview:



The U.S. Dollar is the world currency thank to what happened at the end of the Second World War, when the U.S. economy was half of the world's economy, and the United States was running the Western economy by reconstruction of Europe, and making investments in Latin America.

Why is the US Dollar the world reserve currency? A: The US Dollar is the world currency thank to what happened at the end of the Second World War, when the US economy was half of the world's economy, and the United States was running the Western economy by reconstruction of Europe, and making investments in Latin America. That was the Dollar as the world currency, with no other competitors whatsoever. However, in the summer of 1971, when the Dollar was supposed to be backed by gold, Richard Nixon delinked the Dollar from gold and the Dollar started to be backed up essentially by nothing. So, the US could control the whole world's economy by distributing the Dollar everywhere and by forcing people to buy Dollars and use it in their international trades. This was the case especially with oil, out of which petro-dollar emerged. Therefore, any transactions in energy world had to be done with dollars. But, now, what we are watching is the complete collapse of the system; very slowly, but surely, and with unforeseen consequences so far.

Do you believe the US Dollar would be dumped

the developed countries?

A: This is impossible to dump Dollar at once, since it is the world's reserve currency. However, the next move is already on going, which is to have a basket of currencies. The IMF is going into this direction, to have a basket of currencies which includes the Euro, Yen and Yuan. But strategic partnership is happening across the Eurasia, especially driven by Russia and China, to bypass the US Dollar altogether. Russia and China are increasing their trades in the Rubles and Yuan. Bypassing the US Dollar is practiced in the short and mid-terms by the countries which are in the Eurasia. Later they may choose their nuclear option, which is the day the Chinese tells to all major oil producers in the Persian Gulf that it buys oil and gas only in the yuan. This could be collapse of the petro-dallar. Then, we will have the beginning of a new era of international relations that will be the near end of the Dollar as world reserve currency. This is a long term process, but this has already started.

How do Trump's policies affect the position of the

Dollar as the world reserve currency?

A: Trump does not have a real foreign policy. Let's not forget he thinks like a real estate developer in Manhattan. He does not know exactly how supply chains work around the world: nor he understands how other countries are getting together to bypass the Dollar. All he thinks is if something is happening, we should attack them, or sanction them, which is what is happening in Venezuela, Iran, and many other countries. In the case of China and Russia, a trade war has been waged to block the internationalization of the Yuan and Rubles. Trump does that to even the US's close allies, like the European Union. This encourages the nations to use their own currencies more and more. So, even Europe to do trades with Asia and South America needs to dump the US Dollar. It means we are getting closer to the day of the demise of the petro dollars. Trump's policies have accelerated the process. When China, Russia, India and many other countries use their national currencies for the bilateral trades, the rate of the use of Dollar descends. If the world transactions by the US Dollar falls below fifty percent, the rule of the Dollar as the world reserve currency will be over.

White House is powerless against China Trump's economic plans failed

By Saeed Sobhan

TEHRAN - U.S.- China relations have entered a critical phase. Many international analysts believe the dispute will continue as long as Trump remains at the forefront of Washington's political and executive equations.

Donald Trump's protectionist policies are strongly put under question in the US. Although some people are supporting these policies, others firmly believe that Trump lacks the necessary seriousness that is the prerequisite of such big steps, and thus he's incapable to direct these policies.

As a result, the US economy will be vulnerable in the long run. Moreover, it seems that Trump wasn't able to achieve his economic goals in the international system up to now. The existing evidence shows this very well. Accordingly, one of the most important issues is the economic relationship between China and the United States of America.

US-China relations continue to decline during the Trump presidency. Of course, there were disagreements between Beijing and Washington over security and cyber-security issues at the time of Barack Obama, but the emergence of trade and economic disputes in their bilateral relations should be analyzed "beyond a simple controversy." In other words, from the beginning of 2017 and Trump's presence at the top of the political and executive equations of the United States, we have witnessed the emergence of constant crises and challenges in the relations between Washington and Beijing. Many international affairs analysts rightly believe that the conflict is not limited to economic and commercial issues, and it will also affect the political, security and regional spheres.

Can fresh US-China talks end the trade

BBC reported that Top trade negotiators from the US and China are meeting for the first time in almost three months on Tuesday to try and do a deal, but expectations are low. Still, while there's been an apparent lull since the two sides last sat down and talked, there's been plenty going on under the surface. There's now fresh evidence to show just how much the trade war is hurting both China and the US.Here are three sore points between them that are adding yet another layer of complexity to the negotiations. Much ado about Huawei

The US is stepping up its attacks on Huawei. In May, the US slapped an export ban on American companies from selling to Huawei on national security grounds.

While this didn't cripple Huawei's business, it rattled the tech sector around the world. Companies from Japan to the US were worried about the impact of the ban on their supply chains, as they too carried products for Huawei with US parts inside.

Trade war infects Asia as exports plunge Firms look to new factories as tariffs bite

A quick guide to the US-China trade war But suddenly in June at the G20 summit. US President Donald Trump appeared to soften his stance on Huawei, by announcing that the US would allow some American companies to sell to the Chinese firm.

Since then, though, there's been confusion in the Trump administration over which companies can sell their products to Huawei and what they can sell.

Back in Beijing, there's a sense that this move by President Trump was less a carrot to China and more about listening to the powerful US tech lobby, which had complained it was being shut off from a paying customer. For China, Huawei is about more than just business. It is a national champion. Beijing sees the US move as an attack not just on Huawei, but on China's ambitions to succeed on the international stage.

Still, President Trump's apparent U-turn on Huawei doesn't mean that Washington is letting the Chinese company off the hook. It has become the bogeyman the US uses as a symbol of everything that's wrong with the Chinese economy, accusing Huawei of receiving state support and of close links to the Chinese government - all of which the firm denies. Promises, promises: Agriculture warsOne of the key sticking points between China and the US has been agriculture. The trade dispute has seen Beijing target US farmers, including those supplying agricultural products such as meat, grains and soybeans, in retaliation for tariffs on Chinese products. But in an apparent goodwill gesture at the weekend, ahead of the talks, China said it had bought several million tonnes of soybeans from the US since President Trump and President Xi met at the G20 in June. A clear signal from the Chinese that they are willing to buy more grains from the US would be seen as positive by Washington, helping to smooth over sensitivities on agriculture. Beijing has indicated it could buy more agricultural products from the US.

But a lot will hinge on how the talks



go over the next few days and how much trust can be built between the two sides. Warning signs

That lack of trust between China and the US is filtering into the real world. In just the last three months, we've seen another wave of data that shows fresh cracks in the global economy due to the trade war. Exports from China and the rest of Asia are falling at a dramatic pace.

Part of the reason is China's slowdown, but the other reason is increasingly the trade war.

Companies are holding off on expansion plans as they decide whether to move out of China, which means new factories aren't being built and new jobs aren't being created. That's led to fresh warnings about the risks that the trade war poses to the global economy from institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF cut its growth forecasts for the global economy for this year and the next, citing the trade war as one of the key reasons.

Meanwhile, US economic data on Friday showed that the US economy grew less than previously thought last year. The figures showed that foreign trade and business investment shrank as the US continued its trade war with China. All of this underlines just how important it is that the US and China come to a resolution on trade.But given that the last three months of no talks have seen them grow even further apart, negotiations are in an even more precarious state than before.

China continues to ripoff the USA! As Fox Business reported,Trump says China may be waiting for next election to make trade deal "The Coming Collapse of China" author Gordon Chang discusses the tension over Chinese tech giant Opens a New Window. Huawei.Presidnt Trump in a series of tweets said that negotiations with China could get tougher.

Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed in June to revive efforts to end the costly fight over China's technology ambitions and trade surplus. Trump has repeated his claim that the United States is prospering by "taking in tens of billions of dollars" from his tariff hikes on Chinese products. In reality, those are paid by U.S. companies and often trickle down to consumers who buy Chinese goods. Chinese leaders are resisting U.S. pressure to roll back plans for government-led development of industry leaders in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Washington complains those efforts depend on stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. The June agreement to resume negotiations helped to calm jittery financial markets despite warnings by economists that with both sides still far apart on critical issues, the fragile truce likely will soon fall apart.

Tensions worsened when, after talks broke down in May, the Trump administration imposed curbs on U.S. technology sales to Huawei, the biggest global maker of network gear for phone companies and the No. 2 smartphone brand. U.S. officials view Huawei as a national security threat and warn that its equipment could be used for cyberespionage.

The only problem with these deals is the have internal, domestic politics to deal with," Laffer told FOX Business. "China has domestic industries to deal with that are tough, and so [does the U.S.]. The steel industry doesn't want a great deal. There

would lay off US staff, a decision it blamed on American restrictions on its business. Complicating matters even more, the United States slapped sanctions on a Chinese company this week for violating a ban on buying Iranian oil. After that announce-

declared a temporary truce in late June.

sure bet. After all, the last month hasn't been

easy on the relationship between Washing-

ton and Beijing. On Monday, Huawei - a

company that President Donald Trump

has suggested could be a bargaining trip

in trade negotiations — was the subject of

a report that claimed it may have violated

US sanctions on North Korea. The next

day, the Chinese tech firm announced it

But a quick end to the trade war isn't a

ment, China didn't mince words: The country slammed what it called Washington's

"bullying" behavior.

Even so, trade talks between the two countries seem poised to step up a gear. US trade negotiators are expected to travel to China next week to resume working-level talks on a trade agreement, a person familiar with the plans told CNN. Officials have been talking by telephone since Trump and President Xi Jinping agreed to a ceasefire at the G20 summit in Tokyo.

"The Chinese have been a lot more cautious now than back in May, when the trade talks broke down, because they've experienced enough flip flops during the trade talks," said Tommy Wu, senior economist at Oxford Economics. "That's keeping the two sides more distant than last time around."The role Huawei plays in any trade deal is a big question. The world's largest telecommunications equipment maker and leading smartphone brand has been on a US trade blacklist since May.

Trump said on the sidelines of the G20 last month that he would ease some restrictions on the company — a concession to Beijing, and potentially relief for some of its suppliers such as Google (GOOGL), Intel (INTC) and Qualcomm (QCOM).

But the Washington Post's report this week about the company's ties with North Korea could give ammunition to US officials who consider Huawei a threat to national security. The newspaper said Huawei secretly helped build North Korea's cell phone network, potentially in violation of sanctions aimed at pressuring the regime to stop developing nuclear weapons. Huawei told CNN Business that it has "no business presence" in North Korea, and the company has denied that any of its products pose a national security risk. A spokeswoman declined further comment. US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told Bloomberg this week that he could not comment on a "pending investigation." But he did say "we are continuing to watch very carefully everything about Huawei, including the information revealed in that article.

Ross added in that interview that the Trump administration will review applications that would allow US companies to resume business with Huawei, with some decisions to come "within the next few weeks."Because many US companies are pushing to restore ties, "it won't be seen as a defeat for Trump if he delivers easing on Huawei," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at Oanda.But Trump could face a backlash within his own administration.

"There are hawks within the administration, based on national security reasons, they at least want to keep Huawei" on the trade blacklist, Wu said. The rare earths industry can weather any Chinese trade battleEconomic considerations remain a major factor, too. While both sides are politically motivated to secure an agreement, "someone has to look like a loser in this deal," said Moya.

"A lot of chips are on the US side in terms of where the economy is," he added.

America's economy is in a period of historic prosperity. The unemployment rate is near 49-year lows, the stock market has never been higher and consumers are spending. In China, meanwhile, economic growth has slumped to its lowest level in nearly three decades. The country is struggling to rein in high levels of debt and consumers are spending less freely than they were a

While there is no expectation that the next round of talks will yield a comprehensive deal, the two sides could make headway in some areas.

State-run media on Sunday reported that Chinese companies were asking US exporters about buying soybeans, cotton, pork and sorghum, and had applied for the lifting of tariffs on those products.

Asked by reporters Tuesday about trade progress with China, Larry Kudlow, Trump's National Economic Council director, said the administration hopes "strongly" that China "will very soon start buying agriculture products.

"Going over there is a really good sign," he added. \rightarrow 7



protests in Hong Kong and the upcoming trade talks between the U.S. and China.

U.S. and China Opens a New Window. were heading into another round of trade negotiations Opens a New Window. Tuesday in Shanghai.

Investors are hoping Beijing and Washington will avoid another escalation in tariffs like the one that occurred after talks collapsed in May. Officials have downplayed the potential for a breakthrough, however, since the same issues that caused talks to bog down earlier remain.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday in Shanghai with a delegation led by China's economy czar. Vice Premier Liu He.

A working dinner is reportedly scheduled for later with talks scheduled for Wednesday. The talks resume amid an array of disputes that has grown to include It's tough to make it happen.

The tariff hikes are battering exporters on both sides and disrupting trade in goods from soybeans to medical devices. China's imports of American goods fell 31.4 percent in June from a year ago while exports to the United States fell 7.8 percent. Opens a New Window. China agreed earlier to narrow its multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports. But it revoked that pledge after one of Trump's tariff hikes last year.

"Both countries want a good deal," Laffer told FOX Business. "It's a win-win for everyone in the world."

The US and China are talking again. But they're still trading accusations

As CNN reported, US and Chinese trade negotiators are soon expected to meet faceto-face for the first time since their leaders

Two important U.S. polls

By Ali Azim

TEHRAN — In recent days, we have seen the results of important polls in the United States. US President Donald Trump believes all polls show his popularity to be fake! But many of Donald Trump's entourage and companions do not.

Here's a look at two new polls in the United States: Q-poll: Support for Biden surges among Dems, Trump

The CTmirror reported that A national Quinnipiac University poll released Monday shows former Vice President Joe Biden's popularity has surged among Democrats since a similar survey was taken about a month ago.

Meanwhile, 32 percent of all American voters told Quinnipiac pollsters they would "definitely" vote for Trump if he is the Republican candidate in the 2020 presidential election, while 12 percent say they will consider voting for Trump.

But 54 percent of all American voters polled said they "definitely" will not vote for Trump, matching the "never Trump" total from a May 21 Quinnipiac University National Poll.

The new Quinnipiac poll showed Biden was the favored candidate to run for president among 34 percent of Democrats and "Democratic leaners" surveyed, followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who won 15 percent of their support.Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., came in third in the horse race poll at 12 percent, while Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders collected 11 percent.

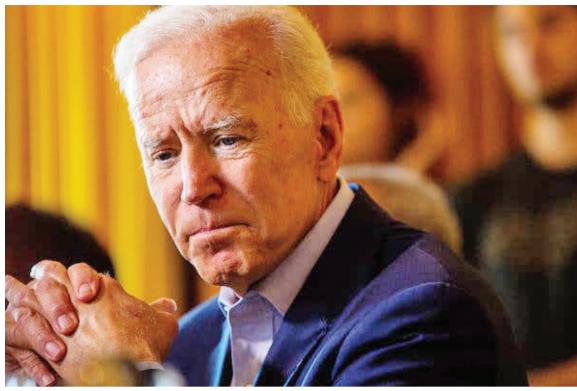
The latest poll shows Biden's popularity rose 12 percent since Quinnipiac's last survey, which had the former vice president favored by only 22 percent of respondents. That poll was taken shortly after the Democratic presidential debate. During those debates, Harris attacked Biden's opposition in the 1970s to school busing to achieve the desegregation of public schools.

That attack seemed to help Harris, whose popularity surged in several polls, including the one Quinnipiac conducted a month ago. But support for Harris dropped by 8 percent in the latest university poll.

"In the blink of an eye, the post-debate surge for Sen. Kamala Harris fades and former Vice President Joseph Biden regains his footing among Democratic presidential contenders," said Mary Snow, polling analyst for the Quinnipiac University Poll.Biden also has the best chance of beating Trump in the general election, said 51 percent of Democrats polled by Quinnipiac, with 10 percent for Sanders and 8 percent each for Harris and Warren.

But Snow said Warren seems to be the one to watch. "While Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris have been riding a seesaw of support, Sen. Elizabeth Warren is holding steady in the support she's seeing from Democrats and Democratic leaners and she remains the candidate seen as having the

best policy ideas," she said. South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg was the favored can-



didate of 6 percent of those polled, while former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke drew 2 percent support.

One percent of those polled favored entrepreneur and Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang. The rest of the candidates in the Democratic candidates in the crowded field drew less than 1 percent support.

Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,306 voters nationwide from July 25 to July 28. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points, including the design effect. The survey included 579 Democrats and Democratic leaners with a margin of error of plus or minus 5.1 percentage points.

with a margin of error of plus or minus 5.1 percentage points. Poll: Biden holds 19-point lead over 2020 Democratic field, Warren places second

The Hill reported that Former Vice President Joe Biden widened his lead in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary to 19 points over second-placed Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), according to the latest Quinnipiac poll released Monday.

