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## Conflicting reports about the release of Iranian oil tanker

**TEHRAN** — It was announced on Tuesday that Britain might soon release the Iranian-operated oil tanker Grace 1. However, a few hours later it was announced that Gibraltar, where the tanker was seized, has denied it is about to free the captured tanker.

According to IRNA, Jalil Eslami, an official at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, first said that Britain

might free the tanker soon.

"Britain is interested in releasing Iran's oil tanker Grace 1 ... following the exchange of some documents, we hope the release will take place soon," said Eslami, the organization's deputy chief.

But a source for the government of the British Mediterranean territory told Reuters the report was not correct, the Guardian reported. **→3**

## Iran's daily gasoline output exceeds 100m liters

**TEHRAN** — Gasoline production in Iran has exceeded 100 million liters per day, according to the chairman of the Association of Iranian Refining Companies.

The country has achieved total self-reliance in gasoline production and the surplus production is exported to neighboring countries, Nasser Ashouri told IRIB.

Ashouri Mentioned the launch of Per-

sian Gulf Star Refinery's third phase as the main source of increase in the countries gasoline production capacity, saying that the refinery is currently producing 45 million liters of gasoline on a daily basis.

In late July, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh had said that the country's daily gasoline production is 15 million liters more than the consumption. **→5**

## Sheikh Zakzaky Arrives in India for medical treatment

**TEHRAN** — Nigeria's Muslim cleric Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Zakzaky arrived in the Indian capital, New Delhi, for medical treatment on Tuesday, a report said.

The 66-year-old cleric, along with his wife Zinat, embarked on a journey to India on Monday, the Information Nigeria news outlet reported. It added that earlier in the day, the couple was heavily escorted by armed security forces of Nigeria's domestic

intelligence agency, Department of State Services (DSS), from their residence in the city of Zaria to the airport in the capital Abuja, where they could fly to India.

Sheikh Zakzaky, the leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), is also being accompanied by some officials of security services as well as medical personnel, while travelling to India, the report further said. **→13**



## ARTICLE

**Hamid Bayati**  
Tehran Times journalist

## The failure of Washington's economic plans for Iran

In May 2018 when Donald Trump officially abandoned its nuclear agreement with Iran, he promised that they will pose a new round of very severe sanctions on Iran. United States Department of the Treasury had made a lot of supposedly "detailed" and complicated calculations.

According to their estimations, when the first phase of sanctions were placed on Iran's gold and automotive industry on August 2018, Iran was supposed to experience its first economic shock. Then, in November, with posing oil and banking sanctions, Iran's economy will be completely paralyzed.

The American officials had also considered two months for the period of tolerance (until the beginning of 2019). According to these estimations, some people like Trump's National Security Advisor John Bolton even announced that Iran's economy and even its government! Will collapse by the end of 2019.

Now, in the second half of 2019, not only Americans' estimations about Iran's economy have proven to be wrong, but the Islamic Republic has successfully entered the inferential market and has adroitly managed the psychological consequences of the sanctions. On the other hand, both the governmental and private sectors of Iran are adapting themselves to the phenomenon of American sanctions.

Above that, the failure of Trump's administration in making correct economic estimations has now caused Washington's European and regional partners to step in and manage the in-hand situation and try to stop the rising tension.

In this situation, the Islamic Republic adopted a firm policy that successfully thwarted Trump's anti-Iran policies and announced that it will reduce its commitment to the nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Clearly, the recent predictions of the International Monetary Fund reveals the failure of the White House's complicated and multi-layered plans to crush Iran's economy. It also paints a bright future for the economy of Iran on its way toward becoming stronger than ever.

## Iran-Kashmir cultural similarities

By Quayyum Raja

**MASHHAD** — On first of August 2019, I had been invited by a PhD Persian student of Ferdowsi University named Zeinab Salhi to attend the wedding of her brother Raza in their home village Ghohestan in Rostamoun. It was a 6 hour drive from the Holy city of Mashhad. I had never attended an Iranian wedding before. So, I was very excited.

I spent many years in the United Kingdom after the Islamic Revolution of Iran, where we used to hear that the Iranian Revolution has negatively changed many things in Iran. People were oppressed and they lacked a freedom of choice in all aspects of life including marriage, female education and jobs.

It is unfortunate that the Muslim countries have lost so much trust in each other that the harsh visa restrictions have made the communication and cultural exchanges between them very difficult. Therefore, they don't have first hand information about each other. Despite the fact that I had been very interested in Iranian culture and history, my visit to Iran has elucidate many things I heard from secondary sources about Iran's cultural values.

All I knew that Farsi was our language of instruction until the British occupied the sub-continent though it was still taught in Kashmir as a second language until mid 1960s. There are many official documentations in Farsi, including the Amritsar Agreement of 1846

between the British and the first Dogra ruler of Jammu Kashmir, Maharaja Gulab Singh.

As the spiritual leader of Iran, Ayatullah Khamenei highlighted in his speech in 1985 about Dr. Allama Iqbal's contribution to Persian literature, Iqbal never visited Iran, but his poetry showed as if he was born, brought up and educated in Iran. Dr. Iqbal is called in the sub-continent as Allama Iqbal honoured with a title by the people as the Poet of East.

He was a Kashmiri by background, but lived most of his years in Lahore. Therefore, Iran calls him Iqbal Lahori and I have seen among other things, a metro station in Mashhad after his name. The Father of Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatullah Khomeini also had a family connection in Kashmir. **→6**

## Russia's top nuclear official says work on new weapons will continue

**TEHRAN**— Russia's chief nuclear official says the country will continue to pursue the development of new weapons, following the death of five top Russian nuclear scientists in an explosion last week.

Alexei Likhachev, director of Russia's nuclear agency Rosatom, said in a memorial service for the five scientists in Sarov on Monday that they were the "pride of the country" and the "pride of the atomic sector."

"The best tribute to them will be our continued work on new models of weapons, which will definitely be carried out to the end," Likhachev said.

The explosion that killed the five scientists took place at an Arctic military facility on the coast of the White Sea last Thursday.

U.S. military specialists speculate that the incident

was linked to the testing of the new "Burevestnik" cruise missile, which Russian President Vladimir Putin had touted earlier this year.

Rosatom officials said the incident occurred during the testing of a rocket.

In a video interview published late Sunday, an official at the scientists' research institute in Sarov said they had been working on "sources of thermal or electric energy, using radioactive materials, including fissile materials and radioisotope materials."

The official, Vyacheslav Solovyev, did not provide specifics, however.

He said such work was normal.

"These developments are also actually happening in many countries. The Americans last year... also tested a small-scale reactor...



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## Armored, tactical vehicles unveiled

**TEHRAN** — The Defense Ministry on Tuesday unveiled new types of advanced armored and tactical vehicles fully designed and manufactured by Iranian military experts, Tasnim reported.

The domestically made Aras-2 Tactical Vehicle and Ra'd (Thunder) Armored Personnel Carrier, were put on display at the presence of Defense Minister Amir Hatami.

Speaking at the ceremony, General Hatami elaborated on the features of the Aras-2 Tactical Vehicle. Comparing the vehicle to its processor, the minister said it has made remarkable improvement, citing its power-to-weight ratio, high mobility in rugged terrains, high power and torque as examples.

He said the vehicle was designed and manufactured to meet the needs of the Armed Forces, adding a large number of Aras-2 will be delivered to the military.



## PERSPECTIVE

**Mohammad Homaeifar**  
Tehran Times journalist

## A blood money that is beyond calculation

Four years ago, in September 2015, the sweetness of Eid al-Adha (Eid Qurban) was turned into bitterness for Muslims all around the world, especially in Iran. The news was shocking, more than three thousand Muslims had died or got injured over the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mina, Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The news first came on September 24th, leaving Muslims in an unbelievable agony and pain. According to the reports from Saudi Arabia, "on the way to the Stoning of the Devil ritual, there were two major overcrowdings in two points that caused a stampede over which many pilgrims from different countries were crushed."

At the time, the Director of Iranian Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization announced that "there are still no reports about the exact number of the victims and their identities, so we don't know if they include Iranian pilgrims or not." However, it was soon revealed that there were many Iranians among the victims, and the numbers kept rising every day.

The severe shock that followed the incident and the distress of people who were waiting to hear from their close ones, created a great sorrow, so at first it was temporality forgotten to hold the officials in Mecca responsible and call on them for answers. However, on the very first day of the incident, the subject was clearly addressed in the message of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In his message, the Leader said that "the Saudi government should accept that it was largely responsible for this sad incident and should take actions to compensate for it adopting a fair and honest approach. The attention must not be diverted away from the bad management and the faulty actions that led to this disaster." **→6**

## Condolences

**Dear Abbas Salimi Namin**

We at the Tehran Times were deeply saddened as we heard about the death of your beloved daughter. We express our deep and heartfelt condolences to you and your family at this time of sorrow. May her soul rest in peace.



## Ambiguities surrounding the case of former central banker will be cleared up soon: Judiciary

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Judiciary spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmaeili said on Tuesday that investigation will continue over the performance of Valiollah Seif, the former governor of the central bank.

During a press conference, Esmaeili said that the ambiguities over the Seif case will be cleared up soon.

In late July 2018, Seif was replaced by Abdonnaser Hemmati, after the country's currency hit a record low against foreign currencies.

The value of national currency, rial, started nosediving both before and after the Trump administration officially withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and returned sanctions. Some believe the poor performance of Seif led to more depreciation of the national currency.

In follow-up to the return of sanctions, some opportunists hyped the situation and fished in the troubled waters. Consequently, the Judiciary decided to counter the move by bringing some culprits to the book.

The first public court trial of individuals involved in major economic corruption cases following the sanctions was held on August 25, 2018, with names of defendants released.

According to Tasnim news agency, the names of defendants were made public after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei permitted then Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani to take special measures in order to confront economic corruption and called for "swift and just" legal action against financial crimes.

In a letter to the top judge in August, 2018, Ayatollah Khamenei wrote, "Punishment of convicts of economic corruption must be carried out urgently and justly, and appropriate meticulousness must be given to the designation of sentences by courts."

## Rouhani says Tehran-Baku ties are growing

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Tehran and Baku have "friendly, brotherly and growing" ties.



In a phone conversation with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Rouhani said Iran attaches great importance to efforts to expand relations and cooperation.

"Fortunately, we are witnessing positive growth in cooperation," he said.

He also described exchange of visits by Iranian and Azerbaijani authorities and ministers as effective in expanding relations, and expressed hope that the process of implementing agreements would expedite.

"The Republic of Azerbaijan has always been a friendly and brotherly country to Iran and this friendship between the two nations will further deepen," he noted.

Aliyev said, "Iran-Azerbaijan relations and cooperation are growing and this is the result of constant and responsible efforts being made by Tehran and Baku."

## UK reiterates support for nuclear deal

*By staff and agency*

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said on Monday that the United Kingdom's position on the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, has not changed, FXSTREET reported.

His comments came as U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton visited London on Sunday to urge Britain to toughen its stance on Iran.

In an interview with Reuters in July, Johnson expressed support for the JCPOA.

Caroline Hurndall, the head of the British Foreign Office's department for Iran and Iraq, tweeted in July after a meeting of JCPOA Joint Commission, "The UK remains committed to the deal."

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



However, Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the UN-endorsed JCPOA in May 2018 and imposed the toughest ever sanctions against Iran in line with his administration's "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran.

The remaining parties, particularly the European sides, have failed to honor their commitments since the U.S. reimposed the sanctions.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. abandoned the multi-nation nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from the sanctions' effects.

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

Under the JCPOA, Iran is allowed to possess 300 kilograms of uranium enriched to 3.67 percent. However, Iran's nuclear spokesman, Behrouz Kamalvandi, announced on Tuesday that Iran's stockpile of uranium has reached 370 kilograms.

Iran says its decision to reduce its commitments are in line with paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which has provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.

Officials in Tehran have insisted if the remaining parties to the JCPOA compensate sanctions effects Iran will reverse its decision.

# Iran expresses concerns over restrictions on Kashmiri citizens

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman

Abbas Mousavi issued a statement on Tuesday expressing Iran's concerns over reports of tight security measures and religious restrictions against the people of Indian-administered Kashmir.

Mousavi urged Indian officials to take measures to return the people's lives to normal as soon as possible, and let them enjoy all their natural and recognized rights.

On August 5, 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.

India's parliament approved by a large majority the decision by the federal government. Union Territories have much less autonomy from the federal government than states do, and are essentially subject to Delhi's direct rule.

In reaction to India's move, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic relations with New Delhi by expelling the Indian High Commissioner on Wednesday and suspended trade ties with New Delhi.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan held a phone conversation on Sunday with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

During the conversation, the Pakistani prime minister highlighted the serious

situation in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed that the international community must act urgently to prevent the impending calamity, according to the statement.

"The prime minister underlined that the actions taken by India in a bid to change the

internationally recognized disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir were in violation of UN Security Council resolutions," Imran Khan's office said in a statement.

"Any change in the demographic structure of Jammu and Kashmir would constitute a violation of the international law," it said.

Imran Khan apprised the Iranian president of Pakistan's repeated efforts to resolve the Kashmir dispute, urging India to resolve the dispute through peaceful means, in accordance with the longstanding UN Security Council resolutions, his office 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 there is no military solution to the long-standing dispute.

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

## Leader: Intra-Yemeni talks needed for united Yemen

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said on Tuesday Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have committed "great crimes" in Yemen.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with Mohammed Abdul salam, the spokesman for Yemen's Ansarullah and chief negotiator of the National Salvation Government.

The Leader also said Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are seeking to break up Yemen and this should be strongly resisted.

"They are after dividing up Yemen but there must be a strong resistance against this plot and (it is necessary to) support an integrated, united Yemen with its territorial integrity," the Leader asserted.

Ayatollah Khamenei added protecting the Yemeni territorial integrity in view of its diverse religious and ethnic diversity entails intra-Yemeni dialogue.

Praising the Yemeni old and rich civilization, Ayatollah

Khamenei lauded the Yemeni people's resistance against military invasions for five years and predicted that they will win the war and succeed to form a strong government.

The Leader also referred to U.S. complicity in the war on Yemen, saying the Islamic Republic's anti-U.S. and anti-Western position is not out of "prejudice" but because of realities and the record of rulers in the U.S. and the West.

These countries, with a superficial civil and ethical appearance, commit the "worst crimes" and constantly talk about human rights.

The United States is the main supplier of advanced weapons to the Saudi-led military alliance against Yemen. The atrocities committed against civilians in Yemen are so awful that even Congress has voted against selling weapons to Saudi Arabia but the bill has been vetoed by President Trump.

Some European countries such as Britain, France and Germany also sell arms to countries pounding Yemen. The

United States even provides logistical support for Saudis and Yemenis in pounding Yemen.

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

Yemen has been under military attack by a Saudi-led alliance since March 2015. Saudi Arabia launched war on the country with the aim of reinstating the toppled government of Mansur Hadi in a matter of weeks. However, four years have passed and still there is no victory in sight.

In April 2015, Iran proposed a four-point plan for the resolution of conflict in Yemen.

In a post on his Twitter post on November 2018, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif again reminded about Tehran's four-point plan saying: War on Yemen must be stopped. We urge ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, intra-Yemeni dialogue & establishment of broad-based government.

## U.S. not in a position to draw redlines for Iran's defense capabilities: Zarif

*By staff and agency*

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that the United States is not in a position to draw redlines for Iran's defense capabilities.

"The Americans are not in a position to draw red lines for what we do for our defense," he told Aljazeera in an interview published on Monday.

He also warned against the U.S. weapons sales in the Middle East, saying, "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."

"I think the United States is the source of instability in this region. I think U.S. allies, unfortunately, have been the source of instability," he says, referring to countries including Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Zarif also said that Iran is not seeking war and confrontation.

"What is very clear - extremely clear - is that we are not seeking war, we do not want confrontation, we want development for our people, we want development for our region," he said.

"We need stability here, but stability should be for everybody. We cannot have stability for some and instability for others. We need to have stability for all countries in the region and we are prepared to protect stability for all countries in the region, and for those who depend on our region," he added.

Commenting on the U.S. act in forming a coalition in the Persian Gulf to protect navigation, Zarif said, "We believe that the best the U.S. can do for the protection of maritime navigation is to just leave people alone; don't interfere."

On Iran's continued commitment to the nuclear pact and its viability, Zarif said he believes "it is the best deal that was possible", even though he admits that it encountered opposition.

"It wasn't the best deal for everybody because you cannot have the perfect deal. There is no perfect deal," he says. "And if President Trump is given correct advice, he will be able to basically accept the reality that this is the best deal possible and we can move forward."

However, Zarif feels the deal can proceed even without U.S. involvement, as long as the

remaining participants agree to fulfil their own commitments.

"What we want them to do and what we expect them to do is stay committed. And we will stay committed as long as they are," he said.

"I think it's an important signal that the United States is getting more and more isolated - not because of anything we have done but because of what they are doing," Zarif said.

"They are violating the law, they are breaking the law, they are breaking every international treaty they have been a member of. They have broken not only the nuclear deal with Iran, but the Paris convention, the Trans Pacific Partnership - basically everything they could break they are breaking. So they are the source of instability globally and this type of behavior

**“What we have called for, and repeat, is that our neighbors - all of us - belong to this region, we cannot leave this region. Others will leave this region; others will not secure us; others will not provide us with the security umbrella that we need. We can provide each other with that security umbrella. We extend our hand, and our hand remains extended, to all our neighbors,” Zarif states.**



will lead to further global disorder. And I think that is dangerous for everybody and everybody is realizing that."

**■ Zarif says foreigners should leave region**

Zarif also said that the regional belongs to the regional countries and foreigners should leave it.

"What we have called for, and repeat, is that our neighbors - all of us - belong to this region, we cannot leave this region. Others will leave this region; others will not secure us; others will not provide us with the security umbrella that we need. We can provide each other with that security umbrella. We extend our hand, and our hand remains extended, to all our neighbors," he said.

Zarif admitted he is "certainly concerned" about the potential for a war in the region.

"But as a diplomat, I always need to look for a peaceful way out. And that's what we are trying," he said.

## To fix Iran crisis, Trump must change course

### U.S. president's bullying tactics have left no room for real diplomacy

**By Seyyed Hossein Mousavian**

U.S. President Donald Trump has put the West on a collision course with Iran.

Since he was elected to the White House in 2016, Trump has consistently pursued an ill-advised policy of "maximum pressure" against Tehran, on the assumption the high levels of economic and political pressure will bring Iran back to the negotiating tables on its knees.

It has been unsuccessful, to say the least.

Not only has Trump's approach increased hostility between the two countries, it has also provoked both sides into pursuing unprecedented belligerent policies and actions. It's no wonder the international community is seriously concerned about the possibility of military confrontation.

If Trump continues to pursue his current course of action, he is doomed to failure. There will be no room for diplomatic negotiations between the two countries — even if he is reelected in next year's presidential election. And the implications for the region could be disastrous.

Only a fundamental change of approach can yield a resolution to the escalating tensions.

And yet there are a number of key obstacles to a positive diplomatic solution.

The first, and perhaps the greatest, challenge to any real dialogue between the two countries is that the U.S. does not appear to have a coherent position. The views of several key U.S. policymakers directly contradict the president's own views and course of action. National Security Adviser John Bolton, for example, has advocated over the past 40 years for a military confrontation and regime change in Iran. In Tehran, a majority of state officials believe that Trump, by contrast, simply wanted to destroy the legacy of his predecessor, Barack Obama, and create his own.

The second challenge to an agreement is the unprecedented influence that Israel and Saudi Arabia, both U.S. allies, have in shaping the Trump administration's foreign policy. Iranian officials blame both countries for intensifying hostilities between Tehran and Washington.

Thirdly, no one believes the Trump administration can come up with a "better deal" in the next year and a half of its term, given the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action brokered in 2015 was the product of 12 years

of intensive negotiations. After all, the deal is an international agreement whose inspection system the late director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, branded the world's most robust nuclear inspection effort.

And then, even if Iran and the United States were indeed to sit down at the negotiating table in the next year and half, there are no guarantees the Trump administration, or its successor, would end up holding up its part of the bargain.

The fourth obstacle to a successful negotiation is Trump's insistence on following self-defeating strategies and going against the diplomatic grain. His decision to sanction Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif essentially sank any chances of constructive diplomacy with Iran.

And finally, perhaps the most obvious impediment is that the Trump administration is deeply unfamiliar with the dynamics of Iran's politics, culture and society. Iran is a proud country that cherishes its history as a civilization stretching back millennia. It is allergic to any policy it perceives as undermining its

achievements and will refuse to succumb to bullying or attempts to bring its administration to its knees.

Instead, in the face of Trump's hostility, Iran has adopted a policy of "resistance" and "reciprocation of hostilities" toward the United States. It is becoming increasingly convinced that a policy of "constructive engagement" with the West — which was President Hassan Rouhani's platform when he campaigned for the election in 2013 — does not yield positive outcomes for the country. Tensions with Washington have also become an incentive to boost its alliance with its Eastern allies, namely China and Russia, whose governments appear committed to combating U.S. dominance in the global order.

If there's any hope of a constructive resolution, the U.S. president must abandon his bullying tactics and his sanctions policy in order to provide space for diplomacy. The most urgent task for the U.S. administration is now to establish credible communication channels and to appoint a new team that has a better understanding of the political realities in Iran and across the region.

(Source: Politico)



# Iran's enriched uranium stockpile hits 370 kg

POLITICAL  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — Iran's enriched uranium stockpile has increased to reach 370 kilograms, according to the country's Atomic Energy Organization spokesman. Speaking on Tuesday, Behrooz Kamalvandi said, "We are currently working at a good capacity. Our stockpile stands at least 60 to 70 kilograms above 300 kilogram, and it is growing fast too," IRNA reported.

Under the JCPOA, Iran was allowed to keep only 300 kilograms of enriched uranium. However, in its first step to reduce its commitment, Tehran's stockpile of enriched uranium exceeded 300 kilograms. On May 8, exactly one year after the United States abandoned the nuclear deal, Iran announced that its "strategic patience" is over and announced it is removing partial limits on its nuclear activities.

On that date, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) announced if the remaining parties to the deal — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — compensate for the U.S. sanctions in 60 days it will return to the previous stage otherwise it will take the next stage. However, they missed the deadline and Iran started the next move.

In the next stage, which started on July 1, Iran started enriching uranium to purity level of 4.5 percent. On that date, Iran announced that it is no longer willing to stand idly by and be the sole party committed to the deal.

On the same day writing on Twitter, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif insisted Iran was not violating the deal, citing the "Dispute Resolution Mechanism" of the treaty, which



Tehran believes the remaining parties have not brought to a successful conclusion.

Kamalvandi said the enrichment level of Iran's stockpile is 4.5 percent, adding that the country needs such stockpile in order to make sure it has fuel for its nuclear power plants. In another part of his remarks, he said that Iran is currently exporting a collection of nuclear technology products, such as heavy water, deuterated water, and oxygen-18.

Kamalvandi added that Iran is under no commitment to keep its heavy water supplies below 130 tons, but in the meantime it does not want to lose its markets, so will continue

its efforts to export heavy water. Kamalvandi recently told the Tehran Times that any time Iran decides to downscale its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal, it will see what it technically needs to decide on the kind of limitations it will overlook.

He said such a policy has been the case already since May 8 when Iran decided to limit its level of commitment to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear deal.

