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©File photo

Iran ranks 27th among world's biggest economies: WB

TEHRAN — Having a 0.53 percent share of the global economy, Iran holds the 27th place in the list of world's top economies, according to the World Bank (WB).

Based on the latest data released by WB, Iran's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) tops that of many other countries in the region and world including Norway, UAE,

South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, and Finland, IRIB reported on Sunday.

According to WB, the United States and China are the world's most powerful economies, accounting for 23.89 percent and 15.86 percent of the world's economy, respectively, followed by Japan, Germany, Britain, France and India. ➔ **4**

U.S. maximum pressure has turned into 'maximum deceit': Iran

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that the United States' failed policy of maximum pressure on Iran has turned into "maximum deceit".

"Having failed at 'maximum pressure', Secretary Pompeo is turning to 'maximum deceit'," Zarif tweeted.

Zarif's comments came as U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran for the Yemeni drone attacks on

oil installations in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

"Tehran is behind nearly 100 attacks on Saudi Arabia" and that "there is no evidence the attacks came from Yemen," Pompeo tweeted.

Pompeo added, "The United States will work with our partners and allies to ensure that energy markets remain well supplied and Iran is held accountable for its aggression." ➔ **2**

Iraqi forces dismantle terror group ahead of Arba'een

TEHRAN — Iraqi security forces have dismantled a terrorist group as it was planning attacks on Shia Muslims during mourning rituals on Arba'een, which marks 40 days after the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Iraq's Security Media Cell announced in a statement released on

Saturday that security forces within the Samarra Operations Command managed to detain the six members of the terror outfit.

"Their arrest was made following a qualitative and proactive operation, and based on accurate information. Among the detainees is a woman, who is the wife of a known terrorist in Syria," the statement noted. ➔ **13**

Controversial movie "Hussein, Who Said No" illegally uploaded on YouTube, Facebook, EarthLink

By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — The Arabic version of "Hussein, Who Said No", Iranian director Ahmadreza Darvish's controversial movie about the uprising of Imam Hussein (AS) against the Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE, has illegally been uploaded on YouTube, Facebook and EarthLink.

The Arabic version entitled "Alqorban" was available for download on the websites last Tuesday.

Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation, as one of the main shareholders of the movie, which was officially banned in 2015, announced on Saturday that it will take legal action against those who are involved in this piracy.

In a statement published on Sunday, Darvish also asked Iran's police, Foreign Ministry, Interior

Ministry, Legal Department of the Presidential Office and other relevant organizations to investigate the issue and to stop illegal copying of his film.

He also called on people to not watch, download, and/or copy his film and also to prevent others from doing these "haram and illegal actions."

Darvish spent 11 years making the film, which was completed in 2013. Its premiere during the 32nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran in February 2014 sparked a storm of protest from some ulemas over its depiction of Shia saints.

Meanwhile, the film was honored at the festival with Crystal Simorghs in eight categories, including best film and best director.

The faces of the actors playing the roles of

Hazrat Abbas (AS), the brother of Imam Hussein (AS), Hazrat Ali-Akbar (AS) and Hazrat Ali Asghar (AS), the sons of the Imam, and Hazrat Qasim (AS), the son of Imam Hassan (AS), have been depicted graphically in scenes of the film.

In a letter sent to the Cinema Organization of Iran at that time, the Muslim cleric Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi censured the screening of the film.

"We know that this action will cause a negative impact... Does the Iran Cinema Organization plan to infringe upon sanctities and ignore the redlines?," he wrote.

The depiction of Prophet Muhammad (S) and his household in any art production is not allowed by ulemas. ➔ **16**

Who's the terrorist now — MBS or the Houthis?

By Hossein Askari

The recent drone attack on Saudi oil facilities, attributed to and acknowledged by the Houthis, has brought out the same accusations as usual from MBS, Trump and Pompeo.

MBS, the man who undoubtedly ordered the kidnapping, murder and dismemberment of Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul, has imprisoned and tortured Saudi citizens, has victimized the 12 percent of Saudis who belong to the Shia sect of Islam, has plundered the state treasury to finance the lavish lifestyle of his tribe and who has relentlessly bombed dissident Yemeni Houthis and their civilian families for over four years, now condemns the Houthis and their Iranian backers as terrorists. The horrors of Saudi war crimes, with military support of the United Arab Emir-

ates, intelligence and mid-air refueling supplied by the United States and sophisticated military hardware bought from the United States, the United Kingdom and France have been well documented by the United Nations.

All the while, the Trump Administration has given its wholehearted support to this same MBS. And on September 14, Secretary of State Pompeo took his wholehearted support of MBS one step further by attributing the attack on Saudi oil facilities to Iran. The Trump Administration's hubris and sanctimonious lectures on who is and who is not a terrorist and on the sanctity of human rights will fall on deaf ears. The Trump Administration should well remember that a country is judged by what it does and who it supports, not by what it tweets.

The United States has been unwilling to blame

MBS for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi who was a legal resident of the United States and a contributor to the Washington Post. The United States has enabled MBS' war crimes in Yemen and yet condemns the Houthis who are after all Yemenis fighting for their cause, whether we agree or disagree with their cause and tactics. If Saudi Arabia bombs the Houthis and their civilian families, surely one can understand the Houthis for retaliating against Saudi Arabia in any way that they can? If the United States supports Saudi military intervention in Yemen and its indiscriminate bombing, surely Iran has the right to support its Houthi allies? As an aside but in the same region, the United States also supports Netanyahu's crimes, internationally illegal on many counts, against Palestinians and their human rights. ➔ **13**



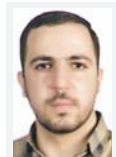
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Italian ambassador visits Tehran Times, Mehr news agency

Giuseppe Perrone, Italy's ambassador to Tehran, visited the Tehran Times and Mehr news agency on Sunday morning.

Ambassador Perrone exchanged views with journalists on cultural and touristic issues in view of the fact that Iran and Italy are considered rich countries in terms of cultural and artistic heritage.

The ambassador submitted his credentials to President Rouhani on August 18.



ARTICLE

Ramin Hossein Abadian
Mehr News Agency
journalist

The new Saudi-American plan in eastern Syria doomed to fail

TEHRAN — The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have just begun new actions in eastern Syria. Meanwhile, a leaked audio from a Syrian opponent reveals that Riyadh and Washington are launching a new plan in eastern Syria.

The leaked audio, in which Michel Kilo, one of the Syrian opposition leaders, is speaking, shows that these parties intend to launch a specific plan in eastern Syria. In the audio, he emphasizes that Riyadh and Washington have formed a group called "Tribal Council" throughout Syria. Kilo stated: "the Geneva process faces international disregard, the weakness of the United Nations, and the lack of Russian-American agreement." He added, "Tribal Council was formed due to disapproval of Kurdish political project by the U.S."

Noting that Saudi Arabian and U.S. officials did not directly enter the areas controlled by the Kurds during their visit to eastern Syria, he called the action a "clear message" from the U.S. to the Kurds. He declared that Washington told the Kurds that they are not in charge of this area. Kilo pointed out, "The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are trying to organize the area to form a political reality based on Arab tribes."

These statements come as news sources announced in mid-June that the Saudi Minister of State for Arab (Persian) Gulf Affairs Thamer Al Sabhan, the U.S. Undersecretary of State Joel Rubin and former U.S. ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck arrived in Deir Ez-Zor, east of Syria and met with some of the sheikhs and tribal figures in the area. At the meeting, apparently, the preparations for forming the council were discussed.

The fact is that the U.S. is working to reinforce its policies in the eastern Euphrates, east and north of Syria. In this respect, the U.S. seeks to turn the situation in the area in its own favor, so that its interests are not affected by further changes.

Therefore, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have agreed on a joint plan to form a "proxy state" in eastern Syria. In this plan, Saudi Arabia should pay all the expenses of the proxy state, and in return the U.S. will perform all necessary administrative measures to achieve the goal. ➔ **6**



ARTICLE

Hanaa Saada
Journalist

Algeria's political impasse: What is next?

ALGERIA — Seven months after a wave of protests began in Algeria; people are still piling onto the streets of the Algerian capital "Algiers" and other cities nationwide every Friday, reiterating their main demands: the departure of the regime and its symbols and the application of Articles 7 and 8 of the Constitution stating that the constituent power belongs to the people.

The demonstrations have gained a familiar rhythm and worldwide admiration since tens of thousands of Algerians first took, peacefully, to the streets on 22 February. Thousands of students turn out on Tuesdays and there are larger protests each Friday revolting against former opaque group of power-brokers that have run the country since decades.

After weeks of mass demonstrations, President of the Republic Abdelaziz Bouteflika stepped down, ceding power after 20 years of rule and abandoning his re-election bid. The protesters pressured the authorities, again, to cancel presidential elections originally scheduled for April.

Despite the postponement of the election, the public anger continued to mount. Thus, Army chief Gaid Salah emerged as the key powerbroker positioning himself in favor of El Hirak "Popular movement". He publicly disavowed the former leader and called for his impeachment, winning legitimacy in the streets.

■ Purging Corruption

Gaid Salah responded favorably to protesters' demands, launching a sweeping anti-graft campaign targeting high-ranked officials that have served the Bouteflika government as well as influential tycoons and businessman.

Two Prime Ministers, namely; Ahmed Ouyahia and Abdelmalek Sellal, the deposed President's brother Said Bouteflika, tens of ministers, leading industrialists, tycoons, key businessmen, Governors, and two former Intelligence chiefs, have been remanded in custody for accusations ranging from money laundering, embezzlement, misuse of public money to using officials posts to influence industrial and commercial contracts and granting undue privileges, affiliation to suspicious parties that plot to destabilize the country, plotting against the army, and instigating the opposition to call for a transitional phase before holding any election. ➔ **13**

Reuters scraping the barrel implicating Iran in Yemeni drone attacks

It appears the western MSM have found a new pretext to further their pro-war line on Iran, this time using a Yemeni drone attack into key Saudi oil installations to provoke anti-Iran sentiment.

The strike was carried out by 10 unmanned aerial vehicles, who targeted the globe's largest oil-processing facility in Abqaiq and the kingdom's second-biggest oil field in Khurais on Saturday.

The attack, slashing about 6 percent of world oil supply, has already rattled the markets, with the kingdom's benchmark stock index falling as much as 3.1 percent on Saturday in Riyadh.

Yemen's Houthi forces have taken responsibility for the strike, which came as the latest in a series of assaults against the Saudi economic infrastructure this year.

But the western governments, and the western mainstream media, seem bent on implicating Iran in the case, preparing the ground for ratcheting up pressure on Tehran.

■ Change of tack

The Yemeni movement has admitted to launching similar drone and rocket attacks against Riyadh and its allies, some of which have targeted oil pumping stations.

These attacks have so far been widely under-reported by the Saudi-led coalition and the western MSM, perhaps as part of a strategy to reduce the psychological effect of the attacks and boost morale of the Saudi-led coalition.

Notably, several MSM outlets reported as unchallenged facts the UAE denial of Houthi attacks against Abu Dhabi airport last year.

The same outlets preferred to ignore videos published by Houthis late May documenting the airport attack.

However, the coalition and its western backers are blaming some of the attacks on Iran in recent months, as Yemeni strikes against Saudi facilities have become more frequent and lethal.

And the latest attack on Saudi oil facilities is no exception, despite all the evidence suggesting it is a Yemeni job.

■ Was it really Iran?

Yemeni people have every reason to retaliate against Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi-led coalition has been waging a devastating aerial bombing operation in Yemen for years as part of a "democracy-promotion" campaign.

The world has kept mum on the plight of the Yemeni people, and the western media outlets have done their best to veil the truth in Yemen.

By the way, the UN investigators have reported some Houthi drones are likely to have a range of up to 930 miles.

That puts most of Saudi Arabia in their range, including the Abqaiq plant, which is located some 500 miles from Yemeni soil and has been targeted by Houthis several times in the past. Moreover, Iran's Foreign Ministry rejected the claims as "blind and fruitless accusations".

Separately, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif dismissed the U.S. allegations on Sunday, saying the U.S. and its allies were "stuck in Yemen" and that accusing Tehran "won't end the disaster".

Iraq has also denied media reports claiming its soil was used to launch the drones.

Of note, a Saudi Interior Ministry statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency blames nobody for the attack and says an investigation is underway.

■ It's Iran!

Yet, U.S. State Secretary Michael Pompeo, who is famous for his hawkish stance on Iran, pointed the finger squarely at Tehran, for the first time.

The top U.S. diplomat said there was no evidence the attack was launched from Yemen, so the world must join hands to ensure "Iran is held accountable for its aggression".

Despite all the evidence, many western outlets listened to Pompeo and refused to point to the Yemeni origin of the attacks in their headlines, referring to them by the likes of "Saudi oil attacks" or "drone strikes".

This is while even some politicians in the U.S. have moved to cast doubt on Pompeo's allegations.

"This is such irresponsible simplification and its how we get into dumb wars," Democratic Senator Chris Murphy tweeted.

Some public figures have pointed the biggest beneficiary of the drone attacks is the U.S.

The Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom tweeted on Sunday that the incident will have a number of positives for President Donald Trump, as "Saudi will have to increase security supplied by the U.S." and the "oil prices will rise and the U.S. is now a large exporter of oil".

According to Dotcom, blaming Iran will allow the U.S. to then "go to war, take control of Iran's oil which pays for the war."

■ Linguistic gymnastics

But on Sunday Reuters scraped the very bottom of the barrel trying to implicate Iran in the case, resorting to linguistic gymnastics to show the country as the main culprit.

The title of a major Reuters piece reads, "Iran dismisses U.S. claim it was behind Saudi oil attacks, says ready for war".

The headline has mixed two separate accounts by Iranian officials to advance its pro-war agenda.

The first part of the headline refers to remarks by Iran's Foreign Ministry on Sunday, but the second part refers to statements by a senior Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander in a pre-recorded, subtitled interview published on Sunday.

In the talk, the commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, warned that Tehran is fully prepared to retaliate if attacked.

"Everybody should know that all American bases and their vessels in a distance of up to 2,000 kilometers [from Iran] are within the range of our missiles," he said, in remarks similar to those made by IRGC commanders once and often.

Dozens of references to Iran could be found in the article, pushing the reader to believe Iran has something to do with the attacks.

Reuters also describes Houthi forces as "Iran-backed" or "Iran-aligned". Can't one argue the Saudi forces are also "U.S.-backed", considering the vast U.S. support offered to the kingdom's expensive war machine? Why doesn't Reuters mention that?

Of note, both Iran and the Houthis deny allegations that Tehran is arming Yemenis.

Separately, Bloomberg on Sunday claimed the attack is "set to escalate a showdown pitting Saudi Arabia and the U.S. against Iran, which backs proxy groups from Yemen to Iran to Lebanon".

Ignoring the fact the informed writers mistakenly used Iraq in place of Iran, the astute observer can ill afford not to wonder what groups are backed by Iran. Are those groups really "proxy" ones? If yes, have Saudi Arabia and the U.S. not supported "proxy" groups in the region?

Years ago, Noam Chomsky explained that American news coverage operates on the premise that the U.S. "owns the world". The MSM treatment of the Saudi oil attacks was yet another manifestation of the fact that the western MSM frame any event in line with the western governments' interests, not global interests.

U.S. maximum pressure has turned into 'maximum deceit': Iran

Tehran reiterates its proposal to end the Yemen crisis



Mousavi said, "Even in the international relations, hostility has some logical framework which has been trespassed by the U.S. officials."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman likened Pompeo's remarks to plots by spy agencies to discredit a country in order to pursue their goals.

"The U.S. and its clients are stuck in Yemen because of illusion that weapon superiority will lead to military victory," Zarif states.

Through seeking talks with Iran, Trump intends the region to recognize Israel: ex-diplomat

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Ahmad Dastmalchian, Iran's former ambassador to Lebanon, has said that U.S. President Donald Trump's objective in seeking talks with Iran is a recognition of the Zionist regime of Israel in the Middle East.

"The United States seeks recognition of the Zionist regime in the region and uses various countries as slave on this path such as the view it has about Saudi Arabia, and seeking talks with Iran is in line with this objective of the United States," ISNA quoted Dastmalchian as saying on Sunday.

"However, the resistance front counters them. The United States seeks to divide the regional countries, but the resistance front makes efforts for the countries to be independent from the United States and the Zionist regime," he remarked.

In a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday, President Hassan Rouhani said it makes no sense to hold talks with the United States when sanctions against Iran are in place.

"From the viewpoint of the government, parliament and the people of Iran, negotiations with the United States make no sense when sanctions remain," Rouhani said.

Rouhani noted that the U.S. refrained from fulfilling its commitments by withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Pointing to Iran's third step in reducing its commitments under the deal, he said that the action has been done under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is reversible.

Rouhani said on September 3 that holding "bilateral" talks with the U.S. is not on the agenda.

"We've said it before time and again, and we say it again that we have no intention to hold bilateral talks with the United States," Rouhani told the parliament as he was defending his nominees for the post of education and tourism ministers.

Trump abandoned the nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed the harshest ever sanctions on Tehran. However, Trump has been repeatedly calling for dialogue with Iran.

Trump has announced that his administration is putting "maximum pressure" against Iran to bring Tehran to the negotiating table.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal, Tehran began reducing its commitments to the agreement

at bi-monthly intervals.

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

In a letter to European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on September 5, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced that as a third step Iran stops implementing all commitments related to nuclear research and development (R&D) under the JCPOA.

"The Iranian foreign minister sent a letter to Mogherini, announcing that the Islamic Republic of Iran stops all commitments in the area of research and development under the JCPOA because of consequences of the United States' withdrawal from the deal and the three European countries' failure to implement their commitments," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

"In this letter, it has been said that this action is in line with Iran's rights under the JCPOA and within the paragraph 36 of it and is in response to violation of the JCPOA during the past 16 months."

Zarif meets Indian foreign secretary, expresses concern over Kashmir

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale in Tehran on Sunday.

The officials discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in various areas.

Zarif expressed concerns over situation of the people in Kashmir and expressed hope their condition would improve.

India's ruling BJP ideological allies advise Modi to ignore U.S., go for Iranian oil

(FNA) — An ideological affiliate of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has now come out and advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider New Delhi's decision, to ignore U.S. demands not to purchase oil from Iran as it would represent a strategic setback for India.

"By its decision (not to purchase oil from Iran) India is on the way to losing the Chabahar port to China, which has continued to purchase Iranian crude oil, ignoring the U.S. Losing Chabahar would be a major strategic setback," said Ashwini Mahajan, national co-convener of the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM), or Forum for National Self-Reliance, an affiliate of Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), according to Russia's Sputnik News.

India's strategic relations with Iran go beyond the oil trade. New Delhi is developing the strategic Chabahar port, considered a golden gateway for its trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. The port, situated on the Indian Ocean in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan province, is easily accessible from India's Western coast. It is seen as an answer to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, which is being developed with Chinese assistance.

The Chabahar route would result in a 60 percent reduction in shipment costs and a 50 percent reduction in shipment time from India to Central Asia.

Though the American sanctions won't hit the development of Chabahar's port (Washington had clarified that it is an exception), Mahajan fears Beijing would step in as a strategic ally of Tehran in times of crisis to replace New Delhi.

Second Announcement

INTERNATIONAL CALL OF REVISED ONE STAGE TENDER
FOR PURCHASE OF 1000 MT CRUSHED BATH
FOR ALUMINUM INGOT SMELTER PLANT

TENDER No.: 98/367
DATE.: 14th ,Sep.,2019

1.Subject.: Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase the following high quality Crushed Bath via one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents .:

2. Bid Bond Gurantee(BBG): 35,000(thirty five thousands) Euro/or 4,400,000,000 Rials

3. Tender proposal.: Since the tendering is to be done in one stage ,thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the relevant Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package for each Good together.The eligible Bidders may propose for one or all of the above mentioned raw materials separately according to the relevant tender documents and requirements according their capabilities.

4. Closing Date.:The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 14:00 pm ,local time , on the day, **13th October ,2019 .**

5. Opening Date.: **15th October , 2019**

6. Contact information .: For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents , the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add : Km 7 of Sankhast Road ,city of Jajarm , Northern Khorasan Province,IRAN,P.O.Box:1135-94415 ,Commercial department / legal and contractual Affairs .

Tel .: **0098-58-32605344** Fax.: **0098-58-32272487**
website: **www.iranalumina.ir** E-mail.: **info@iranalumina.ir**

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Kadkhodaei: Seizure of Iran's assets in Canada is an example of 'economic terrorism'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Abbasali Kadkhodaei, the spokesman for the Guardian Council, has described the recent move by Canada to sell \$30 million worth of Iranian assets as a blatant example of "state-run economic terrorism."

"Economic terrorism is a method in which Western governments seize or confiscate other nations' economic resources and interests through misusing legal tools without fair legal procedures," Kadkhodaei tweeted on Saturday evening, Tasnim reported.

"Canada's seizure of Iranian state properties is a blatant example of state-run economic terrorism," remarked Kadkhodaei, a law expert.

"Canada's action is contrary to generally recognized principles of international law, including the principle of sovereignty," the Guardian Council spokesman added.

He also called on Iran's Judiciary to take a countermeasure against the Canadian government.

The comments came after a report by Global News said Canada had gifted some \$30 million worth of Iranian assets to the



victims of terrorist attacks in which Iran says has not been involved, according to Press TV.

According to the report, the victims

have received their share of the money earned through the sale of two Iranian-owned buildings in Ottawa and Toronto, a document filed in the Ontario

Superior Court of Justice in August reveals.

The valuable Ottawa property, sold for \$26.5 million, was used as the Iranian Cultural Center, and the Toronto building, sold for \$1.85 million, served as the Center for Iranian Studies, the Global News reported.

In addition to the \$28 million earned from the sale of the two properties, the victims were also awarded a share of some \$2.6 million seized from Iran's bank accounts. Documents also list a Toyota Camry and Mazda MPV.

In particular, they include the family of Marla Bennett, a U.S. citizen killed in a 2002 bombing that rocked the Hebrew University in Jerusalem al-Quds.

The attacks are mostly blamed on Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements Hamas and Hezbollah. The families claimed that the Iranian government supported the two organizations and was therefore responsible for their actions.

Iran has denied any role in the attacks, saying the court ruling is an unlawful move that will have consequences for the Ottawa government if not revoked.

Iranian supertanker's oil sold to private entity: official

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's ambassador to the UK has said that his country's decision to deliver oil to a private company in Syria by Adrian Darya-1 supertanker was in no contrast to an agreement to not sell the cargo to a country under European Union sanctions.

Hamid Baedinejad's remarks came after Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said that Iran had announced that its oil would not be transferred to countries under EU sanctions.

Iran had not undertaken any commitment, so by selling Iranian oil to private company even if it is transferred to Syria, the EU cannot accuse Iran of breaching its official position, Baedinejad wrote on his Twitter page on Sunday.

He reiterated that Picardo's remarks are exactly the same as Iran's stances.

The envoy expressed happiness that it is now clear to everyone that by Iran's commitments, the UK meant those official remarks and the official written note of the Iranian diplomatic mission.

Earlier, Western media quoted Picardo as saying, "You can see from the images that the oil has ended up in Syria, but that's not to say that there's a breach of the undertaking [by Iran]."

He added, "We did not have an undertaking that the oil would not end up in Syria."

Baedinejad had earlier said in a message that the supertanker Adrian Darya's cargo had been sold to a private company and has been delivered at sea, adding that its owner



will identify its destination.

He referred to his meeting with the top UK diplomat, saying the UK's measures against Adrian Darya were against international regulations.

The EU sanctions cannot be extended to third countries, he added.

Despite, the U.S. threats, oil tanker sold its oil to a private company and has violated no rule, he reiterated.

On July 4, Britain's naval forces unlawfully seized supertanker Adrian Darya 1, then known as Grace 1, and its cargo in the Strait of Gibraltar on the pretext that it had been suspected of carrying crude to Syria in violation of the European Union's unilateral sanctions against the Arab country.

Tehran, however, rejected London's claim about the tanker's destination and slammed the seizure as "piracy."

According to Spain's Foreign Ministry, the UK had seized the vessel at the request of the U.S., which has been trying to trouble Iran's international oil vessels as part of its campaign of economic pressure against the Islamic Republic.

Late last month, the United States blacklisted the vessel and put its captain on the sanctions list, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

A report by The Financial Times revealed on September 4 that four days before the U.S. imposed sanctions on the tanker, the vessel's Indian captain received an unusual email from Brian Hook, the U.S. special representative for Iran at the Department of State.

On September 7, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif posted a tweet where he asked his American counterpart Mike Pompeo if extortion meant "offering bribes for theft of oil & designating those who refuse?"

