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## Over 2,600 agricultural projects to be inaugurated this week

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Agriculture Ministry announced that 2,616 development and production projects worth 29.11 trillion rials (about \$693 million) will be inaugurated across the country on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30).

Inaugurating these projects is set

to create more than 94,000 job opportunities across the country, IRIB reported.

As reported, Khorasan Razavi with 280 projects, Isfahan with 260 projects and West Azarbaijan with 220 projects were the top three provinces in terms of the number of allocated projects. **→4**

## Iran, Qatar launch new shipping route

**TEHRAN** — Iran and Qatar have launched a new direct shipping route, connecting the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr to Qatar's Doha.

The shipping line is scheduled to operate once a week carrying both passengers and cargoes, Siavash Arjmandzadeh, the managing director of Bushehr's Ports and Maritime Department announced on Sunday, Mehr reported.

Passengers can go on four- to five-day tours paying \$200 to \$500, he said, adding the tours take 12 hours to 20 hours depending on weather conditions and the speed of the ships.

Iran has recently established or reactivated a number of sea travel routes, which is expected to lend a hand to the tourism sector that has fallen victim to a foreign currency crisis caused by sanctions, the report said. **→10**

## Iraqi bloc calls for U.S. troop withdrawal after Israeli air raids

**TEHRAN** — A powerful bloc in Iraq's parliament has called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country, following a series of air raids targeting Shia militias in the country that have been blamed on Israel.

The Fatah Coalition said on Monday that it holds the United States fully responsible for the alleged Israeli aggression, "which we consider to be a declaration of war on Iraq and its people".

The coalition is a parliament bloc representing Iran-backed paramilitary militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces.

The coalition's statement came a day after a drone attack in the western Iraqi town of Qaim killed a commander with the Forces - the latest in attacks apparently conducted by Israel against the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq. It added that U.S. troops are no longer needed in Iraq. **→13**

## Economic benefits foreseen in INSTEX will not meet requirements of Iran: Heinonen

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Olli Heinonen, the former deputy director general for safeguards at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), tells the Tehran Times that "It appears at this stage that the economic benefits foreseen in INSTEX are at best limited and will not meet the requirements of Iran."

Heinonen, now a senior advisor on science and non-proliferation at Foundation for Defense of Democracies, also believes that "European partners will certainly do their best to maintain the JCPOA."

"Iran is technically in good position to ramp-up in a short period of time its uranium enrichment capacity," director general for safeguards at the

IAEA tells to the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview with Heinonen:

■ Iran has announced that it will implement a third step to reduce its obligations under the JCPOA. Will Europe takes effective and convincing action to prevent this?

A: First, we need to recognize that Iran is technically in good position to ramp-up in a short period of time its uranium enrichment capacity. There are over ten thousand gas centrifuges of various types, cascade piping and necessary feed and withdrawal systems, and required electronic control systems ready for installation. These can be configured to enrich uranium to various levels. Though the important calandria has been destroyed as required by the JCPOA, no major changes have

yet been done to the reactor core. Therefore, one can use the existing design drawings to manufacture necessary components in domestic workshops.

European partners will certainly do their best to maintain the JCPOA, but any reduction of obligations by Iran will raise questions about the value and credibility of the JCPOA in its current form. It appears at this stage that the economic benefits foreseen in INSTEX are at best limited and will not meet the requirements of Iran.

■ What would be the possible reaction of Russia and China to reducing Iran's commitments under JCPOA?

A: As parties to the JCPOA and permanent members of the UN Security Council, they have a say, but they are not likely to be able to provide the economic benefits Iran is seeking. **→13**

## Hariri delivers warning to Israel through Russia

**TEHRAN** — Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri has strongly condemned Israel's recent "dangerous" drone incursion into the Arab country, delivering a warning to the regime through Russia against further violations of Lebanon's sovereignty.

Speaking in a telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday, Hariri described the recent Israeli attack on Lebanon as a "dangerous act, an attack against Lebanon's sovereignty and a violation of Resolution 1701, which established calm and stability over the past years."

He added that Lebanon is counting on Russia's role to help prevent further escalation and tension,

as well as to "send clear messages to Israel that it must stop violating Lebanon's sovereignty."

"Hariri stressed that Israel's attack against a civilian populated area strikes a blow to the stable situation that prevailed on the border since the issuance of Resolution 1701, and threatens to seriously escalate the situation in the region, with unpredictable results," a statement from Hariri's office read.

Moscow, in return, "reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and stability of Lebanon," in a statement carried by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The statement added the Russia emphasized the need for respecting international law and



## ARTICLE

**Ebrahim Fallahi**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Washington's plots and threats not to scare away Iranian oil buyers

Nearly 10 days after the release of Iranian super tanker Grace 1 by the Gibraltar court, despite all the U.S. warnings that anyone dealing with the Iranian oil tanker would face sanctions, Iran announced that the supertanker's 2 million-barrel cargo has been sold and the vessel is heading to a destination determined by the buyer.

According to Ali Rabiee, a government spokesman, the cargo aboard the Grace 1 which has now changed its name to Adrian Darya, has been sold and Iran doesn't know where the tanker is headed now.

"The owner of the purchased oil would determine at which coast it (Adrian Darya) will berth. I don't know its destination," Rabiee told Tasnim news agency on Monday.

Selling the oil cargo came as a great shock to the U.S. officials like U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton and Mike Pompeo who had done their best to prevent this from happening.

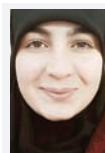
Soon after the release of the Iranian supertanker, the U.S. government had even issued a warrant for its seizure on the pretext that it had links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Earlier on Sunday, Bolton had tweeted that "All hands on deck in the campaign to stop Iran from funding terror, destabilizing the globe, and breaking international sanctions. The illicit oil heading to Turkey on the Adrian Darya 1 must not be allowed off-loaded in port or at sea."

But clearly all the campaign's efforts along with Washington's threats and showing teeth haven't had the intended impact on Iranian oil buyers that for long have been objecting the U.S. policies and their impact on the global economy.

### ■ The story behind a piracy

When in early July, British Royal Marines seized Iran's oil supertanker, Grace 1, in Gibraltar on claims that the tanker was taking oil to Syria and it was violation of EU sanctions, it heated up the already high tensions between Iran and the United States. **→4**



## ARTICLE

**Sondoss Al Asaad**  
Political analyst from Beirut

## Twins of Resistance: Twins of Martyrdom

Two of Hezbollah resistance's fighters Hassan Yousef Zabeeb, 23, and Yasser Ahmad Daher, 22, martyred late Saturday night, during a hostile Zionist strike, in Aqraba area, in Damascus countryside. The story of Hassan and Yasser reflects how Martyrdom, to our youth, has become an honourable purist chased by those who perceive the true meaning of dignity and freedom.

The twins of courage's friendship is truly exceptional, as their colleagues and friends recount. They had become friends since they were students at the Mahdi Shahed High Schools in Borj el-Braineh, in the southern suburb of Beirut. They engineered their life early enough, a praiseworthy life which lasts long, and through which both recorded, for the upcoming generations, unforgettable lessons of piety, determination, commitment and awareness.

After they graduated from the high school, Hassan and Yasser applied to Hezbollah's Educational Mobilization Institution for a scholarship in Iran, to study Aerospace Engineering. They had already chosen that major, with the sincere intention to join the resistance and advance its capabilities, earnest to their covenant with God and eagerly awaiting to join the convoy of the holy martyrs.

Hassan and Yasser's friends note that they had together pledged that if one's application was not accepted, the other would not travel alone and that they would major the same, at the same college. Indeed, they were wholly alerted that this righteous resistance demands highly accomplished students who exert maximum efforts to empower its units. They pledged allegiance to the sacred blood of their predecessors who have paved our way of liberation, honour and steadfastness.

Hassan and Yasser's scholarships were approved; thus they then travelled to the Iranian city of Qazvin to study the Persian language, where they stayed for almost 8 months, in one room at the university dormitory. Next, they got disappointed as Hassan had to head towards Isfahan while Yasser towards Mashhad. **→13**



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## Latvia's "Bille" named best at Isfahan children's film festival

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

**TEHRAN** — "Bille" by Inara Kolmane from Latvia was named best film in the official competition of the 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in the central Iranian city of Isfahan on Monday.

"Bille", which has been made based on prominent Latvian writer Vizma Belzica's novel of the same name, is about an extraordinary and creative little girl, who tries to comprehend the confusing adult world in Europe during the Great Depression in the 1930s. She tries to prove her own value despite the lack of appreciation and love from her mother and family. **→16**



## There will be no bilateral talks with U.S.: Zarif

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that there will be no bilateral talks with U.S.

"In my visit to France, I announced that there will be no meeting between the Iranian and U.S. presidents as long as the United States return to the 5+1 group and implement the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal]. There will be no bilateral talks even then," he told reporters in Beijing before departing to Tokyo.

He added, "The Trump administration has violated agreements that were signed after long talks. What is essential is implementation of the agreements that were reached in the past. We have seen no action by the United States in this respect."

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that preparations were under way for a meeting between Rouhani and U.S. President Donald Trump.

Zarif made a surprise visit to Biarritz, France, where the G7 leaders were meeting on Monday.

The visit came only hours after sources said French President Emmanuel Macron had been given mission by his G7 counterparts to engage in talks with Iran.

He said that in his visit to Biarritz, France, he held meetings and discussed how to preserve the JCPOA.

"In the past years, Iran has met its commitments under the JCPOA. After the U.S. withdrawal from the deal and the Europeans' inaction, Iran decided to take actions based on paragraph 36 of the deal. Now, we are holding talks to return to previous situation and to see how Europe can fulfil its commitments," he said.

Trump abandoned the nuclear deal in May 2018 and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new ones.

So far, Iran has taken two steps in reducing its nuclear commitments: increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium beyond the 300 kilograms allowed under the JCPOA and enriching nuclear fuel to the purity level of 4.5 percent as the Europeans missed a 60-day deadline to devise a concrete mechanism to protect the country from the U.S. sanctions.

Under the agreement, Iran was allowed to enrich uranium to 3.67 percent.

Rouhani said on August 14 that Tehran will start the next step of reducing nuclear obligations after the second 60-day deadline. The third step can include installation of more centrifuges, especially advanced ones.

Rouhani has described Iran's moves in reducing nuclear commitments step by step as a "wise" decision.

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

Zarif said on August 21 that if the Europeans fully honor their commitments to the nuclear deal, Iran will immediately reverse its decision in scaling down its obligations.

"Even if the United States does not return to the nuclear deal, Iran will return to the first stage in several hours... on the condition that the European side fully implements its obligations," Zarif said in a speech at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

## Iran jails 3 on espionage, cultural infiltration charges

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran has jailed two people, one on espionage charges and the other on charges of working to culturally infiltrate the country and influence people against the establishment.

The first one is British dual national, who is sentenced to 10 years in prison for spying for Israel, and another two years for receiving illegal payments, the judiciary said on Tuesday.

Anousheh Ashouri, a woman with British and Iranian citizenship, got 10 years in prison for feeding information to Israel's Mossad spy agency, the Mizan Online website reported, quoting judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili on Tuesday.

She also landed a two-year prison sentence for receiving 33,000 euros (\$36,600) in illicit funds from Israel and ordered to pay the same amount in fines.

The United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) said it was supporting the family of Ashouri following the ruling. "Our Embassy in Tehran continues to request consular access," an FCO spokesman said in a statement.

Ali Johari, an Iranian national, was also sentenced to 10 years in prison for various espionage offences, including "widespread connections with Mossad... and meeting with various elements linked to the Zionists", Esmaili said, the agency reported.

Johari had been in contact with operatives in India, Laos and Sri Lanka, among other countries, and also travelled to "the occupied lands [Israel]", the judiciary added.

He had been in the process of "getting citizenship from this country", said Esmaili, in an apparent reference to Israel.

Johari also received two years in jail for accepting illicit funds and was ordered to pay that unspecified amount in fines, said Esmaili.

The Judiciary spokesman also confirmed that an Iranian appeals court had upheld a 10-year jail sentence to British Council employee Aras Amiri for "cultural infiltration", adding the latter was "already serving her term".

"This person... was identified by us because of her cultural infiltration in society through arts and her widespread activities," he added.

London-based Amiri was arrested in Iran in 2018.

Mizan Online reported her original sentence on May 13, saying she had "made a straightforward confession" after being arrested by Iranian intelligence and security agencies "more than a year ago".

At the time, Esmaili said she had been tasked with drawing up and managing cultural "infiltration" projects.

Iranian authorities shut down the British Council more than a decade ago for what Esmaili described as "illegal activities".

The developments came amid heightened tensions between Iran and the UK, a major ally of the United States, with the pair recently embroiled in a bitter spat over the seizure of two oil tankers.

An Iranian tanker was seized off the British overseas territory of Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion of allegedly shipping oil to Syria.

That vessel was later released, but Iran continues to hold a British-flagged tanker it seized in the Strait of Hormuz on July 19 for allegedly breaking "international maritime rules".

Tensions had already been strained between the two sides over the fate of the British-Iranian Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who was arrested by Iranian authorities in 2016 as she was leaving Tehran.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a 41-year-old Thomson Reuters Foundation employee, was later put on trial and is now serving a five-year jail sentence for "trying to topple" the Iranian government.

# No change in Iran-U.S. relations without removal of sanctions: Rouhani

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that there will be no change in Iran-U.S. relations without removal of all sanctions and change of the wrong path that Washington have taken.

"If someone just seeks to take photo with Hassan Rouhani, it is not possible unless they remove all the cruel sanctions and respect the Iranian people's rights," he said in a speech aired live on state television.

He noted that Iran has continued talks with remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

He added, "Our path is clear. We will return if they return to their commitments. We seek to settle issues and solve problems through logical ways."

"Change of our behavior towards those who have imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran and launched economic terrorism will start when they repent. They should return to their commitments and change the wrong path they have taken. They should serve the interests of the world and the international security. They should recognize the Iranians' rights and respect the revolution and the Islamic system," he said.



He also said, "Washington has the key to positive developments in relations between the two countries, to have security in the region and to be able to have better relations

with the regional countries." Elsewhere, Rouhani said that Iran has never sought to build weapons of mass killing. "This policy of ours has not been adopted

because of your frowning and remarks, it's because of our beliefs, morality and fatwa issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei]," he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that preparations were under way for a meeting between Rouhani and U.S. President Donald Trump.

"What I hope is that in coming weeks, based on these talks, we can manage to see a summit between President Rouhani and President Trump," Aljazeera quoted him as saying.

**■ 'Principles of foreign policy have not changed'**

Rouhani also said that principles of Iran's foreign policy have not been changed and the country seeks "constructive" and "comprehensive" interaction with the world.

He added that Iran has never sought tension and welcomes cooperation.

"We are ready to move within the framework of international law and national interests and security. We have chosen a path named empowering Iran," he added.

He added, "Wherever negotiation and defense are needed, we will do it. We stand against bullying. Our final goal is Iran's greatness."

## Iran to take 3rd nuclear step on September 6: FM

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran's foreign minister has said the country will begin suspending more of its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers on September 6.

"The third phase (of limiting our nuclear undertakings) will start on September 6," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an interview with the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper published on Tuesday.

The first phase started on May 8 and the second phase on July 7. Tehran has rowed back on its nuclear commitments twice in compliance with articles 26 and 36 of the 2015 deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He added that Iran would reconsider its upcoming decision if it reaches an agreement with Europe and the European side starts implementing it.

According to a Persian translation of the interview published by Tasnim, Zarif noted that the JCPOA is based on two principals. "One of them requires Iran to ensure that its nuclear program follows peaceful objectives exclusively. The other requires the international community, the other parties [to the deal] in particular, to guarantee that Iran's economic relations with the rest of the world is normalized."

"Iran has upheld its commitments and the International Atomic Energy Agency has ratified this issue 15 times, five times of which are related to the time after the U.S. quit the JCPOA. But Iran's economic relations with the world have not been normalized. In fact these relations today are much worse that they were before the nuclear deal, which means that the opposite party has failed to implement the deal."



**The EU has promised to undertake 11 commitments... We are not asking for any of these as preconditions for the full implementation of our commitments. We only want to sell our oil and receive the money.**

## Moscow eyeing further expansion of ties with Tehran

**(FNA)** — Russian Ambassador to Tehran Levan Dzhangaryan voiced hope that the frequent exchange of delegations between his country and Iran will result in more agreements and further developments of Tehran-Moscow ties.

During his Monday meeting with Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Mojtaba Zonnour, Dzhangaryan noted that a number of delegations have been exchanged between the two countries and expressed hope that the two sides would reach final agreement and witness the expansion of economic ties between Moscow and Tehran.

He further expressed hope the two states would deepen mutual cooperation.

Referring to the meeting and talks between parliamentary officials of the two countries, the top diplomat highlighted that the dialogues between the officials and MPs of the two counties at different levels indicate the higher level of friendly ties and significance of deepening of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia.

Russian ambassador reiterated that at the parliamentary level the two sides witness the good relations between the Speakers of the Parliaments, heads of specialized commissions and Iran-Russia Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the current level of trade and economic ties between two countries, Dzhangaryan said that there are relevant agreements between two counties, but the level of economic ties is not proportionate to the existing capacities.

"We have provided various facilities to Iranian businessmen and there have been many exchanges between businessmen and private sectors of the two countries which we hope will reach a final agreement and we will see the level of economic relations between Russia and Iran improved," he added.

Zonnour, for his part, stressed the importance of strengthening the Iranian-Russian parliamentary cooperation and announced Iran's parliament readiness to expand the level of friendly ties in interaction with the MPs.



He also expressed satisfaction with the level of political and parliamentary relations between Iran and Russia.

On Sunday, Dzhangaryan said that his country and Iran will link their domestic banking networks in the near future.

In a meeting with Managing Director of Iran's International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) Bahman Hosseinzadeh in Tehran, Dzhangaryan reassured that the banking networks of the two countries will get connected in a near future, adding that financial transactions between Iran and Russia will become much easier since then.

Late in June, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnasser Hemmati stressed his country's interest in expanding mutual trade cooperation with Russia and selling its oil with the help of the Northern neighbor.

"Russia, in parallel with the Europeans, has presented a proposal for trade cooperation with Iran and we are also interested in trade ties with them because Russia can supply many of our needs by purchasing oil from us," Hemmati said in an interview with the state TV on June 23.

Early in July, Russian Permanent Representative to the European Union Vladimir Chizhov stated that Moscow will ignore Washington's sanctions against Iran and continue to trade with the Middle Eastern nation without creating any special mechanisms.

"Our colleagues here [in Brussels] sometimes ask why Russia and China do not create their own INSTEX [Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges]. To that we answer with the question: why do we need it? We have already traded and will trade without paying any attention to U.S. sanctions," Chizhov told Sputnik.

## Israel's aerial attacks in region proxy war against Iran: Analyst

**(Press TV)** — A political commentator tells Press TV that Israel has been waging a "proxy war" against Iran by escalating its aerial attacks against regional countries, describing the assaults as an election stunt by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to win more votes.

"Benjamin Netanyahu is very keen to show that he is the leader who can stand up to Iran, which is how he is defining the narrative within those Israeli elections," Jonathan Fryer, author and broadcaster, told Press TV's The Debate program on Monday.

"He is, of course, pointing the finger at Tehran, accusing Iran of using so-called proxies in different countries, including Syria and Iraq, and now of course by the attacks on Hezbollah directly in Lebanon and ... Palestinians, widening that front, I think a lot of it actually is for his own domestic audience," he added.

He said that "the Israelis are keen to try to persuade the Americans that Israel is under the threat from Iran even if ... there have never been a direct attack on Israel from Iran."

The political commentator said that the Israeli premier "is playing gamble. He... needs to portray himself as the strongman leader and if you get rid of that man then Israel's security will not be guaranteed."

"It is a high strategy of course because it is alienating not only the Arab countries in the region... but also some European countries as well. Because this Israeli adventurism with drones is being watched with considerable concerns in some European capitals," Fryer added.

He further said that the recent wave of air raids on positions of pro-government Iraqi forces, which are said to be linked to the Israeli regime and the U.S., could remove U.S. forces from Iraq.

Michael Springmann, former American diplomat, joining the show, also said the recent wave of Israeli raids in the region was kind of Israeli proxy war against Iran.

"The Israelis... have been pushing this war by proxy against Iran for years. These attacks are nothing new. They have been using Lebanese airspace to fire rockets and bombs into Syria,



claiming that they are under attacks by Iran," he said.

