



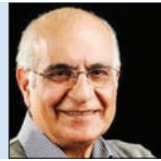
**Region indebted to resistance front for containing Israeli expansionism** **2**



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# Iran set to take third nuclear step



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## Over 62,000 tons of LPG sold at IRENEX to foreign buyers

**TEHRAN** — Some 71,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was offered at the international ring of Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) on Monday of which over 62,000 tons was sold to foreign buyers, IRNA reported.

The LPG was offered in six different batches, each batch from a specific

refinery and with a certain base price ranging from \$245 per ton up to \$263 per ton.

The total value of the offered cargoes reached nearly \$16.5 million which is mostly exported to the neighboring countries including Afghanistan and Pakistan. ➔5

## Iran frees 7 crew members of seized British tanker

**TEHRAN** — Iran has released seven crew members of British oil tanker Stena Impero detained in July in the Persian Gulf for violating international maritime law.

Announcing their release on Wednesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the decision to release some members of the crew aboard the UK ship was taken on humanitarian grounds.

The sailors - five Indians, one Latvian and one Russian - had already left the Stena Impero, Seyyed Abbas Mousavi told the national television.

He added, "We have no problem with the crew and captain of the ship. The vessel was impounded for committing a violation and, naturally, when a ship is seized, its crew members come under arrest likewise." ➔3

## U.S. trains hundreds of Kurdish militias despite Ankara's warnings

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Washington has continued sending its military aid to the Kurdish militias in Eastern Syria, and has trained 700 of them in Eastern Euphrates despite warnings by the Turkish government for the establishment of a safe zone there, media sources said.

The Anadolu news agency quoted local sources in Eastern Syria as saying that hundreds

of Kurdish militias have undergone training in some regions of Eastern Euphrates in the last several weeks.

The sources also said that the Kurdish militias have been trained by the US troops at military bases in the cities of Raqqa, al-Tabaqa and the town of al-Shadadi in Southern Hasaka on how to make use of different types of weapons. ➔13



### PERSPECTIVE

**Fatemeh Salehi**  
Mehr News Agency  
journalist

## Wicker image of Israel with dummy soldiers

The successful missile attack of Hezbollah against the Zionist regime's soldiers over past few days from Lebanon toward the occupied territories has continued to attract the attention of Arab and international media outlets since it has broad aspects and there are important messages in this operation in view of Hassan Nasrallah's words.

The operation is very significant in terms of targets, time and location because Nasrallah had not spoken before responding to the Zionist regime's aggression and martyrdom of two Hezbollah resistance forces in Syria, which caused anxiety among the Zionists.

Removing military patrols and settlements from the front lines in the occupied territories was conducted in a way that was unprecedented in the history of the conflict with the Zionist regime, and this very tangible withdrawal of Israeli troops is significant.

During this successful operation, in which a number of Israeli soldiers were targeted, officials in Tel Aviv attempted to downplay its importance by creating a psychological warfare, and falsely claiming that there were no casualties.

After the operation, Netanyahu appeared in front of cameras with a smile on his face, trying to be calm and claimed that not even one Israeli soldier was scratched!

Subsequently, images were published showing the transfer of wounded soldiers to a hospital in Haifa. After the release of the images, the Israelis claimed that it was staged and soldiers are well in these images, and that they had been given fake blood to make Hezbollah forces think they had injured some of the soldiers!

The Israeli media and officials have not been content with this ridiculous psychological and media warfare about Hezbollah's operation and have subsequently stated that the vehicle targeted by the Hezbollah missile was in fact empty. Some Israeli media outlets and officials also claimed that dummies and mannequins were placed in the vehicle instead of soldiers, and that Hezbollah targeted Israeli dummies! ➔13

## Francesco Cafiso eager to share his love of jazz with Iranian audience

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Samaneh Aboutalebi

**TEHRAN** — Prominent Italian jazz saxophonist Francesco Cafiso has said that he is eager to share his love of jazz with Iranian enthusiasts. "There are a lot of jazz fans but not many jazz musicians in Iran, and I'll be happy to share my experiences and give them my support," Cafiso said in his last week interview with the Tehran Times.

He was in Tehran to perform and hold a workshop during the 3rd Show of Hands Festival, a professional event for improvisations, which wrapped up on August 28. The festival put its spotlight on solo woodwind instruments improvisation this year.

He said that his two-hour workshop at the

festival was not enough to share his knowledge in detail with the numerous Iranian jazz aficionados.

"I would like to do that more often as the participants in the workshop were very enthusiastic. It was a chance for them to improve their skills and for me to develop some jazz culture here," he added.

Calling Iranians good audience he said, "During my performances at the festival, they were very interactive and cooperative. They were warm and open to my performance. It was enjoyable for me."

This is the second time Cafiso has visited Iran. The first time he visited Iran was in January 2018 to perform at the 33rd Fajr International Music Festival.

Cafiso praised Show of Hands Festival director Ramin Sediqi for organizing the event. Sediqi,

who won the Professional Excellence Award at the World Music Expo - WOMEX 2015, is also the founder of Hermes Records, a Tehran-based studio active in producing and promoting modern Persian music.

"Mr. Sediqi did a great job. The festival was perfect and I am completely satisfied with my performances. It is a unique festival. I've never been to a solo woodwind festival before. You should be proud of it," Cafiso remarked.

As a young talent, Cafiso took his first steps in music when he was seven. He has travelled to many countries to hold concerts and received numerous awards in Italy and abroad, including the Massimo Urbani National Award in Urbisaglia, the EuroJazz Award in Lecco, the International Jazz Festivals Organization Award in New York and the Django d'Or in Rome. ➔16

## Russia, India back legitimate trade ties with Iran

**TEHRAN** — Russia and India said on Wednesday they planned to continue legitimate economic and trade cooperation with Iran, the state-run RIA news agency reported, citing a joint statement issued after talks between the two country's leaders.

The statement was released after Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks at an economic forum in Vladivostok in Russia's Far East.

Also As Aljazeera reported, Russia has hosted the three-day forum in its Pacific coast city of Vladivostok since 2015 to boost partnerships with Asian countries amid tensions with the West.

"This is a historic opportunity to give a new

impetus to cooperation between our countries," Modi said at the start of talks after the men toured a naval shipyard.

"Today we are going to sign a declaration ... expressing our desire to further increase cooperation," Putin said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also due to visit Vladivostok, along with Mongolian President Khaltmaa Battulga and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. But Putin was spending most of his time on Wednesday with Modi, who highlighted his ties with the Russian leader in an interview ahead of the forum.

"Our relationship has special chemistry, special ease," Modi told newspaper Rossiyskaya Gaze-

ta. "With each meeting with President Putin, we get closer and our relationship grows."

Modi pointed out that mutual ties also extend to nature, as every year "Siberian cranes migrate to my home state Gujarat". The Indian leader said he also planned to discuss tiger conservation with Putin, a lover of big cats. After shaking hands warmly on Modi's arrival, the two men boarded a Russian navy patrol ship and headed to the Zvezda shipyard about 40km across a bay from Vladivostok.

India is a key client for Russia's arms industry and Moscow will be looking to make progress on new deals during the talks.

India's defence spending: Ramping up security through imports. ➔13



ISNA/ Davoud Izadpanah

## Women hold traditional Muharram mourning rituals

Women in Zilaei village in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province hold special and unique rituals during the month of Muharram.

They wear clothes in black and form a circle. One of them leads others in chanting eulogies. In addition to holding the mourning ceremonies, they participate in preparation of food offerings known as Nazri. On the day of Ashura, which marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala, they provide mourners with the Nazri food.

## The U.S. has announced new sanctions on Iran

**TEHRAN** — The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control announced Wednesday new sanctions against individuals and companies related to Iran.

Ship and oil companies and a number of tankers have been added to the U.S. sanctions list against Iran, according to a statement from the U.S. Treasury Department.

The U.S. government has announced that it has added an Iranian oil transportation network, including two companies, two individuals and three oil tankers to the sanctions list.

## China rejects U.S. fentanyl charges as 'groundless'

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — China denied it was to blame for fentanyl deaths in the United States after President Donald Trump accused Beijing of reneging on its promise to crack down on the opioid.

U.S. authorities have long accused China of being the main source of the potent drug, which caused 32,000 overdose deaths in the United States last year alone, AFP reported.

In an apparent gesture to Washington amid the U.S.-China trade war, Beijing announced a crackdown on fentanyl earlier this year, designating all analogues of the drug as controlled substances from May 1.

The move aimed to prevent smugglers from skirting the law by changing formulas to make drugs similar to the painkiller.

Fentanyl sellers have used parcel services to send the drug to the United States, and China had also vowed to step up customs checks.

But Trump wrote on Twitter last month that while President Xi Jinping had pledged to stop exports of fentanyl, "this never happened, and many Americans continue to die!"

Liu Yuejin, vice commissioner of China's National Narcotics Control Commission, countered on Tuesday that no case of fentanyl smuggling has been reported since the May 1 ban. "What President Trump concluded on Twitter is groundless," Liu stated.

"China has strengthened its control of fentanyl but the number of deaths linked to this substance continues to rise in the United States," Liu noted, suggesting that the drug came from elsewhere



## Iran set to take third nuclear step

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** – President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that Iran will take the third step in reducing its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

“Despite settling main part of differences with the Europeans, we have not reached a final agreement yet. So, Iran will take the third step of reducing its nuclear commitments and the details of the step will be announced today or tomorrow,” Rouhani said during a cabinet meeting.

He added, “For example, if we had differences on 20 issues, now we have differences on three issues. However, we have not reached the final point. It is unlikely that we could reach a final agreement today or tomorrow.... So, we will take the third step and its details will be announced.”

Rouhani noted that the third step is very important, saying the Atomic Energy Organization will speed up its activities based on the third step.

Rouhani said that the third step is reversible if any agreement is reached.

“While taking the third step, we will continue to hold talks and if we reach an agreement, we will be open to negotiate and logic,” he said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araghchi, who was on a tour of Europe, also said on Wednesday that it is very unlikely that the Europeans be able to take an effective step before September 7.

However, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire who has traveled to Washington as part of a plan to offer Iran a \$15 billion economic lifeline and rescue the Iran nuclear accord said his talks with U.S. counterpart Steven Mnuchin was “constructive”.

Le Maire met his U.S. counterpart Steven Mnuchin and tweeted afterwards that he had constructive talks about the digital tax, without mentioning Iran, according to a Tuesday report by Bloomberg.

He was due to later meet with U.S. President Donald Trump’s economic adviser Lawrence Kudlow, and chief U.S. trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer. According to a French official, Le Maire discussed waivers for companies that would allow Iran to sell oil. China, India and Japan would be the expected clients.

European nations are desperate to save what the administration believes is a terrible deal.

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 refining nuclear fuel to the purity level of 4.5 percent as the Europeans missed.

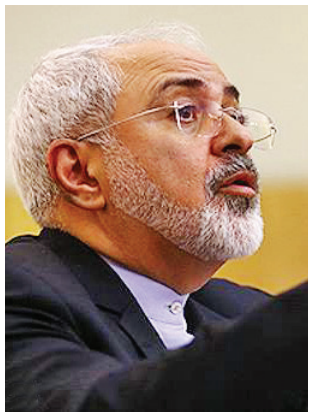
Iran took these steps one year after the Trump administration abandoned the JCPOA and imposed the harshest ever sanctions on Tehran.

In a statement on May 8, Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) announced that its “strategic patience” is over as the remaining members of the JCPOA, especially the Europeans, have failed to honor their obligations and protect Iran from sanctions effect.

In his remarks on Wednesday, Rouhani described Iran’s one-year strategic patience as a “wise” decision.

## U.S. won’t stop at Iran nuclear deal, it’ll tear up any accord as it sees fit, Zarif tells RT

Tehran is self-reliant enough to survive without the 2015 nuclear deal, but if Europe doesn’t save it, it won’t be the last international accord the U.S. will trample, the foreign minister of Iran has told RT.



Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif appeared on Oksana Boyko’s show ‘Worlds Apart’ during his visit to Moscow, where he spoke to top-tier Russian officials. His trip comes at a time when European nations, fronted by France, are frantically trying to prop up the nuclear deal and to encourage Iran to stay in it.

The Europeans want the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, to survive. But Washington is putting pressure on them to cut Iran off while multiple reviews by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) found that Iran was in full compliance with the 2015 accord, so now the ball is in Europe’s court.

“The Europeans must know that the appetite of the U.S. for breaking international law – whenever and wherever it serves them – will not stop at [the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action],” Zarif predicts.

“A bully’s appetite will only grow if they see no reaction,” the Foreign Minister said. The U.S. quit the Iran nuclear deal over a year ago, re-imposing sweeping sanctions and promising to reduce Iran’s oil industry – a major source of income – to zero. Zarif says his country has managed to recover, though he admitted the sanctions badly hurt its economy at first.

Iran has been through a forty-year experience of living under pressure, and “will build our future with or without the JCPOA,” Zarif vowed. The pact is “an important achievement that should not be destroyed,” but its demise – however regrettable – would be “a blow to diplomacy, not a blow to Iran.”

Recently, Tehran signaled that it is still ready to talk to the U.S., provided that it lifts all sanctions imposed on Iran. “We will never negotiate under pressure, we will never negotiate with the knowledge that the outcome of these negotiations will only last for one presidency,” he told.

As for the future of the U.S., Zarif predicts the weaponization of its economy – as well as its animosity towards Russia and China – will spell “the demise of American economic might.”

# Araghchi says Iran will never renegotiate nuclear deal

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Deputy

Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday insisted on Tehran’s long-held policy that that Iran will never renegotiate the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA.

“From the Islamic Republic of Iran’s viewpoint, the JCPOA will not be renegotiated, however, implementation of the JCPOA can be subject of talks,” he told reporters in Slovenia.

Pointing to his talks in Paris, he said that the talks revolved around Iran’s oil sale and ways to receive the money.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced it will return to full implementation of the JCPOA if it will be able to sell its oil and receive its income without limitation. France’s initiative revolves around this,” he said.

France has proposed offering Iran about \$15 billion in credit lines until year-end if Tehran comes fully back into compliance with the nuclear deal, a move that hinges on Washington not blocking it, according to Reuters.

Araghchi added, “Iran is ready to hold talks with the remaining parties to the nuclear deal after receiving \$15 billion, however, the fact is that there are different views on agenda of these talks.”



**■ ‘Iran to take third step of reducing nuclear commitments on September 7’**

Araghchi also predicted that it is very unlikely that the Europeans be able to take an effective step before September 7, saying Iran will take the third step in reducing nuclear commitments on this day.

Iranian and French experts held intensive talks in Paris on Monday at expert level, studying ways to preserve the nuclear deal. The meeting, which lasted over 10 hours, was chaired by Araghchi.

According to Iran’s Foreign Ministry, both sides reviewed details of President Emmanuel Macron’s initiative to save the

JCPOA, following phone calls with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani, Press TV reported.

Macron’s plan – which he separately discussed in detail with U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif – reportedly included a “softening” of economic sanctions against Tehran in exchange for some liabilities.

The initiative, according to an earlier report by Bloomberg, will allow Iran to sell certain amounts of oil in exchange for fully implementing the JCPOA.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran began reducing its commitments to the agreement at bi-monthly intervals.

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.

However, Iran has announced if the European Union as a signatory to the deal protects it from the sanctions effect it will reverse its decision.

## Iran to fully implement nuclear deal if Europe guarantees oil sale: Zarif

**POLITICAL d e s k**

**TEHRAN** – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said Iran will return to full implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, if Europe guarantees Tehran’s oil sale.

In an interview with ICANA published on Wednesday, Zarif said it is essential that the Europeans guarantee Iran’s oil sale.

In an illegal move the Trump administration in April declared a total ban on Iran’s oil export, the country’s main source of income.

Upon arrival in Dhaka, Zarif also told reporters that President Hassan Rouhani will announce details of Iran’s third step in reducing commitments under the

JCPOA soon.

The third step can include installation of more centrifuges, especially advanced ones which can refine uranium with higher speed.

France has proposed offering Iran about \$15 billion in credit lines until year-end if Tehran comes fully back into compliance with the nuclear deal, a move that hinges on Washington not blocking it, according to Reuters.

Zarif told ISNA on Wednesday that Europe needs the U.S. permission to launch the credit line which is regrettable.

On May 8, exactly one year after the United States abandoned the JCPOA and reinstated sanctions on Iran,

Iran announced it will start reducing its nuclear commitments. However, Iran has announced if the European Union as a signatory to the deal protects it from the sanctions effect it will reverse its decision.

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

In an interview with the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper published on August 27, Zarif said the country will begin suspending more of its commitments under the nuclear deal on September 6.

## Tehran to examine reports of Dutch role in cyberattack

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi said that the probable involvement of the Netherlands in the 2007 sabotage operations against Tehran’s civilian nuclear facilities is being examined by the ministry and Tehran’s embassy in the European country.

Mousavi reacted on Tuesday to the report of probable role of Netherlands’ intelligence services in planting Stuxnet, a cyber-weapon widely believed to be made by the U.S. and Israel and used in 2007 to target the Islamic Republic’s nuclear energy program, in the controlling computer systems of Natanz nuclear site.

“This news is being carefully taken look into by the Foreign Ministry and our Embassy in the Netherlands,” he said.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman added that this morning, the Director General of Foreign Ministry Western Europe Department conveyed the Islamic Republic of Iran’s concern and sensitivity over the issue to the Deputy Directorate General of Dutch Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, who is in Tehran on a pre-planned visit, and his accompanying Dutch delegation as well as the Dutch ambassador.

He added the Dutch delegation responded by promising to convey Iran’s message to their government.

The Washington Post reported in June 2012 that the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA), its spy service CIA, and Israel’s



military had worked together to launch Stuxnet against Iran’s nuclear facilities.

In late 2015, Iran’s then Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hossein Jaber Ansari, called the attacks that came in 2007 “illegal,” saying Tehran had never responded with “reciprocal cyber-attacks”.

In November 2016, Iran’s top nuclear official said the cyber-attack had worked against the U.S. and Israel’s intended objectives and instead helped improve the Islamic Republic’s readiness against such acts of sabotage.

The deployment of the malware against Iran’s nuclear facilities had made the country realize how it had to prepare against such attempts, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Ali Akbar Salehi, said at the time.

This May, Minister of Information and Communications Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi announced that Iran has developed an indigenous firewall securing its sensitive industrial facilities against Stuxnet.

## Resistance sapping U.S., Israeli power in region: Iran’s top general

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** – The axis of resistance is steadily weakening the U.S. and Israeli power across the region, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said.

In a visit to a military training camp of the IRGC Ground Force on Wednesday, Major General Baqeri said regional conditions have become such that the front of pro-resistance nations is constantly sapping the power of the Zionist regime and the U.S.

Concerted attempts by the world to support terrorists in Syria with money and plots for the purpose of defeating the front of resistance ended in failure, the top commander said.

He added that Iraq was also once swallowed by the U.S., but the resistance front managed to retrieve the Arab country.

Baqeri also highlighted Yemen’s advances in self-defense, saying the Yemenis have reached a level of power that they have managed to shoot down all models of advanced intruding fighter jets.

Highlighting the Islamic Republic’s “spiritual support” for the Yemeni people, the general refuted the claim of Iranian arms supplies for Yemen, adding, “How could one send a 9-meter-long missile to a country that is under blockade and is unable to receive medicine? These are illusions held by some.”

The commander described Iran as one of the world’s safest countries in an unsafe region, saying such a level of security has



been obtained with deterrent power that has prevented an act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Last month, Iran’s Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Iranian model of creating effective power has inspired the axis of resistance to develop a power in dealing with “evil coalitions in the proxy and terrorist wars against regional Muslim nations.”

It also noted that Iran and the axis of resistance have inflicted a gradual defeat on the enemies and forced them to struggle to escape from self-inflicted quagmires in Yemen and other Islamic countries.

Last year, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei called for efforts to maintain and boost Iran’s defense capabilities, hitting back at the enemies for disputing the country’s missile program.

“Without a moment of hesitation, the country must move to acquire whatever is necessary for defense, even if the whole world is opposed to it,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

## Tehran says region indebted to resistance axis for containing Tel Aviv’s expansionism

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said on Wednesday that the whole region would have changed by Israel’s expansionist policies if the Resistance Axis had not confronted Tel Aviv’s policies.

“Had it not been for Resistance Axis’ efforts, the Israeli regime would expand its ambitious plans way beyond its current borders of the occupied territory,” Brigadier General Hatami said today, in a local ceremony where he handed awards to some of those active in the Resistance Front.

He referred to recent developments in Lebanon and said that the Global Arrogance just understands the language of force.

“Recent months’ developments in different sectors of the region, including the Resistance’s confrontation with the Zionist regime, once again showed that the Arrogance and its agents don’t understand

any language other than the rhetoric of force,” he said on Wednesday.

Hezbollah attacked an Israeli personnel carrier traveling near the illegal settlement of Avivim on Sunday in response to Israeli aggression last week on Syria and Lebanon which killed two of the Resistance members.

“Under the guidance of the Arrogance, terrorists had an evil plan for the whole region and today, all regional nations are indebted to fighters of the Resistance Axis who played a major role in defeating these groups. I appreciate their efforts as the defense minister and as an Iranian,” said Hatami.

“Today, the diplomacy of resistance is one of the influential and important pillars in Islamic Republic of Iran’s defense diplomacy,” he highlighted.

Last month, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif marked the

anniversary of the 2006 victory of Lebanon against Israel, adding that the nations of the region and the world should be thankful to the resistance against the arrogant policies of Tel Aviv.

“The peoples of the region and the world are indebted to the resistance of the Lebanese people, the Islamic resistance front and Hezbollah, which stood against the arrogance of the Zionist regime and faced the terrorism of Daesh Takfiri group, which was a scourge for the whole world,” Zarif said in an exclusive interview with Lebanon’s Arabic-language al-Ahed news website on August 13, on the anniversary of the victory of the country in a 2006 war waged by Israel.

“The Lebanese people and the Islamic resistance front proved to the world the fact that the Zionist regime (of Israel) can be defeated. The regime, no matter how hard



it tries, cannot wage wars, stoke tensions and cause bloodshed of the people of the region,” the top diplomat reiterated, stating that the Lebanese nation and Hezbollah resistance movement dispelled the myth of the Tel Aviv regime’s “invincibility”.

“This was a triumph for the entire (Middle East) region, international rights and international relations,” the top Iranian diplomat pointed out.



# Excessive sanctions threatening U.S. economy: FM

**S O C I A L** **TEHRAN** – The Americans' excessive use of sanctions against others will hurt the U.S. economy as well, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told reporters in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Wednesday.

The comments by Zarif came after the U.S. introduced a batch of sanctions on the Iranian space agency on Tuesday.

The U.S. imposed its first-ever sanctions against the Iran Space Agency, the Iran Space Research Center, and the Aeronautics Research Institute.

"The Americans have grown addicted to sanctions. These U.S. sanctions will produce no impact and the world will laugh at the U.S. gradually," Zarif said, according to IRNA.

"They (the U.S.) have left no one but themselves to sanction as they have laid sanctions on everyone else and they make a move against one government or another each day."

The minister added, "The U.S. use of economic leverage has come to grow so extreme that it will threaten the U.S. economy too gradually."

Asked about the possibility of Washington's return to the talks within the framework of the 2015 nuclear deal, Zarif said the U.S. can return to the talks only after it stops sanctions and violation of the nuclear deal.

Washington withdrew from the internationally-endorsed 2015 nuclear deal with Iran on May 2018, reimposed the toughest-ever sanctions against the country including a total ban on Tehran's oil sales.

Under the nuclear agreement reached



between Iran and 5+1 nations in July 2015, Tehran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions.

Yet, Iran continued compliance with deal, stressing that the remaining signatories to the agreement (especially the Europeans) had to work to offset the negative impacts of the U.S. pullout from the agreement if they want Tehran to remain in compliance. The Iranian officials had earlier warned that the European

Union's failure in providing the needed ground for Tehran to enjoy the economic benefits of the nuclear deal would exhaust the country's patience. Almost a year later, however, the EU failed to provide Tehran with its promised merits. Then, the U.S. State Department announced that it had not extended two waivers, one that allowed Iran to store excess heavy water in Oman, and one that allowed Iran to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

Until then, Iran was allowed to ship low-enriched uranium produced at Natanz to Russia before it hit the 300-kg limit but the U.S. measure leaves no way for Tehran other than exceeding the ceiling for storing the enriched uranium in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Also, the United States would no longer waive sanctions that allowed Iran to ship heavy water produced at the Arak facility beyond a 130-ton limit set in the 2015 nuclear deal to Oman for storage which again forces Tehran to store it inside the country in violation of the nuclear deal.