Biden widened his lead after the previous Quinnipiac Poll on July 2 showed Biden's lead over then second-placed candidate Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) had shrunk to just two points shortly after the first Democratic primary debate. Warren placed second in the latest Quinnipiac poll with 15 percent support, up from third in the July 2 poll.

Warren was followed closely by Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), at third with 12 percent support, and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), at fourth with 11 percent support.

In the July 2 poll, Harris had placed second, with 20 percent support, after confronting Biden over the former vice president's policy opposition to federally mandated busing during desegregation, while Warren was at third, with 14 percent support.

with 14 percent support.
South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg (D) again placed fifth, polling at 6 percent. All other candidates in the crowded field are polling at 2 percent or less. The latest Quinnipiac poll was released just ahead the second presidential primary debates set to take place over Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Democrats will face-off again in two debates this week, 10 on Tuesday and 10 on Wednesday, in Detroit.Sanders and Warren will be on the same stage the first night, while Biden and Harris will again be on stage together at Wednesday's debate. The poll was conducted from July 25 to 28 and surveyed 1,306 voters nationwide. There is a 3.4 percentage point margin of error.

Congress opposes Non-Violent support for Palestinian rights

By Mitchell Plitnick

LOBELOG —This has not been a good week for Democrats, especially those who wish to cast their party as the progressive alternative to the Trump-McConnell regime. As the feckless party leadership continued to avoid taking any action against Donald Trump for his numerous crimes—which go well beyond the Russia questions—they managed to find time to pass a bill opposing the right of U.S. citizens to use economic leverage to press for change in Israel-Palestine.

H. Res. 246, a nameless bill which declares the House of Representatives' opposition to the movement for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel, passed with 398 in favor and only 17 (16 Democrats and one Republican) representatives voting against it. The bill was considerably weaker than the sort of legislation the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) had hoped to pass to criminalize BDS at the federal level. Those efforts ran afoul of free speech concerns among a wide variety of Congress members.

In the end, H. Res. 246 addressed those concerns sufficiently to attract the support of comparatively moderate Jewish groups such as J Street, Ameinu, Partners for Progressive Israel, the National Council of Jewish Women, and Reconstructing Judaism. But fundamental issues remained, and if we were having a rational discussion about BDS and U.S. policy toward Israel-Palestine in general, those issues would have been more of an obstacle.

The bill attempts to resolve a fundamental contradiction between legislation that opposes—even if only rhetorically—a citizens' boycott and the right to free speech. The First Amendment protects the free expression of ideas from governmental interference. It crucially and clearly distinguishes between government action and social or cultural actions to curtail free speech. This is why it was so ridiculous when Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), in discussing his Senate anti-BDS bill from earlier this year, tweeted, "My bill doesn't punish any political activity. It protects the right of local & state govts that decide to no longer do business with those who boycott #Israel. So boycotting #Israel is a constitutional right, but boycotting those participating in #BDS isn't?'

Rubio failed to distinguish between government actions and those of private individuals or businesses. It was a distressing example of ignorance, willful or otherwise, of the most basic features of the First Amendment. H. Res. 246 does better, but still falls short. The House bill even went as far as to explicitly state, among the Resolve clauses, that the House "affirms

the Constitutional right of United States citizens to free speech, including the right to protest or criticize the policies of the United States or foreign governments."

Since the Supreme Court has ruled that boycotts are protected speech under the constitution, that statement implies, but does not explicitly point out, that the House affirms the right to boycott. The bill does nothing more than express the House's opposition to BDS, it does not prescribe any penalties for it.

That's better than Rubio's bill, but it is still highly problematic. H. Res. 246 does not technically run afoul of the constitution because it does not enact a law that "abridges" freedom of speech. That insulates it against a legal challenge. But the ideal of speech free from government interference goes beyond mere legality. As a democratic political principle, free speech demands that the government also be restrained from discouraging protected speech.

The views expressed by the House are perfectly legitimate for pro-Israel advocates. But the government must take a different role. Politics may dictate policy, but it should not lead the government to prejudice an open political debate. It is not the place of the government to discourage political activism carried out in a legal and non-violent manner. That activism must be protected from government interference, including where the government discourages it without penalizing it. That is where H. Res. 246 fails. This is perhaps the deepest concern about H. Res. 246. Government interference in a civil society boycott can blunt one of the few tools ordinary citizens have to press for change, especially when the change they want to see involves a foreign government or other entity, where they derive no power from the ballot box. It's a key principle and, while the bill itself reiterates the protection of speech and protest, it does not explicitly affirm, as the Supreme Court has, the right

Beyond the general principle, there is also a specific concern in the case of the Israel-Palestine issue. It's perhaps best illustrated in a series of tweets sent out by Daniel Shapiro, former U.S. ambassador to Israel under Barack Obama. "An overwhelming, bipartisan statement against BDS," Shapiro tweeted. "The BDS movement, in its essence, delegitimizes Israel's existence, not policies. It is ahistorical, treating Israel as the sole actor responsible for the conflict, absolving Palestinians of their role"

The problematic points in this tweet are, by now, quite familiar to anyone involved in pressing for Palestinian rights. The red

herring of "delegitimization" comes first. The legitimacy of any country is an ephemeral concept with no basis in international law or diplomacy. Plenty of politics, especially in places that have experienced the forced displacement of large populations, deal with issues of crimes committed by a powerful state. The contention here is that the BDS movement's demand for the right of return for Palestinian refugees necessarily means that Israel should not continue to exist as a "Jewish state."

But that's a legitimate political position for Palestinians to take, and therefore for their advocates to support. The U.S. government can, as a matter of policy, declare its support for Israel's position, but trying to dampen the actions of private citizens in support of their own view is a step too far, and Shapiro should know that.

The idea that advocates for Palestinian rights are one-sided is a curious one to say the least. The current U.S. administration has an ambassador and two key negotiators who don't just support Israeli settlers, they are active parts of that movement, and have acted as its agents in their official capacities. This administration has abandoned decades of bipartisan policies to bring horrifying pressure on the Palestinians. Yet Shapiro thinks the House needs to state its opposition to a purely pro-Palestinian civil society movement?

Israel has a well-established network, with powerful reach into both houses of Congress and the executive branch, to advocate for its position. Some pro-Israel groups see themselves as agents of peace and work with Palestinians who are aligned with their politics, such as J Street, Americans for Peace Now, and similar groups. But most pro-Israel groups' talking points and messages are crafted to defend Israel and attack Palestinians. That's typical for advocates, and the divide between moderate groups and more hawkish pro-Israel advocates like AIPAC, the American Jewish Committee, the Zionist Organization of America, Christians United for Israel and others is also common. Yet I don't hear Shapiro expressing concern about their one-sided approach. It's worth noting that BDS groups often state that their efforts are to promote universal human rights, including those of Israeli Jews, just as some pro-Israel groups sometimes express their concern for Palestinians.

Shapiro's argument also incorporates the familiar effort to equalize both sides, to speak of the conflict as if it is between two reasonably equal parties rather than between an occupying power that maintains

a "special relationship" with the world's only superpower on one side and an occupied people, stateless and with few allies who pay anything more to their cause than charity and lip service, on the other.

"Opposing BDS doesn't mean one can't criticize Israeli policies, on settlements, demolitions, or other things," Shapiro continued. "That's all fair game. But it does reject the sweeping, one-sided approach of BDSers, which offers nothing that will help solve the conflict."

These are also familiar talking points. It's acceptable to criticize Israeli policies, especially those that the U.S. government itself has—with varying degrees of consistency—criticized. But taking concrete action against them is not. This, too, mimics decades of U.S. responses to those policies, but there is no reason why private citizens should simply accept that state of affairs. Private citizens have few tools for creating the change they envision in Israel-Palestine. Boycott is one of those few, and the U.S. government has no business trying to discourage its use if it believes in a truly democratic society.

As Jim Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, tweeted in response, "Palestinians have already been punished by plenty of Congressional legislation. There are no restraints on the Israeli occupation – they have seized land, demolished homes, and built Jewish-only colonies and roads – with impunity. ... BDS is the only non-violent tool Palestinians have."

H. Res. 246 was a toothless bill, thanks to intense efforts over the past two years from a variety of groups to defend freedom of speech. The bill was modified to the point that it could pass legal muster. But that does not make it acceptable, not does it mean it is consistent with the principle of free speech.

Congress has, in the past, passed laws which impose penalties on the Palestinians for bringing cases to international legal bodies. It is doing as much as it can to oppose BDS. Meanwhile, Israel has expanded settlements, renounced the two-state solution, ignored the Arab Peace Initiative, tightened its occupation of the West Bank, turned Gaza into the world's biggest open-air prison, and killed, injured, and imprisoned thousands upon thousands of Palestinians, including children.

That's all horrifying, but it's also worth asking: if the U.S. is impeding non-violent Palestinian responses while doing nothing to curtail Israeli impunity, just what kind of response are they steering the Palestinians towards? The answer is obvious and should be of concern to all of us.

Trump's economic plans failed

6 →

■ US-China trade talks kick off in Shanghai with little fanfare

South China Morgen post reported that the latest round of US-China trade talks began in Shanghai on Tuesday morning in extremely low-key fashion, with both sides seeking to play down expectations of a quick end to the trade war.

It is the first time Shanghai has hosted talks during the trade war and the 12th round of negotiations overall.

Negotiators led by US trade representative Robert Lighthizer and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on the American side and Vice-Premier Liu He on the Chinese side have previously shuttled between the respective capital cities of Washington and Beijing. The Shanghai talks will also be the first time China's Commerce Minister Zhong Shan will play a direct role.

However, there were few signs of the talks on the ground in Shanghai. Local media carried little coverage on Tuesday, while there were no reports or pictures of the US delegation touching down in the city, despite this being the first face-to-face meeting between top trade envoys since talks dramatically collapsed in May.

The itinerary has also been kept under wraps. According to Bloomberg, the Chinese side will host a dinner at the Fairmont Peace Hotel, a landmark building in the historic Bund area by the Huangpu River, on Tuesday evening.

In the lobby of the Hyatt on the Bund hotel, where the US

In the lobby of the Hyatt on the Bund hotel, where the US delegation is staying, there were no signs announcing the talks, but the security presence was heavy outside the hotel. A small group of photographers and journalists were staking out the hotel lobby throughout the day attempting to catch a glimpse of the negotiators.

The low key atmosphere could be a result of the Chinese government's efforts to maintain tight control on all information related to the trade talks, as a way of keeping expectations in check.

Only Chinese state media outlets and a select few social media accounts have been permitted to report or even comment on the trade talks, which will attempt to build on the "ceasefire" agreed by President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump at their Osaka summit at the end of June.

A commentary published by the official Xinhua News Agency on Tuesday said that US trade delegates should learn from former US President Richard Nixon's Shanghai visit in 1972, when Nixon signed the Shanghai Communique "in the sincere hope of normalising bilateral ties" with Beijing.

"Today once again in the metropolis of Shanghai, US negotiators need to demonstrate that same sincerity and, more importantly, reasonable expectations in the relaunched trade talks ... to normalise bilateral trade relations," read Xinhua's English language commentary.

In another effort to hark back to the spirit of Nixon's famous visit, some of the talks will take place at the Xijiao State Guest Hotel in the Changning district of Shanghai, where the former president stayed while finalising the wording of the communique.

The main conference hall at the hotel was being decorated with Chinese and American national flags and fitted with security checkpoints on Monday. A member of staff on site told the South China Morning Post that a photo event has been scheduled for Wednesday.

China has been trying to narrow the scope of this week's talks to focus on direct trade issues while putting long-term structural issues aside for a later date.

It is expected that Chinese imports of American farm products will be on the agenda, while Beijing will push for the US remove tariffs and import embargoes on certain Chinese products and firms. Arthur Kroeber, head of research at economic consulting firm

Gavekal Dragonomics, argued in a note on Monday that the trade talks are waning in relevance.

"Whether or not the Usand China strike a trade deal, and if

so when, is becoming a less interesting question," Kroebe wrote. "If there is a deal, it will certainly not restore US-China trade and investment relations to their prior vibrancy. If there is no deal, it's unlikely that will mean anything more than maintaining the existing high tariffs."

"Either way, the global macro risk from the US-China trade conflict has ebbed almost to the vanishing point," he said.

A racially divided society will not make U.S. 'great again'

By Yu Jincui

GLOBALTIMES — Once again, the US is shrouded in gun violence trauma - this time, mixed with the horror of white supremacy. The Sunday shooting rampage at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Northern California spoke to the reality that domestic terror at the hands of white supremacists is on the rise in the United States of America.

The 19-year-old gunman who killed three and wounded a dozen more had recently waded into the world of white supremacy, according to NBC News.

Prior to the shooting rampage, he posted on his Instagram page, "Read Might is Right by Ragnar Redbeard," as well as slurs against mixed-race people, NBC News reported. Might is Right or The Survival of the Fittest, an 1890 racist manifesto, is a staple among neo-Nazis and white supremacists on extremist sites.

The US has experienced a resurgence of white supremacy and a growing string of attempted and implemented violence attributed to white supremacists in recent years. FBI Director Christopher Wray warned in April that white supremacy presents a "persistent" and "pervasive" threat to the US. Worse still, as white supremacist ideology spreads to young Americans, the US is unable to curb it.

White supremacy in the US is becoming extremely troubling. The internet and social media have facilitated white supremacy propaganda, enabling hate to spread at the speed of light. Though US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he is not a racist, some of his remarks and actions, be it the promise to build a wall on the US-Mexico border or the row with four non-white Democratic congresswomen, are widely believed to have encouraged white supremacists.

After Trump told the four congresswomen of color that they should "go back" to the "crime infested places" they came from, white supremacists cheered online for finding a common cause with their president.

By targeting the four congresswomen and linking the issue to the Democratic Party, Trump could win greater support from white nationalists, which is helpful to his reelection. But a worrisome result is that this has further aggravated division of the US and fueled white supremacy, even if Trump may have not meant it.

>13

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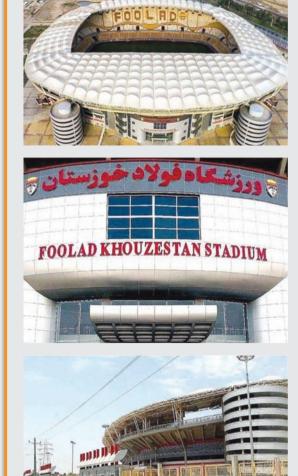
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Sun's solar wind and plasma 'burps' created on Earth

The sun's solar wind affects nearly everything in the solar system. It can disrupt the function of Earth's satellites and creates the lights of the auroras

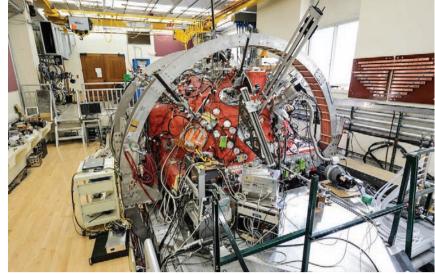
A new study by University of Wisconsin-Madison physicists mimicked solar winds in the lab, confirming how they develop and providing an Earth-bound model for the future study of solar physics.

Our sun is essentially a big ball of hot plasma -- an energetic state of matter made up of ionized gas. As the sun spins, the plasma spins along, too. This plasma movement in the core of the sun produces a magnetic field that fills the solar atmosphere. At some distance from the sun's surface, known as the Alfvén surface, this magnetic field weakens and plasma breaks away from the sun, creating the solar wind.

«The solar wind is highly variable, but there are essentially two types: fast and slow,» explains Ethan Peterson, a graduate student in the department of physics at UW-Madison and lead author of the study published online July 29 in Nature Physics. «Satellite missions have documented pretty well where the fast wind comes from, so we were trying to study specifically how the slow solar wind is generated and how it evolves as it travels toward Earth.»

Peterson and his colleagues, including physics professor Cary Forest, may not have direct access to the big plasma ball of the sun, but they do have access to the next best thing: the Big Red Ball.

The Big Red Ball is a three-meter-wide hollow sphere, with a strong magnet at



its center and various probes inside. The researchers pump helium gas in, ionize it to create a plasma, and then apply an electric current that, along with the magnetic field, stirs the plasma, creating a near-perfect mimic of the spinning plasma and electromagnetic fields of the sun.

With their mini-sun in place, the researchers can take measurements at many points inside the ball, allowing them to study solar phenomena in three dimensions.

First, they were able to recreate the Parker Spiral, a magnetic field that fills the entire solar system named for the scientist who first described the solar wind. Below the Alfvén surface, the magnetic field radiates straight out from the Sun. But at that surface, solar wind dynamics take over, dragging the magnetic field into a spiral.