On September 6, Head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization Brigadier General Gholamreza Jalali said that the U.S. is not as strong as it has been instilled in the minds of some people, adding that Washington is even unable to detain the Iranian-flagged oil tanker which was at the time sailing near the waters of the occupied Palestine.

"America's power is not as much as it has been said to us. Because if it was so, then Adrain Darya 1 was not wandering around the occupied Palestine," Jalali said, casting doubt on Washington's self-proclamation as the world's superpower.

Hawkish U.S. senator urges attack on Iranian oil refineries



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hawkish American Senator Lindsey Graham has urged the U.S. leaders to consider an attack on Iranian oil refineries in response to new attacks on Saudi oil refineries.

"It is now time for the U.S. to put on the table an attack on Iranian oil refineries if they continue their provocations or increase nuclear enrichment," Graham said in a tweet on Saturday.

"Iran will not stop their misbehavior until the consequences become more real, like attacking their refineries, which will break the regime's back," he added.

The U.S. senator also claimed, "Iranian supported Houthi rebels who attacked Saudi oil refineries is yet another example of how Iran is wreaking havoc in the Middle East. The Iranian regime is not interested in peace - they're pursuing nuclear weapons and regional dominance."

The anti-Iran remarks came after Yemeni forces staged a massive drone

attack on Saudi Arabia's huge Aramco oil facilities in retaliation to persisting Saudi aerial strikes mostly against Yemeni population centers and public infrastructure.

"Air Force of the Yemeni Army and Popular Committees, Saturday morning carried out a large-scale operation with 10 drones, targeting Abqaiq and Khurais refineries east of Saudi Arabia," said Yemen's Brig. Gen. Yahya Sare'e.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also took to Twitter to put the blame for Saturday's operation on Iran, claiming, "Tehran is behind nearly 100 attacks on Saudi Arabia" and that "there is no evidence the attacks came from Yemen."

"The United States will work with our partners and allies to ensure that energy markets remain well supplied and Iran is held accountable for its aggression," he added.

However, Tehran has rejected the claims, saying it is part of Washington's new policy of "maximum deceit" against the Islamic Republic.

Maximum pressure on Iran has failed: National Interest



What neither the Trump administration nor pressure advocates are prepared to acknowledge is that the way out of the current U.S.-Iranian impasse is return to compliance with the JCPOA or something very much like it, according to the National Interest.

In an opinion piece published on Saturday, Paul R. Pillar argued that it is a sure sign that the Trump administration's campaign to squeeze Iran into submission is a failure when those who customarily favor pressuring Iran acknowledge that failure.

"Take what has become the administration's go-to rationale for the campaign in the face of other evidence that it is not working: the claim that U.S. sanctions have undercut Iran's 'malign' activity in the Middle East by reducing the funds available for such activity," Pillar said.

"In a recent op-ed, Dennis Ross and Dana Stroul of the Washington Institute

for Near East Policy debunk this notion by describing how and why a financial pinch on Iran does not translate into retrenchment in Iranian regional activity," he added.

Pillar then argued that the Iranians in particular have strong political and diplomatic incentives not to be seen as caving.

"Trump also doesn't want to be seen backing down, but he clearly wants a deal and will want one more than ever as the U.S. election gets closer—especially if a failure to gain a trade agreement with China makes him even hungrier for something that he can describe as a foreign policy accomplishment," he said, concluding, "Perhaps the biggest element of flexibility in all this is Trump having no qualms about inaccurate descriptions, which in this case could mean describing a deal very similar to the JCPOA as something quite different."

Rouhani felicitates Nicaragua on Independence Day

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has offered his congratulations to the Nicaraguan people and government over the country's Independence Day.

In a message to his Nicaraguan counterpart Daniel Ortega Saavedra on Sunday, Rouhani congratulated the 198th anniversary of the Central American country's independence, Tasnim reported.

He also expressed Iran's willingness to strengthen friendly ties between the two countries.

Rouhani hailed the recent "serious steps" taken by the two countries to boost cooperation in all areas, including bilateral trade.

Nicaragua declared independence from Spain on September 15, 1821.

Promotion of ties with Latin American countries has been among the top priorities of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy over the past decades.

U.S. bases, vessels within Iran's reach: commander

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — U.S. military bases and vessels in the region are within the reach of Iranian missiles, says commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force.

For example, U.S. destroyers and frigates, which are stationed up to 2,000 kilometers from the Islamic Republic are within the reach of Iran, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh said on Sunday.

The commander said that after Iran shot down a U.S. spy drone over the Persian Gulf in July, the IRGC Aerospace Force was on high alert in a way that Iranian missiles were zeroed in on Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, and an American warship in the Sea of Oman, Mehr reported.



"We would have hit those targets if the U.S. had shown a reaction," he said.

"We have been constantly preparing ourselves for a full-fledged war," Hajizadeh added.

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 the harshest ever sanctions against Tehran in line with Washington's "maximum pressure" on the Islamic Republic. Tehran has slammed the sanctions, which have affected the lives of thousands of Iranians, as "economic terrorism".

On June 20, amid escalating tensions between the two sides, the IRGC Aerospace Force downed an American RQ-4 Global Hawk drone over the Strait of Hormuz after it violated Iranian airspace.

Despite the U.S. claims that the drone had been flying over international waters, Iran said it had retrieved sections of the drone in its own territorial waters where it was shot down.

The drone was shot by Iran's homegrown air defense missile system "Khordad-3rd".

In remarks last month, Hajizadeh said the shooting down of the intruding U.S. drone shattered the specter of war against the Islamic Republic.

The enemies had launched an extensive propaganda campaign to threaten Iran with a war, in such a way that even the intelligence services of the friendly countries were warning Tehran about a looming military action, he said.

"We were confident that if they (enemies) had made the first mistake, we would have attacked their bases around us," the commander stated.

Reformists won't boycott upcoming parliamentary elections: MP

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — MP Mostafa Kavakebian has said reformists would not boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections even if they see that their chances of victory is low.



"If for any reason we felt that we cannot have a serious competition and introduce candidates for all the seats, we will not boycott the elections and will announce to the people that they should participate and vote for any of the existing candidates they wish," Kavakebian said, Mosalas Online reported on Sunday.

He also ruled out the possibility of forming a coalition between reformists and other factions for the elections, saying, "Our experience says that it is useless. In the elections of 1394 (2016) we put some people in our list but later regretted."

Parliamentary elections will be held on Feb. 21, 2020.

The midterm elections of the Assembly of Experts will also be held on the same date in Tehran, Khorsan Razavi, North Khorasan, Fars and Qom provinces.

Europe to pay \$15b to fund INSTEX: MP

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Mojtaba Zonnour has said the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal plan to pay \$15 billion to fund the long-awaited financial mechanism for trade with Iran, known as INSTEX.

In a speech in the central city of Qom on Sunday, Zonnour pointed to the recent talks between the Islamic Republic and the European parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and said the Europeans

have agreed to deposit \$15 billion in the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX).

The payment will be made in three five-billion-dollar instalments, he said, adding that all economic problems facing the sale of Iranian oil are slated to be resolved.

"The Islamic Republic tolerated (Europe's failure to meet JCPOA obligations) for a year and negotiated with the Europeans," the MP noted.

"After a year, the result of our moves to reduce (JCPOA)

commitments was to bring Europeans to their senses," he stated.

"With the active resistance of Islamic Iran, good things will happen, the conditions of the country will improve and we will have a better future," Zonnour said.

INSTEX is a payment channel that France, Germany and Britain - the three European signatories to the JCPOA - have devised to continue trade with Tehran and bypass the U.S. embargoes.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	302395.7
IFX	3930.11

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,513 rials
GBP	52,507 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.22/b
WTI	\$54.85/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.51/b
Gold	\$1,490.55/oz
Silver	\$17.52/oz
Platinum	\$951.60/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

How to succeed doing business within the African economy

By Davis Austine

The ratification of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a major milestone in the integration of Africa's markets – and a big opportunity for business. Provided critical parts of the agreement are finalized in time, countries are due to commence trading under the AfCFTA on 1 July 2020. That will create new impetus for investment, trade and industrialization across Africa.

The AfCFTA builds on years of effort by African governments to accelerate regional integration – and past progress provides an encouraging indicator of the opportunities ahead. For example, the six-member East African Community and the 15-member Southern African Development Community have both seen their intra-bloc trade grow at around 15% a year over the past decade.

How can companies capitalize on Africa's economic integration to build successful regional or pan-African businesses? In our book, Africa's Business Revolution: How to Succeed in the World's Next Big Growth Market we point to four core tools to guide a company's expansion in Africa.

Set a clear aspiration to guide your expansion. The most successful pan-African firms have been deliberately bold.

Consider the example of Saham Finances: in little over a decade, the Morocco-based company grew from a small local firm into a leading African insurance company operating in 23 countries across the continent.

Saham's strategy included buying stakes in existing insurance firms in countries ranging from Angola to Madagascar, then overhauling their management and rapidly growing their sales. In 2018, Saham merged with Sanlam, a long-established South African insurance company that had also made Africa its major growth focus and was operating in 34 countries.

■ Prioritizing the markets

Prioritize the markets that matter most. In a continent with such scale and geographic complexity, companies need to be clear in prioritizing markets. Coca-Cola provides a compelling example. Even though it is present across the continent, it picked 10 countries as priorities for growth – and within each of those countries, it focused on the big cities that accounted for the lion's share of GDP. In the other 44 African countries and thousands of smaller towns, the company offers a simpler portfolio of products and packaging.

In constructing a successful pan-African portfolio like Coca-Cola's, companies need to look not just at the spending power of countries today, but also at the fast-growing countries that will be home to tomorrow's consumers.

Define how you'll achieve scale and relevance. Companies need a clear plan for how they will achieve scale and customer loyalty in every territory they play in. One essential component is a company's brand: Because African consumers must navigate greater uncertainty in their daily lives than their counterparts in developed markets do, they place great value on brands they can trust.

A further step is to tailor your offering to Africa's diverse consumers, country by country and city by city. Companies such as Coca-Cola have conducted careful customer segmentation exercises, then evolved their traditional products and created new ones to target each segment.

Shape the ecosystem you need to thrive. The guiding question here is: Who will we work with to win? A company's ecosystem must be broad enough to provide all the elements it needs to run its business in Africa. These include reliable power and water supply, appropriately sited land, a robust supplier base for everything from raw materials to business services, and a distribution network that can get its product into towns and villages across the continent.

■ Integration of Africa's economies

The integration of Africa's economies – many of them rapidly growing – offers exciting opportunities for companies that craft bold yet wise geographic expansion strategies. It also opens up the potential for more large-scale African corporations to emerge.

Research shows that Africa is already home to more than 400 companies with annual revenues of \$1 billion or more, but this is just 60% of the number one would expect if Africa were on a par with peer regions.

We might think of big companies as the baobabs of the business landscape: Not only do they tower above the rest, they also have deeper roots and longer life spans. Known as the tree of life, the baobab produces highly nutritious fruit that sustains many communities. Business baobabs, too, enliven their local economies: They contribute disproportionately to higher wages and taxes, productivity improvement, innovation, and technology dissemination.

Like baobabs, large firms create their own ecosystems, fostering small-business creation through their supply chains and distribution networks. They are also better able to attract capital, which means they are much more likely to compete on the global stage. We are confident that regional integration will help spur the growth of many more business baobabs across Africa.

(Source: deythere.com)

Monthly steel exports up 37% yr/yr

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Crude steel d e s k

exports by Iran's major steel producers during the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 23-August 22) rose 37 percent compared to the same month in the previous year, IRIB reported citing the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

IMIDRO data show that the major producers exported 633,050 tons of steel in the fifth month of this year, rising from 462,000 tons in the same month of the past year.

Exports by these producers during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) have fallen four percent to 2,792 million tons from 2,904 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

In a press conference on June 8, Iranian deputy industry, mining and trade minister said the ministry has taken necessary measures to maintain the country's metal exports despite U.S. sanctions.

"We have established a special working group in the ministry which is closely assessing the situation and making necessary arrangements to mitigate the impact of the



U.S. sanctions," Jafar Sarqini told the Tehran Times in the press conference.

The official noted that it is expected for the exports from the country's mining sector to, at least, reach the last year's \$8.5 billion

by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2020).

Also, during a meeting with the members of Iran Steel Association on August 25, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza

Iran to hold exclusive expo of products in Sulaymaniyah in late Dec.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's d e s k

Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) will hold an exclusive exhibit of Iranian products in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan from December 24 to 28, TPO portal published.

Holding this exhibition titled Sulaymaniyah EXPO 2019 will be another step to expand trade ties between the two neighbors.

Iran and Iraq have been taking significant steps for boosting economic relations in the past few years.

The two countries are following up plans for increasing their bilateral economic trade to over \$20 billion.

In early March, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani headed a high-ranking political and trade delegation in a visit to Iraq, during which the two sides inked several agreements and emphasized expansion of trade ties.

Less than a month after President Rouhani's visit to Iraq, an Iraqi delegation visited Tehran to attend an Iran-Iraq business forum which was hosted by Iran Chamber of



Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on April 7.

On August 30, the new acting head of TPO said Iran has dispatched a second commercial attaché to Iraq's Basra City.

Mentioning the country's plan for increasing the number of commercial attaches in the region, Hamid Zaboum noted that considering the importance of Iran's economic relations with the neighboring Arab country, a third attaché will also be sent to Sulaymaniyah soon.

E-Commerce Development Center to launch electronic signature next month

ECONOMY TEHRAN — d e s k

E - C o m m e r c e Development Center of Iran will launch electronic signature system for order registration process in the next Iranian calendar month (starts on September 23), the chairman of the center announced in a press conference held at the place of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade on Sunday.

Elaborating on the activities of E-Commerce Development Center, Ali Rahbari said this center is active in three sectors of e-commerce, e-government, and electronic certificate.

Mentioning the first sector, which is e-commerce, the official said that policy making and setting regulations are two pillars of this sector for which platforms bylaws have been already approved.

About the second sector, Rahbari said that some pillars such as integrated system of commerce and electronic logistic system have been defined.



And for the third sector, the official said that developing application of electronic signature and facilitating signature process are the major parts of this sector.

Complaining about high use of paper in the administrative processes in the country, he said that to tackle this problem, E-Commerce Development Center is acting as a pioneer to omit paper in such processes through applying electronic signature.

Drone strikes disrupt almost half of Saudi oil capacity

Drone attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck two key oil installations inside Saudi Arabia on Saturday, damaging facilities that process the vast majority of the country's crude output and raising the risk of a disruption in world oil supplies.

Reuters and The Wall Street Journal report that about half of the country's oil production has been disrupted, or 5 million barrels a day.

Saudi Arabia produces approximately one-tenth of the world's crude oil.

Saudi Interior Ministry confirmed the strikes on the oil-processing facility in Abqaiq and an oil field in Khurais, both owned by state-owned Saudi Aramco. Abqaiq is about 230 miles away from the Saudi capital of Riyadh, and the field in Khurais is 100 miles away.

According to Aramco's website, the facility

in Abqaiq is both the company's largest oil processing facility and the largest crude oil stabilization plant in the world, playing a "pivotal role" in the company's operations.

Bob Tippee, editor of the trade publication Oil and Gas Journal, said that the facility in Abqaiq held light crude oil as opposed to heavy crude oil, which requires more intense refining to remove sulfur and other impurities. He said that factories that are built to refine only light crude oil may not be able to find another crude exporter to fill the gap during the disruption.

"If the light crude that's been disrupted cannot be replaced with light crude of similar grade and similar quality immediately, which it probably cannot, there will be some problems in the market," Tippee said.

The attack also throws into question a

rumored initial public offering of 5% of Aramco's stock, for which the company had hired nine banks, including JPMorgan Chase & Co and Morgan Stanley, Reuters reported. Tippee said the offering, which is expected to raise \$100 billion, is part of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's Vision 2030 plan to reduce the kingdom's dependence on the price of crude oil.

An Aramco statement said production of 5.7 million barrels of crude was suspended by the attack from "projectiles." That represents more than half of the kingdom's output and about 6 percent of global oil supply — a shortfall that could send oil prices sharply higher.

The Aramco statement did not give any timetable on how long the production could be curtailed. In Washington, the Department

of Energy said that the United States was prepared to tap U.S. emergency oil reserves if necessary to cover supply disruptions.

"Abqaiq is perhaps the most critical facility in the world for oil supply. Oil prices will jump on this attack," Jason Bordoff, founding director of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, said in a statement.

If the disruption in Saudi Arabia is prolonged, "sanctioned Iran supplies are another source of potential additional oil," Bordoff said. "But [U.S. President Donald] Trump has already shown he is willing to pursue a maximum pressure campaign even when oil prices spike. If anything, the risk of tit-for-tat regional escalation that pushes oil prices even higher has gone up significantly."

(Source: agencies)

Iran ranks 27th among world's biggest economies: WB

1 → The data, however, indicates that the gap between China and the U.S. is gradually decreasing.

The world's top 15 countries account for 75 percent of the total global GDP, which based on the WB report on global economy in 2018,

amounted at \$85.8 trillion.

Back in January, WB predicted a 1.1 percent GDP growth for Iran in 2020 and 2021.

The bank saw a -3.6 percent growth for the country' GDP in 2019 but expected it to experience 1.1 percent of GDP growth in the

following two years.

Global economic growth is projected to slow to 2.9 percent in 2019 from a downwardly revised 3 percent in 2018 amid rising downside risks, the World Bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report published that month.

The World Bank said the outlook for the global economy "has darkened" as global financing conditions have tightened, trade tensions "have intensified," and some large emerging markets and developing economies have experienced significant financial market stress.

Eurozone plans no joint fiscal stimulus, but ready if economy gets worse

Eurozone finance ministers are not planning any joint fiscal stimulus to complement the European Central Bank's monetary package, but they are ready to act if the economy takes a turn for the worse, their chairman said on Friday.

According to menafn.com, economic growth in the 19 countries sharing the euro halved to 0.2% in the second quarter compared with the first.

The eurozone's biggest economy, Germany, is on the brink of a recession, contracting 0.1% in that period.

ECB president Mario Draghi said the eurozone economy was in a period of protracted economic weakness, with inflation low and the balance of risks tilted to the downside, as he announced a fresh stimulus package on Thursday, cutting interest rates and beginning



a new round of bond purchases.

He urged governments to spend their way out of the slowdown and use fiscal policy to help the ECB's stimulus. He singled out Germany, which is committed to running a balanced budget. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, arriving for informal eurozone finance ministers' talks in Helsinki, responded by

proposing a 'growth compact for the eurozone that would focus on investment, reforms and debt reduction. But no joint fiscal action was discussed at the meeting of the 19 finance ministers representing countries that share the euro.

■ The economy still growing

They said the economy was, after all, still growing. 'We ... stand ready to act if risks materialize and things get worse, Mario Centeno, the chairman of eurozone finance ministers, the Eurogroup, told a news conference. 'At the Eurogroup, we will coordinate our response.

I should add that overall, and despite all the uncertainty, we remain positive about the euro area economy, which is still growing, albeit at a slower pace, he said.

To counter an economic slowdown after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the EU in

late 2008 agreed on a coordinated stimulus of €200bn, or 1.5% of EU GDP at the time. The European Economic Response Plan, as it was called, did not prevent a recession in 2009 but helped a recovery in 2010.

'In the last crisis, we were able to find a balance in our comprehensive response, combining fiscal policy, structural reforms at national and EU levels and also monetary policy, Centeno said. 'Going forward, in the face of a downturn, we need to find a new balance, and fiscal policy will surely play a part on this.

Centeno, as well as European Commission vice president for the euro Valdis Dombrovskis and French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, pointed to 'countries with fiscal space as those who should spend more to help revive growth. In EU code, that means Germany and the Netherlands.

IRENEX to hold 15th round of offering light crude oil on Tuesday

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

The base price for this round of offering, which is the 15th round since beginning of offering light oil at IRENEX, and the eighth round in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21, 2019), is \$56.78 per barrel.

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

According to Iran's current year budget law, NIOC is obliged to offer two million barrels of heavy crude oil, two million barrels of light crude and two million barrels of gas condensate every month.

In this regard, the company has been offering various grades of crude oil almost every week since the beginning of the current



Iranian calendar year. Light crude oil was offered 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 IRENEX has said that the company will continue offering oil at IRENEX, Mehr news agency reported.

"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.

According to the official, IRENEX was initially founded in an attempt to permit the Iranian private sector export crude oil since Washington aims to cut Iran's oil sales.

However now, foreign buyers have also expressed willingness to engage in IRENEX oil offerings and welcoming the idea, NIOC is preparing necessary bases for them to be able to do so.

'All remaining South Pars platforms to be installed by March 2020'

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — Head of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing Iran's South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf, said all the remaining platforms of the field will be installed by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020).

Speaking to the state TV on Saturday night, Mohammad Meshkinfam said "By the end of this year, the five remaining South Pars platforms at Sadra industrial Yard will be installed [on their designated offshore spots] and recovery from all South Pars gas blocks (except for phase 11) will be realized."

The development of South Pars Field started 22 years ago and 29 different phases were defined for the project along with a separate oil block.

"After the full development of the South Pars joint field [Iran shares with Qatar], we should consider maintaining production based on the prospect of supplying 75 percent of the country's gas consumption for 25 years," Meshkinfam said.

According to the official, although there has been no noticeable decrease in the field's recovery factor so far, but it is anticipated that it will decrease within the next three to four years.

"Focusing on the blocks [like Belal gas field] around the South Pars field is one of the long-term solutions for maintaining the field's recovery factor," he said.

Meshkinfam further pointed to drilling exploration wells in the Yalda gas field, starting development operations in the northern areas of South Pars field [known as North Pars], and the design and installation of gas pressure boosting platforms as the POGC's next steps in production maintenance.

He went on mentioning the share of Iran in the joint gas field, saying that "Geographically, one-third of the South Pars field is in Iran's possession, while today Iran's gas production from this joint field is equal to Qatar. In fact, having just one-third of the field, we are producing an equal amount of gas with Qatar; in other words, we can say that our production is more than the Arab country."



Meshkinfam also mentioned development of the phase 11 of South Pars field, noting that Iran is not going to wait for CNPC and "If the Chinese company does not make a decision to participate, Petropars as the third member of the consortium (it was comprised of Total, CNPC and Petropars) must take over and begin operations in Mehr [seventh Iranian calendar month starting on September 23]."

Lower oil prices ends oilfield services growth in 2020

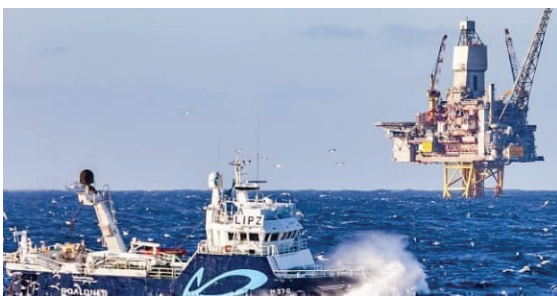
Lower oil prices will push the global service market into a recession in 2020 after three successive years of growth, according to Rystad Energy.

As stated by oilprice.com, in a new sector outlook update, Audun Martinsen, head of oilfield services research at Rystad Energy, forecasts a 4% decline in global oilfield service revenue if oil prices stay flat next year.

"Lower oil prices call for negative growth in the service market in 2020," says Martinsen. "For suppliers, this means that a three-year growth story will come to an end regardless of which market segment you look at."

The service market will likely achieve 2% growth in 2019, to \$647 billion. In 2020 this number will fall to \$621 billion with an oil price of \$60 per barrel (Brent).

Looking at the various market segments, the shale industry will likely drag down oilfield service purchases as it contracts by 6% next year. Offshore will fall 1% as oil companies cut brownfield and exploration activity in an attempt to reduce spending. Other onshore activity will see revenues slashed by around 5% as OPEC scales



back investments to curtail output.

■ The offshore drilling

However, due to the existing backlog, some service segments can still realize positive revenue growth. Subsea equipment, SURF (subsea umbilicals, risers, and flowlines) and offshore drilling can still accelerate in 2020, but growth will fall from the double-digits to the single-digits.

"This new market view stands in stark contrasts to what we previously forecasted when oil price estimates

stood around \$70 for 2020. At that oil price, the service market was expected to grow by 2%, held up by offshore and shale. However, downside risks have been mounting in the oil market, and we could face additional headwinds in 2020," Martinsen said with reference to a recent update by Rystad Energy's oil market team (link).

Looking further ahead, Rystad Energy forecasts a positive outlook for the global oilfield services market.

"In 2021 we will see the long cycle effects manifesting into a greenfield, exploration and brownfield wave, which will come into play and initiate a 5% growth as the oil market sees relief and investments follow," Martinsen remarked.

