



Iran's power of resistance is unlimited **3**



Iranian rial regains value by 40% in 8 months **4**



Iran victorious over Colombia at Volleyball U19 World Championship **15**



Turkish author Coskun Kökel's "Erdebilliler" unveiled in Ardebil **16**

Rouhani, cabinet team renew loyalty to Imam Khomeini

President says unity will disappoint enemies



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Iran's student association writes to UN on Kashmir

TEHRAN — The Office for Strengthening Unity (OSU), an Iranian student organization, has written an open letter to United Nations Secretary General António Guterres urging the UN to condemn the Indian government for its behavior against Kashmiris.

Established in 1979, OSU has been de-

scribed as "the country's most well-known student organization," and "Iran's leading pro-democracy student group."

In its letter to Guterres, the OSU said one of the means of preserving human dignity in any society is to protect the right of its people to choose their own destiny, Mehr reported. **→3**

Tehran says U.S. missile test will lead to arms race

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi warned on Saturday that the United States' missile test will lead to international arms race and fuel instability.

"The U.S. action will lead to arms race at the international level which will fuel instability, threaten the international peace and security and will cause economic costs on other countries," Mousavi stated.

He urged the international community to respond to the U.S. destabilizing actions.

In a test on August 18, a modified ground-launched version of a U.S. Navy Tomahawk cruise missile accurately struck its target more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) away. The test came after Washington withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, according to AP. **→2**

Senior pro-Hadi commander defects to Yemeni army

TEHRAN — A Yemeni official says a senior commander loyal to Saudi-backed former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi has defected to the army and allied fighters from the Popular Committees.

In a post on his Facebook page on Friday, Mohammed Nasser al-Bukhaiti, a member of the political bureau of the Houthi Ansarullah movement, said Lieutenant Colonel Maqbool Ali Ghanem Qahtan, the commander of the artillery in the 156th Brigade in Jawf Province, had

joined the Yemeni armed forces.

All those under Qahtan's command have also decided to defect to the army and hand over their equipment to the Yemeni fighters, he added.

Recently, Yemen's armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Sare'e announced that more than 2,000 mercenaries had left the ranks of the Saudi-led coalition, which have been engaged, since 2015, in a bloody war on Yemen aimed at reinstating Hadi. **→13**



PERSPECTIVE

Hanif Ghaffari
Head of the Tehran Times
Politics Desk

The Democrats' war in New Hampshire

Sanders, Biden, Warren and Harris face tough competition in the primary. Many US analysts believe that the victory or defeat of either candidate in Iowa's New Hampshire can change the equation completely in the Democratic Party. If one of these candidates wins the Iowa primary in New Hampshire, his run in the presidential election will be paved. In recent days, all four Democratic candidates have been trying to garner votes in Iowa and New Hampshire. Here's a look at the latest analysis of the Democratic primary:

New Hampshire voters are torn between Sanders and Warren

The Vox reported that New Hampshire is a rare state where Joe Biden doesn't hold a commanding lead over the Democratic presidential field, creating an opportunity for Northeasterners Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren to not only take the state with the first-in-the-nation primary but potentially emerge as the field's progressive favorite. It's a bona fide race already. Sanders carried the state by a wide margin in 2016, but voters aren't so sure they'll support him again in 2020 with Warren on the ballot. Voter Mallory Langkau of Groveton, New Hampshire, is torn between the two. Langkau voted for Sanders in the 2016 Democratic primary and was leaning toward him again in 2020. But after she watched both Sanders and Warren speak back to back during their recent swings through the state, her decision became more difficult.

"I'm more confused," she told me. "As a voter, I'm really stuck. In a perfect world, they'd be running mates."

Recent New Hampshire polls show Sanders slightly ahead of Warren; an August Suffolk University poll of 500 likely primary voters showed Biden at 21 percent, Sanders around 17 percent, and Warren around 14 percent. A July CNN/UNH Survey Center poll had Sanders and Warren each tied at 19 percent, with Biden leading at 24 percent. Some earlier polls even had the Vermont senator ahead of Biden, but he and Warren have settled into a close competition for second place. **→7**

U.S.-Iranian nuclear talks: what comes next?

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Robert David Steele, a former Marine Corps infantry officer and CIA spy as well as an activist for Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE), regularly answers questions for Tehran Times.

■ The US President Donald Trump has driven up the pressure against Iran while at the same time suggested he might be willing to talk to Iranian leaders. How serious he is in this offer? Does he really want to engage Iran diplomatically?

A. I cannot say this often enough and I urge the Iranian leadership to read all of the comments that have been made about President Donald Trump by his daughter Ivanka, authors, and others who have dealt with him: he is a pragmatist, a

transactional negotiator, everything is theater as part of the "art of the deal." Our president is a genius. He also recognizes the genius of his counterparts Xi Jinping in China and Vladimir Putin in Russia. It was Xi Jinping that set up the Korean unification and denuclearization, and our president learned from that. He KNOWS that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without unifying Israel, restoring Palestine to the Palestinians, and respecting the re-emergent roles of Egypt, Iran, and Turkey.

While our President has been somewhat blocked by our own traitors and the mediocrity of our captured Department of State and Central Intelligence Agency (both controlled by Zionists) from fully appreciating the depth and breadth of Iranian power, he has a business sense of Iran as an economic GIANT that will,

together with Turkey, China, and Russia, DOMINATE Central Asia as it once did when Herat in Afghanistan was the capital of Persia.

The President does not want to engage Iran diplomatically because he knows he has a fat ignorant Christian Zionist as Secretary of State and is just waiting for the right time to get rid of him. The President wants to engage Iran PRESIDENTIALLY and eventually at the Supreme Leader level. Our President now understands that President Hassan Rouhani is more like a Chief of Staff to the Supreme Leader rather than a full president in his own right, and our President understands that a positive conversation with President Rouhani in Washington or Florida is a pre-condition for our President being invited to Iran to meet with the Supreme Leader. **→6**

From Sana'a to Beirut: One Foe, One Resistance

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Yemen's Sam FM radio had held, last June, a 35-day fundraising campaign for Hezbollah, entitled "Haste towards the Goodness of Yemen," yielded more than 74 million Yemeni riyals, despite the dire economic situation, amid the ongoing Saudi aggression. For this reason, I have interviewed Hamoud Sharaf, the Sana'a-based radio's director to know more about the campaign, its objective and the future of resistance.

Sharaf expresses that the campaign "From believing Yemen to the Lebanese resistance will have a great impact in enhancing the resistance," adding, "it is a sort of fidelity to those who stand behind the Yemeni people. It is equally important a painful hit to the Zionist enemy."

"The target of the campaign has not only been a painful strike to the enemies, but at the same time, a great incentive for all the free Yemenis to effectively participate, derived from their moral responsibility before God to their nation's righteous causes and before those who stand in solidarity with them against the four years unjust aggression," the radio's director says.

This duty, he adds, has been stressed through Sayyed al-Houthi's vow to Hezbollah's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrullah, that in any coming military confrontation, he would send the honorable Yemeni fighters to fight along with their Hezbollah brethren in Lebanon or Palestine, against the Zionist enemy.

Previous stages of the campaign had been orchestrated to support Yemeni resistance

against the Zionist-American-Saudi-Emirati aggression, particularly for the various units of military industrialisation. After a few days of the campaign's inauguration and in response to Sayyed al-Houthi's calls, Yemeni people rushed voluntarily to participate, following the financial sanctions, imposed by the U.S., against the backdrop of Hezbollah's praiseworthy and consistent positions.

Last April, the U.S. imposed a new package of sanctions on Lebanese individuals accused of being affiliated to or helping provide funds for Hezbollah. The campaign has witnessed a large turnout from various academic, social religious and political components and elites of the Yemeni people, in different Yemeni governorates. **→6**



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Raisi: Defense industry is a model for other sections

TEHRAN — Iran's defense industry can be a model for other sections of the country to follow, says Ebrahim Raisi, head of Iran's Judiciary.

"Today that I was fortunate to view the defense industry's achievements was a very good day, because we saw the manifestation of the Supreme Leader's faith and the 'we can' mindset," ISNA on Saturday quoted Raisi as saying.

"Until yesterday, the alien countries and enemies assumed that reaching this level of strength is an infeasible job," he said. "But today, we saw that the hands of Iranian experts, along with localized technologies, have created invaluable achievements." **→3**



ARTICLE

Martin Love
Political analyst from
North Carolina

Iran is wooing and winning sympathizers, the U.S. is not

France's Macron allegedly want to defuse tensions between Iran and hostile Westerners and maybe even Zionists at the upcoming G-7 meeting, but this Frank, Macron, cannot even effectively address protests on the streets of Paris and elsewhere in France except with police violence, so one cannot expect much, and anyway, it seems that many "leaders" cannot or won't say what the U.S. and its Military Industrial Complex are really all about, and neither can the Western mainstream media.

The U.S. has become a country that literally thrives, if it thrives at all, on war plans or a war ongoing, somewhere, anywhere. There is no particular idea or ideology or forward, productive vision behind any of this, and in fact what "thriving" the U.S. has enjoyed since the last recession in 2008-09, which has mostly been relative to other countries, looks to be reversed soon.

Because no amount of bullying can win the day when one is losing friends hand over fist, which is exactly what is happening because of the Trump Administration. And on top of this mess of bad policies is one overriding fact about the U.S. monetary and financial system: it is unsustainable and may be dying. (And never forget it was Trump who, campaigning for the Presidency, vowed he would put an end to deficit spending, but now trillion-dollar deficits this and every fiscal year ahead are baked in the cake.)

For the first time in thousands of years interest rates across all the major economies are plunging to zero or going negative, and in the case of the U.S., there really is no good alternative. Why? Because a normalization of interest rates, which would mark a healthy system, would mean that paying interest to bond holders (given all the debt) would crowd out virtually most all other expenditures starting with sacred items to the U.S. public like Medicare and Social Security and ultimately moving on even to the roughly trillion-dollar budget for the Pentagon and "defense." **→7**

Trump's spat with Denmark could cost him against Iran: Foreign Policy

During Jim Townsend's decades of work on European policy in the Pentagon and at NATO, he never saw the Danes say no to a fight. From the first Persian Gulf War to counter-Islamic State operations, Denmark was always one of the first allies to raise its hand when the United States asked for military support.

"There was never, 'Oh, we have to think about it.' It was always, 'What do you need?'" Townsend said, the Foreign Policy said in a report on August 23.

But U.S. President Donald Trump's war of words with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen over his surprise proposal to buy Greenland—and his abrupt cancellation of a visit to the country—may have complicated Denmark's calculations in joining the United States' latest international security campaign: a maritime patrol effort at the Strait of Hormuz right under Iran's nose.

The proposal, initially dubbed Operation Sentinel, is gaining traction lately after a rocky start. European allies in particular have been hesitant to sign on so as not to jeopardize efforts to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which Trump withdrew from last year. Many don't want to be seen as participating in Trump's maximum pressure campaign against Tehran, experts say.



Before this week, experts say, Denmark would have been a natural addition. The Danes hold a significant interest in commercial shipping, and are historically pro-American. But Frederiksen's tart dismissal this week of Trump's interest in buying the world's largest island as an "absurd discussion" and Trump's subsequent cancellation of his visit may upend plans to recruit the Scandinavian nation to the coalition, experts say.

"If we hadn't had the whole Greenland diplomatic spat, the Danes were on my shortlist to come in even before the French or the Spanish," said Rockford Weitz, the director of the Maritime Studies Program at Tufts University's Fletcher School. "It's a shame that it does complicate the effort to bring them into the fold when they are predisposed to participate in something like this."

Trump reportedly spoke with Frederiksen by phone on Thursday, likely the first time the two had spoken since the Danish leader took office in June. The talks were "constructive," according to Danish media, but the Danish government does not plan to release details of the call.

Denmark has been involved in nearly every one of the U.S. military's major campaigns in the last 30 years, including the NATO operation over Libya and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Denmark quickly sent ships south during the first Persian Gulf War even though its vessels, built for Arctic conditions, did not have air conditioning, Townsend said.

Danish refusal to join the coalition would mark the latest in a series of defeats for the coalition. The reluctance of U.S. allies to get on board is a marked departure from recent history, said retired Vice Adm. John Miller, who commanded the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet.

Zarif will soon start tour of China, Japan and Malaysia

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — The Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that Iran's chief diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif will soon start a tour to a number of East Asian states as part of Tehran's "proactive" diplomacy, after concluding his visit to Europe.

"Seeking to follow up on and implement the Islamic Republic of Iran's proactive and balanced diplomacy, Zarif will head a delegation to China, Japan and Malaysia in East Asia, starting on Sunday," Abbas Mousavi said on Saturday. "Bilateral relations and the most pressing issues in the region and world are among the main topics to be discussed," Press TV quoted Mousavi as saying.

Tehran has long-enjoyed close relations with a number of Asian and East Asian countries as part of a greater policy to diversify and strengthen its foreign relations.

Zarif's trip to East Asia will take place shortly after concluding a nearly week-long visit to Europe, which took him to three Scandinavian nations of Finland, Sweden, Norway and France.

While in Oslo, Zarif also warned against U.S. efforts to create a security mission, which so far Britain, Australia and Bahrain have joined, to allegedly guard shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital gateway for global oil supplies.

"It's clear that the U.S. intention... (of having a) naval presence in the Persian Gulf is to counter Iran... Don't expect us to remain quiet when somebody comes to our waters and threatens us," Zarif warned.

Zarif reiterated Tehran's long-held position that Iran would not start a war in the Persian Gulf but it would defend itself.

"Will there be a war in the Persian Gulf? I can tell you that we will not start the war...but we will defend ourselves."

Tehran says U.S. missile test will lead to arms race

1 → Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the Russian military on Friday to work out a quid pro quo response after the test of a new U.S. missile banned under a now-defunct arms treaty.

Speaking at a meeting of his Security Council, Putin charged that the U.S. waged a "propaganda campaign" alleging Russian breaches of the pact to "untie its hands to deploy the previously banned missiles in different parts of the world."

He ordered the Defense Ministry and other agencies to "take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetrical answer."

The U.S. said it withdrew from the treaty because of Russian violations, a claim that Moscow has denied.

Zarif: Pressure on Iran 'will never work'

By Negar Asadi

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that the United States pressure to push Iran to the negotiating table will never work and added that Iranians never negotiate under duress.

"It will never work. Iranians never negotiate under duress. Intimidation is not acceptable. We will continue to rely on our own people in order to move forward and I'm sure we will," he told France 24 in an interview aired on Friday.

Iranians respond well to respect, but never to threats and intimidation, the chief diplomat noted.

He added, "We are engaged in a war. It's an economic war that the United States has imposed on Iran. I believe the U.S. should be pressured by the rest of the international community to abandon its policy of pressure and intimidation. It won't work."

He said that Iran has a fundamental principle which is never to negotiate with terrorists.

"If he United States stops economic terrorism against Iran, it can come back to the negotiating table that it left. The negotiating table is still there. Six of the seven negotiating partners sit there very three months. If the United States wants to come back, it has to stop violating what it had committed to and come back to the negotiating table," he suggested.

Zarif also said, "The United States has a lot that has been negotiated that it is violating. So, it has to start first with what is has agreed upon."

■ 'We have made progress relying on our own people'

Zarif also said that Iran has made progress and has prospered, relying on the people.

"We have dealt with the U.S. aggression and the U.S. economic terrorism for the past 40 years, and we will live with it. We have prospered. We have made progress. We passed eight years of foreign aggression against our country, relying on our own people. We have made progress relying on our own people. Don't forget that missiles that shot down the U.S. sophisticated drone was Iranian made. We had S-300, we could have used S-300, but we used Iranian missile system to show that while we have friends, we do not rely on anybody for our defense," remarked the top diplomat.

■ 'The U.S. has made our region an arms depot'

Zarif also said the United States has turned the Persian Gulf region into an arms depot and it has to stop.

"The United States has made our region an arms depot. The United States every year sells over 50 billion dollars of weapons to the Persian Gulf region alone. It has to stop. We only spend 16 billion dollars on defense. Saudi Arabia spends 87 billion dollars on purchasing weapons. The United Arab Emirates spends 22 billion dollars on purchasing weapons. So, before anybody can talk about Iran, they have to bring down their own military sales to the region, they have to bring down the military purchases by the countries in the region, they have to stop bombing Yemen, and they have to stop providing weapons. The U.S. weapons are going to Al-Qaeda. The U.S. weapons are going to ISIS and these have to stop," he said.

■ 'We will continue to sell our oil'

Zarif also said that the U.S. is not God and Iran will continue to sell its oil.

"The U.S. is not God. We will continue to sell our oil. They have a lot of lawless power."



"Freedom of navigation is a global responsibility and the United States is committing piracy, in Gibraltar, with the help of some of its friends elsewhere."

When you went to high school, you had bullies in high school and the way to deal with bullies was not to succumb to them. (Solution) was to resist them. If you succumb to a bully, it will go to the next person and the next person and the next person. We will never succumb to bully and we advise others not to succumb to these bullying acts by the United States. We will continue to sell our oil. The United States will try to prevent it, but it will continue."

Commenting on where is the Iranian tanker Adryan Darya 1, he said, "It is somewhere in the Mediterranean because the United States is harassing freedom of navigation and that is what needs to stop. Because Adryan Darya is not violating anybody's rules, it is a ship based on the international law with Iranian flag carrying Iranian oil and it is none of the

but security has to be for everybody. We are prepared to provide security for everybody. I spoke with President Macron about how we can guarantee freedom of navigation everywhere. In the strait of Gibraltar, in Suez Canal, in other places and in the Strait of Hormuz. Freedom of navigation is a global commodity. It is not a commodity which can be used by others and not by certain others," he said.

Commenting on the U.S.-led coalition in the region, Zarif said, "International coalition to do what? To reverse what the United States has done?"

He added, "The United States has exacerbated tension in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. Freedom of navigation is a global responsibility and the United States is committing piracy, in Gibraltar, with the help of some of its friends

"We are engaged in a war. It's an economic war that the United States has imposed on Iran."

United States business where it is going and how it is transferring its oil; our oil is not embargoed, there is no international embargo against our oil nor against our customers. So, we will continue to sell our oil however we want to sell it."

■ 'It is Iran which maintains security in region'

Zarif also said that Iran does not need to block the Strait of Hormuz, and no matter how many foreign ships come to the region, it is Iran which maintain security.

"We do not need to block it. We maintain security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman. We have 500 hundred miles of coastline with the Persian Gulf. We have 500 hundred miles of coastline with the Sea of Oman. We control the northern lanes of the Strait of Hormuz. So, we maintain security. If we do not have an interest in maintaining security in this body of water, how many ships come from outside would only further exacerbate insecurity. They cannot provide security. We are the strongest power in that region and we are responsible for security,

elsewhere. If the Unites States stopped its disturbances, its acts of aggression, its acts of interferences as well, then Iran and the rest of the countries in the Persian Gulf and those who are benefiting or need Persian Gulf, because President Trump has clearly said that the U.S. does not need Persian Gulf; those of us who need Persian Gulf can work together in order to preserve its security. Only the United States needs to stop bothering. It does not need a coalition. If it stops bothering the rest of the world, everything will be fine."

■ 'Europe's future is in multilateralism and rule of law'

Zarif also said that it is better for Europe to counter the U.S. illegitimate demands because the continent's future lies in multilateralism and the rule of law.

"What is important for our European partners to recognize is if they are willing to submit to the wishes of an outside power who is not asking them to observe international law but punishing them for observing international law, is asking them to violate international law. Europe's future is in multilateralism and

"If it (the Trump administration) stops bothering the rest of the world, everything will be fine."

Rouhani, cabinet team renew loyalty to Imam Khomeini

President says unity will disappoint enemies

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his cabinet team on Saturday visited the shrine of Imam Khomeini in south of Tehran to renew their faithfulness to the founder of the Islamic Republic.

The visit took place on Government Week. It commemorates the late President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahrani along with other government officials who lost their lives in a terrorist bombing by MKO (also called MEK) in Tehran on August 30, 1981.

Speaking while visiting the mausoleum, Rouhani said unity and resistance will disappoint enemies in the face of economic sanctions.

"Undoubtedly, we will pass this historic turn and make enemies disappointed through unity among the government, the people and all the highly talented ones. It is unity, endeavor and resistance that will make enemies disappointed," he said at the ceremony.

He said, "Enemies' plots will end when they are disappointed with causing harms to the system. Enemy's disappointment is our great objective. People's hope on future is another objective of ours. As long as this hope endures, this path will also be carried on."

Elsewhere, he said that the government will focus on the people's well-being with all power.

He also told his opponents that they will not be "strengthened"

by undermining his government.

"We applied all our power to have good relations with the East and the West, however, an amateur government caused our people many troubles... there is no way but unity and integrity to change the situation," Rouhani stated.

Rouhani said that despite the U.S. "increased pressure targeting the Iranian population over the past year", he believes the country's economic situation is showing signs of improvement.

"A recent bimonthly report along with statistics released yesterday by the Statistical Center of Iran reported that monthly inflation has decreased compared to previous months," Press TV quoted Rouhani as saying.

Iran test-fires new missile amid boost of deterrence power

(Press TV) — The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says that Iran has test-fired a new missile.

"Our country is always the arena for testing a variety of defense and strategic systems and these are non-stop movements towards the growth of our deterrence power," Major General Hossein Salami said on Saturday.

"And yesterday was one of the successful days for this nation," he added without providing any further details about the missile launch.

Salami's remarks came a day after Deputy Defense Minister General Qassem Taqizadeh said that Iran possess "very accurate missiles which we have not publicized".

"We manufacture missiles limited to [what is needed to address] threats, and for now, we know that they are within 1800 km of us. We have, however, increased their precision. Long gone is the time when we were making Shahab 1 missiles," he stated.

The Shahab 1 missile is among Iran's first indigenously-made missiles, laying the foundation of Iran's long-range missile program.

Detailing Iran's doctrine of deterrence, Taqizadeh said, "The Americans know well that we don't have to go to New York and confront them." "Today there are tens of thousands of Americans in the region and due to this, the Leader said that they will not engage in war

with us," he added.

■ 'Persian Gulf security in our hands'
IRGC Chief Commander Salami further addressed recent developments in the Persian Gulf, saying that "security in the Persian Gulf is in the powerful hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our enemies will not be able to scar it in any way."

He also went on to describe U.S. sanctions targeting the country as an "opportunity" for independent development in the country.

The U.S. had pledged to impose a campaign of "maximum pressure" and reduce Iran's oil exports to "zero" as part of sanctions reinstated after leaving the 2015 landmark nuclear deal

the rule of law. That's where Europe has its strong hand. If Europe allows that United States to break that then Europe is destroying the foundations for the global system and for the future of the international relations and I do not think that Europe wants to do that," he explained.

■ 'JCPOA is a comprehensive deal negotiated with open eyes'

Zarif also said that the nuclear deal was prepared based on mutual mistrust and there are mechanisms in it when one party violates the deal and noted that Iran does not need to leave nuclear deal.

"The JCPOA is a comprehensive deal on the nuclear issue which was negotiated with open eyes. We knew that we could not trust each other. It was basically actually based on mutual mistrust. So, what we did was we put in place mechanisms that we could use if they violate. If we use those mechanisms, we do not need to leave the agreement we have shown strategic patience. That strategic patience may have been required in order to give Europeans time to implement their part of the deal after the U.S. withdrawal. Unfortunately, Europe was not able over the past 15 months to do that so we took certain measures and those measures as I said are reversible. If Europe begins taking the steps that it is required to take," he maintained.

On Iran's act in reducing nuclear commitments, he said, "Iran has the right in JCPOA to take certain measures. We informed our European partners as well as two other members of the JCPOA Russia and China that we will be taking certain measures. Those measures are reversible within few hours not even days provided that Europe decides to take the measures that it is supposed to take legally in order for the Iranian people to receive the economic benefits of the JCPOA."

Asked about his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, Zarif said, "We are making progress but we still need to move forward and President Macron still needs to talk to his European partners and others."

He added, "President Macron and President Rouhani have been engaged in telephone conversations in the past several weeks with the intention of trying to find ways that Europe in spite of the U.S. sanctions and in spite of the U.S. maximum pressure policy could implement its own obligations under the nuclear deal. There has been discussions and suggestions that's going back and forth and today we continued those discussions. We are moving in the right direction of finding how Europe can implement its own obligations under the agreement so that Iran which has suspended implementing some of its obligations under the paragraph 36 of the agreement to go back to full implementation."

■ Zarif says sanctioning him was a mistake Washington made

The chief diplomat went to say that Washington made a mistake by sanctioning him.