«Satellite measurements are pretty consistent with the Parker Spiral model, but only at one point at a time, so you'd never be able to make a simultaneous, large-scale map of it like we can in the lab.» Peterson says. «Our experimental measurements confirm Parker's theory of how it is created by these plasma flows.»

The researchers were also able to identify

the source of the Sun's plasma «burps,» small, periodic ejections of plasma that fuel the slow solar wind. With the plasma spinning, they probed the magnetic field and the speed of the plasma. Their data mapped a region where the plasma was moving fast enough and the magnetic field was weak enough that the plasma could break off and eject radially.

«These ejections are observed by satellites, but no one knows what drives them,» Peterson says. «We ended up seeing very similar burps in our experiment, and identified how they develop.»

The researchers stress that their Earthbound experiments complement, but don't replace, satellite missions. For example, the Parker Solar Probe, launched in August 2018, is expected to reach and even dip below the Alfvén surface. It will provide direct measurements of solar wind never obtained before.

«Our work shows that laboratory experiments can also get at the fundamental physics of these processes,» Peterson says. «And because the Big Red Ball is now funded as a National User Facility, it says to the science community: If you want to study the physics of solar wind, you can do that here.»

This study was supported by the NASA Earth and Space Sciences Heliophysics Division Fellowship. The Big Red Ball facility was constructed with support from the National Science Foundation and is now operated as a Department of Energy National User Facility.

(Source: Science Daily)

Study offers improved estimate of forest gains, losses in Brazilian Amazon

An international team of scientists, led by researchers at the University of Oklahoma, used satellite photos and advanced algorithms to more accurately characterize annual forest gains and losses in the Brazilian Amazon over the last two decades.

The Brazilian Amazon is home to the largest rain forest in the world, but every year it gets a little bit smaller. Over the last few years, it has been shrinking at an accelerating rate as trees are cleared for development and farms.

"Monitoring, verification and reporting of tropical forest dynamics in the Brazilian Amazon have been a critical but challenging task for the research community and society-atlarge. Available maps of tropical forest cover in the region have large uncertainty," Xiangming Xiao, plant biologist and a research professor at the University of Oklahoma, said



in a news release. "In 2015, we assembled an international team from the United States, Brazil and China to tackle the challenging problem."

Researchers used a combination of optical and microwave images collected by Earth-monitoring satellites, as well as a series of advanced algorithms, to more accurately characterize the forest losses and gains in the region over the last two decades.

Scientists successfully produced annual forest health maps for the years 2000 through 2017. The data -- published Monday in the journal Nature Sustainability -- suggests Brazil's Amazonian rain forest is as much as 15 percent bigger than previous estimates. Unfortunately, the forest has been losing acreage at an accelerated pace since 2013.

The new research blames the forest loses on land uses changes. Between 2013 and 2015, a significant El Nino pattern in the Pacific made things worse.

(Source: UPI)

Genome study finds roots of Komodo dragon's tenaciousness



Scientists have mapped the genome of the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard, discovering intriguing secrets behind the impressive speed and endurance these cold-blooded predators muster by ratcheting up their metabolism to mammal-like levels.

Researchers said on Monday they pinpointed crucial genetic adaptations that may underpin the tenaciousness of these lizards that inhabit several Indonesian islands including Komodo and bring down prey as big as a water buffalo with a venomous bite.

Komodo dragons reach up to about 10 feet (3 meters) long, possess curved and serrated teeth, a yellow forked tongue, strong limbs and a long tail.

"This is an apex predator living on isolated islands, and it's absolutely gigantic. It's just an awesome animal," said Benoit Bruneau, director of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco, one of the senior authors of the study published in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution.

"Reptiles are kind of like a playground for evolution. There is so much diversity in size and form and behavior and their physiology," Bruneau added.

The team sequenced the genome using blood samples of two Komodo dragons housed at Zoo Atlanta, named Slasher and Rinca.

The researchers discovered genetic adaptations involving the function of the mitochondria, the power generators of cells that are critical in governing the

function of cardiac and other muscles, that may amplify the lizard's aerobic capacity.

As cold-blooded creatures, reptiles typically lack in aerobic capacity, rapidly becoming exhausted after physical exertions, unlike warmblooded mammals. Komodo dragons, an exception among reptiles, can achieve near-mammalian metabolism.

The researchers also found adaptations involving genes that control chemical sensors involved in an advanced sensory system that lets Komodo dragons detect hormones, the body's chemical messengers, and pheromones, chemicals released particularly by mammals that serve as cues to other members of their species.

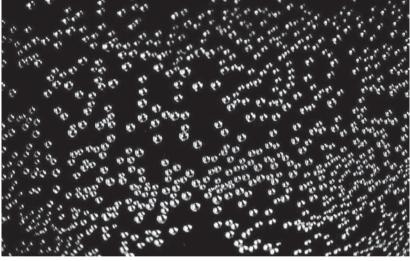
These adaptations may help Komodo dragons find prey over long distances, added study co-author Katherine Pollard, director of the Gladstone Institute of Data Science & Biotechnology.

One component of the Komodo dragon's venom is an anti-coagulant compound that prevents the victim's blood from clotting, causing it to bleed to death. The researchers found adaptations in Komodo dragon genes involved in coagulation that make these lizards immune from the venom anti-coagulant, protecting them from bleeding to death when attacked by another of their own species.

"When two males are fighting one another," Bruneau said, "it is one impressive show of force."

(Source: Reuters)

Water-air interfaces in rock pores helped spawn life on Earth, study suggests



Before life could begin on Earth, a series of physical chemistry processes needed to occur. According to a new study, the geochemical qualities of water-air interfaces found inside tiny rock pores made this "prebiotic" chemical evolution possible.

Through a series of lab experiments, scientists in Germany detailed the physical and chemical qualities found among the waterair interfaces located inside the pores that populate volcanic rocks. Researchers found the gas-filled bubbles formed within these tiny spaces produce a unique combination of physical and chemical effects.

Before the first cells could be assembled, the first informational molecules, able to replicate, needed to be organized. Authors of the latest study determined the unique qualities of volcanic rock pores could have accelerated this organizational process.

In their new paper, published Monday in the journal Nature Chemistry, scientists described the effects of tiny bubbles on chemical reactions. When a temperature difference exists on a bubble, water usually evaporates on the warmer side and condenses on the cooler side.

"In principle, this process can be repeated ad infinitum, since the water continuously cycles between the gaseous and the liquid phase," Dieter Braun, professor of systems biophysics at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, said in a news release.

The phenomenon results in the rapid accumulation of molecules on the warm side of the bubble. To better understand the phenomenon and the underlying chemical mechanisms, researchers

observed chemical reaction rates under a range of circumstances.

Scientists found the mechanism is surprisingly robust, capable of producing even large concentrations of small molecules on the warm side of the bubble.

"We then tested a whole range of physical and chemical processes, which must have played a central role in the origin of life—and all of them were markedly accelerated or made possible at all under the conditions prevailing at the air-water interface," said LMU doctoral student Matthias Morasch.

The new study built on previous research by LMU scientists that showed the physicochemical processes that encourage polymer formation are encouraged by the conditions found within liquid-gas interfaces.

During the most recent phase of experiments, scientists found when they supplied the interface with the right supply of chemicals, molecules could be accumulated at high concentrations within lipid membranes.

"The vesicles produced in this way are not perfect," Morasch said. "But the finding nevertheless suggests how the first rudimentary protocells and their outer membranes might have been formed."

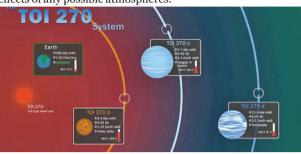
According to the study's authors, their findings complement those of another study that showed temperature differences within aqueous environs can accelerate chemical reaction rates and the concentration of molecules.

"Our explanatory model enables both effects to be combined, which would enhance the concentrating effect and thus increase the efficiency of prebiotic processes," Braun said.

(Source: UPI)

TESS discovers three new planets nearby, including temperate 'sub-Neptune'

This infographic illustrates key features of the TOI 270 system, located about 73 light-years away in the southern constellation Pictor. The three known planets were discovered by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite through periodic dips in starlight caused by each orbiting world. Insets show information about the planets, including their relative sizes, and how they compare to Earth. Temperatures given for TOI 270's planets are equilibrium temperatures, calculated without the warming effects of any possible atmospheres.



NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, or TESS, has discovered three new worlds that are among the smallest, nearest exoplanets known to date. The planets orbit a star just 73 light years away and include a small, rocky super-Earth and two sub-Neptunes -- planets about half the size of our own icy giant.

The sub-Neptune furthest out from the star appears to be within a "temperate" zone, meaning that the very top of the planet's atmosphere is within a temperature range that could support some forms of life. However, scientists say the planet's atmosphere is likely a thick, ultradense heat trap that renders the planet's surface too hot to host water or life.

Nevertheless, this new planetary system, which astronomers have dubbed TOI-270, is proving to have other curious qualities. For instance, all three planets appear to be relatively close in size. In contrast, our own solar system is populated with planetary extremes, from the small, rocky worlds of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, to the much more massive Jupiter and Saturn, and the more remote ice giants of Neptune and Uranus.

There's nothing in our solar system that resembles an intermediate planet, with a size and composition somewhere in the middle of Earth and Neptune. But TOI-270 appears to host two such planets: both sub-Neptunes are smaller than our own Neptune and not much larger than the rocky planet in the system.

Astronomers believe TOI-270's sub-Neptunes may be a "missing link" in planetary formation, as they are of an intermediate size and could help researchers determine whether small, rocky planets like Earth and more massive, icy worlds like Neptune follow the same formation path or evolve separately.

TOI-270 is an ideal system for answering such questions, because the star itself is nearby and therefore bright, and also unusually quiet. The star is an M-dwarf, a type of star that is normally extremely active, with frequent flares and solar storms. TOI-270 appears to be an older M-dwarf that has since quieted down, giving off a steady brightness, against which scientists can measure many properties of the orbiting planets, such as their mass and atmospheric composition.

"There are a lot of little pieces of the puzzle that we can solve with this system," says Maximilian Günther, a postdoc in MIT's Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research and lead author of a study published in Nature Astronomy that details the discovery. "You can really do all the things you want to do in exoplanet science, with this system."

Günther and his colleagues detected the three new planets after looking through measurements of stellar brightness taken by TESS. The MIT-developed satellite stares at patches of the sky for 27 days at a time, monitoring thousands of stars for possible transits -- characteristic dips in brightness that could signal a planet temporarily blocking the star's light as it passes in front of it.

The team isolated several such signals from a nearby star, located 73 light years away in the southern sky. They named the star TOI-270, for the 270th "TESS Object of Interest" identified to date. The researchers used ground-based instruments to follow up on the star's activity, and confirmed that the signals are the result of three orbiting exoplanets: planet b, a rocky super-Earth with a roughly three-day orbit; planet c, a sub-Neptune with a five-day orbit; and planet d, another sub-Neptune slightly further out, with an 11-day orbit.

Günther notes that the planets seem to line up in what astronomers refer to as a "resonant chain," meaning that the ratio of their orbits are close to whole integers -- in this case, 3:5 for the inner pair, and 2:1 for the outer pair -- and that the planets are therefore in "resonance" with each other. Astronomers have discovered other small stars with similarly resonant planetary formations. And in our own solar system, the moons of Jupiter also happen to line up in resonance with each other.

"For TOI-270, these planets line up like pearls on a string," Günther says. "That's a very interesting thing, because it lets us study their dynamical behavior. And you can almost expect, if there are more planets, the next one would be somewhere further out, at another integer ratio."

TOI-270's discovery initially caused a stir of excitement within the TESS science team, as it seemed, in the first analysis, that planet d might lie in the star's habitable zone, a region that would be cool enough for the planet's surface to support water, and possibly life. But the researchers soon realized that the planet's atmosphere was probably extremely thick, and would therefore generate an intense greenhouse effect, causing the planet's surface to be too hot to be habitable.

But Günther says there is a good possibility that the system hosts other planets, further out from planet d, that might well lie within the habitable zone. Planet d, with an 11-day orbit, is about 10 million kilometers out from the star. Günther says that, given that the star is small and relatively cool -- about half as hot as the sun -- its habitable zone could potentially begin at around 15 million kilometers. But whether a planet exists within this zone, and whether it is habitable, depends on a host of other parameters, such as its size, mass, and atmospheric conditions.

Fortunately, the team writes in their paper that "the host star, TOI-270, is remarkably well-suited for future habitability searches, as it is particularly quiet." The researchers plan to focus other instruments, including the upcoming James Webb Space Telescope, on TOI-270, to pin down various properties of the three planets, as well as search for additional planets in the star's habitable zone.

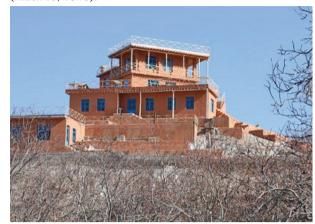
"TOI-270 is a true Disneyland for exoplanet science, and one of the prime systems TESS was set out to discover," Günther says. "It is an exceptional laboratory for not one, but many reasons -- it really ticks all the boxes."

This research was funded, in part, by NASA.

(Source: Science Daily)

20 eco-lodges to come on stream in northeast Iran

TOURISM TEHRAN — A total of 20 eco-lodges, which are currently being constructed or renovated across the northeastern North Khorasan province, will come on stream by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (Mach 19, 2020).



For the time being, 133 eco-lodges are active across the province and 20 new ones will be added until the year-end, a provincial tourism official said, CHTN reported on Monday.

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization said in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges will be constructed across the country until 2021.

Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on the average so that the scheme could create

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay.

Dubai's Jumeirah cuts 500 jobs as tourism industry struggles

Jumeirah Group LLC cut hundreds of jobs as a slowdown in the emirate's tourism industry weighs on the operator of Dubai's sail-shaped Burj Al Arab hotel, according to people familiar with the matter.

The government-owned luxury hotel chain, which manages 24 properties in eight countries, recently shed about 500 jobs, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is $private.\ Most\ of\ the\ cuts\ were\ support\ roles,\ they\ said.\ Jumeirah$ has more than 13,500 employees, according to its website.

A spokeswoman for Jumeirah declined to comment. Dubai's hotels are struggling as growth in the tourism sector, one of the emirate's main economic pillars, stalls. Occupancy levels

during the second quarter were at their lowest since 2009, while average daily rates and revenue available per room fell to 2003 levels, according to STR, a global hotel data provider. New openings ahead of the 2020 World Expo have also led to oversupply.

Dubai-based companies such as real estate developers and banks are also reducing staff as the emirate grapples with regional geopolitical tensions, relatively low oil prices and an ongoing real estate and retail slump. The government introduced measures to stimulate the economy such as lowering certain business fees and issuing longer-term visas.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

ROUND THE GLOBE

A World Heritage, the Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara bear exceptional witness to the evolution of Japanese architecture and art and vividly illustrate a critical period in the cultural and political development of Japan, when



A framework of national government was consolidated and Nara enjoyed great prosperity during the aforementioned period, emerging as the fountainhead of Japanese

 $Located\ in\ the\ modern\ city\ of\ Nara,\ the\ property\ includes$ eight component parts composed of seventy-eight different buildings covering 617.0 ha, which is surrounded by a buffer zone (1,962.5 ha) and the "historic environment harmonization area (539.0 ha)".

The site of Heijo-kyo was carefully selected in accordance with Chinese geomantic principles. A grand city plan, based on Chinese examples such as Chang'an, was laid out, with palaces, Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, public buildings, houses, and roads on an orthogonal grid.

The palace itself, located at the northern end of the central avenue, occupied 120 ha. It comprised the official buildings where political and religious ceremonies took place, notably the Daigokuden (imperial audience hall) and Chodo-in (state halls), and the imperial residence (Dairi), together with various compounds for administrative and other purposes.

Together, these places provide a vivid and comprehensive picture of religion and life in the Japanese capital in the 8th century, a period of profound political and cultural change.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran draws a record 600,000 medical travelers in four months

1 → Iranian currency has lost almost three-quarters of its value from last November, when the Trump administration reinstated sanctions on the Islamic Republic, mainly the ones that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal.

Medical tourism fetched Iran some \$1.2 billion last year, Panahi said, adding that the figure has increased by 20-30 percent in the first four months of this year.

Many domestic experts say that medical tourism in Iran produces win-win outcomes as the country yields considerable benefits to international health-care seekers, offering affordable yet quality treatment services.

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly

70,000 foreign patients over the last year, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

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

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

A total of 169 hospitals which have the necessary permits, admit foreign patients

at the Ministry of Health. Some 90% of foreign patients in Iran are from Afghanistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and other countries

the head of medical tourism department

around the Persian Gulf, Hashemzadeh said on July 21.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).



Antiquities recovered from illegal diggers in western Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Iranian authorities have rek cently confiscated nine pieces of historical relics form a gang of illegal diggers and antique dealers in Lorestan province, western Iran, Mehr reported on Monday.

