

The Tehran Times offers condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions



**Atmosphere charged with resistance, not dialogue** **3**



**U.S. backs off when faced with resistance** **3**



**“Eleventh Golestan” writer Zarrabzadeh wins Eurasian Literature Award** **16**



See page 2

# Iran begins injecting uranium gas into advanced centrifuges

## Iran, Afghanistan to accelerate electricity co-op: energy min.

**TEHRAN** — Iran and Afghanistan have agreed to accelerate their cooperation in the electricity sector through setting up a joint taskforce, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian told IRNA in an interview on Saturday.

The minister said: “The Afghan president has recommended establishment of this taskforce and we are waiting for it to be set up as soon as possible”.

Referring to the agreement between the two countries on repair of turbines and transformers of Afghanistan, Ardakanian said the related tasks are underway.

Based on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between the two countries on August 18, Iran is going to repair damaged electric transformers and turbines of power plants in Afghanistan. **→5**

## Iranian ship unloads oil at Syrian port: report

**TEHRAN** — Sources have said that Iranian tanker Adrian Darya 1 has unloaded its oil at a port in Syria, Tasnim quoted the Middle East Eye as reporting on Saturday.

Adrian Darya 1 had been at the center of a dispute between Tehran and certain Western countries. It was photographed by satellite off the Syrian port of Tartus, a U.S. space technology company said on Friday, according to the Guardian.

Maxar Technologies Inc said the image showed the tanker Adrian Darya 1 very close to Tartus on September 6. The ship appeared to have turned off its transponder in the Mediterranean west of Syria, ship-tracking data showed. The tanker, which was loaded with Iranian crude oil, sent its last signal giving its position between Cyprus and Syria sailing north last Monday afternoon. **→2**

## Hamas demands Israel be included in world’s terrorism list

**TEHRAN** — The Hamas movement hailed the decision of a European court to cancel the listing of Hamas and its armed wing al-Qassam Brigades from the world’s list of terrorism.

Hazem Qassem, Hamas spokesman in Gaza told Xinhua that the decision to remove Hamas and its armed wing from the world’s terrorist list

“is positive and a right step in the right direction.”

“We hope that this decision will lead to completely remove the name of the movement from any unjust list,” said Qassem, adding that “resisting the Israeli occupation is legal in accordance with the international conventions and laws.” **→13**



### PERSPECTIVE

**Hanif Ghaffari**

Head of the Tehran Times Politics Desk

## The message of Iran’s seriousness

What is certain is that the United States and the European Troika are now in the shock of diminishing Iran’s commitments to a nuclear deal. Reduction of JCPOA commitments related to research and development will facilitate the enrichment of uranium up to a level of 1,000,000 SWU. Iran has started feeding uranium gas into chains of 20 advanced IR6 centrifuges as well as IR4 centrifuges.

If the European Union does not take real action to comply with its obligations, we will see the next steps taken in the future. At this point, it seems that Iran has made a wise decision. Over the last 16 months, the European troika has not only done anything to revive the nuclear deal or bring any kind of benefit to the Iranian nation, but they have actually backed up US by developing new plans to undermine Iran’s “missile work”, and diminish its “power in the region” as well as its “nuclear technology”.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran’s move to reduce its obligations under the nuclear agreement is completely legal. As stated in clauses 26 and 36 of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), if the other side fails to meet its obligations, Iran is entitled to partially or completely end its commitments as well. So, Iran’s recent decision could be analyzed both on legal and strategic terms.

However, it seems that the strategic aspects of Iran’s decision are even more important than its legal aspects. This decision is strategically important because it stops Washington and European troika to carry out their anti-Iran scheme, a dangerous scheme that they actually started devising when Trump took the office in 2017.

The time has come for the three countries, Germany, England and France, to end their tolerance. In the meantime, the only component that could lead to Iran returning from its recent legal action is the EU’s compliance with its obligations under the nuclear deal with Iran. So far, the European Union has not scored well in this test. It is time for the West to hear the message of Iranian authority and seriousness well.

## Bolton-Pompeo relationship hits new low

**TEHRAN** — Long-simmering tensions between top figures on President Donald Trump’s national security team have devolved into all-out hostility, creating a deep disconnect between staffers on the National Security Council, led by John Bolton, and the rest of the administration, six people familiar with the matter said.

While there’s been friction between Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for months, as CNN first reported in May, things have gotten

worse recently. Bolton and Pompeo rarely speak outside of formal meetings, three of the sources said, including a recent stretch of going weeks without speaking to one another. That has left key coordination efforts between the White House and State Department to underlings.

There’s also a rift between Bolton and Trump’s acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who oversees the West Wing. Mulvaney has clashed with Bolton over ideological differences in recent months and

sought to distance himself from the embattled national security adviser.

Mulvaney has even added a national security expert to his team and made him an assistant to the President, the highest-ranking title in the West Wing. The expert, Rob Blair, joined Mulvaney from the Office of Management and Budget in January, and allows Mulvaney to have a hand in national security without going through Bolton. **→13**

## A unique experience in life: Traveling to Iran during Muharram

By Afshin Majlesi

**TEHRAN** — A unique time for visiting Iran is during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram, which falls from Sept. 1 to 10 this year. That’s because Iranians, who are mostly Shia Muslims, hold special ceremonies during this time. For Shia Muslims, Muharram is a turning point in the history of Islam.

Over the past couple of years, Yazd, Meybod, Isfahan and Kashan were among the cities which hosted the highest numbers of foreign tourists

on the ninth and the tenth days of Muharram (Tasua and Ashura) when the mourning ceremonies reach its climax.

Travelers are welcomed in all places where Muharram rituals are held. Last year, spiritual tourism in Yazd hosted people from France, Germany, Belgium, China, Turkey, Russia, the Netherlands, Brazil, Switzerland, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, the UK, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Romania, Australia and Thailand.

Holidaymakers can witness various ceremonies such as Tazieh, a passion play inspired by historical and religious narrations, and Sineh-Zani (beating the chest). They also converse with locals and religious figures while taking shots of mourners to document the events.

However, you, as a foreigner or a non-Muslim, may not be familiar with such concepts. Here we try to describe some important issues and enumerate some facts in this regard: **→10**

## Hezbollah’s crushing reaction has set a new stage: Sheikh Naim Qassem

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem said all the Israel aggressions are being backed by international support and Hezbollah’s crushing reaction has taken a new phase and failed all international efforts.

‘Hezbollah’s reaction showed that Lebanon is a strong and independent country and the threats of the Israel are also useless,’ he said.

Earlier, the leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement has warned Israel against any future attacks on Lebanon saying that in case of such attack all Israeli forces will be at risk.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in a televised speech on last week, saying that Sunday’s operation by Hezbollah fighters in which an armored Israeli vehicle was hit, was meant

to send the message to Israel that “if you attack, then all your border and forces will be at risk.”

Hezbollah’s Sunday attack came in response to an Israeli air raid last week that killed two of its fighters in Syria, as well as an Israeli drone attack on southern Beirut, which saw the deployed aircraft crashing into the movement’s media offices. **→13**



© IRNA/Marziah Soleimani

## Ashura opera puppet show on stage in Tehran

The Aran Theater Troupe performs the Ashura opera puppet show at Tehran’s Ferdowsi Hall on September 6, 2019.

Directed by Behruz Gharibpur, the opera puppet show is about the battle of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions against the Umayyad dynasty during Ashura, the tenth day of the month of Muharram on the lunar calendar, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) was martyred in Karbala in 680 CE.

Vocalist Mohammad Motamedi along with a choir of 12 singers and the Ghafer nohay group are collaborating with Aran in the opera puppet show, which will remain on stage until September 13.



### ARTICLE

**Ramin Hossein Abadian**

Mehr News Agency journalist

## Saudi war crimes record in Yemen: Massacre in Dhamar

Saudi Arabia has recently committed a new crime in Yemen. The forces of the Saudi regime recently bombed a prison in Dhamar. Following the brutal attack, at least 130 people were killed and thus another war crime was added to Saudi Arabia’s record in Yemen.

The Saudi war crime in Dhamar was followed by Yemeni officials’ reactions. Abdus Salam, the Yemeni negotiating committee chairman, said the crime of Saudi aggressors against a prison in Dhamar conveys an important message to all Yemenis. He said: “The message of this crime is that the blood of all you Yemenis is of no value to the aggressors”. Abdus Salam clarified that the Saudi aggressors started the lunar New Year by attack on the Dhamar detention center and crimes against Yemenis.

Meanwhile, Fabrizio Carboni, the Middle East Director of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), responded to bombing of prison in Dhamar by posting a message on Twitter. He wrote: “Attacking a prison in Dhamar is alarming. We visited this prison regularly. We dispatched a medical team to the scene to provide first aid.”

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, the leader of the Ansar Allah movement, also reacted to the crime. He stated: “We condemn the crime that the U.S.-Saudi Arabia coalition committed in Dhamar. The commission of this crime represents the peak of hatred, moral and human bankruptcy, and frustration of aggressors in fighting with our nation.”

Al-Houthi said the one who sells his own country is wretched. He emphasized that what the aggressors did to prisoners is another evidence to prove that the Saudi-led coalition considers shedding the blood of all Yemenis, even their own devotees, as permissible. **→13**

**Dear readers,**  
The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Saturday, September 14.



## Active resistance grounded U.S. maximum pressure on Iran: Shamkhani

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN – The United States' policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran has been grounded thanks to Iran's active resistance approach, secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said on Saturday.

The maximum pressure policy was based on "unrealistic hypotheses to make Iran's national economy crumble," Shamkhani told a meeting of parliamentarians, the Mehr news agency reported. "This is while the Iranian nation did not cave in to such economic pressure, thanks to their insight," the top security official remarked. "Resistance gains victory once it is accompanied by a policy of constant activity," he pointed out.

He underlined that countering U.S. sanctions has turned into a uniting topic for various political groups in Iran.

## Anti-revolution elements kill Iranian border guard

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN – An Iranian border guard has been killed in clashes with armed anti-revolution elements in country's northwestern Kordestan Province, the IRIB reported on Saturday.



In a statement released on Saturday, Iranian police identified the guard as Majid Shiripaz from the city of Khomein in Markazi Province.

Shiripaz, police said, was killed in a shootout with counter-revolutionary forces at the zero point of the Iran-Iraq border in the town of Marivan.

Another border guard was injured in the battle, the police statement added.

The armed counter-revolutionary elements were trying to illegally enter Iran but had to go back after the border guards

opened fire on them. The militants suffered heavy casualties, according to the statement.

Iranian forces usually engage in clashes with terrorist groups in border regions and most of times manage to thwart their attempts to infiltrate the country and carry out attacks.

## Acting IAEA chief to meet senior Iranian officials on Sunday

**(Press TV)** – The acting chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Cornel Feruta, plans to hold talks with high-level Iranian officials in Tehran on Sunday, an IAEA spokesman says.

"The visit is part of ongoing interactions between the IAEA and Iran," the agency's spokesman said on Friday.

Feruta's visit to Tehran comes before a quarterly meeting of the IAEA's 35-country Board of Governors next week and after the Islamic Republic's announcement of further reduction in its commitments under the 2015 nuclear accord, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), it signed with major world powers.

In a letter to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran will begin unlimited nuclear research and development work from Friday, officially unleashing the third stage of its measured responses to Europe's lack of action in the face of Washington's violation of the nuclear deal.

Zarif's letter came after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that the country will expand its nuclear research and development as of September 6, setting aside the restrictions imposed on the country's research and development (R&D) in the JCPOA.

"We took the first step in reducing our commitments, and gave the P4+1 a two-month deadline. Then we went ahead with the second phase, giving them another two-month deadline. In the four-month period, we held negotiations with the P4+1, including the European Union and the three European countries in particular," Rouhani said.

Iran has rowed back on its nuclear commitments twice in compliance with articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA.

Tehran says its reciprocal measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the Iranian economy from unilateral U.S. sanctions which were imposed last year when President Donald Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal.

European signatories to the JCPOA have so far failed to uphold their commitments. They have expressed vocal support for the deal, but failed to provide meaningful economic incentives as required under the nuclear agreement.

The spokeswoman for the EU foreign policy chief, Maja Kocijancic, told reporters in Brussels on Friday that the United Nations nuclear agency has a "key role... in monitoring and verifying the implementation by Iran of the nuclear commitments" under the JCPOA.

"Our commitment to the nuclear deal depends on full compliance by Iran," she said, noting that the EU based its assessment of that "on the reports done by the International Atomic Energy Agency."

During a meeting of EU foreign ministers in the Finnish capital of Helsinki late last month, Mogherini said the European Union will continue working to preserve the multilateral nuclear deal but will welcome any progress beyond it.

"Again if something else can be built on it [JCPOA], this would be welcomed and accompanied by the European Union," the EU foreign policy chief said.

## Iranian ship unloads oil at Syrian port: report

**1 →** The vessel, formerly named Grace 1, was detained by British Royal Marine commandos off Gibraltar on July 4 as it was suspected to be en route to Syria.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said that intelligence suggested the tanker was heading to Tartus, which is a short distance from its last-known position - 45 nautical miles (83km) off the coast of Lebanon and Syria.

Washington had warned any state against assisting the ship, saying it would consider that a support for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The U.S. Treasury blacklisted the tanker on Friday.

# JCPOA likely to die after Iran's fourth step, MP predicts

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN – The chairman of the Majlis Judicial Committee has said given the European states' incapability to implement their undertakings, the nuclear deal will be annulled once Iran takes its fourth step in modifying its undertakings in two months from now.

"It is obvious from negotiations between the European and Iranian officials over the past few months that they have been unable to take a positive step to convince Iran not to take the third step (in scaling down its nuclear deal undertakings)," Allahyar Malekshahi told FNA in an interview published on Saturday.

He said it was a "logical move" by Iran to take the third step to reduce its commitments as the Europeans failed to launch INSTEX (the Instrument for Supporting Trade Exchanges) to facilitate trade with Iran and help the country sell its oil.

"It seems that if the Europeans fail to implement their undertakings, the fourth step (by Iran) will be the end of the nuclear deal," Malekshahi opined.

Iran started the third step to modify its nuclear deal undertakings on Friday, including injecting gas into IR6 centrifuges.

The measure was adopted after the Islamic Republic's announcement of further reduction in its commitments under the nuclear deal that it signed with the 5+1 countries (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) in July 2015.

In a letter to European Union foreign



policy chief Federica Mogherini on Thursday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran will begin unlimited nuclear research and development work from Friday, officially unleashing the third stage of its measured responses to Europe's lack of action in the face of Washington's violation of the nuclear accord.

Zarif's letter came after President Hassan Rouhani announced on Wednesday that Iran will expand its nuclear research and development as of September 6, setting aside the restrictions imposed on the country's research and development (R&D) in the JCPOA.

## Iran seizes Philippine ship for smuggling fuel

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN – Iranian forces have seized a Philippine tanker in the Persian Gulf and taken its crew into custody on charges of smuggling fuel.

On Saturday, Colonel Hossein Dahaki, the commander of Hormozgan Province coastguard, said his forces had detained 12 Filipino nationals and their towboat, dismantling their smuggling team, IRNA reported.

Nearly 284,000 liters of diesel fuel, worth about 323 billion rials (\$2.8 million), was confiscated as part of the operation, according to the local authority.

The coastguard chief said intelligence work had been done in order to identify the large-scale fuel smuggling ring.

"Smuggling, be it in any field, has destructive consequences on the country's economy and it requires a

firm stance against organized networks smuggling goods, currency and especially fuel," Dahaki stated.

The coastguard official added that the case would be followed up through legal procedures.

Subsidized fuel coupled with devaluation of the Iranian rial as a result of U.S. sanctions over the past year have helped form a lucrative smuggling business across Iran's borders.

Despite massive efforts to counter the illegal trade, the cheap prices of fuel in Iran still encourage traffickers to siphon it out of the country.

Gasoline is currently pumped into cars in Iran at a price of \$0.09 while diesel is sold at even a lower price of \$0.03. The government has considered reducing subsidies on the two types of fuel mainly to curb the illicit trade.



## Iran begins injecting uranium gas into advanced centrifuges

**POLITICAL d e s k** TEHRAN – The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has begun injecting uranium gas into advanced centrifuges, nuclear spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi announced in a press conference on Saturday.

The action falls in line with Tehran's bi-monthly approach to reduce its nuclear commitments in response to the United States' withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, the return of the sanctions, and a failure by the remaining parties, especially Europeans, to shield Iran from sanctions.

The move to partially downscale commitment to the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), began on May 8, exactly one year after the Trump administration abandoned the UN-endorsed agreement.

On that date, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said Tehran's "strategic patience" is over and gave Europeans a 60-day deadline to protect Iran from sanctions or Iran will take the next step.

So far, Iran has taken three steps to reduce its commitments: increasing its stockpile of nuclear fuel beyond the 300 kilograms; refining nuclear fuel from 3.67 percent to 4.5; and the latest one which is injecting uranium gas into IR-6 centrifuges.

As a third step in limiting commitments, Kamalvandi said, the AEOI activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 centrifuges.

Senior Iranian officials, including President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, have stated unequivocally that if the European side fulfills its commitments under the accord Iran will immediately reverse its decision



even without the United States. Kamalvandi also reiterated this point on Saturday.

"We have started lifting limitations on our research and development imposed by the deal ... it will include development of more rapid and advanced centrifuges ... all these steps are reversible if the other side fulfills its promises," Kamalvandi stated, according to Press TV.

President Rouhani announced on Thursday that Iran will remove limits on nuclear research and development (R&D) as Europe failed the second 60-day deadline, which fell on September 6, to fulfill its obligations. However, Rouhani said Iran will continue diplomacy with Europe to save the JCPOA from a total collapse.

"The centrifuge machines, as they are engaged in research and development, will help with increasing the (uranium) stockpile," Kamalvandi added.

"The capacity of these machines is many times more than the previous machines.

This started as of yesterday (Friday)."

Kamalvandi said the International Atomic Energy Agency has been informed about Iran's new nuclear steps which it will continue to monitor.

"Regarding the monitoring and accesses of the Agency... so that everything is clear (Iran's) commitments regarding transparency will be followed as before," he said.

Zarif wrote a letter to European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Thursday informing her of Iran's new step to reduce its nuclear commitments in response to the other side's failure to protect Iran from biting sanctions.

Under the nuclear accord reached between Iran and the 5+1 nations - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany - in July 2015, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

However, Trump called the Obama-era

Tehran says its reciprocal measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the Iranian economy from unilateral U.S. sanctions which were imposed last year when President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal.

Washington withdrew from the internationally-endorsed nuclear deal with Iran on May 8, 2018, reimposed the toughest-ever sanctions against the country and started a plan to zero down Tehran's oil sales.

Under the nuclear agreement, Tehran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of economic and financial sanctions.

Yet, Iran continued compliance with deal, stressing that the remaining signatories to the agreement (specially the Europeans) had to work to offset the negative impacts of the U.S. pullout on Iran 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 produced in the uranium enrichment process in Oman, and one that allowed Iran to swap enriched uranium for raw yellowcake with Russia.

## Iran, Iraq reopen border crossing after 6 years

**(Tasnim)** – The Khosravi border crossing between Iran and Iraq reopened on Friday, more than six years after a terrorist attack led to its closure.

In a ceremony on Friday, Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli and his Iraqi counterpart Yassin Al Yasiri reopened the Khosravi border crossing.

The border crossing had been closed in 2013 in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack on Shiite pilgrims.

Khosravi border crossing allows the Iranian pilgrims to take the shortest route from the common border to Iraq's city of Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (PBUH) is located.

The interior ministers of Iran and Iraq had signed

an agreement to reopen the border crossing and remove visa restrictions for Iranian Arbaeen pilgrims in August.

Iran and Iraq have also agreed to raise the level of services and facilities for the pilgrims and enhance border security during the Arbaeen season, which will culminate in a large gathering in Karbala on October 19.

Arbaeen, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shiite Imam.

Each year, a huge crowd of Shiites flock to Karbala to perform mourning rites in commemoration of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions.





# U.S. backs off when faced with resistance: Army chief

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — Chief of the Iranian Army Abolrahim Mousavi says the United States pushes forward in the face of submission and backs off when faced with resistance.

“One of the characteristics of American rulers is that they are like an animal that would chase after you if you run away and would run away if you attack them,” Fars on Saturday quoted Major General Mousavi as saying.

He said the active resistance of Iran has led to the failure of Washington’s “maximum pressure” policy against the Iranian nation.

“Today, the U.S. is suffering from strategic frustration and confusion because of its consecutive failures in the region,” he added.

The anti-dialogue remarks come amid unresolved tensions between Iran and the United States, with Washington making frequent calls for negotiations while at the same time increasing pressure on



Tehran through sanctions.

A day earlier, Mousavi’s counterpart in the IRGC, Major General Hossein Salami, warned against the U.S. plot for direct talks with Iran, stressing that the Islamic Republic won’t fall into such trap.

He said the U.S. government seeks to regain its lost honor through talks with the Iranian officials.

Highlighting Iran’s awareness of the “enemy’s dreams”, the general emphasized that none of the Iranians would enter talks with the U.S., because everybody knows that negotiation is part of a game that helps the enemy achieve its objectives.

Washington reimposed its anti-Iran sanctions after it unilaterally walked away from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known as the Iran nuclear deal, in May 2018, after its illegitimate demands to change the text of the JCPOA was defied by the international community, including the other signatories to the deal – Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany.

## Zarif warned over Rouhani’s pro-talk remarks: MP

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has firmly warned Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif over President Hassan Rouhani’s conciliatory approach toward the U.S., the committee chairman has said.

“In the committee’s meeting with the foreign minister, we issued a firm warning over Rouhani’s remarks and also serious objections to the president’s stances were raised,” Mojtaba Zonnour was quoted as saying by Mehr on Saturday.

On August 26, Rouhani expressed readiness to negotiate with “anyone” if that would help resolve Iran’s problems.

“If I knew that going to a meeting and visiting a person would help my country’s development and resolve the problems of the people, I would not miss it,” he said. “Even if the odds of success are not 90% but are 20% or 10%, we must move ahead with it. We should not miss opportunities.”

A day later, however, Rouhani ruled out the possibility of talks with Washington, saying the United States must lift all its cruel sanctions against Iran and begin respecting the nation’s rights as a “first step” towards dialogue.

“We seek to resolve issues and problems in a rational way

but we are not after photo ops. For anyone wanting to take a picture with Hassan Rouhani, this is not possible” unless that party chooses to set aside all the oppressive sanctions and respect the Iranian nation’s rights, the president said.

Zonnour said Rouhani’s remarks would only lead to economic instability and unsteadiness. “Mr. Rouhani made a grave mistake.”

“The establishment’s policy is that there’s no possibility of dialogue with the U.S. at any level,” he said. “When the president speaks like that, it will have echoes at international level, while Mr. Rouhani is not the decision-maker in this regard.”

The issue of holding “talks with the U.S. is related the establishment’s macro-policies and Mr. Rouhani is in no position to recognize whether this should happen or not,” the top MP added.

The U.S., under Donald Trump, has occasionally shown its willingness to hold talks with Tehran, while abandoning the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran and reimposing sanctions that the agreement had rescinded.

The idea of talks with Trump’s America has been firmly



rejected by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in critical issues.

Back in June, Ayatollah Khamenei categorically rejected the possibility of talks between Iran and the U.S., saying the U.S. president is not worthy of having a dialogue with.

## MPs propose entry ban on reporters from pro-sanctions states

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A group of lawmakers have put forward a motion that would ban entry of reporters from countries advocating Washington’s anti-Iran sanctions.

