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# Regional states responsible for Persian Gulf security

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## Iran ready to expand economic co-op with Caspian Sea littoral states

**TEHRAN** — Iran is ready to expand economic cooperation with all neighboring countries, especially with the Caspian Sea littoral states, deputy industry minister Mohammad-Baqer Ali said in the first Caspian Economic Forum which was held in Turkmenistan's Avaza on August 11-12.

The official underlined Iran's industrial, mining and trade capabilities and capacities and noted that the first

Caspian Economic Forum could provide the basis for the implementation of an economic cooperation agreement among the Caspian Sea littoral nations, ISNA reported.

As reported, the event was attended by senior officials from numerous countries in the region including the economy ministers of Turkmenistan, Russia, and Kazakhstan as well as Azerbaijan's deputy economy minister. ➔ **4**

## Iraqi FM: We reject Israeli presence in Persian Gulf

**TEHRAN** — Iraqi Foreign Minister said "we reject the participation of Israel in any force to secure the passage of ships in the Persian Gulf."

The presence of Western forces in the Persian Gulf is fueling regional tension, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed al-Hakim said on Monday.

"The states of the Persian Gulf can together secure the transit of ships," he said on Twitter.

"Iraq is seeking to reduce tension in our region through calm negotiations and the presence of Western forces in the region will increase tension."

## Iran: No noteworthy proposal from France

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has said Tehran has not received any noteworthy or definite offer from France in the course of efforts to save the 2015 nuclear deal and make up for the EU's failure to fulfill Iran's interests under the agreement, Tasnim reported.

In an interview with IRIB, Abbas Mousavi dismissed media speculation about a certain French proposal to compensate for the EU's failure to honor its

commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Asked about a report by Al-Monitor that French President Emmanuel Macron had invited Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to this month's G7 summit in Biarritz and that Paris has proposed establishing a \$15 billion credit line for trade with Iran, Mousavi said, "Following the Islamic Republic of Iran's ➔ **3**



**ARTICLE**  
**Mohammad Eslami**  
Political risk analyst

## U.S.-China trade war: what does it mean for Iran?

U.S.-China trade war has been one of the game changers among the geopolitical factors affecting the international political and economic sphere. The 10pc tariff will be imposed on the \$300bn/yr of imports from China not yet subject to any duties, Trump announced via Twitter a day after the latest round of talks, which concluded in Shanghai.

As a result, China's yuan tumbled to the weaker side of the key 7-per-dollar threshold, hitting its weakest since 2008, against the backdrop of a sharp escalation in the protracted U.S.-Sino trade war. The United States has accused China of manipulating Yuan and the U.S. Treasury Department designated China a currency manipulator, a historic move that no White House had exercised since the Clinton administration.

While Iran is under the pressure of the toughest sanctions policy in international history, Tehran declares the sanctions as "economic terrorism" and China is still buying the Iranian heavy crude oil, Ups and downs of trade negotiations and confronting economic policies had occurred between two world powers, does specific meanings to Iran.

### Political Aspects

The U.S. and China, two UNSC permanent members, are among the signatories of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The violation of the deal by the Trump administration and the decision to impose more extraterritorial sanctions made an either-with-us-or-against-us dilemma which is not followed by the Chinese government. The Iranian question here refers to two possibilities. Whether China would leave the position to confront the U.S. sanctions and stop buying Iranian oil in order to be more concentrated on the trade war, or consequently got more serious in bypassing the sanctions against Iran legally and practically.

After 8th May 2018, China declared that it would stop buying oil from Iran due to the legal and financial concerns over the sanctions. When hopes for an early settlement of the yearlong U.S.-China trade war dimmed, the route changed. ➔ **7**

## Occam's Razor may be useful in explaining Jeffrey Epstein

By Martin Love

**NORTH CAROLINA** - Of all the news items hitting the Internet in the U.S. this summer by far the most commentary among general readers involves questions and speculations about the pedophile Jeffrey Epstein, who either committed suicide or was killed inside his prison cell in New York City this past weekend.

He had been denied bail awaiting a trial

slated for next summer on various sordid charges that might have resulted in 45 years behind bars – in effect, a death sentence for the 67-year-old alleged financier who over recent decades had played fast and loose with the "elite" whose names are a virtual litany of many of the most visible, powerful politicians, businesspersons and professionals in this current era in American history.

Every speculation or theory or conspiracy

notion almost anyone has offered up in the wake of Epstein's not so surprising demise well before he could or might have named specifically who among the "elite" (quite possibly Trump himself and certainly Bill Clinton) partook of his services of procuring underage females for sex at one or another of his lavish properties or on his aircraft is and has been fair game since his arrest in early July. ➔ **7**

## American sanctions and global economic crisis

By Pooya Mirzaee

**TEHRAN** — U.S. new sanctions on Iran, Russia, Venezuela and N. Korea and tariff conflicts with China and E.U. is going to be a part of daily news. Broadening the criteria of sanctions and putting concentration on financial systems, not only decreases the effect of the sanctions in wider view but also

makes the policy makers of the targeted countries to reach to this conclusion that for preventing the collapse of international economy, global financial system generally and common global trade currency (USD) specially must be replaced with more independent alternatives.

If we look at U.S. financial sanctions and tariff conflicts, they target

nearly 30% of world population directly and more than 60% indirectly, they also waste billions of dollars in bypassing cycles used by targeted countries to keep their economies alive and interconnected. Taking closer look at the latest financial sanctions, specially on Russia, we can see international financial and monetary entities such as IMF,

World Bank, Swift System and ... has been hijacked by Americans as a tool to enforce U.S. imperialism. In case of IMF for example, there are a number of policy shifts – In the past the IMF has not made loans to countries that are in default to governments. That's because in the past, the government in question was the U.S. Government. ➔ **6**

## "Sheeple" crowned best at Cinema Cinema Academy Awards

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

**TEHRAN** — Iranian director Hooman Seyyedi's acclaimed drama "Sheeple" was named best picture at the 2nd Cinema Cinema Academy Awards on Saturday.

This is the second edition of the annual awards that are presented by the Cinema Cinema Academy, a private film academy located in Tehran. It can be considered as the Iranian equivalent of the Oscars.

The award is a bronze statue of a man-

drake (mehrgiah) with five leaves placed on a rock-shaped stand. It is considered to be a mythical plant and the symbol of fertility, love and unity in Iranian culture.

"Sheeple" is about brothers Shakur and Shahin, two lowlives who run a crystal meth laboratory hidden in Tehran. They do care about the honor of their family, however. When a video of their sister revealing her hair ends up on the internet, the brothers become the protagonists of some

strange incidents.

The film also brought Seyyedi the award for best director and Navid Mohammadzadeh the award for best actor during the awards ceremony held at Tehran's Enqelab Hotel.

After accepting his award, Seyyedi told filmmaker Kianush Ayyari, who is the founder and director of the academy, "Perhaps you don't know, but you have made a great impact on the outlook of cinema." ➔ **16**



© Tehran Times/ Behnam Tofighi

## Eid al-Adha prayers in Tehran

Millions of people across Iran celebrated Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) on Monday. The photo depicts people in Tehran marking the festival by special prayers. Eid al-Adha is marked in honor of the Islamic imperative of self-abnegation. It commemorates Prophet Abraham's acknowledging a divine order upon him to sacrifice his son. Upon submitting to God's will, Ibrahim was exempted from performing the order and was offered a ram to sacrifice instead. On this auspicious day, people share food.



**PERSPECTIVE**  
**Batool Subeiti**  
Human rights activist from London

## Britain's shadow over India's crimes in Kashmir

While there is no doubt that the Indian armed forces and the fascist Hindu nationalist ruling party in India need to be held to account for the reign of terror they have unleashed on the people of Kashmir throughout these decades, the latest attempt to annex the disputed territory to the union of India is particularly alarming and a matter of grave concern.

It is important we don't lose sight of the genesis of problems we are currently witnessing in South Asia. In other words, we need to hold the real culprits responsible for the violence and unrest in the subcontinent to account.

The partition of British India ended almost two hundred years of British colonial rule that conquered one of the richest countries in the world, having owned 27% of GDP in 1700, and by the time they left in 1947, they had reduced it to one of the poorest, most diseased and most illiterate countries on earth, after having claimed the lives of more than 35 million Indians in over two centuries of looting and exploitation.

It is important to note that Britain did not grant India its independence after all this time in goodwill, neither did Britain's creation of two independent nations on the basis of religion stem as a result of its desire to avoid bloodshed (even if they did desire to avoid bloodshed, it was never in good faith but rather as a hindering factor to stability in the region that is their interests).

Britain realized that after centuries of exploitation, it had drained the oppressed people under their rule, to the extent that it was no longer in Britain's interest to continue maintaining direct control over the Asian subcontinent. This led them to realise a change in strategy may be the most effective way they can still maintain control to some extent, granting the nations hope in independence whilst still maintaining indirect control through the puppets.

The 'divide and rule' strategy came into play and this change in strategy allowed the British to ensure that Muslims were never a majority in the Asian Subcontinent, as through the West's experience of colonising they are well aware that standing up in the face of oppression is a duty in the Islamic faith and therefore they feared rebellion from the Muslim population and as a result, nations were split into India and Pakistan. ➔ **7**



## Regional states responsible for Persian Gulf security, Zarif says in meeting with Qatari FM

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — In a meeting with his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that regional countries, and not foreign forces, are responsible for security in the Persian Gulf region.

“Foreign forces only cause insecurity in the region,” Zarif said as the U.S. has called on European and Asian countries to join a Washington-led maritime force to supposedly secure safe shipping in the Strait of Hormuz which connects the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman.



Zarif shaking hands with Qatari FM Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani (right).

So far, only Britain and Israel have responded positively to the U.S. call.

Zarif noted that military coalitions are a failure. Zarif also told the Qatari counterpart that Tehran attaches great importance to consultations on regional developments.

For his part, the Qatari foreign minister highlighted the two countries' role in protecting regional peace and called for expansion of cooperation in promoting dialogue to settle problems in the region.

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran and the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also held talks over phone on Sunday afternoon. Rouhani, who telephoned the Emir to congratulate Eid al-Adha to the Qatari nation and government, said, “The maintenance and strengthening of regional security, especially in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, is very important for Iran”.

“Iran has put all its effort in this regard and believes that maintaining security in this region guarantees the development of the region, as well as the interests of its peoples,” the president’s official website quoted Rouhani as saying.

Rouhani also said that the goal of some extra-regional countries' activities in the Persian Gulf is to imply insecurity in the region, stressing that these activities make problems more complicated and perilous.

First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, who had participated in the Caspian Economic Forum in Turkmenistan's coastal city of Awaza, said the United States is seeking to create “insecurity” in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Jahangiri also said the presence of foreign forces in the region is the source of instability and will increase tension in the region.

The senior official said the security of the Strait of Hormuz is extremely important for Iran.

“We consider the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf as the element of instability and increase of tensions and believe that only regional countries must and can provide security,” Jahangiri stated.

He added, “We consider intervention and presence of extra-regional forces under any name or coalition is a great danger to peace, stability and security of the region.”

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a press conference on July 31 that his country “would not participate in the mission the United States plans to form.”

A German government spokeswoman also said on August 5 that Chancellor Angela Merkel and the whole German government do not see Germany taking part in a U.S.-led naval mission in the Strait of Hormuz.

“The chancellor does not see a participation in a U.S.-led mission in the current situation and at the current time - everyone in the German government agrees on that,” a government spokeswoman told a news conference, according to Reuters.

Madrid and Tokyo have also rejected an official request from Washington to participate in the naval coalition.

Spanish newspaper El Confidencial said on August 1, Madrid had received an official request from the United States to participate in these forces. However, the same sources said that “the Spanish government has currently no intention to participate in joint U.S.-led forces,” Middle East Monitor reported.

Japan's Mainichi Shimbun also reported that Tokyo won't send ships to join the U.S.-led maritime force.

Hossein Naqavi Hosseini, spokesman for the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said on Friday that the U.S. coalition would only foment insecurity in the region.

In phone conversations last week, Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami discussed the security situation in the Persian Gulf region with Kuwaiti, Qatari and Omani defense ministers, warning about formation of military coalition in the Persian Gulf under the U.S. leadership.

“Military coalition which the United States seeks to form under the pretext of the shipping security will just cause insecurity in the region,” General Hatami said.

He added, “We consider ourselves committed to maintain security in the region, especially in the Persian Gulf region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has spared no effort in maintaining security for navigation in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and Sea of Oman. We believe that regional security must be maintained by the countries in the region.”

He noted that the regional countries should enter constructive talks in this respect.

The defense chief blamed the U.S. as the main culprit behind insecurity in the region.

Pointing to Israel's decision to join a U.S.-led coalition in the Persian Gulf region, Hatami said, “Such probable action will be very provocative and can cause catastrophic consequences for the region.”

Mehran Kamrava, professor and director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar, has predicted that U.S.-led coalition to fail.

“This latest attempt, to create a new military coalition, appears to be part of yet another attempt by the United States — uncoordinated and without a long-term strategy — to maintain a military presence in the Persian Gulf and to share the costs of doing so. It does not appear to be heading for any meaningful success,” Kamrava told the Fars news agency in an interview published on August 12.

# Yemen’s Ansarullah spokesman holds talks with Zarif assistant

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Mohammed Abdulsalam, the spokesman for Yemen's Ansarullah and chief negotiator of the National Salvation Government, held talks with Asghar Khaji, the assistant to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in Tehran on Thursday.

The talks centered on the latest developments in Yemen.

Khaji reiterated Iran's principled policy for finding solutions to regional crises, saying Iran believes that intra-Yemeni dialogue is the remedy to the conflict in the country.

The senior diplomat also renewed Iran's support for the Stockholm agreement and thanked Ansarullah for being the sole party committed to the accord.

However the diplomat asked the international community to put pressure on the Saudi-led coalition to fully implement their obligations according to the Stockholm agreement.

Khaji also referred to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, saying the Islamic Republic



will continue its efforts to help end the siege on Yemen and send relief aid to the country.

For his part, Abdulsalam thanked Iran for

its political support for Yemen and provided a report about the implementation of the Stockholm and the prospect of the political

## Iran says Washington waiting in vain for a phone call

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Sunday that Washington is waiting in vain for a phone call by Iranian officials.

“It has been a long time that they are waiting for Iran to do such thing which is in vain, because Iran will not initiate a negotiation in which international law is not respected,” he said.

Pointing to the U.S. economic pressure against Iran, he said, “No wise man negotiates when he is under pressure and a gun is pointed at him.”

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in July that Iran will not negotiate under pressure, suggesting that the United States must first stop “economic terrorism” against Iran if it seeks negotiations.

“Negotiation under pressure has never been possible. They must stop pressure and economic terrorism against Iran and after that they can talk about implementing the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal],” Zarif remarked.

President Hassan Rouhani said on May 20

that U.S. claims of seeking negotiations with Iran are “mere lies”.

The U.S. has the illusion to force Iran into submission by introducing the worst ever sanctions on the country, Rouhani remarked.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in June that Iran has “no trust” in the United States and will not at all “repeat the bitter experience” it gained from the negotiations that led to the conclusion of a 2015 nuclear deal, which Washington later ditched.

He dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump as a person not worthy of a response or a message, stressing that negotiations with Washington cannot help solve any problem.

During a meeting with authorities on May 14, Ayatollah Khamenei also said, “Negotiating is poisonous as long as the U.S. continues with the same course of action; besides, negotiating with the current government of the United States

is all the more poisonous.”

----“U.S. is fearful of Zarif's voice”

In another statement on Sunday, Mousavi said that Zarif is “commander of diplomacy” and the U.S. is fearful of his voice.

The remarks by Mousavi came as the U.S. is reportedly trying to limit Zarif's access to social media such as Twitter.

In separate statements on July 31, the U.S. Treasury and State Department announced imposition of sanctions against Zarif, a move which was interpreted as a total rejection of diplomacy repeatedly claimed by the Trump administration. The decision followed after Zarif, while in New York for a UN meeting, rejected an invitation to meet Trump at the Oval Office.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, wrote a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on August 6 protesting the U.S. sanctions on Zarif, saying that this move signifies a “gross

situation in his country.

According to the United Nations, Yemen suffers one of the longest humanitarian crises in the world.

Yemen has been under military attack by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates since March 2015. They attacked the country with the aim of reinstating the toppled government of Mansur Hadi.

According to Al Jazeera, Yemenis are dying from cholera, hunger and other ills because Saudi Arabia and the UAE are not making good on funding pledges they made earlier this year, a top United Nations official warned in July.

Mark Lowcock, the UN's emergency relief coordinator and under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told the UN Security Council while most of the 40 countries that made pledges in February had stumped up aid cash, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh were holding out.

“Those who made the largest pledges - Yemen's neighbours in the coalition - have so far paid only a modest proportion of what they promised,” said Lowcock.



violation” of the UN Charter.

The move has been criticized by the world. Ugochi Daniels, the United Nations Human Settlements Program Coordinator and Resident envoy to Iran, has said that Zarif is “champion of multilateralism”.

“In my encounters with Zarif, he has, on multiple occasions, emphasized the importance of multilateralism; he is a champion of multilateralism,” IRNA quoted her as saying in an interview published on Saturday.

## Zarif: U.S. arms sales make Persian Gulf into ‘tinderbox ready to blow up’

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned against an arms race in the Middle East, saying recent U.S. weapons sales have turned the Persian Gulf region into a “tinderbox ready to blow up”.

In an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera on Monday, Zarif said more warships in the Persian Gulf would only lead to more insecurity.

“The U.S. [sold] \$50bn worth of weapons to the region last year. Some of the countries in the region with less than a third of our population spend \$87bn on military procurement. Let's make a comparison, Iran spent last year \$16bn

on all its military with almost one million people in the army.

“The UAE with a total population of one million spent \$22bn, Saudi Arabia spent \$87bn. If you are talking about threats coming from the region, the threats are coming from the U.S. and its allies who are pouring weapons in the region, making it a tinderbox ready to blow up,” Zarif told Al Jazeera.

Zarif's comments come after the United States announced it is working to form a military coalition to protect commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf following attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz.

“This is a tiny body of water and the more foreign naval vessels you have in this body [of] water the less secure it is for everybody. Based on experience, the presence of U.S. and foreign naval fleet in the Persian Gulf has never produced security.

“We have sad memories of a U.S. ship downing an Iranian airliner in 1988 [and] killing 290 passengers. We believe the best the Americans can do for protection of maritime navigation is to just leave people alone. Don't interfere, this is a hostile act against Iran and I don't believe any other impact other than insecurity,” Zarif added.

## U.S., UK responsible for consequences of Israeli presence in Persian Gulf: IRGC

“Any presence of the Zionist regime in the Persian Gulf waters is illegal, as it may result in war and confrontation in the region,” IRGC Navy chief warns

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned that any Israeli presence in the Persian Gulf may result in a war in the region, and the responsibility for the consequences of such illegal presence lies with the U.S. and the UK.

“The United States and the United Kingdom must assume responsibility for the Zionist regime's illegal presence in the Persian Gulf waters,” IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri told the Lebanese TV channel Al Mayadeen on Sunday.

“Any presence of the Zionist regime in the Persian Gulf waters is illegal, as it may result in war and confrontation in the region,” the top commander warned.

The comments came after Israel said it will join a U.S. maritime coalition in the Persian Gulf, which the U.S. says is aimed at boosting the security of navigation in the body of water.

Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz said on August 7 that the regime would be part of the U.S.-led coalition to “protect the security of the Persian Gulf”.

On Friday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi warned

that the country considers possible Israeli presence in a U.S.-led coalition in the Persian Gulf as a clear threat to its national security, and reserves the right to counter it.

“Within the framework of the country's deterrence and defensive policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to counter this threat and defend its territory,” he noted.

“The U.S. regime and the illegitimate Zionist regime are responsible for all the consequences of this dangerous move,” the spokesman added.

In his Sunday comments, the IRGC Navy commander slammed the “illegal” formation of the maritime coalition, and said Washington and London fabricate various scenarios to legitimize their presence in the

Persian Gulf.

“By establishing an illegal coalition in the region, the U.S. and the UK are trying to implement their own scenarios,” he added.

Admiral Tangsiri said the IRGC Navy is responsible for ensuring the security of the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf, and “we don't need the presence of foreigners.”

“The security of Persian Gulf is among Iran's priorities, and we believe Iran's shipping lanes must remain international,” the IRGC general said.

He underlined that the world and the regional countries must know Iran will ensure the security of the Strait of Hormuz as long as its oil is allowed to be exported through the waterway.

**“Iran is the flag-bearer of security in the Persian Gulf, but that hinges on the export of our oil and the country’s ability to use the region. We’ll ensure the security of Persian Gulf as long as our own security is ensured,” the IRGC Navy commander says.**



## Rouhani and Erdogan hold phone talks, call for closer co-op

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani of Iran and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for expansion of cooperation in various areas in a phone conversation on Sunday.

The phone call took place on the eve of Eid al-Adha, the festival of sacrifice, by Muslims on Monday.

Rouhani said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to expand relations with Turkey as a friendly and brotherly country.”

He also called for implementing agreements between the two countries.

Erdogan said that Ankara is ready to expand ties with Tehran in various spheres.

According to Press TV, Iran and Turkey, as major trade partners, plan to increase their annual trade to 30 billion dollar in defiance of the U.S. pressure aimed at isolating Iran's economy.

In the three-month period beginning in late March 2019, Turkey imported around \$2.2 billion worth of goods and services from Iran, a five-fold jump compared to the similar quarterly period in 2018, according to data released by the Tehran chamber of commerce on Monday.



# Pompeo does not even know about Tisha B'Av night: Iran

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – The Iranian government spokesman has lashed out at U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for his remarks about Palestine, questioning the American diplomat's qualification to express opinions about the issue.

Pompeo had on Sunday reacted to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's message to Hajj pilgrims, in which he had called the U.S. Middle East initiative – the so-called "deal of the century" – a crime against the Palestinians and humanity.

In part of his message, the Leader had said, "We invite everyone to active involvement in defeating this plot and stratagem of the enemy, and by the Power of God, we consider this plot and all ploys by the arrogant front doomed to failure against the endeavors and faith of the front of resistance."

Pompeo had reacted by claiming that the Iranian Leader had no concern for Palestine.

In reaction to Pompeo, Ali Rabiei, the Iranian government spokesman, said Pompeo has little knowledge of Jewish people



and their religion.

"Pompeo doesn't even understand the concept of the night of Tish B'Av," Rabiei tweeted on Monday.

Tish B'Av is an annual fast day in Judaism, on which a number of disasters in Jewish history occurred, primarily the destruction of both Solomon's Temple by the Neo-Bab-

ylonian Empire and the Second Temple by the Roman Empire in Jerusalem.

"If [Pompeo] knew, [he would have understood that] the Israeli regime is the very great inauspiciousness which has equally afflicted the Jews and Muslims of Palestine; and to get rid of which one has to pray," Rabiei wrote in his tweet.

"Once again, lacking historical knowledge, Pompeo has reacted to the Leader's Hajj message by referring to the 'Tish B'Av' night and jumped the Palestinian-Jewish issue. He has recognized criticism of the child-murdering regime of Israel – which is a rite for the Muslim Ummah during Hajj – to be in disagreement with the 'Tish B'Av' night ritual," the Iranian government spokesman observed.

He added, "Pompeo neither knows the Iranian society, in which Jewish citizens have their own special place, nor does he know history, [according to which] our Jewish citizens in all of the Islamic and pre-Islamic eras would observe their religious rites in complete freedom."

## Why Trump's 'maximum pressure' foreign policy yields minimum results

Donald Trump is heading into the 2020 elections with no clear-cut foreign policy successes, some dramatic failures and a string of looming crises around the world that could undermine his bid for re-election.