The objects date from two difference epochs of the Bronze Age and the pre-Islamic Persia, provincial tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qassemi said.

The discovery was made when policemen inspected a vehicle that was treated as suspicious.

Western Asia and the Near East was the first region to enter the Bronze Age, which began with the rise of the Mesopotamian civilization of Sumer in c. 3300 running

Lorestan was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, in c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

Of ancient highlight of the region are the Luristan Bronzes that comprise small cast objects decorated with bronze sculptures from the Early Iron Age, found in large numbers in Lorestan and Kermanshah provinces in western Iran.

Under Cyrus the Great, Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Baloch rugs to go on show in Tehran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — A collection of Baloch rugs and carpets will be put on show in a loan exhibit, which will be running from August 6 to 19 at the Iranian Academy of Arts in downtown Tehran.

A total 77 items have been selected from properties of the private collector Mohammad-Karim Kazemi-Qaraei for the exhibit that is titled "Baloch rugs; from Pain to Gain", CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Organizers have also scheduled to hold several professional meetings on Persian rugs and carpets on the sidelines of the event. Meetings will be attended by experts Touraj Zhouleh, Iman Zakariaei Kermani and Mohammad-Karim Kazemi-Qaraei, the report said.

Baloch, also spelled Baluch or Beluch, are ethnic tribes that speak Balochi language estimated at about five million inhabitants in southeast Iran also neighboring areas in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the Baloch are traditionally nomads, but settled agricultural existence is becoming more common; every chief has a fixed residence. The villages are collections of mud or stone huts; on the hills, enclosures of rough stone walls are covered with matting to serve as temporary habitations. The Baloch raise camels, cattle, sheep, and goats and engage in carpet making and embroidery. Their agricultural methods are somewhat primitive.



Climate change will put paid to glacier tourism

We might be the last generation to experience the beauty of many natural glaciers. This realization has driven thousands into embarking on glacier tourism recently. Yet for how much longer those glaciers will be there is very much in doubt.

A study published in Advances in Climate Change Research suggests that warming temperatures have led to diverse changes in glacier landscapes globally. Some of them are declining in aesthetics or attractiveness while others are disappearing altogether.

the global average over the last 50 years. The Alps, Andes, and other top attractions are experiencing similar trends. In New Zealand, the length of the South Island Fox Glacier has decreased by 700m over the last decade. Between 1946 and 2008, the Franz Joseph Glaciers, which are located nearby, retreated by 2.44km. In the next 60 years they may lose around 40% of their length and ice covering.

The ice cap of the western slope of the African mountain Kilimanjaro will disappear by 2020 and after 2060 the



mountain will be completely glacier-free. In Peru glaciers are already starting to close due to "adverse climatic conditions", while Bolivia's Chacaltaya glacier had already disappeared in 2009, leading to the closure of summer ski tourism.

Just a century ago, the Rwenzori National Park of Africa had 43 glaciers with an area of 7.50sqkm. Today, more than half of the glacial ice is gone and the glacier has an

area of just 1.5sqkm. Even more astonishing is the fact that 70% of Canada's glaciers may disappear by 2100, with a similar fate awaiting other glaciers around the globe.
The fast retreat and disappearance of glaciers will have

a critical impact on ice and snow tourism, the accessibility of particular sites and the wellbeing of local communities, the researchers say. A glacier extinction is happening in front of our eyes and some scientists are building memorials to vanished glaciers and pondering how to artificially restore ice sheets, such as by blasting them with snow.

As people are beginning to reevaluate the true costs o climate change, the good news is that many "last chance to see" tourists may end up spreading word more about climate change and its impacts. To address glacier extinction, we will need global collaboration on an unprecedented scale in order to tackle global emissions.

Only once we acknowledge that everything on this planet is connected, can we truly start solving sustainability challenges one by one.

(Source: Sustainability Times)

How to stay fresh on long trips



Just because you have a 12-hour flight doesn't mean you have to leave the plane smelling like it. Whether it's a flight, train ride or bus $trip, these \, tips \, will \, keep \, you \, smelling \, fresh$ on those long, strenuous travel days.

When you spend the day in a plane, train or automobile, it's tough to stay — and feel clean and fresh. But just because you have a 12-hour flight doesn't mean you have to leave the plane smelling like it. Here are some tips to help you smell fresh on those long, strenuous travel days.

Wear athletic clothes

Few activities crank up the stench quite like working out, and companies that make fitness clothing have gotten good at mitigating this problem. Workout clothes are designed to pull moisture away from your body, kill odious bacteria and be comfortable even when you have to move a lot. You still need to wash these clothes, of course. However, if you save some clean workout clothing for your travel days, you might smell a little better on that last hour of your cramped plane ride.

Avoid heavy perfumes or cologne If you think you have an odor cloud following you around, you might be tempted to mask it with some perfume, cologne or even body spray. Do your fellow passengers a

favor and don't do this. Heavy scents can be just as overwhelming as body odor, and just as inescapable in confined spaces. Instead, reach for a basic deodorant. You can even try some deodorizing wipes or freshening wipes, which aren't quite as good as taking a shower, but they'll do in a pinch.

Squeeze in hygiene whenever vou can

It's not necessarily the case that you won't be able to get a shower or brush your teeth while traveling. For frequent fliers, an airport lounge that offers showers can be an option (or if you're really desperate, you can buy a day pass for some lounges).

Some long-distance trains offer either private or public bathrooms that may include space to shower. If you're traveling by car, you can find publicly accessible showers at a variety of places including community gyms or a Y.M.C.A. While opinions vary on whether it's acceptable to brush your teeth or wash up in an airport bathroom, you wouldn't be the first to do so. Worst case, packing some face wipes will help you clean up a bit without

going the full shower route.

Stay hydrated

Staying hydrated is always healthy, but it's easy to forget when you're on the go all day. Among other health benefits, water can help prevent bad breath.

When your mouth dries out, your saliva can't do its job of keeping your mouth clean and kill bacteria. Staying hydrated will also keep you from sweating as much, which will also help limit body odor. You might also want to skip soda, which can have a tendency to dry out your mouth, as well as avoid some of the more gnarly-smelling foods like garlic, onions and spicy food.

Bring a plastic bag just for dirty

Every day you return to your hotel, you bring back dirty clothes that you have to pack. Don't just throw them back in your suitcase where they'll just stink up your $clean\, clothes.\, Bring\, a\, plastic\, bag\, with\, you$ for all your dirty clothes and keep them (and their smell) isolated from the rest of your clothes. If they're particularly dirty maybe after a long day of walking around the city under the hot sun — hang them up in your hotel room and let them air out for a bit before putting them in the bag.

(Source: The New York Times)

Iranian researcher introduces new drug with anti-inflammatory effect

TEHRAN- Anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties of pharmaceutical molecule, mannuronic acid (M2000), have been introduced for the first time to the world by professor Abbas Mirshafiei, faculty member at the school of public health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS).

In 2000, the discovery of this pharmaceutical molecule was announced to the University of Munster in Germany, according to the TUMS portal.

In 2019, following four different clinical trials, continuous investigations with the cooperation of several countries including Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Pakistan led to the approval of the anti-inflammatory properties of this drug.

This drug has received two patents and one PCT from Germany.

Initial studies indicated that this drug, unlike other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, caused no side effect on the stomach or the intestines. In addition, its extensive therapeutic effects in treating experimental models of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), multiple sclerosis (MS), glomerulonephritis and the nephrotic syndrome were observed.

The pharmaceutical molecule with



Professor Abbas Mirshafiei (2nd from right) and his team members pose for a photo at TUMS lab

Following four different clinical trials, continuous investigations with the cooperation of several countries including Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Pakistan led to the approval of the antiinflammatory properties of this drug

anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties can be used in the treatment of patients suffering from autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory

Collectively, mannuronic acid has passed its phase III clinical trial at the international level; therefore, it is expected that it at least needs two to four years in order to receive its legal approval from regulatory authorities

of the Ministry of Health.

Identifying the therapeutic effects of this drug on other autoimmune diseases and pathologic inflammatory reactions is on the agenda.

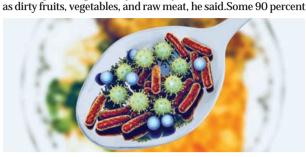
After obtaining the legal permit from the Food and Drug Administration, M2000 can be administered for the treatment of patients with autoimmune diseases such as RA and all other diseases that involve inflammatory and autoimmune reactions

Referring to the role of the various members of his international pharmaceutical research team in advancing this project, Mirshafiei thanked Seyed Shahabeddin Mortazavi-Jahromi, Mona Aslani and Saiedeh Omidian (his students) who played a special role in conducting the phase III (final phase) clinical trial for M2000.

How to avoid food poisoning during summer trips

H E A L T H TEHRAN – The hot days of summer are associated with eating and drinking whether you are on a trip or want to spend long days outside the house. This issue increases the risk of food poisoning during the season. The hot temperature rises the speed of bacteria growth in your body, which makes you to feel sick. Food poisoning during summer is caused by viruses, bacterial and parasitic contaminations, nutritionist Majid Haji Faraji told ISNA in an interview published on Monday.

Food poisoning is mostly caused by contaminated drinks as well



of poisoning cases during summer are caused by environmental factors and eating contaminated food, he noted. "Undercooked chicken causes gastrointestinal salmonella infection and people may be infected with Botulism caused by the poorly preserved or canned foods, which may even lead to death," he warned. "Vomiting and diarrhea are the two main symptoms of food poisoning. Abdominal pain, weakness and headache are other symptoms of the disease, which can be cured within 48 hours," he explained.

Drink water and electrolyte-containing beverages
Before going to medical centers, patients are better to use water and electrolyte-containing beverages. The most basic rehydration drink that contains electrolytes is one made with water, salt and

People should avoid drinking water from rivers and springs, which may cause severe poisoning and death. Meanwhile, they should wash hands before eating. Fruits and vegetables should be thoroughly washed and disinfected," he added. He also noted that poor preservation of processed foods may cause contamination. "Do not re-heat food for several times, he said, adding that acid reflux can be increased during trips, which is caused by eating different foods and lack of physical activity. So, do not forget to consume vegetable and fruits." Using water and cool drinks as well as avoiding hot environments can prevent people from heat-related diseases as well, he recommended. According to the World Health Organization $(WHO), the \, unsafe \, food \, containing \, harmful \, bacteria, \, viruses, \, parasites \,$ or chemical substances, causes more than 200 diseases - ranging from diarrhea to cancers. An estimated 600 million - almost 1 in 10 people in the world - fall ill after eating contaminated food and 420,000 die every year, resulting in the loss of 33 million healthy life years. Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 125,000 deaths every year. Diarrhoeal diseases are the most common illnesses resulting from the consumption of contaminated food, causing 550 million people to fall ill and 230,000

Can scientists find the formula for 'better aging?'

Some researchers hope to find the secret of keeping old age at bay and enjoying eternal youth instead. However, a team of scientists from Southern California is looking for a different "recipe" — that of better aging. New research asks more questions about how cells age in the hope of finding a better way of promoting long and healthy lives in humans. "To drink from the fountain of youth, you have to figure out where the fountain of youth is and understand what the fountain of youth is doing," says Nick Graham, who is an assistant professor in the Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science at the University of Southern California (USC) Viterbi School of Engineering in Los Angeles. However, this is not what Graham and his colleague from USC are trying to achieve. As Graham himself notes: "We're doing the opposite; we're trying to study the reasons cells age so that we might be able to design treatments for better aging."In a study whose findings they have recently published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, Graham and team have taken a more in-depth look at what happens to cells going through the process of senescence — the stage of cell life at which they no longer divide. "Senescent cells are effectively the opposite of stem cells, which have an unlimited potential for self-renewal or division," explains the study's lead author, USC doctoral student Alireza Delfarah.

Senescent cells can never divide again. It's an irreversible state of cell cycle arrest," Delfarah notes. Cellular senescence is a key part of a body's age-related decline, and many scientists have studied this process. Most research focuses on senescence in fibroblasts, a type of cells widely present in connective tissue. However, this team chose to analyze senescence in epithelial cells. These cells are present in the tissue at the very surface of organs and other types of tissue in the body. They are also the type of cells in which most forms of cancer start.

Understanding a complex aging process In the current study, the researchers first looked at young epithe-

lial cells, feeding them molecules that they chemically labeled. This labeling enabled them to see how the cells processed the nutrients they consumed. Eventually, the team saw that as they reached senescence, the cells stopped producing nucleotides, organic molecules that are the main components of DNA. The researchers then experimented with young cells by artificially halting their nucleotide production. When they did this, they found that the cells immediately entered the senescence stage. "This means that the production of nucleotides is essential to keep cells young," explains Delfarah. A new study adds to the evidence that physical activity can help increase lifespan. However, he adds, "[i]t also means that if we could prevent cells from losing nucleotide synthesis, the cells might age more slowly."When the team developed 3D images of the senescent cells, it found another surprise — namely that these cells often had not one, but two nuclei (cellular centers), and they were unable to synthesize DNA. All these findings taken together may help the researchers find better ways of stopping senescence. However, this approach could be tricky because, although it contributes to age-related decline, cellular senescence is also a protective mechanism that can prevent $cancer from \, developing. ``Sometimes people \, talk \, about \, senescence \, as \, a$ double-edged sword; that it protects against cancer, and that's a good thing. But then it also promotes aging and diseases like diabetes, cardiac dysfunction or atherosclerosis, and general tissue dysfunction," notes Graham.

Graham continues, "we would like to find a way to remove senescent cells to promote healthy aging and better function.

Iran develops first integrated health data visualization system

H E A L T H TEHRAN – The first Iranian healthcare data visualization system, called VIZIT, was officially launched on Monday.

According to VIZIT website, the digital system provides visualized data about diseases in different parts of the country based on a variety of factors including age, sex and the region.

Data visualization is the graphical representation of information and data. By using visual elements like charts, graphs, and maps, data visualization tools provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns in data.

VIZIT reports the mortality rate and 165 most common causes of death in 31 provinces of the country from 1990 to 2015 in both sexes and 19 age groups.

It also categorizes 102 different risk factors of non-communicable disease (NCDs) in 2016 in 30 provinces based on different age groups, sex and the region.

The system also shows the prevalence of 70 types of cancers and their main risk factors from 1990 to 2016 in 31 provinces in 19 different age groups and both sexes.

Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center, the Health Ministry, Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center, and Metabolism Research Institute of Tehran University of Medical Sciences were among supporters of the VIZIT.

According to Deputy Health Minister Baqer Larijani, the health data of 400 Iranian cities has been used in designing the new system, IRIB reported.

The data will be available to all experts and professionals and will help them run their future projects, Larijani added. "With using this data, we hope that we can achieve our main goals in the ministry of health, including controlling the non-communicable diseases," he said.

"The VIZIT will also be used for teaching 500 individuals to come up with plans for fighting non-communicable diseases.

"The system contains around 600 million reports about a variety of diseases and the data is available for all people.' "The system will help policy makers to assign proper

resources to each health issue. According to VIZIT website, the clarity of the data provided, easy and quick access and the concentration of all the information in one system are among the main advantages

In the near future, a new feature will be added to the VIZIT that will predict the future trends in different health issues, including the prevalence of diseases and the quality and quantity of services offered. The system also saves us-

ing millions of papers that are used for publishing reports. How data visualization revolutionized the

According to American Health Information Management

Association, the scale of healthcare data has grown tremendously in recent years, increasing the need to present that data in ways that are more understandable and insightful. Data visualization is an essential tool for doing this.

Data visualization places data in a visual context to help people better understand the data's significance.

 $The \ process \ of \ visualization \ synthesizes \ large \ volumes \ of$ data to get at the essence of that data and convey key insights. Why is data visualization important?

Visuals or pictures convey meaning more easily than thousands or even millions of data points; storytelling focuses the message. Some examples of data visualization are here and here and here. Visualization also allows analysts and end users to recognize patterns and relationships in large volumes of data that may not be easily seen in the raw data or reports. This may help identify emerging trends, for example, to allow an organization to address quality or safety issues before they become bigger problems. The goal is to provide actionable insights that help drive change.
As access to data grows, data analysts and other

users of healthcare data will require new skills and approaches for working with that data. A recent Forbes article found that the need for data storytellers will increase as analytic self-service capabilities grow and more people generate insights.

Never ever put these foods in your fridge

We tend to think of the refrigerator as a tool to preserve food for as long as possible. With most foods, that's true. Without the fridge we couldn't keep meat, dairy products, or many types of produce in ern miracle that revolutionized the way

But as it turns out, there are certain foods that actually lose freshness in the refrigerator. Sometimes chilling food diminishes the flavor or changes the texture.