In return, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) announced in a statement on May 8 that the country had modified two of its undertakings under the JCPOA in retaliation for the U.S. abrogation of the deal and other signatories' inability to make up for the losses under the agreement, warning that modifications would continue if the world powers failed to take action in line with their promises.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran declares that at the current stage, it does not anymore see itself committed to respecting the limitations on keeping enriched uranium and heavy water reserves," the statement said.

Then Iran gave Europe 60 days to either normalize economic ties with Iran or accept the modification of Tehran's obligations under the agreement and implement its proposed INSTEX to facilitate trade with Iran.

Iran set up a counterpart to INSTEX called Special Trade and Financing Instrument (STFI) to pave the way for bilateral trade.

## Minister calls on Trump to stop imitating fictional character as U.S. sanctions Iran's space program

**S O C I A L** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Information and Communications Technology Minister Mohammad-Javad Azari Jahromi has mocked U.S. President Donald Trump over "imitating" the space supervillain from the Marvel universe, Thanos.

"I can't even locate the US in this picture, let alone sanctions on Space! The universe & #BrightFuture belong to everyone, not to a few! Stop imitating #Thanos, Donald Trump!" Azari Jahromi tweeted on Wednesday along with a photo of outer space.

Thanos, the so-called Mad Titan, is a fictional character portrayed by Josh Brolin in the Avengers franchise and he destroyed half the population.

Jahromi's tweet came one day after the U.S. imposed sanctions against Iran's space program.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Treasury stated that Washington had imposed sanctions on the Iranian Space Agency, Space Research Centre, and Astronautics Research Institute. According to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, they were retaliated for "engaging in proliferation-sensitive activities". He also stated that this is the first time that the U.S. is sanctioning

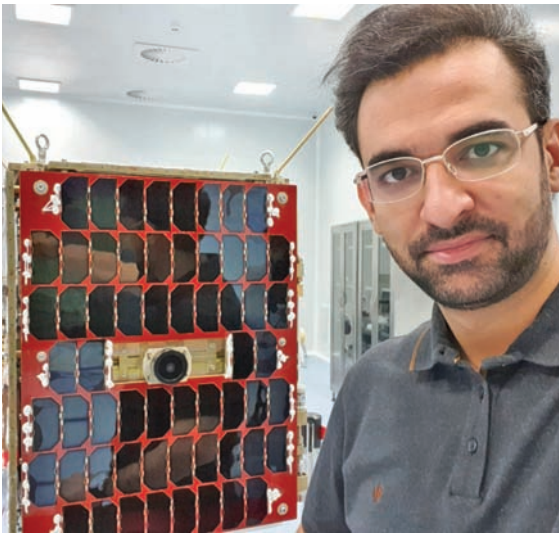
Iran's civilian space agency for activities related to advancing the country's ballistic missile program.

The move followed the failed testing at the end of August in which, according to government spokesman Ali Rabiei, an explosion occurred on the launch pad while no satellite had yet been transferred to it.

The spokesman said that a rocket had indeed exploded at its Imam Khomeini Space Centre due to a malfunction during testing, rejecting claims that the incident had been manipulated from outside.

Trump shared a satellite image of what appeared to be the burnt rocket launch pad and damaged vehicles at the space center on Saturday, denying U.S. involvement in the accident and wishing Iranian authorities "good luck in determining what happened" at the site.

The United States has repeatedly warned Iran against rocket launches, even though they are not barred under the 2015 nuclear deal, claiming that the Middle Eastern country's space program is furthering its military-grade missile development. The Islamic Republic, for its part, has consistently said that its space program is being developed only for peaceful purposes.



## Iran frees 7 crew members of seized British tanker

**I →** However, following investigations into the consular and licensure status of every single crew member, some of them were allowed to exit the ship and return to their daily lives, Mousavi explained.

The 30,000-ton UK-flagged Stena Impero tanker was seized by Iranian naval forces on July 19, when it ignored distress call as it collided with a fishing boat on its route.



The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said at that time that the ship had also used a wrong path to enter the Strait of Hormuz.

The Stena Impero was brought to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, where it remains at anchor.

Its Swedish operator, Stena Bulk, said last month it had been able to maintain

limited communication with the crew and that they remained in good health "considering the circumstances".

The seizure of the British tanker came amid a diplomatic row between Tehran and London, which had erupted earlier in July after British Royal Marines in Gibraltar illegally seized an Iranian oil tanker. That ship was later released.

## Zarif holds high-profile meetings in Bangladesh

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who traveled to Bangladesh on Tuesday, sat down for talks with the country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday to discuss issues of mutual interest, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency.

The talks, which were held in Dhaka, focused on important regional developments, efforts to de-escalate regional tensions, and ways to widen bilateral cooperation in cultural and economic fields. They also held talks on issues related to the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

During their meeting, Zarif and Hasina expressed deep concern about the humanitarian crisis and sufferings of Rohingya Muslims.

After his meeting with Hasina, Zarif held talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen.

Zarif visited Bangladesh as head of a high-ranking polit-

ico-economic delegation to hold talks with senior officials of the South Asian country.

While in Dhaka, he was also scheduled to attend the third IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference, which was held on September 4-5.

Zarif was also scheduled to hold meetings with the participating representatives from different countries on the sidelines of the event.

He was to depart to Indonesia as the next stop of his several-nation Asian tour.

Before making a stop in Dhaka, the Iranian diplomat was in Moscow, where he held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on expansion of mutual ties as well as the latest developments surrounding the implementation of the JCPOA and tension in the Persian Gulf.

Before his tour of Russia, the chief diplomat visited China, Japan and Malaysia.



*Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (L) meets Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (R) in Dhaka.*

## Cuba reiterates solidarity with Iran in face of U.S. extreme pressure

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Cuba has expressed its solidarity with Iran in the face of the U.S. extreme pressure, as both countries celebrate their 40th anniversary of resumption of diplomatic ties and seek to forge warmer political and economic relations. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Havana Rashid Bayat Mokhtari who submitted a copy of his credentials to the Cuban minister in Havana on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, the two sides reiterated their will to continue strengthening bilateral ties. Through unilateral sanctions on Iran and Cuba, they emphasized, the U.S. is working hard to destabilize governments



in Tehran and Havana in order to achieve its political objectives.

"I received H.E. Mr. Rashid Bayat Mokhtari, ambassador of Iran. We ratified our willingness to continue strengthening bilateral links when we mark 40th anniversary of re-establishment of diplomatic relations. I reiterated our solidarity in the face of U.S. aggressive escalation vs Iran," tweeted the Cuban chief diplomat after the meeting.

To commemorate four decades of political relations between the two nations that revolted against the U.S. interests in their countries, the Iranian envoy to Cuba, along with several high-ranking Cuban officials, also took part in a ceremony to unveil a stamp that celebrates the anniversary.

## Pakistan ambassador hopes Iran mediates to resolve Kashmir issue

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran has expressed hope that Tehran acts as a mediator to resolve the Kashmir conflict between Pakistan and India.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with ILNA published on Wednesday, Riffat Masood said that during a recent visit by Pa-



kistan's Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi to Tehran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was asked to speak with India as a mediator.

"As I know, Mr. Zarif contacted Ms. Sushma Swaraj, the former Indian Foreign Minister, but unfortunately Delhi did not accept it."

"In the past, countries like China and the United States wanted to mediate but it didn't work out. I think India has just started this project but Pakistan will not be only observer," Masood stated.

The Pakistani diplomat said, "We want to resolve the Kashmir crisis peacefully. So we are seeking political solutions."

She added that Pakistan has special hopes for Iran to offer help over the issue "because we have a common border with Iran and hope that India's good relations with Iran can help us."

## Talks with Washington to preserve Iran deal "constructive": France's Le Maire

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire who has traveled to Washington as part of a plan to offer Iran a \$15 billion economic lifeline and rescue the Iran nuclear accord said his talks with U.S. counterpart Steven Mnuchin was "constructive".

Le Maire met his U.S. counterpart Steven Mnuchin and tweeted afterwards that he had constructive talks about the digital tax, without mentioning Iran, according to a Tuesday report by Bloomberg. He was due to later meet with U.S. President Donald Trump's economic adviser Lawrence Kudlow, and chief U.S. trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer. According to a French official, Le Maire discussed waivers for companies that would allow Iran to sell oil. China, India and Japan would be the expected clients.

A senior U.S. administration official, who asked not to be identified discussing internal deliberations, poured cold water on the idea, saying Trump has been clear that Iran won't receive any economic benefit from the U.S. for reverting back to the nuclear accord. The official said European nations are desperate to save what the administration believes is a terrible deal.



## IRGC seizes 7 trawlers near Strait of Hormuz

**P O L I T I C A L** **TEHRAN** – The Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said in a statement on Wednesday that its forces have detained seven trawling ships in the Jask region, near the Strait of Hormuz.

"Seven trawling ships with 24 foreign crew members were detained on Tuesday night by Guards forces due to disregarding the allowed distance to coasts for fishing and also for violations related to fishing," the IRGC said in a statement carried by the IRIB.



Trawling is a method of fishing that involves actively dragging or pulling a trawl through the water behind one or more trawlers. Trawls are fishing nets that are pulled along the bottom of the sea or in mid-water at a specified depth. A trawler may also operate two or more trawl nets simultaneously.

The IRGC statement added that the cases had been delivered to Judiciary authorities for legal proceedings.

It further said that the ships had caught a total of 222 tons of different fishes. "The Guards Navy has established a maritime Basij and its patrols are strongly confronting any illegal fishing which creates problems for the living of the local people," it added.

Back in February, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri warned against illegal fishing in Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. "A Navy Basij has been formed which is in charge of 2,200 km coastal region of Hormozgan and Operational Zone 1 of the Guards Navy," he said. The Navy Basij, which is the extension of the Basij forces, is formed to protect the rights of the fishermen, to strengthen sustainable and people-centered security and to defend and protect the coast against foreigners, Tangsiri said back then.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	290178.4
IFX	3770.65

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,098 rials
GBP	50,867 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$58.81/b
WTI	\$54.56/b
OPEC Basket	\$58.76/b
Gold	\$1,536.50/oz
Silver	\$19.32/oz
Platinum	\$977.60/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Next year’s budget bill to be submitted to parliament on schedule

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Head of Iran’s Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) said the government will submit the budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year (starts on March 20, 2020) to the parliament on December 6 as it is scheduled, IRIB reported on Tuesday.



According to Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht, this year, PBO has decided to send the information about the state-owned companies’ budget to the Majlis (Iranian parliament) a month earlier so that the parliament would have enough time to review it.

The members of the budget preparation committee at PBO are seriously working on the bill and while the views may differ in some areas, the consensus among all members will be the base for the final decision making, Nobakht said.

Australian economic growth hits 10-year low

The Australian economy has recorded its weakest annual growth in a decade, official data released Wednesday showed, expanding just 1.4 percent in the year to June.

As per ibtimes.com, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported the economy grew 0.5 percent between April and June compared with the previous quarter, a small increase driven by mining exports and government spending.

The “external sector drove GDP growth this quarter, while growth in the domestic economy remains steady,” chief economist Bruce Hockman said.

Australia has avoided recession for almost 28 years but Wednesday’s figures will fuel concerns about the economic outlook with growth falling to its lowest levels since the global financial crisis in 2009.

No other OECD nation has enjoyed such a prolonged uninterrupted period of economic growth, in part thanks to a mining boom in the 2000s on the back of strong demand for resources from China.

Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Capital, said the current risk of a recession “cannot be ignored”, with conditions in some pockets of the economy already feeling “recession-like”.

“With consumer spending still struggling to lift noticeably, falling residential construction, moderate business investment growth, the private sector side of the economy will likely remain weak,” he said.

The central bank kept the main interest rate at a record low of 1.00 percent on Tuesday owing to subdued consumer spending and a slump in the housing market. Analysts believe the bank could further cut rates in the coming months to help boost the economy.

Low interest rates

“It is reasonable to expect that an extended period of low interest rates will be required,” Reserve Bank of Australia Chief Philip Lowe said.

But Prime Minister Scott Morrison was upbeat about the weak data, telling local radio on Wednesday he was confident recent tax cuts would stimulate the economy in the current quarter.

“That happened in the September quarter and the figures we’re talking about today were for last year,” he said. “So you can’t govern by rear-vision mirror. You have to look forward.”

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg also downplayed the numbers, saying the economy had shown “remarkable resilience” amid global economic headwinds brought on by trade tensions between the United States and China.

“Despite the challenges that the Australian economy is encountering – very significant challenges, both domestically and internationally, the trade tensions (along) with flood, with drought -- we have still performed relatively well,” he told reporters in Canberra.

“I want to emphasize that Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Singapore and others experienced negative growth in the June quarter, whereas the Australian economy continues to grow.”

Exports from small industrial units up 15% in 5 months on year

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN**– The value of exports from Iranian small-sized industrial units has increase 15 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) compared to the figure of the same period of time in the past year, IRNA reported, quoting Mohsen Salehinia, the deputy industry minister, as saying on Wednesday.

The official, who is also the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), has previously announced that more than 33,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are currently active in Iran of which 1,100 are exporting their products and services to foreign destinations.

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

Making the remarks in a press conference held on the occasion of National SMEs Day



at the place of Iran’s Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry on August 10, the deputy minister underlined the importance of SMEs in the country’s economy and mentioned some of his organization’s plans and pro-

grams for supporting the country’s small and medium-sized enterprises including financial support through government funds and the budget allocated for supporting domestic production and providing guar-

antee for SMEs which require bank facilities through the country’s Small Industries Investment Guarantee Fund.

Holding training courses, supporting SMEs participation in international exhibitions, supporting SMEs research and study projects, and supporting knowledge-based SMEs were some other programs which ISIPO is following to help SMEs expand their activities, according to the official.

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

One of the major programs that ISIPO is following regarding the SMEs is reviving idle units and helping them to get back into business.

“ISIPO plans to help revive 1300 idle SMEs by the end of the current year [Iranian calendar year which ends on March 19, 2020],” the official said.

Domestic companies to renovate 124 passenger wagons

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – As the passenger wing of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), Iranian Raja Railway Transport Company has signed deals with three domestic companies for renovating 124 passenger wagons, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

According to Ali Dastjerdi, head of the Tourism Holding of Social Security Organization (known as Hegta), RAJA has signed agreements with three different Iranian companies namely Wagon Pars, Novin Sanat Raja Company and Ehya Sanat Co. for renovating 124 of its passenger wagons that are over 30 years old.

Raja has also signed a deal with Wagon Pars Company for manufacturing of 41 passenger wagons, of which 33 wagons have been handed to RAJA.

RAJA is a subsidiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) which manages its passenger trains.

Earlier this week, 213 new domestically-made locomotives and wagons were added to the railway fleet of Iran

in a ceremony.

During the ceremony, Saied Rasouli, the head of RAI, said that the number of domestically produced locomotives and wagons has increased by 58 percent, adding that according to a memorandum signed last year with the Budget and Planning Organization (BPO), by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (March 2021) another 974 locomotives will be added to the country’s rail fleet.

Back in June, Rasouli had announced that 20 trillion rials (about \$476.2 million) has been allocated for renovation of 1000 passenger and freight wagons and also locomotives in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

He said this amount has been allocated by the Planning and Budget Organization.

In this year, which is named as the year of “Pickup in Production” by the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, all efforts of RAI are for renovating the railway fleet of the country by relying on domestic producers, the



official further stressed.

According to Saeed Mohammadzadeh, the previous head of RAI, development of Iranian railways requires more than 32,000 wagons and locomotives in the next four years when the railway infrastructures are developed in the country.

Iran, Turkey form preferential trade agreement committee

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Senior officials from Iran and Turkey’s economic sectors met on Tuesday as a committee to follow up on the preferential trade agreement reached between the two countries.

In the meeting, the acting head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Hamid Zadboum, mentioned the two countries’ great potentials for economic

cooperation and called on the two sides to take necessary measures for increasing the two countries’ trade turnover.

“In the past five years, the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey has exceeded \$53 billion, and considering the determination of the two countries’ presidents, the figure should increase to \$150 billion over the next five years,” Zadboum said.

The official mentioned the preferential trade agreement between the two countries which has been operational since 2015 and said “We hope that with the support of the governments of the two countries, the agreement would continue in the best way for both sides and it would pave the way for further expansion of trade ties,”

The Turkish side also expressed their coun-

try’s willingness for expansion of relations with Iran in all areas especially in trade and called for creation of a positive atmosphere for the two sides’ businessmen to know each other more and to interact effectively.

At the end of the meeting, it was also announced that the next Iran-Turkey Joint Economic Committee meeting is slated to be held during 17-18 September in Ankara.

Italy targets expansionary budget with Salvini sidelined for now

By John Follain

Italy’s new government would push through an expansionary 2020 budget and demand a review of European Union fiscal rules, according to a draft program seen by Bloomberg.

The 26-point agenda pledges to avert an increase in sales tax that’s due to kick in next year by cutting spending and raising revenue in other areas. Next year’s budget will also cut taxes on labor and introduce a minimum wage, but it won’t jeopardize public finances, according to the draft dated Tuesday.

Premier-designate Giuseppe Conte is drawing up a program with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party, as he prepares to report back to President Sergio Mattarella on his attempt to form a new administration as early as Tuesday evening.

Conte is striving to draw a line under a turbulent year in Rome which saw his government plagued by infighting and clashes with the European Commission. Italy may be heading for calmer waters now after Conte thwarted an attempt by right-wing populist Matteo Salvini to seize power by pulling out of the previous coalition last month.

Conte has one more hurdle to clear before he can seal the new alliance. Five Star activists are voting Tuesday on whether to govern with the Democrats, who were one of their biggest political enemies until a few weeks ago. While there is some uncertainty over the outcome of the vote, Five Star activists have tended to endorse the party leadership’s decisions in the past.

The risk for investors is that Salvini could still mount a comeback. The League leader has decried the new coalition as an anti-democratic stitch-up. While his support has been

dented over the summer, his party still has a clear lead in opinion polls and he is already set on driving a wedge between the partners in the new coalition.

For now though, the draft program for the new administration is attempting to lay the foundation for a period of stability.

Expansionary economic policy

It pledges to “pursue an expansionary economic policy, without compromising the balance of public finances.” Avoiding the sales tax hike in 2020 will require finding savings of about 23 billion euros (\$25 billion) from elsewhere in the budget.

The document also promises to seek with the new European Commission to “relaunch investments and reinforce social cohesion, promoting changes necessary to overcome the excessive rigidity of European limits on state budget policies.”

“There is a need for rules which promote also growth, not just stability,” the draft adds.

Just who would steer Italy’s economy has yet to be decided, according to officials from Five Star and the Democrats who declined to be named discussing confidential negotiations. Options for the post of finance minister include Salvatore Rossi, former director general of the Bank of Italy, Dario Scannapieco, vice-president of the European Investment Bank, and Roberto Gualtieri, a Democrat member of the European Parliament, the officials said.

The draft promises a new tax on internet giants who shift profits out of the countries where they are doing business in order to reduce their liabilities -- a controversial measure introduced by France this year. Other policies include reviewing highway concessions, cutting the number of lawmakers in



the Rome parliament as soon as possible and seeking new EU rules on illegal immigration.

The draft makes no mention of an earlier Five Star demand to separate commercial and investment banks.

While a review of EU fiscal rules may happen in coming years with the new commission, imminent changes are unlikely.

Simplifying the bloc’s rules, which have often been criticized as too convoluted, will not necessarily give Italy more space for expansionary plans.

Italy’s 2020 budget plan will be closely scrutinized by Brussels, after Italy twice narrowly avoided a disciplinary procedure that could have eventually led to fines. While expansionary plans could be met with apprehension in Brussels, a government with a less confrontational, euroskeptic stance than Salvini’s would likely gain Rome goodwill in budget talks.

(Source: bloomberg.com)

Has Greece’s troubled economy turned a corner?

A huge loss of confidence in the Greek economy among investors came to a head when, in 2010, the country found itself unable to borrow on financial markets – something of a necessity given its chronic inability to balance the books.

As per hellenicshippingnews.com, Athens was forced to seek a bail-out from the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission and, in May 2010, the so-called “troika” issued a €110b bail-out that was the first of three such rescue packages.

The loans came with strings attached and Greece was obliged to bring in a range of measures aimed at bringing its public spending more into line with its tax receipts.

They included big spending cuts and reductions to pensions and other state benefits, along with increases in taxes, including VAT.

The harshness of the austerity measures

grated with the Greek public and, at the end of 2014, the government fell.

In January 2015, a radical left-wing party, Syriza, was voted into office, led by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

He and his charismatic new finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, promised to get better conditions from the troika and even held a referendum in which 61% of those taking part voted to reject the existing terms.

For a while, with thousands of Greeks rioting on the streets in protest at austerity, it looked as if the country would have to leave the eurozone.

The banking system

Mr. Tsipras – who would eventually roll over and accept the troika’s terms – was obliged in June of that year to impose capital controls to prevent a complete collapse of the country’s banking system.

Restrictions on the amount that could

be transferred from Greek banks to foreign banks were put in place, banks were closed for 20 days and, when they reopened, cash-point withdrawals were limited to €60 a day.

Today, however, a line appears to have been drawn under the episode as capital controls have finally been relaxed.

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who succeeded Mr. Tsipras as prime minister in July this year, tweeted: “Today, after four years, capital controls belong to the past and Greece regains one of the four fundamental freedoms of the EU, the free movement of capital.

The “lifting of capital controls is a necessary condition for attracting investments and for growth.”

It feels like a big moment. But can the Greek economy definitively be said to have turned a corner?

The Athens, the main Greek stock index, has risen by 40% since the beginning of the year.

Earlier this year, the government issued bonds for the first time since Greece exited its bail-out program in August last year, while, even more incredibly, Greece’s borrowing costs – as implied by the yield on Greek government bonds – have fallen below those of the United States.

The Greek economy grew by 1.4% in 2017 and by 1.9% last year, despite contracting slightly during the final three months of 2018, while in the first three months of this year it grew by 1.3% year-on-year.

The figures for the second quarter will be published on Wednesday and, while another quarter of growth is expected, the chances are that the slowdown in the wider eurozone will have had an impact.

Greek house prices rose by 7.7% on a year-on-year basis between April and June, their fastest rate in 12 years, while in Athens itself they rose by 11.1%.



# 6th line of Iran's national gas network ready to go on stream

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** – Managing Director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) said the country's two western gas pipelines, namely the sixth and ninth pipelines, will soon be officially inaugurated by President Rouhani, IRIB reported.

"Five gas pressure boosting stations have been established along the pipeline which will ensure both gas exports and supply stability," Hassan Montazer Torbati said.

According to the official, construction of the sixth line of the national gas network created more than 5,000 direct job opportunities while supporting the region's related industries including steel industry, as well as transportation and machinery services.

The sixth line of Iran's national gas network is more than 1200 kilometers long, carrying gas from South Pars field in the Persian Gulf through the provinces of Bushehr, Khuzestan, Lorestan, Ilam and Kermanshah to the city of Dehghan in Kurdistan province. The 5-inch-diameter pipeline carries 110 million cubic meters of gas from the south to the northwest of the country on a daily basis.



Back in July, head of Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC) said the company plans to build 800 kilometers of pipelines for gas transmission by the end

of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020).

According to Bahram Salavati, installing new pressure boosting facilities in the

national network's main pipelines was also on the company's agenda.

In early May, Salavati had said that IGEDC was planning to connect 4,100 kilometers of new gas pipelines to the country's national network by 2025.

The official said the company had also outsourced construction of 2,000 km of gas pipelines to private developers.

Most of the mentioned pipelines are aimed to connect the country's rural areas to the national gas network.

Meanwhile, NIGC's Gas Distribution Director Saied Momeni said 73.6 percent of the country's rural areas have been connected to the national gas network in the current Iranian calendar year's first quarter (March 21-June 21).

According to the official, NIGC has it on the agenda to supply gas to 10 villages every month. That means by the end of the current year 3600 villages will be connected to the gas network.

The number of the cities connected to the national gas network, has also increased to 1117, which is 96.9 percent of the country's total urban areas.

## Over 62,000 tons of LPG sold at IRENEX to foreign buyers

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

NIOC has been offering various grades of crude oil and oil products almost every week, since the beginning

of the current Iranian calendar year.

In early August, National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) offered 18,000 tons of 95 octane gasoline produced in Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) at IRENEX, of which 5,000 tons were sold to be exported to Afghanistan, Armenia, and Iraqi Kurdistan.

Later that month, NIOPDC also offered 10,000 tons of gasoline produced in Iran's Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGSR) at the international ring of IRENEX.