For that reason, many expect the president to try to reverse the trend with dramatic interventions around the globe with uncertain outcomes – which will make the next 16 months even more volatile than his presidency so far.

Trump has pulled out of nuclear agreements with Iran and Russia but the better deals he predicted seem more remote than ever, and in their absence nuclear weapons proliferation looks likely to accelerate.

An effort to oust Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela in April was a fiasco, and subsequent efforts to strangle the economy have so far showed no sign of achieving their political objective. This week, the UN high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, warned that the measures are likely to significantly exacerbate conditions for millions of ordinary Venezuelans.

Trump's proudest diplomatic achievement so far, becoming the first U.S. president to meet a North Korean leader, is looking increasingly hollow, as Kim Jong-un steadily builds up his nuclear arsenal and resumes missile testing. Similarly, Trump's most significant military win, completing the eradication of the Islamic State caliphate in Syria and Iraq, has been tarnished by a Pentagon inspector general report this week saying that ISIS had "solidified its insurgent capabilities in Iraq and was resurging in Syria".

In Afghanistan, the administration claims to be close to an agreement with the Taliban, clearing the way for a major withdrawal of U.S. forces by the end of Trump's first term, but a spike in violence, with 1,500 civilian casualties in July alone, has underlined the tenuous nature of such negotiations. Foreign policy issues rarely play a leading role in U.S. presidential elections, but Trump has relentlessly portrayed himself as uniquely able to strike deals with foreign leaders and bring U.S. troops home. And some foreign crises have a direct domestic result. The absence so far of the promised deal with China, the imposition of tariffs and the prospect of a worsening trade war will directly hit consumers and producers.

"What is interesting is that in every one of these issues, Trump saw a domestic political benefit: getting tough on China, Iran, on Venezuela, with voters in Florida in mind,

the spectacle of meeting Kim Jong-un," said Ben Rhodes, Barack Obama's speechwriter and foreign policy adviser. "But whatever short-term benefit there was has been more than eclipsed by the long-term mess he has created."

Trump appears to be aware of his foreign policy deficit as he barrels towards full campaign mode, and is seeking to address it.

In the short term, that has amounted to redefining success.

In relation to North Korea, that means playing down the original claim that diplomacy with Kim would lead to nuclear disarmament. The emphasis instead has been on Pyongyang's moratorium on nuclear and missile tests.

When North Korea stepped up short range missile launches, the red line was shifted to a block on intercontinental missiles.

The "maximum pressure" strategy against Iran was intended to change the Tehran government's behavior in the region, ending uranium enrichment, making it pull back from involvement, directly or through proxies, in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and persuade it open new negotiations with the U.S., outside the multilateral 2015 deal, that Trump abandoned.

By those measures, so far the strategy is backfiring. Iran is stepping up its nuclear program beyond the limits of the 2015 deal. It has become more assertive in the Persian Gulf and it has rejected several overtures from intermediaries offering talks with Trump.

However, the Trump administration argues it is making gains by cutting down Tehran's disposable cash.

It is unclear whether tactic of lowering the success threshold will carry Trump through to the election in November next year, as North Korea fires off ever more provocative missiles tests, and Iran breaks free of its nuclear constraints.

Trump's other option would be retake the initiative with bold action. That could take military form, though that would be the last resort. A new conflict on the Korean peninsula or the Persian Gulf would be disastrous, electorally and otherwise. The president was "cocked and loaded" to strike Iran in June but called off the operation at the last moment, when he was warned it could cost him his second term.

His instinct is to make an eye-catching deal. He has signaled his interest in another summit with Kim – jubilantly announcing the arrival of another "very beautiful" letter from the North Korean leader – where he could offer a partial easing of sanctions for the destruction of some of North Korea's nuclear weapons infrastructure.

Rouhani also said that the goal of some extra-regional countries' activities in the Persian Gulf is to imply insecurity in the region, stressing that these activities make problems more complicated and perilous.

Stressing that the security and stability of the Persian Gulf can only be realized through cooperation and synergy of its littoral states in the form of joint security measures, he said, "The experience of this reality has proven to everybody that foreign intervention has only made the problems more complicated and increased tensions".

The Islamic Republic is willing to continue negotiating with friendly countries for more peace, stability and development in the region, said Rouhani, adding, "Tehran believes that the ease of regional tensions is beneficial for everyone and we hope that the Americans will realize that

the path they have chosen is incorrect, and will not have any winner. They have to change their behavior".

During the phone call, Al Thani, for his part, also congratulated Eid al-Adha to the Iranian nation and government, stressing that Qatar welcomes development of relations with Iran in all fields of mutual interest.

He also said that de-escalation of regional tensions would be beneficial to the region and the world. Referring to Iran's key role in the region, he said, "Doha will spare no effort for ease of these tensions".

"The security of the region must only be ensured by its littoral states, and the stances of the Qatari government is this regard is completely clear; we want to deepen our cooperation with Iran for better bilateral relations and regional security," he stated.

## Security in Strait of Hormuz is Iran's redline: Jahangiri

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – First Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri on Monday insisted on the need for security in Iran's northern and southern waters, saying keeping security in the Strait of Hormuz is extremely significant and it is a "red line" for Iran.

Jahangiri made the remarks during a speech at the first Caspian Economic Forum in Awaza, Turkmenistan.

The statement by the vice president comes as the U.S. is seeking to form a maritime military alliance to purportedly guard shipping the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.



"We consider presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf the reason behind instability and tension. We believe that only the regional countries should maintain security in the region. We consider interference and presence of extra-regional countries under the name of any coalition a serious threat against the regional peace, stability and security," the vice president stated.

He also criticized the U.S. unilateralism and use of sanctions as tools to achieve its objectives which has endangered the regional security.

Elsewhere, he said that interaction with neighbors is priority of Iran's foreign policy.

For example, he said, Iran is determined to expand economic and political interaction with the Caspian Sea littoral states.

In a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of the forum, Jahangiri said that the U.S. seeks to undermine security in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

"The U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman harm the regional security and stability and we expect member states to the UN Security Council such as Russia to warn the U.S. against such acts," he said.

For his part, Medvedev called for expansion of relations.

## Iran: No noteworthy proposal from France

**1 →** reactions to the inaction of the Europeans, a number of European countries launched a series of efforts and have been seeking to overcome the problems."

"The president of France, a member of the (Group) 4+1, has begun measures in order to reduce tensions, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it welcomes such efforts and would not reject them," the spokesman added.



Pointing to the reciprocal visits by the representatives of the Iranian and French presidents as well as several telephone conversations between Rouhani and Macron, Mousavi added, "It is natural that different proposals would be made in this course. None of them are definite and they are speculations that some may perceive as an exchange of messages. ... they are only media speculations that should be ignored."

The Iranian spokesperson underlined that Tehran has not so far received any definite proposal that could be publicized.

Rouhani and Macron have held several telephone conversations in the past few weeks.

France was the first country to contact the Islamic Republic following Tehran's May 8 decision to reduce some of its JCPOA commitments in reaction to the U.S. withdrawal from the deal and Europe's failure to live up to its commitments under the deal.

There were talks of a plan shared with Iran by Macron, known as "freeze for freeze", based on which Iran would stop its nuclear decision and the U.S. would lift its nuclear-related sanctions against Iran. However, Iranian officials did not explicitly confirm receiving such an offer.

## Rouhani congratulates Muslim heads of state on Eid al-Adha

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani has extended congratulations to the heads of Muslim countries on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (the Feast of Sacrifice), which marks the culmination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

In separate messages on Sunday, Rouhani extended his felicitations to the Muslim leaders and nations, noting that enhanced unity among Muslims could help overcome unilateralism practiced by hegemonic powers that are incriminated in global acts of terror, Rouhani's official website reported.

He added that this unity can also pave the way for further promotion of peace and security in the region and the world as well as consolidation of justice and brotherhood among Muslim nations.

Muslims traditionally celebrate Eid al-Adha, one of the most important religious feasts, with the sacrifice of animals such as sheep, rams, goats and cattle.

The act commemorates Prophet Abraham's (peace be upon him) submission to divine order to sacrifice his son, Ismail. However, God provided Prophet Abraham with a ram to sacrifice instead after he successfully passed the divine test.

Millions of Muslims around the world attend the day's prayers. In Iran, people from different walks of life will go to mosques to participate in the day's special prayers. A mass prayer will be also held in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

## Tehran-Doha ties brotherly, growing: Rouhani

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has described Tehran-Doha relations as friendly, brotherly and developing, emphasizing that relations between the two countries should deepen politically, economically and culturally.

Speaking on Sunday afternoon with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani over the telephone, Rouhani, who congratulated Eid al-Adha to the Qatari nation and government, said, "The maintenance and strengthening of regional security, especially in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, is very important for Iran".

"Iran has put all its effort in this regard and believes that maintaining security in this region guarantees the development of the region, as well as the interests of its peoples," the president's official website quoted him as saying.

## Rouhani and Imran Khan hold talks over Kashmir

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday made a phone conversation with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss the ongoing situation in Kashmir.

Imran Khan made the phone call as part of his outreach to the world leaders to apprise them about the situation in Kashmir, his office said in a statement.

During the conversation, the Pakistani prime minister highlighted the serious risk of massive killings in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed that the international community must act urgently to prevent the impending

calamity, according to the statement.

On Monday, India revoked Article 370 to withdraw the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the region into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Imran Khan had already called prime ministers of the UK and Malaysia, as well as the Turkish president, Saudi crown prince and king of Bahrain to apprise them about the Kashmir situation.

Imran Khan highlighted the serious risk of massive killings and stressed that the international community must act urgently to prevent

the impending calamity, the statement said.

Imran Khan apprised the Iranian president of Pakistan's repeated calls and efforts, urging India to resolve the dispute through peaceful means, in accordance with the longstanding UN Security Council resolutions, it said.

Rouhani, for his part, while underlining that all possible efforts must be made to keep the regional tensions low, stressed that the Muslims of Kashmir must be able to use their legal rights and interests to be able to live in peace.

Rouhani also expressed his concerns over the killing of people in Jammu and Kashmir. Both leaders agreed that no military solution



existed to resolve the long-standing dispute.

Imran Khan stressed that India should be counselled to immediately resolve the issue under the UN resolutions, the statement said.

dangerous situation and are definitely doomed to defeat.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the cleric felicitated the Muslims of the world on the auspicious festival of Eid al-Adha on the Islamic calendar that marks the climax of the annual hajj pilgrimage in Mecca and Medina.

He called on the Muslim Ummah to continue their path of resistance against the tyrants to overcome the enemy in each and every scenario.

**TEHRAN (MNA)** – A senior Iranian cleric on Monday hailed the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' defensive might, saying the force has managed to destroy the United States' fictitious and artificial grandeur in the world.

"The Guards not only destroyed the U.S.' stealth drone but it also tarnished Washington's fictitious grandeur in the world," Seyed Mohammad Hasan Aboutorabifard said at Eid al-Adha prayers in Tehran.

He was referring to the downing of an advanced U.S. spy drone by the IRGC on June 20 after the aircraft violated the Iranian airspace and ignored several warnings.

The United States denied that the drone encroached Iran's airspace at the time.

Referring to Washington's other regional and trans-regional allies, Aboutorabifard said the Zionist regime, Al Saud and Al Khalifa in Bahrain are also on the brink of a



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	255876.2
IFX	3438.47

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,347 rials
GBP	50,547 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$58.21/b
WTI	\$53.93/b
OPEC Basket	\$57.82/b
Gold	\$1,519.20/oz
Silver	\$16.97/oz
Platinum	\$863.50/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Iran ready to expand economic co-op with Caspian Sea littoral states

**1 →** Ali who is also the board chairman of Iran’s Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO), voiced Iran’s readiness for further enhancement of trade relations with the Caspian coastal countries in various fields such as industry, agriculture, technology, energy, tourism and other areas of interest.

He further emphasized the need for strengthening the cooperation between Iran’s special economic zones and free trade zones with the countries in the region and called for implementation of joint investment programs and projects.



A variety of issues and subjects were covered in the forum, including project implementation and joint plans, exchange of experiences on the development of special economic zones, legislation and standards, digital economy, cooperation between coastal regions and joint ventures.

An exhibition of business and trade capabilities of the Caspian Sea littoral states was also held on the sidelines of this forum in which the exhibitors showcased their latest achievements and products.

There’s a new systemic threat to the world economy

By Pedro Nicolaci da Costa

This time, it’s not Donald Trump. Wall Street’s obsession with the White House’s raging trade wars has been briefly interrupted by a new apparent, if still comfortingly faint, systemic risk to the global economy: The prospect of an ultra-nationalist right-wing government in Italy that might just make a push to abandon the euro zone.

The fear has arisen after the country’s prime minister, anti-immigrant xenophobe Matteo Salvini (sometimes referred to as Italy’s own Trump) called for snap elections in the parliamentary democracy, as early as October.

Roberto Perli, a former Fed economist from Italy who founded his own research firm Cornerstone Macro, couldn’t help but speak about it in somewhat personal terms in a research note co-authored with his colleagues Melissa Turner and Andrea Vera.

The “country I was born and raised is back in the news, and not in a good way,” he opens by saying. “It is now very likely that new elections will happen around late October or early November, and in any case well before the end of the year.”

Perli is re-evaluating the potential risks to the euro zone’s integrity from Salvini’s government because of his rising popularity.

“In the past I have said that (Salvini’s) Northern League was not an existential threat for Europe because there was no appetite for leaving the euro among its traditional supporters (mostly small business entrepreneurs, who care about taxes, availability of credit, and a general pro-business environment),” he wrote.

■ The pro-euro base

“But as the Northern League’s potential electorate has expanded a lot and came to include other constituencies, the weight and power of the traditional, pro-euro base has been diluted. There is a serious possibility that, if it gains sole control of the Italian government, the Northern League may prove more disruptive than previously thought.” Italy is the euro zone’s third largest economy, so political developments there have large implications for the trading bloc and its common currency. Put another way: The “odds that the Northern League will run (and eventually govern if it wins) on an anti-Europe platform are growing. This adds another source of uncertainty and worries to global markets (in addition to weak global growth, trade tensions, lack of clarity about Brexit, geopolitical tensions, and others).”

The ideological links between Salvini and Trump are as frightening as they are uncanny, a reminder that the political swerve toward the radical nativist right is, ironically, a global phenomenon.

Just as Trump’s mistreatment of migrants at the border is leading to chaos, trauma and death, Salvini has been adamant about denying life-saving aid to desperate migrants stranded in dinghies off the coast of Italy.

(Source: forbes.com)

Over 58m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iran’s ports since March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Over 58 million tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded at ports of Iran since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21), IRNA reported citing the data released by Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO).

As reported, the figure shows a 4.2-percent rise from 55.7 million tons of goods loaded and unloaded in the same period of time in the past year.

While Iran is combatting the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country’s ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this combat. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

On May 21, the deputy director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said following a directive by President Hassan Rouhani, IRICA is providing new facilities for importers of basic goods which makes



them able to clear their commodities in less than an hour.

“For basic goods such as meat, system

formalities and clearance procedures will be carried out in less than an hour and importers can transport their goods soon

Uzbekistan welcomes Iranian investment in its economy

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Uzbekistan’s Prime Minister Abdulla Nigmatovich Aripov said his country welcomes Iranian investors and private sector’s contribution to its economy, Tasnim news agency reported on Monday.

Making the remarks in a meeting with Iran’s First Vice President Es’haq Jahangiri and Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami, the Uzbek prime minister also said that the level of trade between the two countries has increased in recent months compared to the same period

last year, however it is still not at the level it should be.

He pointed to transportation as an important area for the development of Tehran-Tashkent economic cooperation, noting that the two countries’ economies should complement each other.

“Hopefully after holding Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Committee meeting in the near future, we would see the two countries’ economic relations develop significantly,” he added.

Jahangiri, for his part voiced Iran’s readiness for signing a

comprehensive memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Uzbekistan for transport cooperation between the two nations.

He underlined the great economic capacities of Iran and Uzbekistan, saying that the two countries should take necessary measures to remove barriers to the trade development between the two countries so that the two sides could reach a comprehensive agreement on trade cooperation as soon as possible. “The two countries’ economies can complement each other and Iran is ready to expand its relations with Uzbekistan in all areas,” the official added.

IRENEX to hold 7th round of heavy crude oil offering

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

The base price for this round of offering, which is the seventh round, is \$57.98 per barrel.

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

Since the U.S.’s withdrew from Iran’s nuclear pact in May 2018, vowing to drive Iran’s oil exports down to zero, the Islamic Republic has been taking various measures to counter the U.S. actions and to keep its oil exports levels as high as possible.

One of the main strategies that Iran chose to execute to help its oil exports afloat has been trying new ways to diversify the mechanism of oil sales, one of which is offering oil at the country’s stock market.

NIOC offered light crude oil at IRENEX first on October 28, 2018 just few days before new U.S. sanctions on Iran’s petroleum sector took effect (November 4). In the first round, NIOC could sell some 280,000 barrels of crude



oil at \$74.85 per barrel. With the daily supply amount of one million barrels, the market wrapped up by selling eight 35,000-barrel cargos of oil on the day.

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

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

in eight round.

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

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

“Offering oil and gas condensate in the international ring of IRENEX has become

a legal obligation, and it will definitely be a lasting move,” Amir Hossein Tebyanian said in a press conference hosted by Mehr news agency at the place of the agency in early July.

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

“We will continue offering oil at the IRENEX in order to institutionalize the necessary procedures which are a prerequisite for improving IRENEX to the level of world class stock exchanges,” he said.

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

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

China is saving stimulus for trade war winter as yuan weakens



to more aggressive monetary support, even in the face of rising domestic debt risks and asset price bubbles. Efforts to prop up growth have already propelled the stock of corporate, household and government debt to more than 300 percent of gross domestic product, according to an Institute of International Finance report last month. Nevertheless, having allowed the yuan to weaken past seven per U.S. dollar, the PBOC has freed itself from an artificial constraint that it has been bound by for years, allowing borrowing costs to be reduced further without - in theory - the need to prop up the currency.

Bloomberg economists Qian Wan and David Qu said: “In our view, the PBOC will cut benchmark interest rates in the coming months. The near-term risk is obvious, including increased market volatility and pressure for capital flight. Our view, though, is that the PBOC has the capacity to prevent currency depreciation from getting out of hand.”

■ Any hint of changes

So far, policymakers haven’t given any hint of changes to the one-year lending rate which would affect the price of borrowing across the whole economy, or reducing the price of loans to banks in the wake of the U.S. Federal Reserve’s latest cut. Instead, offi-

cials from PBOC have signalled that an impending reform of the interest rate system could do the work of a rate cut, by transmitting policy more effectively.

In the meantime, China’s leadership appears to want to manage the economy’s long-term slowdown rather than arrest it, and smooth shorter-term weakness in consumption and output with about 2 trillion yuan (\$\$392 billion) in tax cuts, as well as localized investment incentives. Auto sales - about one quarter of reported offline retail consumption - resumed contraction in July, data released last week show. Infrastructure investment will likely pick up marginally, and credit growth is under pressure as property financing tightens and local governments finish bond sales.

An “objective and rational view” should be taken on those headwinds, the PBOC said in the report released Friday evening. The central bank should “stay confident, be focused, mind our own business”, and use a combination of tools to form new growth drivers, it said.

“Stability is still the focus with quality growth, and the employment market more important than GDP,” said Jeff Ng, chief Asia economist at Continuum Economics in Singapore. “China will allow a slowdown and is prepared to do so.”



# Iran's daily gas output hits 810mcm

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Dispatching Director Mehdi Jamshidi Dana, said the country's daily gas production has reached 810 million cubic meters (mcm), Shana reported on Sunday.

According to Jamshidi, currently with over 39,000 kilometers of high pressure gas pipelines, 82 gas pressure boosting stations, 296 turbo-compressors and other gas facilities, Iranian gas network is Asia's biggest and the world's fourth largest network in terms of facilities.

The official noted that gas supply chain is comprised of three main sections of production, transmission and distribution, adding that uninterrupted supply of gas requires operational coordination between these three sections and that is the main responsibility of NIGC's dispatching center.

In January, the NIGC's managing director had announced that daily production of gas in the country reached 800 mcm.



Hassan Montazer Torbati also said that of the total produced gas, some 25 percent goes to household consumption, 37 percent is supplied to the power plants, 30 percent is used in the industry sector, four percent used as CNG and four percent is for other consumptions.

The official noted that household subscribers used about 90 percent of the gas produced in the country some years ago, but in the recent years, especially since the Iranian calendar year 1380 (March 2001-March 2002) while most areas of Iran have been supplied with the natural gas, the country has turned some part of its approach in gas sector toward exports and also supplying feedstock to the petrochemical units.

According to the official 93.6 percent of Iran's population enjoy natural gas. Gas is supplied to 97 percent of people in the urban areas and 82 percent of people in the rural regions.

## NIOC awards development of SP phase 14 to an Iranian company

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has awarded the development project of the phase 14 of South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf) to the Iranian company Petropars Operation and Management Company (POMC), IRNA reported.

According to POMC Managing Director Hamid-Reza Masoudi, the project includes monitoring pre-launching operations, executing the launching operations, start-up, exploitation, performance guarantee tests and first production.

The contract comes amid U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil and gas industry which has affected the government's ability to engage with major international companies to develop its energy sector.

The POMC has carried out similar projects in phase 12 and phase 19 of South Pars. Its assignment to work in phase 14 comes less than a month after the third platform of this phase was installed on its designated offshore spot.

The 2,450-ton structure is set to add 14.2 million cubic

meters of gas per day to the total output of the giant gas field.

The first platform of phase 14 started operation in summer 2018 and the second platform namely 14C was shipped in September 2018 and the installation operation of this platform were completed in October 2018.

Construction of platform 14D, the last platform of phase 14, has a 92-percent progress for the moment and it is scheduled to be installed on its designated offshore spot by the end of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (October 22).

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

In early June, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, in separate decrees, outlined the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2019-March 19, 2020) priorities of the ministry's four major subsidiaries.



In the decree addressed to Masoud Karbasian, the head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), completion and inauguration of the phases 13, 14, 22 and 24 of South Pars gas field was one of the main priorities for NIOC.

## 'Flare gas waste to be zeroed in major Iranian oil fields by 2022'

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — Head of National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) said that the country's southern oil fields will stop wasting flare gas, which is burned during drilling operations, within three years, Press TV reported on Sunday.

According to Ahmad Mohammadi, the controversial practice of burning off gases through stacks at oil fields, will stop by 2022 in at least four locations south of Iran based on deals signed with two major Iranian companies.

Mohammadi said the companies, namely the Maroun Mechanic and Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, have committed as part of deals signed last year to pipe the gases to nearby plants and refineries.

He said old flare stacks near Ahvaz, a major provincial capital southwest of Iran, as well as in Aghajari, Gachsaran and Maroun, will be dismantled at the end of the projects.



Iran has massive plans to use flared gas in oil and gas facilities, says an energy official.

The official said the projects would seriously improve energy efficiency at petrochemical facilities south of Iran while they would also help increase production and storage of oil

in the area.

He said talks were underway to carry out similar flaring projects at Masjed Soleyman, where some of the oldest Iranian oil facilities are located.

Earlier this month, Hamid Chitchian, a

former minister who currently advises the government on energy issues, said that Iran was planning to economically and technically benefit from a huge stock of flared gas that is currently wasted through the stacks in refineries.

According to Chitchian there is about 16 billion cubic meters (over 52 billion cubic feet) of flare gas that could be used for various economic purposes, including power generation.

"The use of flare gas is one of the challenges of the oil sector," said Chitchian, adding, "Thus we are planning to attract investment from the private sector and offer loans in the two ministries for this purpose."