You'll want to review all the foods on our list to improve your cooking and enjoy your food more. If you've been putting in the fridge, you have probably never tasted a truly delicious one of these.

Storing the following foods at room temperature can actually help you avoid inadvertently wasting so much good stuff.

Potatoes

Potatoes are best stored in a cool, dark environment, but the refrigerator is too cold. The chill starts to break down the starch in the potatoes, causing a gritty texture that is unpleasant to eat.

The starch also begins to turn to sugar in the fridge, further impacting the flavor.

Onions

Onions will spoil more quickly in the refrigerator than on the counter. They'll get moldy and mushy before you know it. It's best to store onions at room temperature, but keep them out of direct sunlight.

Once the onion is peeled and cut, you will want to refrigerate it. Just place it in a sealable bag and store it in the vegetable

Garlic

Garlic tends to lose its flavor when stored in the fridge. To maintain that pungent taste, keep it in a cool and dry container with some ventilation.

A paper bag is a great example. But garlic does still begin to degrade once the head has been broken open. Be sure to use those cloves within 10 days.

Melon

Whole melons, such as cantaloupe, wa-

termelon, and honeydew, taste best when stored at room temperature.

Some research even suggests that refrigerating melon will degrade the antioxidant content more quickly, so eating it at room temperature makes that fruit healthier too $After \ cutting, you \ can \ store \ melon \ in \ the \ fridge$ for about 3-4 days.

Honey

Honey will crystallize when kept in the refrigerator. It becomes grainy and virtually solid, so it is nearly impossible to use as well as unpleasant. Honey keeps for a really long time as long as it is stored at room temperature. Honey that has solidified can be recovered by gently warming the bottle in warm water.

Bread is relatively perishable in general; it just doesn't last very long before molding. Some people put it in the refrigerator to stave off mold growth, and it does help in that sense. But refrigerating bread also dries it out so you can't enjoy it anyway.

Bread is best stored in a bread drawer or in the pantry. If you need to extend its life, freeze it and then toast slices as needed.

Refrigerating nuts can extend their life by preventing the oils from becoming rancid. But even so, you won't want to eat them chilled because they tend to lose their distinctive nutty flavor as well as absorb the odors of other food in the fridge.

It's best to store nuts in an airtight container at room temperature. To revive nuts that have been refrigerated, you can toast them in a dry pan before eating.

Coffee

If you love coffee, you know that there is a huge difference between great coffee and

Refrigerating the beans, either whole or ground, will cause watery condensation to build up, and that makes for a seriously underwhelming brew. Keep those beans in an airtight container at room temperature instead.

Tomatoes While a lot of produce does better in the

refrigerator, tomatoes are best stored on the counter. Chilling whole tomatoes strips their

If your tomatoes are under-ripe, put them on a sunny windowsill. If they begin to over-ripen it's best to cook them, after which they can be stored in the fridge.

flavor and makes the texture mealy.

Hot sauce

It's okay to store hot sauce in the refrigerator, but it does steal some of the spicy heat of the peppers. And there is really no need to chill hot sauce to preserve it.

There is plenty of vinegar in there that prevents bacterial growth.

Chocolate-hazelnut spread

This tasty spread goes great on graham crackers, toast, or fruit, but when you keep it in the fridge it solidifies and can't be spread.

Cold chocolate-hazelnut spread also loses some of its distinctive flavor. In general, unopened containers can keep for two months in the pantry. Open containers are safe for about a month past their sell-by date even without refrigeration.

You can refrigerate your apples if you prefer them cold, but there is no need to. In fact, chilling them tends to break down their crispness. Apples are a nice fruit to display At that point, any that haven't been eaten can be put in the fridge to extend their life a few days more.

Avocados

It can be tricky to catch avocados at the peak of their ripeness, and they are just not good when they're too hard or too soft. Eating an under-ripe avocado is like biting into a raw potato, and overripe avocado is mushy and blackened.Still, it's only good to refrigerate avocado if you have one that has gotten ripe but you aren't ready to use it. That can buy you a couple of extra days.

Berries

Berries just don't last very long after picking, so it's best to buy them on the day you want them rather than store them.

Still, the fridge is better than the counter if you are going to hang on to berries for a few days. However, most get moldy very quickly once they become wet, so never rinse a whole carton and then store it.

Stone fruit

Stone fruit like plums, peaches, nectarines, and apricots ripen best at room temperature. It's ideal to store them in a paper bag on the counter or in the pantry for peak flavor.However, if your stone fruit has ripened but you can't eat it right away, your fridge's fruit bin will keep it from going mushy for a couple more days.

Conclusion

Simply keeping these items in the pantry, on the counter, or in a drawer will improve their flavor, texture, and longevity. However, chilling these foods is recommended after they have been cut or cooked. Additionally, the fridge can preserve already-ripe fruit for a couple more days, but remember that fruit does not ripen well there. We hope this info will help you begin to enjoy your food in a way you didn't know was possible! (Source: hhdresearch.org)

(Source: healthline.com)

140,000 children out of school in Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Some 140,000 children are d e s k missing out on education across the country, Abdolreza Fooladvand, head of Tehran's Department

"The most important threat to a nation's capital is the lack of human resources, however, we have sometimes failed to prevent this issue in the country," he lamented.

He went on to say that returning the whole dropouts back to schools cannot be fulfilled by the ministry of education alone, and there must be a national cooperation.

Pointing out that some 81 percent of the labor children in Iran are foreign nationals, he said: "We need to go further to manage the issue in country. One of the positive measures taken is to exempt foreign nationals from tuition fees."



He further called on the people to join hands and help to provide education for those failing to have access to schooling. Deputy Education Minister Rezvan Hakimzadeh has said that

in the previous school year 1396-1397 (beginning Sept. 23, 2017), some 142,502 children were missing out on education across the country, while 31,910 of them returned to schools.

While provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan and Kerman have the most out of school rates, provinces of Semnan, Zanjan, Ilam, Qazvin and Yazd have the lowest number of children not receiving education at schools, she further explained.

School dropouts and sustainability worldwide

According to the UNESCO, globally about 262 million children and youth are out of school, according to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data for the school year ending in 2017. The total includes 64 million children of primary school age, 61 million of lower secondary school age and 138 million of

Out-of-school rates might have direct effect on sustainability, $as \, countries \, with \, low \, literacy \, rate \, or \, high \, school \, dropouts \, cannot \,$ reach the sustainable development goal.

So, UNESCO urges countries for greater investment in education at the global, regional and national levels, including more resources for data collection and analysis in an attempt to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030.

WORDS IN THE NEWS

The British Prime Minister announces the General Election

(May 9, 2001)

The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has announced a general election for June 7th and asked the Queen to dissolve Parliament. The BBC's political correspondent Jon Devitt reports.

Calling a general election in Britain is the prerogative of the Prime Minister. Although a government can stay in office for five years, so long as it maintains its parliamentary majority, most prime ministers choose to seek re-election well before that. Mr Blair could have waited until May 2002, but the fear is that by delaying until the last few months, the government's well laid plans are more likely to be overtaken by events. Dictating the timing of the election is seen as taking charge of the agenda. Mr Blair has already been forced to alter his plans because of the livestock disease foot and mouth.

He'd originally intended to hold the election on May 3rd. The prime minister's decision to delay seems to have paid off since foot and mouth is no longer dominating the headlines, and the government have made a more or less **convincing** case that the disease is now under control.

A number of other factors **coincide** to make a June election desirable for the government. There are fears that the downturn in the international economy could start to filter through to Britain, a financial statement in March was designed to give people what is known as the "feel good factor", the logistics are already in place for local elections on June 7th and the weather is improving, **lifting the gloom** of a long and wet winter.

Words **prerogative:** something which is the right of a particular person

or group to do parliamentary majority: having more representatives elected

than the other political parties to seek re-election: to try and be elected for another period

in government

delay: make (someone or something) late or slow

well laid plans: ideas that have been carefully worked out **overtaken by events:** unexpected developments which can upset careful planning

dictating the timing: deciding when something will happen taking charge of the agenda: in politics, being in control of a particular issue

alter: change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way

paid off: if something pays off it is successful

time, coincide with each other

dominating the headlines: a news story which has been the most important for a period of time

convincing: capable of causing someone to believe that something is true or real **coincide:** here, a number of events which happen at the same

filter through: something which filters through reaches its target audience slowly and gradually

«feel good factor»: A «Feel good factor» is a positive feeling

throughout a country in response to a set of events lifting the gloom: make people feel less sad

(Source: BBC)

Iranian students snatch colorful medals at IChO 2019

SOCIETY TEHRAN—Iranian students grabbed 4 medals at the 51st International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO 2019) held in Paris on July 21-30, Mehr news agency reported on Tuesday.

Fatemeh Mohajerani, an official with the Ministry of Education, explained that Mostafa Moghimi-Kheirabadi claimed a gold medal, Ali Jahromi and Amir Reza Bagheri won two silver medals and Amir Ali Ahrabi won a bronze medal.

IChO is an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at the secondary school level. Nations around the world send a team of four students who are tested on their chemistry knowledge and skills in a five-hour laboratory practical and five-hour written theoretical examination that are held on separate days with the prac-



tical examination usually being before the theoretical examination.

The idea of the International Chemistry Olympiad was developed in the former Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the first International Chemistry Olympiad took place in Prague between 18th and 21st June 1968.

Members of the Iranian delegation are scheduled to return to the country today.

Last year, Behrad Saeedian, Arshia Khademi, Mehdi Jafarzadeh and Mohammad Hossein Sharifnia also won 4 silver medals at the IChO 2018, which was held in Czech and Slovakia on July 19-29, with some 300 students from 78 countries participating the competition.

The 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad will be held in July 2020 in Istanbul, Turkey.

3,000 underprivileged couples to be provided with home appliances

SOCIETY TEHRAN—Headquarters for Executing d e s k the Order of the Imam, also known as Setad-e Ejraiy-e Farman-e Hazrat-e Emam, will provide 3,000 financially-struggling couples with necessary home appliances, an official with the foundation has said.

As an integral part of Iranian marriage tradition, the bride's family provides the couple with furniture and home appliances, which is called Jahiziyeh, several days

before the wedding.
"So far, 13 couples in South Khorasan [province] have received the packages," IRNA quoted Meysam Asoupa as saying on Monday.

"Through the first phase of the scheme some 1,000 home appliance packages will be granted to the couples to help them begin their life together," he explained.

He went on to say that the culture must be promoted among people to hold marriage ceremonies or traditions



Providing the deprived with Jahiziyeh, distributing stationery packages to financially struggling students and granting low-profit loans to the couples experiencing fertility problems, are among the other subjects of the scheme, he concluded.

Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam,

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.

Hundreds of reindeer starve to death on Arctic islands 'due to climate change'

More than 200 reindeer have died of starvation on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, with scientists blaming their deaths on climate change.

The wild deer carcasses were found on the Arctic islands this summer by researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), which said it had never logged so many deaths at once in 40 years of monitoring the animals' population level.

"It's scary to find so many dead animals," project leader Ashild Onvik Pedersen told state broadcaster NRK. "This is an example of how climate change affects nature. It is just sad.'

Svalbard's capital Longyearbyen, the northernmost town on earth, is thought to be warming quicker than any other settlement on the planet, climate scientists warned earlier this year.

The milder temperatures in the region led to unusually heavy rainfall in December, leaving a thick layer of ice when the precipitation froze. This meant the reindeer could not dig through the hardened tundra to reach the vegetation they graze on in their usual pastures, the NPI said.

Svalbard's reindeer have been observed eating seaweed and kelp when food is scarce, but these are less nutritious and cause them stomach problems.

A relatively high number of calves born last year increased the death toll, as the youngest and weakest are often the first to die in harsh conditions.

"Some of the mortality is natural because there were so many calves last year. But the large number we see now is due to heavy rain, which is due to global warm-



ing," said Ms Onvik Pedersen.

A team of three scientists spent 10 weeks investigating population of the Svalbard reindeer earlier this year.

Researchers warned the decline of reindeer would cause unwanted plant species, currently kept in check by the animals' grazing, to spread across Arctic ecosystems in Europe, Asia and North Arctic reindeer and caribou populations

have declined 56 per cent in the last two decades, a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said last year. The report said food security was partly to blame for was partly to blame for falling herd numbers, while warmer summers also could also put the animals at greater risk of diseases spread by flies and parasites.

The average temperature in Longyearbyen has risen by 3.7C since 1900, more than three times the global average increase of about 1C.

In 2016, the entrance to the town's "Doomsday" seed vault – which stores specimens of almost all the world's seeds was flooded following heavy rainfall.

(Source: The Independent)

Earth Overshoot Day: Planet's resources for this year used up earlier than ever before

Humans have exhausted all natural resources the planet can sustainably supply for 2019 faster than ever - overshooting by more than five months.

As we consume and destroy more than ever before, the Earth Overshoot Day (EOD) keeps getting earlier. It was marked on $2\,$ August in 2017, 1 August in 2018 and this year it is on 29 July – two months earlier than it was 20 years ago.

Due to increased consumption and a growing population we are now using up nature's resources 1.75 times faster than the planet's ecosystems can regenerate them.

The results of this ecological overspending is becoming increasingly evident in the form of deforestation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss and the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Mathis Wackernagel, co-inventor of Ecological Footprint accounting and founder of Global Footprint Network said: "We have only got one Earth – this is the ultimately defining context for human existence.

Since the day started being observed in 1986, this is the earliest point in the year on which it has ever fallen. If we could move the date of EOD back by five days each year humans could live sustainably on a single planet by 2050.

Cutting carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels by 50 per cent would move the day back by 93 days.

Aaron Kiely, Friends of the Earth climate campaigner, said: "Earth's resources are finite, and we are in a climate emergency. Today is a warning about how wrong we are currently getting things because



this isn't an overdraft we can dip into and pay back. "We know what the solutions are so it's

time to be hopeful and bold and grab the opportunity to make a positive difference while we still can.'

EOD is calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international research organisation that observes humanity's use of natural materials, as well as the environmental damage they cause.

Friends of the Earth warned that we need to "think again about how we con-

Mr Kiely said: "We have to think again about how we consume. Large-scale political intervention is desperately needed, but as individuals there's things we can do: stop buying what we just don't need, make things last, insulate our homes, and collectively stop digging ourselves into ecological debt.

"We need this date to become 31 December because we only have one planet and we are gobbling up what can be replaced too quickly, it's why we need to #movethedate and not overshoot the resources earth gives us.

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Recent rainfalls not to fully address prolonged droughts: expert

Despite above normal rainfalls the country has received, it cannot be claimed that the long-term droughts are set right, director for flood control and aquifer at Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization has said. That's why water management policies must be still drawn up with regard to water scarcity, ISNA news agency quoted Abolqasem Hosseinpour as saying on Saturday.

بارشهای اخیر خشکسالی کشور را جبران نمىكند

مديـركل دفتـر كنتـرل سـيلاب و آبخـواندارى سـازمان جنگلهـا، مراتع و آبخیـزداری گفت: پـس از بارشهای اخیـر در کشـور، نمیتـوان ادعـا كرد كه خشكساليهاي بلند مدت ما جبران شده است. ابوالقاسم حسین پور در گفتوگو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: سیاستهای آبی ما همچنان باید منطبق بر کمبود منابع آبی باشد.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

"dextro-, dextero-, dextr-"

Meaning: right

For example: A good handyman is skillful, dexterous and proficient in whatever it is he is doing.

PHRASAL VERB

Nod off

Meaning: to begin to sleep, usually when you do not

intend to and are sitting somewhere For example: I missed the movie because I kept nodding off.

Crest of a wave

Explanation: If you are on the crest of a wave, you

are very successful in what you are doing For example: Our company is going from success to

success. We're on the crest of a wave right now.

Nigerian court accused of delaying Sheikh Zakzaky's treatment

TEHRAN— Attempts to secure the release of imprisoned Nigerian Muslim cleric Sheikh Ibrahim al-Zakzaky have suffered a fresh setback with the adjournment of a court hearing that was due to decide whether the ailing leader of the African country's Islamic movement should be freed to receive urgent medical treatment.

Sheikh Zakzaky was scheduled to appear in court on Monday, but the court in the northern city of Kaduna adjourned the bail hearing until August 5.

Femi Falana, Zakzaky's lawyer, said eight medical reports attached to the bail application showed that Zakazy needed urgent medical attention in Egypt.

"Doctors have confirmed that he has lost an eye and the second one may be lost on account of advanced glaucoma. Secondly, pellets in his body have not been removed," said Falana, adding that the pellets - shrapnel from the 2015 clash - were causing lead poisoning, having been in his body for four

Supporters and members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) — which Sheikh Zakzaky heads — say the adjournment is a deliberate ploy to drag out proceedings so that the ailing sheikh's condition deteriorates



to the point of no return.