Over 160 MPs have signed the motion, which deplored the hostile measures by a series of foreign press agencies against Iran’s national interests, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

The lawmakers also called for action against the followers of American sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

They said the government should make the necessary arrangements to refuse reporters of the media outlets supporting the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

In April, Iranian lawmakers ratified two



clauses of a comprehensive plan to deal with the U.S. hostile policies.

One of the bills entails legal action

against the U.S. move to blacklist the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and requires the government to act in line with the measures passed by the Supreme National Security Council to “counter the terrorist activities of the American forces who threaten the Islamic Republic of Iran’s interests.”

The other motion stipulated that “the Islamic Republic of Iran’s administration and the armed forces are duty bound to take the necessary and wise measures in due time in such a way that the American forces could not employ any power or equipment against the Islamic Republic of Iran’s interests.”

In early April, the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee decided

to table 14 motions as part of a strategy to counter the U.S. hostile measures.

According to the motions, the administration, ministries, and executive organizations are required to carry out policies to deal with, foil, and publicize the United States’ belligerent measures.

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

## Bavar-373 powerful enough to confront all threats: general

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Deputy Commander of Iran’s Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base Mohammad Yousefi Khoshqalb has underlined the high capabilities of the home-made Bavar-373 missile system, saying the missile system acts like a strong shield against all aerial threats.

“Bavar-373 is a tough rival for this class of systems and stands even far above them; it has been a very wide leap in defensive deterrence power against enemy threats,” General Khoshqalb said on Saturday.

“It is a system which can act against all types of threats,” he added.

General Khoshqalb explained that Bavar-373 is capable of confronting threats in high-altitude, distant areas, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.

Iran has made good progress in building different home-made air defense systems.

The country last month unveiled the home-made version of the sophisticated Russian S-300 missile defense system, dubbed Bavar-373 (Belief), with the capability to target ballistic missiles.

Bavar-373 was unveiled in a ceremony participated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami.

“Bavar 373 is the most important indigenized missile defense system whose design and manufacturing started a few years ago and can engage multiple targets in high altitudes,” General Hatami said, addressing the ceremony.

He added that the Iranian defense industry experts have gone through the reverse engineering phase and designed and manufactured the parts relying on domestic capacities.

The anti-air defense system can detect 60 targets, identify 13 targets and engage 6 targets.

The system is much more powerful than the Russian S-300 and some of its features could be compared with S-400.

In relevant remarks earlier this month, Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force General Mehdi Saqafifar announced the country’s plans to manufacture more advanced versions of the Bavar-373 to cover longer ranges.

“Bavar-373 has a deadly range of 200km and given our country’s vastness, certainly our next steps have been taken towards building systems with longer ranges to destroy the threats,” General Saqafifar said.

He added that studies for the construction of higher-range defense shields have started and are in the final stages, adding that the country aims to make newer versions of Bavar-373 too.



General Saqafifar underlined that Iran paved a 10-year-long path to construct Bavar-373, while the developed countries spent 70 years to build such a missile system.

## Envoy terms Tehran-Caracas ties ‘unbreakable’

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Venezuelan envoy to Tehran Carlos Antonio Alcalá Cordones described as unbreakable relations between Tehran and Caracas, saying the United States’ aggressive measures against Iran and Venezuela will not be able to hamper Tehran-Caracas unity.

Speaking to IRNA, Cordones stressed the fact that the U.S. unilateral acts which are aimed at stopping progress in Iran-Venezuela relations and are targeting people’s welfare and life made governments and nations more united against imperialism.

Reminding the fact that Iran and Venezuela are two important energy hubs in the world and also members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said despite the fact that both countries are under the most serious economic, financial and trade pressures



imposed by the U.S., Iran and Venezuela have been able to stand against the U.S. maximum pressures.

Elaborating on Iran-Venezuela relations,

Cordones said the diplomatic and trade ties between two countries is significantly developing.

Both countries enjoy close cooperation

in energy, defense and trade fields.

Referring to exchange of high-ranking delegations between Iran and Venezuela, he said the technical commission meeting is to be held soon.

For much of the interview, the Venezuelan diplomat described Iran as a unified and powerful country in all fields.

Success, stability and endurance of Iran over past four decades relies on its integrated existence which is rooted in Iranian Islamic culture and a wise leader, he noted.

He expressed certainty that Iranians will pass obstacles and progress.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Cordones referred to resuming Tehran-Caracas direct flight through Conviasa and Mahan airlines as a step for reinforcing tourism ties between two countries.

## Judiciary chief: Atmosphere charged with resistance, not dialogue

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The current atmosphere in Iran is charged with, not dialogue, but resistance, Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday.

“The current atmosphere of the country is an atmosphere of resistance against the enemy,” Raisi said, according to Mehr. “Such atmosphere has been created due to the tactfulness and management of the Leader.”



Back in June, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said negotiations with Washington cannot help solve any problems.

He also dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump as a person not worthy of a response or a message.

The Leader said Iran has “no trust” in the United States and will not at all “repeat the bitter experience” it gained from the negotiations that led to the conclusion of a 2015 nuclear deal, which Washington later ditched.

Elsewhere in his Saturday remarks, Raisi said the enemy’s attempts to manipulate the Iranian society into believing that there is rampant corruption in the country backfired and “today, the atmosphere of the country, against the enemy’s wishes, is an atmosphere of fighting corruption.”

Raisi’s Judiciary has in recent months launched a fresh attempt to combat corruption, which has so far seen the arrest of many individuals, including those working in the Judiciary.

The top judge’s anti-corruption campaign has been lauded by lawmakers, a hundred of whom released a statement last month to thank him for his efforts.

## MP says U.S. with 98 reactors opposes Iran nuclear program

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — A member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said on Friday that while the U.S. owns 98 nuclear reactors, it is the forerunner in objecting Iran’s nuclear program with only one reactor.

Pointing to reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Alireza Rahimi said the U.S. violated UN Security Council Resolution 2231 while it has more reactors than every other country on earth, IRNA reported.

Resolution 2231 endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), that Iran struck with the 5+1 nations – the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

Rahimi said the EU with 183 reactors has also adopted a tougher stance against Iran, he said.

Rahimi further explained that the U.S. with 98 reactors is the first in the world, followed by China with 46, Japan with 38, Russia with 36, South Korea with 24, and India with 22.

U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the nuclear deal in May 2018 and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new ones against Iran. On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran began reducing its commitments to the JCPOA at bi-monthly intervals. Meanwhile, European signatories to the JCPOA – the UK, France and Germany – have so far failed to provide meaningful economic incentives as required under the nuclear accord despite expressing vocal support for the deal.



## Saudi prince mocked for claiming Iran can be destroyed in 8 hours

**TEHRAN (IFP news)** — A Saudi prince has been derided by social media users after claiming that Riyadh is capable of destroying Iran in a matter of hours.

Abdullah bin Sultan Nasser Al Saud posted a video on his Twitter page which he says belongs to two years ago and shows an expert talking on a Saudi TV channel about Saudi Arabia’s military equipment.

At the end of the video, it is claimed that Riyadh can destroy Iran only in eight hours.

On his Twitter page, the prince echoed the so-called expert’s opinion and wrote “Saudi Arabia can destroy Iran in eight hours.”

He added the video clip belongs to two years ago, i.e., before Riyadh bought modern military hardware and before it upgraded its military systems. The prince claimed there is no power in the world which can stand up to Riyadh’s “unity and strength.”

The prince’s claim received widespread reaction from Twitter users many of whom ridiculed his comments.

Many of the users referred to the Saudi war on Yemen which has taken almost five years during which Riyadh has failed to achieve its objectives.

This is while Saudi Arabia had claimed at the beginning of the war that it would win the war in a matter of weeks.





STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	294601.6
IFX	3832.98

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,589 rials
GBP	51,578 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$61.54/b
WTI	\$56.52/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.58/b
Gold	\$1,509.10/oz
Silver	\$18.25/oz
Platinum	\$954.10/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

UK economy hamstrung by digital skills gap

The digital skills gap is constraining the UK economy by proving to be a stiff barrier to adaptation for organisations looking to transform digitally and remain competitive. As per itpro.com, that’s according to recent government research which found that without the necessary expertise to integrate technologies into the workplace, it is difficult to derive the desired benefits, leading to a slump in company revenues and the wider UK economy. Migrating to the digital workspace can streamline business processes and costs, and attract digital natives who demand a certain set of tools in their work.

To facilitate this change, technology must be integrated with the wider company. However, this increase in demand for digital talent is widening the already large skills gap, according to the report, with organisational change becoming more difficult to achieve despite technologies being widely available.

The problem is caused, at least in part, by the speed of innovation and the drive for efficiency. Digital training has been left behind as a result, leaving only partly-trained IT departments who are no more familiar with the latest technology than regular employees.



The plethora of technologies available that are capable of inducing organisational change has also proved to be problematic. Complex technologies require a particular skill-set, reducing the pool of talent available and ensuring that training existing employees takes more time and costs more money.

**■ Inflating salaries** This issue has forced employers to inflate salaries to attract the talent they need, costing the UK economy over £500 million over the last 12 months alone, according to the report.

IT staff must be able to implement, operate, and manage new technologies effectively to procure the business benefits. However, Qualtrics and Red Hat’s research study found that 65% of CIOs report skills shortages in their organisation and believe these shortages hamper their IT strategies. Key missing skills cited were technical architecture, security and resilience, and enterprise architecture.

For any business looking to overcome its IT skills gap, the solution is likely to be costly.

Companies are implementing new technologies to remove adaptation challenges affecting organisational change. Learn more in ‘An analysis of top IT trends and priorities for 2019’.

One solution is to simply increase the scale of IT budgets. In fact, Spiceworks’ 2019 State of IT Budgets report actually reveals a trend of organisations doing just this, with further investments in talent, technology and training.

In theory, this would allow IT departments to optimise their infrastructure and operations, leading to lower costs over time.

Resources can eventually be freed and channelled towards further innovation and strategic initiatives, amplifying the strategy’s impact.

However, with limited pots of money, it’s not realistic for all SMBs to simply increase investment. Many businesses will need to develop new approaches to workforce development, including searching outside of traditional talent pools, if they’re to remain competitive.

By hiring people from diverse backgrounds, businesses can tap into a huge pool of high-potential and underutilised talent, reducing their digital skills gap.

Copper cathode output at 110,000 tons in 5 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Production of copper cathode in Iran reached 110,000 tons during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), IRIB quoted Ardeshir Sa’d-Mohammadi, the managing director of Iran’s National Copper Company, as saying on Saturday. According to a report previously released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), production of copper cathode and anode in Iran exceeded the planned amount in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019).

IMIDRO data indicate that National Copper Company produced 247,300 tons of copper cathode and 313,700 tons of copper anode in the previous year, showing 15 percent and 21 percent rise, respectively, from the projected figures.



Meanwhile, IMIDRO has announced that production of copper concentrate in Iran during the past Iranian year was five percent more than the planned figure. IMIDRO data put the country’s copper concentrate output at 1.18 million tons in the past year, which is 1.123 million tons more than the planned amount. And as Sa’d-Mohammadi announced on June 18, projects have been already started for increasing the country’s annual production of copper concentrate by 450,000 tons. Also as reported, National Copper Company earned over 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) from the copper sales in the previous year, which was seven percent higher than the planned figure. As announced by the directors of the company, achieving 150 trillion rials (about \$3.57 billion) from sales has been targeted for the current year.

Trade between Iran, U.S. at \$49m in 7 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – The value of trade between Iran and the U.S. stood at \$49 million from January to July 2019, according to the latest report released by American Statistical Association (ASA). The ASA data indicate that the trade during the mentioned time span shows a decrease of 70 percent, Tasnim news agency reported.

According to ASA, bilateral trade during the first seven months of 2018 hit \$160 million.

During January-July this year, the U.S. exported \$47.8 million of goods to Iran, showing 51 percent fall in comparison with the same time span in 2018, when the figure



was more than \$97.8 million.

The country’s import from Iran was \$1.2 million in the said time, falling 98 percent from \$62.3 million in the same period in 2018.

PMO to transfer small ports development to private sector by next 2 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has finished a plan to study and investigate the status of small ports in the country to transfer their development to the private sector by the next two months, a deputy at the organization said on Saturday.

Mohammad-Ali Hassanzadeh, the PMO deputy for the ports and economic affairs, said, “We have 48 small ports in the country, most of them located at the southern seashores. We have finished the comprehensive plan on studying their status to transfer them to the private sector for investment making and development”, IRIB reported.



While small ports can play some key and essential role in the country’s current economic condition, their development can also prevent from immigration of their population to the big cities through job creation.

Iran-EU trade stands at €2.5b in H1

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – The trade between Iran and European Union countries during the first half of 2019 stood at €2.56 billion, Tasnim news agency reported citing the latest report of European Union’s statistics agency Eurostat.

The figure shows 76 percent decrease from €10.67 billion in the first half of 2018.

According to the Eurostat, EU countries exported €2.14 billion of goods to Iran in the said time, decreasing almost to half from €4.57 billion in the same period in 2018.

EU members imported €420 million of Iranian goods from January to June of 2019, showing 93 percent increase from €6.1 billion in the first half of 2018.

While Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands were respectively the major exporters to Iran; Germany, Spain, France and Italy were the top importers from the country in the said time span, this year.

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump formally pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal that was struck between Iran and world powers in July 2015.

Following Trump’s decision, in January 2019, France, Germany and Britain (known as the E3) introduced an Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) which was meant to facilitate legitimate trade between European economic operators and Iran in order to convince Iran to stay in the 2015 nuclear deal.



TEDPIX gains 4,400 points in a day

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) rose 4,400 points to 294,601 on Saturday, IRIB reported.

Some 3.689 billion securities worth 16.663 trillion rials (about \$396.7 million) were traded through 423,107 deals at TSE.

As previously announced, TEDPIX has risen 13,070 points, or 5.17 percent, to 266,127 at the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 22).

Some 64,126 billion securities worth 215.639 trillion rials (about \$5.134 billion) were traded through 6.444 million deals at TSE during the past month, indicating 8 percent and 21 percent drop in terms of the number and value of securities, respectively, while 16 percent fall in the number of trades compared to its previous month.

Meanwhile, as announced by Fariba Akhavan, the deputy managing director



of Central Securities Depository of Iran (CSDI), some 47,000 new trading codes were issued in Iran’s stock market during the fifth month.

With the new codes issued, the total number of trading codes in the country’s

capital market reached 11.042 million, Akhavan said.

She also said that 92 codes have been issued for the foreign shareholders since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21) and the total number of foreign

shareholders’ codes is 1,366 at the moment.

The first trading code was issued for a foreign shareholder in Iranian calendar year of 1373 (1994-95) to let it commence its activity in Iranian capital market.

Presence of new shareholders in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) rose 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1396 compared to its preceding year.

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

Applying new financial instruments in Iranian capital market was another achievements of the exchange markets during the past year, as TSE officially launched “futures” in mid-December 2018 for more risk management and IME launched “option” in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods for agricultural products.

Singapore may raise spending to ease downturn, say analysts



Singapore is expected to roll out a generous budget ahead of an election as the ruling party seeks to appease voters who are feeling the pinch from a sharp economic downturn, analysts said.

As per taipeitimes.com, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has formed a panel to review electoral boundaries, the government said on Wednesday, the traditional precursor to an election being called within months.

Lee’s People’s Action Party (PAP) is all but certain of a healthy victory with even the main opposition downbeat on its chances.

However, the PAP, which has comfortably won every election since Singapore’s independence in 1965, will

want to ensure its large majority is not eroded.

Analysts said the PAP might hold the vote shortly after delivering a budget in February that would likely boost spending to help the public as the city-state’s trade-dependent economy teeters on the edge of recession.

**■ The worsening of the economy** If the economy worsens further, then the vote could come sooner, they said.

The “Singapore economy is one of the weakest now in the Asia-Pacific region and it makes sense because it is a small, open economy, highly exposed to trade,” Moody’s Analytics economist Steve Cochrane said.

“It’s an obvious time that the government would be instituting some expansionary spending, something to boost the economy, get it through this weak point,” Cochrane added.

Singaporean Minister of Finance Heng Swee Keat, who is widely expected to take over from Lee as prime minister after the election, could raise his profile by delivering a bumper budget.

Heng might offer help on education, housing, jobs and the elderly, all important issues for voters, analysts said. The next budget is likely to include more subsidies for childcare, pre-school education and for training and re-skilling workers, Institute of Public Policy Studies deputy director of research Gillian Koh said.

“And anything to do with dealing with costs for the senior segment of society,” she said.

While a looming recession would cause many gov-

ernments to steer away from calling an election, the PAP could actually benefit from the downturn as it is viewed by some members of the public as the only party able to properly manage the economy.

“So long as the PAP government is not regarded as having mismanaged the economy, a slowing economy is likely to be advantageous,” said Eugene Tan, a law professor and former nominated member of parliament.

**■ The next budget** The “current reserves can give a significant boost to government spending in next year’s budget and that can be politically advantageous and strategic for the PAP,” Tan said.

For many voters, some extra support to bring down costs in a struggling economy would be welcome.

“It’s been more and more difficult for many young people to get housing, and many middle incomers like myself find ourselves in a hard situation,” 29-year-old banker Alicia Tang said.

In the last election in 2015, the PAP won about 69.9 percent of the vote, an improvement on its worst-ever showing of 60.1 percent in 2011.

Opponents say the political structure heavily favors the PAP and makes it difficult to pose a credible challenge. The PAP denies the voting system is biased and says it promotes contestable elections.

The Workers Party, the only opposition party in parliament, with six of 89 elected seats, is close to “wipe out,” its leader, Pritam Singh, has said.



# Iran, Afghanistan to accelerate electricity co-op: Iranian energy min.

**1 →** The MOU was signed by Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri and the Director General of Tavanir Organization Mohammad Hassan Motavalizadeh on the Iranian side and Amanallah Ghaleb, the Director General of Afghanistan Electricity Company, on the Afghan side.

In the MOU, the two sides emphasized the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of "repairing the worn out power transmission equipment", "construction of armor lines", "synchronization of two countries' grids" and other issues related to the electricity industry.

On the sidelines of his visit to a steam power plant near Kabul on August 20, head of Iran Power Plant Repairs Company, Einollah Salehi, said Iran is going to repair two turbines at Afghanistan's power plants in the near future.

He mentioned that the repair of the second turbine will begin after the renovation of the first one and making sure that it is working properly.

The repairs will be carried out in Afghanistan by Iranian experts, he noted.

Salehi said that the renovation of damaged electric transformers will also start after the repair of two turbines.

Iran and Afghanistan are also considering realization of 16,000 megawatts potential of renewable energy projects in border areas.

"With good wind energy capacity in the two countries' border regions, the two sides can use that capacity to generate nearly 16,000 megawatts of electricity," Homayoun Haeri said in a meeting with Afghan Minister of Energy and Water Mohammad Gul Kholmi during his visit



to Kabul on August 17.

Speaking in the meeting, Haeri mentioned the two neighbors' great capacities for energy cooperation, saying that joining the two countries' electricity networks could be beneficiary for both sides.

"Afghanistan's abundant solar and water resources could make the country a major exporter of electricity in the region, and connecting to Iran's grid is one way to accelerate this goal," he said.

The official further added that by joining the two countries' power networks Afghanistan would be able to export electricity to Turkey, Iraq and other countries.

He voiced Iran's Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (Tavanir)'s readiness for helping Afghanistan's power distribution companies resolving the country's energy issues, saying that the two sides

need to make long-term and short-term planning in order to realize such cooperation.

Gul Kholmi for his part underlined his country's willingness for expanding energy ties with Iran, saying that Afghanistan is seeking to become an energy hub in the region and the country has long term plans in this regard.

As the biggest exporter and importer of electricity in the Middle East, Iran plays a central role in power supply in the region. It exports electricity to Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Under swap deals, Iran exports electricity to Armenia and Azerbaijan in winter and imports in summer.

On August 20, Ardakanian said, "We have been able to fulfill our energy export commitments to our neighbors due to good rainfalls this year."

"About 2.3 billion kWh of electricity was exported in the June to August period, the highest amount of exports in recent years," the energy minister added.

He said the country's electricity sector has witnessed new records in generation, exports and consumption management during the current calendar year (started on March 20).

"This year we have set new records in this sector by inaugurating 3,250 megawatts (MW) capacity of new power plants, saving 3,874 MW in peak consumption period in summer, and exporting 2.3 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity to neighboring countries in the hot season," Ardakanian said in gathering of energy ministry's public relation offices in Tehran.

## NIOC to offer 2m barrels of gas condensate at IRENEX on Wednesday

**E N E R G Y d e s k** **TEHRAN** – National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will offer two million barrels of gas condensate at Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

As announced by NIOC, the base price will be \$56.09 per barrel in this round of offering gas condensate at IRENEX which is the tenth round.

The least amount of purchase for land transportation is set to be 1000 barrels or 110 tons and buyers can receive their cargo up to three months after the transaction, and the delivery of the cargo in other regions is subject to NIOC approval.

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

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

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

National Iranian Oil Company offered light crude oil at

IRENEX first on October 28, 2018 just few days before new U.S. sanctions on Iran's petroleum sector took effect (November 4). In the first round, NIOC could sell some 280,000 barrels of crude oil at \$74.85 per barrel. With the daily supply amount of one million barrels, the market wrapped up by selling eight 35,000-barrel cargos of oil on the day.

NIOC's representative in Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) has said that the company will continue offering oil at IRENEX.

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

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

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

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.

## What is Saudi Arabia's best oil strategy?



There appears to be little appetite amongst OPEC members and Russia for further production cuts, despite the gradual slide in oil prices. Russia is reported to have reduced output by slightly less than had been agreed upon by the OPEC plus producer group in August, while OPEC overall saw production up by 80,000 b/d to 29.61 million b/d, according to a Reuters poll published August 30.

According to proshareng.com, both Iraq and Nigeria boosted output - the former by 60,000 b/d and the latter by 80,000 b/d. The new head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, Mele Kyari, said at the end of August that Nigeria could increase output fairly easily next year to 2.5 million b/d, by bringing production stranded by pipeline damage back on-stream.

At the same time, production from Iran and Venezuela appears to have reached minimum levels, while Libyan output is being sustained at around the 1 million b/d mark, despite the ongoing civil war. This means that even if Saudi Arabia can get the OPEC plus group to agree to more stringent reductions, the burden of achieving those cuts will land hardest and squarrest on Saudi shoulders.

OPEC's oil price support via production cuts has always been a double-edged sword. Higher oil prices stimulate non-OPEC oil activity, notably U.S. shale oil, and the U.S. oil patch appears to be struggling. Further OPEC reductions could throw it a lifeline.

The U.S. oil rig count has trended downward since a peak in November last year of 888 to reach 742 at the end of August. The number of bankruptcies is on the rise. Lawyers Haynes and Boone reported in August that 26 U.S. oil and gas producers had filed for bankruptcy so far in 2019, compared with 28 over the whole of 2018.

**■ For both oil and gas** With high cash requirements to keep production going, shale drillers are finding lending hard to come by in a low-price environment for both oil and gas, the twin products of shale drilling. This is not the U.S. shale patch burning through its resource. It reflects the over reliance of U.S. shale firms on debt to sustain production. Once market sentiment turns against them, in the form of low expectations of future returns, those companies most over extended are quickly exposed.

Moreover, there is no single breakeven price for U.S. shale. While some shale production can survive at \$40/b and below - the most efficient drillers on the best acreage with the least debt - a WTI oil price under \$60/b, combined with Henry Hub gas below \$3/MMBtu, and much lower at some regional hubs, also pushes the least efficient drillers, drilling poorer acreage and laden with debt, over the edge.