"What we are doing is, if we feel there is need for some technical measures, and on the other side we are going to abandon some of

our commitments, we go for the option which can remove our technical problems as well," Kamalvandi stated.

"We decide based on our needs, which has been the case for the three measures we have already taken, including surpassing the limit on 300 kilograms [of low-enriched uranium], disregard for the 130-ton limit [on heavy water supply], and producing [uranium] at the level of 4.5 percent purity," Kamalvandi explained.

"Based on the time we will look into what our needs are," he added.

**Iran first country in West Asia to produce stable isotopes in different ways**

Speaking on the same day, Ali Akbar Salehi, the nuclear chief, briefed reporters on Iran's nuclear industry.

"The production of stable isotopes is being carried out by different methods," said Salehi, a nuclear physicist. He added, "Today Iran has the ability to produce stable isotopes not only through centrifuge, but also via chemical exchange, thermal diffusion, membrane distillation and gradual distillation."

"We used to perform the production of stable isotopes at the laboratory levels so far. But now it is necessary that we expand this trend."

To produce stable isotopes at large scales, the atomic organization has set aside a plot of land which is 5,000 square meters in area, he explained.

"It has 8 workshops and 8 laboratories and, I believe, this job will be unparalleled across West Asia. I do not know of a country in West Asia which has been able through these methods to enter the phase for production of stable isotopes."

## Iranian war veteran writes to Trump

POLITICAL  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — An Iranian war veteran, Habib Ahmadzadeh, has written an open letter to U.S. President Donald Trump, in which he rejects the president's statement saying Iranians never won a war.

Below is the full text of the letter as published by Fars news agency's English website:

President Donald Trump, in a recent tweet, claimed that "Iranians never won a war, but never lost a negotiation". As a world citizen, and a veteran of the Iran-Iraq war with firsthand experience of the bitterness of war, I have a couple of suggestions and responses for the president of the United States, Iranian war veteran Habib Ahmadzadeh said in a letter to Donald Trump.

First, I recommend that he never use the words "win" and "winning" to describe any war.

U.S. history is filled with bitter experiences of war and losing. There is no need to remind the president of the United States the result of U.S. wars in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and even its engagement in Yemen. None of these horrifying experiences — nor any other war for that matter — has ever achieved its goals.

As a veteran and a peace activist, I would like to suggest to the president of the United States that the first step in any combat is understanding the adversary.

As an Iranian war veteran, I strongly suggest he study the culture and history of an old civilization like Iran's. Iranians, those he labels as a "terrorist nation", are proud and pleased at having not initiated a war in the past 250 years.

We proudly have never invaded, intruded, and oppressed any other nations, either in our neighborhood or even in response to our revilers and foes.

Nonetheless, there is a delicacy in the sophisticated culture of Iran that separates the ancient nation of Iran from President Trump and his hawkish "B-Team". That is the view we each have toward war. War, for us, is not an option. We never choose to go to war, we only respond to war.

In 1915, during World War I, Rais Ali Delvary, a young man from a tiny village near the Persian Gulf, defended Iran — along with his small group of men — from British invaders. They stopped the intruders, who ignored Iran's neutrality during the war. Rais Ali's slogan at the time has remained with the nation to this very day: "We are in this war not to win over invaders' capital and assets; we



are in this war to save our capital and assets from loss".

Rais Ali and his people won that war, as his successors did again almost a century later and will do yet again if they must.

Mr. President, Iran has never initiated any war. Iran has never seized others' resources, belongings, means, lives, and existence to gain wealth and benefit for itself. Iran has and will only defend its belongings, resources, life, and identity. Iran has done that vigorously throughout its four thousand years of history and will do it again if forced.

Rais Ali and his team did it in 1915. People in my generation did it in 1980-88. When the whole world stood behind Saddam Hussein throughout that eight year war, Iranians stood firmly and defended their home.

While the world watched, Saddam dropped bombs and used chemical weapons against Iranian innocents. In the end, he proved unable to seize and hold a single inch of Iranian territory.

Iranians became one body and stood and defended their home and their families.

The nation still mourns the far too many precious lives

that were lost during that war. But, to this day and despite their differences, Iranians are proud of the eight years spent defending their homeland.

Mr. President, this is how Iranians define winning and losing a war.

In our lexicon, the one who starts a war is the only loser. The one who plans to steal the happiness, the lives, and the well-being of others is the one who suffers true loss.

War is not our business, but negotiation and diplomacy are. War is not our purpose. Peace is our mission. Peace is our philosophy in life, and you are right: diplomacy is our art.

Iran has proved its mastery in the art of diplomacy.

Diplomacy, forbearance, and contentment are inclinations that cannot be achieved with billions of dollars in weapons. Your allies in the region, Mohammad bin Salman and Benjamin Netanyahu, can both attest to that. Despite the tens of billions of dollars they have devoted to their military budgets, they feel insecure and besieged by real or imagined threats.

Their devotion to military power, often at the expense of diplomacy, carries serious risks. Like relying on checkers moves in a chess match.

Just be aware, Mr. President, that your friends, the B-Team, as we call them, are pushing you into the same dilemma which they have faced over the past several decades. Now they have persuaded you to censure and sanction Iran's master-diplomat and his colleagues in order to undermine their effectiveness. But even so hobbled, Iran can still move its knights and bishops and other pieces around the global chessboard. Your friends must still learn that the game of diplomacy is far more like chess than checkers.

**ITALIC:**

Habib Ahmadzadeh served in the Iranian military during the Iran-Iraq war, where he was wounded four times, including twice by chemical bombs dropped by Iraqi planes.

He is the author of multiple books, including a book of short stories, A City Under Siege, and the novel, Chess with the Doomsday Machine. He is also a documentary filmmaker and a screenwriter. Dr. Ahmadzadeh is on the board of the Tehran Peace Museum and academic board of the University of Arts.

## Iran, Bulgaria pledge to deepen ties

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, in a meeting in Turkmenistan's Awaza, on the sidelines of the First Caspian Economic Forum, voiced their countries' resolution to develop bilateral relations.

During the meeting on Monday, Jahangiri and Borissov discussed the avenues for boosting the level of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Jahangiri expressed Iran's readiness to enhance ties with Sofia in a wide range of economic fields, especially in the transportation of goods and road transit.

Borissov also said the two countries share considerable capacities in expanding their all-out cooperation, highlighting that the already good relations between Tehran and Sofia will improve in the near future.

In March, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, the then chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, and Bulgarian Parliament Deputy Speaker Veselin Mareshki, in a meeting in Tehran, called for tapping into the two countries' potentials for broader bilateral relations.

Early in February, Bulgarian President's Secretary on Foreign Affairs Dimitar Arnaudov, in a meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi, said that the nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers is of high importance to regional and international security, and Sofia completely supports it.



ance to regional and international security, and Sofia completely supports it.

Bulgarian official expressed hope that political consultations between the two countries

would lead to the further development of political, economic and cultural relations.

Bulgaria attaches great importance to developing relations with a country that plays a key role in the Middle East region, he added.

He described the JCPOA as a key element in preserving peace in the Middle East, and announced his country fully supports the deal.

In a related front, late in January, Bulgarian Transport Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov underlined his country's firm decision to continue cooperation with Iran despite the U.S. pressures and sanctions.

Zhelyazkov made the remarks in his meeting with Araqchi.

He hailed historical and traditional relations between the two countries and the 120th anniversary of the establishment of the two countries' political ties, saying close cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of his country's priorities.

To revive the past economic relations and achieve the desired level of relations require taking advantage of transportation and agricultural capacities of the two countries, Zhelyazkov said.

He also voiced his country's readiness for holding the 19th joint commission of the two countries in near future.

## Reformism never had a leader in Iran: Karbaschi

POLITICAL  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — Qolamhossein Karbaschi, the secretary general of the Servants of Reconstruction Party and a former mayor of Tehran, has said that reformism never had a leader in Iran, squashing the idea that Mohammad Khatami, the former president, is a leader of reformists.

"Leadership is not summarized in merely saying symbolically that Mr. Khatami is the organizational leader of reformism," Karbaschi told the Kargozaran newspaper in an interview published on Tuesday.

"Khatami is a well-known person. He is respected and refined and is one of the best people who is active on the political front.

But to lead a political current is a completely different thing. It needs organizational functions," he opined.

"From the beginning, reformism has not had a leader. So I cannot say that it needs a new leader."

"Leadership means to resolve a problem once there is one. If there is some shortcoming, removing it will be carried out by the leader of the current," Karbaschi underlined.

"Mr. Khatami has never claimed to be the leader of the reform current.

Neither has the reform current reached some unanimity on its leadership."

"The groups within the reform current respect Mr. Khatami very much, but they have not agreed that in current circumstances he should be considered as the leader of the reform movement."



## Mousavi Lari: We will not form coalition with non-reformists

POLITICAL  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — The deputy chief of the reformists' policy-making council has said his respective current will not form coalition with non-reformist groups.

Speaking to Tasnim news agency in an interview published on Tuesday, Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari, who served as interior minister in the Khatami administration, said the reform front has bitter experience of forming a coalition in the previous round of parliamentary elections.

"We have this experience from the 10th Majlis. In that election, we coalesced with people who had no record being reformists, with the aim to prevent the anxious ones [also referred to as the concerned] from entering the Majlis. After they found way to the Majlis as members of the Hope List, they sided with those very people."

He added, "Instead of adopting the path of reformists, or at least stay neutral, they climbed the ladder of reformism and then accompanied the hardline layers of principlism," Mousavi Lari remarked.

## Academic: U.S. violating own laws by prolonged detention of Iranian professor

POLITICAL  
d e s k

**TEHRAN** — The president of Tarbiat Modares University has blasted Washington for long-time jailing of renowned Iranian stem cell scientist Professor Masoud Soleimani, saying that the U.S. has violated even its own laws.

"America's laws say that long-term detention without holding a court session is not possible and is a violation of the law; the Iranian university lecturer has been under detention for over 10 months and therefore, America has violated its own laws," Mohammad Taqi Ahmadi told FNA on Tuesday.

He also voiced concern about Soleimani's health conditions, saying that Iran's interest section in Washington has been rejected access to the detained Iranian scientist, and has not even been allowed to deliver Soleimani's vitally needed medication to him due the existing restrictions.

Ahmadi said that in addition to Soleimani, several other Iranian academics are also jailed by the U.S.

Ahmadi had also in early July warned that Soleimani had been deprived of necessary medication.

"The Iranian professor who has been detained in the U.S. will face acute health problems if he does not take his digestion and ulcer pills," he told FNA back then.

Also, Mansoureh Movahedin, the head of Tarbiat Modares University's Medical Sciences College, told FNA at the time that Soleimani had no access to people outside the prison and he can only speak with his family over paid phone.

She expressed concern that Soleimani is kept with criminals in the same cell, and said, "The professor is not in good health conditions these days and he should be visited by a doctor and treated as soon as possible."

Soleimani has been imprisoned by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) without trial since October 07, 2018.

## Conflicting reports about the release of Iranian oil tanker

**1 →** According to the British newspaper, a court in Gibraltar is to decide the fate of the ship on Thursday, when an order for its detention lapses.

British Royal Marines seized the oil tanker on July 4 off the coast of the British Mediterranean territory of Gibraltar on suspicion of violating EU sanctions by taking oil to Syria, which Iran denies.

"The vessel was seized based on false allegations ... it has not been freed yet," Eslami said.

Two weeks after the capture of the Iranian tanker, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps seized a British tanker, Stena Impero, in the Strait of Hormuz, saying it was violating marine regulations. Britain considers that action to have been retaliation.

Tehran's ambassador to London had previously told Sky News that if Grace 1 is released it will help a release of Stena Impero by Iran.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	257097.2
IFX	3467.27

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,988 rials
GBP	50,673 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$58.43/b
WTI	\$54.79/b
OPEC Basket	\$57.82/b
Gold	\$1,539.40/oz
Silver	\$17.44/oz
Platinum	\$868.70/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Expectations for UK economy fall to lowest level since 2011

Public expectations for how the UK economy will fare over the next 12 months are at their lowest level in more than seven years, according to a new report released Monday. As per cityam.com, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has said the outlook for the general economic situation for the year ahead is worse than at any point since the final quarter of 2011. Expectations for higher unemployment for the year ahead have also been climbing and are now higher than at any point for the past five-and-a-half years.

The data, sourced from a Eurobarometer consumer survey, comes



days after the ONS found that the British economy shrank for the first time in nearly seven years during the second quarter of 2019.

Over the three months to June, output fell 0.2 percent, missing expectations of a flat performance and dropping 0.5 percent compared with the previous year. Amanda Mackenzie, chief executive of charity Business in the Community, said: "If this latest survey is anything to go by, the British public has got its finger firmly on the pulse of the UK economy."

"Prescient Brits have been expecting higher unemployment and for the general economic situation to deteriorate, and following last week's negative GDP number they may well be proved right."

She added: "With a no-deal Brexit looming, the UK economy is arguably at its most crucial juncture for a decade and it's no surprise people feel less secure about their jobs and the broader economic picture."

"Staff anxiety levels will almost certainly increase if we enter a turbulent period for the UK economy and businesses have a key role to play in their employees' wellbeing, not just economic but personal."

Today's report, which was focused on personal and economic well-being in the UK, also found that net financial wealth per head increased by three percent for the quarter ending March 2019 compared to the same quarter a year ago, led by increases in equity and investment fund shares.

Russia records slightly improved but still weak GDP growth of 0.9%

Russia recorded slightly stronger GDP growth of 0.9% in the second quarter of this year, up from the soggy 0.5% the economy grew by in the first quarter, Rosstat reported August 12.

According to themoscowtimes.com, the result was anticipated by analysts, who pointed out that the economy's core sectors were doing better than expected over the summer, and the final result has come in at the top of the predicted range.

Forecasts for Russia's growth this year have been downgraded multiple times. The Ministry of Economy was predicting 2% growth for this year after Russia put in a surprise 2.8% growth in 2018, but Minister of Economy Maxim Oreshkin quickly backed off in face of widespread disbelief and revised the ministry's estimate back to 1.2%.

Russia will probably struggle to cross even that low bar. The "slightly better-than-expected 0.9% year-on-year rise in Russian GDP in the second quarter, up from 0.5% year-on-year in the first quarter, is likely to be followed by a further improvement in the second half of the year. But growth is still likely to be weaker than most expect — and this will give the green light to the central bank to cut rates further," Capital Economics said in a note following the release of the results.

The latest GDP growth figure was slightly above the consensus forecast of 0.8% year-on-year, but Rosstat hasn't published a seasonally adjusted quarter-on-quarter growth figure and preliminary estimates of Russian macro data are prone to dramatic revisions, but the economy does seem to have improved.

■ Output rose in the second quarter

"By our estimates, output rose by about 0.9% quarter-on-quarter in the second quarter, more than reversing the 0.4% quarter-on-quarter fall in GDP recorded in the previous quarter," says Capital Economics.

Economists speculate that the pickup was due to an improvement in industry and an easing pace of contraction in the wholesale trade sector.

Iran, Tajikistan call for facilitating energy co-op

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian discussed energy cooperation with Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, Nizamuddin Zahedi, on Tuesday.

In the meeting Ardakanian stressed the importance of developing energy ties with the neighboring country saying "Obstacles and issues in the way of development of cooperation between the two countries should be removed to pave the way for implementing large-scale projects."

The official mentioned the presence of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan's energy ministers in the next Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee and noted that the meeting is an opportunity to hold a joint meeting between the min-



Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian (R) discussed energy cooperation with Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, Nizamuddin Zahedi, in Tehran on Tuesday.

Over 800 production units start operation in industrial parks

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Some 820 new production units went operational in industrial parks across the country during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21–June 21), IRIB reported, quoting deputy director of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) as saying.

Speaking to the state television on Monday, Asghar Mosaheb said the country's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) exported over \$4.5 billion worth of commodities in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

"To date, 68 export consortiums have also been formed by domestic SMEs in order to export similar products," he said.

Mosaheb further called for implementation of programs by the government including financial support through the budget allocated for supporting domestic production.

He also stressed the need for providing infrastructure including running water, electricity and gas for the country's

industrial parks.

Last week, ISIPO Head Mohsen Salehinia announced that more than 33,000 SMEs are currently active in Iran, of which 1,100 are exporting their products and services to foreign markets.

"Although the SMEs have the potential to provide nearly 900,000 job opportunities across the country, but currently 22 percent of the SMEs are idle and there are only 710,000 people working in active units," the official said.

Reviving idle units and helping them to get back into business is one of the major programs that ISIPO is following, he noted.

"ISIPO plans to help revive 1,300 idle SMEs by the end of the current year [Iranian calendar year which ends on March 19, 2020]," Salehinia said.

According to Salehinia, currently 43,650 SMEs are based in over 800 industrial parks across the country, of which nearly 78 percent or 33,800 ones are active.



Iran's H1 exports to Germany hit €110m

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported nearly €110 million (about \$123 million) worth of commodities to Germany in the first six months of 2019, Reuters reported on Monday, citing data from Germany's Federal Statistics Office.

Based on the data, exports to the European country fell 43 percent in the mentioned time span compared to the past year.

Affected by the U.S. sanctions, Germany's exports to Iran also plunged by 48 percent to 678 million euros (\$758.8 million).

Germany exported mainly machinery, chemical products, cars and car parts to Iran.

Last month, the managing director of Germany-Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Iran) said the current political situation (sanctions) is negatively affecting the economic relations between Iran and Germany.



"The economic relations between Iran and Germany will only grow when the political

situation becomes stable again," Dagmar von Bohnstein said in an interview with the portal

of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The official noted that since U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal and re-imposition of sanctions, German companies have shown more willingness for continuing economic activities in Iran, compared to other European countries, although their activities have also been affected by the U.S. sanctions.

"Despite the sharp decline in trade between the two countries, Germany remains Iran's top trading partner in Europe," she said adding that "Despite the U.S. pressures on European companies, 60 German companies are still operating in Iran."

The German companies operating in Iran are active in a variety of fields, including machinery and industrial equipment, agriculture, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, renewables and foodstuff.

Tehran, Ashgabat discuss expansion of trade ties

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) held talks with Turkmenistan's Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations on Monday to discuss avenues of economic cooperation.

Gholamhossein Shafeie who visited Turkmenistan on top of a 75-member delegation to attend the First Caspian Sea Economic Forum, met with Amandurdy Ishanov on the side lines of the event.

Speaking in the meeting, Shafeie referred to the establishment of the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Chamber of Commerce in Tehran and urged representatives of Turkmenistan's private sector to establish a Turkmen-Iranian Joint Chamber of Commerce in Ashgabat.

The need for facilitating visa issuance, development of transportation, development of the two sides' aquatic industries and the protection of the marine environment were among the issues discussed by during the meeting with the Turkmen Trade and Foreign Economic Minister.

The officials also underlined the first Caspian Sea Economic Forum as a positive step toward expansion of trade among the Caspian Sea littoral nations, expressing hope

that the summit would be the beginning of a new chapter in the economic relations of the five Caspian Sea countries.

In this regard, referring to the volume of regional trade among the Caspian Sea nations, Shafeie noted that "these five countries' foreign trade is currently over \$950 billion but the share of trade among themselves is about \$25 billion."

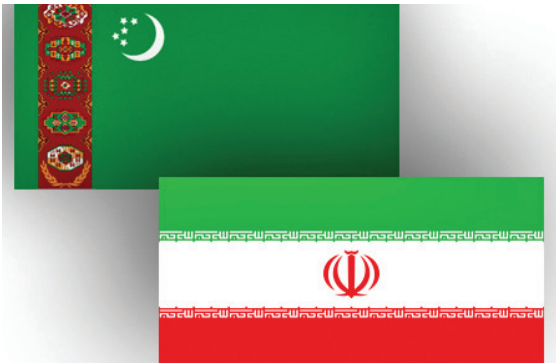
"It can be argued that the development of trade relations among these five countries has not been their priority in recent years," he added.

Ishanov for his part, stressed the importance of his country's economic relations with Iran, saying that petrochemicals and agricultural products are some of the most important commodities exchanged between the two countries.

According to the official, development of economic relations requires proper transportation infrastructure and given the necessity, Turkmen President has instructed to solve all the problems pertain to the rail transportation with Iran.

He further welcomed the idea of establishing a Turkmenistan-Iran Chamber of Commerce in Ashgabat and said he would follow through with the country's private sector and the Foreign Ministry in order to make that happen.

On the sidelines of the First Caspian Sea Economic Forum,



President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov also held a meeting with Iran's First Vice-President Es'hag Jahangiri in the Turkmen city of Awaza.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the prospects for cooperation in trade and economy and stressed their determination for expansion of trade ties. The officials also discussed cooperation in oil and energy sectors.

Nicaragua ready for barter trade with Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Nicaragua's Minister of Finance and Public Credit has voiced his country's readiness for barter trade with Iran to mitigate the impact of the U.S. sanctions on the two countries' trade.

Ivan Acosta Montalvan made the remarks in a meeting with the representatives of Iran's private sector in Tehran on Tuesday, ILNA reported.

In the meeting which was attended by senior officials from both sides including Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholamhossein Shafeie, and Laura Ortega Advisor to the Nicaragua President on investment, the two sides underlined the great potentials for mutual cooperation in all areas.

In this regard, Acosta noted that his government will do its utmost to restore bilateral relations between the two countries, adding that "We have signed a comprehensive agreement with the Iranian government to start a new era of economic relations."



Nicaragua's Minister of Finance and Public Credit Ivan Acosta Montalvan (1stR) attended a meeting with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholamhossein Shafeie (middle) in Tehran on Tuesday.

Commenting on the volume of trade between the two countries, Shafeie also emphasized that "All efforts should be made to expand the volume of trade between the two countries as unfortunately since 2016 the trend of mutual trade has been downward."

"Iran and Nicaragua could cooperate in a variety of areas, for example, it is possible to barter Nicaragua's red meat with Iran's petrochemical products," the ICCIMA head said.

Exchanging trade delegations, eliminating visa, exporting engineering services to Nicaragua and establishing joint ventures were other issues discussed in the meeting.

Iran and Nicaragua signed a memorandum of understanding in the Iranian capital Tehran on Saturday for joint investments in the fields of oil, agricultural outsourcing and industries.

The signatories were Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Farhad Delpasand and Nicaragua's Minister of Finance and Public Credit Ivan Acosta Montalvan.



# Iran's daily gasoline output exceeds 100m liters

**1 →** “We are producing 15 million liters of gasoline more than the country's consumption demand, which we save and we have also started exporting it,” Zanganeh told reporters after a Majlis Economic Committee meeting on July 30.

The minister noted that in addition to gasoline, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is also producing extra levels of gas oil, and jet fuel and the country is in a very good position in terms of refined products.

Following the country's self-sufficiency in gasoline production, in late July, National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) offered 10,000 tons of gasoline produced in Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) at the international ring of Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

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



In the past few years, Iranian think-tanks and energy experts have been repeatedly stating that the country should increase its refining capacity in order to lessen the economy's reliance on crude sales. In this regard, one of the main strategies of the National Iranian Oil Company in recent years has been focusing on the country's refineries.

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

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

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

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

## U.S. after increasing oil price to \$200: lawmaker

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian lawmaker believes that the United States is trying to sow the seed of insecurity in the Persian Gulf region to increase oil price to around \$200.

“I believe that America is after creating insecurity in the region and increasing oil prices to \$200. The Americans want to create problems for the economy of oil-consuming countries so that they can justify their behavior in the region and in the world,” Abolfazl Hassanbeigi, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told Mehr News Agency on Monday.