Looking towards 2023, offshore market segments, shale and other onshore segments are likely to realize an average compounded annual growth rate of 2% to 3%. Subsea purchases, construction and installation, and equipment seem even more robust at 7% due to the massive influx of large offshore and LNG projects and the fact that subsea developments see a new renaissance, according to Rystad Energy.

Wind power sources remain more fantasy than reality

By William F. Shughart II

At first glance, wind power seems to be the path to a carbon-free energy future. Once harnessed, it's clean and abundant. Larger turbines have enhanced wind's power-generating capacity.

But contrary to its supporters, wind energy has grown thanks largely to production tax credits (2.3 cents per kilowatt hour) totaling billions of dollars. However, those credits are being phased out, and without such generous subsidies, wind energy will not make much of a dent in power production or carbon mitigation for at least a decade.

The amount of wind energy has tripled in the past 10 years, growing to 97,223 megawatts in 41 states. Half of that generating capacity is located in five of them: Texas, Iowa, Oklahoma, California and Kansas. Because seasonal wind patterns vary considerably across the country, wind's contribution to the grid represents just 8 percent of power production nationwide.

Despite all the hoopla over wind energy, the nation's only offshore wind turbines are located in coastal waters near Rhode Island. The Block Island Wind Farm, which went into operation in late 2016, cost \$2 billion, plus \$16.7 million to compensate companies that lost access to fishing grounds. Operating and maintenance expenses for wind farms currently add about \$48,000 per megawatt generated.

■ From huge turbines

Massachusetts likewise is preparing to obtain power from more than a score of



huge wind turbines off its coast, carried to the mainland by underwater cables, with the cost passed through to households and businesses.

According to the Institute for Energy Research, offshore wind energy is "very, very expensive," costing 2.6 times more than onshore wind power and 3.4 times more than power produced by a natural gas combined-cycle plant. Of course, the cost of wind farms surely will fall as more are built, and perhaps ways will be found to reduce the dangers wind turbines pose to birds, bats, and other wildlife.

In the meantime, if we are serious about reducing energy costs and carbon emissions, we need to be realistic about the limitations of power generated by the wind and other renewables.

A more practical environmental approach

is to expand the use of the combined-cycle natural gas plants, which have smaller carbon footprints than coal plants and have reduced such emissions to levels not seen since the early 1990s.

The shale revolution has made that possible, greatly strengthening economic incentives to substitute natural gas for coal in power production. Nowadays, data analytics and complex algorithms make it easier to find natural gas and boost the productivity of shale fields.

The surge in America's natural-gas production also helps to reduce carbon emissions in other countries. Exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) are projected to double by the end of this year. Asian countries that still rely heavily on coal are the largest purchasers of American LNG, using the clean-burning fuel to improve

their air quality.

■ The single biggest addition

Shale has been the single biggest addition to the nation's energy supply in many decades. Renewables at the moment offer more promise than reality. Even with lavish subsidies, wind and solar power together account for slightly more than 10 percent of the nation's electricity. In contrast, gas provides nearly 35 percent; it is indispensable for generating backup power on days when the wind doesn't blow, or the sun doesn't shine.

Because of rising electricity demands and the retirement of coal and nuclear plants, many states are planning for more wind-powered electricity production. Under present regulatory regimes, most of the capital and operating costs of new wind farms will end up being added to consumers' utility bills. So, too, in some states are the "stranded costs" of mothballed power plants.

Unsubsidized wind energy simply is too expensive to become a major source of electricity in most states. (In 2016, wind represented just seven-tenths of 1 percent of Massachusetts's power production.) The inability of grid operators to manage the variations in power from wind and solar energy is creating new headaches.

Americans need a reliable supply of affordable electricity. But if too much weight is placed on wind and solar systems and not enough on conventional power plants, the result will be far too little electricity, with potentially grievous economic consequences.

(Source: catalyst.independent.org)

OPEC slides closer to collapse as an oil glut overpowers the oil price

Three days of falling oil prices is not a crisis for OPEC, the weakening oil producer's club, but forecasts of a continuation of the price decline could sap what strength remains in an organization once able to dictate the direction of the global economy.

As per hellenicshippingnews.com, a series of reports released over the past few days threw fresh light on the existential crisis confronting the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries which has been explored here before OPEC is not dead yet, but it has lost control of the oil market, July 2.

The most alarming comments for members of OPEC, especially the cartel leader, Saudi Arabia, came from the International Energy Agency in its monthly Market Report which warned of a growing oil surplus which will get worse next year.

"While the relentless stock builds we have seen since early 2018 have halted, this is temporary," the IEA said.

"Soon, the OPEC+ producers (OPEC and Russia) will once again see surging non-OPEC oil production with the implied market balance returning to a significant surplus placing pressure on prices.

The "challenge of market management remains a daunting one well into 2020."

■ The club's members

By market management the IEA means production cuts by members of the club, especially Saudi Arabia.

Cuts, however, will not be easy or welcomed by the Saudis who are finalizing the listing of their national oil champion, Saudi Aramco, on the Tadawul (Saudi Stock Exchange).

Oil prices around their current level are already testing the finances of most OPEC members who need a price close to \$70 a barrel just to balance their budgets.

But to get back to \$70/bbl from the current \$55/bbl one of two things needs to happen. Either there is a surge in demand, which is unlikely, or a meaningful cut in supply from OPEC members who are already under financial pressure.

That means the burden of production cuts falls on OPEC members, an unwelcome possibility as most are already being squeezed by the last round of cuts which might have helped stabilize the oil price, but did not deliver the price boost hoped for.

The oil-glut problem of today, with more to come next year according to the IEA, can be attributed to a number of factors such as slower global economic growth, rising non-OPEC production (particularly by the U.S.), and the surge in the production of natural gas in its pipeline and liquefied form (LNG).

McKinsey & Company, a management consulting firm, explained the growing importance of LNG in the energy market earlier last week in its Global Gas And LNG Outlook To 2035.

The key findings were that gas would be the only fossil fuel to grow continuously to 2035 and that the major contributor to that growth would be the U.S.

McKinsey said the U.S. "is poised to "become the largest LNG exporter globally by 2022, overtaking Australia and Qatar".

■ The rush into gas

The rush into gas is largely explained by the fuel being significantly less polluting than oil or coal but the liquefaction and transport technologies which have unleashed gas have only just started to influence the global energy market and while many OPEC members are LNG producers it is non-members such as Australia and the U.S. which are driving the industry.

McKinsey's view of the LNG sector could be underestimating the impact of the fuel because there are many more potential projects on the sidelines with the capacity to create a gas glut which would bear down on prices for both gas and oil.

One paragraph in the McKinsey report demonstrates the emerging power of LNG in the global energy market. It reads:

"Over 100 LNG projects totally 1100 million tons a year of capacity are competing to fill the 125 million tons a year supply gap by 2035; many of the marginal projects are from the U.S."

With potential supply close to 9-times bigger than the forecast in demand growth it is likely that many of the proposed LNG projects will not proceed, but it's also possible that too many will be developed, crowding the market and killing the LNG price.

In other words, not only is there an oil glut today but there's the possibility of a gas glut tomorrow, which is very much not something OPEC members want to hear about.

Oman to host conference over role of natural gas in sustainable future

Oman will be the first Middle Eastern country to hold the International Gas Union's research conference in 2020, to look at what role natural gas will play in a future that looks towards sustainable development.

According to timesofoman.com, organized by the Ministry of Oil and Gas, the three-day event that runs from 24 to 26 February, will see more than 1000 participants come to Oman, representing more than 40 countries. This is a triennial event that is organized by the IGU.

On the subject of Oman hosting the conference, Joe Kang, IGU's president said: "Research, development and innovation are fundamental to the future of the natural gas industry and it is particularly exciting to bring the International Gas Union's Research Conference (IGRC) to this region for the first time. I extend IGU's thanks to the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Oil and Gas under His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhi, who are patrons of IGRC 2020, and our member Oman LNG and its CEO Harib Al Kitani, who is our host.

"With Muscat's easy accessibility, and with so much natural gas and LNG activity and opportunity in the region, we look forward to the support and participation of regional and global stakeholders," he added.

The LNG industry is a significant contributor to a steadily increasing quality of life for citizens and residents in the Sultanate through its execution of a wide swath of social investment programs through the Oman LNG Development Foundation that addresses many economic and social needs.

■ Oman's first cargo

The export of Oman's first cargo was in 2000 and since then, proceeds from the blossoming trade have supported, what some observers have described as an ambitious diversification program that has spurred growth in other important sectors of the economy, including tourism, agriculture and the spread of vital infrastructure that supports business and daily life.

Khalid Al Massan, CEO of Oman LNG Development Foundation and chair of the IGRC 2020 national organizing committee, stated, "We are delighted to host such a prestigious event to Oman. The IGRC 2020 will captivate the attention of thousands of senior leaders, partners and experts of the gas industry together. Such a conference will accommodate a great atmosphere of sharing invaluable insights on the role of natural gas today, and in the future.

EU's Opposition to Trump's policies not for moral reasons: Russian analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A political commentator based in Moscow highlighted the reasons behind recent disputes between the European Union and the US administration and said the EU leaders are not opposed to President Donald Trump for moral reasons but because he has not been certified by them.

“So, the EU is demonizing Trump and blames him for all the conflict that we see inside the Western world,” Dmitry Babich said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency. “The EU’s politicians and the pro-Obama liberals in the US are not doing this for moral reasons,” he said, adding, “They do it simply because Trump was not ‘certified’ by them, he was not handpicked and approved by the ultra-liberal establishment, as Hillary (Clinton) had been.”

“If Hillary had won in 2016 and decided to start a war against Iran, 99 percent of the American media would support that war, and the EU (via NATO) would send reinforcements for the American attack,” the analyst added.



Dmitry Babich, born in Moscow, has been an active journalist for over 25 years, focusing on Russian politics. Graduating from Moscow State University, Babich has had a successful career in Russian journalism. He has previously been a senior correspondent at the Komsomolskaya Pravda daily, RIA Novosti, and Russia Profile magazine. Between 1999 and 2003, Babich was a foreign editor at The Moscow News before returning to Russia Profile in 2009 as acting editor-in-chief. His core areas of focus include Russia’s modern political history and international relations. Babich is currently working as a political analyst at Sputnik International and is a frequent guest on BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN commenting on international affairs and history. 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 you not think these disputes indicate that the US allies are distancing themselves from Trump and his shifting policies?

A: I think that the real reason why both the US and the EU are so aggressive towards some Middle Eastern countries, China and Russia is not a national interest of the US or of any European country. The reason for this aggressiveness is the new ultra-liberal ideology, which took hold of the Western world (both the US and the EU) in the postwar period, especially during the last 30 years. The European Union is following this ideology with even greater zeal than the US. And the EU can’t get over the fact that not the ultimate ultra-liberal Hillary Clinton won the election in 2016, but the brutal and stupid American nationalist Donald Trump (did). So, the EU is demonizing Trump and blames him for all the conflict that we see inside the Western world. The EU’s politicians and the pro-Obama liberals in the US are not doing this for moral reasons. They do it simply because Trump was not “certified” by them, he was not handpicked and approved by the ultra-liberal establishment, as Hillary had been. So, ultimately, the American election of 2016 had some positive consequences. Not because Trump is good, he is a brutal bastard and a moving caricature. But because there was a SPLIT in the American elite. As a result, some of the American media objected to Trump’s provocations against Iran – again, not because these American media outlets were objective or kind, they just did not want Trump to get the political profit from what they thought could be a winning war against Iran. It is the same reason that is pushing the EU to object to Trump’s war-mongering against Iran. If Hillary had won in 2016 and decided to start a war against Iran, 99 percent of the American media would support that war, and the EU (via NATO) would send reinforcements for the American attack.

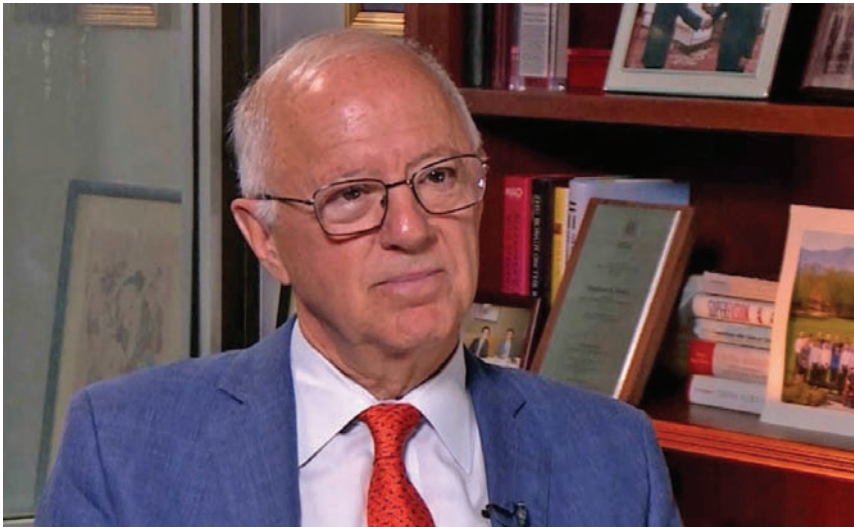
■ It seems that even Asian allies of the US have also distanced themselves from the Trump administration. In the latest instance, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared in early August that his country would never allow the United States to deploy missile systems on its soil. Although there exists 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: In Asia, Trump continues the disastrous Obama policy of alienating China and Russia. Obama did not include the two “elephants” of the Pacific region, Russia and China, into his Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which was a globalist ultraliberal project. Trump went even further. He dismantled TPP and started a trade war with China, replacing Obama’s “soft” ultraliberal globalist approach with brutal economic aggression.

However, people in Asia are becoming fed up both with the globalist dictate of Obama-EU-Clinton ultraliberals and Trump’s brutal plunder. The president of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, is just one manifestation of this trend. Let me remind you how South Korea had a “joint” team with North Korea during the Olympic Games in Pyeongchang - despite American objection. Even Japan is showing some signs of softening towards Russia – obviously against the globalist line of the EU and Trump’s brutal America-above-all Russophobia.

■ 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 been declining very fast? ➔13

Reason for optimism in gloomy trade war: Stephen Orlins



GLOBALTIMES — As trade tensions between China and the US escalate and an increasing number of analysts tend to believe that no silver lining can be seen in years to come, Stephen Orlins (Orlins), president of National Committee on US-China Relations, noted he is still optimistic about the bilateral relationship in the long run. Why is he an optimist against the gloomy backdrop? What can both sides do to ease tensions? Orlins shared his views with Global Times (GT) reporter Li Aixin on these issues in an exclusive interview during The Third Taihe Civilizations Forum held in Beijing over the weekend.

■ China and the US have begun imposing additional tariffs on each other’s goods since September 1. Some say that the two countries are running out of tariff cards, do you think the tariff war might spill over to other fields?

A: I think it’s the opposite. I think the other fields have affected the trade discussions. I think that the deterioration in the national security relationship, the decision in December of 2017 to brand China a strategic competitor, and China’s response to that has led to the trade war being more intense.

If you look at the Huawei ban, it’s a trade issue, but the president of the US said that the sale of Huawei goods in the US was a national security issue. Then it became a trade issue. I think that both the national security issues, the political issues flow on to the trade issues and they flow back. It’s really not one way or the other. It’s both ways.

■ What do Americans and US companies think of President Trump’s move to escalate the trade war?

A: Clearly, the common person in the US does not benefit from the trade war. But there is, especially among the political base of President Trump, there is a belief that even though they have to eat bitterness, they have to lose sales of soybeans or corn or grain to China. They feel it’s worth it in order to have a level playing field with China.

■ Will it play a role in Trump’s next move?

A: Yes, it will affect the decision of President Trump, whether to roll back the tariffs, to maintain the tariffs, or to increase the tariffs. I think it’s going to be a combination of the political pressure that is brought on him and the trade war’s effect on the US stock market.

The president speaks about it very often. He uses the Dow Jones Index and the S&P 500 Index as his grade for how he’s doing. When we break new records in the stock market, he says, you see, I’m doing a great job, the stock market is reaching a new high. Then when he spoke about the tariffs, we saw the stock market go way down. And now it’s starting to creep back up again, as people believe we may have some progress in the talks in early October.

■ What do you think is Trump’s strategic goal in his China policy?

A: I’m not sure. The administration has not clearly defined what its strategic goals are with China. We have a National Security Strategy, which considers China a strategic competitor of the US and considers China a revisionist power. I don’t really understand the concept of China being a revisionist power, and I have not been able to get a clear explanation from the administration of what that means. Then the National Defense Strategy says we need to spend a

lot of money in the strategic competition with China without really defining where it is. The assertion is China is trying to be a hegemony in East Asia, and my response to that - really? It’s not quite the case. I guess the administration would argue its policy is to give US companies fairer access to the China market.

■ The Wall Street Journal recently published an article entitled “Has America’s China Backlash Gone Too Far?” How do you comment on the view? Do you think it has gone too far?

A: I think US policy toward China damages the American people. I think our current policies toward China are bad for the overwhelming majority of Americans. They may be good for a tiny segment of America, but they’re bad for most Americans. So I see actions that are taken that I find very difficult to understand. It’s difficult to understand. In part it’s driven by Chinese government’s policies that have gradually frustrated people in the Congress, in the business community, in NGOs, in academia. So those policies have put a foundation under those who want to get very tough with China.

But these tariffs hurt average Americans. If they are increased on December 1, they will significantly affect poor Americans. If you think about tariffs on consumer goods, ultimately the price has to be passed on to the consumer, despite what the president says about China paying those tariffs. Ultimately the Walmart customers, the Costco customers have to pay more. The estimates are now that they’re going to have to pay about \$800 to \$1,000 more per family. Now if you’re rich Americans, \$800 or \$1,000 doesn’t really matter. But if you are making \$15,000 or \$18,000 a year, an increase of \$1,000 means you cannot buy all the goods. You gotta make a choice. Do I buy a new pair of pants? Or do I buy a new pair of shoes? So I think these policies are terribly unfair to poorer Americans. I think the National Defense Strategy, which defines China as a strategic competitor and has now led to our spending \$750 billion on defense, and has led China to respond by increasing its expenditures on defense, hurts both societies.

When you spend so much on defense, where do you get the money to rebuild your infrastructure? Where do you get the money to fund education? Where do you get money for poverty alleviation? Where do you get money for all of these things? What’s happening is we’re seeing a diversion of resources from where the US needs it and where China needs it into

our defense budgets.

When I go to airports around the US, when I take the trains in the US, I commute on the subway every day to work in the US in New York, I see the failure to fund infrastructure. America’s infrastructure is pathetic. It dates from the 1950s and 1960s and doesn’t have new technology. The signaling systems in the New York subway system date back decades. When I take the train to Washington, the track is so bad that it shakes and I get dizzy by the time I arrive in Washington three hours later. If that were in China, I would arrive in less than 45 minutes. Washington to New York takes me three hours. I would take the money that we’re spending unnecessarily on the strategic competition and direct it into things that help the people. What’s happening in this policy is it has lost sight of the people.

I am tough on the US government is because I believe that a constructive US-China relationship helps the people of the US. It also helps the people of China. But my priority is the people of the US. People always ask me, who do I represent? The American people. Who speaks up for the American people today, as our social programs, our infrastructure, our education are all underfunded? My daughter is a teacher in the Baltimore county school in the city that really doesn’t have much money. The way it’s funded is really sad.

■ You said that we should be more optimistic about the China-US relationship even if it is going through hard times now. In what ways do you think can the two start for getting out of the current predicament?

A: There are a lot of little things that can be done that could then begin to improve the relationship. There are many problems that exist today in China, your publication and other publications refer to the US as the black hand in a lot of its problems. That’s not the case, but it becomes the narrative. In the US, the narrative is everything that China does is bad - it’s trying to kick the US out of East Asia; it’s hurting all of these businesses. The positive stories in both China and the US are never told. What the governments need to do, what organizations like ours need to do is to create positive news. There are a lot of little things that could be done to create kind of a positive momentum in the short term. The reason why I’m an optimist in the long term is because of the American and Chinese. The people of each country still have strong bonds. We have 360,000 Chinese college and graduate students in the US. We have

tens of thousands of Americans here. We have numerous kinds of relations between Chinese and the American people. And in the end, they are going to come to the conclusion that a cooperative relationship is necessary to deal with the threats to their lives.

What I always say is a mother in Shanghai and a mother in New York have the same fears for their children. I was driven out of my home by a climate change storm called Sandy that flooded my home and affected my life, the life of my children. I lived through 9/11 terrorism. The Chinese lived through the massacre in the Kunming rail station. Terrorism is a common fear. We all lived through Ebola. We saw how American and Chinese scientists jointly fought this pandemic, which could have really done damage to the whole world. And then the economic crisis of 2008 kind of made mothers fear for the economic opportunity for their children. And those are the real threats, not the South China Sea, not Taiwan, not a strategic rivalry. People will ultimately realize that. I have great confidence in the people. The way it works in the US is that democracy works slowly, but it ultimately reaches the right conclusion. And the right conclusion is going to be a cooperative relationship between the US and China, not this decoupling, not the creating of two technological ecosystems. Because that’s going to slow economic development in both China and the US. People are going to recognize that and it’s going to happen while I am still alive.

■ This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. What do you think is the biggest change in China over the past 70 years?

A: I wasn’t here in the beginning, but I’ve been here 40 years. Next month will be the anniversary of my 40th year in China. I arrived on October 19, 1979. I still remember that I arrived about one o’clock in the morning and my host organization was there to pick me up and take me to the Peking Hotel, where I lived the next two years. At one o’clock in the morning on the drove from the old Beijing airport to the Peking Hotel, we passed no other cars. We passed carriages, we passed bicycles, but no other cars.

The economic development that has occurred in the last 40 years is simply a miracle. China is not the same place that it was when I arrived. China has fundamentally changed. The people, because of the increase in calorie intake, the increase in healthcare provision, the people have physically changed. If I look at Chinese people today, they look different from the way they looked 40 years ago. The houses are different. There are terrible traffic jams (now). There were no cars then. It’s quite extraordinary.

When I first went to Harbin and some places in 1979, there was no running water, there was no indoor plumbing, there was no electricity. It was amazing. Now there are skyscrapers and air conditioning, there’s obviously heat all the time, and the children look better. They are all healthier and happier. They travel and they decide life issues themselves or with their families. Then, when you graduated college, your job would be assigned, you didn’t decide what you would do, you were told what you would do. So the changes in China over the 40 years that I’ve been here have been fundamental, whereas America has remained relatively the same.

The new Saudi-American plan in eastern Syria doomed to fail



➔1 The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have united the tribes and local figures to achieve their goal. They are seeking to form an independent state by convincing sheikhs and local figures in Deir ez Zor. This is exactly what was mentioned in the leaked audio. In the audio, Kilo explicitly pointed to the new plan.

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are trying to form Tribal Council and also think about creating self-governing system for the Kurds in eastern Syria. In this regard, the Arabic-language Al-Araby Al-Jadeed (The New Arab) said in a statement, “One of the main goals of Riyadh and Washington in eastern Syria is forming a self-governing system for the Kurds to protect their interests on behalf of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.”

The source also quotes Abdul Hamid Al-Mohammadi, one of the native activists in eastern Syria, as saying “the purpose of U.S.-Saudi Arabia meetings in Deir ez-Zor in recent months is to impose Kurdish sovereignty on the inhabitant of eastern areas, however they disagree with this sovereignty.”

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are attempting to establish self-determination for the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Forces, while “the independent Arab movement”, an

opposition group, was formed with the assistance of Washington and Riyadh. The main purpose of the movement is to legitimize the Kurds’ dominance in eastern areas of Syria, so that their self-determination does not face fierce protests by the regional inhabitants.

Riyadh and Washington’s officials believe that Turkey may act against them if they do not support the Kurds of eastern Syria. Regarding Ankara’s cooperation with Tehran and Moscow, it is likely that

eastern part of Syria will be completely governed by Damascus, with tripartite agreement of Iran, Turkey and Russia. To this end, the U.S.-Saudi Arabia coalition is expecting to face Turkey if it continues its movements in eastern Syria.

One of the serious consequences of U.S. and Saudi Arabia’s actions in Syria is preparing the ground for terrorism. The consolidation of U.S.-Saudi backed Kurdish group provides this opportunity for Riyadh and Washington to dispatch

their trained Takfiris to the area whenever they wish.

The U.S. has repeatedly claimed that it has spent more than 7 trillion dollars in the region without any rewards. This is the point that Donald Trump always mentions. Therefore, Americans have no desire to leave Syria without any achievement. That is why Washington has not taken any serious step to remove its military from Syria, despite making successive decisions.