He added that "Israel, the United States and to some extent Saudi Arabia and [Persian] Gulf states, particularly the United Arab Emirates" are "steering the situation" in the Middle East. The analyst further lauded Iran for making diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region.

Israel has a history of targeting anti-Daesh forces in the region, but it has sharply stepped up its acts of aggression simultaneously on Syria, Iraq and Lebanon over the past weeks.

The regime claimed earlier this week that it had launched strikes on an Iranian site in Syria. That claim was rejected by both Damascus and Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, which is — along with Iran and Russia — assisting the Syrian army in its counter-terrorism operations. Hezbollah said two of its fighters had been killed in that missile strike near Damascus.

The regime also sent two explosives-laden drones into Lebanon on what Hezbollah has described as a "bombing" mission this. One of the drone, hit a Hezbollah media facility in a southern Beirut neighborhood, while the other, which appeared to have been sent by Israel to search for the first one, went down in an empty plot nearby after being detonated in the air.

The assault drew a stern warning from Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah besides Lebanese leaders.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv is widely reported to have been behind positions of Iraq's anti-Daesh Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), prompting condemnations from senior Iraqi authorities.



# Lawmakers pushing to ban dialogue with U.S.: MP

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian lawmakers are signing a statement that denounces and bans any kind of talks with the United States, according to MP Ahmad Alirezabeigi.

Alirezabeigi said on Tuesday that the statement is a reaction to remarks by President Hassan Rouhani regarding negotiations, Mehr reported.

According to the statement, the MP said, holding talks with the U.S., under the current circumstances and given the U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal, would be detrimental to the interests of the Iranian nation and thus is condemned and prohibited.

Tensions started to build up between the U.S. and Iran after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018, and imposed sanctions against Tehran in a bid to put maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic.

The Trump administration has also made empty calls for talks, but the Islamic Republic maintains that as long as the sanctions are in place and the U.S. refuses to return to the JCPOA, negotiations will be meaningless.

Addressing Tuesday's session of the parliament, MP Mostafa Kavakebian reiterated



that no talks will take place as long as the U.S. refuses to return to the JCPOA and "our money transfer has not been facilitated."

"Some of our colleagues in the parliament

are behaving as if President Rouhani is going to hold talks with Trump today," Kavakebian said, according to Mehr.

"This is not true. Our condition is that no

talks will take place as long as the Americans have not returned to the JCPOA."

"Also those mediators who sometimes deliver messages — they have been told that first the sanctions must be lifted, our money transfer facilitated, and the rest of our conditions met. There is nothing wrong with negotiations if it's done from the position of power, wisdom and national interest."

President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the United States should lift all its cruel sanctions against Iran and begin respecting the nation's rights as a "first step" towards dialogue.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic will not engage in any negotiations for the mere sake of photo ops.

"We seek to resolve issues and problems in a rational way but we are not after photo ops. For anyone wanting to take a picture with Hassan Rouhani, this is not possible" unless that party chooses to set aside all the oppressive sanctions and respect the Iranian nation's rights, the president said.

Rouhani made the remarks a day after French President Emmanuel Macron expressed hopes for a meeting between the Iranian president and his American counterpart Donald Trump in the next few weeks.

## Iran not needing permission from other countries: minister

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iran does not need permission from other countries in order to make decisions, Iranian Minister Mahmoud Alavi said on Tuesday. "Certain countries have more military equipment and facilities than Iran, but they do not have the status of the Islamic Iran in terms of deterrence and independence," Alavi said, Mehr reported.

"They cannot make decisions without a permission from the U.S.," he added.

Alavi said a country's dignity is not limited to its defense power, but it is the independence and morale of that nation that brings dignity and political will to that country.

He also said many of the European countries do not have independence of will and cannot make decisions themselves and need to be in coordination with the U.S. before making decisions.

On May 8, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA, despite the objection of its European allies.

Europe, which is expected to protect Iran's interests under the JCPOA, has failed to do so because of U.S. pressures.

Tehran argues that Europe has done nothing to salvage the JCPOA because they lack the willpower to do so and they do not want to pay the price of confronting the U.S. to save the deal.

Trump has undermined the independence and dignity of other U.S. allies as well.

For instance, he said last year that Saudi Arabia and its king would not last "for two weeks" without U.S. military support.

"We protect Saudi Arabia. Would you say they're rich? And I love the king, King Salman. But I said 'King — we're protecting you — you might not be there for two weeks without us — you have to pay for your military,'" Trump said.



## Not all problems to be solved through diplomacy: ex-envoy

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Former Iranian Ambassador to Norway Alireza Farajirad says no all of the country's problems will be resolved through diplomacy.

"Because of our current circumstances, there's this need to increase interactions with other countries, including the small European countries," Farajirad said, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

"Of course we must bear in mind that with increasing activities in the field of diplomacy, no all of our problems will be resolved," he said.

The former envoy also pointed out that European countries have taken positive steps in the aftermath of Iran's reduction of its commitments to the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"This matter has created hopes about the future," he stated.



Farajirad said it is still early to judge the performance of the European side, adding, "We know that taking positive steps by Europe does not guarantee that Iran's rightful requests and

demands under Barjam (nuclear deal) are met."

U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the nuclear deal, also referred to as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new ones.

So far, Iran has taken two steps in reducing its nuclear commitments: increasing its stockpile of enriched uranium beyond the 300 kilograms allowed under the JCPOA and enriching nuclear fuel to the purity level of 4.5 percent.

Under the agreement, Iran was allowed to enrich uranium to 3.67 percent.

Pointing to Europe's trade mechanism, Farajirad said INSTEX is being implemented.

INSTEX — the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges — is a European special pur-

pose vehicle aimed at facilitating legitimate trade between Europe and Iran.

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

"The Iranian side has announced that if INSTEX does not work and the performance of the European sides to Barjam does not satisfy Iran, we will take the third step" in reducing commitments to the deal, Farajirad said.

In an interview published on Sunday, the former ambassador said the implementation of INSTEX is under U.S. pressure. "So the more the European countries invest on INSTEX, the more difficult for the U.S. to sanction countries."

He also said talks with the European countries to preserve the JCPOA are proceeding positively.

## U.S. military presence brings nothing but insecurity to Persian Gulf: Iranian experts

**TEHRAN (Press TV)** — Iranian experts say the U.S. military buildup has brought nothing but instability and insecurity to the Persian Gulf region, supporting Tehran's initiative for collective regional cooperation as the sole way to ensure safety in the strategic waters.

Hossein Kanani Moghadam, secretary of the International anti-Zionism Association, told Press TV's Iran Today program that foreign intervention does not contribute to regional security.

"Cooperation between neighboring countries always helps increase security. The presence of foreign forces does not help much in this regard. It is not hidden to anyone that these foreign countries send forces only because they want to gain some benefits and take the control of the natural resources there," he said.

He also supported Iran's call for regional countries to jointly work to maintain security in the Persian Gulf.

"Iran has repeatedly suggested that the Arab states of the Persian Gulf should join hands and shoulder responsibility for the security of the Persian Gulf and do not allow foreigners take over. Unfortunately, however, they have let countries like the U.S. to build military bases all over their lands and use their air space under the pretext of security, which have brought nothing but tensions and insecurity in the region," Kanani Moghadam said.

He further emphasized that the U.S. — which has already suffered defeats in its plots for Syria and Iraq — is currently not after military occupation of other countries but rather wants obedient self-proclaimed governments.

"Since the Munich Security Conference in 2002, the U.S.'s strategy has been to pursue hybrid warfare. In such warfare, the war is not limited to the military forces anymore and other types of wars come to help defeat the enemy such as information war, economic war, political war, attempts to provoke the protesters against a government, attempts to create terrorist groups, and the list goes on. The U.S. government seems to have lost interest in military intervention," he said.

■ **'Arab states should trust Iran, not U.S.'**

International relations expert Diako Hosseini, in turn, said that regional countries should realize that they cannot trust the West, especially the U.S., for their own security.

"The Arab states to the south of the Persian Gulf need to raise awareness of the fact that Iran is not a threat but

an important element for security in the region. I think the problem is that these Arab countries suffer lack of political wisdom badly. Is it really hard to see that the U.S. has brought tensions, war and insecurity in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan and anywhere it has set foot so far? You don't have to be a genius to understand that the security of your neighbors bring security for you," he added.

■ **'Israel cannot join PG coalition'**

Meanwhile, Eurasia expert Bahram Amirahmadian cast doubt on Israel's ability to join a U.S.-led naval mission purportedly aimed at protecting shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf.

"Israel is not even capable of properly managing the lands it has occupied such as the Golan Heights, the West Bank or Gaza. Now, how can Israel — while being surrounded by countries which are either allied or friends with Iran — join the U.S.'s coalition in the Persian Gulf? Hezbollah has several times proved that Israel is too fragile and weak," he said.

Amirahmadian also stressed Iran's right to stop Israel in the Strait of Hormuz.

"According to the international convention on maritime law, which identifies the right of the ships to pass the Strait of Hormuz safely, Iran can any time claim that 'Israel is our enemy and intends to use the Strait of Hormuz to attack us.' Iran is allowed to stop Israel based on this claim," he said. "As a result, Israel can in no way join this so called coalition or enter the Persian Gulf. At best, it can only give information aid."

The United States has been trying to persuade its allies into joining an international coalition with the declared aim of providing "security" for merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz — through which about a fifth of all oil consumed globally passes — and other strategic Middle Eastern shipping lanes.

Washington has accused Iran of having a role in a series of attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, a claim Tehran has strongly rejected. Tehran has warned that such sabotage operations may be part of a general plot to target Iran amid increasing regional tensions.

■ **'U.S. spreads Iranophobia to sell Arabs more arms'**

Iranian lawmaker Mohammad J. Jamali also said the U.S. is spreading Iranophobia in a bid to sell more weapons and get Arab states' permission to build military bases on



their soil.

"In addition, they (the Americans) want to take control of the huge oil reserves in these countries and this way control the oil price and oil market according to their will. This is while the Americans have decided to reduce their presence in this region and instead put the UK and some other EU countries in charge of the affairs on their behalf," he said.

■ **'U.S. anti-Iran threats 'bogus'**

International affairs analyst Abdollah Moradi pointed out that the U.S.'s military threats against Iran are "bogus" as Tehran is capable enough to confront Washington.

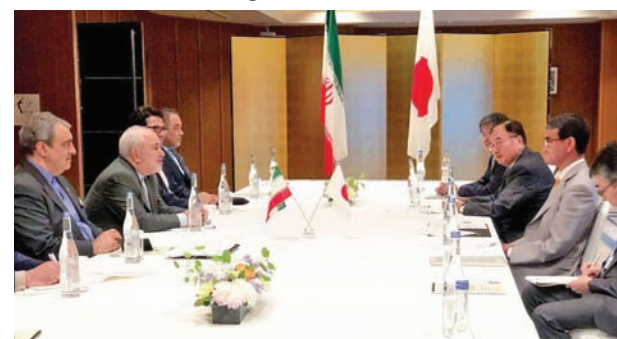
Since escalating its sanctions, he added, the U.S. has been threatening Iran with military action in an attempt to harm its economy.

"Ill-thought moves such as putting Iran's IRGC (Islamic Revolution Guards Corps) on the list of 'terrorist groups' and sending warships to the Persian Gulf were to make their threats more believable. But when Iran shot down their drone, the Americans came to the understanding that we (Iranians) have both the capability and the courage to confront the U.S. militarily," he said.

## Zarif meets Japanese FM

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met on Tuesday with Taro Kono, the Japanese foreign minister, in Yokohama, Japan.

The officials discussed relations, latest developments in implementing the 2015 nuclear deal and also situation in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region.



According to The Mainichi, Zarif underscored the need to engage in bilateral and regional consultations, saying that Iran and Japan "both have a special interest in the security of the energy market as well as security and stability in the Persian Gulf."

Kono said, "We are worried about tensions in the Middle East, and we hope to make some diplomatic efforts to ease tensions."

Zarif was in Beijing on Monday and met with Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister, and discussed relations and international developments.

During the meeting, Zarif called for more cooperation between the two countries.

"Iran and China can cooperate in various areas of science, technology, economy and also security," he said.

Wang for his part attached importance to expansion of relations and cooperation.

He described the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, as important achievement of diplomacy and symbol of multilateralism.

He rejected unilateralism and noted that China is determined to preserve the JCPOA.

Zarif plans to visit Malaysia on Wednesday.

## Iranian youth will hit back at Trump's bullying, Macron's deceit: ex-nuclear negotiator

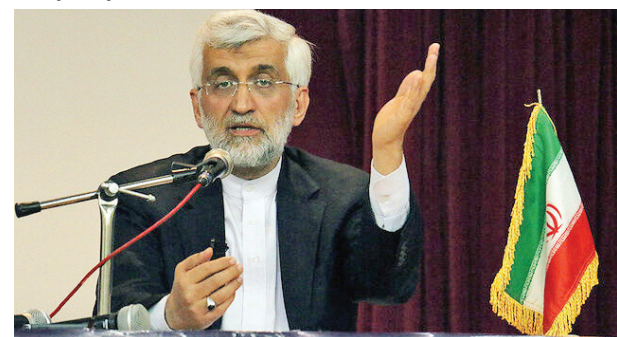
**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Former chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili says Donald Trump's bullying and Emanuel Macron's deception will be responded to by the Iranian youth's national faith.

Jalili made the remarks while referring to the unveiling of the domestically-built missile defense system, dubbed "Bavar-373" (faith), ISNA reported on Tuesday.

"The only response to this maximum pressure of Trump and small gestures of Macron is the great faith of the Iranian nation and the efforts of this land's children and nothing else," he said.

The comments came after President Macron said that G7 leaders had agreed to a joint action on Iran with the aim of defusing tensions and opening a new negotiation with Tehran.

"We agreed on what we wanted to say jointly on Iran," Reuters quoted Macron as saying on Sunday. "There is a message from the G7 on our objectives and the fact that we share them is important, which avoids divisions that in the end weaken everybody."



"Everyone wants to avoid a conflict, Donald Trump was extremely clear on that point."

Earlier, a French official said the French president had shared details of the plan to ease tensions with Iran during his working lunch with President Donald Trump at the G-7 summit.

The official, who was speaking anonymously in accordance with the French presidency's customary practices, said France has been working for several weeks on the plan, the Associated Press reported on Saturday.

The diplomat said France and the United States share the same interests, which he claimed to be preventing "a nuclear-armed Iran."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Friday met with Macron in Paris to discuss the implementation of the nuclear deal, which is also known as the JCPOA.

"France presented some suggestions to Iran on how to implement the JCPOA and the steps that both sides need to take. We also presented some suggestions on how to fully implement the JCPOA," Zarif stated.

Trump has adopted a maximum pressure policy against Iran since he walked away from the JCPOA. The policy includes sanctions on Iran's economy, especially its oil exports, and bans on top Iranian figures and organizations.

## IRGC member assassinated in northwestern Iran

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has been assassinated in the town of Piranshahr in West Azerbaijan province, a local official announced on Tuesday.

Ali Torabi, Piranshahr's governor, said that IRGC member was shot dead in Esteghlal (Independence) avenue in the Kurdish town near the Iraqi border, according to Fars.

In July three IRGC servicemen were killed in an ambush on the outskirts of Piranshahr, Mehr news agency reported at the time. More clashes have taken place in other areas of West Azerbaijan province.

In early August another two IRGC servicemen were killed in the Maku region close to the Turkish border.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	278469.7
IFX	3704.23

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,631 rials
GBP	51,294 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$58.73/b
WTI	\$54.23/b
OPEC Basket	\$59.67/b
Gold	\$1,532.45/oz
Silver	\$11.78/oz
Platinum	\$863.45/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

34 industrial units inaugurated in Tehran Province

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – On the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30), 34 industrial units were inaugurated in different areas of Tehran Province on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The units were inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani through video conference in a ceremony participated by Industry Minister Reza Rahmani.

The minister said that these units create jobs or 1,500 people.

Iran to hold pavilion at 2 intl. exhibitions in Uzbekistan

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) is planning to open Iranian pavilion at two of Uzbekistan’s most renowned international exhibitions which are due to be held in early October and early November.

As announced by the TPO portal, Iran will have pavilion in the 7th edition of Uzbekistan’s International Exhibition of Building Equipment and Materials (BuildExpo Uzbekistan 2019) which is due to be held during October 02-04 and the country’s 18th Annual International Exhibition of Agriculture (Agri Tek Uzbekistan 2019) which is set to be held on November 06-08 in Tashkent.

The Iranian pavilions will aim to bolster the presence of Iranian companies in target markets, establishing mutual relations with the foreign companies participating in the exhibitions, and ultimately promoting a successful and sustainable presence in the regional markets.

14 renewable power plants go operational across Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Head of Iran’s Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA) said 14 new renewable power plants started operation in nine different provinces during the Government Week, IRIB reported.

According to Seyed Mohammad Sadeqzadeh, with a total capacity of 160 megawatts (MW), the mentioned projects include a wind farm and 13 solar farms.



The official noted that over 4.45 trillion rials (nearly \$106 million) plus €107 million has been funded for completing the mentioned projects.

“These 14 power plants went operational in East Azarbaijan, Tehran, Hamedan, Zanjan, Yazd, Kerman and Fars provinces,” the Energy Ministry’s news portal (known as PAVEN) quoted Sadeqzadeh as saying.

Putting these power plants in operation has created more than 1,270 jobs in the mentioned provinces across Iran.

The deputy energy minister put the current capacity of renewable power plants in the country at about 760 MW, adding that currently the construction is ongoing for another 32 plants to supply an extra 380 megawatts of renewables to the national power grid.

According to PAVEN, currently renewable power plants have created 43,450 job opportunities across the country and the volume of private investment in this sector has exceeded 124 trillion rials (over \$2.95 billion).

It said the bulk of electricity generation from renewables, around 85 percent, came from solar and wind plants, adding that biomass accounted for only one percent of the total output.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for just six percent of the country’s total energy generation, versus natural gas’ 90 percent share.

Overall, in the next five years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

Govt. launches project to build 110,000 affordable housing units

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani officially launched the government’s National Action Plan for Construction and Supply of Housing on Tuesday, inaugurating a project for constructing 110,000 affordable housing units.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony which was held in Tehran, Rouhani also issued directives for the start of construction operations in several other provinces including Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, Isfahan, Hormozgan and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari.

The National Action Plan for Construction and Supply of Housing aims to construct 400,000 small and medium-size apartments (70-100 square meters in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.

Of the total number of homes, about half will be constructed in Tehran’s suburban



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (1stL) and Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami (2ndL) attended the opening ceremony of the National Action Plan for Construction and Supply of Housing in Tehran on Tuesday.

“new towns” such as Parand and Pardis, respectively located in the west and east of the city.

According to Iran’s Minister for Transport and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami, the government is hoping to complete the new units by April 2021.

While the ministry will provide the land for the new developments, it will only supervise construction, enlisting private sector construction firms who will bid for contracts that entitle them to receive state loans and subsidized building materials.

As reported, the government’s investment in construction will help create new jobs across the country and is expected to boost wages among laborers.

Providing housing to low-income families could also help alleviate economic hardship, especially if government’s assistance can help inflation-hit renters become homeowners.

Over 2,600 agricultural projects to be inaugurated this week

**1 →** The projects covered a variety of areas including water and soil subdivisions, livestock and poultry as well as gardening and crop production projects.

According to the ministry’s report, nearly 19,000 projects have been inaugurated in various areas of the country’s agricultural sector since August 2017 up to date.

Last week, the Agriculture Ministry published a report on development of the country’s agricultural sectors in the past six years.

Based on the released data, Iran’s total agriculture production in various sectors including horticulture, livestock, poultry and aquaculture reached 122 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), a 3.3 percent rise compared to the figure for March 2013.

As reported by IRNA, the country’s total agricultural production stood at 97 million tons in the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (started in March 2013).

According to Deputy Agriculture Minister Abbas Keshavarz, the country’s self-sufficiency rate in wheat production has increased from 65 percent in the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (March 2013-March 2014) to 105 percent in the past year.

In the past forty years, since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has witnessed a remarkable improvement in various sectors and the agriculture industry has been one of the areas in which the country has undergone huge development.

Revolutionizing the agriculture industry through implementing billions of dollars’ worth of development, research and educational projects across the country has been one of the main reasons for the significant improvements in this sector in recent years.

The recent heavy rainfalls across the country have also created a good condition for the country’s agricultural sectors to witness a rise in production.

Earlier in June, Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud



Hojjati said the country is expected to experience a significant increase in agricultural production due to sufficient rainfalls this year (March 2019-March 2020).