At the same time, the rapid expansion of U.S. oil and gas production has eaten into the pre-existing slack in the drilling service-

es market. By July last year, the number of available land rigs had dropped to about 18% of marketed rigs and the average day rate for all classes had risen from \$14,000 in November 2016 to above \$16,000, squeezing drillers' margins.

This trend has since gone into reverse as drillers exercise more financial discipline and the active rig count drops. But it will take time to restore margin lost to service contractors during the period of rapid expansion.

**■ Creating a strong incentive** While Saudi Arabia may interpret signs of fragility on the U.S. oil patch as evidence of the success of its policies, the tendency has been for U.S. retrenchment rather than collapse. Chapter 11 filings may sound dramatic, but the chance to re-order debt means there is seldom the impact on production that might be expected. Drillers pass on the pain to debtors and service contractors, creating a strong incentive to find efficiencies all along the supply chain.

But for Riyadh the current slowdown may be viewed as enough for now when set against the costs of a more dramatic change in policy - a production free for all could pay long term but would have a disastrous short to medium-term impact on petro-economies' revenues. Further cuts will fall hardest on Saudi Arabia, potentially test to its limits the cohesion of the OPEC plus group, while the benefits will be spread around universally, including to U.S. shale drillers.

The goldilocks zone for Saudi Arabia in terms of achieving a balance between price and market share appears to lie somewhere between \$55-\$60/b Brent, assuming a \$5-6/b premium for Brent to West Texas Intermediate, but in terms of its intended Initial Public Offering for state oil giant Saudi Aramco,

Riyadh would prefer an oil price significantly north of \$60/b Brent.

Give the current trade environment and growing concern over the health of the U.S. economy, this is not a conundrum Saudi Arabia can currently resolve.

A gradual downward drift - barring any flare-up in the Persian Gulf tensions - might be the best that can be achieved for the moment and preferable to the costs of any dramatic loosening or tightening of policy, the Aramco IPO notwithstanding.

## Solar energy: India needs a globally competitive solar panel industry

By Ajay Shankar

Following its success, the targets of India's solar energy program have been rising. To fulfil these, it is essential that policy instruments evolve suitably. Getting solar power capacity to cross 25,000 MW in less than ten years through private investment, and to get tariffs to come down, from over Rs 10 to less than Rs 3 per unit, has been the result of the initial program design of inviting repeated tariff-based bids for supply of solar power through the grid to the distribution companies.

By awarding contracts to multiple private developers over the years, a competitive industry structure has been created.

India has taken full advantage of the global decline in the price of solar panels, as the Chinese reduced their costs of manufacturing dramatically. However, as the rupee depreciates, or the Chinese raise prices, the tariff, discovered through bidding, would also rise.

Accepting higher tariffs is not easy, in the Indian context, in public procurement. But, not accepting them in a transparent competitive bidding process, would only slow down, or even stall, the solar energy program.

The time has also come to target manufacturing of solar panels, with full value addition in India. Getting investment into solar panel manufacturing needs confidence regarding sales and profits. It would take about two years to set up a plant and begin manufacturing, after land with infrastructure is in possession.

### ■ One viable approach

One viable approach could be to invite bids for the supply of 1,500 MW of solar panels, made fully in India, every year, for four to five years, starting from 2021.

Land, with environmental clearance, at a reasonable price, along with commitment of direct, cheap power supply in a dedicated manufacturing Special Economic Zone (SEZ) should be on offer, as part of the invitation of bids.

Cheap electricity is essential, as energy constitutes the major cost of production of solar panels. The SEZ should have the special dispensation of having sales to the Indian market being considered as fulfilling its export obligation. The bidders, other than the lowest, could be given the offer of matching the price of L1, and get orders for the supply of 1,000 MW per year. It may still be the case that the market-discovered price is higher than that of Chinese panels; bids should still be accepted, and the bidding process continued in the following years, to bring prices further down. These solar panels may be used by government and its agencies, such as the Railways, defense and police establishments, and educational institutions. The issue of imposition of safeguard duties can be examined after there is manufacturing in India, with a competitive industry structure. Safeguard duties, at present, would be of little help.

Such a comprehensive holistic approach would create a globally competitive manufacturing industry, without needing subsidies from the budget. Otherwise, the present import-dependence would be perpetuated.

Rooftop solar and decentralized solar power generation in rural areas in the KW range is yet to gather momentum. Having no transmission costs, this is far more economical. The ideal way for achieving a breakthrough would be to go in for an attractive feed-in tariff regime, with the approval of the State Regulatory Commissions.

### ■ Thousands of bids

Trying to invite thousands of bids at the less-than-1MW range would end up being a non-starter. The distribution company should indicate the points at which it would be willing to buy solar power on a first-come, first-served basis, as well as the maximum it can take at the receiving point, along with the power purchase agreement.

The receiving points could be the consumer connection point, with a reversible meter, the distribution transformer, or the sub-station. This should cover urban as well as rural areas. A farmer could buy solar panels, investing on his own.

Alternatively, an aggregator could put up the solar panels on the land or rooftops provided by the farmer, and take the major share of the feed-in tariff till such time as he has recovered his cost. With solar power, supply of electricity for irrigation in the day, rather than in the night, as is the case now, could be assured. A feed-in tariff of, say, Rs 4.5 would be cost-advantageous to the distribution company as its actual cost of supply at the consumer end is well over Rs 6 per unit. This would also be a major improvement from the net metering arrangement, where large consumer gets an effective feed-in tariff of around Rs 8 per unit, and a windfall gain, whereas the small consumer would get a lower rate of only around Rs 5. Providing reliable 24x7 power supply would become easier.

India has around six lakh villages. Getting up to 1MW capacity installed through a feed-in tariff in a village should not be difficult. Thus, creation of 6 lakh MW capacity of solar power through private investment in the next five to seven years appears feasible. India could take global leadership in solar energy, as well as in moving towards carbon-free electricity.

(Source: financialexpress.com)

### Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

### NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9180002

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
10	P/F "NUOVO PIGNONE" GAS TURBINE MODEL: MS 5002D	184

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention to participate" letter via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 3,709 EURO or 484, 732,905 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

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

### FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex  
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437

Public Relations [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۶/۱۳ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۶/۱۶



# October China-U.S. trade talks worth the wait

## Iran in much stronger negotiating position today: U.S. analyst

An American political commentator praised Iran's policy of "active resistance" against US bullying and unilateralism and said today, the Islamic Republic is in a much stronger negotiating position compared to several years ago.

"Today is not 2012...but I think, if anything, Iran is in a much stronger negotiating position, and in fact with Russia (mostly) on its side, and likely China too, there is not much the US can really do except shout and stamp its feet," John Steppling, who is based in Norway, told Tasnim in an interview.

Steppling is a well-known author, playwright and an original founding member of the Padua Hills Playwrights Festival, a two-time NEA recipient, Rockefeller Fellow in theater, and PEN-West winner for playwriting. He is also a regular political commentator for a number of media outlets around the world.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ A year after the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the European Union's continued failure to ensure Iran's economic rights under the deal, Tehran stopped honoring certain commitments in accordance with the text of the international accord. This week, the Islamic Republic plans to take "the third step" in reducing its obligations under the JCPOA. It seems that these steps have had some good results as the European side is endeavoring to save the deal. What is your assessment of the outcomes of Iran's nuclear steps?

A: If you go back to 2012 and the IAEA inspectors noting that Iranian enrichment was in excess of the allowed 3.76 %, this was, I think, the Fordow and Natanz Enrichment Plants. In any case, the fall out was Europe taking some economic actions and the US claiming the Iranian government would fall and so forth and increasing their aggressive rhetoric. The Iranian currency did decline and then Israel, let's not forget, assassinated Iranian scientists. This is hardly talked about anymore. And the US launched cyber-attacks against Iranian government facilities. The point is that this is when Obama chose to talk with Iran. And the real reason he sat down at that point is that Iran had not fallen apart, but in fact, had adjusted rather successfully to the sanctions, and also that global opinion was moving even further in an anti-Western direction. It should also be noted that Assad was still the hugely popular leader of Syria and the US had not been able to unseat him or topple his government. The moral of this story is that when a nation is united in a belief, in its identity and culture, it will withstand Imperialist aggressions. The US only decided to sit down at the negotiating table when their covert actions (and those of the Saudis and Israelis) had failed to make a dent in the Iranian resolve. Today is not 2012...but I think, if anything, Iran is in a much stronger negotiating position, and in fact with Russia (mostly) on its side, and likely China too, there is not much the US can really do except shout and stamp its feet.

■ As you know, Iran's policy of "active resistance" against US bullying and unilateralism has borne good results. In the latest instance, Iran's supertanker Adrian Darya, formerly known as Grace-1, was recently released by the government of Gibraltar despite a US request to continue its detention. In another development, the US recently announced plans to create a new security initiative in the Persian Gulf by forming a coalition against what it calls an Iranian threat. The US has asked its allies, including Germany, Japan, and France, to join the coalition but the call has not been warmly welcomed by them. What do you think about Iran's policy and the concept of resistance?

A: I think it's significant that Germany so openly refused to join this navel mission. Partly this was because nobody understood what this mission was meant to look like -- what was its purpose, after all? But all of the US rhetoric about Iran is beginning to feel embarrassing. Europe certainly knows Iran is a friend and not a threat or enemy. France and Germany are clearly fed up with US pressure and only the UK is a faithful lapdog to the US. That said, it is disappointing that so few nations have stood up to the US and the Trump administration. The JCPOA was never a great deal for Iran in the first place.

How could it, the JCPOA, allow the US to leave with no penalties? Who wrote this thing? How is it that Israel is immune to nuclear inspection? Who decides this stuff? The entire fabric of international agreement-making is illogical and heavily biased toward the US and its few remaining allies.

Iran is targeted and this constitutes another example of Western Imperialism.

■ Despite Washington's policy of "maximum pressure" and its most severe sanctions against Tehran, the Islamic Republic has been able to control prices and inflation in the country through adopting certain financial strategies which are in line with the policy of "resistance economy". What is your take on that? Do you think that the resistance will work in the future?

A: I think, as I said above, that the resolve of the people of Iran is remarkable. Just as in Syria. Just as in Venezuela. Just as in North Korea. None of these countries has bent before the onslaught of western (US) pressure. That is to be applauded and respected. I do not know the intricacies of the sanctions policy, but clearly, the impact is not insignificant, and yet the country has stood up and refused to prostrate itself.

The International Journal of Health Policy and Management has stated that the US sanctions violate international law and the right of Iranians to proper health care and medicines. But the US is a gangster state, and Trump is the ultimate incarnation of that mafia-like mentality. Except to say that does a disservice to the Cosa Nostra.

They don't care. It is really stunning that Saudi Arabia and Israel get away with all manner of violence and illegality and yet the western press is silent.

The UN does nothing.

Where is the outcry about the Saudis beheading of a teenager for a crime he allegedly committed when sixteen?

Where is western press to condemn Israeli settler violence in Gaza? The brutality of the treatment of Palestinians is perfectly well known. Where are the sanctions against Israel?

Against the House of Saud?? Why is the western press so accepting of lies about Maduro and Venezuela, when it knows perfectly well they are lies? So yes, to answer the question, I think Iran will win this standoff. It's already winning.

**GLOBALTIMES** – Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had a phone call, by invitation, with US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Thursday. According to the Chinese side, the two countries agreed to hold the 13th round of China-US high-level trade consultations in Washington in early October and would maintain close communication before that. Working groups of the two sides will conduct consultations in mid-September to make full preparations for the high-level talks to achieve substantial progress. Both sides agreed to "jointly take concrete actions to create favorable conditions for further consultations in October," reported Xinhua News Agency on Thursday.

After top leaders from China and the US reached a consensus in Japan in June, the two countries held the 12th round of trade talks in Shanghai in July. Then the US suddenly announced new tariffs on Chinese goods, which led to China's countermeasures and the escalation of the US-launched trade war against China. The tense China-US trade relationship has agitated the global market, and turmoil is emerging in the US stock market. As Liu said on Tuesday, the trade war "is not conducive to China, the US, or the world."

A stress on making "full preparations" and achieving "substantial progress" before the trade consultations is extremely rare. Obviously, China and the US are willing to



reach a trade agreement. But the gap between their stances remains wide. The US believes that its advantage in strength is enough to support its demands, even unreasonable ones. However, China insists on mutual respect, and believes the process must be fair, and

the results should be mutually beneficial.

China said the trade war, which has lasted for over a year, has hurt both sides, but the US does not want to admit it is also wounded by the trade war. However, the US cannot provide a satisfactory explanation of why

## UN shouldn't whitewash MBS's crimes

**TEHRAN (FNA)** – This is disgraceful, but it is happening, although the United Nations is under growing pressure to scrap a disturbing event it is co-hosting with the private foundation of Saudi Arabia's crown prince Mohammad bin Salman, who has been linked to the gruesome killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The UN should cancel the September 23 event, as it would help repair bin Salman's reputation over the Khashoggi murder. The event, known as the Misk-OSGHEY Youth Forum, is a partnership between the UN's youth envoy, Jayathma Wickramanayake, and the Misk Foundation, a culture and education foundation chaired by bin Salman, who is better known as MBS.

No one - especially not the UN - should ever be partnering with MBS or his personal Misk Foundation. Saudi Arabia's brutal crown prince is responsible for the deaths of thousands of Yemeni children. His thugs imprisoned leading women's rights activists and murdered Jamal Khashoggi. Which is to say the world body is helping to whitewash MBS's criminal record. This is disturbing. Why is the UN helping the Saudi crown prince whitewash his record by co-hosting a conference with a foundation he leads just a year after the murder of Jamal Khashoggi?

The UN youth envoy's office has declined to comment on the row. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the world body had repeatedly issued very strong statements calling for accountability in Khashoggi's killing.

The Misk-OSGHEY Youth Forum will take place in New York only 10 days before the first anniversary of Khashoggi's murder on October 2 last year, when Saudi government agents killed and dismembered the journalist inside the country's consulate in Istanbul. The CIA later determined that MBS had personally ordered the hit. Saudi officials, who initially said Khashoggi had left the consulate alive, now say the journalist was killed in a rogue operation that did not involve MBS. The workshop for 300 young people at the New York Public Library will occur on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and promote green themes, corporate responsibility and other aspects of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda.

Khashoggi, a United States-based journalist who frequently criticized the Saudi government, was killed while visiting the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where he was collecting papers for his wedding. UN expert Agnes Callamard



issued a report in June that described the assassination as a "deliberate, premeditated execution," and called for MBS and other Saudi officials to be probed.

This killing was a result of an elaborate mission involving extensive coordination and significant human and financial resources. It was overseen, planned, and endorsed by high level officials and it was premeditated. The right to life is a right at the core of international human rights protection. If the international community ignores targeted killing designed to silence peaceful expression, it puts at risk the protection on which all human rights depend. Since it occurred at a consulate in Turkey, the killing cannot be considered a "domestic matter" and violates the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as the prohibition against extraterritorial use of force in times of peace, making it an international crime.

The Misk-OSGHEY Youth Forum also comes after years of tensions between the UN and Riyadh over the illegal war on Yemen, where Saudi Arabia is leading a military coali-

tion against the country's Houthi Ansarullah and besieged population - although the coalition is unraveling as Saudi and UAE-backed forces have been killing each other in a new war front that has seen the militants supported by the two coalition members at war with each other.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and led to a major humanitarian crisis.

The crown prince and his violent regime must be held accountable for their human rights crimes. Instead, misguided UN staff are absurdly giving the crown prince a public relations platform as he attempts to wipe away the blood of so many dead Yemeni children.

And we have not even started to talk about the poor several-million-strong Shiite population in the Eastern part of Saudi Arabia who are getting killed, hanged and chopped up by the MBS Wahhabi regime whose so-called understanding of Islam has parented the Al-Qaeda and ISIL, believing that everyone, except for the Wahhabis, should be wiped off the earth.

## Hezbollah proved any attack on Lebanon will elicit forceful retaliation: analyst

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** – An American political analyst and Middle East expert said Hezbollah's recent response to Israel's aggression against Lebanon demonstrated that any attack by the regime on the Arab country would "elicit forceful and proportionate retaliation".

"Hezbollah accomplished its objective: It demonstrated that any Israeli attack on Lebanon will elicit forceful and proportionate retaliation.

Though it could easily have rained down large numbers of missiles on Zionist settlements, causing far greater casualties, Hezbollah showed restraint and demonstrated a commitment to focusing on military targets," Kevin Barret from Madison told Tasnim. Following is the full text of the interview.

■ On Sunday, Hezbollah targeted an Israeli military vehicle near the border with the occupied Palestinian lands, killing and injuring all forces on-board. What's your take on the attack by the Lebanese resistance movement?

A: Hezbollah accomplished its objective: It demonstrated that any Israeli attack on Lebanon will elicit forceful and proportionate retaliation.

Though it could easily have rained down large numbers of missiles on Zionist settlements, causing far greater casualties, Hezbollah showed restraint and demonstrated a commitment to focusing on military targets.



Hezbollah's mature and responsible approach contrasts starkly with the Zionists' irresponsible recklessness and terrorism. The Zionists are terrorists, by the very definition of the term, because they systematically target civilians.

Whenever they "mow the lawn" in Gaza or invade Lebanon, they make no secret of their objective of terrorizing and ethnically cleansing civilian populations.

Additionally, the Zionists are aggressors. From the early 20th century, when

they crossed the seas to invade Palestine against the wishes of the Palestinians, until today, the Zionists have not ceased to commit the supreme war crime of aggression. (Aggression is considered the worst possible crime, worse even than genocide, under the Nuremberg principles that are the foundation of international law.)

The Zionist aggressors never stop attacking their neighbors in order to steal more and more land and resources.

The people of the region are fighting a purely defensive war against the Zionists, and have been for more than a century.

They deserve the full support of the international community because their struggle is just and legitimate under international law.

■ Do you believe Israel would dare again to attack or violate the Arab country's airspace? Why does Israel attack other countries with impunity?

A: It is impossible to predict the behavior of the Zionists.

They have turned unpredictable, irrational, psychopathic aggression into a fine art.

Certainly, they will now think twice before violating Lebanese airspace. But for various reasons—including Netanyahu's belief that bloody conflicts, even those that entail the loss of Israeli lives, might help his re-election effort—we should not rule out the possibility of more reckless

high tariffs benefit the US economy. Thus, the two sides face the choice of whether to continue the lose-lose situation or to reach a compromise.

A stalemate is emerging in the China-US trade war. Washington has more economic advantages, while Beijing has more political advantages.

If both sides refuse to make concessions, the trade war is likely to continue for a long time and create lasting strategic harm to both countries. China's attitude toward reaching a deal has been consistent, and it is believed that China's endurance has impressed the US. Both sides have a greater understanding of each other's attitude and bottom line.

But this does not mean the two countries will achieve substantial progress in the 13th round of talks.

Many other factors will affect their negotiations, such as specific US economic data and pressing US political issues.

The Chinese group will negotiate in a serious and proactive manner and adhere to the country's principles and bottom line. The Chinese people should remain calm. The Chinese economy's ability to adapt to the trade war is taking shape at an accelerating pace.

We Chinese are aware that we should do our own thing well. The more we activate our economy and expand our market, the earlier the China-US trade agreement will be reached.



## China succeeded in restraining America

# Trump's defeat against Beijing

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** —The President of the United States has practically lost the game against China! Many analysts believe that if Trump wants to reach a trade deal with Beijing, he should give China some concessions. This is the worst situation for the US president. Here's a look at the latest news and analysis on US-China trade negotiations:

Markets soar on news of China talks, but hopes for progress are low

As New York Times reported, President Trump's decision to renew talks with China in the coming weeks sent financial markets soaring on Thursday, as investors seized on the development as a sign that both sides could still find a way out of an economically damaging trade war.

The rally sent the S&P 500 up more than 1 percent, underscoring just how much financial markets are subsisting on hopes and fears about the trade war. Shares fell through most of August, as Mr. Trump escalated his fight with China and imposed more tariffs, only to snap back on Thursday after news of the talks.

But expectations for progress remain low, and many in the United States and China see the best outcome as a continued stalemate that would prevent a collapse in relations before the 2020 election. Both Mr. Trump and President Xi Jinping of China are under pressure from domestic audiences to stand tough, and the talks will happen after Mr. Trump's next round of punishing tariffs take effect on Oct. 1.

"Continuing to talk soothes markets a little bit," said Eswar Prasad, the former head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund. "But the political cost to making major concessions is, I think, too high for either side."

The skepticism stems in part from what is emerging as a familiar pattern for Mr. Trump, for whom China is both a source of leverage and a potential vulnerability heading into an election year. The president has so far imposed tariffs on more than \$350 billion worth of Chinese goods and routinely shifts from blasting China and threatening additional punishment to trying to calm the waters in the face of jittery markets and negative economic news.

Over two weeks, Mr. Trump has called Mr. Xi an enemy of America, ordered companies to stop doing business in China and suggested the United States was in no rush to reach a trade deal. On Sunday, he moved ahead with his threat to eventually tax every golf club, shoe and computer China sends into the United States, placing tariffs on another \$112 billion of Chinese goods.

Stock investors have zeroed in on the threat the trade war poses to the economy, buying and selling in tandem with Mr. Trump's trade whims. Thursday's rally was the fifth positive performance for the market in the past six sessions. It brought the S&P 500 to within striking distance — less than 2 percent — of its high of 3025.86, reached on July 26. The coming weeks could result in more of the same, analysts say: tough words when the president wants to rally his base and a temporary cooling off when it seems to be hurting an economy that is one of his main arguments for re-election.

Mr. Trump and his advisers are wary of a potential challenge from Democrats who will try to paint the president as weak on China. Officials are cognizant that striking a deal based on the kind of limited concessions China is currently offering would most likely be a political liability in the president's bid for re-election. Democrats, along with some Republicans, have previously accused Mr. Trump of buckling on China after he reached a deal that allowed ZTE, the Chinese telecom company, to avoid tough American punishment.

Yet as collateral damage from the trade war increases, Mr. Trump is facing pressure to relent. The bond market has been flashing warning signs of a potential recession, and both consumer confidence and the manufacturing sector have slowed.

The trade war is also clearly weighing on the Chinese economy, which is growing at its slowest pace in more than two decades. But China has responded defiantly, imposing retaliatory tariffs on \$75 billion worth of American goods. The country is preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding on Oct. 1, and analysts say Beijing would be unlikely to make concessions at such a politically delicate moment.

People familiar with Chinese economic policymaking have said in recent weeks that Chinese leaders remain interested in reaching a trade deal with the United States, but that they are wary of what appear to be ever-increasing demands from the United States and what they describe as frequent shifts in the American negotiating position. The Chinese government continues to insist that it will not accept any agreement that is unequal, or that prevents it from pursuing economic policies that it needs for continued growth.

While both countries have motivation to come to an agreement, each is still insisting the other will be the first to bend. "China and the US announced new round of trade talks and will work to make substantial progress," Hu Xijin, the editor of the state-run Global Times, wrote on Twitter. "Personally I think the US, worn out by the trade war, may no longer hope for crushing China's will. There's more possibility of a breakthrough between the two sides."

The Trump administration's position is that the agreement must change China's behavior, and that there is limited room for compromise. "This president is not about half-measures," Peter Navarro, one of Mr. Trump's trade advisers, said in August on Fox Business. "He can't meet the Chinese halfway on this, because if you meet them halfway, they'll only be stealing half as much as they're stealing and killing half as many of Americans."

The world's two largest economies are resuming talks after a charged few months in which the United States and China went from being on the cusp of a deal to a near-breakdown in relations. Negotiators had almost finalized an agreement in April, and were openly talking about a meeting where their two leaders would sign the deal. But China suddenly backed away from measures that would require it to change its laws, and Mr. Trump accused Beijing of breaking the deal and moved ahead with raising tariffs on the country.