The United States is aiming at escalating tensions in the region with their effort to form a coalition, he said, adding that “this coalition will definitely not bear any result for them.”

The remarks came as the United States is after forming a coalition, known as Operation Sentinel, which it claims to be aimed to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Tehran has warned the US over the move saying that foreign forces' presence in the region doesn't have any result but increasing insecurity.

“We believe that security should be for all regional states and we cannot accept insecurity in or against any of the countries,” he highlighted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hassanbeigi referred to Israeli regime's provocative move to join the US-led coalition, warning that such an act can have ‘disastrous’ consequences for the region. He highlighted that Iran reserves the right to counter Israeli presence in the Persian Gulf as it is a ‘clear threat’ to the country.

Last week, the Israeli regime said it is ready to join the US coalition. Tehran, in response, warned Tel Aviv that any anti-Iran movement will bear grave consequences for them. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi warned on Friday that the Israeli presence in the Persian Gulf is a clear threat to the national security



and that Iran reserves the right to defend itself. He highlighted that the responsibility for all the consequences of such a dangerous move will fall upon the US and the illegal Zionist regime.

## Oil prices fall on demand concerns, rising U.S. output

Oil prices fell on Tuesday on lingering concerns over global demand and rising U.S. production, though expectations for major producers to further curtail output offered support.

According to reuters.com, Brent crude futures LCOc1 were down 20 cents or 0.3% from the previous settlement at \$58.29 a barrel by 0643 GMT. The international benchmark has lost over 20% since hitting its 2019 high in April.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) CLc1 futures were at \$54.69 per barrel, down 24 cents or 0.4%.

A deepening trade war between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies and energy consumers, has weighed heavily on oil prices in recent months.

China's Central Bank lowered its official yuan midpoint for the ninth straight day to a fresh 11-year low on Tuesday. A weaker yuan raises the cost of dollar-denominated oil imports into China, the world's biggest crude oil importer.



Saudi Arabia, the de-facto leader of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said last week it plans to keep its crude exports below 7 million barrels a day in August and September to help drain global oil inventories.

The kingdom's plans to float its national

oil company Saudi Aramco in what could be the world's largest initial public offering (IPO) give it further impetus to boost prices.

“With Saudi Aramco reportedly eyeing an IPO once again, there is some support to the idea that Saudi Arabia has a heightened interest in strong crude prices and will cut

its own output accordingly,” Vienna-based consultancy JBC Energy said.

OPEC and its allies, known as OPEC+, have agreed to cut 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of production since Jan. 1.

But booming U.S. shale oil output continues to chip away at efforts to limit the global supply overhang, weighing on prices.

U.S. oil output from seven major shale formations is expected to rise by 85,000 barrels per day (bpd) in September to a record 8.77 million bpd, the Energy Information Administration forecast in a report.

The start-up of a major pipeline between the Permian shale basin and the Persian Gulf Coast means that more crude can be exported, adding to global supplies.

The “swift reaction from Saudi Arabia will likely stabilize oil prices, but the oil price probably won't move much above \$60 per barrel until there is evidence of progress in U.S.-China trade negotiations,” Stephen Innes, managing partner at VM Markets Pte Ltd, said in a note.

## Qld admits ambitious renewables target will squeeze out coal, but not until 2030

By Mark Ludlow

Queensland Energy Minister Anthony Lynham said the Palaszczuk government's ambitious 50 percent renewable energy target would squeeze coal-fired power stations out of the state's energy mix, but not until after 2030.

With federal Energy Minister Angus Taylor claiming Queensland and Victoria's renewable energy target could risk the stability of the energy grid, Dr. Lynham said he believed coal and large-scale solar and wind projects could co-exist in the coal-rich state.

It comes as Dr. Lynham revealed he had sought legal advice whether states could “go it alone” on national energy policy without the Commonwealth.

Dr. Lynham said the predicted loss of profitability for Queensland's coal-fired power stations - as more renewable energy comes into the market - could be absorbed because they were mostly state-owned. “That's the value of public ownership. We own these coal-fired power stations,” Dr. Lynham told the Queensland Media Club in Brisbane.

A “transition from total coal-fired power to 50 per cent renewable by 2030 has to be carefully managed. The way we get there is to have control, a transition, a smooth pathway with no major price increase and reliability.

“I want to get to 2030 where people are sitting around the dinner table and no-one notices we've got to 50 percent renewable energy.”

Dr. Lynham was earlier heckled by anti-Adani protesters who stormed the stage and accused the state minister of lying about approving Adani's controversial \$2 billion Carmichael mine. He admitted the Adani mine had affected the state's social license for new mining projects.

Government-owned corporations pay dividends to the Queensland government every year - sometimes up to 90 percent of profits. Queensland also has the youngest coal fleet in the nation.

### Coal-fired power stations

When asked whether coal-fired power stations would be squeezed out of the market by the influx of renewables, Dr. Lynham replied, “They are state-owned and it won't be before 2030”.

“We will need all our coal-fired power stations to keep us going until 2030. Beyond 2030 things change, we might have a federal government with an emissions policy.”

Queensland has more than 2900 megawatts of large-scale solar already operational with another 360 megawatts financially com-



mitted or under construction.

The Victorian Labor government on Tuesday introduced a Bill into state parliament to legislate its 50 percent clean energy target by 2030 (including earlier targets of 25 percent by 2020 and 40 percent by 2025).

Victorian Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio said the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets (VRET) was a magnet for jobs rather than threatening the security of the energy grid as claimed by critics.

“VRET has helped create a jobs boom. Increasing it will mean more jobs, more investment and lower power bills,” she said.

Federal energy minister Angus Taylor described Victoria's renewable targets as “irresponsible”, saying they will “drive up prices and undermine reliability. The Victorian Labor government had no plan for the 200,000 Victorian households and businesses who lost their power last summer and no plans for the summer ahead.”

Labor state governments have been clashing with their federal counterpart over the lack of a national energy policy and the failure to call a COAG energy council meeting since the May election.

### Heavy-lifting on energy policy

Dr. Lynham said state governments were getting sick of doing the “heavy-lifting” on energy policy, such as through their respective renewable targets. The (federal government's 20 percent Renewable Energy Target finishes in 2020 and no new target will be set).

He revealed he had sought legal advice whether states could “go it alone” on energy policy without the Commonwealth.

“We can but there are certain limitations to what we can do. I've sought advice on how far states can go in order to convene a meeting ourselves,” he said.

“There are certain complicating factors but technically states can form a meeting of COAG. There is bickering (between the states and Commonwealth) I would rather not have that.”

Mr. Taylor is keen to do more work with states on a bilateral level rather than through the COAG Energy Council.

Last week, Mr. Taylor and the NSW government announced a taskforce into the retirement of AGL Energy's Liddell coal-fired power station in 2023 to ensure there is not a shortfall of energy in the grid.

He does not want a repeat of the premature Hazelwood coal-fired power plant in Victoria in 2017 which led to higher prices and instability in the grid.

(Source: afl.com)



## Vacancy Notice

**The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R.Iran, intends to recruit a “NATINAL POST:Operations Manager”.**

**For further information, please consult the detailed job description posted on**

<https://iran.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/national-post-operations-manager>

**Please apply online by 1 September 2019, 5 PM Tehran Time. Notice:**

- “There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process”.
- “UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status and disabilities”.

**UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.**

Second 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**



## Companies shouldn't be cannon fodder in trade war

By Hu Weijia

**GLOBALTIMES**—HSBC has said that its greater China chief executive Helen Wong was resigning from the bank, adding fuel to speculation that the bank had provided information to help US prosecutors build a legal case against Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou, although HSBC denied these claims.

The Chinese government has taken a restrained attitude because it is not confirmed yet whether HSBC should be liable for the arrest of Huawei's Meng.

In response to a question of whether HSBC will be included in the unreliable entities list by the Chinese government for the bank's alleged role in the US investigation against Huawei, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a press briefing on August 2 that the list is still in the process of being compiled.

However, ordinary Chinese people attach great importance to the case, which has pushed HSBC into the eye of a public opinion storm. China is a key market for HSBC.

Can the bank bear the losses caused by retaliatory actions from Chinese customers?Due to the ongoing trade war with the US and the evolving situation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, ordinary Chinese people are highly sensitive to issues regarding national territory, sovereignty and interests.

This is a sensitive period, during which foreign companies are advised to step up vigilance.

China's core interests cannot be harmed, and this red line must be clearly understood by foreign companies.

China always welcomes foreign investors and will give them greater access.

But if they cross the red line to damage the country's core interests, they will incur big losses and there won't be any exceptions.

SBC is not the only company that has gotten into trouble. Italian luxury brand Versace has apologized in China for selling T-shirts that mislabeled Hong Kong and Macao as countries, but many Chinese netizens did not buy the apology.

Whatever its motivation, Versace had to swallow a bitter pill when it comes to infringement of China's sovereignty. The US government appears to be moving toward a comprehensive containment of China, exerting visible and invisible pressure on transnational enterprises.

Those companies must remain vigilant to avoid being used as a weapon by Washington to counter China. If they want to win the Chinese market, they need to learn how to respect China's core interests first.

In this special period, it is unwise for transnational enterprises to allow themselves to become cannon fodder in the US' aggressive China policy.

## Iran-Kashmir cultural similarities

**1 →** Back to the Iranian wedding, I thought I had to book a room in the hotel from where I would go to the ceremony and then back to Mashhad, but I was warmly received by the family of the groom at the bus station and taken home, where I was introduced to the hosts and guests alike. I was treated like a family member.

I was very impressed by the unity and spirit of the extended family seen as foundation of society.

There were relatives from many different parts of Iran lloking after the matters exactly they way we do in Kashmir. The villagers have a shared "Mehman Khana" or the guest house, which was an equivalent to a marriage hall in some countries.

The difference between a marriage hall and a mehman khana is that in marriage hall, people just come at the time of dinner where they eat and go.

Whereas, in Mehman Khane, there is so much of sharing and caring, where people get to know each other well. The order of wedding events in Kashmir is Mahndi, Baraat, Dowli and Waleema. The Iranian terms for these customs are "Shaam-e-Aroosi and Waleema-e-Aroosi"

There is no forced marriage in Iran. The matter is discussed by the both families of bride and groom to reach a consensus and the priority is given to the wishes of the bride and groom. All the other customs such as Aqad, jhehaz or dowry and Mehar are similar to those in Kashmir.

The Baraat goes (groom with families and friends) to the bride house to bring (the dowli) her home, where new life starts with new aims and challenges.

There are similar emotions in the family with a mixed feelings of happiness and sadness when bride leaves her parents and brothers and sisters.

What surprised me most is the fact that Iran and Kashmir have so much in common with each other, yet we know very little about it. I hope the efforts would be made to revive the golden past.

## A blood money that is beyond calculation

**1 →** Undoubtedly, Al Saud officials who have been running the Haj Pilgrimage rituals for years now, were well aware of the overcrowding in Mina and Mount Arafat.

They also knew that if there be any kind of blockage in this area, it will cause a huge disaster; however, they closed one of the main roads when the area was at busiest time and directed millions of pilgrims into a new route, without any previous notification.

The number of victims grew every day and the families were in great worry over the fate of their loved ones. The Saudi government not only did a terrible job in organizing the roads for movements of pilgrims, but it was also hugely incompetent in managing the aftermath, identifying the killed ones and taking care of the injured.

According to official records, closure of road number 204 and overcrowding on the intersection was the main reason of the incident. The statistics revealed that the largest number of victims were from Iran.

Mina disaster not only raised questions about the competency of Saudis in taking care of Kaaba, but it also took a great toll on the lives of Muslims and left a deep scar on the hearts of Muslims who mourned the loss of the poor pilgrims who died unfairly. As the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, this disaster will never be forgotten and its blood money can never be calculated or paid.

# Biden is doubling down on Iraq war lies

By Stephen Zunes

**ANTIWAR**—For the second consecutive Democratic debate, Joe Biden has failed to come to terms about his critical role in supporting the illegal, unnecessary, and predictably disastrous U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq.

There is nothing new about this. Biden has a long history of inaccurate claims regarding that oil-rich country. For example, in the lead-up to the critical Senate vote authorizing the invasion, Biden used his role as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to insist that Iraq somehow reconstituted a vast arsenal of chemical and biological weapons, a nuclear weapons program and sophisticated delivery systems that had long since been eliminated.

Polls at the time showed that the only reason Americans would support going to war would be if Iraq constituted a threat, so it was to the advantage of war proponents to make people think that Iraq – which, according to former U.N. inspectors and others, had reached at least qualitative disarmament – had somehow obtained such potentially dangerous military capabilities.

In the recent second Democratic debate, however, Biden took his lies about Iraq to new heights by claiming, “From the moment ‘shock and awe’ started, from that moment, I was opposed to the effort, and I was outspoken as much as anyone at all in the Congress.” He claimed that his strong support for the Authorization of the Use of Military Force that made George W. Bush’s invasion possible was somehow not really an endorsement of the use military force, but a means to pressure Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to allow United Nations inspectors to return to Iraq.

That was patently untrue. More than three months after UN inspectors returned, Biden defended the imminent launch of the invasion by saying, “I support the president. Diplomacy over avoiding war is dead. ... I do not see any alternative. It is not as if we can back away now.” He added, “Let loose the dogs of war. I’m confident we will win.”

He then co-sponsored a resolution supporting Bush and the invasion.Despite the fact that three months of unfettered inspections had revealed none of the chemical weapons, biological weapons, nuclear programs, or sophisticated delivery systems Bush and Biden



claimed Iraq possessed, Biden insisted in May 2003 that, “There was sufficient evidence to go into Iraq.”

The following month, after the Bush administration conceded that there were no “weapons of mass destruction” to be found, Biden told CNN “I, for one, thought we should have gone in Iraq,” adding his disappointment that other Democrats weren’t as supportive. A couple of weeks later, on “Fox News Sunday,” even while acknowledging that Iraq didn’t actually have the weapons, weapons systems and weapons programs he claimed, Biden insisted, “I do think it was a just war.”

At a hearing in July 2003, he categorically stated, “I voted to go into Iraq, and I’d vote to do it again.” Days later, in the face of growing outrage by fellow Democrats about being misled into what was already becoming a bloody counterinsurgency struggle, Biden insisted, “In my view, anyone who can’t acknowledge that the world is better off without [Saddam Hussein] is out of touch.... Contrary to what some in my party might think, Iraq was a

problem that had to be dealt with sooner rather than later.” Despite Bush’s case for the war now unarguably based on falsehoods, Biden insisted that Bush had made a good case for invading and “I commend the president.”

More than a year later, as the death toll mounted, Biden insisted, in regard to his support for the invasion, “I still believe my vote was just.” Indeed, throughout the remainder of his Senate career, he was a steadfast supporter of Bush’s bloody counterinsurgency war, rejecting calls for even a timetable for withdrawal.

Despite all this evidence contradicting Biden’s claim in the latest Democratic presidential debate, pundits largely applauded the former vice president’s performance and few of the fact-checkers noted his lie.

This is particularly inexcusable in light of the fact that Biden also misled the public about Iraq during the first round of Democratic debates in June. MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow pointed out his support for the Iraq War and asked, “Why should voters trust

## U.S.-Mongolia relations lack healthy balance

By Fan Lijun

**GLOBALTIMES**—Mongolian President Khaltmaa Bat-tulga met US President Donald Trump at the White House on July 31. During the state visit, the White House said, “The US and Mongolia have agreed that their relationship has reached the level of a ‘strategic partnership.’” On Thursday, US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper was in Mongolia where he met high-ranking Mongolian leaders. Why have Ulaanbaatar and Washington become closer recently?

As tension increases with China and Russia, US frequent interactions with Mongolia could be regarded as an attempt to create more pressure for Beijing and Moscow.

Following its democratic transition, Mongolia has shown a willingness to become a liberal and democratic country with the US as its role model. This is in line with US strategy and provides room for Washington to export its ideology and values to Ulaanbaatar, which aimed at Beijing and Moscow.

As the China-US trade war continues to escalate, reports say that China could slash its rare-earth exports to the US as a countermeasure. According to the US Geological Survey in 2009, Mongolia had 31 million tons of rare-earth resources, 16.77 percent of the world’s total and second only to China.

Boosting ties with Mongolia could be a way for the US to show China it has found an alternative country that can meet its rare-earth demands. This would reduce US reliance on China in this regard.

By strengthening ties with Mongolia, the US is also attempting to upgrade Mongolia’s status in Northeast Asia, giving Washington another channel to deal with

the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis. Mongolia has maintained solid relations with all countries in the region including North Korea, with few historical or territorial issues. Ulaanbaatar wants stronger ties with Washington to earn more respect in the region, at least from Tokyo and Seoul.

Moving closer to the US, Mongolia can reduce its security reliance on China and Russia.

Mongolia proposed a “third neighbor” policy in 1990, aiming to build relationships with countries other than Russia and China, and formalized its foreign policy and legislation. Mongolia has been seeking to reduce its political, economic, and security reliance on the two giant neighbors by this “third neighbor” foreign policy.

As a superpower, the US has been Mongolia’s most valuable “third neighbor.” In Northeast Asia, Japan and South Korea are Mongolia’s “third neighbors” in an economic sense.

Since Mongolia’s democratic transition, China has been Mongolia’s biggest partner in trade and investment. By cooperating with Japan and South Korea in investment, technology and trade, Mongolia wants to make its economy less reliant on China and Russia. Beginning in 2000, the US began attaching great importance to Mongolia through people-to-people exchange and cooperation.

Washington will continue to infiltrate Ulaanbaatar with its ideology, grooming officials in line with US values.

In the short term, however, it will be difficult for Mongolia to change its interdependent ties with China. As long as the two countries respect the core interests of each other, their bilateral cooperation in politics, economy, culture and military under the framework



of China-Russia-Mongolia Economic Corridor and the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will advance steadily. The border region between the two countries will remain stable and usher in continued development.

The US-launched trade war against China has influenced global economic development.

Washington’s unilateralism has not received widespread approval from the international community, while China’s BRI and proposal for a community of shared future for mankind have gained global acceptance. The US development model has encountered multiple challenges and now Mongolia must make a rational stance between the two giants.

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your judgment when it comes to making a decision about taking the country to war the next time?" He refused to answer. Instead, he made the bizarre claim: "I was responsible for getting 150,000 combat troops out of Iraq." While it is true that President Barack Obama asked him to oversee negotiations and other meetings regarding implementing the Status of Forces Agreement signed by President Bush, the US was required to withdraw those troops by the end of 2011 regardless.

In fact, Obama and Biden tried to convince the Iraqi government to allow US troops to stay longer, but the Iraqis refused. (Ironically, both Republicans and Democratic hawks have tried to blame Obama for the subsequent rise of ISIS because he didn't keep troops in Iraq. However, if he had done so, it would have turned into an illegal occupation and American forces would have likely faced armed resistance from the Iraqis they were supposedly there to protect.)

In a previous article, I wrote in some detail about how Biden had been calling for a US invasion of Iraq since 1998, pushed the war authorization through the Democratic-controlled Senate, and abused his role as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to suppress testimony by scholars, former UN inspectors, and other knowledgeable authorities opposed to the war. However, it is his support for the invasion long after it became evident that Iraq was not actually a threat to its neighbors – much less the United States – which raises the question as to whether his motivation was not in fact about national security as he claimed, but about oil and empire.

Indeed, after the US conquest, he began pushing the dangerous and destabilizing divide-and-rule strategy of splitting Iraq into three countries along ethnic and sectarian lines. There are those who insist that, despite his unwillingness to formally apologize for his support for the invasion and his false claims in the lead-up to the war about Iraq's military procurement, he is a changed man and he would not abuse the office of president to invade another oil-rich country on false pretenses.

His failure to even acknowledge his support for the invasion and the war that followed, however, gives a strong impression that he cannot be trusted to do not something like that again.



# The solution is in calculation

By Mohammad Bahrapour

**TEHRAN** — There is no regional competition between the U.S. and Islamic Republic of Iran. It is American hostility toward Iran. Any short-sighted reader of the middle-east's news can smell it from the tweets of the U.S officials. This war-mongering personae player are trying to show themselves very logical and put the ball in Iran's court by denying any regime change plan against Iran.

Threat of direct war, proxy wars, economic sanctions that are equivalent to economic war and supporting terrorist groups to endanger the security, are the very bold ways of U.S strategy against the Iran. Recent sanction of Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's Foreign Minister, is the best example of the non-diplomatic orientation in the U.S administration toward Iran. These are obvious. Very obvious. But there is a big plan that some news should be interpreted based on it. I try to sketch it.

The famous Sun Tzu has a more famous quote: the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting. The U.S administration have other major fishes to fry as China and Russia and even the economic power of European Union. Islamic Republic of Iran in the world war for power is a brand new one. It has some especial capabilities and is going to be a regional power. The U.S policymakers know it very well. They want to curb Iranian power in the region by other players to gain more and to lose less and because of it they are the supporter of Saudis in their war on Yemen. America is the birthplace of Pragmatism and the American politicians try to reach their aim by least costly methods and most effective tools. So, there is the place of what they call it "Psychowar". The best tool for subversion without a single bullet being fired.

The "maximum Pressure" campaign on Iran is a part of that Psychops. No one can claim that he knows the full arrangement of means and ends of any countries' Psychops against the other. Only Oracles can say something, but they are also interpretable. So let us try to interpret the recent developments under the presupposition of the presence of Psychops.

I think, there is three psychological theories or phenomena that are being used in the maximum pressure against Iran. The



first is "Learned Helplessness". This occurs when a person realize that his action is not responsible to his experience. So there is a gap between actions and consequences. In definition, it is a phenomenon when "a person has been conditioned to expect pain, suffering, or discomfort without a way to escape it". In other words, it is "a phenomenon in which repeated exposure to uncontrollable stressors results in individuals failing to use any control options that may later become available. Essentially, individuals are said to learn that they lack behavioral control over environmental events, which, in turn, undermines the motivation to make changes or attempts to alter situations." The second is "Gaslighting". It is "to manipulate another person into doubting his or her perceptions, experiences, or understanding of events". And the third is Prospect Theory. It is about decision making. It asserts that "people underweight outcomes that are merely probable in comparison with outcomes that are obtained with certainty. This tendency, called the certainty effect, contributes to risk aversion in choices involving sure gains and to risk seeking in choices involving sure losses." In this theory the Reference Point is importance. It is where an actor tries to interpret its loss and gain and so codifies the events around them.

Sanctions against Iranian economy or

officials are on the first aim. They are for creating the situation of no way out. So is the initiative to create an alliance for safeguarding the ships movements in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Proxy wars in Yemen and the air attacks on Shia Groups in Syria and Iraq are the other ones. They all have one goal: crippling containment. Many articles have been published about the importance of MidEast's oil in Iranian annual revenue and its place in U.S needs in spite of shale oil industry. And they sum up that Iran cannot close the Strait of Hormuz because they will be the main loser. This is the helplessness.

Furthermore, it seems that the dichotomy between hardliner and moderate is a Gaslighting technique. It is aimed at marginalizing anyone who has the views as same as what is labeled as "hardliners". So any Iranian official who tries to have a strong position in front of the U.S policies in the region will be silenced by this stigma and maybe forced to change his/her views in the future.

And the third one is the best interpretive one. All the maximum pressure strategy is for this moment. It is the final ring in this chain of manipulation. We can assume that when a nation thinks that has no escape and is alienated about its national interest, it will do anything to change the situation and in that time will fail in its calculation

about cost and benefit and will choose the risky way. I think the clashes in the Persian Gulf and abandoning diplomatic approach are risky choices.