## Iran's LNG exports to Afghanistan quadruples in 5 months

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** – Export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Iran's Doqaroun border to Afghanistan has increased by 200 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), Fars New Agency reported, quoting Doqaroun Customs Director General Mohammad Koughard as saying on Tuesday.

"So far 98,417 tons of LNG were exported to Afghanistan through Doqaroun border customs, showing a four-time rise compared to the corresponding period last year," Koughard said.

Iran exported 44,929 tons of LNG to Afghanistan during the same period last year,



he added.

Currently, 10 tanker trucks carry liquefied gas from Doqaroun Border Terminal to Af-

ghanistan on a daily basis.

About 80 percent of the exported gas consists of raffinate and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas), he said, adding, "100 percent of Iran's gas exports to Afghanistan is carried out through Doqaroun Border to Herat in Afghanistan."

Accordingly, 3,600 fuel tankers were loaded in Doqaroun Border towards Afghanistan last year (ended March 20, 2019), he stated.

He put the total liquefied gas volume exported to Afghanistan from the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi in a recent year at 145,113 tons.

Doqaroun Border Terminal is able to deliver up to 1,500 tons of liquefied gas to tankers

every day.

Doqaroun is located 18 kilometers from the city of Taibad bordered with Afghanistan in Khorasan Razavi Province. Last month, a senior energy delegation from Iran visited Kabul, in a bid to further increase energy cooperation between the two countries and to further discuss power supply to Afghanistan.

Iran is the main energy supplier of Afghanistan, providing the poor neighboring country with electricity, oil, oil products and gas. Due to Kabul's heavy dependence on energy supplies from Iran, the U.S. sanctions has not affect the cross-border interactions and trade between the two countries.

## Oil prices nudge higher, but economic worries loom

Oil prices recovered some ground on Wednesday, boosted by a wider market pickup on positive news from China's services sector, having touched their lowest in close to a month during the previous session on fears over the weakening global economy.

According to Reuters.com, Brent crude LCOc1 was up 31 cents, or 0.53%, at \$58.57 a barrel by 0619 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures CLc1 gained 34 cents, or 0.63%, at \$54.28 a barrel.

Oil prices sank to a nearly one-month low on Tuesday following data that showed U.S. manufacturing activity in August contracted for the first time in three years and euro zone manufacturing activity contracted for a seventh month in August.

But global markets bounced on Wednesday after a private survey showed that activity in China's services sector expanded at the fastest pace in three months in August as new orders rose, prompting the biggest increase in hiring in over a year.

China is the world's second-largest oil consumer and largest importer. "Given the tumble that we saw overnight it's probably people locking in gains on shorts or perhaps

establishing new longs in anticipation we might get an announcement from Beijing on setting a date for trade talks with the United States," said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney.

A short position is when an investor sells futures in expectations of falling prices while a long position is when one buys futures to profit from rising prices.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned he would be "tougher" on Beijing in a second term if trade talks dragged on, compounding market fears that ongoing trade disputes between the United States and China could trigger a U.S. recession.

The "oil outlook is looking significantly weaker than it did at the start of the year," Citi analysts led by Ed Morse said in a note overnight.

"Much of the perceived loosening in fundamentals is coming from the demand rather than the supply side."

The bank cut its Brent crude forecasts for the third and fourth quarters by about \$10 a barrel to \$62 and \$64 respectively, and expects the benchmark to fall further to \$53 by the end of 2020. Brent is currently about 23% lower than its peak for this year in April.



"Next year the curtailment of demand growth coming from lower GDP (gross domestic product) growth expectations and continuation of the U.S.-China trade war could shave more oil demand from the market," its analysts said.

U.S. crude oil stockpiles likely declined for a third straight week, a preliminary Reuters poll showed on Tuesday.

On the supply side, Venezuela's oil exports fell in August to their lowest level in 2019, internal reports and Refinitiv Eikon data showed, following tougher U.S. sanctions.

## 330 GW of wind energy will be installed from 2019 to 2023

GWEC Market Intelligence releases the updated market outlook concluding that an additional 330GW of wind energy capacity will be installed from 2019 to 2023, an increase of 9GW from its market outlook published in Q1 2019.

As stated by ewind.es, main markets driving this volume increase are the U.S. and Chinese onshore markets, which will both experience an installation boom over the next two years with 6.5GW and 10GW added capacity respectively from the Q1 2019 market outlook.

The growing role of offshore wind power in the global energy transition is a major reason for boosting overall growth, and will make up approximately 18% of total wind energy capacity by 2023, up from 9% in 2018.

The continued growth of wind energy globally will be driven by the increasing cost competitiveness of wind energy as well as market-based mechanisms such as auctions, tenders, and bilateral Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

According to the updated market outlook released by GWEC Market Intelligence, an additional 330GW of new wind energy capacity will be added to the global energy market from 2019 to 2023, bringing total capacity to over 900GW. The outlook has been increased by additional 9GW from the outlook published in Q1 2019 in GWEC's annual Global Wind Report.



### ■ The 2018 growth levels

From 2019 to 2023, the global wind energy market will grow at an annual rate of 4%, reaching a total capacity of over 900GW by 2023. This growth rate means that an average of approximately an additional 14GW will be added each year globally over the next five years compared to 2018 growth levels.

Through analysis of the developments of wind markets across the world, two main trends have been identified that will drive growth beyond 2023; the increasing share of so-called subsidy-free projects, and an increasing number of bilateral PPAs. Together, these two mechanisms will contribute to the cost competitiveness of wind energy and provide assurance for large-scale project development and the continued growth of wind energy globally.

Karin Ohlenforst, Director of Market In-

telligence at GWEC said: "Although there was a decrease in the outlook for India and Germany due to their challenging market conditions including the execution of their auctioned capacity, the growth in other markets more than make up for this deficit."

With China going subsidy free by 2021 for onshore wind and the Production Tax Credit phasing out in the U.S., there will be an installation rush over the next two years in these two leading onshore markets.

The forecasts for emerging markets in Latin America, South East Asia, Africa and the Middle East have all been increased as well due to positive market developments. Additionally, we must acknowledge the importance of offshore wind for driving growth, as it is set to take off globally over the next few years with a compound annual growth rate of 8% between 2019 and 2023, double that of onshore wind."

### ■ The global energy demand

Ben Backwell, CEO at GWEC said: "Wind energy is now one of the most cost-competitive energy sources available, so it is no surprise we will continue to see volume growth as global energy demand continues to increase."

On average, 60 GW of onshore wind and 8-10GW of offshore wind will be added worldwide until 2023. Even when we do not consider the two key growth markets of U.S. and China, we will still see installation growth levels similar to those of the 2009-2010 wind

energy boom in the other markets and regions.

Although this outlook is very positive, it is not enough to meet the renewable energy targets needed to keep global warming under 1.5 C°. GWEC will continue to work with emerging markets to establish the necessary frameworks, such as auctions and tenders, to propel wind energy growth even further."

The full updated market outlook is available exclusively for GWEC Members as part of the GWEC Market Intelligence Platform. GWEC Market Intelligence will update their Market Outlook during Q1 2020, together with the release of the market data for 2019.

This report is the Q3 2019 update of GWEC's Market Outlook for new installed capacity for the global wind energy industry. GWEC Market Intelligence bases the outlook on available project information, government targets as well as the input from industry experts.

GWEC Market Intelligence uses the feedback and inputs from its members to create this industry perspective for the next five years on the global onshore and offshore wind market.

## Can Kuwait and Saudi Arabia unlock oil production in the neutral zone?

Kuwait has moved to further expand its energy sector, after officials resumed talks with their Saudi Arabian counterparts on oil production in the Partitioned Neutral Zone (PNZ).

According to news.kuwaittimes.net, on July 24 Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's minister of state for energy affairs, visited Kuwait to discuss technical points related to reopening upstream activity in the zone between the two countries, and noted that major issues had been resolved.

The 5770-sq-km PNZ, which was left undefined following the creation of a border between the two territories in 1922, is capable of producing 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil, equivalent to around 4 percent of the countries' combined production in June. The neighbors previously operated two jointly run oilfields – Khafji and Wafra – in the area; however, operations were halted in October 2014 and May 2015. Output was expected to resume in late 2016, but no action has been taken.



While a deal has yet to be struck, officials are hopeful that recent bilateral talks will lead to a resumption in production. Khalid Al-Falih, Saudi Arabia's minister for energy, industry and mineral resources, stated in February that he expected to reach an agreement before the end of this year.

While Kuwait is currently bound by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production quotas, which are expected to stay in place until at least March of next year, any resumption of activity in the PNZ would help to meet long-term aims of expanding the upstream segment.

### ■ Increase in production

Despite an increase in production to around 2.7m bpd of crude since the imposition of OPEC quotas in 2017, Kuwait remains below its OPEC target. Nonetheless, the country aims to increase this figure to 4m bpd by 2020, of which it is hoped 350,000 bpd will come from the PNZ.

To this end, the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) announced on July 1 that it had signed a three-year, \$597 million deal with U.S. oilfield services firm Halliburton, which will see the company drill six high-pressure, high-temperature offshore exploration wells at two sites in Kuwaiti waters off the coast.

The first phase of the project is scheduled for completion in July 2020, followed by the second phase in January 2021. Emad Sultan, KOC's CEO, projects that offshore production could reach 100,000 bpd in the future.

Kuwait's ambitious plans to create an integrated energy industry also include greater natural gas production. The country intends to significantly increase non-associated natural gas production, from FY 2017/18 levels of 215m standard cu feet per day (scfd) to 2bn scfd by 2040.

Recent projects in the segment include drilling 15 deep wells into Jurassic formations in the north of the country over the course of FY 2016/17. The increased investment appears to be having an impact, with non-associated natural gas production rising by 66.7 percent over the course of FY 2017/18, according to KOC data.

### ■ Increasing downstream capacity

Elsewhere, efforts are being made to increase downstream capacity. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the umbrella business for Kuwait's hydrocarbons assets, has outlined plans to nearly triple domestic refining capacity, from 701,000 bpd in 2017 to 2bn by 2035, through the modernization of existing refineries and the construction of new facilities.

Major projects include a \$13 billion, 615,000-bpd refinery at Al-Zour in the south, expected to be operational before the end of 2020; a liquefied natural gas import terminal with a daily capacity of 3m British thermal units; and a petrochemicals plant with a capacity of 2.8m tons per annum, set for 2024.

The expansion and upgrade of Kuwait's hydrocarbons assets should have a significant impact on the broader economy. Given that the energy sector accounts for approximately 90 percent of both revenue and exports, economic prosperity is strongly tied to the industry.

An expansion of upstream and downstream capacity should therefore drive growth in associated non-oil sectors such as engineering, procurement and construction, and support services.

GDP grew by 2.6 percent in the first quarter of the year, according to the Central Statistical Bureau, and the IMF expects growth to accelerate to 2.9 percent in 2020 and 2021, up on 1.7 percent in 2018 and a 3.5 percent contraction in 2017.

## DIPLOMATIC CAR FOR SALE

Type	Hyundai Sante Fe (Full Option)
Model	2010
Colour	Black
Price	Highest bid

➤ Interested buyers may inspect the vehicle by appointment on Telephone No. **66941388-90** and may submit offer price in writing in a sealed envelope addressed to the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Tehran before 1100 hrs, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

➤ The bidders can participate in opening of bids at 1100 hrs in Cultural Hall of the Embassy.

➤ Interested buyers may collect bidding documents/ proforma from Embassy reception for further details.



## The arctic standoff between U.S., Russia, China

**TEHRAN (FNA)** – US President Donald Trump is still showing great interest in purchasing Greenland. Although he received an “absurd” as a response from Denmark, what’s behind his interest seems not absurd at all.

In June 2019, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy submitted a report to the US Congress on the Arctic Strategy, focusing on the objectives a mbers of the Arctic Council: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (which includes Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the US. It ostensibly excludes China, although it has been identified as almost an Arctic country.

The parentheses attached to Greenland as part of the Kingdom of Denmark are striking. Trump’s incitement to take control of Greenland and its nearly 56,000 people has been seen in a populate light, especially since the Kingdom of Denmark subsidizes the island and Canada and the US have not done so in the case of the Inuit natives, especially when addressing the significant social problems they face.



The document emphasizes that “Russia views itself as a great polar power and is the largest Arctic nation by landmass, population, and military presence above the Arctic Circle. Russia’s commercial investments in the Arctic region have been matched by continued defense investments and activities that strengthen both its territorial defense and its ability to control the Northern Sea Route (NSR).”

Because of this, the Pentagon calculates a “future Chinese military presence in the Arctic Ocean, potentially including the deployment of submarines to the region.” And China maintains scientific research stations in Iceland and Norway and continues the development of energy and infrastructure projects in Russia, such as the Yamal liquefied natural gas project. The US is speculating China is imposing greater influence on the Arctic region.

Therefore, a primary objective of the Pentagon is to restrict China and Russia to leverage the region as a corridor for competition that advances their strategic objectives. This is especially important considering the competition today increases in the Indo-Pacific region and Europe, as identified by the National Defense Strategy.

With the new multipolar world rising, countries will find the attraction of the newly opened routes that were previously inaccessible but now revealed because of the melting ice-sheets. It is because of the new Arctic shipping lanes that China Ocean Shipping Company is among the companies significantly using this route. China has pointedly invested into the building of infrastructure along Russia’s Arctic coast and its oil- and gas-wells there. For Beijing, the Arctic is a larger part of a grand strategy.

Although ships sailing on the NSR need Russia’s permission to pass through, the route is set to rival the Suez Canal as it can cut shipping times from particular destination points. With Russia and China having amicable relations, the acquisition of Greenland is essential for the US to assert greater influence over the other Arctic countries, as part of its quest for a global hegemonic role.

However, it also appears that Trump is willing to risk fruitful relations with his Danish allies to achieve this goal. Although Denmark has closely served US foreign policy, this was not enough to discourage Trump from lambasting the Danish leadership for not considering his proposal. Instead, this demonstrates the desperation in Trump’s desires to control more significant portions of and exert greater influence over the Arctic. It is for this reason that the Pentagon regime explicitly seeks to undermine Russia and China – whether it will succeed in the Arctic remains to be seen.

## Why are the Chinese brushing aside Trump’s tweets?

By Mu Lu

**GLOBALTIMES** – Chinese people are paying less and less attention to US President Donald Trump’s words, with more people calling them a bluff. Why?

Trump being elected as US President surprised many, including Chinese people. It was something novel for them to see a president govern by Twitter, but he also frightened many Chinese when he lashed out at China on the social media platform.

They had thought what Trump tweeted were representative of mainstream US society and would affect China, and thus their lives.

Many people were concerned they would have to suffer a downgraded lifestyle due to Trump’s tariff war against China as he described. He vowed to correct trade practices of China by imposing additional tariffs, saying China would pay to help the US make more money. But the truth is many American enterprises are suffering from the tariffs and Americans have to shoulder higher living costs. Initially, some Chinese people took Trump as a maverick politician, being a businessman-turned-US president. But soon they discovered that his policies lack consistency.

He blows hot and cold one day to another. He repeatedly contradicts himself by his own tweets. Take the choice for US Secretary of State. When Trump chose Rex Tillerson in December 2016, he praised Tillerson for his “tenacity, broad experience and deep understanding of geopolitics.” But after their relations turned sour, Trump called Tillerson “a man who is ‘dumb as a rock’ and totally ill-prepared and ill-equipped to be Secretary of State.”

The Chinese people are now aware that Trump would say something impulsively on Twitter regardless of a president’s code of conduct. Followed by more than 63 million people on Twitter, Trump is using the platform to attack and bully those with different political views. As Grammy winner Taylor Swift said in an interview with The Guardian published on Friday, Trump is “gaslighting the American public into being like, ‘If you hate the president, you hate America.’”

Trump on Friday ordered American companies to immediately leave China and make products in the US. This time, few Chinese were shocked as they know it is not feasible. According to a New York Times report, American business is deeply intertwined with China, and untangling it would be messy and potentially destructive to the global economy.

Tweets under the hashtag #TrumpGibberish recently went viral, where we can see that Trump’s posts increasingly lack credibility. So why would Chinese care about what he tweets? Trump has turned Twitter into a stage for his political show, where he says things to gain votes for reelection. He repeats what he has done for the US - to provide Americans welfare, and to “make America great again.” But he is actually damaging the interests of his own country and people.

# China picks up baton of world growth driver from U.S.

By Hu Weijia

**GLOBALTIMES** – The Chinese edition of the Nikkei Asian Review on Monday published an article highlighting what it calls the first global economic recession in history that originated from China. This represents the popular view that a slowdown in the Chinese economy is a big threat to the world economy.

This is just a new variation of the “China threat” theory, which has long been used by some Western scholars to contain China.

China’s economic slowdown is a fact, but the nation is still the largest market for many well-known companies such as US automaker General Motors. The rise of “China threat” arguments around the world also can be taken as evidence that the Chinese market is now an important factor for transnational corporations and one that can determine their destiny.

The Chinese economy is changing faster than expected amid the trade war with the US.

The era of cheap labor in China is over, so the nation is striving to transform itself from being the world’s factory to an advanced industrialized nation. The trade war has accelerated the process as US tariffs



push some labor-intensive manufacturers to relocate production to Southeast Asia. It is normal to see a reduction in China’s

imports of some raw materials. Australia, a major producer and exporter of bulk commodities such as iron ore, is likely to

## Trump Alienating Both European, Asian Allies: Australian Prof.

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** – A senior professor and political analyst based in Australia highlighted reasons behind recent disputes between Washington and its closest allies and said US President Donald Trump’s administration “has acted to alienate both Asian and European allies”.

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Trump Alienating Both European, Asian Allies: Australian Prof.

“The Trump administration, through its vulgar and undisguised self-interest, combined with threats and petulance, has acted to alienate both Asian and European allies,” Professor Tim Anderson told Tasnim in an interview.

“Now we see a new arms race with Russia, a massive trade and technology war with China and a backfiring of their long-term attempts to divide Western Europe and Russia,” he added.

Professor Tim Anderson is a distinguished author and Director of the Sydney-based Centre for Counter-Hegemonic Studies.

He has worked at Australian universities for more than 30 years, teaching, researching and publishing on development, human rights and self-determination in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Middle East. In 2014, he was awarded Cuba’s medal of friendship. He is Australia and Pacific representative for the Latin America based Network in Defence of Humanity.

His most recent books are: Land and Livelihoods in Papua New Guinea (2015), The Dirty War on Syria (2016), now published in ten languages; and Countering War Propaganda of the Dirty War on Syria (2017). His next book Axis of Resistance is due out in 2019.

The following is the full text of the interview:  
■ Some analysts and media reports suggest that the recent G-7 summit in Biarritz, France, ended in failure as deep divisions between the US under Donald Trump and its closest allies became more evident.

For example, the US-Europe dispute over Trump’s trade war with China was not bridged even a bit in the summit. Do not you think these disputes indicate that the US allies are distancing themselves from Trump and his shifting policies?

A: Really the G7 was a show, with its divisions illustrating increased irrelevance. Having excluded Russia - thus turning the G8 into a G7 - Washington and the Europeans are still squabbling over how to block the influence of Iran and China.

Moreover, France and Germany still want to do business with Russia, against the wishes of Washington. French

President Emmanuel Macron even invited Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, apparently to make the point to US President Donald Trump that France is independent.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison was also an invited ‘guest’, but he spent his time talking cricket to the new UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The question of a new Australia-UK trade deal arose, but Morrison was told that this could not happen for another year after all the BREXIT details were sorted out.

Meanwhile, Trump’s trade war with China, which threatens a world recession, overshadowed the sad little conference.

Immediately after the conference French host Macron was forced to admit the increasing incoherence of the Euro-American project: “we are living the end of western hegemony ... pushing Russia from Europe is a profound strategic error”. He said he and his colleagues should rethink relations with Moscow; otherwise, Europe would remain “a theatre for strategic struggle between the US and Russia”. Whatever else we might think of Macron, he was right on this point.

■ It seems that even Asian allies of the US have also distanced themselves from the Trump administration. In the latest instance, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared in early August that his country would never allow the United States to deploy missile systems on its soil. Although there exists the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the United States, Duterte said that he would bar the entry of foreign weapons, including nuclear arsenal in the country since this is considered a violation of the Philippine Constitution. What is your take on that?

How do you assess the future of US relations with its Asian allies?

A: It is true that several Asian allies of the USA have been reacting against the constant North American bullying and arrogance, which seems exacerbated by the Trump administration. At the same time, they are adapting to new economic realities.

The economic role of the US in the world is fading rapidly while that of Asia is rising. Much of the current US aggression has to do with confronting that decline and trying to hang onto its historic economic privileges, through such things as expanded and artificial claims for intellectual property rights (IPRs).

We have seen assertive nationalist reactions in Malaysia and the Philippines.

Even in South Korea, there is a renewed push for reunification.

Many of these reactions are yet to be tested politically but, in my view, the material force of Asian and Eurasian integration will help confidence building in many parts of the region.

Eurasian economic integration is the single greatest threat to Washington’s traditional domination of both Asia and Europe.

■ The Trump administration has walked away from various international agreements, ranging from the Iran nuclear deal to the Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation. In early August, the US formally withdrew from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia which was signed by the former Soviet Union and the United States back in 1987.

What is your assessment of Trump’s policy on international agreements?

Are the US moves to renege on its international promises aimed at boosting its global hegemony, which has recently declined very fast?

A: This withdrawal from agreements reflects internal divisions in the USA and it is helping more rapidly undermine Washington’s role in international affairs. In my opinion, the major contradictions of US foreign policy are matters of internal consensus: the arrogant view of ‘American exceptionalism’ in the world, attempts to maintain the privileged position of US corporate interests, competitive jealousy with other big powers like Russia and China, and fanatical support for the Zionist colony in Palestine.

But there are great disagreements on how they go about this.

North American liberals prefer a semblance of culture, so they can falsely claim a moral high ground.

The Trump administration, through its vulgar and undisguised self-interest, combined with threats and petulance, has acted to alienate both Asian and European allies.

Now we see a new arms race with Russia, a massive trade and technology war with China and a backfiring of their long-term attempts to divide Western Europe and Russia.

In place of a principled withdrawal from the Middle East wars (as Trump promised in 2016), Washington has imposed an economic siege on virtually all the independent peoples and nations of the region, while indulging the most extreme Zionist fantasies of a possible war with Iran.

President Trump may imagine he is boosting US hegemony, but I believe his approach is hastening US global decline.

## Trump talks trade peace, but there’s no deal in sight

By David P.Goldman

**ASIATIMES** – thoughtful, calm and encouraging President Trump spoke to the press in Biarritz, France on Aug. 26, in sharp contrast to the emotional, enraged and threatening US leader who tweeted perdition against Beijing late last week. Chinese President Xi Jinping today was a “great leader,” not an “enemy” as Trump called him last week. Asked about the Chinese Vice-Premier’s statement overnight that China was “willing to resolve the issue through consultations and cooperation in a calm attitude,” Trump assured a Chinese journalist that the US was willing to do the same.

Despite Trump’s claim that the US and China were close to a deal, however, Washington and Beijing have radically different ideas about what such a deal might look like.

The US president had the benefit of two days’ of consultation at the Group of Seven summit with at least one foreign leader whom he likes and respects, the United Kingdom’s new Prime Minister Boris Johnson. According to British press reports, Johnson urgently advised Trump to de-escalate the trade war with China, and the US president evidently listened.

Trump nonetheless restated a position that China finds entirely unacceptable, namely that any deal “has to be better for us than it is for them” because of his perception that

China has taken advantage of the United States for many years. In the past, Trump’s negotiators have insisted that some US tariffs must remain in place even after a deal is concluded, and that the US must have the unilateral right to impose new tariffs if a bilateral consultation mechanism fails to resolve future issues to mutual satisfaction.

There was no mention, moreover, of the tech war dimension of the conflict. The United States attempted to derail China’s national champion in telecommunications, Huawei Technologies, as it rolled out 5th Generation mobile broadband, first by threatening its allies with a shutdown of intelligence cooperation and then by blocking the sale of components to Huawei by US suppliers.

To Washington’s embarrassment, all of America’s allies except for Japan and New Zealand ignored the threats, and Huawei was able to proceed with the 5G rollout without US components. Even worse for Washington, Huawei released its own chipsets to the market, threatening the world position of such American tech giants as Qualcomm and Nvidia.

As I reported yesterday on this site, China has already won the first and most important engagement in the economic war with the United States, by launching a game-changing Chinese technology on the world market for the first time since the invention of gunpowder. That is an historic win for China, and



Washington has sent confused signals about its prospective response.