"I have no property outside of Iran, so they cannot harm me personally. But if they try to shut my mouth and shut my participation in providing greater information to my counter partners and to the rest of the global community, they are badly mistaken," he remarked.

On being invited to the White House, he said, "I refused because that message was coupled with a threat that if I don't go I will be designated. And I did not go and I was designated. I'm doing my job and I think designation does not prevent me from doing my job."

Chinese envoy blames the U.S. for Persian Gulf tensions

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua has said the main reason behind tensions in the Persian Gulf is Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement. "The U.S. government, with imposing unilateral sanctions against Iran and with its excessive demands and bullying measures, interferes in Iran's cooperation with other countries, including China," Chang said in an interview with ISNA published on Saturday.

He further voiced China's opposition to such measures, emphasizing that other countries are not allowed to interfere in Iran-China relations.

Beijing has largely defied Washington sanctions on Iran by continuing to import oil from the country even after the administration of President Donald Trump ended exemptions given to China for buying Iran's crude in May. The Asian nation is one of the few remaining buyers of Iranian barrels, after other countries such as South Korea and Japan halted flows.

Asked to comment on the U.S. effort to form a coalition in the Persian Gulf, the Chinese envoy said his country only wants peace



in the region.

"China has always paid attention to the situation in the Persian Gulf, and the Chinese side has always wanted peace and reduced tensions in this region," Chang said.

"Therefore, we ask the sides not to take measures that are likely to heighten tensions and try to reduce the tensions," the ambassador suggested. The United States has announced plans to form a coalition to supposedly protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz following a series of mysterious attacks on oil tankers in the strait and the Sea of Oman.

Washington has accused Iran of having a hand in those attacks without presenting a shred of evidence. Iran has strongly rejected the claim. Tehran has warned that such acts of sabotage may be part of a general ploy to target Iran amid increasing regional tensions.

The U.S. has asked its allies to join the coalition, a call which has not been warmly received by several countries, including Germany, Japan and Spain, over apparent fears that such a mission could further ratchet up tensions with Iran.

Iran's power of resistance is unlimited, says IRGC chief

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said the enemy's power to pressure Iran is limited but "our power of resistance is unlimited."

"The enemy has reached saturation in its threats and has no more power, but our power of resistance has just begun and is infinite," Major General Hossein Salami said on Saturday.

Salami also said the West has never seen the emergence of leaders who cared about human well-being and strived to save humanity from oppression and injustice.

"Oppression has been their political philosophy," the general stated.

"However, our moves are led by a deep political philosophy and our military action is impacted and led by a divine and spiritual philosophy," Salami remarked.

He then pointed to the U.S. sanctions on Iran, saying the U.S. is unwilling to lift the sanctions while Europe is unable to do so, emphasizing the need to further rely on domestic capabilities.

U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the UN-endorsed JCPOA in May 2018 and imposed the "tough-

est ever sanctions" on Iran in line with his administration's "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran.

Under the nuclear agreement reached between Iran and six world powers in July 2015, Tehran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of economic and financial sanctions.

Months after the U.S. pullout, European parties established INSTEX, a European special purpose vehicle for trade with Iran to bypass U.S. sanctions, but the mechanism has fallen short of Iran's expectations.

Top Iranian political figures have likened INSTEX to an "empty bucket", a "beautiful car without gasoline" and a "bitter joke".

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

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

It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from



the sanctions' effects.

In follow-up to that deadline, on July 7 Iran announced that it has started enriching uranium to a higher purity than the 3.67% as the Europeans missed the 60-day deadline to devise a concrete mechanism to protect the country from the U.S. sanctions. Iran has also threatened to take a third step, which will further reduce its commitments to the JCPOA.

MPs push for bill to ban hostile American officials

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian lawmakers have prepared a bill to impose sanctions on U.S. officials who have a long record of hostility towards Iran, Fars reported.

According to the bill, U.S. national security advisor John Bolton, Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin and Senator Ted Cruz as well as their family members would be banned permanently from traveling to Iran.

It would also bar Iranian officials from any kind of trade, economic, cultural and political interactions and exchanges with them.

The move is a reaction to Washington's sanctioning of top Iranian officials.

Washington has sanctioned Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and other top Iranian officials.

Hostilities between Tehran and Washington have risen since May 2018 when U.S.



President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark 2015 deal on Iran's nuclear program. Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal has been attributed to his hatred towards Barack Obama, who was president when the deal was struck.

Since the exit, the U.S. has reimposed



punishing sanctions on Iran, including measures aimed at slashing its oil exports to zero, as part of a campaign aimed at pressuring Tehran.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced in May 2018 that the U.S. will apply economic and military pressure against



Iran and will impose "the strongest sanctions in history" on the Islamic Republic.

Also, Bolton said in November 2018, "We think the (Iranian) government is under real pressure and it's our intention to squeeze them very hard. As the British say, squeeze them until the pips squeak."

Raisi: Defense industry is a model for other sections

1 → On Thursday, Iran unveiled a long-range surface-to-air missile system, dubbed "Bavar-373", saying the missile system is more advanced than the U.S. Patriot system and its Russian counterpart S-300.

"The system has been designed and developed considering the country's need for a defense system with a high range," Brigadier General Shahrokh Shahrani, a deputy defense minister, told national TV on Thursday night.

Bavar-373 missile system was developed as Iran "needed a missile system stronger than the Russian S-300, given the increasing threats" against the country, he added.

President Hassan Rouhani, who attended the ceremony, hailed the production of the advanced missile system, saying Bavar-373 is more powerful than S-300 missile system and



is more like S-400.

"This very valuable work is a great present of the armed forces and Defense Ministry for the Iranian people," Rouhani said.

Bavar-373 is a mobile missile defense system designed to intercept and destroy incoming hostile targets.

The system employs missiles that have a maximum range of 300 kilometers.

The system is capable of simultaneously detecting up to 300 targets, tracking 60 targets at once and engaging six targets at a time, according to Press TV.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

Iran's student association writes to UN on Kashmir

1 → "Recently, there have been incidents in the Kashmir region which are the cause of concern for every freedom-seeking human being," the message read, pointing to the Indian government's persecution of the oppressed Muslims of Kashmir and its violation of international treaties.

The OSU urged the UN to get actively

involved in the crisis to end the Indian government's suppression in Kashmir and condemn India for its failure to hold a referendum under Resolution 47.

India laid a siege on Kashmir after New Delhi scrapped the autonomy of the UN declared disputed region earlier this month. Fearing a violent public reaction, India en-

forced a curfew in its part of this Muslim majority region which is divided between Pakistan and India.

The curfew in the entire Indian Jammu and Kashmir is nearing to its third week.

According to Gulf News, a delegation of opposition parties, led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, boarded a flight to visit Jammu

and Kashmir on Saturday, their first since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5.

However, sources said the delegation was sent back from the airport as the state administration urged them not to visit the state, saying attempts should not be made to disturb the gradual restoration of normalcy there.

General: Iran to confront hostile moves in region

TEHRAN (FNA) — A senior advisor to the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces has underlined establishment of security in the Persian Gulf by Iran, warning of crushing response to any hostile move.

"The policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz have fortunately succeeded so far and it will do so in the future as well," Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri said on Saturday.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown that it will confront any hostile measure with wisdom and prudence," he added.

In relevant remarks on Wednesday, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Deputy Chief Rear Admiral

Ali Fadavi underlined that not the foreigners but Iran and the regional states should establish security in the Persian Gulf, describing foreign deployments as a source of instability.

"No doubt, no country other than Iran and the regional countries are capable of ensuring the security of the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and regional waters," Rear Admiral Fadavi said, blasting the presence of foreign naval fleets in the Persian Gulf.

He chastised the presence of U.S. forces in the region, terming them the "main source of insecurity".

Iran has even the power to ensure the security of the

whole region, Rear Admiral Fadavi added.

His comments came after the U.S. and Britain announced that they will send nuclear-powered carriers and submarines to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of forming a coalition to establish security in the region.

The United States has been trying to persuade its allies into an international coalition in the Strait of Hormuz, which accommodates around a third of global seaborne oil traffic, and other strategic Middle Eastern shipping lanes.

However, Washington's call has been met with little interest from its allies, which are concerned that joining such an alliance could drag them into a conflict with Iran.

Leader names new chief of Ahl Al-Bayt World Assembly

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — In a decree on Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed Hojatoleslam Reza Ramezani as the new secretary general of the Ahl Al-Bayt World Assembly.



In his decree, the Leader described Ramezani as a committed and experienced person who is suitable for the position, according to the official website of Ayatollah Khamenei.

He also thanked Hojatoleslam Mohammad Hassan Akhtari for his sincere work and efforts during his tenure as secretary general.

Defense official: Iran has precision-guided missiles not revealed yet

TEHRAN — Iran's deputy minister of defense has said the country has accurate missiles it has not unveiled in order to be able to surprise its enemies.

Qassem Taqizadeh, who was speaking prior to Friday prayer sermons in Mashhad, said, "A lot of accomplishments cannot be revealed through the media, so we hide them," according to Mashregh News website.

Taqizadeh referred to missiles that according to him have great accuracy, although their range is limited.

The deputy defense minister on Friday reiterated Iran's position, insisting that his country's missile program is limited to threats it faces, which "for now have a radius of 1,800 kilometers".

He added, "Americans know very well" Iranian forces do not need to reach New York to confront them; instead "today there are tens of thousands of Americans in the region" and for that reason Iran's Supreme Leader has calculated that Washington will not start a war with Iran.

Iran downed a highly-sophisticated U.S. spy drone on June 20 over the Persian Gulf after it breached Iran's airspace.

Diplomat says sanctions threaten fight on transnational crimes

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The United States' unilateral and illegal sanctions on Iran have posed major threats to fighting transnational organized crimes such as drug trafficking, according to Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in his speech to the special joint commission on drugs and crime prevention and criminal justice in Vienna on Friday, IRNA reported.

He underlined the importance of international unity and integration based on intelligence analysis and international cooperation to uproot the organized crimes trespassing international borders.

He also highlighted the emergence of new aspects of organized crimes such as cybercrimes and transnational organized crimes as major challenges, saying that the most important topic to address in the issue is adopting a comprehensive approach based on intelligent understanding of its causes.



"In this sensitive era that multilateralism has been endangered due to illogical and adventurist policies of a certain government, strong and coordinated international cooperation is necessary under supervision of the United Nations," the Iranian diplomat said.

Emphasizing the major role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to address the challenges thoroughly and promptly in line with international cooperation among member states, he said that the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will serve as an important international platform for all members' participation to remove the challenges.

"Iran believes that efforts to achieve sustainable development agenda and fighting narcotics are international challenge complementing each other," Gharibabadi said, reiterating that comprehensive implementation of all commitments put forward by the international community for fighting illicit drugs based on a comprehensive, integrated, balanced and scientific approach will help achieve sustainable development agenda, guaranteeing integration and equality.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian envoy referred to efforts made by Iran to combat narcotics through adopting extensive approaches and policies and minimizing the negative consequences of narcotics consumption.

He stressed that the unilateral choices and illegal sanctions and in its most cruel forms, the "economic terrorism", against Iran are the biggest threat to achieving sustainable development agenda in Iran and other neighboring countries.

The issue caused road-block for international cooperation and implementing regional and bilateral initiatives, he said, adding that those who imposed sanctions are directly responsible for the disastrous consequences of creating disturbance in fighting narcotics, organized crimes and terrorism.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	269985.9
IFX	3589.46

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,868 rials
GBP	51,578 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$58.80/b
WTI	\$54.17/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.50/b
Gold	\$1,528.50/oz
Silver	\$17.48/oz
Platinum	\$860.95/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers rises 15.6% in 4 months on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**– Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- July 22) has risen 15.6 percent from that of the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported citing the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.As reported, 356,300 refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured during the four-month period of this year, rising from 316,000 in the same time span of the past year.

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

Improving and boosting domestic production has been one of the major strategies that Iran has been following in the past two years in order to increase its independence.

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

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said Iranian rial has advanced over 40 percent against U.S. dollar in the past eight months, IRNA reported.

In an interview with NBC News' Lester Holt, Abdolnasser Hemmati noted that the country's foreign currency market is stabilizing and under control.

Asked about the impact of the U.S. sanctions on the country's oil exports and economy in general, Hemmati noted that Trump certainly hasn't managed to realize his plans for zeroing Iran's oil exports.

"Iranian businesses have found ways around U.S. sanctions, trading through channels that skirt Washington's penalties. We have economic stability in Iran and calm in the currency markets. This shows that the Trump administration has been unsuccessful in its economic war against Tehran."



"Our oil exports have actually increased, they are currently rising, and we are using 'unconventional methods' to sell our oil," he added.

Commenting on the legality of the unilateral U.S. sanctions, Hemmati noted that the United States cannot impose its laws and sanctions on the world.

"Donald Trump cannot order other countries to do whatever he wants. Trump's sanctions are illegal. We have found ways of bypassing the sanctions," he said.

Commenting on how Iran imports goods which are on America's sanctions list, the governor of the CBI said, "Iran is not a closed country. According to official statistics of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), we are the eighteenth most powerful economy in the world in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), which is a metric for comparing economic productivity and standards of living between various countries."

Imports of basic goods into Iranian ports up 67% in 5 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Some 11 million tons of basic goods were shipped into Iranian ports in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), 67 percent more than the figure for last year's same period, ILNA reported.

According to Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO)'s Ports Affairs Director Ravanbakhsh Behzadian, during the mentioned time span, Imam Khomeini Port, in southwestern Khuzestan Province, had the greatest share of commodity shipments.

Loading and unloading of commodities at Imam Khomeini Port stood at 12.4 million tons since the beginning of the current year [March 21] up to August 14, a 22 percent rise year-on-year, the official said.In the mentioned period, 141 vessels loaded or unloaded commodities at Imam Khomeini Port, 72 percent more than last year's same period.Major shipments imported into Imam Khomeini Port included barley, maize, oilseeds, sugar and edible oil.

Last week (on August 20), Iran's Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami said loading and unloading of goods at ports of Iran has exceeded 60



million tons since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21) up to the date.Speaking in an event on the occasion of the World Maritime Day, Eslami noted that exports from the country's ports has increased six percent.While Iran is combatting the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this combat. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

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

TEDPIX gains 4,736 points in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), has risen 4,736 points, or 1.81 percent, to 266,127 during the five working days of the past Iranian calendar week (Saturday to Wednesday), Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, some 23.124 billion securities worth 56.977 trillion rials (about \$1.356 billion) were traded through 1.989 million deals at TSE during the past week, indicating 70 percent and 39 percent rise in terms of the number and value of securities, respectively, while 53 percent growth in the number of trades compared to its previous weak.

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

Applying new financial instruments in Iranian capital market was another achievements of the exchange markets during the past year, as TSE officially launched "futures" in mid-December 2018 for more risk management and



IME launched "option" in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods for agricultural products.

This progressive trend is also continuing in the current year, as TSE Head Ali Sahraei has announced that TSE plans to launch a new market named "prime market" in which the price range for the shares increase.

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

Sahraei also said that there is no difference regarding rules governing market makers in this and other markets, adding that participation of market makers is mandatory in the prime market.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-05/120

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Purchasing 4K-SNG (Installation included) according to the tender documents.

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday August 28, 2019.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 19,021 (equivalent to 2,282,500,000 Rials)** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday September 28, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday September 30, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: **0098-21-22166313**
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-05/121

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Providing Satellite Equipment for Jam-E-Jam 3 Channel according to the tender documents.

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday August 28, 2019.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 7,042 (equivalent to 845,000,000 Rials)** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday September 28, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

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Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

IRENEX to hold 7th round of heavy crude oil offering

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

The base price for this round of offering, which is the seventh round, is \$50.37 per barrel.

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

According to NIOC's representative in IRENEX, based on the budget law of the year, the Oil Ministry is required to supply at least two million barrels of light crude oil, two million barrels of heavy crude oil and two million barrels of gas condensate per month, including this week's supply.

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

Since the U.S.'s withdrew from Iran's nuclear pact in May 2018, vowing to drive



Iran's oil exports down to zero, the Islamic Republic has been taking various measures to counter the U.S. actions and to keep

its oil exports levels as high as possible.

One of the main strategies that Iran chose to execute to help its oil exports

afloat has been trying new ways to diversify the mechanism of oil sales, one of which is offering oil at the country's stock market.

NIOC offered light crude oil at IRENEX first on October 28, 2018 just few days before new U.S. sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector took effect (November 4).

In the first round, NIOC could sell some 280,000 barrels of crude oil at \$74.85 per barrel.

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

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

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

National Iranian Oil Company sold 70,000 barrels of heavy crude oil at IRENEX for the first time on April 30.

In the first round one million barrels of heavy crude was offered at a base price of \$60.68.

Asian refining margins tumble as new shipping fuel rules loom

Refining margins in Asia have slumped by more than 50 percent since the middle of July as fuel market participants have accelerated the sell-off of high-sulfur fuel oil ahead of the new shipping fuel standards as of January 2020, market analysts told Reuters on Friday.

According to oilprice.com, Asian refining margins have been on ups and downs this year, with profitability slipping to a 16-year low in May, which prompted some refiners across Asia to shut down for maintenance, while others reduced their fuels production.

Some Chinese refiners were also curtailing refinery runs in the third quarter as massive refinery start-ups and slowing domestic fuel demand have created a fuel glut in the country, hurting refining margins.

Weighed down by depressed refining margins earlier in the year, refiners across Asia reduced in June and July production and some closed down for maintenance, thus boosting refining margins in the middle of July to their highest since September 2017.

In the three weeks to July 11, the benchmark Singapore refining margin more than tripled to \$9.37 a barrel, from just \$2.74 per barrel on June 21.

Yet, since the middle of July, the fuel margins started to slide again, as market participants de-stock and sell high-sulfur fuel oil (HSFO), which can no longer be used in ships after January 1 unless said ships have installed the so-called scrubbers—systems that remove sulfur from the exhaust gas emitted by bunkers.

As of August 22, the benchmark Singapore refining margin fell to \$4.31 a barrel, down from \$9.37 on July 11 and down from \$7.39 in early August.

Looking forward, the fuel glut could continue to depress margins of gasoline and diesel as refineries come out of maintenance and new refineries, including in China, start up or ramp up production.

China, for example, may boost its gasoline exports in the second half of the year due to the fuel glut in its domestic market and to higher export quotas, analysts at JLC said this month.



Qatar may be losing the top spot as world's biggest LNG exporter

Qatar will lose its title as the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) within the next year, as Australia ramps up production on a slew of multi-billion dollar export projects.

As per cnbc.com, "Australia and Qatar continued to jostle for the title of the world's largest LNG exporter over the first five months of 2019," the Australian government said in a recent report.

Australia exported more LNG than Qatar in November 2018 and April 2019. But now, the U.S Energy Information Administration (EIA) says Australia is on track to consistently export more LNG than Qatar, as recently commissioned projects such as Wheatstone, Ichthys, and Prelude ramp up production.

Prelude, Royal Dutch Shell's floating LNG facility in a remote field northeast of Broome in Western Australia, shipped its first LNG cargo to customers in Asia in June.

The landmark facility, capable of holding 175 Olympic-sized swimming pools of LNG in its storage tanks alone, was the last of eight new LNG projects that came online in Australia between 2012 and 2018.

The new facilities have pushed Australia's export capacity from 2.6 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in 2011 to more than 11.4 bcf/d in 2019. The EIA says Australia has already surpassed Qatar in LNG production capacity.

The ramp-up of new capacity and exports



combined with fragile demand from key customers in Japan, China and South Korea has resulted in a drastic decline in spot LNG prices since late 2018.

■ Keeping a lid on LNG

Fears of cooling global growth and a protracted trade war between the U.S. and China is also keeping a lid on LNG.

"We're probably already at the floor price for this year," Nicholas Browne, director of Asian gas and LNG research at Wood Mackenzie, told CNBC's "Capital Connection."

"There is more supply coming in, not just from Australia and the Prelude and Ichthys project which is ramping up, but also in the U.S. where there is more LNG coming from Cameron, from Shell's Elba Island, as well as from the Freeport project, so we're anticipating a repeat of this year's conditions next year," he added.

While Australia ramps up, Qatar is unlikely to stay idle. The country plans to boost its LNG capacity by early 2024 to 110 million tons a year, up from around 77 million tons

a year, according to Reuters.

"China can't absorb all of this new LNG which is coming into the market," Browne said, adding that while prices are down, they're not out.

"When we look beyond this period of oversupply, I think the fundamental demand story in Asia is very strong, which is why we see so many companies targeting Asia and looking to develop projects now," he added.

Respected industry CEOs have also sounded the alarm on the battle for LNG supremacy.

"There is no doubt the expansion of the Australian LNG production is a significant factor in the market," said Peter Botten, a veteran oil and gas executive serving as managing director of Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) listed Oil Search.

The firm operates all of PNG's oil fields and has sizeable interests and partnerships in various LNG projects.

"I think the next couple of years is going to see a balancing out of supply and demand, and maybe even a tightness in demand in the 2021, 2022, 2023 timeframe," he added.

"You also have a lot of projects coming online in 2024 and 2025, so I think the market will be well supplied in that period of time and in the second part of the next decade — all of which plays on a likely scenario that LNG prices will remain very competitive, and that's only good for demand growth," Botten said.

Curtailment reduction could double Chinese wind fleet by 2028

Further reductions to Chinese curtailment rates will make inland provinces more attractive for wind power investment, and help the country double its wind power capacity by 2028, according to new analysis.

As per windpowermonthly.com, renewables projects having better access to the grid, being able to more effectively sell generated power and, therefore, improved economic viability, are crucial to China successfully transitioning to subsidy-free renewable energy by 2021, analysts at Fitch Solutions argued.

Curtailment has led to more than \$18 billion of unpaid outstanding feed-in tariffs for renewables power generated but not purchased, as per the country's 2010 renewable energy law, Fitch noted.

This is because investment in transmission had failed to keep pace with renewables build-out from 15GW at the end of 2008 to more than 370GW by the end of 2018, the analysts argued.

But China has stepped up investment in transmission and improved its curtailment rate in recent years, from 17.1% in 2016, to 7% in 2018, with notable improvements in inland provinces.

It has largely done this by investing in ultra-high-voltage transmission lines between provinces with surplus power generation provinces (often inland) with provinces with higher power consumption levels (often in coastal areas).



Improved integration has meant that inland provinces can integrate more renewable energy into the grid, it argued.

Further improvements will increase the investment case in provinces with high potential for more wind installations, such as Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Gansu, which have good wind resources and land availability, Fitch added.

In turn, further investment will help drive down costs and make wind power in these provinces more compet-

itive in with coal-benchmarked tariffs and, therefore, subsidy-free.

Fitch Solutions forecasts the capacity of China's wind fleet to more than double between the end of 2018 and 2028. It does not provide capacity figures, but China's total installed capacity was around 200GW at the end of 2018. Windpower Intelligence, the research and data division of Windpower Monthly, which distinguishes between installed and operating capacity, reported 192GW.

Canadian Solar inks O&M deal for solar PV plants in Australia

Canadian Solar Inc. CSIQ recently signed an agreement for providing Operations & Maintenance (O&M) services to three Australian solar photovoltaic (PV) plants, with an aim to minimize downtime and increase site availability. Following this deal, the solar player's O&M portfolio in Australia exceeded 875 megawatt-peak (MWp), with over 2.9 gigawatt-peak (GWp) O&M portfolio in operation or contracted worldwide.

According to finance.yahoo.com, notably, the three facilities — Gannawarra, Hayman and Daydream Solar Farms — have a total output capacity of 300 MWp. Per the terms of the deal, Canadian Solar will conduct plant monitoring, performance management, and preventative and corrective maintenance in all three facilities.

The solar market in Australia is gaining momentum, thanks to plummeting costs of installation along with improved tech-



nology. Notably, per Australia's Department of the Environment and Energy, the nation has the highest uptake of solar globally, with 20% of homes with rooftop solar PV. As of Jun 30, 2019, more than 2.15 million rooftop solar power systems have been installed across the nation.

Being a prominent player in the global solar space, Canadian Solar's products and services are frequently preferred by countries across the world, and Australia is no exception. In January 2019, the company announced that along with Signal Energy it will offer Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) services for the Darlington Point Solar Farm (DPSF) in New South Wales, Australia. Canadian Solar also signed an agreement to supply solar modules to this Australian solar plant.

■ Canadian Solar's importance

The latest deal to provide its O&M services further strengthens Canadian Solar's importance in the rapidly growing solar market in Australia.