The result is tripod: non-decision, miscalculation and self-harm. These are the main aims of these Psychops against Iran. When there is a gap between different Reference Points in the calculations of Iranian policy makers so there will be some risk seeking decisions. The risky way is not bad in any situation but we can consider many ways that are not risky but beneficial.

Final section of the article of Meysam Behravesht in Foreign Policy in 9 August is the pure example of Gaslighting and the best proof of the effectiveness of this war against Iran. He says: "Crippling economic sanctions and the growing likelihood of military conflict have rendered moderates irrelevant and helped homogenize Iran's political system in favor of hard-liners. In the face of diminishing resources as a consequence of sanctions and increasing need for security due to escalating hostilities with the United States and its allies, the IRGC is winning the battle over how Iran's national interests should be defined and protected."

All parts of Iranian politics try to do best for the national interests of Iranian people. In this piece I want to show that many perceptions of the policy makers might be under the Psychological manipulation of the "others". In this regard, the Supreme Leader is the most informed and speaks in many situations, most recently in 4 June, about the "impairment in the calculation system" of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its officials.

There is no best solution for any situation. Circumstances alter cases. I think that in this moment, the gap in Reference Point is broadening. So making the decision is the most urgent necessary. If war is the best way out so we should be ready for it and if diplomacy and negotiation is the best, so it is acceptable. All we "ought to" do is to be out of the trap of Psychological manipulation of the "others" and the impairment of the calculation system. It is easy. It needs the knowledge about the trap and the consensus between Iranian officials and the projection of it to the citizens and then choosing the best answer based on the best calculation. At the end, the courage will play its role.

## U.S.-Mongolia relations lack healthy balance

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Following its democratic transition, Mongolia has shown a willingness to become a liberal and democratic country with the US as its role model. This is in line with US strategy and provides room for Washington to export its ideology and values to Ulaanbaatar, which aimed at Beijing and Moscow.

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Boosting ties with Mongolia could be a way for the US to show China it has found an alternative country that can meet its rare-earth demands. This would reduce US reliance on China in this regard.

By strengthening ties with Mongolia, the US is also attempting to upgrade Mongolia's status in Northeast Asia, giving Washington another channel to deal with the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis. Mongolia has maintained solid relations with all countries in the region including North Korea, with few historical or territorial issues. Ulaanbaatar wants stronger ties with Washington to earn more respect in the region, at least from Tokyo and Seoul. Moving closer to the US, Mongolia can reduce its security reliance on China and Russia.

Mongolia proposed a "third neighbor" policy in 1990, aiming to build relationships with countries other than Russia and China, and formalized its foreign policy and legislation. Mongolia has been seeking to reduce its political, economic, and security reliance on the two giant neighbors by this "third neighbor" foreign policy.

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cooperating with Japan and South Korea in investment, technology and trade, Mongolia wants to make its economy less reliant on China and Russia. Beginning in 2000, the US began attaching great importance to Mongolia through people-to-people exchange and cooperation. Washington will continue to infiltrate Ulaanbaatar with its ideology, grooming officials in line with US values.

In the short term, however, it will be difficult for Mongolia to change its interdependent ties with China. As long as the two countries respect the core interests of each other, their bilateral cooperation in politics, economy, culture and military under the framework of China-Russia-Mongolia Economic Corridor and the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will advance steadily. The border region between the two countries will remain stable and usher in continued development.

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## Saudi Arabia seriously after negotiating with Iran: Report

**IFP**—Several sources, often close to Iran, speak of a change in the Saudis' position towards Iran, and accordingly, Riyadh appears to be seeking to begin serious talks with Tehran on maritime security and deployment in the Persian Gulf region, the Arabic newspaper Rai al-Youm argues.

The newspaper, in an op-ed by senior expert Kamal Khalaf, says this is not the only gateway to look at other cases that are no less important than water safety and maritime security. The Yemen case is at the forefront of issues that will be raised during the Iran-Saudi negotiations.

"It is clear that Saudi Arabia is preparing proper grounds for stopping the war on Yemen and seems to have been able to convey a message to Tehran via a secret channel that the end of the war should be in a way that Riyadh would not be shown as a failed party. This is the main request of Riyadh, and considers it a crucial issue for negotiating with Tehran. Apparently, the changes the UAE has made to its role in Yemen are also affecting the Saudi position, and it is reported that the discrepancy these days between Saudi Arabia and the UAE is due to the UAE's new stance on Iran and the war in Yemen," he is quoted as saying by Rai al-Youm.

Khalaf goes on to say what reinforces this view is the devastating battles in Aden between the UAE-backed transitional council and the Saudi-backed Mansur Hadi forces.

"While the Emirati officials are questioning the legitimacy and competence of Mansour Hadi, the Dubai police chief, Dhahi Khalifan, in his Twitter account, has directed harsh criticism at Hadi, stating that a real commander cannot, from inside the hotel room, won the victory. But in the meantime, we need to consider the depth of the relationship between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, as well as the close personal relation-



ship between Bin Zayed and Bin Salman, to say with certainty that Abu Dhabi is, above all, an indirect communication channel between Riyadh and Tehran and its entire move are coordinated with Riyadh."

However, one can play a better role in this regard, and there is no one better than Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has a close relationship with Bin Salman and Iranian politicians. For this reason, if the right channel is chosen to convey the message between Riyadh and Tehran, Russia is the best option, underlines Khalaf.

Riyadh has always been one step behind Abu Dhabi in changing policies and dealing with crises and different cases, and this was clearly seen in the UAE's move to resume diplomatic relations with Damascus, while Saudi Arabia initially hesitated. According to our assessments, Riyadh's hesitation will end soon, and the Saudis will take a major step toward establishing ties with Damascus and negotiating with Iran, concludes Khalaf.

## Bischara Ali Egal: Downing of U.S. drone boost for Iran global standing

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Dr. Bischara Ali Egal, political commentator, says targeting the US UAV showed Iran is ready to confront any threats to its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Speaking with FNA in an exclusive interview, Dr. Ali said, "Iran has shown that it is not willing to take its marching orders from Washington, which means maximum pressure from the US will not work... [Trump] has two options remaining in that case: risk it all by launching a war or make a gesture toward peace. A war would ruin not only his presidency but also his political future."

Bischara Ali Egal is the Executive Director of the independent Non-profit, Non-governmental Research and policy think-tank The Horn of Africa Center for Strategic and International Studies (Horn CSIS) established in 2005.

**Below is the full text of the interview:**

■ Why does Trump pay visit to North Korea that is armed with nuclear weapons and threatens to use them against the US, but, he does everything possible to confront Iran which has never posed a military threat to the US, and has NO nuclear weapons?

A: The Trump-Kim meetings have taken the world in political storm. Not knowing what to make of this historical and Public Relations Hoopla by the two leaders - while tensions between the nuclear armed North Korea and the United States are still high, both leaders have two different and opposite agendas of their own. For Trump it is all about his re-election, to look like a real and great statesman; for Kim, it means to reduce the Korean peninsula tensions. And so, Trump feels that North Korea -- unlike Iran -- would be an unprecedented success, a ticket into the history books, and get him a likely Nobel Peace Prize. However, Trump finds Iran different from nuclear-armed North Korea. Firstly, Trump sees that the Iran nuclear deal was Obama's alone; enough to cause Trump to walk away in an effort to make everyone understand there was a new sheriff in town. As with so many other issues from the Trans-Pacific Partnership to climate to immigration, Trump walked away from everything Obama had touched. In short, Iran was old business -- Obama's business -- and if he could not walk away from the deal immediately, Trump would lose his face in the Republican Party. Secondly, the Neocons have infested American halls of power -- both houses see Iran more dangerous and threat to American strategic interests in the Middle East and beyond. The Neocons warmongers are now exceedingly in the decision making higher echelons of both the state department and white house. They are ideologically and politically set for pivoting and pushing the war agenda against Iran. This is while Trump is easily manipulated both psychologically and politically towards war with Iran.

■ Iran downed the US ultra-high-tech drone, with only one shot. Why were there no military reactions from the US?

A: Downing of the US hi-Tech super sensitive unmanned aerial vehicle over the Strait of Hormuz was a political, military and Technological boost for Iran's Global standing, although it heightened the already tense crisis. Iran identified the drone as an RQ-4A Global Hawk, a \$220 million UAV that acts as a massive surveillance platform in the sky. For Iran, the downing of this multi-million dollar UAV was a brave decision and defining moment for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and its leadership that they mean what they say, and that they are prepared for an all-out regional war in order to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. President Trump is in a bind and it is of his own making. Iran has shown that it is not willing to take its marching orders from Washington, which means "maximum pressure" from the US will not work. He has two options remaining in that case: risk it all by launching a war or make a gesture toward peace. A war would ruin not only his presidency, but also his political future.

■ How do you view Saudi Arabia's future, based on its military spending on buying "firecrackers" from the US, especially now that the US most sophisticated weapons are proven to be dysfunctional when the case of war is with Iran?

A: Americans say that they have no permanent friends, but permanent interests and that is why they stuck with corrupt, feudalistic, Wahhabi house of terrorism and autocratic fiefdom like Saudi Arabia. The massive US sell of arms to Saudi Arabia since Trump and Obama is just a modern-day of imperialist exploitation and hatchery infatuation of backward under-developed Imperial colonies of yesteryears. The American Foreign Policy towards Saudi Arabia is basically a super-market bonanza for the American Military-Industry-Intelligence-Mercenaries Complex since the "Desert Storm" in 1990. It is a way for recycling (milking) the excess billions of Saudi petro-dollars for useless and unsophisticated shining chunks from America's MIC thus, realizing monetary bonanza the likes of which it has never seen before in the history of the Kingdom.

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**Mr.Shayan: 09128440156**

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**Ms.Sara: 09128103207**

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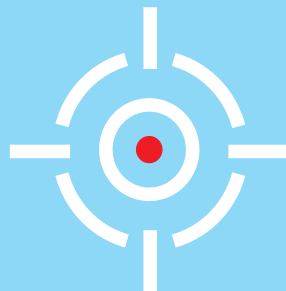
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# NASA has closely measured a shockwave from the Sun for the first time

Gigantic interplanetary shockwaves reverberate across our Solar System, originating from the Sun and the bursts of charged particles or solar winds escaping it. But measuring such a shock in detail takes some very finely tuned instruments – and scientists just managed it for the first time.

These shocks are made up of particles transferring energy through electromagnetic waves, rather than bouncing directly into each other – what's known as a collisionless shock.

Understanding how these shocks happen in Earth's vicinity could prove useful on a greater scale, since these types of shockwaves are also spewed forth by things like supernovae and even black holes.

The solar winds that give rise to interplanetary shocks come in two types: fast and slow (as you can probably guess, one of the key differences between them is their speed of travel). As a fast stream overtakes a slow stream, a wave is created, causing ripples that spread out across the Solar System.

It's thanks to NASA's Magnetospheric MultiScale satellites (MMS) that we've



now been able to catch a shockwave as it propagates through space – because the four satellites that make up the MMS were only around 20 kilometers or 12 miles apart at the time, they were close enough to detect interplanetary shockwaves as they flashed by in just half a second.

“The [MMS] spacecraft obtained unprecedented high-time resolution multipoint particle and field measurements of an interplanetary shock event,” the researchers write in their paper.

In particular, the Fast Plasma

Investigation instruments on board the MMS were responsible for taking the all-important readings – a suite of devices able to measure ions and electrons in space at up to six times per second.

The instrument detected two clumps of ions: one from the solar wind shockwave itself, and one pushed out of the way as the wave passed.

The team says this helps to explain how energy and acceleration gets passed on as these shocks travel; due to the relatively small scale of the area covered by the MMS, it was

also able to pick up small scale irregularities within the shock.

More shockwave measurements should be within the capabilities of the MMS, the team behind the latest research says – not just strong interplanetary shocks, but also weaker and rarer ones, which scientists know less about.

And this is just the latest feather in the cap of the MMS: it's already been responsible for analyzing how energy is dispersed when solar storms strike Earth's atmosphere, and for logging other key changes in our magnetosphere.

Ultimately these interplanetary shockwaves contribute to the space weather that can have dramatic effects on our own planet – which is why scientists are so keen to learn more about them, not just to make new discoveries but to refine existing hypotheses. With the MMS readings, they now have their first close-up look.

“Studying [interplanetary] shocks at kinetic scales thus offers new test beds for our current understanding,” say the researchers.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Earth's last magnetic field reversal took 22,000 years, longer than expected

New research suggests Earth's last magnetic field reversal was slow-going. Scientists found the reversal of Earth's magnetic poles took 22,000 years to complete, much longer than previously predicted.

The Earth's magnetic field and its magnetic poles aren't static. Over the last few years, the planet's magnetic north pole has been drifting more than usual, shifting erratically -- so much so, that scientists had to redraw the magnetic maps that enable modern navigational systems.

Earth's magnetic field does more than dance around every few hundred thousand years -- the magnetic poles reverse, or flip. The last reversal happened 770,000 years ago.

To better understand how the so-called Matuyama-Brunhes reversal played out, scientists surveyed a variety of geomagnetic clues hidden in lava flows, ocean sediments and Antarctic ice cores. Over the last several years, scientists have developed more and more precise methods for measuring the signatures of Earth's magnetic history.

The latest research, published this week in the journal *Science Advances*, offers a clearer picture of what a magnetic reversal looks like.

“Reversals are generated in the deepest parts of the Earth's interior, but the effects manifest themselves all the way through the Earth and especially at the Earth's surface and in the atmosphere,” Brad Singer, geologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said in a news release. “Unless you have a complete, accurate and high-resolution record of what a field reversal really is like at the surface of the Earth, it's difficult to even discuss what the mechanics of generating a reversal are.”

The latest analysis showed that in the lead up to the last reversal, Earth's magnetic field slowly weakened, shifted and then briefly stabilized before finally flipping. The process took at least 22,000



years to complete.

Scientists gained the greatest insights into the last reversal by studying lava flows in Chile, Tahiti, Hawaii, the Caribbean and the Canary Islands.

“Lava flows are ideal recorders of the magnetic field. They have a lot of iron-bearing minerals, and when they cool, they lock in the direction of the field,” said Singer. “But it's a spotty record. No volcanoes are erupting continuously. So we're relying on careful field work to identify the right records.”

Magnetic readings and radioisotope dating of lava flow samples allowed researchers to reconstruct the Matuyama-Brunhes reversal. Their models showed the final reversal took just 4,000 years, but the flip was preceded by a prolonged period of magnetic instability.

“I've been working on this problem for 25 years,” said Singer. “And now we have a richer record and better-dated record of this last reversal than ever before.”

Some scientists estimate the magnetic instability observed in recent years is a sign the Earth's poles are in the early stages of reversing. Previous models suggest the poles flip every 200 to 300 thousand years, but the last reversal happened some 800,000 years ago. The Earth is due for another reversal.

The latest research will help scientists know what to look for as researchers consider whether or not a pole flip is indeed pending.

(Source: UPI)

## MMS finds first interplanetary shock

The Magnetospheric Multiscale mission -- MMS -- has spent the past four years using high-resolution instruments to see what no other spacecraft can. Recently, MMS made the first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock.

These shocks, made of particles and electromagnetic waves, are launched by the Sun. They provide ideal test beds for learning about larger universal phenomena, but measuring interplanetary shocks requires being at the right place at the right time. Here is how the MMS spacecraft were able to do just that.

What's in a Shock?

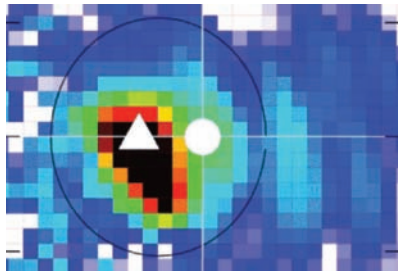
Interplanetary shocks are a type of collisionless shock -- ones where particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another. These collisionless shocks are a phenomenon found throughout the universe, including in supernovae, black holes and distant stars. MMS studies collisionless shocks around Earth to gain a greater understanding of shocks across the universe.

Interplanetary shocks start at the Sun, which continually releases streams of charged particles called the solar wind.

The solar wind typically comes in two types -- slow and fast. When a fast stream of solar wind overtakes a slower stream, it creates a shock wave, just like a boat moving through a river creates a wave. The wave then spreads out across the solar system. On Jan. 8, 2018, MMS was in just the right spot to see one interplanetary shock as it rolled by.

Catching the Shock

MMS was able to measure the shock thanks to its unprecedentedly fast and high-resolution instruments. One of the instruments aboard MMS is the Fast Plasma Investigation. This suite of instruments can measure ions and electrons around the spacecraft at up to 6 times per second. Since the speeding



shock waves can pass the spacecraft in just half a second, this high-speed sampling is essential to catching the shock.

Looking at the data from Jan. 8, the scientists noticed a clump of ions from the solar wind. Shortly after, they saw a second clump of ions, created by ions already in the area that had bounced off the shock as it passed by. Analyzing this second population, the scientists found evidence to support a theory of energy transfer first posed in the 1980s.

MMS consists of four identical spacecraft, which fly in a tight formation that allows for the 3D mapping of space. Since the four MMS spacecraft were separated by only 12 miles at the time of the shock (not hundreds of kilometers as previous spacecraft had been), the scientists could also see small-scale irregular patterns in the shock. The event and results were recently published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

■ **Going Back for More**

Due to timing of the orbit and instruments, MMS is only in place to see interplanetary shocks about once a week, but the scientists are confident that they'll find more. Particularly now, after seeing a strong interplanetary shock, MMS scientists are hoping to be able to spot weaker ones that are much rarer and less well understood. Finding a weaker event could help open up a new regime of shock physics.

(Source: Science Daily)

## Scientists find huge world of hidden galaxies, changing our understanding of the universe

Scientists have found a vast array of hidden galaxies, which together could change our understanding of how the universe works.

The mysterious galaxies, which were previously unknown to researchers, were discovered by a breakthrough new approach that allowed astronomers to look more deeply than ever before into the universe.

The astronomers describe the new find as a treasure trove, representing a huge set of galaxies. It could help solve some of the most deep and fundamental questions about the universe, including the mysteries of supermassive black holes and dark matter.



Some researchers had long thought that such hidden galaxies might be out in the universe, waiting to be found. But now they have finally been discovered and cosmologists will have to rethink their understanding of how the universe works.

Scientists got an unprecedented look at the universe when the Hubble Space Telescope was sent into space, and began looking around. But it could not see some of the most fundamental parts of what surrounds us.

The new research allowed scientists to tie together a variety of different observatories and use them to look more deeply than ever before and see the huge set of galaxies.

“This is the first time that such a large population of massive galaxies was confirmed during the first two billion years of the 13.7-billion-year life of the universe,” said Tao Wang, from the University of Tokyo.

“These were previously invisible to us.

“This finding contravenes current models for that period of cosmic evolution and will help to add some details, which have been missing until now.”

If you were able to see the galaxies themselves, they would be far more of a spectacle even than our own Milky Way.

“For one thing, the night sky would appear far more majestic,” said Dr Wang, comparing the newly discovered part of the universe with our own.

“The greater density of stars means there would be many more stars close by appearing larger and brighter.

“But conversely, the large amount of dust means farther-away stars would be far less visible, so the background to these bright close stars might be a vast dark void.”

But from Earth, the 39 galaxies are so difficult to see because they are so faint. Though they are the largest of their kind to be found, the light that reaches Earth is reduced and has been stretched because it has taken so long to travel to us.

“The light from these galaxies is very faint with long wavelengths invisible to our eyes and undetectable by Hubble,” said Kotaro Koh, who worked on the new study published in *Nature*.

“So we turned to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), which is ideal for viewing these kinds of things.

“Have a long history with that facility and so knew it would deliver good results.”

The stretching of the light can be a useful way for researchers to understand how far it has travelled, and therefore how old the galaxies are.

“It was tough to convince our peers these galaxies were as old as we suspected them to be,” said Dr Wang.

“Our initial suspicions about their existence came from the Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared data.

“But ALMA has sharp eyes and revealed details at submillimeter wavelengths, the best wavelength to peer through dust present in the early universe.

“Even so, it took further data from the imaginatively named Very Large Telescope in Chile to really prove we were seeing ancient massive galaxies where none had been seen before.”

In the future, we might even learn that the galaxies are more shocking than we realised. “I'm eager for upcoming observatories like the space-based James Webb Space Telescope to show us what these primordial beasts are really made of,” he said.

Researchers now hope to use the new galaxies to learn more about the universe itself. They will be look to understand the supermassive black hole that are at their middle, in the hope of learning more about how they form.

(Source: The Independent)

## Surface features on asteroid Bennu to be named after mythical birds

Scientists with NASA's OSIRIS-REx team want to name surface features on the asteroid Bennu after “birds and bird-like creatures in mythology.” This week, the International Astronomical Union's Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature approved the request.

OSIRIS-REx is NASA's asteroid sampling mission. The OSIRIS-REx probe, which launched in 2016, has been circling the asteroid Bennu since it arrived at its target last December.

Over the last several months, the spacecraft has been mapping the surface of 101955 Bennu, a 1,614-foot-wide space rock in the collection of near-Earth asteroids known as the Apollo group. Now, scientists are ready to begin naming the most prominent of the surface features.

The features include several types of asteroid surface types found on the asteroid Ryugu and defined by scientists with the Japanese Space Agency's Hayabusa2 mission, including: craters; dorsa, which are peaks or ridges; fossae, grooves or trenches; and saxa, rocks and boulders.

The asteroid is named after the mythological Bennu-bird, an ancient Egyptian deity linked with the sun and rebirth. The surface features will now also be named after mythological birds.

While mission's name OSIRIS works as an acronym -- its letters stand for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer -- it is also a reference to the Egyptian god Osiris, the god of fertility, rebirth and the afterlife.

Scientists will begin naming the asteroid's surface features later this summer.

The naming theme of mythology and rebirth alludes to the asteroid's scientific significance. NASA scientists chose to target Bennu because of its unique supply of unadulterated carbonaceous material, one of the building blocks of life. Researchers estimate asteroid collisions provided early Earth with biochemicals necessary for life.

(Source: UPI)

## Tardigrades may have survived spacecraft crashing on Moon

The odds of finding life on the Moon have suddenly rocketed skywards. But rather than elusive alien moonlings, the beings in question came from Earth and were spilled across the landscape when a spacecraft crashed into the surface.

The Israeli Beresheet probe was meant to be the first private lander to touch down on the Moon. And all was going smoothly until mission controllers lost contact in April as the robotic craft made its way down. Beyond all the technology that was lost in the crash, Beresheet had an unusual cargo: a few thousand tiny tardigrades, the toughest animals on Earth.

Now, the organization behind the tardigrades' trip, the US-based Arch Mission Foundation -- whose goal is to find a backup for Earth -- has said the organisms may well have shrugged off the collision. “Our payload may be the only surviving thing from that mission,” Nova Spivack, the organization's founder, told *Wired* magazine.

Tardigrades have fascinated scientists since their discovery in the 18th century by the German zoologist and pastor Johann August Ephraim Goeze. The millimeter-long animals, sometimes known as water bears or moss piglets after their favored environment and food, resemble cheerful eight-legged maggots wearing distinctly sphincter-like faces.