On the other hand, after experiencing various defeats in the region, especially in Yemen and Iraq, Saudi Arabia’s officials found themselves facing another major defeat by clearing the southern areas and consequently reducing Riyadh’s influence. That is why they oblige themselves to support a series of Washington’s adversarial plans on the eastern part of Syria.

Washington and Riyadh do not appear to reach their desired result through the new plan, especially as the war is almost over. It means that the Takfiris have no place in the country. The history has proved that using Syrian Kurdish Democratic Forces to put pressure on Damascus and violate Syria’s sovereignty is a futile attempt that has never been in the interests of Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Trump's defeat in the trade war with the red dragon

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — The U.S.-China trade war has reached a critical stage. Although the US president believes one of the main reasons for John Bolton's dismissal from power was his disagreement with Trump over Beijing, the claim is completely false. Continuing a trade war with China is one of the issues that President Donald Trump has. America will continue to insist on it. Here's a look at the latest news and analysis on the Washington-Beijing trade war:

The U.S. and China have appeared to dial down their trade fight by announcing some concessions on tariffs — but experts warned that it's not yet time to pop the champagne. Markets in Asia rose on U.S. President Donald Trump's tweet that he will delay increasing tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15 as "a gesture of good will." His announcement followed an earlier move by Beijing on Wednesday to exempt 16 types of American products from additional tariffs.

But, while such de-escalation in tensions between the two countries is welcomed, it's still difficult to see both sides reaching any "real resolution" anytime soon, said James McCormack, Fitch's global head of sovereign ratings. "Things change very quickly, it's hard to know what motivation there is — to be honest — on the U.S. side. So, I wouldn't want to read too much into a small concession suggesting that we're on the road to this being resolved," he told CNBC's "Squawk Box" on Thursday. "I think there's a couple more chapters yet to be written in the trade war," McCormack added.

China, too, may not necessarily be softening its stance on trade with its move to exempt some U.S. goods from additional tariffs, according to Iris Pang, greater China economist at Dutch bank ING. She said in a Wednesday note that Beijing had, in fact, been considering such a move since May. So, the tariff exemption was aimed more at supporting the Chinese economy, and less of "a gesture of sincerity towards the U.S." ahead of next month's trade talks, she explained.

"There are still many uncertainties in the coming trade talks. An exemption list of just 16 items will not change China's stance. We believe that China will stand very firm in the negotiations, which will be similar to the last round of talks," Pang said.

Unpredictable trade war

From an investment standpoint, the U.S.-China trade war remained unpredictable, according to Daniel Gerard, head of investment and risk advisory for Asia Pacific at State Street Global Exchange. That means it's still too early for investors to put more money into risk assets such as stocks, he told CNBC's "Squawk Box" on Thursday. That's especially the case as the trade war has come at a time when developments such as the Brexit crisis also added to uncertainties worldwide, he added. The trade conflict, which started last year, has escalated multiple times this year with both sides repeatedly increasing tariffs on each other's goods. The latest tariff increases took place earlier this month before the two countries agreed to meet in October for another round of negotiations.

Still, analysts from Citi Research wrote in a note that the latest "goodwill gestures" by the U.S. and China have "induced hope for a respite in US-China tensions even as structural differences" have persisted.

China wants a two-track approach to the trade talks

China wants to draw a line between negotiations about trade and talks about other foreign affairs, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday. In order to streamline trade talks between Washington and Beijing, China is looking to weed out other topics of conversation that come up between the world's two largest economies during negotiations, like national security threats, the WSJ said.

Tensions between the world's two largest economies have gone on for more than 18 months as China and the U.S. engage in a tariff war that is pressuring both the country's economies. On Wednesday, President Donald Trump delayed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods for 15 days as a good will gesture to China. The two countries are set to meet early next month led by Vice Premier Liu He and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. China wants Liu to lead the talks about trade and a separate team to discuss the broader geopolitical concerns, people familiar with the talks told the WSJ. It is unclear whether Trump will go for China's new plan. Trump has been vocal about his distrust of China regarding national security threats, like 5G wireless provider Huawei Technologies, which is blacklisted by the U.S. administration.

Deputy-level talks next week will surround "issues of common concern such as trade balance, market access and investor protection," according to Chinese news outlet Xinhua. The meeting in October will mark the 13th round of trade negotiations between the U.S. and China. The talks could fall apart like they did in May but the editor-in-chief of the Global Times Hu Xijin said last week this round of talks could lead to a "breakthrough."

Running up to the talks in October, sources said China is planning to boost agricultural buying.

Trump says he 'would consider' an interim trade deal with China

Foxbusiness reported that President Trump signaled Thursday that he is open to the possibility of an interim agreement to resolve a lingering trade dispute with China until a permanent deal can be reached.

"A lot of people are talking about — and I see a lot of analysts are saying — an interim deal, meaning we'll do pieces of it, the easy ones first, but there's no easy or hard," Trump told reporters ahead of his appearance at a congressional retreat in Baltimore. "There's a deal or there's not a deal. It's something we would consider, I guess, but we're doing very well."

Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 and NASDAQ futures each ticked slightly higher on Trump's remarks. The U.S.-China trade dispute has weighed on global markets and stoked fears of a looming recession. However, signs of a thaw in negotiations between U.S. and Chinese diplomats stoked optimism in recent days.



The White House confirmed reports last week that the two sides would hold high-level trade talks in Washington early October. The two sides last met in July.

President Trump announced Wednesday that he would delay the implementation of tariffs hikes to 30 percent from 25 percent on \$250 billion in Chinese goods in what he referred to as a "gesture of goodwill." Chinese importers showed signs of ramping up purchases of U.S. soybeans and other farm products. "I did the little bit of a delay in honor of President Xi because it's their 70th anniversary [of the People's Republic of China]," Trump added.

The U.S. and Chinese governments have imposed hundreds of billions of dollars in punitive tariffs in recent months amid continued disagreements over trade policy. Trump administration officials have sought assurances on the protection of U.S. intellectual property, an end to industrial subsidies and agreements to purchase American-made agricultural products.

With an Economy This Strong, No Democrat Can Defeat Trump—but the Trade War With China Might

Newsweek reported that Donald Trump planned on seeking a second term based largely on the strength of the economy. Unemployment is down to a 50-year low. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the creation of nearly 6 million new jobs since he came into office. Wages and profits and revenues to the federal Treasury are up. The stock market is generally surging, and economic growth is once again the order of the day. It's an enviable economic record, especially when compared with his two most recent predecessors. Things are going so well, some of the president's bitterest foes predict it's strong enough to carry him across the 2020 finish line first.

The naysayers—those who've never liked Trump—point to a few statistics to suggest the fundamentals of the economy are softer than they appear. The inverted yield curve that appeared this week, now that the yield on 10-year U.S. government bonds is lower than that for two-year notes, has some people saying a recession sometime in the next two years is possible. The U.S. economy is the world's strongest right now but, says the president, would be even stronger had the Federal Reserve not raised interest rates too high too fast. Others say if things head south, it will be because of the ongoing trade war with China.

"I think we're going to have a very long period of wealth and success," Trump told reporters on Thursday. "Other countries are doing very poorly, as you know. China is doing very, very poorly. The tariffs have really bitten into China. They haven't bitten into us at all."

In response to the U.S. imposition of tariffs on its exports, Beijing weakened the yuan, effectively blunting their effect. Trump countered by delaying until December the next round of tariffs, mostly on consumer goods, scheduled to take effect on September 1 until mid-December. That's right in the middle of U.S. retailers' most profitable period and could cause trouble at home. These and other moves have caused dramatic fluctuations in the stock market. The U.S. Trade Representative says everything's just "next steps" in the process of getting China to do a deal. Whether that's true is a subject for debate. Capital Alpha Partners' James Lucier counseled investors to view the delay of the tariff imposition as being as advertised and not as "backtracking in policy or a 'blink' by the U.S." and "a case of the White House and President Trump, in particular, getting ahead of his own administrative machinery."

If the economics are sound, the politics are shaky. A second Trump term depends on Midwestern farmers and industrial workers and others whom the tariffs potentially affect adversely in critical states like Florida, Michigan, and Ohio. These are places where the economy is always issue No. 1, where the three things voters care about most are jobs, jobs and more jobs. And, as of now, the tariffs are not working to the president's advantage. As much as the China-bashing rhetoric may excite his base, it's not helping them make ends meet.

Florida's exports to China total about \$1.6 billion annually. That includes \$533 million in gold because Miami is now the leading hub for refiners and processors who then sell to China for use in manufacturing. Civil aircraft parts, the state's second-biggest export, brings in \$126 million now and more in the future as China becomes, over the next 20 years, the world's largest single market for civilian aircraft sales.

The Miami Customs District alone did \$7 billion worth of business with China in 2017. In South Florida, manufacturers are suffering because of the steel and aluminum tariffs. Michigan has a \$3.6 billion export

relationship with China, with \$1.2 billion comprising car parts. The Wolverine State contains 75 percent of North America's auto R&D, and China is, by volume, the world's largest automaker. The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers says higher-priced cars resulting from the tariffs could potentially lead to the loss of 700,000 American jobs.

It's not just cars. Over half of all U.S. soybeans are exported, with 60 percent of them going to China and \$700 million coming from Michigan. "The noose is getting tighter," Jim Byrum, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, told the Detroit Free Press in May. "We have lost market opportunities. We're not shipping soybeans around the world like we normally would. We're not shipping them to China. China was our biggest soybean consumer, and they're not moving."

Ohio's exports to China total \$3.9 billion, with more than \$691 million worth of soybeans—the state's top agricultural export—shipped to China in 2017. "This will be tough to take. China takes one out of every three rows [of soybeans]," Bret Davis, a Delaware County farmer and governing board member of the American Soybean Association of China, told The Columbus Dispatch about proposed tariffs in 2018. An Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership survey of 457 Ohio manufacturers conducted in January found that 14 companies were hurt by tariffs for each it helped. The Trump tariffs have already impacted negatively states that were key to him winning the presidency in 2016 and will be just as important in 2020. If the president wants to continue his record of economic success, he should focus on ending the trade war before Florida, Michigan and Ohio swing in the other direction.

Trump trade war with China has cost 300,000 U.S. jobs, Moody's estimates

As CNBC reported, Although U.S. unemployment may be at its lowest level in nearly 50 years, the jobless rate would be even lower if not for the U.S.-China trade war, Moody's Analytics said in a recent analysis. The White House's imposition of tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of Chinese imports has resulted in 300,000 fewer jobs being created and reduced U.S. gross domestic product by an estimated 0.3%, Moody's Analytics' chief economist Mark Zandi said in the report.

That estimate is based on the difference between actual nonfarm employment and projections of what employment would have been as of June 30 if not for the U.S.-China trade war. If the U.S. tariffs stay in place at current and intended levels, some 450,000 fewer jobs will be created by year-end — that figure would rise to 900,000 if the trade dispute carries on through next year, Zandi told CBS Money Watch in an email.

Trump and China Premier Xi "have embarked on a dangerous game of economic chicken," Zandi wrote in the report. "Both claim that their economies are strong enough to withstand the trade turbulence, but they are pursuing policy stimulus to offset the costs of the war."

More than \$100 billion in new American tariffs on Chinese goods took effect this week, with another \$200 billion set to hit in December. By year's end, nearly every good imported from China will be taxed by the U.S. government — about \$550 billion worth of total goods — paid for by American companies. Mr. Trump hiked the tariffs last month after China raised duties on \$75 billion in U.S. goods amid an escalating trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

U.S. employers hired 130,000 workers in August amid signs of slowing job-creation, leaving the jobless rate at 3.7%. Tariffs on imported Chinese goods are paid for by U.S. companies, not China as President Donald Trump has erroneously claimed. In July alone, tariffs cost American businesses \$6.8 billion, according to figures released Wednesday by Tariffs Hurt the Heartland, a coalition of companies and trade associations that oppose the taxes. Rising trade uncertainty can hurt companies' ability to plan and hold back spending, which in turn can slow economic growth.

"The data speaks for itself — the trade war is having a serious negative impact on the U.S. economy," Deutsche Bank economist Torsten Slok said in a note to investors this week. That impact includes a drop in firms planning capital expenditures in the next three to six months, falling CEO and business confidence, and a decline in job openings. U.S. economic growth, in the midst of a record expansion that has lasted for more than a decade, is starting to slow. The Congressional Budget Office this week forecast GDP of 2.3% for 2019, compared with 2.9% last year. The agency projects growth to slow to 1.8% in 2020, below historic averages.

Trump, the New York Times, and John Bolton

By David Bromwich

ANTIWAR — The New York Times on September 10 ran six articles with the word Trump in the headlines. Two of the stories were clearly warranted — one on Trump's continuing resolve to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan, and one on the way the commerce department played along with Trump's false message about the Alabama destination of the recent hurricane. The other stories were tabloid-fodder.

Then midday September 10 came the news that John Bolton had been sacked. That deserved a story, so it was fair to predict the Times would run three: one on the event, one on the history of a memorable relationship, and one on "possible consequences."

The Times on September 11 ran four stories on Bolton. News analysis on page one, by Michael Crowley and Lara Jakes, opened with this sentence: "On one foreign policy issue after another, John R. Bolton was the in-house skeptic who checked President Trump's most unorthodox instincts." The word unorthodox is doing a lot of work there. It would be truer to say that Trump cut down Bolton's most dangerous initiatives: for example his idea of starting a war with Iran by an immediate violent retaliation after the bloodless downing of a US surveillance drone.

Was John Bolton a "skeptic"? An "adult in the room"? Bolton's best-known policies have been to bomb Iran and replace the Mullahs with a US puppet government; turn Venezuela into an American oil well; exit the UN; and start World War III soon while the US can win (if we don't tie our hands). And meanwhile withdraw from none of the following countries: Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan. In an administration pledged to withdraw from unnecessary wars, why is the US still in Afghanistan? Why have we pulled out of the INF treaty? Why are there more trip-wires than ever to set off a war with Iran in the Persian Gulf, or with Russia in Eastern Europe? These are the strategic triumphs of John Bolton.

Bolton was originally appointed by Trump at the request of the casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson. It was Bolton's advocacy of Israeli expansion, and his detestation of the very idea of a Palestinian state, that prompted both Adelson and Benjamin Netanyahu to recommend him as the best choice for Trump's third national security adviser. His sacking in turn was effected on schedule to coincide with Netanyahu's sinking popularity in Israel. The name of Adelson goes unmentioned in all the Times articles. It appears that anyone (no matter how devious and reckless) who opposes Donald Trump can now expect to be rewarded with the honorific title "skeptic" — a word often used in the past to describe a doubter rather than a fanatical supporter of an insane orthodoxy. We are through the looking glass.

U.S. disgraces world since 9/11 attacks

GLOBALTIMES — 2 days ago was September 11. Many US media are reflecting on the country's counter-terrorism war, as well as on the advantages and disadvantages of current US foreign policy. Generally, such a review is good.

From the US standpoint, the counter-terror war has been effective. It has overthrown or contained the ability of terrorist organizations to launch 9/11-style mass attacks. The US is relatively safe. But, on the other hand, terrorism has spread across the world and taken advantage of regional issues for more specific goals.

More importantly, hatred and misunderstanding didn't shrink in the world, which makes it harder to uproot terrorism. Therefore, various countries have spent a lot on countering terrorism. Global governance would have made greater achievements if these resources were used to develop the economies in underdeveloped countries and regions.

The US is the most powerful country in the world. We believe it has special responsibilities in making the world more peaceful and orderly. Regrettably, Washington has failed to do so, and has set a bad example for the world by being selfish, capricious and even rude. Looking back at the counter-terrorism war, people will find out that the US didn't get at the root of eliminating terrorism. In recent years, terrorist activities have more frequently occurred in a larger range of places, involving increasingly diverse radical people. The situation in the Middle East has changed, while partisan conflicts in the Islamic world have become serious. The US has changed its policy from supporting Israel against Arab countries to overtly backing up some and opposing others in the Middle East as well as selectively supporting so-called democratic activities in the region. Washington has gained in the short term but left the region in chaos.

Washington has been upholding the "America First" policy and taking subversive action in recent years. This has seriously impacted the fragile world order, and allowed various risks to peace to grow.

First, the US has seriously undermined the post-Cold War major power relations centered on cooperation. It declared that China and Russia are two strategic competitors and launched an insane trade war against China, leading to unprecedented tensions in the world. Second, Washington refused to fulfill its responsibilities and obligations as a superpower, and withdrew from several international treaties and mechanisms, leaving the already formed major global cooperation incomplete, stagnant, and paralyzed. Third, the White House has applied extreme pressure and reneged on its words as overt negotiation strategies, severely eroding some basic norms of international relations.

The US wishes to reshape international relations and global interest distribution in accordance with its own will, in a bid to put its "America First" principle into practice. As the world with modern technology becomes increasingly chaotic, the US can hardly control such chaos and establish an orderly structure conducive to maximizing its interests. Turbulence and uncertainty have surfaced where the US has stirred things up. The free and open global economic order, as well as the international security structure based on disarmament and arms control, are becoming fragmented. Washington is living off its past gains and creating new dissatisfaction, and even hatred, in almost all directions. Washington's policymakers are supporting such an irrational strategy by inciting American nationalism.

The 9/11 attacks were a huge tragedy. It is hoped that Washington's political elites recall how the world sympathized and helped the US in 2001, and think about how the country has acted since then.

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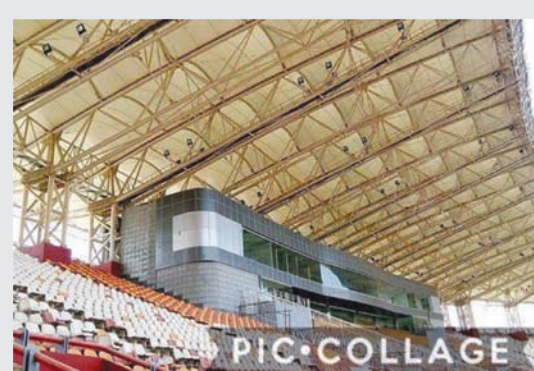
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Study finds the universe might be 2 billion years younger

The universe is looking younger every day, it seems.

New calculations suggest the universe could be a couple billion years younger than scientists now estimate, and even younger than suggested by two other calculations published this year that trimmed hundreds of millions of years from the age of the cosmos.

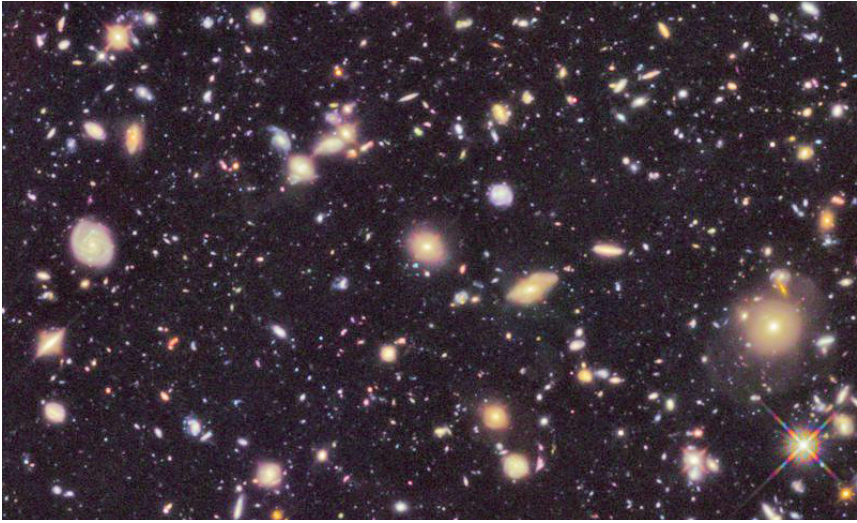
The huge swings in scientists' estimates — even this new calculation could be off by billions of years — reflect different approaches to the tricky problem of figuring the universe's real age.

"We have large uncertainty for how the stars are moving in the galaxy," said Inh Jee, of the Max Plank Institute in Germany, lead author of the study in Thursday's journal Science.

Scientists estimate the age of the universe by using the movement of stars to measure how fast it is expanding. If the universe is expanding faster, that means it got to its current size more quickly, and therefore must be relatively younger.

The expansion rate, called the Hubble constant, is one of the most important numbers in cosmology. A larger Hubble Constant makes for a faster moving — and younger — universe.

The generally accepted age of the universe is



13.7 billion years, based on a Hubble Constant of 70.

Jee's team came up with a Hubble Constant of 82.4, which would put the age of the universe at around 11.4 billion years.

Jee used a concept called gravitational lensing — where gravity warps light and

makes far away objects look closer. They rely on a special type of that effect called time delay lensing, using the changing brightness of distant objects to gather information for their calculations.

But Jee's approach is only one of a few new ones that have led to different numbers

in recent years, reopening a simmering astronomical debate of the 1990s that had been seemingly settled.

In 2013, a team of European scientists looked at leftover radiation from the Big Bang and pronounced the expansion rate a slower 67, while earlier this year Nobel Prize winning astrophysicist Adam Riess of the Space Telescope Science Institute used NASA's super telescope and came up with a number of 74. And another team earlier this year came up with 73.3.

Jee and outside experts had big caveats for her number. She used only two gravitational lenses, which were all that were available, and so her margin of error is so large that it's possible the universe could be older than calculated, not dramatically younger.

Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb, who wasn't part of the study, said it an interesting and unique way to calculate the universe's expansion rate, but the large error margins limits its effectiveness until more information can be gathered.

"It is difficult to be certain of your conclusions if you use a ruler that you don't fully understand," Loeb said in an email.

(Source: AP News)

Methane-filled lakes on Saturn's moon Titan are explosion craters

According to a new model developed by planetary scientists in Italy and the United States, many of the methane-filled lakes on Titan were likely formed after explosions of warming nitrogen left dozens of empty craters dotting the surface of Saturn's largest moon.

Outside of Earth, Titan is the only planetary body in the solar system known to host stable liquid on its surface. While Earth hosts bodies of water, Titan's lakes are filled with liquid methane and ethane. On Earth, methane and ethane typically exist in gas form, but subzero temperatures on Titan allow the hydrocarbons to exist in liquid form.

Previous models suggested Titan's lakes were formed over thousands of years as the liquid methane and ethane precipitated by Titan's clouds dissolving the moon's bedrock of ice and rock.

Creators of the new model acknowledged that such a scenario is plausible for some of the lakes on Titan, specifically those with sharp boundaries. These lakes resemble Earth's karstic lakes, or karst lakes, which form as rain dissolves large cavities in limestone formations.

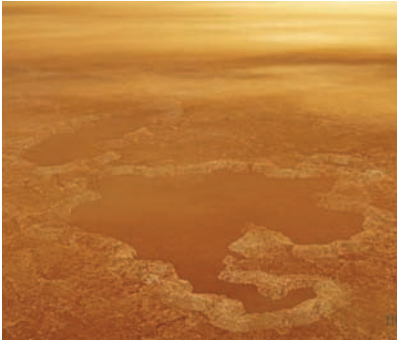
According to researchers, the karstic model fails to explain many of Titan's smaller lakes, especially those that boast tall, steep rims that rise several hundred feet above sea level.

The discrepancy between the karstic model and Titan's steep-rimmed lakes, like Winnipeg Lacus, was brought into sharp contrast by radar images collected during the final Titan flyby executed by NASA's Cassini Saturn Orbiter.

"The rim goes up, and the karst process works in the opposite way," Giuseppe Mitri of Italy's G. d'Annunzio University said in a news release. "We were not finding any explanation that fit with a karstic lake basin. In reality, the morphology was more consistent with an explosion crater, where the rim is formed by the ejected material from the crater interior. It's totally a different process."

Mitri and his research partners in the United States worked to develop an alternative model.

Though Titan is cold compared to Earth, it's warm compared to similarly distant



worlds -- thanks to its greenhouse gas atmosphere. Scientists estimate the moon has experienced alternating epochs of warm and cold temperatures. During colder periods, scientists estimate larger amounts of liquid methane and ethane rained down onto the moon's surface. The liquid hydrocarbons likely collected to form subsurface lakes, much like melt water pools deep beneath polar glaciers.

"These lakes with steep edges, ramparts and raised rims would be a signpost of periods in Titan's history when there was liquid nitrogen on the surface and in the crust," said Cassini scientist Jonathan Lunine, study co-author and a researcher at Cornell University.

During periods of warming, these pockets of liquid methane and ethane could have vaporized, expanded and ultimately exploded, leaving cavities that could be filled by more liquid hydrocarbons during subsequent periods of cooling.

Researchers described their new model Monday in the journal Nature Geoscience.