Considering the fact that the Australian government has been investing amply in the nation's solar market expansion, we may expect Canadian Solar to sign more such deals in coming days.

Realizing the growth prospects of the Australian solar market, other solar players are also expanding their footprint in this nation.

In July 2019, JinkoSolar JKS announced the supply of its monocrystalline solar panels to the Australian arm of Vena Energy — the largest renewable energy company in the Asia Pacific region.

In October 2018, SunPower SPWR announced that it will supply 349 MW of its high-efficiency solar panels for the Limondale solar power plant — Australia's largest project to date.

The global renewable energy industry has witnessed significant growth over the last several years. Realizing the need for a cleaner environment, consumers have rapidly adopted alternative energy sources. A key area of the renewable space is solar energy.

With rising demand for solar energy, leading players in this space are expanding their contracts worldwide. Canadian Solar is following this similar trend.

In July, the company announced that it has secured a solar PV project in the Sixth Brazilian Federal Energy Auction. In the same month, its first third-party Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) project in Vietnam started commercial operation. In June, Canadian Solar signed a contract to supply 500-megawatt (MW) solar modules to solar projects of Spain.

Singapore HSFO/marine fuel oil spreads touch fresh highs ahead of IMO 2020

The spread between Singapore high sulfur and Marine 0.5% sulfur fuel oil for the prompt months have widened to fresh highs on Thursday, as fundamentals for the fuel oil industry adjust before the International Maritime Organization's sulfur mandate kicks in January 2020.

According to hellenicshippingnews.com, with the 0.5% sulfur cap on bunker fuels set by the IMO from next year, high sulfur fuel oil demand is expected to drop while low sulfur fuel oil demand is poised to pick up, said trade sources.

The October, November and December 2019 spreads for Marine 0.5% FOB Singapore/380 CST high sulfur fuel oil Singapore swap touched its highest at \$167/mt, \$187/mt and \$201/mt respectively as of 4:30 pm Singapore time (0830 GMT) Thursday, since the launch of MF 0.5% derivative contracts on the Intercontinental Exchange earlier this year, data from S&P Global Platts showed.

"Nobody wants to sell (low sulfur cargoes) cheap, (the high MF 0.5%-380CST HSFO December spread) is from the expectation that the cargo differential will be very wide," said a Singapore-based trader.

■ Low-sulfur cargoes

In comparison, shipowners had earlier expected the premium for low sulfur cargoes to range around \$150/mt.

The spread between Marine 0.5% FOB Singapore/380 CST HSFO Singapore swap for December 2019 was bid and offered at \$200/mt and \$203.75/mt respectively on ICE as of 0230 GMT Friday in Singapore.

The "spread to 380 CST HSFO will widen as we step into Q4 2019, but then again it will depend on crude prices then as well," said another Singapore trading source.

"More clarity for MF 0.5% sulfur oil will emerge down the curve as we get closer to 2020," the source added.

On the physical front, traders said most floating storage units in Singapore were holding low sulfur fuel oil or crude oil cargoes suited for blending into IMO 2020 compliant low sulfur fuel oil, and another 1 million mt was in landed storage.

"I think in excess of 19 VLCCs are storing low sulfur fuel oil (in the Singapore region)," said a Singapore-based trader.

Market sources said low sulfur fuel oil was expected to be shipped to Singapore from U.S. Atlantic Coast before as part of the preparation for IMO 2020, and the ULCC Oceania was fixed from Rotterdam to land in Singapore at the end of September, carrying parcels of IMO 2020 compliant fuel and crude.

The spot differential for the FOB Singapore MF 0.5% cargo was assessed higher by \$5/mt day on day to MOPS minus \$15.50/mt Thursday, showed Platts data.

From Sana'a to Beirut: One Foe, One Resistance

1 → Sharaf further states, “Given the financial hardship that our Yemeni people are experiencing because of the imposed war, blockade and salary cuts for more than two years, the campaign’s toll may not be great.

But, due the Yemenis’ faith, awareness and sincerity, God will make every riyal two folds, as expressed in the holy Quran, ‘If you loan Allah a goodly loan, He will multiply it for you’ [64:17].”

Sharaf continues, “They all, through Sam FM, contributed, with pride, which shows the highest mean of altruism, sacrifice and steadfastness.

Remarkably, Yemeni children partook and even granted the money allocated by their families for Eid clothes, in addition to martyrs’ families, where widows and mothers had taken off their gold jewelry to donate it. This reflects the top examples of generosity, especially after they have sacrificed their loved ones for the sake of God and the nation.”

Those needy who did afford to spend on the campaign have done much more valuable than the money as they have performed prayers with the intention of victory for Hezbollah,” the radio’s director notes.

He comments, “this popular campaign constitutes a great lesson for the upcoming generations on the one hand, and on the other hand a strong message to the hypocrites and coward enemies.

The message is that under any circumstances, the free Yemenis would never abandon the path of resistance, whatever the sacrifices.”

Regarding the motives of the campaign, the radio’s director points out that they had organised the campaign, “in the aftermath of the aggressive economic sanctions against Hezbollah, for we believe that we are part and parcel of the axis of resistance, its cause, position and destiny.”

“The aim is to announce a firm Yemeni stance in response to the U.S. administration’s designation of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, because of its adherence to the resistance option and its courageous and honourable positions, mainly regarding the oppressed people of Yemen and Palestine,” Sharaf stresses.

He adds, “In addition to the aforementioned objectives, the campaign also aimed to demonstrate the fact that the Yemeni people support their brothers in Lebanon and identify with them in spite of all geography borders”.

“Sam FM’s campaign to support Hezbollah has been a



powerful and resounding slap in the face of the Zionist, American and Saudi-led coalition and its mercenaries, as this stage, thanks to God, has had a wide resonance and a great impact,” Hamoud Sharaf postulates.

He argues, “Hence, as soon as Sam FM announced it, the enemies expressed their great annoyance, as they hastened to adopt a huge media campaign to spread false rumours to distort and diminish the campaign’s significance, through various platforms.”

Responding to the question of how he expects the future of the nation, he says, “God willing, it will be a bright one for we expect the awakening of the whole nation and thus the painful defeat of the arrogant powers and the dissipate their dreams. I may hear resonate His Eminence Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah’s words that ‘the time of defeats is long over and the time of victories has come.’”

“Today, our nation witnesses a phase of awareness.

It has discovered how the puppet regimes have long been shackling them and how they were nothing but mere tools for the global tyrant system, represented by the American administration and the Zionist entity,” Sam FM’s director says.

Sharaf mentions that the reality have unfolded before the peoples of the Arab and Islamic nation, who become conscious about who run wars in the region and who ignite tension.

He stresses, “Our peoples have realised who were striking their culture, their economy, their riches, their unity and their power.

They have perceived that their so-called leaders are nothing but subjugated puppets.”

Sharaf goes further to say that the radical dictators have failed to force the peoples into surrender and to submit that their resistance is weaker than the American and Zionist projects. “Meanwhile, the masks are uncovered.

The peoples have realised, through the resistance’s attitudes, who truly represents them.

They have realised the resistance’s sacrifices and how it has set noble examples of steadfastness and how it has also raised the nation’s status.”

“We are victorious in the battle of consciousness.

That consciousness will restore power to this nation after it has lost its glories as a result of the prolonged hegemony, occupation and subjugation, which weakened and humiliated them, occupied their land and looted their wealth,” Sam FM’s director adds.

Sharaf concludes, “Through the growing awareness among the peoples of our Arab and Islamic nation, the future of this nation will be a promising victorious one, and this has hit the global arrogance and dissipate its dreams.

Those arrogant powers have failed to resolve their aggressive battle against Yemen, failed to uproot the Syrian regime and Hezbollah from the region, failed to force Iran into submission and failed to undermine the nation’s central cause of Palestine.

1 → There is NOTHING our President loves more than the pomp and circumstance of a state visit COMBINED with being the first. He was the first to actually meet the Supreme Leader of North Korea and the first US president in history to set foot on North Korean soil. He wants to do the same with Iran, please do not doubt this – he would be the first US president to visit in the post-Shah era.

The key is to understand that in the Trump Administration, the only person, the only encounter, the only conversation, that matters, is with President Donald Trump directly. Once Iran engages him at the Presidential level, our President will take “ownership” of US-Iranian relations, the Zionists will be sidelined, and he will have a personal investment, in an election year, of ensuring that he does nothing to detract from achieving peace in the Middle East, a peace he knows is impossible without the good will of Iran and its Supreme Leader.

■ As a 2020 election gesture, it is important for Trump to talk on the phone or in person with Iranian officials. In this regard, some experts believe that he should give special concessions such as oil waivers to Iran so that they come to negotiation table. Do you think that Trump is ready to make any kind of concessions?

Every telephone call the President has, including so-called secret telephone calls, is monitored in Tel Aviv. There is no substitute for a face to face meeting with NO WITNESSES.

The greatest concession Iran could expect to receive from our President is a private commitment, NO WITNESSES, to the restoration of Palestine to the Palestinian people, and the termination of all US support for the genocidal apartheid criminal invented state of Israel. Everything else is cosmetic.

Our President promised to remove our troops from the Middle East and invest in America First. Iran is doing fine selling its oil to China and does not need US concessions, Iran would benefit from the President being held accountable by the US public for honoring his promise to get us out of the Middle East. Iran needs to make it easy for our President to withdraw all our troops from the Middle East and close the 44 military bases around Iran that serve only the Zionists and the Deep State as lily pads for smuggling drugs, guns, gold, cash, and small children.

I recommend that Iran focus less on pre-conditions for a meeting, and more on achieving a presidential face to face meeting, first in the US and then in Tehran. There is no substitute.

■ It seems as if Trump administration wants Iran to withdraw from JCPOA. Will be the US-Israeli interests better provided in case of Iran’s withdrawal?

America First means not Israel First. Our President is having difficulty navigating his commitment to America First in the context of the Zionists owning the US economy, US government, and US society (as well as the Zionists owning the British elite who are now full servants to the Zionists) but our President is a genius. He KNOWS that Henry Kissinger was right, the invented state of Israel is both a cancer in the Middle East and a parasite within America the Beautiful. Do not doubt his acute awareness of the issue.

In my view, Iran should not withdraw from JCPOA, and Iran should not confuse Zionist interests with the interests of America First. Our President is on record as saying that we have spent trillions of dollars in the Middle East and have nothing to show for it (other than millions dead and displaced and hundreds of thousands of US troops with mental illnesses, amputations, and other disabilities).

The end of Israel is not only an Iranian mission written into its modern foundational documents, it is the proper cultural, economic, and historical objective for all of us. The Jews themselves are calling for an end to the invented state of Israel. The Jews themselves are being abused and beaten by Zionist “storm troopers,” such as recently occurred when the Zionists trashed a synagogue in Israel and badly beat many of the devout Jews who were present.

Our President is not only a businessman, he knows more about the secret space program and the stellar civilization neutralization of nuclear weapons than anyone else. The end game with Iran is not about nuclear weapons, which is just a Zionist disinformation operation, fear-mongering to promote war and spending on war. The end game for the USA with Iran is about ending the illegal immigration of unem-

U.S.-Iranian nuclear talks: what comes next?



ployed Muslims from the Middle East and Africa, stabilizing the Middle East, introducing free energy which makes unlimited desalinated water possible (e.g. in Somalia and Yemen), and about Iran’s known future dominance, with China and Russia, of all the rare earth minerals in Central Asia.

I do want to point out that the President appears ready to declassify all the technologies, including free energy, which have been under secrecy order. That is one reason he accelerated US fossil fuel production. This will change the oil market, and in my view, reduce the attractiveness of oil shipped by sea and increase the value to China of oil delivered overland via pipelines. This will also radically increase the marketplace for producing unlimited desalinated water that can be pumped into Central Asia, India, and Africa.

■ We are witnessing French President Emmanuel Macron efforts to convince Trump to rejoin JCPOA. How serious should we take these efforts? Shall we think of them as a US coordinated plan?

A. Macron appears to be both an idiot and a Satanist, and very likely a pedophile and murderous pedophile as well. I believe Macron to have been behind the Notre Dame false flag atrocity. My French colleagues tell me he is not the legitimate President of France. I anticipate the resolution of the Savoy case in the next few years, that case will not only create a new French Republic that leaves the European Union, it will also impact on Golan, Donbass, and Crimea. Nothing any of the European leaders less Boris Johnson say is worth listening to. Angela Merkel will die soon. Iran should anticipate the end of the EU and deal with each country bilaterally, starting with Spain and Italy, both of which have suffered historically from the Zionist scourge. The time has come for Iran, in partnership with Egypt, Turkey, China, and Russia – and eventually with President Trump personally – to begin planning for the termination of the Israeli state – the flag will be retired – and the raising of the Palestinian flag over Tel Aviv. Jews who wish to remain in Palestine must accept Palestinian citizenship or emigrate – the new Jewish Autonomous Zone in Manchuria and the long-standing Jewish Autonomous Oblast in Russia are both ripe for economic development combined with cultural containment.

■ You are the only person on the planet – and certainly the only American – who has been speaking directly to the end of Zionism, not just the evils of Zionism. Please explain to our readers why the Supreme Leader should consider your views on the end of Zionism as a useful context for agreeing to engage directly with President Donald Trump.

A. Let me answer with both a historical or strategic perspective, and a current or operational perspective.

Historically, despite centuries of disinformation and active censorship by the Zionists and those they control with bribery and blackmail, it is now known that virtually everything they have ever claimed is a lie, and that they have played a disproportionately large role in subverting many countries by bribing and blackmailing the leaders of those countries while also controlling academics, bankers, corporate chiefs, and media personalities. Zionists (not Jews) are a predatory cult that considers all of us – Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and non-orthodox Jews – to be sub-human. They consider us – and our laws – to be beneath contempt. They are the single greatest counterintelligence threat to humanity, apart from hostile

stellar civilizations.

Today in the USA the Zionists are staggering toward dissolution because of the combination of three scandals that in turn are making past Zionist atrocities such as the USS Liberty, ever more visible to the American public. Despite a complete media “black-out” of these three scandals, each is certain to be relevant to the outcome of the 2022 election, and therefore relevant to achieving a meeting between the Supreme Leader of Iran and President Donald Trump prior to that Election Day.

Mossad Pedophilia Entrapment & Blackmail. I have published three major posts on Jeffrey Epstein, one of them entitled “Nine Veils of Evil.” The real “operator” in all this has been Ghislaine Maxwell, daughter of Zionist super-spy Robert Maxwell, who appears to have been a “madame” for elite prostitution including child prostitutes, an early version of the Mossad pedophilia entrapment and blackmail model. Epstein was brought in, funded by Les Wexner who may also have funded 9/11, to elevate this operation particularly – the Mossad is running another 50 or more such rings with less visibility across the USA and around the world – to the presidential and royal family level. They needed a “boy” to lure the other boys, especially Bill Clinton, into doing terrible things to small children on video. The media is desperately avoiding the fact that the CIA and FBI have been complicit in all Mossad operations in the USA to date, and this one particularly.

The media is desperately avoiding the reality that this is not just about sodomizing children, this is about torturing children, murdering children, drinking their adrenochrome-infused blood, and eating fetuses and child body parts in the underground caverns at Lolita Island – all covered by television. This was an intelligence collection and compromise operation with four targets: political, cyber, intellectual, and nuclear. We have a joke in my business, “how many pedophiles does it take to cover up our blackmail operations?” The answer: “all of them.” Everyone in the USA who is not covering this story properly is either being bribed or blackmailed. Before Election Day, the truth in detail about this Mossad operations, all the other Mossad operations in the USA, and the complicity of the CIA and FBI in all these operations, will be known. Our President, if he desires to be re-elected, will have no alternative but to take public action including the expulsion of a number of Zionist “diplomats,” the sharp reduction if not the abolishment of the FBI, and severe reductions at CIA with a special focus on its MASSIVE illegal domestic operations that have compromised governments, judges, prosecutors, and others in every single one of our fifty sovereign states.

27 States Blackmailed Into Passing Anti-BDS Laws.

Twenty-seven US states have passed anti-BDS laws that criminalize free speech calling for the boycott of Israel. While these laws are unconstitutional – a clear violation of the 1st Amendment – and also politically insane (many of them also refuse state jobs and refuse disaster relief assistance to those who do not swear an oath of loyalty to Israel) – the fact that they were passed provides the American public with a roadmap for identifying the governors and state legislators who were bribed or blackmailed into passing these laws. I anticipate a purge of most of these people in the 2020 elections. The Zionists over-reached and very foolishly exposed the degree to which they

control individual state legislatures, this is “actionable intelligence” that could, with the right public relations campaign, lead to public recognition of just how embedded the Zionist parasite is within the USA. Separately we now have articles coming out that document the degree to which Jews (not only Zionists) are over-represented in our elite universities and key banking, corporate, government, and media positions – a population of 2% is controlling 60% of our resources. They have succeeded not because they are smarter or work harder, but because they are a cabal that treats everyone else as a “shiksa” – a gentle whore that can be abused – and breaks all the established rules including insider trading and the easy use of bribery and blackmail at a scale not imagined or practiced by anyone else including the Vatican and its Jesuits. Our President has no alternative, if he wishes to be re-elected, but to denounce all 27 state legislatures; demand they rescind these unconstitutional laws; and reassert his commitment to the 1st Amendment (freedom of speech) as well as the 2nd Amendment (right to bear arms) and the 4th Amendment (freedom from unreasonable search & seizure).

9/11 Writ of Mandamus on Criminal Grand Jury. Our President is fully aware of the who, what, how, and why of 9/11 – he knew a great deal on his own, and on 8 August 2018 he received 9/11 Truth, a collection of 28 memoranda documenting this atrocity – and Zionist complicity – in detail. He knows that planning for 9/11 started in 1988 when the Twin Towers were condemned and at the same time, controlled demolition was forbidden by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) because of the asbestos and other toxins. This made the Twin Towers, owned by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and hence the states of New York and New Jersey, an immediate \$2 billion “manual deconstruction” nightmare. Early on, probably with the complicity of the two state governments and the American International Group (AIG) insurance giant, and almost certainly with the approval of Dick Cheney, 9/11 morphed from an insurance fraud need to a contrived false flag terrorist incident that would justify both endless war aboard and a police state at home. Benjamin Netanyahu was fully appraised to the point of writing about the future attack – and its nuclear component – in his 1995 book, Fighting Terrorism: How Democracies Can Defeat Domestic and International Terrorism. Zionists also sponsored think-tank publications on “catastrophic terrorism” to set the stage for the Patriot Act, the police state act -- that was written and ready long before 9/11 actually occurred. 9/11 was enabled by Dick Cheney as Vice President (virtually the President, George W. Bush is a well-intentioned dolt of no consequence) and Donald Rumsfeld. Cheney announced months in advance that he would manage a national counterterrorism exercise on 9/11, and then ensured that all the standard protections were disabled. In the aftermath of 9/11 Robert Mueller, as Director of the FBI, covered everything up. In my view Mueller is indictable on 3,000 counts of obstructing justice and 3,000 counts of complicity in murder after the fact. Finally, Zionist controlled judges and prosecutors ensured that no 9/11 claim made it to the federal court – everything was “settled” out of court, thus preventing “discovery” via subpoena. It is in this context that the Lawyers Committee of Inquiry into 9/11, and its demand for a criminal grand jury on 9/11 recently endorsed by the NYC firefighters, and its most recent writ of mandamus against a Zionist controlled US Attorney in the Southern District of New York, assures that 9/11 culpability will be a 2020 election issue. Our President has no alternative but to fulfill his campaign promise of 16 February 2016, made in Bluffton, South Carolina, of full disclosure on 9/11.

I am quite certain our President was hoping to leave the matter of the Zionists until after re-election. Q, his brilliant channel for waking up and educating the American public, has said “Zionists last.” I fear that the matter cannot wait, and it is therefore in Iran’s best interests to establish a direct personal relationship between our President and the Supreme Leader, prior to Election Day 2020. With absolute conviction and sincerity, I believe that history now favors peace in the Middle East and of course a central role for Iran as well as Turkey and Egypt. I believe our President, a pragmatist, understands this; and that he needs to “make the deal” with Iran, not with Israel.

Who wins the big battle?

The Democrats' War in New Hampshire

1 → National polls have shown Biden is typically the second-choice candidate for Sanders supporters, and vice versa. But in New Hampshire, 34 percent of Sanders voters said Warren was their second choice, compared to 18 percent who selected Biden, per the July CNN/UNH poll. Sanders was the second choice for nearly 40 percent of Warren voters, and the poll showed Warren and Sanders competing for second among Biden voters.

I interviewed more than 35 voters at Sanders's and Warren's most recent New Hampshire campaign events and found many people trying to make up their minds between the two. Some undecided voters were attending back-to-back Warren and Sanders campaign events to suss out the differences between the candidates.

A few fervent Sanders supporters told me that Warren's dogged stance on anti-corruption and corporate responsibility made her the only other candidate they'd even consider. And few of these progressive voters said they were considering Biden, even with his lead in state and national polls. Many said he was a last resort; they'd vote for him if he was the Democratic nominee, but they wanted to support a candidate they genuinely believed in during the primary. Others said Biden was a nonstarter.

"Biden is Hillary Clinton dressed up in a man's suit," 80-year-old Sanders supporter Fletcher Manley told me outside a campaign event in Berlin, New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary and second major presidential contest is a crucial contest for Warren and Sanders. For one thing, the two candidates are from neighboring states (Sanders from Vermont and Warren from Massachusetts). It's also high-stakes for Sanders because he won the New Hampshire primary by a historic 152,000 votes in 2016, when he faced off against Clinton. The question is how many of his 2016 supporters he can hang on to, and how many Warren can scoop up.

At one stop in North Conway, a voter asked Sanders point-blank why they should support him over Warren.

"Elizabeth is a friend of mine, and you will make that decision yourself," Sanders replied.

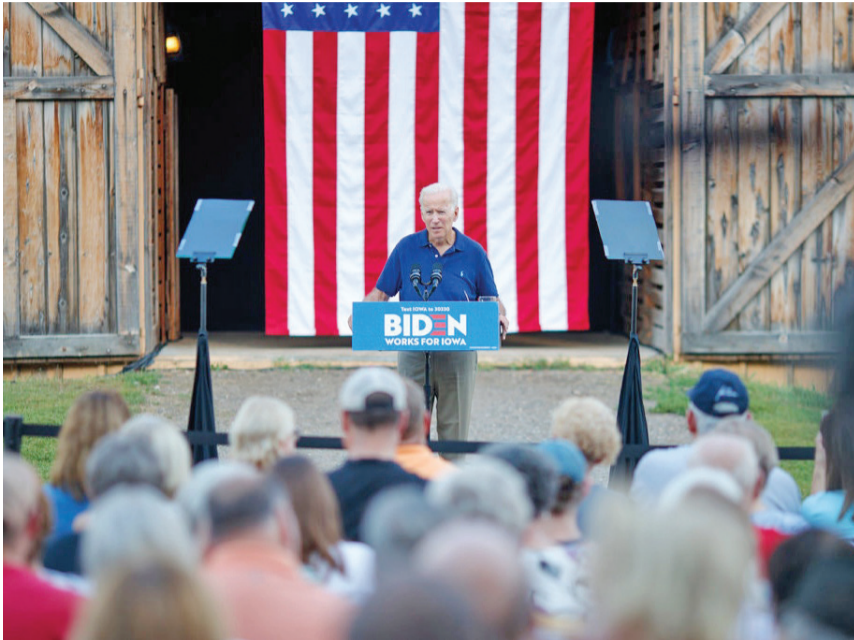
New Hampshire voters still have six months to do so. But many of them know all too well: In order for Sanders and Warren's progressive ideas to win, one of the candidates will eventually have to lose.

A close competition between Sanders and Warren in New Hampshire

In New Hampshire, the competition among these two progressives is fierce — if still largely for second place. Sanders has typically polled a few points ahead of Warren in New Hampshire, and at times has even polled ahead of Biden. But national pollsters have noted a problematic trend for Sanders: He seems to have more of a ceiling on his base, causing some doubts he can expand beyond his fervent core supporters. Warren is still third in most New Hampshire polls but has shown herself more able to grow — nationally, and here in the Granite State too.

"In terms of trajectory, it's all in Warren's favor," said Patrick Murray, director of Monmouth University's Polling Institute. "I think you see it on the ground, Sanders still has his core support, which is huge support, but you don't see him expanding on that. Warren ... you see her drawing out new people at each event."