Tehran, Yerevan stress expansion of banking ties

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – In a meeting in Yerevan on Tuesday, Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Kazem Sajjadi and Governor of Central Bank of Armenia Arthur Javadyan stressed the need for expansion of banking ties between the two countries, IRNA reported.

In the meeting, the officials pointed to holding banking seminars and symposiums as important and effective instruments for transferring the two sides’ knowledge and experience in order for expansion of monetary and banking relations.

Reiterating his country’s readiness for development of all-out relations with Iran, Javadyan stated “Development of banking relations between Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran is on Yerevan’s agenda and I hope that the authorities of the two countries will show greater impetus to enhance the transfer of experiences from both sides.”

Back in July, head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce had announced that the two countries are discussing the possibility



Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Kazem Sajjadi (1stR) and Governor of Central Bank of Armenia Arthur Javadyan (middle) met on Tuesday in Yerevan to discuss expansion of economic ties.

of trade with their national currencies.

“We have proposed to the Armenian president that the two sides establish a financial institution which would operate outside the

two countries’ banking systems,” Hervik Yarianian said.

Mentioning his recent meeting with the Armenian President Armen Sarkissian, the

official noted that the president has positive attitude toward Iran and has called for increasing mutual trade between the two countries.

Iran and Armenia have been taking all necessary measures to boost the level of their economic relations to match their positive political relations.

In early May, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Tehran to expand economic cooperation, especially in the field of energy.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan at the end of the 16th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Based on the MOU, the two sides agreed to complete the construction of Iran’s third electricity transmission line to Armenia by 2020 in order to increase the country’s electricity exports to Armenia to over 1000 megawatts (MW).

Tehran hosted the 16th Iran-Armenia Joint Economic Committee meeting which was held during June 30-July 2.

Washington’s plots and threats not to scare away Iranian oil buyers

**1 →** Immodestly after the seizure, Iran’s Foreign Ministry announced that seizing the oil tanker was the same as stealing because the sanctions imposed by UK or the European Union do not apply to other countries and UK was not allowed to force them on Iran.

When Bolton heard of the UK seizing Iranian oil tanker on America’s Independence Day, his joy was unconfined. “Excellent news: UK has detained the supertanker Grace I laden with Iranian oil bound for Syria in violation of EU sanctions,” he Twitted.

Although at first glance it seems that Bolton was surprised by the news but the reality was that Bolton’s national security team was directly involved in manufacturing the

Gibraltar incident.

The U.S. aimed to increase psychological and economic pressure on Iran through expanding its disruptive actions into every possible point of the Islamic country’s economic activities.

However, nearly 40 days after Grace 1 was seized, the Gibraltar court ordered it to be released in mid-August.

This verdict put an end to the elaborate game which was designed by Bolton and Mike Pompeo, and carried out by the Britain government.

According to Refinitiv Eikon shipping data carried by Reuters, the Adrian Darya 1—currently west of the island of Crete in the Mediterranean—is no longer heading for Turkey.



China’s industrial profits bounce back in July

Profits at China’s large industrial firms recovered in July, posting year-on-year growth of 2.6 percent, following a decline of 3.1 percent in June.

As per scmp.com, July’s growth was largely powered by the private sector, where industrial giants posted a 11.4 percent rise in their profits.

However, the broader picture shows that across the board, China’s industrial giants remain in relatively weak condition.

For the year-to-date to July, total industrial profits were down 1.7 percent, largely due to a long-term slump in the profitability of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). In the January to July period, SOE profits stood at 1.09 trillion yuan (\$151.5 billion), a decrease of 8.1 percent on the same period in 2018.

Again, the private sector outperformed the state-sector, with private sector profits up 7 percent over the first seven months of the year, to 884.91 billion yuan (\$123.7 billion).

Those industries to have performed well from January to July include ferrous metals – including the sorts of steel used in bridge and skyscraper construction – which jumped 232.1 percent on a year earlier, perhaps indicative of infrastructure stimulus from Beijing filtering into the real economy.

The year-to-date numbers were also positive for the food industry, which posted profit growth of 14.6 percent, and machinery, up 15.6 percent.

However, oil processing profits are down 50.6 percent



so far this year, smelting down 25.1 percent, motor vehicles down 23.2 percent, and manufacturing down 3.4 percent – a batch of numbers suggesting that all is not well with China’s industrial economy.

In a statement accompanying the July figures, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) pointed to a large increase in profits in the electrical machinery sector, which jumped 30.8 percent.

Chinese exports to the United States

July was the second full month in which tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese exports to the United States were at the higher rate of 25 percent.

However, with significant escalation in trade war tariffs over the past week, producers and exporters can expect tougher times ahead.

The slight bump in the profitability numbers was telegraphed in July’s purchasing managers’ index (PMI), which – while remaining in negative territory at 49.7 – was an increase on the 49.4 figure in both May and June and better than analysts’ expectations.

The PMI survey showed that manufacturers and factory owners in China remained downbeat about their prospects, as the pressures of the trade war with the United States continued to mount.

Later this week, the PMI – a gauge of sentiment among factory operators, with 50.0 being the demarcation line between expansion and contraction in manufacturing activity – will be released for the month of August.

While many U.S. buyers will doubtless have engaged in front-loading, that is advance buying of goods before new tariffs kick in on September 1 and December 15, respectively, the consensus is that China’s manufacturing outlook will remain in contractionary territory.

“As we believe the economy will continue to face strong headwinds, especially from the U.S.-China trade tensions and a worsening property sector, we expect Beijing to maintain its easing policy stance in the second half (of 2019).

The worst is yet to come,” wrote analysts from Japanese bank Nomura in a note.



## A Glance at Performance and Activity of IMIDRO

# Salient measures taken by IMIDRO in Attracting New Financial Resources, Developing Explorations, Activating Small-Scale Mines and Supporting Domestic Production



Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), according to the notification of the minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, is responsible for executing and following up 33 strategies.

According to the latest monitoring measures conducted, about 33 percent of operational programs of the roadmap has been materialized.

In the current year in 1398 (started March 21, 2019), IMIDRO launched \$3.5 billion worth of projects in cooperation and collaboration with the private sector. It is predicted that IMIDRO will create 10,000 new employment opportunities before the termination of the current year (to end March 20, 2020).

Last year, IMIDRO launched 19 mineral projects, costing more than \$2 billion. This number of project generated 3,600 and 22,800 employments directly and indirectly.

About 66 projects, costing \$6 billion, were put into operation as of the 12th government until a year earlier i.e. from 2014 to 2018, total of which have been launched with the cooperation and collaboration of the private sector.

Increasing situation of mines in gross domestic product (GDP) is the result of such achievements in such a way that according to a report of Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), Iran's share of mine has hit from 1.3 percent in 2017 to 1.4 percent in current year.

In line with implementation of strategies of development and empowerment, IMIDRO plans to attract capital and increase participation of private companies in implementation of projects in such a way that IMIDRO attracted more than 1,200 billion tomans in the past seven months. Attracting over 1,200 billion tomans worth of new resource for mining and mineral sector during sanctions is thinkable.

In line with supplying raw materials for macro development programs, IMIDRO has considered the new plan for the discovery mines on a land area as large as 300,000 square kilometers.

Given the current year named after by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution as "Boosting Domestic Production", IMIDRO eyes cooperating with private companies. Identifying, reviving and activating small-scale mines is of the other part of activities of IMIDRO which has started since last year. Conclusion of cooperation agreement with scientific and academic centers is of the other salient measures taken by IMIDRO.

### Development Plans:

IMIDRO inaugurated Jajarm aluminum project (Phase 1), costing \$131 million, in the beginning of the current year (started March 21, 2019).

By launching this plan, IMIDRO managed to generate employment for 600 and 1800 people both directly and indirectly.

### Salient Measures Taken by IMIDRO in Line with Developing Mines and Mineral Sector

- Following up and conducting feasibility studies on 300,000 km,
- Planning for commissioning \$3.5 billion worth of mineral project in different areas of country,
- Activating development and expansion plans as well as attracting more than 1,200 billion tomans worth of resources from private sector for the completion of the aforementioned projects.
- Following up setting an Exploration Fund in stock
- Signing and sealing MoU with industry, mine and trade organizations of provinces in line with definition of development plans,
- Launch of 27 research and applied projects is underway.
- Compilation of macro risk report related to the mining and mineral industries chain (domestic and foreign) and sending it to the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade

### Measures Taken by IMIDRO in



### Line with Operating Roadmap in Mining and Mineral Sector

The roadmap of the mining and mineral sector has 72 notified strategies, in which, IMIDRO is responsible for implementing and following up 33 strategies. In line with implementation of these strategies, 145 ob-

jectives have been specified by 2021 Vision Plan, total of which was notified to the relevant units. According to the latest monitoring made, about 33 percent of the operational programs of the roadmap has been realized up to the present time.

### Highlights of Measures Taken in IMIDRO in Line with Realizing Roadmap:

- 1- Joint project in the field of aerial geophysics with the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) is underway,
- 2- Necessary measures have been taken in order to increase annual capital of the Fund.
- 3- Attracting the participation of private sector for nine affiliated units and/or exploratory zones with the strategic objective and completion of semi-finished projects (POTAS KHOR and BIYABANAK complex, etc.)
- 4- Calling for attraction of participation of private sector in Titanium Project of Kahnouj,
- 5- Signing and sealing contract in the rail and road in Sangam.
- 6- Loading and unloading jetties of Persian Gulf Special Economic Zone according to the bylaw approved in Investment Committee,
- 7- Project for reviving and activating small- and medium-sized mines of the country is underway with 19 percent physical progress.
- 8- A MoU has been inked with the aim of developing exploratory activities.

### Activation of Small Mines:

Physical progress of the plan by the end of Tir (July 21) stood at 19 percent. The major activities done by IMIDRO in the first three months of the current year

(March 21 – June 21) include as follows:

- Introducing 15 mines and identified potential to the investor,
- Visiting seven provinces and identifying small-scale mines
- Conducting feasibility studies in four provinces of the country including Fars, Kerman, East Azarbaijan and Isfahan.

### Production Growth in 1st Four Months of Current Year

According to the statistics released in the first four months of the current year (March 21 – July 21), total production volume of concentrate of iron ore, sponge iron, steel ingot, steel products, copper anode and cathode registered a 3, 12, 4, 9, 21 and 22 percent growth respectively as compared to the same period of last year.

A.Saedi



## Sustainable Development

## Daily & Up-to-Date Production

## Favorable Service

## Public Relations Dept. of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC)

# Refining and Distribution, on the Growth and Development Track

At the condition that economy of the country is grappling with sanctions imposed by US against Iran, oil refining industry of the country has used its maximum capabilities and potentials, benefitted from nine oil refineries along with the largest gas condensate refinery in the world including Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR).

With increasing its refining capacity and conveying it to the range of 2.3 million barrels of oil per day (bpd), NIORDC has taken giant strides in relevant field.

Halting gasoline imports as a strategic fuel in the consumption market since last year up to the present time has created this opportunity for policymakers of this industry for exporting these consignments to the world markets. In this regard, NIORDC exported 3,000 tons of gasoline to the international markets via Iran Energy Exchange dubbed "IRENEX".

Attaining this international achievement in the current specific and extraordinary condition is indebted to the measures taken by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) over the past years.

It should be acknowledged that various projects have so far been implemented in this field, the most important of which are as follows: increasing refining capacity, transferring production through pipeline, operation of gasoline production plans, distributing oil products in metropolises, launching Field Smart Card System, implementing Survey Plan, etc.

Implementing the aforementioned plans have created a sea change in supplying and distributing fuel.

The Company managed to realize most of its objectives in the 11th and 12th governments dubbed 'Hope and Prudence'.

Significant hike in imports and exports of five main products of the refineries has been considered as a solid evidence for the said claim.

A glance at refining statistics over the past 40 years, it can be concluded that a basic jump has so far been created in the statistics of production of oil products.

The report put the daily refining capacity of the company in 1978 at 1,175,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd), the rate of which reaches to 751,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) after 12 years i.e. in 1989.



The refining capacity of the company increased in a way that this company able to refine 1,800,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) in 2012, showing a considerable hike in the field of refining oil products.

But as of 2012 and with elapse of about 6 years, the refining capacity of the country experiences its highest jump within the 40 years.

Finally, the refining capacity of the company hit 2,300,000 barrels of oil up to the current Iranian month of Mordad (August 21, 2019), showing a considerable half a million barrels of oil per day (bpd).

As a strategic product, production capacity of gasoline in the fuel basket of the country stands at 115 million liters in the current situation.

Of total gasoline produced in the same period, 75 million liters of which is produced according to EUR-4 and 5 standards.

The current daily production capacity of oil gas in the country stands at 125 million liters, 50 million liters of which observes requirements of EUR 4 and 5 standards.

### Tacturnity and Calmness Return to Megalopolises

Pollutions in macro cities especially in capital Tehran has been turned into one of the most highlighted news that was published from various media. Since 11th government up to the current government, production of euro products has increased in the fuel basket of the country. The production capacity of gasoline and oil gas products that has reached 'zero' since the outset of the 11th government has not been hit 50 and 75 million liters per day.

### Paving Suitable Ways for Entry of CNG

What is of paramount importance here is this that increase of gradient of consumption is in tandem with the increase of production.

One of the strategic policies for reducing consumption of gasoline is to propel the market towards consumption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a substitute fuel and of course, a clean fuel.

In this regard, consumption of CNG started in 2005 as much as 2.3 million cubic meters. With the elapse of more than a decade, the daily consumption of CNG hit 20.9 million cubic meter/year in the last year (ended March 20, 2019), the issue of which is a significant jump for the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIODC).

### Most Important Projects Ready for Operational during Government Week

Many refining projects have been officially put into operation over the past year in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the most important of which can be referred to the projects for boosting and promoting quality of gasoline and oil gas produced in Tabriz according to EUR-5 standard, plan for the production of base oil and lubricants of this refinery in current year, project for increase of production capacity and improvement of quality of gasoline, oil gas in Bandar Abbas Refinery and 3rd phase of Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) in Feb. 2019.

The following projects will be put into op-

eration officially during the Government Week in the current year (started March 21, 2019), the most important of which are as follows:

- Construction of a 20-inch pipeline in Naeen, Kashan, Rey is one of the projects that will be launched during the Government Week. Increasing production capacity for transferring oil products as much as 150,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) and transferring produced products at Bandar Abbas and Persian Gulf Star refineries, as much as 200,000 barrels of oil per day have been highlighted in this project.

Abadan/Ahvaz/Arak and Rey pipeline are of the other project that will be put into operation by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC). With the aim of development of pipeline as long as 425 km, this project will provide the daily transfer of about 240,000 barrels of oil produced in Abadan and Imam Khomeini (RA) refineries.

This project has been constructed within the framework of two sectors including construction of new pipeline in Abadan and Ahvaz, with the 26-inch diameter, as long as 135 km as well as new pipeline in Arak and Rey, with the diameter of 26 inch, as long as 290 km.

Of the other projects that would be put into operation by Isfahan Refinery during the Government Week in the current year, it should be referred to as follows:

Construction of wastewater treatment plant in Shahinshahr in order to transfer and treat sanitary wastewater in this city, use of water emitted from the aforementioned wastewater as raw water of the refinery, construction of Solidification Unit and Sulfur Granule Unit



with the production capacity of 300 tons/day with the aim of removal of destructive environmental effects of sulfur particles in the air and reducing environmental pollutants caused by transport of sulfur, construction of loading jetties and also construction of 230-V substation and also 230/33 V substation in order to create sustainable electricity for the refinery as well as supply of electricity for the newly-established units.

In Abadan Refinery, project for supply of water required in this refinery from Bahman-shir River is ready for operational in order to supply inlet raw water to the refinery due to the drop of quality of raw water of Arvandrud and preventing repair and maintenance costs en route.

Implementation of plan for reorganizing Mahshahr Export Port is one of the other projects that started with the aim of construction of private 132-KV electricity line, updating available installations, renovating and increasing production capacity of tanks, ability of loading and unloading oil products, equipping new jetties, dredging and capability of berthing 80,000-ton vessels, export of fuel oil, gas condensates, gasoline and oil gas, import of gasoline and oil gas, exports of various types of fuel.

### Transferring Technical, Know-how, Knowledge and Producing Refinery Catalyst

Breakdown of semi-heavy cut catalyst (vacuum gas oil) and also heavy cut catalyst (petroleum residues) to lighter and mid-distilled products (especially gasoline) using the FCC (Catalytic Breakdown) and RFCC (residue cut catalyst



breakdown) is one of the important processes with high added value in the refining industry.

Given the dire need of the country to gasoline and apply of over 1,500 ton/year catalyst needed in FCC Unit of Abadan Refinery and 6000 tons in RFCC Unit of Shazand Imam Khomeini (RA) Refinery of Arak, a trilateral agreement was inked between National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), Vice Presidency's Technology and Innovation Cooperation Center and "BEHDASH" Chemical Company.

Of the salient achievements of this project, it can be referred to attaining technical knowhow and knowledge of industrial production of catalyst, optimal use of resources available in the country for manufacturing catalysts, designing, manufacturing and commissioning RFCC/FCC catalysts' production line in the country.

Currently, construction operation of this project is underway with 95 percent physical progress which will be put into operation in near future.

In the end, it should be noted that the scenario ahead of the oil industry has severely affected the refining manifest of the country with several positive events such as completion of construction of three-category phases in the Persian Gulf Star Refinery and taboo of import broke. According to the imports volume of gasoline since Oct. 2018, the gasoline imports volume reached to zero level.

Reduced imports and increased production of gasoline has currently hit about 115 million liters per day relying upon the gasoline leverage of the country i.e. Persian Gulf Star Refinery.

Therefore, the company owes this success to the projects that were put into operation with the logical and wise management of the company.

A.Saedi

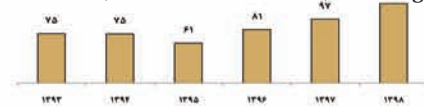




### Mining Operations

GOLGOHAR Mining and Industrial Company has put the mining operations of more than 120 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year in 1398 (started March 21, 2019), showing a 24% growth as compared to the same period of last year.

The below diagram shows that mining operations of the company in the recent years.

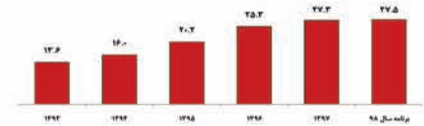


### Production Operations

GOLGOHAR Mining and Industrial Company managed to produce 27.3 million tons of concentrate and conglomerate in the past Iranian calendar year in 1397 (ended March 20, 2019). In the current year (started March 21, 2019), the company plans to produce 27.5 million tons of various types of product including 15.5 million tons of concentrate and 12 million tons of conglomerate. If objective of this issue is realized, the company will witness one percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, and consequently, the company can maintain its status in the nationwide.

In the first four months of the current year (March 21 – July 21), the company managed to produce 9.6 million tons of various types of product in a way that 35 percent of program of the company has realized ahead of scheduled date.

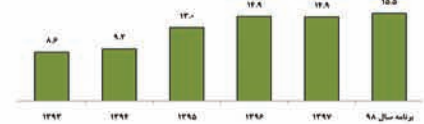
The below diagram shows the growth production trend of the company in recent years.



### Sales of Products

The company has planned to sell 15.5 million tons of its products both in domestic and foreign markets. In case of realization of this issue, the company will witness a 4% growth as compared to the same period of last year.

It should be noted that the company managed to sell approx. five million tons of products in the same period. The diagram below shows the sales trend of products in tonnage in the recent years. (according to million tons)



### Regional Outlook and Development Projects

With the coordination made in this regard, GOLGOHAR Mining and Mineral Company and also its subsidiary units should produce 24 million tons of concentrate, 21 million tons of conglomerate and also 5.5 million tons of steel products by 2021.

With the realizing of this effect, GOLGOHAR region's status will promote in the nationwide level in a way that this region will be turned into a leading steel production hub in the country.

Hereunder are a number of development projects that have been inaugurated or would inaugurate in the current year:

- Launch of Smelter Line No. 1 of JAHAN FOOLAD Company of Sirjan Company with the production capacity of 1.2 million tons / year,
- Launch of Steam Unit from the first phase of power plant of GOHAR Energy Sirjan with the production capacity of 160 megawatts,
- Crushing Unit No. 2 of GOLGOHAR Mining and Industrial Company with the production capacity of 15 million tons/year,
- Launch of pelletizing factory with the production capacity of 5,000,000 tons / year, etc.