"This is a completely different explanation for the steep rims around those small lakes, which has been a tremendous puzzle," said Cassini scientist Linda Spilker of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "As scientists continue to mine the treasure trove of Cassini data, we'll keep putting more and more pieces of the puzzle together. Over the next decades, we will come to understand the Saturn system better and better."

(Source: UPI)

The rare molecule weighing in on the birth of planets

Astronomers using one of the most advanced radio telescopes have discovered a rare molecule in the dust and gas disc around a young star -- and it may provide an answer to one of the conundrums facing astronomers.

The star, named HD 163296, is located 330 light years from Earth and formed over the last six million years.

It is surrounded by a disc of dust and gas -- a so-called protoplanetary disc. It is within these discs that young planets are born. Using a radio telescope in the Atacama Desert in Chile, researchers were able to detect an extremely faint signal showing the existence of a rare form of carbon monoxide -- known as an isotopologue (13C17O).

The detection has allowed an international collaboration of scientists, led by the University of Leeds, to measure the mass of the gas in the disc more accurately than ever before. The results show that disc is much heavier -- or more 'massive' -- than previously thought.

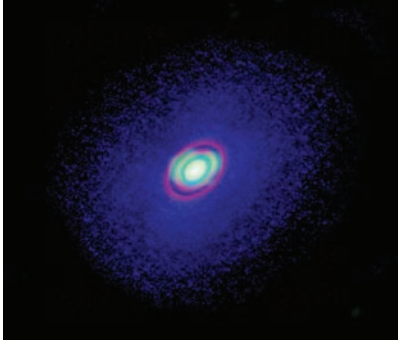
Alice Booth, a PhD researcher at Leeds who led the study, said: "Our new observations showed there was between two and six times more mass hiding in the disc than previous observations could measure.

"This is an important finding in terms of the birth of planetary systems in discs -- if they contain more gas, then they have more building material to form more massive planets."

The scientists' conclusions are well timed. Recent observations of protoplanetary discs have perplexed astronomers because they did not seem to contain enough gas and dust to create the planets observed.

Dr. John Ilee, a researcher at Leeds who was also involved in the study, added: "The disc-exoplanet mass discrepancy raises serious questions about how and when planets are formed. However, if other discs are hiding similar amounts of mass as HD 163296, then we may just have underestimated their masses until now."

"We can measure disc masses by looking at how much light is given off by molecules like carbon monoxide. If the discs are sufficiently dense, then they can block the



light given off by more common forms of carbon monoxide -- and that could result in scientists underestimating the mass of the gas present.

"This study has used a technique to observe the much rarer 13C17O molecule -- and that's allowed us to peer deep inside the disc and find a previously hidden reservoir of gas."

The researchers made use of one of the most sophisticated radio telescopes in the world -- the Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimetre Array (ALMA) -- high in the Atacama Desert.

ALMA is able to observe light that is invisible to the naked eye, allowing astronomers to view what is known as the 'cold universe' -- those parts of space not visible using optical telescopes.

Booth said: "Our work shows the amazing contribution that ALMA is making to our understanding of the Universe. It is helping build a more accurate picture of the physics leading to the formation of new planets. This of course then helps us understand how the Solar System and Earth came to be."

The researchers are already planning the next steps in their work.

Booth added: "We suspect that ALMA will allow us to observe this rare form of CO in many other discs. By doing that, we can more accurately measure their mass, and determine whether scientists have systematically been underestimating how much matter they contain."

(Source: Science Daily)

Alien comet speeding towards Earth could be visitor from another solar system, say scientists

Astronomers might have spotted an interstellar visitor to our solar system, for only the second ever time.

A mysterious rock, which has been speeding through space towards Earth, might have made its way from an entirely different star.

The object appears to be taking a bizarre orbit that suggests it has arrived here from elsewhere, scientists said. Rather than the elliptical orbit that objects in our own solar system have as they fly around the Sun, the new object's movement has a hyperbolic shape, suggesting it is on a journey through the solar system rather than around it.

The rock would follow 'Oumuamua, the first interstellar object ever observed in our solar system, which was first spotted in 2017 and has been mystifying scientists ever since. Scientists still know very little about the unusual object, and its strange behavior was so unusual that it even led some to suggest it could actually be an alien spacecraft.

If the new object is in fact another interstellar visitor, it could shed light on that mysterious object. And it would mark a major breakthrough in our understanding of how such objects are flung through the universe.

The new object was first spotted at the end of August, by an amateur astronomer called Gennady Borisov who saw it through a telescope he made himself. He posted the possible discovery online and other researchers rushed to confirm it.

It has now been spotted through other observations, which have allowed astronomers to learn more about it. That extra work did indeed suggest that it was another visitor to our solar system, prompting Harvard's Minor Planet Center to release an official report on the object.



"Based on the available observations, the orbit solution for this object has converged to the hyperbolic elements shown below, which would indicate an interstellar origin," it wrote. "A number of other orbit computers have reached similar conclusions, initially D. Farnocchia (JPL), W. Gray, and D. Tholen (UoH).

"Further observations are clearly very desirable, as all currently-available observations have been obtained at small solar elongations and low elevations. Absent an unexpected fading or disintegration, this object should be observable for at least a year."

One of the things that made 'Oumuamua so inscrutable to scientists was that it was spotted on its way out of the solar system, giving them only a very limited time to make any observations of it. The new object looks as if it will be around for longer, giving astronomers much more of an opportunity to try and understand

what it is and where it came from.

For now, the object is called C/2019 Q4 (Borisov), the Minor Planet Center said. Further observations will be required to confirm that it is indeed an interstellar traveler, at which point it will be given an updated name.

Michele Bannister, a scientist from Queen's University Belfast who worked on the discovery and examination of Oumuamua, tweeted to warn that objects with similar orbits had been spotted before -- and then found to be more normal than we had realized.

"This is not the first object since 2017/11, better known as ?Oumuamua, to show a hyperbolic orbit," she wrote on Twitter. "Several short-arcs have flourished and slid slowly into the demise of straightforward parabolas.

"What it took? More observations."

Astronomers have long said that more visitors should be spotted fairly regularly in the future, and that they will finally help us understand where these objects are coming from and how unusual they are. In 2022, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope will be switched on and allow them to see many more, they hope.

"In the next 10 years, we expect to begin seeing more objects like 'Oumuamua. The LSST will be leaps and bounds beyond any other survey we have in terms of capability to find small interstellar visitors," said Matthew Knight, an associate research scientist in the University of Maryland's department of astronomy, earlier this year.

"We may start seeing a new object every year. That's when we'll start to know whether 'Oumuamua is weird, or common. If we find 10-20 of these things and 'Oumuamua still looks unusual, we'll have to re-examine our explanations."

(Source: The Independent)

Engineers develop 'blackest black' material to date

MIT engineers report today that they have cooked up a material that is 10 times blacker than anything that has previously been reported. The material is made from vertically aligned carbon nanotubes, or CNTs—microscopic filaments of carbon, like a fuzzy forest of tiny trees, that the team grew on a surface of chlorine-etched aluminum foil. The foil captures more than 99.96 percent of any incoming light, making it the blackest material on record.

The researchers have published their findings today in the journal ACS-Applied Materials and Interfaces. They are also showcasing the cloak-like material as part of a new exhibit today at the New York Stock Exchange, titled "The Redemption of Vanity."



The artwork, a collaboration between Brian Wardle, professor of aeronautics and astronautics at MIT, and his group, and MIT artist-in-residence Diemut Strebe, features a 16.78-carat natural yellow diamond, estimated to be worth \$2 million, which the team coated with the new, ultrablack CNT material. The effect is arresting: The gem, normally brilliantly faceted, appears as a flat, black void.

Wardle says the CNT material, aside from making an artistic statement, may also be of practical use, for instance in optical blinders that reduce unwanted glare, to help space telescopes spot orbiting exoplanets.

"There are optical and space science applications for very black materials, and of course, artists have been interested in black, going back well before the Renaissance," Wardle says. "Our material is 10 times blacker than anything that's ever been reported, but I think the blackest black is a constantly moving target. Someone will find a blacker material, and eventually we'll understand all the underlying mechanisms, and will be able to properly engineer the ultimate black."

Wardle's co-author on the paper is former MIT postdoc Kehang Cui, now a professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Wardle and Cui didn't intend to engineer an ultrablack material. Instead, they were experimenting with ways to grow carbon nanotubes on electrically conducting materials such as aluminum, to boost their electrical and thermal properties.

But in attempting to grow CNTs on aluminum, Cui ran up against a barrier, literally: an ever-present layer of oxide that coats aluminum when it is exposed to air. This oxide layer acts as an insulator, blocking rather than conducting electricity and heat. As he cast about for ways to remove aluminum's oxide layer, Cui found a solution in salt, or sodium chloride.

At the time, Wardle's group was using salt and other pantry products, such as baking soda and detergent, to grow carbon nanotubes. In their tests with salt, Cui noticed that chloride ions were eating away at aluminum's surface and dissolving its oxide layer.

"This etching process is common for many metals," Cui says. "For instance, ships suffer from corrosion of chlorine-based ocean water. Now we're using this process to our advantage."

Cui found that if he soaked aluminum foil in saltwater, he could remove the oxide layer. He then transferred the foil to an oxygen-free environment to prevent reoxidation, and finally, placed the etched aluminum in an oven, where the group carried out techniques to grow carbon nanotubes via a process called chemical vapor deposition.

By removing the oxide layer, the researchers were able to grow carbon nanotubes on aluminum, at much lower temperatures than they otherwise would, by about 100 degrees Celsius. They also saw that the combination of CNTs on aluminum significantly enhanced the material's thermal and electrical properties—a finding that they expected.

What surprised them was the material's color.

"Remember noticing how black it was before growing carbon nanotubes on it, and then after growth, it looked even darker," Cui recalls. "So I thought I should measure the optical reflectance of the sample."

"Our group does not usually focus on optical properties of materials, but this work was going on at the same time as our art-science collaborations with Diemut, so art influenced science in this case," says Wardle.

Wardle and Cui, who have applied for a patent on the technology, are making the new CNT process freely available to any artist to use for a noncommercial art project.

Cui measured the amount of light reflected by the material, not just from directly overhead, but also from every other possible angle. The results showed that the material absorbed greater than 99.995 percent of incoming light, from every angle. In essence, if the material contained bumps or ridges, or features of any kind, no matter what angle it was viewed from, these features would be invisible, obscured in a void of black.

The researchers aren't entirely sure of the mechanism contributing to the material's opacity, but they suspect that it may have something to do with the combination of etched aluminum, which is somewhat blackened, with the carbon nanotubes. Scientists believe that forests of carbon nanotubes can trap and convert most incoming light to heat, reflecting very little of it back out as light, thereby giving CNTs a particularly black shade.

"CNT forests of different varieties are known to be extremely black, but there is a lack of mechanistic understanding as to why this material is the blackest. That needs further study," Wardle says.

(Source: phys.org)

Physicists may be a step closer to solving the mystery of proton size

If protons wore clothing, the label might read "XXS."

For nearly a decade, scientists have been arguing over the size of the puny subatomic particles: extra small, or extra extra small. A new measurement bolsters the case that protons are more petite than once thought, researchers report.

Until 2010, the proton's radius was measured at about 0.88 femtometers, or millionths of a billionth of a meter. But then a new type of measurement — based on exotic atoms made with muons, the heavy cousins of electrons — clashed with that figure, registering a proton size of about 0.84 femtometers.

One way to test the proton's radius is by measuring the separation between the energy levels in which hydrogen atoms can exist — different states in which the atom's electron carries a certain amount of energy. That energy difference depends on the size of the proton.

By measuring the separation between two such energy levels, physicist Eric Hessel of York University in Toronto and colleagues have pegged the radius at about 0.83 femtometers, in good agreement with the 2010 value.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

Elderly couple says United kicked them off flight

Two years after the infamous incident in which United Airlines had an elderly passenger physically dragged off a flight, the carrier is being accused of a similar episode.

Married couple Drs. Jessie Au and her husband, M.G. Wientes, say they were kicked off a late-night United flight in July. The couple, ages 68 and 66, respectively, are retired professors from Ohio State University. They were traveling on June 24 from Washington D.C., where they were seeking grants for further personal research, to Los Angeles.



The incident was allegedly over a boarding pass issue. Once the couple found their seats, another passenger claimed they were sitting in the same seat and had the same boarding pass.

An argument ensued, and Wientes claims one of the flight attendants took his boarding pass toward the back of the plane and then lost it. Although it was returned, the couple claims it was too late – by that time, a flight attendant began screaming “You’re coming out.”

When the couple tried to show one of the flight attendants their boarding passes, they grabbed the elbow to get the attention of one of the attendants and chaos ensued.

Au says, “The flight attendant and gate (agent) both yelled at us. We were traumatized. You could hear them screaming throughout the plane. “Don’t touch me! You are coming out! I’m going to kick you off the plane.”

Forbes.com said it contacted United Airlines multiple times to hear their side of the story, but has yet to receive a response.

Au said the incident reminded her of what happened two years ago on a United flight.

In April of 2017, passenger Dr. David Yao was, literally, dragged off a United plane after refusing to give up his seat on an overbooked flight. He suffered cuts and bruises; the damage to United’s reputation was severe.

(Source: MSN)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Historic Centre of Morelia

A World Heritage, the Historic Centre of Morelia is located in central Mexico, at the foot of the Sierra Madre Occidental and near the agricultural valley of Morelia-Querendaro.

Built in the 16th century according to a “checkerboard” layout, Morelia is an outstanding example of urban development combining town planning theories of Spain and the Mesoamerican experience.



Well suited to the slopes of the central hill of the valley, its streets follow the original layout. The city has major axes, numerous urban squares, of which the vast rectangular Zocalo Plaza, and gardens that create an open, airy ensemble with magnificent vistas of the surrounding hills.

The central part of the Historic Centre of Morelia includes 249 monuments of prime importance, of which 21 churches and 20 civil constructions, which crystallize the architectural history of the city. The sobriety of the urban townscape is enhanced by many Baroque facades characteristic of the religious foundations, including the cathedral and the churches of Santa Rosa, de las Monjas and Guadalupe.

Although the majority of the monuments were erected in the 17th and 18th centuries, styles of earlier and later periods (Middle Ages, Renaissance and Neoclassicism) merge in the creation of the “Baroque Moreliano”. Together, they form a harmonious unity that reinforces the measured use of architectural elements in pink stone, the numerous arcades and imposing towers and cupolas covered with azulejos that dominate the city.

■ Integrity

The original model of urban development, which is one of the universal values of the Historic Centre of Morelia has been maintained. In addition, the urban public space has preserved its integrity and the streets still follow the original layout.

Despite the changes of use required to meet the needs of civil society, the monumental Baroque style buildings have preserved their own architectural characteristics. The transformation of old residential buildings to new uses related to tourism has been achieved in respect of the integrity of the inscribed site.

It should be noted, however, that built heritage in good condition is found mainly in the heart of the historic centre. Conservation of the built heritage of traditional and neighbouring quarters has received less attention and the number of buildings in poor condition has increased.

■ Authenticity

Restoration work on the monumental ensembles, especially religious, was carried out in accordance with the criteria of authenticity of the site. The recuperation of urban areas for community purposes has enabled an appreciation of all their wealth, while promoting their conservation. Dissemination campaigns on the important historical events of Morelia help to strengthen the memory of the Historic Centre. In this regard, various events have been staged to commemorate the Bicentennial of Mexican Independence.

(Source: UNESCO)

Visit mysterious Katale-Khor in western Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran has **d e s k** many caves, some of which are unique and special. Situated in Zanjan province, Katale-Khor cave offers its visitors breathtaking scenes of natural crystals and rock formation.

Katale-Khor, literally meaning “Mountain of Sun”, is said to date back to Jurassic period (some 120 million years ago), however, it has embraced lots of natural and artificial changes during this lengthy period. The cave was reportedly discovered some seven decades ago by a group of Iranian cavers.

Katale-Khor is estimated to date from tens of million years ago. It features millions of lime stalactites and stalagmites.

The cave interiors embrace huge hallways and corridors, which are impressively lit by flashlights.

Some three-seventh of the prolonged cave have been explored so far. A length of about 3km of the cave is open to the public while a 4km-route is accessible to experienced cavers and researchers.

Exploring a cave may not be on the “to-do list” of travelers in Iran. However, Karaftu, Ali-Sadr and Quri Qaleh, and Katale-Khor are amongst the most visited caves, the latter is situated some 150km south of Zanjan, off a road that connects Soltaniyeh to Hamadan.

The extensive Katale-Khor cave system, rated by locals as the best in western Iran, is 150km south of Zanjan, off the Soltaniyeh–Hamadan road near Garmab. According to Lonely Planet, less visited than the more famous Ali Sadr caves, which it is thought to eventually join, Katale-Khor has 3km open to the public and another 4km available for experienced cavers. There are six



A view of Katale-Khor cave in western Iran

recorded levels and a visit takes one to two hours. There’s no public transport to the site; hire a taxi.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times

(c. 100,000 BC).

■ Under tourists’ eyes

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the cave have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

■ “Stalagmites and stalactites”

The existence of nature’s carvings through million years in the beautiful form of stalagmites and stalactites in the corridors and halls is showing off and adds to the beauty of the Cave.

In some corridors animals’ skeletons were found which are not similar to nowadays animal and probably belong

ICOMOS to assess Iran’s cross-country railways for UNESCO tag

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — A team of experts from the **d e s k** International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is scheduled to visit Iran late September in order to assess Iran’s cross-country railways for a possible UNESCO registration.

“The assessors will arrive in Iran early in Mehr (Sep. 23-Oct. 22) and they intend to conduct field surveys for about two weeks,” deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian said on Sunday, CHTN reported.

“Evaluators will inspect all railway-related sites, including museums, stations, tunnels, bridges, railways, and natural and cultural heritage located in the railway corridor,” the official added.

In 2017, Iran’s Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, which has recently turned to a ministry, in close collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways submitted to UNESCO a preliminary dossier titled “Trans-Iranian Railway”.

The industrial heritage, which dates from the World War I and II, contains expanded railway networks mainly stretched from south to north. It also includes a variety of monuments such as Tabriz railway station as well as Veresk and Sekhat-tala bridges built at hard-to-access points of deserts or highlands.



Such bridges are the first of their kinds in the country which were constructed based on modern technical and engineering calculations and from materials like metal and concrete.

Railway can be regarded as a turning point for comprehensive developments in Iran. These developments include

The future of travel: hotel game-changers

Those wanting to know more about the shape of the travel industry of the future, should look to the finalists of the Radical Innovation competition, which is gearing up to announce its winner next month on 16 October 2019. The yearly competition challenges designers, hoteliers, and students to pioneer compelling ideas in travel.

Three finalist companies will be competing for the prize in a live pitch presentation at the New Museum in New York, with an audience vote (made up of industry influencers and investors) deciding the winner, who will receive \$10,000 and access to industry experts who can further their concept.

The idea behind the award is to challenge the hotel industry to elevate the guest experience by calling for new ideas in design and operations. Since its founding, it has handed over \$150,000 to progressive architectural and hospitality-minded thinkers.

This year, the 13th of the competition, the three finalists were selected from over 50 entries, submitted from 20 different countries. Fighting it out are Infinite Explorer by SB Architects, San Francisco, Volumetric High-Rise Modular Hotel by Danny Forster & Architecture, New York, Connecticut by Cooper Carry, New York.

Based in San Francisco, SB Architects’ Infinite Explorer is a hospitality concept that helps travelers connect with remote destinations using the American West’s defunct passenger rail lines which now span the nation. What were once bustling railways are now silent and forgotten vestiges of our past. Many of these railways span untapped, truly breathtaking, locations, but provide no footing for hospitality development. The Infinite Explorer provides a unique opportunity to embrace and transform the existing infrastructure of these underutilized spaces, making the unreachable, reachable.

“Train travelers usually only capture a glimpse of the immense beauty that passes by outside their window, but imagine if you could step out of your cabin into the wilderness to feel, touch, and smell it? Each stop along the route is unique and designed with an immersive program of activity, including outdoor adventures, wellness and dining; designed to astound, delight and capture the guest’s imagination at every turn. The Infinite Explorer is a one-of-a-kind hospitality experience. One train, infinite possibilities,” explains the company.

Next up is New York’s Danny Forster & Architecture’s Volumetric High Rise Modular Hotel. AC by Marriott at 842 6th Avenue, New York City, will be the tallest modular hotel in the world when it opens in early 2020. But it won’t just be a step up for modular design, it will be a step forward. The building leverages the advantages of modular construction, uses cutting-edge proprietary technology to address potential drawbacks, and, most importantly, put to rest the idea that a modular building can only be the sum of its factory-made parts.

“It’s stylish and architecturally expressive. And, yes, 80 percent of the building’s square footage will be shipped in – precisely constructed and complete down to the curtains, TV, sconce and even art – from a factory in Poland” says the company. “The perfect marriage of modular construction and inventive architectural design, this Manhattan AC points the way to the future by using accelerated design processes through VR software and off-site quality control to streamline the building process for builders anywhere in the world. DF&A and its tech partner patented a ‘Time Machine’ technology that trains 3D cameras on each module at five different points in the construction process, so that clients, contractors, and architects can keep an eye



Infinite Explorer aims to bring the American West’s defunct passenger rail lines back to life.

on what’s being built. Furthermore, this technology syncs those images to the VR plans, which means off-site stakeholders and on-site factory workers can compare what a module looks like at a particular stage to what it should look like.”

Finally, Connecticut by New York’s Cooper Carry, employs modular construction techniques to fill underutilized spaces by way of collapsible, modular units that are flexible and adaptable to respond to variety of environments. This concept could be used to build a pop-up hotel in remote area or to help solve problems of space and density in urban cores.

“Interstitial spaces between buildings, parking lots, forgotten pocket parks, and above buildings offer an opportunity for hotels of the future to use Connecticut’s model to increase volume of available keys and amenities and connect neglected spaces to existing hotels,” says the company. “This would become an aggregation that can swell and shrink as needed. A collective of modules that are at once collapsible and reusable. Conflating multiple revenue streams into a single solution. And, a kinematic proposal to temporary events.”

Finalists were selected by a jury of hospitality and design experts: Claude Amar, managing director, The John Hardy Group

to the extinguished generations of the past ages.

It’s good to stay in Zanjan’s hotels, plan one day trip to Cave and back to Zanjan again. It will take about 6 hours (2 hours driving there ,2-3 hours visit the Cave , 2 hours drive back to Zanjan). (Rich C.; Reviewed March 2016)

■ “Beautiful but less-visited”

This cave system is much less popular than Ali-Sadr Cave further south - which is a shame, given the extent and quality of the grottos. There is the (unfortunately expected) colored lighting, but even that cannot hide magnificence of the glaze-like stalactites.

Getting there can be a bit complicated without a private car: Shared taxis might take you as far as Garmab from either Bijar (changing at Khoorkhoreh and Tatardeh) or Zanjan (probably changing in Qeydar), from where you can hire a taxi. Alternatively, hire a taxi for a day - we paid appr \$15 Bijar return. This would allow for a combined visit with Takht-e Soleyman. (a appelt from Aarhus, Denmark; Reviewed June 2016)

■ “mountain of the sun”

The name, Katale Khor, means “mountain of the sun”. Geological studies in 1984 showed that the cave formation dates back to the Jurassic period. It is believed that the cave is connected to Ali Sadr Cave in Hamadan province. The road from Zanjan to Katale Khor passes Soltaniyeh, an ancient Ilkhanid city. The cave was discovered about 90 years ago. It has many remarkable scenes that is rare to see in other area even if exist. I took several photo from the different part of 2500 meters walking distance within the cave. (Kaveh H. from Ottawa, Canada; Reviewed April 2016)

a wide spectrum of various economic, commercial, social, cultural and even political aspects in a sensitive and important period of contemporary world history. Consequently the 1394 kilometers long Trans-Iranian Railway was built with a width of 1435mm and 90 working stations along its route.

It starts at a point north of Turkaman port located southeast of the Caspian Sea. After going through Sari and Qaem-shahr cities, the railway enters the mountainous region of Alborz through the high Firooz-kooch Pass which is linked with Tehran and Varamin Plain by numerous bridges and tunnels. Further on after crossing flat lands of Qom and Arak, the Trans-Iranian Railway penetrates into Zagros highlands in Lorestan Province and passing through a large number of tunnels and bridges reaches Andimeshk situated in the low Khuzestan Plain. Finally extending to the vicinity of Dezful, Ahwaz and its grand bridge on Karoon, the Trans-Iranian Railway is divided into two branches ending separately at Khoram-shahr and Imam-Khomeini ports on the Persian Gulf.