Because Sanders and Warren's policy positions are so similar, New Hampshire voters are considering a number of other factors not so easily quantifiable when deciding whom



to vote for. Bernie supporters talk about their love for the Vermont senator's passion and longtime advocacy of progressive issues. Warren supporters say they are drawn to her intelligence, relate to her personal story, and appreciate her clear, detailed plans.

"They love Bernie's message, but they can individualize with Elizabeth," said Arnie Arnesen, a progressive radio host and longtime political figure in New Hampshire (Arnesen hasn't endorsed either candidate). "People walk out of a room with Elizabeth and realize she has a plan for me. Not for the generic worker, not for America, for me."

Langkau, the Groveton voter who'd attended both candidates' events, would be personally affected by their proposed policies. A third-year school teacher, she makes \$37,000 per year and is bogged down by \$80,000 in student debt. She likes Sanders's proposal to raise teachers' starting salaries to \$60,000 but also appreciate's Warren's background as a public teacher and her plan to erase student debt for most Americans.

"I want to see what makes them different," Langkau told me. "They've linked themselves together. If they had to separate themselves, how would they do so?"

How New Hampshire voters are choosing between Sanders and Warren

New Hampshire voters gave Bernie Sanders his first big win during his scrappy 2016 run against Hillary Clinton. Sanders's decisive primary victory shocked the political establishment and helped drive lasting momentum for his "political revolution." The 2020 primary is a far cry from the binary choice between the establishment-backed Clinton and the anti-establishment Sanders. With more than 20 Democrats still running, voters are overwhelmed with choices. But a few hardcore Sanders supporters told me the only other candidate they'd consider taking a look at is Elizabeth Warren. "I'm looking at Bernie ... he surprised me, he's on top of his game," said voter Mike Lydon of Lancaster, who voted for Sanders in 2016. Lydon had hopped between a Sanders ice cream social and an outdoor Warren town hall against a picturesque backdrop of New Hampshire's White Mountains.

"I think Elizabeth and Bernie have very similar ideals. She's a dynamic candidate; she's taken on corporate elites," Lydon said.

A Sanders supporter from the senator's home state of Vermont, Richard Balzano, said he thinks Bernie is the only candidate "not held down by corporate responsibility."

Balzano even floated the idea of Sanders running as a third-party candidate if he doesn't win the Democratic nomination. But he also said he'd be open to Warren, even with his lingering frustration that she endorsed Clinton in the 2016 general election (Warren stayed neutral during the primary).

"I would consider Elizabeth Warren if he didn't get the nod," Balzano said.

Bernie supporters like Lydon and Balzano still see Sanders as the truest representative of progressive ideas and the more electable candidate against President Donald Trump. Sanders himself is fond of mentioning head-to-head matchup polls that show him beating Trump in a general election. But importantly, the animosity many Sanders supporters harbored towards Clinton in 2016 just isn't there with Warren, which could give the Massachusetts senator an opening with his base. Progressive voters in New Hampshire are parsing the two candidates' personal narratives, and whom they connect with more. "I'm kind of interested in Elizabeth Warren, but Bernie's forever like this — no wavering," said Sanders supporter Kacey Marsh of Whitefield, New Hampshire. "He cares about the people; he's not corporate. We don't deserve him."

And with a Democratic electorate obsessed with beating Trump, it's worth noting the gendered "electability" concerns dominating 2020 cut both ways. Just as many voters told me they're concerned about Sanders's age (he's 77, compared to Warren's 70) and want to see a woman take on Trump.

"I think he's too old," said Warren supporter Lizzy Berube of Campton, New Hampshire, who added she thinks the same of the 76-year-old Joe Biden. "I think it's time for a woman. Picture Elizabeth Warren on a debate stage with Donald Trump. She will eat him alive."

Other voters said they see Warren's personal story as more relatable. "There's something about Bernie I'm not excited about," said Nashua resident Rory O'Neil. "Warren has that track record. Her personality feels more genuine to me."

One thing's for sure: Sanders and Warren supporters alike told me they're excited by two candidates railing against corporations and corruption, who are not taking PAC money or holding high-dollar fundraisers. The fact there is so much overlap in New Hampshire voters considering both Sanders and Warren speaks to something else: Both campaigns are trying to build a larger progressive movement.

"What they're doing by tag-teaming, they're

enhancing their position, solidifying their solutions, and attracting more people to their base," Arnesen told me. "That's the goal."

For the progressive ideology to win, either Sanders or Warren will eventually have to lose

Though the competition between Sanders and Warren is still friendly, the fact remains that they have many of the same policy ideas and are competing for the same voters. Eventually, those voters will have to make a choice; in order for this progressive agenda to win, one candidate will eventually have to make way for the other.

As the current Democratic frontrunner, Biden is holding on to his lead primarily with an argument about electability: that he is the best candidate to take on Trump and return the country to pre-Trump "normalcy." Sanders and Warren, competing for second place, have a vision for a future that goes beyond that. Both of them have far wider-ranging progressive plans to shape the future of the United States. But with a general election with Trump looming in everyone's minds, is there room for two progressives in this lane?

"They're both very progressive, [but] the only issue that matters to everyone is electability," said voter Nancy Hirschberg of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

Biden's electability message is resonating in New Hampshire, too, but not overwhelmingly — according to RealClearPolitics, he averaged a 1.7 percent lead over Sanders from July to early August. Some New Hampshire progressives think Warren and Sanders can focus on building a movement bigger than either of their respective campaigns.

"I think they can certainly work together, whether intentionally or by virtue of their positioning, to advance a progressive agenda," said New Hampshire immigration attorney Ron Abramson, a Sanders delegate in 2016 who is now supporting Warren. "I don't view them as much as competitive [rather than] collaborative or complementary."

But voters will also eventually have to make a decision, and the race is on. Warren's and Sanders's campaigns are both hard at work in New Hampshire. Warren has established a formidable ground game in the state, texting, calling, and emailing voters after they show up to an event to connect them with organizers. Sanders's state team has mounted a widespread door-knocking campaign to get face time with thousands of New Hampshire voters well before the primary. Voters are taking notice; nearly 35 percent of 500 likely New Hampshire voters polled by Suffolk University said they'd gotten outreach from the Sanders campaign, while nearly 32 said they'd been contacted by Warren's campaign.

As Warren has become known for making herself accessible to voters at events, Sanders has noticeably changed his campaign strategy from the huge rallies of 2016 to small, intimate events where he has a long dialogue with voters. Contrary to recent reports that Sanders is still grumpy and inaccessible, the Vermont senator is clearly trying to shed that image as he mounts his second presidential campaign. Sanders often reminds voters that the very ideas driving the policy debates in 2020 — Medicare-for-all and tuition-free college — were his ideas in 2016, and they were considered "radical." During one of Sanders's campaign stops, a voter asked the senator why he wasn't "calling out" his Democratic opponents for "taking all your ideas."

"I'm not going to call them out, I'm proud of it!" Sanders replied. There's no doubt Sanders has successfully elevated the progressive agenda. But he still wants to be president, and Warren is giving him a run for his

Iran is wooing and winning sympathizers, the U.S. is not

1 → Yet some Western economists think they have an answer to this which, described simply, involves conjuring or printing fiat "money" out of thin air, otherwise known this past decade as "Quantitative Easing" or "QE", which has not resulted in a particularly robust U.S. economy.

Voodoo economists believe the U.S. and the E.U. can get away with money printing to solve fiscal problems and stimulate demand when historically it has never worked for long. Weimar Germany in the 1920s is one stark example where it did not work and where first there was some deflation and then runaway inflation and impoverishment. And the canary in the coal mine? Precious metals which have just begun an historic ascent. The wisest of minds have suggested that gold could be priced at \$10,000 an ounce or more in coming years, which would mark the utter debasement and evisceration of fiat currencies against what has been real "money" for 4000 years.

Against the possible impossibility of further future U.S. overreach and imperialism bolstered by a financial system that appears to be disintegrating, Trump and minions continue to ratchet up threats and sanctions and tariffs against its major trading partners like China and against alleged enemies like Iran, perhaps imagining that at some point the world (China, Iran, etc.) is just going to cave to petulant U.S. demands and do its bidding.

This has to be the gravest mistake of a notion the U.S. has ever imagined. And amidst this madness is the further madness of Trump crowing about comments that he has become the "King of the Jews", the "best President for Israel in the history of the world", that he is the "Chosen One" — and all the while telling American Jews that vote Democratic (as a majority of American Jews have always done) they are "disloyal" Americans...and reaping scorn even from many powerful, established Jews/Zionists inside the U.S.

At bottom here? The Trump Administration seems to be going berserk and Trump himself seems to be almost insane. And it's no secret that aside from cutting corporate and other taxes, especially for the wealthy, and sanctioning other countries wildly, Trump has been primarily Zionist-centric such that his foreign policies are beginning to look like a massive train wreck.

The U.S. has been deploying military force or the threat of it to gain influence and wealth for decades, but longer term this merely creates effective opposition to the so-called "empire" and not merely in the Middle East but globally. Iranians at this point can probably rest easy that the U.S. will not (or cannot) attack Iran militarily, because the result would likely be a regional war (at least) that would spell the end of the American presence through much of the region and collapse the Emirates and Saudi Arabia, too. An attack would also likely result in a global economic disaster as oil and natural gas prices would soar. Thus, one must ask, what good has been all the bluster and sanctions of the Trump gang? What good for the U.S.? So far, no good at all.

And to boot we have the fine spectacle of Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif carefully and studiously traveling the world and presenting Iran's case for more accord and wisdom. It is a complete shame Trump failed to appoint wise counselors to his team and cannot do the same. No doubt Iran's patience may be wearing thin, but it sure has been a quietly effective posture so far that is winning sympathizers steadily.

Western media humiliates detained HK resident

GLOBALTIMES — Simon Cheng Man-kit, an employee of the British Consulate General in Hong Kong, went "missing" during a business trip to Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province. He is a Hong Kong resident, but the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been making noise about it. Western media as well as media from Hong Kong and Taiwan even claimed he was sent to the Chinese mainland and linked his "missing" with the current situation in Hong Kong, throwing mud at the judicial system of the mainland.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed Wednesday that Cheng was under administrative detention in Shenzhen. On Thursday, police in Shenzhen's Luohu district told Global Times that he was detained for violating article 66 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Penalties for Administration of Public Security. The article includes solicitation of prostitutes. It is disgraceful to be caught for soliciting prostitutes. Those who are arrested usually wish to hide the truth. Shenzhen police also told Global Times that it was at the request of Cheng that they did not inform his family. In other words, if the British foreign ministry and Western media did not hype it, Cheng could have quietly returned to Hong Kong after being detained for 15 days.

Cheng must pay the price for violating the law. But it is also understandable that he wants to hide the episode from his family. However, thanks to the British foreign ministry and media which have been hyping it, the case is now fully exposed. From the very beginning, they accused the Chinese mainland for the cause of Cheng's "missing" while highlighting the narrative that his girlfriend had received no information at all from the Chinese mainland, portraying how horrific the mainland's law is. They forced Shenzhen police to reveal the truth.

Those forces are full of prejudice and arrogance against the Chinese mainland. When a person is "missing," they won't even think about whether the man could have violated the law, and immediately pin the blame on the Chinese mainland, without leaving any room for the person concerned to deal with the incident in a low-key manner.

After realizing they messed up, some Hong Kong media resorted to their old tricks, claiming the Chinese mainland's police fabricated the charge of "soliciting prostitutes" against him. Cheng is neither a celebrity nor an active protester. He often visits Shenzhen. Why would Shenzhen police deliberately frame him? When have police from the Chinese mainland ever framed a Hongkonger like that?

The case is an alarm bell to those forces, which are biased and even hostile toward the Chinese mainland's judicial system. Our judicial system is not like how they have imagined and propagated. Handling the cases in accordance with the law is a firm principle that police in the Chinese mainland have followed. If Western media cope with every arrest in the Chinese mainland which involves non-mainlanders with their extreme mind-set, the result will only be a big mistake and a big joke.

Not for sale

TEHRAN (FNA) — A week ago an unusual report surfaced that President of the United States Donald Trump had seriously contemplated purchasing the autonomous country of Greenland from Denmark.

When Copenhagen's leadership rejected Trump's proposal as "absurd" — the White House today responded by lashing out at the Scandinavian country and postponing a scheduled presidential visit in the next two weeks, as if to imply the entire visit was premised upon a deal to purchase the territory (despite a denial by the US State Department). Trump then proceeded to attack the country for inadequate military spending and demanded they pay more towards their NATO obligations than to simply rely on "American protection." In the meanwhile, the world largely stood shocked and stunned at the president's comments, with many analysts branding it a dark day for American diplomacy.

What is behind Trump's newly found obsession with buying Greenland? It's time to recognize that as ridiculous as it sounds, this is no joke. His initial remarks did not find their way into the press by accident or coincidence. Instead, his comments are

a direct declaration of American strategic intent, even if the methods are his own. America has a history of territorial expansion, and seeking to confront Russia and China, the United States wants to increase its own strategic and military supremacy over the Arctic Circle.

To do this, the direct incorporation of Greenland as a territory of the United States would consolidate US hegemony over the Northern Hemisphere. Given this, it seems if such is not possible the President's follow up demands that Denmark increase its military spending is an attempt to substitute for such by extending the power of the NATO alliance. Either way, what otherwise seems ridiculous embodies some very serious goals — and those can't be dismissed.

The idea of the United States acquiring territory to consolidate hegemony over regions of the world is not as unusual as it looks; in fact such constitutes the entire history of that country until the 1950s. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, American leaders sought to persistently expand their country from the Atlantic to the Pacific under the mantra of "Manifest Destiny" — both purchasing and forcefully annexing territory in the process.

The vision was coupled with the "Monroe Doctrine," which designated the US as the only rightful power in the Americas.

Thomas Jefferson would purchase the enormous land of Louisiana from France and then later Alaska from the Russian Empire; it would fight a war against Mexico and seize what are now California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Even beyond its shores, it would annex Hawaii, the Philippines and many more territories in the Pacific, all of which purposefully laid the foundations of global American power.

Thus, in the age of "Make America Great Again" — a president as unconventional and seemingly obsessed with reasserting US hegemony of Trump has been happy to rekindle the old dream of expanding territory for strategic and military purposes. A handful of observers have noted that the Arctic Circle is becoming a new military flash point in America's bid to uphold military hegemony against countries it deems "challengers" including Russia and China.

This scenario makes the island of Greenland, freezing and home to only 50,000 inhabitants, an extremely strategic location. There is evidence America is taking

the island's position seriously. Last year, the US State Department blocked China from financing three civilian airports in the region, claiming they were for "military purposes."

Thus the idea that Trump aspires to acquire the island for the United States and militarize it accordingly is by no means unreasonable in his strategic calculus, even if the idea is a non-starter. Denmark on its own does not have the resources or capabilities to make it useful on behalf of NATO, which is why Trump likely hit out at them over military spending.

Given this, we should interpret Trump's recent behavior and moves regarding Denmark as serious. It all sounds a bit silly, but the American interest in acquiring Greenland in pursuance of their own bid to maintain worldwide military supremacy is not a joke. American history is defined almost solely by territorial expansion for strategic ends. It may have fallen dormant, but Trump has very much rekindled an old flame for strategic ends. This illustrates as a whole just how far this administration is willing to go to reassert unilateral hegemony over the world — even if that means disappointing old allies

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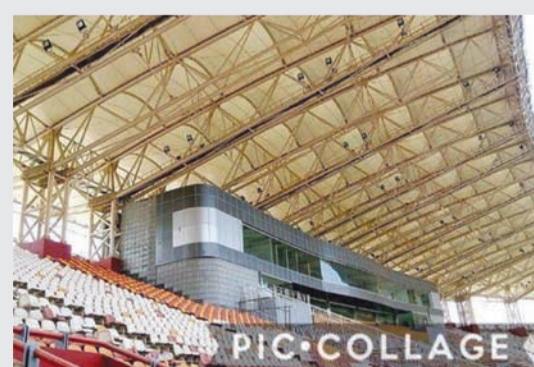
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Hubble captures image of dynamic star death

NASA and the European Space Agency on Friday released an image of a dying star that the agencies said confounded astronomers when they first studied it.

The NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope image released this week was thought to be a picture of two separate objects, when in fact the objects are one star that has separated into two lobes.

While they were recorded by astronomers

as separate planetary bodies the two lobes form something called a planetary nebula.

The nebula NGC 2371/2 formed when a star started to die, pushing its outer layers out into space, leaving a stellar remnant behind. In the picture, the two lobes of material can be seen in the upper right and lower left corners, with the superheated stellar remnant roughly equidistant between them.



Scientists at ESA say the star's remnants will continue to change over the next several thousand years, with the lobes eventually dissipating and the remnant cooling to become a white dwarf star. (Source: UPI)

Second exoplanet found around a curious star

Astronomers have discovered a second exoplanet hiding out in an intriguing star system.

The Beta Pictoris system is 63.4 light-years from Earth. The star is very bright, and it's surrounded by a giant disk made of dust, gas and debris -- the leftovers of its formation. The star is also twice the mass of our sun.

To astronomers, this 23 million-year-old star is quite young. Studying Beta Pictoris for the past 30 years has allowed them to watch the process of a planetary system as it forms around the star.

In 2009, the star was discovered to be orbited by a giant gas planet dubbed Beta Pictoris b. The planet is seven times more massive than Jupiter and orbits its star at the same distance as Saturn orbits our sun, though Beta Pictoris b orbits within the debris disk.

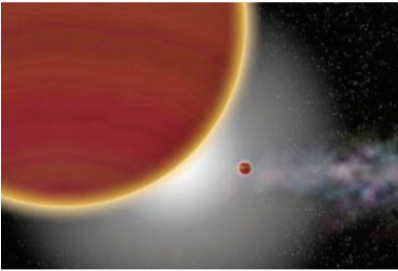
Now, a second giant planet has been found around the star by the same team that found the first. The study detailing the discovery was published Monday in the journal Nature Astronomy.

The second planet, named Beta Pictoris c, has a mass nine times that of Jupiter. It completes a single orbit around the star once every 1,200 Earth days. And it's much closer to the star than Beta Pictoris b.

In order to find this new planet, the research team analyzed more than 10 years of data gathered at the European Southern Observatory's La Silla Observatory by the HARPS instrument. HARPS, or High Accuracy Radial velocity Planet Searcher, is dedicated to the search for exoplanets, the name for planets outside our solar system.

Although many exoplanets are discovered using the transit method, in which dips in light as a planet crosses its star in orbit reveal information about the planet, Beta Pictoris c was found in a different way.

The radial velocity method is more based on gravity and the Doppler effect,



in which light increases or decreases in frequency as a source and observed object move toward or away from each other. Stars don't remain completely still when they are orbited by planets; they move in small circles as a response to the pull of gravity from the planets.

These movements change the light wavelength of the star, going between red and blue depending on the location of the planet. Tracing the shifts can help astronomers find planets. And this is the first time a planet has been found around a star like this, according to the researchers.

This year, NASA's planet-hunting satellite TESS spotted three comets orbiting the Beta Pictoris star as well.

"Beta Pictoris had been thought to host exocomets for three decades from a different technique, and the TESS data provide long overdue and independent evidence for their existence. Our next aim is to find similar signatures around other stars, and this discovery shows that TESS is up to the task," said Grant Kennedy, author of the comet study with the University of Warwick Physics Department.

The Beta Pictoris system is a favorite of astronomers'. The first exoplanet found there was one of the first to be directly imaged. And it provided some of the first evidence of exoplanets before they were actually discovered.

(Source: CNN)

This is the most massive star ever destroyed by a supernova

The explosions of stars are some of the most stunning and powerful phenomena seen in the universe. But a recently observed supernova clashes with the models for the death of massive stars.

In November 2016, the European Space Agency's Gaia satellite spotted something intriguing. Astronomers used follow-up observations over the past three years in an attempt to understand what they saw.

Supernova SN2016iet challenged their expectations, and now, astronomers believe that it's the remnants of the most massive star to be destroyed by a supernova, according to a study published Thursday in The Astrophysical Journal.

The supernova has a large amount of energy, long duration, unexpected chemical signatures and a metal-poor environment. That doesn't match up with anything astronomers have observed before.

"When we first realized how thoroughly unusual SN2016iet is my reaction was 'whoa -- did something go horribly wrong with our data?'" said lead study author Sebastian Gomez, a Harvard University graduate student. "After a while we determined that SN2016iet is an incredible mystery, located in a previously uncatalogued galaxy one billion light years from Earth."

Multiple telescopes were used to observe the supernova, including the Magellan Telescopes at Las Campanas Observatory in Chile and the Center for Astrophysics Harvard and Smithsonian's MMT Observatory in Arizona.

"Everything about this supernova looks different -- its change in brightness with time, its spectrum, the galaxy it is located in, and even where it's located within its galaxy, said study co-author Edo Berger, a Harvard University astronomy professor. "We sometimes see supernovas that are unusual in one respect, but otherwise are normal; this one is unique in every possible way."

Before the explosion, the star was 200 times the mass of our sun. Astronomers believe it formed by itself 54,000 light-years from



the center of a dwarf galaxy, which is also mysterious.

In terms of a star's life, this one was short. It lasted only a few million years, losing 85% of its mass over that time. Then, when the star exploded, the debris collided with the material the star had shed over time, creating the strange appearance of the supernova that's visible to astronomers today.

"The idea of pair-instability supernovas has been around for decades," Berger said. "But finally having the first observational example that puts a dying star in the right regime of mass, with the right behavior, and in a metal-poor dwarf galaxy is an incredible step forward. SN2016iet represents the way in which the most massive stars in the universe, including the first stars, die."

Astronomers have yet to find the first stars because none of them probably exist anymore, exploding in supernovas to populate the universe with heavy elements. Studying this supernova can inform astronomers about what those stars were like and how they died.

The astronomers will continue observing this supernova to learn more about how it formed and how it could change in the future.

"Most supernovas fade away and become invisible against the glare of their host galaxies within a few months. But because SN2016iet is so bright and so isolated we can study its evolution for years to come," Gomez said. "These observations are already in progress and we can't wait to see what other surprises this supernova has in store for us."

(Source: CNN)

Turbulent storm clouds disrupt Jupiter's colorful appearance

Jupiter's turbulent beauty comes from its wild atmosphere full of storms, artfully swirling clouds and big bands of color wrapping around the gas giant. But astronomers wanted to understand what's happening beneath those thick clouds to cause the storms and eruptions.

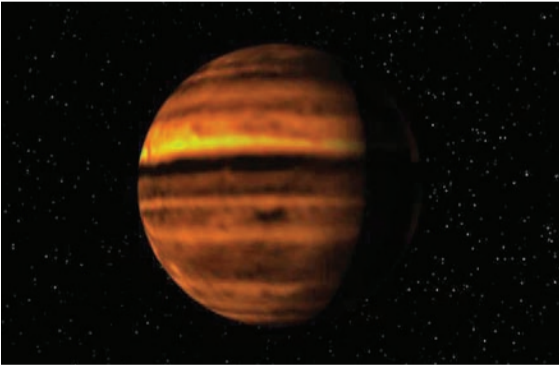
Astronomers used six ground-based telescopes and NASA's Hubble Space Telescope in January 2017 to capture views of Jupiter in visible light and radio waves.

Jupiter's atmosphere is made up of hydrogen and helium, two of the most abundant elements in the universe, with a sprinkling of methane, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and water.

The telescopes were able to provide a unique view all the way down to 31 miles above the cloud deck. The top cloud layer is ammonia ice, followed by a layer of solid ammonium hydrosulfide particles. The visibly stunning belts of white and brown zones are due to variations in composition. Below this upper cloud deck is a liquid water cloud layer.

The observations were included in a study that has been accepted for publication in the Astronomical Journal.

"ALMA enabled us to make a three-dimensional map of the distribution of ammonia gas below the clouds. And for the first time, we were able to study the atmosphere below the ammonia cloud layers after an energetic eruption on Jupiter," said Imke de Pater, study author and professor



emerita of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley.

They were able to track the storms inside Jupiter's colorful belts, much like we track them on Earth, and realized the storms create plumes above the ammonia ice clouds. These appear as bright points on the planet's colorful belts. The storms also contained lightning. When the storm clouds reach the coldest part of the atmosphere, they spread out like cumulonimbus clouds that cause lightning and thunder on Earth.

The bright plumes create disruptions in the belts that can last for months or even years.

"If these plumes are vigorous and continue to have convective events, they may disturb one of these entire bands over time, though it may take a few months," de Pater said. "With these observations, we see one plume in progress and the aftereffects of the others."