### Social Responsibilities

The company has invested 18,900 billion rials worth of investment in activities related to the social responsibilities.

In this regard, GOLGOHAR Mining & Industrial Company and its subsidiary units have not ignored to deal with the issues of staffers, personnel and environment. In general, the company has taken effective steps to materialize most of its objectives.

In this regard, the company has compiled and formulated the below projects in the recent years in line with realizing objectives of social responsibilities:

- Construction of GOLGOHAR Hospital as the most equipped and specialized hospital in southern part of country,
- Completion of construction operation of GOLGOHAR Stadium,
- Participating in construction of urban sewage network system in Sirjan through policymaking and constructing urban sewage network
- Construction of wastewater treatment plant in Sirjan,
- Participating in construction of Sirjan-Kerman Railway
- Helping quake-hit people in Kermanshah province and survivors in Zemestanyourt Mine
- Helping flood-hit people in the beginning of the current year



# DAY Insurance Co. Registers 41% Growth in DPS



The Annual Ordinary General Assembly of DAY Insurance Company (Public Joint Stock Company, PJS) was held on Thursday July 18, 2019 in the presence of 99.84 percent shareholders, managing director, members of the Board of Directors and representatives from the Central Insurance of the Iran (CII), syndicate of Iranian insurers and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) for mulling over the financial statements of the company closing to March 20, 2019.

According to the Public Relations Dept. of the company, in this meeting, after the deployment of the Board of Directors and hearing well-documented remarks of the auditor, financial statements of the company for the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2019 were approved with the majority of attendees in the Annual General Assembly meeting.

DAY Insurance Company received profitability growth in the fiscal year closing on March 20, 2019, so that financial performance of this company in the past year (ended March 20, 2019) led to the realization of net profit, valued at 1.028 billion rials (equal to 411 rials for each share), showing a significant 41 percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

Finally, with the approval of the Assembly, 50 rials dividend per share (DPS) was appropriated to shareholders.

The gross profit of insurance activities of the company (without considering the revenue of investments) hit 1.038 billion rials, showing a considerable eight percent hike as compared to the same period of last year. This issue is significant and eye-catching according to the representative of the Central Insurance of Iran due to the current economic situation of the country.

In this respect, DAY Insurance Company can be considered as one of the most successful companies in insurance industry of the country.

Increasing profit caused by investment made by the company is of the important factor behind growth of profitability of the company in the past year (ended March 20, 2019).

Accordingly, profit gained by investment of company hit from 270 billion rials in 1396 (March 20, 2018) to 608 billion rials in 1397 (ended March 20,



2019), this issue indicates a considerable 125 percent growth of investment.

It should be noted that an important part of investment of company has taken after out of profit gained from selling stocks of investee companies.

It should be noted that DAY Insurance Company succeeded, moreover covering losses accumulated over the past years, in creating cumulative profit worth 152

billion rials as well.

In this session, widely circulated paper "DONYA-E-EQTESAD" Persian Daily was selected for publishing advertisements of the company. In addition, FATER Auditing Institute and BEHMAND Auditing Institute were introduced as main legal inspector and alternative respectively.

In this regard, dividend of real shareholders of DAY Insurance Company was paid.

Dividend of real shareholders of the company, leading to the Fiscal Year Closing on March 20, 2019, was paid by branches of DAY Insurance Company in less than a month after organizing the Annual General Assembly meeting on Mordad 26, 1398 (August 17, 2019).

In case of completion of their personal data in the website of the company addressed at: [www.dayins.com](http://www.dayins.com) and/or sending the form completed to the Stock Department, real shareholders of DAY Insurance Company can receive dividend of their stock by referring to the branches of the bank across the nationwide.

It should be noted that dividend of legal shareholders of the company is payable according to the announced scheduled program through the website of CODAL in due date.

The Ordinary Annual General Assembly meeting of DAY Insurance Company was held on July 18, 2019, in which, 50 rials dividend per share was paid to the shareholders of the company in cash.

For further information, shareholders of the company can get in touch with the exports in Stocks Affairs Department through Telephone No. 021 – 2313 (Ext. 1363).



DAY Insurance Co. (P.J.S)  
Balance Sheet For the Fiscal Year Closing March 21, 2019

(Revision Presented)

Assets	Note	Mar. 20, 2019	Mar. 20, 2018	Liabilities and Owner's Equity	Note	Mar. 20, 2019	Mar. 21, 2018
		Million rials	Million rials			Million rials	Million rials
Cash balance	3	411,184	160,568	Liability to the insurers and representatives	13	7,302,530	2,496,618
Short-term investments	4	1,153,469	902,653	Liability to insurers and reinsurers	14	21,380,882	12,542,546
Dues from insurers and representatives	5	32,136,583	17,184,747	Other accounts and payable documents	15	1,224,299	1,095,714
Other accounts and receivable documents	6	1,363,183	1,992,168	Payable tax	16	0	0
Demands from reinsurance insurers	7	58,981	33,229	Payable divided	17	8,819	13,357
Share of reinsurance insurers from technical reserves	8	24,791,928	13,367,777	Reserve of insurance premium	18	20,226,329	9,991,409
Long-term receivables	9	91,980	83,033	Reserve of deferred damage	19	8,720,023	6,808,755
Long-term investments	10	1,939,628	776,798	Reserve of unexpired risks	19	472,722	111,697
Invisible on intangible assets	11	75,599	70,459	Other technical reserves	20	463,676	281,726
Tangible fixed assets	12	858,203	662,345	Insurance premium of coming years	21	163,920	13,217
				Staff end-service reserve	22	33,747	23,213
				Total liabilities		59,996,947	33,378,251
				Owner's Equity:			
				Capital (2,500,000,000 share each worth 1,000 rials)	23	2,500,000	2,500,000
				Legal Reserve	24	87,331	35,918
				Capital reserve	25	144,029	41,202
				Cumulative (loss) profit		152,431	(721,595)
				Total owner's equity		2,883,791	1,855,525
Total assets		62,880,738	35,233,777	Total liabilities and owner's equity		62,880,738	35,233,777







# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt in Elahieh  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 220 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, equipped kitchen terrace,  
nice view, parking  
**\$2500**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 120 sq.m  
2 Bdrs., furn, equipped kitchen  
spj, parking, **\$2200**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh  
ground floor, 230 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
unfurn, 350 sq.m, good light  
furn, spj, back yard, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Velenjak  
sq.m, 3 Bdrs., furn 320  
spj, parking, **\$4000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan  
115 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., good light  
furn, spj, back yard, parking  
**\$1400**

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in South Kamranieh  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 250 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.  
furn, equipped kitchen, spj  
gym, parking, **\$3500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 178 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
fully furn, spj, parking, **\$2000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

## Villa

Villa in Farmanieh  
triplex, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 350 sq.m furn fire  
place, terrace renovated  
15 parking spots, **\$10000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Mahmoodieh  
Triplex villa, 620 sq.m land  
800 sq.m built up, 10 Bdrs.  
unfurn, balcony, 8 bath rooms  
2-side entrances, lots parking  
**\$7000**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Duplex Villa in Soheil  
500 sq.m land, 600 sq.m built up  
8 Bdrs., 6 bath rooms, unfurn  
servant quarter, completely  
3 storages, 12 parking spots  
3-side entrances, **\$5500**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Elahieh  
duplex, 3000 sq.m land  
furn/unfurn, 500 sq.m built up  
Beautiful garden, parking  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in Niavaran  
brand new, 5 floors, 1100  
sq.m, 7 master bedrooms furn/  
unfurn, servant quarter spj,  
elevator, lots parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in  
Shariti-Mirdamad  
290 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., unfurn balcony,  
renovated, fire place  
storage, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156



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## Building & Office

Super luxury Office  
in Mirdamad  
administrative office license  
4 offices, each office 590 sq.m  
elevator, parking  
**Price: negotiable**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh  
3 floors, one apt 90 sq.m with  
1 Bdr, 3 apts 170 sq.m with 3  
Bdrs., unfurn, equipped kitchen  
elevator, lobby parking  
**Price: negotiable**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building in Zafaranieh  
brand new, 5 floors, each  
floor 310 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
indoor sauna, indoor Jacuzzi  
2 parking spots for each apt  
**Price negotiable**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Saadat Abad  
administrative office license  
2 units, 110 sq.m, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole Building Near Vanak  
4 floors, 6 apts totally  
120 to 300 sq.m, parking  
**Price negotiable**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Office in Valiasr  
administrative office license  
3 units, 102 sq.m, elevator  
lots of parking  
near Niyesh highway  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

## Ideal Offers

Apt in Qeytarieh  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 150 sq.m, 2 Bdrs. furn  
equipped kitchen, parking near  
Qeytarieh park, **\$1400**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Andarzgoo blvd  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 140 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
fully furn, parking, **\$600**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Chizar  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
fully furn, equipped kitchen  
back yard, elevator  
storage, parking, **\$1000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaranieh  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 130 sq.m with  
2 Bdrs., furn, parking, **\$1500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Evin  
300 sq.m, 3 Bdr., unfurn, spj  
elevator, 30 sq.m terrace  
storage, parking, **\$1800**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Saadat Abad  
8<sup>th</sup> floor, 52 sq.m, 1 Bdr.  
furn, spj, renovated  
parking, **\$1000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh  
85 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn  
spj, tennis court, elevator  
parking, **\$1550**  
**Short term**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

مالکین محترم

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Elahieh (\$1400) 2bdrs Elahieh (\$2200) 3bdrs Both with balcony, & F.F	Kamranieh bldg (\$9000) 5stoery, 12bdrs, S/p, S, J pkgs, yard, & Fully Furn

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# How much oxygen does the Amazon rain forest provide?

The plight of the Amazon has received widespread attention over the past week or so as reports surfaced that Brazil — which hosts around 60 percent of the world's largest tropical forest has experienced a significant spike in the number of wildfires this year.

Amid this coverage, many media outlets, charities, celebrities and even world leaders repeated the claim that the Amazon produces 20 percent of the world's oxygen supply. The implication here is that the destruction of the rain forest poses a threat to this oxygen supply.

But is this true? Experts say the real figure is actually smaller, and furthermore, this way of thinking is misleading given the true nature of the Amazon's effect on global oxygen levels.

"I have seen this 20 percent all over the place on social media, it doesn't really

make much sense," Allison Mills, Associate Director of Research Communications at Michigan Technological University, told Newsweek.

"There are many, many reasons to be concerned — nay, terrified — by the resurgence of deforestation and burning of Amazonian forests, but a risk to the world's oxygen supply is not one of them."

In fact, the world's oxygen levels are actually quite stable and are not dependent on rain forests, which use up as much of the gas as they produce in the long run, according to Philip Fearnside, a professor at Brazil's National Institute of Amazonian Research.

## ■ The Amazonia surface

"It was a surprise to see the claim that 20 percent of the world's oxygen comes from Amazonia surface on mainstream media, Fearnside told Newsweek. "Amazonia is not a big source of oxygen because trees respire, just like animals. Trees use up most of the oxygen that they produce though photosynthesis."

In photosynthesis, plants capture and store solar energy, using it to convert carbon dioxide in the air into sugar molecules which they use for food, producing oxygen as a byproduct.

"There is a net release of oxygen while the tree is growing and storing carbon in its wood, but when the tree dies the wood rots, removing the same amount of oxygen from the air to form carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the carbon in the wood," he said.

"A net release of oxygen occurs only if the carbon sequestered through photosynthesis is buried in a place where it cannot combine with oxygen to form CO<sub>2</sub>. On a

global scale, the main location for this is at the bottom of the ocean, where some of the organisms sink to the bottom when they die and are buried in the sediments."

Essentially, this means that the net effect of the Amazon rain forest on the amount of oxygen in the global atmosphere is "virtually nothing," since the photosynthesis to produce new plant matter is (almost) balanced by microbes decomposing dead plant material, according to Mills.

The "amount of oxygen in the atmosphere is 20.95 percent, and it is not changing very much," she said. "From this perspective, the Amazon could burn up and blow away and the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere would not be much affected—CO<sub>2</sub> is another story though."

Mills notes that since 1990, the level of oxygen in the atmosphere has dropped

by 0.005 percent—hardly at all.

"This is scientifically detectable and very interesting and useful, but practically it is negligible," she said. "The drop is due to the burning of fossil fuels (mostly) and roughly 10 percent is due to biomass burning associated with deforestation worldwide. If Amazon deforestation were half of all deforestation—it's probably not quite—then just 5 percent of the overall 0.005 percent net decline in oxygen would be due to Amazon deforestation."

So if we lost the entire Amazon forest — it would only change atmospheric oxygen — which is thought to weigh 1.2 million gigatons in total — by a small amount, much less than 1 percent.

But even if the Amazon has a very small effect on the overall level of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere, can we still estimate

how much it produces? Mills says that tropical vegetation is responsible for about 25 percent of the oxygen that is produced by photosynthesis on land, via trees, shrubs, grasses and other plants.

The "Amazon is, generously, half of the tropics — and certainly somewhat less — so that means, at most, 12 percent of the oxygen produced each year from land photosynthesis comes from the rain forest."

However, photosynthesis on land is only about half of global photosynthesis — the other half is in the ocean. So, at most, 6 percent of the oxygen from photosynthesis comes from the Amazon," Mills said. "Keep in mind that even the gross flows of oxygen from photosynthesis are very small, compared to the very large amount of oxygen in the atmosphere."

(Source: newsweek.com)

## Scientists just took a huge step towards saving the northern white rhino

Right after our story was published, the international team of scientists were trying to save the northern white rhino from extinction announced another significant victory.

Of the 10 eggs harvested from the females Najin and Fatu, seven were successfully matured and artificially inseminated using a technique called ICSI (Intra Cytoplasm Sperm Injection).

The researchers and conservationists will now have to wait to see if the fertilised eggs create viable embryos that can be transferred to a southern white rhino surrogate mother.

For more background and detail, see our earlier story on this ambitious, on-going effort to save the northern white rhino below:

There are only two of them now: Najin, and her daughter, Fatu. This small family unit

is all that remains of an entire subspecies — the last northern white rhinos on the planet.

But even now, with just two females left, there is vibrant hope to keep this critically endangered animal alive, researchers say — after scientists announced on Friday that they have successfully harvested eggs from the mother and daughter pair.

The accomplishment represents a pivotal step forward in a desperate and ambitious bid to prevent the northern white rhinoceros from fading irretrievably into extinction.

"We were able to harvest a total of 10 oocytes — five from Najin and five from Fatu — showing that both females can still provide eggs and thus help to save these magnificent creatures," says animal reproduction expert Thomas Hildebrandt from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin.

The hope and aim is to artificially inseminate the harvested eggs with cryo-preserved sperm taken from two male northern white rhinos who are now deceased, Suni and Saït.

Then, if everything goes to plan, the resulting embryo could be transferred to a surrogate mother from the other subspecies of white rhinoceros — the southern white rhino — who could carry the foetus to birth.

A southern white rhino female is necessary, the researchers say, because Najin and Fatu — who live at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya — are thought to have health issues that would prevent them carrying a pregnancy themselves.

Of course, for everything to work out as envisaged, it will require a lot of experimental artificial reproduction science to go right. Despite the challenges, after the

egg-harvesting success last week — a world-first never previously attempted with northern white rhinos — the researchers are undaunted.

"I was here five years ago when we found out Fatu and Najin would not be able to reproduce naturally, and we realised we'd need to pursue artificial means," one

of the team, Jan Stejskal from the Dvr Králové Zoo in the Czech Republic, told National Geographic.

(Source: sciencealert.com)



## Congratulations on the Government Week


# هفته دولت گرامی باد

★ Winning the title of leading industrial and production unit among Iran's top 100 companies, ★
★ Winning the title of exemplary exporter for the fourth consecutive year, ★
★ Obtaining the Badge of Merit in line with supporting domestic production, ★
★ Receiving the statue of manufacturing top Iranian innovative product, ★
★ Winning the Letter of Appreciation (Two Stars) from Iranian National Organizational Award ★
★ Winning a Plaque of Honor in the field of gaining customers' satisfaction ★
★ Winning the certificate in the field of observing rights of consumers ★
★ Introducing as exemplary industrial unit in Hormozgan province ★



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## Vacancy Notice

**The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Iran intends to recruit**

**“National Project Coordinator for Women & Girls Friendly Space Project”**

For further information, please consult the detailed job description posted on UNFPA Iran website:

<https://iran.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/national-consultant-coordinator>

**All applicants should apply using above web-link no later than 7 September 2019, 5 PM Tehran Times.**

Notice:

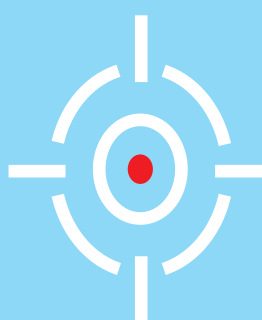
- “There is no application, processing or other fee at any stage of the application process”.
- “UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status and disabilities”.

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

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## Iran, Qatar launch new shipping route

➔ As unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran snapped back, pressuring the country's limited foreign currency reserves, the Islamic Republic is increasingly paying attention to marine travel as a major way of boosting its underdeveloped tourism sector.



A total of 1,759,749 Iranians traveled abroad in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), indicating a 6.5% decrease compared with the same period last year.

## Thailand's July foreign tourist arrivals rise 4.7% y/y

Thailand saw a rise of 4.72% in July from a year earlier, after rising 0.89% in tourist arrivals in June, the tourism ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 3.33 million tourists in July spent about 167.3 billion baht (\$5.47 billion), up 3.11% from a year earlier.



Visitors from China, Thailand's biggest source of tourists, rose 5.81% in July from a year earlier, after dropping 7.1% in June.

Foreign tourist receipts make up about 12% of Thailand's gross domestic product. (\$1 = 30.60 baht)

Thailand will extend until April next year a measure that waives fees for visas on arrival issued to tourists from 18 countries, as it looks to stimulate growth in tourism to spur a slowing economy, the prime minister said earlier this month.

The waivers are part of a \$10-billion (8.3 billion pounds) stimulus package to boost growth, including a debt moratorium for farmers, loans for smaller businesses, and more money for low-income earners.

(Source: Reuters)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Abbey of St Gall

The Abbey of St Gall is located in the town of St Gall in the north-eastern part of Switzerland, and largely owes its present appearance to the construction campaigns of the 18th century.

A World Heritage, the Abbey of St Gall is an outstanding example of a large Carolingian monastery and was, since the



8th century until its secularization in 1805, one of the most important cultural centers in Europe.

It represents 1200 years of history of monastic architecture and is a typical and outstanding ensemble of a large Benedictine convent. Almost all the important architectural periods, from High Middle Ages to historicism, are represented in an exemplary fashion. Despite the diversity of styles, the conventual ensemble gives the impression of overall unity, bordered on the north and to the west by edifices of the town of St Gall that are, for the most part, intact.

It is an impressive architectural ensemble comprising different buildings regrouped around the main square of the abbey: The west side includes the ancient abbatial church (the present cathedral), flanked by two towers and the ancient cloister, which today houses the abbatial Library; located on the east side is the "Neue Pfalz", the present seat of the canton authorities.

The northern part of the square is composed of buildings of the 19th century: the ancient arsenal, the Children's and Guardian Angels' Chapel and the former Catholic school.

#### ■ Integrity

The property comprises the entire monastic ensemble with the archives of the Abbey as well as the Abbatial Library and all the restructuring developments over more than 1200 years, and consequently retains all the necessary elements to express its Outstanding Universal Value.

#### ■ Authenticity

The property reflects an architectural development spanning several centuries, and bears witness to well-preserved material and original substance, with a continuous religious, cultural and public function.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Russian people unaware of tourist attractions in Iran: expert

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association believes that a majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran.

Ebrahim Pourfaraj told ILNA in an interview published on Tuesday that "Attracting tourists needs to be present among people and introducing Iran to the Russian society."

"The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination," he explained.

He said that tourism fairs offer ample opportunities in order to make visitors acquainted with new tourism destinations.

Iran is scheduled to participate in the International Trade Fair for Tourism & Travel, which will be held in Moscow from September 10 to 12. "Such an event opens up a suitable opportunity to highlight Iran's attractions among Russian people," Pourfaraj said.

"In the past years, government officials in charge of tourism have attempted to establish tourism links between Iran and Russia, but [their plans] have failed because [a majority of potential] Russian travelers do not know Iran."

"If they knew Iran, they would definitely have traveled to our country. During these years we saw thousands of Russian tourists traveling to Turkey but not coming to Iran."