'Adjournment ridiculous, benefits those who want Zakzaky dead'

Meanwhile, the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), has also expressed concern over the deteriorating health conditions of the Nigerian Muslim leader.

IHRC chair Massoud Shadjareh said: "This adjournment for one more week has

gone beyond ridiculous. The court knows that the sheikh's health is critical. It has to do the right thing which is to serve justice and stop politicking for the benefit of those who want to see Sheikh Zakzaky dead."

Nigerian authorities had earlier this month promised to issue international passports to the sheikh and his wife so they could leave the country in order to receive medical attention. However they have since backtracked on their assurances prompting the pair's lawyers to seek their release through the courts.

In a recent letter to the United Nations, dozens of Western intellectuals called on UN chief, Antonio Guterres, to pressure Nigeria to release the senior Muslim figure. They also urged the world body to take concrete action against ongoing violations being committed against scholars and rights campaigners by Nigerian authorities and the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

According to press TV, earlier this month, Zakzaky's son, Mohammad, said after visiting him that he was shocked by his father's worsening medical condition. Mohammad said large and dangerous quantities of lead and cadmium had been found in Zakzaky's blood and the cleric needed to be immediately

Senate fails to override Trump veto of Saudi arms measure

TEHRAN— The U.S. Senate has stopped short of forming a majority required to override President Donald Trump's veto earlier in the month of three congressional resolutions aimed at blocking the country's arms sales to Saudi Arabia

On Monday, the chamber was set to try rendering the vetoes, which Trump issued on July 24 against three congressional measures, ineffective, Reuters reported.

However, a first vote on trying to overturn one veto on a measure passed by Congress to block the sale of certain weapons to the Saudi kingdom was backed by 45 senators against 40. The Senate's Republicans shunned the bid en masse, with only five supporting the vote. Fifteen senators, meanwhile, withheld their votes.

The vote tallies were similar in the two subsequent rollcall votes to override vetoes of the legislation blocking the additional weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries.

Congress has been trying to intervene in Washington's untrammeled arms sales to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, which have been leading an invasion of Yemen since March 2015. Congress' effort was also aimed at attempting to pressure the Saudi government to improve its human rights record.

Tens of thousands have died since the onset of the military aggression, which has unsuccessfully sought to bring back Yemen's former Saudi-allied officials.

The arms sold by the U.S. to the kingdom include guided bombs, which the latter has been using rampantly against Yemeni civilians. Washington also offers unstinting logistical support for the invasion, including bombing coordinates. Until earlier in the year, it had also been refueling Saudi warplanes midair, but stopped the process after the coalition grew independent of the support.

An American commando contingent has also been identifying arms depots belonging to the Yemeni forces, who have been defending the impoverished nation against the Saudi-led coalition.

Don't turn back on Yemen: UN
Also on Monday, a senior United Nations official urged the international community "not to turn its back" on Yemen and to honor its pledges of aid for the war-racked country,

"Four years of conflict according to the UNDP latest report have set back Yemen by 20 years," United Nations Development Program administrator, Achim Steiner told AFP in an interview in the Jordanian capital of Amman.



He said the UN had received less than 36 percent of the \$2.6 billion pledged at a Geneva conference in February.

"Currently, in the next two or three months we can expect that if funding does not materialize, over 21 programs will have to be rolled back," Steiner added.

"It is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world," he

Trump's friend tried to profit from Middle East nuclear deal

TEHRAN - A billionaire friend of DonaldTrump pursued a plan to buy Westinghouse Electric Corp – even as he lobbied Trump to become a special envoy and promote the company's work on nuclear power in Saudi Arabia, a congressional report released on

While Tom Barrack failed in both efforts, the report provides fresh evidence of the ease with which some corporate and foreign interests have gained access to the U.S. president and other senior members of his administration.

Documents obtained by the Democratic-led House oversight committee raise "serious questions about whether the White House is willing to place the potential profits of the President's friends above the national security of the American people and the universal objective of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons", the report said.

The report is the second from the panel's investigation into the plan to construct 40 nuclear power plants in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East. The plan was supported by Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn; Barrack, Trump's inaugural committee chairman; and a consortium of companies led by retired U.S. military commanders and former White House officials called IP3.

One company was Westinghouse, the only U.S. manufacturer of large reactors, which was bought out of bankruptcy by Brookfield Asset Management last August.

The report comes alongside a number of other investigations into the administration being conducted by the panel chaired by the U.S. representative Elijah Cummings including into the use of personal texts and emails for official business by Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and her husband, Jared

Trump attacked Cummings, an African American from Baltimore, in weekend tweets that the president's critics denounced as

Monday's report was based largely on thousands of documents provided by unidentified private companies. The White House, the report said, provided no documents, while other federal agencies submitted some.

The committee may subpoena White House documents, it said.

Documents showed that Barrack negotiated with Trump and other White House officials to seek "powerful positions", including special Middle East envoy, as he took steps to profit from the civil nuclear scheme he advocated.

A previous committee report, published in February, said efforts to advance the nuclear power scheme began during Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump officials have continued meeting with IP3 even though White House lawyers in January 2017 instructed staff to cease work on the plan over concerns that Flynn was breaking conflict of interest laws, according to that report. Flynn, fired by Trump in February 2017, advised IP3 while serving on his campaign and transition team, said

White House lawyers also worried that promoters of IP3's so-called "Middle East Marshall Plan" sought to transfer U.S. nuclear know-how to Saudi Arabia even as they pushed back on Riyadh's behalf against certain safeguards, the reports safeguards are designed to prevent nuclear weapons development. IP3 called the standard a "total roadblock", Monday's report said.

Johnson promises Irish PM no physical border checks

TEHRAN — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised Ireland's Leo Varadkar Tuesday there would be no physical checks on the border between their two countries after Brexit, a spokesperson said.

But in their first phone call since he took office, Johnson repeated that the current "backstop" plan to keep the frontier open, which is included in the EU's draft divorce deal, was unacceptable.

"On Brexit, the prime minister made clear that the U.K. will be leaving the EU on October 31, no matter what," a Downing Street spokesperson said.

"He said that in all scenarios, the government will be steadfast in its commitment to the Belfast Agreement and will never put physical checks or physical infrastructure on the border.

The Belfast or Good Friday Agreement brought peace to Northern Ireland after years of violence over British control which left 3,500 people dead.



Removing checks on the border with Ireland was considered a key factor in reducing tensions. But after Brexit,

that border will become part of the EU's external frontier and should therefore be policed accordingly.

Johnson approached Brexit talks "in a spirit of friendship, and that his clear preference is to leave the EU with a deal, but it must be one that abolishes the backstop", the spokesperson added.

However, EU leaders have said they will not renegotiate the deal they struck with Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May - even though it has been rejected by the British parliament three times, AFP reported.

Varadkar repeated that the backstop, which would keep Britain aligned with EU trade rules in order to keep the UK-Irish frontier open and free-flowing, was "necessary"

"Noting that the Brexit negotiations take place between the U.K. and the EU, the Taoiseach (prime minister) explained that the EU was united in its view that the withdrawal agreement could not be reopened," a statement from Dublin said.

UN: Nearly 4,000 Afghans killed and wounded in first half of 2019

TEHRAN — At least 3,812 civilians have been killed or wounded in Afghanistan's war in the first half of 2019, the United Nations said, noting a big increase in the number of casualties caused by government and NATO-led troops.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) called the toll "shocking and unacceptable" on Tuesday, and urged parties to Afghanistan's 18-year war to heed a demand from Afghan delegates at a recent peace conference in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, to reduce civilian casualties to zero

The UNAMA report said 1,366 civilians were killed and another 2,446 wounded in the six months to June 30.

In that period, the Taliban and other armed groups caused the majority of civilian casualties, but Afghan and NATO-led forces were responsible for more civilian killings, it said. The pro-government forces killed 717 civilians and wounded 680, representing a

31 percent increase from the corresponding period in 2018.

Taliban and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISILor ISIS) terrorist group fighters killed 531 Afghans and wounded 1,437.

UNAMA said it also documented 985 civilian casualties from armed group attacks that deliberately targeted civilians, including government officials, tribal elders, aid workers, and religious scholars.

Meanwhile, at least 144 women and 327

children were killed and more than 1,000 wounded in attacks across the country, Al Jazeera reported.

"Everyone heard the message loud and clear from Afghan delegates in the Doha talks 'reduce civilian casualties to zero!'," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of UNAMA. "We urge all parties to heed this imperative, to answer the call of Afghans for immediate steps to be taken to reduce the terrible harm being inflicted.'

A racially divided society will not make U.S. 'great again'

→ 7 With rising white supremacy, the conflicts and confrone tations between white and non-white Americans are intensifying. What Trump has done is not to ease or bridge conflicts, but has worsened the situation. This is determined by the US political system. As the president seeks reelection, he has to make use of the racial conflicts to win votes, which will inevitably exacerbate

A racially divided US can never become great again. The greatest challenge facing the US is how to unify the country for future development. Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, warned that white supremacy "could be the lurking issue that ends this country in the future" if the US doesn't wrangle

But given the current momentum of white supremacy and political environment, it's difficult for the US to overcome the

If racial division in the US continues to widen, there will be more domestic terror fueled by white supremacy. From a wider perspective, US leadership and endurance capabilities in its competition with China will be further undermined. China is capable of bearing the US-launched trade war because Chinese society is unified in dealing with the challenge. Can the US be united to make the country great again? That's a big question.

Accused 9/11 mastermind open to testimony against Saudi Arabia

>1 Michael Kellogg, a Washington, DC-based lawyer for the Saudi government, declined to comment.

According to the letter, the plaintiffs' lawyers have been in contact with lawyers for five witnesses in federal custody about their availability for depositions.

The lawyers said three, including Mohammed, are housed at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detention camp, where they face capital charges, while two are at the "Supermax" maximum security prison in Florence, Colorado.

According to the letter, Mohammed would not agree "at the present time" to be deposed, but that could change

"Counsel stated that 'the primary driver' of this decision is the 'capital nature of the prosecution' and that 'in the absence of a potential death sentence much broader cooperation would be possible'," the letter said.

Mohammed and the other Guantanamo detainees have been attending pre-trial hearings in their cases, the letter said.

No stone unturned

James Kreindler, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, told Reuters it was not clear how useful Mohammed might be.

"We're just really leaving no stone unturned," he said. Glenn Carle, a former officer with U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, echoed a similar sentiment.

He does know quite a bit about the structure of al-Qaeda, the individual decisions taken, how things happened. A lot of that was his thinking," Carle told Al Jazeera. "So, I think he does have information, certainly. Is it useable in a court of law in the United States is one of the big questions.'

The answer to that is not a clear yes, because information obtained has been tainted, the defense claims, and with cause, by having used illegal methods, enhanced interrogation, which is a euphemism for torture."

Al Jazeera's Patty Culhane, reporting from Washington, DC, pointed out that the civil case of the 9/11 victims is separate from the criminal case Mohammed is facing.

She also said that it is unclear if U.S. President Donald Trump,

who is close to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, would allow a plea deal for Mohammed to give evidence.

Bruce Fein, former U.S. associate deputy attorney general, said the lawsuit had major financial implications for Saudi Arabia. However, the 2020 U.S. presidential election could increase pressure on Trump to waive the death penalty for

"If the plaintiffs win in this case, it could be hundreds of billions of dollars. You have over 3,000 plaintiffs, compensatory plus punitive damages and a jury very hostile to Saudi Arabia, it could virtually bankrupt Saudi Arabia. All their assets in the U.S. and elsewhere could be seized," Fein said. "So, the incentive for Mr Trump as opposed to others

to waive is not very great. But still, it may be in the year 2020 that the U.S.population in general is not going to be sympathetic to Mr Trump running and seeking their vote if it looks like he's taking the side of Saudi Arabia over the victims of 9/11. The U.S. Department of Justice did not immediately respond

to a request for comment.

Closure for victims

Saudi Arabia long had broad immunity from September 11 lawsuits in the U.S. But that changed in September 2016 when the U.S. Congress overrode President Barack Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism

In March 2018, U.S. District Judge George Daniels in Manhattan, who oversees the litigation by victims, said their claims "narrowly articulate a reasonable basis" for him to assert jurisdiction through JASTA over Saudi Arabia.

His decision covered claims by the families of those killed, roughly 25,000 people who suffered injuries and many businesses and insurers.

A previous attempt to broker a plea agreement with Mohammed and four other 9/11 defendants was scrapped over concerns that dropping the death penalty would serve as an official censure of the government's torture of the detainees

A person familiar with the military proceedings told the Journal that one of the primary goals in those negotiations was gaining the defendants' cooperation.

"One of the main things that the 9/11 defendants have to offer is closure, particularly closure for the victims," according to the person whom the Journal did not identify.

With capital charges gone, there is an opportunity to tell the story of 9/11 once and for all.'

In addition to the 9/11 attacks, the al-Qaeda member has $claimed\ responsibility\ for\ the\ kidnapping\ and\ murder\ of\ American$ journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002.

Mohammed was captured in Pakistan in 2003 and has been held in the U.S.'s Guantanamo Bay prison since 2006.

The CIA subjected him to waterboarding 183 times in 2003, which former U.S. President George W Bush later said he personally authorized.

Trabzonspor lose CAS appeal over 2010-11 Turkish title

Trabzonspor's hopes of overturning the outcome of the 2010-11 Turkish Super League, in which they finished runners-up to scandal-hit Fenerbahce, appear to be over after their appeal was rejected by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

A long-standing dispute between the clubs began when three officials from Fenerbahce, including the president, were implicated in a match-fixing scandal in the 2010-11 season.

The Turkish Football Federation subsequently sanctioned the three officials in May 2012, but did not punish the club.

Club President Aziz Yildirim, who denied the charges, was sentenced to six years in prison but was acquitted along with 35 other defendants on appeal in 2015 having spent a year in jail. Trabzonspor has regularly petitioned world governing body FIFA and its legal bodies requesting that it intervene in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and strip Fenerbahce of the 2010-11 title and award it to them.

FIFA said it's Disciplinary Committee (DC) "was not in a position to intervene" and that Trabzonspor did not fulfil the requirements to lodge an appeal before its Appeal Committee $(AC)\ because\ it\ had\ not\ been\ a\ party\ to\ the\ original\ proceedings$ between the TFF and Fenerbahce.

Trabzonspor lodged an appeal to CAS in May 2018 which was heard in March this year.

A CAS statement on Tuesday said: "Having considered the evidence, the CAS Panel found that Trabzonspor did not have standing to sue in front of the FIFA DC and, consequently, it did not have standing to appeal in front of the FIFA AC.

"The CAS Panel recognised the sense of grievance on the part of Trabzonspor but noted that it was limited, in the exercise of its jurisdiction in this particular case, to apply the rules as they have been adopted by the TFF and FIFA.

(Source: Reuters)

Murray closer than he thought to singles return

Former world number one Andy Murray is considering returning to singles action at Cincinnati next month, saying he is "closer than he thought" to being ready.

The 32-year-old has not played singles since losing in the first round of the Australian Open in January to Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut, after which he underwent hip resurfacing surgery in a bid to salvage his career. He returned to doubles action at Queen's Club this year, winning the title with Spain's Feliciano Lopez, and also played men's doubles with Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert and mixed with Serena Williams at Wimbledon. Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray had previously said it was extremely unlikely he would be ready to play singles at the U.S. Open but now believes a return on the Cincinnati hardcourts

in two weeks' time is possible.

"I'm closer than I thought," Murray said at the Citi Open in Washington where he is playing doubles with brother Jamie.

"Best case scenario probably would be Cincinnati," he said.

"And then if I wasn't able to play in Cincinnati, there's a good chance I would probably wait until after New York, because I wouldn't want my first tournament, either, to be playing best-

Murray said he is practicing singles in Washington and is also lined up to play doubles at the Rogers Cup next week in Toronto with Lopez.

"In terms of moving and feeling and waking up the next day, I'm feeling good," Murray said. "I'm quite close but there's stuff that would need to get better.

"I could (play singles), but to get where I would want to be I'd have to get back in the gym and get my cardio better."

(Source: Mirror)

Chelsea ban fan over use of racist language

Chelsea have permanently banned one supporter from Stamford Bridge for the use of racially abusive language and threatening and aggressive behavior during last season's home game with



The Premier League club have also temporarily excluded five other supporters for periods of between one and two years for the use of abusive language and threatening and aggressive behavior at the fixture on December 8.

Chelsea, who have not released any names over the incidents, said they had delayed reaching a decision in the cases in order to ensure they did not prejudice the related police investigation.

The Crown Prosecution Service recently announced it had elected not to initiate any criminal prosecutions.