Moreover, Trans-Iranian Railway features a complete collection of beautiful natural resources including mountain ranges, ponds, peaks, slopes, forests, plains and grasslands as well as deserts and steppes can be seen on this course belonging to a variety of weather conditions such as temperate, humid, arid and hot.

International; Wing T. Chao, founder, Wing T. Chao Global Advisors; John Hardy, president/CEO, The John Hardy Group; Michael Medzigan, chairman & managing partner, Watermark Capital Partners, LLC; Jena Thornton, principal, hospitality, Kinzer Partners; Simon Turner, managing director, Alpha Lodging Partners, LLC; and James Woods, WeWork.

In addition to the three professional finalists, the jury selected one student submission from among the many entries. This year’s student winner is Rooftop Hotel Gardens by Ruslan Mannapov and Airat Zaidullin from Kazan State University of Architecture and Engineering (KSUAE) in Russia.

“Rooftop Hotel Gardens offers a hotel concept placeable in any city that gives guests a chance to experience skyline of cities in an isolated peaceful space fully merged with an urban environment” the students explain. “The conceptual hotel chain provides locations on rooftops and services throughout the city. Each guest can reserve a room on the open roof of any participating building. Thanks to a network throughout the city, if guests want, they have the opportunity to change place and module during the entire period of their stay.”

Whether it’s a sky-high room for the night or a new way of conceiving disused spaces, the award is one way of looking ahead to the future of travel, revealing exciting and innovative ideas for the shape of travel. “We mobilize disruptors from around the world with the ideas to propel the industry forward,” says Radical Innovation. “The result is a creative community gathered by the same passion for innovation, introducing the dreamers to those equipped with the necessary resources to bring such concepts to life.”

(Source: Forbes)

How the media encourages, sustains political warfare

Since his inauguration, President Donald Trump has been waging war against the American press by dismissing unfavorable reports as “fake news” and calling the media “the enemy of the American people.” As a countermeasure, The Washington Post has publicly fact-checked every claim that Trump has labeled as fake. In August 2018, The Boston Globe coordinated editorials from newspapers across the nation to push back against Trump’s attacks on the press. The Associated Press characterized this effort as the declaration of a “war of words” against Trump.

News organizations might frame themselves as the besieged party in this “war.” But what if they’re as much to blame as the president in this back-and-forth? And what if readers are to blame as well?

In an unpublished manuscript titled “The War of Words,” the late rhetorical theorist and cultural critic Kenneth Burke cast the media as agents of political warfare. In 2012, we found this manuscript in Burke’s papers and, after working closely with Burke’s family and the University of California Press, it was published in October 2018.

In “The War of Words,” Burke urges readers to recognize the role they also play in sustaining polarization. He points to how seemingly innocuous features in a news story can actually compromise values readers might hold, whether it’s debating the issues further, finding points of consensus, and, ideally, avoiding war.

■ A book born out of the Cold War
In 1939 – just before Adolf Hitler invaded Poland – Burke wrote an influential essay, “The Rhetoric of Hitler’s ‘Battle,’” in which he outlined how Hitler had weaponized language to foment antipathy, scapegoat Jews and unite Germans against a common enemy.

After World War II ended and America’s leaders turned their attention to the Soviet Union, Burke saw some parallels to Hitler in the way language was being weaponized in the U.S.

He worried that the U.S. might remain on a permanent wartime footing and that a drumbeat of oppositional rhetoric directed at the Soviet Union was making the nation susceptible to slipping into yet another war.

Tormented by this possibility, he published two books, “A Grammar of Motives” and “A Rhetoric of Motives,” in which he sought to inoculate Americans from the sort of political speech that, in his view, could lead to a nuclear holocaust.

“The War of Words” was originally supposed to be part of “A Rhetoric of Motives.” But at the last minute, Burke decided to set it aside and publish it later. Unfortunately, he never ended up publishing it before his death in 1993.



The thesis of “The War of Words” is simple and, in our view, holds up today: Political warfare is ubiquitous, unrelenting and inevitable. News coverage and commentary are frequently biased, whether journalists and readers are aware of it or not. And all media coverage, therefore, demands careful scrutiny.

To Burke, you don’t have to launch social media missives in order to participate in sustaining a polarized political environment. Instead, the quiet consumption of news reporting is enough to do the trick.

■ Pick a side
Most people might think that the content of media coverage is the most persuasive component. They assume what gets reported matters more than how it gets reported. But according to “The War of Words,” this assumption is backwards: An argument’s form is often its most persuasive element.

Burke takes pains to catalog the various forms that news writers use in their work and calls them “rhetorical devices.” One device he calls “headline thinking,” which refers to how an article’s headline can establish the tone and frame of the issue being discussed.

Take, for example, an Aug. 21 article The New York Times ran about how Michael Cohen’s indictment might affect the 2018 midterms. The headline read: “With Cohen Implicating Trump, a Presidency’s Fate Rests With Congress.”

The next day, the Times ran another article on the same topic with the following headline: “Republicans Urge Embattled Incumbents to Speak Out on Trump.”

Both headlines seek to assail the Re-

publican Party. The first implies that the Republican Party, because it holds a majority in Congress, is responsible for upholding justice – and if they don’t indict Trump, they’re clearly protecting him to preserve their political power.

The second headline might seem less malicious than the first. But think about the underlying assumption: Republicans are only urging “embattled” elected officials to speak out against Trump.

The directive, therefore, isn’t born out of political principle. Rather, it’s being made because the party needs to preserve its majority and protect vulnerable incumbents. The unstated claim in this headline is that the Republican Party exhibits political virtue only when it’s needed to quell threats to its power.

If you side with The New York Times, you may be heartened by its efforts to position the Republican Party as craven in its lust for power. If you side with the Republican Party, you are probably disgusted with the paper for claiming that its representatives lack moral virtue.

Either way, the line is drawn: The New York Times is on one side, and the Republican Congress is on the other.

■ A rhetorical ‘call to arms’
Another device Burke explores is one that he calls “yielding aggressively,” which involves accepting criticism in order to leverage it to one’s own benefit.

We see this at play in an op-ed piece published on Fox News on Aug. 22, 2018. The writer, John Fund, concluded that Michael Cohen’s guilty plea will “likely” not lead to an indictment of President Trump.

To support his argument, he cites Bob Bauer, a former White House counsel to President Barack Obama, who has argued that the campaign finance violations aren’t very significant but are instead being used as a political cudgel.

Fund admits that Cohen’s guilty plea will hurt Trump and make things tougher for his supporters, requiring them “to do a lot of heavy lifting when they come to his defense.” Fund’s editorial also admits to minor lapses in Trump’s judgment – particularly in hiring Cohen, Manafort and Omarosa Manigault Newman. It thus yielded to popular criticisms of Trump.

But this admission is not a call for accountability; it is a call to arms. Fund ultimately argues that if Trump is indicted, it will not be because he is guilty of violating a serious law. It will be because his opponents seek to vanquish him.

Indictment or not, Fund seems to be saying, Trump supporters should be ready for a ferocious political fight come 2020. Again, the lines are drawn.

■ How to survive the ‘war of words’
Burke once wrote about how rhetorical devices like those explored above can sustain division and polarization.

“Imagine a passage built about a set of oppositions (‘we do this, but they on the other hand do that; we stay here, but they go there; we look up, but they look down,’ etc.),” he wrote. “Once you grasp the trend of the form, [you see that] it invites participation regardless of the subject matter ... you will find yourself swinging along with the succession of antitheses, even though you may not agree with the proposition that is being presented in this form.”

Burke calls this phenomenon “collaborative expectancy” – collaborative because it encourages us to swing along together, and “expectancy” because of the predictability of each side’s argument.

This predictability encourages readers to embrace an argument without considering whether we find it persuasive. They simply sit on one of two opposing sides and nod along.

According to Burke, if you passively consume the news, swinging along with headlines as the midterms unfold, political divisions will likely be further cemented.

However if you become aware of how the media reports you’re consuming seek to subtly position and influence you, you’ll likely seek out more sources and become more deliberative. You might notice what’s missing from a debate, and what really might be motivating the outlet.

To avoid getting sucked into a dynamic of two opposing, gridlocked forces, it’s important for all readers to make their consciousness a matter of conscience.

(Source: salon.com)

“The truth” is no longer “important” for mainstream media

The New York Times unveiled a new slogan early in 2017 titled, “The truth is more important now than ever.” It has acquired a seemingly noble motto but a perhaps contentious one if we examine the Times’ recent history. Two international law specialists, Howard Friel and Richard Falk, published a book after the 2003 Invasion of Iraq called The Record of the Paper, which has scarcely been reviewed.

Friel and Falk focused on the Times due to the newspaper’s importance. The authors point out that in 70 Times editorials on Iraq – from September 11, 2001 to March 20, 2003 – the words “international law” and “UN Charter” were never mentioned. The “truth” did not seem terribly “important” as the Times stood idly by in the destruction of Iraq.

Such was the barrage of propaganda directed at the American public that 69% believed Saddam Hussein was “personally involved” in the September 11 attacks. That is a significant achievement in manipulation. The poll results must have been news to the Iraqi dictator himself, a forgotten one-time American ally.

With hindsight, was it wrong for the West to support the overthrow of Gaddafi?



British foreign policy should be biased on the side of democracy and human rights
Ian Birrell @ianbirrell
Monday 9 March 2015 09:31 16 comments



Scengrab from The Independent

Why Hussein would take it upon himself to orchestrate a surprise attack on the United States, of all nations, is anyone’s guess. Perhaps if he had a death wish but as later events proved he was not the suicidal type.

The Times was not alone in its position of selling the Iraq war to the American people, as television networks from Fox News to CBS and CNN were overwhelmingly pro-war. Fox News, owned by Rupert Murdoch – who strongly backed the illegal conflict – placed a permanent US flag in the corner of the screen. Fox employees were compelled to describe the invasion as “Operation Iraqi Freedom”, with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis later being killed.

The pattern continues into other illegitimate interventions as the liberal Guardian newspaper championed the demolition of Libya in 2011, with editorials imploring, “The quicker Muammar Gaddafi falls, the better.” The Guardian encouraged NATO “to tip the military balance further against Gaddafi”, while later that year summarising that “it has turned out, so far, reasonably well” – by that point thousands had been killed.

In 2015 Ian Birrell, then deputy editor of the Independent, still assured his readers, “I would argue that Britain and France were right to step in [in Libya]. The failures came later on.” Apparently it was fine for two old imperial powers to “step in” to shatter a sovereign nation, then afterwards absolve the invaders of blame with “the failures” only coming “later on”.

It’s a rare thing indeed to hear a prominent commentator question the balance of Western mainstream coverage. The same voices can be heard piping up when alternative news sources take a different line not so palatable to their tastes.

Nick Cohen, writing in the Guardian, accused the network Russia Today (RT) of being a “propaganda channel” and that Russia was “prostituting journalism”. In the following sentence, Cohen describes the BBC and New York Times as being “reputable news organisations”.

Cohen firmly supported the Iraq war, writing at the time that “the Left betrays the Iraqi people by opposing war”, and “an American invasion offers the possibility of salvation”. He was deemed not to be “prostituting journalism” in backing this violation of international law, nor when later supporting other interventions in Libya and Syria.

The BBC’s reputation, which Cohen previously claimed to be “reputable”, was dealt a blow when it was revealed by Cardiff University that the network “displayed the most ‘pro-war’ agenda of any broadcaster” with its coverage on the Iraq invasion.

Steven Erlanger of the New York Times described RT as “an agent of Kremlin policy” used to “undermine Western democracies” and to “destabilise the West” – failing to back up the claims with any evidence. To gain perspective on these attacks, it may be worth pointing out a key excerpt from the First Amendment of the US Constitution: “Congress shall make no law... abridging [curtailing] the freedom of speech, or of the press.”

This law does not exist in Western democracies but attempts at limiting freedom of expression continue apace, while attacks on alternative media outlets by institutions of power grow. It has reached a point whereby the French president Emmanuel Macron, shortly after assuming office, publicly attacked legitimate news sources of “behaving like deceitful propaganda”.

Perhaps the hidden concern about RT, for example, is its continued increase in both popularity and scope – with the channel enjoying a total weekly viewership of 70 million people and rising. RT is available to viewers in Western heartlands such as Britain and the US, with eight million Americans watching the station each week. It represents quite an achievement that a channel with the word “Russia”, featured in its title, can attract viewers in their millions, despite the growing anti-Russian sentiment espoused by the powers-that-be.

It is revealing that elite figures like Hillary Clinton have lamented in the past, “We are in an information war and we are losing that war.” For the first time in history, populations have broad access to alternative news angles – points of view that they likely find of a more balanced nature. Gone is the unchallenged monopoly on the public mind.

(Source: globalresearch.com)

Do debate questions reflect concerns of democratic voters?

With the Democratic primary debates underway, it’s worth looking back at what was asked in the first round to see whether the issues of most concern to Democratic voters are being addressed.

The initial debates, hosted by NBC, focused heavily on the economy (19% of questions), healthcare (18%) and immigration (18%) – central issues to many voters, to be sure. But other issues that Democrats want to hear about got short shrift. Climate change, which multiple polls put second only to healthcare as a top issue for Democratic voters, got only 10 questions (8%), while core issues around race and women’s rights got eight (6%) and five (4%), respectively. Two questions were asked about LGBTQ concerns.

The first question on the first night (6/26/19) gave a pretty good sense of the network’s approach to the debates. Turning to Elizabeth Warren, NBC’s Savannah Guthrie asked:

You have many plans – free college, free childcare, government healthcare, cancellation of student debt, new taxes, new regulations, the breakup of major corporations. But this comes at a time when 71 percent of Americans say the economy is doing well, including 60 percent of Democrats. What do you say to those who worry this kind of significant change could be risky to the economy?

Who, exactly, is worrying about these plans being risky? Guthrie’s sleight-of-hand suggests it’s Democratic voters, when in fact they overwhelmingly support pretty much all of the plans she listed. (Warren’s “new taxes” are highly popular wealth and corporate taxes.) And, in fact, even the general population tends to support such policies. But the fiscally conservative, risk-averse, largely -happy-with-the-status-quo voter—which, by the way, probably fits the profile of most of the corporate



media questioners—would haunt much of the debate.

A single question was asked about education, but “free college” was mentioned among other social welfare policies in four other questions, all of which were framed around cost, or supposed pragmatism, rather than benefits—e.g., asking whether such policies give “a false sense of what’s actually achievable,” or whether “Democrats have a responsibility to explain how they will pay for every proposal they make along those lines” (6/27/19).

Climate, too, got the “how will you pay for this” treatment in two of its 10 questions, in addition to a question asking Beto O’Rourke to respond to a hypothetical voter who—in response to “big changes,” like “switching to renewable energy [and] pushing to replace gas-powered cars in favor of electric ones”—“feels as if government’s telling them how to live and ordering them how to live.” Meanwhile, none of the environment-related questions raised the issue of how much not addressing the climate crisis will cost, or foregrounded the fears of voters

concerned about insufficient government action on climate. The Green New Deal was not mentioned at all.

Questions about organized labor were also notably absent, as were the issues of campaign finance and Citizens United—a noteworthy omission, when several of the candidates have made a point of swearing off money from various corporate interests or Super PAC money.

The foreign policy questions, 11% of the total, were notably bellicose, with Lester Holt asking three different candidates, “How would you stand up to China?” and Chuck Todd asking everyone in the first debate to give a one-word answer for “greatest political threat.”

The threat the US poses to the world might have been a relevant issue, given that the US is involved in ongoing drone wars in at least six countries, and at least 5,000 civilians in Iraq and Syria have been killed in drone attacks and other US and US-allied airstrikes since the beginning of Trump’s presidency. But the only drone question asked in the first debates was about worries that drones will take over domestic jobs.

TOPIC	NUMBER	PERCENT
Economic	24	19
Healthcare	22	18
Immigration	22	18
International	14	11
Guns	11	9
Environment	10	8
Governance	10	8
Race	8	6
Women	5	4
Non-Policy	3	2
LGBTQ	2	2
Education	1	1
Total Questions	124	

Compared to the questioning in the early Democratic presidential primaries for the 2016 election, there was a dramatically greater focus on healthcare (from 2% to 18%) and immigration (from 6% to 18%). Questions about foreign policy dropped significantly, from 25% to 11%. Non-policy questions, which often eat up an outside portion of debate time with a focus on non-substantive issues like electability, personal questions or general questions about other candidates, also dropped significantly, from 21% to 2%. New this year were a series of questions about governance: ten questions about bipartisanship, gridlock, court-nominee obstruction and damage to our political institutions.

(Source: FAIR.com)

22 school bus lines set up in Tehran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Twenty two lines for school buses have been established in the city of Tehran, aimed at providing students with transportation services to ensure that they can attend schools safely, Tehran bus operating company’s managing director Peyman Sanandaji has said.



Pointing out that with the beginning of the new school year (September 23) the number of passengers will increase by 20-30 percent, he said that to meet the transportation needs of students attending schools and educational centers, school bus lines have been set up in all parts of the city.

The buses running in these lines are labeled with a specific logo to be at service during the school’s opening and closing hours, he stated, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Along the bus line routes, special stations are exclusively dedicated to the school buses which are solely used for the students to ensure their safety, he highlighted.

He went on to say that “with the universities and school openings, transportation needs increases and we decided to increase the number of buses in populated parts of the city and dispatch some traffic police forces to those areas.”

How skillful driving can reduce toxic fumes

Local authorities are encouraging people not to leave their cars idling as tests show we can reduce air pollution by changing the way we drive.

Scientists in Utah measured exhaust emissions from a test car driven by volunteers over a set route. Contrary to the stereotypical view of the “boy racer”, the study showed the older male participants were the most polluting drivers.

Experienced motorists produced about 50% more hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxides compared with younger drivers, who accelerated more gently and used less power on hills. This demonstrates that more skilful driving can help reduce air pollution.

Other studies have shown motorists who are inexperienced at driving electric vehicles tend to accelerate faster than petrol and diesel drivers, leading to more energy use and greater particle pollution from tyre wear.

This is because electric motors respond quickly when the accelerator is pressed. When retested after five months, however, electric vehicle owners had optimised their driving and were less polluting.

A study of hybrid vehicles showed how technical knowledge and dashboard feedback enabled drivers to use less fuel and produce less pollution.

However, with 40% of car journeys in England being less than two miles, the best behaviour change is to walk or cycle on short trips.

(Source: The Guardian)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Pope urges harmony between faiths

(September 24, 2001)

At a mass in the Kazakh capital Astana the Pope called for harmony between Christians and Muslims. He urged them to pray for peace as the US continues preparations for military action to combat international terrorism. This report from David Willey: The **turnout** at the Pope’s mass was disappointing - perhaps 20 or 30 thousand out of an expected 50 thousand people. But it was a major event in this new capital of an independent state of 15 million people. Kazakhstan, a vast territory, **broke away** from the former Soviet Union only ten years ago and is **rarely in the international limelight**.

During his **homily**, the Pope switched from Russian to English in a heartfelt call to both Muslims and Catholics to pray for peace at this moment of international tension. «We mustn’t let what’s happened lead to a deepening of divisions,» the Pope said. «Religion must never be used as a reason for conflict.»

But the Pope **made no specific reference** to the United States, which continues **to build up** military forces **within striking distance** of Afghanistan.

Relations between Muslims - who are the largest group of believers in Kazakhstan - and Christians are free of tension here. Catholics are a tiny minority, but they include the **descendants** of hundreds of thousands of Polish, German and Ukrainian families **uprooted** by Stalin and sent into exile in the 1930s and ‘40s to colonize the barren steppe land of Kazakhstan.

■ **Words**
turnout: the turnout at an event is the number of people who go to it
broke away: became independent
rarely in the international limelight: not often mentioned in the international mass media reports
homily: a speech in which someone tells people how they ought to behave (a formal word)
made no specific reference: did not mention directly
to build up: to increase
within striking distance: close enough to be able to attack
descendants: your descendants are the people in later generations who are related to you
uprooted: forced to leave home

(Source: BBC)

Over 9,000 Tehrani children attend “The city I love” competition

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Some 9,400 children in Tehran have participated in a painting contest called “The city I love” on issues related to life in the metropolis, including environment and green spaces, transportation and traffic, urban services, cultural and social issues, recreational facilities, sports, and entertainment.

Held from August 29 to September 6, the painting contest was open to children and teenagers aged 4 to 14, Mojtaba Daneshvar, director of citizenship education of Tehran Municipality, said, adding that the number of participants indicate the success underlying popularity peaks of such cultural-educational events, ISNA news agency reported on Sunday.

The competition was an attempt to create an intellectual challenge for children and teenagers to address their demands from urban managers and mayors, he noted.

“To build a more child-friendly city, we

initially need to reach a common context which id formed by the children’s needs, adding, many social and psychological experts believe that using imagery and painting is one of the best ways to better understand children’s expectations from the city,” he explained.

The painting competition was organized by the Municipality in partnership with Tehran Department of Education, and Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, he added.

“The drawings or paintings will be submitted by a group of artists, then the best art work of each age group will be chosen and the winners will be granted awards.”

An exhibition will be held in Tehran concurrent with the International Children’s Day to showcase the selected paintings in order to be noticed by art enthusiasts across the country, he concluded.



The painting contest called “The city I love” focused on issues related to life in the metropolis, including environment and green spaces, transportation and traffic, urban services, cultural and social issues, recreational facilities, sports, and entertainment.

Hundreds of fish found dead after UK river dries up



A picturesque small river in the Chilterns has dried up, leaving hundreds of fish and shrimp dead, with experts and local action groups blaming climate change for reduced water levels.

Alarming photographs show the waterless muddy bottom of the River Misbourne in Buckinghamshire strewn with decomposing corpses.

The river is one of 260 chalk streams in the world, nine of which are in the Chilterns – a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They are notable for being very clear, and supporting a large diversity of wildlife.

Conservationists at the Chiltern Chalk Streams Project have called for a drought to be declared to prevent more creatures from suffering the same fate.

Project officer Allen Beechey said: “Our chalk streams are in crisis and facing a fight for survival.

“A combination of climate change and over- abstraction to supply our ever-rising demand for water has left chalk streams like the River Misbourne in a dire state.”

Bob Olden, founder of the Misbourne River Action group, told The Independent: “The Misbourne is dry for an exceptional amount of its length at the moment.”

The same thing happened in 2017, he said, though not to the same extent.

“It’s unusual, and possibly getting to be more frequent.”

He said that a generation ago, several sections of the river were regularly

used as swimming spots, but also added that low water levels had been a problem centuries ago.

“Mill owners in 1774 were complaining it had dried up on one occasion,” he said. “But we also have plenty of records of floods. The river couldn’t possibly sustain mills today.

“There’s an indication climate change is making things worse.

“Flash floods are no good. We need the water to settle down through the soil to reach the aquifer. Lots of rain doesn’t necessarily help. We really need the rain to come during the winter recharge period rather than the summer because otherwise the grass and the trees mop it all up.”

He also said since the 1990s water abstraction had decreased substantially, indicating the river could be getting drier despite less water being taken from it.

Calling for a long-term water strategy for the southeast, Mr Olden said the threat of the river’s disappearance represented the “loss of something nice to have. It’s the difference between a ditch that’s overgrown and full of Tesco trolleys, or a nice stream full of fish.”

Conservationists have called for government action to avoid “irreparable damage” to Britain’s surviving chalk streams, and avoid taking any further water from them.

Mr Beechey said: “These rare rivers have suffered at the hands of abstraction, which has increased significantly ever since the end of the Second World War to supply water to an ever-growing population.

(Source: The Independent)

Highest levels of mercury ever recorded are found in blubber of dolphins in English Channel



Bottlenose dolphins in the English Channel have among the highest levels of toxic mercury ever recorded in their blubber and skin, scientists have found.

They also have high levels of other toxic organic pollutants known as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) that were banned in the 1970s and 1980s because of the risk they posed to wildlife and humans. The chemicals – often used as refrigerants – are extremely durable, which is why they have remained in the ecosystem four decades after being outlawed.

“These organic compounds are able to dissolve in fats and oils, and consist of the by-products of various industrial processes and pesticides, among others,” said lead researcher Dr Krishna Das, a zoologist at the University of Liege in Belgium.

“Bottlenose dolphins are often used to study levels of environmental pollutants, as the organic compounds accumulate within their thick layer of fatty tissue,” she said.

Researchers took skin biopsies during boat surveys of 82 wild dolphins living in the Normanno-Breton Gulf in the English Channel. They found chloride-containing compounds (PCBs) from industrial fluids made up more than 91 per cent of organic chemicals in their skin, according to the paper published in Scientific Reports.