In June 2017, Iran tourism body emphasized the need to achieve a reasonable balance in the two-way tourist exchange with Russia. In the same year, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for certain tourist groups. Based on the agreement tour groups of 5 to 50 people heading to Russia from Iran or vice versa are granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days.

The 2019 Travel Risk Map, which shows the risk level around the world, puts Iran among countries with "insignificant risk", a category where the UK, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, and Finland are placed in. Iran boasts hundreds of historical sites



**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday inaugurated 226 projects in the fields of tourism, handicrafts and cultural heritage through video conference on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30).

## CT scan reveals ancient Egyptian Pharaoh was murdered – potentially by his wife

The mystery surrounding an ancient Egyptian pharaoh's death was solved thanks to a CT scan proving that his throat had been slit open.

The gruesome end of Usermaatre Ramses III has been brought to light again by the new Channel 5 show "Egypt's Great Treasures".

Ramses III is thought to have reigned as the second Pharaoh of the 20th Dynasty of ancient Egypt from around 1186 to 1155 BC.

His death was often debated amongst experts because scriptures stated that one of his wives and high ranking officials had tried to assassinate him in a plot referred to as the Harem Conspiracy.

Ramses' wife Queen Tiye and her son Pentaweret were heavily implicated in the plot because Tiye is said to have wanted to put her son on the throne.

However, a confusion of accounts and no obvious wounds on the mummy of Ramses III meant that archaeologists could never confirm whether the murder plot had been foiled or not.

This mystery was laid to rest when experts noticed that the mummy's neck was heavily banded and a CT scan soon revealed that Ramses III had a deep and wound across his throat.

The wound was so deep in fact that it cut right back to the neck vertebrae.

The narrator of the Channel 5 show, Dr Bettany Hughes, explained: "Ramses was a man with lots of enemies. He had to fight off invading armies from the Middle East to defend Egypt."

"But the real trouble came from within the kingdom, his wife, Queen Tiye, wanted her son on the throne, so she hatched a



plot to assassinate her husband.

"Now, we know all about this because it's recorded on a papyrus that's now in Turin and this historical event is known as the Harem Conspiracy."

She went on to explain that some scriptures state that the plot was foiled, the culprits sentenced to death and Ramses III disappeared from the history books.

A disappearance like this is often linked to a death by natural causes so when experts discovered that the murder plot had been a success they were very surprised.

Ahmed Samir, a curator at the Egyptian Museum, explained in the documentary: "After we made the CT scan we found that he had been assassinated by cutting his throat."

"He could not survive it because it's big enough to cut the neck and to make the King die within a few minutes."

A subsequent CT scan found that Ramses III's left big toe had also been chopped off by an axe shortly before he died.

(Source: The Sun)

## This hypersonic airliner would take you from Los Angeles to Tokyo in under two hours

In the almost two decades since the retirement of the supersonic Concorde airliner, jet-setters have had to make their peace with planes that poke along at about 500 miles an hour. But with help from new materials and advanced engine technologies, faster-than-sound air travel may be poised for a comeback.

Scientists and engineers on both sides of the Atlantic are developing airliners that would slash the time now required for long flights. The planes would not only fly faster than conventional airliners but also the vaunted Concorde, whose top speed was Mach 2.04, or a bit more than twice the speed of sound (1,354 miles per hour at cruising altitude).

Some researchers are working on a new generation of supersonic airliners, capable of speeds between Mach 1 and Mach 5. Others are dreaming bigger.

Last year, Boeing unveiled a design for a plane capable of reaching Mach 5, the low end of a realm known as hypersonic speed. And the Stratofly MR3, a 300-passenger airliner under development by a European consortium that includes the German Aerospace Center, the French Aerospace Lab and eight other

universities and research organizations, would fly faster still.

With its needle-sharp profile and advanced powerplants, Stratofly would hit speeds of up to Mach 8 — about 5,400 miles an hour — and reach altitudes of more than 98,000 feet, far above the operational ceiling of conventional airliners.

At that heady altitude, there's little turbulence or bad weather. Experts say passengers would experience smooth flights and see the curvature of the Earth — though the view would likely be visible through weight-saving window-like video screens rather than actual windows.

"It would be like going to space," says Michael Smart, a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Queensland's Centre for Hypersonics in Brisbane, Australia, who is not involved in the Stratofly project.

#### ■ Shrinking the globe

While the Concorde was used primarily for transatlantic flights, Stratofly would likely be reserved for longer journeys. It could zip from New York City to Sydney, Australia, in about three hours, according to the consortium, or make the trip



Toranj Food Complex, a traditional touristic restaurant, in Isfahan, central Iran such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 22 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## 226 tourism, handicrafts and cultural heritage projects inaugurated

The projects, worth about 22.180 trillion rials (about \$520 million), have generated 2,645 jobs across the country, IRIB reported.

In this regard a ceremony was held in Tehran's Wisteria Hotel, which was attended by acting tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan, several government officials and private sector investors.

Among the project were 31 three- to five-star hotels which added 5,229 beds to the country's hospitality sector.

The volume of investments in tourism projects shows that this sector has drawn attention of investors, Mounesan, who doubles as vice president, noted.

[Nearly] 7.8 million foreign nationals visited Iran over the past [Iranian calendar] year [ended March 20], Mounesan added.

Earlier this month, the official announced "during the first three months of this year (March 21-June21), the number of tourists arriving in the country increased by 40 percent."

"Medical tourism is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector and an [average] spending of \$2,400 per tourist indicates its importance," he noted.

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

## Indonesia to close giant lizard island leaving guides, villagers in the lurch

Almost every day 20-year-old Rizaldian Syahputra puts on his blue uniform, laces up his high boots and leaves his wooden house on stilts for a job many nature-lovers would envy.

But by next year, he may no longer be employed.

Syahputra works as a wildlife guide at Komodo National Park on the eastern Indonesian island of Komodo, taking visitors around the park on foot to get up close to the leathery Komodo dragons, the world's largest living lizard species.

The Indonesian government plans to close the island to the public from January next year in a bid to conserve the rare reptiles.

The scheme also involves moving about 2,000 villagers off the island. Authorities are holding talks with community leaders on how to relocate the residents, Josef Nae Soi, deputy governor of the province of East Nusa Tenggara, told Reuters recently.

It is hoped that closing the island to tourists will cut the risk of poaching and allow a recovery in the numbers of the animals' preferred prey, such as deer, buffalo and wild boar.

The island could reopen after a year, but the plan is to make it a premium tourist destination, Soi said.

Syahputra, who says he enjoys his job because of his passion for nature and conservation, shares the fears of many others on the island who rely on tourism for a living.

"The closure is definitely something that makes us unhappy," he said.

"If we really have to do it, I hope we can



find a middle ground on the solution, not closing the whole island but just a certain area."

More than 176,000 tourists visited Komodo National Park, a conservation area between the islands of Sumbawa and Flores, in 2018. The whole area was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

About 1,700 Komodo dragons are estimated to live on Komodo island. Other islands in the national park that are home to more than 1,400 of the giant lizards, such as nearby Rinca and Padar, will remain open to tourists.

Villagers who have lived on Komodo island for generations are unsurprisingly opposed to the idea of having to leave.

"We have been living as one for years with this village," said resident Dahlia, who gave only one name.

"The graves of my father and ancestors are here. If we move, who will take care of those graves?"

(Source: Reuters)

from Los Angeles to Tokyo in about an hour and 45 minutes.

"We want to go to Mars but still we have huge distances [separating us] here on Earth," says Nicole Viola, a professor of aerospace systems design at the Polytechnic of Turin in Italy and the project coordinator of the Stratofly consortium. With hypersonic flight, she adds, "it will be so much easier to travel to distant destinations."

By flying at altitudes beyond the reach of conventional airliners, Viola says, Stratofly might also help ease the congestion that is expected to be an increasing problem as the population swells and more and more people take to the skies.

#### ■ Technological challenges

Later this year, the Stratofly consortium plans to begin wind tunnel tests of the engine components. But it will take many years to bring Stratofly to life. The key technologies might not be ready until 2035, Viola says, with another decade needed before flight tests are completed and the plane is ready to carry passengers.

(Source: NBC News)



# More of any physical activity tied to longer life

Research clearly shows that increasing physical activity, regardless of intensity, relates to a significantly lower risk of dying. Even light exercise, such as walking, can make a difference.

Even taking a simple walk can make a difference to a person's longevity.

Researchers came to this conclusion after analyzing data from published research that had involved the use of wearable trackers to measure the physical activity in adults who were middle-aged and older.

A recent BMJ paper gives a full account of the systematic review and meta-analysis.

The analysis also reveals that sitting for more than 9.5 hours per day is linked to a significantly higher risk of early death.

The findings largely confirm those of previous studies on links between physical activity, sedentary behavior, and longevity.

According to the researchers, most health guidelines about minimum levels of exercise have relied mainly on studies that used self-reported levels of activity.

The researchers note that their new investigation is significant because they only included those studies that measured physical activity using accelerometers. These wearable movement sensors can track the amount and intensity of activity during waking hours.

## ■ Sedentary behavior and light exercise

The team also wanted to clarify the effect of sedentary behavior. The guidelines advise people to spend less time sitting, but they do not specify how much sitting is harmful.

Another question that the new study clarifies is the contribution of low intensity activity.

Research on physical activity in middle-aged and older adults and lifespan suggests that it is never too late to start exercising.

For example, the United States government's physical activity guidelines recommend



a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week.

While the guidelines mention light activity as a good start to reaching this level and beneficial to health, the emphasis is mostly on moderate and vigorous activity.

Does this mean that light activity has less impact on health and longevity, especially for adults in their middle years and older, than moderate and vigorous activity?

"Answering these questions [has] huge relevance for health promotion," state two of the authors of this new study, Ulf Ekelund and Thomas Yates, in an accompanying BMJ opinion article.

Ekelund is a professor at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences and the Norwegian

Institute of Public Health, both in Oslo, Norway. Yates is a professor of physical activity, sedentary behavior, and health at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

## ■ What the researchers analyzed

For their study, Prof. Ekelund and colleagues set out to examine links between physical activity, sedentary behavior, and risk of death in middle-aged and older adults.

Their analysis included data on a total of 36,383 adults of minimum age 40 years and average age 62 years.

The data came from eight studies that had tracked activity using motion sensors for up to 1 week and had followed the participants after that for an average of 5.8 years.

The studies had categorized physical activity as light, moderate, or vigorous and had estimated the amount of daily time spent doing each.

The researchers give examples of light physical activity as walking, washing dishes, and cooking.

Moderate activity includes mowing grass, brisk walking, and vacuuming, while digging, jogging, and carrying heavy weights are examples of intense physical activity.

The team arranged the results into quarters, ranging from the 25% most active to the 25% least active participants.

Of the participants, 5.9% (2,149 individuals) died during the followup. The researchers used these deaths to calculate the risk of death for the most to the least active participants.

## ■ Any level of activity makes a difference

After adjusting the results for factors that could influence them, the team found that any level of activity — whether it was light, moderate, or vigorous — related to a significantly lower risk of death during the followup.

The 25% most active participants had a 60–70% lower risk of death compared with the 25% least active. There were around five times more deaths in the least active compared with the most active group.

In addition, sitting for a total of 9.5 hours a day or more, not counting time spent sleeping, was linked to a statistically significant raised risk of death.

The researchers suggest the findings reinforce that any level of physical activity — even light exercise that is within reach of most people — is beneficial.

They observe that the effect sizes in their results are about double the size of previous studies that have relied on self-reported data.

(Source: Medical News Today)

## Food swaps to try if you want healthier skin

Besides sun exposure, the main culprit for skin damage and premature aging is something called advanced glycation end products, aka AGEs. These AGEs (appropriate name, huh?) are formed when fat or protein combines with sugar in our bloodstream.

### ■ Sweet potato fries

French fries may be tasty, but they aren't exactly the best choice when it comes to healthy skin — as both fried foods and salt can be harmful for the body in the long-term.

Foods fried in oil at high temperatures release free radicals, which can speed up the aging process and cause cellular damage to the skin.

Instead of regular old fries, reach for oven-baked sweet potato fries. Sweet potatoes are rich in anti-aging copper which aids in the production of collagen. Did we mention they're delicious, too?

### ■ Poultry

Processed meats — like hot dogs or pepperoni — often contain very high amounts of sodium, sulfites, and saturated fat. All of these have been shown to dehydrate the skin and cause inflammation.

Leaner swaps like grilled chicken and baked turkey are packed with amino acids that are important to the natural formation of collagen. They're also a delicious source of lean protein, which will keep you satiated all day long.

Plus, BBQ chicken burgers or turkey-stuffed zucchini pizza? We dig it.

### ■ Olive oil or avocado

Margarine is a processed spread that looks and tastes like butter, but is made from vegetable oils and marketed as a heart-healthy alternative.

However, it's often high in trans fats. One study on rats found that an increased intake of trans fatty acids from the kinds of vegetable oils used in margarine can make skin more vulnerable to UV radiation, which can damage collagen and elasticity.

For a healthy skin swap, try using avocado or olive oil in its place. You can spread these on a sandwich or use them to top toast or a baked potato — the possibilities are endless, and you'll reap the benefits from their anti-aging antioxidants.

### ■ Fruit with honey and yogurt

Consuming too much sugar, especially added sugars, can lead to a number of health issues. But the sweet stuff can also really accelerate the aging process of skin by damaging collagen.

When craving that after-dinner dessert, try satisfying your sweet tooth with fresh fruit and yogurt (preferably Greek, which is higher in protein) drizzled with honey.

### ■ Sprouted wheat bread

Nix the refined and processed carbs if radiant skin is your goal. Researchers have found Trusted Source a potential link between spikes in blood sugar — which refined carbs can cause — to higher AGE levels in the body.

Instead, reach for antioxidant-rich sprouted grain breads that contain no added sugars.

They're hearty and make a filling addition to your breakfast or lunches. Your skin will thank you.

(Source: healthline.com)



## It takes years for heart to recover from smoking

When you stop smoking, your heart starts to rebound right away, but a full recovery can take as long as 15 years, a new study suggests.

"The benefit of quitting smoking cannot be overstated — the cardiovascular system begins to recover quickly, with some physiologic changes happening within hours," said lead researcher Meredith Duncan, of the division of cardiovascular medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Duncan and her team found that within five years after quitting, your risk of heart disease is significantly lower than that of people who continue to puff away. But it takes 10 to 15 years before your risk is similar to that of someone who never smoked.

Experts have long thought that an ex-smoker's risk of heart attack, stroke, heart failure or death from heart disease returns to normal within five years.

Given this new finding, Duncan said doctors should consider that heavy smokers who stop will have a higher-than-normal risk for heart problems for at least a decade.

"Full recovery may take several years, so today is a great day for current smokers to quit smoking, and make a doctor's appointment to plan for successful long-term cessation and to discuss other steps toward heart health," she said.

For the study, her team collected data on nearly 8,800 men and women who took part in the Framingham Heart Study, a long-term, ongoing study of factors that contribute to heart disease.

Among the study participants, nearly 2,400 were heavy tobacco users, meaning they smoked at least one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, or an equivalent.



During an average follow-up of 26 years, more than 2,400 participants had a heart attack, stroke, heart failure or died from heart disease. Of these, nearly 1,100 were heavy smokers, the researchers found.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center in Los Angeles, said nearly every study of former smokers finds that their risk for heart events is lower than that of those who continue to smoke.

"It's never too late, from a cardiovascular risk standpoint, to stop smoking," he said, no matter how much you smoke or how long you've done so.

Fonarow pointed out that smoking is a leading cause of heart attacks, strokes, heart failure, peripheral vascular disease and premature death. "Quitting significantly lowers this risk," he said.

But the length of time when the risk is reduced to the same level as people who never smoked has been estimated to be anywhere between two and 20 years, he said.

It's usually pegged at five years, he added. This new study among heavy smokers doubles that time.

"It is best to never start smoking," Fonarow said. "For those who do smoke, it is important to completely quit as soon as possible."

(Source: Health Day News)

## How to teach your kids to live a healthy lifestyle

By Calah Alexander

As with most areas of parenting, the first step is to show them what it looks like.

Five years ago, our family lifestyle was not healthy. We ate dessert every night and spent so much time in front of the TV that weekend movie nights increasingly became an extensive search for something we \*hadn't\* already seen.

Sure, I fed my kids token greens with dinner — sometimes. I took them to the park — sometimes. But those were supplementary additions to our unhealthy, sedentary lifestyle. A lifestyle that was making all of us unhealthy, lazy, and miserable.

Those might seem like harsh words, but I chose them because they're true. They were true then, however much I tried to ignore it or excuse it away as "survival mode."

After my youngest child Isaac was born, I reached the end of my rope. I was tired of my kids fighting over the remote, tired of my clothes not fitting, and tired of feeling so dang tired. Perhaps most importantly, I was desperate for some sort of meaningful connection with my family. So I signed us all up for taekwondo.

Yes, all of us — me included. In case you're wondering, the local taekwondo school didn't offer adult classes at that point, so I took the kids' class. The little kids' class, with the 6- to 10-year-olds, who were all more coordinated and far more conditioned than I was. That first class was humiliating, but afterwards my kids were bubbling with excitement. They talked about taekwondo until they went to sleep and picked it right back up in the morning. They loved that I was doing it with them, and embarrassment aside, I loved it too. So we kept going.



Within six months, our family life had completely transformed. We spent evenings at taekwondo, Monday through Friday.

On Saturday nights we would often go up to the empty gym to practice, or take turns using the new punching bag in our garage.

When we did watch TV, it was often old seasons of American Ninja Warrior — after which, inspired, we would go to the playground and lache across the monkey bars or pretend the big slide was the warped wall. We quickly learned that eating granola bars and ice cream would make us feel horrible at taekwondo, so we started eating more nutritiously. The kids embraced smoothies and scrambled eggs, and I picked up the habit of eating the proverbial apple a day. In short, we fell into the habit of healthy living almost as a side effect of our newfound hobby.

Since then, we've moved across the country and taken a hiatus from taekwondo.

My kids are in various sports and I work as a personal trainer, so you'd think we'd have this healthy lifestyle thing down. Not so, my friends. Living a healthy lifestyle isn't a one-and-done deal — there's no magic switch that, once flipped, stays that way.

Like all things, a healthy lifestyle is a balancing act.

As I've learned over my 14 years of motherhood, if you want to teach your kids anything, you have to start by showing them. So feeding your kids kale chips while you binge on Doritos in the pantry isn't going to get you very far.

If you want to teach your kids to live a healthy lifestyle, you have to figure out how to live one yourself. Luckily, while it might not be effortless, living a healthy lifestyle is actually pretty simple. You just have to make sure you get enough of what you need, and keep everything else for special occasions.

It doesn't have to be overwhelming, y'all — you don't need to go into Whole 30 mode and throw out half your pantry. Instead of focusing on what not to do (or eat), have an abundance mentality.

If you want to increase your health, you need more of these 3 main things:

### ■ More sleep

Sleep is magical. If you don't get enough sleep — even for one night! — your body starts to crash. You can't think clearly because your neurons aren't firing efficiently. Your immune system takes a nose dive. Your metabolism slows down. Your muscles react less quickly, and you lose strength and cardiovascular function. Now compound those effects over a week, or a month ... is it any wonder you're cranky, tired, and it's hard to get up from the couch? Making sleep a priority is the easiest, most effective way to reset your family's lifestyle.

### ■ More sunshine

We spend way too much time indoors, full stop. Not only does this negatively impact our bodies (think Vitamin D deficiency, crashing immune system), but it also takes a toll on our psychological state. We've evolved to respond to external stimuli — the wind, the sun, the cold, the grass under our feet. Depriving ourselves of those stimuli literally starves our brains of what they need to develop and function properly. And if you decide to take a walk or go for a run once you're there? Bonus points for more exercise!

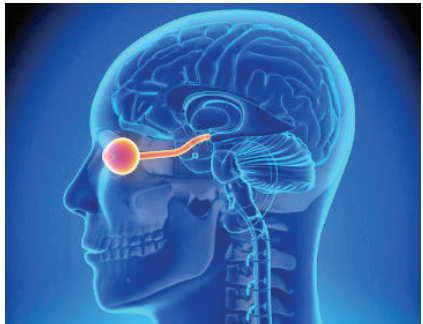
### ■ More water, more nutrients

Making healthy food choices doesn't have to be complicated, especially at the beginning. Keep it simple — drink water, more water, and only water. Eat food from the earth — anything that grew in or out of the ground, that walked on the grass or swam in the ocean. If you want baked goods, make them yourself, or buy them from the person who did. Just eliminate the whole factory-processed factor, and you will drastically increase the nutrient density in your family's food.