But it is not their appearance that has made their name. Tardigrades are considered the hardest animals on Earth. They have been found on mountain tops, in scorching deserts, and lurking in subglacial lakes in Antarctica. In his book *The Hidden Powers of Animals*, Dr Karl Shuker claimed the beasts survived being frozen in liquid helium and being boiled at 149C.

The tardigrade's secret is the ability to shrivel into a



seed-like pod, expelling nearly all of its water and slashing its metabolism. In this “tun” state, the animals can hunker down and survive conditions that would normally be swiftly fatal. In 2007, scientists discovered that inactive tardigrades are so tough they can survive the harsh radiation and frigid vacuum of space travel.

And so it came to be that there is life on the Moon, probably. Lukasz Kaczmarek, a tardigrade expert and astrobiologist at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, said the animals may well have survived the crash landing. “Tardigrades can survive pressures that are comparable to those created when asteroids strike Earth, so a small crash like this is nothing to them,” he said. The animals could potentially survive on the Moon for years, he added.

Dehydrated tardigrades have been revived after years in an inactive state by plunging them into water. Once rehydrated, the animals become active again and feed and reproduce as normal. There is little chance of that happening to those

that are lost in space, however. “They cannot colonize the Moon because there is no atmosphere and no liquid water,” Kaczmarek said. “But it could be possible to bring them back to Earth and then add the water. They should resurrect.”

Kaczmarek is exploring whether the ageing process itself grinds to a halt in dormant tardigrades, through what he calls a Sleeping Beauty model. He said it appears that a tardigrade that enters a tun state at one month old emerges with the same biological age when it is revived a decade later. “It is really amazing,” he said. “It may be that we can use this in the future if we plan missions to different planets, because we will need to be young when we get there.”

Philippe Reekie, an astrobiologist and Ph.D. student at the University of Edinburgh, agreed that there was no reason to think dehydrated tardigrades would not survive on the Moon. “I would imagine they would survive for some time,” he said. “The main problem with the Moon is the vacuum and the high radiation, but tardigrades are proven to survive those conditions.”

But he cautioned that if the tardigrades were in an active state on impact, they may well have met their end. “In their normal state, you can kill them quite easily,” he said. “We accidentally killed loads by accident because we subjected them to the extreme cold too fast.”

Because the Moon is considered lifeless, NASA's office of planetary protection does not frown on missions that spill Earthly organisms on its surface. After all, the Apollo astronauts left behind their own microbes in the 96 bags of human waste that await some future cleaner on the Moon. Had the spacecraft spilled its living cargo on Mars, the story might be very different.

(Source: The Guardian)



## Ancient arrowheads found in Mount Zion is ‘evidence’ of battle told in the Bible

Archaeologists have unearthed evidence of the brutal, lengthy siege of Jerusalem described in the Second Book of Kings in the Bible. The Bible says, ‘So the city was besieged unto the 11th year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls....’ Now University of North Carolina at Charlotte archaeologists digging in Jerusalem have found evidence of the Babylonian conquest of the city from 587/586 BCE. The researchers found a deposit including layers of ash, arrowheads dating from the period, as well as Iron Age potsherds, lamps and a gold and silver tassel or earring.



The researchers believe that the find can be dated to the specific event of the Babylonian conquest because of the unique mix of artefacts - pottery and lamps, burnt wood and ashes, and a number of Scythian-type bronze and iron arrowheads which are typical of that period.

Shimon Gibson, UNC Charlotte professor of history, said: ‘We know where the ancient fortification line ran, so we know we are within the city.

‘We know that this is not some dumping area, but the south-western neighborhood of the Iron Age city - during the 8th century BCE the urban area extended from the “City of David” area to the south-east and as far as the Western Hill where we are digging.” Gibson said the ash offers another clue.

He added: ‘For archaeologists, an ashen layer can mean a number of different things. It could be ashy deposits removed from ovens; or it could be localized burning of garbage.

‘However, in this case, the combination of an ashy layer full of artefacts, mixed with arrowheads, and a very special ornament indicates some kind of devastation and destruction. Nobody abandons golden jewellery and nobody has arrowheads in their domestic refuse.

‘The arrowheads are known as “Scythian arrowheads” and have been found at other archaeological conflict sites from the 7th and 6th centuries BCE. They were fairly commonplace in this period and are known to be used by the Babylonian warriors.

‘Together, this evidence points to the historical conquest of the city by Babylon because the only major destruction we have in Jerusalem for this period is the conquest of 587/586 BCE.

‘I like to think that we are excavating inside one of the “Great Man’s houses” mentioned in the second book of Kings 25:9.

‘This spot would have been at an ideal location, situated as it is close to the western summit of the city with a good view overlooking Solomon’s Temple and Mount Moriah to the north-east. We have high expectations of finding much more of the Iron Age city in future seasons of work.’

(Source: Yahoo News)

## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Garajonay National Park

A World Heritage, Garajonay National Park is situated somewhere not far off the north-west coast of Africa, in one of Spain’s seven islands that make up the Canary Islands archipelago in the Atlantic.

These high, volcanic islands are the first to receive the rains arriving from the west, and have thus retained the remnants of a rich and luxuriant forest — the laurisilva or Laurel forest — on their windward peaks.

Next to the Laurisilva of Madeira (Portugal), Garajonay National Park preserves an outstanding example of this unique vegetation, which remains almost permanently shrouded in clouds and mist.



These forests are relict ecosystems, living remnants of the old rainforests and warm temperate forests that occupied much of Europe and North Africa during the Tertiary. Today, they are a refuge for an exceptional number of endemic species, which in many cases are also threatened.

A UNESCO World Heritage, Garajonay National Park covers some 11% of the island and is an important source of water for Gomera, with its network of permanently flowing streams, the best preserved in the Canary Islands.

The forest hosts a great diversity of plant species, which are often surrounded by a sea of fog that gives the forest a magical aspect. These fogs are vital for the forest, producing the necessary moisture essential for the survival of this lavish green environment located within an otherwise arid island. The forest only survives thanks to the high humidity and mild temperatures, which fluctuate little during the year.

**■ Integrity**  
Following the European colonization of La Gomera in the 15th century, major changes occurred to the forest cover, which was reduced by some 65% in just over 100 years. In the south and west of the national park, there are areas of deforestation, fires and grazing and, in some parts, the natural vegetation cover has been replaced by commercial species for plantations of Canary Pine and Monterey Pine. These activities are slowly being eliminated, although some problems derive from the existence of private property on the boundary of the park.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Foreign arrivals in Yazd jumps 29% in 4 months on year

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The number of foreign travelers visiting Iran’s Yazd province surged 29 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) from a year earlier, a provincial tourism official has said.

A total of 51,718 foreign nationals toured the central province during the four-month period, which shows a 29 percent growth year on year, Homa Khorshidi said on Sunday, CHTN reported.

A majority of the visitors were from Italy, Germany, France, China and Spain, the official noted.

The number of foreign arrivals in Yazd has varied between 100,000 to 150,000 people over the past couple of years. The province also welcomed some one million domestic travelers during the two-week Noruz holidays (ended on April 4), Khorshidi explained.

“The province is home to over 4,000 cultural heritage sites and travel destinations and it also has a wealth of



A view of the UNESCO-registered Yazd, which its historical structure is referred to as a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors.

## Nicaragua’s finance minister visits National Museum of Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Nicaragua’s Minister of Finance and Public Credit Ivan Acosta Montalvan toured the National Museum of Iran on Tuesday.

Accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, Montalvan visited various sections of the complex including the Museum of Ancient Iran (Muze-ye Iran-e Bastan) and the Museum of the Islamic Era (Muze-ye Dowran-e Eslami), CHTN reported.

The tour was also attended by several public and private sector managers from the Latin American country and their Iranian counterparts.

The visiting minister on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran’s Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand for joint investments in the

fields of oil, agricultural outsourcing and industries.

One of the attractive buildings in downtown Tehran, the national museum was completed in 1928 based on a design by French architect André Godard who was also an archaeologist and historian of French and Middle Eastern Art.

The façade interweaves some Sassanian-era principles of Iranian architecture notably the grand iwan-style entrance embellished with a lavish brickwork.

The National Museum of Iran is somewhat chock-full of priceless relics that represent various eras of the country’s rich history. Massive and tiny statutes, ceramics, potteries, stone figures, bas-relief carvings, metal objects, textile remains, rare books and coins are amongst objects that build up the innumerable collections inside.



## Beat the heat with tasty Iranian cold soup “Ab Doogh Khیار”

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The summer heatwave here in Iran and many other places across the globe can be dealt with a refreshing recipe like the Iranian cold soup “Ab Doogh Khیار”!

Many Iranians believe that Ab Doogh Khیار is a perfect food for the summer. Its name translates as “water, yogurt drink, cucumber,” that is derived from its three main ingredients; it really is almost that simple.

The soup is quite light, made for hot days when our stomachs don’t crave heavy foods. It is so refreshing that Iranians believe it kills the heat in our bodies. While it is easy to prepare, it’s important that the ingredients be as fresh as possible.

Fresh herbs are highly recommended to be used in its recipe for the best flavor and texture.

Some serve Ab Doogh Khیار as an appetizer, but many consider it ideal for a light dinner, often adding a helping of dried bread to make it more filling. It has been part of Iranian culture since the ancient Persian era, and it is the most popular summertime dish in our cuisine. It is usually served chilled—sometimes with ice cubes.

### ■ Ingredients

Servings: 4 to 6 in small bowls

- 6 Persian cucumbers
- 2 shallots (optional)



- 2 cloves garlic (optional)
- 1/3 cup cream (half-and-half works well)
- 1 small bunch mint
- 1 small bunch of basil
- 1 small bunch tarragon
- A few sprigs dill
- 2 cups Greek yogurt
- ½ cup crushed walnuts

- ½ cup raisins, rinsed
- Crunchy bread
- 4 ice cubes
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Dried rose petals and dried mint for garnish (optional)

### ■ Preparation

Peel the skin of cucumbers. Take four of

the six cucumbers and slice each lengthwise into four thin strips. (If you are using big cucumbers with big seeds, scoop them out with a teaspoon before slicing them.) Then dice into small pieces (less than half an inch). Set the cucumbers aside.

Peel and dice the shallots and garlic. Put the shallots, garlic, and two remaining cucumbers into a blender. Add the cream and blend until completely smooth. Set aside.

Chop the fresh herbs into tiny pieces, using only the leaves. Put Greek yogurt, crushed walnuts, raisins, the first batch of diced cucumbers, herbs, and crunchy bread into a mixing bowl. Then add pureed cucumber, shallots, garlic, and cream to the bowl. Add ice, then salt and black pepper to taste.

Mix all the ingredients together. The consistency of the soup should be smooth without any lumps. Not too watery or too thick. If it is too watery, add Greek yogurt. If it is too thick, add two or three cubes of ice. Place the soup in the fridge to chill before serving.

Prior to serving, stir well once more and garnish with dried rose petals and dried mint. Some people like their bread crunchy, so they add it right before serving; others add it at the time of chilling for softer bread.

Now it’s time to celebrate the summer with this Iranian favorite!

## How to travel with a drone

In the pursuit of epic photos and videos, don’t risk fines or getting your drone confiscated.

You’ve got it all planned. You’ll launch your drone from the grass beside the Eiffel Tower. When it reaches the top, you’ll circle around the tower once, then end the video with a perfect landing. It’s the kind of thing you bought a drone for. It’s the kind of thing that makes for epic Instagram videos.

It’s the kind of thing that’s illegal and could get you fined thousands of dollars.

We’re in a weird time when it comes to drones. The devices are relatively still new, but their popularity is booming, and as such many cities, companies and managerial agencies are all erring on the side of no. Their concerns are numerous, including noise issues, the potential for property damage and personal injury, and other safety concerns. That doesn’t mean you shouldn’t bring your drone when you travel, it means you should consider several factors before you do.

### ■ Research local laws

If there’s a place you want to fly a drone, chances are someone already has and likely got in trouble for it. To avoid a similar experience, start your research with an online search of where you’re going, and specifically the exact spots where you want to fly. A few places to start are Airmap.io, the Federal Aviation Administration’s Where Can I Fly? and Knowbeforeyoufly.org.

DJI, the largest manufacturers of drones, also recommends some preflight research: “When traveling with your drone, it’s always important to check the rules and regulations for the countries you are visiting so you are aware of what is allowed or what is not.” DJI also has an interactive map that lets you select your drone and location for any alerts or restrictions.

In the example above, most of Paris is a big no-fly zone. It’s safe to assume that many well-known tourist attractions, major landmarks or high-density pedestrian zones will likely be off limits. Washington, D.C., is a no-drone zone. In Britain, you’re not allowed to fly within approximately 50 meters (about 164 feet) of any building, person or vehicle, or 150 meters (492 feet) from built-up or crowded areas. Japan has similar restrictions, as do many other countries. There are mix of laws in Europe currently, but one European Union-wide set of rules will be in effect starting July 2020.

If your travels are within the United States, the F.A.A. recently updated its B4UFLY app for iOS and Android. You can search locations, or it can use your current one, to see if there are any restrictions in place. Another option is the AirMap app, also on Android and iOS. This app, which shows restrictions overlaid on your location, works both in the United States and in 20 other countries, but since no app can be 100 percent accurate for all locations, always double check with a web search.

### ■ What about a permit?

Generally speaking, the more touristy a place is, the less likely you’ll be able to fly a drone. You might be able to apply for a permit in advance, but often those are only available to professional drone pilots. You’ll need to contact the location, or that country’s civil aviation administration (For the United States, that’s the F.A.A.).

In the United States, if it’s near an airport or other controlled airspace, the F.A.A. has set up a program called the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability, to grant drone pilots faster authorization to fly near airports all across the country. This program is available in several apps, including AirMap.

### ■ Travel-friendly options

You’ve done your research, you’re free to fly, but

which one to fly? A small, highly-portable drone might be a better option for travel. Wirecutter, The New York Times company that reviews products, recommends a few camera drones, including the DJI Tello, for around \$100. The photos and videos produced won’t be quite as high quality as their larger counterparts, but their low cost and small size make them a great option for travel.

### ■ On the plane

Drones typically use lithium ion or lithium polymer batteries, and the F.A.A. prohibits any type of spare lithium batteries in checked luggage. Batteries in a device are fine, but spare ones are not. You can bring most of those in your carry-on, however. The F.A.A. has a handy PDF to explain what’s allowed and where, but check your actual airline for any additional rules.

### ■ What to expect if you get caught

Law enforcement authorities and governments of all sizes take the potential threats drones pose very seriously. Flying your drone in a national park, for instance, is classified as a misdemeanor, with a maximum fine of \$5,000 and six months in jail.

Countries have implemented similar fines. Depending on the infraction, in Britain you could be fined between a few hundred British pounds on the spot to £2,500 (over \$3,000). In Japan it’s up to 500,000 yen, or about \$4,700. Motherboard, part of Vice Media, used a Freedom of Information request to get a list from the F.A.A. of all the fines it has levied so far.

If your drone is confiscated by the police or local authorities, there’s no guarantee you’ll get it back. So it’s smart to know local laws before you fly and look for any “no drone” signs, often very visible near parking lots, entrances and ticket booths.

(Source: The New York Times)



# Two hearts transported simultaneously for transplantation

**HEALTH DESK** **TEHRAN** – For the first time in Iran, hearts of two brain-dead donors were transported with medically-configured aircraft from the city of Yazd to Tehran.

Mohammad Sarvar, the head of air ambulance department of Iran’s National Emergency Medical Service Organization, said that the brain-dead donors were two men of 18 and 30 years old from Yazd and their hearts were transported to two hospitals in Tehran, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The Tehran transplant team flew to Yazd on 12:10 Monday noon and joined the Yazd transplant team at the Shahid Rahnamoun Hospital in Yazd and returned to Yazd airport by helicopter and landed in Tehran on 16:10, he explained.

One of the hearts was transported to the Imam Khomeini Hospital and the other one was transported to the Shahid Rajaie Hospital.

The procedure from surgically removing the hearts from donors to placing them into the recipient took one hour and 10 minutes, he noted.

Previously, air ambulance transplantations had been done from Yazd and Rasht to Tehran, he said.

However, this is for the first time that two hearts are transplanted concurrently via air ambulance, he explained.

In early July, the health ministry announced that it plans to establish a registry system for organ donation shipping.



The ministry is now working on a comprehensive map nationwide in order to transfer organs for donation via air ambulance in the fastest way. Usage of motorcycle ambulances, air ambulance, ambulance car, and even airliners are assessed in software, which can find the fastest way that is needed

to ship an organ in the system.

**Organ donation rate in Iran**  
In February, the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the health ministry announced that the organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years.

**The procedure from surgically removing the hearts from donors to placing them into the recipient took one hour and 10 minutes**

## Too much napping may signal Alzheimer’s

If you often find yourself dosing off during the day, new research suggests it might be an early warning sign that you have Alzheimer’s disease.

Areas of the brain that keep you awake during the day are damaged in the early stages of the memory-robbing disease, which is why people with Alzheimer’s may nap excessively long before they start to struggle with forgetting things, the study authors said.

Not only that, the scientists also found that damage to brain regions involved in daytime wakefulness was caused by a protein called tau. This provides more evidence that tau may play a larger role in Alzheimer’s than the more extensively studied amyloid protein, the researchers noted.

“Our work shows definitive evidence that the brain areas promoting wakefulness degenerate due to accumulation of tau -- not amyloid protein -- from the very earliest stages of the disease,” said study senior author Dr. Lea Grinberg. She is an associate professor of neurology and pathology at the Memory and Aging Center and a member of the Global Brain Health Institute at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

Previous research has suggested that excessive napping is due to poor sleep caused by Alzheimer’s-related disruptions in brain regions that promote sleep, or that



sleep problems themselves contribute to Alzheimer’s disease progression.

In this study, the researchers analyzed the brains of 13 deceased Alzheimer’s patients and seven people without the disease. The investigators concluded that Alzheimer’s disease attacks brain regions responsible for wakefulness during the day, and that these regions are among the first damaged by the disease.

The findings suggest that excessive daytime napping could serve as an early harbinger of Alzheimer’s.

In the Alzheimer’s-affected brains, significant tau buildup was found in all three wakefulness-promoting centers examined by the researchers, and those regions had lost as many as 75% of their neurons.

(Source: HealthDay News)

## Scientists can now manipulate brain cells using smartphone

A team of scientists in Korea and the United States have invented a device that can control neural circuits using a tiny brain implant controlled by a smartphone.

Researchers, publishing in Nature Biomedical Engineering, believe the device can speed up efforts to uncover brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, addiction, depression, and pain.

The device, using Lego-like replaceable drug cartridges and powerful bluetooth low-energy, can target specific neurons of interest using drug and light for prolonged periods.

“The wireless neural device enables chronic chemical and optical neuromodulation that has never been achieved before,” said lead author Raza Qazi, a researcher with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and University of Colorado Boulder.

Qazi said this technology significantly overshadows conventional methods used by neuroscientists, which usually involve rigid metal tubes and optical fibers to deliver drugs and light. Apart from limiting the subject’s movement due to the physical connections with bulky equipment, their relatively rigid structure causes lesion in soft brain tissue over time, therefore making them not suitable for long-term implantation. Though some efforts have been put to partly mitigate

adverse tissue response by incorporating soft probes and wireless platforms, the previous solutions were limited by their inability to deliver drugs for long periods of time as well as their bulky and complex control setups.

To achieve chronic wireless drug delivery, scientists had to solve the critical challenge of exhaustion and evaporation of drugs. Researchers from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and the University of Washington in Seattle collaborated to invent a neural device with a replaceable drug cartridge, which could allow neuroscientists to study the same brain circuits for several months without worrying about running out of drugs.

(Source: www.sciencedaily.com)

Although Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard. If Iran moves ahead with the current trend, it will achieve 45 percent increase by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

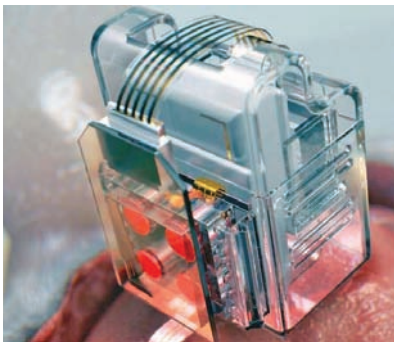
**Organ donation, how and why?**  
Organ transplantation is one of the great advances in modern medicine, but unfortunately, the need for organ donors is much greater than the number of people who actually donate.

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

Figures published for 2017 reveal that 2,183 people in Spain became organ donors after they died. That’s 46.9 per million people in the population (pmp) – a standard way of measuring the rate of donation in a country, The Independent reported in July 2018.

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

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



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(Source: www.sciencedaily.com)

## ‘Medicinal plants best alternative for water-intensive agricultural products’

**HEALTH DESK** **TEHRAN** – Medicinal plants, as drought-tolerant varieties, are the best alternative to replace water-intensive agricultural products to be exported, a medicinal plants expert told ISNA on Tuesday.

Annually, some 25,000 tons of medicinal plants worth around \$450 million are exported from the country, Fariborz Qeibi said, noting that medicinal plants are the best replacement for water-intensive crops.



Natural lands of the country measure about 134 million hectares, of which 20 million hectares have a great potentiality for harvesting medicinal plants, he said.

However, only 200,000 hectares area of land is used for cultivation of medicinal plants, he lamented.

Over 8,000 plant species have been identified in Iran, of which 2,300 species have medical characteristics, he noted.

A total of 80 types of medicinal plants are currently cultivated in farms and about 300,000 tons of products worth two trillion rials (about \$47 million) is harvested, he added.

He named seidlitzia rosmarinus, asafoetida, thymes, prunus scoparia, caraway, terebinthina. echium amoenum, hazelnut, tragacanth, daffodil and oak fruit as the main medicinal fruits in Iran.

No compost or pesticide is used in cultivating medicinal herbs in Iran, which makes the country one of the best places for cultivation of medicinal plants worldwide, he explained.

According to WHO estimates, almost 80% of population of many Asian and African countries depend on traditional medicine for primary health care. The market drivers for the global herbal medicine market are growing aging population, increasing consumer awareness, little or no side effects, and supplier innovations.

Another factor is escalating prices, tighter health budgets of modern medicinal system which has driven consumers towards the more economical and safer herbal medicine systems. The market constraints are lack of research and standardization in herbal medicines, poor legal and regulatory frame work which causes patent problems, poor manufactured herbal products etc.

## Blood test can identify Alzheimer’s two decades before symptoms

A blood test can identify the protein that builds up in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s nearly 20 years before symptoms appear, a new study shows.

A simple blood test could soon predict symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease decades before they appear.

The study found that the blood test was even more sensitive at detecting the buildup of beta-amyloid proteins in the brain than the current gold standard, which is a PET brain scan.

Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine (WUSTL) in St. Louis, MO, conducted the study, which appears in the journal Neurology.

First author Dr. Suzanne Schindler, an assistant professor of neurology, led the researchers, who first developed a version of this test a couple of years ago.

The test uses mass spectrometry on blood samples to detect the presence of two forms of the beta-amyloid protein: beta-amyloid 42 and beta-amyloid 40. When beta-amyloid deposits in the brain start to build up, the ratio between the two forms of the protein goes down. The blood test can detect this change.

The study involved 158 adults who were at least 50 years old, and all but 10 had normal cognitive function. For the study, each person had a blood test and underwent a PET brain scan. The team classified each test as either amyloid positive or amyloid negative, and 88% of the time, the results agreed with each other.