According to the club, all individuals sanctioned as a result of their investigation were offered the right to appeal and, where

applicable, those appeals have been heard. Referring to the supporter handed a lifetime ban from the ground, a club statement on Tuesday read: "While the club respects the decision of the CPS (not to charge the individual with a criminal offence), the question that it had to determine was not whether a criminal offence had been committed, but rather whether the

individual acted in breach of the ticketing terms and conditions. "In this regard, the club operates to the civil standard of proof, which is entirely different to the criminal standard. "In reaching its decision, the club took into account the denial made by the individual as well as a range of other evidence, including video evidence and evidence from two lip-reading experts - both of whom advised that the individual had used words that are racially abusive.

The statement added: "In this case the behavior of all six individuals crossed the line of what is acceptable.'

Chelsea chairman Bruce Buck in December blamed a "deeply unpleasant but vocal minority" for shaming the club's fans in an open letter following incidents of abuse

(Source: France 24)

Ronaldo: Barca spent big but still have no titles

Ex-Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo has cited former rivals Barcelona as proof that money cannot buy success in the Champions

Ronaldo, who was in Madrid to pick up his Marca Leyenda lifetime achievement award, is hoping to become just the second player to win the Champions League with three different clubs and. "It is always the year of Juventus, of Madrid, of Barca," he told Marca when asked whether the Bianconeri were among the favorites for the competition. "In a competition such as the Champions League, only one team can win.

"I'll use the example of Barcelona: look at how much money they have invested in the past five years in players and they have not won a Champions League. That is not how this works. Juve has brought in very good reinforcements and they are a team who are going to fight to win, as they always do. "But it all depends upon many factors: the draw, the groups, the moments, the injuries, the luck. But, as I always say, you don't have to obsess over Champions League. Juve are going to win, if not this year, I hope it will be the next or in two years. "And it will be because of our work ethic and because of the way the club is being set up. They have all of the ingredients Perez has said he will "forever" miss Ronaldo and dubbed him the "best" player in the world.

Ronaldo signed for Juventus for a transfer fee of €100 million after a nine-year spell at the Bernabeu where he won two La Liga titles and the Champions League four times. Without the five-time Ballon d'Or winner, Madrid endured a disappointing season -- knocked out of the Champions League in the round of 16 against Ajax and finishing 19 points behind

"I'll miss him forever," Perez said at an awards ceremony where Ronaldo received the . "I'm a Cristiano fan. He's the best and that's it. How was I not going to come [here]?"

Before moving to the Bernabeu, Ronaldo had enjoyed six years with Manchester United where he won a Champions League title and the Premier League three times, but said that he missed Madrid more. "I miss Madrid more than Manchester," he said at the ceremony. "This is due to life's circumstances because my children were born and grew up here and

Ronaldo also weighed in on the speculation surrounding Neymar's future at Paris Saint-Germain. The Brazil international was left out of the PSG preseason squad to travel

Barcelona in La Liga.

to China but Ronaldo believes Neymar will remain in the French capital next season. "He's a great player and I get on well with him," he said."But there's a lot of talk about him with

Madrid in order to reinvent himself as a player He added: "I needed more motivation af $ter\,winning\,what\,I\,won.\,I\,needed\,a\,change\,to$ express myself as a footballer because I think I still have a lot to offer.

"I still feel motivated and I like what I do, but of course what I like most is winning titles.' (Source: ESPN)



Madrid, Barcelona and Juve. It's the press' job because they need to sell but I think he will stay in Paris." Ronaldo, who helped Juventus secure an eighth consecutive Serie A title, said he left

'Linsanity' star Jeremy Lin in tears as he hits 'rock bottom'



Basketball star Jeremy Lin broke down in tears during an emotional appearance in Taiwan when he described hitting "rock bottom" and feeling abandoned by the NBA as he languishes as a free agent.

Lin - the first Asian-American to win an NBA title - was part of the Toronto Raptors team that won the championship last season but he was often benched during the play-offs as he struggled with his form. The man behind the 'Linsanity' hysteria of 2012 became an unrestricted free agent this summer and is still without a team as the new season approaches.

Lin wept as he recounted his recent career trajectory while on stage at a church in Taiwan, from where his parents emigrated to the United States.

"Free agency has been tough because I feel like in some ways the NBA has kind of given up on me," he told the crowd in a heartfelt interview. He said he had waited vears to play for the Raptors but felt his time with the team was his "worst shooting of his entire career". Lin averaged only 3.4 minutes in the play-offs and one minute on the court during the championship finals.

Free agency was "the last straw that broke the camel's back", he said, after which he hung his head and cried.

"Every year it gets harder," Lin added

after he managed to compose himself.

"In English there's a saying, it says once you hit rock bottom, the only way is up but rock bottom just seems to keep getting more and more rock bottom for me.

Lin, a devout Christian, was speaking at a New Taipei City Sunday church event which was also broadcast on the religious channel Good TV.

Lin has struggled with injuries and inconsistency since he sparked 'Linsanity' for the New Yorks Knicks in 2012 when he led them to a seven-game win streak to level their record at 15-15.

That season elevated his stardom far beyond the US to Asia, where basketball has a huge following even though there has long been a shortage in Asian NBA players.

In 2017, Lin suffered a serious knee injury while playing for the Brooklyn Nets.

"I'm here to just tell you don't give up," Lin told the 2,000 fans and congregation ers who turned up to hea The Harvard graduate point guard started his professional career in 2010 with his hometown Golden State Warriors.

He has played for eight teams in his nine-year professional career including the Knicks, Houston Rockets, L.A. Lakers and Charlotte Hornets.

(Source: BBC)

Brazil police end Neymar rape probe over lack of evidence



Police in Brazil probing rape allegations against football superstar Neymar have closed the case due to a lack of evidence, the Sao Paulo attorney general's office said Monday. The police decision will be sent to prosecutors on Tuesday, who will have 15 days to evaluate the case, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office told AFP.

A final ruling on the case will be made by a judge. A spokesman for Neymar said he was nt able to comment on the police decision. Sao Paulo police are due to hold a news conference on Tuesday.

Neymar has vehemently denied allegations he raped a Brazilian woman in a Paris hotel in May. The ugly affair, which has dominated headlines and conversations in the soccer-mad country for weeks, overshadowed Brazil's preparations for the Copa America. Hosts Brazil went on to win South America's showcase tournament earlier this month without their biggest player, who was injured in a warm-up friendly before the opening match. The scandal blew up on June 2 when Neymar published a sevenminute video on Instagram, where he had first been in contact with Najila Trindade, revealing that he had been accused of rape. In an attempt to defend himself against the allegations, Neymar's video was accompanied by WhatsApp messages and images of

his encounter with Trindade - without her consent, possibly breaking Brazilian law.

The drama quickly snowballed. Extracts of a televised interview with Trindade, in which she accused Neymar of "aggression together with rape," aired just one hour before he was about to enter the pitch for the pre-Copa game between Brazil and Qatar.

Neymar tore his right ankle ligament in the 20th minute, ruling him out of the tournament. In the following weeks, Neymar was questioned by police over the WhatsApp messages.

He also appeared before police in Sao Paulo, where Trindade had filed her complaint at the end of May. As the case dragged on, police filed a defamation suit against Trindade – who was dropped by multiple lawyers – after she insinuated the force was corrupt. "The police are bought, aren't they? Or am I crazy?" she told television channel SBT last month in response to questions over the police investigation of home that contained a short video she claims has conclusive evidence she was assaulted. Despite the seriousness of the allegations, polls have shown that most Brazilians believe Nevmar is innocent. Controversy has followed the Paris Saint-Germain player, who flew back to France earlier this month. (Source: AFP)

'I cheat because others cheat': Kenya struggles against doping

At first Alex did not want to dope. The Kenyan runner wanted to compete clean, earn an honest living, and lift his family out of poverty through grit and determination.

But his resolve crumbled as he realized he could not match his opponents, athletes he knew were doping and beating the system set up to catch drug cheats.

Soon, Alex was boosting his performance with erythropoietin (EPO), a substance banned by the world doping watchdog but poorly regulated in Kenya.

"I had to use it, in order to earn a living. You cannot compete with people already using and expect to earn something reasonable," said Alex, who spoke with AFP on condition of anonymity and asked that his name be changed.

"Sport today is not clean." Kenyans are legendary marathoners, making up 38 of the world's top 100 runners in 2019. But the country's antidoping authorities have struggled to stamp out a culture of

drug use in its fabled athletic fraternity. Alex trains in Iten, hallowed ground for aspiring Kenyan runners who dream of following their idols from the high plateau above the Rift Valley to the Olympic podium and record books.

But most do not make the big league.

Nearly a thousand Kenyans earn a living competing in marathons across the globe, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit, runners whose times – though unnoteworthy at home - would make them stars anywhere else.

They are not taking home the tens of thousands on offer at major marathons but pick up a few hundred, maybe the odd thousand, in second and third-tier races.

These prizes are fiercely coveted by the enormous pool of talented Kenyans. Placing anywhere high-up could support whole families for months, in a country where many live on little more than \$1 a day.

It is among this class of competitor - professional grade, but not elite – that doping is most rampant and unchecked,

"You don't have to be an elite athlete, be on the national team, go to the big races, to make money," said a pharmacist in Eldoret, a city near Iten, who sells EPO to runners for \$20 (17 euros) a dose.

We need more testing

Kenya was forced to confront its doping problem in 2016 when a string of high-profile scandals almost saw the country blacklisted from the Olympic Games in Rio.

It scraped through, promising to stamp out cheating through tough new laws penalizing users and dealers and a newly-established anti-doping agency (ADAK).

Drug tests jumped ten-fold in a matter of years. A blood testing laboratory approved by the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA) opened in Nairobi in 2018. For the first time, Kenya was able to create biological passports for about 40 of its top athletes.

Big names – including Olympic gold medallists Jemima Sumgong and Asbel Kiprop – were among the Kenyan stars to test positive in the years after the Rio scare. But a whole class of international-grade runners, one

step below the best, have gone virtually undetected.

These athletes are not subjected to regular testing by ADAK, which does not have the funds or manpower to moni-



tor such a huge pool of runners.

"It is simple: we need to do more tests," ADAK head Japhter Rugut told AFP. Many race organizers cannot afford to run comprehensive drug tests for all competitors, so eschew it altogether.

Tony, another athlete who admits to doping, opts to compete in these races where scrutiny is low or non-existent. If there is testing in place, he avoids placing in the top three to evade suspicion, he said.

Tony trains in a squad of 15 runners in Iten – at least a quarter of whom are doping, he estimated.

"If people stop cheating, I'll stop. I cheat because others have cheated," said Tony, not his real name. Alex, who started using EPO in 2017, said he had never been tested.

(Source: Eurosport)

Longest-serving sports journalist Laroudi says how social media changed journalism

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran's longest-serving sports journalist Ardeshir laroudi says that the traditional media has turned into modern journalism since social media has become an integral part of modern society, however it can be Sword of Damocles hanging over the head of journalism.

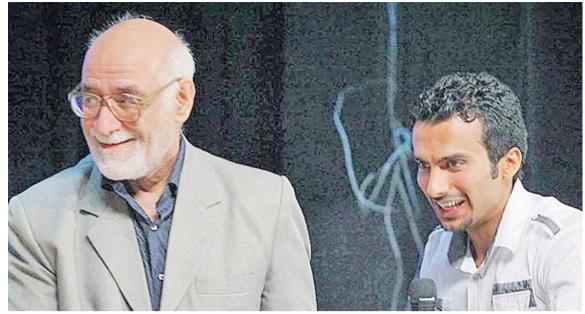
We now have all the information we need at the touch of an app and most people now get their news information online, specifically from social media.

Social media has become the main source of news online with more than 2.4 billion internet users, nearly 64.5 percent receive breaking news from Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, Telegram and Instagram instead of traditional media, according to Forbes.

Laroudi, who had founded Abrar Varzeshi, the first Iranian sports daily, says the taste of readers has changed in the recent years.

"The aim of a newspaper is to raise awareness of a society and the reader must pay to have a print, but everybody accesses to social media today and it pushes them to what a social media editor wants. The readers must be aware of what they are forced to read," Laroudi said.

"It can be helpful if you are following a sports expert and also can be harmful if you didn't care about contents which can have devastating consequences," Laroudi, who has also worked as coach of football and



"Social media has changed how the readers consume news. Some of the people can effectively manage their consumption, but the most people just believe

what they read on their phones and iPads. As I said, there is no way to ignore that but we have to use that correctly," Laroudi went on to say.

Iran's Zahra Bornaki awarded Asian Para Games silver medal



SPORTS TEHRAN—Iranian d e s k long jumper Zahra Bornaki was awarded the 2018 Asian Para Games silver medal.

Uzbekistan's Abdullaeva Kamolakhon was stripped of her title by organizers of the Asian Paralympic Committee after failing drugs tests.

Kamolakhon, who took gold in the T54/46/47 women's long jump, tested positive for methasterone after a urine test on October 8.

Known by the nickname superdrol, the drug has never been available through medical channels and has instead been sold unofficially as a "designer steroid".

Lallwala Palliyagurunnans Amara Indumathi Karunathi of Sri Lanka has been upgraded to the gold medal with Bornaki now taking silver.

2018 Asian Para Games took place from October 6 to 13 in Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta.

Saeid Marouf signs for Beijing **BAIC Motor**



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran national volleyball team setter Said Marouf joined Beijing BAIC

The 33-year-old player has joined the Chines team on a one-year contract. The details of Marouf's contract have

not been released. He will play along with Cuban Leonardo Leyva and French player Kevin Tillie in

this team. BAIC Motor are Marouf's third foreign club, as he has already played at Zenit Kazan and Emma Villas Siena.

Beijing BAIC Motor Men's Volleyball Club are a Chinese men's volleyball club based in Beijing, founded in 1950s and changed to a professional club

BAIC Motor were established by Beijing Municipal Sports Bureau and BAIC Group on September 14, 2010. The team currently play in the Chinese Men's League. They won the champions twice.

Tokyo 2020 to be transformational

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will transform Japanese society and significantly raise awareness of and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Craig Spence.

Speaking at the Japan SDG Action Forum at the United Nations University in Tokyo on Tuesday (30 July), Spence shared with the audience of 200 stakeholders his expectations for next summer's Paralympics which will attract around 4,350 Para athletes from more than

"The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are a unique once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lead massive social change in Japan and bring to life and advance the SDGs to billions of people around the world," Spence said.

"I am confident the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics will be a tremendous success and contribute greatly to achieving our vision to make for a more inclusive world through Para sport. By working together with other stakeholders to fully maximise the benefits, the Games can be even better and have a far greater impact.

"Although we're still one year out from the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, we are already seeing lots of positive change take place in terms of accessibility, education, law and policy, media coverage and commercial promotion. The next and most important step is attitudinal and cultural change towards persons with disabilities and the best way to achieve this is through Para sport.

"In my view the outstanding athletic sporting performances of Paralympians at Tokyo 2020 will do more to challenge and change the stigma around disability than anything else to have taken place or be implemented before in Japan. Such a seismic impact will act as a catalyst to driving social inclusion all around the world.'

During his speech Spence spoke also about how



the Paralympics advance multiple SDGs and the IPC's plans to use Tokyo 2020 to raise the profile of the goals amongst the general public.

He said: "Currently one in five members of the public in Japan are aware of the SDGs. The IPC wants to use the platform of the world's third biggest sport event to mainstream the SDGs and increase this figure further. We are planning several activations in the lead-up to, during and after the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games which we are optimistic can achieve this.

We are looking at how we can build SDG messaging into the Ceremonies, turn Paralympians into SDG advocates to disseminate information to global audiences and help promote existing SDG Action Campaign initiatives. Importantly, we want the general public to fully understand the SDGs are their goals too and how every one can contribute towards them by 2030.

Spence talked about how previous editions of the Paralympic Games had contributed towards to the SDGs. He highlighted how London 2012 changed the attitudes of one in three people in Great Britain towards

disability and how both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Paralympics had contributed towards a growth in the employment of persons with disabilities. In Great Britain one million more persons with disabilities are now in employment compared to just after London 2012 while in Brazil, the growth has been 49 per cent since 2009 when Rio won the right to stage the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Joining the IPC's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer in a session dedicated to International Campaign Building: Action around the Paralympic Games was Japan's three-time Paralympic gold medallist Miki Matheson and Naoe Yasuoka, the Japanese Paralympic Committee's International Liaison Manager.

Matheson, who is member of the IPC's Education Committee, spoke about I'mPOSSIBLE, the IPC's education programme launched in 2017 to promote the vision and values of the Paralympic Movement to school children around the world. Yasuoka spoke about the Japanese Paralympic Committee aims to best capitalise on the success of Tokyo 2020.