Another way to present this to your kids is to tie it back to faith. Explain that your family is going to show gratitude to God by using the gifts he's given us as human beings. Sleeping enough, enjoying the sunshine, and eating the fruits of the earth are ways we can glorify God by appreciating and enjoying his creation — just as we were created to do.

(Source: aleteia.org)

## Optic nerve stimulation to aid the blind



Scientists from EPFL in Switzerland and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Italy are developing technology for the blind that bypasses the eyeball entirely and sends messages to the brain. They do this by stimulating the optic nerve with a new type of intraneural electrode called OpticSELINE. Successfully tested in rabbits, they report their results in Nature

Biomedical Engineering.

"We believe that intraneural stimulation can be a valuable solution for several neuroprosthetic devices for sensory and motor function restoration. The translational potentials of this approach are indeed extremely promising," explains Silvestro Micera, EPFL's Bertarelli Foundation Chair in Translational Neuroengineering, and Professor of Bioelectronics at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, who continues to innovate in hand prosthetics for amputees using intraneural electrodes.

Blindness affects an estimated 39 million people in the world. Many factors can induce blindness, like genetics, retinal detachment, trauma, stroke in the visual cortex, glaucoma, cataract, inflammation or infection. Some blindness is temporary and can be treated medically. How do you help someone who is permanently blind?

The idea is to produce phosphenes, the sensation of seeing light in the form of white

patterns, without seeing light directly. Retinal implants, a prosthetic device for helping the blind, suffer from exclusion criteria. For example, 1/2 million people worldwide are blind due to Retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder, but only a few hundred patients qualify for retinal implants for clinical reasons. A brain implant that stimulates the visual cortex directly is another strategy albeit risky. A priori, the new intraneural solution minimizes exclusion criteria since the optic nerve and the pathway to the brain are often intact.

Previous attempts to stimulate the optic nerve in the 1990s provided inconclusive results. EPFL's Medtronic Chair in Neuroengineering Diego Ghezzi explains, "Back then, they used cuff nerve electrodes. The problem is that these electrodes are rigid and they move around, so the electrical stimulation of the nerve fibers becomes unstable. The patients had a difficult time interpreting

the stimulation, because they kept on seeing something different. Moreover, they probably have limited selectivity because they recruited superficial fibers."

Intraneural electrodes may indeed be the answer for providing rich visual information to the subjects. They are also stable and less likely to move around once implanted in a subject, according to the scientists. Cuff electrodes are surgically placed around the nerve, whereas intraneural electrodes pierce through the nerve.

Together, Ghezzi, Micera and their teams engineered the OpticSELINE, an electrode array of 12 electrodes. In order to understand how effective these electrodes are at stimulating the various nerve fibers within the optic nerve, the scientists delivered electric current to the optic nerve via OpticSELINE and measured the brain's activity in the visual cortex.

(Source: Science Daily)



## FAO highlights great potential of genetic improvements in aquaculture for better food security

Wider, appropriate and long-term application of genetic improvement in aquaculture, with a focus on selective breeding, will help boost food production to meet a projected increase in demand for fish and fish products with relatively little extra feed, land, water and other inputs, according to a new FAO report titled The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.



Aquaculture is lagging far behind terrestrial agriculture - both crops and livestock - in terms of the characterization, domestication and improvement of its genetic resources for food production. The report concludes that we have the opportunity to significantly enhance sustainable aquaculture production through the strategic management and development of some of the more than 550 species currently used in aquaculture.

According to this new FAO report, we are still largely farming wild fish, with 45 percent of cultured species being little different from their wild counterparts.

The report stresses the potential for sustainable production gains through the genetic improvement of farmed aquatic resources.

### ■ Unleashing the potential of aquaculture

According to FAO, a growing human population is expected to drive an increase in fish consumption of approximately 1.2 percent per annum over the next decade. Production of fish and fish products is estimated to reach over 200 million tonnes by 2030.

Given that production from the world's capture fisheries has stabilized at about 90-95 million tonnes per annum, with nearly a third of marine fish stocks being overfished, there is little scope for additional production in the foreseeable future except through loss and waste and efficiencies management. The expected growth in demand for fish and fish products therefore needs to be largely met from aquaculture. In this context, the responsible and sustainable use of aquatic genetic resources will be essential to fulfil this role.

Numerous technologies are available to improve aquatic genetic resources with FAO recommending a focus on well-designed, long-term selective breeding programmes, which can increase productivity of aquatic species by 10 percent per generation.

### ■ FAO and Iran cooperation for aquaculture genetic improvement

In this framework, FAO in Iran in coordination with the Iranian Government is funding the project "Genetic Improvement of Rainbow Trout in Iran" aimed at creating a national strain of rainbow trout. This project provides technical and strategic assistance to Iran in implementing an integrated and sustainable management system for selective breeding of rainbow trout.

### ■ Many wild species are under threat

The report notes that all farmed species still have wild relatives in nature but many of these wild species are under threat and are in need of targeted and prioritized conservation.

According to the report, the most depleted wild relatives of cultured species are Russian sturgeon, huchen, beluga sturgeon, Atlantic salmon and brown trout.

### ■ Strengthening policies and cross-sectoral approach

Food and nutrition security depend on a diverse and healthy food basket, of which aquatic food is an important component. Therefore, aquatic genetic resources should be included in broader food security and nutrition policies.

(Source: FAO)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Indonesian President and Australian PM Meet

(August 10, 2001)

In Indonesia, President Megawati Sukarnoputri and the Australian Prime Minister John Howard, have signed a joint communiqué promising to develop strong relations between the two countries. This report from Richard Galpin.

Throughout this visit Prime Minister Howard has stressed the need for **a fresh start** in relations with Indonesia. It was he who two years ago ensured that Australian troops played a leading role in the international intervention force which took control of East Timor after it voted for independence from Indonesia. Relations then hit **an all-time low**. But now it seems that both he and Mrs Megawati want to put the past behind them. In a **communiqué** signed on Monday Mr Howard reaffirmed Australia's commitment to Indonesia's **territorial integrity**, and support for its economic recovery.

But there are still sensitive issues. There's particular concern in Australia over reports of human rights abuses, committed by the Indonesian security forces in Aceh and Irian Jaya as they try to crush the **separatist** movement there. In the communiqué there's specific mention of the need for the Indonesian government to focus on dialogue, greater respect for human rights and **implementing regional autonomy** in these provinces to resolve the separatist problem peacefully.

### ■ Words

**a fresh start:** a new beginning

**an all-time low:** the worst level ever reached.

to put the past behind them: to forget the past and concentrate on the future.

**communiqué:** an official statement or announcement.

**territorial integrity:** the land a country (Indonesia) controls seen as a united, connected whole.

**separatist:** a person or group who favors separation from a larger unit: e.g. so as to achieve political independence.

**Implementing:** putting a plan into action

**regional autonomy:** government of the regions by the regions themselves.

(Source: BBC)

# Illegal trade of unique Persian horned viper banned

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Illegal trade of spider-tailed horned viper, a unique species of viper endemic to western Iran, has been banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Hamid Zohrabi, deputy Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

Being pushed toward extinction through poaching, the spider-tailed horned viper has been discovered in 2006. The venomous snake has a unique tail that has a bulb-like end bordered by long drooping scales that give it the appearance of a spider, which is waved around and used to lure insectivorous birds to within striking range.

The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CITES CoP18 took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17-28 August 2019, through which Iran's proposal to add rare spider-tailed horned viper on the Convention's Appendix II have been accepted.

Following the CITES mission designed to protect endangered species against illegal trade, and based on the international demand for such illegal trade, the CITES



**There is no accurate statistics of spider-tailed horned viper population due to lack of precise studies to determine the number of species, but it is spotted in the province of Ilam and is also found in the provinces of Kermanshah and Lorestan.**

## Extinguished fire reignites burning Arasbaran forest



**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — While efforts have been made to put out the wildfire erupted in northwestern Arasbaran forest, it reignited and burnt the forest, head of East Azarbaijan's disaster management organization has announced.

Wildfire swept through protected areas of Dizmar village, in Varzaghan county, last week. Although the massive fire was put out but it has been reignited hours later.

Since yesterday, fire swept through two villages in Khoda-Afarin county, ISNA quoted Mohammad Baqer Honarbar as saying on Tuesday.

Forces are still operating trying to spray water on areas susceptible to spontaneous ignition by helicopter, he added.

Despite efforts made to extinguish the fire, rising temperatures, winds, impassable ways in the area and human involvements have prevented the long lasting flames to be fully extinguished, he lamented.

Davar Namdar, head of provincial forests, range and watershed management department, said that 300 hectares of Arasbaran forests have turned into ashes.

He went on to note that rangelands, forests, and lands covered with oak, hornbeam, cotoneaster, crown of thorns, as well as rare and valuable Juniper species

has been burnt in the fire.

Measures prevented the spread of fire but partially continued in some areas, he lamented, adding, "If we have been provided the facilities on the first day fire started, it would not have been reignited."

Hamid Zohrabi, deputy chief of the department of Environment, also said that there is a doubt about whether the fire caused intentionally to own parts of the forest, 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.

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.

## Traps picture 10 Persian leopards in southwestern Iran



**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Camera traps have succeeded in taking photos of 10 Persian leopards inhabiting in Dena National Park, located in southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial department of environment chief, has announced.

Camera traps are remotely activated and equipped with motion sensors or infrared sensors, which capture wild animals on film.

"Since less than a year, cameras have been installed in protected areas of the province as well as Dena National Park, which captured photos of the Persian leopards," Mehr quoted Mohsen Jafarinejad Bastami as saying on Sunday.

The photos show a male, a female and an immature leopard, while more time and expertise is required to investigate other recorded images, he noted.

Since past years, many Persian leopards have been photographed in this valuable biosphere, but spotting 10 leopards at the same time, whose images also testify to their health and fitness, is a unique and rare event in the area, he highlighted.

As an umbrella species, the leopard plays an important role in the population dynamics of other species, especially their prey, he concluded.

In conservation biology, Umbrella species are species selected for making

office in Iran set out to send a proposal to the Convention Secretariat to add spider-tailed horned viper on the Convention's list and thus prevent its illegal trade in early March.

Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction; trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.

So, any trade of the species is permitted only with the CITES's permission, and all 183 member parties are obliged to control the ports and prevent the trade of this viper, Zohrabi said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

There is no accurate statistics of spider-tailed horned viper population due to lack of precise studies to determine the number of species, but it is spotted in the province of Ilam and is also found in the provinces of Kermanshah and Lorestan.

Spider-tailed horned viper was declared endangered by the DOE in November 2018.

conservation-related decisions, typically because protecting these species indirectly protects the many other species that make up the ecological community of its habitat, such as Persian leopard.

Species conservation can be subjective because it is hard to determine the status of many species. With millions of species of concern, the identification of selected keystone species, flagship species or umbrella species makes conservation decisions easier.

The Persian leopard is listed as Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List; the population is estimated at fewer than 871–1,290 mature individuals and considered declining.

According to the Department of Environment, 156 leopards have been killed in Iran from 2005 to 2014, nearly 20 leopards a year. Studies indicate that currently there are less than 500 leopards nationwide.

Persian leopards are mainly threatened by poaching, depletion of their prey base due to poaching, human disturbances, habitat loss due to deforestation, fire, agricultural expansion, overgrazing, and infrastructure development.

In Iran, primary threats are habitat disturbances followed by illegal hunting and excess of livestock in the leopard habitats. The leopards' chances for survival outside protected areas appear very slim.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → چ

## 2 billion tons of soil erodes annually in Iran: expert

Iran loses 2 billion tons of soil per year as a result of land use changes, rainfed agriculture, and overgrazing, Hossein Akhiani, environmental and botanical expert has announced.

"Sometimes, to support agriculture, land use changes permits are issued, while being unaware of its dire consequences on the soil," he lamented, YJC reported on Saturday.

"Iran is responsible for the loss of 10 percent of the world's total soil erosion per year due to unsustainable agriculture, overgrazing, destruction of natural reservoirs (interconnected sources of water supply such as rivers crossing the mountains)," he said, regretting, humans with uncontrolled interference, such as damping numerous wells have led to the collapse of these connections and prevented water from reaching some regions of the country.

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “extra-”

■ **Meaning:** beyond

■ **For example:** We've made **extraordinary** progress as a society in that regard.

## PHRASAL VERB

### Piddle around

■ **Meaning:** to waste time doing things that are not important

■ **For example:** We should stop piddling around and get busy.

## IDIOM

### A cut above

■ **Explanation:** someone or something that is a cut above the others is better or of higher quality

■ **For example:** The articles in this magazine are a cut above the others.

## فرسایش سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران

کارشناس محیط زیست و گیاه شناس گفت: سالانه ۲ میلیارد تن خاک در ایران به دلیل تغییر کاربری زمین، کشت دیم و چرای بی رویه فرسایش می‌شود.

به گزارش خبرنگار حوزه محیط زیست گروه اجتماعی باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حسین آخانی اظهار کرد: «برخی زمان‌ها برای حمایت از کشاورزی اجازه تغییر کاربری به زمین داده می‌شود، اما غافل از این هستیم که به دلیل ناپایداری خاک ده‌ها برابر خسارت ناشی از آن را باید تحمل کنیم.

وی بیان کرد: ایران ده درصد کل فرسایش خاک جهان را دارد و این به دلیل کشاورزی ناپایدار، چرای بی رویه، از بین بردن شبکه هیدرولوژیک (منابع تامین کننده آب از طریق شبکه رودخانه و زیر زمینی که هردو با هم در ارتباط هستند)، انسان با دخالت‌های بی رویه از جمله سد سازی و حفر چاه منجر به بر هم خوردن این ارتباط‌ها شده است و باعث نرسیدن آب به مناطق مختلف ایران شود.



# Iraqi bloc calls for U.S. troop withdrawal after Israeli air raids

➔ Israeli also launched a similar attack against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which Beirut called a “declaration of war”.

The movement said late on Monday that the drones were carrying explosives.

The Shia group, meanwhile, held a funeral procession in Baghdad for the commander killed on Sunday.

“There is no greater God but God!” the mourners shouted as they marched behind a banner with the words “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.” Some trampled on an American flag as they marched.

The Pentagon issued a statement Monday denying responsibility for the recent attacks and promising to cooperate with Iraqi investigations.

“We support Iraqi sovereignty and have repeatedly spoken out against any potential actions by external actors inciting violence in Iraq,” Pentagon spokesman Jonathan R Hoffman said.

“The government of Iraq has the right to control their own internal security and



protect their democracy.”

Anger is mounting in Iraq following a spate of mysterious air raids that have targeted

military bases and a weapons depot suspected of belonging to Iran-backed militias.

The drone attacks have not been claimed

by any side but U.S. officials have said Israel was behind at least one of the attacks.

The Shia groups have blamed the attacks on Israel but hold its ally the U.S. ultimately responsible.

Iraqi Lawmaker Ahmed al-Asadi said the parliament would hold an emergency meeting in the coming days “to discuss this issue and take the appropriate decisions.”

Separately on Monday, Iraqi President Barham Saleh hosted a meeting with Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi, Parliament Speaker Mohamed al-Halbousi and PMU leaders regarding the aerial assaults.

A statement issued after the meeting described the attacks as a “blatant act of aggression” meant to drag the PMU away from its role of eradicating remnants of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group.

“These attacks are a blatant, hostile act that target Iraq,” it said, adding, “Iraqi sovereignty and the well-being of its people are a red line.”

## Erdogan in Russia for Syria talks with Putin

**TEHRAN** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrived in Russia for a meeting with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, about the situation in northern Syria, where both the countries have strategic interests.

The meeting was set up after a phone call between Erdogan and Putin in which the Turkish president described the situation in Idlib as a humanitarian disaster and a threat to national security in Turkey.

The two leaders are expected to hold a news conference later on Tuesday.

Despite signing a deal a year ago to create a de-escalation zone near the rebel-held stronghold of Idlib, tension between the two countries has risen in the last two weeks after an air raid by the Russian-backed Syrian military targeted a Turkish convoy passing through Idlib province.

Both countries are unhappy with their policy regarding Syria, Al Jazeera’s Step Vaessen said.

“Erdogan wants Putin to reign in the Syrian forces. President Putin’s spokesperson said he understands the concerns

of Erdogan but said he’s also very worried about the movements of the rebels against Russian forces,” Vaessen said.

Turkey has been a vocal opponent of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and backs rebels fighting for his removal.

“Russia is kind of impatient with how Turkey has responded since that deal that was signed a year ago in Sochi where they promised to reign in the rebels,” she added.

After his arrival, Erdogan was shown around at an air-show, where Putin showed the Turkish leader the latest military technology.

“Erdogan has been shown around in this expo [by Putin], and he was shown the latest Sukhoi fighter yet. It seems like Putin is in a selling mood but it’s not so clear if Erdogan is in a buying mood,” Vaessen said.

Ankara’s purchase of the advanced S-400 missile system is a factor in keeping the relationship between the two countries on track.

That purchase has created a rift between Turkey and its NATO partners, especially the United States.



The U.S. has said the S-400 system will not integrate into existing NATO systems and has threatened Turkey with sanctions because of the purchase, Al Jazeera reported.

## Trump denies he wanted to nuke hurricanes

**TEHRAN** — U.S. President Donald Trump Monday denied an Axios report that he wanted to drop nuclear bombs on hurricanes before they made landfall in the United States, calling it “ridiculous.” During a briefing, Trump asked if it would be possible to disrupt hurricanes forming off the coast of Africa by dropping a nuclear bomb in the eye of the storm, a report on the Axios website said Sunday.

According to an anonymous source, the news website said that attendees left the hurricane briefing thinking, “What do we do with this?”

Axios did not say when this conversation took place.

But Trump slammed the story, calling it

“fake news,” in his latest swipe at the media.

“The story by Axios that President Trump wanted to blow up large hurricanes with nuclear weapons prior to reaching shore is ridiculous. I never said this. Just more FAKE NEWS!” he tweeted.

The White House declined to comment on the report earlier, but Axios quoted a senior administration official as saying Trump’s “objective is not bad.”

Axios said the president had previously made a similar suggestion in a 2017 conversation, asking a senior official whether the administration should bomb hurricanes to prevent them making landfall.

Trump did not specify in 2017 that nuclear

bombs be used.

The idea of bombing hurricanes is not a new one - and was originally proposed by a government scientist in the 1950s under President Dwight Eisenhower.

Since then it has continued to pop up, even though scientists agree it would not work. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has a page dedicated to the concept. “During each hurricane season, there always appear suggestions that one should simply use nuclear weapons to try and destroy the storms,” the NOAA said.

Not only would a bomb not alter a storm, the winds would quickly spread radioactive fallout over nearby land, NOAA added. “Need-

less to say, this is not a good idea,” it said.

The U.S. is regularly pummeled by hurricanes. In 2017 one named Harvey became the strongest hurricane to make landfall in 12 years.

Twitter lit up with reactions to the Axios story, with many users appearing shocked. “Not ‘The Onion,’” one user wrote, referring to the satirical news publication known for outlandish headlines.

“What could possibly go wrong?” another asked.

Many tweets also included the hashtag #ThatsHowTheApocalypseStarted.

According to AFP, democratic presidential hopeful Kamala Harris weighed in as well, tweeting, “Dude’s gotta go.”

## Sanders, Biden and Warren in three-way lead for Democratic bid

**TEHRAN** — Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Vice President Joe Biden top the Democratic field for president in 2020, with no clear leader, according to a Monmouth University poll released.

The three candidates are bunched together, each receiving about the same amount of support (Sanders 20%, Warren 20% and Biden 19%) from registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent voters.

They’re followed by California Sen. Kamala Harris (8%), New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker (4%), South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg (4%), businessman Andrew Yang (3%), former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro (2%), former Rep. Beto O’Rourke (2%) and author Marianne Williamson (2%). All other candidates received 1% or less in the poll.

Since Monmouth’s June poll, Sanders and Warren have gained slightly (up 6 and 5 percentage points), while Biden has lost significant support (down 13 points).

A CNN poll conducted by SSRS, out last week, found Biden with 29% support, while Sanders and Warren were lower (15% and 14%, respectively).

The results don’t impact who has qualified for the debates in September, with the Wednesday deadline fast approaching. This is Williamson’s first poll hitting 2%, giving



her one debate qualifying poll. Williamson, who has said she has met the donor threshold, would need three more polls to qualify.

Biden’s decline comes mostly from registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent voters who consider themselves moderate or conservative, down 18 points since June. Meanwhile, Sanders and Warren have gained 10 percentage points each among those voters, an area that isn’t considered strong for either of the very liberal candidates.