China signaled Aug. 7 that it had lost patience with the twists and turns of Trump’s negotiating stance, and would pursue its own economic interests regardless of Washington’s sensibilities. It did so by allowing the RMB to depreciate below 7 to the US dollar, an especially sore point with the Trump Administration, which proceeded to label China a “currency manipulator” – a severe form of diplomatic escalation. And when President Trump announced a 10% tariffs on Chinese goods not covered by the previous round of

tariffs, China last week announced tariffs on \$75 billion of US imports, provoking the Friday Twitter-storm and a nearly 3% drop in US stock prices.

Either because the sharp drop in the stock market frightened him, or because foreign leaders or his own aides warned him of dire consequences, the US president changed his tone today. US equity markets had recovered a bit of their Friday losses as of 12:00 p.m. But the US and China are no closer to a deal now than they were on Friday afternoon, and the US president cannot so easily unring the bell that he rang last week



# Trump falls near

## Shocking polls for controversial President

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** — Public and state polls in the United States show that American citizens' support for President Donald Trump has fallen sharply. Obviously, if the presidential election is held in such a situation, Trump will not stand a chance of winning the race and will certainly lose. Trump is not doing well in state polls, especially in key states like Florida, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. There is not even a guarantee that Trump will win in Texas!

Trump approval hits new low among Virginians in Roanoke College poll

Washington Post reported that Virginians' dislike of President Trump is growing, according to a new statewide poll that suggests the headwinds Republicans could face in crucial legislative elections this fall.

A Roanoke College poll released Monday found that more than half of potential Virginia voters — 53 percent — said they disapproved of Trump's performance, while 27 percent said they approved. That is a new low for Trump in the Roanoke poll, down from a peak approval rating of 38 percent of Virginia adults overall when the college polled in February.

The president has been a drag on Republicans in state-wide elections since 2016. This year is especially significant because all 140 seats in the General Assembly are on the Nov. 5 ballot. Democrats hope to take control of the legislature, with Republicans defending razor-thin majorities of 20 to 19 in the Senate and 51 to 48 in the House of Delegates, with one vacancy in each chamber.

The president's weak approval ratings didn't stop the state's top Republicans from heartily welcoming him to historic Jamestown last month, where he gave an address to mark the 400th anniversary of the birth of representative democracy. Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax was the only high-ranking Democrat on the dais at the event, which was boycotted by the Legislative Black Caucus and some Democratic lawmakers.

The poll suggests that Democrats are not under a similar cloud from their own tainted party leadership. Gov. Ralph Northam, who faced a scandal in February over a racist photo from his 1984 medical school yearbook, is not nearly as toxic as Trump: Northam scored 37 percent approval versus 29 percent disapproval among possible voters in the Roanoke College poll.

Northam's approval rating is similar to the findings of a Virginia Commonwealth University poll in June, which showed that 37 percent approved of his performance while 28 percent disapproved.

The Roanoke College poll found that Democrats had a slight edge over Republicans — 36 percent to 31 percent — when potential voters were asked which party should control the state Senate, and a more significant advantage in the House, at 38 percent to 30 percent.

"While we are more than two months from the elections and generic ballots have limited utility, one would prefer their party to be ahead," poll director Harry Wilson said in a news release. He added that while Trump's low approval could help Democrats, "Republicans can benefit from lower turnout, which is typical in Virginia midterm elections."

The poll asked respondents to rate issues in terms of importance and found that the economy came out on top with an average rating of about 9 on a 10-point scale, with 10 being most important. Education and health care were close behind.

The more inflammatory topics that each side has emphasized in recent months were not rated quite as high: Gun control scored about 8, and abortion policy was about 7.5. The Institute for Policy and Opinion Research at Roanoke College conducted the poll of 556 potential Virginia voters between Aug. 11 and Aug. 19. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

Six polls and more than 6,000 interviews show Trump's approval dropping

Also CNN reported that A new national CNN/SSRS poll finds that President Donald Trump's approval rating stands at 40%. His disapproval rating is 54%.

His approval rating is down from late June when it was 43%. His disapproval rating is slightly up from 52% in late June.

What's the point: Over the last month and a half, a lot has happened in our national dialogue. Trump went after four



congresswomen of color. Then he turned his sights on Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, who is black. More recently, there were the shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. And fears are growing over a potential economic slowdown.

All together, it seems like recent news cycles are causing a downturn in the President's fortunes. His approval rating does seem to be sliding, which is troublesome news heading into 2020.

Presidents' approval ratings have been highly correlated with their re-election margin. In the midterm elections, Trump's approval rating lined up nearly perfectly with his party's vote share in the House elections.

And while the shift in our CNN poll is not statistically significant given the margin of error of +/- 4 points, it's not the only poll to show that Trump's approval rating is down.

Take a look at these other probability-based polls that meet CNN's standards and were completed over the last two weeks.

AP-NORC puts the President's approval rating at 36%, down from 38%.

Fox News gave Trump a 43% approval rating, a decrease from 46%.

Gallup shows Trump's approval rating at 41%, down from 42% in late July and 44% in early July.

Monmouth University pegs Trump's approval rating at 40%, down from 41%.

NBC News/Wall Street Journal found Trump had an approval rating of 43% among all adults, a decrease of 2 points from 45% in July among registered voters and 1 point from 44% in their last poll that surveyed all adults in June.

None of these poll results individually are all that convincing that Trump's approval rating has declined. Together, however, they make a fairly strong case.

Adding in the CNN poll, Trump has an average decline of 2 points in his approval rating. That may not seem like a lot, but keep in mind these polls put together have a sample size of more than 6,000 people. The chances that all of these polls have Trump's approval down, even by a mere 2 points, is tiny.

Normally, a 2-point drop in a president's approval rating would not be a big deal. For this president, however, a 2-point movement is a bigger deal than usual.

Trump's approval rating has been unusually stable. Any sort of movement is noteworthy with him. According to Gallup, no president has had as narrow a range (35%-46%) of approval ratings than Trump. Trump's still within that range, though now more toward the middle than the upper part of that range as he had been earlier in the year.

Trump needs to be able to break out of the narrow range in order to make himself a favorite for reelection. No president has won an additional term with an approval rating as low as Trump's is currently.

The further Trump's approval rating strays from his disapproval rating, the harder he makes it for himself to win in 2020.

In other hand, 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 Monday.

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 Juli?n 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.

## Moon loses the trust of North Korea as Prospects for Peace look grim

By Stu Smallwood

"His shameless talk of dialogue between the North and South [at a time like this] raises questions about his mental faculties... We have nothing to say to South Korean authorities and have no intention of sitting down with them again."\*

These are just some of the highlights of a North Korean spokesperson's ruthless response to Moon Jae-in's August 15 Liberation Day speech in which the South Korean president called for unification of Korea by 2045 and the establishment of a North-South peace economy.

The "time like this" mentioned by the spokesperson for the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country is a reference to the insulting training drills ongoing between South Korean and US forces -- specifically a simulated counterinsurgency campaign in North Korea after successfully conquering Pyongyang in 90 days.

Laughable as this simulated scenario is (China and Russia would never sit back and let North Korea be conquered so swiftly), the comments embody the all-too-predictable outcome of these offensive drills: the North Korean government is upset and has lost complete trust in the South Korean president who once led the peace process.North Korean Missile Tests a Response, not the Cause of Tension

As arms-control wonks and North Korea analysts breathlessly report each and every short-range ballistic missile test carried out by North Korea since June 25, the context often goes unmentioned -- perhaps intentionally. Justifying the testing of these missiles, North Korea criticized the upcoming drills, calling them a violation of the understanding made between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un at the Singapore summit (no more provocative training exercises for a suspension of North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile tests).

South Korean and American officials insisted North Korea had no reason to be affronted by the exercises; that they had been scaled back to accommodate the peace process, were defensive in nature, and -- most importantly -- were critical to testing the South Korean military's readiness to be transferred operational control in wartime. But North Korea has been vindicated now that details have emerged of the exact nature of the drills. No honest observer can argue practicing counterinsurgency has anything to do with testing South Korean military readiness.

This raises serious questions about what President Moon knew about them -- and when. It seems impossible someone who has staked his presidency on the peace process would approve of these extremely provocative exercises. Still, even if Moon was unaware of their nature or unable to stop them, it suggests he has no control over the military of his country -- and that perhaps an act of sabotage has occurred.

North Korea Rightly Views Talk of Peace with a Jaundiced Eye

Though President Moon's domestic approval is holding strong, buoyed by the trade war initiated cynically by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his standing in the peace process has never been lower. It is becoming painfully clear that his cautious approach as liaison between the US and North Korea is no longer constructive.

"He often calls for peace, but is he then going to say the purchase of drones and fighter jets [F-35s] from the US is for spreading agrochemicals and air shows?"\*

The North Korean spokesperson here refers to an obvious trend: While appealing for peace and glorifying the potential boon North-South economic cooperation will bring, up to this point President Moon has been very careful not to directly challenge the US position on maximum pressure or interfere with US-South Korean military affairs -- both which have proven toxic to the diplomatic process.

This makes allusions to peace seem like nothing more than rhetoric. Moon once called for a peace treaty by the end of 2018 -- almost eight months ago. In his Liberation Day speech he pledged "...to solidify [a] denuclearization and peace regime on the Korean Peninsula during [his] term in office." These declarations must appear insane and insulting to North Koreans with the occupation drills ongoing. Cue the North Korean spokesperson:

"How dare he speak of establishing an atmosphere for dialogue, a peace economy, a mechanism for maintaining peace when the joint military drills that we oppose are at the height of implementation in South Korea as we speak?"

To Achieve Peace, Moon Must Take a Bolder Approach

Words are only meaningful for so long; at some point, intentions must be measured by actions and results. The latest North Korean diatribe makes it painfully obvious that South Korea needs to take a different approach or forget about peace in the near term. The Moon administration must make a decision, and the stakes are high.

South Korea can choose to remain tied to the sinking American ship and give up the dream of Korean integration. This will require South Korea's continued membership in the unnatural "trilateral alliance" with the US and Japan that is on course for an eventual clash with China. This also guarantees long-term isolation from North Korea's eventual economic modernization: China is bound to cease abiding by US-UN sanctions as America pursues its self-destructive trade war and strives to undermine China's rise through overt and covert means.

There is, of course, an alternative. By unilaterally pursuing peace and economic initiatives with North Korea -- sanctions have damned -- South Korea can force the US to consider just how much it values its foothold in Asia. Rather than punishing South Korea, the US is just as likely to relent for fear of angering the politically active South Korean populace and losing more influence to China if it is pushed out of the country. If the US does relent, the two Koreas will be able to pursue gradual inter-Korean economic integration. This is the sole path to eventual Korean unification, and it is critical for the future of the peninsula: only a united Korea will be strong enough to establish the position of neutrality necessary to survive the great power conflict forthcoming in East Asia.

It may sound implausible -- and incredibly risky. But if the South Korean leader fails to take up this mantle, his government will become increasingly irrelevant to North Korea as it seeks direct negotiations with the US in the short term, and turns to China after the inevitable failure of US diplomacy in the long run.

This entire process began with President Moon doing what at the time was a radical act: meeting a North Korean leader when diplomacy was not on the US agenda. Moon must take control of this process once again, or the prospects for peace and unification -- crucial to long-term Korean prosperity and independence -- will slowly die.

## Hegemonic U.S.-Built new world order eroding: American analyst

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** – An American political scientist highlighted the uncertain state of American hegemony and leadership, saying that the so-called "US-built new world order" is eroding.

Hegemonic US-Built New World Order Eroding: American Analyst

"I agree that the hegemonic US-built New World Order of the post-Cold War is eroding in every sector except military power. But with difficult economic times in the forecast that too is on the horizon," Beau Grosscup, California State University Professor Emeritus of Political Science, told Tasnim.

Following is the full text of the interview.

■ US President Donald Trump on Friday said he does not believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Un violated any pact with him by launching another round of projectiles. "He likes testing missiles," Trump told reporters as he departed the White House for the Group of Seven economic summit in France. North Korea continues to test missiles and Trump says US already has good ties with them. What is behind this soft tone?

A: The conventional 'wisdom' is that Trump hasn't met a dictator he doesn't like (an image of how he sees himself). I think the 'soft tone' is consistent with his continuing effort to set himself apart from his presidential predecessors. In his mind, they are all willing to work with previous and current North Korean dictators but were not able to 'make a deal.' He sees himself as the great 'deal maker' so his approach is consistent with that. Plus, he has nothing to lose and much to gain working



with Kim Jong Un, who is likely to be in power for a long time. As a real estate salesman, it's not by accident that Trump has said several times how great North Korean beaches are and condos would look great on them. If he stays on good relations with Kim, after his presidency he sees himself back in the real estate business with much greater clout and connections (Kim). Crazy as it seems, his effort to buy Greenland is for the same reason. He is, first and foremost, a real estate cartoonist.

■ The US has decided to set up an intere national patrol mission to secure the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, calling on its allies to join it. A number of countries, including Germany, France, and Japan, have turned down Washington's request. It seems that the divide between the US and its close allies is growing. What do you think?

A: Yes, the divide, particularly with Germany and France is growing wider. Japanese leaders are keeping their criticism of Trump Administration more muted, but they too have the same concern. All three allies are not interested in doing anything to encourage the Trump Administration to attack Iran, or in these pre-attack days to signal their approval of such a plan. To join in these alleged 'defensive military patrol missions' would do just that. The British, particularly under Johnson, given their historical antagonisms toward a 'free' Iran, are predictably on board with the Trump Administration even though their 'oil' industry is at great risk of being disrupted should war come.

■ According to a recent article published by the Washington Post, "Long-term trends show that China is catching up to the United States on just about every conceivable ca-

pability metric. Short-term trends show the European Union is a more potent regulatory power and the United States has become more isolated on questions of, say, aviation regulation". At the same time, serious international relations scholars have argued that US hegemonic power is nearing its end. What are your thoughts on this?

A: I agree that the hegemonic US-built New World Order of the post-Cold War is eroding in every sector except military power. But with difficult economic times in the forecast that too is on the horizon. Thus the 'race to militarize space.' Beginning in early 1990's the US National Security State identified both China and the European Union as two of the 3 (Japan) 'long term' enemies of the US who under its strategic goal of preventing the rise of a competing major power (Russia in the immediate sense) threatened its global hegemonic position. With Japan and China, they see the threat very much in racial terms (rise of the Yellow Peril) and cultural terms (clash of civilizations including Islam), with Europe and Russia, in economic terms (soft power) including how capitalism is to be practiced (Battle of Capitalisms). Europe's regulatory and safety net "welfare capitalism," and Japan/China's 'state' capitalism both challenge the US 'free market' model of how to do business in the New World Order. The evidence is that the European and Asian models are winning, and have greater long term staying power, thus undermining US leadership in all fields, with China/European challenges to the hegemonic position of the USS being the most important.



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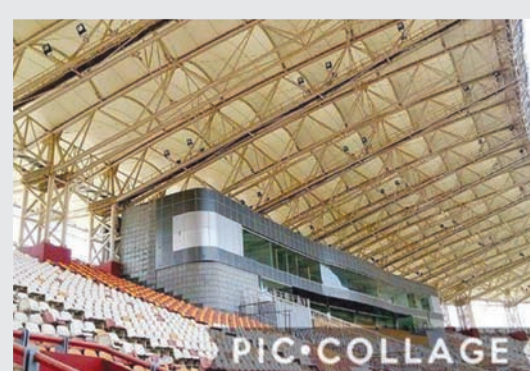
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# Iron sulfide may be keeping Mercury’s core toasty and its magnetic field alive

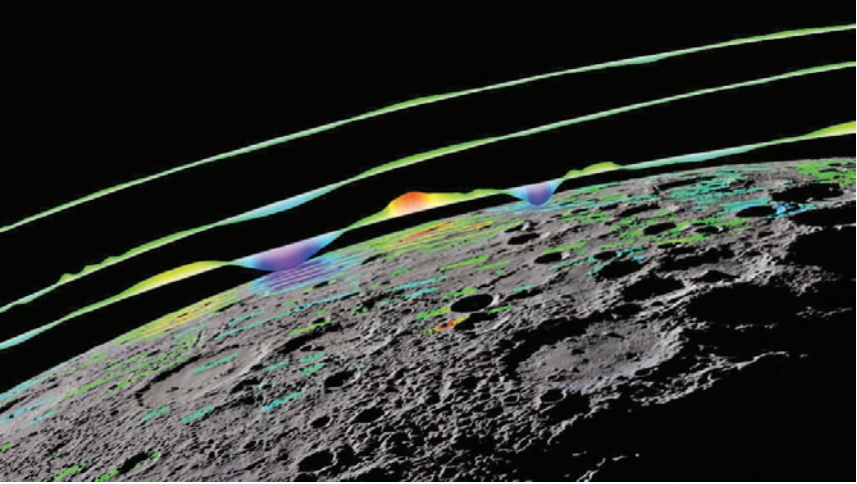
Mercury’s core may be wearing a metal jacket. New experiments suggest the planet’s innards stay warm thanks to an insulating layer of iron sulfide, which could help to explain how the small world has held onto its magnetic field.

Rocky planets get their magnetic fields from the churning motion of liquid metals in a gooey core, a process called convection. But smaller worlds like the moon and Mars seem to have cooled down quickly, freezing their cores and shutting off their magnetic fields.

Mercury, however, has defied expectations. “Many people thought it was a dead planet,” says mineral physicist Geeth Manthilake of Clermont Auvergne University in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

But in the 1970s, NASA’s Mariner 10 spacecraft found that Mercury, the puniest planet in our solar system, generated a weak magnetic field. That field — only about 1 percent of the strength of Earth’s magnetic field — has probably been active for as many as 3.9 billion years, almost the age of the solar system.

The question of what kept Mercury’s core warm has long puzzled scientists. Now, Manthilake and colleagues have proposed an explanation: The liquid part of the core is surrounded by a layer of iron sulfide that lets heat out much more slowly than previously assumed, the team reports August 21 in the



Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets.

“Based on lab experiments, we got some data to explain how actually you can generate such a low magnetic field and sustain it for such a long time,” Manthilake says.

The team measured how efficiently an alloy made of iron and sulfur can carry electricity, and by extension, heat. Previous work suggests that Mercury’s core has a solid deep interior, plus a liquid outer layer made mostly of iron, sulfur and silicon. But like oil and water, those elements don’t mix

thoroughly. As Mercury cooled, the more-buoyant iron-sulfur compound would have separated and floated to the top of the core, forming a separate layer.

The researchers put a few milligrams of iron with varying concentrations of sulfur in a high temperature and pressure chamber at the SOLEIL Synchrotron facility in Gif-sur-Yvette, France. Using a beam of X-rays, the team measured the exact composition of the iron sulfide alloy as it formed inside the chamber.

When the amount of sulfur in the iron was increased, the metal let out less heat by up to a few orders of magnitude. So iron sulfide at the top Mercury’s core could act like a lid on a pot, keeping heat inside, the team argues.

The lab result on its own doesn’t solve the mystery of Mercury’s magnetic field, says planetary scientist Steven Hauck of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, who was not involved in the new work. For one thing, the conductivity measurements disagree with previous measurements of iron sulfide’s conductive prowess. Manthilake thinks earlier experiments that didn’t track the metal’s composition with X-rays could have unwittingly included some oxygen in the metal, which would have affected the results. But it’s not clear that was the case.

Scientists also don’t know how much sulfur is in Mercury’s iron sulfide layer, or how thick that layer is. Future missions to the planet, such as the European Space Agency’s BepiColombo spacecraft arriving at Mercury in 2025, may help nail down those details.

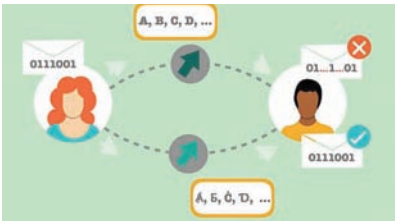
But the new work offers “an important contribution” to the discussion, Hauck says. “Understanding the thermal conductivity of the core is a really important piece of info to be able to make future steps.”

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## A new alphabet to write and read quantum messages with very fast particles

Quantum information relies on the possibility of writing messages in a quantum particle and reading them out in a reliable way. If, however, the particle is relativistic, meaning that it moves with velocities close to the speed of light, it is impossible for standard techniques to unambiguously decode the message and the communication fails. Thanks to the introduction of a new method to write and read the message researchers at the University of Vienna and the Austrian Academy of Sciences guarantee the reliable decoding of quantum messages which are transmitted extremely fast. The result published in the journal PRL opens up new possibilities of technological applications in quantum information and quantum communication.

Let us imagine the following situation: Anna and Bill want to communicate exchanging a message by using a property of a quantum particle, say the spin of an electron, which is an intrinsic form of particle’s rotation. Bill needs Anna’s message as quickly as possible, so Anna has to send the electron at maximum speed, very close to the speed of light. Given that Anna has the electron in her laboratory localized, one of the fundamentals of quantum physics, the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, forbids the velocity of the electron to be defined with arbitrary precision. When the electron travels extremely fast, that means, relativistically, the interplay between special relativity and quantum physics causes the spin and the velocity of the electron to get entangled. Due to this correlation, which is stronger than what is classically possible, Bill is not able to read out the spin with the standard method. Can Anna and Bill improve their communication strategy?



A group of researchers led by ?aslav Brukner at the University of Vienna and the Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI-Vienna) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences have introduced a novel alternative to the standard alphabet used by Anna and Bill. Their technique guarantees that the message, written by Anna and read by Bill, can be decoded unambiguously even when the particle behaves according to both quantum mechanics, because of Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle, and special relativity, due to its very high velocity.

The novel method as presented in the journal Physical Review Letters delivers a new definition of the spin of quantum particles that move very fast. Thus it modifies both the way Anna writes the message and the way Bill reads it. Key to this technique is a “translation” of the way the message would be written and read between the standard alphabet, used when the electron is at rest, and the new alphabet, used when the electron travels very fast. “These results are indicative that this translation procedure could open up to new applications in relativistic quantum information,” says Flaminia Giacomini, the lead author of the paper. For instance, this technique could be helpful in satellite-based quantum communication, where a particle carrying a message has to travel quickly between two far-away points.

(Source: Science daily)

## Astronomers detect a color-changing asteroid for the very first time

The asteroid 6478 Gault first drew attention to itself for sprouting a rare double trail of dust behind it, but now it’s treated astronomers to another surprise: a color change.

Asteroids have never before been caught in the act of shifting colors like this while under real-time observation. In the case of 6478 Gault, a reddish color is giving way to a fresh blue hue in the near-infrared spectrum, as captured by NASA’s Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) in Hawaii.

Experts think this is happening as the dusty exterior of the asteroid gets stripped away by its continuing travels through space – and the color change is happening quickly, observed over just two nights.

“That was a very big surprise,” says astronomer Michael Marsset, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

“We think we have witnessed the asteroid losing its reddish dust to space, and we are seeing the asteroid’s underlying, fresh blue layers.”

Around 3.7 kilometers (2.3 miles wide) and orbiting around the inner region of the asteroid belt, 6478 Gault averages a distance of around 345.6 million kilometers (214.8 million miles) from the Sun.

The asteroid’s surface dust would’ve been burned red by millions of years of exposure to the Sun, the researchers suggest, but the outer coating may only be a few grains thick. That’s now being shaken off to reveal rocky silicate material that hasn’t been irradiated to the same extent.

Comets are typically known for their tails, evaporating behind them as ice is melted away by the Sun. That’s not the same for asteroids – these rocky or metallic bodies formed closer to the Sun in warmer conditions, so there’s not much ice left to melt.

For 6478 Gault to be producing not one but two tails, something else must be happening. The same study that spotted the color shift



also confirmed the rocky (rather than icy) composition of the object.

“It’s the first time to my knowledge that we see a rocky body emitting dust, a little bit like a comet,” says Marsset. “It means that probably some mechanism responsible for dust emission is different from comets, and different from most other active main-belt asteroids.”

This phenomenon is originally how 6478 Gault caught the eye of astronomers. The thinking is that both the unusual tail formation and the color shift are being caused by a fast spin (around one spin every two hours), and the centrifugal force it generates.

The spin is being put down to what’s known as the YORP effect – the way sunlight can be absorbed unevenly by an asteroid, causing it to rotate over millions of years. The downside is that this fast spin is likely to cause 6478 Gault to eventually break up.

Before that happens, scientists want to confirm their ideas about the YORP effect by plotting the asteroid’s brightness over time – something that won’t be easy with two dust trails to peer through.

“I think [the study] reinforces the fact that the asteroid belt is a really dynamic place,” says astronomer Francesca DeMeo, from MIT.

“While the asteroid fields you see in the movies, all crashing into each other, is an exaggeration, there is definitely a lot happening out there every moment.”