The study authors wanted to see if they could refine these results, however, and improve the blood test’s accuracy.

They looked at major Alzheimer’s risk factors, including age, a specific genetic variant, and biological sex. While the latter did not affect the accuracy of the results, the other two factors significantly improved it.

When the team took age and the genetic variant into account alongside the blood test results, accuracy climbed to 94%.

**Early detection is vital in Alzheimer’s**

Importantly, the researchers initially flagged some participants’ blood test results as false positives because their PET scans were negative, and so the results did not match.

When the researchers followed up a few years later, however, they found that some of these individuals had since had positive test results on later brain scans.

This finding suggests that some of the early blood tests were more sensitive than the brain scans in detecting the disease in its very early stages.

Alzheimer’s disease is an irreversible and progressive brain disorder that causes memory problems, which become severe over time. A gradual reduction in thinking skills usually accompanies this symptom. People with the disease eventually lose the ability to perform their daily tasks, and Alzheimer’s currently ranks as the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.

Alzheimer’s disease develops as a result of progressive changes in the brain. Before noticeable symptoms appear, a buildup of proteins creates amyloid plaques and tau tangles, both of which lead to serious issues for neurons.

Slowly, these brain cells lose connections with each other and eventually die.

Early symptoms of Alzheimer’s include memory problems that begin to interfere with normal function. Sometimes, those with early Alzheimer’s also have movement difficulties and an altered sense of smell.

As the disease progresses, memory problems become more severe. In addition, a person’s cognitive decline can result in them getting lost, losing the ability to handle money, and having personality and behavior changes.

(Source: Medical News Today)

## Commandments of fatherly fitness over 40

Ran a sub-six-minute mile. Benched over 300. Competed in kickboxing and jiu-jitsu and won. I was high speed, low drag, and aerodynamically efficient. But that was once upon a time.

Being a grownup changed all that. More hands on my time left less time for the gym. A body in its 40s doesn’t build muscle or burn fat like the one I had two decades ago. My joints hurt more. Everything takes longer to recover from.

But that’s no reason to give up on fitness. Study after study demonstrate that our bodies are a “use it or lose it” situation. The longer we stay active, the longer we remain able to stay active.

In the vein of “I make mistakes so you don’t have to,” here are 10 commandments of fitness for men as they enter middle age. If you follow them, your body will thank you well into retirement.

**Thou shalt not skip the warmup**

As we age, our muscles and tendons become less flexible and more subject to injury. A solid 10- to 15-minute warmup of light motion (not static stretching, which can actually cause damage when done cold) helps counteract that unavoidable truth. It’s time to start thinking of the warmup not as a thing you do before the workout, but rather the first part of the workout.

**Thou shalt not be too busy**

Middle age is a demanding time. Kids, a spouse, a job, your community, and maybe a minute for a hobby conspire to leave very few hours in the day for you to spend on fitness. But you have to make it happen. Here are a couple of strong options:

- Exercise early in the morning, before things go wrong with your day that could impinge on your workout time.
- Make exercise a necessary part of your daily routine. For example, bicycle to work.
- Exercise with your family to combine quality time with exercise.
- Find a workout buddy who will harass you into showing up even when it’s hard.

**Thou shalt focus on flexibility**

Flexible muscles and resilient joints will prevent you from sustaining a sidelining injury you may not fully recover from. The best way to insure them is to build in a cooldown



stretching routine lasting 10 to 20 minutes at the end of your workout. Stretching while muscles are warm is a flexibility-force multiplier. Take advantage of it.

**Thou shalt not ignore it**

Two advantages of being a grown adult are (often) having decent health insurance and being old enough that your doctor will listen to you. If you experience pain, go get it checked out. The days of “walking it off” or “no pain, no gain” are behind us, gents. Pain is instead a warning that we’re about to get broken.

**Thou shalt shift your workouts**

Those manly, crazy workouts of our 20s are no good anymore. One-rep maxes, rounds in the right, lifting tractor tires like Rocky are still within our capacity, but we pay for them with soreness and injuries.

Instead, focus on medium-weight, medium-rep exercises with large ranges of motion. Good calls include: kettlebells, yoga, barbell exercises, swimming and certain martial arts.

These exercises produce exactly the kind of strength and flexibility your older body needs.

**Thou shalt not prove it**

Whatever your exercise, it’s going to happen. Some 20-something who’s almost as good as you used to be is going to be in class, on the gym floor, or in the next lane over. You’ll be overcome with the impulse to show that you’ve still “got it.” And you might even win.

But you up your chances of injury exponentially when

you do so. Even if you get away clean, your muscles will be sore and fatigued for as much as a week afterward, which limits how good your next few workouts can be.

**Thou shalt put competition behind you**

Friendly contests are fine, but resist the urge to enter into serious athletic competitions. It’s simply asking for injury.

This commandment is a corollary to the one directly above, because competition forces you to prove it. Even if you’re in a “master’s league” or similar division, you’ll still be driven to make your body do things it shouldn’t. If you have to compete, look to lower-impact sports, like curling and fun runs.

**Thou shalt not listen to ‘Glory Days’ by Bruce Springsteen**

You know what I mean. Listen all you want, but don’t reminisce too hard about the athlete you used to be.

The best-case outcome is you spend a little time mildly depressed about how your body is now past its peak. The worst case is that the thoughts lead you to put one plate too many on the bar and you get yourself hurt. Stay mindful and celebratory of the present.

**Thou shalt mind your own damn bucket**

There’s an old Zen parable about a monk getting frustrated about how much another monk is able to do while filling buckets with water. The moral is the monk should only focus on what he was able to do, not compare it to the accomplishments of others.

Sure, there are 80-year-olds still benching 400 and finishing an Ironman, but that’s got nothing to do with you. Stay active, stay healthy, and only compare yourself against the goals you’ve set for you.

**Thou shalt mind what goes into your body, too**

No, you don’t have to deprive yourself of all earthly delights to stay fit and healthy. But fueling your 40-plus bod with the right balance of whole grains, protein, veggies, and fruits can help keep you energized and strong. Be sure you’re getting enough of the right nutrients, whether from food, protein powders, or supplements.

From one aging jock to another, I recommend following these rules. They won’t all apply to every man out there, but give each and every one some committed thought.

(Source: healthline.com)



## Environmentally hazardous products to be taxed

**ENVIRONMENT d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Products which turn into hazardous waste after consumption and lead to environmental degradation will be taxed, the deputy head of the National Tax Administration has said.

In order to reduce the harmful effects of waste, taxes will be imposed on the goods that their consumption leads to the production of environmentally destructive waste, Mehr quoted Mohammad Masihi as saying on Monday.



A list of products containing hazardous materials and their side effects has been prepared, he stated, adding, industrial coatings and paints, tiers, light bulbs, batteries, computer and accessories, audio and video devices, cellphones, and all plastic products which are domestically- made will be tax-included.

In order to properly enforce the regulations, manufacturers and importers are required to file a declaration at the end of each tax period and pay the taxes, which is considered as “revenue from hazardous products”, he concluded.

## How flood water can be captured to help ride out storms

One minute we’re suffering from a summer drought; the next minute an intense storm rolls in and a month’s worth of rain falls in a day. As our world becomes warmer the chances of climate extremes, such as droughts and floods, become greater.

We can’t control the weather, but we can manage the water. A technique known as managed aquifer recharge, where flood water is captured and injected into aquifers, is already helping the US state of Texas ride out the worst of its weather extremes.

Gentle drizzle is good at recharging aquifers, but heavy rain tends to run across the surface and ultimately ends up back in the sea. Managed aquifer storage diverts and captures some of that flood water, by storing it temporarily at the surface and then injecting it gradually into depleted underlying aquifers.

More than 1,000 such schemes already exist worldwide and now a study in Texas (which has three managed aquifer storage schemes) has demonstrated the potential of this technique.

Weather and river data from the past 50 years suggest that if flood-capture systems were installed on the 10 major rivers discharging into the Gulf of Mexico, Texas could replenish much of its depleted groundwater in just a few years.

(Source: The Guardian)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Preventing crop shortages

(June 25, 2001)

The United Nations is concerned that fewer and fewer varieties of crops are sold. Roger Harrabin reported on the start of talks to ensure crops remain available for all.

The number of crop varieties grown by farmers has **plummeted** by more than seventy-five percent over the past hundred years, as **super strains** have come to dominate the global market. But this increases the **vulnerability** of crops to a major **outbreak** of **pests** or diseases; so the old breeds are needed for their valuable **genetic** material. The UN’s discussing a proposal today to **safeguard** that **gene pool** for the future, by making seeds in seed banks available to all who need them - from farmers to commercial breeders and researchers.

The proposed treaty would give credit to peasant farmers who developed the crops **in the first place** and force firms using genetic material from the **seed banks** to pay **a levy** to promote **crop diversity** in developing countries. Most nations support the treaty, but the USA is **voicing strong opposition**, along with Canada and Australia. US officials fear that the treaty might **undermine** the commercial protection **afforded** to gene tech companies through the World Trade Organization deal on **intellectual property rights**. The US wants all agreements to remain voluntary.

■ **Words**

**plummeted**: if an amount or price plummets, it decreases quickly and suddenly

**super strains**: a strain of a plant is a variety of it; these super strains are the most resilient or strongest variety of crops

**vulnerability**: weakness and lack of protection

**outbreak**: a sudden occurrence of disease

**pest**: an insect or small animal which damages crops or food supplies

**genetic**: concerned with genes: genes are parts of cells which control the growth and development of living things. They are passed on from one generation to another

**to safeguard**: to protect

**gene pool**: the available genes that could be used

**in the first place**: originally; first of all

**seed banks**: a central place where seeds are kept ready for use

**a levy**: money that must be paid to a government or official organisation, like a tax

**crop diversity**: to have many different kinds of wheat or rice or other food plants

**voicing strong opposition**: if someone voices strong opposition to something they strongly disagree or oppose it

**undermine**: if you undermine something then you make it weaker or destroy it bit by bit

**afforded**: if you afford protection to someone then you give protection to them

**intellectual property rights**: the legal right to own scientific or creative ideas

(Source: BBC)

# Tehran facing serious risks of natural disasters

**SOCIETY d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Three natural disasters are threaten-

ing the capital city of Tehran, which is very vulnerable due to holding a great share of rundown areas, Reza Karami, head of Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization has announced.

The first natural disaster threatening the capital is earthquake, the earthquake risk has been rising since past years and our observations indicate that the faults are moving, so if an earthquake occurs, the damage will be highly destructive due to extremely old areas, he explained.

Mohammad Salari, head of the Tehran City Council commission on urban planning and architecture said in January that there are 3,268 hectares of rundown areas in Tehran, 40 percent of which has been renovated, but currently, over 1.2 million people live in rundown areas, amounting to 15 percent of the total population of Tehran.

For many years, urban planning and construction processes have not progressed based on engineering regulations; therefore, the city’s infrastructure has not been compatible with natural disasters, Karami added.

Climate change is the second natural



incident exposed to Tehran, which increases the risk of floods and heavy rains that can bring a great deal of irreparable damages to the city, he noted, stating that rivers play an important role in flooding, so we must take

action to safeguard river beds and banks and not to constructs buildings on them.

Referring to landslide as the third threat, he said that landslide refers to a wide range of ground movements, such

## ‘Miankaleh peninsula under serious threats’



**ENVIRONMENT d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Miankaleh peninsula may not be

disappearing, but the lack of fresh water resources makes it highly vulnerable and at risk, Masoud Bagerzadeh Karimi, deputy director for the natural habitat and environment affairs at the Department of Environmet has warned.

Located in the northern province of Mazandaran, Miankaleh peninsula is a narrow but long peninsula located in the extreme south-eastern part of the Caspian Sea. The long and narrow peninsula is 48 kilometers long, and between 1.3 and 3.2 kilometers wide.

It sets apart the Gorgan Bay from the Caspian Sea. Four villages namely Ashuradeh, Qezel-e shomali, Qezel-Mehdi and Qavas-atl are situated on the peninsula. Bandar Torkaman is also situated at the opposite side of the peninsula’s end.

It is home to many unique Caspian bird and reptile species native to this region. It’s also a very important internationally recognized refuge for migratory birds.

Some have opened the strait between the Caspian Sea and the peninsula with the aim of allocating the water right of Gorgan Bay and Miankaleh peninsula, which will lead the wetland to dry up completely, he

said, YJC reported on Tuesday.

These people are either not experts in hydraulics and wetlands, or they tend to launch boating as a hobby and a source of income under the pretext of wetland conservation; while the DOE never issues a permit in this regard, he noted.

Although, the strait is the connection between the peninsula and the sea, and if removed, all the water in the peninsula will flow into the sea and the lagoon will dry up, he concluded.

The peninsula water deficits, additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated Miankaleh peninsula’s condition.

Miankaleh was designated a Ramsar site in 1975. Major habitats include wetlands, inter-tidal mud with sandy shores, shallow marine waters, forests, peat lands and agricultural areas.

Local people earn their income from agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, carpet weaving, traditional poultry farming and tourism. Overgrazing, illegal hunting, fishing, deforestation and the unplanned spread of villages are some of the challenges posing threat to the region’s environment.

## Reusable cups worse for environment than disposable ones, expert says

Many of us give ourselves a pat on the back for remembering our reusable coffee cup.

However, the average person is not using their cup enough times before forgetting about it or throwing it away, according to Caroline Wood, a PhD researcher in food security at the University of Sheffield. A reusable cup would need to be used between 20 and 100 times in order to have lower emissions than a disposable cup, she writes in a piece for The Conversation.

This is because more greenhouse emissions are released when making a durable product, and also because they need to be washed between uses.

Despite the surge in popularity for reusable cups they only make up five per cent of total sales.

“The unavoidable truth is that it simply isn’t convenient for people on the run to remember their cup, carry it around and wash it out between uses,” Ms Wood wrote.

Single-use coffee cups have become emblematic of our disposable modern culture.

Due to a thin plastic lining, paper recycling mills cannot process standard coffee cups, most of which are sent to landfill or incinerated.

There are only three recycling facilities in the UK which can process paper cups and hardly any of the 2.5 billion we throw away in the UK each year make it to one of these centres.

(Source: The Independent)

## Heat-trapping gases broke records in 2018, climate crisis report finds



The gases heating the planet in 2018 were higher than humans have ever recorded, according to an authoritative new report from the American Meteorological Society and the US government.

Greenhouse gas levels topped 60 years of modern measurements and 800,000 years of ice core data, the study found. The data used in the 325-page report is collected from more than 470 scientists in 60 countries.

The global annual average for carbon dioxide – which is elevated because of human activities like driving cars and burning fuel – was 407.4 parts per million, 2.4 ppm higher than in 2017.

The report finds 2018 was the fourth-warmest on record since the mid-to-late- 1800s. Temperatures were .3C to .4C higher than the average between 1981 and 2010.

Sea levels were the highest on record, as global heating melted land-based ice and expanded the oceans. Sea surface temperatures were also near a record high.

As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration put it, the report “found that the major indica-

tors of climate change continued to reflect trends consistent with a warming planet”.

Arctic and Antarctic sea ice extent was near a record low, and glaciers continued to melt and lose mass for the 30th year in a row.

Despite recent massive wildfires in the US and the Arctic, 2018 fire activity around the globe was actually the lowest on record. That is because humans have turned the savannas that have burned frequently into agricultural areas.

Mexico reported its third warmest year in its 48-year record, and Alaska reported its second warmest in its 94-year record. There were 14 weather and climate events in the US that each caused over \$1bn in damage – the fourth highest since records began in 1980.

The Caribbean saw coral reef bleaching and South America experienced seven extreme snowfall events. Europe was a hotspot, with its second warmest year since at least 1950. And Australia had its third warmest year since 1910, with a rapidly intensifying and expanding drought and significant fires.

(Source: The Guardian)

First Announcement

N.I.S.O.C

**NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN**

**TENDER NO. : 08-21-9740013**

National Iranian South Oilfields Company(NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	CASING, API GRADE N-80, SEAMLESS” BUTTRESS,THREAD.RANGE 3 (MAX LEN:40.5 FT)AS PER API 5CT / ISO 11960 PSL : 2 SIZE (OD) AS SPECIFIED MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API 5CT NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION : 1 (L.O.I:1) “QCP / MPS DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM” “ ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION” CASING 9-5/8 IN ., 53.5PPF DRIFT :8.500”	5000 LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their “ letter INTENT OF INTENT” via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: WWW. nisoc.ir , not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender .will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit .a bid bond of 168,298 EURO or 8,090, 891,484 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: WWW.nisoc.ir-material procurement management tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, AGHA JARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’ S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**

**Kouy-e Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran**

**Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437**

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۵/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۵/۲۶



# Palestine warns U.S. against backing Israeli annexation bid

**TEHRAN**— Palestine has warned the United States not to “play with fire” by endorsing an Israeli scheme to annex the settlements the regime has constructed in the occupied West bank in defiance of international law. Palestinian Presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh made the remarks on Monday, after Zman Yisrael, The Times of Israel’s Hebrew-language site, reported that Prime Minister Netanyahu was attempting to obtain public approval from U.S. President Donald Trump for the regime’s annexation bid ahead of the September 17 elections in the occupied territories.

Just three days before Israel’s April 9 polls, Netanyahu had vowed to annex West Bank settlements if he won another term in office.

Abu Rudeineh stressed that any decision that affects the Palestinians’ national rights as well as international resolutions will be considered “illegitimate,” Palestine’s Wafa news agency reported.

The official further underlined Washington’s earlier instances of support for Israel, including recognizing occupied Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel’s “capital” and standing by the side of the regime on the issue of Palestinian refugees and the salaries of prisoners and martyrs in addition to Israeli



settlers’ intrusions into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

He also warned that any US declaration of support for Israel’s new scheme would have “serious implications.”

“This step, if taken, would constitute ... playing with fire,” the Palestinian official said, emphasizing that stability and security

are indivisible and that “peace would not be made at any price.”

Washington’s position will not create any for the regime, he added.

Abu Rudeineh further reiterated the Palestinian people’s resolve to defend their “national rights, history, heritage and holy sites, no matter how long it takes, and ex-

pressed his hopes that justice and Palestinian legitimacy will ultimately prevail.”

Since taking office in 2017, Trump has been showering Netanyahu with political gifts, including recognizing Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel’s “capital” and moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied city as well as cutting aid to the Palestinians and closing the Palestine Liberation Organization’s office in Washington.

Before Israel’s April elections, Trump signed a decree recognizing Israeli “sovereignty” over Syria’s occupied Golan Heights at the start of a meeting with Netanyahu in Washington.

According to press TV, emboldened by the U.S. president’s all-out support, the Tel Aviv regime has in recent months stepped up its settlement construction activities in the occupied lands in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334.

Settlements built on occupied land are illegal under international law and have been seen as a stumbling block to the resolution of the Palestine issue.

The Palestinians have frequently called for the establishment of their sovereign state along the pre-1967 lines with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital.

## U.S. team begins establishing op center in Turkey for ‘safe zone’ in Syria

**TEHRAN**— A U.S. delegation has arrived in Turkey to set up an operation center in the country for the stated purpose of creating a “safe zone” in Syria.

The Turkish Defense Ministry made the announcement on Monday.

The operation center was reportedly ready to run “in the coming days,” after what was described as “preliminary preparation.”

Turkish Ministry of National Defense also confirmed that the six-person delegation traveled to the southern province of Sanliurfa, where “work is underway to establish a Joint Action Center for the Safe Zone, which is planned to be coordinated with the U.S. in the north of Syria.”

After months of deadlocked negotiations, Ankara and Washington announced last week that they have agreed to work to

establish the operation center.

«We have said on every occasion that we need a width of 30 to 40 kilometers,» Defense Minister Hulusi Akar told TRT television on Monday.

Turkey also insists that the zone have no U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish troops, known as the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG).

Turkey views the YPG as the Syrian branch of the homegrown Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militant group, which has been fighting for autonomy for decades. Like Ankara, the U.S. has listed the PKK as a terrorist group, but views the YPG as an ally in its so-called fight against the Takfiri Daesh terror group.

Damascus has condemned Ankara and Washington’s violation of its sovereignty.

## Majority of Britons support ‘Brexit by any means’

**TEHRAN**— A majority of Britons believe Prime Minister Boris Johnson must take Britain out of the European Union “by any means”, even if that involves suspending parliament, an opinion poll conducted for the Daily Telegraph said on Monday.

Johnson has promised to lead Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 regardless of whether he manages to secure an exit deal with Brussels, despite many in parliament being opposed to leaving without a deal.

A ComRes opinion poll showed 54% of respondents said they agreed with the statement: “Boris (Johnson) needs to deliver Brexit by any means, including suspending parliament if necessary, in order to prevent MPs (Members of Parliament) from stopping it.”

Johnson is seeking a deal with the EU but has not ruled out suspending parlia-

ment to prevent lawmakers’ attempts to block a no-deal exit.

The poll showed 46% disagreed with the statement. The result was based on the answers of 1,645 respondents, after those who said they did not know their preference had been excluded.

The same survey found support for the Conservative Party had risen by 6 percentage points to 31%, compared with 27% who said they would back the opposition Labour Party. That result was based on 1,783 responses.

That finding is largely in line with other polls showing an increase in support for the Conservatives since Johnson took over from Theresa May, who formally quit last month having failed to deliver Brexit on schedule, Reuters reported.

## Argentine opposition candidate says ‘dialogue open’ but blames Macri for meltdown

**TEHRAN**— Opposition candidate Alberto Fernandez said he was willing to collaborate with Argentina’s current government after his landslide victory in Sunday’s primary election sent the peso currency, stocks and bonds reeling, but he placed responsibility for the market meltdown on President Mauricio Macri.

Fernandez, who has former President Cristina Fernandez as his running mate, pulled off a stunning upset in the primary with a wider-than-expected 15-point lead over incumbent President Mauricio Macri.

The results sent a shockwave through markets on Monday amid fears of a return to the past interventionist policies of Cristina Fernandez’s government, with the peso plunging 30% to a record low before recovering slightly.

Refinitiv data showed Argentine stocks, bonds and the peso had not recorded this kind of simultaneous fall since the South American country’s 2001 economic crisis and debt default.

“The dialogue is open, but I don’t want to lie to Argentines. What can I do? I’m just a candidate, my pen doesn’t sign



decrees,” Fernandez said in an interview with Argentine TV channel Net TV broadcast late on Monday.

Earlier in the day, Fernandez said “markets react badly when they realize they were scammed,” referring to the policies of Macri, whose promised recovery has not materialized.

The cost of insuring against an Argentine sovereign default jumped again on Tuesday, according to data from IHS Markit.

Markit’s calculations price the probability of a sovereign default within the next five years at more than 72%.

Monday’s crash in the peso unnerved emerging market investors, with markets already jittery over the Sino-US trade war.

In the NET TV interview, Fernandez also took aim at Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on the same day the right-wing leader warned that his country could see a wave of migrants fleeing Argentina if the presidential election there returns to the leftist policies of the Fernandez ticket.

“In political terms, I have nothing to do with Bolsonaro. I greatly welcome him speaking ill of me. He is a racist, a misogynist, violent,” Fernandez said, while acknowledging that Brazil would always be Argentina’s “main partner.”

Fernandez also said U.S. President Donald Trump was a good leader for his country, but not for the world.

Fernandez, regarded as a moderate within the Peronist movement, has proposed an economic and social pact to combat inflation, which is running at 55%, Reuters reported.