The implementation of flaring projects in Iran comes as the country faces an unprecedented wave of sanctions on its oil and gas industry, limiting its ability to engage with foreign companies who have experience in the field.

## RCUWM governing board to gather in Tehran in early Dec.

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — The 10th meeting of the UNESCO Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM)'s governing board is slated to be held in Tehran on December 5, IRNA reported, quoting a water official as saying.

According to Ali Chavoshian, a director of RCUWM, water and energy ministers and deputies from 17 different countries are going to attend this event which is going to be chaired by Iran.

The RCUWM's ninth meeting was held in August 2013 in Tajikistan capital Dushanbe. The meeting was attended by senior officials from different countries in the region including Iran, Afghanistan, Oman Sultanate, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, India and Iraq as well as representatives of international governmental and non-governmental entities including International UNESCO-IHP and INWARDAM.

RCUWM has been established under the auspices of UNESCO since 2002 in Tehran-Iran. The agreement between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding RCUWM has been recently renewed, signed and exchanged for its third period of activities as for 2018-2023.

RCUWM is guided and overseen by its Governing Board (GB) as the most important decision making constituent at the highest level according to the agreement. The Centre's GB member states were Ministers from Iran (Chair), Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Syria, Tajikistan and Yemen as well as UNESCO Director General during the period of 2002-2017.

## Offshore renewables bring LOC to UK North East

LOC Longitude, part of LOC Group, has opened an office in Newcastle to better serve the offshore renewables market in the UK North East.

According to offshorewind.biz, the "opening of our Newcastle office demonstrates Longitude's success in expanding its presence in the UK's burgeoning Offshore Renewables sector. The office has a strong team in place and is well positioned geographically execute projects and develop close partnerships with universities and other organizations in the industry," said R V Ahilan, CEO of LOC Group.

The LOC says the office will host geotechnical, geological, naval



architecture and marine systems consulting engineers to serve its client base in the region. The company believes that North East England is a key strategic location for the offshore renewables sector as it offers extensive port facilities, skilled local workforce and support for future offshore wind farm developments.

"We have seen considerable demand for our offering in the northeast of England and believe this office location means we are well placed to continue developing our existing client base and serve new clients as the region continues to develop as an infrastructure 'hub' for the Offshore Renewables market," said David Bignold, Managing Director of Longitude.

## Oil edges down on lower demand outlook, U.S.-China trade dispute



Oil prices edged lower on Monday amid worries about an economic slowdown and the Sino-U.S. trade war, which have led to a cut in the growth outlook for global oil demand.

As stated by reuters.com, International benchmark Brent crude futures were at \$58.40 a barrel by 0638 GMT, down 13 cents, or 0.2%, from their previous settlement.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were at \$54.33 per barrel, down 17 cents, or 0.3%, from their last close.

Both benchmarks fell last week, with Brent losing more than 5% and WTI falling about 2%.

"Oil prices are falling at the start of the trading week due to lower demand forecasts published last week and pessimism about a U.S.-China trade deal," said Alfonso Esparza, senior market analyst at OANDA in Toronto.

The U.S.-China trade dispute rocked global equity markets last week, while a surprise build in U.S. crude stocks added downward pressure to oil prices, which have lost around 20% from their 2019 peaks reached in April.

Goldman Sachs said in a note on Sunday that fears

of the U.S.-China trade war leading to a recession were increasing and it expected a trade deal between the two countries to happen before the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Mounting signs of an economic slowdown and a ratcheting up of the trade row have caused global oil demand to grow at its slowest pace since the financial crisis of 2008, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday.

The Paris-based agency cut its 2019 and 2020 global oil demand growth forecast to 1.1 million and 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd), respectively.

Elsewhere, Russia's oil production rose to 11.32 million bpd on Aug. 1 to 8, up from 11.15 million bpd on average in July, according to two industry sources familiar with the energy ministry data.

In July, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies including Russia agreed to extend their supply cuts until March 2020 to prop up oil prices.

In a sign of lower production in the United States, the weekly U.S. oil rig count, an early indicator of future output, fell for a sixth week in a row as producers cut spending on new drilling and completions.

ipi ironsand mine. It's very sandy, and some of the turbines will need piles. A concrete batching plant will be set up onsite.

Construction will take 18 to 20 months, and employ 150 people. Tilt has preferred contractors and work is under way to find others. People can register their interest in the work at [www.waverleywind-farm.com](http://www.waverleywind-farm.com).

The construction will include an 11km transmission line carrying 110kV on 14m and 22m poles, skirting around the edge of Waverley town to the Waverley Substation.

The turbines will generate 500

GWh of electricity a year, enough to power 70,000 houses. Having the renewable energy means 270,000 tons of carbon dioxide will not be emitted by burning coal or gas.

Once built the wind farm will need three full-time staff to run it. It will be owned and operated by Waverley Wind Farm Ltd, a fully owned subsidiary of Australian electricity generation company Tilt Renewables.

Tilt has set up a community consultative group to liaise between the company and community.

It will establish a community fund after construction is finished, Delmarter said.

## Wind power in NZ: Preparations under way for Waverley Wind Farm

The \$300 million construction of a wind farm on coastal land near Waverley could begin as soon as October.

As per ewind.es, "We have been working busily away, satisfying all of our resource consent obligations," Tilt Renewables general manager renewable development Clayton Delmarter said.

The wind farm got resource consent in July 2017, and in May this year Genesis Energy agreed to buy all the electricity it produces for 20 years.

It covers 980 ha on four properties between Waverley and Ptea.

Its design is being finalized and

priced, and the Tilt Renewables board could agree to the investment within the next few months. After that contracts are signed and construction begins.

Also in preparation the company is working on environmental management plans, cultural heritage surveys and bird management plans. It has agreements with the Conservation Department to ensure the potential impact of the wind farm is more than mitigated by offsets.

It has forged a relationship with Waverley iwi Ng? Rauru, which Delmarter said would be long term.

Most of the site is the former Waip-

First Announcement



**Iranian Offshore Oil Company (P.J.S)**  
INVITATION TO PUBLIC TENDER (Pre-Qualification)  
**CHARTERING OF ONE ASD VESSEL**  
**TENDER No. 98/059/OT**  
**1398.2837**

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

**Scope of work:**  
CHARTERING OF ONE ASD VESSEL  
**Location:**  
IOOC Oil Fields in Persian Gulf  
**Performance Period:**  
2 Years

**Other item shall be considered:**

- 1: Ability of submission Bid Bond as in the amount of **Iranian Rial 11,472,162,000 for Iranian bidders and EURO 88,116.00 for foreign bidders.**
- 2: Ability of submission 10% of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to Company's procedure.
- 3: Proposals should be submitted with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of Package specification in deadline.
- 4: Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or part(s) thereof according to Tender Law.

- 5: The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be 3 months from the Financial Bids opening Date and extendable for one further period.

- 6: for invitation to above tender, it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the Pre-qualification.  
Bidders who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within One Week from Second Announcement by representative and collect the Pre-Qualification Forms.

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

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

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

**Iranian Offshore Oil Company Public Relations**



## American sanctions and global economic crisis

**1 →** Since World War II almost all international financial bailout or stabilization loans by the IMF and World Bank have involved the U.S. Government, in conjunction with consortia of U.S. banks. For the first time, now that China and the BRICS ( Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) are growing so countries are borrowing not only from the United States subject to U.S. lobbying forces, but can now borrow from China, Russia and other BRICS countries as well.



The United States has responded by changing the IMF rules and mentioned that It's okay for the IMF to make loans to countries that don't pay China and Russia or the BRICS, because Americans are in a new Cold War and The IMF really is working for them. As long as the U.S. has veto power in the IMF, its delegate can veto any loan to a country that owes money to the United States that the United States doesn't wish to support. But it has no objection for the IMF making loans to U.S. satellites such as Ukraine, that officially debts to Russia. Ukraine owes nearly \$3 billion USD to Russia on a loan that is coming due from the Russian state investment fund. The United States is doing everything it can to hurt Russia economically, thinking that if it hurts it enough, Russia will capitulate to the U.S. strategy. The New Cold War strategy is basically an attempt to force other countries to privatize their economies to follow neoliberal policy. The aim is to open their economies to U.S. corporations and U.S. banks.

During Trump administration, the end of America's unchallenged global economic dominance has arrived sooner than expected, thanks to the very same Neocons who gave the world the Iraq, Syria and the dirty wars in Latin America.

Just as the Vietnam War drove the United States off gold by 1971, its sponsorship and funding of violent regime change wars against Venezuela and Syria – and threatening other countries with sanctions if they do not join this crusade – is now driving European and other nations to create their alternative financial institutions.

This break has been building for quite some time, and was bound to occur.

But who would have thought that Donald Trump would become the catalytic agent? No left-wing party, no socialist, anarchist or foreign nationalist leader anywhere in the world could have achieved what he is doing to break up the American Empire.

The Deep State is reacting with shock at how this right-wing real estate grifter has been able to drive other countries to defend themselves by dismantling the U.S.-centered world order.

To rub it in, he is using Bush and Reagan-era Neocon arsonists, John Bolton and Elliott Abrams together with Mike Pompeo and Brian Hook, to fan the flames in Venezuela, Middle East and start Fire with China and Russia.

It is almost like a black political comedy.

The world of international diplomacy is being turned inside-out.

A world where there is no longer even a pretense that we might adhere to international norms, let alone laws or treaties.

The Neocons who Trump has appointed are accomplishing what seemed unthinkable not long ago: Driving China and Russia together – the great nightmare of Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

They also are driving Germany and other European countries into the Eurasian orbit, the "Heartland" nightmare of Halford Mackinder a century ago.

The root cause is clear: After the crescendo of pretenses and deceptions over Iraq, Libya and Syria, along with absolutism of the lawless regime of Saudi Arabia, foreign political leaders are coming to recognize what world-wide public opinion polls reported:

The United States is now the greatest threat to peace on the planet.

Calling the U.S. coup being sponsored in Venezuela a defense of democracy reveals the Doublethink underlying U.S. foreign policy.

It defines "democracy" to mean supporting U.S. foreign policy, pursuing neoliberal privatization of public infrastructure, dismantling government regulation and following the direction of U.S.-dominated global institutions, from the IMF and World Bank to NATO.

For decades, the resulting foreign wars, domestic austerity programs and military interventions have brought more violence, not democracy.

## Vice President Obama's panic over the rise of Elizabeth Warren

# Who is Biden's main rival?

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** – The rise of US Senator Elizabeth Warren in internal Democratic polls has worried Joe Biden. Biden is well aware that if Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are united, he can hardly beat them. On the other hand, many American political analysts believe that if Biden fails in the crucial state of Iowa, he will virtually lose his chance to win easily in other US states.

That is why the Iowa state election is of particular importance to Biden. The former Vice President of the United States is well aware that victory in Iowa is the key to his victory in other US states. However, there is still a lot of time left until these crucial and crucial elections. Another thing to consider is the competition between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Trump has repeatedly stated in private circles that Joe Biden is his toughest rival in the 2020 presidential election.

However, there is no guarantee of Biden's victory in the Democratic primary and his presence in the final round of next year's presidential race.

Trump hopes Biden will defeat Elizabeth Warren or Kamala Harris in the Democratic primary. However, according to information available, Trump is currently counting on Biden as the Democratic Party's final candidate for the 2020 presidential race. Here's a look at the latest news and analysis on the US presidential election:

Joe Biden needs to watch out for Elizabeth Warren as she picks up

As The Hill reported, Just more than a week after the second round of Democratic primary debates, new national polls show the race tightening. Although Former Vice President Joe Biden has maintained his frontrunner status, Senator Elizabeth Warren has gained significant ground following her decisive victories in both the first and second Democratic primary debates.

Indeed, a Quinnipiac poll now has Warren surging to second place in the race, garnering 21 percent of the vote, up more than 6 points since before the second debate. While the same poll still has Biden leading the pack with 32 percent of the vote, it is significant that Warren has cut into the share of support for Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Kamala Harris, who trail Warren by 7 points and 14 points.

While Biden still leads in Iowa, Warren has made notable gains out in this early caucus state as well. A Monmouth poll has Biden leading with 28 percent of the vote, though Warren is not far with 19 percent, ahead of both Sanders and Harris.

What are the implications of these trends? Ultimately, it is clear that, given the faltering appearances of Biden in the last two debates, he is at the very least frozen in the bottom thirties in terms of vote share.

While he does remain the frontrunner, his lead has narrowed, and the excitement around his campaign has plateaued. The current momentum in the race is with Warren, which comes largely, but not totally, at the expense of her fellow top tier progressive.

After watching Warren and Sanders share the stage during the second round of debates, it became clear that Warren is slowly displacing Sanders as the face of the progressive movement.

Anecdotal, we also know that Warren is building a very robust ground operation in caucus states like Iowa and Nevada, which will undeniably give her an advantage as the race narrows. Prior history also tells us that candidates on the left tend to overperform in their polling numbers. Given that the energy is with the left wing of the party, we can say with near certainty that this will be the case with Warren. While there have been discussions within the party on her potential problem with "electability," none of that suggests that there will be a widespread movement to not support Warren, notwithstanding the prior poll evidence which shows that Democratic voters would like to nominate the most electable candidate.

As we enter the thick of the primary season, Biden should understand that his campaign is slowly flagging and, perhaps at best, has leveled off since he announced his run, or has likely trended down.

Although he remains the Democratic frontrunner, his path to the party nomination is far from certain. In terms of his tough progressive competitors, Warren is clearly the favorite, Sanders is slowly waning from the head of the progressive pack, and Harris has slipped from her bump following the first debate.

These recent trends also point to Warren being a possible favorite in Iowa, and likely in Massachusetts, which she represents in the Senate, giving her a significant early voting advantage. With that, South Carolina will be critical for Biden to capture because, if he wins very



**Biden is well aware that if Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are united, he can hardly beat them. On the other hand, many American political analysts believe that if Biden fails in the crucial state of Iowa, he will virtually lose his chance to win easily in other U.S. states.**

narrow victories in Iowa or New Hampshire, or even loses to Warren in these states, he will need to show strength in an early voting state prior to Super Tuesday.

Given the large African American presence in South Carolina, Biden will necessarily have to win there if he is to remain the clear frontrunner.

Put simply, while the Democratic presidential primary race is certainly far from over, the most recent trends suggest that we can expect Biden and Warren to go head to head in the final battle for the party nomination.

What to make of Joe Biden's Iowa front-runner status

As CNN reported, A new Monmouth University poll of likely Democratic Iowa caucus-goers finds that former Vice President Joe Biden leads the field with 28%, while Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts at 19%, Sen.

Kamala Harris of California at 11%, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont at 9% and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg at 8% round out the top five.

This poll is the latest to find that Biden is ahead in Iowa, though with less than 30% of the vote. What's the point: Biden's candidacy is perplexing to analysts because he's clearly a front-runner (i.e. he leads in every poll), but he's not running away with the primary. This is true nationally (where he's hovered around 30%) and is especially the case in Iowa, where he's polling lower.

Based solely on the polling, history suggests that Biden has a considerably better chance of winning the caucuses than any other candidate. Still, his chance of winning is less than 50%.

I updated an analysis from a few months ago where I looked at where all candidates were polling at this point in open Iowa caucuses (i.e. ones without incumbents running) since 1980.

From that data, I produced the chance that someone polling at a certain level would win the caucuses. A candidate polling in Biden's position would win 30% to 40% of the time, depending on whether he was polling closer to the 24% he drew in a CBS News/YouGov poll produced in July or the 28% he had in the Monmouth poll.

On one hand, this does not seem high, given that this means someone other than Biden would be projected to win 60% to 70% of the time.

On the other hand, Biden is doing significantly better than a number of past national front-runners who fell flat on their faces in Iowa and nationally.

Jeb Bush in 2016, Rudy Giuliani in 2008 and Joe Lieberman in 2004 were all losing at this point in Iowa and polling at or less than 15%.

Biden has led in every CNN-approved Iowa poll this cycle.

If Biden's polling position held through the eve of the caucuses, his chances of winning would skyrocket.

At this point, however, he would need to start polling in the mid-30s to become a better than 50% proposition to win in Iowa.

If his polling falls, Biden's chance of winning drops precipitously.

Incidentally, once a candidate is in the low 20s at this point, his or her chance of winning correlates nearly perfectly with where the candidate is polling.

The chance of winning dips to 20%

when a candidate is at 20% in the polls; 15% chance at 15% in the polls; 10% at 10%; 5% at 5%; and 3% when they're at 1% in the polls.

Using the Monmouth poll and applying these probabilities to the other candidates, you end up with Warren at about a 20% chance to win Iowa; Harris, Sanders and Buttigieg with about a 10% chance each; and the other 15% chance scattered among the rest of the candidates.

Another way to look at this is that Biden and Warren combined have a little more than a 50% chance of taking the caucuses. Those who are suggesting that the Democratic primary may come down to Biden and Warren seem to have a point; at least when it comes to Iowa.

Ranking the 2020 Democrats after the CNN debate

When you combine the top five candidates, there's an 85% chance you're looking at the eventual Iowa winner (at least according to how past races have developed).

Indeed, there has been only one caucus winner out of the 14 in our dataset to be polling at less than 5% at this point (George H.W. Bush in 1980).

That's where the vast majority of Democratic candidates are right now. I will say the chance of a winner emerging from this under 5% group is probably a little greater than usual given how many candidates there are at that level.

Putting aside the model, the fact that the eventual winner in Iowa is currently polling below 30% shouldn't be surprising. The average Iowa winner at this point in the past has been at about 26% in the Iowa polls. The question is how far south of 30% is that eventual Iowa winner this year?

Senior Voters, Some Wavering on Trump, Figure to Shape 2020 Election

As Wall Street Journal reported, The fastest-growing segment of the U.S. electorate is seniors. They supported President Trump in 2016 but aren't squarely in his camp as the 2020 campaign picks up.

In 2016, despite polling showing an advantage for Democrat Hillary Clinton, voters over 65 backed Mr. Trump in the presidential election by a 52%-45% margin, according to exit polls.

With still more than a year before next year's election, 41% of seniors in a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll in June said they would prefer to see Mr.

Trump re-elected, while 48% favored a generic Democrat to win in 2020. That comes as 46% of seniors said they approve of Mr. Trump's performance in office, slightly higher than his 44% overall approval rating.

Among 18-to-34 year-olds, Mr. Trump's approval rating is just 33%, the Wall Street Journal/NBC poll shows, and Democratic candidates have paid great attention to young voters this cycle, announcing support for plans like student-debt forgiveness. But the fastest-growing generation of voters isn't millennials, it is seniors.

Voters over age 65 are projected to make up nearly a quarter of the electorate in 2020, the highest such share since 1970, according to the Pew Research Center.

"Given the antipathy that younger voters have toward [Trump], he really needs support among seniors to reach at least the support he received in 2016,"

said Jeff Horwitt, a Democratic pollster with Hart Research Associates who helps conduct Wall Street Journal/NBC News polls.

Seniors are the likeliest to actually cast ballots, with two-thirds of them voting in the 2018 midterms compared with 53% of the overall voting-age population.

While the electorate in presidential years skews younger than in midterm ones, no Democratic presidential candidate has won seniors since Al Gore in 2000, and for the past five presidential-election cycles, every Republican nominee has won a larger share of seniors than his predecessor.

Now, some voters who cast ballots for Mr. Trump in 2016 are put off by the president's brash tweets and his lashing out at lawmakers who criticized him or opposed his actions.

"He's trying to trumpet himself to the public to make them feel as good about him as he does," said David Smith, a 69-year-old retired firefighter union president in Lancaster, Calif.

"What I would like to see him do is shut his mouth."

Mr. Smith said he still would consider voting for Mr. Trump.

In a July Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, Mr. Trump trailed former Vice President Joe Biden among seniors in a theoretical head-to-head contest, 55% to 43%. Voters over 65 also favored Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren over Mr. Trump by 7 and 8 percentage points, respectively.

"Right now, I'm a Biden man, but the only reason I am is because, according to all the polls, he could beat Trump," said David Freund, a 65-year-old truck driver in Fort Wayne, Ind. Mr. Freund said he has voted for both Democrats and Republicans but is put off by Mr. Trump's attitude.

Some voters expressed enthusiasm about the Democratic alternatives. Nicki Bing, an 86-year-old retired office manager for Habitat for Humanity in Nacogdoches, Texas, wasn't a fan of Mrs. Clinton but said she admires Mr. Sanders.

"He hasn't ever veered from the fact that he's for the working-class people, and that he fights for the underdog," she said. She is particularly fond of Mr. Sanders's plan to cancel all existing student debt, as two of her three children, all of whom earned bachelor's degrees, are still paying off their loans.

Democrats, too, face a potential hurdle with older voters: Many stances such as calls to decriminalize southern border crossings, or the embrace by some of the "socialist" label, alienate many seniors. In recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News polling, 42% of seniors said immigration "weakens America's values," compared with 24% of voters under 35. Older voters also have a strong aversion to "socialism," with the label receiving a 37-percentage-point net negative rating, compared with a net negative 17-point rating among voters under 35.

"Seniors are particularly resistant to some of those more leftward lurches," said Nicole McCleskey, a partner at Public Opinion Strategies, a polling firm that works frequently with Republican candidates.

The hesitation surrounding specific Democratic candidates might indicate that, though seniors say they would pick a Democrat over re-electing Mr. Trump, the president could win back support once his Democratic rival emerges.

The Democratic candidates have begun making pitches to their older constituents in recent weeks, with Mr. Biden, Minnesota Sen.

Amy Klobuchar and others releasing policy plans targeted at seniors that address high prescription-drug costs, Medicare solvency, long-term care and other issues. Three-quarters of the candidates addressed older voters at AARP-sponsored events last month in Iowa, where more than half of attendees at the state's caucuses early next year are expected to be older than 50.

Still, John Hishta, AARP's senior vice president for campaigns, said he would like to see more sustained attention from the Democratic contenders.

"Most of them focus on issues and themes at an 80,000-foot level," he said. Voters still have practical concerns with the Democratic candidates.

Despite her affinity for Mr. Sanders, Ms. Bing said, "I'm not sure that any of the Democrats are strong enough or show the ability to battle [Mr. Trump] in the ditches."

The age of some of the candidates could also give members of the older generation pause. Mr. Sanders is 77 years old, while Mr. Biden is 76 and Mr. Trump is 73. "I would probably support Biden if it wasn't for his age, but I can't support somebody who's going to be 80 before their term is over," said Mike Hauxwell, a 66-year-old retired TV reporter in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.



# Lies, Calumny, Blackmail: “Islamic Movement in Nigeria is not a Shi’a organization” –Elrufai and Gang

By Abdulmumin Giwa

**KADUNA/ NIGERIA** — In their efforts to convince Nigerians as to why they are in an all-out war with the Islamic Movement Nigeria under the revered leadership of Sheikh Ibrheem Zakzaky (H), the government, especially the Kaduna state government, along with some half-baked, turbaned hungry scholars engaged themselves in feeding the public with lies, calumny and blackmail.

Actually, a general assessment of their mischief shows how they have failed to convince Nigerians woefully despite their relentless efforts. Hence, countering or responding to their lies became needless but for the need to put the things in the right direction.

The futility with which they are attacking and fighting the leader of the Islamic Movement and his followers has since displayed them in the eyes of the world as using the tool of authority to fight some personalized vendetta in fulfillment of some selfish whims and caprices and not because they care for Nigeria and Nigerians.

Starting with a claim made by the Kaduna state governor Nasiru Elrufai and one Ustaz Hamza Lawal, the head of an unpopular Shi’a organization in Kaduna called Al-Thaqalayn Foundation, that the Islamic Movement, under the leadership of Sheikh Zakzaky (H), is not a Shiite organization, for which Elrufai calls it ‘Kungiyar Alzakzaky’ (Alzakzaky Organization), claiming that there are Sunnis and Christians in it as well begs the question as to whether it is beneficial to Nigerians or not. They say that because there are Sunnis and Christians in it, it is not Shiite.