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Overnight changes in Mars’ atmosphere could solve a methane mystery

Methane released in Gale crater stays in Gale crater. An overnight change in the Martian atmosphere could hold the gas close to the ground until morning, explaining why the Curiosity rover caught a whiff of methane while an overhead orbiter found none.

The theory offers “a way for the two measurements to live in harmony with each other,” says planetary scientist John Moores of York University in Toronto. He and his colleagues lay out the theory’s details online August 20 in Geophysical Research Letters.

Since 2003, several spacecraft have detected varying amounts of methane on Mars. NASA’s Curiosity rover, which landed in Gale crater in 2012, has found that amounts of the gas rise and fall in a seasonal cycle.

Methane should last no more than about 300 years in the Martian atmosphere before sunlight breaks it down. “To see a seasonal cycle tells you that something is actively producing or destroying methane in the present time,” Moores says. Microbes produce methane on Earth, so finding the gas on the Red Planet has been seen as a possible sign of life – although not a definitive one.

Methane “can be produced by abiotic processes,” says Dorothy Oehler, a planetary geologist and astrobiologist with the Planetary Science Institute who is based in Houston. “But even if it’s not directly related to biology, it can enhance habitability for other kinds of microbes. So it’s an important thing to be seeking,” says Oehler, who was not involved in the new study.

Curiosity measured average methane concentrations of 0.41 parts per billion inside Gale crater, a 154-kilometer-wide depression near Mars’ equator. So it was a surprise when



the European Space Agency’s Trace Gas Orbiter, part of the ExoMars mission which arrived at Mars in 2016, flew over Gale crater and found no methane at all. There could still be minuscule methane concentrations below 0.05 parts per billion in the atmosphere that the Trace Gas Orbiter can’t smell, the satellite team reported in Nature April 10.

Even so, “it is hard to reconcile those” different findings, Moores says. If Mars is oozing enough methane that Curiosity would sense so much, there should be enough methane in the atmosphere for the orbiter to detect.

But Moores’ team noticed a coincidence: Curiosity took all its methane measurements at night, when the rover is standing still and charging its batteries. Night could also mark a time when gases mix differently in the Martian atmosphere than they do in the daytime, the team realized.

During the day, sunlight warms the air, creating currents

and convection that mix different molecules together. So, methane in the daytime atmosphere can get mixed up and diluted. But overnight, the air calms and methane could build up near the surface, where Curiosity can sniff it. At sunrise, the methane would get diluted again.

The idea is plausible, and the argument in the paper is convincing, says planetary scientist Sébastien Viscardy of the Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy in Brussels, a member of the Trace Gas Orbiter team. But the theory doesn’t explain everything, he says.

For one thing, Moores and colleagues calculated that, to be consistent with both measurements, only 27,000 square kilometers of Mars’ surface should emit methane at a constant rate. That’s an area equivalent to 1½ Gale craters.

And “it’s difficult to imagine that only Gale emits methane,” Moores says. “Either Gale is even more special than we imagine, or there’s something we’re missing in the chemistry of the atmosphere.”

The bigger problem, Viscardy says, is that the different nighttime methane concentrations detected don’t explain the periodic spikes in methane that Curiosity has also observed. Those spikes showed huge methane increases occurring at random intervals throughout Curiosity’s mission. The most recent spike, in June 2019, was the largest plume yet observed, with methane levels of about 20 parts per billion, about 50 times above the seasonal average. Within a few days, though, detected methane levels returned to normal.

So the daily change in atmospheric mixing “solves a very small problem, but not the global methane story,” Viscardy says.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

## How humans have shaped dogs’ brains

Dog brain structure varies across breeds and is correlated with specific behaviors, according to new research published in JNeurosci. These findings show how, by selectively breeding for certain behaviors, humans have shaped the brains of their best friends.

Over several hundred years, humans have selectively bred dogs to express specific physical and behavioral characteristics. Erin Hecht and colleagues investigated the effects of this selective pressure on brain structure by analyzing magnetic resonance imaging scans of 33 dog breeds. The research team observed wide variation in brain structure that was not simply related to body size or head shape.



The team then examined the areas of the brain with the most variation across breeds. This generated maps of six brain networks, with proposed functions varying from social bonding to movement, that were each associated with at least one behavioral characteristic. The variation in behaviors across breeds was correlated with anatomical variation in the six brain networks.

Studying the neuroanatomical variation in dogs offers a unique opportunity to study the evolutionary relationship between brain structure and behavior.

The article, “Significant Neuroanatomical Variation Among Domestic Dog Breeds,” appears online Sept. 2, 2019 in the Journal of Neuroscience.

(Source: Science Daily)

## New research considers what lies below the Moon’s surface

By Alison Auld

A new study by geologists in Canada and the United States suggests a repository of precious metals may be locked deep below the Moon’s surface.

James Brennan, a professor at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Dalhousie and lead author of the study in Nature Geoscience, says he and fellow researchers were able to draw parallels between mineral deposits found on Earth and the Moon.

“We have been able to link the sulfur content of lunar volcanic rocks to the presence of iron sulfide deep inside the Moon,” said Dr. Brennan, who collaborated with geologists at Carleton University and the Geophysical Laboratory in Washington, D.C. for the paper that was published on Aug. 19.

“Examination of mineral deposits on Earth suggests that iron sulfide is a great place to store precious metals, like platinum and palladium.”

### ■ Under the Moon’s surface

Geologists have long speculated that the Moon was formed by the impact of a massive planet-sized object from the Earth 4.5 billion years ago. Because of that common history, it is believed that the two bodies have a similar composition. Early measurements of the precious metal concentrations in lunar volcanic rocks done in 2006, however, showed unusually low levels, raising a question that has perplexed scientists for more than a decade as to why there was so little.

Dr. Brennan says it had been thought that those low levels reflected a general depletion of the precious metals in the Moon as a whole.

This new research, which was funded with the support of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, offers an explanation on the surprisingly low levels and adds valuable insight into the composition of the Moon.

“Our results show that sulfur in lunar volcanic rocks is a fingerprint for the presence of iron sulfide in the rocky interior of the Moon, which is where we think the precious metals were left behind when the lavas were created,” he says.

### ■ A scientific recreation

Dr. Brennan, along with colleagues Jim Mungall of Carleton University and Neil Bennett formerly of the Geophysical Laboratory, did experiments to recreate the extreme pressure and temperature of the lunar interior to determine how much iron sulfide would form.

They measured the composition of the resulting rock and iron sulfide and confirmed that the precious metals would be bound up by the iron sulfide, making them unavailable to the magmas that flowed out onto the lunar surface.

Dr. Brennan clarified that there was likely not enough to form an ore deposit, Brennan “but certainly enough to explain the low levels in the lunar lavas.”

Dr. Brennan says they will require samples from the deep, rocky part of the Moon where the lunar lavas originated in order to confirm their findings.

### ■ Un-forged territory

Geologists have access to scientific samples from hundreds of kilometers deep inside the Earth, but such material has not yet been recovered from the Moon.

“We have been scouring the Earth’s surface for a fairly long period of time, so we have a pretty good idea of its composition, but with the Moon that’s not so at all,” he said.

“We have a grand total of 400 kilograms of sample that was brought back by the Apollo and lunar missions... it’s a pretty small amount of material. So, in order to find out anything about the interior of the Moon we have to kind of reverse engineer the composition of the lavas that come onto the surface.”

Remote sensing by satellites suggest there may be outcroppings of the deeper parts of the Moon, revealed after massive impacts formed the Schrodinger and Zeeman craters in the South Pole Aitken basin.

“It’s pretty exciting to think that we might return to the Moon,” says Dr. Brennan. “And if so, the South Pole seems like a good choice for sampling.”





## Two camp parks inaugurated in Qeshm Island

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — On Wednesday, two coastal camp parks were opened to the public in Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

One of the parks, covering 32,000 square meters in area, is situated in Riku Village. The park is planned to be expanded by 31,000 square meters, IRNA reported on Wednesday.



The other camp park, which is adjacent to Bandar-e Laft (Laft port), spans 16,350 square meters and it has the nominal capacity of hosting 600 people, the report said.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. Meanwhile, it is home to birds, reptiles, dolphins and turtles to name a few.

The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a heaven for nature-lovers.

## Airbus extends lead over Boeing in 2019 airliner deliveries

Airbus is stretching its lead over Boeing in aircraft deliveries as Boeing continues to be held back by the grounding of its 737 Max.

Chicago-based Boeing said Tuesday it delivered 19 planes in July, down from 39 in July 2018. It also reported that it received no new orders for the Max in July — the fourth straight month without an order.

European rival Airbus reported 69 deliveries last month, including 52 A320neo and A321neo jets that compete with the Max.

This year through July, Boeing has delivered 258 airliners. That's down 38% from a year earlier, and far behind Airbus' 458 deliveries.

Boeing halted Max deliveries in March after the second of two crashes that together killed 346 people.

New orders for Boeing jets have plunged 71% through the first seven months of 2019. Of the 139 orders in that period, 36 have been for 737 variants including the Max. In the first seven months of last year, Boeing logged 311 orders for 737s, mostly the Max.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said last week that the company has not suffered any order cancellations for the plane due to the grounding. The Boeing website shows a backlog of unfilled orders for more than 4,500 Max jets.

Flyadeal, a budget carrier in Saudi Arabia, dropped an intention to buy up to 50 Max jets and switched last month to the Airbus neo. It never signed an order with Boeing, however. Also last month, the parent company of British Airways said it intends to buy 200 Max jets, although it has not signed a firm order either.

Air Lease Corp., which leases planes to airlines, disclosed last week that with Boeing's approval it switched 15 of its 150 orders for Max jets to five Boeing 787s. Air Lease executives said they had a shortage of the larger 787s.

Last month, Boeing reported its biggest quarterly loss — nearly \$3 billion — after taking a \$4.9 billion after-tax charge for the cost of compensating airlines that lost use of their Max jets.

(Source: AP)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Royal Domain of Drottningholm

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm, situated on the island of Lovon close to Stockholm, is an exceptionally well-preserved ensemble of gardens and buildings with original interior furnishings.



A UNESCO World Heritage, the ensemble includes Drottningholm Palace, the Palace Theatre, the Chinese Pavilion, Canton Village, the gardens and part of Malmen, and has been used for pleasure and summer recreation from the Baroque era until today. As the current home of the Swedish Royal Family, Drottningholm upholds a cultural continuity with the original purpose of the site.

Drottningholm Palace is representative of 17th and 18th century western and northern European architecture, and the palace grounds were also created during that period. The palace was created with strong references to 17th century Italian and French architecture.

The Palace Theatre is the only surviving 18th century theatre where the original machinery is still regularly used and the original stage sets are preserved.

The surrounding area has been part of the Crown Estate since the 16th century. The character of the landscape is a result of the way it has been used and farmed to support the Crown's need of supplies and to uphold the King's household. This continuous use and the way it is and has been managed over the years is still visible in the landscape.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Iranian caravansaries being assessed for collective UNESCO tag

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Iran is developing a dossier for a select of its historical caravansaries for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

The experts have recently announced their preliminary approval to five caravansaries in the eastern South Khorasan province, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

After compiling a registration dossier of these caravanserais, which contains documentation, land surveying, historical investigations, they will be added to the list of the Iranian caravansaries to be submitted to UNESCO, Parisa Jamshidi, a local cultural official, said.

"The architectural spaces of these inns include porches, chambers, luggage stations, stables, cisterns, and porticos. In addition, some caravanserais bear interacted brick-

works and plaster decorations," she said.

"Iranian caravansaries are a very valuable and important example of our country's indigenous architecture, some of which are considered masterpieces of traditional architecture."

Caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara". The first stand for a group of travelers and sara means the building.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed round the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power form 1588 – to 1629, he ordered construction of network caravanserais across the country.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanseral, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!



## 22% rise in visits to historical, recreational sites in West Azarbaijan

**TOURISM d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Visits to historical and recreational sites in West Azarbaijan province rose 22 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) compared to the same period a year earlier.

The provincial tourism department has registered 3,884,000 visits to historical and recreational sites across the northwestern province during the period, which shows 22 percent hike year on year, provincial tourism chief Jalil Jabbari said on Tuesday, CHTN reported.

The occupancy rate for hotels and guest houses increased 40 percent year on year as they hosted a total of 795,369 people, the official added.

There are 44 hotels, 48 guest houses and 22 eco-lodges in West Azarbaijan, he said.



UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), as well as the archaeological site of Tepe Hasanlu and the ruined Bastam Citadel are amongst top travel destinations of the province. It is also home to eleven heritage museums that harbor some 30,000 objects, testifying its vibrant history, arts and architecture.

Azarbaijan is bounded on the north by the Aras River, which separates it from Azerbaijan and Armenia, and on the west by Iraq and Turkey. The region was a center of several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

## Ground broken for handicrafts marketplace in eastern Iran

**HERITAGE d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Construction of a permanent handicrafts marketplace officially began on Wednesday with a ground-breaking ceremony in the city of Sarbisheh, South Khorasan province, eastern Iran.

The ceremony was attended by governor general and several other provincial and local officials, CHTN reported. "Covering 700 square meters, the marketplace will be constructed in close collaboration with the provincial tourism department and Sarbisheh Municipality," provincial

tourism chief, Hassan Ramezani said.

The marketplace will be dedicated to local artists and artisans to offer their products and souvenirs to the public, Ramezani added.

Sarbisheh is a gateway to Makhunik, a nearby mysterious village commonly known as Iran's 'Lilliput'. It was inhabited by people of very short stature until about a century ago. Currently, it is home to roughly 200 adobe dwellings, many of which are of exceptionally low height.

## ‘Flight shaming’ threatens air travel demand beyond Europe: IATA chief

**CHICAGO (Reuters)** — This summer, U.S. airlines have enjoyed booming flight demand, immune to a Swedish-born "flight shaming" movement that has hit air travel in Europe, where environmentally conscious travelers are choosing trains over planes.

But the head of global lobby International Air Transport Association (IATA) says the environmental challenge, which he called the biggest threat to the airline industry in Europe, "will probably come to other parts of the world, especially North America."

"If you believe or think that the environmental concern is a world concern touching everyone on the planet (...) there's no reason to believe that other young people won't react," Alexandre de Juniac told journalists on Tuesday.



De Juniac later acknowledged to Reuters that the lack of a viable train alternative in the United States was a big hurdle to a U.S. movement, but noted the rise of progressives promoting plans like the Green New Deal, which includes investment in

high-speed rail.

The movement will spread in the United States and then move on to advanced countries in Asia like Korea and Japan, de Juniac predicted.

The more anti-aviation sentiment grows, the more eager governments are to tax the industry, he said.

In July, France announced a tax on airlines flying from its airports to help support the environment, a move that Air France said would significantly hurt its competitiveness and add over 60 million euros in additional costs per year.

Commercial flying accounts for about 2.5% of global carbon emissions today but without concrete steps to alleviate the problem, that number could rise as global air

travel increases.

The aviation industry has already cut carbon emissions from each plane traveler in half since 1990, largely thanks to more fuel-efficient aircraft, and has a plan to cut net emissions by 2050 and achieve carbon-neutral growth from 2020.

The challenge now is to enforce and implement the goals, and win over the sentiment of a portion of the flying public that de Juniac said wants to be reassured that the industry is "doing the right things."

Activists advocating for zero-carbon travel are increasingly passionate and effective. In August, Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg crossed the Atlantic in a racing yacht to avoid traveling by air to take part in a UN summit.

## This \$10-a-night UK Airbnb is actually just a tent in someone's backyard

One of the cheapest Airbnbs in the UK is simply a tent in someone's backyard - and it'll only set you back £8 (\$10) a night.

The listing, titled "Sapphire's Sheppey Tent near Beach" in Kent, comes complete with two tents in someone's back garden near the beach - one containing a single bed, and one containing a toilet.

The description reads: "Sleep al fresco in the privacy of a backyard, suited to the adventurous solo to experience Sheerness under the Stars, near the beach!"

The ground floor of the property is vacant, so you'll "have more privacy within the gated garden," it adds.

"You also benefit from a private guest entrance," it says, adding that a leisure complex across the road offers shower facilities for a £2 (\$2.40) fee.

There are plenty of photos of the accommodation on the listing, showing both tents - the bed tent even has "windows to see the stars at night" - as well as the other amenities, including an extension cord providing "access to electric



socket," a rubber storage bin to "keep your belongings," a "rechargeable and dimmable tent ceiling light," and an "outdoor sink," which is actually just a jug of water with a towel and soap.

"Water can be emptied in drain opposite toilet tent," the listing explains.

The bed tent comes complete a hot water bottle, which

the host is "happy to top up as and when required," as well as bedsheets and towels.

The toilet tent, meanwhile, features a small toilet, "spare black bags, cat litter, toilet paper, spray bottle and hand soap." "Toilet will be lined with black bag and have cat litter inside allowing for easy clean up of number ones and twos," the host explains. "Leave used, tied up bin bags against property back door for me to dispose of."

Surprisingly, the "property" does has one review - likely because of its proximity to the beach.

An Airbnb user named Constance wrote of her August stay: "This is a special kind of tent it is a comfortable bed I really liked it. I swam in the sea in the morning with two lifeguards all to myself in high winds."

"There's a pool up the road if you need showers. Desiree was kind enough to let me in later than planned, make sure to arrive in daylight to check out the back entranceway. You have sole access."

(Source: MSN)



# How technology can help build a more human workplace

No matter the industry in which we work, our days are filled with reminders of all the incredible ways technology has changed how we spend our personal and professional time. We are far more connected than ever before, and it's difficult to ignore the growing dependency on technology in every aspect of our lives. Our reliance on these new and evolving tools often sparks concern that technology in the workplace will threaten jobs and economic security.

It is easy to get caught up in painting a negative picture of technology's potential impact on our future. But contrary to these fears, technology is not necessarily a job-killing machine. It is the catalyst to solving some of the biggest issues facing our workforce today.

Consider how much time we spend each workday on administrative tasks. Studies released over the past several years have consistently shown anywhere between 10% and 40% of our time at the office is lost to tasks outside of our core job functions: paperwork, scheduling meetings, responding to emails, etc. Imagine what you could do with those 10 extra hours each week. What can technology do to change this?

As it turns out, a lot. Some employees are turning to digital tools to automate many day-to-day operations. When technology takes the tedium out of everyday tasks, more time is available for employees and managers to collaborate, think creatively and align employee roles and interests with company goals. Employees are able to spend more time engaging with work that inspires and interests them, which in turn increases productivity



and overall employee happiness.

Technology can make it easier to connect as well — an important benefit when many of us work remotely. Video conferences and meetings still allow for face-to-face conversations and can foster the all-important manager-employee relationship and other team interactions. Incorporating the tools at our disposal into the office environment will do the work of facilitating connections, leaving employees space in their schedules to

focus on what really matters. This “built into the daily routine” style of engagement offers more opportunities for human connection and development.

Technology changes how we work and can be a huge benefit. It is incumbent on all of us to evolve and update our skills to match this advance. With the right preparation for this challenge, we can not only avoid much of the disruption, but actually use technology to get back to building re-

lationships and strengthening the human connection that's so important in positive workplace environments.

With any luck, we can get some assistance from willing employees. As research from PricewaterhouseCoopers makes clear, more than half of all employees now express a preference for either fully digital solutions or a mix of digital and face-to-face solutions when it comes to HR and professional development functions like ongoing performance feedback, real-time job training and receiving and providing regular coaching and development.

These tools need to be deployed carefully, with great attention given to employee input and concerns, but it's encouraging that the appetite for effectively integrated technological support is already here. By using new instruments to support employees' needs, we are creating more time to focus on the good stuff: meaningful work around creativity, collaboration, motivation, communication and engagement. Putting employees first in this way is key to creating a more human workplace.

This shift can't come fast enough. It's true that employees are any company's most precious asset, and yet we have plenty of evidence to suggest that most firms are failing to live up to that message. The workplace of the future will undoubtedly look very different than it does today, likely in many ways we can't predict. But the most successful businesses will be those that use technology as a tool to ensure they remain focused on what matters most: their people.

(Source: forbes.com)

## Technology is making us more impatient, says study

Have you changed over the last few years?

Beyond, that is, the obvious of now having your nose and eyes buried in a screen for at least 12 hours a day.

I'm thinking more about your innards, your soul, your very being.

Specifically, have you become a little more irritable? Impatient, even?

I only ask because a new study intimates that technology's quest toward giving us everything from knowledge to burgers right now may be injecting a painful impatience into our veins.

The study of 2,000 Brits, performed on behalf of stationery company BIC, insists that the majority of respondents pointed to their gadgets as the prime source of their agitation.

A dark picture is painted of humans' newly discovered proclivity to curse their machines and, who knows, the gods that made them.

The data-driven and congenitally curious might wonder, though, whether these British respondents are really all that impatient at all.

You see, in this study, it took an average of 22 seconds for people to express frustration if their TV or computer doesn't start streaming a movie properly.

I don't know about you, but I'm more of a 6 to 8 seconds sort of human. If Netflix or Amazon isn't immediately delivering, my toes begin to make involuntary curling motions, as does at least one of my lips.

And then there's these Brits' apparent threshold for a webpage to load. It takes 16 seconds before they, I don't know, raise an eyebrow or emit a gentle snort.

Having grown up -- involuntarily -- in that country, I know that Brits embrace a legend



for their ability to confront adversity with a stiff upper lip.

Have a feeling, though, that if this study was repeated here in the US, the average patience breaking point would be around 2.7 seconds.

Then again, it seems that the new, tech-induced swathe of impatience is sweeping the most cherished aspects of Brits' lives.

They're only prepared to wait 28 seconds for their kettles to boil, before they boil over themselves.

Of course, this survey was set up to show that Brits have a remarkable tolerance for the arrival of a handwritten letter. They'll allegedly wait 3.8 days before getting annoyed their letter hasn't arrived.

Yet this survey surely highlights an accidental truth.

Creating an expectation of instant delivery creates an increased inner pressure for instant gratification. We receive emails or other electronic messages and we feel compelled to reply instantly. And if someone, for whatever reason, doesn't reply to our messages instantly, we begin to twitch.

(Source: zdnet.com)

## Bugs inspire innovative anti-glare technology

What do cicadas have to do with lasers and cellphone screens? The question would leave most of us scratching our heads, but not the Greek scientific team at Biomimetic, which, as the name suggests, develops technology that mimics elements found in the natural world.

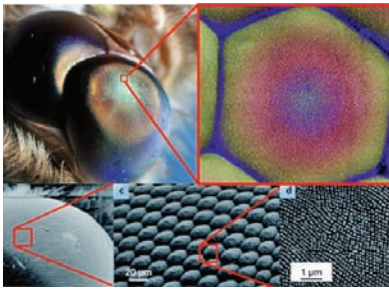
“Inspired by nature, Biomimetic uses lasers in the treatment of glass surfaces so as to reduce glare,” explains Evangelos Skoulas, researcher and chief operating officer at Biomimetic, adding that that the majority of anti-glare techniques used today are mainly of a chemical nature and aren't very durable.

“This can be applied to the screens of cellphones, laptops, televisions and watches, allowing us to see what's on them better without being hindered by the reflection of light,” he says, using simple terms to explain what the technology does.

Skoulas also stresses that reducing the glare from electronic devices also helps save energy, while Biomimetic's technology could replace the environmentally harmful chemical methods used to tackle the same problem.

But where do the cicadas come in? Skoulas explains that Biomimetic was inspired by the study of the wings of these insects, as well as those of the glasswing butterfly (Greta oto), in the development of its anti-glare technology.

“Cicadas' wings are non-reflective, allowing sunlight through to warm their bodies while also ensuring that they are not spotted by predators,” he says. “Basically, while it took millions of years for this



quality to develop in nature, also through the process of natural selection, we can mimic it quite faithfully by using lasers.”

The Biomimetic team comprises five researchers from the Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser at the Foundation for Research and Technology in Crete. Apart from Skoulas, they also include Manolis Stratakis, Andreas Lemonis, Alexandros Mimidis and Antonis Papadopoulos.

They have spent the last three years developing their technology and are now looking for funding in order to get the idea off the ground. They are one small step closer to accomplishing this after reaching the finals of the recent NBG Business Seeds competition of the National Bank of Greece.

Skoulas says that Biomimetic's technology has already attracted the interest of major mobile phone and timepiece manufacturers, adding that should an investor be found, the team would like to keep production in Greece.

(Source: ekathimerini.com)

## New AI technology for advanced heart attack prediction

Technology developed using artificial intelligence (AI) could identify people at high risk of a fatal heart attack at least 5 years before it strikes, according to new research funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF). The findings are being presented at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress in Paris and published in the European Heart Journal.