## British MPs spar over Kashmir

**TEHRAN**— India’s revocation of Kashmir’s special status has attracted widespread international concern. Fears are centred on greater repression in Kashmir following the revocation of Article 370, which guaranteed the disputed region’s “special status” in India.

There are also fears of a further deterioration of India-Pakistan ties as India-controlled Kashmir is a disputed territory claimed by Pakistan.

Whilst officially Britain’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has merely expressed “concern” over the Indian government’s decision to revoke Article 370,

unofficially Britain is far more heavily involved in Kashmir’s affairs, Press TV reported.

There is a substantial Kashmiri population in Britain, believed to number one million. By some estimates up to 70 percent of British Pakistanis are from Azad Kashmir, the Pakistani-controlled part of the region.

Britain is also home to a substantial Indian population of 1.4 million people. Many British Indians are intensely involved in politics back home, helping to fundraise for Indian political parties, consult on campaigns and even generate grassroots mobilization.

In addition, British-Indians consistently

lobby on Anglo-Indian issues, particularly on trade and foreign affairs.

British Indians tend to have right-wing political instincts. Many support the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the driving force behind the revocation of Article 370.

Unlike British-Pakistanis, British-Indians tend to adopt right-wing positions at home. A study by the University of Bristol shows that 40 percent of British-Indians voted for Brexit.

The presence of so many politically active Pakistani and Indian origin people in the UK means that the Kashmir issue has an important British dimension.

## Dems starting to ask questions about gaffe-prone Biden’s ability to defeat Trump

**TEHRAN**— U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden’s many embarrassing gaffes over recent days are prompting questions about his supporters about whether he can rise to the challenge of defeating President Donald Trump in 2020.

Biden, who is no stranger to slip-ups, stole the headlines three times in the past week for all the wrong reasons.

The biggest gaffe came over the weekend when he mistakenly said he was vice president during the February 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which killed 17 people.

“Those kids in Parkland came to see me when I was vice president,” he told reporters while campaigning in Iowa, seemingly forgetting that his tenure as VP came to an end when former President Barack Obama left the White House in January 2017.

Just two days earlier the 76-year-old former vice president told his Asian and Hispanic supporters that “poor kids are just as bright and just as talented as white kids.”

In an attempt to contain the damage, Biden told reporters later on that he meant to say “wealthy kids” but botched the comments he had delivered quite a few times on the campaign.

“On the spot, I explained it,” he said. “At that very second, I explained it. And so the fact of the matter is that I don’t think anybody thinks that I meant anything other than what I meant.”

Earlier that day, Biden told another event in Iowa that just like “We choose science over fiction, we choose truth over facts.”

According to press TV, the Hill wrote that Biden’s many gaffes undermined his claims that he is the most electable among a crowded pool of candidates competing in the primary stage.

While for now Biden remains the clear front-runner, experts are warning that his tendency to make damaging blunders would eventually cause the lead to fade away.

“The substance of individual gaffes may be negligible but they’re a proxy for his political endurance, which some feel is waning, particularly as Warren is creeping up in the polls,” Democratic strategist Basil Smikle, the former executive director of the New York State Democratic Party, was quoted as saying by The Hill.

The gaffes only worsen Biden’s dilemma, as he is already struggling to convince Democrats about his age and his career achievements besides being Obama’s VP



for two terms.

The slip-ups are also providing Trump with ammunition to attack Democrats even more.

Taking a swipe at Biden, Trump said last week that his potential rival wasn’t playing with a “full deck.”

The Republican head of state continued the attacks on Twitter over the weekend, writing: “Does anybody really believe he is mentally fit to be president? We are ‘playing’ in a very big and complicated world. Joe doesn’t have a clue.”

## Yemen attacks Saudi Arabia’s Abha airport with drones

**TEHRAN**— Yemeni armed forces have targeted the airport of Abha, in Saudi Arabia’s southwestern province of Asir, with domestically-developed Qasef-2K (Striker-2K) drones.

A military source told Yemen’s al-Masirah TV that the drone attacks hit its targets with precision on Tuesday.

Yemeni forces regularly target positions inside Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the Saudi-led military aggression on their country.

On Sunday, the Yemeni forces launched a drone attack on King Khalid Air Base near the city of Khamis Mushait in Asir.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its allies launched a brutal war against Yemen in March 2015.

The US-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the Saudi-led war has claimed the lives of over 60,000 Yemenis since January 2016.

According to Press TV, the war has also taken a heavy toll on the country’s infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The United Nations (UN) says over 24 million Yemenis are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 10 million suffering from extreme levels of hunger.

The war was launched to eliminate Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement and restore a former regime to power in Yemen. It has achieved neither of its goals.

## London climate change protesters daub Brazilian embassy blood red

**TEHRAN**— Climate change protesters threw red paint onto the Brazilian embassy in London Tuesday to demonstrate against damage to the Amazon rainforest and what they described as violence against indigenous peoples living there.

Two activists from the Extinction Rebellion group climbed onto a glass awning above the entrance of the embassy, and two others glued themselves to the windows.

Red hand prints and streaks of red paint could be seen all over the facade, as well as slogans such as “No More Indigenous Blood” and “For The Wild.”

Extinction Rebellion, which caused widespread disruption in central London for several weeks earlier this year, said the protest aimed to challenge the Brazilian government over “state-sanctioned human rights abuses and ecocide.”

The group said the protest was timed to coincide with a march by indigenous women in Brasilia Tuesday, and that similar actions were taking place at Brazilian embassies in Chile, Portugal, France, Switzerland and Spain.

The Brazilian embassy in London could not immediately be reached for comment, Reuters reported.

## Kremlin says protests in Moscow have not created a political crisis

**TEHRAN**— The Kremlin denied on Tuesday that a series of political protests in Moscow in recent weeks have created a political crisis in Russia in its first comments on the rallies.

The demonstrations, over elections for the Moscow city legislature, have turned into the biggest sustained protest movement in Russia since 2011-2013, when protesters took to the streets against perceived electoral fraud.

According to Reuters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call that tough police action at the rallies had been justified, but that individual cases of police excess were being looked into.

## Sheikh Zakzaky Arrives in India for medical treatment

**➔1** The top cleric has been in detention since December 2015 after his home in Zaria was brutally raided by Nigeria’s forces, during which he was beaten and lost his left eye.

During the violent crackdown, three of his sons lost their lives, his wife sustained serious wounds and more than 300 of his followers were killed.

Sheikh Zakzaky was charged in April 2018 with murder, culpable homicide, unlawful assembly, disruption of public peace and other accusations. He has pleaded not guilty, ve-



hemently rejecting all accusations brought up against him by his country’s authorities.

Last week, a Nigerian court granted the Muslim cleric bail so that he could fly to India for treatment.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), based in London, said last month that the cleric’s health condition had further deteriorated, since he was reportedly poisoned in prison.

At the time, his son, Mohammad, said that he was shocked by his father’s worsening medical condition after visiting him, stressing that he needed to be immediately hospitalized as “large and dangerous quantities of lead and cadmium have been found in his blood.”

Recently, a Nigerian court granted the government permission to label the IMN as a “terrorist” group, a move that many believe would give officials the opportunity to clamp down harder on it. IMN members regularly take to the streets of the Nigerian capital to call for the release of Sheikh Zakzaky.

During the past couple of weeks, several demonstrators have been killed after Nigerian troops used live ammunition and tear gas. The IMN says it has lost at least 20 of its members during the clashes.



## Argentina World Cup winner Jose Luis Brown dies at 62

World Cup winner Jose Luis Brown, who scored Argentina's opening goal in the 1986 World Cup final against West Germany, has died at the age of 62, local media reported on Monday.

The country's football association confirmed the former central defender's death in a tweet, while former Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta also tweeted his condolences.

Brown, affectionately referred to by his nickname 'Tata', spent most of his playing career at Estudiantes, making close to 300 league appearances for the club.

At the end of the 1985-86 season, he was released by Deportivo Espanol because of a serious knee injury but was still called up for the World Cup in Mexico as cover for first-choice sweeper Daniel Passarella.

After Passarella was ruled out of the tournament due to illness, Brown was drafted into the starting line-up in a team led by Diego Maradona.

Brown, who won 36 caps for his country, scored the only international goal of his career in the final, heading home a 23rd minute free-kick as Argentina won 3-2.

Later in the game, with Argentina leading by a single goal, he dislocated his shoulder in a collision with Norbert Eder but refused to leave the pitch, playing through the pain as Argentina won the World Cup for the second time.

(Source: Eurosport)

## Atletico's Costa suffers latest injury setback ahead of new season

Atletico Madrid have been dealt a setback five days before their La Liga campaign begins with the news that striker Diego Costa has sustained a thigh injury.

Atletico said in a statement on Tuesday that Costa had hurt his left thigh in the final minute of the team's 2-1 friendly win over Juventus last Saturday in Stockholm, but did not say how long he would be out of action.

Costa missed a large part of the last campaign due to a knee injury but has impressed during pre-season, scoring four goals in a thumping 7-3 friendly win over local rivals Real Madrid last month.

According to widespread reports in the Spanish media on Tuesday, Atletico are negotiating with Valencia to sign striker Rodrigo for 60 million euros (£55.6 million).

(Source: Goal)

## French club Marseille sack Adil Rami for 'gross misconduct'

French club Marseille said on Tuesday they had sacked World Cup winner Adil Rami reportedly for 'gross misconduct' following a disciplinary procedure.

The Ligue 1 outfit gave no explanation for the decision, saying only that they had "decided to end the contract" of Rami, 33, part of France's 2018 World Cup winning squad.

L'Equipe sports daily, citing a letter sent by the club to Rami, said he had been sacked for 'gross misconduct' after he skipped training to take part in a TV reality show.

The defender, former partner of ex-Baywatch star Pamela Anderson, had been under investigation since he missed the training session at the end of last season.

Rami, who has played two seasons for the club, said he was injured but on the same day took part in the recording of a French TV show that included demanding physical stunts.

In July club president Jacques-Henri Eyraud told Rami he needed to think deeply about 'his obligations as a player especially as a world champion'.

The previous month, Rami hit the headlines when US celebrity Anderson revealed the pair had broken up following a high-profile two-year relationship.

Over the summer Rami was left out of Marseille's pre-season tour to the United States and dropped from the club's opening match of the season on Saturday under new coach Andre Villas-Boas, a 2-0 defeat to Reims.

(Source: France 24)

## Dutch hero Sneijder announces retirement from football

The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced on Monday his retirement from football, bringing down the curtain on a trophy-laden career that spanned 17 years.

The 35-year-old, who played 134 times for his country, made the announcement while speaking to the YouTube channel of his hometown club FC Utrecht after having bought a corporate box at their stadium.

"My connection to the town is big. Now I've retired from football I want a nice place to share my memories," he said.

Sneijder, who made his international debut in 2003 aged 19, picked up a World Cup runners-up medal in 2010 as the Oranje were beaten by a dominant Spain in the South Africa final.

His displays earned him the Silver Ball for the tournament's second best player behind Uruguay's Diego Forlan.

Four years later in Brazil he took his side to third place after missing a penalty in the semi-final shoot-out loss to Argentina. He was also named in the Euro 2008 Team of the Tournament despite his team's quarter-final exit at the hands of Russia.

His run to the 2010 final with the Netherlands came after his finest season in club football, as the number 10 led Inter Milan's charge to a Serie A, Coppa Italia and Champions League treble under Jose Mourinho.

An Ajax academy graduate in 2002, Sneijder won the Eredivisie title and two Dutch Cups in his five years in the capital club's first team before moving to Real Madrid, where he linked up with countryman Arjen Robben.

He won the La Liga title in 2008 before making the move to Inter a year later, winning that famous treble before a succession of injuries saw him moved on to Gala, where he picked up two more league titles and three Turkish Cups in four years.

He finished his playing career Al Gharafa in Qatar's top-flight.

(Source: AFP)

# Weightlifting doping scandal snarls Thai Olympic medal machine

Thai weightlifter Sarat Sumpradit eats up to 10 egg whites for breakfast, works out four hours a day, and is banned from his smartphone at night as his training shifts into high gear for the world championships.

However, the muscle-bound 25-year-old has a problem: Thailand is under a self-imposed ban from weightlifting for doping, meaning the hosts may be unrepresented at next month's world championships on home turf in Pattaya.

After nine Thai lifters were suspended following drug tests, Thailand is facing a crisis in its most successful Olympic sport, less than a year before the 2020 Games in Tokyo.

"I'm fighting for those who have been suspended," Sarat said defiantly after his afternoon workout, his second of the day.

"There are only a few of us left (in the team)."

With five Olympic gold medals since 2004, all won by women, weightlifting has been a rare sporting success story for the Southeast Asian nation, turning ordinary people from the rural hinterland into celebrities.

The dream turned sour last year, when Thailand finished second in the medals table. It prompted Thailand to voluntarily ban itself from competition, ruling its lifters out of the world championships in Pattaya and next year's Olympics.

Nine Thais including reigning Olympic champions Sukanya Srisurat and Sopita Tanasan have returned positive drug tests since



the world championships in November, where Thailand finished second in the medals table.

It prompted Thailand to voluntarily ban itself from competition, ruling its lifters out of the world championships in Pattaya and next year's Olympics.

### ■ Dozens of cheats

However, the Thai Amateur Weightlifting

Association (TAWA) now wants athletes who did not test positive to compete in the world championships and have a shot at the Olympics.

A final decision will be made next month by the International Weightlifting Federation, which has come under sustained calls to act after a long list of doping incidents.

Nine countries, including powerhouse China,

were suspended from competition after re-testing of samples from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics ensnared dozens of cheats.

At the stuffy training camp in Chiang Mai, where trophies cover the wall and lycra-clad lifters heave weights above their head, Sarat insisted his teammates were unfairly targeted.

"We were on the same team. We went to the Olympics together. We ate and trained the same way. But why didn't I test positive?" he said, suggesting a conspiracy against the Thai team.

"If you can cut the Thai team, other countries might have chances." But he conceded the drug-plagued sport needs to clean up its act.

"The strength should really come from yourself and your determination to train."

The men's and women's team sleep in dorms near the gym and eat three high-protein meals a day. At around 9:30 pm, coaches whisk away their phones to ensure a sound night's sleep.

Thailand says the athletes who tested positive were given a pain relief gel by a former coach that -- unbeknown to them -- had small traces of an anabolic steroid.

Thai association honorary president Intarat Yodbangtoey also suspects the country was singled out, as many of the athletes passed tests before their samples were among others sent for a second, more stringent round of testing.

(Source: AFP)

## Frank Lampard: Chelsea boss has 'one hell of a job on'



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard has "one hell of a job on" this season, says former striker Chris Sutton.

The Blues lost 4-0 to Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday in Lampard's first Premier League game in charge.

Eden Hazard left Stamford Bridge to join Real Madrid in June, while Chelsea are banned from signing new players until next summer.

"It's like going into an Olympic rowing final and being asked to compete in a dinghy," said Sutton.

"And you've lost your Steve Redgrave." Former England midfielder Lampard, 41, left Championship side Derby in July to take over at the club where he spent 13 years as a player.

He signed a three-year deal to succeed Maurizio Sarri, who left to join Juventus after winning the Europa League and finishing third in the Premier League in his sole season in charge.

Chelsea were given a two-window transfer ban by world governing body Fifa in February after an investigation into their signing of foreign under-18 players, which they are appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"Frank Lampard has one hell of a job on after the club lost their best player," Sutton told BBC Radio 5 Live's Monday Night Club.

"Hazard carried them for years but he's gone and they can't bring players in.

"It all comes down to what the owner's

expectation is and what Lampard has been told at the start of the season. The fans being behind Lampard will only last for so long."

Since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought the club in 2003, Chelsea have won five Premier League titles and only finished outside the top six once, coming 10th in the 2015-16 season when Jose Mourinho was sacked.

The Blues have had 10 different permanent managers, including two separate spells by Mourinho, in the Abramovich era.

"This is the first season under Abramovich that I don't think anybody gives them a chance of winning the title," added Sutton.

"The obvious thing is Lampard needs time but this is an owner who hasn't given his managers time - if Chelsea finish eighth or ninth or 10th, Lampard won't be there next season."

England internationals Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Callum Hudson-Odoi are currently recovering from Achilles injuries, defenders Antonio Rudiger and Reece James and winger Willian were also missing against United, while midfielder N'Golo Kante is still returning to full fitness.

"It's the first game and we know Lampard is hampered," said former Arsenal striker Ian Wright.

"He knows there is a lot of work to be done but once you get Rudiger back, he will give them some steel, Kante will steady them and James will make a difference."

(Source: BBC)

## Sources: Barca's €100m, players bid for Neymar



Barcelona have begun negotiating a cash deal with a player exchange to sign Neymar from Paris Saint-Germain, sources have told ESPN FC.

According to ESPN FC sources, Barca are prepared to offer as much as €100 million with Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Rakitic -- who Barca will need to convince in order to make the switch -- included as part of the deal.

Until now, Barca had hoped to negotiate using only players. As well as Coutinho and Rakitic, the Spanish champions had considered adding Ousmane Dembele and Nelson Semedo despite the fact the Portugal international is considered "unsellable."

However, sources have told ESPN FC that PSG are not too keen on Rakitic, but are interested in Coutinho and continue to push for Semedo to be included in the deal.

An initial offer of €60m plus Coutinho from Barcelona has already been rejected by PSG, according to ESPN FC sources.

A meeting between the two clubs has been arranged for Tuesday and sources have told ESPN FC that Camp Nou president Josep Maria Bartomeu has chosen director of football Eric Abidal and technical secretary Javier Bordas to represent them. Also in attendance will be Andre Cury, the club's director based in Brazil, who has a strong relationship with Neymar's family.

PSG sporting director Leonardo will be present alongside trusted No. 2 Anelko Castellazzi and super-agent Pini Zahavi,

who brokered Neymar's move from Barca to the Ligue 1 side, is also expected.

Barca still believe this deal is "very complicated," but Real Madrid's inability to meet PSG's demands could help the Blaugrana.

Madrid president Florentino Perez is interested in the Brazil international's signature but having failed to find the funds to sign Paul Pogba from Manchester United, who was manager Zinedine Zidane's No. 1 target, it is unlikely they can afford Neymar.

Madrid are still in the race, however, due to Perez's relationship with Neymar Snr., while they also have more financial power than Barca.

However, sources have told ESPN FC that a return to Camp Nou is the Brazil international's preferred choice.

Barca's financial situation is not at its healthiest, but Bartomeu is ready to make one final push to secure Neymar's return.

Coutinho appears resigned to the fact his future lies outside of Barca and would see PSG as a good opportunity to continue his career. Bayern Munich remain interested, but Barca deem him crucial in any negotiations for Neymar. Coutinho is the Catalan club's record signing, having cost €160m in January 2018.

Another player who could be used as a makeweight is Rakitic. Having been vital in Ernesto Valverde's first two seasons, the Barca boss refused to confirm the Croatia international would remain at the club.

(Source: ESPN)

## Murray won't play U.S. Open singles after loss on return



up against it after Gasquet broke his serve to start both sets.

"I don't really know what I was expecting, to be honest. I think I did okay," he told a news conference.

"I think there was a lot of things I would

like to have done better in the match, but, you know, you also have to be somewhat realistic, as well, in terms of what you can expect."

Not having playing singles tennis for several months had an obvious impact, he said.

"I think physically, you know, my legs

were a little bit heavy at the end of the match in comparison to maybe what they normally would be if you played a bunch," he said.

"I was having to move quite a lot laterally, and I didn't move forward particularly well. Like when he drop-shotted, there was a few times I didn't even run to the ball, didn't react to it, and that's nothing to do with my hip."

The former world number one arrived on centre court to huge cheers, recording a video of the moment as he offered a big smile.

But the first serve was far from what Murray and the crowd -- particularly the fan waving the Scotland flag -- wanted.

A two time winner of the tournament, Murray double-faulted and Frenchman Gasquet, who returned himself in May from groin problems, was quickly 2-0 up.

Murray then seemed to find himself. The Briton, moving better, won three consecutive games, including a break of serve, to go ahead 3-2.

But Gasquet, 33, won the next three games to move ahead 5-3 and into position to take the opener.

(Source: Reuters)



# Ex-Iran midfielder Milad Meydavoudi hangs up his boots

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Former Iran and **d e s k** Esteghlal football teams Milad Meydavoudi announced his retirement from football on Tuesday.

Last season, he played for his hometown team Naft Masjed Soleyman.

“Time has gone by quickly and it is time for me to go. It’s hard to say goodbye but I want to tell football fans in Masjed Soleyman, Ahvaz and Tehran I have stopped playing. It was a bad time to suffer an injury in 2010 but you supported me always and pushed me forward. I was forced to leave my favorite team Esteghlal. But I am looking forward to seeing you as soon as possible, maybe on the bench of Esteghlal,” Meydavoudi said.

The 34-year-old player started his playing career in Esteghlal Ahvaz and joined Esteghlal after six years.

Meydavoudi has also played for Rah Ahan, Saipa, Siahjamegan, Pas and Aluminium.

He was a member of Iran U20 football team at the 2004 AFC Youth Championship.

Meydavoudi was called up to the Iran national football team in June 2007 for the West Asian Football Federation Championship 2007.

He made his debut for Team Melli in Iran’s first match against Iraq. He scored his first national goal in Iran’s second match against Palestine in June 20, 2007.

Meydavoudi made 29 appearances for Iran national football team and scored six goals.



## Iran, Tajikistan go further clear with commanding wins



Iran and Tajikistan emerged as the two sides most likely to claim the CAFA U-19 Championship title, each continuing their perfect record with comprehensive wins on Monday.

Iran began the action with a thumping 4-0 win over Turkmenistan, before Tajikistan kept pace with Siros Pourmousavi’s side with a 3-1 win over Afghanistan.

The regional title is now mathematically beyond both Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, with Uzbekistan the only team remaining who could theoretically challenge the leading pair with two Matchdays remaining.

--- IRAN 4-0 TURKMENISTAN

Fresh from a weekend off, Iran wasted little time in getting back to work, scoring two early goals on the way to an impressive 4-0 win over Turkmenistan at Dushanbe Central Stadium.

Less than two minutes had elapsed when Iran took the lead, with Persepolis youngster Aria Barzegar punishing Turkmenistan goalkeeper Serdar Rovshenov for straying into no man’s land to find an empty net, and one become two when Hossein Mohammed Zavvari dissected the wall to score with a free-kick 12 minutes later.

It looked as though Turkmenistan were in for a long afternoon, but they steadied the ship sufficiently to prevent further goals before half-time and even carved out chances of their own to take a semblance of hope into the second-half.

They remained in the contest until the 81st minute, when Iranian substitute Hossein Bizhani finished off a counter-attacking move from 10 yards, before another substitute, Seyed Reza Mousavian, headed home the final goal in the second minute of stoppage time.

Iran’s win takes them two wins from as many matches without conceding a goal, while Turkmenistan, now out of contention for the title, will finish their campaign against Uzbekistan on Tuesday.

**■ TAJIKISTAN 3-1 AFGHANISTAN**  
Tournament hosts Tajikistan retained their status as competition leaders, defeating Afghanistan 3-1 to knock the visitors out of title calculations with two Matchdays remaining.

Zayniddin Rakhimov’s side made sure the enthusiastic crowd of 1,200 went home happy, outclassing their opponents to make the three points safe long before the final whistle, and ensuring they remain at the forefront of what is increasingly shaping up to be a two-horse race.