The Islamic Movement in Nigeria is NOT an organization just as the name movement suggests, that is why it cannot be registered. It is a movement in which those who subscribe to it are encouraged to practically implement the teachings of Islam as a system. It is a movement of people practicing a belief system. This explains why Shi’ah, Sunni and Christians feel at home being part of the movement. It is a uniting point for Nigerians and definitely beneficiaries of continuous division of Nigerians will certainly rise against it.

The Movement has established a bond of brotherhood among the diversity of people in Nigeria based on humanity, something



greedy politicians, like Elrufai, are afraid of. It is uniting Nigerians and giving them a sense of direction. Elrufai and his gang have pronounced themselves as fighting the unity being established among adherent of Shi’ism, Sunni and Christians alike under the Islamic Movement. Why would one condemn such a bond just to foolishly prove to Nigerians that the Islamic Movement is not a Shiite organization because there are Sunnis and Christians among them if he truly means well for Nigeria and Nigerians? This is what Nigerians are hungrily waiting for, a platform that will carry everyone along, and that platform has been provided by Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzkay (H) in the Islamic Movement in Nigeria.

That was why when innocent Christians were attacked by Buhari’s supporters in 2011 when he lost election they ran to the residence of Sheikh Zakzaky (H) for protection and they were protected and treated with all gratitude.

More so, why are the Sheikh Zakzaky’s Sunni and Christian followers not complaining when it is said that the Islamic Movement is Shi’ah? Is because they accept it for what it is, it is Shi’a and they still want it. They accept and follow out of conviction and no one is forced or made to follow out of obligation.

If Elrufai could say such a thing it will not be worrisome because he is a politician and politicians are known for their hypocrisy.

They pursue their personal whims by making the public believe they are doing it for them. The Prophet of Islam SAWA says there are three characteristics of a hypocrite: when he talks he lies, when he promises he fails and when you trust him he betrays you. This of course describes the Nigerian politicians and their mentality.

But it would certainly be worrisome when Elrufai is supported in this act of hypocrisy and injustice to fellow humans by a turbaned person that is supposed to be a Shi’ah scholar.

More so, the activities of the Islamic Movement, except for a few, are all Shi’ah based practices. These include among others, Ashura, Ghadeer, Nisf Sha’ban, Maulud Nabiyy, Arba’een, Maulud Zahra, Mawalud of other A’imma and the rest all of which they are commemorated in Shi’ah Hussainiyats and yet this unfair and unjust scholar is claiming that they are not Shi’ah just to please Elrufai and help him in his dirty work. It is really very shameful and unfortunate and is a disappointment to the Shi’a school of thought to have a scholar with questionable character.

One would be forced to ask what Shi’ah is when all these practices fail to make one a Shi’ite. Who then is a Shi’ite? Ask every Nigerian or non-Nigerian who Sheikh Zakzaky (H) is and he will tell you that he is the leader of the Shi’ahs in Nigeria including those who

are now contracted by the Wahabi inclined government to fight Shi’a. Hence, there is no available logical way of convincing the public that Islamic Movement is not Shi’ah, or Sheikh Zakzaky (H) is not Shi’ah.

Those misguided Shi’as are dreaming that they will join hands with the Wahhabi government to eliminate Sheikh Zakzaky (H) for them so that they would now freely take position of leading Shi’ah scholars for their personal and material exploits as against Sheikh Zakzkay (H) who is standing for fairness and justice to humanity, are only deceiving themselves. They are not mindful of the fact that they are also working to eliminate themselves as well.

This is clear from the statement of one of the contractors, an avaricious and unreasonable man, the Wahhabi sect leader in Zaria, Sheikh Sani Yakubu who calls on Nigerian government to ban Shi’ism because they are unbelievers. He called on government to even kill his blood brother Sheikh Zakzkay (H) while you are conflictually trying to remove Sheikh Zakzkay (H) from Shi’ism and convince Nigerians that he is not Shi’a that you are the Shi’ah.

The quasi Shi’ah scholars have become too blind to see that it is the same person that is using the two of them in his personal war against Sheikh Zakzaky (H) for being Shi’ah. He will use the quasi Shi’ah scholars to condemn Sheikh Zakzaky (H) and would use the Wahabi scholar to do the same against Shi’ah in general. It only shows how unintelligent and stupid the quasi Shi’ah scholars can be in pursuing their personal greed and avarice. Scholars in Shi’ism are men of amiable and admirable ‘Akhlaq’ not mischief schemers.

Nigerians are now watching as Elrufai and his quasi Shi’ah scholars and contractors are all losing in their game which is clear to everyone that they have failed even with the lies, calumny and blackmail that they have resorted to. The illiveness that built their enthusiasm has failed them and they shall forever be hunted by it. On the other hand, Sheikh Zakzaky (H) shall recover and continue on his God-given position of a scholar with amiable and admirable ‘Akhlaq’ that has excelled above his self-appointed enemies.

## Occam’s Razor may be useful in explaining Jeffrey Epstein

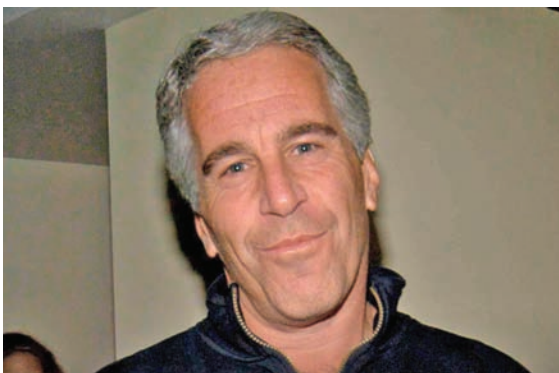
**1 →** Almost anything is possible, and especially in an America where there is not a single arbiter or trusted voice any longer who has a record of discovering and then telling the truth about virtually anything the U.S. has been about, especially since 9/11 -- which itself has never been adequately examined or explained.

Imagine a world where nothing and no one can be trusted by the average citizen, where people are left to flail around trying to get a valid grip on the truth when the mainstream media as well as the government has often either lied outright or failed to tell the whole truth and nothing but.

And worse, Epstein’s death, however or by whom it was accomplished, has come at the same time the FBI has been trying to deem any “conspiracy” theories or notions suggested by the public a literal threat to “national security”. In other words, some or any “official” story concocted by the mainstream media or the government powers, probably in cahoots with each other, must be “accepted” as the truth, period -- even if few can believe it. This is an atmosphere of totalitarianism, or something quite close to it.

The stories appearing in the mainstream media about Epstein and associates, some of them quite long and detailed, do undoubtedly have a certain prurient interest to the public, as if to tell the public: so THIS is how wealthy and powerful Americans get to live (if they want), this is what they do in a world where anything goes, where gobs of money count more than anything else, and nothing seems ever to be condemned, and perps rarely face any kind of justice or accounting.

Indeed, the ONE thing a public wants in any society (including any largely Islamic oriented society like



Iran’s) or country is an authority or authorities who are not simply self-serving and whose primary aim is truth telling and the effective and fair implementation of fundamental justice when it is required and which gives people a sense that at least their “leaders” are trying hard to do the correct thing to abide by the lofty principles upon which the society or country was founded, whether the base concept is representative “democracy” and related, long enshrined laws, or long established religious principles and its laws or whatever.

But this is no longer what the American opeople have, this sense that no matter what happens, justice can and will eventually prevail based on proper discovery of the truth. And this, in effect, suggests the demise of the American experiment and maybe, ultimately, the demise of American influence and power.

But with the Epstein saga, however complicated it seems and however difficult it may be to get to the

bottom of it all, one must apply the famous “Occam’s Razor”. William of Occam was an English scholastic philosopher who died in 1347. He was an important figure in Western medieval thought who has been known for a methodological principle that bears his name. He developed a principle of parsimony (Occam’s Razor as it came to be called) in explaining things and in theory building.

This principle states that if one can explain something at all, one must always opt for an explanation in terms of the fewest possible factors, causes or variables. In other words, simplicity often leads to the best explanation for some phenomenon -- in this case, the phenomenon of Jeffrey Epstein.

Thus, if one were to apply Occam’s notion to Epstein and his activities (and some few notable non-mainstream observers and writers with past experience even in one case as a CIA employee have already done this) it seems probable that Epstein’s ultimate handlers and in part a source of his wealth, were quite possibly Israelis, and more specifically, in operational terms, Mossad.

Epstein’s nefarious game was, quite likely, to snare and blackmail American elites who befriended him and got involved, directly or indirectly, in his offerings of sex with underage females. And since early July when Epstein was arrested, it’s been safe to assume he would not live long. And he did not.

The question now is whether, in a country where few even in the government are not under the sway of Zionist imperatives and propaganda, or just their own ignorance, this stark angle on the possible base of Epstein’s activities will be thoroughly explored and possibly brought to light.



be taken to India for medication because anytime from now the Sheikh can loose his life as the judge said.

But till date these wicked and monster people that were installed as administrators of this country by western power in order to please them, refuse to comply with the court order.

All these are happening just because western countries want the Sheikh to die slowly in custody, and this will never happen by God grace.

It is clearly that this Zaria massacre was planned in Israel, sponsored by savage Wahhabi barbarians “Saudi Arabia” and supervised by America.

I want this tyrannical Govt to be rest assured that denying Sheikh Zakzaky trip is

never an achievement, this will only herald to the national disability.

Moreover denying Sheikh’s trip is a contempt of court and a threat to national security though there is no security but it will worsen the situation.

The world needs to know this kind of barbaric and inhumane act taking place in our country “Nigeria”.

Please my fellow human being! As you’re celebrating this day, I’m pleading you to include Sheikh Zakzaky (H) and his injurious wife in your prayers.

And for the tyrants and oppressors, I want to assure you that one day you will woefully fail by God grace, this kind of brutality has a limit, and whatever you perpetrated will never be swept under the carpet.

## U.S.-CHINA trade war: what does it mean for Iran?

**1 →** While China has not imposed levies on crude oil imports from the United States, it’s purchases of U.S. crude have dropped sharply from record levels last year.

Simultaneously, it is continuing Iran oil imports. China imported Iranian crude oil in July for the second month since a U.S. sanctions waiver ended, according to research from three data firms, with one estimate showing some oil entered tanks holding the country’s strategic reserves.

### ■ Economic factors

However, the political dimension is not the only important consequence of the trade war. Yuan historic drop affects the cost and benefit of bilateral trade between Iran and China. Iran’s revenues from exports (U.S. dollar-based revenue) would expand compared with imports costs (Yuan-based).

Although the long term effects of the trade war could lead to inflation in the Chinese domestic market and worsening of trade tensions would reduce China’s growth by around 0.8 percentage points over the following 12 months, which would mean the reduction of the demand for crude oil too. The growth reduction and reduction of demand will make the freight costs more important and the competitive price of Iranian oil will be more attractive.

### ■ Strategic Planning

Above all, the future of the trade war is the fate of the hegemonic U.S., from the Iranian point of view. It can be meant as the end of the age of U.S. dominance. A range of problematic dilemmas both domestic and internationally including the sanction regime, the maritime security and the security of the Strait of Hormuz, Iran’s engagement in the international financial and banking system, the flow of foreign investment, and so on would be affected by the future of the U.S.-China trade war more or less.

The dynamics of the crisis shows that Iran would benefit in the either-with-us-or-against-us playground which is designed by the OFAC regulations. Although Iran’s policy for engaging the international community as the outcome of the JCPOA is ruined by the destructive policies of the White House, the evidence confirms that Trump’s long-term presidential effects will benefit Iran.

## Britain’s shadow over India’s crimes in Kashmir

**1 →** This partition caused the ‘greatest mass movement of humanity in history’, with twelve million refugees moving across the new national borders drawn up by the British barrister Radcliffe and leading to the deaths of up to 2 million lives, as a result of the ensuing upheaval and violence. India and Pakistan have since fought three wars over disputed territory of Kashmir in 1947, 1965, and 1999.

In 1947, Kashmir was handed over from an unpopular ruler without the legitimacy of popular vote to the Indian state, and has been under occupation of India that has wretchedly attempted to market the occupation of Kashmir as a ‘fight against terrorism’.

The number of civilians that have died under Indian occupation of Kashmir is unknown, to the extent that human rights groups have only been documenting the crimes of the Indian state for the past 3 decades, some of which have stated that over 100,000 deaths have been documented since just 1989.

The tactics of occupation and humiliation employed by the Indian army include fake encounters and killings; widespread use of torture; summary executions; disappearances; with the current estimated number of disappearances to be over eight thousand, last seen in government detention and are believed to be dumped in thousands of mass graves across Kashmir; sexual violence, where according to a report by Human Rights Watch in 1993, the security forces use rape as a method of retaliation against Kashmiri civilians during reprisal attacks after further militant ambushes, amongst many more crimes, all of which are documented by Human rights NGOs.

It is imperative we understand that without the legacy of Britain in dividing and conquering the Asian subcontinent, we wouldn’t even be facing this issue today. Britain holds a historic and moral responsibility for what is going on in Kashmir today and has the responsibility to partake in solving the problem, as people and history will never forgive and forget.

The least Britain can do today, as a nation with a powerful standing on the international platform and a core member of the UN, is to ensure the passing of the UN resolution against the violence ensuing within Kashmir by the Indian forces and rein-stating Article 370 within the Indian parliament, which has allowed the illegal and unconstitutional accession towards occupying the land of Kashmir.

Every law and ethical book condemns such steps because this is a mere injustice to those who truly own the land. Abolishing Article 370 and Article 35A has suffocated the voices of the Kashmiries by force, their denial of the basic entitlements guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of freedom, security and self-determination is illegal and a threat to the world justice system, not just the justice of the 7 million Kashmiries.

Recent examples of the Indian government annexing the land by force includes: sending heavy armed forces as at present there is 1 soldier for every 10 people in Kashmir. This ratio of army to civilians is unprecedented in human history. Cutting sources of communication and adopting slogans such as ‘if anyone speaks against us - we will shoot or kill them’. Medical facilities and doctors are denied to the civilians, including pregnant woman and children in critical states.

Despite all this, India is heralded as a beacon of democracy. In India If you’re not part of the Hindutva national identity, you should be worried about living in the world’s largest democracy. This rule by force, violence and oppression is unacceptable by all standards.

This recent act hasn’t included the majority representatives within the parliament as the opposition and many Indians have spoken against this decision as well and held their protests within India. This decision had been planned secretly and enforced forcefully hence, it doesn’t in any shape represent the whole India.

We demand the UN intervenes and makes it mandatory for India to allow the International media, International Red Cross and Human Rights Watch free access to Kashmir. India must allow international investigation of human rights violations in Kashmir, as requested by Human Rights Watch and it is imperative the UN and world powers are held accountable for all the lives lost in this massacre and occupation by force.

The silence of the UN and its lack of action against the illegal conduct of the Indian government has given the oppressors their power and we need to hold them to account. For occupation is never accepted, injustice is never accepted, abuse is never accepted.

Every moral and ethical value based British Citizen must demand our British government intervenes now in between India and Pakistan to solve the matter of Kashmir and to correct what has been committed as a grave mistake by Britain.

## As we celebrate this Eid

By Abdullahi Junaidi

**JIGAWA/ NIGERIA** — As majority of Muslims Umamah are celebrating Eidul kabeer today

I want to use this opportunity to join you on this precious day as the day of blessing and mercy has passed “Arafat day”, may God accept our deeds and forgive our bad.

As millions of people are busy celebrating this day, remember Sheikh Zakzaky (H) who is still in illegal detention over 3 years since December 2015 after inhumane and brutal attacked by Nigerian Army under the order of this desperate and failed Government led by clueless and tyrant President Buhari, the puppet of Western imperialist and savage Saudi Regime that are killing innocent people in Yemen.

Sheikh Zakzaky (H) is still in an illegal detention despite the court order to release him since December 2016, and recent court verdict that ordered both the Sheikh and his wife to attend medical treatment in India but the Government complies with neither first nor the second court order due to the interest of Western countries over the saga

overtly and covertly especially America, Israel and Saudi Arabiya. They want to eliminate any voice that use to utter the truth and expose their barbaric plot in the world and specifically in Nigeria.

During the Saudi sponsored Zaria Genocide Sheikh Zakzaky lost 3 of his biological children and over 1000+ of his followers, while his resident been demolished.

He is suffering from gunshots, and other seven critical illness that were caused due to the absence of proper medication, so also his wife. Since from then his health condition continues to deteriorate which herald him losing one eye.

Months ago expert doctors from foreign countries were invited to investigate the health condition of the ailing Sheikh and his injurious wife.

After series of investigations and diagnostics made by the doctors, they have finally urged the Government to take the ailing Sheikh and his wife to abroad for proper medical treatment due to the lack of good equipment in the Nigeria.

Recently state high court made a verdict that the Sheikh and his wife must



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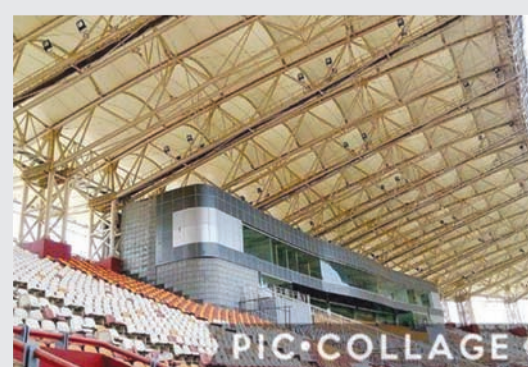
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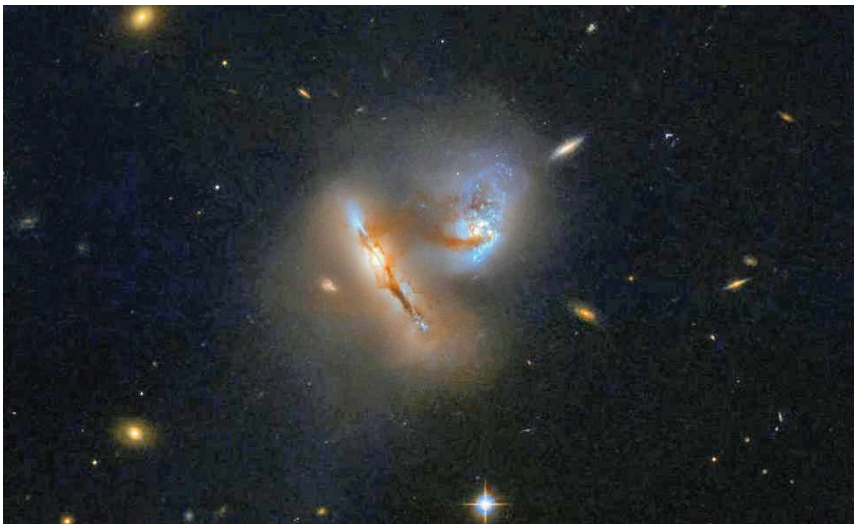
# Hubble photographs playful galactic duo

NASA shared an image, recently captured by Hubble, of the galactic duo UGC 2369 on Friday. The image showcases the pair caught in a playful dance.

Long, long ago, the galaxies were separate, but today, they are in the midst of colliding. Slowly, their mutual gravitational attraction is pulling them closer and closer. As they've become entwined, gravity has distorted their features, altering their appearances.

"A tenuous bridge of gas, dust and stars can be seen connecting the two galaxies, created when they pulled material out into space across the diminishing divide between them," NASA wrote in a news release.

Still, despite their contortions and shared name, the two galactic entities remain visibly distinct. Millions of years from now, however, the pair will be almost



completely enjoined.

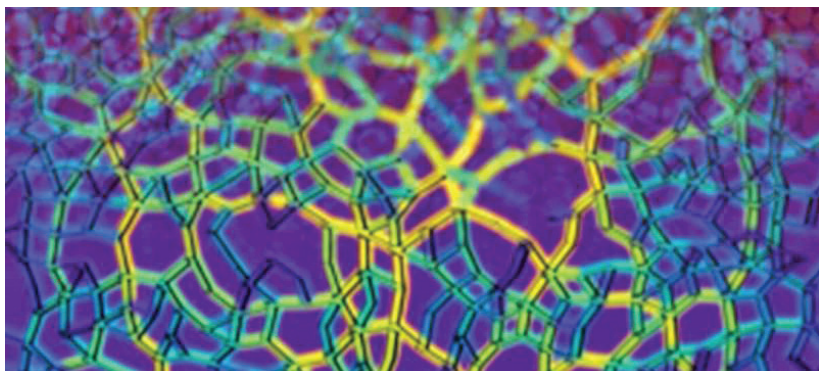
No galaxy can persist on its own for very long, relatively speaking -- interactions are inevitable.

For large galaxies like the Milky Way, galactic interactions typically involved small neighbors. Over the last few billion years, the Milky Way has absorbed several of its neighbors.

For big galaxies, such interactions cause minimal structural disruption. Interactions with dwarf galaxies are relatively common.

"But every few billion years, a more momentous event can occur," according to NASA. "For our home galaxy, the next big event will take place in about four billion years, when it will collide with its bigger neighbor, the Andromeda galaxy. Over time, the two galaxies will likely merge into one -- already nicknamed Milkomeda." (Source: UPI)

## Forecasting failure in disordered materials



Disordered materials -- such as cellular foams, fiber and polymer networks -- are popular in applications ranging from architecture to biomedical scaffolding. Predicting when and where these materials may fail could impact not only those materials currently in use, but also future designs. Researchers from North Carolina State University and the University of California Los Angeles were able to forecast likely points of failure in two-dimensional disordered laser-cut lattices without needing to study detailed states of the material.

The interior of disordered materials is formed by a network of connections between slender beams that intersect at various points -- or nodes -- throughout the material. Their structure allows for both compression and deformation, enabling them to withstand different types of force.

Estelle Berthier, postdoctoral researcher at NC State and lead author of a paper describing the research, set out to determine whether it is possible to predict where failure is most likely to occur in a disordered network. Berthier and co-author Karen Daniels, professor of physics at NC State, generated lattices based on the contact networks observed within granular materials and looked at a property known as geodesic edge betweenness centrality (GEBC).

"The importance of an edge in a network is in terms of its ability to connect different parts of network using the shortest path," Berthier says. "In our model lattice, when you connect each node of the network tak-

ing the shortest path, you use one of these beams, or edges. If you go through a particular edge a lot, then that edge has high centrality. Think about using the shortest path, or road, between two cities. The centrality value is the most popular road on that shortest path."

In collaboration with UCLA mathematician Mason Porter, the researchers used a computer algorithm to calculate the GEBC for the lattice and found that edges with a higher centrality value than the mean were the most likely to fail.

"If you have higher traffic on a particular road, then there's more wear and tear," Berthier says. "Similarly, a higher centrality value means that a particular path within the material is dealing with more force 'traffic,' and should be monitored more closely or perhaps shored up in some way."

The researchers found that the GEBC values alone were enough to identify failure sites in the material.

"One of the things that surprised me about the results was that the calculations don't require us to know any of the materials' properties, just how the parts have been connected together," Daniels says. "Of course, we can make the predictions even stronger by including information about the physical interactions in our calculations."

The research appears in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and was supported by the James S. McDonnell Foundation.

(Source: Science Daily)

## Exploding stars scattered traces of iron over Antarctic snow



Iron from outside the solar system has sprinkled down on Antarctica in recent years. Measurements of half a ton of snow turned up interstellar iron deposited within the last two decades, scientists report in a study accepted in Physical Review Letters. That iron comes from the explosions of massive stars, or supernovas, the team says.