The two sides again called a truce to escalating tensions in June, when Mr. Trump and Mr. Xi met personally in Osaka, Japan, during a Group of 20 summit. But the agreement quickly vanished. Mr. Trump grew frustrated with China's failure to buy American agricultural goods — something the Chinese said they had never agreed to — and moved to



further expand his tariffs. China's biggest request in the trade talks had been rolling back Mr. Trump's tariffs, but those levies are now higher than ever. And American suspicions of China's willingness to hold to an agreement — mistrust that led the United States to insist on a complex enforcement mechanism and changes to Chinese law — have only grown. Still, there is little downside for any party in favoring talks over action.

As long as the American economy remains strong, Mr. Trump appears to have more to lose politically by giving into a weak deal with the Chinese than he does in persisting with his current approach. He could gain even more leeway to keep things status quo this month if the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates again to help insulate the American economy from the effects of a global slowdown and Mr. Trump's trade war.

The Chinese are increasingly skeptical of the value of making further concessions, given their concern that Mr. Trump might go back on any deal he signs. But they have taken a pragmatic approach, "recognizing that openness to dialogue and engagement might not help much, but certainly cannot hurt," Mr. Prasad said, adding, "There is still the hope that at least with further negotiations, at least even more trade and economic tensions can be staved off."

For now, markets appear to be rewarding the promise to keep talking, even if hopes for an agreement are low.

The trade fight has clearly emerged as the top concern among investors this year. Some 51 percent of respondents to Bank of America Merrill Lynch's monthly survey of global fund managers in August cited a worsening trade war as the top "tail risk" — a remote, but potentially deeply destabilizing threat — facing markets.

After a 1.8 percent drop in August, the recent rise has been a striking show of resilience. Annual expectations for corporate profit growth at S&P 500 companies have been falling for much of the year. The drop has been especially sharp for goods producing firms, as the global industrial economy has fallen into a slump many analysts have blamed on the trade war.

Still, stocks have managed to resume their climb, forcing some investors — particularly professionals whose performance is measured by how they stack up against important market indexes — to chase the rally. "The narrative of 'fear of missing out' and 'there is no alternative' is resonating with investors," said Ian Burdette, a senior managing director at brokerage firm Tribal Capital Markets. He added, "It seems significantly overdone, to me, from a fundamental perspective."

Reliable China insiders hint that this round of trade talks could lead to a 'breakthrough'

Also CNBC reported that The previous 18 months of trade talks between the U.S. and China have only led to more tit-for-tat tariffs, but this time it might be different, according to Chinese sources who seem to have inside knowledge on the trade war.

China's Ministry of Commerce confirmed the two countries held a phone call Thursday and agreed to meet in early October in Washington. This would mark the 13th round of trade negotiations after both sides slapping tariffs on billions of dollars worth of each other's goods. "There's more possibility of a breakthrough between the two sides," said Hu Xijin in a tweet Thursday. Hu is editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a tabloid under the People's Daily, which is the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China. His Twitter account has been followed by many Wall Street traders and market participants for insight on the trade war.

Hu has been spot on with the recent developments in the escalated trade dispute. Most recently, he had warned about the Chinese retaliation against President Donald Trump's tariffs just hours before the Chinese made the official announcement.

A blog called Taoran Notes on Chinese social media WeChat has been followed by analysts covering China and market participants for cues on the trade battle. Run by a state-owned newspaper called Economic Daily, the blog has been cited by U.S. media including Bloomberg News for additional color from the China side. On Thursday, in a 1,200-word commentary, Taoran said it's "very likely" there will be "new developments" in the upcoming trade talks.

The blog highlighted the statement from China's Ministry of Commerce saying both sides will make consultations in mid-September in preparation for "meaningful progress" in the ministerial-level talks in October. "Meaningful progress" is an expression that hasn't been used at all since the talks in May fell apart, Taoran noted. "Whether the trade war is headed in a positive direction or it will repeat again, I am afraid it still depends on how some people choose," Taoran said.

Taoran first grabbed the attention of China observers when it emerged as the only vocal commentator on Trump's initial threat to escalate the trade war back in May. "There's no winner in a trade war," Taoran warned then.

The White House did not immediately respond to CNBC's request for comment on Hu and Taoran's posts Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged more than 350 points Thursday as investors bet that there may be something more substantial to come out of these new talks.

Why America would lose a trade war with China

Professor Winter Nie wrote in IMD that During his election campaign, President Donald Trump threatened to impose 35% to 45% tariffs on Chinese imports to force China into renegotiating its trade balance with the U.S. The immediate result of that would be a fierce trade war that America would almost certainly lose. And while we don't know yet whether Trump will follow through with this threat, his abandonment of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) in his first few days in office is an indication that he is not shying away from his campaign pledges.

Trump is now entering uncharted waters. He has already demonstrated his ignorance of Asian affairs when he publicly accepted a phone call from Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, in December, and shortly afterwards announced that he didn't understand the "One China" policy, or why he should respect it. His abandonment of the TPP will simply accelerate China's displacement of America as the world's leading economic power.

For the moment, China has decided to wait for the U.S. to make the first move. A trade war would be problematic for the region, not least for South East Asia, which would be most likely to suffer negative fallout as a major trade partner to both the U.S. and to China. But it would not be a disaster for China, mainly because the U.S. needs China more than vice versa. Unfortunately for Trump, it's not the 80s anymore. Twenty years ago, the situation might have been different. China was dramatically underdeveloped, and it wanted access to Western technology and manufacturing techniques. China has most of what it needs now, and what it doesn't have it can easily obtain from vendors outside the U.S. While the American market looked enticing a few decades ago, it is relatively mature, and today the newer emerging market countries have become much more interesting to Beijing.

The fastest growing markets for the best items China produces, like laptop computers and cell phones, are in developing regions such as India, Latin America, and Africa. In contrast, China itself is a market that the U.S. can hardly ignore. By the end of 2015, Chinese consumers had bought 131 million iPhones. The total sales to U.S. customers during the same period stood at only 110 million. And iPhones are only a small part of U.S. exports. Boeing, which employs 150,000 workers in the U.S., estimates that China will buy some 6,810 airplanes over the next 20 years, and that market alone will be worth more than \$1 trillion.

Were Trump to start a trade war, the most immediate effects would probably be felt by companies like Walmart, which import billions of dollars of cheap goods that are bought mostly by the people who voted Trump into office. The prices on almost all of these items would quickly skyrocket beyond the reach of the lower economic brackets—not because of manufacturing costs, but because of the tariffs. The result would be an economic war of attrition that China is infinitely better positioned to win. China's foreign currency reserves now stand at more than \$3 trillion. In contrast, the U.S. has foreign exchange reserves that hover at around \$120 billion. Trump's tariffs would automatically trigger penalties against the U.S. in the World Trade Organization (WTO), and might even lead to the WTO's collapse, which would lead to higher tariffs against U.S. exports. While it might take a while for that to happen, the turmoil would be catastrophic for American business and employment. China, on the other hand, would emerge relatively unscathed.

In fact, the importance of the U.S.-China relationship is already being challenged by other players. Apple's iPhone sales in China are running into competition from local Chinese manufacturers, and Samsung is more than happy to fill any void that the Chinese can't deal with. Likewise, the Chinese would happily shift their trillion dollars in future aircraft purchases to Airbus, a European firm that is already building a plant in China to finish assembly of large, twin-aisle jets. As for automobiles, most Chinese would just as soon drive a Mercedes, BMW, or Lexus as a Ford. Both China and leading economic experts hope that a trade war won't happen. The American political system is relatively mature with checks and balances, but with a president who often acts uniquely based on his own beliefs regarding complex issues, almost anything is possible.

## Future of U.S. ties with Asian allies Problematical: Ex-Diplomat

**TEHRAN (Tasnim)** — An American author and former diplomat highlighted the Trump administration's "arrogance in dictating policy" to Asian nations and said the latest regional developments bode ill for future of US relations with its Asian allies.

"The future of US relations with its Asian allies is problematical," Michael Springmann, the former head of the American visa bureau in Saudi Arabia, said in an interview with Tasnim.

"First and foremost is the American arrogance in dictating policy in the region, especially towards China. America simply doesn't consider the interests of its supposed partners,"

J. Michael Springmann served in the US government as a diplomat with the State Department's Foreign Service, with postings in Germany, India, and Saudi Arabia. He left federal service and currently practices law in the Washington, DC, area. Springmann's works and interviews have been published in numerous foreign policy publications, including Covert Action Quarterly, Unclassified, Global Outlook, the Public Record, OpEdNews, Global Research and Foreign Policy Journal. He has written Visas for Al Qaeda: CIA Handouts That Rocked The World and a second book Goodbye, Europe? Hello, Chaos? Merkel's Migrant Bomb. Both are available on Amazon. The books' website is: [www.michaelspringmann.com](http://www.michaelspringmann.com)

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: At the conclusion of the Biarritz Summit, the best thing that can be said of the event is that few participants could agree on anything. However, some appeared to agree that Donald Trump was a problem. The Europeans and the Japanese did not directly confront Donald Trump but engaged more in diplomatic criticism. For example, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that stable relations between the US and China were "very important". This might be seen as a veiled rebuke of Trumpian cowboy antics regarding trade with the Peoples' Republic. Again, in a surprise move, the French government invited Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for talks in an effort to resolve the collapsing Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This obviously was an indirect slap at Trump's policy of maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic. Donald Trump, a proclaimed climate change skeptic, refused to participate in the G7's session on climate, biodiversity and oceans. This demonstrated his indifference to the rest of the world's priorities, obviously alienating other nations. Finally, President Trump urged the inclusion of Russia in the next G7 meeting. However, the Europeans insisted that Vladimir Putin's government wasn't welcome, supposedly, because "it doesn't comply with democratic principles."

■ 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: The future of US relations with its Asian allies is problematical. First and foremost is the American arrogance in dictating policy in the region, especially towards China. America simply doesn't consider the interests of its supposed partners.

For example, the Philippines' projected plan to review its Mutual Defense Treaty with the US has alarmed American policy makers. They are particularly discomfited by the possibility that the Philippines might withdraw from it. President Duterte has said "You cannot place nuclear arms in the Philippines. That will never happen because I will not allow it. I will never allow any foreign troops..." Duterte naturally finds more commonality with fellow Asian leaders than with Western ones. This includes Chinese, Japanese, Korean and fellow Southeast Asian states.

America, obsessed with China, ignores the needs and wants of other countries in the region, such as South Korea and those of Southeast Asia. Blustering about North Korea, the US ignores the consequences of its policies on the southern half of the country. Given Chinese interest in islets in the South China Sea, America fails to back the concerns of neighboring countries and their claims on that real estate. As a result of such attitudes and policies, American relations with its Asian allies will likely decline.

■ 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: The Trump Administration's leaving important international treaties, such as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran and other countries and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia, is aimed at buttressing its global hegemony. While these moves have been successful, they have not been without criticism and blowback.

Trump's penalties on Iran after leaving the JCPOA have come from Sigal P. Mandelker. Likely still an Israeli citizen, she is in charge of US sanctions at the Treasury Department. Her policies have antagonized Europeans and brought forth a good deal of censure. The Arms Control Association noted that leaving the INF "...goes against the wishes of allies in Europe and elsewhere who want to preserve the treaty..." Moreover, since the US has left the pact, it has miraculously come up with a weapon with qualities far beyond the INF's constraints. Given the lead time for such things, it is obvious that America had planned to abrogate the treaty well in advance.

These moves have demonstrated that the United States cannot be trusted in agreements great or small. America will cast them aside when and if it sees an advantage in doing so.



# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt in Fereshteh  
280 sq.m, 3 master bedrooms  
Jacuzzi, furn, spj gathering room,  
parking, **\$4000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Zafaraniieh  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, 160 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, spj, balcony, elevator  
renovated, parking, **\$2000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahieh  
270 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., unfurn  
spj, billiard table, cinema saloon,  
parking, **\$3000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Niavaran  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 240 sq.m 3 Bdrs. unfurn,  
spj, balcony, roof garden, elevator,  
lobby storage, parking  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Tavanir  
103 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn equipped  
kitchen, parking  
**\$1300**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan  
115 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn, spj back  
yard, parking, **\$1400**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Luxury Apt in Zafaraniieh  
12<sup>th</sup> floor, 270 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
furn, spj, coffee shop, roof garden,  
parking, **\$4000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

## Villa

Triplex Villa in Zafaraniieh  
450 sq.m land, 800 sq.m built up  
14 Bdrs., unfurn, balcony elevator,  
renovated, storage parking, **\$5000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Duplex Villa in Mahmoodieh  
245 sq.m land, 300 sq.m built up,  
unfurn, yard, parking  
**\$3000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Duplex Villa in Pasdaran  
550 sq.m land, 630 sq.m built up, 4  
Bdrs., unfurn, outdoor swimming  
pool, renovated parking, **\$4000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa in Darband  
duplex, 2000 sq.m land  
400 sq.m built up, 4 Bdrs. unfurn,  
outdoor swimming  
3 balconies, green garden  
renovated, 4 parking spots  
Price: negotiable  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Triplex Villa in Seoul  
brand new, 175 sq.m land  
330 sq.m built up, 3 Bdrs.  
storage, parking, **\$3500**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation  
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

**Hot Line: 28141**  
info@parsdiplomatic.com

**www.parsdiplomatic.com**

## Building & Office

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

Whole Building in Zafaraniieh  
brand new, 6 floors, each apt  
360 sq.m with 4 Bdrs., unfurn  
equipped kitchen, spj, roof top  
elevator 27 parking spots  
**\$20000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole building in  
Vanak - Molla Sadra  
administrative office license  
4 floors, 4 apts, each apt 400 sq.m  
one 400 sq.m commercial floor  
elevator, nice terrace  
renovated, 6 parking spots  
**\$21000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Zafar  
brand new, 6 floors, 6 apts  
sq.m administrative office 1400  
license, 400 sq.m commercial flat  
elevator, 16 parking spots  
**\$20000**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole building in Jordan  
administrative office license  
650 sq.m totally, 13 rooms  
elevator, renovated, storage  
6 parking spots  
**\$6500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

## Ideal Offers

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

Apt in Fereshteh  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, 125 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
fully furn, spj, billiard table  
elevator, storage  
parking spot  
**\$1300**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mirdamad  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, parking  
**\$800**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaraniieh  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 90 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.  
furn, beautiful design, parking  
**\$1500**  
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Apt in Shariati - Sadr  
5<sup>th</sup> floor, 110 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.  
furn, balcony, elevator  
storage, parking  
**\$1000**  
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،  
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیر مبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات  
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران  
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران  
نیازمندیم.

**PARSIAN Real Estate**

**SHANON**  
Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com  
+989121907875  
Tel : 88510081

<b>Farmanieh (\$2000)</b> 200sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F	<b>Velenjak (\$2300)</b> 200sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F	<b>Darband Villa (\$3500)</b> 1000sq.m, 5bdrs S/p, yard, & F.F
<b>Elahieh (\$1600)</b> 3bdrs, S/p, S, J pkg, & Fully Furn	<b>Jordan (\$1000)</b> 120sq.m, 2bdrs balcony, & F.F	<b>Zaferanieh bldg</b> 5stoery, total 15bdrs S/p, S, J, pkg (\$8000)

**1<sup>st</sup> CHOICE**  
REAL ESTATE

Mr. Ghanizadeh  
Nobody does it better

LOOKING FOR RENTAL PROPERTY?  
Call: 22041212 - 09121081212  
Visit: WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM  
E-mail: property@firstchoiceco.com  
Since 1987 مسکن انتخاب اول - غنی زاده

**Intercity travel service**

Car&driver, residence,...  
Suitable for your budget  
24 hour reservation  
Tell & what's app  
0098 919 819 95 19

**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

Advertising Dept:  
times1979@gmail.com

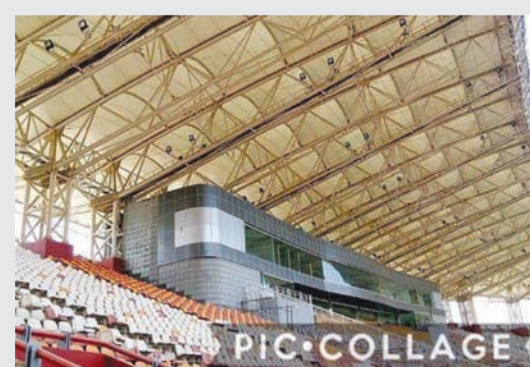
**+9821 430 51 450**  
www.tehrantimes.com

**TEHRAN TIMES**

Iran's Leading  
International Daily  
Advertising Dept

Tel:  
**021 - 430 51 450**

## Modern Stadium of Martyrs of Khuzestan Football Club (KFC)





# India loses contact with spacecraft on mission to the Moon

India lost contact with a spacecraft it was attempting to land on the Moon on Saturday, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said, in a setback to the nation's ambitious plans to become the first country to probe the unexplored lunar south pole.

The lander of India's Chandrayaan-2 Moon mission was attempting a "soft," or controlled, landing near the south pole of the Moon where scientists believe there could be water ice. ISRO lost communication with it just as it was about to land on the Moon.

"Data is being analyzed," ISRO Chairman K Sivan told a room full of distraught scientists at the agency's tracking center in Bengaluru.

The Indian designed spacecraft, which had been orbiting the Moon, began descending toward the lunar surface at about 2007 GMT but scientists lost contact with it during the penultimate stage of the descent.

"Vikram lander descent was as planned and normal performance was observed up to an altitude of 2.1 km. Subsequently, communication from Lander to the ground stations was lost," an ISRO official said. The



lander was named Vikram after the father of India's space program, Vikram Sarabhai.

A live broadcast from ISRO, India's equivalent of NASA, showed scientists grow tense and the floor fall silent as the control station struggled to get a signal from the lander.

"There are ups and downs in life ... What you have accomplished is no small achievement," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was present at the ISRO center, told scientists after being briefed by Sivan.

Though ISRO had not released any official

update, Modi in a subsequent formal address to the scientists and the nation hinted that the lander might have traveled at a higher-than-expected speed and crash landed on the Moon.

"If historians some day write about today's incident, they will certainly say that inspired by our romantic description of the Moon throughout life, Chandrayaan, in the last leg of the journey, rushed to embrace the Moon," he said.

Modi said that though India "came very close" it needs to "cover more ground" in the times to come. "I can proudly say that the effort was worth it and so was the journey."

In an emotional moment broadcast on TV channels, Modi embraced and consoled a visibly heart-broken Sivan.

"We are full of confidence that when it comes to our space program, the best is yet to come," Modi said.

Sivan had earlier described the final moments of the landing mission as "15 minutes of terror," due to the complexities involved with lunar gravity, terrain and dust.

(Source: Reuters)

## Study details the physics of proto-stellar disk formation

In studying the movements of a trio of protostars in the Perseus molecular cloud, astronomers have gained new insights into the physical conditions that enable the formation of proto-stellar disks.

The basic roadmap for the formation of stellar and planetary systems is well established. Over time, gas and dust in interstellar space coalesce. Eventually, the dense cloud of material collapses under its own gravity. A stellar core forms and, thanks to the conservation of angular momentum, a proto-stellar disk forms. After roughly 100,000 years or more, the star gets dense enough to ignite nuclear fusion. Shortly afterwards, planets form from the proto-stellar disk.

But questions remain. The details of how angular momentum enables proto-stellar disk formation remains poorly understood, and astronomers still aren't sure exactly how the disk accumulates its mass.

To begin to answer these questions and others, scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics aimed their telescopes at three of the youngest proto-stellar sources in the Perseus molecular cloud, which is located 1,000 light-years from Earth.

Because these protostars are positioned close to edge-on in the plane of the sky, astronomers were able to measure the velocity distribution of the molecular cloud.

"This is the first time that we were able to analyze the gas kinematics around three circumstellar disks in early stages of their formation," Jaime Pineda, MPE astronomer and lead researcher, said in a news release. "All systems can be fit with the same model, which gave us the first hint that the dense clouds do not rotate as solid body."

A solid body rotation is the simplest



model for a spinning disk, with a fixed angular speed for the circling bits of gas and dust at any radius. Analysis of the three proto-stellar sources suggests the systems are best described by a model that exists somewhere between solid body rotation and pure turbulence.

To identify the forces that might help explain proto-stellar disk formation, scientists compared their observations to the predictions of common protostar formation models. The comparison showed current models have failed to account for the influence of magnetic fields.

"If a magnetic field is included it makes sure that the collapse is not too fast and the gas rotation matches the observed one," said Pineda. "Our latest observations give us an upper limit on the disk sizes, which are in great agreement with previous studies."

Scientists published their findings this week in the Astrophysical Journal. In followup studies, they hope to analyze the differences in the influence of angular momentum during different stages in the evolution of protostars and their disks.

(Source: UPI)

## Loch Ness monster might just be a giant eel, say scientists

Scotland's fabled Loch Ness monster could possibly be a giant eel, scientists said on Thursday after an intensive analysis of traces of DNA in the Loch's icy waters.

The results ruled out the presence of large animals such as dinosaurs, they said.

But there was a lot of eel DNA in the Loch, Professor Neil Gemmell, a geneticist from New Zealand's University of Otago, told reporters.

"Eels are very plentiful in the loch system - every single sampling site that we went to pretty much had eels and the sheer volume of it was a bit of a surprise," Gemmell said.

"We can't exclude the possibility that there's a giant eel in Loch Ness but we don't know whether these samples we've collected are from a giant beast or just an ordinary one - so there's still this element of 'we just don't know.'"

Gemmell noted however that despite the idea of a giant eel having been around for decades, nobody had ever caught a giant one in the Loch.

The international team of scientists took their samples of so-called environmental DNA (eDNA) in June last year.

The use of eDNA sampling is already well established as a tool for monitoring marine life like whales and sharks.

Whenever a creature moves through its environment, it leaves behind tiny fragments of DNA from skin, scales, feathers, fur, faeces and urine.

This DNA can be captured, sequenced and then used to identify that creature by comparing the sequence obtained to large databases of known genetic sequences from hundreds of thousands of different organisms.

The first written record of a monster relates to the Irish monk St Columba, who



is said to have banished a "water beast" to the depths of the River Ness in the 6th century.

The most famous picture of Nessie, known as the "surgeon's photo", was taken in 1934 and showed a head on a long neck emerging from the water. It was revealed 60 years later to have been a hoax that used a sea monster model attached to a toy submarine.

Countless unsuccessful attempts to track down the monster have been made in the years since, notably in 2003 when the BBC funded an extensive scientific search that used 600 sonar beams and satellite tracking to sweep the full length of the loch.

The most recent attempt was three years ago when a high-tech marine drone found a monster - but not the one it was looking for. The discovery turned out to be replica used in the 1970 film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", which sank nearly 50 years ago.

Gemmell's team included scientists from Britain, Denmark, the United States, Australia and France.

(Source: Reuters)

## SpaceX's new ride-sharing launches to boost small-satellite industry

SpaceX's plans for more frequent, regularly scheduled ride-sharing launches will unleash new growth in the small-satellite industry, leading to easier and cheaper rollouts for new communication networks, experts said.

SpaceX recently published a schedule of 30 rocket launches for small satellites in 2020 and 2021. Its customers can buy space on the missions for as low as \$1 million, a previously unprecedented price to put a satellite into orbit.

Reserving an entire launch on the company's Falcon 9 rocket costs \$62 million.

The small-satellite market is poised to generate \$1 billion a year over the next decade, according to Northern Sky Research, which is based in Cambridge, Mass., and specializes in the satellite and space markets.

"What SpaceX is doing is great for the satellite industry," Leena Pivovarov, an analyst for Northern Sky, told UPI.