Researchers at the University of Oxford have developed a new biomarker, or ‘fingerprint’, called the fat radiomic profile (FRP), using machine learning. The fingerprint detects biological red flags in the perivascular space lining blood vessels which supply blood to the heart. It identifies inflammation, scarring and changes to these blood vessels, which are all pointers to a future heart attack.

When someone goes to hospital with chest pain, a standard component of care is to have a coronary CT angiogram (CCTA). This is a scan of the coronary arteries to check for any narrowed or blocked segments. If there is no significant narrowing of the artery, which accounts for about 75 per cent of scans, people are sent home, yet some of them will still have a heart attack at some point in the future. There are no methods used routinely by doctors that can spot all of the underlying red flags for a future heart attack.

In this study, Professor Charalambos Antoniades and his team firstly used fat biopsies from 167 people undergoing cardiac surgery. They analysed the expression of genes associated with inflammation, scarring and new blood vessel formation, and matched these to the CCTA scan images to determine which features best indicate changes to the fat surrounding the heart vessels, called perivascular fat.



Next, the team compared the CCTA scans of the 101 people, from a pool of 5487 individuals, who went on to have a heart attack or cardiovascular death within 5 years of having a CCTA with matched controls who did not, to understand the changes in the perivascular space which indicate that someone is at higher risk of a heart attack. Using machine learning, they developed the FRP fingerprint that captures the level of risk. The more heart scans that are added, the more accurate the predictions will become, and the more information that will become ‘core knowledge’.

They tested the performance of this perivascular fingerprint in 1,575 people in the SCOT-HEART trial, showing that the FRP had a striking value in predicting heart attacks, above what can be achieved with any of the tools currently used in clinical practice.

The team hope that this powerful technology will enable

a greater number of people to avoid a heart attack, and plan to roll it out to health care professionals in the next year, with the hope that it will be included in routine NHS practice alongside CCTA scans in the next 2 years.

Professor Charalambos Antoniades, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and BHF Senior Clinical Fellow at the University of Oxford, said:

“Just because someone's scan of their coronary artery shows there's no narrowing, that does not mean they are safe from a heart attack.

“By harnessing the power of AI, we've developed a fingerprint to find ‘bad’ characteristics around people's arteries. This has huge potential to detect the early signs of disease, and to be able to take all preventative steps before a heart attack strikes, ultimately saving lives.

“We genuinely believe this technology could be saving lives within the next year.”

Professor Metin Avkiran, Associate Medical Director at the British Heart Foundation said:

“Every 5 minutes, someone is admitted to a UK hospital due to a heart attack. This research is a powerful example of how innovative use of machine learning technology has the potential to revolutionise how we identify people at risk of a heart attack and prevent them from happening.

“This is a significant advance. The new ‘fingerprint’ extracts additional information about underlying biology from scans used routinely to detect narrowed arteries. Such AI-based technology to predict an impending heart attack with greater precision could represent a big step forward in personalised care for people with suspected coronary artery disease.”

(Source: medicalxpress.com)

## Wi-Fi 6 is barely here, but Wi-Fi 7 is already on the way

Wi-Fi 6 is just now arriving in phones, laptops and network equipment. But engineers are already turning their attention to what'll come next: Wi-Fi 7. With speeds as high as 30 gigabits per second, the next generation of Wi-Fi promises better streaming video, longer range and fewer problems with traffic congestion.

The change will come in a series of steps, beginning with improvements to Wi-Fi 6, that lay the groundwork for the expected arrival of Wi-Fi 7 in 2024.

“I'm excited about delivering a gigabit everywhere in your house, every nook and cranny,” said V.K. Jones, Qualcomm's vice president of technology. “You'll be at the point where wireless is faster than wired.”

In a talk and subsequent interview at Qualcomm's Wi-Fi Day in August, Jones shared some details on how Wi-Fi 7 will work. He expects three phases of improvements over today's Wi-Fi 6, which in technical circles is called 802.11ax.

The first expected improvement will give Wi-Fi 6 more capacity, with new airwaves that US and European governments are likely to open up for radio transmission as soon as next year. Second, an update to Wi-Fi 6 in 2022 should improve its speeds, especially for people uploading data like videos from phones or PCs. Third, and perhaps most interesting, is a collection of Wi-Fi 6 upgrades expected in 2024 and still known only by its technical name of 802.11be.



Nobody's quite ready to officially call that new version Wi-Fi 7. That includes the Wi-Fi Alliance, the consortium that comes up with the numbers and bestows its Wi-Fi logo on products that pass its certification tests. Heck, its program to certify Wi-Fi 6 products only begins later this year.

Still, you don't have to be a soothsayer to see this future. The last three Wi-Fi engineering standards -- IEEE 802.11n, 802.11ac, and 802.11ax -- have been certified as Wi-Fi 4, 5 and 6, respectively. So 802.11be is a strong candidate to receive the Wi-Fi 7 label.

### First Wi-Fi improvement: 6GHz airwaves

The first big change is likely to come from governmental largesse. Today's Wi-Fi uses two radio frequency bands: 2.4GHz and 5GHz. The US and Europe, though, are working on releasing a huge new swath at 6GHz.

“This is very juicy real estate,” Jones said of the new spectrum, predicting that it'll quadruple speeds when you're at work or watching a game in a stadium.

The only way devices will be allowed to use this frequency band is through Wi-Fi 6 and later versions of the technology. That means older devices won't gum up the works. “You don't have all these crap legacy devices hanging around that don't really know how to share,” said Kevin Krewell, an analyst at Tirias Research.

One problem: Some telecommunications companies already use parts of the 6GHz band in specific locations. Fortunately, network engineers know where those beams run and can work around that with what amounts to a fancy map called the Automated Frequency Coordinator, or AFC.

Of course, the 6GHz spectrum will eventually fill up with traffic, too, Endpoint Technologies analyst Roger Kay predicted. “They all talk about 6GHz as the wide open spaces: ‘You can just let your cattle run wild out there.’ The reality is that contention will fill the channel just like every other one over time,” Kay said. “Still, it'll be nice for a while.”

### Phase two: Wi-Fi's uplink upgrade

In 2022, another change should come to today's Wi-Fi 6, delivering promised features of 802.11ax. Specifically, expect a triple-whammy acronym, UL MU-MIMO. That stands for uplink multiuser multiple-input multiple-output. Whew!

MIMO, already built into Wi-Fi 4 and 5, takes advantage of the fact that radio transmissions sent from one device to another often take multiple paths, bouncing in different ways off things like walls, furniture and cars. By sending different data over different paths, you can get more out of the existing airwaves.

Wi-Fi 6's first phase, arriving now, brings the multiuser upgrade, MU-MIMO, which means an access point can beam MIMO data to several devices at once. The second uplink phase will speed devices uploading data to the network.

At Qualcomm's Wi-Fi Day, the company demonstrated UL MU-MIMO with 10 phones livestreaming a woman painting a colorful landscape. The three phones that supported UL MU-MIMO sent an uninterrupted video of her brush strokes, while the video from the other seven phones often paused for seconds at a time.

### Phase Three: Wi-Fi's better beams

That brings us to 802.11be, the Wi-Fi 7 contender likely to arrive in 2024 with another improvement to MIMO.

It's called coordinated multiuser MIMO, or CMU-MIMO. “It's very hard to get it to work, and it may not even make it,” Jones said, but if it does, expect another boost to Wi-Fi speed, range and traffic decongestion.

Wi-Fi 6's MU-MIMO lets network equipment makers build access points with an eight-antenna arrangement, but 802.11be will handle 16. And that opens the door for CMU-MIMO.

The “cooperative” part of CMU-MIMO comes because all those antennas need not necessarily be on a single access point, Jones said. To improve coverage across bigger houses and businesses, the Wi-Fi industry is moving toward mesh networks with multiple access points.

Dividing those antennas among different devices would mean a better ability to send different data in different devices -- “spatial resolution,” in network parlance -- and thereby increasing the overall network performance, Jones said. You could imagine two access points with eight antennas each, or four access points with four each.

“When they work together they can get more out of the spectrum,” Jones said. “Spectrum is the lifeblood of all wireless systems.”

(Source: cnet.com)



## Special working groups to be formed on stray dog population control

**ENVIRONMENT d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Four special working groups are being established to control stray dogs' population in Tehran, director of environment and sustainable development department at Tehran Municipality has stated. Shina Ansari made the remarks during a meeting held on Tuesday with the participation of representatives from the municipality and related NGOs to address the issue of stray dogs' overpopulation.



Without a doubt, NGOs and animal right advocates can play an important role in this regard and elicit public participation as well, she stated.

“To find solutions and control the stray dogs’ population in the city, we decided to form four special working groups to pursue judicial, educational, cultural, and technical aspects of the issue,” she highlighted.

She went on to say that the meeting will be hold continuously since the solutions are achieved, Fars news agency reported.

■ **Stray dog population control program**  
Stray dogs are unconfined dogs that live in cities. They may be pets which have strayed from or are allowed freedom by their owners, or may be feral animals that have never been owned.

To deal with stray and feral dogs, which may pose serious threats to human health, animal health and welfare problems or causing socio-economic, political, and religious problems in some countries. Whilst acknowledging human health is a priority including the prevention of zoonotic diseases notably rabies, a plan on controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary or avoidable animal suffering is of great importance.

Veterinary services should play a lead role in preventing zoonotic diseases as well as ensuring animal health and should be involved in dog population control program, coordinating their activities with other competent public institutions or agencies.

The objectives of a program to control the dog population may include improving health of stray dog population, reducing number of stray dogs to an acceptable level, the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies-free dog population, reducing the risk of zoonotic diseases other than rabies, managing other risks to human health (e.g. parasites), preventing harm to the environment and other animals and preventing illegal trade and trafficking.

Registration of animals in a centralized database can be used to mandatory rabies vaccination and traceability and the reuniting of lost animals with owners.

Controlling reproduction is a way that prevents the birth of unwanted puppies and can help address the balance between demand for dogs and the size of the population; for example, surgical sterilization carried out by veterinarians with pain management.

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### Space Tourist Dennis Tito

(September 5, 2001)  
The Russian-owned company, MirCorp wants to launch the world’s first private space station for tourists by 2004. This report from Robert Parsons.

It’s to be called Mini Station 1 and the idea is to create a **money-spinner** to finance Russia’s **floundering** space program. MirCorp vice president Gert Weyers says the station will cost a hundred million dollars and that it will be **manufactured** by Russia’s RKK Energiya, the same company that designed and built the Mir **space station**.

He says customers are already queuing up. Mini Station 1 will be able to take three people at a time and for a maximum of twenty days. The Russians **broke into** space tourism in April this year, when California millionaire Dennis Tito paid them twenty million dollars for a rocket ride to fame and the International Space Station. But in doing so they angered the Americans, who argued the trip could have **endangered** the **crew on board** the station. But this, say the Russians, is different. The Mini Station will be a separate, **entirely commercial project** which will not **interfere with** the scientific exploration of space.

■ **Words**  
**money-spinner:** idea that will make a lot of money  
**floundering:** has many problems and may fail soon  
**manufactured:** made, usually in a factory  
**space station:** spacecraft which goes around the earth and is used as a base for people travelling in space or doing research  
**broke into:** entered the space tourism market  
**endangered:** put into a dangerous situation  
**crew:** the people who work on a spacecraft, ship, plane or train  
**on board:** on a spacecraft, ship, plane or train  
**entirely commercial project:** project completely for business  
**interfere with:** have a bad effect on

(Source: BBC)



# Bill on protection of animals brought before Majlis

**ENVIRONMENT d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A long-awaited bill on protection of animals which had been proposed over 3 years ago was finally brought to the Majlis (Iranian Parliament). ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Since 2016, some animal cruelty cases have been spotted in the country which mounted public criticism and pushed the Majlis to pass a law against cruelty to animals.

The Department of Environment (DOE) proposed a bill on protection of animals, which was decided to be initially approved by the presidential office for legal affairs and then the Majlis and in case of approval to be sent to the Expediency Council.

The bill outlaws all forms of cruelty to animals and considers the violators punishment and imprisonment.

The bill on protection of animals will be enacted a law consisting of 8 articles; which will be the first law on animal protection in the country, Katayoun Jahangiri, an environmentalists said.

It concerns any kinds of animal abuse such as beatings, torture, deliberate injuries, unnecessary surgeries, mutilating, mass murder or killing animals whether for food, clothing, or other products, and keeping of animals for entertainment, education, research, and etc., she explained.

Destruction of habitats or nesting sites, poisoning the animals or their food, abduction, release of the stray animals or non-native species in the margins of towns, villages or nature are considered a crime



**The bill on protection of animals will be enacted a law consisting of 8 articles; which will be the first law on animal protection in the country.**

by the law, she added.

Any kind of exploitation or use of animals that is not compatible with the nature and their life cycle, including sexual abuse, persecute, animal circuses, training or using

the animals for illegal purposes, including warfare are outlawed, she noted.

She went on to say that not considering ethics or health factors in their captive breeding, keeping, researching, transporting, buying,

## Benefits to farmers of global heating outweighed by losses, says report

Any advantages to European agriculture from a warming world will be outweighed by the losses from extreme events and environmental stress, leading to a probable large economic loss for farming in the next 30 years, research on the impacts of the climate crisis has found.

While some have pointed to longer growing seasons and a wider range of crops becoming viable in northern Europe as benefits from temperature rises, the effects on rainfall and extreme conditions mean farming is already suffering.

Heatwaves this year and last year have exposed the vulnerability of agriculture, according to the assessment from Europe’s green watchdog, the European Environment Agency.

Across Europe, the overall economic loss to agriculture from climate change is likely to be as high as 16% by 2050, though there will be large regional variations, and some crops will be hit harder than others.

The EEA report was published as the Met Office confirmed that this year’s summer has been one of the wettest and hottest on record for the UK.

Tim Legg, of the Met Office’s national climate information centre, said: “Summer 2019 was the 12th warmest on record since 1910, but was also relatively wet. Previously hot summers have been largely dry but this was the seventh wettest overall in a series dating back to 1910.”

Yet weather in the summer poses a problem for farmers, as early in the summer it can disrupt crop development and later on crops such as grains and some fruit and vegetables require a dry period for ripening before harvest.

This year’s wet summer came after last year’s record-breaking drought, which had left soils parched. Scotland had its second wettest summer in the recent record, as northern areas of the UK were hit by heavy rainfall in August, but southern England and Wales had heavy rainfall in June. The wettest counties – Cheshire, Northumberland and Derbyshire – had 173% to 179% more rainfall than the long-term average.

While southern Europe has been worst affected by droughts and excess heat, which can inhibit the growth of crops – and the report forecast land prices in the region could drop by



80% by the end of the century as a result – the main dangers for the north are in extremes of weather and sudden disasters such as flooding. Hundreds of homes were evacuated in Lincolnshire in June after some areas of England received a month’s worth of rain within a few days.

Farmers are still not being helped to make the preparations necessary to cope with the extremes of weather, according to the EEA report.

Hans Bruyninckx, the executive director of the EEA, said: “New records are being set around the world due to climate change, and the adverse effects are already affecting agricultural production in Europe, especially in the south. Despite some progress, much more must be done to adapt by the sector itself, especially at farm level, and future EU policies need to be designed in a way to facilitate and accelerate transition in this sector.”

The EEA recommended much greater emphasis on measures to help farmers adapt to higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, through changing their practices, diversifying their crops, saving water and using technology such as weather data more effectively. Precision farming, whereby fertilisers and pesticides are used in small amounts rather than widely sprayed, can also help, along with the use of crops adapted to hotter conditions, and more emphasis on the benefits of forestry.

After Brexit, the UK will be responsible for its own pol-

icies on adapting to the climate crisis. Gareth Morgan, the head of policy at the Soil Association, said: “This alarming report adds further weight to the UK Committee on Climate Change’s recent warning that the government is hiding from the risks of climate change and failing to put adaptation plans in place for agriculture.”

He said it was a matter of urgency for farmers to get help to adapt to the effects of heating, as well as help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. “They [farmers] are at the frontline and seeing impacts already. Resilience is key and soil health must be at the heart of that. Soils hold three times more carbon than the atmosphere, and are vital for drought and flood protection,” he said.

Morgan also called for the government to support farmers to move to more environmentally benign agriculture, which he said would have beneficial effects on wildlife and the natural world as well as on human health. “It is time to join the dots between climate and the biodiversity and diet crises.”

The EEA assessment found a “cascade of impacts”, whereby a changing climate affected yields and the quality of the end produce, and this in turn made a big difference to prices, trade patterns and the viability of farms. This could lead to the intensification of agriculture in some areas and the abandonment of farms in others.

Europe’s food supply is not in immediate danger, the report found, but increased food demand around the world from growing populations, and the impact on yields from climate change, may force prices up in the future.

A spokesperson for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said: “We are taking robust action to improve resilience to climate change across the whole country. Our agriculture bill will provide financial assistance for farmers to [reduce emissions] and adapt to climate change. We will also offer financial assistance for farmers, foresters and growers to invest in the equipment, technology and infrastructure needed to increase sustainable productivity and improve the environment.”

(Source: The Guardian)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

## \$1.2m donated to provide the underprivileged with warm clothing

Iran’s Welfare Organization has managed to collect a contribution of 50 billion rials (nearly \$1.2 million) to provide the underprivileged with warm clothing, Tasnim news agency reported on Thursday.

Within the framework of a campaign dubbed “kindness smile” from December 10, 2018 to January 9 some \$1.2 million was solicited from the public for procuring warm clothing for the financially struggling children in underprivileged areas, an official with the Organization has said.

Mohammad Ali Kozehgar explained that some 50,000 packages of warm clothing were obtained by the money and distributed among the children.

## PREFIX/SUFFIX

### “-oid”

■ **Meaning:** a word ending that indicates resembling  
■ **For example:** The robot was **humanoid** in appearance.

## PHRASAL VERB

### Tear at somebody/something

■ **Meaning:** to pull violently at someone or something  
■ **For example:** The children were screaming and tearing at each other’s hair.

## IDIOM

### See eye to eye

■ **Explanation:** if two people see eye to eye, they agree with each other  
■ **For example:** I don’t always see eye to eye with my father.

## کمک ۵ میلیاردی برای تامین لباس زمستانی کودکان در مناطق کم برخوردار

به گزارش خبرگزاری تسنیم سازمان بهزیستی کشور با هدف تهیه لباس گرم برای کودکان مناطق کم برخوردار مبلغ ۵ میلیارد تومان جمع آوری کرده است.

رئیس مرکز مشارکتهای مردمی و توانمندسازی سازمان بهزیستی کشور با اشاره به اتمام پویش لبخند مهربانی با هدف تامین تهیه لباس گرم برای کودکان مناطق کم برخوردار اظهار کرد: این پویش از ۱۹ آذر با مشارکت خیرین و نیکوکاران آغاز شد و تا ۱۹ دی ماه ادامه داشت و در این طرح یک ماه ۵ میلیارد تومان جمع آوری شده است. محمد علی کوزه گر گفت: ۵۰ هزار بسته لباس گرم به ارزش ۵ میلیارد تومان تهیه شده است و در اختیار کودکان قرار گرفت.



# China updates deal to invest \$400 billion in Iran: Report

**TEHRAN** — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi last month called Iran ad China “comprehensive strategic partners”.

Iran and China have updated a 25-year deal signed first in 2016 that foresees \$400 billion of Chinese investment in the resource-rich Middle Eastern nation, well-regarded enery industry publication the Petroleum Economist reports.

The update came during a visit at the end of August by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to Beijing where his Chinese counterpart State Councilor Wang Yi called the two countries as “comprehensive strategic partners”.

According to the Petroleum Economist, the deal represents “a potentially material shift to the global balance of the oil and gas sector” and could mark a “seismic shift in the global hydrocarbons sector” where no US dollars will be involved in commodity transaction payments.

Investment in oil, gas, petchems projects “The central pillar of the new deal is that China will invest \$280 billion, developing Iran’s oil, gas and petrochemicals sectors,” said the monthly magazine which spoke to “a senior source closely connected to Iran’s Petroleum Ministry” during Zarif’s visit.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China August 26, 2019. (Photo by Reuters)

This amount may be front-loaded into the first five-year period of the deal but the understanding is that further amounts will be available in every subsequent five-year period, subject to both parties’ agreement, it said.

“There will be another \$120 billion investment in upgrading Iran’s transport and manufacturing infrastructure, which again can be front-loaded into the first five-year period and added to in each subsequent period should both parties agree,” it added.

The Petroleum Economist has been a respected energy industry publication for decades, better known for its sophisticated analysis. Its report follows another story last month that China had “re-engaged” Iran on three key energy projects, namely Phase 11 of the supergiant South Pars gas field, West Karoun oil fields and the Jask oil export terminal.

State-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), one of the country’s “big three” producers, holds an 80% stake in Phase 11 after French major Total’s withdrawal in August 2018



in response to US sanctions.

CNPC had since made little progress in developing the flagship project, but it has agreed to step up the pace on its development after getting a 30% discount to the global market price on potential condensate and LNG exports, the Petroleum Economist said.

China has also agreed to increase production from Iran’s West Karoun oil fields—including North Azadegan, operated by CNPC, and Yadavaran, operated by fellow “big three” firm Sinopec—by an additional 500,000 barrels per day by the end of 2020. According to the source cited by the magazine, Iran hopes to increase projected recovery rates from the fields from a current 5% of reserves in place to at least 25% by the end of 2021 at the very latest.

“For every percentage point increase, the recoverable reserves figure would increase by 670 million barrels, or around \$34 billion in revenues even with oil at \$50 per barrel,” it quoted the source as saying.

Investment in manufacturing infrastructure

China’s close involvement in the build-out of Iran’s manufacturing infrastructure will be entirely in line with its mammoth One Belt, One Road initiative, the Iranian source said.

A Wednesday report said Sinomach had signed a contract worth 5.35 billion yuan to build a train line in western Iran.

The Asian giant intends to utilize the low cost labor available in Iran to build factories, designed and overseen by large Chinese manufacturing companies, with identical specifications and operations to those in China.

The idea is to ship Chinese products to

Western markets by using Iran’s transport infrastructure.

Beijing’s biggest transportation project in Iran is worth \$1.5 billion to electrify the rail line from Tehran to Mashhad for a length of 926 kilometers.

There are also plans to establish a Tehran-Qom-Isfahan high-speed train line and to extend this upgraded network up to the northwest through Tabriz.

China updates deal to invest \$400 billion in Iran: Report

TEHRAN(presstv)-The railway is part of the 2,300-kilometer New Silk Road that will link Urumqi in China’s resource-rich Xinjiang province to Tehran, connecting Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan along the way and extending to Europe via Turkey. Tabriz, home to a number of key oil, gas and petrochemical and other industrial sites, and the starting point for the Tabriz-Ankara gas pipeline, will be a pivot point in the route. Among benefits, Chinese companies will be given right of the first refusal to bid on any new, stalled or uncompleted oil and gas field developments, the report said.

Chinese firms will also have right of the first refusal on opportunities to become involved with any and all petrochemical projects in Iran, including the provision of technology, systems, process ingredients and personnel required to complete such projects.

The agreement includes a clause allowing at least one Russian company to have the option of being involved in the projects alongside Chinese operators, the report said.

Russia, tangentially included in the agreement, is weighing a similarly all-en-

compassing independent deal with Iran. In June, the two countries signed a dozen cooperation agreements covering energy, railway, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and tourism.

The agreements were signed as Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak visited Iran with a delegation of 120 businesspeople, including representatives of private and public companies.

Iran and Russia have signed a dozen cooperation agreements covering energy, railway, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and tourism, reinforcing ties in the face of US sanctions.

According to the Petroleum Economist, one key upside of the deals flows from the fact that both China and Russia hold seats on the UN Security Council, making it difficult for the US or any other adversary to further sanction Iran.

“In order to circumvent any further ramping up of sanctions—and over time encourage the US to come back to the negotiating table—Iran now has two out of five UNSC votes on its side,” it quoted the Iranian source as saying.

Beijing has pushed back against the United States, saying China’s cooperation with Iran is legitimate under international law and should be “respected”.

China has “re-engaged” Iran on three key energy projects which the world’s biggest oil buyer is adamant to carry on with their implementation despite US sanctions, a report says.

China imported more than 900,000 metric tons of crude oil from Iran in July, up more than 8 percent from the month before, data released last week by China’s General Administration of Customs (GAC) showed.

The imports by the world’s largest oil buyer and more importantly the increase in shipments came despite Washington’s threat to punish companies after ending waivers to unilateral sanctions on Iranian oil on May 2.

Beijing has braced for any fallout from its participation in Iranian development projects and possible face-off with the US, the international energy website OilPrice.com said last month.