Within the snow, the researchers isolated 10 atoms of iron-60, a radioactive variety, or isotope, of iron with a total of 60 protons and neutrons in its nucleus. Previous studies have found iron-60, an isotope spewed from supernovas, in ocean sediments and on the moon. But those depositions were a few million years old, and are thought to be the result of ancient nearby explosions blasting waves of debris through space. The new study reveals that the Earth is still encountering the isotope in modern times.

Nuclear physicist Gunther Korschinek of the Technical University of Munich and colleagues transported the snow -- still frozen thanks to careful packing and shipping -- back to their lab. They melted, filtered and evaporated the snow, and used a technique called accelerator mass spectrometry on the remnants to identify iron-60.

Supernovas are a major birthplace of iron-60, but not the only one. For example, high-energy particles called cosmic rays can create the isotope when

they slam into dust in the solar system. To eliminate that explanation, the team compared the amount of iron-60 in the snow with another isotope produced by cosmic rays, manganese-53. The ratio of iron-60 to manganese-53 found was much higher than expected if both isotopes were produced by cosmic rays. The iron-60 might also have been the result of past nuclear weapons tests, but similar logic ruled out that option.

"This gives us a clear indication that this stuff comes from outside of the solar system," Korschinek says.

The result could help scientists better understand humankind's place in space. The solar system resides within a low-density pocket of gas, known as the local bubble. It's thought that exploding supernovas created shock waves that blasted out that bubble. But the solar system currently sits inside a denser region within that bubble, known as the Local Interstellar Cloud. The detection of recently deposited iron-60 suggests that this cloud may also have been sculpted by supernovas, the researchers say.

"This is actually quite a profound thing," says astrophysicist Brian Fields of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who was not involved with the research. "It's telling us about the recent history of our whole neighborhood in the galaxy and about the lives and deaths of massive stars."

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## Space telescope would turn Earth into a giant magnifying lens

When it is finished sometime next decade, Europe's Extremely Large Telescope will be the largest in the world, with a mirror nearly 40 meters across. But one astronomer has proposed an even more powerful space telescope—one with the equivalent of a 150-meter mirror—that would use Earth's atmosphere itself as a natural lens to gather and focus light. Astronomer David Kipping of Columbia University has worked out that a 1-meter space telescope, positioned beyond the moon, could use the focusing power of the ring of atmosphere seen around the edge of the planet to amplify the brightness of dim objects by tens of thousands of times.

The atmosphere is too variable for a Terrascope, as Kipping calls it, to produce beautiful images to rival those from the Hubble Space Telescope. But it could discover much fainter objects than is now possible, including small exoplanets or Earth-threatening asteroids. Kipping acknowledges that more work is needed to prove the idea, but the necessary technology already exists. "None of this is reinventing the wheel, it just needs to be pushed a bit harder," he says.

Astronomers who read the paper Kipping posted last week on arXiv were both delighted and cautious. Matt Kenworthy, of Leiden University in the Netherlands, says he was "blown away by how much work and thought he had put into it" but wants more evidence that it will work. "I'd want to sit down and do a more realistic model," he says. Bruce Macintosh of Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, adds: "It's an interesting thought experiment, but there are a lot of details to think through."

Kipping is well known for leading searches for moons in other planetary systems and he revealed a strong contender for the first exomoon last year. He says the germ of the Terrascope idea came 13 years ago when he was studying a rare atmospheric phenomenon called the green flash, which appears just as the sun sets below the horizon, when refraction and scattering in the atmosphere work together to momentarily



select green from the sun's light. He realized that, from the right vantage in space, you might see an entire green ring, when the sun passed behind Earth and its light was refracted by the ring of air around the planet's circumference.

Kipping was also inspired by the idea that the sun itself could be used as a lens, with its gravity focusing light toward a space-based detector. Such a solar lens would magnify light 1 million billion times, potentially bringing the surfaces of exoplanets into view. The idea led to the Fast Outgoing Cyclopean Astronomical Lens mission, proposed to the European Space Agency in 1993. But it never gained traction because the detector would have to be positioned 550 times the Earth-sun distance out in space, nearly 20 times farther away than Neptune—a distance that would require a century for a spacecraft to reach.

But Terrascope could be much closer to home, Kipping says. He calculated that surface-skimming light from an object directly behind Earth is deflected to a focus 85% of the distance out to the moon. Light reaching that focal point is likely to encounter clouds and a lot of turbulence as it passes through the lower atmosphere. But move the detector 1.5 million kilometers away, to a focus four times farther than

the moon, and it would sample light that has passed through the much calmer and cloud-free stratosphere at an altitude of 13.7 kilometers.

A 1-meter telescope at that distance, observing for a whole night, would see an object boosted to 22,500 times its original brightness, he calculates—the equivalent of using a 150-meter telescope. The Terrascope's powerful amplification means it would excel in detecting very faint objects or discerning very slight changes in brightness, Kipping says, enabling it to scan the sky for very small and dim asteroids or measure the tiny dips in brightness as small exoplanets pass in front of bright stars.

To avoid being dazzled by the bright disk of Earth, the telescope would need a mask, known as a coronagraph, to block it out. Kipping also says he has yet to consider the impact of "airglow," a dim light emitted in the upper atmosphere by luminescence and other processes. But he notes that the glow could conceivably be removed with filters or digitally, taking advantage of the fact that it is steady while objects of interest are constantly changing. The Terrascope concept could be tested, he says, with a cheap toaster-size CubeSat mission.

Kenworthy says the atmosphere's variability might seriously degrade Terrascope's image quality. To assess the impact, he says, "The next step would be ray tracing with a realistic Earth atmosphere model," he says. Ideally, the giant lens should focus light to a spot. "In reality, you'll probably get a pattern of blobs."

Macintosh agrees. "Earth's atmosphere is a pretty nonideal lens so it produces very blurry images," he says. But it may find a role studying brightness changes in very faint objects, exploiting its role as a huge magnifying "light bucket."

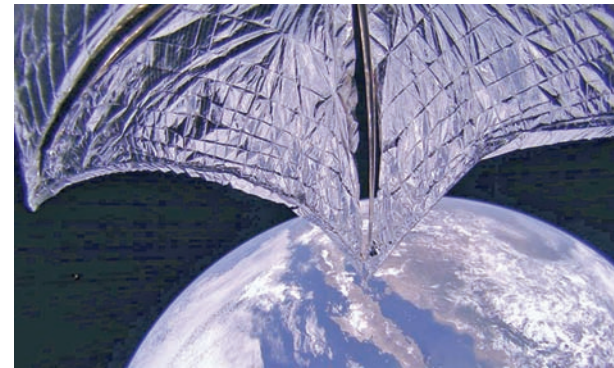
If nothing else, Kipping has got astronomers talking about the idea. "I wouldn't launch a satellite on this paper alone," Kenworthy says. "But it's an excellent first step."

(Source: sciencemag.org)

## LightSail 2 spacecraft glides on sunlight in orbit around Earth

A crowdfunded spacecraft has successfully sailed on sunlight while in orbit around the Earth.

LightSail 2 was launched in June by the space advocacy group the Planetary Society as a secondary payload on a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.



On 24 July, the tiny craft -- which measures just 10 x 10 x 30 cm -- deployed a 32-square-metre reflective sail. The society reported that the extra thrust received by the sail changed the shape of its orbit by about 2km at its furthest point from Earth.

Although photons of light do not have any mass, they do carry energy and this means they have momentum. A reflective solar sail captures that momentum and transfers it to the spacecraft, just like a sailing ship captures the momentum from the wind. Solar sails are attractive prospects because they could be used to manoeuvre in orbit without the need for fuel or engines. Larger versions could also travel between planets.

LightSail 2 is only the second time a solar sail has been used to propel a spacecraft. In 2010, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency used a much larger solar sail (196 square meters) to fly the Ikaros spacecraft past Venus.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Staring at seagulls can stop them stealing food, research shows

Britain's seaside towns are at war with their seagulls, urging visitors not to feed the birds in an effort to stop them snatching titbits like potato chips from tourists' hands.

Warning signs deck promenade railings from Scarborough to Broadstairs and beyond but now research from the University of Exeter has suggested an easy way for holidaymakers to deter the gulls - just stare at them.

The research showed that with a human staring at them, herring gulls took 21 seconds longer to approach a bag of chips then when left apparently unobserved.



"Gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans, so it was interesting to find that most wouldn't even come near during our tests," said lead author Madeleine Goumas, of the Center for Ecology and Conservation at Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall.

The researchers tried to test 74 gulls but most flew away or would not approach. Just 27 approached the food and 19 completed the "looking at" and "looking away" tests.

"Of those that did approach, most took longer when they were being watched," Goumas said. "Some wouldn't even touch the food at all, although others didn't seem to notice that a human was staring at them."

(Source: Reuters)

## How deep space travel could affect the brain

Exposure to chronic, low dose radiation -- the conditions present in deep space -- causes neural and behavioral impairments in mice, researchers report in eNeuro. These results highlight the pressing need to develop safety measures to protect the brain from radiation during deep space missions as astronauts prepare to travel to Mars.

Radiation is known to disrupt signaling among other processes in the brain. However, previous experiments used short-term, higher dose-rate exposures of radiation, which does not accurately reflect the conditions in space.

To investigate how deep space travel could affect the nervous system, Charles Limoli and colleagues at the University of California, Irvine, Stanford University, Colorado State University and the Eastern Virginia School of Medicine exposed mice to chronic, low dose radiation for six months. They found that the radiation exposure impaired cellular signaling in the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex, resulting in learning and memory impairments. They also observed increased anxiety behaviors, indicating that the radiation also impacted the amygdala.

The researchers predict that during a deep space mission approximately one in five astronauts would experience anxiety-like behavior and one in three would experience certain levels of memory impairments. Additionally, the astronauts may struggle with decision-making.

(Source: Science Daily)





## Hong Kong airport authority cancels flights over protests

Hong Kong's airport authority has cancelled departure flights after thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators flooded into one of the world's busiest air travel hubs holding signs reading "Hong Kong is not safe" and "Shame on police".

The authority said: "Other than departure flights that have completed the check-in process and the arrival flights already heading to Hong Kong, all other flights have been cancelled for the rest of today."

Roads to the airport were congested and car park spaces were full, the authority said, on the fourth day of a mass demonstration there.

The abrupt shutdown came as street protests across the Chinese territory entered their 10th week with no sign of either side backing down, and the Chinese government signaled its rising anger at the protesters, denouncing some of the violent demonstrations as "terrorism".



An anti-riot vehicle equipped with water cannon sprays water on a dummy during a demonstration in Hong Kong on Monday. (Photograph: Kin Cheung/AP)

Rights groups and democracy activists accused police of using excessive force after teargas was fired into an enclosed subway station and officers posed as protesters before making arrests during an intense weekend of clashes.

Dressed in their uniform black T-shirts and masks, protesters at the airport handed out lists to arriving visitors documenting alleged police violence, and held up graphic images of injured protesters. Many wore eye patches in reference to a female protester who sustained an eye injury.

"I just don't understand how people can tolerate that kind of police brutality. I feel like if I don't come out now, I can't come out ever," said Hilary Lo, who took a half day's sick leave from her accountancy firm to attend the demonstration. "People are starting to realize the police are out of control, especially with what has happened in the past two weeks."

This summer's increasingly violent demonstrations have plunged the Chinese-ruled territory into its most serious crisis in decades, presenting one of the biggest challenges to China's leader, Xi Jinping, since he came to power in 2012.

Yang Guang, a spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, said: "Hong Kong's radical demonstrators have repeatedly used extremely dangerous tools to attack police officers, which already constitutes a serious violent crime, and also shows the first signs of terrorism emerging. This wantonly tramples on Hong Kong's rule of law and social order."

In an apparent warning to protesters of a toughening approach on the part of authorities, Hong Kong police invited legislators and journalists on Monday to witness a display of water cannon.

Police have never used the device since two were bought after pro-democracy protests in 2014, but during Monday's demonstration one was blasted at dummy targets in a training facility. (Source: The Guardian)

# Restoration completed on home of 'master actor' in Tehran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A restoration project has recently been completed on the home of Ezzatollah Entezami, who was a celebrated Iranian actor of stage and screen, widely known as "master actor".

A contingency plan was also adopted, proposed by the actor's son Majid -- who is a famed composer and conductor -- in order to define new locations for the personal belongings, mayor of Tehran Municipality's district 1 said on Sunday, IRNA reported.

The rehabilitation project was commenced in early spring with a budget of over two

billion rials (about \$47,000), Seyyed Hamid Mousavi added.

According to the contingency plan, structure of a museum has been devised, some parts of the house have been restored, and others have been refurbished, the official explained.

Entezami passed away in a Tehran hospital in August 2018 at the age of 94.

He was one of Iran's golden generation of actors such as Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz, Ali Nasirian and Jamshid Mashykeh, who began his career in acting with traditional Iranian performances at theaters located



A view of the house of Ezzatollah Entezami, who was a celebrated Iranian actor of stage and screen.

on Tehran's Lalezar Street, which was considered as Iran's Broadway during 1950s and 1960s.

Entezami made his acting debut in "The Spring Variety" directed by Parviz Khatibi

in 1949. He rose to fame in 1969 by his portrayal of Mash Hassan in director Dariush Mehrjui's acclaimed drama "The Cow", which was among the forerunners of the Iranian New Wave cinema.

## Border traffic on the rise between Iran, Azerbaijan

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Traffic of passengers between Iran and Azerbaijan at Bileh Savar border crossing has increased by 23 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) from a year earlier, a local official has said.

A total of 250,053 Iranians and 235,031 foreign nationals arrived Iran via the border during the four-month period, Farnam Hamed said, CHTN reported.

He put the number of outbound passengers at 20,783 and 229,368 respectively for Iranian and foreign nationals.

The increase in the border traffic is mainly related to Azerbaijani people traveling to Ardebil for three reasons of buying commodities, medical treatments, and family reunions, the official said.



File photo: Passengers are seen at the Bileh Savar border in Ardebil province, northwest Iran.

Iran and Azerbaijan have various traditions and customs in common. For instance, both nations celebrate Noruz; an ancient Persian festival, which usually falls on March 21st every year.

Nearly 7.8 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20), showing a 52.5 percent increase year on year. The Islamic Republic hosted 5.1 million travelers in 1396.

People from Iraq, Republic of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan respectively constituted the highest travelers to Iran, visiting for medical, pilgrimage and cultural heritage purposes in 2018, according to data compiled by the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

## Vintage cars to go on parade in Tehran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — The Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) is scheduled to stage a vintage car parade in Tehran on August 14.

Ardeshir Darvishi, an official at the TACI, said on Sunday that as many as 60 Iranian and foreign vintage cars will take part in a rally around Tehran on Wednesday, Mehr reported.

The majority of cars are manufactured by Volkswagen, and the rest by Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Peykan. The vehicles date from 1950 to 1975, he said.

Darvishi maintained that the aim of the tour is to [draw attentions] to protect vintage cars in the Iranian capital.

The tour will begin form the Niavaran Cultural-Historical

Complex in northern Tehran, and will continue through major streets and highways to make a stop at the headquarters of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization near the famed Azadi Tower. The tour will wrap up on the premises of the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran is an institution at the vice presidency and the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization. It is related to the tourism industry, and its tasks includes facilitating the travel of owners of vehicles abroad or foreign tourists who are traveling to Iran by their own vehicles. The institution also helps develop tourism through establishing tourism



information offices at home and abroad, as well as developing infrastructures and tourism services.

## Decorated potteries, embossed paintings on show at Tehran exhibit



**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A collection of decorated potteries and ceramics along with series of embossed paintings have been put on show at the headquarters of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization in Tehran.

The collection features selected works that experienced potters and painters and their trainees had been created during crafts workshops that the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Center runs, CHTN reported.

The sales exhibit will be running through August 14.

Pottery in the Iranian plateau has a long history going back to early Neolithic Age (7th millennium BC). Experts say that throughout the centuries, Persian potters have responded to the demands and changes brought by political turmoil. Generations after generations, they have adopted and refined newly introduced techniques blending them into their own culture. This innovative attitude has survived through time and influenced many other cultures around the world.

There are large collections of Persian pottery all over the globe including ones at the British Museum, the Hermitage Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

In 2013, the Royal Ontario Museum, in partnership with Brill Publishers in the Netherlands, published a special book about this art entitled "Persian Pottery in the First Global Age".



© CHTN / Morteza Lotfollahi

## Travel Services Market growing vigorously with top key players

The increasing demand for travelling drives the growth of travel service market. The technical advancement, growing people disposable income and people preference toward journey are key drivers propelling the growth of market.

Travelling service enable customers to enjoy an unforgettable journey, because they can get a series of service provided by service corporations and they do not need to worry about their air ticket, accommodation and meal. Overall, travel service is super vital in travelling industries.

The Travel Services Market report covers all the minute details related to the industry like technological developments, growth opportunities, threats to market growth, innovative strategies and futuristic market trends. The report provides a basic overview of the industry including definitions and classifications. The market analysis is provided for the international markets including development trends, competitive land scape analysis, and key regions development status.

The rise in digitization will be one of the key trends that will gain traction it the travel services market in India in the next few years. Owing to the increased penetration of the Internet and a rise in the number of prepaid card and



debit card users, it has become simpler for the tourists to fulfill the procedures for travel-related bookings in India.

As smartphones have progressively become ubiquitous, mobile applications have emerged as the most critical point of interaction with consumers for any travel business, and a number of niche offerings such as medical tourism and eco-tourism are expected to create more demand for travelling. Several hotel chains and airlines are focusing

on generating direct hotel bookings through their own websites and mobile applications.

Global market analyses the report based on customer demand, supply and demand status, competitive market scenario and industry policies. The company profile of the eminent Travel Services Market players based on the sales margin, import/export scenario, past, present and the future market scenario will filter essential market details.

The report likewise shares supply and consumption figures an import/export, cost, price, market revenue and gross margin by key regions North America (United States, Canada and Mexico), Europe (Germany, France, UK, Russia and Italy), Asia-Pacific (China, Japan, Korea, India and Southeast Asia), South America (Brazil, Argentina, Colombia etc.), Middle East and Africa (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa).

Cox & Kings Limited, International Travel House Limited, Thomas Cook (India) Limited Cleartrip Private Limited, Expedia Corporate Travel Online India Private Limited, Ibibio Group Private Limited, MakeMyTrip (India) Private Limited, and Yatra Online Private Limited are some of the major players operating in the Indian online travel services market.

(Source: Xherald)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Castel del Monte

When the Emperor Frederick II built this castle near Bari in the 13th century, he imbued it with symbolic significance, as reflected in the location, the mathematical and astronomical precision of the layout and the perfectly regular shape.

Castel del Monte, located in the municipality of Andria, rises on a rocky hill dominating the surrounding countryside of the Murgia region in southern Italy near the Adriatic Sea. A unique piece of medieval architecture, it was completed in 1240.



The castle's location, its perfect octagonal shape, as well as the mathematical and astronomical precision of its layout all reflect the broad education and cultural vision of its founder, Emperor Frederick II.

As a leader of modern humanism, the Germanic Emperor brought scholars together in his court from throughout the Mediterranean, combining Eastern and Western traditions.

The castle's unique design, an octagonal plan with octagonal towers at each angle, represents a search for perfection. Interior features reflect Eastern influences, such as the innovative hydraulic installation used by Frederick II for bathing in accord to the typical Arabic customs.

The site is of outstanding universal value in its formal perfection and its harmonious blending of cultural elements from northern Europe, the Muslim world and classical antiquity.

Castel del Monte is a unique masterpiece of medieval architecture, reflecting the humanist ideas of its founder, Frederick II of Hohenstaufen.

#### ■ Integrity

The integrity of the site has been protected, in part, due to the fact that the castle has not undergone any significant structural alteration. Marble and mosaic interior decorative elements, however, have deteriorated and in many cases been removed.

The perimeter of the property includes the castle, which rises solitarily on top of its hill, and an immense protected area around the castle that is subject to landscape protection and provides an effective buffer zone.

(Source: UNESCO)



# Iranian knowledge-based firm designs remote diagnostic devices

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — A knowledge-based company in Iran has designed devices for remote medical diagnosis based on artificial intelligence (AI), Mehr reported on Sunday.

The company, which is active in the field of digital health, focuses on diagnostic products in order to promote new technologies in the field of health.

"We can design the devices using signal and image processing technologies as well as artificial intelligence for remote diagnosis," the company's managing director Fatemeh Rafan said.

She said that accurate diagnosis is one of the main issues in health problems.

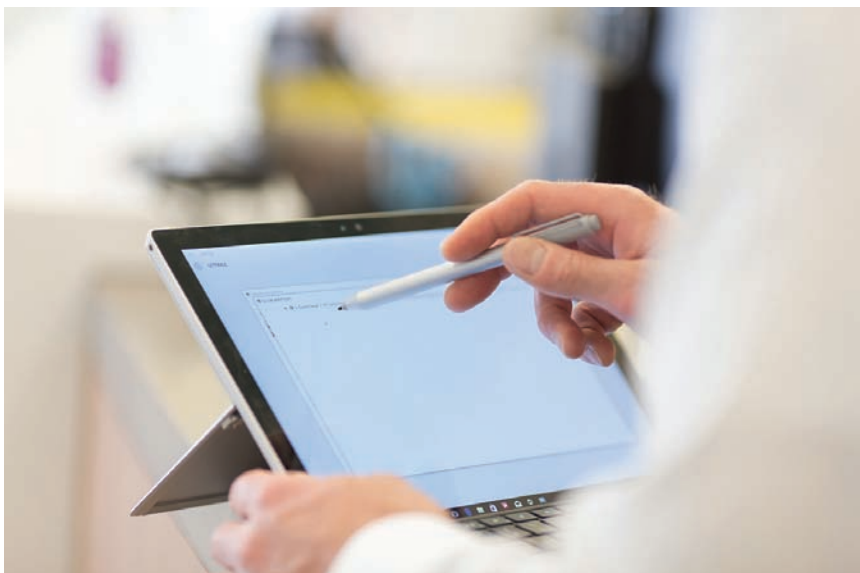
For example, a problem in blood chemistry can be diagnosed through sampling by electronic and smart devices, she added.

Medical remote diagnosis is a special field and a few number of countries have got achievements in this field and this technology is monopolized by its creators, she said.

"However, we can attain such achievements with the help of experts in different fields of technology in order to develop digital economy."

Using smart gadgets and other technologies, patients can be treated and diagnosed remotely, she noted.

She named home blood glucose kits as one the first-generation examples of



self-diagnostic devices.

Now, the remote diagnosis technology is being expanded with the help of signal

processing and AI, she added.

"We aim not only to develop diagnostic devices, but also to encourage people to

**Using smart gadgets and other technologies, patients can be treated and diagnosed remotely**

be aware of remote diagnostic methods," she said.

In the near future, all of us should use these devices in the field of medical sciences, she concluded.

## Future market of remote diagnosis

According to industryreports24.com, remote diagnosis is a method of providing diagnostic to a problem or issue which is at a distance. In this the information is mainly shared through wire or wireless. Different software like messaging platforms, video conferencing and other data access tools are used in remote diagnostics. Some of the common applications of remote diagnostics include vehicle health tracking and diagnostics, service assistance and vehicle system and component access.

Global remote diagnostics devices market is set to witness a stable CAGR (compound annual growth rate) in the forecast period of 2019- 2026. A report, released by the Data Bridge Market Research, contains data of the base year 2018 and historic year 2017. The report also estimates CAGR values along with its fluctuations for the definite forecast period. Remote Diagnostics Devices Market report makes available key measurements, status of the manufacturers and is a significant source of direction for the businesses and organizations.

## 250 new nanotech products to hit market by March 2020: official

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — Some 250 new nanotech products will be introduced to the domestic market by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2020), Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council head Saeid Sarkar said, Mehr reported on Saturday.