"It's definitely going to lead to expansion. It will also make the small-rocket market more competitive," she said. "Things will get a little more difficult for new launch companies trying to enter the market."

The new SpaceX schedule for small satellites is in addition to its regular missions to the International Space Station or for large customers like the U.S. military. The first date on the new schedule is in March, when a Falcon 9 rocket is to lift off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, but other launches will be in Florida, the company said.

One of the first customers for the new program, California-based Momentus, will be launching a satellite specifically designed to move other satellites around once they reach space. That launch is set for late 2020.

Momentus said it will provide "last mile" service for other satellites by helping them reach specific orbits. Its satellite shuttle service, or tugboat, is called Vigoride, and also is poised to support more frequent small-satellite deployments.

"We think the cost reduction for SpaceX launches is going to be fantastic, and it will stimulate all kinds of new business in space," said Joel Sercel, the Momentus chief



technology officer.

He said the key to success is the regular schedule that businesses can count on.

Plans to launch thousands of new satellites have raised fears of potential problems, though, especially collisions and increased space trash.

SpaceX and the European Space Agency already had a recent close call. The space agency said the United States' collision alert system indicated a European weather satellite was at risk of colliding Monday with a Starlink satellite launched from Florida in May. The risk was 1 in 10,000, which exceeds industry standards, the agency said.

The agency issued a statement saying it had contacted SpaceX, and the space company had indicated it planned to take no action. Starlink satellites, like many satellites, have the ability to fire thrusters to avoid collisions. Instead, the space agency moved its satellite to avoid the problem.

In a statement afterward, SpaceX acknowledged that it was aware of a problem, but blamed "a bug in our on-call paging system" that prevented a Starlink operator from seeing updates that had raised the probability to the 1 in 10,000 level.

"SpaceX is still investigating the issue and will implement corrective actions. However, had the Starlink operator seen the correspondence, we would have coordinated with ESA to determine best approach," a SpaceX statement said.

On Tuesday, the European agency called for new protocol to communicate and resolve similar problems.

"Today, this negotiation is done through exchanging emails -- an archaic process that is no longer viable as increasing numbers of satellites in space mean more space traffic," said Holger Krag, head of space safety at European agency.

Meanwhile, SpaceX is moving forward, noting that dedicated ride-share missions will not be delayed by trouble with another passenger's schedule. "If you are ready to fly during the scheduled launch period, you will fly," the SpaceX announcement said.

Customers who run into delays that prevents them from launching can book another launch with a 10 percent rebooking fee, SpaceX said.

SpaceX's ride-sharing launches and lower cost are partly a result of the company making its rockets reusable, Northern Sky's Pivovarov said.

She said SpaceX simply might launch its own satellites for its Starlink internet network if a scheduled launch doesn't have as many paying customers.

"Personally, I think it may take a while before they can achieve that kind of regular launch rhythm," Pivovarov said. "It could be that they are dropping their prices because they can afford to now, or because they see competition coming up from other rocket companies getting into the business."

Momentus has raised \$34 million for its satellite shuttle. The company says its unique new technology uses water plasma as the propellant.

Gwynne Shotwell, the SpaceX president, said Momentus "will offer a strong complement to Falcon 9's capability to reliably and affordably launch payloads for small satellite operators."

(Source: UPI)

## Exotic physics phenomenon is observed for first time

An exotic physical phenomenon, involving optical waves, synthetic magnetic fields, and time reversal, has been directly observed for the first time, following decades of attempts. The new finding could lead to realizations of what are known as topological phases, and eventually to advances toward fault-tolerant quantum computers, the researchers say.

The new finding involves the non-Abelian Aharonov-Bohm Effect and is reported today in the journal Science by MIT graduate student Yi Yang, MIT visiting scholar Chao Peng (a professor at Peking University), MIT graduate student Di Zhu, Professor Hrvoje Buljan at University of Zagreb in Croatia, Francis Wright Davis Professor of Physics John Joannopoulos at MIT, Professor Bo Zhen at the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT professor of physics Marin Soljacic.

The finding relates to gauge fields, which describe transformations that particles undergo. Gauge fields fall into two classes, known as Abelian and non-Abelian. The Aharonov-Bohm Effect, named after the theorists who predicted it in 1959, confirmed that gauge fields -- beyond being a pure mathematical aid -- have physical consequences.

But the observations only worked in Abelian systems, or those in which gauge fields are commutative -- that is, they take place the same way both forward and backward in time. In 1975, Tai-Tsun Wu and Chen-Ning Yang generalized the effect to the non-Abelian regime as a thought experiment. Nevertheless, it remained unclear whether it would even be possible to ever observe the effect in a non-Abelian system. Physicists lacked ways of creating the effect in the lab, and also lacked ways of detecting the effect even if it could be produced. Now, both of those puzzles have been solved, and the observations carried out successfully.

The effect has to do with one of the strange and counterintuitive aspects of modern physics, the fact that virtually all fundamental physical phenomena are time-invariant. That means that the details of the way particles and forces interact can run either forward or backward in time, and a movie of how the events unfold can be run in either direction, so there's no way to tell which is the real version. But a few exotic phenomena violate this time symmetry.

Creating the Abelian version of the Aharonov-Bohm effects requires breaking the time-reversal symmetry, a challenging task in itself, Soljacic says. But to achieve the non-Abelian version of the effect requires breaking this time-reversal multiple times, and in different ways, making it an even greater challenge.

To produce the effect, the researchers use photon polarization. Then, they produced two different kinds of time-reversal breaking. They used fiber optics to produce two types of gauge fields that affected the geometric phases of the optical waves, first by sending them through a crystal biased by powerful magnetic fields, and second by modulating them with time-varying electrical signals, both of which break the time-reversal symmetry. They were then able to produce interference patterns that revealed the differences in how the light was affected when sent through the fiber-optic system in opposite directions, clockwise or counterclockwise. Without the breaking of time-reversal invariance, the beams should have been identical, but instead, their interference patterns revealed specific sets of differences as predicted, demonstrating the details of the elusive effect.

The original, Abelian version of the Aharonov-Bohm effect "has been observed with a series of experimental efforts, but the non-Abelian effect has not been observed until now," Yang says. The finding "allows us to do many things," he says, opening the door to a wide variety of potential experiments, including classical and quantum physical regimes, to explore variations of the effect.

The experimental approach devised by this team "might inspire the realization of exotic topological phases in quantum simulations using photons, polaritons, quantum gases, and superconducting qubits," Soljacic says. For photonics itself, this could be useful in a variety of optoelectronic applications, he says. In addition, the non-Abelian gauge fields that the group was able to synthesize produced a non-Abelian Berry phase, and "combined with interactions, it may potentially one day serve as a platform for fault-tolerant topological quantum computation," he says.

At this point, the experiment is primarily of interest for fundamental physics research, with the aim of gaining a better understanding of some basic underpinnings of modern physical theory. The many possible practical applications "will require additional breakthroughs going forward," Soljacic says.

For one thing, for quantum computation, the experiment would need to be scaled up from one single device to likely a whole lattice of them. And instead of the beams of laser light used in their experiment, it would require working with a source of single individual photons. But even in its present form, the system could be used to explore questions in topological physics, which is a very active area of current research, Soljacic says.

(Source: Science Daily)

## Lava from Hawaiian volcano fueled algae super bloom in Pacific Ocean

Scientists have uncovered the link between Hawaii's famous K2lauea volcano and an algae super bloom.

Last summer, more than a billion tons of lava from K2lauea flowed into the waters of the Pacific. The event itself wasn't out of the norm, but when scientists analyzed satellite photos of the eruption, they were surprised to see a second eruption -- an eruption of green along Hawaii's coast.

When researchers from the universities of Hawaii and Southern California investigated, they found the perfect ingredients for algae growth -- elevated nitrate levels and plenty of silicic acid, iron and phosphate.

Scientists knew lava itself wasn't the fertilizer that sparked the bloom.

"There was no reason for us to expect that an algae bloom like this would happen," geochemist Seth John, assistant professor of Earth sciences at USC, said in a news release. "Lava doesn't contain any nitrate."

Human-triggered algae blooms typically happen as a result of runoff. Commercial farms use lots and lots of fertilizer. A lot of that fertilizer, including plenty of nitrogen and phosphorous, gets washed into waterways and flushed into lakes and oceans, fueling algae blooms.

But lava isn't fertilizer.

Still, the timing couldn't be explained away as coincidence. Scientists knew the lava had triggered the algae bloom. The region's biochemistry had been fundamentally altered, even if only temporarily.

(Source: UPI)





## Iran eyes to gain a UNESCO tag for its “Martian Mountains”

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — Iran is planning on developing a dossier for its “Martian Mountains”, commonly known as “Miniature Mountains”, for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.



“We are completing a dossier for Miniature Mountains, which are situated near Chahabahr [in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province] with the aim of registering it in the UNESCO World Heritage list,” Mehr quoted Alireza Jalalzadeh, the provincial tourism chief, as saying on Saturday.

Mars or Martian Mountains, also known as “Koochay Merikhi” in Persian, are a type of badland stretched out parallel to the Gulf of Oman. Their current shape results from millions of years of erosion by wind and water. The height of the mountains varies between five to over 100 meters.

Locals named them Martian Mountains, since it seemed as if aliens – in this case people from Mars – built them; with almost no vegetation, their curvy scenery stand in strong contrast with the landscape around.

For decades, Sistan-Baluchestan used to be shunned by potential foreign travelers though it is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites of Shahr-e-Sokhteh (Burnt City) and Lut Desert, shared with Kerman Province.

## TripAdvisor ‘failing to stop fake reviews’: study

U.S. travel and restaurant website TripAdvisor has failed to do enough to stop fake hotel reviews, British consumer association “Which?” said in a study published on Friday.

A total 15 out of 100 top-rated hotels around the world displayed TripAdvisor reviews showing “blatant” signs of being fake, the study found.

TripAdvisor responded that it was committed to ensuring accurate information and catching fraudsters, while Which? added that the website had taken down hundreds of reviews after its investigation.

“TripAdvisor’s failure to stop fake reviews and take strong action against hotels that abuse the system risks misleading millions of travelers and potentially ruining their holidays,” said Naomi Leach, head of the Which? travel division.

She added: “Sites like TripAdvisor must do more to ensure the information on their platforms is reliable, and if they continue to fall short they should be compelled to make changes so holidaymakers are no longer at risk of being duped by a flood of fake reviews.”

TripAdvisor spokesman James Kay told the BBC that it would “very aggressively” weed out fake reviews.

“We are doing this more than any other platform out there,” he added.

Which? said it had identified problems at hotels in the Middle East, particularly in Cairo and also in Jordan.

And two Las Vegas hotels received almost half of their hundreds of five-star TripAdvisor reviews from first-time reviewers who had never used the site before -- nor used it since.

Friday’s Which? study was published as British regulators seek to tackle the sale of fake and misleading online reviews.

The Competition and Markets Authority has already urged social media giant Facebook and auction marketplace eBay to stop the sale of fake reviews on their sites.

(Source: AFP)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Mesa Verde National Park

The Mesa Verde landscape in the U.S. is a remarkably well-preserved prehistoric settlement landscape of the Ancestral Puebloan culture, which lasted for almost nine hundred years from c. 450 to 1300.

This plateau in southwest Colorado, which sits at an altitude of more than 2,600 meters, contains a great concentration of spectacular Pueblo Indian dwellings, including the well-known cliff dwellings.



A UNESCO World Heritage, this rich landscape provides a remarkable archaeological laboratory for enhancing our understanding of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

Some 600 cliff dwellings built of sandstone and mud mortar have been recorded within Mesa Verde National Park – including the famous multi-storey Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Square Tower House – and an additional 4,300 archaeological sites have been discovered.

The cliff dwelling sites range in size from small storage structures to large villages of 50 to 200 rooms. Many other archaeological sites, such as pit-house settlements and masonry-walled villages of varying size and complexity, are distributed over the mesas.

Non-habitation sites include farming terraces and check dams, field houses, reservoirs and ditches, shrines and ceremonial features, as well as rock art. Mesa Verde represents a significant and living link between the Puebloan Peoples’ past and their present way of life.

(Source: UNESCO)

# A unique experience in life: Traveling to Iran during Muharram



## ➔ Muharram and the battle of Karbala

From a theological approach, religious rituals are perhaps a recreation of collective memories that help to shape what is known as collective identity, an essential foundation for sense of belonging. One such ritual is the mourning ceremony. Rich with symbolism, most of which have historical values, these ceremonies are a platform where communal beliefs and ideals about life and death are acknowledged and as people unite in grief and hope for consolation, they search for new meanings of life and reevaluate and confirm the foundation of their beliefs.

The commemoration of the battle of Karbala on the day of Ashura (literally meaning 10th as the battle took place on the 10th day of Muharram) and the epic passion and courage of Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 loyal companions who were all martyred (in 680 CE) is annually honored by Iranians. A grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Imam Hussein (AS) and his army of few followers battled with the large military detachment from the forces of Yazid I, the Umayyad caliph, whom Imam Hussein (AS) had refused to recognize as caliph. The Imam was beheaded by Shimr and all his supporters were killed, including his six-month-old infant son, and the women and children were taken as captives.

Muharram and the following month, Safar (which includes commemoration of the aftermath of Karbala) are a period lamentation for Muslims. War and fighting are prohibited during Muharram and festivities like weddings and birthdays are usually postponed to more appropriate days. People generally wear black out of respect or at least avoid wearing very bright colors.

But the core meaning of Muharram is beyond such mere bereavement and commemoration of the past. Karbala was an actual and metaphorical venue where the Truth confronted the Lie, where justice spoke vibrant and audible in the face of prejudice and where courage, passion and devotion preceded attachment, worldliness and obstinacy.

The saga is narrated to tell us that compared to the Pyrrhic and momentary victory of injustice, integrity and honesty will always stand the test of time as today the life of Imam Hussein (AS) is honored by millions across the world while the account of his enemies is nearly lost in oblivion. The story also lives to tell us that the majority is not always right. Even if the army of Truth is small in number, it still is magnanimous in what it stands for.

Therefore, commemoration of Ashura is also a tribute to truth and justice and condemnation of tyranny anytime and anywhere. This is perhaps one of the many reasons why a day like Ashura can never be overlooked as these rituals encompass universal values that will never wear out. There will always be Shimrs of ignorance and Yazids of prejudice who are ready to sacrifice the Truth at the altar of the majority for their personal or communal interests but there will also

be vigilant individuals who will notice the faintest flickers of hope for justice even in the darkest dungeons of their times and strive to magnify and relate it to one and all alike.

## ■ Mourning in Muharram

The Persian word for mourning is ‘Azadari’, stemming from the word Azaa. The literal meaning of Azaa is twofold. Firstly, it indicates ‘patience’ and ‘perseverance’ and secondly, when used as a verb it implies consolation and solace that come as a gradual result of that patience. In many cultures, the act of consolation has a ritualistic face and it is therefore systematic and easy to follow as it provides its very own logic, symbolisms and paradigms.

The ritualistic bereavements of Muharram are a platform where various artistic genres like literature, painting, music, fiction and drama are reconciled.

During Muharram, a part from mosques, each neighborhood sets up its own establishment for the ceremonial processions of the month known as ‘Tekkiyeh’, which are venues for gathering of mourners known as ‘heyat’ (literally meaning group or delegation) who honor the life of Imam Hussein (AS). Tekkiyeh (stemming from the word eteka, meaning backup or reliable) was historically a staying place for visiting pilgrims and dervishes who relied on the goodness of the benefactors for daily sustenance. Today Tekkiyehs, however, are specific locations for mourners who meet and participate in religious gathering after which they head out on the streets in groups known as dasteh (literally meaning cluster) to parade a dramatic mourning. The dasteh in each neighborhood has a specific route through which it will proceed and people follow and move with the cluster of mourners as they chant mourning songs on the night and the day of Ashura. Resilient beat of drums and a few other instruments are heard as people weep to the hymns and men in black rhythmically flagellate their backs with two pairs of chains and beat their chests with open palms. This ritual is known as Sineh-Zani (beating the chest). Women may watch the processions and follow the parade; however, they do not practice flagellation.

Traditionally an elderly person known as rish sefid (literally meaning, white-bearded) who is also a benefactor of the processions will raise and wave the green and black flags (traditional colors of Islam and mourning) ahead of the parade. Later people take turns to hold the flag as the mourners move through the streets. A tall (sometimes as long as 12 meters) richly decorated with fabrics and feathers structure known as nakhl (palm tree) is carried around. The nakhl is a symbol of Imam Hussein’s coffin as history narrates his beheaded corpse was carried on a stretcher made of palm leaves. For many people carrying the nakhl throughout the ceremony is a form of bereavement and an instance of humbleness.

Some nakhls are so heavily decorated that more than a 100 people are needed in order to carry them. Alam (literally

meaning standard) a symbol of standards carried in Karbala are also shouldered by some. While the band plays martial and doleful music, some people clad in costumes representing the army of Imam Hussein (AS) sit on horses and their suffering under the oppression of their enemy, Yazid is enacted by individuals who wear dark intense colors and have aggressive faces and large moustaches.

Also, Imam Hussein’s loyal white horse known as Zuljanah (literally meaning, winged horse) saddled and decorated with green fabric and tainted with red paint (representing blood) is symbolically paraded.

Zuljanah who was also shot with arrows during the battle, ran to the women’s tent upon seeing Imam Hussein’s corpse on the ground. Seeing the blood stains on the horse, Imam’s family came to know of his death. It is said that Zuljanah died three days later as he stopped eating and drinking after the Imam’s death. Accounts of the horse are also mentioned in songs and sermons. This parade usually last a few hours after which people gather for a dinner or lunch feast known as Nazri.

Other communal forms of mourning include Tazieh which is actually a passion play usually performed during the first ten days of Muharram culminating in a passionate and emotional peak on the tenth (Ashura). Stories and characters involved in the Karbala battle are enacted by men and young children. Needless to say, these rituals are region specific and quite diverse. Major theatre house in Iran also stage plays relevant to this month.

Tazieh, which recounts religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales, was registered on UNESCO’s List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010.

## ■ Nazri: Food ritual and alms for the poor

Religious ceremonies in Iran more than often include food offerings, whether they are held at public venues like mosques or at private residences. These communal gatherings are also a kind of forum where friends, acquaintances and neighbors meet over food that is served after the ceremonies.

During Muharram, every village, township, city or metropolis is abuzz with preparation for food offerings known as Nazri, the processions of which are usually sponsored by wealthy benefactors.

Sheep, cows and other halal animals are specifically and ritually sacrificed for this purpose. Large pots and equally large ladles and spatulas are taken out of the cellars, big fires are lit and food is prepared in large quantities and distributed among the people, particularly the poor.

The most common dish is Gheymeh (known as Gheymeh-e Imam Hussein) which includes a thick stew of split peas and chopped lamb cooked with dry lemons and tomato puree and served on a bed of hot saffron rice. Other dishes of Persian cuisine, like Aash (thick soup-stew), Halim (thick dish of wheat, lentil and meat), Shole Zard (a sweet dish made

of rice), palm dates and sherbets are also served during these days.

Nazri (stemming from the Arabic word, Nazr) which literally means ‘offering’ is actually a form of a religious commitment that the benefactor has vowed to fulfill when his prayers are heard. People pledge (make a spiritual vow) to do acts of goodness, like feed the poor, visit holy shrines and give alms if their prayers and wishes come true. Also sometimes food offerings are distributed as Kheyraat (literally meaning charity) in the memory of the deceased. It is believed that the prayers of the poor and needy who are fed by these offerings will benefit the souls of the departed.

During Muharram, particularly on Tasua and Ashura days, each neighborhood in the city will set its food stalls and offer food to the mourners. Also private homes offer food to their neighbors by distributing parcels to houses or hosting the mourning ceremonies inside their homes and asking people to join by invitation.

## ■ Facts

1- Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and therefore the 1st day of the month marks the Islamic New Year. Since the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar, Muharram moves from year to year. This is while the Persian New Year falls on the 21st of March according to the solar calendar.

2- Muharram (derived from the word Haram, meaning forbidden) is one of the four sacred months of the year in which war is prohibited.

3- In Islamic and Persian culture, the 3rd, 7th and 40th day of birth and particularly death are significant dates. Arbāeen (literally meaning forty in the Arabic Language) which marks 40 days after the death of Imam Hussein (AS) is also a typical period of mourning for Muslims.

4- During Muharram, particularly on Tasua and Ashura, people refrain from doing or saying things that may violate the honorable spirit of the month. Television and radio channels alter their timings and programs to accommodate more of religious sermons, mourning songs, live ceremonies and films pertaining to the spirit of the month.

5- Black as the color of mourning during this month is visible in people’s attire, banners hanging from buildings, billboards, decoration of city walls and in the writings on the rearview windows of cars.

6- Tasua and Ashura are holidays in Iran, Iraq, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan, Bahrain, Trinidad and Tanzania are among the countries that honor Muharram. All tourist sites and museums are closed during these two days but most of shops and restaurants are open for travelers.

7- The night of Ashura in Iran is called Shaam-e Ghariban, meaning “the night of strangers” and those who are far from home and help. People light candles in holy places and gatherings in every corner of the country.



# Epstein case: another manifestation of Israeli influence over Western MSM

By Alireza Hashemi

**TEHRAN** — Jeffery Epstein, the mysterious Wall Street “financier” who reportedly committed suicide early August, has frequently made headlines in the western press in the past couple of months.

Epstein's shocking case involving hundreds of victims has been followed by the public for months, with people wondering how the wealthy financier had avoided public trial and got away real punishment for years.

Epstein was convicted in a sex-related case in 2008, but he evaded strict sentencing and served only a year in prison.

This year, he was implicated in a separate case. But this time he had been denied bail and faced up to 45 years behind bars on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges.

The controversy has all the hallmarks of a major espionage case, but it appears that no one in the mainstream media is interested in such angels.

The MSM has scantily pointed to Epstein's connections with Israel and his Jewish roots.

The western media only addresses the sexual aspect of the case, perhaps because it has provoked considerable public anger.

## ■ Sexual Blackmail Operation?

Let's have a recap of the evidence suggesting Epstein's case could have espionage dimensions.

The pedophile was operating his sex network out of his properties in New York and Florida as well as his private island in the Caribbean.

His mansions were reportedly equipped with hidden cameras and microphones in the bedrooms, which could be used to record sexual encounters between high-profile guests and teen girls, who were recruited to provide “massaging” services to customers.

The filming procedure smacks of a sophisticated intelligence service gathering material to blackmail politicians and public figures.

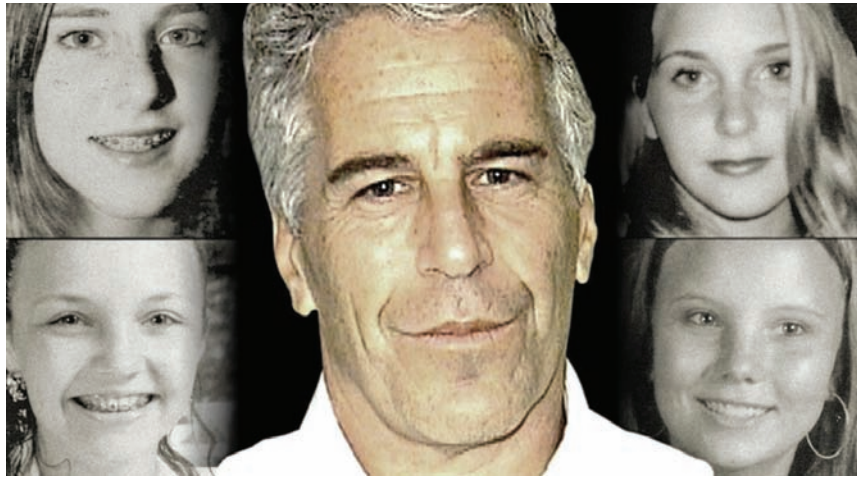
Those blackmailed would undoubtedly cooperate with the services involved to avoid a major scandal.