Biden also lost support among those who don’t have a college degree (down 17 points) and those under the age of 50 (down 15 points).

Biden, Sanders and Warren all have similar favorable ratings -- around two-thirds of registered Democrats and leaners have a positive opinion of the candidates, but Warren has a much lower unfavorable rating than the other two (13% find the Massachusetts senator unfavorable, compared to a 25% for Biden and 24% for Sanders).

Additionally, Warren’s favorability has gone up slightly since May, while Sanders has remained steady and Biden has slipped.

On the subject of health care, more than half (58%) of Democratic voters say it’s very important that they nominate someone who supports “Medicare for All,” and another half (53%) want to allow people to either opt in to Medicare or keep their private coverage over getting rid of all private insurance (22%).

The Monmouth University Poll of registered Democrats and Democratic-leaning independent voters was conducted by telephone August 16 through 20 among a random sample of 800 adults in the United States. Results in this release are based on 298 registered voters who identify as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party, which has a +/- 5.7 percentage point sampling margin of error.

## British opposition parties unite to try to force PM to seek Brexit delay

**TEHRAN** — Opposition parties said they would try to pass a law which would force Prime Minister Boris Johnson to seek a delay to Britain’s departure from the European Union and prevent a potentially chaotic no-deal exit at the end of October.

The United Kingdom is heading towards a constitutional crisis at home and a showdown with the EU as Johnson has pledged to leave the bloc in 66 days without a deal unless Brussels agrees to renegotiate the Brexit divorce.

Parliament returns from its summer break next week and is preparing for a battle with Johnson, who has vowed to take Britain out of the European Union at the end of October with or without an exit agreement.

Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn hosted talks with opposition parties on Tuesday where they agreed that passing a law to force the government to seek a delay to Britain’s EU departure would probably have the most support.

“We are going to come together and do the right thing by our country,” said Anna Soubry, leader of The Independent Group for Change party. “We are up against a prime minister who has no mandate for this and I think he has no regard for parliament.”

The opposition parties are seeking to repeat what they did earlier this year when lawmakers seized control of the parliamentary agenda to pass a law forcing Johnson’s predecessor Theresa

May to seek an extension to Britain’s EU membership.

They also managed to change legislation to require parliament to be sitting for several days in September and October, making it harder for Johnson to shut down parliament to pursue a no-deal, something he has not ruled out doing.

The pound hit its strongest since July 29 against the dollar and euro after the parties presented a united front on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

## Twins of Resistance: Twins of Martyrdom

➔ The two young men could painstakingly go beyond this ordeal of attending different universities and getting separated. They had been together for so long, became true brothers, studied together, had ups and downs and held special spot in each other’s hearts. However, Distance made no difference and was not for the faint of Hassan and Yasser’s spirits as they had occasional meetings from one time to another.



After strenuous attempts, the friends succeeded to finally reunion and move to Imam Hussein University (AS) in Tehran, where they regained their cheerful souls, it is like no time has passed at all. They emerged victorious and miles failed neither to drive a wedge between their extraordinary spiritual closeness nor to shake such divine sturdy ambition they had.

The two young men returned to Lebanon and joined the same unit in the resistance, as they had firmly insisted to work at the same position and to never apart. Hassan and Yasser’s impenetrable bond could never rip apart as both were obviously far too invested in each other and committed to a lofty cause: Martyrdom.

It is outstanding to be around such courageous company that forces courage and willpower to seep into your soul. A friend says that he had recently asked Hassan if he is going to take part in Ziyarat al-Arbaeen this year. “He just laughed,” he notes. For silence is the sign of acceptance, yes they will both attend the sacred rituals this year after they had long been sincere companions of the Hussein of their time, i.e. Sayyed Hassan Nasrullah.

Hassan and Yasser were resting together in a house in Damascus, on the night of the Zionist treacherous assault. As they vowed to never part, martyrdom failed to separate them and instead, as they long yearned, united their dedicated souls forever, beyond words, beyond distance, beyond time!

## Economic benefits foreseen in INSTEX will not meet requirements of Iran: Heinonen

➔

■ In your opinion, will the third phase of reducing Iran’s commitments in the JCPOA be dangerous? Will Iran’s case go to the United Nations Security Council after third step of reducing its commitments?

A: There are three avenues to have the UN Security Council engaged. One option is just go directly to the UN Security Council, and a second is the route of invoking the conflict resolution process of the JCPOA. At this stage, depending on the reduction of commitments by Iran, both of them are difficult. A third option is an IAEA resolution on Iran’s non-compliance under the safeguards agreement. The atomic archives found in Teheran strongly indicate that Iran could be in breach of its obligations in declaring facilities designed and constructed for nuclear weapon related purposes in early 2000’s, which should have been included in the declarations made to the IAEA.

■ Can the United States impose new sanctions on Iran after the third step in reducing Iran’s commitments under JCPOA?

A: The United States has already shown its preparedness to impose strong sanctions and additional sanctions will likely be imposed unilaterally. But the fact that the original implementation parameters will be substantially compromised with Iran’s reduction of its commitments, one can also expect the U.S. to seek international support in its actions, for example through the UN Security Council.

The only way out from the stalemate is, in my view, a new/improved agreement, which will address the deficiencies of the JCPOA. Every day spent in saying that the JCPOA cannot be amended, is a day wasted.

## Hariri delivers warning to Israel through Russia

➔

■ His remarks came during a meeting with French, Chinese, U.S., Russian and British ambassadors to Lebanon.

Separately, Lebanese President Michel Aoun said Israel’s recent drone strikes in Lebanon amounts to “a declaration of war” against the Arab country, vowing that Lebanon will defend its sovereignty against the Israeli aggression.

“What happened was similar to a declaration of war, which allows us to resort to our right to defending our sovereignty,” Aoun’s office quoted him as saying during a meeting with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon Yan Kubish on Monday.

The Lebanese Resistance Movement, Hezbollah, said Monday that Israel had sent two drones into Lebanon on a bombing mission on the weekend.

According to Hezbollah, the first drone had fallen on a building housing Hezbollah’s media office in Dahieh suburb. The second drone, which appeared to have been sent by Israel to search for the first one, had crashed in an empty plot nearby after being detonated in the air, it added.

Following the drone raids, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah’s secretary general, vowed in a televised speech that fighters of the movement would counter any further violation of the Lebanese airspace by Israeli drones, warning the Tel Aviv regime to immediately halt such breaches.



## Cantona to receive UEFA President's Award

Former Manchester United forward Eric Cantona will be presented the 2019 UEFA President's Award in recognition of his playing career and commitment to charitable causes after it, European soccer's governing body said on Tuesday.

The 53-year-old Frenchman will receive the award in Monaco on Thursday during the Champions League group stage draw.

"This award not only recognizes his career as a player of the highest caliber, but also honors him for the person he is," UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said in a statement.

"A man who refuses compromise, who stands up for his values, who speaks his mind and in particular, puts his heart and his soul into supporting the causes he believes in."

Cantona won four Premier League titles in five years with United in the 1990s and scored 64 goals for the Old Trafford club in 143 appearances.

The former Auxerre, Marseille, Nimes and Leeds United player won 45 caps with France and tried his hand at acting and beach soccer following his retirement in 1997.

Cantona supports the Common Goal initiative, which funds soccer charities worldwide, and contributes 1% of his annual salary to the project co-founded by United's Juan Mata.

Former England captain David Beckham won the award in 2018. *(Source: Reuters)*

## Seven charged over spate of PSG burglaries

Seven people suspected of organizing and taking part in burglaries at the homes of Paris Saint-Germain footballers Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Thiago Silva were charged in the French capital on Tuesday, according to judicial sources.

Six men and one woman, aged between 25 and 29, were detained in Paris and the surrounding area last Thursday. Six of those subsequently charged were remanded in custody pending their trial, while the seventh person was released under judicial supervision.

The gang stands accused of stealing items worth hundreds of thousands of euros from the PSG stars. The charges include "theft committed by an organized gang" and "participating in a group preparing to commit criminal acts".

They are suspected of committing a total of five burglaries in upmarket neighborhoods of Paris.

Last December, PSG's Brazilian defender Silva had up to 600,000 euros (\$666,000) worth of items robbed from his home in the plush 16th arrondissement while he was playing a Ligue 1 match against Nantes.

Two days later, Choupo-Moting's home in the city was burgled for the second time in a month -- he had previously been burgled while PSG were playing a Champions League game against Liverpool.

Items with an estimated total value of one million euros were stolen from the Cameroon striker's apartment.

The most recent burglary occurred last week, on the night of August 20, when a member of the Saudi royal family reported jewellery and watches at an estimated value of 1.8 million euros stolen from his 6th arrondissement apartment. *(Source: AFP)*

## Aaron Ramsey withdraws from Wales squad for Euro qualifier

Aaron Ramsey has withdrawn from the Wales squad for the Euro 2020 qualifying match against Azerbaijan next month.

Ramsey has not played a full match since injuring a hamstring playing for Arsenal in April.

He has made only one appearance off the bench since his transfer to Juventus, in a friendly against Triestina when he played 20 minutes.

Dylan Levitt steps up from the under-21 squad to replace him in the squad.

It is understood Ryan Giggs' management team are concerned about Ramsey's match fitness after such a long lay-off without a competitive game.

Wales are fourth in Group E after away defeats against Croatia and Hungary in June.

They started their campaign with a 1-0 win at home against Slovakia, and desperately need a positive result against Azerbaijan at Cardiff City Stadium on 6 September before a friendly against Belarus at the same venue three days later.

It means Giggs' side will be without another experienced player following the omission of long-time captain Ashley Williams from the squad. Ramsey has scored 14 goals in 58 Wales appearances, but has yet to make an appearance in the current campaign. *(Source: BBC)*

## Sun Yang says 'facts distorted' in murky doping test

China's triple Olympic swimming champion Sun Yang on Tuesday described as "intolerable" the speculation surrounding him ahead of a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) hearing into a murky missed drugs test.

The 27-year-old's career is in jeopardy after he was accused of smashing a blood vial with a hammer during an out-of-competition dope test last year.

FINA agreed with Sun that testers failed to produce adequate identification or follow protocol, but the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) responded by taking the case to CAS.

"Misguided public opinion has distorted the facts," Sun, a hero to millions in China but derided as a "drugs cheat" by some of his rivals, wrote on social media.

"My training and my personal life have been greatly disturbed by this and it's become intolerable."

Sun, a controversial character, was allowed to compete in the World Championships in South Korea in July, winning two golds but also becoming a focus of protests from other swimmers.

Writing on the Twitter-like Weibo, Sun said that he was looking forward to giving his account of what happened during the now-infamous doping test.

"There is something I can't say, I can't make the truth public," he added on Weibo. *(Source: France 24)*

# Federer survives scare to progress at US Open



tough and stay with him," said Federer, who last won the US Open in 2008.

"I wasn't serving consistently enough. I was hitting double faults that usually I don't do. Also I was just hitting too many unforced errors. I was in two minds, I guess.

"I was able to clear that a little bit. Maybe it's not a bad thing to go through a match like this."

Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev took just 85 minutes to see off Indian world number

Roger Federer overcame a brief scare to beat Indian qualifier Sumit Nagal in his first-round match at the US Open.

The 38-year-old Swiss, who is bidding for a record sixth title in New York, lost the first set before recovering to win 4-6 6-1 6-2 6-4.

Earlier on Monday, world number one Novak Djokovic progressed with a straight-sets victory over Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena.

The Serb kicked off the defence of his title with a 6-4 6-1 6-4 win.

Djokovic, 32, has reached the final on his past three appearances in New York but was taken to four sets in his opening two rounds last year.

Djokovic, who has won 16 Grand Slams and is aiming to close the gap on Federer (20) and Rafael Nadal (18), faces Argentine Juan Ignacio Londero in the second round.

Federer also lost the first set in his opening match against South African debutant Lloyd Harris at Wimbledon last month, improving as the tournament wore on and eventually losing to Djokovic in the final.

Nagal, 22, has never won a tour-level match and was playing in the main draw of a Grand Slam for the first time, but tested his illustrious opponent before losing in two hours and 30 minutes.

Third seed Federer will meet Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the next round at Flushing Meadows.

"I just tried to forget the first set, play

## Same old story for Sharapova as Williams proves too strong



Maria Sharapova slipped back into an all-too-familiar routine on Monday as the Russian came up short for the 20th time in 22 matches against Serena Williams to exit the U.S. Open in the first round.

A stone-faced Sharapova was left to ponder a 6-1 6-1 drubbing that proved once again Williams has all the answers when the pair meet on court.

"I thought she served really well. Found her spots really well. Didn't feel like we got into too many long rallies," said Sharapova. "I think the 1-2 punch. She won a majority of those points."

Prior to Monday match, Williams led Sharapova 19-2 in head-to-head meetings. They last met in the 2016 Australian Open quarter-finals where the American emerged with a 6-4 6-1 win.

They were due to meet at last year's French Open but Williams withdrew due to injury.

Sharapova has not taken a set off Williams since the Miami Open in 2013.

The 32-year-old Russian, who was banned for 15 months for taking the banned drug meldonium in 2016, struggled with injuries earlier this year, including persistent shoulder problems that have plagued her in the past.

The five times Grand Slam champion underwent a small surgical procedure for her right shoulder that caused her to miss the Miami Open.

"I missed a lot of this year with my shoulder. Just getting the routines back and being back in the draws is, you know, it's tough to talk about after a defeat, but it's a long road," Sharapova said.

"It's facing an opponent that's at her stature is extremely difficult in the first round of a slam, coming in with the fact that I haven't played that much."

There is no love lost between the two, with Sharapova including Williams in her autobiography in anecdotes that the American described as "hearsay."

"Sport is very much result-oriented. There's stories behind the results," said Sharapova. "There's phases you have to get through in order to get to where you want to go.

"This is a very different chapter in my career. It's not an easy road. It's never been."

Williams next faces fellow American Catherine McNally, after the wildcard beat Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky 6-4 6-1.

*(Source: Eurosports)*

## UK's richest man completes Nice takeover



Multi-billionaire Manchester United fan Jim Ratcliffe has completed his takeover of Nice, as he continues to step up his interest in European football ownership.

But could a takeover of a Premier League team be next?

Ratcliffe, whose fortune is said to range from anywhere between £18billion and £21billion, making him comfortably among the richest men in the UK, has wrapped up the deal shortly after receiving clearance to take control of the Ligue 1 outfit.

Last week, France's competition authority gave the green light for Ineos - the chemical giant founded by Ratcliffe two decades ago - to take control of the club, which is tucked away in the French Riviera.

The deal to buy the club is said to be worth around £90million, according to various reports.

Managed by Patrick Vieira, Nice finished seventh last season and currently sit fourth in Ligue 1 after winning their opening two matches.

Nice will now be part of the 'Ineos Football' group, which also includes Swiss second division outfit FC Lausanne-Sport.

"It has been quite a long journey getting here," Ratcliffe said as the takeover was completed.

earlier this month, is widely tipped as the man to put an end to Djokovic, Federer and Nadal's dominance.

"I always try to stay at the same time a little bit away [from such talk], because I always say at this moment of my career I haven't even been in the quarters of a Slam yet," he said.

"So that's the first step to make, and if I make this step, then I can talk about bigger goals and bigger achievements."

Japanese seventh seed Kei Nishikori raced into the second round when he took a 6-1 4-1 lead before Argentine opponent Marco Trungelliti retired with a back problem.

"It's a little bit sad to see. He's a great player," said Nishikori, who faces 108th-ranked American Bradley Klahn in the next round.

"I played great tennis from the beginning and I'm happy with the way I played. But honestly, I wanted to play a little more because I was feeling good on the court and I wanted to get a little more confidence."

Belgian 15th seed David Goffin overcame Frenchman Corentin Moutet 6-3 3-6 6-4 6-0 and will take on Cameron Norrie's conqueror, Gregoire Barrere, in round two.

Swiss 2016 champion Stan Wawrinka reached the second round with a 6-3 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 6-3 win over Italian Jannik Sinner. The 23rd seed will face Frenchman Jeremy Chardy next. *(Source: BBC)*

## Armed with smartphones, Myanmar e-sports players battle power outages

ESports star Myint was on the cusp of victory when the screens went dark in the Yangon cafe where he competes, costing him thousands of dollars in missed prize-money and denting his reputation.

Myanmar's gaming scene is mushrooming, but frequent power cuts are holding players back in the emerging democracy.

"Every time a black-out happens, we curse out the electricity corporation -- and it happens often," he told AFP.

More than 60 percent of people in Myanmar still live without reliable electricity after a political transition in 2010 that sought to pull in foreign investment after decades of junta rule.

That includes getting in on the global explosion in eSports, a billion-dollar industry that will be a medal event in the Southeast Asian Games in November for the first time.

But Myanmar is at risk of missing out with power cuts, few personal computers and a dearth of resources to support travel and competition abroad holding homegrown champions back.

Myint Myat Zaw, a 21-year-old player also known as "Insane", said he has lost about 40 matches due to blackouts, making it difficult to earn a slot abroad where cash prizes are now in the tens of millions of dollars.

He plays Dota 2, which in Shanghai hosted its equivalent of the champions league this weekend, boasting a record

\$34.3 million prize pool.

But Dota 2 tournaments are rare in Myanmar, he said, making it difficult for him to earn a living from the game.

"The last three years was the hardest period of my career...I lived in a game shop and was also short on food," he told AFP.

..... Anywhere, anytime

For gamers, a dingy internet cafe has long been the typical venue to battle it out with players from other countries.

But that has started to change as cheap SIM cards hit the markets and smartphone use soars.

Mobile penetration stood at just seven percent in 2012, but demand has skyrocketed and the figure now sits at more than 80 percent.

Players competing on mobiles can stay logged on when local grids go dark.

"We can play anywhere, anytime," said Myint Myat Aung, a mobile gamer who competes on PlayerUnknown's Battleground (PUBG) for Singapore-based eSports team Impunity.

It is also cheaper.

"We only have phone bills which don't cost very much," he told AFP.

Last month, Impunity, with more than 400 other teams, took part in a PUBG tournament hosted by Samsung Galaxy at a Yangon mall.

Staring into smartphones, players took down their op-

ponents with sniper rifles, the action projected onto a large screen as spectators cheered.

The prize pool for the tournament was around \$7,000, an immense sum in a country where the average income is less than \$1,300 a year.

Impunity's country manager Brian Min Sett said the increasing value of winnings was sign of growth as "our country doesn't have many high-prize tournaments."

Myanmar, like other developing countries, is at "a serious disadvantage" compared to its neighbours, said Jeremy Jackson, market analyst for eSports research firm NewZoo.

"Access to stable electricity and internet are crucial when it comes to competitive gaming," Jackson told AFP.

"Undoubtedly, greater smartphone penetration will allow more people access to the mobile competitive gaming landscape."

In a country that has produced few international athletic stars, eSports offers players a way into a global community and a chance to make a steady salary, especially for those competing in ultra-popular mobile games.

"They can make their own living just by competing in tournaments," said Kaung Myat San, co-founder of the HOG e-sports center in Yangon. *(Source: AFP)*



# Ansarifard named general manager of Persepolis

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football club appointed former midfielder Mohammadhassan Ansarifard as general manager of the team on Tuesday.

Ansarifard has replaced Iraj Arab in the club. It's his second stint as general manager in Persepolis. Ansarifard worked two years at the club as general manager from 2005 to 2007.

Ansarifard, 56, is a well-known name for Persepolis's fans as he led the Iranian team to their first ever title in the Asian Cup Winners' Cup as a player in 1991.

Persepolis defeated Bahrain's Muharraq 1-0 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium, thanks to a his right-footed shot from outside the box.

Ansarifard also invited German giants Bayern Munich to Azadi Stadium for a friendly match in 2006.

Iran and Persepolis legendary goalkeeper Ahmadreza Abedzadeh was honored by the club with a testimonial game against Bayern, where Felix Magath's team beat Persepolis 2-1.

"I am very happy to be appointed as Persepolis general manager, however I know that I have a difficult task ahead of me. We want to defend our titles in league and Hazfi Cup and win AFC Champions League, that's why I am here," Ansarifard told the reporters.

"We need fans' supports to continue our winning way. Our team have the potential to win ACL title. We want to reduce the financial problems in the club and make our fans happy because they deserve it," he added.



## Iran make history at West Asia Championship Women Basketball



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran wrote their name into history book by winning the bronze medal at the 2019 West Asia Championship Women Basketball Monday night.