There are currently about 600 nanotech products in the market and the number is projected to reach 1,400 by the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022), he added.

The council plans not only to increase the number of nanotech products but also to expand exports, he explained.

In May, Sarkar announced that during the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), there were 180 nanotech products, which has so far increased to 580.

Nanotechnology has already covered 15 different industrial fields and Iran exports nanotech products to 45 countries including South Korea, Australia, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia as well as European, Canadian and

African countries.

Iran exported \$65 million of nanotech products to the countries during the year 1397 and it is planned to increase the amount during the current year.

In July, Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council announced that it plans to export \$100 million of nanotech products in the current Iranian calendar year.

## Nanotechnology and global market share

According to a research conducted by the Research and Markets, the global nanotechnology market is expected to exceed \$125 billion mark by 2024.

Nanotechnology continues to have a broad and fundamental impact on nearly all sectors of the global economy, namely electronics, energy, biomedical, cosmetics, defense, automotive and agriculture among others.

The factors such as advancement in technology, increasing government support and private sector funding for R&D, growing demand for miniaturization of devices,



and strategic alliances between countries are expected to drive the global nanotechnology market growth. However, the issues such as environmental, health, and safety risks, and concerns relating to nanotechnology commercialization are expected to hamper market growth.

## What is extended reality technology? A simple explanation for anyone

Imagine what it might be like to live and work in our world in 2030 and beyond. Perhaps, thanks to advancements in extended reality (XR), an umbrella term used to describe immersive technologies that can merge the physical and virtual worlds, you might be able to shop for a new home anywhere in the world as if you were actually on-site or head to lunch in some faraway land. By 2022, the XR market is expected to reach \$209 billion, which is eight times what it is today. This tremendous growth could mean the realities of our 2030 lives are beyond our imagination's ability to grasp.

### What is extended reality (XR)?

XR is an emerging umbrella term for all the immersive technologies. The ones we already have today—augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and mixed reality (MR) plus those that are still to be created. All immersive technologies extend the reality we experience by either blending the virtual and "real" worlds or by creating a fully immersive experience. Recent research revealed that more than 60% of respondents believed XR will be mainstream in the next five years. To get a better picture of XR, let's review each of the existing technologies that exist today.

### Augmented reality (AR)

In augmented reality, virtual information and objects are overlaid on the real world. This experience enhances the real world with digital details such as images, text, and animation. You can access the experience through AR glasses or via screens, tablets, and smartphones. This means users are not isolated from the real world and can still interact and see what's going on in front of them. The most well-known examples of AR are the Pokémon GO game that overlays digital creatures onto the real world or Snapchat filters that put digital objects such as hats or glasses onto your head.

### Virtual reality (VR)

In contrast to augmented reality, in a virtual reality experience, users are fully immersed in a simulated digital environment. Individuals must put on a VR headset or head-mounted display to get a 360-degree view of an artificial world that fools their brain into believing they are, e.g., walking on the moon, swimming under the ocean or



stepped into whatever new world the VR developers created. The gaming and entertainment industry were early adopters of this technology; however, companies in several industries such as healthcare, construction, engineering, the military, and more are finding VR to be very useful.

## Mixed reality (MR)

In mixed reality, digital and real-world objects co-exist and can interact with one another in real-time. This is the latest immersive technology and is sometimes referred to as hybrid reality. It requires an MR headset and a lot more processing power than VR or AR. Microsoft's HoloLens is a great example that, e.g., allows you to place digital objects into the room you are standing in and give you the ability to spin it around or interact with the digital object in any way possible. Companies are exploring ways they can put mixed reality to work to solve problems, support initiatives, and make their businesses better.

There are many practical applications of XR. Here are a few:

- Retail: XR gives customers the ability to try before they buy. Watch manufacturer Rolex has an AR app that allows you to try on watches on your actual wrist, and furniture company IKEA gives customers the ability to place furniture items into their home via their smartphone.
- Training: Especially in life-and-death circumstances, XR can provide training tools that are hyper-realistic that

will help soldiers, healthcare professionals, pilots/astonauts, chemists, and more figure out solutions to problems or learn how to respond to dangerous circumstances without putting their lives or anyone else's at risk.

- Remote work: Workers can connect to the home office or with professionals located around the world in a way that makes both sides feel like they are in the same room.
- Marketing: The possibilities to engage with prospective customers and consumers through XR will have marketing professionals pondering all the potential of using XR to their company's advantage.
- Real estate: Finding buyers or tenants might be easier if individuals can "walk through" spaces to decide if they want it even when they are in some other location.
- Entertainment: As an early adopter, the entertainment industry will continue to find new ways of utilizing immersive technologies.

## Challenges of XR

Those developing XR technologies are battling with some of the challenges to mainstream adoption. First, XR technologies collect and process huge amounts of very detailed and personal data about what you do, what you look at, and even your emotions at any given time, which has to be protected.

In addition, the cost of implementing the technology needs to come down; otherwise, many companies will be unable to invest in it. It is essential that the wearable devices that allow a full XR experience are fashionable and comfortable as well as always connected, intelligent, and immersive. There are significant technical and hardware issues to solve that include but are not limited to the display, power and thermal, motion tracking, connectivity and common illumination—where virtual objects in a real world are indistinguishable from real objects especially as lighting shifts.

As each day passes, we are one step closer to solving these issues so that we will see many more mainstream applications of all XR technologies over the coming years. (Source: forbes.com)

## Iranian company exports anti-cancer nanomedicine to Syria

**TECHNOLOGY** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian knowledge-based company has exported 3,000 vials of the anti-cancer nanomedicine, SinaDoxosome, to Syria, Mehr reported on Saturday.

The nanomedicine is in the registration process in Armenia, Lebanon and Iraq, the managing director of the company Mahnaz Qomi said.

The company plans to export the drug to other Asian and European countries like Oman, Thailand and Spain, she added.

According to Nanotechnology Products Database, SinaDoxosome is used in the treatment of ovarian cancer, breast cancer, multiple myeloma, and Kaposi sarcoma associated with AIDS; and it is also in clinical trial phase for some other cancers.

The company is developing four nanoliposome-based chemotherapy medicines, nanomicelles and three gel and ointment products, she noted.

"The nanomedicine is welcomed by the domestic market so that its sales has increased by 200 percent during the past year."

In June 2018, Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) announced that nanomedicines, advanced nano-materials and nanotech medical devices are on top list for export.

According to a new market intelligence report by BIS Research, titled 'Global Nanopharmaceutical Drugs Market - Analysis and Forecast, 2018-2026', the global nanopharmaceutical drugs market is anticipated to grow over \$79.29 billion by 2026, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.12%, during the forecast period from 2018 to 2026. The growth of the market is aided by the remarkable growth in the liposome and polymer drug delivery systems.



## Researchers develop new device that can detect chemical signatures in deep space

UCLA researchers have developed a novel light-detecting device which could be used in space exploration.

A paper detailing this technological development was published July 8 in Nature Astronomy. Mona Jarrahi, a professor of electrical engineering, created the device with her research team at UCLA. Unlike similar devices, this device does not require expensive equipment to regulate temperature. Its smaller size, lack of bulky coolant, and cost-effectiveness makes it ideal for space exploration, Jarrahi said.

The device's sensors detect terahertz frequencies, which are converted into electrical charges using visible light. The use of light allows the device to operate at room temperature, unlike other products which also detect terahertz frequencies. Terahertz frequencies are waves, like visible light or radio waves, whose wavelengths range from one millimeter to 0.1 mm — longer than the wavelengths of visible light.

This electric current can then be amplified and help researchers detect what types of molecules generated the terahertz waves. The use of visible light allows the device to operate at room temperature and eliminates the need for an additional cooling system.

The new device is especially useful for detecting molecules and gases in space due to its high sensitivity, said Semih Cakmakyan, co-lead author of the study and former postdoctoral student at UCLA. Cakmakyan said the device can determine the chemical composition of even small amounts of gases.

"We don't need to have a lot of gases or material (in order to detect a substance) because we have a very sophisticated product," he said.

The main components of the device include lasers used to generate photons, or particles of light, and a chip that is approximately a square millimeter in size — almost the size of a grain of sand. The sensor uses photons to convert radiation at terahertz frequencies into electric current at radio frequencies. The sensor uses these currents to determine which molecules are present in outer space.

Ning Wang, co-lead author of the study and former UCLA researcher, said terahertz waves are particularly useful for studying distant molecules because many materials have unique spectral "fingerprints" in the terahertz range. Unlike visible light, terahertz waves can penetrate into some opaque objects, meaning that terahertz can "see through" these materials. Being able to sense terahertz waves can give us a better understanding of what molecules make up the universe.

"Most molecules have a very unique signal in terahertz frequency," Jarrahi said.

Wang said their research paper has proven the device's extreme sensitivity and ability to detect weak signals, as it is sensitive enough to detect just a single photon.

Wang said she believes the detectors have the greatest potential for use in space exploration where there is less interference. Unlike Earth's atmosphere, outer space does not contain significant air or water particles that could absorb terahertz frequencies.

"Outer space is the perfect environment to study terahertz waves," Wang said.

In addition to space exploration, the device may have many practical uses on Earth, Jarrahi said. The system may be able to detect harmful substances in security systems due to its ability to detect terahertz frequencies through opaque objects, such as suitcases. The sensors may also be used to detect environmental pollution, she said.

The detector may also be used in medicine, added Cakmakyan. Because it examines terahertz waves, the device is less invasive and damaging than current medical technologies that use X-rays or ultraviolet rays.

"It's not dangerous, which is very important, whereas ultraviolet waves may cause cancer," Cakmakyan said.

Doctors may also use the device to examine patients by detecting the gases present in one's breath, Jarrahi said. For example, the presence of ammonia may signal kidney disease.

For the next step, astrophysicists are looking to deploy these sensors on a telescope with NASA. They would be used to detect some of the important signatures of astronomy-relevant chemicals on Earth, Jarrahi said.

(Source: dailybruin.com)

## Quantum tech promises 'unhackable' phones and super-secure networks

The era of the 'unhackable' phone may soon be upon us, as the random world of quantum physics is exploited to create the most secure chips ever seen.

The innovations we reveal in this episode of Futuris are being developed within the 1-billion euro EU's Quantum Flagship initiative, and promise a revolution in the privacy levels of our digital lives.

Science reporter Jeremy Wilks went to Geneva and Barcelona to take a closer look. Quantum physics is the science of tiny particles behaving in unpredictable ways. The concepts involved appear baffling -

an object being two things at the same time, for example, or being teleported in the lab.

"Quantum means many things to many people, it's always the strange, the bizarre, if you're coming from outside of physics," admits Rob Thew, Physicist at the University of Geneva.

His definition? Quantum is "a single object, a single atom or a single photon, a single particle of light".

Scientists have now learned to control and manipulate those 'objects', which should lead to some spectacular new technology.

In particular, it has fed the development of

what are known as quantum random number generators, which use the proven, perfectly random behaviour of quantum objects to generate perfectly random numbers.

## Computers and code-breaking hackers

All computer security relies on random numbers, but conventional computing is not able to generate random numbers of the same purity as quantum objects, meaning that code-breaking hackers can predict outcomes and break down security barriers. Not for long. Hugo Zbinden, Quantum Physicist at the University of Geneva, is

leading a project called QRANGE aiming to make quantum random number generators smaller, faster and less expensive so that they can be easily integrated into everyday digital devices.

He shows us a minuscule chip, what he describes as "a quantum random number generator which generates millions of bits per second, and can be integrated into smartphones, and used in many applications."

The new chips make random numbers by firing a tiny laser at two targets. Nobody can say which target they'll hit.

(Source: euronews.com)



## Tehran development plans to undergo strategic environmental assessment

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Municipality has decided to apply Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the capital's development plans for the first time in the country, Mehr reported on Saturday.

SEA is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental and possibly other sustainability aspects are considered effectively in policy, plan and program making.



Effective SEA works within a structured and tiered decision framework, aiming to support more effective and efficient decision-making for sustainable development and improved governance by providing for a substantive focus regarding questions, issues and alternatives to be considered in policy, plan and program (PPP) making.

SEA should ensure that plans and programs take into consideration the environmental effects they cause.

Referring to the Municipality's plans to achieve sustainability in the capital, Amir Hossein Jafari Varamini, director for environment and sustainable development at Tehran Municipality, said "Our goals and policies are in line with consideration of environmental impact assessment in selection, Implementation, management and evaluation of urban developmental strategies."

"To improve the effectiveness of environmental impact assessment in civil engineering, infrastructure projects and development plans, we decided to conduct strategic environmental assessment on all the plans in collaboration with the Tehran Urban Research and Planning Center, this year," he explained.

He went on to say that the purpose of SEA studies is to determine the pathology of the existing plans and regulations, integrating environmental considerations in implementation of development plans, and assessing long-term and short-term, direct and indirect consequences of them.

He expressed hope that by implementing SEA studies in Tehran metropolis, urban development to be directed towards sustainability and consequently, sustainable development indices including economic, social and environmental dimensions to be improved.

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Refugee crisis in Sri Lanka

(June 20, 2001)  
The UN, marking World Refugee Day on 20th June, says there are 12 million refugees worldwide and twice as many internally **displaced** people - refugees in their own countries. One of the largest groups of displaced people is in Sri Lanka. More from the BBC's Francis Harrison.  
The United Nations says there 800,000 internally displaced people in Sri Lanka who fled their homes because of **bombardment**, shifting front lines and policies of **ethnic** cleansing. Many receive government food **rations**, and about a quarter are living in **welfare** camps. The majority, but by no means all, are from the country's Tamil minority. Then there are at least half a million, if not more, Sri Lankan Tamil **refugees** living in Europe, North America, India and the Middle East. Accurate figures are hard to come by: there's been no **census** since the war began, but it's clear a huge proportion of Sri Lankan Tamils have been **uprooted** from their homes by this conflict.

Half the displaced are children and the UN says its important they don't grow up in overcrowded camps, **hotbeds** of resentment and frustration, with the government and donors waiting for an end to the conflict before they provide a permanent solution. The UN is now considering **relocating** displaced people to a third location, neither their home nor a camp, but a place where they can **put down roots** and offer their children **a settled future** while they sit out the war.

■ **Words**  
**displaced:** forced to move away from the area where they live  
**bombardment:** a strong and continuous attack of gunfire or bombing  
**ethnic:** connected with different races or cultural groups of people  
**rations:** when something is scarce, your ration of it is the amount you are allowed to have  
**welfare:** here means intended to help to improve people's living conditions and financial problems  
**refugees:** people who have been forced to leave their country because of war or their political or religious beliefs  
**census:** an official examination of the details of a country's population  
**uprooted:** made to leave a place where you have lived for a long time  
overcrowded: if a place is overcrowded, there are too many people in it  
**hotbeds:** situations or places in which there are large amounts of unpleasant feelings  
**relocating:** moving to a different place  
**put down roots:** to make a place, where you feel you belong, your home  
**a settled future:** a calmer and more stable way of life, living in one place  
**sit out:** wait patiently until something ends

(Source: BBC)



## Without water, everything withers

# On the occasion of Caspian Sea day: waste management atop agenda

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Caspian Sea Day, annually observed by the Caspian Sea states on August 12, will be held in the city of Babolsar on August 15 with a theme of taking steps toward waste management in coastal provinces.

Ahmad Lahijanzadeh, deputy Department of Environment chief, made the remarks on Monday on the occasion of Caspian Sea Day 2019, Mehr reported.

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed inland body of water on Earth by area. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast. The sea has a surface area of 371,000 square kilometers and a volume of 78,200 cubic kilometers.

Caspian Sea Day aims to raise awareness about the environmental ramifications of human interference with this valuable ecosystem. The day marks the Framework Convention, also called Tehran Convention, signed by the official representatives of the five littoral Caspian states namely Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan in Tehran on November 4, 2003.

Protocol for the conservation of biological diversity is added to the framework



convention of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea, which is being reviewed by the Majlis (Iranian parliament), Lahijanzadeh said.

The special attention of the Majlis and the

government on the protocol's approval and waste management in coastal provinces can be an effective step in this regard, he noted.

He went on to say that the protocol was signed at the 5th meeting of the littoral states

## Turtles more likely to eat plastics that look like foods in their natural diet, study finds



Green turtles are more likely to swallow plastics that resemble foods in their natural diet, a new study has found.

The creatures are fooled by narrow lengths of plastic in natural colors like green and black, such as bin bags, because they look like seagrass, scientists found.

The team from the University of Exeter and the Society for the Protection of Turtles, came to the conclusion after they examined the guts of turtles found washed up on beaches in Cyprus.

All of the turtles whose full gastrointestinal tract could be examined were found to have swallowed plastic, with 183 pieces found in one animal.

"Previous research has suggested leatherback turtles eat plastic that resembles their jellyfish prey, and we wanted to know whether a similar thing might be happening with green turtles," Dr. Emily Duncan, from the University of Exeter, said.

She added: "Sea turtles are primarily visual predators – able to choose foods by size and shape – and in this study we found strong evidence that green turtles favor plastic of certain sizes, shapes and colors. The sources of this plastic might

include things like black bin bags, and fragments from items such as fishing rope and carrier bags."

Ms. Duncan said the research, published in the journal Scientific Reports, suggested turtles favor threads and sheets that are black, clear or green.

However, the team could not determine what role the plastic may have played in the animals' deaths – although they believed the majority of the 34 turtles examined had most likely died as a result of getting tangled in fishing nets.

The full gastrointestinal tracts of 19 turtles were examined, with the number of pieces found ranging from three to 183.

"Research like this helps us understand what sea turtles are eating, and whether certain kinds of plastic are being ingested more than others," Professor Brendan Godley, who leads the Exeter Marine research strategy, said.

He added that it was important to know what kinds of plastics were particularly problematic to sea turtles.

The research was supported by Plymouth Marine Laboratory, with funders including the Sea Life Trust and the European Union.

(Source: The Independent)

## Typhoon Lekima: Dozens dead and 16 missing as 130mph winds ravage eastern China



More than 33 people have died and 16 are missing after powerful Typhoon Lekima hit China's Zhejiang province, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Most of the victims died in Yongjia county, near the port city of Wenzhou, after a landslide caused by the rain made the river level rise 10m within 10 minutes, state-run news agency Xinhua said.

The landslide trapped 120 people in their homes, killing 23 with nine others reported missing.

State media footage showed rescuers wading in waist-high waters to evacuate people from engulfed houses in the hardest-hit areas.

Emergency crews worked to free people trapped in cars, and images showed the storm had brought down numerous trees.

Family saved in Ningbo City, China as Typhoon Lekima leaves villages flooded

Six others died elsewhere in Zhejiang province, three in Lin'an and three in Yueqing, the broadcaster CCTV reported.

More than a million people have been evacuated from their homes, including 253,000 in Shanghai.

Lekima caused at least 200 homes to collapse and damaged more than 173,000 hectares of crops and 34,000 homes in Zhejiang so far, with authorities putting

in Turkmenistan in 2014.

The 6th meeting of the Tehran Convention states is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November this year, he stated.

The exchange of information and planning to implement other protocols to the Convention, are among the issues to be discussed during the meeting, he concluded.

Parvin Farshchi, former deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE) for marine affairs, in August 2018 said that among the Caspian Sea states, Iran discharges the lion's share of plastic waste into the sea.

Sirous Vatankhah, secretary of energy technologies development headquarters at Science and Technology Vice-presidency, has said that the amount of waste generated in the northern provinces of the country, neighboring the Caspian Sea, is snowballing at a rate of over 7,000 tons a day, accounting for 14 percent of the total daily 50,000 tons of waste production in the country.

There is a significant relationship between the prevalence of various diseases and the amount of waste generation, which must be considered a "danger sign" that needs urgent measures to contain the issue, he highlighted.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

## Annual dusty days up day-and-a-half in Khuzestan over 3 decades

The number of dusty days in southern province of Khuzestan have increased by day-and-a-half over a 30-year period per annum on average, the provincial meteorological organization director has said.

The number of dusty days is different in different seasons, but on average over a 30-year period sand and dust storms hit the area 63 days annually, IRNA news agency quoted Mohammad Sabzehzari as saying on Wednesday.

However, some years the number of dusty days surged to 115 days over a year, he regretted.

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “-bound”

■ **Meaning:** restricted by or confined to  
■ **For example:** For everyone from **deskbound** office workers to managers in meetings, this is the latest addition to one of the best-selling book series.

## PHRASAL VERB

### Trade down

■ **Meaning:** to replace something you own with something cheaper, or buy a cheaper type of thing than before  
■ **For example:** Many of their customers are trading down to cheaper cigarettes.

## IDIOM

### Make a mountain out of a molehill

■ **Explanation:** to exaggerate or put too much focus on a minor issue and make it seem like a major one  
■ **For example:** You got one B and you're acting like you're failing the class. You're making a mountain out of a molehill, if you ask me.

## بروز گرد و خاک در خوزستان در ۳۰ سال گذشته سالانه یک و نیم روز افزایش داشت

مدیرکل هواشناسی استان خوزستان گفت: در مدت ۳۰ سال گذشته روند افزایش روزهای گرد و خاکی در خوزستان یک و نیم روز در سال بوده است یعنی در این مدت هر سال یک و نیم روز به تعداد روزهای گرد و خاکی اضافه شده است. محمد سبزه زاری روز چهارشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرگزاری ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه تعداد روزهای گرد و خاکی در فصول سال مختلف متفاوت است، افزود: به صورت میانگین دراز مدت ۳۰ ساله حدود ۶۳ روز در سال گرد و خاک داشتیم. وی افزود: اما در سال هایی که خیلی گرد و خاک شدید بود تعداد این روزها به ۱۱۵ روز هم رسیده است.



# Taliban says talks with U.S. end without a deal

**TEHRAN**— Talks on a pact that would allow the United States to end its longest war and withdraw troops from Afghanistan ended on Monday without agreement and both sides would consult their leaders on the next steps, the Taliban said.

The talks, held in Qatar since late last year, have brought hopes for a deal allowing U.S. troops to leave in exchange for a Taliban promise that Afghanistan will not be used by militants as a base from which to plot attacks abroad.

But the United States is pushing for Taliban agreement on two other elements: power-sharing talks with the U.S.-backed government and a ceasefire.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the eighth round of talks, which a U.S. official said earlier involved technical details of the implementation of the pact, ended in the early hours and both sides would consult their leaders.

"We prolonged our meeting with the hope of reaching a peace agreement but it could not happen," said a member of the Taliban negotiating team in Qatar.

"We discussed a number of issues and developed consensus on some of them but couldn't reach a conclusion," said the official who declined to be identified.

The U.S. negotiators were demanding that the Taliban announce a ceasefire and start direct talks with



the Afghan government.

The Taliban, fighting since their ouster in 2001 to expel foreign forces and establish an Islamic state, responded by calling for the United States to announce a roadmap for the withdrawal of their forces, the Taliban official said.

U.S. officials were not immediately available for comment but the chief U.S. negotiator, veteran Afghan-American diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad, said on Sunday hard work was being done "toward a lasting and

honorable peace agreement and a sovereign Afghanistan which poses no threat to any other country".

An agreement would allow U.S. President Donald Trump to achieve his aim of ending a war launched in the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

## STALEMATE

The war has become a stalemate, with neither side able to defeat the other and casualties rising among civilians as well as combatants.

But without a Taliban commitment to power-sharing talks and a ceasefire, there are fears the insurgents will fight on when U.S. forces leave in a bid to overthrow the government.

The government has not been involved in the talks. The Taliban refuse to recognise or negotiate with it.

President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday appeared to question the talks, saying his nation would decide its future, not outsiders.