Most likely, Epstein was laying the groundwork for Israeli espionage activities. There are no other viable explanation for his filming of big politicians and celebrities having sex with young women.

Israel would have been eager to have a patchwork of high-level agents in Europe and the US.

According to New York Times, a trove of sealed court records names over a thousands of people who are connected to Jeffery Epstein.

Reportedly, Epstein kept a black book identifying many of his social contacts, including Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia, Tony Blair, Jon Huntsman, Senator Ted Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, David Koch,



**The MSM are working hard to divert attention from a fact so obvious to the wider public: Epstein wasn't just a shameless paedophile. Most likely, he was serving an intelligence agency.**

Alan Dershowitz, John Kerry, George Mitchell, David Rockefeller, Richard Branson, Michael Bloomfield, Dustin Hoffman, Queen Elizabeth, Saudi King Salman and Edward de Rothschild.

Those people are the type of influential figures Israel would seek to coerce into cooperation.

Epstein has been reported to have been particularly close to Clinton, the former US president remembered by his sexual scandal involving the 22-year-old White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Bill and Jeffery were so close that the latter was a major contributor to the Clinton Foundation and was present at the wedding of Chelsea Clinton in 2010.

Epstein was also close to US President Donald Trump.

In fact, the case gained more traction after Donald Trump took power in the US, with Trump's Democrat opponents calling for the resignation of Trump's former secretary of labor Alexander Acosta, who had allegedly helped Epstein skip public trial in 2008 as the top federal prosecutor in Miami.

Interestingly, Acosta has openly admitted he went light on Epstein because he was told the financier “belonged to intelligence.”

## ■ Epstein's Jewish Roots

Many high-profile Jewish players have continued to turn up like bad pennies in the Epstein case, but no reporter in the western media seems to be interested in pursuing that angle.

Epstein, born from Jewish parents in 1953 in New York City, began his working life in 1974 as a teacher at Manhattan's Dalton School, which was run at the time by the Jewish-born educator Donald Barr.

Jeffery then changed to the finance world in 1976, joining Bear Sterns, the Wall Street's quintessential Jewish firm

run by Alan Greenberg.

In 1981, Epstein founded his own consulting firm that had various governmental and high-profile clients from across the world.

Epstein supported many Jewish organizations and was a board member of the pro-Israel Wexner Foundation. He also had friendship with dozens of Israel supporters, from Alan Dershowitz to Howard Rubenstein to Larry Summers to Gary Ginsberg to Ron Perelman.

Moreover, Epstein appears to have had contact with former Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak, and had a financial stake in a startup run by Barak that was connected to Israeli's defense industry.

Epstein's contact with the Israeli intelligence may have come through his relationship with Ghislaine Maxwell, who allegedly helped bring him girl victims.

Ghislaine is the daughter of the Anglo-Jewish businessman Robert Maxwell, an alleged Mossad spy who was given a state funeral by Israel after he died in 1991.

## ■ MSM Unwilling to Dig for Truth

In a world with functioning media, the Guardian, the New York Times, the BBC and other MSM outlets would vie to dig out truth in the case and reveal Epstein's affiliation with Israel.

But it seems the MSM are instead concealing the shame. They work hard to divert attention from a fact so obvious to the public: Epstein wasn't just a shameless paedophile. Most likely, he was serving an intelligence agency, or more than one.

Epstein's connections with Israel has been addressed by the Israeli media, but those report have focused on Epstein's ties with Barak, who ran in the Israeli elections earlier this year.

Interestingly, the pro-Israel Jewish Chronicle has sought to label the

speculations as a “conspiracy theory” created by “online theorists”.

## ■ Gross Corruption Among Political Class

The investigation into Epstein and his activities stopped late last month, with a federal judge dismissing the charges against the financier.

Less than three weeks after Jeffrey Epstein reportedly hanged himself in his cell, a federal judge has formally closed the sex trafficking case against the wealthy financier.

One could wonder how he managed to kill himself, since he attempted to take his own life on July 23 and supposed to have been stripped of anything that could be used for suicide.

With the financier dead, many of his secrets will have gone to the grave with him and it will probably be impossible to shed light the depth of Israeli espionage in the west.

Given the high stakes in the game, most likely there will be a cover-up of what Epstein was all about.

But the case served as yet another example of bias in favor of Israel in the western press.

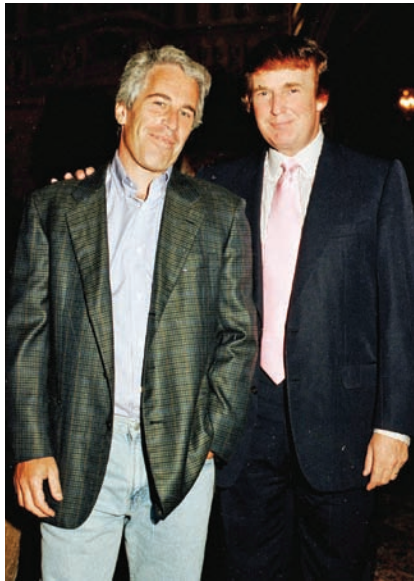
The western mainstream media generally refuses to address cases of Israeli spying against the US.

This should be to nobody's surprise, as Israel's war crimes and expansionist policies also go unchallenged by the western MSM.

The fate of this case might prove similar to the 9/11 Report and the Mueller investigation, both of which blocked any examination of the Israeli role.

The case also exposes gross corruption at the top echelons of power in America.

The political class in the west is really compromised and the mainstream media as a whole do little but veil the truth.



American financier Jeffrey Epstein (left) and Donald Trump as they pose together at the Mar-a-Lago estate, Palm Beach, Florida, 1997.

## How the American media was destroyed

By Dr. Paul Craig Roberts

I have many times written that it was President Bill Clinton who destroyed the independent US media when he permitted 90 percent of the US media to be concentrated in six mega-corporations that were in the entertainment and other businesses and not in the news business. This unprecedented concentration of media was against all American tradition and destroyed the reliance that our Founding Fathers placed on a free press to keep government accountable to the people.

Until I read Mary Mapes book, Truth and Duty (St. Martin's Press, 2005), I was unaware of how this monopolization of the media in violation of the Sherman Anti-trust Act and American tradition had proceeded to destroy honest reporting.

Here is what happened. The Texas Air National Guard was a place the elite placed their sons to avoid the Vietnam War draft. Copies of documents written by Lt. Col. Jerry B. Killian describing George W. Bush's ability to jump the large waiting list hoping to avoid the war, Bush's non-compliance with National Guard requirements and Bush's unauthorized departure to another state were given to CBS. The CBS team worked for many months to confirm or discredit the documents. The information in the documents proved to be consistent with the interviews of people acquainted with George W. Bush's time in the Texas National Guard.

It was a carefully prepared story, not a rushed one, and it fits all the information we now have of Bush's non-performance.

The problem for the CBS news team, which might not have been realized at the time, was that the documents were copies, not originals that experts could authenticate as real beyond question. Therefore, although the documents were consistent with the testimony of others, no expert could validate the documents as they could originals.

The Republicans seized on this chink in the armor to turn the issue away from the truthfulness of the CBS 60 Minutes report to whether or not the copies were fakes. CBS had two other problems. One was that Viacom, its



owner, was not in the news business, but in the lobbying business in Washington wanting to enrich the company with legislative perks and regulatory permissions. Truthful news from CBS, exposing US torture in the face of the Bush regime's denials and showing that Bush was too privileged to be held accountable by the Texas National Guard, was damaging Viacom's highly paid lobbying effort.

When the right-wing bloggers took after CBS, the Viacom executives saw how to get rid of the troublesome CBS news team. Viacom executives refused to support their reporters and convened a kangaroo count consisting of Republicans to “investigate” the 60 Minutes story of Bush's failure to comply with his obligations to the Texas National Guard.

Viacom wanted to get rid of the independent news constraint on its lobbying success, but Mary Mapes and her lawyers thought truth meant something and would prevail. Therefore, she subjected herself to the destructive process of watching the orchestrated destruction of her career and her integrity. CBS' other problem was that, with or without justification, CBS and Dan Rather were regarded in conservative Republican circles as liberal, a designation equivalent to a communist. For millions of Americans the controversy was about liberal CBS trying to harm George W. Bush and leave us exposed to Muslim Terrorism. In right-wing minds, Bush was trying to protect America from Muslim

terrorists who blew up the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and CBS was trying to smear President Bush.

Mary Mapes, Dan Rather, and the CBS news team were too focused on news to take into account the dangerous situation in which they were operating. Therefore, they walked into a trap that served Dick Cheney's Middle Eastern wars, which served Halliburton and Israel, and into a trap that served conservative hatred of “liberal” news.

Why didn't the American media defend CBS' careful reporting? The answer is that this was a time when TV news media was dying. The Internet was taking over. The rest of the media saw in the demise of CBS a chance to gain that market and have a longer life.

So the rest of the media took up the fake news that 60 Minutes had presented a report based on fake documents. The media did not realize that they were signing their own death warrants. Neither did the right-wing bloggers that the Republicans had siced on CBS. Today, these bloggers are themselves shut off from being able to express any truth.

Truth in America is being exterminated, and the destruction of CBS news was the starting point. As Mary Mapes reports in her book, as soon as Viacom was entirely rid of 60 Minutes with the firing of the entire staff, on the very next day Viacom held a triumphant annual investor meeting. Chairman Sumner Redstone was awarded a \$56 million paycheck for 2004. Chief operating officers, Les Moonves and Tom Freston “each pocketed a whopping fifty-two million for the year.”

And the CBS news team went without mortgage, car, or health insurance payments.

Mapes writes: “Just a few years ago, this kind of corporate executive largesse was unherd of. Now, these media Masters of the Universe have taken over the public airwaves and they have one obligation: making a profit.”

Ever a larger one, which requires protecting the government and the corporate advertisers from investigative reporting.

The consequence today is that the American media is totally unreliable. No reader can rely on any report, not even on a New York Times obituary.

(Source: Globalresearch.ca)

## Why the BBC acts as a propaganda outlet for Israel: An insider view

An “investigation” by the BBC's Panorama programme into “anti-Semitism” in Britain's Labour Party, broadcast on 10 July and presented as “news”, was so blatantly one sided that it demanded an explanation.

In an attempt to grasp why the UK's public broadcaster fails to fulfil its core mission to report the news in as unbiased a manner as possible, Redress Online has interviewed a former BBC senior editor. The editor, a 35-year-veteran of the BBC, reveals the culture that has steered the corporation into its present position as a Zionist mouthpiece.

By acting as a whistleblower, the former editor risks severe consequences, even though he no longer works for the BBC. In Britain leading journalists have been locked behind bars and put under threat of extradition for reporting information whose truthfulness has not even been challenged.



Sadly, this danger is heightened under the present toxic political atmosphere in Britain, as demonstrated by the purging of a major political party and the tolerance shown towards those who abuse the judicial system to deter and punish anyone daring to question the Zionist narrative.

Below is the text of the interview.

## ■ When did the BBC become openly biased?

A: The BBC has always been biased towards Israel, and its bias has been well documented. The reasons for this bias have long been the subject of serious academic studies, the best known of which is Greg Philo's and Mike Berry's More Bad News from Israel. In fact, in 2006 an independent report commissioned by the BBC's own governing body concluded that the BBC's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict “does not consistently constitute a full and fair account of the conflict but rather, in important respects, presents an incomplete and in that sense misleading picture”.

■ Who and what drove this cultural and political direction within the corporation?

A: There are a number of drivers behind this biased BBC culture. The most important is the fact that a small number of headline Zionists occupy key positions at the top and middle levels of the corporation, as well as at the shop-floor level, by which I mean the people who select what to publish or broadcast on a daily basis and who provide editorial steer to journalists. This has been widely publicised and has been in the public domain for some time.

■ What about political impartiality, supposedly a core BBC value?

A: Unfortunately, there are many examples of such pro-Israel hype, some blatant and others slant the news by use of emphasis and/or omission. For instance, there was Sarah Montague's interview with Israel's defence minister, Moshe Ya'alon, in March 2015; Head of Statistics Anthony Reuben's reflection on fatalities in Gaza, and the utilisation of Gil Hoffman, an Israeli army reservist and chief political correspondent for the Jerusalem Post to write for the BBC News website, to mention but a few.

... the chance of the BBC fixing itself is about zero... it is a cowardly, spineless organisation. Not only does it always pursue the path of least resistance by selecting to broadcast what is least likely to upset the Zionist lobby, but it is also dead afraid of what the Daily Mail might say about its output.

■ Does the broadcaster have the means or inclination to fix itself?

A: In my opinion, the chance of the BBC fixing itself is about zero. Apart from what I have said above, it is a cowardly, spineless organisation. Not only does it always pursue the path of least resistance by selecting to broadcast what is least likely to upset the Zionist lobby, but it is also dead afraid of what the Daily Mail might say about its output. Very often, and by that I mean almost on a daily basis, one would hear senior managers ask at the morning agenda-setting editorial meetings, “What would the Daily Mail say about that?” Invariably, they would choose what is least likely to be picked up and criticised by the Daily Mail. Please remember, this is a public broadcaster that is funded by taxpayers (yes, the License Fee is a tax) and is supposed to “Educate, Inform and Entertain”, not propagandise on behalf of Israel.

■ Some of the so-called Labour “whistleblowers” were exposed by AlJazeera as Israeli lobby assets. Is it possible that the BBC was so bold as to interview these characters hoping that no one would notice or was it simply a matter of a clumsy decision making? Can the BBC match the journalistic dedication of organisations such as RT or AlJazeera?

A: There is no chance whatsoever that the BBC would do anything approximating AlJazeera TV's programme on Israeli infiltration of the Labour Party. The BBC is institutionally pro-Zionist and institutionally spineless.

■ You worked in the corporation for 35 years. Did you notice a deterioration in the quality of people hired? Was there a change in employees' attitudes and their willingness to express themselves freely and critically?

A: I worked for the BBC's English-language outlets as an editor and senior editor for 35 years. Since the early 1990s there has been growing intolerance of criticism of editorial management decisions, even in internal forums which internal BBC propaganda claims are meant for staff to speak freely. This applies across the board on all matters. But certainly with regard to Israel and Zionism, any questioning of BBC impartiality would attract accusations of anti-Semitism and would certainly spell the end of one's career, no matter how privately and confidentially such criticism is conveyed.

(Source: redressonline.com)



## IRCS rescues over 37,000 from death during summer

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has rescued 37,536 individuals in natural disasters or accidents happened due to human errors since the beginning of summer (June 22), within the framework of the national rescue and relief scheme, IRCS director Morteza Salimi has said.



The national rescue and relief scheme aims at performing relief and rescue operations over a period of 94 days to help victims and the injured in natural disasters and accidents nationwide during summer vacations.

“Some 37,536 people nationwide have received relief and rescue services, 13,283 of whom have been provided with outpatient care,” Salimi said, Mehr reported on Saturday.

He went on to conclude that 10,209 people have been saved from traffic-related accidents, drowning and mountain climbing incidents.

## Swedish peak downgraded to second highest as climate change shrinks it to ‘lowest height ever measured’

Almost a hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle the slow struggle between two vast crags vying for the title of Sweden’s highest peak has been settled by global warming.

The snow-capped southern peak of Sweden’s tallest mountain, Kebnekaise, has long been losing a battle with the same mountain’s rocky northern peak.

A rapidly warming climate has melted the southern glaciated peak and first brought it lower than its rival last year following the record heat during the summer of 2018.

But its second place has now been firmly established after new measurements show it has lost more height than ever, after another hot Arctic summer.

“This is the lowest height ever measured,” said Gunhild Rosqvist, a geography professor at Stockholm University. “Over the past 50 years, the height of Kebnekaise’s southern peak has decreased by 24 metres.”

The annual survey was carried out earlier this week. It revealed the northern peak now stands at 2,096.8 metres – making it 1.2 metres taller than the southern peak, which has melted away to 2,095.6 metres.

It is unwelcome news for amateur hikers wishing to reach the highest point in Sweden, as the old record holder was a much easier climb – possible for anyone with the right clothing and reasonable fitness.

(Source: The Independent)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### World Trade Center

(September 12, 2001)

America tries to come to terms with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. This report from Jon Leyne: It could become the day that changed America. Perhaps when the **casualty** numbers finally come in, some terrible record will have been set. The immediate choices are for President Bush and his security team. This is his first and possibly biggest test. Some act of **military retaliation** is almost **inevitable**. Then there will be the **inquiries** into how this huge, well-coordinated plot **escaped unnoticed**. Security will become even more **ubiquitous**. But then there are another series of questions. From the President downwards, officials have been quick to stress that it is literally **business as usual**. The fear is that this blow to American self-confidence could finally knock an uncertain economy into recession.

**On the international stage**, a lively debate was already raging between those who support American **engagement** in world institutions and those who believe the United States should use its strength to **work unilaterally**. These attacks will **play into that debate** but it’s not clear how. And for the American people, after the initial shock and **outrage**, will there be some deeper **scar** on the way of thinking of this usually **irrepressibly optimistic** nation? All of this will only become clear as Americans fully realize what has happened because, **for all the times** the pictures have been replayed, it is still hard to comprehend the events of this day - a day that could change America and the world.

#### Words

**casualty**: a person killed or injured in a war or accident  
**military retaliation**: the use of military force against those responsible for the attacks

**inevitable**: certain to happen; unavoidable

**inquiries**: an act of asking for information  
**escaped unnoticed**: not seen or noticed an unnoticed error a change that has gone unnoticed

**ubiquitous**: if something is ubiquitous it is everywhere  
**business as usual**: this phrase means that a situation is normal, especially after an emergency. Here it also refers to business as commerce and banking

**on the international stage**: here, stage refers to a particular area of activity - America’s international dealings

**engagement**: willingly being involved with organizations such as the United Nations

**work unilaterally**: work on its own

**play into that debate**: contribute to these discussions

**outrage**: an extremely strong reaction of anger, shock, or indignation

**scar**: a scar is a mark of damage. If an unpleasant experience scars you, it has a permanent effect on you  
**irrepressibly optimistic**: continually hopeful about the future despite setbacks

**for all the times**: no matter how often you look at the TV pictures of Manhattan

(Source: BBC)

# \$95m allotted to generate jobs for the deprived

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has allocated 4 trillion rials (nearly \$95 million) to create jobs for the financially struggling individuals residing in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, the provincial foundation’s head has announced.

Out of 2 million families living in the province, some 200,000 are covered by the foundation, Mehr news agency quoted Habibollah Asoudeh as saying

on Thursday.

“Currently, some 200 charity centers are operating in the province, which are mostly focusing on empowering the deprived, not just providing them with financial facilities or loans,” he highlighted.

One of the other goals of the institution is running startups and holding training courses for them, he said, adding that 15 startups have so far been launched.

Referring to housing units as a basic

## Global warming ‘a death sentence’ for Greenland ice

Rising global temperatures constitute a “death sentence” for Greenland as we know it, according to a scientist from the Geological Survey of Denmark.

“We’re losing Greenland, it’s really a question of how fast,” said Dr Jason Box, who is studying the island’s ice sheet. One glacier he measured had shrunk 9m in depth over the summer, he said.

Global warming is “a death sentence for the Greenland ice sheet because also, going forward in time, we’re expecting temperatures only to climb”, Dr Box told the BBC.

The Arctic island saw record-breaking temperatures this summer following the European heatwave, and what is likely to have been the second-largest melt event since 1950, scientists have previously told The Independent.

Another top scientist told The Independent on Wednesday that the “the death spell for Greenland’s ice has already been cast”.

Dr Jeffrey Kargel, of the Planetary Science Institute in Arizona, said that ice melt on the island, particularly at higher altitudes, has for some years “exceeded what is common, judged by the 20th century”.

He said: “We know that human industrial activity and our exponentially growing reliance on fossil fuels is the cause of this epoch of warming and melting.

“Whereas we should not make too much of a single year’s anomalous warmth and melting, when it happens year after year it is alarming because global and especially Arctic warming is continuing.

“It does appear, based on models, that the death spell



for Greenland’s ice has already been cast. Nearly complete melting and disappearance of the ice will likely take a couple millennia to go to completion, but it should be a scene of continuous, increasing melting for decades and centuries to come.

“There seems to be no stopping it at this point.”

Dr Roger Braithwaite of the University of Manchester, a glaciologist at the Geological Survey of Greenland from 1979 to 1994, said of Dr Box’s “death sentence” statement: “It’s dramatic, and I’ve heard the words, ‘Glaciers are doomed’, but if a temperature increases such that a glacier doesn’t have a balanced mass budget, then it will lose mass.

“I think it’s true enough – death sentences over thousands of years are still death sentences.”

## Purple hills vanish from British countryside as climate change blamed for preventing heather from flowering

The beloved sight of bright purple heather on English moorland is at risk due to climate change, the National Trust has warned.

The violaceous vistas of late summer have failed to materialise on the Long Mynd in Shropshire and Holnicote on Exmoor, where the landscape is instead a muddy brown.

National Trust officials said it was due to a combination of last year’s drought and an increase in damage caused by the heather beetle pest, which has been encouraged by mild winters.

Up to three-quarters of the heather on the sites, which should bloom through August and early September, is in poor health this year.

Peter Carty, the National Trust’s parkland manager in Shropshire, said: “Last year’s high temperatures, and subsequent lack of rain, damaged a large area of heather and it is clear from the orangey-brown colouration this year that the plants are seriously stressed and unlikely to flower.”



He added: “The milder winter also led to an increase in the heather beetle numbers, which are a natural element of the heather ecosystem, as it wasn’t cold enough to kill off their larvae.

“In places where heather was sheltered from the extreme or where damp conditions were present, the heather has survived. However, there will be no mass flowering this year.”

Though a boon to the beetle, the warming climate could cause problems for other



need for the people under the foundation’s coverage, he noted: “Last year we provided some 2,000 houses to those in need, which will increase this year.”

“Moreover, a total of 4 trillion rials (nearly \$95 million) will be earmarked for opening up job opportunities in the province,” he concluded.

Dr Box’s warning came less than a month after a Cambridge researcher said the “Niagara Falls”-style melting of Greenland’s ice risked pushing up the sea level, threatening coastal settlements around the planet.

The ice sheet, which holds enough water to raise the sea level by 7m, is “decaying quite rapidly”, warned Professor Peter Wadhams. He added: “Greenland is now the driver for global sea level rise and will be until the ice has gone from Greenland.”

But in comments shared with The Independent, two further scientists were more circumspect.

Julienne Stroeve, professor of Polar Observation and Modelling at University College London, said data from thousands of years ago suggested more caution was warranted.

She said: “While rising temperatures are contributing to Greenland losing mass and rising sea levels, calling it a death sentence is somewhat premature as ice cores retrieved in northwest Greenland reveal that during the Eemian period the ice sheet [there] was only a few hundred meters lower than today, despite the Eemian being warmer and sea levels higher than today.”

And Dr Twila Moon, from the University of Colorado’s national snow and ice data centre, said: “It is certain that we are going to continue to lose ice from Greenland over the coming decades, and centuries. However, the amount of ice that will be lost, and the speed of loss, is still heavily dependent on human actions.”

(Source: The Independent)

Keith Jones, a climate change specialist at the National Trust, said: “We are seeing first-hand the impacts of climate change on at least two of these special landscapes within our care. With warming temperatures, other trees and plants are increasingly more susceptible to pest and diseases.”

Other impacts include an explosion in the tick population and plane tree wilt, particularly in London, which is magnified in drought conditions, he added, while moorlands are more susceptible to wildfires.