“If there is any further pushback from the US on any of these Chinese projects in Iran, then Beijing will invoke in full force the ‘nuclear option’ of selling all or a significant part of its \$1.4 trillion holding of US Treasury bills, with a major chunk of the paper due to be sold in September on this basis,” it said.

## Wicker image of Israel with dummy soldiers

➔1 Placing the dummies instead of soldiers, even if true, suggests the Israeli army’s fear of Hezbollah’s threats.

The most important messages of the operation can be found in the words of the Hezbollah leader. He said: Resistance was performed in broad daylight and near the borders, while their drones were in the sky, and we did not deliberately carry out the operations at night. Resistance has targeted the depth of the enemy. We stabilized the deterrence equation and told Netanyahu who wanted to change the rules of conflict and that there is no more red line.

## Russia, India back legitimate trade ties with Iran

➔1 Ahead of the visit, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said “increasing mutual investments” and “energy cooperation” would be high on the agenda. Trade between the two countries amounted to approximately \$11bn in 2018. Moscow and New Delhi are also looking at “opportunities to explore hydrocarbons on the continental shelf in the Arctic and the Russian Far East” together, Ushakov said.

Russia and India in 2015 signed a \$1bn agreement to jointly make Kamov Ka-226 military helicopters, part of the “Make in India” initiative to encourage foreign companies to manufacture their products there. But the deal has been pushed back repeatedly. A major global arms importer looking to modernise its armed forces, India is eager to produce more on its own soil, and in March launched a joint venture with Russia to manufacture AK-203 assault rifles.

Rostec, the umbrella corporation that controls Kamov, is “hopeful” that the summit can kick-start the helicopter project, its director for international cooperation, Viktor Kladov, said last week.

“A major push will be made, definitely,” he said. “All technical and commercial talks are finished,” Kladov said. India last year purchased the Russian S-400 advanced air defence systems for over \$5bn, with deliveries to be made by 2023, defying US warnings of sanctions on countries buying Russian arms.

## Eastern Syria: U.S. trains hundreds of Kurdish militias despite Ankara’s warnings

➔1 They pointed to the continuation of the US logistical and military aids to the Kurdish militias on the pretext of combatting the ISIL, and said that around 2,000 US troops are currently stationed at 18 military bases and centers in the occupied regions of Syria.

Turkish defense minister has recently announced that if the US does not fulfill its pledges on creating a safe zone in Northeastern Syria, Ankara will take action to open such a zone by itself.

In a relevant development on Tuesday, Tahrir al-Sham al-Hay’at (the Levant Liberation Board or the Al-Nusra Front) terrorist group reinvigorated its positions in the demilitarized zone in spite of Turkey’s agreement with Russia to force the militants to withdraw from the region. The Arabic-language al-Watan newspaper quoted a field source as saying on Tuesday that the terrorist groups have not yet withdrawn from their positions in Damascus-Aleppo and Aleppo-Latakia highways to be controlled by the Syrian army after four days of ceasefire declared by the army in Northern Syria.

Sources close to the National Liberation Front terrorist group revealed preparation of Tahrir al-Sham for a new battle against the Syrian army in Northern Hama and Southern Idlib, saying that the group is strengthening its positions in these areas.

Meantime, the Arabic-language Arabi al-Youm quoted field sources in Northern Syria as saying that the Syrian army has in the past few days sent a large number of forces and military equipment, including special forces, to its bases in the fronts near Manian, Dhahiyat al-Assa and 1070 project regions in Western Aleppo and stationed thousands of forces in Southern Idlib in front of al-Sarman region.

They added that in case of Turkey’s inability to implement its undertakings to evacuate Tahrir al-Sham from the de-escalation zone, the Syrian army will start massive military operations with the aim of reopening the Aleppo-Damascus highway.

## Italian PM to set seal on new government, unveil new cabinet

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — Italy’s head of state is set to sign off on a new government Wednesday after two rival political parties agreed an unlikely coalition that is expected to improve ties with the European Union and adopt a softer stance on immigration.

Italian PM to Set Seal on New Government, Unveil New Cabinet Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who led the outgoing administration, is expected to unveil his new cabinet lineup and seek a new mandate from President Sergio Mattarella as early as Wednesday morning. The alliance between the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party (PD), formerly sworn enemies, followed a month of political upheaval triggered by the sudden collapse of the previous ruling alliance. The far-right League party of outgoing Interior Minister Matteo Salvini pulled out of its coalition with the 5-Star party, declaring it unworkable and calling for early elections in the hope that Salvini could return to power a prime minister.

Salvini’s gambit backfired badly, ushering in a new alliance that is expected to soften his confrontational stance on EU budget rules, which he blamed for Italy’s weak economy, and his crackdown on migrants arriving by boat from Africa. Once Mattarella agrees to Conte’s cabinet, the prime minister will then have to win confidence votes in both houses of parliament before the government can officially start work.

5-Star and PD unveiled Tuesday a shared, 26-point policy program for their mooted coalition, putting an expansionary 2020 budget at the top of their agenda but pleasing markets with a pledge draft a budget that would not endanger public finances.

The coalition cleared its final hurdle Tuesday night when members of 5-Star approved the marriage in an online vote.

The key post of economy minister may go to the PD’s Roberto Gualtieri, now head of the European Parliament’s economic affairs commission, or to Dario Scannapieco, a former Treasury official who is vice president of the European Investment Bank, 5-Star and PD sources said, Reuters reported. Another name being considered for the job is former Bank of Italy Deputy Governor Salvatore Rossi, the sources said.

## Genocide card’: Myanmar Rohingya verification scheme condemned

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — The National Verification Card (NVC) scheme targeting Myanmar’s Rohingya Muslims is part of a systematic campaign by Myanmar authorities to erase their identity, according to a new report by Fortify Rights published on Tuesday.

The human rights organisation announced that the NVC process and denial of citizenship fall within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in its probe into crimes against the minority group, which was initiated last year, Al-Jazeera reported.

“The Myanmar government is trying to destroy the Rohingya people through an administrative process that effectively strips them of basic rights,” Matthew Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Fortify Rights, said in a statement by email.

“This process and its impacts lie at the root of the Rohingya crisis, and until it’s addressed, the crisis will continue,” Smith added.

The report: Tools of Genocide: National Verification Cards and the Denial of Citizenship of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar examines the series of alternative identification documents given to the Rohingya in Myanmar over the past few decades, alleging “citizenship scrutiny” processes have progressively limited their rights including freedom of movement, access to education and livelihoods and freedom of expression.

“The NVC process is just another reiteration of discriminatory cards that have been given out over the years to the Rohingya,” John Quinley III, author of the report and a human rights specialist at Fortify Rights, told Al-Jazeera.

Under Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Law, only people belonging to one of 135 national ethnic groups identified by the state are accorded citizenship.

The groups are those the authorities consider to have settled in Myanmar before 1824, when the country was first occupied by the British, according to the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK, a London-based Rohingya advocacy organisation.

“Despite generations of residence in Myanmar, the Rohingya are not considered to be amongst these official

indigenous races and are thus effectively excluded from full citizenship,” according to the organisation.

Myanmar’s government says NVCs are “the first step before the scrutinisation of citizenship”, in accordance with the 1982 legislation.

The Fortify Rights report also alleges Myanmar authorities have used torture and abuse in attempting to force Rohingya into accepting the verification card.

“I was beaten everywhere - my head, back, chest, and all over my body,” a 62-year-old Rohingya farmer told Fortify Rights, describing the beatings he had received. He added that he was also threatened.

“If you don’t accept the NVC, we will kill you,” he said he was told.

According to the report efforts to coerce Rohingya into accepting NVCs increased just before the crackdown on Rohingya civilians in 2016 and 2017.

“Evidence suggests a positive correlation between Myanmar authorities’ efforts to force Rohingya to accept NVCs and their efforts to destroy the Rohingya as a group,” it said, adding, “These findings demonstrate that the NVC process has not been a response to the crisis in Rakhine State, as the government suggests, but rather a fundamental part of the crisis.”

The United Nations Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar also found an increase in pressure on the Rohingya to accept the NVC in the months leading up to August 2017.

It noted that Border Guard Police and Myanmar Army soldiers held a “series of more targeted and aggressive meetings” with Rohingya elders in mid-August 2017, demanding residents accept NVCs. According to the Fact-Finding Mission’s report, these meetings happened where “some of the most brutal ‘clearance operations’ subsequently took place”.

The verification process has become a major concern for the more than 740,000 Rohingya who were forced into Bangladesh as a result of the military crackdown.

“The first question on this form is, ‘When did you come from Bangladesh’, followed by ‘Why did you come’ and



‘Who was the chairman in your village in Bangladesh?’” a Rohingya refugee who has been in Kutupalong refugee camp since 2017, told Al-Jazeera asking that their identity be protected.

“How can we answer these questions? It means they are automatically putting us in a cage. This is why people are not willing to go back,” the refugee added. Other refugees that Al-Jazeera spoke to in the camp in Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh echoed that sentiment.

“The message from the Rohingya community is very clear- the NVC is not for us. We are not foreigners, we are indigenous and the NVC is a genocide card,” said Khin Maung, a Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh and cofounder of the Rohingya Youth Association.

“According to the 1982 Citizenship Law there is no mention of NVC, but the Myanmar government is trying to destroy the Rohingya community with this card,” Maung added. Until the NVC is abolished or Myanmar grants full citizenship rights to the Rohingya, there is little chance of repatriation, Quinley stated.

“Many Rohingya speak about wanting to go back to their original homeland,” he noted, adding, “The Rohingya want to be granted and restored full citizenship rights in their country, and this is one of the baseline things that needs to happen for [repatriation] to occur.”

## U.S.-Backed SDF building large prison in Raqqa to incarcerate opponents

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have built a new large prison in Raqqa as popular protests are on rise against their media in the region, the Arabic-language media outlets said Wednesday.

The Arabic-language al-Watan newspaper quoted opposition sources as saying that the SDF has recently started construction of the town of Soluk in Raqqa city to keep in custody over 2,000 SDF’s opponents.

The sources said that most of the people

arrested by the SDF are civilians who are opposing the SDF presence in their region, but they have been jailed for strange accusations and terrorism. The SDF has reportedly many prisons in areas under its control in Northern and Northeastern Syria.

Meantime the Syrian Human Rights Network in its latest report said that the SDF incarcerated over 227 civilians, including 18 children and 14 women, last month. In a relevant development on Tuesday, the SDF

occupied government buildings in Hasaka to turn them into their security strongholds in cooperation with the US, increasing tensions against Damascus.

The Arabic-language service of Sputnik news agency reported that the SDF fighters attacked the government, training and tourism buildings in al-Zahour district in Hasaka city, occupied them after expelling the Syrian employees and students and turned them into their security headquarters.

It added that the US forces supported the SDF occupation of the Syrian government buildings that happened despite popular protests. Also, the Kurdish forces kidnapped the head of Hasaka workers union from the town of Qamishli in Northern Hasaka, and transferred him to an unknown place.

The US-backed SDF forces have recently increased their separatist attempts by occupying more territories in Northeastern Syria.



## Can rages at Sarri over Juventus Champions League snub

Former Liverpool midfielder Emre Can reacted with fury Wednesday after Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri left him off the club's Champions League squad.

"I'm furious, I don't understand, I'm totally shocked because I was promised something else these past few weeks," said Can, who is preparing with the Germany squad for Euro 2020 qualifiers.

"The phone call (with Sarri) lasted less than a minute and there was no explanation," said Can. "I want to play and will play in the Champions League."

Can, who missed the cut for the 2018 World Cup, could line up for Germany against the Netherlands on Friday.

He joined Juventus in June 2018 after four years at Liverpool. *(Source: France 24)*

## 'Best work in the world': Serena reflects on 20 years at the top

Serena Williams said tennis had "come a really long way" as she moved to within a victory of a 10th US Open final Tuesday, 20 years after winning her first Grand Slam title in New York.

Williams, who turns 38 later this month, charged into the last four at Flushing Meadows with a 6-1, 6-0 thrashing of China's Wang Qiang that took just 44 minutes.

The American is hunting a 24th Grand Slam singles title to equal Margaret Court's all-time record and will face Ukrainian fifth seed Elina Svitolina in Thursday's semi-finals.

Williams collected her 100th US Open win against Wang, leaving her one shy of the mark belonging to Chris Evert -- a record she could eclipse by lifting a seventh title here.

"I think the sport has come a really long way. It's been really satisfying to see sport for women, the premier sport for women," said Williams, who beat Martina Hingis in the 1999 final in New York.

"It's the best work in the world that a woman can do in my mind. I'm a little biased obviously."

"I feel like we fought so hard for so many years for so many different things. I feel like we still obviously have a ways to go, but a lot of that fighting through decades has come through."

Williams conceded just 15 points, and a mere four in the second set, as she blew 18th seed Wang away to reach the last four for the 13th time in 19 US Open appearances.

Wang conceded she had no answer to the power supplied by Williams, who insisted her approach remains the same as she bids for a first Slam title since the 2017 Australian Open. *(Source: Guardian)*

## Sources: Laporte out for Man City until 2020

Manchester City have been left with just two senior central defenders after club sources told ESPN FC that Aymeric Laporte will be out until 2020 following knee surgery.

Laporte, signed from Athletic Bilbao in January 2018, suffered the injury during Saturday's Premier League 4-0 win against Brighton at the Etihad.

And following surgery to repair cartilage and meniscus damage in Barcelona, sources have told ESPN FC that the player will be out until the New Year, although no specific timescale has been put on the 25-year-old's likely return to action.

With former captain Vincent Kompany leaving City at the end of last season to become player-manager at Anderlecht, Pep Guardiola had been keen to add to his defensive options during the summer.

But City refused to match Leicester's asking price for Harry Maguire, who eventually became the world's most expensive defender with an £80 million move to Manchester United, and Guardiola went into the campaign without recruiting a replacement for Kompany.

As a result, City now have just two experienced central defenders -- John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi -- for the opening half of the season.

Guardiola will consider using Brazilian midfielder Fernandinho as an emergency centre-back, with 18-year-old defender Eric Garcia the only other option on City's books.

Tosin Adarabioyo, the highly rated 21-year-old, is on loan at Championship club Blackburn Rovers, with City not having the option cut short his move to Ewood Park.

Laporte had been in line for his first France cap after receiving a call up for the upcoming Euro 2020 qualifiers against Albania and Andorra but had to pull out following the injury. *(Source: ESPN)*

## Injured Hazard brothers ruled out of Belgian qualifiers

Eden Hazard and his brother Thorgan will miss Belgium's Euro 2020 qualifiers against San Marino and Scotland through injuries, the Belgian football association said.



The pair reported to the team camp in Tubize on Tuesday for medical checks which confirmed Eden is suffering from a muscle strain while his younger brother has a rib injury.

Eden has yet to make his league debut for Real Madrid since his move to Chelsea because of the injury.

No replacements have been named by coach Roberto Martinez.

Belgium, who have won their opening four qualifiers in Group I, play in San Marino on Friday and then Scotland at Hampden Park on Monday.

*(Source: Goal)*

# Dimitrov stuns Federer to reach US Open semi against Medvedev

Grigor Dimitrov rallied for a shocking upset of 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer at the US Open on Tuesday, the lowest-ranked New York semi-finalist in 28 years advancing to face Daniil Medvedev.

The 78th-ranked Bulgarian, who had dropped all seven prior meetings with Federer, made a dramatic fightback to defeat the Swiss third seed 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium and will face Russian fifth seed Medvedev in Friday's semis.

"I'm just happy," Dimitrov said. "The only thing I was telling myself was to stay in the match. Physically I was feeling pretty good. I was hitting some shots against him that were hard to hit."

Dimitrov reached his first US Open semi-final to match the deepest Slam runs of his career from Wimbledon in 2014 and the 2017 Australian Open.

Not since 174th-ranked Jimmy Connors reached the 1991 quarter-finals had New York seen so lowly a figure on the ATP ratings list reach the last four.

Dimitrov is also the lowest-ranked Slam semi-finalist since 94th-rated Rainer Schuettler of Germany at Wimbledon in 2008.

Federer, a five-time US Open champion who has not won at Flushing Meadows since 2008, breezed through the first set in 29 minutes and appeared to have withstood the danger until



Dimitrov opened the fourth set with a break.

Federer was denied on five break points in the 10th game of the fourth set and Dimitrov held to force a fifth set.

"I was trying to stay in that game and make him stay on the court as much as possible. After that he started slowing down a little bit," Dimitrov said.

"It's a best of five sets. Anything can happen."

Federer went off the court for a private medical timeout to treat his upper back near his neck.

"This is Grigor's moment, not my body's moment," Federer said.

Dimitrov broke Federer twice on the way to a 4-0 lead in the final set and the 38-year-old Swiss star had no effective reply, foiled by 61 unforced errors in falling after three hours and 12 minutes.

"It's OK. It's how it goes," Federer said. "I tried my best. I fought with what I had and that's it."

Federer would have become the oldest Slam semi-finalist since Jimmy Connors at age 39 at the 1991 US Open.

Medvedev defeated three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (8/6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to reach his first major semi-final, shaking off a sore left quadriceps that made him contemplate quitting the match. Now he gets two days of rest.

"That's huge advantage regarding what happened to my leg," Medvedev said. "It should be OK."

Medvedev took a medical timeout, had the area taped and took a painkiller.

### ■ Medvedev's hot summer

Medvedev has maintained momentum from a sizzling August in which he reached three ATP finals, winning a title at Cincinnati and finishing runner-up in Montreal and Washington.

Medvedev, 23, is the youngest US Open semi-finalist since Novak Djokovic in 2010 and Russia's first Slam semi-finalist since Mikhail Youzhny at the 2010 US Open.

Dimitrov and Medvedev have split two prior matches, Dimitrov winning at Queen's in 2017 and Medvedev avenging the loss a few weeks later in Washington.

"He has been having a tremendous summer," Dimitrov said of Medvedev. "I know his game. I'm just going to try and recover and reassess the match first and prepare from then on for Daniil. He's a tough player. He's tricky." *(Source: Eurosport)*

## Qatar unveils 2022 World Cup logo round the globe



Qatar unveiled the logo for the 2022 World Cup which will be hosted by the Gulf emirate by displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world Tuesday.

The design is a stylized Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolizing infinity while creating a heart shape above the words "FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022".

It was projected onto the vast facade of the country's National Archives in the capital's southern Msheireb district to fanfare that included a procession of soldiers on horseback watched by a crowd of hundreds.

The building was illuminated with the emblem at exactly 20:22 local time (1722 GMT) -- the same as the year of the tournament.

It was also due to be displayed at major global attractions including Times Square in New York, London's Leicester Square and recent tournament host cities Moscow, Johannesburg and Sao Paulo.

Preparations for the global soccer spectacle in Qatar have accelerated in recent months.

In May, the 40,000 seat al-Janoub stadium -- the first to be purpose-built for the tournament -- was inaugurated with an almost capacity domestic cup final.

The arena, designed by late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid and located in a coastal town south of Doha, is estimated to have cost around \$575 million.

Of the eight stadiums Qatar is building or refurbishing for 2022, Khalifa International was already open and will host this year's World Athletics Championships.

The Championships will be a major test of Qatar's readiness to host a global sporting event. Tens of thousands of spectators are expected to descend on the desert nation ahead of the tournament which begins on September 27.

A major road overhaul is also underway across Doha to expand capacity at key junctions and traffic hotspots.

Parts of an ambitious metro rail project opened to the public in May. The rest of the three-line network expected to be launched in 2020 -- well ahead of the tournament.

The network will connect nearly all of Qatar's stadiums, transport hubs and tourist attractions, when it is completed.

FIFA faced a number of negative headlines in recent months including a decision in May to shelve plans for 48 nations to participate in the 2022 contest.

FIFA boss Gianni Infantino had pushed to extend the tournament.

In June, former European football president Michel Platini was questioned by French anti-corruption investigators for several hours in relation to the 2010 award of hosting rights to Qatar.

*(Source: AFP)*

## Cagliari monkey chants to Lukaku show 'respect' not 'racism', claim Inter fans



A group of Inter Milan fans claim Cagliari supporters were showing Romelu Lukaku a form of "respect" when they aimed monkey chants at him on Sunday.

Lukaku, who moved from Manchester United to Inter in the summer, was subjected to the racist abuse after scoring the winner in a 2-1 victory.

A statement from Inter fan group Curva Nord said "Italian fans are not racist" and the abuse was gamesmanship.

It added: "We are sorry you thought what happened in Cagliari was racist."

The open letter to the Belgian forward, published on the fans' Facebook page, also said: "You have to understand that Italy is not like many other north European countries where racism is a real problem."

"We understand that it could have seemed racist to you but it is not like that. In Italy we use some 'ways' only to 'help our teams' and to try to make our opponents nervous, not for racism but to mess them up."

"Please consider this attitude of Italian fans as a form of respect for the fact they are afraid of you for the goals you might score against their teams and not because they hate you or they are racist."

Lukaku, who said the game is "going backwards" in the wake of the abuse, stood and stared at fans behind the goal - where the chants had originated from - after scoring the winning goal.

Inter defender Milan Skriniar - who was seen putting his fingers to his lips to the Cagliari fans - in support of his teammate condemned the fans' actions in a post-match interview.

The abuse received by Lukaku was the latest incident in which a black player has been racially abused on the pitch by Cagliari fans.

In a statement, Cagliari said it intends to "identify, isolate and ban those ignorant individuals whose shameful actions and behaviours are completely against those values that Cagliari Calcio strongly promotes in all their initiatives".

Last season Everton's Moise Kean suffered similar abuse when playing against Cagliari for Juventus.

Serie A decided not to sanction Cagliari for their fans' racism - despite admitting their actions were "reprehensible".

The previous year Cagliari fans were called out after abusing another Juventus player, Blaise Matuidi - but Italian football chiefs did not take any action.

In 2017, Pescara midfielder Sulley Muntari walked off the pitch after being racially abused by Cagliari fans - but was subsequently banned by football authorities for his protest. *(Source: BBC)*

## Euros resume with a reshuffled all-star cast

Euro 2020 qualifying resumes on Thursday with several of the biggest teams such as world champions France sporting a changed look for the new season, in some cases not by choice.

Less than a month into the new European season, France have been particularly hard hit by injuries ahead of home matches against Albania on Saturday and Andorra next Tuesday in Group H.

They will be without four members of their 2018 World Cup-winning squad -- Paul Pogba, N'Golo Kante, Kylian Mbappe and Ousmane Dembele -- as well as emerging stars Aymeric Laporte and Tanguy Ndombele.

Coach Didier Deschamps blamed football's "crazy schedules", saying he always expects to lose players, but this was exceptional.

"At one time it is one of them, at another time it is another," Deschamps said, before adding: "Now I'm not hiding from you that I have a lot of them at the same time and I could have done without that."

While Group H is one of the tightest, with France, Turkey and Iceland level at the top in the pursuit of one of two qualifying berths, Deschamps faces Albania and then Andorra at home. The real test will come in October when France travel to Iceland and then host Turkey, who beat Les Bleus 2-0 in Konya in June.

The heavyweight clash in this batch of games pits Germany against the Netherlands in Hamburg on Friday in Group C.

It will be the third meeting of the old rivals in less than a year. The Dutch thrashed the Germans 3-0 in the Nations League



in Amsterdam last October, with Virgil van Dijk scoring once. In Schalke in November, the Liverpool defender's 90th minute equalizer put the Dutch through to the finals of that competition in Portugal.

Back in Amsterdam in March, Germany won a Euro qualifying match 3-2, with a 90th minute goal.

This time Germany will be without Leroy Sane, who scored in the last two encounters.

"There's a space free in attack now because of Leroy Sane's unfortunate injury," said Timo Werner, a scorer against the Dutch last November.

The 1.93 meter (6ft 3ins) Van Dijk, recently voted European male player of the year, looms large.

"If I stand next to him, it gets dark pretty quickly," said Werner, who is 1.80m.

Victory would put Germany, who have won all three of their games, nine points clear of the Dutch. But there is another perfect team in the group. Surprising Northern Ireland, who have won all four of their games, host Germany in Belfast on Monday.

Most teams will pass the halfway point in their schedules over the next week. Poland, Belgium, Italy and Spain, all in six-nation groups, are also perfect after four matches. England, in a five-team group, have won the two games they have played. For Spain, the change is at coach, with Roberto Moreno, a career assistant, confirmed as head coach. He took over on an interim basis when Luis Enrique quit in March because his daughter Xana was ill. She died, aged nine, last week.

Spain, another team to have won all four games, take on Romania in Bucharest in Group F on Thursday. Moreno said he was worried his players "might think we are superior."