"Our future cannot be decided outside, whether in the capital cities of our friends or neighbours. The fate of Afghanistan will be decided here in Afghanistan," Ghani told a gathering for prayers marking the Eid al-Adha Muslim festival.

He also said a presidential election, scheduled for Sept. 28, in which he hopes to win a second term, was essential.

The Taliban have denounced the election as a sham and threatened to attack rallies. There has been speculation the vote could be postponed if the United States struck the deal with the militants, but Ghani said it was vital.

According to Reuters, Khalilzad said in his Sunday message marking Eid that scholars believed the deeper meaning of the festival was to sacrifice one's ego.

"Leaders on all sides of the war in Afghanistan must take this to heart as we strive for peace," he said.

## Juncker tells Britain: no-deal Brexit will hurt you the most

**TEHRAN**— A no-deal Brexit would hurt Britain more than the rest of Europe no matter how much Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government pretends otherwise, outgoing European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in remarks published on Saturday.

Britain has been pressing the European Union to amend the terms of Britain's withdrawal agreement, saying Brussels would have to take responsibility for a no-deal Brexit if it does

not compromise, Reuters reported.

But at the end of the day that would do the most harm to Britain, Juncker told a regional newspaper in the Austrian province of Tyrol, where he regularly spends his summer holiday.

"If it comes to a hard Brexit, that is in no one's interest, but the British would be the big losers. They are acting as though that were not the case but it is," Juncker told the Tiroler Tageszeitung newspaper.

## Saudi dissident dies in jail due to torture, deliberate medical negligence

**TEHRAN**— A dissident Saudi activist has reportedly died in prison due to various forms of torture he was subjected to in jail and deliberate medical negligence, amid a crackdown led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman against pro-democracy campaigners, Muslim preachers and intellectuals in the country.

London-based and Arabic-language Naba television news network reported on Sunday that Ahmed Abdullah Abdulrahman Shaa'yi passed away at Tariya prison in Saudi Arabia's north-central city of Bu-

raydah on August 9.

The report added that Shaa'yi's body has been handed over to his family, and a funeral procession was held for him.

According to Press TV, the rights group Prisoners of Conscience, which is an independent non-governmental organization seeking to promote human rights in Saudi Arabia, also confirmed the report in a post on its official Twitter page, stating that the circumstances surrounding the dissident's death remain unknown.

## Ansarallah forces score massive advance in northern Yemen

**TEHRAN**— The Ansarallah forces scored a massive advance in northern Yemen this past week, seizing a large number of sites from the Saudi-backed Yemeni troops.

The operation, which began early last week, was conducted in the Jawf Governorate and targeted the contested Astur axis.

According to the official media wing of the Ansarallah forces, their troops managed to capture 37 sites from the Saudi-backed fighters, including seven strategic hills and mountains.

Furthermore, the Ansarallah forces said their attack, which lasted for 72 hours, killed as many as 30 Saudi and Yemeni fighters, while wounding many more.

The Ansarallah forces also seized a large amount of weapons from the Saudi-backed troops, including many ATGMs and night vision goggles.

### ■ Southern separatists call for cooperation

Meanwhile, southern separatists in Yemen say they are committed to a ceasefire in the city of Aden with the Saudi-led coalition.

At least 40 people were killed in four days of fighting



as the UAE-backed forces overran government bases and the presidential palace.

Now, the group is pitching itself as a natural partner to Saudi Arabia, hoping to have a greater say in the future.

The interior minister of Yemen's fugitive government has said the United Arab Emirates won in the southern port city of Aden.

In a Twitter post published on his official account, Ahmed al-Mayssari said: "We acknowledge de-

feat and congratulate the UAE on its victory ... but this will not be our last battle."

He also blamed the Yemeni government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and ally Saudi Arabia for remaining "silent" about the developments that had unravelled in Aden over the past few days.

On Saturday, the Security Belt - a militia aligned with the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) which seeks the secession of the south - took effective control of various parts of Aden.

STC leader Aidarous al-Zubaidi on Sunday said in a televised appearance the council was committed to a ceasefire called by Saudi Arabia, and said the separatists were willing to attend a meeting called by Riyadh a day earlier.

He added they were also willing to work with the Saudi-UAE-led military coalition battling Yemen's Houthi rebels.

Aden has been the temporary seat of Hadi's government since the Houthi movement seized the capital, Sana'a, in late 2014.

## Russia shoots down six drones launched by Syria militants in Latakia

**TEHRAN**— Russia has downed six drones launched by Takfiri militants against the country's Hmeimim air base in Syria's western province of Latakia.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that its air defenses destroyed the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) at a "safe distance" as they approached the base from the northwest on Sunday evening.

According to the statement, no damage was caused to the base during the militant attack.

The failed drone raid is not the first attempt by militants to target the Russian facility.

On August 8, the militants fired four rockets at the base, but all the projectiles exploded mid-air and failed to reach their targets. However, the incident killed two civilians from a nearby village and injured four others.

On August 5, the militants fired three unguided missiles at the base but the missile landed outside the bases, injuring four civilians.

Russia has been helping Syrian forces

alongside Iran and the Lebanese movement Hezbollah in ongoing battles against foreign-backed terrorist across the conflict-plagued Arab country.

The Russian military assistance, which began in September 2015 at the official request of the Syrian government, has proven effective as Syrians continue to recapture key areas from Daesh and other foreign-backed terrorist groups across the country with Russian air support.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

### ■ Deash threatens to step up fight against U.S.-backed Kurds

Meanwhile, the Daesh terrorist group on Sunday vowed to intensify its fight against the U.S.-led coalition and Kurdish militants in eastern Syria after the U.S. Defense Department said in a report released earlier this month that the group "solidified its insurgent capabilities in Iraq and was

re-surfing in Syria."

The resurgence of Daesh comes as reports said earlier this year that a deal was clinched between the United States and Daesh, under which Washington has received massive amounts of gold in exchange for providing safe passage to the terror group's members in Syria.

"The fire of the battle between us and them has been reignited and will intensify," Daesh said in the Kurdish militants in a video posted on its Telegram channel on Sunday.

Syrian Kurds pronounced the death of Daesh's nearly five-year-old "caliphate" in late March after flushing out diehard terrorists from the village of Baghouz, their very last bastion, in eastern Syria.

The terror outfit launched a campaign of bloodshed and destruction in Syria and Iraq in 2014. Later that year, the U.S. led scores of its allies in an invasion of the two countries under the pretext of dislodging the terrorists.

Damascus objects to Washington's military presence on its soil and has repeatedly brought its stated goal into question.

Daesh has lost almost all of the swathes of land it had captured from the Syrian government thanks to successful army operations, which have the backing of Iran and Russia.

However, sporadic attacks by the group, which retains sleeper cells, are still reported in eastern and northeastern Syria.

Also on Sunday, the terrorist group said the U.S.-led coalition has entrapped its local adversaries, including the Kurds.

"They have been thrown into the flames of a fierce war that will leave them without tail or head," Daesh warned.

### ■ Assad performs Eid prayers in Damascus

According to Press TV, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad performed the Eid-al-Adha prayers along other worshipers at al-Afram Mosque in the capital Damascus on Sunday.

Assad also listened to the Eid sermon, which was delivered by Sheikh Hassan Awad, in which he referred to Damascus' victory over terrorism through the steadfastness of the president and the people as well as the army's sacrifices.

## Russia, after protests, tells Google not to advertise 'illegal' events

**TEHRAN**— Russia's state communications watchdog has asked Google to stop advertising "illegal mass events" on its YouTube video platform, it said Sunday.

Tens of thousands of Russians staged what observers called the country's biggest political protest for eight years on Saturday, defying a crackdown to demand free elections to Moscow's city legislature. Multiple YouTube channels broadcast the event live.

The watchdog, Roscomnadzor, said some entities had been buying advertising tools from YouTube, such as push notifications, in order to spread information about illegal mass protests, including those aimed at disrupting elections.

It said Russia would consider a failure by Google to respond to the request as "interference in its sovereign affairs" and "hostile influence [over] and obstruction of democratic elections in Russia."

If the company does not take measures to prevent events from being promoted on its platforms, Russia reserves the right to respond accordingly, Roscomnadzor said, without giving details.

Over the past five years, Russia has introduced tougher laws requiring search engines to delete some search results, messaging services to share encryption keys with security services, and social networks to store Russian users' personal data on servers within the country.

A Google spokesperson in Russia declined to comment on Sunday.

Moscow has a track record of putting regulatory pressure on Google, one of the main rivals of Russian internet search company Yandex.

In late 2018, Russia fined Google 500,000 roubles (\$7,663) for failing to comply with a legal requirement to remove certain entries from its search results, Reuters reported.

## Salvini could take Italy out of EU, former PM warns

**TEHRAN**— Matteo Salvini, who has plunged Italy into turmoil by pulling out of a coalition government, could eventually take the country out of the EU, a former prime minister warned Sunday.

Interior Minister Salvini, who announced last week that he was pulling his League party out of an increasingly acrimonious coalition with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S), "has no principles," Enrico Letta told AFP.

"One day, he can say he wants Europe, the next that he wants to leave. With Salvini, an Italian 'Brexit' is not impossible," said Letta, who was Italy's premier between April 2013 and February 2014.

Both the League and M5S campaigned in the 2018 elections on anti-EU platform, but have since stepped back from demands to exit the eurozone single currency bloc.

Under Salvini's headline stance as interior minister, the populist government clashed with most of its EU partners when it closed Italian ports to refugees.

Rome has also sparred with Brussels over budget numbers and targets.

But on Saturday, Salvini said that pulling the country out of either the euro or the European Union "has never been in the works."

"The political chaos in Italy is complete and it's linked to the failure of this government majority," said Letta - the former head of the centre-left Democratic Party - in an impromptu interview at Lamezia Terme airport in southern Italy.

Salvini ended the 14-month-old ruling alliance on Thursday, saying afterwards he had had enough of working with the M5S led by Luigi di Maio and what he said was its refusal to work together on key issues, AFP reported.

## One million moved into camps, 184 dead in India monsoon floods

**TEHRAN**— Indian authorities have moved around a million people into emergency camps in recent days as the death toll from monsoon floods jumped Monday to at least 184.

The southern state of Kerala, a tourist haven known for its beaches, hill resorts and backwaters, has been the worst hit region for the second consecutive year, forcing the closure of the Kochi international airport for three days last week.



"At least 76 people have died, 58 are missing and another 32 have received injuries," Pramod Kumar, Kerala police spokesperson, told AFP.

Around 288,000 people across the state's worst affected districts including Wayanad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been moved to relief camps.

At least 42 people have also lost their lives in neighboring Karnataka state, which has seen some of its worst flooding of recent years.

"We have evacuated over 580,000 people," a senior Karnataka government official told AFP.

Many key highways and roads across the affected regions have been damaged or cut off by rising waters.

Local emergency personnel and troops from the army, navy and air force have been deployed for search, rescue and relief operations.

Indian media have also reported 66 deaths in the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, with tens of thousands of people shifted to relief camps.

While the monsoon rains are crucial to replenishing water supplies in drought-stricken India, they kill hundreds of people across the country every year.

Last year Kerala was hit by its worst floods in almost a century with around 450 people killed, AFP reported.

## 'We have to get these weapons of war off our streets': Biden

**TEHRAN**— Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden has called for a reinstatement of an assault weapons ban in the wake of two mass shootings last week that killed 31 people, saying, "We have to get these weapons of war off our streets."

"The 1994 assault weapons and high-capacity magazines bans worked. And if I am elected president, we're going to pass them again — and this time, we'll make them even stronger," Biden wrote in a New York Times op-ed published on Sunday.

The 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban bill was signed

into law by former President Bill Clinton. It expired in September 2004. Since then an assault weapons ban hasn't been in place in the US.

Biden claimed that along with Senator Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.) he got the bill passed in 1994, and said he "fought hard to extend" the ban in 2004, but failed to do so.

"The Republicans who allowed these laws to expire asserted that they were ineffective. But, almost 15 years after the bans expired, with the unfortunate benefit of hindsight, we now know that they did make a difference," Biden wrote.

In his op-ed, Biden said that data about mass shootings showed that from 1994 to 2004 there were fewer mass shootings in the country.

"There's overwhelming data that shootings committed with assault weapons kill more people than shootings with other types of guns. And that's the point," he wrote.

"Shooters looking to inflict mass carnage choose assault weapons with high-capacity magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds. They choose them because they want to kill as many people as possible without having to stop and reload," he continued.



## Tom Daley record broken by 13-year-old Oleksii Sereda

Ukrainian teenager Oleksii Sereda has earned his country an Olympic quota place after a stunning victory on the final day of the European Diving Championships in Kiev.

The 13-year-old won the gold medal in the men's 10 metre platform in front of a home crowd at the Liko Sports Centre.

Sereda caught the world's attention when finishing fourth in this event at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju and has now made a further mark on the global stage with victory.

After a disappointing fifth place for Ukraine in the mixed team event, Sereda got his hands on a gold medal with a total score of 488.85 points, just over 14 ahead of the rest of the field.

It is his second medal of these Championships, to go with his silver in the 10m mixed synchro, and the third gold for the host nation.

France's Benjamin Auffret finished second for the second successive European Championships in this event, scoring 474.90,.

Ruslan Ternovoi took bronze with 445.25, only 0.2 points ahead of Russian team-mate Nikita Shleikher.

Shleikher had won two gold medals already in these Championships in the 3m and 10m synchro events but could not add an individual medal to his collection.

Sereda's gold, in the final dive of these Championships, also brought to an end an extraordinary Russian run of gold medals in six consecutive events which continued earlier this afternoon in the women's 3m synchronised.

Uliana Kliueva and Vitaliia Koroleva narrowly defeated Germany's Lena Hentschel and Tina Punzel - who finished second for the second consecutive European Championships in succession - and the Ukrainian duo of Viktoriya Kesar and Anna Pysmenska, with just over three points separating the medal places.

(Source: BBC)

## Barcelona goalkeeper Neto to undergo surgery on wrist injury

Barcelona's back-up goalkeeper Neto will undergo surgery after injuring his left wrist, the club announced on Monday.

Neto suffered the injury in training and is unlikely to be fit for Barca's opening La Liga game away to Athletic Bilbao on Friday.

"Goalkeeper Neto is to undergo surgery this Tuesday on a fractured scaphoid bone in his left hand sustained in training while on the US tour," a club statement read.

"Doctor Xavier Mir will perform the operation in the presence of the Club Medical Services. Afterwards, he will make a statement to explain how the surgery has gone and to offer an approximate recovery date."

Neto joined Barcelona this summer from Valencia, with fellow goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen leaving Camp Nou and going the other way.

Coach Ernesto Valverde is already likely to be without Lionel Messi against Bilbao. Messi missed the friendly win over Napoli on Saturday after sustaining a calf tear in training last week.

(Source: AFP)

## ‘Question mark’ over United future remains, says Pogba

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba has said there is still a "question mark" over his future following his team's resounding 4-0 victory over Chelsea in the first match of their Premier League campaign on Sunday.

The France international said he wanted to leave the club during the close season and was linked with a potential move to Real Madrid or Juventus.

Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer praised Pogba's professionalism after he set up United's third and fourth goals against Chelsea, but the midfielder said "only time will tell" if he would stay in England.

"I always feel good when I play football. I do the things I like, plus it's my job. I give my all every time I go out on the pitch," Pogba told French radio station RMC.

"I'm aware that things have been said. Only time will tell. There's always that question mark.

"I'm at Manchester. I have fun with my team mates. I always want to win matches and I always give my best when I'm on the pitch."

The Premier League transfer window closed on Thursday, a day before the start of the season, but top-flight clubs in England are still allowed to sell players until the European window closes on Sept. 2.

(Source: Reuters)

## Nadal beats Medvedev for 5th Rogers Cup title

Rafael Nadal won his fifth Rogers Cup title, beating Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 on in just 70 minutes Sunday at breezy IGA Stadium.

The 33-year-old Nadal won the event for the third time in Montreal. The first came in 2005 at age 19 over Andre Agassi, and the second in 2013. Nadal won in Toronto in 2008 and 2018.

"I played a solid match, my best match of the week so far without a doubt," Nadal said. "I did a lot of things well -- changing directions, changing rhythms."

Nadal has withdrawn from this week's Cincinnati Open, a champion at the event at 2013, due to fatigue, the tournament's organizers said on Sunday.

The second-ranked Spanish star won his 83rd singles title and third of the year, following clay victories in Rome and at the French Open. He extended his tour record for Masters 1000 titles to 35, two more than top-ranked Novak Djokovic.

"He was playing very well during the whole week. So for me, it was important in the beginning that he doesn't take advantage, because finals are always a little bit more difficult for everyone," Nadal said. "I've played a lot of these. I know beginnings can be tricky, especially against a great player like him, but especially when a player like him is playing with a lot of confidence like he was playing during the whole week."

(Source: Soccernet)

# Murray ready to go it alone in Cincinnati

Andy Murray has sharpened his game on the practice courts with some of the best players in the world but the Scot says now is the time to really test himself with a return to singles action at the Cincinnati Masters.

Murray had hip resurfacing surgery in January in a bid to salvage his career and eased himself back into competitive action in doubles play.

The 32-year-old is now ready to go it alone and will face Frenchman Richard Gasquet on Monday in what will be his first singles match since losing in the Australian Open first round to Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut seven months ago.

"The performances against top singles players in practices have been good," said the three times Grand Slam winner, whose world ranking has slipped to No. 325

"But at some stage you have to take the step to try and play. The quickest way to get up to speed is by being on the practice and match court with top players," the ATP Tour's website quoted him as saying.

Now with a metal covering on part of his hip, Murray says he is pain-free



but knows it will take time to regain his agility and movement around the court.

"I'm not expecting to move as well I used

to, but I think I can move better than I am now," he said at a news conference. "That will take some time since I only started

## Lampard defiant in face of Mourinho criticism of loss to United



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard defended his team selection for Sunday's 4-0 defeat by Manchester United at Old Trafford in response to criticism from his former boss Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho made his debut as a television pundit for Sky Sports on the day Lampard, his former midfield general, was in charge of Chelsea for a Premier League game for the first time. The Portuguese coach, sacked by Manchester United in December, was making a criticism of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's strikers Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial which then veered into a damning verdict on the west London club where he won Premier League titles in two separate spells.

Rashford scored twice on Sunday and Martial was also on target, along with new signing Dan James, but Mourinho questioned whether they could perform consistently well against more solid defences.

"I think they can when they are facing teams like Chelsea. I think they were too soft," Mourinho said, before questioning Lampard's tactical approach.

"(Chelsea) were not compact defensively, too much space to play, not enough aggression on the ball, the defensive line, the midfield, the attack, they were not compact," he said.

"(Forward) Tammy Abraham was staying up, (Ross) Barkley was staying up, (Mason) Mount was staying up, Pedro was staying up."

"Nowadays you look to the good teams and all the good teams defend compact. Higher block or lower block, the lower block is more defensive, the higher block more offensive, more aggressive, but always in the block.

"It's just a basic principle, you have to de-

fend compact, and Chelsea were never that, so it was too easy for Man United," he said.

Mourinho also questioned Lampard's team selection, in particular his decision to start with midfielder N'Golo Kante, returning from injury, on the bench.

"(Marcos) Alonso was on the bench, Kante was on the bench, (Olivier) Giroud was on the bench, and to come to Old Trafford, even if this is not the huge Manchester United that used to scare people, it's Manchester United.

"A little bit of experience would fit well with the team. You look to the performance of Mason Mount, Tammy Abraham and for matches of this dimension you need a little bit more," he said. Lampard appeared surprised by Mourinho's comments, particularly about 20-year-old Mount, who was making his Premier League debut.

"He didn't like the performance of Mason Mount? Did he say Mason Mount?" asked Lampard, before saying fitness issues had influenced his choices.

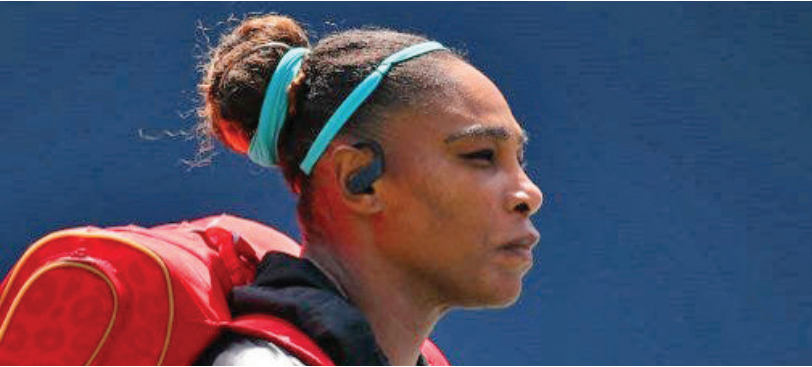
"Well I can't drag people out of the medical room to play. If they are experienced or not, the players are the players that played today.

"I don't have to be too concerned about what anyone else says, pundit wise or whoever they may be, they have to speak.

"At the same time, what is clear is the squad is the squad that we have got. I believe in it and if we go into halftime two or three-nil up, as we probably should have done if we were more clinical and with a stroke of luck here and there, the game could have been completely different."

(Source: Mirror)

## Tearful Serena retires injured in Toronto final



Serena Williams' first U.S. Open tune-up ended in dramatic fashion as the tearful American was forced to retire with a back injury while trailing Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu 3-1 in the Rogers Cup final on Sunday.

Williams, who hopes to chase a record-equalling 24th career Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open, seemed fine on court but suddenly sat crying in her chair before deciding to retire 19 minutes into the match with back spasms.

"I'm sorry I couldn't do it today. I tried but I just couldn't do it," an emotional Williams, who struggled to get the words out, told the crowd.

"It's been a tough year but we'll keep going."

Andreescu consolidated an early break to move 3-1 up at which point Williams went to her chair where she called for the trainer and broke down in tears.

Williams said the spasms began during her three-set semi-final win over Czech Marie Bouzkova on Saturday. They got so bad that she was unable to sleep and could not really move but she added that she at least wanted to try and play the final.

"I was just trying to figure out how do you play a match where you have no rotation?" said Williams.

"And I don't want to get this far and not at least try. I think I would have really regretted not at least going out there and seeing maybe if a miracle happened."

The 37-year-old Williams, whose competitive action this year has been severely limited because of knee issues, declared herself

playing singles a couple of weeks ago.

"When you're playing at the highest level against the best players, they hit the ball big and that takes some time to get used to."

Murray said he taken inspiration from doubles player Bob Bryan, who made a successful return from hip surgery.

"I probably would have had the operation regardless," he said. "But I'm not sure I would have tried to play if I hadn't seen what he had done and heard everything he told me about. He's been brilliant."

Murray returned to doubles play in June, winning the Queen's Club title with partner Feliciano Lopez, who he also partnered to the last 16 in Montreal last week and will team up with again in Cincinnati.

Murray, who also played mixed doubles with Serena Williams at Wimbledon, would go against fourth seed Dominic Thiem in the second round if he gets by Gasquet.

"You realize getting back to singles is a hard thing to do because you're at the mercy of the draws a lot of the time," Murray said. "I'll just deal with it as it comes, but hopefully it makes for some exciting early rounds."

(Source: Reuters)

## PSG start title defense with win, fans vent fury at Neymar

Paris Saint-Germain brushed off the ongoing Neymar transfer saga by kicking off their Ligue 1 title defense with a straightforward 3-0 victory over Nimes on Sunday.

The 27-year-old Neymar was left out of the squad the day after PSG sporting director Leonardo said talks about a possible sale of the Brazilian were "more advanced than before".

On Sunday, coach Thomas Tuchel told Canal+ he had "no news" on Neymar's future and that he would have to "find solutions without" him.

Edinson Cavani's controversial VAR penalty in the 24th minute set PSG on their way at the Parc des Princes, after supporters had made their negative feelings towards the absent Neymar clear.