At Holnicote, the National Trust team is planting trees to slow the flow of water up the valley, and restoring wet habitats such as blanket bogs to counter dry conditions.

It is thought the prolonged warmer weather could also boost heather shield bugs, which are a natural predator to heather beetles.

While damage has occurred to hundreds of acres of heather, workers hope the resilient plant will recover with careful management.

(Source: The Independent)

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

### Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat’haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. “The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster,” he added.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “amphi-”

■ **Meaning:** both or around

■ **For example:** A good museum in the castle is stuffed with antiquities, while a Roman **amphitheater** overlooks all.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Think something out

■ **Meaning:** to think about all the parts of something carefully before deciding or planning exactly what to do

■ **For example:** He went for a walk to think things out.

### IDIOM

#### Cut to the chase

■ **Explanation:** to reach the most important points quickly

■ **For example:** Come on, cut to the chase already—what exactly are you trying to ask me?

### تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه‌ای امضا می‌شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخص‌های آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخص‌ها بود، هرچند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.



# House Judiciary Committee preparing vote on impeachment hearing rules

**TEHRAN** — The House Judiciary Committee is escalating its impeachment investigation into President Donald Trump, preparing a vote as soon as next Wednesday to establish procedures for hearings the panel hopes to hold this fall.

The details are still being negotiated, but a procedural vote next week could set rules for the hearings, according to a person familiar with the plan. The person requested anonymity because the resolution is still being worked out and the person wasn't authorized to discuss it.

The rules could include allowing staff to question witnesses; allowing some evidence to be presented in closed sessions to protect sensitive materials; and allowing the president's counsel to respond in writing to evidence and testimony, among other guidelines. The vote would be similar to procedural votes taken at the beginning of the impeachment investigations of Presidents Nixon and Clinton, according to the person.

Tentative details of the resolution were discussed on a call with members of the committee Friday as they prepare to return to Washington next week after a six-week recess. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) said just before the recess that the committee is already pursuing an impeachment investigation as it has called multiple witnesses related to former special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's report and sued the White House for blocking testimony.

The vote would make clear that the com-



mittee is indeed serious about moving forward with an impeachment probe, even as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) has urged caution to members, saying again recently that public support for impeachment is still lacking. But it would only be a technical step, and the committee would still have to introduce articles of impeachment and vote on them before the full House would be able to consider approving charges against Trump. And even then, the Republican-led Senate would almost certainly not vote to convict him and remove him from office.

Many moderates in the caucus, who helped win the Democratic majority last year, say

they should be focused on other issues and next year's election.

"I've been traveling all of August," Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas said this week. "This is not an issue people bring up. I think a lot of people would rather just vote him out, vote the president out."

Other Democrats argue that impeachment is a process without a payoff, since the Senate would never remove Trump.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a member of the Judiciary Committee who has backed impeachment proceedings, said, "That's a legitimate thing for us to think about, and it's a political puzzle we have to solve over

the next few months."

The committee's impeachment vote, which was first reported by Politico, would come as the panel has signaled it will broaden its impeachment inquiry beyond Mueller's report. The Judiciary and Oversight committees announced Friday that they are demanding information about the spending of taxpayer money at the president's hotels and properties, partly to inform the impeachment investigation.

The committees said there have been "multiple efforts" by Trump and administration officials to spend federal money at his properties, including Vice President Mike Pence's stay this week at a Trump resort in Doonbeg, Ireland.

The Democrats describe Pence's visit, and the possibility that next year's Group of Seven summit will be held at Trump's Miami-area Doral golf resort, as corrupting the presidency. Payments from foreign officials are particularly troubling, they say, considering the emoluments clause in the Constitution that bans the president from taking gifts from other governments.

"We have been focused on the Mueller report, and that is a very small part of the overall picture," said Raskin. "We must get America focused on the ongoing violations against basic constitutional principles."

According to AP, Pelosi echoed the Democratic investigators, calling Trump's properties "a cesspool of corruption" and a "black hole for taxpayers' money." She noted that Trump's trips to his Florida resort Mar-a-Lago can cost millions of dollars per visit.

## Venezuela's prosecutors to charge Juan Guaido with 'high treason'

**TEHRAN** — Venezuelan prosecutors say they would charge opposition figure Juan Guaido with "high treason" for plotting to hand over a disputed oil-rich border area to foreign companies, in exchange for political support from Britain.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab said on Friday that Guaido is being investigated for negotiating to renounce "the historical claim our country has on the territory of Esequibo" — which is controlled by neighboring Guyana.

Saab asserted that Guaido was engaged in "illegal negotiations, behind the back of the country" in exchange for "political support from the United Kingdom."

"The facts imply a crime of treason," he added.

The case is based on audio recordings purported to involve a U.S. administration official urging an adviser to Guaido to "deliver the Esequibo" to the oil company Exxon Mobil

and other multinationals, according to Vice President Delcy Rodriguez who released the file.

"The criminal organization headed by Juan Guaidó had initiated concrete actions to illegally appropriate Venezuela's assets, financial resources, Venezuelan gold, Venezuelan debt, to enrich themselves and to serve transnational interests," said Rodriguez.

The 159,000 square kilometer territory is the subject of a long-standing border dispute between Venezuela and Guyana, which is a member of the British Commonwealth.

According to Press TV, the U.S. has, in the meantime, deployed a military contingent to Guyana for the first time in a decade.

In the audio file, UK envoy Vanessa Neumann is heard speaking with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office,



saying that the opposition should "drop the topic" of Venezuela's claim to the territory in order to secure London's political support.

## Bahrain summons, arrests clerics ahead of Ashura rituals

**TEHRAN** — The Bahraini regime has begun summoning Shia clerics to supposedly interrogate them amid the arrival of the lunar month of Muharram, when Shia Muslims commonly engage in mourning rituals to commemorate the martyrdom of Prophet Mohammad's grandson, Imam Hussein.

Bahraini regime officials have summoned a number of clerics, including Seyed Jaber al-Shahrakani, Sheikh Mohammad Ali al-Mahfuz, Sheikh Mohammad A'ashur, and Sheikh Zoheir al-Khal for questioning, local sources disclosed on Friday.

Authorities have also arrested other preachers, such as Sheikh Menbar al-Ma'atouq and Sheikh Mohammad al-A'ajimi.

Moreover, regime forces have further engaged in blocking local residents in some areas —including the town of al-Mosalla — from putting up customary mourning flags and placards for the upcoming Ashura processions.

The development came just over two weeks after hundreds of Bahraini political prisoners went on hunger strike to protest harsh conditions at the Persian Gulf country's

notorious Jaw Prison.

Over 400 inmates started an open-ended hunger strike on August 18, joining 196 others who had begun refusing food a short while earlier.

According to Press TV, the Manama regime has been cracking down on pro-democracy demonstrations since 2011. Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held protest rallies in Bahrain on an almost daily basis since then.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifah regime relinquish power and allow

a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established. Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

On March 5, 2017, Bahrain's parliament approved the trial of civilians at military tribunals in a measure blasted by human rights campaigners as being tantamount to imposition of an undeclared martial law countrywide.

## Russia and Ukraine exchange prisoners in move to improve ties

**TEHRAN** — Russia and Ukraine have exchanged 35 prisoners each to the other country, in what could be a significant step towards easing tensions between the two sides.

Planes carrying Russians and Ukrainians freed in the prisoner exchange landed at Moscow's Vnukovo and Kiev's Boryspil airports on Saturday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the exchange as the first step towards ending the war in Ukraine's east and returning territory annexed by Moscow.

"We have taken the first step," he said after greeting the former prisoners at the airport in Ukraine's capital, Kiev.

"We have to take all the steps to finish this horrible war," he said, pledging to also return "our territory".

The exchange, the first since 2017, took place after lengthy negotiations.

Those released by Russia include all 24 Ukrainian sailors who were detained by Russia in November last year in the Sea of Azov, as well as Ukrainian filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, who was convicted of plotting "terrorist" acts. He had denied the charges.

Ukraine's SBU security service said Vladimir Tsemakh, suspected of involvement in the downing of Malaysia Air-



lines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine, was also released as part of the swap.

Nearly 300 people flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur were killed in the 2014 crash.

Dutch prosecutors had urged Kiev not to allow Tsemakh, accused of fighting for pro-Moscow separatists, to

travel to Russia, fearing this could jeopardise the investigation into the crash.

The Dutch government said it was "disappointed" at the inclusion of Tsemakh, who on Thursday was released on bail, in the swap.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday the prisoner exchange would be "a good step forward towards the normalisation [of relations]".

According to al Jazeera, Russia and Ukraine have been in a conflict since 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea after a controversial referendum.

Fighting between troops and Russia-backed separatists has killed more than 13,000 people since then.

Ukraine blames the Kremlin for separatist violence in east Ukraine.

Olexiy Haran, a professor of comparative politics at Kiev Mohyla Academy, told Al Jazeera the prisoner swap might help to decrease tensions between the two countries.

"However, normalisation of the bilateral relations is not possible as long as Russia keep on occupying Crimea and without a stable ceasefire in the east of the country," he said.

## Saudi war crimes record in Yemen: Massacre in Dhamar

➔ "The Saudi-led coalition targeted the prisoners in Dhmar, many of whom were to be released as part of prisoner swap. The betrayers should know if they do not clarify their position against this crime, they will be the losers."

Al-Houthi added: "Today we see that betrayers admit that what is happening is occupation and aggression. Saudi Arabia and the UAE send betrayers to war and kill them when they withdraw, and probably target them to put pressure on them. We announce to all those who fight alongside the enemy or send their children to the front line to accompany the aggressors that they should review their calculations. Saudi Arabia and the UAE see the betrayers as goods and treat them as they wish. The one who serves the enemy, associates them and support their crimes has no dignity."

Meanwhile, the Amnesty International, called for an independent investigation into the Saudi-led coalition's air raid on prisoners in Dhmar. The amnesty called it the worst raid in the country during the last lunar year and said due to this air raid on the detention center, the building in which 170 prisoners were kept, was destroyed and most of prisoners were killed. It asked the international community to step up efforts to stop the attacks.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia and its allies have proven that human rights have no value in their view, and, contrary to what they claim, they are willing to commit any kind of war crimes, such as the incident in Dhmar, to achieve their plots. The figures regarding the casualties in the Yemen war are evidence of this fact. In this regard, the ACLED (The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) revealed a new statistics on the number of victims of the Yemen war.

The organization said in a report published by the Associated Press that during more than four years since the beginning of the Yemen war at least 91,000 people have been killed. According to the organization, only about 12,000 Yemenis have been killed by the Saudi-led coalition since the beginning of the current year. The figure was about 6,000 last year. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), by publishing a report, had earlier stated that 5,000 to 6,000 children were killed per a day due to the Yemen war.

In addition to the aforementioned, the use of internationally banned weapons, such as chemical bombs, on residential areas in different provinces of Yemen has caused thousands of people die or suffer from acute diseases. This means that we are witnessing a human rights disaster in Yemen, and aggressors are literally "slaughtering human rights" in front the eyes of the international community.

However, the United States continues to trade with the Yemenis' blood, providing arms to Saudi Arabia and its partners in the war on the country.

While U.S. Congressmen prohibited any sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia by approving a resolution, Donald Trump vetoed the resolution to show that arms market has more value than the lives of the innocent people in Yemen.

This is clearly why the United States is said to be assisting Saudi Arabia in the war crimes in Yemen. Another point regarding the horrible war crimes by Saudi Arabia is that Riyadh has not achieved any success in five years of bombing campaign against Yemen. It is now attempting to cover up its defeats in the country by committing war crimes.

It is clear that the war crimes committed by Saudi Arabia cannot help hide its disgraceful defeats in the country, and that the army and popular committees of Yemen will, in the not-too-distant future, respond strongly to the newest war crimes of Saudi Arabia and its allies in Dhmar.

## Hamas demands Israel be included in world's terrorism list

➔ He also said that "classifying his movement or any of the Palestinian resistance factions as terrorist groups is completely unjust and not fair for the legal struggle of the Palestinian people against the occupation."

He added that his movement "will continue practicing its right of defending the Palestinian people until we grab our freedom and the right of establishing our independent Palestinian state."

According to local websites close to Hamas on Friday, the movement's attorney in Europe, Khaled al-Showly, said that the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg decided on Thursday to remove Hamas movement and its armed wing al-Qassam Brigades from the world's list of terrorism.

He also said that the decision of the court is not final, but the previous decisions on the reinsertion of Hamas and its military wing on terrorist lists "are null and void."

## Bolton-Pompeo relationship hits new low

➔ Trump hasn't indicated whether he minds the dispute underway among his team. In fact, he's said in the past that he tends to enjoy when his aides are at odds with each other.

But the current situation has led to a deep sense of isolation for NSC staffers working under Bolton, who are charged with coordinating foreign policy and national security options for the President.

The internal rift has only added to the sense of confusion about the administration's foreign policy priorities, and left some allies and experts scratching their heads about who is running Trump's policy abroad, according to diplomats and administration officials, CNN reported.

"The administration's national security team is the weakest in decades and is now on the verge of complete collapse," said Tom Wright, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "Meanwhile, the President just goes rogue, making vital decisions on the fly, with little thought or process."

Given the number of foreign policy problems facing the country, including Iran, North Korea, China and Venezuela, multiple White House officials expressed dismay that the relationship between a secretary of state and national security adviser could disintegrate to this extent.

Still, administration sources contacted by CNN were defensive about issues related to foreign policy and denied that there is a rift between Pompeo and Bolton, or that they rarely speak outside formal meetings. "This is false and your reporting is frivolous," State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortugas said.

## Hezbollah's crushing reaction has set a new stage: Sheikh Naim Qassem

➔ According to the Lebanese resistance movement, the missiles launched from Lebanon destroyed an armored personnel carrier in Avivim, killing or wounding those inside it. The Israeli military, however, alleged the attack did not lead to any casualties

while adding that it had fired 100 shells into Lebanon on return.

"We thank god [for this victory]," he said, and also expressed gratitude towards the group's fighters and commanders, who spent eight consecutive days carrying out

the operation.

Nasrallah added that the through the latest operation against the Israeli forces, the resistance group broke the "biggest red line" by targeting forces across the border and inside the occupied territories.

As a result of Hezbollah's response, Israel has taken all of its forces and military vehicles away from Lebanon's border, and stopped patrolling near the frontier. "The Zionists have deserted our frontlines, meaning they have beaten a retreat," he said.

## Pakistan denies use of airspace to Indian president

**TEHRAN**— Pakistan says it has refused a request by India's President Ram Nath Kovind to fly through its airspace due to New Delhi's recent "behaviour". The decision on Saturday comes amid heightened tensions between the two neighbours over the disputed region of Kashmir.

"The Indian president had sought permission to use

Pakistan's airspace to travel to Iceland but we decided not to permit him," Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said in a statement, without giving further details.

"The decision has been taken in view of India's behaviour."

Such permissions are usually granted. There was no immediate comment by India.

Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian traffic after aerial dogfights in February raised tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi.

It reopened its skies for all civilian traffic in July, ending months of restrictions affecting major international routes, Al Jazeera reported.



## African great Eto'o hangs up his boots

Cameroon's four-time African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o announced his retirement on Saturday at the age of 38.

"The end, towards a new challenge," the former Barcelona, Inter Milan and Chelsea striker posted on Instagram.

"Thank you all, big love, adrenalin," added Eto'o, who enjoyed five hugely successful seasons with Barcelona from 2004 to 2009.

In that time he won a pair of Champions League titles and three La Liga crowns before departing for Inter Milan.

He helped Jose Mourinho's team win the treble of Champions League, Serie A and Coppa Italia titles in his first season in Italy before moving to Russia's Anzhi Makhachkala.

He also had brief stints at Chelsea and Everton in the Premier League.

Last year, after a short spell with Turkish side Konyaspor, he joined Qatar league side, Qatar Sports Club, his last club.

With Cameroon he won two Africa Cup of Nations as well as Olympic gold in 2000.

(Source: AFP)

## Venezuela's Rojas leaps to second-longest triple jump of all time

Reigning world champion Yulimar Rojas soared to the second longest triple jump of all-time by managing 15.41 meters at the Andujar athletics meeting on Friday.

The Venezuelan was just nine centimeters short of the long-standing women's world record of 15.50m set by Ukrainian Inessa Kravets in Gothenburg in 1995.

Her effort is also the South American record and 30cm longer than her previous personal best of 15.11m set at the Pan-American Games in Lima last month, when she won gold.

Rojas' rivals, including Colombian star Caterine Ibarguen, will now be aware of the scale of the task facing them in the world championships in Doha which start later this month.

It was also a strong comeback for the 23-year-old after her shock loss in the Diamond League last week in Zurich when she finished second to Jamaican Shanieka Ricketts.

(Source: Eurosport)

## F3 driver Peroni walks away from massive crash at Monza

Australian Formula 3 driver Alex Peroni walked away unscathed from a terrifying crash at Monza after his car was sent airborne by hitting a kerb at speed, seven days on from the accident which claimed the life of F2 driver Anthoine Hubert in Belgium.

Peroni's car was vaulted skywards after he appeared to run wide at the Parabolica corner and made contact with one of the kerbs between the run-off and the track itself. He hit the kerb and was sent into a terrifying spin through the air, with his car landing upside down on the catch fencing on the outside of the corner. Peroni's car appeared to land on the Halo cockpit protection device which was made mandatory in all FIA championships at the start of 2018.

Replays showed the kerb ripping to pieces after contact. Peroni was unharmed and walked himself to the medical car. The F3 race finished under the Safety Car following the incident.

The circuit is set to host two F2 races and the full F1 schedule this weekend, which includes qualifying on Saturday and the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday afternoon. The start of F1's final practice session, which followed immediately after the F3 race, was delayed for 10 minutes while repairs were carried out on that part of the circuit.

The incident came just a week on from the tragic accident in another F1 feeder series claimed the life of F2 driver Anthoine Hubert and left Juan Manuel Correa in a critical condition at a UK hospital. Hubert lost control on the exit of the fearsome Raidillon/Eau Rouge section of the Spa-Francorchamps circuit and his car was collected by Correa's at high-speed as it rejoined the track.

Hubert was pronounced dead later that day. Correa remains in a critical condition in a UK hospital -- an update on Saturday said the American driver had been placed into an induced coma after encountering respiratory issues.

(Source: ESPN)

## Details of Ronaldo's 10-year Nike deal revealed by Football Leaks

Cristiano Ronaldo is set to earn at least 162 million euros over the span of his 10-year Nike contract, it has been revealed.

His latest contract with the American company was signed in September 2016 and he is to earn at least 16.2m euros per year, while there are potential bonuses if he wins individual awards like The Best and the Ballon d'Or.

According to information from Football Leaks that has been reported by Der Spiegel, this deal was signed in Dublin between Nike and Polaris Sports Limited, the company that handles the player's image rights.

"We don't comment on our contracts with athletes," Nike told Der Spiegel, while neither Jorge Mendes nor Polaris Sports Limited wanted to make a comment on the subject.

(Source: Marca)

## Mihajlovic to resume chemotherapy

Sinisa Mihajlovic will not be on the Bologna bench against Brescia next weekend, as he will begin the second round of chemotherapy.

The Coach was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia over the summer and has already completed the first course of chemo.

He kept up to date with his squad by watching training sessions via videolink, giving team talks and was given special permission from his medics to be on the touchline for their opening two Serie A matches against Verona and SPAL.

However, it's reported Mihajlovic won't be there for next week's Serie A encounter with Brescia, as he is due to begin the second course of chemotherapy.

It means remaining inside the Sant'Orsola Hospital's cancer unit in a controlled environment.

The Serbian boss was allowed home for a couple of weeks to spend time with his wife and children.

(Source: Football Italia)

# Nadal seeks 19th Slam title against Medvedev at US Open

Rafael Nadal will play for his 19th Grand Slam title, one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record, after battling past Italy's Matteo Berrettini on Friday and into his fifth US Open final.

The 33-year-old Spaniard dispatched Berrettini 7-6 (8/6), 6-4, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach a Sunday showdown against Russian fifth seed Daniil Medvedev, who ousted Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 6-3.

"Very happy to be back into the final of the US Open," Nadal said. "It means a lot to be back where I am today after some tough moments at the beginning of the season."

Nadal, who shook off an early season right hip injury to win a 12th French Open title, seeks his fourth US Open crown -- one short of the Open-era record of five shared by Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors -- to reach the brink of Federer's mark.

"It's just another chance on Sunday," Nadal said. "I want to enjoy a day off, have a good practice and Sunday is the day to play my best."

Nadal, into his 27th Grand Slam final, beat Medvedev in last month's Montreal final in their only prior meeting. But the world number two skipped Cincinnati, where Medvedev was champion the following week.

"He's one of the more solid players on tour," Nadal said of Medvedev. "He's making steps forward every single week."



Medvedev, in his first Grand Slam final at 23, has gone 20-2 in the past six weeks with runner-up efforts in Washington and Canada, a title in Cincinnati and a breakthrough US Open run.

"I'm just happy to be in the final," Medvedev said. "When I was going to USA, I didn't know it was going to be this good. So I have to say I love USA."

Medvedev is the first Russian in a men's Grand Slam final since Marat Safin won the 2005 Australian Open title and the first



Russian to reach the US Open final since Safin won the 2000 crown.

Nadal has dropped only one set at the Open but was severely tested by 24th seed Berrettini, the first Italian man in the US Open semi-finals since Corrado Barazzutti in 1977.

Berrettini denied Nadal on six break points in the first set, jumped ahead 4-0 in the tie-break and seized two set points at 6-4 as the Ashe crowd roared with delight.

"Winning the first set would have been big," Berrettini said. "It's tough to go a set

down with him after more than an hour. I was playing really good."

But the Italian netted two backhand volleys, a baseline backhand and then hit a forehand long to hand Nadal the set.

"I was lucky to win that first set," Nadal said. "First set had been a little bit frustrating. You don't want to be in a tie-breaker against a player like Matteo after you have missed all those opportunities."

Nadal, who never faced a break point, took his first break for a 4-3 lead in the second set, held twice to take the set, then rolled to victory in two hours, 35 minutes.

"I survived at the moment and finally I had the break in the second set and the match changed," Nadal said. "I played calm more and super aggressive."

### ■ Medvedev draws cheers

US Open fans gave solid applause to Medvedev after earlier-round boos for flashing an obscene gesture and taunts saying he thrived on their jeers for energy to win. He later apologized.

Medvedev took the first-set tie-break after Dimitrov netted a forehand and sent another long on the last two points.

"The confidence means a lot in this case because I do think he was better player in first set. I do think I was kind of lucky to win it," Medvedev said. "Then the momentum changed completely."

(Source: CNN)

## Correa 'critical but stable' in induced coma, say parents



Formula 2 driver Juan Manuel Correa - injured in the accident that killed French driver Anthoine Hubert - has been placed in an induced coma.

Correa, 20, is "critical but stable" in a London hospital after complications following the crash, say his parents.

The Ecuador-born American suffered a spinal injury and broken legs in the crash at Spa, in Belgium, on 31 August.

Juan Carlos and Maria Correa said they believe his "tremendous fighting spirit" will help him recover.

"We are confident that our son will surprise us like he always does," they said in a statement.

Correa had a four-hour operation in Liege, but on arrival in London was diagnosed with acute respiratory distress syndrome.

"This is an injury considered common in high-impact accidents such as this one. Unfortunately, this injury resulted in Juan Manuel falling into acute respiratory failure," said the Correas.

"Juan Manuel is currently in an intensive care unit that specializes in respiratory injuries. At this point of time he is in an induced state of unconsciousness and under ECMO support."

ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) is similar to equipment used during a heart-lung bypass operation.