The observations occurred when an amateur astronomer named Phil Miles in Australia spied an eruption on the South Equatorial Belt, first as a small bright plume that was followed by a larger disruption in the belt that lasted for weeks.

The Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array in Chile captured the view of the atmosphere below the plumes in radio waves, which was compared to other visible light and infrared images captured by other telescopes simultaneously.

"Our ALMA observations are the first to show that high concentrations of ammonia gas are brought up during an energetic eruption," said de Pater. "This led us to confirm the current theory that energetic plumes are triggered by moist convection at the base of water clouds, which are located deep in the atmosphere. The plumes bring up ammonia gas from deep in the atmosphere to high altitudes, well above the main ammonia cloud deck."

(Source: CNN)

Quantum physicists have teleported 'qutrits' for the first time

Regular old quantum teleportation wasn't enough for scientists. So they've kicked it up a notch.

Previously, physicists had teleported qubits, or quantum bits of information. Just as a standard bit in a desktop computer has two possible values, 0 or 1, a qubit has two possible states. Now scientists have moved on, reporting in the Aug. 16 Physical Review Letters that they've teleported qutrits, which have three possible states. Both qubits and qutrits have the weird quantum property of being able to exist in multiple states at once. But while a qubit can represent 0 and 1 at the same time, a qutrit can be a combination of 0, 1 and 2.

In quantum teleportation, rather than sending objects from one place to another in Star Trek fashion, the properties of a quantum particle are transferred to another, distant particle. Until now, those properties could only be binary. For example, a particle of light, or photon, could be made

to take one of two paths through a device -- or both at once -- and the information about which paths the particle took could be transferred to another particle.

In the new study, the team teleported the properties of photons that had three possible states: The particles could have taken three different paths -- or all three at once. Because qutrits carry more information than qubits, the technique could be a boon for quantum communication. Scientists are preparing for a future quantum internet that would use quantum particles to securely send information.

Researchers have also previously teleported two different properties of a particle at once. By improving and combining these techniques, scientists might eventually be able to completely reproduce a particle in another location.

(Source: sciencenews.org)



Helping NASA spacecraft travel faster and farther with math

By combining cutting-edge machine learning with 19th-century mathematics, a Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) mathematician is working to make NASA spacecraft lighter and more damage tolerant by developing methods to detect imperfections in carbon nanomaterials used to make composite rocket fuel tanks and other spacecraft structures.

Randy Paffenroth, associate professor of mathematical sciences, computer science, and data science, has a multi-part mission in this research project. Using machine learning, neural networks, and an old mathematical equation, he has developed an algorithm that will significantly enhance the resolution of density scanning systems that are used to detect flaws in carbon nanotube materials. Higher resolution scans provide more accurate images (nine times "super resolution") of the material's uniformity, detecting imperfections in Miralon materials -- a strong, lightweight, flexible nanomaterial produced by Nanocomp Technologies, Inc.

Miralon yarns, which can be as thin as a human hair, can be wrapped around structures like rocket fuel tanks, giving them the strength to withstand high pressures. Imperfections and variations in thickness can cause weak spots in the yarn and the resulting composite. Paffenroth, with a team of graduate students, is analyzing data from the manufacturing process to help ensure a more consistent end product.

Nanocomp uses a modified commercial "basis weight" scanning system that scans the nanomaterial for mass uniformity and imperfections, creating a visual image of density; Paffenroth and his team are using machine learning to train algorithms to increase the resolution of the images, allowing the machine to detect more minute variations in the material. They have developed a unique mathematical "compressed sensing / super resolution" algorithm that has increased the resolution by nine times.

Built with the Python programming language and based on an artificial neural network, the algorithm was "trained" on thousands of sets of nanomaterial images in which Paffenroth had already identified and located flaws. He essentially gave the algorithm a series of practice tests where he already knew the answers (known as "ground truth"). Then, he gave it other tests without the answers. "I give it a sheet of material. I know the imperfections going in but the algorithm doesn't. If it finds those imperfections, I can trust its accuracy," said Paffenroth.



To make the machine learning algorithm more effective at making a high-resolution image out of a low-resolution image, he combined it with the Fourier Transform, a mathematical tool devised in the early 1800s that can be used to break down an image into its individual components.

"We take this fancy, cutting-edge neural network and add in 250-year-old mathematics and that helps the neural network work better," said Paffenroth. "The Fourier Transform makes creating a high-resolution image a much easier problem by breaking down the data that makes up the image. Think of the Fourier Transform as a set of eyeglasses for the neural network. It makes blurry things clear to the algorithm. We're taking computer vision and virtually putting glasses on it."

"It's exciting to use this combination of modern machine learning and classic math for this kind of work," he added.

Paffenroth's work is funded by an \$87,353 grant WPI received from Nanocomp Technologies, a New Hampshire-based subsidiary of Huntsman Corporation that makes advanced carbon-nanotube materials for aerospace, defense, and the automotive industry. WPI is a sub-contractor to Nanocomp, which received an \$8.1 million contract from NASA to advance its carbon nanotube sheets and yarns.

Miralon has already been proven in space. For instance, it was wrapped around structural supports in NASA's Juno probe orbiting the planet Jupiter to help a challenging problem with vibration damping and static discharge. NASA has also used Miralon nanomaterials to make and test prototypes of new carbon composite pressure vessels, the precursors to next generation rocket fuel tanks. NASA spacecraft will need that added strength and durability as they travel farther from home and deeper into space.

As part of its current NASA contract, Nanocomp is trying to make Miralon yarns that are three times stronger, and the work by Paffenroth's team is a big part of making that happen.

(Source: Science Daily)

'Crazy cat ladies' do not exist, scientists say

The stereotypical "cat lady" does not really exist, a new study suggests.

Scientists investigating people's emotional responses to "distress vocalisations" in cats and dogs -- miaowing and whimpering -- also compared the prevalence of anxiety and depression in pet owners.

The findings confounded their hypothesis that cat owners would show greater symptoms than dog owners or people who did not have pets, they reported in Royal Society Open Science.

In addition, people who said they experienced symptoms of depression or anxiety did not differ significantly in how negative they thought the animal noises sounded from those who did not have those symptoms, researchers found.

Overall, dog whines were rated as more sad-sounding than cats' miaows, scientists said.

Pet owners rated a given distress sound as more negative than people who did not keep animals, while cat owners rated plaintive miaows as markedly more negative than the other groups.

The authors wrote: "Stereotypically, cat owners are viewed as lonely, more emotional, and more depressed than dog-owners."

"A pet charity reported that about 50 per cent of the Americans surveyed believed various long-standing stereotypes about cat owners, especially the 'cat lady' image."

"We found no evidence to support the 'cat lady' stereotype: cat-owners did not differ from others on self-reported symptoms of depression, anxiety or their experiences in close relationships."

"Our findings, therefore, do not fit with the notion of cat owners as more depressed, anxious or alone."

(Source: The Independent)

32nd national crafts exhibit opens today in Tehran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Crafters and artisans from every corner of Iran are scheduled to promote skills in the 32nd national crafts exhibition, which opens today at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, Mehr reported.



Running through August 31, the sales exhibit features arrays of personal ornamentation, woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, handwoven textile, calligraphy, traditional musical instrument, metalwork, and marquetry to name a few.

Nomadic everyday life, culinary arts, live workshops and regional rituals and performances are among the common themes for the event.

The organizers have been intended to promote handicrafts, which are more practical in everyday life a motto of embedding traditional handicrafts in modern homes.

Over the past couple of years, dozens of high-quality Iranian handicrafts have been honored with UNESCO seals of excellence.

Norfolk scheme brings ancient wildflower meadows back to life

There is something back to front about the idyllic scene on a meadow south of Norwich. Hay is normally gathered in, but this freshly cut, sweet-smelling grass is being carefully forked across a field.

The hay, harvested from nearby roadside verges, is spread to scatter the seeds contained within it, part of an innovative scheme to restore natural flower-rich meadows and reverse losses. More than 97% of Britain's wildflower meadows have vanished since the 1930s.

Rather than using commercial wildflower seed mixes, the seed-rich hay is cut from nearby flower-rich roadside verges – which ironically are often the last remaining fragments of ancient meadows – and applied to new fields belonging to landowners keen to restore lost meadows.

The following year, seeds of rare flowers including sulphur clover, spiny rest harrow and burnet saxifrage, germinate in the new fields, creating “natural” wildflower meadows.

The restoration scheme, a partnership between Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), a charity run by farmers, uses hay taken from 112 roadside verges managed as nature reserves by Norfolk county council, which ensures the flower-rich edges are only cut later in the year after flowers have set seed.

“The roadside nature reserves across south Norfolk are particularly rich in quite unusual species,” said Helen Baczowska of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. “Because of the decline in wildflower meadows, they only exist on these roadside nature reserves. This is how we can take these species and create some new meadows so they have a more secure future.”

(Source: The Guardian)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration

The solitary, often snow-capped Mount Fuji (Fujisan), rising above villages and tree-fringed sea and lakes, has inspired artists and poets and been the object of pilgrimage for centuries. Fujisan is a solitary strato-volcano, around 100 km south-west of Tokyo that rises to 3,776 meters in height. The base of its southern slopes extends to the sea shores of Suruga Bay.



The awe that Fujisan's majestic form and intermittent volcanic activity has inspired was transformed into religious practices that linked Shintoism and Buddhism, people and nature, and symbolic death and re-birth, with worship ascents and descents to and from the summit, formalized in routes and around shrines and lodging houses at the foot of the mountain.

And the almost perfect, snow-capped conical form of Fujisan inspired artists in the early 19th century to produce images that transcended cultures, allowed the mountain to be known around the world, and had a profound influence on the development of Western art.

From ancient times, pilgrims carrying a long staff, set off from the compounds of the Sengenjinja shrines at the foot of the mountain to reach the crater at its summit where it was believed that the Shinto deity, Asama no Okami resided.

From the 14th century, artists created large numbers of images of Fujisan and between the 17th to the 19th century, its form became a key motif not only in paintings but also in literature, gardens, and other crafts.

(Source: UNESCO)

More foreign tourists spectate religious rituals while in Yazd

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Over the past couple of years, religious rituals have attracted more foreign travelers as spectators to Iran's Yazd province. CHTN reported on Saturday.

A total of 1,235 tourists from 22 countries attended religious services in Yazd during the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), showing a 39 percent growth year on year, head of a provincial committee for religious tourism said.

“Most tourists traveling to Iran are culturally-motivated and they usually have heard about [the country's] religion and culture in advance,” Mohammad-Mehdi Rajaeifard said.

“Such travelers are typically interested in gaining further information on religious beliefs and cultural customs in the [host] community during their journeys,” Rajaeifard explained.

Foreign tourists, who are attending such rituals, could be regarded as Iran's “cultural ambassadors” after returning home. They are able to change attitudes of other people towards Iranian culture and people.

Last year, spiritual tourism in Yazd, hosted people from France, Germany, Belgium, China, Turkey, Russia, the Netherlands, Brazil, Switzerland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, the UK, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Romania, Australia and Thailand, according to previous reports by provincial tourism department.

The sightseers attended various ceremonies such as Muharram commemorations, Tazieh (a passion play inspired by historical and religious narrations) and Sineh-Zani (beating the chest). They also conversed with people and religious figures while taking shots of



mourners to document the events.

The number of foreign travelers visiting the central province surged 29 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) from a year earlier, according to provincial tourism chief.

“A total of 51,718 foreign nationals toured the province during the four-month period, which shows a 29 percent growth year on year,” Homa Khorshidi said in August.

A majority of the visitors were from Ita-

ly, Germany, France, China and Spain, the official added.

In July 2017, historical structure of the city of Yazd, which is the capital of Yazd province, was named a UNESCO World Heritage. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains. Its historical structure enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Malayer may become Iran's next world city of woodcarving

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — The World Crafts Council - Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) is to assess Malayer for possible inscription as a world city of woodcarving, a title granted to Abyaneh in 2018.

Located in west-central Hamedan province, Malayer has long been a hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. It has recently played host to a woodcarving festival which came to an end on August 21.

WCC-APR will soon assess Malayer to be a world city of woodcarving and the result is expected to be announced

in the month of Mehr (September 23-October 22), Pouya Mahmoudian, a tourism ministry official in charge of handicrafts, said at the closing ceremony of the festival.

The WCC-APR has so far designated several Iranian cities and villages such as Mashhad, Lalejin, Isfahan, Tabriz and Kalpourgan as world crafts hubs.

Handicrafts exports form the Islamic Republic reached \$289 million in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended March 20), showing three percent growth year on year, Mahmoudian said in June.

Chinese, Hong Kong travel agencies to launch fam tour across Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — A group of travel marketers and tour operators form southern China and Hong Kong will soon launch a weeklong familiarization tour across Iran with the aim of acquainting with its tourist destinations.

The group, which is composed of managers of 15 travel agencies, is scheduled to visit Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd, Kerman and Tehran in the span of September 3 to 10, Mehr reported on Saturday.

The fam tour is organized by Iran's tourism ministry, which had conducted similar excursion program for other Chinese travel marketers earlier this year.



A view of the Jameh mosque of Isfahan in central Iran

Iran regards East Asia as a new market for its budding tourism industry as

under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the Islamic Republic is expecting to increase

its foreign arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million. The country is expected to attract one million Chinese in the near future through the visa waiver program for Chinese tourists.

The Iranian government has recently waived visa requirements for the Chinese and Hongkongers aiming to attract more foreign tourists to the country; however, it is a unilateral measure i.e. Iranian tourists visiting China or Hong Kong still need visas.

Over 100 million Chinese tourists traveled abroad during 2017, with Japan, Hong Kong, the U.S., South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Vietnam, and France among their top destinations.

Tourism hotspot Barcelona alarmed by crime surge

A surge in muggings and burglaries in Barcelona, mainly targeting tourists, has sparked alarm in Spain's second-largest city, leading local residents to form their own crime-fighting patrols.

The U.S. consulate in Barcelona on Wednesday warned its nationals of “an increase in violent crime in the city” and urged them not to “display signs of wealth such as wearing expensive jewelry or watches”.

The alert came just days after Afghanistan's ambas-

sador to Spain was lightly injured in a group mugging to steal his watch in the city center, and a 91-year-old French woman was hospitalized after thieves yanked her necklace, causing her to fall.

Barcelona, a European tourist hotspot, has recorded eight murders since July, an unusually high number for the Mediterranean seaside city, and in June a visiting South Korean public servant died from injuries she suffered during a mugging.

The city's hotel association has warned that Barcelona's reputation could be “seriously harmed”.

Albert Batlle, Barcelona's deputy mayor in charge of security, acknowledged there was a “security crisis” but called for a “calm and responsible analysis” of the problem.

Thefts and violent robberies in Barcelona, a city of 1.6 million residents, jumped by 28 percent between 2016 and 2018, according to police figures.

(Source: Yahoo News)

How the Airbus A380 redefined luxury travel

The A380 is a king among airplanes. It's the biggest commercial jet ever built and is operated by some of the most high profile airlines around the world. Whether it's flying transatlantic, transpacific or on a 40-minute hop, a flight on the A380 brings us a new level of sky-high luxury that's just not possible on other planes.

Since its launch over a decade ago, more than 500,000 commercial flights have been operated using the A380, with more than 190m passengers enjoying the experience. But what makes flying on the Airbus A380 so very special?

■ **What's so luxurious about the A380?**

There's one thing that the A380 has that other aircraft do not, and that's space. Its massive double-decker cabins offer additional capacity and opportunities to design in features not often seen in aviation. In fact, due to weight restrictions, it's almost necessary for airlines to think of something to do with the excess of space as they can't simply pack the aircraft with seats.

As well as the luxurious touches and unusual

features, the A380 has some key engineering features which make flying on it a top experience. Air quality on the A380 is better than on many other aircraft, thanks to advanced filtration equipment and built-in humidifying technology. Like the Dreamliner, it also maintains air pressure at a lower altitude than the aircraft flies, reducing fatigue and jetlag.

Comparing a flight on the A380 to one on a smaller aircraft is akin to comparing a voyage on a cruise ship to one on a passenger ferry. Its large size and heavy weight means the effects of turbulence are dampened, making for a smoother, more comfortable ride. However, that doesn't mean that turbulence doesn't affect the A380, only that small pockets of disruption are less likely to be felt.

■ **The most luxurious touches on the A380**

With all that additional space to play with, some airlines have gone above and beyond in making their A380s unique. From gigantic first class bathrooms to real double beds, the chances of encountering something really

unusual, particularly in the premium cabins, are many. Some of our favorites include:

The Residence at Etihad: The Abu Dhabi carrier is well known for luxury travel, and it doesn't come more premium than The Residence on board its A380s. With a living area, a separate bedroom and an ensuite bathroom with a shower, you might find yourself wondering if you're on a plane or in your hotel room already! It's the only three room suite in the skies, and has to be the ultimate in luxury at 40,000 feet.

First Class suites at Singapore Airlines: Pioneered by Etihad, Singapore Airlines has perfected the 1-1 layout and spacious luxury of first class suites. Their individual cabins have luxurious armchairs, sliding privacy doors and a chaise longue. Adjacent suites can be combined to create a double room for couples traveling together, and meals are served up on real Wedgwood bone china.

Emirates on board bar: Back in the 60s, bars on planes were nothing unusual, and some even had pianos in the on board dining rooms. However, all that went away, until



that is Emirates got their hands on the A380. While the Dubai carrier didn't install a piano, they did add an onboard bar for premium passengers. Emirates aren't the only airline to bring us a bar either; you can also find this facility on board Korean, Etihad and Qatar.

Emirates on board shower spa: Emirates has two shower suites on the A380's upper deck, one on each side. These rooms are surprisingly spacious, larger perhaps than some of our bathrooms back home! With heated floors and piping hot water, this has to be the epitome of luxury flying.

(Source: simpleflying.com)

New Iranian e-commerce symbolizes resilience in face of sanctions: ICT minister

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi has said that new Iranian e-commerce symbolizes the country's resilience in the face of sanctions imposed by the Trump administration.

"Today we have startups focusing on e-payment and online taxis like Uber, which are making significant progress in the field," Jahromi said in an interview with NBC News on Thursday. "The sanctions made the Iranian people more self-reliant, to be able to develop things on their own that they might not otherwise be able to get," he said.

Jahromi and other officials also say digital technology is crucial to the country's economic future, especially as sanctions imposed by the



U.S. have slashed revenues from oil exports.

In May, the Iranian Strategic Technologies Center announced that over 6,500 startups are now active in Iran. The Iranian startup ecosystem is one of the biggest ones in the southwestern Asia and will turn into the most powerful economies in the near future.

■ Restriction on social media is counterproductive

As an avid Twitter user, Azari Jahromi told NBC News that restrictions on social media were counterproductive, undermining Iran's political and economic interests.

"My very good use of Twitter indicates that I don't believe in its use being limited or prohibited," he said.

"We have to admit the fact that we have weakness in this field [social media]," Jahromi concluded.

Iranian researchers build insulator cleaning robotic arm

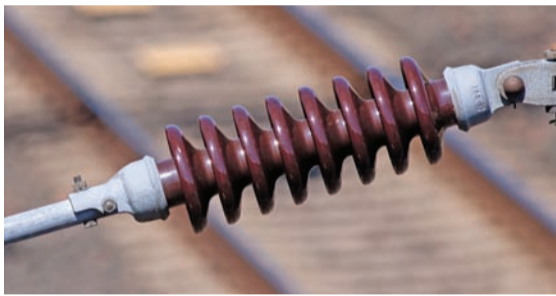
TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** – A team of researchers at Tehran's Amir Kabir University of Technology have designed and manufactured a robotic arm for removing pollutants from the surfaces of the double umbrella type porcelain insulators. Mehr reported on Saturday.

Cleaning the polluted insulators of the overhead high voltage power lines has been one of the problems for the power transmission network during recent years, Amir Kabir University faculty member Amir Abolfazl Souratgar told Mehr.

He pointed to power failure in southwestern Khuzestan province and a number of western provinces due to sand and dust storm in January 2015 due to polluted insulators.

The robotic arm is able to clean insulators at higher speed and precision in comparison with other methods, he said, adding that it can work at high temperatures of up to about 60 centigrade and at low temperatures of around minus 40 centigrade as well as during high humidity and other bad climate conditions.

According to semanticscholar.com, exposed porcelain insulator strings need regular cleaning to prevent power failures caused by flashovers from occurring. Live-line cleaning of insulators using robot technology is an alternative and novel approach to removing the contaminants on the surfaces of the insulator.



Who gets to own your digital identity?

"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog," was stated in the legendary New York Times cartoon that captured the spirit of privacy and anonymity in the early days of the internet. Even though anonymity is still a hot topic and sought after in the online world, times have changed. With the rise of online banking, social media, e-commerce and peer-to-peer services, a verified digital identity is a crucial ingredient in making any digital platform succeed.

Banking is one of the areas where the ability to verify one's identity in a secure and compliant manner is a prerequisite to access basic services. Looking at the unbanked population of the world today, it is estimated that as many as 1.5 billion people lack access to everyday banking services due to their inability to prove their identity through a valid birth certificate, passport, proof of residency through utility bill or some other means to fulfill traditional KYC procedures.

In addition to accessing digital banking, most of us also have verified our identity through a plethora of services like Google, Facebook, Blizzard and the list goes on, through various means of identity verification that make up an interlinked web of interdependencies, where one of your identities vouch for your eligibility to access another service. Two-factor authentication or biometric identification often rely on your mobile phone, and when you choose to log in with Facebook, you authorize Facebook to represent you online. While this is often convenient for easy and quick access to the latest mobile app you want to try out, you are paying a price by allowing Facebook to share and sell not only your data but also your digital identity.

However, your digital identity is more than your login credentials. This is merely the authentication that connects you with the digital you. Your digital identity consists of thousands of data points that make up a profile of who you are and your preferences. Today, your digital identity is scattered all over the internet, where Facebook owns our social identity, retailers own our shopping patterns, credit agencies hold our creditworthiness, Google knows what we have been curious of since the dawn of the internet and your bank owns your payment history. As a result, we are all analyzed in detail to predict our future behavior and monetize our digital identities.

A verified digital identity is a crucial ingredient in making any digital platform succeed.

Not only do we lack ownership of our own data,



but our fragmented digital identities where various third parties own bits and pieces only gives part of the picture, and also proposes vulnerabilities for those third parties. As an example, fraudsters have started to take advantage of this in countries with no national identifier by creating synthetic digital identities by signing up digital services and applying for credit. Even though the initial credit application is rejected, a credit file is automatically created, thus creating a digital paper trail for a non-existing person. With approximately 10 million new consumer credit files generated in the U.S. each year, synthetic identities can be very difficult to detect. Over time, these synthetic identities gain access to credit, and bank losses due to synthetic fraud are estimated to amount for somewhere between \$1 billion and \$2 billion each year.

In the wake of numerous exposures of how our data is exploited, with Cambridge Analytica as the most notable example, privacy becomes an increasing concern for the public, as well. Apple seeks to leverage this attention to digital privacy by taking a radically different approach than their counterparts with "sign in with Apple," where privacy is the main selling point for using their service instead of Google and Facebook.

Blockchain is often proposed as the silver bullet to solve all our digital identity needs, something that has caught the attention of Mark Zuckerberg that addresses what he sees as the pros and cons of a decentralized approach to digital identity. As Facebook represents a quintessential man in the middle, losing ownership of all our identities is most likely the biggest con of a decentralized approach to digital identity in the eyes of Zuckerberg.

With the upcoming launch of Facebook's cryptocurrency,

Libra, the company has the potential to further strengthen its position as a leading provider of a global digital identity solution. Often overlooked with most of the attention directed toward the cryptocurrency, many point to the decentralized identity associated with Libra as the most interesting aspect of Facebook's plans. A passage hidden away near the bottom of the documentation states: "An additional goal of the association is to develop and promote an open identity standard. We believe that decentralized and portable digital identity is a prerequisite to financial inclusion and competition."

There is too much at stake when it comes to our digital identities to remain unvigilant.

A consolidated and verified digital identity would be beneficial to both users and providers of digital services. However, allowing Facebook or The Libra Association to be the custodian of our consolidated digital identity is a sinister trail for the future of both privacy and democracy.

On the other hand, the Holy Grail of decentralized identity, often named a self-sovereign identity, has its weaknesses, namely ourselves as human beings. We tend to be forgetful, and sometimes downright unreliable. Letting users keep the only key to access their digital identities is a recipe for disaster the moment someone forgets their password or pass away. There is nobody to call and no Forgot Password button to reclaim the ownership of the identity.