The Iranian team defeated Jordan 71-52 in the bronze medal match in Amman, Jordan.

Edna Issaeian was Iran's topscorer with 24 points and 18 rebounds.

Iran suffered two defeats against Leba-

non (88-75) and Syria (68-61) and defeated hosts Jordan (70-62) in preliminary round.

It was Iran's first medal in the international events.

The Iranian women team participated in the competition with Islamic dress code.

Lebanon defeated Syria in the final match.

he Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports congratulated the Iranian team on the occasion of winning the medal.

## Mes Sungun humiliated by ElPozo Murcia at Intercontinental Futsal Cup



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Mes Sungun Varzeqan from Iran lost to Spanish club ElPozo Murcia in the 19th edition of Intercontinental Futsal Cup underway in Bangkok, Thailand on Tuesday.

The Iranian team were hammered by ElPozo Murcia 7-0.

Mes had lost to defending champions Magnus Futsal of Brazil 3-1 at Bangkok Arena on Sunday.

Group A consists of PTT Bluewave Chonburi from Thailand, Argentina's Club Atletico Boca Juniors and Moroccan team Fath Sportif De Settat.

Spain's Barca Lassa, SC Corinthians Paulista from Brazil and Chinese club Shenzhen Nanling Tielang are in Group B.

The FIFA Intercontinental Futsal Cup is the international club championships for futsal. The tournament is similar to FIFA Club World Cup.

## Yi Jianlian or Hamed Haddadi: Which Asia Cup MVP will shine brighter at the FIBA Basketball World Cup

Yi Jianlian of China and Hamed Haddadi of Iran are two of the best ever in Asia. It is only fitting that both will be representing their nations at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019, aiming to achieve glory for their countries.

Who will leave a bigger mark in China at the World Cup this year?

Before they head on to make Asia proud, here is how they stack up in the recent decade of FIBA Asia Cup play.

Solidifying their status as the top two players of Asia, Yi and Haddadi have gone back and forth winning the Asia Cup MVP awards in the past 5 renditions of the competition.

Both players were equally as dominant in the first Asia Cup playing against each other in 2009. They were both relatively fresh off their first stints playing in the NBA and it showed in how effective the two stars were. Yi averaged 18.3 points, 10.4 rebounds, and 2.4 blocks per game in his very first Asia Cup appearance, but ran into defending MVP and champion Haddadi in the title game.

It was quite easy to crown Haddadi as MVP that year, with outstanding numbers of 15.8 points, 13.1 rebounds, and 4.0 blocks per game.

Their paths would not cross in 2011, when Yi led China to his first Asia Cup title. The Chinese star forward led the team in both points (16.6 points per game) and rebounds (10.8 points per game) for a second straight time, earning



him his first MVP award in the Asia Cup as well.

Haddadi also put up remarkable numbers of 15.4 points, 11.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists, and 2.9 blocks per game even if Iran fell a bit short that year.

The Iranian big man rallied back in 2013 to get his 3rd Asia Cup MVP, recording better offensive numbers with 18.8 points and 10.0 rebounds per game. His 29-point, 16-rebound performance in the title game against the Philippines was just the icing on the cake of another grand Asia Cup run.

Yi spent nearly half of the games in Asia Cup 2013 nursing an injury, but when he was on the court, he was just as big of a threat as anyone. The Guangdong native put up 17.4

points and 6.6 rebounds per contest as China struggled whenever he was absent.

Both teams loaded up with fresh new talents for Asia Cup 2015, even if the veterans Yi and Haddadi were still the main men. Yi finally scored his first win over Iran in the Asia Cup this year during the Semi-finals, following through by a title win and MVP-clinching performance of 16.7 points and 8.8 rebounds on average while shooting 52.9 percent from the floor.

Having lost in the final four round, Haddadi and Iran finished in 3rd place with the 7-footer averaging 11.5 points and 7.8 boards per contest.

Those who thought Haddidi was on the decline had to quickly reconsider after he dropped jaws with 16.2 points, 10.8 rebounds, and a tournament-high 6.5 assists per game in Asia Cup 2017. Iran made it all the way to the championship game once again, but would eventually fall just short of another title.

It's clear that after an entire decade of going back and forth against each other, Yi Jianlian and Hamed Haddadi are still two of the biggest stars Asia has to offer. The biggest question now: Who will make a bigger impact on the largest stage of the basketball world at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2019?

(Source: FIBA)

## We're not satisfied with just one title, says Misao

Kashima Antlers midfielder Kento Misao insists that the AFC Champions League holders are determined to keep their title defense alive ahead of Wednesday's quarter-final with two-time winners Guangzhou Evergrande.

Being among the Kashima number crowned Asia's kings last year was a highlight in the career of 23-year-old Tokyo-native Misao, but the 2018 AFC Player of the Year nominee is adamant that neither he nor his teammates are content to sit on their laurels.

Their campaign to become the first back-to-back champions since Al Ittihad in 2005 – and, indeed, just the second in the AFC Champions League's history – is set to face a huge test in the last eight against 2013 and 2015 winners Guangzhou.

"No one at our club is simply satisfied to

be Asian champions, everyone wants to lift the title again," said Misao.

"We know we have a target on us, and that every club in the competition knows we are the holders and tries to analyse us and to beat us.

"But our goal, right at the beginning of this year, was to retain our crown. All our players, including me, are trying to make this dream come true."

Opponents Guangzhou are familiar foes for Misao and his team. At the 2017 tournament the sides faced off in the Round of 16, in what was Kashima's first appearance in the knockout stage since 2011.

In that meeting, Guangzhou's Brazilian midfielder Paulinho was to be the difference as he scored in both legs as the Chinese Super League side took the tie on away goals.

"I remember that the atmosphere at Tianhe Stadium was really overwhelming and the stands were packed with fans," recalls Misao.

"The Guangzhou players, both Chinese and foreigners, were of a very high level and they were, and are, clearly one of the best clubs in the Chinese Super League.

"Paulinho actually didn't do that much in the two games, but ultimately he scored the goals which took them to the next round, so you can see what a dangerous player he is.

"Although it was a regrettable result for us, I began to break into the team not long after the match. I am sure I'm a better player now than I was then and will aim to show my presence on the pitch this time."

While Guangzhou boast an impressive home record and haven't lost at Tianhe

since the 2015 Group Stage, Misao believes a positive result is essential for the visitors.

"It's difficult to take control of the game in an away match as the home side are always boosted by their home support, but if we can get an away goal it would be a big advantage for us," he added.

"You have to think of the series of matches as one 180 minutes match. To make that second 90 minutes – the second half of the tie – easier for us, it's important get a good result in the 'first half' in China."

"On the other hand, if we can't at least get an away goal then the second leg is going to be very tough for us.

"Although it won't be easy, it's key that we get a good result in the first leg."

(Source: the-afc)

## Iranian weightlifter provisionally suspended for doping violation

**Tasnim** — Iranian weightlifter Mohammad Hosseini has tested positive for the anabolic steroid oxymetholone.

As a consequence, the athlete is provisionally suspended in view of a potential anti-doping rule violation, the International Weightlifting Federation announced.



In any case where it is determined that the athlete did not commit an anti-doping rule violation, the relevant decision will also be published. IWF will not make any further comments on the case until it is closed, it said.

Hosseini claimed a silver medal by lifting a total of 349kg in the 89kg in the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Junior World Championships held in Fiji in June.

He lifted 157kg in snatch and 191kg in clean and jerk.

## Iran to host 4-nation futsal tournament in Mashhad

**MNA** — According to the Iranian football federation, Mashhad will host a 4-nation futsal tournament in early December.

According to the federation, Iran, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Belarus will participate in the event which is slated to be held on December 1-4 in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

Iran prepare for 2020 AFC Futsal Championship which will be held in Turkmenistan's Ashgabat from February 27 to March 8, 2020.

In the qualifications for the Asian event, Iran have been seeded along with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic in Group B of Central and South Zones. Two teams from each group of the qualification round will advance to the finals in Ashgabat and because Turkmenistan have already booked a place in the event as the hosts, Iran and Kyrgyz Republic will definitely go the finals.

Iran are the most decorated team of AFC Futsal Championship with 12 titles out of 15 editions of the games. The team defeated Japan in the final of the 2018 edition to claim the trophy.

## PSV will bid for Brighton attacker Alireza Jahanbakhsh

PSV Eindhoven plan to bid for Brighton attacker Alireza Jahanbakhsh this week.

PSV are in the market for a new attacking midfield signing and are turning to Jahanbakhsh after being blocked by Stuttgart in their bid for Nicolas Gonzalez.

Despite the player's lack of minutes at Brighton, PSV management believe he will be a different proposition in their shirt.

A PSV source told De Telegraaf: "Jahanbakhsh was a top player in the Eredivisie.

"He knows what is being asked of him and is above all a different type of attacker than the club has in house."

(Source: Tribal Football)

## Al Sadd must fight until the end, says Xavi

Al Sadd SC head coach Xavi Hernandez remains hopeful of continuing their 2019 AFC Champions League campaign, despite a 2-1 defeat to Al Nassr in the first leg of the quarter-final.

Ali Asad had given the Qataris a 21st minute lead but it was countered by Abdulrahman Al Dossari's close range strike a minute from the break, before Giuliano sealed the win for Al Nassr with a fine header in the 72nd minute on Tuesday.

The Spain and Barcelona legend admitted that he was unsatisfied with his side's showing in the first half, but even after making some changes going into the second half, Giuliano's goal overwhelmed Al Sadd.

"The reason (for the defeat) was that Al Nassr are a strong team, and we were not up to the task. We did not play good football, like we did recently," said Xavi.

"We did not control the ball in the required manner. We did not have possession and I'm not happy at all with the performance.

"In the second half, the two teams matched each other. We managed to impose ourselves on the game but when we did that, we conceded the second goal and this affected us a lot."

Al Sadd will now host the second leg in Doha's Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium on September 16, and Xavi was firm that his charges will need to head into the tie with a never-say-die attitude and elevate their performance.

"The second leg in Doha will be a lot different. We must prepare for it well to maintain our chances of progressing to the semi-finals."

"We lost (this game) but we haven't lost out on progression or on the title.

"I spoke with the players about that in the dressing room that there is another match to play in Doha and we have a chance to qualify, and that we must fight until the last moment."

(Source: the-afc)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The Heart is the book of the eyes.

Imam Ali (AS)

## Multimedia exhibit to explore feelings of mourners in Muharram rituals

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — An exhibition of installation and photos depicting the feelings of Iranians from every walk of life during the mourning rituals for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companion in Muharram will be at Tehran's Laleh Gallery.



A poster for the "Ahle Haram" exhibition.

Works by prominent photographers and artists, including Mehri Rastqadam, Mehdi Yusefi, Mahsa Sadeqi, Sabra Reisi, Neda Rahgozar, Ebrahim Baqerlu and Amir Shahabi, have been selected for the exhibition opening on September 1, which is the first day of Muharram, the first month the lunar calendar, the gallery has announced.

The curator of the exhibition entitled "Ahle Haram" ("The Household"), Mehdi Sarvari, whose works will also be put on display at the event, said that the collection is different from the numerous ordinary photos published every year on the rituals of Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in Karbala in 680 CE.

He added that the showcase puts its spotlight on spiritual layers and the Ashura rituals and symbols.

The photos are scheduled to be published in a book of the same title "Ahle Haram" in the near future.

Several discussions will be organized during the exhibition, which will run until September 18 at the gallery located on Fatemi St., near Laleh Park.

## Leader's book on Nahj-ul-Balagha published

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's book "A Description of the Nahj-ul-Balagha" has been published in three volumes.

The Nahj-ul-Balagha is an anthology of political discourses, sermons, letters and sayings attributed to Imam Ali (AS).

Published by the Islamic Revolution Publications, the books "Prophecies of the Nahj-ul-Balagha", "Charter of Alevi's Government", and "Bright Path of Managers" are the transcriptions of the Leader's speeches on the Nahj-ul-Balagha during various meetings.



Copies of "A Description of the Nahj-ul-Balagha" by Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei are on display after being unveiled at the Darulshafa Seminary in Qom on August 26, 2019. (Mehr/Mehdi Bakhshi)

The books were introduced during a ceremony held at the Darulshafa Seminary in Qom on Monday. Hojjatoleslam Saeid Solhmirzai, the director of the Office for the Preservation and Publication of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's Works, attended the ceremony.

He said that the leader has put emphasis on the need to familiarize people and officials and especially the youth with the esteemed teachings of the Nahj-ul-Balagha.

"His meetings with the government officials and his lessons on the Nahj-ul-Balagha have also been mentioned in the third book", he added.

The Nahj-ul-Balagha ("The Peak of Eloquence") was compiled by Seyyed Razi (d. 1015). It has been translated into many languages, including English, French, Russian and Spanish.

# Latvia's "Bille" named best at Isfahan children's film festival

**I →** Mehdi Jafari from Iran was crowned best director for his acclaimed movie "The 23", about 23 young Iranian volunteers who were held captive during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The movie also received three more honors, including the awards for best film and best screenplay, in the national section of the festival.

The winners were honored at the City Center Cineplex during the closing ceremony of the festival attended by Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Iranian cultural officials, cineastes and a large number of children.

The Golden Butterfly for best screenplay went to Matthias Pacht from Germany for "The Little Witch" directed by Mike Schaefer.

The film is about a young but nice witch, who tries to learn everything there is to know about magic, with the help of her trustworthy raven, to become the best witch in the forest.

"Hacker" by Poul Berg from Denmark was crowned best feature-length fiction film, while the award for best animated film went to "Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs" by Edmunds Jansons from Latvia.

"Son of the Sea" by Iranian director Abbas Jalali-Yekta won the Golden Butterfly for the best short film and "Cloudy" co-directed by Zuzana Cupova and Filip Diviak from Czech received the award for best short animated movie.

The jury granted its special award to Indian director Priya Ramasubban for his drama "Chuskit" about a feisty paraplegic girl in a remote Himalayan village who dreams of



A winner holds his Golden Butterfly Award during the closing ceremony of the 32nd International Film Festival for Children and Youth at Isfahan's City Center Cineplex on August 26, 2019.

going to school.

The jury of the International Centre of

Films for Children and Youth (CIFEJ) in the festival gave its prize to "The Falcons" by

Bragi Thor Hinriksson from Iceland, about a huge football tournament for kids.

## "Heller's Gradual Homecoming" published in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — German writer Wolfgang Bittner's novel "Heller's Gradual Homecoming" (Hellers allmähliche Heimkehr) has recently been published in Persian by Nilufar Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Kamran Jamali, the 2012 book is about Martin Heller, who returns to his hometown as the editor-in-chief of a local newspaper after 25 years.

He soon gets used to his new life, finds a new love and revives his old friendships with the local people. Everything seems normal until he finds out about the political corruption in the city of which everyone is aware.

He takes the risk of facing the powerful right-wing group that rules over the city.

Bittner is well-known for his children's books as well as his novels and essays. He is also a freelance journalist who has received several awards for his work.



Front cover of the Persian version of "Heller's Gradual Homecoming" by German writer Wolfgang Bittner.



Actor Dariush Arjmand poses beside his bust after being unveiled in the Iran Television and Cinema Town on August 27, 2019. (Mehr/Mohammad Khodabakhshi)

## Busts of film elites set up in Iran Television and Cinema Town

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — of a number of national film elites were set up at the Iran Television and Cinema Town in Tehran on Tuesday.

Actors Dariush Arjmand, Jaleh Olov and Jamileh Sheikhhi as well as voice actor Manuchehr Esmaili attended a special ceremony in the town to unveil their busts.

In addition, a hand statue of makeup artist Abdollah Eskandari was unveiled at the ceremony.

The Iran Television and Cinema Town, once named Ghazali Cinema Town, represents old Tehran in many historical movies and TV series.

The ceremony was attended by the director of the town, Kamal Feizabadi, and officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

Speaking at the ceremony, Eskandari said, "I am happy

that all those who have made great efforts here are commemorated."

"I must express thanks to those whose concern has been the promotion of the town, and I believe this town has the potential to be turned into an international site," he added.

Busts of the five stars of "Hezar Dastan", Ali Hatami's popular TV series that was filmed in the town during the 1980s, were set up in the town earlier.

Jamshid Mashayekhi, Ezzatollah Entezami, Mohammad-Ali Keshavarz, Ali Nasirian and Davud Rashidi are the five actors.

The Ghazali Cinema Town was renamed the Iran Television and Cinema Town following a decision by Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari, the director of the IRIB, which is the owner of the site.



A poster for "Swan Song" by director Parizad Seif.

## Anton Chekhov "Swan Song" to echo at Tehran theater

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Parizad Seif will stage an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's novel "Swan Song" at the Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall of Tehran's Iranshahr Theater Complex on September 1.

Veteran actor Saied Pursamimi and Seif herself will co-star in the play, a public relations team has announced.

A poster designed by Mohammad-Sadeq Zarjuyan for the play was published on Tuesday.

The play has been translated into Persian by Morteza Keramati, Mahmud Behruzian and Seruj Estepanian.

"Swan Song" is about the 68-Year-old Svetlovidov who has spent 45 years acting on stage. But old age has diminished his enthusiasm and strength.

He is no longer able to perform like he used to, and hence is filled with feelings of being worthless. All alone in the world, there is not a single person to care about him.

## Harvey Weinstein pleads not guilty

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Former Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty on Monday to a new indictment as his upcoming criminal trial was pushed back to January, in a case where prosecutors have accused him of rape and predatory sexual assault.

Weinstein, 67, entered his plea in a New York state court in Manhattan, where his trial was delayed by four months, to Jan. 6, 2020. He had faced a Sept. 9 trial date.

The new indictment accuses Weinstein of two counts of predatory sexual assault, stemming from alleged assaults against two women, in 2006 and 2013. Those charges are essentially the same as those in the previous indictment against Weinstein, and prosecutors moved Monday to consolidate the two cases.

However, the new indictment also comes with a disclosure that a third woman will be called to testify that Weinstein raped her in 1993 to bolster the prosecutors' case. Weinstein cannot be charged directly with raping that woman, actress Annabella Sciorra, because the statute of limitations has run out.

New York Supreme Court Justice James Burke, who is presiding over the case, had previously ruled that Sciorra could not testify because the grand jury that returned the earlier indictment had not heard any evidence about her alleged rape.

"I commend Annabella for her willingness



Film producer Harvey Weinstein leaves New York Supreme Court after his arraignment in his sexual assault case in New York.

to take the stand and answer questions under oath," Sciorra's lawyer, Gloria Allred, said in a statement on Monday.

Donna Rotunno, one of Weinstein's lawyers, said after the hearing that Weinstein would seek to dismiss the new indictment, calling the case "weak."

Once among Hollywood's most powerful producers, he has pleaded not guilty to five criminal charges in the earlier indictment, including rape and predatory sexual assault. He could face a life sentence if convicted.

The two women in the earlier indictment are among roughly 70 who have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct dating back decades. Weinstein has denied the allegations and said any sexual encounters were consensual.

## Leonardo DiCaprio urges government action on Amazon fires 'tragedy'

**TOKYO (Reuters)** — A crisis over burning forest in the Amazon is "incredibly tragic", actor Leonardo DiCaprio said on Monday, urging governments to do more, amid growing international outrage over the damage to the world's largest tropical rain forest.

A record number of fires is ravaging the rain forest, sparking concern because of the Amazon's importance to the global environment. The rain forest is said to produce a fifth of the world's oxygen.

DiCaprio was speaking a day after Earth Alliance, an initiative he founded with philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth, launched a \$5-million emergency fund to help preserve the rain forest.

"There is a major tragedy going on worldwide because of climate change and what's going on in the Amazon, which is really the lungs of the earth and vital to protecting us in the future," he told Reuters.

"We're trying to perpetuate others to be involved, informed and contribute if they can," he said, speaking on the red carpet at the Japan premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood".

There have been more than 78,000 forest fires in Brazil this year, nearly double last year's total. Environmentalists blame speculators who burn vegetation to clear



Cast member Leonardo DiCaprio waves as he arrives for the Berlin premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" in Berlin, Germany, August 1, 2019. (Reuters/Fabrizio Bensch)

it in hopes of selling the land to farmers and ranchers.

The government of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has decided to send in the military to help fight the fires but was criticized for not doing enough sooner.

French President Emmanuel Macron, hosting the G7 summit in Biarritz, said the leaders of the world's major industrialized nations were close to an agreement on how to help fight the fires and repair the devastation.

"The governments around the world, including Brazil, need to work together to make sure this doesn't continue," DiCaprio said.