Mercury levels were similar to levels described in the bottlenose dolphin populations living in notoriously contaminated areas in the Mediterranean

Sea and Florida Everglades.

Scientists believe the pollutants could weaken their immune system and mean the dolphins face higher rates of illness and disease than their captive counterparts. Previous research on the effects of PCB exposure has linked it to reduced survival rate of calves.

Dr Das said: “The reported concentrations are among the highest reported for cetaceans.

“We strongly recommend the Normanno-Breton Gulf be a special area of conservation candidate because it contains the last large European population of bottlenose dolphins.”

About 420 coastal bottlenose dolphins live in the the Normanno-Breton Gulf around the Channel Islands.

“The bottlenose dolphins in European waters are protected by the Habitats Directive. Their conservation requires the creation of special areas of conservation and the need for strict protection,” Dr Das said.

“Despite this European directive, human activities are increasing in the Normanno-Breton Gulf. The potential threats include pollutants, noise pollution, particularly construction noise, disturbance by tourism activities and by-catch,” she said.

This latest research follows a study from March this year which found levels of mercury, arsenic and lead at shockingly high levels in the blood of great white sharks swimming off the coast of South Africa.

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

Water ambulances to join medical emergency fleet

Five water ambulances will be added to the current medical emergency fleet in provinces neighboring the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the country, head of Iran’s Emergency Medical Services Organization Pir Hossein Koulivand, said on Wednesday.

Since air emergency fleet have been developed, the Organization is looking forward to develop the marine medical fleet, he said, adding that in recent years, there were only five helicopters in service of the Organization, which have already added to 40.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“-logy, -ology”

■ **Meaning:** knowledge or collection

■ **For example:** Our **biology** requires us to breathe air.

PHRASAL VERB

Nip something off

■ **Meaning:** to remove a small part of something, by pressing it tightly between your finger and thumb

■ **For example:** She nipped off a dead flower.

IDIOM

Creature comforts

■ **Explanation:** modern conveniences that make life comfortable and pleasant

■ **For example:** I need my creature comforts. I don’t know how I’d survive without air-conditioning in this climate!

شناورهای دریایی به اورژانس کشور می پیوندند

رییس سازمان اورژانس کشور با بیان اینکه در حال توسعه اورژانس دریایی هستیم، گفت: در حال حاضر اضافه کردن پنج فروند شناور دریایی اورژانس به استان های همسایه خلیج فارس در دستور کارمان قرار دارد.

دکتر بیرحسین کولیوند در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، گفت: همانطور که ناوگان هوایی اورژانس را توسعه دادیم، در حال حاضر هم به دنبال تکمیل و توسعه ناوگان دریایی اورژانس هستیم. باید توجه کرد که در گذشته فقط پنج بالگرد اورژانس داشتیم، اما در حال حاضر با اقداماتی که انجام شده ۴۰ بالگرد و پایگاه اورژانس هوایی تامین و ایجاد شده که واقعا افتخاری برای کشور است.

Iraqi forces dismantle terror group ahead of Arba'een

➔1 "Their arrest was made following a qualitative and efficient operation, and based on accurate information. Among the detainees is a woman, who is the wife of a known terrorist in Syria," the statement noted.

It added that the terrorists were nabbed in Samarra city, located 125 kilometers (78 miles) north of the capital Baghdad, and nearby al-Jallam district, emphasizing that proper legal actions have been taken against them.

Arba'een marks 40 days since Ashura, when Imam Hussein (PBUH) was martyred in a battle with the massive army of Yazid ibn Mu'awiya, commonly known as Yazid I, in the desert plains of Karbala along with his 72 companions approximately 14 centuries ago, after refusing allegiance to the tyrant caliph.

The occasion has found additional significance in recent years as it has become a rallying cry for the campaign against Takfiri terrorists, who have frequently targeted the pilgrims.

The pilgrims show their commitment to the Shia imam by walking tens of miles, a large number of them barefoot. Mourners clad in black



walk toward Karbala, which lies 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Baghdad to commemorate

Arba'een, which in Arabic means forty and falls on October 19 this year.

Biden looks like Democratic front-runner, until he doesn't



TEHRAN — Joe Biden is the Democratic front-runner. And there were moments in Thursday night's debate when he looked the part.

Standing between a pair of liberal senators offering radical change, he unabashedly embraced his more moderate position on health care, forcefully pressuring Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren to level with Americans about the steep cost of implementing a fully government-run system. He was more polished and practiced than in previous contests. And he repeatedly leaned on the legacy of former President Barack Obama, who remains the most popular Democrat in the nation.

But the debate was punctuated by moments that highlighted why Biden can't shake questions about his consistency and whispers about his fitness for office,

despite his lead in most national polls and early state surveys. Most glaringly: a meandering answer near the end of the debate about his past statements on racial inequality. Biden said poor parents should play the "record player" for their children before veering off into comments about Venezuela.

According to AP, Biden's standing in the Democratic contest is the source of much debate within the party. Is he an experienced elder statesman who can calm an anxious nation and peel back some of the white working-class voters who helped send President Donald Trump to the White House? Or is the 76-year-old past his prime and out of step with a party that's growing younger, more diverse and more liberal? Thursday night's contest provided fresh fodder for each of those theories.

Protesters in Hong Kong call for UK meddling in unrest



TEHRAN — Anti-government protesters in Hong Kong have staged a rally outside the British consulate in the Chinese city, calling for support from the territory's former colonial ruler.

The protesters, in their hundreds, demanded on Sunday that London meddle in the crisis that has crippled the international hub over the past months.

Waving Union Jack flags and chanting "God Save the Queen," the protesters claimed that China was not honoring the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and that the "one country, two systems" policy did not work anymore.

"We ask UK to take immediate action on China not honoring the Sino-British Joint Declaration and acknowledge one country, two systems is not functioning," the rally organizers said.

Beijing, however, rejected the accusa-

tions and said it was fully committed to the joint declaration, which ensures special freedoms for the city after its return to China in 1997. Earlier this month, the protesters marched on the U.S. consulate, calling on Washington to intervene in the ongoing political standoff.

According to Press TV, the protests initially began in June over a bill, which would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China.

The bill was suspended later that month, but the agitation has expanded into a broader unrest amid calls for the city's pro-China leader to step down.

China has said foreign countries, mainly the United States and Britain, have been provoking the unrest by issuing statements of support. Beijing has asked the two countries to stop meddling in Hong Kong's domestic affairs.

Israeli drone downed in Gaza, seized by Palestinian fighters

TEHRAN — Palestinian resistance forces have shot down another Israeli drone in the Gaza Strip, the third unmanned aerial vehicle the regime has lost over the past few days.

Palestinian media reported that the Abu Ali Mustapha Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), downed and captured the device in the east of the besieged territory near the city of Khan Yunis on Saturday evening.

The Israeli military has not yet commented on the report.

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement on Monday night shot down an Israeli drone east of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip, a day after the Tel Aviv regime

carried out a fresh wave of air raids against the besieged coastal enclave.

Earlier on Monday, the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah said its air defense forces had shot down an Israeli military drone outside the southern town of Ramyah.

The latest development comes amid recent exchanges of fire between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza.

Palestinian news agencies said last Saturday that Israeli airstrikes had targeted positions allegedly held by Hamas inside the enclave. Health officials said there were no casualties from the attacks that lasted nearly an hour.

The relentless Israeli bombardment came after Hamas

launched a drone operation targeting Israeli military equipment stationed along the border with the occupied Palestinian territories following a wave of Israeli aerial assaults.

The Hamas raids have come in response to the regime's killing of Palestinian protesters marching along the fence separating Gaza from the Israeli-occupied territories.

According to Press TV, Israeli troops have killed at least 307 Palestinians since the beginning of the rallies and wounded more than 18,000 others, according to the Gazan Health Ministry.

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

Tunisia held second free presidential election

TEHRAN — Tunisia held its second free presidential poll since the 2011 uprising that toppled ex-president Ben Ali and sparked the Arab Spring.

It was brought forward from November after the death in July of Beji Caid Essebsi, the first democratically elected president, who took office in 2014.

Twenty-six candidates, including two women, are running in the election.

Mr. Essebsi won Tunisia's first free presidential elections in 2014 and was credited with

largely maintaining stability in the country during his almost five-year rule.

At 92, he was the oldest sitting president in the world at the time of his death. Mr. Essebsi had previously confirmed that he was not planning to run for re-election. His wife, Chadlia Saida Farhat, died on Sunday morning, aged 83, their son announced on Facebook as voting was getting under way.

Parliament speaker Mohamed Ennaceur is currently acting as interim president.

A candidate needs a majority of votes to

win the election. If no-one gets a majority in the first round, the two candidates with most votes will face a second, decisive round. The winning candidate will be appointed to office for a five-year term.

The constitution states that Tunisia's president has control over defence, foreign policy and national security. The prime minister, chosen by parliament, is responsible for other portfolios, BBC reported.

Parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in October.



EU's Opposition to Trump's policies not for moral reasons: Russian analyst

➔1 A: The policy line of the US and its European allies towards exiting the existing arms control agreements started long before Trump. Under Bill Clinton, the US Congress never ratified the START II agreement. George Bush the Junior exited the anti-ballistic missile agreement of 1972, signed between the then Soviet Union and the U.S.

The true reason for these exits was the modern ideology of the modern West (which includes the US, the EU, all NATO countries, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand). This ideology divides the world into "democracies" and "non-democracies" — and openly roots for the victory of "democracies," even by military means.

This ideology wants to replace the traditional family and traditional market economy by some new "experimental forms" of family (same-sex marriages, polyamorous communities, etc.) and by the monopolized global economy in the interest of huge global corporations. This ideology is utopian and revolutionary, and it won't stop at using war for its final victory.

So, the West is dismantling arms agreements, because they limit its huge military superiority. But Clinton and Obama were hypocritical about exiting arms agreements, and Trump is not. When exiting INF because of Russia's "breaches" Trump knew he was not fair.

The INF was signed in 1987, when Poland, Rumania and

the Baltic countries — now open enemies of Russia — were formal allies of the Soviet Union or even its parts (the Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia).

So no wonder that Russia is building new missiles to compensate for the new American advantage (American missiles from Estonia can hit St. Petersburg after a 1-minute flight). So, Trump just wants full superiority, in order to have absolute dictate. As for "democracy," the West lost it when it became so aggressive. Democracies do not invade countries that don't attack them (Iran, Libya, Syria) and democracies do not get all paranoid about their citizens' contacts with other countries (Russiagate).

Algeria's political impasse: What is next?

➔1 Bouteflika's resignation puts Abdelkader Bensalah, Speaker of the upper house of parliament, in charge as caretaker Head of State for 90 days until elections are held. However, elections (scheduled for July 4th) have been postponed for a second time and protesters are demanding his departure.

For his part, Bensalah, and in a bid to calm them, set a Panel of Dialogue and Mediation, composed of political actors, the civil society, the representatives of the trade union organizations and many citizens, with the aim to mediate between public authorities and people and hold a "serious and responsible" dialogue to reach a national consensus which would help resolve the political crisis in Algeria, through the organization of a fair and transparent presidential election, as soon as possible."

However, the Panel itself is facing rejection by protesters who are taking into the streets denouncing its formation, saying it does not represent them along other claims, such as the departure of Bensalah, a former head of the upper house of parliament, and Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui, who are regarded by them as part of the old guard.

Despite all these arrangements, Algeria is still at an impasse, with two camps facing each other in seemingly irreconcilable positions.

To resolve this stalemate, Lieutenant General Ahmed Gaïd Salah, Deputy Minister of National Defence, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army (ANP), launched, last week, a call, saying that it would be "appropriate" to convene the electorate on the 15th of September, and that the elections could be held within the deadlines set by law.

In my previous speech, "I have spoken about the priority to seriously launch the preparation of the presidential elections within the coming weeks, and today, based on our missions, prerogatives and our compliance with the Constitution and the laws of the Republic as well, I confirm that we regard as appropriate to summon the Electorate on September 15th and the elections can be held within the deadlines provided for by the law. Reasonable and acceptable deadlines which respond to the insistent demand of the people," said Lieutenant General.

Theoretically, if the head of state, Abdelkader Bensalah, summons the electorate on September 15, 2019, as desired by the head of the army, the presidential election should take place before the end of the current year (mid-December). The Organic Law No. 12-01 2012 (Electoral Code) provides in article 25 that "Subject to the other provisions of this organic law, the electorate shall be convened by presidential decree within three (3) months preceding the date of the elections".

As a response, Algerian street has expressed its rejection of elections in the current political conditions. According to demonstrators, no election should take place as long as Bouteflika-era officials remain in positions of power.

For their parts, the opposition parties and civil society groups have also demanded the resignation of the government which constitutes "a popular demand", voicing rejection of the holding of the elections.

The people are determined to pursue the hirak until the establishment of a state of institutions, widening gap between them and the power constrained, for lack of serious candidates, to cancel the vote twice.

According to observers, this presidential elections are unachievable for the moment because the approach advocated by Ahmed Gaïd Salah "requires the revision of some texts of the electoral law to adapt to the requirements of the current situation, and not a total and profound revision that would affect all texts, as claimed by the demonstrators. The partial amendment means the holding of elections basing on the same mode of organization. This is likely to trigger the street again as the popular movement with its magnitude unparalleled in the contemporary history of the country will, likely, sabotage the preparations for this election. The political climate also does not allow the organization of such an election with the absence of total trust between voters and the political class.

However, it is imperative to go quickly to a presidential election provided that it is transparent, where the mediation initiatives of the Panel or other organizations, can lead to a consensual platform far from the occult practices of the past which saw the majority of the population sulking the ballot boxes, reflecting the state-citizen divorce, noting that

an independent election monitoring commission and the departure of the Bedoui government are two prerequisites for a transparent presidential election.

This necessarily implies the cleaning up of the electoral file, the creation of an independent election supervision body where neither the executive (the government - especially the Ministry of the Interior and the Walis), nor the deputies / senators and representatives of the current APCs denounced by Al Hirak, will be stakeholders.

Only a democratically elected legitimate president, elected on the basis of a transparent agenda, pledging to include the legitimate demands of Al Hirak including a new balance of power and the moralization of management (fight against corruption and embezzlement), can amend the constitution and carry out the profound political and economic reforms to bring Algeria to the new world and make it an emerging country: a pivotal country regionally and internationally.

Economically, it is imperative to quickly resolve the political crisis before the end of 2019 or at most the first quarter of 2020, to avoid

towards a cessation of payments at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, and prevent Algeria the depletion of its foreign exchange reserves which would culminated in the economic, social, political insecurity.

Who's the Terrorist Now — MBS or the Houthis?

➔1 Sadly, the Trump Administration has squandered all the goodwill, admiration and respect that the United States may have accumulated over the years. Trump's sanctimonious lectures and tweets are falling on death ears. The company America keeps in the Middle East region — MBS, Sisi and Netanyahu — and the actions that it supports — the suppression of human rights — are odious and reflect deep-seated American values focused on business interests alone.

America has dissipated its soft power. Military power can be readily acquired and bought but the acquisition of soft power takes dedication, integrity and years to accumulate. The loss of soft power will haunt the United States for years to come as it looks back and appreciates what it lost in the span of a few myopic years.

German super-coach ‘Restless Rudi’ dies at 93

Rudi Gutendorf, the tireless soccer manager who guided a world record 55 teams, including 18 national sides, has died at 93, German media reported.

Born in Koblenz on the banks of the Rhine, the man dubbed ‘Restless Rudi’ started his football career as a player for home-town club TuS Neuendorf before taking his first management role with Swiss side Blue Stars Zurich in the 1950s.

Coaching proved infectious, and after building an impressive CV with top flight teams in West Germany, Gutendorf criss-crossed the globe, taking up roles with Chile (1972-73), Australia (1978-79), China (1988, 1991-2) and others in a management career spanning half a century.

His wanderlust and the support of the German government saw him become a global soccer ‘missionary’ and guide some of the world’s most humble national teams in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

He coached Rwanda in 1999-2000 as the country was recovering from the 1994 civil war in which up to a million people were slaughtered in genocidal massacres.

“Such hate, you cannot believe. I was able to unite these two tribes to play football, and good football,” he said in a 2013 BBC interview of the mixed Rwandan team of Hutu and Tutsi players.

His last national job was at Samoa in 2003 but he still yearned to manage teams deep into this eighties.

“I’m just your typical cheery soul from the Rhineland,” the European soccer governing body UEFA quoted him as saying in 2015.

“When I kick the bucket, I want my life to have been worth it. That’s why I enjoyed taking the biggest risks.”

(Source: Reuters)

Neymar booed by own fans on PSG return

Neymar was booed by his own fans throughout his Paris St-Germain return against Strasbourg - then scored an injury-time overhead-kick winner.

The Brazil forward missed the opening five games as he tried and failed to seal a move back to Barcelona.

“It is not the first time I have been booed by everyone,” said the 27-year-old.

“It is sad but I know that, from now on, every game I play will be an away game.”

PSG ultras booed Neymar when his name was read out before the game, when he touched the ball, when he took a corner and when he shot wide.

There was a mix of cheers and boos after he scored the late winner. Neymar added: “I made it clear I have nothing against the fans, nothing against Paris St-Germain as a club.

“Everyone knows I wanted to leave. I am not going to get into the details of what happened.

“It is time to turn the page. Today I am a Paris St-Germain player and I am going to give everything on the field.”

Neymar’s goal - earning his side a 1-0 victory - was a sensational acrobatic volley from Abdou Diallo’s cross which went in off the post.

Neymar had the ball in the net for the second time moments later but it was disallowed by the video assistant referee for offside.

There were also chants and banners using vulgar language about Neymar, including a reference to the 20m euros he had reportedly said he would pay in order to join Barcelona.

The forward wanted to move back to Catalonia in the summer, but Barcelona were unable to reach an agreement with PSG.

He missed the Trophée des Champions and opening four Ligue 1 games, only returning after the close of the transfer window.

(Source: BBC)

Messi trains ahead of UCL opener

Lionel Messi handed Barcelona a fitness boost on Sunday as he returned to full training ahead of Tuesday’s Champions League opener against Borussia Dortmund in Germany, a source has told ESPN FC.

The source also revealed that Messi took part in a mini-game with his teammates on Friday, too. The Argentine wasn’t present for the 15 minutes which were open to the media, but did emerge afterwards as he stepped up his recovery from a calf injury.

Messi, 32, injured his calf in his first training session of preseason on Aug. 5, ruling him out of the club’s tour of the United States. Barca initially expected him to be out for three weeks but he has still not returned and has not featured in any of their four league games to date.

As Ernesto Valverde said on Friday, he’s unlikely to be rushed back or risked against Dortmund, but he is in line to make his first appearance of the season against Granada next Saturday.

However, he could still travel to Germany this week -- although that doesn’t mean he will play. Barca fly to Dortmund on Monday, with the squad expected to be announced by Valverde as close to their flight as possible.

Ousmane Dembele is also closing in on a return to action. The France forward did some light training with his teammates on Sunday but is still a week or so away from a first-team comeback.

Dembele injured his hamstring in the opening day defeat at Athletic Bilbao and was ruled out for five weeks.

(Source: ESPN)

Marquez wins San Marino MotoGP

Spaniard Marc Marquez snatched victory on the final lap at the San Marino Grand Prix on Sunday to close in on a sixth world title.

The Honda rider, starting on the second row, took a third MotoGP win in Misano ahead of France’s Fabio Quartararo, on a Yamaha-SRT, who had the lead for most of the race.

“At the end I just decided to go for it,” said Marquez, who had been pipped at the line at the last two races in Silverstone and the Dutch GP.

Five-time world champion Marquez won the 77th Grand Prix of his career in all categories to overtake British legend Mike ‘the bike’ Hailwood.

The 26-year-old has won 51 MotoGP races, 16 Moto2 and ten Moto3. Marquez now has a 93-point lead on Italian Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso with six races left this season. Dovizioso finished sixth on Sunday on front of his home crowd.

Pole sitter Maverick Vinales completed the podium for Yamaha. “It was a very tough race,” said Quartararo, 20. “It was the first time that I battled like that with Marquez.”

Marquez has won five times in Misano and twice before in the MotoGP category in 2015 and 2017.

He matches Italian star Valentino Rossi’s record of three wins at the San Marino MotoGP.

Former seven-time world champion Rossi -- who last won in Misano in 2014 -- finished fourth in his home race.

In Moto2, Spaniard Augusto Fernandez also snatched victory on the final lap to make it back-to-back wins after Silverstone.

The 21-year-old Kalex rider audacious overtaking move on the final lap gave him victory over Italian pole sitter Fabio Di Giannantonio.

(Source: Guardian)

Luis Suarez dedicates goal against Valencia to Luis Enrique’s late daughter Xana



five-month battle with bone cancer and had died from the illness aged nine.

The 49-year-old managed Barcelona between 2014 and 2017, and Xana was seen

with her father many times during trophy celebrations such as the 2015 Champions League triumph.

In June, Enrique chose to step down as

Spain coach less than a year into the job in order to spend more time with and help take care of his daughter.

■ **Suarez dedicates goal to Xana**

After scoring against Valencia at the Nou Camp, Suarez devoted the goal to the late Xana Enrique in what was a truly touching gesture.

The 32-year-old looked to the sky and crossed his two index fingers together to create an ‘X’, which, of course, represents the ‘X’ in the name Xana.

Not only did Suarez play under Enrique for the first three years of his Barcelona career, the Uruguayan is also very close with his former manager’s family.

Suarez has two sons but his daughter Delfina went to the same school as Xana and the two girls shared a good relationship.

Barca’s motto is “Mes que un club” (more than a club) and it was heartwarming to see Xana remembered by Suarez in the Catalans’ first home game since the news of her passing. (Source: Caught Offside)

Test marathon gives Tokyo a taste of what to expect at 2020 Games



Tokyo held a marathon on Sunday as a test case for whether organizers, athletes, and spectators can cope with sweltering temperatures expected during next year’s Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games.

Sunday’s race featured tents equipped with mist machines for spectators. Officials handed out ice cubes and ice scarves to families waiting in the sun. At some of the rest stops officials said they also planned to give out plastic hand-held fans.

Runners were optimistic that the athletes would be able to deal with the heat during next year’s Olympics, but some spectators expressed concerns about cheering runners in sweltering conditions.

“Yesterday it was cool, but near the end (of the race) the sun came out,” said Rei Ohara, who collapsed after finishing third in the women’s race.

“Then I felt the heat but the organizers gave us ice and water so I think it was a race that was easy to run for everyone.”

Organizers have been sweating over how to protect athletes from heat stroke and keep spectators cool during Tokyo’s notoriously hot and muggy summers.

Temperatures in Tokyo during July and August, when the city will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games, commonly exceed 30 degrees Celsius (86°F), with high humidity adding to people’s discomfort.

On Sunday, temperatures were as high as 30 degrees, but hovered around 22 degrees in shaded tents next to the road.

“We will analyze all of the know-how and measurements we were able to gain today to improve our measures to combat heat,” Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike told reporters.

Organizers plan to start the marathons at 6 a.m. next year to avoid midday heat, with major roads on much of the 26-mile (42 km) course painted with a resin that the

organizer say will reflect infrared rays to cut temperatures as much as eight degrees Celsius.

Sunday’s test race began at around 8:50 a.m. for men and 9:10 a.m. for women.

Last month, heat concerns prompted the International Triathlon Union to shorten the distance of the run segment in a qualifying event in Tokyo for the July 24-Aug. 9 Olympics.

Hideo Nakatani and his wife Kuniko had travelled from their neighborhood in Machida in Tokyo to cheer on the runners in the marathon Sunday morning.

Both are avid runners and worried that Tokyo’s summer temperatures might affect the runners next year.

“I know the actual event will be held earlier in the day next year but it’s still going to be humid and really hot,” said 66-year-old Hideo, who wore a hat, sunglasses and iced scarf around his neck.

“We will probably have to be really prepared for the sun when we come as spectators next year.”

Heat was not a problem last time Tokyo hosted the games in 1964 because it opened in October. Since 1976, however, most summer games in the northern hemisphere have been held in the middle of summer to fit with global broadcasting schedules.

At a beach volleyball test event in July the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT), which factors in temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation, as rising as high as 31.7, exceeded 31, a threshold at which authorities urge citizens against exercise.

The top two finishers in Sunday’s race won spots at next year’s Summer Games. In the men’s race Shogo Nakamura came first ahead of Yuma Hattori. Honami Maeda won the women’s race with Ayuko Suzuki coming in second.

(Source: Reuters)

Amid talk of revamp, Europe’s giants begin Champions League assault



While the battle for the Champions League of the future is fought behind the scenes, this week the continent’s biggest clubs begin their latest quest for European glory with holders Liverpool dreaming of reaching another final in Istanbul.