It took just eight minutes for the hosts to take charge at Dushanbe Central Stadium, as Islom Zairov – one of several squad members preparing for this year’s FIFA U-17 World Cup in Brazil – finished off a sweeping team move with a low effort from close range.

Already a goal scorer at senior international level, Shahrom Samiev continued his meteoric rise with a belter of a second, tricking his way past a couple of defenders before beating goalkeeper Abdul Mosawer Attai from 20 yards to make it 2-0 after 36 minutes.

Tajikistan’s win rarely looked in doubt, but Abdulmumin Zabiroy made sure of it when he added a third from the penalty spot in the 68th minute, before Afghanistan’s Rashed Azizi punished the hosts for switching off in the fourth minute of stoppage time to pull back a goal for the visitors.

With Afghanistan and Turkmenistan already out of the running, Tajikistan have the opportunity to remove another side from the equation when they face Uzbekistan on Tuesday, while Iran will look to continue their winning streak against Afghanistan.

The round-robin competition wraps up on Thursday, with the final match between Tajikistan and Iran looking increasingly likely to decide the champions.

(Source: the-afc)

## Zob Ahan fail to book place at 2019 ACL quarters



Al Ittihad beat Zob Ahan 4-3 in the second leg of the 2019 AFC Champions League to confirm their place in the quarter-finals.

Having won the first leg 2-1, the two-time continental champions advanced with a 6-4 aggregate score and have set up an all-Saudi quarter-final clash with one of their arch-rivals Al Hilal or Al Ahli. The two sides face-off in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Following their 2-1 win in the first leg last week, Al Ittihad needed to extend their unbeaten run in the competition to six games in order to reach the quarter-finals for the seventh time in their history, whereas only a win would help Zob Ahan avoid a third Round of 16 exit in four years.

Chasing an early goal, Zob Ahan started on the front foot and Ghasem Hadadifar looked to open the scoring early on for Zob Ahan, trying his luck from long range in the eighth minute.

Macauley Chrisantus snatched the ball from an Al Ittihad defender and fired from a narrow angle a minute later, but goalkeeper Fawaz Al Qarni was alert and made the save on both occasions.

After several half-chances for both sides, it was Al Ittihad who finally opened the scoring just before the end of the opening period. New signing Emiliano Vecchio collected the ball deep into his own half, made a 30-yard run before supplying the ball to Carlos Villanueva out wide on the left.

The Chilean playmaker delivered a perfectly weighted return pass for Vecchio who had continued his run into the Zob Ahan box, and the Argentine finished with his left into the bottom corner to put Al Ittihad 3-1 on aggregate.

After the restart, the game erupted into life with two goals in quick succession; one in each net. First, it was Zobahan who were gifted a goal through

Luis Jimenez. The Al Ittihad midfielder tried to defend a free-kick, but the ball bounced off his knee and into Al Qarni’s goal to restore parity.

Just as an own goal helped revive their hopes, a minute later, it was an own goal that sunk Zob Ahan further.

Villanueva supplied a through pass for Romarinho, but the ball was closer to goalkeeper Mohammad Sadeghi who attempted to clear the ball, but completely misjudged his kick and the ball ended in the back of his own net, handing Al Ittihad a 2-1 lead on the night.

Left-back Hamdan Al Shamrani embarked on a jinking run that ended with him deep into Zob Ahan’s box. The defender pulled the ball back for Romarinho who calmly controlled and finished for his fourth 2019 AFC Champions League goal in the 64th minute.

Six minutes later, Romarinho was on the scoresheet again, this time it was Jimenez on the assist, setting up the Brazilian after collecting a Villanueva pass at the edge of the Zobahan box. Al Ittihad were now 4-1 up on the night and 6-2 on aggregate.

Zob Ahan responded instantly as Hadi Mohammadi rose highest and powered a header into the roof of the net following Hadadifar’s in-swinging corner.

The goal-fest was not over yet. Four minutes to the end of 90, Chrisantus pounced back on the loose ball after Al Qarni punched away Alireza Cheraghali’s powerful shot from inside the box following a quick exchange of passes.

The Nigerian striker’s goal reduced the deficit to one, but at 4-3, Zob Ahan still needed two goals in the remaining time to turn the tie around but Jose Sierra’s men held on for the win to reach the AFC Champions League quarter-finals for the first time since 2014.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran’s Heydari appointed as Chinese Taipei v Jordan fourth official in World Cup qualifier

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Payam Heydari from Iran **d e s k** has been chosen as fourth official of the match between Chinese Taipei at the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier.

The match has been scheduled to take place at the Taipei Municipal Stadium in Taipei on Sept. 5.

India and Oman are in Group B of the competition. Japanese referee Yusuke Araki has been chosen to officiate the match.

## Jefferson da Silva to join Gol Gohar Sirjan

**PLDC** — Iranian football club Gol Gohar Sirjan is going to sign Brazilian forward Jefferson Tavares da Silva.

The 30-year-old forward has traveled to Iran to finalize his contract. Jefferson da Silva will undergo medical exam before penning a contract with Vinko Begovic’s team.

The Brazilian player has played in Moroccan team Mouloudia and Bolivian team Club Destroyers.

The Iranian football club has already completed the signing of Kevin Johnny Jansen of the Netherlands.

Gol Gohar Sirjan won promotion to Iran Professional League in April.

## Georgian midfielder Kakashvili joins Pars Jonoubi

**TASNIM** — Georgian midfielder Kakhaber Kakashvili joined Iranian football club Pars Jonoubi on Monday.

The 26-year-old player joined the Iranian team from Georgian club Norchi Dinamo Tbilisi on a one-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

He started his playing career at Georgian football team Tsikhinvali and also played at Metalurgi Rustavi and Chikhura.

Kakashvili has previously played at Iranian teams Machine Sazi and Gostaresh Foolad in the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Pars Jonoubi will be headed by Faraz Kamalvand.

## 2019/20 season of IPL to kick off on August 22: official

**MNA** – The 2019/20 edition of Iran Professional League will start on August 22, said the league organization’s head Heidar Baharvand on Tuesday.

The draw ceremony of the league was held in Mashhad on August 6 and each of the participating 16 teams knew their rivals in each matchday. However, the exact date of the matches was not announced.

Baharvand said that the league will begin on August 22 but didn’t comment on exact dates of the remaining matchdays.

Iranian Football Federation has urged clubs to reach the standards of a professional football level. The body says that equipping stadiums with surveillance cameras and selling tickets online are among prerequisites of any professional league which need to be met.

Baharvand further said that those clubs whose stadiums have not yet fulfilled the standards will play their games in a neutral venue without their fans in presence.

The competition will begin with the reigning champion Persepolis taking on Pars Jonoubi at Azadi Stadium, while Esteghlal will go to Tabriz to face off Machin Sazi.

Tehran’s Derby, Esteghlal vs Persepolis, will be held on Matchday 4.

The Iran Professional League is the highest division of professional football in Iran. The league was also known as the Persian Gulf Cup from 2006. It is the top-level football league in Iran since its foundation on Nov. 2, 2001.

## Iran marks International Wushu Day

**IRNA** — The Ceremony to mark the International Wushu Day was held in presence of Iranian sports officials and managers of Iran Wushu at Azadi Square of Tehran.



During the meeting, 100 Iranian Wushu Tai Chi fighters performed forms.

The ceremony which was held in Azadi Square was welcomed by general public.

Wushu, or Chinese Kungfu, is a hard and full martial art, as well as a full-contact sport. It has a long history in reference to Chinese martial arts.

## Preview - Quarter-final: Bank of Beirut vs Mes Sungun Varzeqan

Defending champions Mes Sungun Varzeqan of Islamic Republic of Iran will face familiar foes when they take on Lebanon’s Bank of Beirut in the AFC Futsal Club Championship Thailand 2019 quarter-finals at the Bangkok Arena on Wednesday.

Bank of Beirut will face a tough challenge when they face Mes Sungun for the second time in the Continental competition, with the Iranian side having won their previous encounter 3-1 in last year’s group stage.

Victory against Mes Sungun on Wednesday will see the Lebanese side make their second appearance in the semi-finals, while the defending champions are aiming to create history by winning consecutive titles.

Bank of Beirut have been impressive so far in the tournament, after finishing on top of their group with three wins against Indonesia’s Vamos FC, Soro Company of Tajikistan and Myanmar’s Victoria University College.

Bank of Beirut head coach Hassan Hammoud revealed the Lebanese club are ready for the tough test against the defending champions. “We are in the quarter-finals against Mes Sungun tomorrow. They are a strong team with many quality players.”

Ahmad Kheir El Dine and Suphawut Thueanklang have combined to score four goals for Bank of Beirut and Hammoud believes his team’s strength can carry them into the semi-finals.

“It’s a very important game for Bank of Beirut but we have our strengths. It’s going to be a tough match and we will try our best to win the game.

“The players need their rest to recover as we’ve played a lot of games. There is more pressure now at this stage of the competition and we need to prepare for that.”

Mes Sungun will go into the tie having lost their impressive unbeaten record stretching back to last year’s campaign.

They lost to Nagoya Oceans of Japan in their final group match

on Monday and head coach Esmaeil Taghipour wants his team to bounce back from their first ever defeat in the competition.

“We are feeling a bit of pressure because we lost a good player (Saeid Taghizadeh) through injury during the match against Al Dhafra. “Our other concern is that in our last match against Nagoya Oceans, we were in good goal scoring positions but lost the match and because of that our confidence has taken a dip.”

Taghipour, however, is confident captain Farhad Fakhim and his men will see off Bank of Beirut’s challenge and take their place in the semi-finals.

“All the teams in the final eight have an equal chance of qualifying for the next round. Bank of Beirut are a good side but we are staying focused in our approach and are working towards progressing further in this tournament.”

Fixture - Wednesday (local time): Bank of Beirut vs Mes Sungun Varzeqan (14:00)

(Source: the-afc)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Mix with people properly, so that they weep for you when you die, and show you affection and fight your enemy when you are alive.

Imam Ali (AS)

“The Sixth String” to go on screen at Korea Indie-AniFest

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – Iranian animator Bahram Azimi’s “The Sixth String” will be competing at the 15th Indie-AniFest - Korea Independent Animation Film Festival, Iran’s Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC), which is the producer of the short animation, announced on Tuesday.



A scene from “The Sixth String” by Iranian director Bahram Azimi.

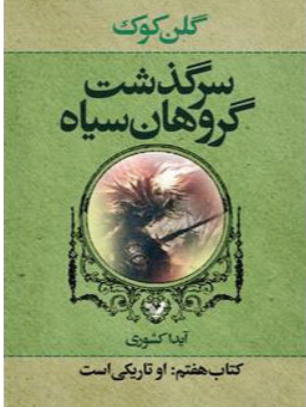
The film is about a musician, who wants to compose his new music inspired by his new car.

The story of the movie is based on the life of Darvish Khan, a Persian classical musician and tar player, who passed away 90 years ago in a car accident. He is considered as the first victim of a car accident in Iran.

The Indie-AniFest, which presents independent animated films from Korea and Asia and offers a diverse range of works and opportunities for filmmakers, will take place in Seoul from September 19 to 24.

“She Is the Darkness” comes to Iranian bookstores

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** – “She Is the Darkness”, the 7th novel in the “The Black Company” dark fantasy series written by American author Glen Cook, has recently been published in Persian by Tandis Publications in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian version of “She Is the Darkness” by American author Glen Cook.

Written between 1984 and 2018, the series combines elements of epic fantasy and dark fantasy as it follows an elite mercenary unit called The Black Company through forty years of its approximately four hundred year history.

Aida Keshvari is the translator of the all seven novels of the series, which have been published by the same publishing house.

The series includes “The Black Company”, “Shadows Linger”, “The White Rose”, “Shadow Games”, “Dreams of Steel” and “Beak Seasons”.

Two more novels of the series “Water Sleeps” and “Soldiers Live” will be published in Persian in the near future.

Tom Hanks reads audio for Ann Patchett’s new novel

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The audio edition of Ann Patchett’s new novel has a voice that listeners should find familiar: Tom Hanks.

HarperAudio announced Monday that the Oscar-winning actor is narrating Patchett’s “The Dutch House,” which comes out September 24. The book is a multigenerational story centered on siblings Danny and Maeve, and told from Danny’s point of view. Patchett told The Associated Press in a recent email that she and Hanks have become friendly over the past few years. She interviewed him in Washington, D.C., when he was promoting his book of stories, “Uncommon Type.” He and his wife, Rita Wilson, have also met with Patchett in Nashville, where she runs Parnassus Books.

Hanks has narrated audiobooks before, including “Uncommon Type” and Stephen Colbert’s “I Am a Pole (And So Can You).”

Photo: This photo provided by HarperCollins shows Tom Hanks at The Village Studios in Los Angeles, Calif. (HarperCollins Publishers via AP)

Amir Naderi’s classics “Waiting”, “Harmonica” to hit Iranian theaters again

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — New York-based Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi’s 1974 movies “Waiting” and “Harmonica” will go on screen at the Art and Experience Cinema halls in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan on Wednesday.

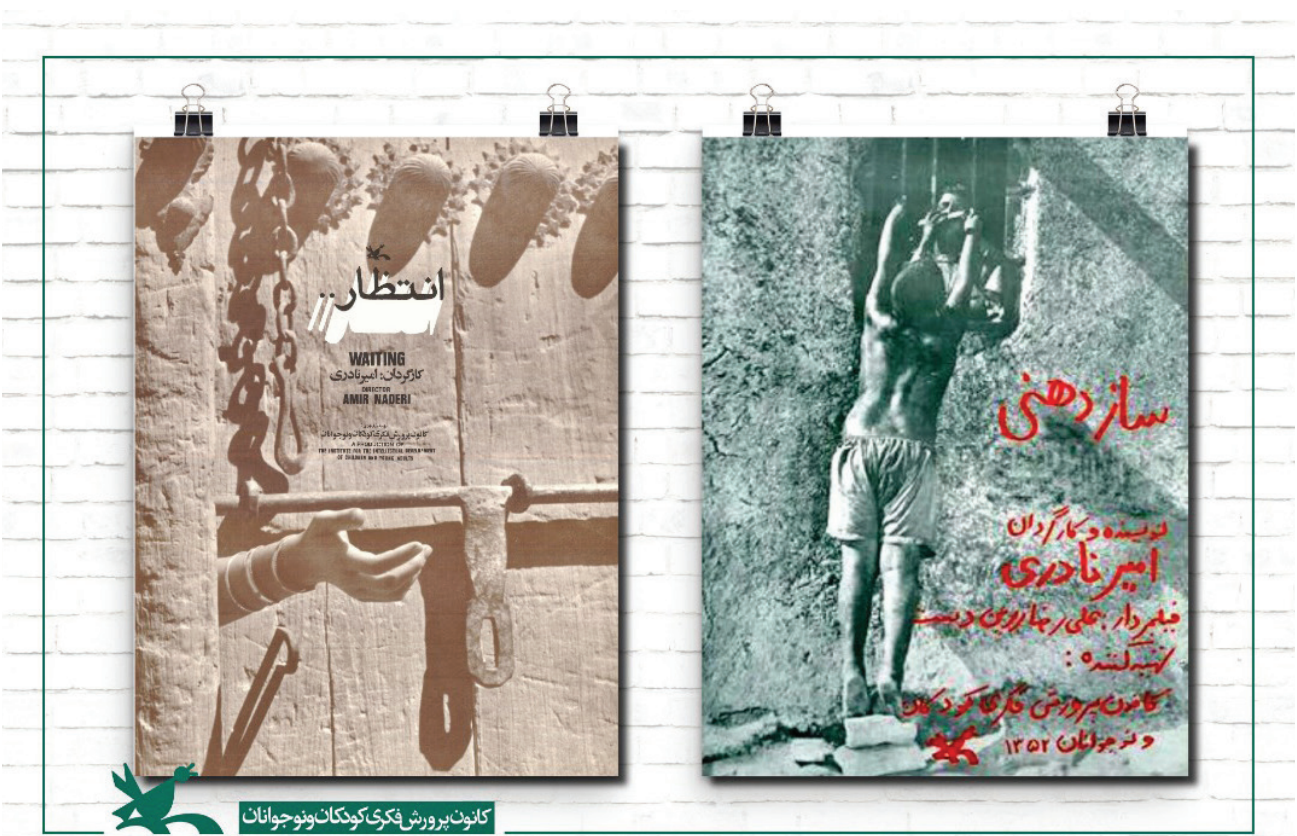
The movies have been restored by the National Film Archive of Iran and will be screened at Tehran’s Charsu Cineplex, the Isfahan City Center Cineplex and Honare Shahre Aftab Cineplex in Shiraz, which will offer free admission, the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the producer of the films, announced on Tuesday.

“Waiting” is a short dialogue-free film that follows a boy in southern Iran whose daily chore is bringing an elegant glass bowl to get filled with ice, and then returning home.

The film was banned by the government for political reasons and remained unknown in Iran until 1977.

The story of “Harmonica” is set on the sun-drenched southern coast of Iran. It is about a young boy who receives a musical present from abroad. Fascinated and envious, his friends make him the leader of the pack, as they compete for the privilege of holding the harmonica or even blowing a few notes. No one is more obsessed than Amiru, gentle and heavy-set, who seems willing to do anything to get close to the harmonica and its owner.

Earlier in April, the 37th Fajr International Film Festival, Iran’s most prestigious event in the motion picture industry, honored the exiled filmmaker Naderi by using a still from his 1984 acclaimed drama “The Runner” to create its official poster.



A combination photo shows posters for Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi’s 1974 movies “Waiting” and “Harmonica”.

Syrian star of “Damascus Time” to do standup comedy for Al-Kawthar



A logo of IRIB Al-Kawthar TV channel.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Samer Khalili, the Syrian star of Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia’s “Damascus Time” on the atrocities of the Daesh war in Syria, is scheduled to do standup comedies for Al-Kawthar TV, a Tehran-based Arabic-language television channel.

The standup comedies will be broadcast for eight nights during a program titled “Dababis al-Eidia”, which starts on Tuesday, the TV channel has announced.

The program has been made to celebrate the days between Eid al-Adha and Eid al-

Ghadir, a festival that marks the day on which Imam Ali (AS) was appointed as successor to the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Arab comedians Hesam Afara from Palestine and Ahamd Junaid from Yemen will also do standups for the program.

This is the first time Al-Kawthar will air entertainment programs such as standup comedies.

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting launched the channel in 2006 to broadcast religious and cultural programs mainly for Arab audiences in the Middle East and North Africa.

“The Star-Spangled Girl” on stage in Tehran



A poster for Iranian director Ashkan Zare’s play “The Star-Spangled Girl”.

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Ashkan Zare staged American playwright Neil Simon’s “The Star-Spangled Girl” at Tehran’s Simorq Theater on Tuesday.

Written in 1966, the play is a story of a love triangle mixed with politics. Andy and Norman are radical liberals struggling to make a living working on their magazine, which is dedicated to fighting “the system” in America.

Sophie, a former Olympic swimmer, is a Southern girl who moves into the apartment next door. Norman immediately falls in love with Sophie but his feelings are not

reciprocated.

Norman’s obsession with Sophie makes Andy hire her just to keep the magazine going. When Sophie falls in love with Andy, the magazine and the men’s friendship are threatened.

The play was adapted for the screen in American director Jerry Paris 1971 movie starring Tony Roberts, Todd Susman and Sandy Duncan.

Armin Eshbag, Mohsen Ranjbar and Zahra Tafrihi are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until August 29.

“Finding Farideh” to compete in Flahertiana festival

**A R T d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iranian documentary “Finding Farideh” will be competing in the 19th Flahertiana International Documentary Film Festival during September in Perm, Russia, the organizers have announced.

Co-directed by Azadeh Musavi and Kurosh Atai, the film is about a Netherlands-based Iranian woman who was adopted by a Dutch couple forty years ago, and returns to Iran to search for her family.

It was selected as best documentary at the 20th Iran Cinema Celebration in Tehran in September 2013.

Thirteen more documentaries by filmmakers from France, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, Russia and several other countries will be screened in the international

competition of the festival, which will be held from September 20 to 26.

The festival was established by a number of Russian filmmakers who used filming methods introduced by American filmmaker Robert Flaherty in his film “Nanook of the North”. They all aimed to focus on the life of ordinary people who had never before been in the center of documentary filmmakers’ attention.

Russian filmmaker Aleksey Fedorchenko presides over the jury of this year’s festival. German producer Kathrin Lemme, directors Mustafa Ünlü from Turkey and Tom Fassaert from the Netherlands, and Russian writer Ksenia Gasheva are members of the panel.



A scene from the documentary “Finding Farideh” co-directed by Azadeh Musavi and Kurosh Atai.

“Hobbs & Shaw” repeats at No. 1 against slew of newcomers

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Audiences helped the “Fast & Furious” spinoff “Hobbs & Shaw” take another lap at No. 1 even with an onslaught of four new major releases this weekend. From family films to R-rated adult fare, moviegoers had their pick as studios tried to capitalize on the waning days of summer. But although August can be a great opportunity for non-superhero films, it’s not a sure thing. And this weekend some, such as “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,” fared better than others, like the Melissa McCarthy and Tiffany Haddish mob thriller “The Kitchen.”

“There are always going to be casualties when there are this many openers,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker Comscore. “They cannot always be lined up in the top four rankings.”

“Hobbs & Shaw” managed to hold on to

first place again. According to estimates from Universal Pictures Sunday, the Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham action flick fell 58% from its first weekend but added \$25.4 million from North American theaters. It’s now grossed \$108.5 million domestically and \$332.6 million worldwide.

Second place went to the PG-13 film “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,” from CBS Films and eOne Entertainment, which cut through the clutter with a better than expected \$20.8 million. Lionsgate distributed the Guillermo del Toro-produced horror which had been tracking to open in the mid-teens.

“The filmmakers and the team at CBS Films are thrilled that moviegoers are embracing the world of ‘Scary Stories,’” del Toro said in a statement Sunday. “It’s particularly satisfying to see families experiencing the fun of the

movie together.”

Good reviews helped raise its profile, although audiences were more underwhelmed after the fact, slapping it with a C CinemaScore.

Dergarabedian noted that, even with a PG-13 rating, horror movies once again prove to be, “a consistent draw at the box office.”

Close behind in third was “The Lion King” with \$20 million in its fifth weekend in theaters. With \$1.3 billion globally, it’s now surpassed “Beauty and the Beast” as Disney’s highest-grossing “live-action” release.

Newcomer “Dora and the Lost City of Gold,” from Paramount Pictures, found a healthy audience too, earning an estimated \$17 million for a fourth place start. Starring Isabela Moner, “Dora,” based on the popular television series, also got good reviews from critics and audiences, who gave it an A CinemaScore.

And in fifth place, Quentin Tarantino’s star-vehicle “Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood” added \$11.6 million and crossed the \$100 million mark.

But not all the newcomers were so lucky. The dog owner tearjerker “The Art of Racing in the Rain,” with Milo Ventimiglia, opened in sixth place with \$8.1 million. The Fox 2000 property was inherited by Disney in the takeover.

And the ‘70s-set McCarthy and Haddish crime thriller “The Kitchen” flopped in seventh with only \$5.5 million. Based on an obscure Vertigo comic, the film from first time director Andrea Berloff (an Oscar-nominated screenwriter) features both McCarthy and Haddish in more dramatic roles. But critics were not impressed: The film currently has a dismal 20% on Rotten Tomatoes and audiences also largely stayed away.