Hubert, who was 22, suffered a huge impact from Correa's car, which was travelling at about 170mph, at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit.

The Frenchman was taken to the medical center following the incident, and died shortly after.

Correa, who grew up in Miami and lives in Barcelona, has been racing this season with the Sauber junior team and is the development driver for Alfa Romeo Racing's F1 team.

"We wish to thank everyone within and outside the motorsports community for the wonderful and caring get well wishes that we have received, as well as messages for a speedy recovery," said his parents.

"We are confident that Juan Manuel will review them all himself once he is back in charge of his social media accounts."

They said the update had been issued in honor of the "straight-to-the-point and honesty" that characterizes their son.

"At this time, we kindly request that our privacy and space be respected. As a family, we need to pull together and be 100% there for Juan Manuel," they added.

(Source: BBC)

## Joel Verschoot, the man with the million-euro pigeon

Belgian pigeon breeder Joel Verschoot could probably have settled down to a comfortable retirement in March after he sold the world's most expensive racer.

Armando the pigeon won worldwide headlines and netted Verschoot 1.25-million euros (\$1.4-million) when he won over Chinese buyers in an online auction.

Now the famous bird toils for a Beijing public works magnate, fathering what his new owner must hope will be a new generation of feathered champions.

But 64-year-old retired abattoir worker Verschoot is not done yet. He still consecrates up to 10 hours a day tending for and racing his charges.

Before Armando set the online pigeon auction world alight earlier this year, the Flemish fancier's most expensive protegee was 400,000-euro Nadine.

Now Verschoot wants to better his record. He has hidden away two of Armando's heirs -- "a son and a daughter" -- in the hope they mate and raise a brood.

Standing in his garden in Ingelmunster, a small town near Kortrijk in West Flanders, Verschoot still remembers the "incredible" record-setting auction.

When Armando's sale came up, two Chinese buyers went head to head, raising each other by 100,000 euros a time until one was forced to retire from the field.

"We never thought it could go up like that," he told AFP, recalling how his then 50-year-old father introduced him to pigeon fancying at a young age.

Joel was the only one of the elder Verschoot's nine children to take an interest in training his father's 50-strong



racing flock.

Now he has 300 birds of his own, and fame in the sport. Since retiring from the abattoir in 2015, Verschoot has turned a hobby into an international business, fuelled by the rise of Chinese interest.

Belgian birds have a global reputation as racers and Nikolaas Gyselsbrecht, CEO of the online site Pigeon Paradise, says China accounts for 40 percent of sales.

Verschoot's -- and later Armando's -- reputation was built in middle-distance races of 500 to 700 kilometers (300 to 400 miles).

### ■ Best in Europe

As a trainer, he explains, his speciality was keeping apart male and female pairs for two weeks before the day-long race.

The lovesick birds, he reckons, are all the more determined

to return to each others' bosom at speeds of up to 80 kph after this enforced celibacy.

"Quick, quick, quick, back to the house and the women!" he chants.

Armando was not merely randy, however, he was also "crafty", his trainer explains: expert at dodging power cables and airborne predators.

He came second in a race in Limoges, France in 2017 and 2018, and won last year's meet at nearby Angoulême.

At the start of this year things got serious at the race in Poznan, Poland, that acts as a kind of pigeon Champions League for the best birds in Europe.

He won. And now his champion's DNA is much sought after.

The Chinese buyer is thought to have kept Armando in a training loft in Belgium, the equivalent of the stud at a thoroughbred racing stable.

"Soon Armando will have grandchildren which will go on the market, for more and more," Verschoot beams.

Some purists are less excited by the arrival of big money deals in their traditional sport.

"Ordinary fanciers would never be interested in a pigeon for his sperm," complains Bernard Ancia, of specialist weekly La Colombeophilie Belge.

"That's not what's going to promote our sport."

Maybe Belgium's pigeon racing scene has room for a variety of approaches, after all between 18,000 and 20,000 Belgians are licensed breeders.

(Source: AFP)



# WCQ: Iran look for strong start

**S P O R T S   T E H R A N** — Iran national football team are hoping to open their account with a victory in Group C against Hong Kong at the 2022 FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

Marc Wilmots's team will meet the East Asian side at the 40,000-seat Hong Kong Stadium in So Kon Po on Tuesday.

Team Melli, who have been drawn alongside Iraq, Bahrain, Cambodia and Hong Kong, are favorites to go to the third round.

Hong Kong got off to a shaky start in their Asian World Cup qualifier, drawing 1-1 against a mainly under-23 Cambodia side in Phnom Penh on Thursday night.

Hong Kong coach Mixu Paatelainen says he is not happy with the result but they want to turn that around against Iran.

"I'm not surprised they're the highest ranked Asian team in the FIFA rankings, but it's a different kind of challenge. I'm a very positive person and I also want to turn that around," the Finn said.

Iran iconic attacking midfielder Saman Ghoddos, who currently plays in French club Amiens, is a big absent in this match after he was suspended for four months by FIFA for failing to honor an agreement to join Huesca.

Striker Mehdi Taremi will also miss the match due to foot injury.

Team Melli's Belgian coach, who replaced Carlos Queiroz, started his reign in Iran with a 5-0 win over Syria in a friendly match and drew 1-1 with South Korea in Seoul in June.

Wilmots has shown that he is interested in attacking football.

"We are going to have a strong start in the competition. We will dictate our style of play. Team Melli will play an attacking football against their opponents," Wilmots said.



The eight group winners and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. In the third round, the 12 teams will be

divided into two groups of six to play home and away round-robin matches. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the World Cup, and the third-placed teams will advance to the fourth round.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

## Iranian referee Alireza Faghani plans to move to Australia



**S P O R T S   T E H R A N** — Iranian international football referee Alireza Faghani is going to migrate to Australia with his family.

The 41-year-old famous referee says he has decided to migrate to Australia for his family.

"My children need to continue their studies at the Australian universities. I can also officiate there. We will move to Australia within one month," Faghani said.

"After the 2018 World Cup, I wanted to spend more time with my family because I was very busy in the recent years. If I am invited to the international events, I will officiate as an Iranian referee. From now on, I want to devote myself to my family," Faghani added.

Faghani, who started his career in 1994 and became a FIFA referee in 2008, has officiated finals of the 2014 AFC Champions League, 2015 AFC Asian Cup, 2015 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Football Tournament.

The 2016 AFC Referee of the Year built on the experience and officiated in the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup semi-final and was also tasked with the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Asian play-off match between Syria and Australia.

In the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Faghani officiated German and Mexico, Serbia and Brazil and France and Argentina matches.

He was also chosen to referee third-place playoff between Belgium and England.

## Farhad Majidi satisfied with friendly match against Uzbekistan



**S P O R T S   T E H R A N** — Iran U23 football coach Farhad Majidi says that the friendly match against Uzbekistan helped them to identify their weak spots.

Iran suffered a 1-0 loss to Uzbekistan Friday night at the Metallurg Stadium in Olmaliq.

Majidi's boys will meet Uzbekistan once again on Monday.

"Two teams showed a good football. In the first half, two teams were in the same level. Our players made many mistakes in the second half and we conceded a goal. I hope we will have a better performance in the next match," Majidi said.

"The warm-up matches are the best

opportunity for us to identify our weak spots. Uzbekistan are a physically really good team. This match was very important for us because we fielded our substitutes to know them well," he added.

Iran prepare for the 2020 AFC U23 Championship Thailand.

The competition 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.

## Mehran Shahintab wary of Philippines basketball team

Iran national basketball team coach Mehran Shahintab says that they will have a difficult task against the Philippines in Group N of the 2019 FIBA World Cup.

Iran will meet the Philippines on Sunday in 17th-32nd Classification.

"We respect [the Philippines] too much. We know that they can score very well. They have great players and a naturalized player in Andray Blatche. It's a difficult team [to play against] like Angola," Shahintab said.

The Iran coach also said that they deserved to beat Angola.

"We showed a good performance in the second half and deserved to win. We are improving game by game. The competition has brought the best teams in the world



together," he added.

It will be the Philippine's last game of the tournament and head coach Yeng Guiao believes his team has a good chance of finally getting its first win against a fellow Asian team.

"Iran are an Asian team, [and] we have some [sort of] rivalry with them," said Guiao. "Asian teams have been struggling in general. I guess the level of play [of Asian teams] is just not on the same level [here in the World Cup]. At least with an Asian team we can play on the same level and be able to give ourselves a chance of winning that game."

(Source: ESPN)

## Sousa, Katanec happy with draw



Bahrain head coach Hélio Sousa and his Iraq counterpart Srecko Katanec expressed satisfaction with their 1-1 draw in Group C of the Asian Qualifiers on Thursday.

The first step of both teams journey on the road to the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 saw Komail Al Aswad give the home side an early lead at the Bahrain National Stadium, only for Mohanad Ali to strike late to give Iraq a share of the points.

Sousa praised the performance of his players despite Bahrain not repeating their 2019 WAFF Championship final triumph over Iraq. "We had a good performance and I'm satisfied with the performance of the players," said Sousa.

"We faced a strong team and they have better individuals who play in different leagues as professional footballers.

"However, they didn't cause great danger and we are happy with the result," said Sousa, who will be hoping for three points when Bahrain play Cambodia on Tuesday.

Katanec was equally satisfied, saying getting away with a point was good as the draw was secured late.

"A point is better than nothing," said the Slovenian. "I want to congratulate the players for getting an important away point."

Iraq, however, suffered a blow as midfielder Hussein Ali - who was subsequently diagnosed to have suffered a fracture in his ankle - had to be replaced in the 60th minute.

"To be honest, I don't know why we suffer such injuries in such matches," he said. "I have to pray to avoid such injuries in the future."

The injury could rule Ali out of Iraq's next match, against Hong Kong on October 10.

(Source: the-afc)

## Iran national taekwondo team departs Tehran for Tokyo

**MNA** — Iran's national taekwondo team will leave Iran for Japan on Monday to take part in 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix series 2.

Iranian team consists of Armin Hadipour, Farzan Ashourzadeh, Mirhashem Hosseini, Soroush Ahmadi, Sajjad Mardani and Saeed Rajabi will depart for Japan on Monday night to participate at 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix series 2.



The 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix is the 7th edition of the World Taekwondo Grand Prix series. The 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix series 1 was held on June 7-9 in Rome, Italy.

The Grand Prix series 2 will take place from Sept 13-15 in Chiba, Japan that will host the taekwondo competition of next year's Olympics. And the on-mats action in the Chiba Port Arena is expected to be particularly heated, given that the Grand Prix offers athletes valuable Olympic ranking points less than a year before Tokyo 2020.

The world's top players will be competing in eight Olympic weight categories (four female, four male). The top 31 athletes, per weight category, are invited, based on the WT Olympic ranking published for July 2019. The last event before the release of the July ranking was the 7th Australian Open. While 2020's Olympic competition venue will be Chiba's Makuhari Messe, the Grand Prix will offer competitors a chance to familiarize themselves with the city.

The Grand Prix series 3 will be held on October 18-20 in Sofia, Bulgaria and the final event will be in Moscow, Russia.

## Ehsan Haddadi comes sixth in Diamond League

**TASNIM** — Ehsan Haddadi from Iran finished in sixth place in Brussels Diamond League Friday night.

He came sixth in men's discus throw with a throw of 64.75 meters.

Daniel Stahl from Sweden won the gold medal with 68.68 meters.

Austrain Lukas Weissshaidinger claimed the silver with 66.03 meters and bronze medal went to Jamaican Fedrick Dacres with 65.27 meters.

The 2019 Diamond League season came to an end with the Memorial Van Damme in Brussels as Diamond League.

## Oman comeback gives Koeman joy

Oman national team coach Erwin Koeman was a happy man after seeing his side come from a goal down to beat India 2-1 in Group E of the Asian Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

Sunil Chhetri had put India ahead in the first half but a late brace from Rabia Alawi Al Mandhar gave Oman three valuable points at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Guwahati.

"I'm happy for this victory as we managed to get the three points," said the Dutch coach. "We didn't have a good performance because our preparations were late just like our opponents."

"Our local league is yet to start which also affected us. We focused a lot recently on the physical aspect and we should have had a better performance."

"We didn't have a good performance and made many mistakes in the first half," he added. "However, we fixed those mistakes in the second period."

Koeman also praised the performance of India who "have many good young players and they had a good performance tonight. I wish them all the best in the future."

The 57-year-old coach admitted that he was nervous at some points of the match, before joking about not moving a lot in his technical area.

"I only jump when it is the birthday of my wife," said Koeman before explaining "There is a specific person in our technical team who is in charge of this task."

Oman are set to face Afghanistan in their second match in the group next month, but will play Lebanon in a friendly on Tuesday.

(Source: the-afc)

## Indonesian sports minister apologizes to Malaysia

Indonesia's Youth and Sports Minister Imam Nahrawi has issued a formal apology to the Malaysian government for the violence that erupted during a match at the Gelora Bung Karno stadium in Jakarta on Thursday (Sep 5).

He also apologized to his Malaysian counterpart Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, saying: "On behalf of the Indonesian government and people of Indonesia, I would like to apologize over the inappropriate behavior of our supporters during the match last night."

Both Malaysia and Indonesia had been playing their opening match in the second round of the 2022 World Cup/2023 Asian Cup qualifiers when violence broke out in the second half, after Malaysia scored to make it 2-2 in the 65th minute.

An Indonesian fan had run across the pitch and thrown an object towards the section where Malaysian fans had been seated. The game was stopped for about 10 minutes to allow security teams to control the situation.

(Source: Channel News Asia)



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
editor@tehrantimes.com  
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450  
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
» www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.  
Tel: 88911433  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
Zip Code: 1599814713



Complain to your friend with kindness and  
remove his malevolence with generosity.  
Imam Ali (AS)

## Ida Panahandeh on jury of Duhok Intl. Film Festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Ida Panahandeh, the Iranian director of acclaimed movies “Nahid” and “Israfil”, has been selected as a member of the jury at the 7th Duhok International Film Festival in Iraq, the organizers have announced.



Director Ida Panahandeh poses in Paris on February 18, 2016. (AFP/Getty Images/Francois Guillot)

Panahandeh received the New Talents Award for World Cinema for her drama “Israfil” during the 6th edition of the Duhok festival in 2018.

She also won the Promising Future Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2015 for her debut film “Nahid”.

Justine Barda, the founder and Telescope Film CEO who is also the senior programmer of the Seattle International Film Festival, will preside over the jury for the World Cinema category of the Duhok festival, which will be held from September 9 to 16.

Turkish filmmaker Mahmut Fazil Coskun, Danish producer Marie Schmidt Olesen and Lebanese critic Hauvick Habebian are the other members of the World Cinema competition, which features ten films from Turkey, Sweden, France, Ukraine, Kosovo, Italy and several other countries.

“Gold Carrier”, also known as “Gold Runner”, by Iranian director Turaj Aslani will be competing in this section.

It is about Reza, a gold runner who delivers gold pieces after work to retailers. Delivering the gold as usual one day, he is held up by a group of gang members who hit him and steal the gold pieces. The owner of the retail business demands repayment, but Reza has no way to pay him back. Hearing from his friend Louie that there is an expensive jewel somewhere on the floor of a traditional toilet in the workshop, Reza uses the money from the aid group to bid on the workshop at an auction.

## Nepalese gallery hosts exhibition of Iranian artists

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — “To Remember”, a mixed-media exhibition by Iranian artists Farshid Davudi, Maryam Ashkanian and Sima Shahmoradi, has been organized at the Siddhartha Art Gallery, in Kathmandu, Nepal, the organizers have announced.



An artwork by Sima Shahmoradi.

The artists mainly focused on expressing the history of Iran by acrylic, newspaper and fabric works.

“The main attraction in artworks is the way the picture could be understood in different dimensions if one looks at it either close-up or with their camera,” MC, a local website, wrote about the exhibition, which was opened by Nepal Academy of Fine Arts Chancellor K. K. Karmacharya and, Nepal Tourism Board CEO Deepak Raj Joshi on August 28.

“A painting that looks like a cup or a sketch of a girl from afar turns into a portrayal of bloodshed and a battlefield when looked at closely,” it added.

The exhibition came to an end on September 4.

# “Eleventh Golestan” writer Behnaz Zarrabizadeh wins Eurasian Literature Award

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian writer Behnaz Zarrabizadeh has received the Eurasian Literature Award for her book, “The Eleventh Golestan”, which contains memories of Commander Ali Chitsazian’s wife, Zahra Panahirava.

The award was handed to the Russian publisher of the book in Moscow on Thursday, Suresh-Mehr, a publisher affiliated with the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, announced on Saturday.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has written a commendation for the book.

“This is a sensational narrative of the devotional and jihadi life of a man who was able to attain the place of great divine men in his youth,” the Leader has written about the book.

“The narrator, the partner of his short life, has also clearly expressed her honesty and kindness in her innocent narratives,” he added.

The Eurasian literature award was established by Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, Belorussia, Tajikistan and India in 2013. The award is dedicated to the best literary work, documentary and best journalist.

Zarrabizadeh is also the writer of “Daughter of Sheena”, a book which recounts the memories and experiences of Qadamkheyr Mohammadi during the 1980s when her husband, Sattar Ebrahimi-Hajir, left his family to join Iranian combatants in the Iran-Iraq war.

Zarrabizadeh wrote the book based on her interviews with Mohammadi. She passed away in 2009 months after she ended narrating her memories for



“The Eleventh Golestan” writer Behnaz Zarrabizadeh in an undated photo.

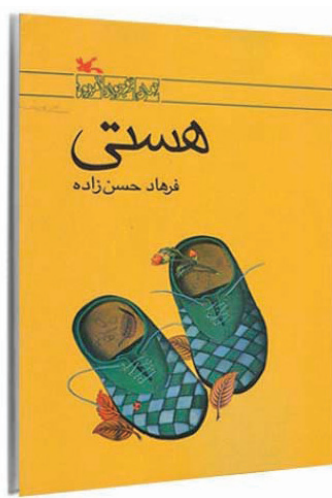
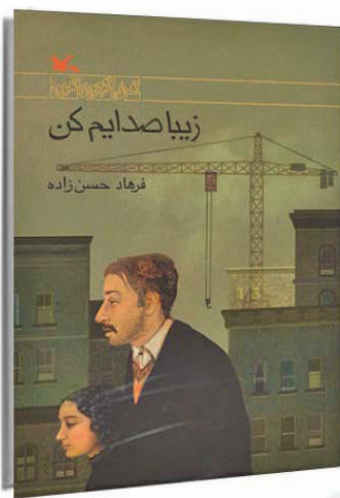
Zarrabizadeh.

“God bless this patient and faithful

lady and also the pure young mujahid who never gave up despite the immense

sorrows his beloved wife felt,” the Leader wrote in praise of “Daughter of Sheena”.

## China’s Writers Publishing House buys rights to Persian novels “Hasti”, “Call Me Ziba”



This picture shows the front covers of the Persian versions of Iranian Children’s book writer Farhad Hassanzadeh’s novels “Call Me Ziba” (L) and “Hasti”.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — China’s Writers Publishing House has acquired the copyrights to two young adult novels “Hasti” and “Call Me Ziba” by Iranian writer Farhad Hassanzadeh.

The publisher selected the books in May during the 32nd Tehran International Book Fair, which hosted China as a special guest, Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), which is the publisher of the original books, announced on Saturday.

The contemporary literature is the central focus of the Writers Publishing House established in 1953.

“Call Me Ziba” is about Ziba, a young girl who wants to help her father escape from a mental hospital so the two can celebrate her birthday together.

The book has previously been published in English, Arabic, Turkish and Armenian.

“Hasti” is about a twelve-year-old girl from

the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan, who is unlike any other teenage girl in her city. While the conservative society expects girls her age to play with dolls, do needlework and dream of their wedding days, Hasti dresses like boys, rides on motorbikes and plays soccer with boys.

“Hasti” has also been translated into Turkish.

The writer of bestsellers such as “The Backyard” and “Watermelon with Love”, Hassanzadeh was selected as one of Iran’s nominees for the 2019 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

He has also been nominated for the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Awards.

Hassanzadeh 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”.

The celebrated author has written over 80 books, including “The 7th Bench by the Lake” and “Bambak’s Scorpions”.

## “It’s a Good Day to Die” now at Tehran theater



A scene from “It’s a Good Day to Die”. (Tiwall/Reza Javidi)

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — “It’s a Good Day to Die”, a play by Iranian writer Jamal Hashemi that reveals the effects of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war on various generations, is on stage in Tehran following several performances in Europe.

Hashemi’s brother, Kamal, is the director of the play, which is being performed at the Samandarian Hall of the Iranshahr Theater Complex.

“This play studies the repercussions of the war on several generations that have lived after the event. The war has physically come to an end, but its effects still remain,” Kamal told the Persian service of Honaronline on Saturday.

“I’m from the generation that was born during the 1970s and I still have the war’s effects with myself, and in this play, I want to show my concern about this issue from a different angle,” he added.

The play is about Mona, a woman who

lives alone after the war in a dilapidated house that belongs to the family of Yalda, a filmmaker who had left Iran to live along with her family in another country. Yalda returns home to sell the family house, but she finds Mona’s life story a good subject for her new film.

The idea to write the play comes from Kamal’s plan to make a documentary about Iranian people in the war-torn regions.

“The documentary was never made for some reason, but I decided to stage a play about a family I met during our research for the documentary,” Kamal said.

As a production of the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, the play was performed at the Festival Vagamondes in Mulhouse in France in January 2018.

The Studio at Bozar also hosted Hashemi’s troupe for two performances on June 20 and 21, 2019.

## Roger Waters rocks Venice Film Festival with “US + THEM”

**VENICE, Italy (Reuters)** — Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters brought his “US + THEM” concert movie to the Venice Film Festival on Friday, transporting audiences to one of his live performances.

The movie shows the British rocker on stage in Amsterdam in 2017, a stop during his “US + THEM” worldwide tour, playing Pink Floyd songs as well as material from his last album “Is This the Life We Really Want?”

Behind him, a series of videos address issues including conflict, the migrant crisis, civil rights and politics.

The film was screened out of competition at the festival, where Waters told Reuters its main message was “just love and peace”.

“We live in very very dangerous times and maybe in some small way this show ... is a kind of warning really, to say this is absurd what we’re allowing to happen,” he said in an interview.

Waters co-founded Pink Floyd in 1965, and became the British rock band’s principal songwriter. The group was known for its experimental music, and enjoyed a global



Roger Waters and a guest pose before screening of the documentary “Roger Waters US + Them” at the 76th Venice Film Festival, Venice, Italy September 6, 2019. (Reuters/Piroschka van de Wouw)

following with albums such as “Dark Side of the Moon” and “The Wall”.

“My songwriting ... has always been just painting what I see ... and what I write

about tends to involve inner workings of my heart and soul but also my attachment to the predicament of others,” Waters said.

“People often said to me much earlier in

my career ‘why are your songs so gloomy?’, or ‘why are you always banging on about stuff?’. It’s not a choice, you don’t decide what to write, it’s like saying to (Vincent) Van Gogh ‘why do you paint sunflowers?’ ‘I don’t know. There they were and I painted them’.”

Asked about Brexit, Waters said he regretted Britons had voted in a 2016 referendum to leave the European Union. “I think it will be a complete disaster for the UK,” he said.

Waters left Pink Floyd in 1985 to pursue a solo career. The band reunited in 2005 to perform at the Live 8 concert in London. Turning 76 on Friday, Waters said he has no intention of slowing down just yet.

“I’m very happy people are still listening to my songs and that I can still get bums on seats when I go on the road with a tour, and if people come and watch this movie and if they are moved by it I will be very happy about that as well,” he said.

“I will keep going as long as there’s breath in this body ... I’ve got a few years left in me yet I believe.”