The current 32-team group stage format leading to a knockout round of 16 was introduced in 2003. Since then, an ever smaller group of clubs has competed to win the trophy, with the last 15 champions coming from Spain, England, Germany or Italy.

There is a consensus that it is time for a change, and the European Club Association, chaired by Juventus chief Andrea Agnelli, has been busy working with UEFA on plans to completely revamp the competition from 2024.

Moves towards even more of a closed shop for the elite have stalled because of dissent from some clubs and from domestic leagues, but change is coming.

“We are confident of finding a good format for after 2024 that includes of course the big clubs, mid-size countries and also a possibility for, let’s say, the smaller countries but also with history to find their place in the European football scene,” said Ajax CEO Edwin van der Sar last week.

Of course Ajax have extra determination to ensure their voice is heard. The Dutch champions enchanted Europe on their run to the semi-finals last season but entered this season’s tournament in the third qualifying round. There was no special treatment for them.

Meanwhile, for the likes of Agnelli’s Juventus, Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich, the Champions League has become the be all and end all due to a lack of competition domestically.

It is easy to see why they might like more games against the best teams from around Europe, along with more money.

For now, the Champions League winners stand to take home around 75 million euros (\$83 million; £66.6 million). On top of that will be added considerable sums from television along with money depending on each team’s UEFA ranking.

This rewards past success, guaranteeing the top-ranked team, Real Madrid, a further 35.46 million euros. For holders Liverpool that added figure is nearer 27 million euros.

The financial strength of the Premier League’s top clubs means they are less eager for change to the Champions League, and it also helps explain why all four European finalists last season were English.

After beating Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in Madrid to lift their sixth European Cup, can Liverpool reach a third straight final? This season’s showpiece will be played in Istanbul, scene of their remarkable triumph in 2005.

“We have the same chance like everyone else, but that is all, and I don’t see us, the English teams, dominating. I really think a lot of teams have a good chance,” insisted Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Liverpool begin their campaign in Italy against Napoli in one of the standout early ties. There are plenty of games to whet the appetite, although the genuine, meaningful drama will not arrive until the knockout rounds.

The latter stages have arguably become more exciting than ever, epitomized by last season’s semi-finals and sensational comebacks by Liverpool and Spurs against Barcelona and Ajax.

There have been more than three goals per game on average in the knockout rounds in each of the last three seasons.

But while Ajax’s performance has shown the way forward for clubs from smaller leagues, predicting who reaches the last 16 this season may not prove too challenging.

(Source: AFP)

Tyson Fury defeats Otto Wallin in brutal Las Vegas fight



determination - if I can keep going I will do. He was 20-0 and didn’t know how to lose, but I was the better man.”

Wallin said: “I did everything I could, I tried my best and Tyson is a great champion. Nobody can question my heart or question that I’m a good fighter.”

A heavy shot from Wallin in the 12th offered one more threat at the end of a tussle which thrilled those in the arena. With Fury bloodied and grinding out shots, cries of “Tyson, Tyson, Tyson” poured down to ringside, dragging more from him.

Wallin, who lost for the first time in 21 outings, was seen as an easy night’s work on Fury’s route to a rematch with

Tyson Fury battled to a rugged points win over Otto Wallin as he fought for over nine rounds with heavy cuts to maintain his unbeaten record in a dramatic bout in Las Vegas.

The 31-year-old Briton, a 1-25 favourite with bookmakers, was expected to walk through Sweden’s Wallin but a deep wound above his right eye was repeatedly checked by the ringside doctor, prompting moments of stunned silence at the T-Mobile Arena.

It was a punch in the third round that drew blood above the eye and Fury displayed greater urgency when officials began to show concern, switching from patient boxing to planting his feet in a bid to land heavy, destructive shots.

A barrage in the ninth forced Wallin to sway, before a hard right hand piled him into the ropes in the 11th as Fury came through the type of examination few expected with a unanimous 116-112 117-111 118-110 points win.

Fury was taken to hospital after the fight, with promoter Frank Warren confirming he was set to have micro-surgery on the cuts - one above the eye and one on the eye-lid.

“It was a great fight,” said Fury afterwards. “I got caught on the eye and that changed the fight. For the majority, I could not see out of the eye, then there was a clash of heads and I got cut again.

“It was a good 12 rounds, he was tough. It’s all heart and

WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, but the Swede’s come-forward tactics delivered a true scrap.

Had the bout been stopped because of the cuts, Wallin would have won by technical knockout, and with ringside medics checking the gash during the sixth and before the seventh round, Fury was nearing a crisis scenario.

Just as he did when he climbed from the canvas to force Wilder backwards in the final round of their December thriller, the Briton fought fire with fire. His punches became menacing, his face filled with anger rather than poise and two huge right hands sent Wallin backwards in the seventh.

A hard hook on the ropes in the ninth began another onslaught, with Fury glaring into the eyes of his resilient rival on the bell like a man possessed.

Wallin’s trainer, Joey Gamache, clutched his towel in the 10th and the concern on his face made it appear he may draw an end to proceedings. His charge deserves immense credit after what was his first bout since the death of his father.

And Fury, too, deserves plaudits as he showed an orthodox stance, southpaw stance, hit and move tactics, and, ultimately, immense grit in his fifth bout since a 30-month spell out of the sport. Not for the first time in recent memory, he served up a compelling watch in testing circumstances.

(Source: BBC)

Iranian female weightlifters to make history at IWF Worlds

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran will send four women to the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Weightlifting Championships for the first time ever.

The prestigious competition will kick off on Sept. 18 and will run for nine days in Pattaya, Thailand.

The entry list showed record-setting numbers, including a total of 734 athletes from 105 nations. Out of those athletes, 339 women are set to compete alongside 395 men.

This number of female weightlifters participating is a promising sign ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where gender equality is at the forefront. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the number of male and female weightlifters will be equal for the first time ever in Olympic history, barband.com reported.

According to the IWF, there are some countries that include more women athletes than men. Some of these teams with more women representing them include Brazil, Denmark, Great Britain, and Ecuador.

For context, in 2017, the Iranian Weightlifting Federation announced that women weightlifters from the country could officially compete in the sport, and now two years later Iranian female weightlifters will make history at the IWF Worlds.

Poupak Basami, who wrote her name into the history book as the first Iranian woman to participate at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, will represent the country in the 55kg weight category.

Abrisham Arjomandkhah (64kg), Elham Hosseini (71kg) and Parisa Jahanfekrian (87kg) are the other Iranian women participating in the competition.

The Iranian female team will be headed by Maryam Amrollah in the competition.

The Iranian sportswomen have shown that they have the potential to make the nation proud after shining in the international events in the last years.



Iranian football commentator suspended until further notice for awful blunder



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian long-standing football commentator Alireza Alifar has been suspended until further notice after making an awful blunder during live coverage of La Liga game Real Madrid and Levante.

Alifar said Levante's No. 17 player is Seyed Jalal Hosseini while Nikola Vukcevic plays with this number in the La Liga side.

Jalal Hosseini is Iran's Persepolis captain and the mistake quickly went viral

across social media.

Public relation of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting made an announcement that Alifar will no longer commentate in the TV.

Alifar is an Iranian football commentator. In football broadcasting, a football commentator (also known as football announcer, sportscaster and also play-by-play announcer) explains a running commentary of a football match in real time, always during a live broadcast.

Reza Ghoochannejhad scores four goals against RKC Waalwijk



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian Zwolle forward Reza Ghoochannejhad scored four goals in less than half an hour against RKC Waalwijk in Eredivisie on Sunday.

He came off the bench in the 56th minute as a replacement for Dennis Johnsen.

Gucci scored his first goal four minutes after his arrival. He also scored in 81st, 83rd and 88th minutes. Zwolle defeated RKC Waalwijk 6-2 in sixth week.

Ghoochannejhad joined Dutch Eredivisie side PEC Zwolle from APOEL in early September.

He is the first player in Eredivisie history with four goals after coming on as a substitute. Ghoochannejhad represented Iran national football team in the 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups.

He remained an unused substitute in all three matches against Morocco, Spain and Portugal in 2018 World Cup.

Iran Greco-Roman wrestler Abdvali wins bronze at world championship

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Saeid Abdvali from Iran claimed a bronze medal at the 2019 Wrestling World Championships (WWC) in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan on Sunday.

He defeated Ukraine's Iurii Shkriuba 7-0 in the 82kg

class bronze medal match.

Qian Haitao from China also won a bronze after defeating Nurbek Khashimbekov from Uzbekistan.

Gold medal went to Georgian Lasha Gobadze who defeated Azerbaijan's Rafiq Huseynov 5-3 in the final.

The top six finishers in each weight class will earn the Olympics berth.

The 2019 World Wrestling Championships are being held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from 14 September to 22 September, 2019.

Spain beat Argentina 95-75 to win FIBA World Cup

Three-time All-Star Marc Gasol became only the second man to win an NBA crown and the World Cup in the same year after Spain triumphed aside Argentina 95-75 on Sunday.

Spain, who survived double overtime against Australia to reach the final, led throughout in Beijing to win international basketball's biggest prize a second time.

The only previous occasion was in 2006 with the two Gasol brothers, Marc and older sibling Pau, on the team. Pau did not feature in China because of injury.

The latest triumph was particularly sweet for the 34-year-old centre Gasol, who three months ago also played a key part in the Toronto Raptors' run to the NBA title.

Gasol, who had 14 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, joins Lamar Odom, a double winner in 2010 with the United States and Los Angeles Lakers.

Surprise finalists Argentina had not triumphed since they hosted the inaugural World Cup in 1950.



As a contest, the final was over by the fourth quarter -- although the Argentines did rally belatedly to reduce

Spain's previously mighty lead.

Fans of both teams had made it feel more like a football match, decked out in their national colours, chanting loudly and refusing to sit down.

Spain, for whom Ricky Rubio of the Phoenix Suns have been one of the leading players of the tournament in China, surged into a 14-2 lead.

In front of a capacity crowd, Argentina's 39-year-old talisman Luis Scola could not escape the attentions of Pierre Oriola.

Led by their slick-haired Italian coach Sergio Scariolo, Spain were up 21-14 going into the second quarter and increased their advantage to 43-31 at half-time.

With Rubio prominent, drilling 20 points, Spain never looked like surrendering their lead, repeatedly thwarting Argentina's suffocated offence.

(Source: beinsports.com)

All to play for on final day

Islamic Republic of Iran are in pole position, but three teams remain in contention ahead of the decisive day of the 2019 CAFA U-15 Women's Championship in Uzbekistan on Monday.

Back-to-back wins mean Shadi Mahini's side need only a point against Uzbekistan in the sixth and final match of the competition to be champions, but a defeat against the hosts -- who are the only side without a chance

to claim the title -- could open the door for either Kyrgyz Republic or Tajikistan, who play earlier on Monday.

Should the match between Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan end in a draw, Iran -- who already have six points -- will be crowned champions regardless of their result against Uzbekistan.

Captain Mohaddesh Zolfi has been key to Iran's success in Tashkent, scoring twice

in her side's opening 4-0 win over Tajikistan on Friday, before scoring the winner in Saturday's 1-0 win over Kyrgyz Republic.

Kyrgyz Republic began their tournament with a superb 6-2 win over Uzbekistan, with Alana Karateva helping herself to four goals as Zamir Igrebayev's charges stunned the hosts on Friday.

Uzbekistan's chances suffered a blow as a result of that defeat, and their title chances

were dashed once and for all when Tajikistan's Rukhshona Fayzulloeva netted a brace to help her side claim a 2-0 win the following day.

While the hosts can no longer challenge for the top honor in the tournament, both Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan will be hoping their neighbors can do them a favor as the race to become regional champions goes down to the wire.

(Source: the-afc)

Mr. Olympia 2019: Hadi Choopan of Iran Wins People Choice Award

Professional bodybuilder Hadi Choopan, also known as the Iranian Wolf, has stunned the world by claiming the third overall title and the people's choice award at the 2019 Mr. Olympia competition held in Las Vegas.



By winning the people's choice award, Choopan dethroned 2018 winner Roelly Winklaar in the 55th Mr. Olympia competition, a weekend-long bodybuilding contest.

Brandon Curry won the overall title and became the new Mr. Olympia. William Bonac also won the second title. The fourth and fifth places also went to Dexter Jackson and Roelly Winklaar.

In his first ever Olympia 2019 posing routine, Choopan started out impressively in the Men's Open during the Friday night's prejudging, where he surprised the judges and spectators by standing among the top 4.

Only one Iranian bodybuilder had succeeded to compete in Mr. Olympia games before Choopan. Late athlete, Beitollah Abbaspoor, had ranked 5th in 2014.

(Source: IFP)

Branko Ivankovic sacked by Al Ahli

PLDC — Saud Arabian football club Al Ahli sacked Branko Ivankovic following poor results in the Saudi Professional League.

Ivankovic was appointed as Al Ahli coach on a two-year contract in June after parting company with Iranian football club Persepolis.

The 65-year-old replaced local coach Yousif Anbar who had been installed as caretaker in April following the dismissal of Uruguayan manager Jorge Fossati who lasted just over two months at Al Ahli.

Under coaching of Ivankovic, Al Ahli failed to book a place at the quarterfinals of the AFC Champions League 2019 after losing to Al Hilal.

The Croat coach has reportedly reached an agreement with a Chinese club.

Vice-president says stadiums prepared for entry of women

IRNA — Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs Hossein Ali Amiri said on Sunday that the Government has carried out preparatory works for entry of women to the stadiums as soon as possible.

Amiri said that women's presence in the stadiums need some special arrangements like special separate gates, special area for women, and services, which are being prepared in all big stadiums of the country as per the guidelines of Minister of Sport and Youth Masoud Soltanifar.

Amiri said that Iranian women will definitely practice Islamic values in the stadiums as well. He hoped that women can watch sports events in the stadiums in the near future.

He said that decision has been communicated to the stadiums as an administrative guideline and doesn't need a parliament bill or law to be passed.

Entering stadiums was among the demands of women and could not be neglected, he said.

Women will go to watch the game between Iran and Cambodia due to be held on October 10 in Azadi Stadium of Tehran.

Iranian women also came to the stadium to watch Iran-Bolivia match last year and also the match between Iran's Persepolis and Japan's Kashima.

The President of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Gianni Infantino came to Iran before Noruz, calling for the women be allowed to go to stadiums in his meeting with President Hassan Rouhani.

Padideh move top of IPL

TASNIM — Padideh football team edged past Machine Sazi 1-0 and moved top of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

Hossein Mehrban scored the only goal of the match in the 26th minute for the visiting team.

In Ahvaz, Sepahan and Foolad played out a goalless draw.

On Sunday, Zob Ahan will host Tractor, Naft Masjed Soleyman play Esteghlal, Shahin Bushehr meet Paykan and Saipa face Nassaji.

Padideh sit top of the table with nine points from three matches. Sepahan are second with seven points.

Alireza Beiranvand says goodbye to Iran's football

PLDC — Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand reacted to his suspension.

The suspension will be no longer than one game. Beiranvand has been handed the suspension by Discipline Committee of Iran Football Federation for inappropriate behavior with Tractor's fans in Tabriz.

In response to his suspension, Beiranvand has said he is going to leave Iran football.

"From now on, I turn my phone off and go to my city," Beiranvand said.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are two types of subsistence, a subsistence that you seek, and a subsistence that seeks you. If you do not seek it, it will seek you.

Imam Ali (AS)

Controversial movie “Hussein, Who Said No” illegally uploaded on YouTube, Facebook, EarthLink

➔ The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance promised the clerics that it would only authorize the movie after some modifications. As a result, over 40 minutes of the original film were cut out.



Ascene fromAhmadrezaDarvish'smovie "Hussein, Who SaidNo". However, the alterations failed to placate the clerics and the culture ministry stopped screening the film hours after its premiere at Iranian theaters on July 15, 2015 following protests by them and certain people.

The culture ministry then announced that the film would be screened at Iranian theaters in the near future after additional modifications were made to the production. However, the film never hit the silver screens again.

Darvish and his producer filed a lawsuit against the culture ministry in a Tehran court, which ruled that the culture ministry must buy shares in the movie as compensation.

Consequently, the Farabi Cinema Foundation and Iranian Visual Media Institute, two organizations affiliated with the culture ministry, bought shares in the production.

The ministry allowed the film to be screened in international events. It won the grand prize for the best full-length feature at the 7th Baghdad International Film Festival in Iraq in October 2015.

Literati to commemorate Shahriar in Tabriz, Tehran

CULTURE TEHRAN — Literati will gather in Tehran and Tabriz to commemorate Iranian poet Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi (1906-1988), who wrote under the pseudonym Shahriar.

Iranians commemorate Shahriar on his death anniversary, September 18, which is also Iran's National Day of Poetry and Literature. The program will begin on Tuesday at the mausoleum of Shahriar in his birthplace Tabriz, the organizers announced on Sunday.

The program will continue at Tehran's Milad Tower on Wednesday. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi is expected to deliver a speech.

Shahriar, who also composed works in Azerbaijani, was mainly influenced by the poetry of Hafez.

He published his first book of poems in 1929 with prefaces by Persian literature scholars Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, Sa'ed Nafisi and Pejman Bakhtiari.

"Heidar Babaya Salam" is Shahriar's most famous Azerbaijani poetry collection, which highlights his birthplace, the village of Heidar Baba.

Tehran short film festival unveils intl. lineup

A R T TEHRAN — A lineup of 50 movies from 25 countries will go on screen in various sections of the international competition of the 36th Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF), the organizers announced on Sunday.

The films will be competing in the four categories of animated, fiction, experimental and documentary films.

"Monsieur Henderson" by Thomas Scohy from France, "Cowboy" by Frederic Zeimet from Luxembourg, "Brotherhood" by Meryam Joobeur from Canada and "Ashmina" by Dekel Berenson from Nepal will be screened in the fiction section.

"Atomkraftwerk Zwentendorf", a co-production between Austria and the U.S. by Hope Tucker, and "Grandfather Fire" by Emir Luciano Tlachi from Spain are among the films to compete in the documentary section.

"Armed Lullaby" by Yana Ugrehelidze from Germany will compete with nine other films in the animation section, while five films will be screened in the experimental section.

The 36th Tehran International Short Film Festival will take place in the Iranian capital from November 10 to 15.

Iran, Turkey to produce movie on Rumi, Shams

A R T TEHRAN — Iran and Turkey will collaborate on a joint film project, which will focus on the lives of the Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi, the wandering sage who later became the mentor of Rumi in the 13th century CE.

Hassan Fat'hi, director of the popular Iranian TV series "The Tenth Night", "Zero Degree Orbit" and "Shahrzad", will direct the movie titled "Drunk on Love", a public relations team for the movie announced on Sunday.

Palme d'Or winning actor Shahab Hosseini from Iran is due to play the role of Shams. He was named best actor for his role in Asghar Farhadi's "The Salesman" at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.

A cast and crew of A-list Iranian and Turkish actors will join the project in the near future.

The entire film will shot in Konya, a Turkish town that is home to the mausoleum of Rumi.

Fat'hi and Farhad Tohidi are co-writing the screenplay, and Mehran Borumand from Iran and an unnamed person from Turkey will collaborate as producers on the project.

Rumi (1207-1273) undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish, Shams.

However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit in Konya on November 30, 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.



Iranian filmmaker Hassan Fat'hi (R) directs Shahab Hosseini (L) and Taraneh Alidoosti in a scene from the popular romance series "Shahrzad".

Vancouver festival picks Iranian films

A R T TEHRAN — Five Iranian films will go on screen in various sections of the Vancouver International Film Festival in Canada.

Reza Mirkarimi's acclaimed drama "Castle of Dreams" and Ali Jaberansari's film "Tehran: City of Love" will be screened in the official competition of the festival, which will be held from September 26 to October 11.

"Castle of Dreams" is about two young children whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

"Tehran: City of Love" follows the stories of Mina, who is unhappy about her weight, Hessam, a retired bodybuilder who trains older men, and Vahid, who sings at funerals and weddings.

Tehran's Book City to review C. Beiser's studies on German Romanticism

CULTURE TEHRAN — Tehran's Book City Institute will organize a session on Tuesday to review German scholar Frederick C. Beiser's book "The Romantic Imperative: The Concept of Early German Romanticism".

The book has been translated into Persian by Masud Azarfaam and published by Qoqonus Publications in Tehran.

Translator Azarfaam along with experts Meysam Sefidkhosh and Masud Hosseini will be delivering lectures at the review session.

Beiser is a professor of philosophy at Syracuse University in New York. He is one of the leading English-language scholars of German idealism.

"The Early Romantics met resistance from artists and academics alike in part because they defied the conventional wisdom that philosophy and the arts must be kept separate," Amazon has written on its website about the book.

"Indeed, as the literary component of Romanticism has been studied and celebrated in recent years, its philosophical aspect has receded from view. This book, by one of the most respected scholars of the Romantic era, offers an explanation of Romanticism that not only restores but enhances understanding of the movement's origins, development, aims, and accomplishments, and of its continuing relevance," it adds.



The front cover of the Persian translation of Frederick C. Beiser's book "The Romantic Imperative: The Concept of Early German Romanticism".

Eddie Money, rock 'n' roll hitmaker and reality TV star, dies at 70

NEW YORK (Reuters) — American rock star Eddie Money, whose hits including "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On" formed part of the power pop soundtrack of the late 1970s and early 1980s, died in Los Angeles on Friday at age 70, his family said in a statement.

A joke-telling rocker with a New York swagger and a heart of gold, Money recently revealed on his reality television series "Real Money" that he had esophageal cancer. The remaining five episodes of the show, in its second season on AXS TV, deal with his cancer.

"I thought I was just going in to get a checkup, and he told me I got cancer," Money said in an episode that was taped in August and aired on Thursday.

Money said the news hit him "really, really hard" but that he decided to reveal the diagnosis because "I want to be honest with everybody."

"Am I going to live a long time? Who

knows, it's in God's hands. But you know what? I'll take every day I can get. Every day above ground is a good day," Money said.

Money was born Edward Joseph Mahoney on March 21, 1949, in Brooklyn, according to his website.

His father was a police officer, and the website said Money served as a New York City police officer for two years, although in a 2018 interview with Rolling Stone magazine, Money agreed he only entered the police training program.

"I would have been a very lenient cop," said Money, who played a cop in the video for his 1983 hit "Big Crash."

In 1968 he moved to Berkeley, California, where he began performing in local clubs, the website biography said.

After changing his name to Eddie Money in 1976, he met rock promoter Bill Graham, who helped the careers of the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and other major



(An undated handout photo of Eddie Money released to Reuters on September 13, 2019. (Kevin Foley/Handout via Reuters)

acts. Graham would serve as mentor and manager to Money.

His debut album "Eddie Money" came out in 1977 with the big hits "Two Tickets to Paradise" and "Baby Hold On." In all he sold

more than 28 million records, his website said.

His 1982 hit "Think I'm in Love" was also a breakthrough video in the early days of MTV, and the 1986 album "Can't Hold Back" featured the No. 4 hit "Take Me Home Tonight" in which Money sings a duet with Ronnie Spector, helping revive the career of the former Ronettes singer.

Despite spending most of his life on the West Coast, where he became a fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Money retained some of his Brooklyn accent and carried himself as a wisecracking New Yorker.

"His one-of-a-kind sense of humor endeared him instantly to everyone he met," Mark Cuban, the billionaire investor and founder of AXS TV, said in a statement.

He was also known to be generous with up-and-coming rockers.

Money is survived by his wife, Laurie Money, daughter Jessica, and four sons: Zachary, Joseph, Desmond and Julian.

Springsteen's "Western Stars" scores standing ovation at Toronto Film Festival

TORONTO (Reuters) - Bruce Springsteen's concert movie "Western Stars" received a standing ovation at its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival on Thursday, with the rock star describing it as a "continuation of the stories" he has told throughout his career.

In Western Stars, Springsteen performs songs from his latest album of the same title, but the film also features clips from his earlier years, and wide, sweeping shots of the landscape of the American West which served

as inspiration.

Popularly known as "The Boss", Springsteen also narrates in parts.

"It's just a continuation of the stories I've been writing my whole career," he told journalists on the red carpet before the screening. "And I hope that it's something, that it's inspiring and fun and people enjoy it."

Throughout his career, the New Jersey-born singer-songwriter has repeatedly returned to the experience of

American blue-collar lives for the themes of his music.

Co-director Thom Zimny described how he used the emotion of the music to frame the film's evocative images.

"I was really responding to the sonic qualities of the strings, and the sonic qualities that I found on the album I thought would translate into a great cinematic experience," Zimny said.

The film will be released in the United States on Oct. 25.