A fine second-half display from Kylian Mbappe -- with a goal and an assist for Angel Di Maria -- showed Tuchel the obvious solution to Neymar's impending exit, and gave the capital club a perfect start to their bid for a third straight French title and ninth in total.

"We are not going to lie. We will see what happens with Neymar -- but it's not the same team," said Mbappe.

PSG sit level with Lyon, who beat Monaco 3-0 on Friday, at the top of the fledgling table, and will be hoping to occupy that position for the rest of the season.



Former Barcelona forward Neymar's two years in the French capital since PSG made him the world's most expensive player have been plagued by injuries and controversies.

Home fans unfurled a banner before kick-off translating to "Neymar. Get out".

Other banners slammed his recent comment that his fondest memory in football was inspiring Barcelona's stunning 2017 Champions League comeback against PSG, while one called Neymar "heartless".

Neymar has been linked with a return to Barca or a move to their arch rivals Real Madrid.

Tuchel handed Ligue 1 debuts to center-back Abdou Diallo, signed from Borussia Dortmund in the close-season, and midfielder Pablo Sarabia, who joined from Sevilla.

The champions monopolized the ball from the off, with Mbappe shooting straight at visiting goalkeeper Paul Bernardon after jinking through the massed Nimes defense.

### VAR controversy

They were awarded a penalty by VAR midway through the first half, as a corner struck Nimes defender Pablo Martinez on the arm after Diallo ducked under the ball while standing right in front of him.

Cavani slammed the spot-kick into the net, before Nimes coach Bernard Blaquart was booked for his protestations.

A pedestrian affair, with Nimes happy to almost exclusively keep all 11 men behind the ball, had to wait until the 57th minute for a second goal when Mbappe slotted in to open his league account for the campaign.

Di Maria came off the bench and drilled into the bottom corner after an excellent pass from Mbappe with 20 minutes remaining, and PSG played out the most comfortable of wins -- finishing with 74 percent of possession as goalkeeper Alphonse Areola did not face a shot on target.

Earlier on Sunday, new signing Victor Osimhen marked his Ligue 1 debut with two goals as last year's runners-up Lille kicked off their new campaign with a 2-1 victory over Nantes.

Christophe Galtier's hosts, who finished 16 points behind PSG last term, were indebted to Nigerian Osimhen, who scored a fabulous 80th-minute winner at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy.

"When I have opportunities, I don't want to miss them," said the 20-year-old. "I'm not yet 100 percent but I'm training hard and I know that with time I'll be in top shape physically."

(Source: AFP)



# Andrea Stramaccioni on verge of leaving Esteghlal

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Will one week until Iran Professional League kicks off, Italian coach Andrea Stramaccioni is reportedly going to leave Esteghlal after the club failed to meet his expectations in the transfer market.

The 43-year-old coach signed a two-year contract with Esteghlal worth 1.6 million euros a year in June but the club have been unable to sign his favorite players in the summer window.

Italian media reports suggest that departure of Ali Khatir as the team's sporting director is also a reason behind his decision.

The ex-Inter coach has already showed his interest in signing Manuel Pucciarelli and Hrvoje Milic but Esteghlal have yet to sign the players.

Esteghlal have signed Malian forward Cheick Diabaté so far.

Esteghlal as one of the Iranian most popular football teams have not won the title since 2013.

A football coach with experiences as a youth coach of Roma and Inter Milan, he was put in charge of first team duties on 26 March 2012 to replace Claudio Ranieri.

Stramaccioni is also a 2010 law graduate. A former defender, his playing career was cut short by a serious knee injury while with Bologna in the 1994-95 season.



## Greece basketball team too strong for Iran



**S P O R T S TEHRAN** —Iran national basketball team lost to Greece 88-58 in their preparation match ahead of the 2019 FIBA World Cup at the Aegean Tournament Sunday night. Greek iconic guard Giannis Antetokounmpo shined with a dominant performance of 19 points, 13 rebounds, four assists, and two blocks in the match held in Crete.

Ioannis Papapetrou and Kostas Papanikolaou followed with 11 and 10 points respectively, while Nick Calathes had five points and 11 assists.

Iranian center Hamed Haddadi earned 18 points and 10 rebounds for Team Melli.

On Saturday, Iran had defeated Hungary 90-82. Mehran Shahintab's side have been drawn with world's second-ranked Spain, Puerto Rico and Tunisia in Group C of the FIBA World Cup.

The competition will be held in China from 31 Aug. to 15 Sept.

The 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup will be the 18th tournament of the FIBA Basketball World Cup for men's national basketball teams.

## Russia beat Iran to secure Tokyo quota



**S P O R T S TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team lost to Russia in straight sets (25-19, 25-23, 25-23) in the men's Tokyo Volleyball Qualification on Sunday.

In the deciding match in Pool E which took place in St. Petersburg, Victor Poletaev was top scorer of the game with 19 points (two more than Ghafour) as Russia dominated play in all skills and also took advantage of a full set's-worth of points on Iranian unforced errors.

Russia join the U.S., Poland and Argentina, who had qualified earlier on Sunday, plus Japan who had a spot by default as hosts in the 12-team lineup of Tokyo 2020.

These leaves two more tickets to be claimed by the end of Sunday's action.

Earlier on Sunday, Cuba mastered a 3-0 (21-18, 25-23, 25-22) win over Mexico with Jesus Herrera Jaime stringing up 26 points.

A further five teams will emerge in January from the Continental Olympic Qualifying Tournaments to complete the Tokyo 2020 line-up.

## Iranian girl Golnoosh Khosravi joins Konak Belediyespor

**S P O R T S TEHRAN** —Iranian international midfielder Golnoosh Khosravi joined Turkish Konak Belediyespor Women's Football team.

The 18-year-old player has penned a two-year contract with Konak Belediyespor.

Khosravi's contract details have not been revealed.

Khosravi was a member of Iran's women's U17 football team in the Asian championship.

She is the youngest Iranian woman to play abroad.

Khosravi haj joined Konak Belediyespor from Iranian football club Zob Ahan of Isfahan.

"I am very happy to join Konak Belediyespor because they finished in third place last season and want to win



the title in the current season. I had received a couple of offers from the other teams but opted to join Konak Belediyespor after consulting with my coaches in Zob Ahan," Khosravi said.

Konak Belediyespor Women's Football are the women's football team of the Turkish multi-sport club of Konak Belediyespor based in Konak district of Izmir, Turkey.

The team were established by the district municipality in 2006.

Many players of the Konak Belediyespor women's team are members of the Turkey women's national football team. The club maintains two more teams as the girls under-17 and under-15.

## Group D: Mes Sungun Varzeqan 2-3 Nagoya Oceans

Two goals by Pepita steered Nagoya Oceans to a 3-2 win over defending champions Mes Sungun Varzeqan, sealing the Japanese side top spot in Group D of the AFC Futsal Club Championship Thailand 2019 on Monday.

Three-time champions Nagoya Oceans will face Group C runners-up Vamos FC in the quarter-finals while Mes Sungun will play Group C winners Bank of Beirut of Lebanon on Wednesday.

Mes Sungun and Oceans, who had never previously met, came into the tie having already booked their places in the knockout stage after winning both their earlier group games.

Oceans' Tomoki Yoshikawa, Ryuta Hoshi and Pepita troubled the defending champions as the Japanese club controlled the early possession.

Mes Sungun goalkeeper Alireza Samimi was called into action in the fifth minute

when he saved Shota Hoshi's effort from the top of the arc and a minute later, the Iranian tipped over Yoshikawa's goal-bound shot.

The Iranian club had their first shot at goal in the sixth minute but Oceans' goalkeeper Yushi Sekiguchi foiled Mohammad Shajari's effort from above the arc.

Two minutes later, Oceans broke the deadlock in spectacular fashion through Neto Antonio Hirata's close range effort as he finished off Shota Hoshi's assist.

Mes Sungun came back fighting and almost drew level four minutes later through Mahdi Javid's half volley but Sekiguchi was quick to react with a fingertip save.

Oceans' doubled their lead a minute later through Pepita's strike from inside the box after some good work from Ryuta Hoshi at the edge of the area.

Farhad Fakhim came close for Mes Sungun in the 16th minute when he dribbled past three Oceans' players before hitting the side netting and seconds later, saw his close range effort blocked by Sekiguchi.



Mes Sungun's persistence finally bore fruit a minute before the break when Alireza Vafaei capitalised on a defensive error and scored from close range. Oceans could have increased their advantage in the 22nd minute when Pepita sent a delightful cross into the danger area

but Shota Hoshi failed to capitalize.

Mes Sungun came close in the 26th minute through Bacao's strike from above the arc but Sekiguchi was on top of his game.

Oceans suffered a blow in the 28th minute when captain Ryuta Hoshi received his marching orders for a foul on Fakhim as the Iranian surged forward.

Two minutes later, Mes Sungun scored the equaliser through Fakhim's effort from above the arc following a good team build-up.

Oceans responded immediately with efforts from Hirata and Pepita from outside the box but Samimi was quick to deny their efforts.

Pepita, however, made sure three-time champions Oceans would emerge group winners after he finished off a move he started, combining beautifully with Ryohei Ando, in the 35th minute.

(Source: AFC)

## Shikh Salman protests FIFA after Iraq denied to play matches at home

**IRNA** — Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has protested FIFA after the international football federation ordered Iraq to play home matches in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers at a neutral venue.

A letter floating in the social media reportedly from FIFA, dated July 26, 2019 and addressed to the Iraqi Football Association (IFA), orders Iraq to "select a neutral 'home' venue outside its territory for all the preliminary competition matches of the FIFA World Cup 2022."

Iraq is pitted in Group C of the 2022 World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup Joint-Qualifiers second round along with Iran, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Bahrain.

The team is scheduled to play Bahrain in its opener away on September 5 before facing Hong Kong in a home match on October 10.

Iraq Football Federation president Abdul Khaliq Masood immediately protested the FIFA's decision and Sheikh Salman also has shown his dissatisfaction with the decision.

Iraq is currently hosting the 9th WAFF Championship 2019 involving nine teams — host Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Palestine and Lebanon — at the Karbala International Stadium and Franso Hariri Stadium in Erbil.

An inspection team from FIFA will travel to Iraq to meet the high standards of FIFA in the areas of accommodation, security, logistics and crowd management as host.

## Sharifi joins Azerbaijan's Sumgayit

**TASNIM** — Iranian football forward Mehdi Sharifi joined Azerbaijani football club Sumgayit.

The 26-year-old forward, who had been deemed surplus to requirements by Persepolis coach Gabriel Calderon, has penned a two-year contract with Sumgayit.



Sharifi joined Persepolis in June 2018 with a two-year contract but played just four times for the Iranian team and failed to score. Sumgayit FK are an Azerbaijani football club based in Sumgayit that play in the Azerbaijan Premier League.

## Persepolis reach agreement with Brazilian Brandao

**Persian Football** — Iranian football club Persepolis have reached an agreement with Brazilian forward Junior Brandao.

The 24-year-old forward currently plays for Goiás on loan from Bulgarian club Ludogorets.

Persepolis are going to find a replacement for their Croatian forward Mario Budimir.

Brandão started his playing career at Brazilian club Atletico Juventus in 2015 and has also played for Brazilian clubs Ferroviaria, Novo Hamburgo and Primavera.

Persepolis will start the new season of the Iran Professional League with a match against Pars Jonoubi.

## Warm water at Olympic venue irks swimmers

Athletes have voiced concerns over the water quality and temperature at a marathon swimming test event for next year's Olympics in Tokyo, as officials vowed to monitor the situation at the Odaiba Marine Park closely in the run-up to the Games.

"That was the warmest race I've done," said three-time Olympic medalist Oussama Mellouli of Tunisia after completing the men's 5km competition yesterday.

"It felt good for the first 2km, then I got super overheated."

Japan's Yumi Kida, who finished 12th in the women's 10km event at the 2012 London Games, was also alarmed that "the water temperature was high".

International Swimming Federation (Fina) rules state that athletes may not race when the water temperature exceeds 31 deg C and executive director Cornel Marculescu said competitors' well-being was their top priority.

An external body would be set up in conjunction with Tokyo Games organizers to monitor both water quality and temperature ahead of the event, he added, and the results could affect the timing of the event.

"Based on this information, we will decide the time the event will start.

"(It) could be 5am, could be 5.30am, can be 6am, can be 6.30am - depends on the water temperature," Marculescu said.

"Working with a specialized company like we are going to do here in Tokyo, we will have the right information to take the right decision."

Issues arising from the hot weather have become the biggest headache for Tokyo organizers, who have already moved up the start time of several events in a bid to mitigate the effects of the blistering heat of the Japanese summer.

In October 2017, Tokyo organizers were also left red-faced after tests at the marine park revealed levels of E. coli bacteria more than 20 times higher than international standards, sparking doubts about the venue's safety.

Underwater "screens" have since been installed to filter the water at the marine park, which will also host the triathlon event.

However, Kida said the water was still "a little stinky", and the clarity "was not very good, so I really want the quality improved".

(Source: Straits Times)

## Gymnastics: Biles soars to sixth title at national championships

American Simone Biles reasserted her position as the world's unrivaled number one gymnast with an amazing winning performance at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday.

Biles became the first woman in nearly 70 years to capture six U.S. senior women's all-around gymnastics titles — matching Clara Schroth Lomady, who won her sixth in 1952.

Biles marked the occasion by becoming the first woman

to attempt and land a triple-twisting, double back maneuver during her floor routine. Bile was, however, not quite content even with that unprecedented move.

"It was a lot better. It wasn't as good as in some of the trainings," Biles told reporters.

"I'm just happy that I landed it because I feel like after night one my confidence got shot down. So I was really worried about it going into today, that's all I could worry

about. So I was really happy."

Four-times Olympic gold medalist Biles, who will head to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as the prohibitive favorite, finished with a total score of 118.500 to beat Sunisa Lee (113.550) and Grace McCallum (111.850). "I feel like each (title) gets better and better," she said. "Because it's like the fifth and, then, the sixth, so it just keeps getting more exciting."

(Source: Reuters)



**INTERNATIONAL DAILY**  
**www.tehrantimes.com**  
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 » **Webmaster:** webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
 » **Printed at:** Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

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No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
 P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
 Zip Code: 1599814713




The welfare of countries depends on the judgment and management of governments. If governments are honest and wise in judgment, good fortune follows; if not, it will turn away and go.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Set, costume designer Edna Zeinalian to get lifetime achievement award

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian-Armenian set and costume designer Edna Zeinalian will be honored for her lifetime achievements on Wednesday.

She will receive an award for her long brilliant career in theater during a special ceremony, which is scheduled to be organized at Tehran's Vahdat Hall by the Stage and Costume Designers Society of Iran.



Set and costume designer Edna Zeinalian in an undated photo. (Honaroline/Gata Ziatabari)

She began studying in costume design at Tehran's Alzahra University in 1972 and started working as a stage and costume designer at the Rudaki Foundation in 1978.

She has worked in over 100 theaters during her career spanning over 40 years.

The Stage and Costume Designers Society of Iran also plans to unveil a prize named after Zeinalian during the ceremony. The prize will be presented to a top stage and costume designer every year.

She deems herself deeply indebted to her parents. "I was really lucky to have good teachers, the best of them was my mother," she once said in an interview published in 2016.

"I also learned from my father to accept my failures and to try a new beginning in good spirits," she added.

A string orchestra, which will be conducted by the renowned Iranian-Armenian maestro Loris Tjeknavorian, will perform a concert at the ceremony, which will be organized in collaboration with the Rad No-Andish Art and Cultural Institute.

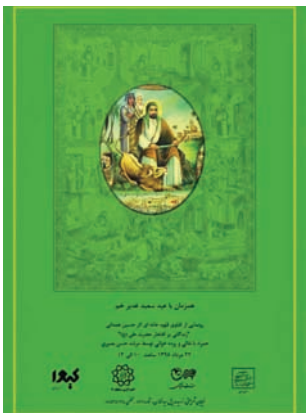
"I called the concert 'A Dialogue between Two Brothers'," Tjeknavorian said in a press release published on Sunday by the institute.

"As a part of a large musical project, the concert is a special dialogue between the music of the East and West," he added and noted, "I am really hopeful that the project can succeed and we will expand the project if everything goes well."

Celebrated pianist Bardia Sadrenoori will accompany the orchestra during the performance.

## Tehran museum to unveil Hossein Hamedani's painting of Imam Ali (AS)

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Reza Abbasi Museum in Tehran that preserves artifacts from Iran's ancient and contemporary history plans to unveil a teahouse painting of Imam Ali (AS) today.



A poster for the unveiling ceremony of teahouse painter Hossein Hamedani's work "The Honorable Life of Hazrat Ali (AS)" at the Reza Abbasi Museum in Tehran.

"The Honorable Life of Hazrat Ali (AS)" has been created Hossein Hamedani, one of Iran's pioneers of teahouse painting who died in 2005 when he was at 79.

The painting will be put on view in an exhibition that has been organized to celebrate Eid al-Ghadir, the day on which Imam Ali (AS) was appointed as successor to the Prophet Muhammad (S).

A performance in the form of naqqali, a dramatic style of storytelling dedicated to stories from Ferdowsi's Shahnameh and other epic Persian stories, will also go on stage during the unveiling ceremony of the painting by Hassan Basiri.

# “Sheeple” crowned best at Cinema Cinema Academy Awards

**1 →** "I am honored that your name is on my award," he added.

Mohammadzadeh said that the award is the fifth honor he has received for his role in the film and added, "I am the son of this cinema, and you all the cineastes, have always cared for me."

The award for best screenplay went to "Lovely Trash" written and directed by Moshen Amiryusefi, and "Baharesan, the House of the Nation" by Babak Behdad was named best documentary.

"No. 17 Soheila" by Mahmud Ghaffari won the award for best debut film and Zahra Davudnejad received best actress award for her role in the film.

Narges Abyar, the director of acclaimed movies such as "Track 143", "Breath" and "When the Moon Was Full", was selected as the Leading Figure of the Year.

Eight other cineastes and one official were nominated for the title. The nominees were selected in a poll of 207 film critics, journalists and media personalities.

"The reviews and ideas of these people who vote for me, have been always very important to me, and that's why I am thrilled they have chosen me," Abyar said after received the award.

She also warned about the water crisis in Sistan-Baluchestan Province where she shot her latest movie "When the Moon Was Full", and asked her fellow filmmakers to support the national campaign of "Water Offering".

Filmmaker Varuj Karim-Masihi, the director of acclaimed drama "The Last Act" (1989), also received a lifetime achievement award.



Director Hooman Seyyedi speaks after accepting the Mehrgiah award for best director for his film "Sheeple" at the 2nd Cinema Cinema Academy Awards at Tehran's Enqelab Hotel on August 10, 2019. (Mehr/Behnam Toftiqi)

## Iran's "Lotus" to compete in Australian film festival



A scene from "Lotus" by Iranian director Mohammadreza Vatandoost.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Mohammadreza Vatandoost's acclaimed documentary "Lotus" has been selected to go on screen at the 10th Environmental Film Festival Australia (EFFA), Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) announced on Monday.

The film tells the story of an old woman who is waiting for a permit to enter an island after 12 years to visit her son's grave.

The documentary has received

many awards at several Iranian and international festivals.

It won the mini-doc artistic vision award at the 16th Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in the U.S. city of Missoula, Montana in February.

It also brought Vatandoost the best director award at the 18th Beirut International Film Festival in May.

The EFFA, which is Australia's only international film festival dedicated to screening films with a focus on the environment, will be held in Melbourne from October 24 to November 1.

## Leader's memoirs released in Iraq



A poster for the Arabic version of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's memoirs "The Pains that Changed into Gains".

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) announced on Sunday that the memoirs of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, have been released in Iraq.

Compiled by the Iranian Arabic language scholar Mohammad-Ali Azarshab, "Inna Ma as-Sabri Nasra" was published the Islamic Revolution Publications in February.

The book, which contains his memories of imprisonment and exile during the Pahlavi period and his struggles against the regime,

was also unveiled by Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a ceremony held in Beirut in early February to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The book also contains a collection of rarely-seen photos of the Leader, his father and his children. It also features a collection of illustrations related to the topics in the book.

The Persian version of the book came out in March under the title of "The Pains that Changed into Gains".

## K-Pop's BTS goes on holiday, asks fans for privacy

**SEOUL (Reuters)** — South Korean boy band, BTS, will take their first long holiday in six years after a series of global hits, their managers said, asking fans to respect the band's privacy if they see them in "a chance encounter".

The band, which has led a wave of Korean pop music, crowned their global reach with three No. 1 albums on the Billboard chart in less than a year, a 2019 Grammy nomination and concerts from Los Angeles to Paris.

The seven members will take their first extended vacation since the band's debut in 2013, managers Big Hit Entertainment said on Sunday.

"This period of rest will be an opportunity for the members of BTS, who have relentlessly driven themselves toward



Members of K-Pop band, BTS appear on ABC's 'Good Morning America' show in Central Park in New York City, U.S., May 15, 2019. (Reuters/Brendan McDermid)

their goal since their debut, to recharge and prepare to present themselves anew as musicians and creators," it said.

Big Hit did not say how long BTS will be on holiday. The band's website said their next world tour concert is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Oct. 11.

"Should you have a chance encounter with a member of BTS while they are on vacation, we ask that you show consideration for their need to rest and enjoy their private time off," Big Hit said.

"BTS will return refreshed and recharged to return all the love you have and continue to show them," it added.

BTS broke into the U.S. market in 2017, the first Korean group to win a Billboard music award.

## J.D. Salinger's books are finally going digital

**NEW YORK (AP)** — You'll finally be able to catch the late J.D. Salinger's books in digital format.

Longtime Salinger publisher Little, Brown and Company said all four of his works, including "The Catcher in the Rye," will be made available as e-books Tuesday, marking the first time that the entirety of his published work will be available in digital format.

His son, Matt Salinger, said the digital holdout ended because many readers use e-books exclusively and some people with disabilities can only use them.

"There were few things my father loved more than the full tactile experience of reading a printed book, but he may have loved his readers more — and not just the 'ideal private reader' he wrote about, but

all his readers," said Salinger, who helps oversee his father's literary estate.

In addition to "The Catcher in the Rye," the e-books include "Nine Stories," "Franny and Zooey," and "Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters and Seymour: An Introduction."

The electronic publication continues a yearlong centennial celebration of author's birth and his contributions to literature.

Salinger, who died in 2010, lived a reclusive life in Cornish, New Hampshire, and rarely spoke to the media. He not only stopped releasing new work, but rejected any reissues or e-book editions.

But things are changing. In addition to the e-books, there have been new covers and a boxed edition.

## Hollywood studio cancels "The Hunt" movie release after criticism

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Universal Pictures on Saturday canceled the release of "The Hunt," a satirical thriller about a group of Americans who are captured to be hunted and killed for sport, following apparent criticism by President Donald Trump and a recent series of mass shootings.

The Comcast Corp division had held back on marketing the film, slated for release on Sept. 27, after the shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, last week.

It gave no reason for the cancellation. A Universal Pictures representative did not return an email seeking comment.

"We stand by our filmmakers and will continue to distribute films in partnership with bold and visionary creators, like those associated with this satirical

social thriller, but we understand that now is not the right time to release this film," Universal said in a statement.

Trump, taking to Twitter on Friday, criticized "liberal Hollywood" and an unnamed film with a pending release.

"The movie coming out is made in order to inflame and cause chaos," Trump tweeted.

Trailers released online for the film depicted a group of wealthy villains orchestrating the open-field hunting of several Americans held against their will.

The film came from Blumhouse Productions, which has produced a number of popular horror films such as "The Purge" and "Get Out."

A Blumhouse representative did not immediately respond to calls on Saturday.