England also have a perfect record after four games and are at home to Bulgaria on Saturday and minnows Kosovo on Tuesday with coach Gareth Southgate focused on building squad depth.

"We have got a depth of talent now because we have approached it slightly differently to look at younger players," said Southgate, after adding youngsters James Maddison, Mason Mount and Aaron Wan-Bissaka to his squad.

"We can't stand still and there are young players coming through," Southgate said. "We need to start integrating them."

Southgate's plans hit an injury bump on Tuesday when Manchester United defender Wan-Bissaka had to drop out. *(Source: AFP)*



# Iran U23 football team squad announced for Thailand 2020

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Farhad Majidi has named his 22-man team for the 2020 AFC U23 Championship Thailand.

The Iranian team will travel to Tashkent to play two friendly matches with Uzbekistan as part of preparation for Thailand 2020.

The Persians will face Uzbekistan on Sept. 6 at the Metallurg Stadium in Olmaliq in their first match.

Iran will also play Uzbekistan three days later at the Pakhtakor Central Stadium in Tashkent.

The 2020 AFC U23 Championship will be held in Thailand from Jan. 8 to 26.

The top three teams qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in July, although should Japan emerge as one of them, the fourth-placed side will advance.

Iran, a powerhouse of the Asian football, have not been in the Olympics since the 1976 games in Munich.

## ■ The Qualifiers

Group Winners - Group A: Qatar; Group B: Bahrain; Group C: Iraq; Group D: UAE; Group E: Jordan; Group F: Uzbekistan; Group G: DPR Korea; Group H: Korea Republic; Group I: Japan; Group J: China PR; Group K: Vietnam Four Best Second-Placed Teams: Australia, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia Host: Thailand

## ■ Squad:

Nima Mirzazad (Nassaji), Mehdi Ghaedi, Mohammad Bolboli, Aref Gholami (Esteghlal), Meraj Esmaeili (Zob Ahan), Mohammad Khoram Alhosseini (Machine Sazi), Omid Noorafkan, Mohammad Mohebbi (Sepahan), Mohammad Khodabandelu (Paykan), Amir Mehdi Janmaleki, Mehdi Nourollahi, Taha Shariati, Abolfazl Jalali, Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh (Saipa), Reza Jabireh (Sanat Naft), Mohammadmehdi Mehdikhani (Varazdin), Mohammad Aghajanjpour, Sina Zamehran (Padi-deh), Mohammadreza Azadi, Abolfazl Razzaghpour (Tractor) and Amir Roostaei (Persepolis)



## Tokyo 2020: International Paralympic ticket sales to begin

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), together with its Games' Global Authorized Ticket Reseller CoSport, have announced that international tickets and packages for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will be available on CoSport.com from Wednesday 2 October. People can now register their interest on CoSport's dedicated Paralympic page.

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are set to be the biggest and best yet with around 4,400 Para athletes from more than 160 countries taking part in 22 sports.

The Opening Ceremony on 25 August 2020 at the stunning and newly built Olympic Stadium will kick off 12 days of outstanding sport which will feature 540 medal events.

In addition to the hugely popular sports of athletics, swimming and wheelchair basketball, the sports of badminton and taekwondo will feature in the Paralympics for the first time.

From the world's greatest Para athletes to Tokyo's state-of-the-art technology to Japan's famous hospitality, the Games are set to captivate the world through to 6 September 2020.

"CoSport invites fans of sport, Tokyo and the Paralympic Movement to be part of the extraordinary with tickets to one of the greatest competitions in the world," said CoSport President Robert F. Long.



"This includes Hotel & Ticket Packages which simplify attending the Games so fans can make the most of their experience."

"As any Paralympian or sports fan can tell you, there are few opportunities more awe-inspiring or exhilarating than attending the Paralympic Games," said Alexis Schaefer, the IPC's Commercial, Broadcasting and Partnership Director. "With less than one year to go, Tokyo 2020 is on course to deliver the greatest Paralympic Games yet and we are delighted to invite international sport fans to enjoy this once-in-lifetime experience with CoSport."

"Paralympic tickets for Japanese residents went on sale on 22 August and there has been an un-

precedented demand to secure seats. We expect there to be similar interest from international spectators when tickets go on sale with CoSport from 2 October."

Since the first Games in Rome, Italy, in 1960, the Paralympics have grown into the world's number one sport event for driving social inclusion. Around 2.1 million spectators attended the Rio 2016 Paralympics, an event that inspired positive social change. Government statistics show that since 2009 when Rio won the right to stage the Games, there has been a 49 per cent increase in the hiring of persons with disabilities in Brazil.

Following London 2012, one in three British people changed their attitudes towards disability and an extra million persons with disabilities have secured employment.

As Tokyo gears up to become the first city to stage the Paralympic Games for a second time, it is anticipated next year's event will dramatically transform inclusiveness for Japanese society.

The Paralympic and Olympic Experience Experts, CoSport has spent the past two decades bringing fans to the Paralympic and Olympic Games, preparing since 2015 in Tokyo.

(Source: Paralympic)

## Qatar 2022 Official Emblem revealed



The Official Emblem of the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup was unveiled on Tuesday as FIFA and host country Qatar reached another major milestone on the road to the world's greatest football showpiece.

The official unveiling took place in Qatar's capital, Doha, at 20:22 local time, with thousands of spectators witnessing the synchronized projection of the emblem onto a number of the country's most iconic buildings, including Burj Doha, Katara Cultural Village Amphitheatre, Ministry of Interior, Souq Waqif and Msheireb and Al Zubarah Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

A number of major cities around the world also celebrated the milestone, with images of the emblem seen on renowned locations and outdoor billboards in prominent public spaces. Some of the world's best-known footballers and FIFA World Cup legends also took to social media to support the launch and share the emblem with their millions of fans online.

The emblem's design embodies the vision of an event that connects and engages the entire world, while also featuring striking elements of local and regional Arab culture and allusions to the beautiful game.

The swooping curves of the emblem represent the undulations of desert dunes and the unbroken loop depicts both the number eight – a reminder of the eight astonishing stadiums that will host matches – and the infinity symbol, reflecting the interconnected nature of the event.

Besides echoing the shape of the iconic FIFA World Cup Trophy, the emblem's central form takes inspiration from a traditional woollen shawl. During winter months, shawls are worn around the world and in the Arab and Persian Gulf region in particular by a variety of people and in various styles.

The intricate embroidered detail that often adorns shawls in the Arab world is featured and takes inspiration from various cultures across Asia, celebrating the Continent's second hosting of a FIFA World Cup tournament and Qatar's diverse population. The regionally inspired winter garment also alludes to the tournament's start dates and the fact that it will be the first FIFA World Cup to be played in November and December.

The new typeface created to accompany the emblem reimagines traditional Arabic calligraphy in a new, contemporary font, taking inspiration from the region and Asia, and fusing tradition with modernity.

The emblem is just one example of the bold, modern tournament designs that will be revealed in the run-up to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The striking Al Janoub Stadium – modelled after the traditional dhow boat used in the region and the second venue to be ready – hosted its first match in May this year and demonstrates the host country's grand vision to create iconic designs.

(Sources: FIFA.com, AFP)

## Epic openers dominate second round of Asian Qualifiers

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
CHINA PR	AUSTRALIA	IR IRAN	SAUDI ARABIA
SYRIA	JORDAN	IRAQ	UZBEKISTAN
PHILIPPINES	CHINESE TAIPEI	BAHRAIN	PALESTINE
MALDIVES	KUWAIT	HONG KONG	YEMEN
GUAM	NEPAL	CAMBODIA	SINGAPORE
GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
BANGLADESH	JAPAN	UAE	KOREA REP.
OMAN	KYRGYZ REP.	VIETNAM	LEBANON
INDIA	TAJIKISTAN	THAILAND	DPR KOREA
AFGHANISTAN	MYANMAR	MALAYSIA	TURKMENISTAN
QATAR	MONGOLIA	INDONESIA	SRI LANKA

Kuala Lumpur: The attention of world football will be on the Asian Qualifiers on Thursday when the Continent's top sides aim to gain the early momentum in their FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 second round qualifying campaigns.

Qatar, the FIFA World Cup 2022 host and AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 defending champions, will face their first test against Afghanistan who will be eager to create their own fairy-tale in the first showdown between the two sides for more than three decades at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha.

Kicking off the action in Group A are UAE 2019 debutants Philippines, who will be banking on home advantage when they face-off against a determined Syria side looking to rebound from their early exit in the UAE in a classic opening contest at the Pana-ad Park and Football Stadium in Bacolod City.

Another intriguing encounter awaits in Group B as Kuwait host a Nepal side, who return to this stage of the qualifiers after more than eight years, at the Stadium of Kuwait SC in the country's capital.

Group C also promises a thrilling opener between two West Asian rivals as Bahrain host Iraq. The home side will be inspired by their narrow 1-0 victory over the Iraqis in the WAFF Championship final last month,

but the Lions of Mesopotamia have proven their mettle against some of Asia's best, setting up a scintillating battle in Manama.

In Group D, Hector Cuper's Uzbekistan will be on a mission to replicate their last qualification campaign which saw them sail into the final stages, as they travel to Palestine, who will be just as eager to build on their best-ever AFC Asian Cup performance in front of their home fans.

India will look to new head coach, Igor Stimac, to guide them to their first victory in five meetings with Group E opponents, Oman, in an intense face-off at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati.

Kyrgyz Republic face a tricky trip to Central Zone rivals Tajikistan in what is expected to be an exciting Group F clash while Mongolia aim to continue their historic run when they host Myanmar in Ulaanbaatar.

ASEAN rivalry is the focus in Group G when UAE 2019 surprise packages, Vietnam, travel to Thailand while Indonesia and Malaysia face-off in what promises to be an exhilarating atmosphere at a sold-out Gelora Bung Karno Stadium.

Group H will see DPR Korea revisit their UAE 2019 group rivals, Lebanon, at the Kim II Sung Stadium in Pyongyang as Sri Lanka go up against Turkmenistan at the Colombo Race Course Ground.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran suffer third loss at 2019 FIBA World Cup

**S P O R T S** TEHRAN — Iran national basketball team lost to Spain 73-65 at the 2019 FIBA World Cup on Wednesday.

Marc Gasol produced 16 points and 6 rebounds to lead the winners.

Mohammad Jamshidi tossed in 15 points for Iran as they fell at 0-3 record in Group C.



Iran will meet the Philippines and Tunisia in the classification stage.

The matches will start on Friday.

The tournament takes place in China and features 32 teams from around the globe.

Spain advanced to the next stage with three consecutive wins joined by Puerto Rico with two wins and one loss.

## Iranian karate athletes to participate at Karate 1 - Premier League Tokyo

**TASNIM** — Iranian karate athletes arrived in Tokyo, Japan on Tuesday to participate at the 2019 Karate 1-Premier League Tokyo. Sara Bahmanyar, Taravat Khaksar, Rozita Alipour, Shima Ale Sadi, Hamideh Abbasali and Fatemeh Sadeghi will represent Iran in the women's division.

The men's team consists of Bahman Asgari, Majid Hassannia, Zabihollah Poorshab, Ali Asghar Asiabari, Mehdi Khodabakhshi, Mehdi Ghararizadeh, Amir Reza Mirzaei, Sajjad Ganjzadeh, Amir Mehdizadeh, Abolfazl Shahrjerdi, Saleh Abazari and Ali Karimi. With less than one year to Karate's Olympic debut in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the capital of Japan hosts one of the biggest events of the year from September 6 to 8.

Over 600 competitors from no less than 79 countries have confirmed their participation in the event. While karatekas strive to win the points to earn the qualification for Tokyo 2020, the best athletes of the discipline will have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Olympic Karate next weekend.

## Iran come third at 2019 World Kurash C'ships

**MNA** — Iranian fighters added two silvers to the team's tally to finish third at 2019 World Senior Championships in South Korea.

On Wednesday, the third day of the event, Hamed Rashidi settled for the silver of men's -100kg with a defeat against his Uzbek rival in the final bout. Rashidi had overpowered fighters from Uzbekistan and South Korea in the path to final.

In +100kg, Jafar Pahlavani earned the fourth silver of Iran with again another loss in the final against Uzbek practitioners. He had defeated representatives of Vietnam and Thailand before reaching the final.

On Tuesday, Iran won two silver medals by Elyas Ali Akbari and Omid Tiztak.

Uzbekistan claimed the event's title, and Japan finished runner-up while Iran stood third with four silvers.

The 12th edition of World Kurash Senior Championships kicked off in South Korea's Chungju on Monday with 184 practitioners from 42 different countries in attendance. The event is also part of the 2019 Martial Arts Masterships which is underway in the South Korean city.

## No security threat for Iran football team in Hong Kong: official

**FNA** — Homeyra Asadi, head of the International Affairs Department of Iran Football Federation, says there is no security threat for Team Melli for holding match in Hong Kong.

Iran had previously requested to move its September 10 soccer World Cup qualifying match in Hong Kong to a neutral venue for the anti-government protests that have sometimes paralyzed the city and delayed flights at the airport.

"We have been in contact with FIFA and they told us there will be no problem for Iran since they will monitor everything. I don't know why the others address the issue. According to our job, we have communicated with FIFA and asked them Team Melli play with Hong Kong without any problem," Asadi told Fars news agency.

"FIFA has answered us and said their security agents will take anything into consideration. Team Melli will travel to Hong Kong after obtaining visa to play the East Asian team without any problem," she added.

## Iran's Ganjkanlou wins silver at Tour of Xingtai

**TASNIM** — Mohammad Ganjkanlou from Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan claimed a silver medal at Tour of Xingtai on Wednesday.

Roy Eefting (Memil-CCN Pro Cycling) of the Netherlands won the third and final stage of the Xingtai Tour with a time of 3:53:55.

The bronze medal went to Malaysian Mohd Zamri Saleh (Terengganu Cycling Team).

Hossein Nateghi also from Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan finished in fourth place. The Tour of Xingtai is an annual professional road bicycle racing stage race held in China since 2017. The race is part of the UCI Asia Tour and is classified by the International Cycling Union (UCI) as a 2.2 category race.



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The people are the children of this old world,  
so no one should be blamed for his attachment  
to his mother.

Imam Ali (AS)

## “Call Me Ziba” published in Armenian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Children’s book writer Farhad d e s k Hassanzadeh’s novel “Call Me Ziba” has recently been published in Armenian.

Published by the Edit Print Publishing House in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, the book has been translated into Armenian by Georg Asaturian, the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), which is the publisher of the original book, announced on Wednesday.



The front cover of the Persian version of “Call Me Ziba” by Farhad Hassanzadeh.

“Call Me Ziba” is about Ziba, a young girl who wants to help her father escape from a mental hospital to celebrate her birthday together.

The book has previously been published in English, Arabic and Turkish.

The author was added to the Honor List of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in 2018. He received the honor for his book “Call Me Ziba”.

Hassanzadeh, the writer of children’s books such as “The Backyard” and “Watermelon with Love”, was selected as one of Iran’s nominees for the 2019 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Hassanzadeh has authored over 80 books, including “The 7th Bench by the Lake” and “Bambak’s Scorpions”.

## Leader’s discourses on resistance economy published in “The Promising Horizon”

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A collection of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei’s spoken discourses on resistance economy has recently been published in a book named “The Promising Horizon”.

Published by Soroush Publications, the book has been compiled by Nasser Abedi, the publisher has announced in a press release published on Wednesday.

The book includes 10 chapters, the first four defines resistance economy and the reasons behind the policy.

The other chapters describe the duties of the private and public sectors in implementing the resistance economy policies.

The last chapter also presents the expectations behind the resistance economy and the hopes emerging from this policy.

The notion of resistance economy was introduced by the Leader in 2013 to refer to an economy based on higher production and self-sufficiency, greater investment from oil incomes, financial reform, greater transparency and “knowledge-based” industries.

## “Blessed” Julie Andrews gets lifetime achievement award at Venice

**VENICE, Italy (Reuters)** - Julie Andrews, the star of much-loved movies “Mary Poppins” and “The Sound of Music”, said on Monday she was “blessed” to have had a long, illustrious cinema career as she was awarded a lifetime achievement award at the Venice Film Festival.

The 83-year-old, who won an Oscar in 1965 for playing the strict but kind-hearted nanny Mary Poppins, held up and kissed the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement award to an applauding audience.

“I consider myself so blessed to have spent a large part of my professional life in the cinema arts,” she said.

“I still marvel at the fact that I was the lucky girl who was asked to play those wonderful roles.”

Andrews began her career as a child actress on the London West End before heading to Broadway.

“Mary Poppins” turned her into an international star, and she has gone on to feature in movies such as “Victor/Victoria” and “The Princess Diaries”, and most recently lent her voice to 2018 blockbuster “Aquaman”.

# Italian saxophonist Francesco Cafiso eager to share his love of jazz with Iranian audience

1 → “Every award is important to me, because it tells me that I am doing a great job,” he noted.

During his stay in Tehran, Cafiso also joined several Iranian musicians at the Pars Music Institute in Tehran, performing a concert that blended Persian music with jazz.

Cafiso described the performances as an interesting experience. “I feel contented with this kind of combination. It seems like two different languages and two different cultures meet and try to dialogue. When you become acquainted with other cultures you become a better person,” he stated.

“In this concert, although we come from two different countries with different musical backgrounds and perceptions, we are a team and this makes it a pleasant adventure,” he added.

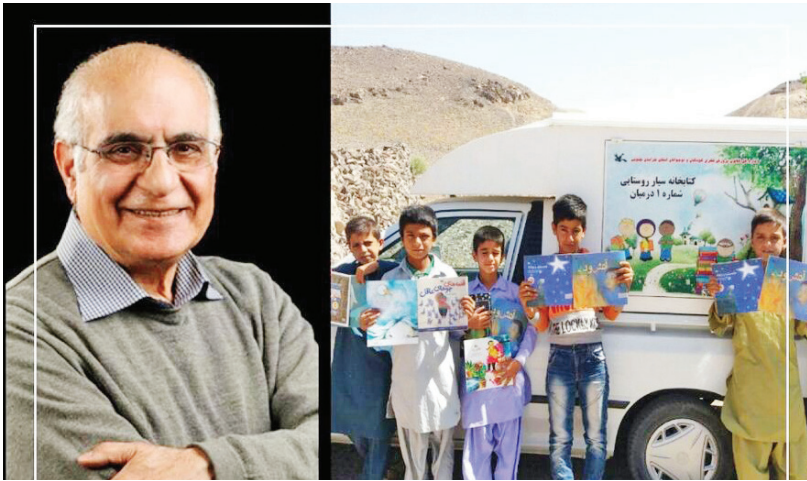
Planning on a concert tour around Iran for his next visit, Cafiso said: “When I came here for the first time I met a lot of people, I made a lot of friends and I fell in love with the culture, the place and Iranian people and food, so for the second time, I decided to stay longer and visit some Iranian cities,” he said.

“When I get back to Italy, I definitely will recommend to my friends that they visit Iran. They should know this culture and place, and they should to see it in person,” he concluded.



Italian jazz saxophonist Francesco Cafiso in an undated photo.

## Moradi Kermani, IIDCYA bookmobiles join Iran’s nominees for ALMA 2020



A combination photo shows writer Hushang Moradi Kermani and children with an IIDCYA bookmobile.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s d e s k Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) nominated renowned Iranian children’s book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani and its bookmobiles for the 2020 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) on Wednesday.

This is the third time Moradi Kermani and IIDCYA’s bookmobile project for promoting reading among children and young people in Iran’s remote villages are being nominated for the prestigious international honor, which is granted by the Swedish government every year.

The 75-year-old Moradi Kermani is mostly known as a children’s writer, but his works also appeal to adults.

He is the author of numerous bestsellers such as “You’re No Stranger Here”, “The Water Urn” and “A Sweet Jam”. Most of his works have been translated into English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, Armenian,

Turkish and several other languages.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award amounts to SEK 5 million (about €570,000), making it the world’s largest award for children’s and young adults’ literature.

The award was established in 2002 by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs to commemorate writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children’s and youths’ literature from around the world. The list of candidates will be presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2019.

Iran’s nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award are selected every year by the IIDCYA, the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth, and the Children’s Book Council of Iran.

Earlier on Monday, the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth nominated the celebrated writer Mohammadreza Shams and children’s literature expert Mehdi Hajvani for the 2020 ALMA.



A scene from Iranian director Reza Farahmand’s documentary “Copper Notes of a Dream”.

## Filmmaker Yonfan sends Hong Kong a love letter in “No. 7 Cherry Lane”

**VENICE, Italy (Reuters)** — Chinese filmmaker Yonfan says his animation “No. 7 Cherry Lane” is his love letter to Hong Kong, in which he tells a tale of romance set in the late 1960s.

Seven years in the making, the film follows Ziming, an English literature student at Hong Kong University, as he begins to tutor beautiful student Meiling.

He develops feelings for her mother, Mrs Yu, originally from Taiwan, taking her to see films and their romance develops through movies seen on the big screen.

Described as a love letter to Hong Kong in production notes, the narrated hand-

drawn 2-D animation feature is set against a backdrop of the 1967 Communist-led riots in Hong Kong.

“No. 7 Cherry Lane”, Yonfan’s first animation and his first movie since 2009’s “Prince of Tears”, is one of 21 films competing for the Golden Lion prize at the Venice Film Festival, where it premiered on Monday.

“This film is about love, and it is not about the exploitation of sensuality to attract the box office,” Yonfan told a news conference, speaking in English.

As a child, Yonfan, who was born in China’s central Hubei province, moved

## Busan film festival to premiere Mahmudi brothers’ “7.5”



A poster for “7.5” by Afghan brothers Jamshid and Navid Mahmudi.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — d e s k T e h r a n - b a s e d Afghan brothers Jamshid and Navid Mahmudi’s latest drama “7.5”, a co-production between Afghanistan and Iran, will have its premiere at the 24th edition of the Busan International Film Festival in South Korea, a public relations team for the movie announced on Wednesday.

The film tells the story of seven Afghan and Iranian girls in seven episodes. All the girls are having their own wedding ceremony on the same Friday night, while each are dealing with their own problems.

All the Mahmudi brothers’ previous films “A Few Cubic Meters of Love”, “Parting” and “Rona, Azim’s Mother” competed in previous editions of the Busan International Film Festival.

“Rona, Azim’s Mother” won the Kim Ji-seok Award at the 23rd edition of the festival in 2018, while “Parting” received

the jury’s special mention in the New Currents section in 2016.

Starring Iranian actors Mohsen Tanabandeh and Mojtaba Pirzadeh, “Rona, Azim’s Mother” is about Azim, an Afghan refugee who works as a janitor in Tehran. While helping with his mother and his brother’s family plan to smuggle themselves into Germany, he feels betrayed by his brother when he abandons their mother.

“Parting” tells the story of teenage lovers Nabi and Fereshteh who are separated by her family’s flight from Afghanistan. After years apart, Nabi decides to find Fereshteh and risk the hardships of flight and resettlement in Europe with a hope for a better life.

Both films were Afghanistan’s submission to the Annual Academy Awards in 2016 and 2018, but they did not make the shortlist.

The 24th Busan International Film Festival will be held from October 3 to 12.

## “Copper Notes of a Dream” picked for Camden documentary film festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Reza d e s k Farahmand’s documentary “Copper Notes of a Dream” has been selected for the Harrell Competition of the 15th Camden International Film Festival in the U.S. city. The film is about a ten-year-old Palestinian refugee, Malook, who lives in Jarmuk, a suburb of Damascus in Syria, which is ruined during the war with ISIS.

Malook dreams of becoming a singer. Together with his older sister Ghofran, he is planning to organize a concert with professional musicians.

To earn money for the concert, Malook and some friends pull the copper wires out of the walls of vacant buildings that are riddled with bullets and rockets and write apologies for

their theft on the walls, in hope the people who have fled will understand, if they ever return.

The Harrell Competition lineup also features seven more films, including “The Cave” by Feras Fayyad from Syria, “The Changin’ Times of Ike White” by Daniel Vernon from the U.S. and “Earth” by Nikolaus Geyrhalter from Austria.

“Circus of Books” by Rachel Mason, “Narrowsburg” by Martha Shane and “Watson” by Lesley Chilcott, all from the U.S., and “Ready for War” by Andrew Renzi from Mexico are also competing in this category.

The Camden documentary film festival will be held from September 12 to 15.

fueled by anger over a now-suspended extradition bill that would have allowed people in the city to be sent to mainland China for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

It has evolved into calls for greater democracy under the “one country, two systems” formula, by which Hong Kong has been ruled since 1997, guaranteeing freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland.

Recalling how Hong Kong “was turning upside down” during the 1967 riots, Yonfan said he hoped it “can be back to normal”.