The UN SDG Action Campaign is a special inter-agency initiative of the UN Secretary-General mandated to scale-up, broaden and sustain the global movement of action for the SDGs. The UN SDG Action Campaign is administered by UNDP and works under the assumption that the SDGs will only be achieved if everyone takes action and engages with SDG planning and review processes.

Tuesday's SDG Action Forum drew together perspectives from national government, local government, multi-lateral organisations, the private sector, youth groups, civil society, academia and media to further understanding around opportunities for collaboration and cohesive campaigning.

(Source: Paralympic)

Tajikistan reach the summit as Afghanistan stun IR Iran

Host nation Tajikistan lead the field with two matchdays remaining at the CAFA U-16 Championship, after a late goal from Afghanistan's Ahmad Zakaria Hussaini gave Islamic Republic of Iran their first defeat of the competition on Monday.

Hussaini's goal - coupled with Tajikistan's comfortable 3-0 win over Turkmenistan - helped the hosts move to the top of the standings on seven points, with only goal difference separating them from Afghanistan.

In Monday's other match, Uzbekistan held off a fast-finishing Kyrgyz Republic to register their first win of the competition, which pits the region's brightest young talents against each other over five 70-minute matches apiece in Dushanbe and Hisor

TAJIKISTAN 3-0 TURKMEN-**ISTAN**

Three late goals sealed a second successive win for Tajikistan, and kept Turkmenistan rooted to the bottom of the table, as the hosts prevailed 3-0 in Dushanbe.

Having already suffered defeats against Iran and Afghanistan, Turkmenistan kept Akhliddin Turdiev's in-form side at bay for all of the first half and much of the second, but Sunatullo Azizov broke the floodgates in the 59th minute - two minutes after entering the fray as a substitute - and it proved to be the turning point in the contest.

Muhammadvoris Saidaliev continued his fruitful tournament with Taiikistan's second goal in the 67th minute, before another substitute Khusrav Toirov added a third in the fourth minute of stoppage time to seal a comfortable home win, and eclipse Turkmenistan's hopes of a regional title with two games still to play.

IRAN 0-1 AFGHANÎSŤAN

Tajikistan's win became even more significant following the final match of the day in Dushanbe, as Iran's perfect winning record was dented by a late winner from Afghanistan.

A 0-0 draw appeared the most likely outcome after a scoreless opening hour, but Afghan forward Ahmad Zakaria Hussaini added to his growing reputation by netting the game's only goal with just four minutes remaining.

Afghanistan's late rally continues a fine run of form so far in the competition, with the Wahidulah Wahidi-led side still unbeaten after three matches and very much in contention ahead of Thursday's tournament finale.

(Source: the-afc)

FIFA sets no ultimatum for Iran over female attendance at stadiums

 ${f IRNA}-{f FIFA}$ has not given any ultimatum to Iran over the presence of women in football stadiums, a senior Iranian sport official said on Tuesday.

Deputy Minister of Sport and Youth for Developing Women Sports and Managing Director of the Girls> Physical Education, Mahin Farhadi Zad said to IRNA on Tuesday.

No deadline has been sent in this regard, she said.



There is no timeline for that either so there is no case for suspension," Mahin Farhadi Zad said.

She was referring to a letter sent by FIFA>s President Gianni Infantino to Iran urging Tehran to allow female football fans to enter stadiums and watch matches in the qualifiers for the

"FIFA has only encouraged the presence of families at sta-diums which we are working on it to provide the necessary infrastructure," she said.

Farhadi Zad stressed that Iranian women want to go to stadiums to see their kids, brothers and men who are to play in the football pitches

Families need to attend matches and enjoy themselves in a safe environment, she said adding that women are free to attend racket cup matches.

The official reiterated that many women watched men's national volleyball games in western Iran during the FIVB League of Nations.

Nicaraguan ambassador to Tehran meets Mehdi Taj

TASNIM - Nicaraguan Ambassador to Tehran Mario BarqueroBaltodano met with Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) President Mehdi Taj on Tuesday.

In the meeting held at Iran football federation headquarters, the two parties discussed boosting bilateral ties.

Baseball is the most popular sport in Nicaragua but we are trying to progress in football as well. We can take advantage of your experiences in this way," Baltodano said.

"I hope that the Nicaraguan football federation signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Iran as soon as possible," he added.

Saudi Arabia appoint Hervé Renard as head coach

Saudi Arabia have unveiled two-time African Cup of Nations winner Hervé Renard as their new national head coach.

The Frenchman joins the Green Falcons ahead of their imminent FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Asian Qualifiers campaign, which begins in early September.

Renard - who became the first coach in history to win the African title with two different nations when he led Zambia to glory in 2012 and succeeded again with Côte d'Ivoire three years later – joins the Saudi setup following his resignation as Moroccan national team head coach two weeks ago.

The appointment is Renard's first in Asian football, and he revealed his excitement in a short message on social media.

"Happy to start a new adventure in Saudi Arabia on a new continent!" the 50-year-old posted on Monday evening Renard is seen as the long-term replacement to Argentine coach

Juan Antonio Pizzi, who led Saudi Arabia at the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 and AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 before his tenure ended in January, with Youssef Anbar taking charge in the interim. Saudi Arabian Football Federation President Yasser Hassan Alm-

isehal revealed the rationale behind Renard's appointment, saying: "We are anxious to sign with a coach who has a big name, and who is able to add for Saudi football, and who has a very strong resume.' Highly experienced, Renard has previously coached Sochaux

and Lille in France's Ligue 1 and guided Morocco to the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018, ending a 20-year qualification drought for the North African nation Morocco's 2019 African Cup of Nations campaign ended at

the Round of 16 stage after they were eliminated on penalties by tournament surprise package Benin. Saudi Arabia's Asian Qualifiers campaign begins against Yem-

en on September 10, in a group which also includes Uzbekistan, Palestine and Singapore.

(Source: the-afc)

Ex-AC Milan star Donadoni takes on Shenzhen FC task

Former AC Milan and Italy midfielder Roberto Donadoni was named head coach of Shenzhen FC on Tuesday, tasked with

saving them from relegation from the Chinese Super League. The 55-year-old, who managed the Italian national team in 2006-2008, has spent his entire coaching career in Italy and his last job was in charge of Bologna.

He left the Serie A club in June last year after nearly three years. Donadoni takes over at Shenzhen from the ex-Real Madrid head coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro.

Donadoni has just 10 matches to save Shenzhen, who are one off the bottom of the CSL table and have won only three games all season.

The Italian has "rich practical experience", Shenzhen said. His first match, on Friday, is a must-win home game against basement side Beijing Renhe.

(Source: AFP)

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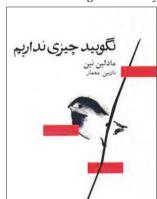


and unruliness and always remember your grave.

Imam Ali (AS)

"Do Not Say We Have Nothing" at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Canadian writer Madeleine Thien's novel "Do Not Say



Front cover of the Persian version of Canadian writer Madeleine Thien's novel "Do

We Have Nothing" has recently been published in Tehran. Translated into Persian by Nazanin Memar, the book has been published by Pagard

Publications. Thien's new novel is breathtaking in scope and ambition even as it is hauntingly

With the ease and skill of a master storyteller, Thien takes us inside an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations: those who lived through Mao's Cultural Revolution in the midtwentieth century; and the children of the survivors, who became the students protesting

in Tiananmen Square in 1989. With exquisite writing

Not Say We Have Nothing". with exquisite sharpened by a surprising vein of wit and sly humor, Thien has crafted unforgettable characters who are by turns flinty and headstrong, dreamy and tender, foolish and wise.

Niavaran center to display top photos of the year

TEHRAN — The 11th Doorbin.net Top



A poster for the 11th Doorbin.net

designed by Majid Hojjati.

Photos of the Year Exhibition will open at the Niavaran Cultural Center on Friday.

The exhibition is organized every year by Doorbin.net, photojournalism agency, Tehran Photo Agency and the Niavaran Artistic Creations Foundation in Tehran.

by 38 photojournalists taken over the past Iranian calendar

year (March 2018-2019) Top Photos of the Year Exhibition exhibit, the organizers have will be showcased in the announced.

The exhibition, which will be running until August 16, is scheduled to move to eight Iranian cities afterwards.

Fire breaks out in Frankfurt MMK modern art museum

FRANKFURT (DW) -- Firefighters in Frankfurt were combating a blaze at the famous MMK modern art museum. The building had been closed for renovations when passers-by reported smoke.

German police opened an investigation into a fire which started at Frankfurt's Museum für Moderne Kunst (Museum of Modern Art or MMK) on Monday.

About 70 firefighters and 20 vehicles were at the scene and trying to put out the flames in the "roof area" according to the

"The effort to put out the fire is difficult because the copper

roof must be opened by hand," Frankfurt firefighters said on Twitter, without providing details. The deployment lasted for several hours, they said in a statement

on Monday afternoon.

The MMK, which opened in 1991, is considered one of the most important museums in Germany. The building normally houses over 5,000 items, including pictures, photos, sculptures, and video installations. With the museum undergoing renovation, however, most of the items were in storage, a spokeswoman said.

Separately, museum chief Susanne Pfeffer described the fire as being "fortunate in [its] misfortune."

Speaking to daily Frankfurter Runschau, she said that "no people were injured and no works of art were damaged."

"We had pretty much no art on display," Pfeffer added. Passers-by first reported the thick column of smoke rising from the building's roof. No visitors were inside the building

Leader's discourses on books published in Turkish

s k collection of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's spoken discourses on books and reading has recently been published in a book in Turkish.

Metin Atam is the translator of the book "Books and I" ("Kiptap ve Ben"), the Istanbulbased publisher, Kevser, announced.

Ayatollah Khamenei has made the speeches during his meetings with cultural officials

The book is composed of six chapters, in the first of which he discussed the importance of books and reading.

The second chapter delves into his remarkable affinity with books, and the third criticizes the lack of regard for reading and books in the country. He gives solutions to the flaw in the fourth chapter.

The fifth and sixth chapters feature the commendations the Leader has written for a number of his favorite books.

Ayatollah Khamenei is a frequent visitor to the Tehran International Book Fair, which is organized in the Iranian capital during spring every year.

He also holds his annual meeting with poets and literati during the holy month of



Front cover of the Turkish version of "Books and I", which covers Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's spoken discourses on books.

Naqqali performance to feature war heroin Farangis story

■ TEHRAN — A naqqali performance k selected to go on stage during the 19th Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival will recount the story of war heroin Farangis Heidarpur.

"Farangis Tale" will be performed in the form of naqqali, a dramatic style of storytelling dedicated to stories from

Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and other epic Persian stories. The story is about Heidarpur's confrontation with Iraqi soldiers after their village, Evazin near the border between Iran and Iraq, was invaded during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"It is an amazing story and I have done in-depth research to stage the performance," the Abadan-based performer Hura Tila who is a naqqal, someone who performs naqqali, told the Persian service of ISNA on Tuesday.

"What happened to Farangis in the war is an epic story, and naqqali is the best medium to illustrate it, she added.



Hura Tila performs a naqqali in an undated photo.

"There are lessons to learn in the epic," she noted. Heidarpur's story has been covered in her memoirs

"Farangis" written by Mahnaz Fattahi. It was published by Sureh-Mehr in 2015.

Earlier in 2017, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praised the book in a recommendation.

"A significant and untold portion of the war stories can be observed in the memoirs of this brave and devoted lady," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote.

Brave lady Farangis has conversed with us with her strong spirit, the honest and kindly language of a villager, and the genuinely pleasant feelings of a woman. She has also shown us an unknown and important area of the imposed war geography in detail," he added.

The 19th Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival will open in the central Iranian city of Kashan on August 11. Performances will then continue in Tehran until

"Dressage" goes on screen in Florence

TEHRAN — Iranian e s k director Badkubeh's acclaimed drama "Dressage' was screened on Tuesday at the 10th edition of the Middle East Now event, a film festival in the Italian city of Florence,

the organizers announced. The screening program was part of the Global Connections, a section which puts a spotlight on physical and digital connections in cinema in Afghanistan, Syria, Gaza, Iran and other countries in

the Middle East. The festival tries to show the reality of life in the Middle East beyond the prejudices and clichés often portrayed through the non-Middle-Eastern media.

"Dressage" is about Golsa and her friends who rob a corner shop. But while evaluating the booty, they are dismayed to realize that they forgot to take the security camera footage. One of them must return to the crime scene and retrieve it. The vote falls on Golsa, who bravely completes the mission. Her friends' behavior makes her think, and she hides the hard drive somewhere in secret. But her accomplices and their well-to-do families, worried about their social standing, put more and more pressure on Golsa.

The screening program was also followed by a tribute to Felicetta Ferraro. the former Italian cultural attaché to Iran who died on June 2, 2019 in Florence. During her tenure of service in Iran (2000-2008), Ferraro efficiently

supported academic and cultural

cooperation between the University of Tehran and Italian universities and cultural institutions. When she returned to Italy upon the end of her services, she continued her support of Iranian culture by establishing a publishing house in Italy called Ponte 33 (the Italian translation of "Si-o-Se-Pol")

speaking countries to European and, in particular, to Italian readers. She also helped with the organization of many other cultural events related to

to introduce Iranian society and Persian



A scene from "Dressage" by Puya Badkubeh Iranian and Italian culture, including photo and book exhibitions, seminars and literary panel discussions on both contemporary and classic personalities.

Cruz-Diez, Venezuelan kinetic artist, dies in Paris at 95



A man stands on the deck of the brightly painted former pilot ship The Edmund Gardner at the Albert Dock in Liverpool, northern England, June 11, 2014. (Reuters/Phil Noble)

CARACAS (Reuters) — Carlos Cruz-Diez, a Venezuelan artist who shaped the field of kinetic and optical art during the 20th century, died in Paris on Saturday, his foundation said on its website on Sunday, He was 95

Born in Caracas in 1923, he moved to France in 1960 after studying at Caracas' School of Fine Arts. His abstract works are defined by the use of color and lines to create the impression of movement, and are on display at museums including New York's Museum of Modern Art, London's Tate Modern, and Caracas' Museum of Fine Arts.

"It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our beloved father, grandfather and greatgrandfather, Carlos Eduardo Cruz-Diez," the foundation wrote. "Your love, your joy, your teachings and your colors will remain forever in our hearts."

Despite living much of his life in Paris, he left his mark in his native Venezuela, most notably through the colorful murals lining the walls and floors of the Simon Bolivar International Airport serving Caracas.

While he rarely commented publicly on his home country's turbulent politics, he recently expressed regret at living much of his life abroad.

"I regret not being able to have developed my artistic life in my country, surrounded by my people," Cruz-Diez told Venezuela's El Nacional newspaper in a 2014 interview.

Scorsese's "The Irishman" to premiere at **New York Film Fest**



This image released by Netflix shows Joe Pesci, left, and Robert De Niro in a scene from "The Irishman". (AP/Niko Tavernise)

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin Scorsese's big-budget mafia epic "The Irishman" will premiere as the opening night film at the 57th New York Film Festival, Film at Lincoln Center announced Monday.

The selection, with the premiere set for September 27, gives Scorsese a hometown launch for one of his most anticipated films. "The Irishman" is Scorsese's \$125 million Netflix film about the reflections of a former Jimmy Hoffa associate and hit man. Its genre and cast — including Robert De Niro as Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran, Al Pacino as Jimmy Hoffa and Joe Pesci as Russell Bufalino — have long tantalized fans of the 76-year-old filmmaker.

"It's in the milieu of the pictures we've done together and are known for, in a sense, but I hope from a different vantage point,"

Scorsese said earlier this year at a Tribeca Film Festival event. "Years have gone by and we see things in a special way, I hope.

New York Film Festival Director Kent Jones, a frequent collaborator with Scorsese, said in a statement that "The Irishman" is "the work of masters, made with a command of the art of cinema that I've seen very rarely in my lifetime, and it plays out at a level of subtlety and human intimacy that truly stunned me.

Netflix is planning a robust awards season push for "The Irishman," including a not-yet-dated release in select theaters later this year. How widely Netflix will release it remains to be seen; major theater chains have thus far refused to play films that don't adhere to a traditional exclusive theatrical release window of 90 days.

PBS adds George W. Bush documentary to its president series

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A documentary about the life and political career of former President George W. Bush is coming to PBS stations next year.

Ari Fleischer and speechwriter David Frum. The program will \bar{a} ir in spring 2020 as part of PBS' "American

members. Among them: Bush's chiefs of staff, press secretary

"evolution" of Bush's character and how it shaped his presidency. The series has aired biographies of other U.S. presidents, including Dwight D. Eisenhower and Bill Clinton.

The two-part documentary, titled "W," will include interviews with historians, journalists and inner-circle

Experience" series, PBS said Monday. "American Experience" senior producer Susan Bellows said the documentary will look at the

Public TV station WGBH Boston produces "American