It is difficult to envision a future of digital identity without relying on some kind of identity custodian that maintains a verified connection between your physical and digital self, ensures that no data is used without consent, monitors malicious behavior and provides user support in case of a lost key. This is far from an easy solution and should be provided by a regulated entity. One thing is for sure, such a solution relies on trust and must give the end user full ownership of their own data, similar to data portability under GDPR.

There is too much at stake when it comes to our digital identities to remain unvigilant of what is going on, as shown numerous times through both data breaches where our personal data is compromised and manipulation of public opinion through social media.

No matter which technology or appointed custodian we deploy to solve this, our identities should belong to we the people rather than one corporation or consortium of corporations that seek to exploit our data for profit.

(Source: techcrunch.com)

Researchers warn hackers can steal your password by hearing you type

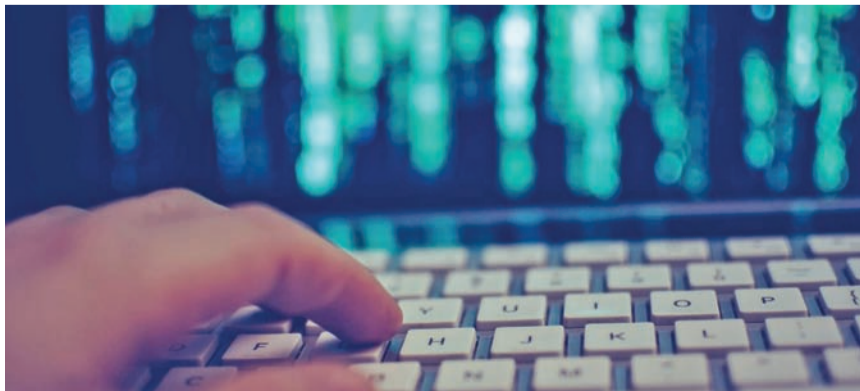
Hackers are able to easily decipher passwords by listening to sound waves produced by typing on your keyboard, a study has found.

Researchers in the US have warned that using laptop devices in a public place could allow hackers to easily steal passwords. The study found that crafty cybercriminals were able to discern someone's password from the sound of them typing on the keyboard.

After picking up the sound waves produced by a user typing on the keyboard via a smartphone, the hackers can analyse the sound to figure out which keys have been used and in what order they were struck with a high degree of accuracy.

Dr. Eric C Larson, of the study conducted by Southern Methodist University, said: "We were able to pick up what people are typing at a 41 per cent word accuracy rate. And we can extend that out – above 41 per cent – if we look at, say, the top 10 words of what we think it might be."

To put their theory to the test the



researchers arranged several people in a conference room and had them talk to each other while taking notes on a laptop.

Smartphones were placed on the same table as the laptops to gather the sound waves produced by their typing. The test revealed that the smartphones were able to identify the sound of the typing even though participants were allowed to write

whatever they wanted.

Professor Mitch Thornton, the lead author of the study, explained: "There are many kinds of sensors in smartphones that cause the phone to know its orientation and to detect when it is sitting still on a table or being carried in someone's pocket."

"Some sensors require the user to give permission to turn them on, but many of

them are always turned on. We used sensors that are always turned on, so all we had to do was develop a new app that processed the sensor output to predict the key that was pressed by a typist."

Although this does raise concerns about typing in public places, researchers pointed out that there were some restrictions to the method that would make it hard for a hacker to steal a password using this method.

Larson explained: "An attacker would need to know the material type of the table. An attacker would also need a way of knowing there are multiple phones on the table and how to sample from them."

The researchers are now calling on smartphone manufacturers to address the issue and to improve privacy on their devices. Larson said: "Based on what we found, I think smartphone makers are going to have to go back to the drawing board and make sure they are enhancing the privacy with which people have access to these sensors in a smartphone."

(Source: digit.fyi)

How much Iranians spend on ICT hardware and services?

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** – The Information Technology desk Organization of Iran has conducted a survey which shows that Iranian families spend 222.68 trillion rials (about \$5.3 billion) annually for information and communication technology (ICT) hardware and services, Mehr reported on Saturday.



Of the figure, urban families spend 179.4 trillion rials (about \$4.2 billion) and rural families spend 43.2 trillion rials (about \$1.1 billion), according to the report.

The services include landline and mobile phones as well as internet costs in addition to ICT hardware like laptops, cellphones, tablets, and personal computers.

The report added that urban families spend 118.043 trillion rials (about \$2.8 billion) on ICT services and 61.391 trillion rials (about \$1.4 billion) on ICT equipment.

Meanwhile, rural families spend 31.801 trillion rials (about \$740 million) on ICT services and 11.448 trillion dollars (about \$260 million) on ICT equipment.

The statistics covered the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018).

Education technology and the shift in how we learn

Now that the school year is weeks away from kicking off, the media is reflecting the current trends in learning, pedagogy and the classroom. The focus of many articles is on smart classrooms, technological trends and artificial intelligence used today in education. The way technology is being adopted within pedagogy and learning has been an expanding business model which has thoroughly affected the culture of education, from the many businesses which employ online tools to check for plagiarism to those businesses which establish tutoring for students of all ages to those businesses which offer courses in preparation for professional exams. There are even businesses which have upgraded their analog format from the past to an online format of study guides and ever more businesses like Readers' Favorite which offers book reviews and a proofreading service.

Having taught in higher education for many years and witnessing both the positive and negative aspects of new tech in university learning, I moved quickly to make use of new tech to the benefit of my students. In embracing this new technology where I set up a website for my students for syllabi, further reading, links to online texts, and I even created an interface to schedule office hours with me. Students likewise would use technology to access online readings which along with books university libraries have been putting online since the 1990s in addition to students' use of articles accessible online, video-assisted classrooms, verification tools like Grammar Checker and even the more unethical uses of technology for the end purpose of cheating on exams and assignments.

Despite the fact that the 2018/19 State of Technology in Education Report reveals that 94% of educators studied believe that educational technology improves engagement, there are still gaps today in how students are being underserved by in-classroom interaction. Indeed, I often wonder if new tech in education might be slightly over-used thus minimizing the role and importance of the teacher. For instance, the rise of tutoring in recent years shows a new trend in how students are learning as they move from in-class attendance to a more virtual engagement with the materials.

Recently spoke with the CEO of Torhea Education, Bangping Xiao, who explained how taking research education online has benefitted the Chinese high school and university students his company serves. Xiao states: "Research demonstrates students' passion for a subject and motivates them to explore their interests. But more importantly, learning is about expanding the boundaries of current information and knowledge, so research projects require students' imagination, concentration, and determination, all of which are key to their success in the future. Taking research education online helps connect students in China and professors in the United States seamlessly, regardless of geographic boundaries and limitations." Where Chinese education has come under media scrutiny in recent years for lack of creativity and independence of thinking, it would seem that the upside to online education is that it serves to benefit students by empowering them to have exposure to different kinds of education and learn from the best each system has to offer.

Still, the role of the teacher has come under scrutiny more and more as distance learning is booming in many countries even if the major critique universally about this format is that there is a lack of standards for which online degrees tend to carry less legitimacy. Similarly, the online tutoring markets are growing at a phenomenal rate which shows, at the very least, the growing interest of students. On the other side of this equation is that the interaction of students with the real world is becoming quickly replaced with the internet where now students can go on a volcano field trip without ever leaving the classroom. While teachers are now brushing up on how to incorporate tech within the classroom, we must wonder if online technology might be skipping over the necessary steps crucial to learning such as in-class interactions between students and the more obvious interactions with the outside world. There are also tangential questions about the "mainstreaming of education" which is pushing the competition to the limits. However, one consequence of online learning will necessarily tease out not only the less excellent students but also those who do not possess the economic means to pay for private services to improve their scores.

So for all the benefits that technology in learning and teaching can benefit many students, there are issues that remain to be examined beginning with how much of this new technology fails to offer human interaction to include those disciplines where practice is part of learning. Other practices such as memorization of facts and laziness in non-tech studying methods is also a by-product of the tech revolution in education. For public education the questions become more divisive when we witness how private money in cities like Ottawa is being used to stem the damage done to public education by a wave of cuts throughout Canada and the United States.

In the end, if technology in learning can only reach the wealthiest of students, we might need to reevaluate if the funding of tech could be viewed in itself as a form of cheating by the wealthy who will forever hold an extreme advantage over poorer students.

(Source: forbes.com)

Wildfire haunting Arasbaran forest extinguished

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Wildfire burning Arasbaran forest, northwestern Iran, since Monday, has been finally extinguished, head of East Azarbaijan’s department of environment (DOE) has announced.

Wildfire swept through protected areas of Dizmar village, in Varzaghan county, over the past six days; efforts made to put out the massive fire but it ignited hours later.

The fire has been put out, but forces are still operating in the area trying to soak some areas prone to ignition by helicopter, ISNA quoted Hamid Ghasemi as saying on Saturday.

The barrier to urgent firefighting in Arasbaran forest was the lack of helicopters, he lamented, adding, “We could not fully control the fire in some areas as the remaining ash was ignited by the wind after hours.”

Fortunately, the helicopter was received yesterday and is currently operating in the area, he further noted.

Yet, it is not clear that how many hectares of the forest burnt in the fire due to impassable areas and steep slopes, however, studies will soon be carried out to determine the losses, he explained.

Hamid Zohrabi, deputy DOE chief, also said that most of the areas burnt in fire have been under the DOE’s control, some of which have been forests and some others rangelands.

In some parts of the forests, trees have been affected by 30 percent, while in other parts trees turned into ashes, he added.

There is a doubt about whether the fire caused intentionally to own parts of the forest, he noted, adding, several suspects have been arrested, but investigations are still ongoing.

He went on to explain that although the burnt lands are not in a position where the offenders intended to own, it is clear that fire have been started deliberately.

Since the beginning of this year (March 21), the highest fire outbreaks in protected areas happened in East Azarbaijan province, Zohrabi said.

Apart from the recent fire, 430 hectares of the province have been affected by wildfires this year, he added.

In addition to the rangers, forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Army, the Red Crescent Society and local people participated in the firefighting operations, he concluded.

Ali Abbasnejad, the commander of the forest protection unit of Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said that raging wildfire burnt 11,254 hectares of forests and rangelands across the country, since the beginning of summer.

Referring to human share of 90-95 percent in wildfires, he explained that two human errors are the most important causes of wildfires, one is throwing glass bottles on the side of the roads or inside the forests which magnifies a ray of sunlight, igniting grass around it, and the other one is leaving a fire unextinguished; some of the people camping in the nature do not ensure that the fire is completely put out.

■ **Arasbaran; holding unique treasures of natural resources**

Arasbaran is a large mountainous area stretching from the Qusha Dagh massif, south of Ahar, to the Aras River in East Azarbaijan province. The region is confined to Aras River in the north, Meshgin Shahr county and Moghan in the east, Sarab county in the south, and Tabriz and Marand counties in the west.

Arasbaran protected area measures 78,560 hectares with a circumference of 134 kilometers. The altitude varies from 256 meters in the northern part to 2,896 meters which is the highest elevation in southern part of the area, according to the UNESCO website.

The region is of high importance due to its rich flora and fauna in particular presence of rare species. There can be found some endemic plant species including long-leaved trees such as Juniperus foetidissima and endangered species such as Taxus baccata.

Arasbaran is home to 215 species of birds, notably the Caucasian black grouse, grey partridge, black francolin, and common pheasant, 29 species of reptiles, 48 species of mammals, notably wild goat, wild boar, brown bear, wolf, lynx, and leopard, and 17 species of fish.

A unique characteristic of Arasbaran forests is the ubiquity of edible wild trees. More exotic plant species, such as redcurrant, truffle and herbs with application in traditional medicine significantly add to the ecological importance of Arasbaran region.

Arasbaran protected area has been put forward as a candidate for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2018. Iran’s initial attempt on placing the protected area on the UNESCO list dates back to 2007.

WORDS IN THE NEWS

New President for Peru

(July 30, 2001)
Peru’s new leader, Alejandro Toledo, is the first elected President of Indian descent and has taken part in a native ceremony to mark his becoming president.
On his first full day as President, Alejandro Toledo is **making the most of** his Andean **roots** and has taken part in a symbolic **ritual** at the ruins of Machu Picchu. The famous **citadel**, perched high in the mountains was once a **key** center of the Inca empire. Whilst Mr. Toledo himself wasn’t in traditional dress, local priests **clad** in brightly colored hats and ponchos, performed the half hour ceremony. Speaking the native Quechua language, they burnt **offerings** of flowers and coca leaves and called on the gods to bless the government. Regional leaders who had also been flown by helicopter to the **site** looked on. However, the task facing Mr. Toledo once the festivities are over is **immense**. He’ll be under intense pressure to fulfil **election pledges** to create jobs and raise wages. Half of Peru’s twenty-six million people live in poverty and it’s these people who are expecting their ancestral brother to deliver.

■ **Words**
making the most of: If you make the most of something you get the maximum use or advantage from it
roots: your roots are the connection you have with a particular place or culture because you, or your family, were born there
ritual: a ceremony, usually religious
citadel: a castle or strong building where, in former times, people could shelter for safety
key: important
clad: dressed
offerings: something that is offered to a god as part of a religious ceremony
site: a piece of ground or land which is used for a particular purpose
immense: very large intense - very great
election pledges: promises made by politicians during elections
(Source: BBC)

WHO supports Iran’s efforts to reduce road traffic casualties

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Christoph Hamelmann, World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Iran, said that WHO will highly support Iran’s efforts on reducing road fatalities.

Hamelmann made the remarks on the sidelines of the 24th International Conference on Safe Communities held in Tabriz on August 22-25.

One of key areas being discussed in the conference is traffic injury prevention.

Besides, the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2010. It is estimated that 5 million lives could be saved on the world’s roads during the decade.

Traffic injuries account for a main percentage of injuries and accidents which vary between 50-64 percent in difference countries like Iran. Traffic injuries have been considered crucial problems and the economic burden in countries, so the goal of stabilizing and reducing road traffic deaths was introduced.

Road accident injuries are among the five major causes of deaths in Iran that has been increasing since 2017, however, it can be reduced providing a successful model for road safety in the Eastern Mediterranean region to the WHO, Hamelmann noted.



He went on to say that the road safety special working group, led by the road safety commission secretariat and Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, the

emergency services organization, WHO, and Traffic Police, provided the speed limitation and road support plan to improve road safety and speed management in the country.

Caspian seals population shrinking alarmingly



ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Caspian seals, the sole marine mammals inhabiting the Caspian Sea, have faced a sharp decline in population over the past three decades, pushing the species towards extinction, Davood Mirshekar, deputy chief of the Department of Environment for marine ecosystems, has stated.

Caspian seal is endangered according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as recently demonstrated to have declined by more than 90 percent since the start of the 20th century.

According to the latest census conducted in 2016, the population of Caspian seals has reached less than 70,000, Mirshekar said, YJC reported on Wednesday.

Their population once stood at about one million in the country.

He went on to say that to prevent their extinction, the Caspian Seal Rehabilitation and Research Centers in three littoral states including Iran, Russia and Kazakhstan has been established with the help of NGOs.

The species’ main habitat is located in Golestan province where the DOE have taken measures to protect the species, he noted.

Sea pollution and diseases are among the factors contributing to the decline in the Caspian Seal, he concluded.

Oil spill, industrial waste as well as heavy

metals, agricultural pesticides, radioactive waste, wastewater and household waste entering the sea, and noise pollution caused by oil and gas refineries, and excessive boat traffic have pushed the species toward extinction through poisoning them.

Parvin Farshchi, former deputy DOE chief for marine affairs said in January that the DOE is preparing a national action plan on preserving the relict species of Caspian seal in cooperation with the responsible organizations.

Over the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CMS COP12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), administered by UN Environment on October 28, 2017, Caspian seals were included on Appendices I and II of the Convention.

According to the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Website, Appendix I comprises migratory species that have been assessed as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Appendix II covers migratory species that have an unfavorable conservation status and that require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those that have a conservation status which would significantly benefit from the international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement.

Amazon deforestation has risen by 20% this year, monitoring group warns



Deforestation of the Amazon has increased by 20 per cent in the past year, according to a non-governmental group that has been monitoring the rainforest for two decades.

Uncontrolled logging and land invasion has been blamed by analysts for much of the loss, some of which occurred in protected areas and Indigenous reserves.

Environmental group Imazon said satellite imagery showed the region lost 2,169 square kilometres (837 square miles) of forest between August and April. This is up from 1,807 square kilometres lost over the same period the previous year.

The group’s monitoring year begins with August, to match Brazil’s dry season, when logging rates are usually at their highest.

The country’s president Jair Bolsonaro and his environment minister Ricardo de Aquino Salles have questioned the reality of climate change and spoken in favour of expanding mining and industrial farming into the Amazon and protected areas.

Both believe environmental laws and activist groups often work to hinder Brazil’s economic potential.

Mr Salles said earlier this month that he wanted to overhaul the Amazon Fund, an initiative created to contain deforestation in an area of nearly seven million square kilometres (2.7 million square miles).

He was scheduled to meet with repre-

sentatives of the German and Norwegian governments, two of the fund’s main contributors, this week.

Mr Salles has said his ministry reviewed 103 contracts awarded by the fund to non-profit groups, about a third of all contracts signed since its launch in 2008. He said the inquiry found “irregularities” in all 103 contracts, but he did not give any specific cases, citing confidentiality clauses until a review by auditors.

He reiterated his intention to shake up the fund by tightening rules and supervision over the allocation of contracts and the choice of projects that can get funding in a recent interview with Globo TV.

“We want better results to reverse the rise in deforestation,” Mr Salles said, adding that he wanted “measurable” results and a “return on investment.”

He could not give more details about the ministry’s proposed changes before discussing them with Norway and Germany, he said. Brazil’s state oil company, Petrobras, is the fund’s third biggest contributor.

The fund was created to receive donations to help prevent, monitor and combat deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, a vast area rich in biodiversity and whose preservation is seen as essential to curbing climate change.

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

Cabinet disapproves production of carbureted motorcycles

While the ministries of industry and interior have demanded the cabinet to reconsider its decision to ban the production of carbureted motorcycles and allow issuance of license plates, the cabinet of ministers rejected the proposal on June 17, ISNA reported on Friday.

Resuming the production of carbureted-motorcycles and issuing license for carburetor motorcycles is against the law, Tehran city councilor Zahra Sadr-Azam Nouri has said.

Referring to the fact that the interior and industry ministers’ request was against the law, she said it seems that supporting the private sector and manufacturers as well as employment and income generation is prioritized over public health.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“hepato-, hepat-”

■ **Meaning:** liver
■ **For example:** I am pleased to assist in their battle against **Hepatitis**.

PHRASAL VERB

Hold off

■ **Meaning:** to delay doing something past
■ **For example:** Buyers have been holding off until the price falls.

IDIOM

Butter somebody up

■ **Explanation:** to flatter somebody or to be very nice to them, especially if you want to obtain something
■ **For example:** He was so keen to get the job that he spent his time buttering up the boss.

تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است

به گزارش روز جمعه خبرگزاری ایسنا با وجود درخواست به وزیر کشور و وزیر صنعت و معدن مبنی بر تولید موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری هیات دولت هفته ی گذشته شماره‌گذاری این موتورسیکلت را ممنوع اعلام کرد.
زهرا صدر اعظم نوری رییس کمیسیون سلامت شورای اسلامی شهر تهران با اشاره به مصوبه هیات وزیران مبنی بر ممنوعیت تولید و شماره‌گذاری موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری، گفت: تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است.
وی با اشاره به اینکه درخواستی که وزیر کشور و وزیر صنعت و معدن در این زمینه از هیات دولت دارد خلاف قانون و مصوب هیات دولت است و نباید مجوز داده شود، گفت: بیشتر نگاه حمایت از بخش خصوصی و تولیدکنندگان است و به نظر می رسد اشتغال و درآمدزایی بر مباحث سلامت افراد ارجح است.

Senior pro-Hadi commander defects to Yemeni army

➤ The Western-backed military aggression, coupled with a naval blockade, has killed tens of thousands of Yemenis, destroyed the country's infrastructure, and led to a massive humanitarian crisis.

In another development on Friday, the Qatar-owned Al Jazeera TV network reported that pro-Hadi militants took control of the headquarters of the UAE-sponsored Southern Transitional Council in Ata district of southern Shabwah Province.

Pro-Hadi sources said that the UAE-backed separatists at the building had surrendered themselves.

In recent weeks, southern Yemen has witnessed clashes between UAE-backed southern separatists and Saudi-led militants loyal to Hadi, exposing split between the once-allied groups. Both camps serve the Riyadh-led coalition.

The clashes erupted in the port city of Aden weeks after the UAE announced a surprise plan to withdraw part of its troops from Yemen in a major blow to its coalition allies.

■ 'Fresh retaliatory attack'

Also on Saturday, Yemen's armed forces



spokesman Sare'e said the Yemeni forces launched drone strikes on King Khalid air base in Saudi Arabia's southwestern Asir Province in retaliation for the kingdom's military aggression.

He said that the Yemenis used a number of Qasef-K2 drones in their operation.

Yemeni drones successfully hit their targets, among them fighter jet hangers and runways at King Khalid air base, Sare'e noted.

■ Yemeni forces, allies shoot down Saudi-led surveillance drone in Hajjah

Meanwhile, Yemeni army forces, supported by allied fighters from the Popular Committees, have intercepted and targeted an unmanned aerial vehicle belonging to the Saudi-led military coalition as it was flying in the skies over the country's northwestern province of Hajjah.

An unnamed source in the Yemeni air defense forces told the Arabic-language al-Masirah television network that Yemeni forces and their allies shot down the drone while on a reconnaissance mission west of Jabal Mab'ousah in al-Mazraq area of the Harad district on Friday afternoon.

According to Press TV, the media bureau of Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement, citing the spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces Brigadier General Yahya Saree, announced in a statement on Wednesday that Yemeni air defense forces and their allies shot down a U.S.-built General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper (sometimes called Predator B) drone with a precision missile.

Macron warns UK could become U.S. vassal state

TEHRAN — France's president warned Boris Johnson that Britain risks becoming a vassal state of Washington after Brexit. It was a low blow, and hardly news to anyone in London, the capital of the 51st state.

Of course, what Emmanuel Macron didn't admit during his meeting with the PM in Paris is that the situation is little better for him. Neither Britain nor France really has the luxury of avoiding vassalisation of some description; all they can do is pick a master. Or meister.

It really does take some cheek for Macron to warn about the threats of becoming a vassal state to a leader who is in the process of begging for permission to reclaim control of his own country, RT reported.

He had the Gallic gall to claim that relying on a future U.S. trade deal to soften the impact of Brexit, means Britain will merely end up being a client state of the U.S. saying: "Can the cost for Britain of a hard Brexit — because Britain will be the main victim — be offset by the United States of America? No... Even if it were

a strategic choice it would be at the cost of a historic vassalisation of Britain... I don't think this is what Boris Johnson wants. I don't think it is what the British people want."

Well, we know what the British people want, getting it is something very different altogether.

This idea of foreign domination seems to play on the mind of Macron. Just last year he was at pains to point out that France is an "ally" of the U.S. and not a "vassal state." Methinks Monsieur Macron doth protest too much.

As he's so adamant about France's independence from the whims of Washington, it would be interesting to hear his views on the role Berlin plays in the running of France.

Being a member of the EU is itself an exercise in handing over sovereign power to the other members of the union — more specifically, handing it to Germany. Macron's France is proud and delusional enough to believe it's big enough to act as a counter-balance to the Germans, but it's not.

High suicide rate among 'foreign' soldiers baffles Israel

TEHRAN — A new report has criticized foreigners' enlistment in the Israeli military, raising alarm at the spike in the number of lone soldiers committing suicide.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported on Saturday that close to 3,500 lone soldiers without immediate family in the occupied territories are serving in the Israeli army. About 1,200 of them come from North America, a similar number from the former Soviet Union and the remainder from other countries.

Foreigners make up a minor percent of Israeli army personnel, but the suicide rate is high among them, according to the report.

"Although soldiers whose parents do not live in Israel comprise only 2 percent of all recruits to the IDF (the Israeli army), they accounted for a disproportionately high share of military suicides in the past year," it said.

In 2018, the number of overall suicides in the Israeli army dropped by nearly half to nine, compared with the previous year. However among those nine suicides, two were lone soldiers.

In the first six months of 2019, there were another two self-murders by lone

soldiers, with a third death under investigation as a possible suicide.

Last week, Major General Moti Almoz, head of the Israeli army's manpower directorate, sent out a letter to all senior commanders with the following subject headline, "Preventing suicide in the IDF," including a part referring specifically to lone soldiers. A Haaretz investigation revealed failings in the lone soldier program, adding that the program continues to be nurtured and encouraged because so many fundraising organizations and regime-funded initiatives have a vested interest in keeping it going, Press TV reported.

"By the time many of them join the army, it is often too late to address their problems. It shows that Israel does not undertake adequate background checks before putting these young men and women in harm's way; that many of the young recruits do not sufficiently comprehend what military life in Israel entails; that large numbers lack the proficiency in Hebrew and familiarity with Israeli culture required for successful adaptation; and that many see the army as a form of escape from difficulties and challenges they face back home," it said.

N. Korea test-fires missiles again after joint drills end

TEHRAN — North Korea fired two suspected short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Saturday in the seventh weapons launch in a month, South Korea's military said, a day after the North vowed to remain the United States's biggest threat in protest against U.S.-led sanctions on the country.

North Korea had been expected to halt weapons tests because the 10-day U.S.-South Korean drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal, ended earlier this week.

Saturday's launches were made from northeastern South Hamgyong province, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They flew about 380 kilometres (236 miles) at the maximum altitude of 97 kilometres (60 miles), the military said.

The Japanese government said the suspected missiles caused no damage and did not land in its territorial waters.

South Korea's National Security Council expressed strong



concern about the launches and urged North Korea to cease acts that raised military tensions. Council members said South Korea would launch diplomatic efforts to make North Korea return to nuclear talks with the United States, according to the president's office.

North Korea's foreign minister said on Friday his country would try to remain "America's biggest threat" if the U.S. continued to confront it with sanctions. Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho also called U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo a "poisonous plant of American diplomacy" and promised to "shutter the absurd dream" that sanctions would force a change in Pyongyang.

Ri's blistering rhetoric and the missile launches may dim the prospect for an early resumption of nuclear negotiations between the countries. The top U.S. envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, said on Wednesday that Washington was ready to restart the talks.

Major issues, minimal expectations for G-7 summit in France

TEHRAN — The world economy is getting shakier by the day, the Amazon has burned its way to the center of the climate change debate, and the leaders of the world's leading democracies will sit around a single table, theoretically charged with coming up with solutions for the biggest problems of the day.

Except that U.S. President Donald Trump is largely uninterested in international agreements, and other G-7 leaders are seriously hobbled at home by political scandal, low poll numbers or lame duck status. Welcome to the annual Group of Seven summit, which begins Saturday in the southern French resort town of Biarritz.

According to Daily Star, French President Emmanuel Macron, the host, has already made clear that he has little expectation that Trump will join any statement on fighting climate change even as the issue shot to the top of the agenda with the widespread fires in the Amazon. He already rejected Trump's request to let Russia rejoin the group five years after being expelled over its seizure of Crimea. And he is trying to hold together the European line on the Iran nuclear deal over U.S. objections.

At the same meeting last year, Trump left early and repudiated the final statement in a tweet from Air Force One.

This year, Macron said, there will be no final statement.

"The situation is difficult because on subjects like trade, Iran or the climate, for the first time in a long time the seven are not unanimous," Macron told reporters earlier this week. "That's why I wanted to avoid pointless declarations. Despite that, I think this work is indispensable because we have to exchange with the United States, because we have to find convergences, because I think it's in our interest to rebuild coordination."

Lowered expectations are nothing new for the G-7, but this year's intent seems to be just to avoid diplomatic catastrophe, salvage the possible, and show voters that their leaders have a role on the world stage.

"When you have a figure whose positions, whose whims, whose interests seem to change on a dime, it's impossible to plan coordinated policy on that basis. I think what we're seeing is most countries now just trying to wait this out. There's going to be no advancement on the big things that really matter," said Tristen Naylor, a researcher focused on international summits.

"There's going to be no big moves on climate change as a united front of seven countries. There's going to be no progress when it comes to the elimi-



nation of protectionist trade barriers. It's simply not going to happen. So the best that they can do is just tread water, stop things from becoming worse. That I think is what success at this G-7 will look like," Naylor said.

All eyes will be on the dynamic between Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, two figures who relish the unpredictability they have sown. German Chancellor Angela Merkel is on her way out of office. Canadian leader Justin Trudeau, up for re-election this fall, is at the center

of a political scandal. Macron himself is deeply unpopular at home, and the yellow vest protesters who have plagued him since last year have followed him to Biarritz.

Even this beautiful resort town is rather grumpy at being locked down during the final week of summer break for most of France. The appropriately named Bellevue congress center where the leaders will gather Saturday night overlooks the beach beloved by surfers and swimmers alike. It is entirely empty.

Nearly 130 Palestinians wounded by Israeli fire in Gaza

TEHRAN — Israeli forces have attacked Palestinian protesters gathering at the fence between the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied territories, leaving nearly 130 people injured.

The Gazan Health Ministry released the casualty toll on Friday. It said the Israeli forces also wounded three medics.

Palestinians have been holding weekly rallies in the area since last year to protest the siege on Gaza and stress the right to return of the refugees who have fled Israeli aggression since 1948.

At least 305 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces ever since the anti-occupation protest rallies began in the Gaza Strip on March 30, 2018. Over 18,000 Palestinians have also sustained injuries.

In March, a United Nations (UN) fact-finding mission found that Israeli forces committed rights violations during their crackdown against the Palestinian protesters in Gaza that may amount to war crimes.

According to Press TV, Gaza has been under Israeli siege since June 2007, which has caused a decline in living standards.

Israel has also launched three major wars against the enclave since 2008, killing thousands of Gazans each time and shattering the impoverished territory's already poor infrastructure.

Russia test fires missiles from submarines in the Barents Sea

TEHRAN — Russia test-fired Sineva and Bulava ballistic missiles from two submarines from the polar region of the Arctic Ocean and from the Barents Sea on Saturday as part of combat training, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The Sineva, a liquid-fueled intercontinental missile, was fired from the Tula submarine, while a Bulava, Russian newest solid-fueled missile, was launched from the Yuri Dolgoruky submarine, the ministry said.

They hit targets at training grounds in the northern Arkhangelsk region and on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East, the ministry said.

"During the launches the specified technical characteristics of submarine ballistic missiles and the efficiency of all systems of ship missile systems were confirmed," it said, Reuters reported.

Erdogan to visit Moscow after convoy targeted in Syria

TEHRAN — Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Moscow on Tuesday for a meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the Turkish presidency has said, days after a Turkish convoy was nearly hit by air raids in the Syrian province of Idlib.

announcement came as Syrian forces, backed by Russia, continue to make advances into the last rebel stronghold in Syria's northwest region that borders Turkey. Since late April, Syria and Russia have escalated their bombardment of Idlib, with more than 500 civilians being killed in the hostilities, according to the United Nations.

A spokesman for the Kremlin confirmed the August 27 meeting, telling the Interfax news agency that the talks would take place during the Maks international airshow, located about 40 kilometres outside of Moscow.

Turkey has been a vocal opponent of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and backs rebels fighting for his removal. However, Ankara last year struck a deal with Moscow to protect the Idlib province from a potential government offensive, Al Jazeera reported.

Does Johnson want to be remembered as 'Mr. No deal'? EU's Tusk hopes not

TEHRAN — European Council President Donald Tusk said on Saturday he would not cooperate with Britain on an exit from the EU without a withdrawal agreement and said he hoped new prime minister Boris Johnson did not want to be remembered as "Mr. No Deal".

Tusk told reporters in Biarritz that he would be willing to hear ideas from Johnson on how to avoid a no-deal Brexit when the two men meet on Sunday on the sidelines of a G7 summit in the French seaside resort.

"The one thing I will not cooperate on is no deal. And I still hope that PM Johnson will not like to go down in history as Mr. No Deal," said Tusk, who leads the political direction of the 28-nation European Union.

"We are willing to listen to ideas that are operational, realistic, and acceptable to all Member States, including Ireland, if and when the UK government is ready to put them on the table," he added.

Three years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU, the outcome of the tortuous Brexit crisis remains unclear, with options ranging from an acrimonious rupture on Oct. 31 to a smooth, amicable exit or even another referendum.

The bloc and its leaders have repeatedly refused to reopen a Withdrawal Agreement, which includes a protocol on an Irish border insurance policy that then-prime minister Theresa May agreed in November.

Johnson is hoping that the threat of a disorderly 'no-deal' exit will convince the EU to grant him the divorce deal he wants. However, on his first foreign trip as prime minister last week, the response from EU heavyweights Germany and France was firm: the Withdrawal Agreement will not be changed much.

Brexit is expected to come up at a meeting of the leaders of the European G7 nations - France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom - and Tusk later on Saturday.

Johnson's key demand is that the EU remove the Irish border backstop, which would keep the United Kingdom in a customs union with the EU unless a better solution is found to keep open Ireland's 500-km (300-mile) land border with the British province of Northern Ireland.

He has vowed to lead the United Kingdom out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal, Reuters reported.

Dwight Howard joining Lakers: reports

Eight-time NBA All-Star Dwight Howard is joining the Los Angeles Lakers on a one-year deal after being bought out of his contract with the Memphis Grizzlies, multiple reports said Friday.

Howard, 33, agreed terms with the Lakers after meeting with team management on Thursday following a workout with players and coaches.

ESPN reported that Howard's one-year deal was non-guaranteed. It will mark Howard's second stint with the Lakers following a season with the team in 2012-2013.

The Lakers will be Howard's fourth team since he left the Atlanta Hawks in 2016.

A towering 6ft 11in (2.11 m) center, Howard has been signed to fill the gap created by the injury to the Lakers' DeMarcus Cousins.

Although Howard's natural talent has never been questioned, he has been dogged by controversy throughout his career and has struggled to shake off the reputation of being a disruptive locker room influence.

Former NBA player Brendan Haywood said Howard had been a negative presence during a brief stint with the Charlotte Hornets.

"People I talked to behind the scenes, guys were just sick and tired of his act," Haywood said in an interview last year. "The locker room hated Dwight Howard."

(Source: AFP)

L'Equipe: Reconciliation between PSG and Neymar

There are nine days until the transfer window comes to a close, but Neymar and Paris Saint-Germain have improved their relationship in the last few days.

Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus remain interested in signing the Brazilian forward, who is still keen on departing the Parc des Princes.

This weekend could see Neymar play his first PSG game of the season against Toulouse when they meet in Paris on Sunday night, two weeks after the club's ultras chanted many insults against the 27-year-old in the 11th minute of their opening-day win against Nîmes. However, Neymar could start to rebuild his relationship with PSG's supporters with a good performance on Sunday.

Nevertheless, Neymar continues to do his utmost to leave the French capital, though he views his departure as being more difficult as the transfer window draws to a close. In fact, L'Equipe report that there has been a reconciliation between the Brazilian and PSG, with a sign of peace between the two parties. "This is no longer a war," a source close to the negotiation has told L'Equipe. "They are speaking civilly," cites another source.

None of the three teams have thus far lodged a bid that has been to PSG's liking. Barcelona, of the three, are the only one to have made firm offers, including swap deals with some of their players.

Both Los Blancos and the Bianconeri remain in the background and will pounce if they view the deal to be economically viable.

(Source: Marca)

Retired sprint great Petacchi banned from cycling for two years

Retired Italian cyclist Alessandro Petacchi, winner of six Tour de France and 22 Giro d'Italia stages, has been suspended for two years for blood doping, the sport's governing body the UCI said on Saturday.

The UCI has sanctioned the sprinter "for a period of two years of ineligibility for anti-doping rule violations committed in 2012 and 2013," said a press release.

The case is based "on information received from the Austrian police authorities", the UCI said.

In June, Austrian cyclists Stefan Denifl and Georg Preidler were banned for four years for doping by the Austrian anti-doping agency.

Petacchi's punishment takes effect from May 14, the date of the opening of an investigation by the UCI against him, Slovenian Borut Bozic (retired) and Slovenia's Kristijan Koren and Croatian Kristijan Durasek, both still riding.

The UCI said Petacchi had accepted "the consequences" and would be stripped of three stage victories in the 2012 Tour of Bavaria. He is ineligible to participate in any event under UCI auspices for two years.

At the end of February, Austrian and German police dismantled a large international blood doping network based in Erfurt, Germany, and centered on German doctor Mark Schmidt on the eve of the 2019 Nordic Ski World Championships in Seefeld, Austria.

Initially focused on cross-country skiing, the investigation, named 'Aderlass' from the German word for bleeding, quickly spread to half a dozen sports, including cycling.

Italian and French media reported that Petacchi went to Schmidt for blood doping, transfusing his own blood which was then treated to raise the red blood cell count to increase power and stamina.

(Source: Mirror)

Bologna: 'Mihajlovic ever-present'

Sinisa Mihajlovic is coaching Bologna from his hospital bed, assured assistant manager Emilio De Leo. "We have to make the extraordinary become ordinary."

Their Serie A season opener with Hellas Verona kicks off on Sunday at 19.45 UK time (18.45 GMT).

Mihajlovic has been undergoing chemotherapy after his leukaemia diagnosis and it's not clear when he'll be able to sit on the bench, but the club and players reiterated many times that he remains the Coach.

He has been watching training sessions via live streaming and giving team talks on the phone.

"Initially, we told ourselves that we have to make the extraordinary become ordinary during this season. It won't be easy, but we are working on it," said De Leo in his Press conference.

"It's now a Serie A match, but the protocol is no different to what we've been doing since the news. We feel more responsibility now, but are trying to each focus on our tasks and objectives.

"Mihajlovic is ever-present, he follows every game and training session. He insists on the importance of the right attitude and approach to the game, he cares a great deal about that, which was visible in our Coppa Italia victory over Pisa. We are a responsible group and want to make our Coach proud."

Hellas Verona are newly-promoted from Serie B via the play-offs, but changed Coach to bring in ex-Genoa boss Ivan Juric.

(Source: Football Italia)

Nadal, Federer, Djokovic remain ones to beat at US Open

While a host of young rivals hope to disrupt the dominance of the "Big Three" in men's tennis, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer remain the US Open favorites.

The year's final Grand Slam showdown starts Monday on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts with top-ranked Djokovic, 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer and Spanish superstar Nadal having combined to win the past 11 Grand Slam titles.

Federer, 38, doesn't see a problem with the dominance by the sport's elder statesmen, who together own 54 of the past 65 Slam titles.

"I don't think it's a problem, per se," Federer said. "Now that Novak, Rafa and me are healthy again, Andy (Murray) also slowly coming back again, has made it much harder for young guys to come through.

"They are definitely knocking on the door big-time now. I think that's very encouraging for those who want to see somebody else win. I think also Novak's domination, Rafa's domination is also not normal for the game of tennis.

"I think there's going to be chances moving forward, but it's not surprising with the type of tennis they've been playing in recent years."

Third-seeded Federer also throws in a chance for Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka, who like Britain's injured Murray has won three Slam crowns during the "Big Three" reign, but figures a familiar face will be lifting



the US Open trophy.

"Yeah, it seems like the same guys are the favorites again this time around," Federer said. "It will be a surprise if anybody else won."

Defending champion Djokovic, seeking a 17th career Grand Slam title, has won four of the past five Slams, denied only by Nadal's French Open win in June. The 32-year-old Serbian says he has adjusted to the extra pressure of defending over the years.

"It's a paramount challenge to defend a Grand Slam title," he said. "These are the tournaments you want to win the most. This is where you want to shine."

Nadal, 33, has made an impressive run

with titles at Rome, the French Open and Montreal and a Wimbledon semi-final loss to Federer.

"Arrive to the big events with good feelings helps," Nadal said. "Positive feeling, positive memory on my mind. That helps for the confidence.

"For the moment I am feeling well. I am practicing well during the whole week. Now remain a couple of days to just push a little bit more and try to start the tournament in a good way."

Second-ranked Nadal, an 18-time Grand Slam winner who took his 12th French Open title in June, isn't too excited over Federer

and Djokovic both being in the opposite half of the draw.

"I have to win my matches to have an advantage because I only can meet them in the semifinals," Nadal said. "I have plenty of work before that to know if I have an advantage or not."

■ **Medvedev, Thiem surging**

Russia's Daniil Medvedev has enjoyed a stellar US Open run-up with a win at Cincinnati and runner-up efforts at Washington and Montreal.

"I don't consider myself as one of the favorites just because at this moment of my career I haven't even been in a quarter-final of a Slam," Medvedev said. "If I get to the quarter-final, it's going to be already a step forward and I'm going to be really happy about it.

"When I play my best tennis I can beat basically everybody and that's what I need to keep doing here."

Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem lost to Nadal in the Roland Garros final and will be a threat.

"Every year he's improving," Nadal said. "Every day he's very solid and every year is more solid.

"He has everything to win important events. He already is winning important events. He's a very, very hard worker. Just a question of time that he achieve all his goals."

(Source: AFP)

Abraham double hands Lampard first win



Frank Lampard earned his first win as Chelsea manager after seeing his side overcome Norwich 3-2 on Saturday.

After opening with a heavy defeat at Manchester United and then a home draw with Leicester, Lampard was finally able to celebrate three points with the club's academy players coming to the fore.

Tammy Abraham with two and Mason Mount both found the net on a positive afternoon for Lampard, who named Chelsea's youngest starting XI in 25 years.

It was a topsy-turvy encounter at Carrow Road, with Todd Cantwell and Teemu Pukki both equalizing for Norwich, but Abraham's well-taken second settled it in the second half.

Abraham scored his first goal for Chelsea on three minutes with a superbly taken half volley from Cesar Azpilicueta's cross before Cantwell equalized just over two minutes later. Mount's second in two matches on 17 minutes put Chelsea back in front before Pukki netted his fifth of the season to equalize again.

Lampard celebrated with Abraham on the touchline early on following a chaotic start to the match. Abraham slammed in a fine opener and immediately ran to his

boss but parity lasted just 156 seconds, Cantwell slotting in from close range from Teemu Pukki's cross.

Christian Pulisic then found Mount, who scored in the 1-1 draw with Leicester last week, and he stepped inside brilliantly to smash the ball home.

As Chelsea found their stride, Tim Krul's strong hand pushed Andreas Christensen's header over the bar midway through the first half.

But Lampard's suspect defense was again breached on the half hour, Pukki evading a slack offside trap and slamming the ball under Kepa Arrizabalaga for his fifth goal of the season.

Chelsea probed and pushed in the second half and were eventually rewarded when Abraham cut inside his marker and planted a firm shot past Krul to win it with 20 minutes to go.

The visitors had a goal disallowed by the Video Assistant Referee when it was ruled Olivier Giroud had barged into Krul before Kurt Zouma tapped in and there was still time for another scare as Ben Godfrey hit the bar with a header from a corner, but Chelsea held on.

(Source: ESPN)

Pogba not Keane, Scholes and Cantona - Ole



Paul Pogba cannot be expected to carry Manchester United's midfield this season, according to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Pogba has played a key role in United's positive start to the season -- despite missing a penalty in the 1-1 draw with Wolves -- but Solskjaer has warned that he cannot be Roy Keane, Juan Veron, Paul Scholes and Eric Cantona rolled into one.

"He expects a lot from himself as well," Solskjaer said. "It doesn't frustrate me. We expect a lot from him but we know that we can't get Roy Keane, Veron, Scholes, Giggs and Cantona in one player. It's hard. He's a top, top player.

"We do expect a lot from our players and we have high hopes this season. "Hopefully we can be consistent and challenge when we come to April and May and Paul plays a big part in that."

Solskjaer has picked Pogba alongside 22-year-old Scott McTominay for the opening two games against Chelsea and Wolves.

The Norwegian's options are limited after failing to replace Marouane Fellaini and Ander Herrera over the summer but the 46-year-old insists the squad is deep enough to provide Pogba with the help he needs as United look to get back into the

top four.

"We've still got Nemanja [Matic] and Fred," Solskjaer said. "Andreas [Pereira] has played more advanced. Some games we'll see Paul higher up the pitch as well.

"I've been very pleased with his performances. There are others who have to step up. We've started well.

"Maybe we should have six points, we probably deserve that, but it's something to build on. We're not going to look too far ahead."

United have rebuffed attempts from Real Madrid to sign Pogba this summer after valuing the midfielder at more than £180 million.

There is, however, still a chance Alexis Sanchez could depart before the European transfer deadline.

Talks are ongoing with Inter Milan and Solskjaer has suggested the Chilean needs a change of scenery after suffering a crisis of confidence since arriving from Arsenal in January 2018.

"I have spoken to him and we have had a good conversation," Solskjaer said.

"Let's see what happens. He is a quality player; I have said it so many times."

(Source: Soccernet)

Kosovo, an unexpected world judo stronghold

The young and tiny nation of Kosovo has emerged as a world judo power, its unexpected success spearheaded by diminutive Olympic champion Majlinda Kelmendi.

Eleven years after it gained independence from Serbia and in her first summer Olympics, Kelmendi's success in Rio in 2016 enabled Kosovo and its two million people to beat its big brother Albania that has never won an Olympic medal in any sport.

Kelmendi goes in search of more gold when she competes in the world championships in Tokyo that start on Sunday.

Kosovo's judo success story was created by coach Driton "Toni" Kuka in the small town of Pec where he founded a judo club with his brothers.

A training room with a leaky roof and worn carpets did not prevent the club from producing champions -- the authorities decided only recently to finance its renovation.

"I'm sure that if there was no Toni, Kosovo would not have all these medals today, especially the Olympic gold," Kelmendi, 28, told AFP.

She became a national hero thanks to her exploits in Rio, which followed world titles in 2013 and 2014.

In the poor Balkan country, where football is the main sport, the judokas can hardly expect to be top of the list for financial aid from the authorities. They receive only 250,000 euros (\$281,000) annually, Kuka said, from the government's entire sports budget of 17 million euros.

■ **Revenge on history**

Kelmendi, who also holds European titles and dominated the European Games in Minsk this year, is the brightest star on



Kuka's team. But she is no longer alone. She now leads a group whose members aspire for their share of world titles.

Distria Krasniqi, 25, is world junior champion and Nora Gjakova, 28, won bronze at the European championships.

"In different age categories, we now have 14 judokas who have reached the highest level," said 48-year-old Kuka.

Most come from the same neighborhood.

By creating such a powerful team Kuka is taking revenge on Kosovo's turbulent history that took a heavy toll on his own career.

In 1992, as the Barcelona Olympics approached, Kuka was the best Yugoslav judoka in the men's under 71kg division and one of the favorites for a medal.

But since 1989, the situation had been tense in Kosovo whose ethnic Albanian majority was under the yoke of the then Belgrade

strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

Within a wider civic resistance movement, orchestrated by the "father of the nation" Ibrahim Rugova, ethnic Albanian athletes quit Yugoslav squads.

"My Olympic dream was broken," recalled Kuka, adding that he had beaten all the Barcelona medalists in the runup to the Games.

At the end of the 1998-1999 war, when NATO air strikes forced Belgrade to withdraw its troops from Kosovo, Kuka founded his club at Asllan Ceshme, a poor neighbourhood in the foothills of the mountains, which the inhabitants found had been largely destroyed when they returned.

"Kosovo was in ruins and children traumatized," he recalled. Kelmendi, who lived "100 meters from the hall", was among those who joined the club, the coach recalled.

"I didn't know anything about this sport, but I was happy," Kelmendi said. "We children had nothing else to do."

Kelmendi's exploits in winning world and Olympic titles brought her compatriots into the streets to celebrate.

"We have transformed children who have suffered from the war into world champions, measuring ourselves against countries like France, Japan or Brazil that have thousands of judokas available to build their teams," Kuka said.

For Kosovo-based sports journalist Arsim Maxhera, Kelmendi "is the biggest success story in the country, not just in sport".

"There is no title that has escaped" these judokas "who all come from a single neighborhood", he said.

(Source: France 24)

Iran victorious over Colombia at Volleyball U19 World Championship

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran came from one set behind to beat Colombia 3-1 (25-27, 25-21, 25-17, 25-13) in Pool B of the 2019 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship on Saturday.

Bardia Saadat scored a match-high 19 points and Jharold Caicedo led Colombian team with 17 points.

Defending champions Iran started the competition with a 3-1 win over Bulgaria but were shocked by a 3-0 defeat against Czech Republic.

Iran will meet Italy on Sunday.

The 2019 edition of the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship features 20 teams playing across four pools from August 21 to 30.

The top four teams in each group will all advance to the last-16 of the tournament with the final scheduled for August 30.

The 2019 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship is the sixteenth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship, contested by the men's national teams under the age of 19 of the members of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body. The final tournament is being held in Tunisia from 21 to 30 August 2019. Tunisia host the competition for this event for the first time.

The finals involved 20 teams, of which 19 came through qualifying competitions, while the host nation qualified automatically. Of the 20 teams, 13 had also appeared in the previous tournament in 2017, while Colombia and Nigeria made their first appearances at a FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship.

Iran are the defending champions, having won their second title in Bahrain.



Taremi scores hat trick to seal win for Rio Ave



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian international striker Mehdi Taremi scored an impressive hat-trick as Rio Ave picked up a win against Aves in Primeira Liga Friday night.

Rio Ave defeated Aves 5-1 thanks to goals from Taremi, Filipe Augusto and Nuno Santos at the Estádio dos Arcos.

Rio Ave sit in eighth place with three

points at the end of the second week.

Taremi's countryman Mehrdad Mohammadi played 90 minutes for Aves but failed to find the back of the net.

The Iranian duo decided to continue their football career in Portugal.

Taremi joined Rio Ave from Qatari club Al Gharafa, while Mohammadi penned a contract with Aves after he played three years in Iranian club Sepahan.

Kazakhstan overpower Iran in Asian Women's Volleyball C'ship



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Kazakhstan eased past Iran at the 2019 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship on Saturday.

Kazakhstan defeated Iran in straight sets (25-17, 25-21, 26-24) at the Jamsil Indoor Gymnasium in Seoul, South Korea. Iran and Indonesia will contest the seventh-place play-off on Sunday.

Japan will meet Thailand in the final

match, while South Korea and China play for the bronze medal.

More importantly, the Championship also serves as the Continental Olympic Qualification Tournament, which will see top eight teams, except the Tokyo 2020 hosts Japan and qualified China, make the cut for the January 6-12 event. Only the eventual winning team in the Continental Olympic Qualification Tournament will join the other 11 teams in the Tokyo 2020.

Jesús Castillo receives 'José Luis Campo' award

Mexican Jose de Jesus Castillo Castillo has been presented with the 'José Luis Campo' Award as the Best Americas Para Athlete of 2018 in an emotional and fun ceremony held in Lima, Peru, ahead of the Parapan American Games.

The Para powerlifter was chosen by popular vote for a second consecutive year following a record poll with almost 60,000 votes cast on the Americas Paralympic Committee website.

This event took place during the Welcome Ceremony for the Argentinian, Costa Rican and Mexican delegations at the Lima 2019 Parapan American Village.

The award was named after José Luis Campo, APC Founding President, pioneer and driving force behind the development of the Paralympic Movement in the Americas for 20 years.



Castillo Castillo received the award from Manuel Campo, Jose Luis Campo's son, and APC Athlete Representative

Ileana Rodriguez in front of dozens of photographers capturing the historic moment. The 2017 powerlifting world champion received a grand ovation, especially from his fellow Mexicans. "I am very happy for having been named Para Athlete of 2018; it is a huge honor," Castillo Castillo said. "Thank you to the Americas Paralympic Committee, to all Mexico and to those from other countries who supported me as well."

"The Parapan American Games in Lima, Peru, are coming fast. I will try to win my fourth consecutive title after Rio 2007, Guadalajara 2011 and Toronto 2015. It would be very good for me and for Mexican sport."

"In the meantime, I do not lose sight of my biggest goal: the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games."

(Source: Paralympic.org)

5 Memorable Quarter-finals

The 2019 AFC Champions League quarter-finals are sure to bring plenty of excitement for the Continent's football fans. Ahead of those much-anticipated ties, we have selected some of the clashes from the past editions to enjoy.

The quarter-finals were introduced in the AFC Champions League back in 2004, and since then we have witnessed some action-packed matches, particularly in recent times. The AFC.com highlights five last eight ties that are worth reviewing and savoring.

■ Bunyodkor vs Pohang Steelers (2009)

The tie between Uzbekistan's Bunyodkor and Korea Republic's Pohang Steelers will be best remembered for two things: Victor Karpenko's rocket in the first leg and a rollercoaster ride of a second half in the return meeting at The Steelyard.

No Byung-jun set the tone for a fascinating tie with an early goal in Tashkent to open the scoring in the match before Karpenko scored a sensational volley and Server Djeparov added a brace to give Bunyodkor a 3-1 advantage to take to Korea Republic. Although the first half in Pohang brought no changes in the scoreline, fireworks were to come after the restart.

Kim Jae-sung scored almost immediately to reduce the deficit to one, before a Denilson double put Pohang on top only for Karpenko to hit back with another effort from range to level things up in the final minutes.

In extra-time, it was to be Pohang's Macedonian striker who would have the final say, heading home the game's winner to take the side into the semi-finals.

■ Buriram vs Esteghlal (2013)

A fascinating battle between two sides at their peak, and ultimately settled by what was voted by the AFC.com's fans as the best goal in AFC Champions League history.

Khosro Heydari got things off to a special start at the Azadi Stadium with a cross-cum-shot that looped spectacularly in off the far post to delight the over 95,000 fans in attendance – and there were even more amazing strikes to come.

In the return meeting in Thailand the plot thickened not long before half-time when Spaniard Osmar Barba tied the scores. Hanif Omranzadeh then put the ball back in Esteghlal's court with a 53-minute leveller.

But in stoppage time came the moment the match will be remembered for when Andranik Teymourian unleashed a screaming effort from close to 40 yards out that rocketed into the top corner.

■ Guangzhou Evergrande vs Shanghai SIPG (2017)

In the first leg of the quarter-final between domestic rivals Guangzhou Evergrande and Shanghai SIPG everything went the hosts' way at Shanghai Stadium.

Four unanswered goals from the deadly attack that comprised China PR star Wu Lei and the Brazilian trio of Hulk, Oscar and El-

keson had the side dreaming of a place in the semi-finals with the second leg still to come.

They would, ultimately, achieve that goal but they could not have imagined what was to come at Tianhe Stadium in the return meeting.

Alan's first half brace gave Guangzhou's fans hope at the interval, before fellow Brazilian Ricardo Goulart fired him home two late goals in the final eight minutes to, improbably, take the game to extra-time.

Hulk and Goulart then exchanged goals in additional time but the match went to a penalty shootout. Cruelly, it was hat-trick hero Goulart who was the only player who failed to convert, finally giving Shanghai a victory – that had looked not only probable but virtually assured before kick-off – by the slimmest of margins.

■ Kawasaki Frontale vs Urawa Red Diamonds (2017)

The first leg ended in a 3-1 home win at Kawasaki's Todoroki Athletic Stadium as a goal from Elsinho and a brace from Yu Kobayashi muted Yuki Muto's strike for Urawa.

In their second clash, Elsinho found the target early in the game to further complicate Ur

Shinzo Koroki's goal took Urawa into the half-time break level on the night, and they produced three goals in the final 20 minutes through Zlatan Ljubijankic, Rafael Silva and Toshiyuki Takagi to achieve the comeback that would fuel them to go all the way and lift the trophy.

Iran come third at World Transplant Games 2019

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran delegation finished **d e s k** in third place at the 2019 World Transplant Games.

The Games brought 2,300 competitors from 56 countries together in Newcastle, England from Aug. 17 to 23.

Team GB won the Games, with a medal total of 205 gold,



152 silver, 127 bronze.

The U.S. took second place, winning 67 gold, 51 silver and 38 bronze medals.

Iran came third with 26 gold, 36 silver and 33 bronze medals.

As the name suggests, the International Olympic Committee recognized Games bring together organ and transplant recipients and donors from over 60 countries, every two years. The athletes showcase their eagerness for life, triumph over adversity and evoke a dream for a better tomorrow, through their life-changing efforts.

Iran crowned at 2019 WT World Cup Team Championships

MNA — Iranian men's team of Azad University gained the title of 2019 WT World Cup Team Championships in Wuxi, China.

In the final bout of men's category on Saturday, the Iranian team defeated a team from South Korea 71-66 to lift the trophy.

The Iranian team, comprised of Hossein Latifi, Amir Mohammad Bakhshi, Sina Bahrami, Erfan Nazemi and Saeid Rajabi, first overpowered Kazakhstan 48-33 before gaining a 66-53 win over the host, China, in the semifinal.

Azad University team were dispatched to the world event as the champions of Iran's taekwondo league.

The 2019 edition of WT World Cup Team Championships kicked off on Friday in China's Wuxi with 97 practitioners from 10 countries participating in male, female and mixed-gender categories. The event will wrap up on August 25.

Prior to this event, WT World Cup Team Poomsae Championships was also held in the Chinese city where Iranian practitioners managed to earn two golds, one silver and one bronze.

Iran women basketball team beat Jordan in West Asian champs

IRNA — Iranian national women's basketball team defeated Jordan 70-62 in the West Asia competitions which was held in Jordan.

This is the first time that the Iranian squad has attended an official competition with Islamic dress code.

Iran were also overshadowed by Lebanon in the first match and is scheduled to stand against Syria in the next match.

Iranian defender Roozbeh Cheshmi linked with Huesca

Iranian international defender Roozbeh Cheshmi has been linked with a move to Sociedad Deportiva Huesca.

Cheshmi is without a team after parting company with Esteghlal at the end of the Iran Professional League (IPL) last season.

The 26-year-old player had also been linked with a move to Qatar's Al-Ahli.

Sociedad Deportiva Huesca, S.A.D., are a Spanish football club in Huesca, in the autonomous community of Aragon.

Founded in March 1960, SD Huesca play in the Segunda División, after relegation from La Liga where it finished 19th in the 2018-19 season.

(Source: Herald.es)

Esteghlal suffer late loss to Machine Sazi: IPL

TASNIM — Esteghlal football team suffered a late loss to Machine Sazi in its opening match in the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Friday.

Atabak Zarei scored a goal from a set piece in the dying moments of the match in Tabriz's Bonyan Diesel Stadium.

In Tehran, Shahr Khodro defeated Paykan 2-0 thanks to goals from Younes Shakeri and Rouhollah Bagheri.

Sanat Naft defeated Foolad 1-0 in Ahvaz's Shohadaye Foolad Stadium. Aghil Kaabi scored the only goal of the match in the 53rd minute.

On Thursday, defending champion Persepolis defeated Pars Jonoubi 1-0 thanks to a goal from Mehdi Torabi.

Saipa came back from 2-0 behind to beat Zob Ahan 3-2 in Isfahan.

Nassaji was held by Gol Gohar 1-1 in Sirjan and Naft Masjed Soleyman and Tractor played out a goalless draw in Masjed Solyman.

(Source: the-afc)

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who wishes to keep his honor, should
abstain from opposing the ignoble.

Imam Ali (AS)

Children’s film elites honored at Isfahan festival

A R T TEHRAN — Top animator Mahin Javaherian and actress Maryam Saadat, who also has a long career in puppet theater, were honored for their lifetime achievements in children’s cinema during the 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan on Friday.

Speaking at the honoring ceremony, the director of the festival, Alireza Tabesh, said, “These two artists have devoted their lives to children.”



Animator Mahin Javaherian (L) and actress Maryam Saadat pose after being honored for their lifetime achievements during the 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan on August 23, 2019.

“They both love Iran and it is obvious in their works. Ms. Javaherian, I admire your works for their Iranian identity, color and taste,” he added.

Leili Rashidi, who co-starred with Saadat in “Tabeta Tales”, director Marzieh Borumand’s popular 1994 TV series, said that she is proud of working with the veteran actress in the series and several puppet shows.

“You can’t imagine how deeply we are all indebted to Ms. Saadat for her work in children’s cinema,” director and actor Seyyed Javad Hashemi said and added, “I wish our children had the opportunity to know her.”

Accepting the award, Saadat humbly said that she didn’t deserve the award.

“Aging doesn’t mean you are experienced, your work and activities should show that. However, I accept the award to overwhelm the tiredness I have suffered from the 40 years of work in this field,” she said.

On her part, Javaherian thanked her husband and friends and said, “I really love the children of my country and I love working for them.”

The 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth, which opened on August 19, will come to an end on Monday.

Ali Hatami’s “Fisherman’s Story” raises funds for flood victims

A R T TEHRAN — The Giti Theater Troupe performed a reading of legendary Iranian filmmaker and writer Ali Hatami’s play “The Fisherman’s Story” at Tehran’s Sangelaj Hall last night to raise funds for the survivors



A poster for a reading performance of “The Fisherman’s Story” by director Ruhollah Jafari.

of the flood in Mamulan, a city in Lorestan Province that was almost totally devastated by the floods in March.

Ruhollah Jafari was the director of the performance and Mohammadreza Azadfar, Arian Gholami, Shahab Abbasian, Hamid Rahimi, Kamiar Mohebbi and Negar Abedi were the members of the cast.

“The Fisherman’s Story” is one of the few plays written by Hatami who was mostly famous for developing his unique personal filmmaking style that was characterized by melodious dialogues and traditional Iranian ambiance created through architecture and set design.

Born in 1944 in Tehran, Hatami studied cinema at the College of Dramatic Arts in Tehran.

In 1969, he made his directorial debut “Hasan the Bald”, which is Iran’s first musical. He died of pancreatic cancer in 1996.

Turkish author Coskun Kökel’s “Erdebilliler” unveiled in Ardebil

A R T TEHRAN — “Erdebilliler”, an encyclopedia of the mystic school of Sheikh Safi ad-Din Ardebili (1253-1334) compiled under the supervision of Turkish author Coskun Kökel was unveiled during a meeting in Ardebil on Friday, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Saturday.

Published in Turkish in Ankara in 2018, the five-volume encyclopedia contains articles about the students of Sheikh Safi ad-Din, founder of a Sufism center in Ardebil, and the ancestor of the Safavid dynasty, whose members migrated from Ardebil in Iran to Anatolia where they promoted Alevism, Islam as practiced by Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia.

Kökel and a number of his colleagues and a group of Iranian cultural officials and experts attended the unveiling ceremony held at the mausoleum of Sheikh Safi ad-Din Ardebili, which was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010.

The director of the Ardebil Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Office, Nader Fallahi, pointed to the joint cultural affinities between Iran and Turkey and said that the cultural projects between the two countries can help reinforce bilateral cooperation.

Fallahi also added that reviving tourism in the region can increase the number of tourists who would like to visit the mausoleum of Sheikh Safi.

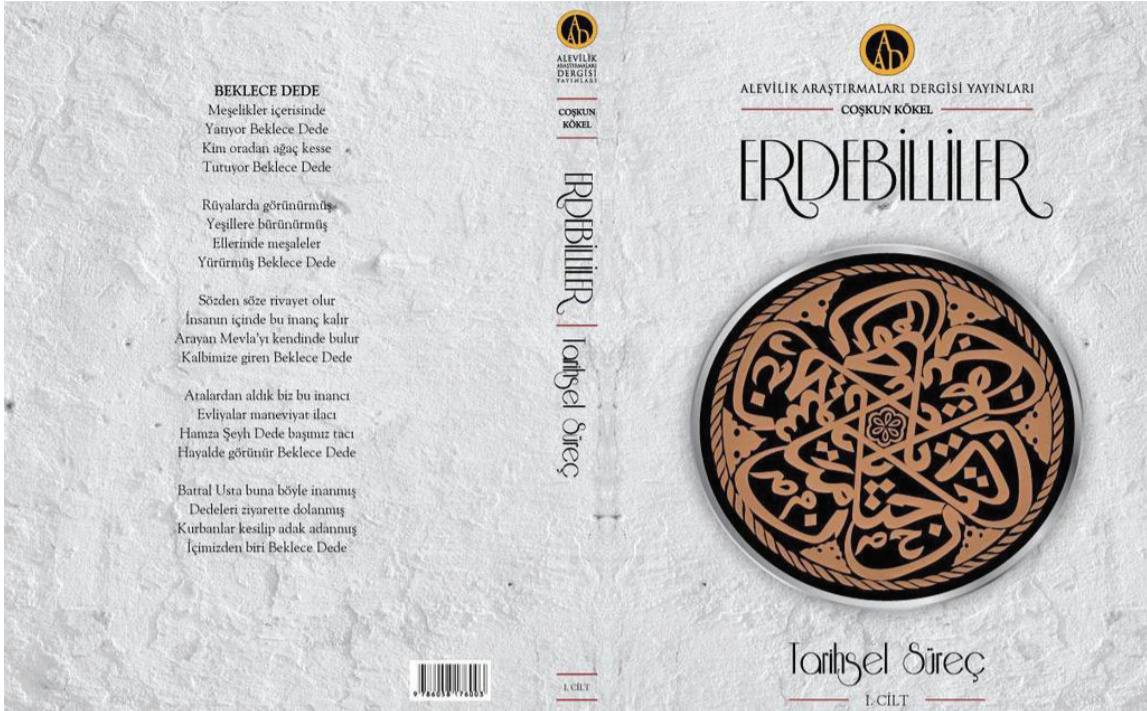
For his part, Kökel also said that Sheikh Safi is highly respected by the Shia in Iran and Turkey and his mausoleum is a sacred place for them.

Beliefs and rituals practiced by the Alevi Muslims in Anatolia as well as historical documents are collected in the book.

Sheikh Safi was a Sufi philosopher and the leader of Islamic mystic practices. His mausoleum is comprised of structures built between 1335 and 1629 CE.

The main part of the mausoleum, the Allah Allah Tomb, was built by Sadr ad-Din Musa, son of Sheikh Safi, whose descendant Ismail I founded the Safavid dynasty that ruled Iran during the 16th, 17th, and early 18th centuries.

A wood box bearing inlays and intarsia, which is believed to have been presented by Timurid king Homayun, has been placed on Sheikh Safi’s grave.



Cover of “Erdebilliler”, an encyclopedia on the mystic school of Sheikh Safi ad-Din Ardebili, by Turkish author Coskun Kökel.

The mausoleum consists of many sections that have served a variety of functions over the past centuries, including a library, a mosque, a school, an icehouse, a hospital, kitchens, a bakery and some offices.

It incorporates a route to reach the shrine of the sheikh that is divided into seven segments, which mirror the seven stages of Sufi mysticism.

Various parts of the mausoleum are separated by eight gates, which represent the eight attitudes of Sufism.

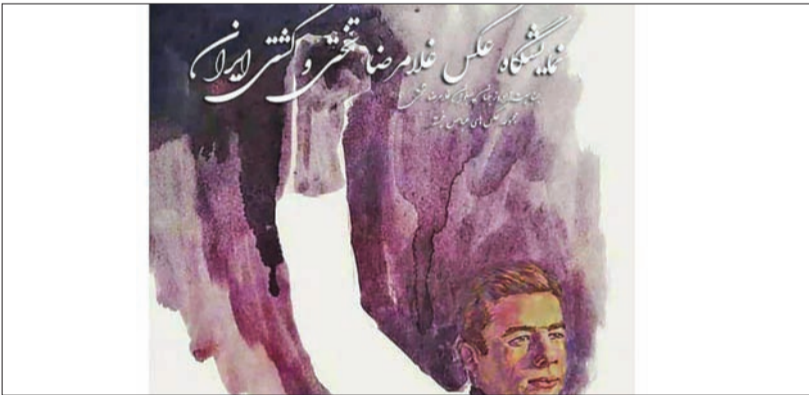
The site presents characteristics of medieval Iranian

Islamic architecture. A collection of fascinating artifacts is also kept at the mausoleum.

Another dome was constructed beside the main dome of the mausoleum after Shah Ismail I was buried beside the grave of Sheikh Safi.

Several parts were gradually added to the main structure during the Safavid dynasty. A number of Safavid sheikhs and harems and victims of the Safavids’ battles, including the Battle of Chaldiran (also known as Chaldoran), have been buried at the site.

Top wrestler Gholamreza Takhti under spotlight at Tehran photo exhibit



A poster for an exhibition of photos of the Iranian Olympic gold-medalist wrestler Gholamreza Takhti at Tehran’s Sheis Gallery.

A R T TEHRAN — An exhibition displaying a selection of photos of the Iranian Olympic gold-medalist wrestler Gholamreza Takhti, whose manly virtue and social activities during the 1960s made him a national hero, opened at Sheis Gallery in Tehran on Friday.

The photos belong to Abbas Khojasteh, a major collector of Takhti’s photos.

In a statement published on Friday, the gallery said that Khojasteh intends to introduce Takti to the younger generation by means of the photos.

The collection will be on view until August 28 at the gallery located at 10 Shirzad Alley, near Daneshju Park.

The gallery also organized an exhibition of Takhti’s photos from Khojasteh’s collection in 2016.

Takhti was found dead at a hotel room in Tehran in 1968 and the Persian dailies Kayhan and Ettelaat reported that he had committed suicide due to his unhappy domestic life. However, a large group of people also believed that he was killed by the SAVAK intelligence services due to his disloyalty to the Shah’s regime.

MovieScore Media to release “The Last Fiction” soundtrack

A R T TEHRAN — The soundtrack from the acclaimed Iranian animated movie “The Last Fiction” by Ashkan Rahgozar is scheduled to be released by MovieScore Media, a Swedish record label devoted to original film scores, the Hoorakhsh Studio in Tehran announced on Saturday.

Iranian musician Christophe Rezai is the composer of the score for “The Last Fiction”, which is based on a story from the Shahnameh, the epic masterpiece of the Persian poet Ferdowsi.

The album is due to be released on Amazon, iTunes and the Spotify music services.

Vocalist Shahram Nazeri sang the closing credits song in “The Last Fiction”.

Singers Mostafa Mahmudi, Haleh Seifzadeh and Majid Eslami, as well as dotar player Morteza Gudarzi and guitarist Kaveh Yaghmai, collaborated in this project.

Marc Blanes Matas, a top international expert on sound recording, mixing, mastering and music production also collaborated in this project.



The album cover of “The Last Fiction” composed by Christophe Rezai.

Obamas make their Hollywood movie debut with “American Factory”

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Barack and Michelle Obama made their Hollywood debut on Wednesday with a documentary set in industrial Ohio that film reviewers are calling compelling and timely.

“American Factory”, the story of what happened when a Chinese company took over an abandoned General Motors plant, is the first product of a multi-year collaboration between Netflix (NFLX.O) and Higher Ground, the production company formed last year by the former U.S. president and first lady.

“A good story gives you the chance to better understand someone else’s life. It can help you find common ground. And it’s

why Michelle and I were drawn to Higher Ground’s first film,” Obama said in a Twitter posting on Wednesday.

The documentary traces the lives of thousands of workers laid off from their auto jobs in Moraine, Ohio, in the 2008 recession, some of whom were hired six years later by Chinese company Fuyao Glass America to make automotive glass in the same plant.

The Washington Post called “American Factory”, which arrived on Netflix on Wednesday, “a perfect vehicle for (Higher Ground’s) mission to lift up stories from underrepresented groups.”

“We want people to be able to get outside

of themselves and experience and understand the lives of somebody else,” Obama told filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steven Bogner in a promotional video released by Netflix.

Michelle Obama told the filmmakers she was particularly struck by the opening scenes of workers on the factory floor.

“That was my background, that was my father,” she said.

“One of the many things I love about this film... is that you let people tell their own story. “American Factory” doesn’t come in with a perspective; it’s not an editorial.”

The Los Angeles Times called the documentary “compelling,” and pop culture

website Vox.com said it was “a fascinating peek into the challenges of globalization.” It received a 97% approval rate on review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes.

Under the Netflix deal, Higher Ground will produce, curate and acquire content for distribution on the streaming service. The value of the deal is not known.

Upcoming programming will include an adaptation of Pulitzer Prize-winning book “Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom” by David W. Blight about the slavery abolitionist, a period drama set in the fashion world and a series for pre-schoolers focusing on healthy eating.

“Splinter Cell” appears at Iranian bookstores



Copies of the Persian version of “Splinter Cell” by David Michaels are on display in a bookstore in Tehran.

CULTURE TEHRAN — “Splinter Cell”, the first novel in the “Tom Clancy’s Splinter Cell” fantasy series written by David Michaels, has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Hadi Amini is the translator of the book, which has been released by Tandis Publications.

David Michaels is a pseudonym for the authors of novels in the series, which is composed of six novels published from 2004 to 2009.

American author Raymond Benson is the writer of the first two novels, and the other novels were written by different writers

using the David Michaels pseudonym.

The series, which is based on a successful video game series, is about a highly trained agent, Sam Fisher, who investigates a terrorist group called The Shadows and a related arms-dealing organization named The Shop. Members of The Shop use inside information to attempt to kill Third Echelon members, including Fisher.

Shortly after its publication in December 2004, “Splinter Cell” spent three weeks on the New York Times list of bestsellers. It also made it to the Wall Street Journal list of mass-market paperback bestsellers.