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Trilateral summit on Syria

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INSTEX chairman visiting Iran

TEHRAN — Chairman of INSTEX Michael Erhard Bock, who is visiting Tehran to discuss the implementation of the instrument with senior Iranian officials, met with the Head of German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce (AHK Iran) Dagmar von Bohnstein on Monday.

As reported by the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), during his visit to the German-Ira-

nian Chamber of Commerce, Bock also held talks with representatives of Iranian and German companies and discussed various trade issues including barriers in the way of financial transactions.

During his stay in Tehran, Bock is scheduled to meet with the officials of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and CEO of Iran's Special Trade and Finance Instrument (STFI). **->4**

No Rouhani-Trump meeting on agenda

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi confirmed on Monday that a meeting between President Hassan Rouhani and U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly is not on the agenda.

"As Mr. Rouhani said, we do not seek to hold meeting just for the sake of taking a photo," he said during a press conference.

He added, "As we have announced before, if the United States returns to the JCPOA [the 2015 nuclear deal] and stop economic terrorism, it can return to the meeting of the [JCPOA] Joint Commission and hold talks."

In August, Rouhani said, "If someone just seeks to take photo with Hassan Rouhani, it is not possible unless they remove all the cruel sanctions and respect the Iranian people's rights." **->2**

Hezbollah's new missile specialized in 'destroying all battleships'

TEHRAN — A missile recently unveiled by Hezbollah is capable of destroying all kinds of military battleships, a twitter account affiliated to the Lebanese resistance movement says.

The weapon is "specialized in destroying all military battleships of all kinds, and annihilating all who are on board," it said under a photo of the new missile.

The tweet, widely covered in the Israeli media, said the surface-to-sea missile was

unveiled by the resistance group about a month and a half ago.

Last month, Hezbollah released footage and pictures of an anti-ship missile that struck the INS Hanit, a Sa'ar 5-class corvette of the Israeli navy built by Northrop Grumman, during the 2006 Second Lebanon War. According to the Israeli military, four soldiers were killed in one of the most significant attacks in the war. **->13**

Iran says U.S. hasty claims about strikes on Aramco harmful to all

TEHRAN — Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Monday that the United States' claims about Iran's role in the drone strikes on the Saudi Aramco oil installations were "hasty" and will be harmful to all countries in the region. "We should see who benefit from such actions. This action is natural reflection of repeated suppression of a society," Rabiei said during a press conference.

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."

In response, 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.

He said blaming Iran for the dangers ensuing the Saudi-led war on Yemen "won't end the disaster".

'No talks under sanctions'

Rabiei also said that Tehran will not hold talks with Washington under sanctions.

"If [U.S. President Donald] Trump takes the necessary actions and rebuild the trust, the talks

can be continued within the framework of 5+1 group," he said.

He noted that removal of all sanctions is the prerequisite to start of "constructive diplomacy".

"This issue is not pre-condition. I believe it is the most natural right of ours. In order to prove its determination and honesty, the United States should respect the Iranian people apart from lifting sanctions. Currently, we do not see the situation (is not ripe) to hold bilateral talks," he said.

President Hassan Rouhani hold a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday, during which he said that it makes no sense to hold talks with the U.S. when sanctions against Iran are in place. **->2**

Geopolitical expert talks of U.S. plan to grab Saudi oil share from global market

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN (MNA) — Anthony Cartalucci says it surely is no coincidence the US is targeting virtually every major energy producer from Iran, Venezuela, and Russia, but also including its own "allies" such as Saudi Arabia.

Following drone attacks on Saudi oil plants by Yemenis, the White House said on Saturday that the United States was committed to keeping oil markets well-supplied in the wake of an attack on Saudi Arabian oil plants by Yemen's Houthi group.

many believe since the US has become a major oil producer in the world it is trying to grab the share of the major oil producing countries in global energy market by different tools like sanctioning and creating tensions.

Sanctioning Iran, Russia and Venezuela in recent years can be interpreted in this context. To this end even the US is trying to grab its regional ally's share, Saudi Arabia.

To touch upon the issue we reached out to Bangkok-based geopolitical researcher Anthony Cartalucci.

Referring to US real goal of creating tensions in the Persian Gulf and dragging Saudi Arabia to the quagmire of Yemen war, he said, "The US is positioning itself as an exporter of energy. However its gas and oil is more expensive to extract, process, and ship overseas. By disrupting existing major exporters and raising prices, the US is able to make its own exports more competitive. It surely is no coincidence the US is targeting virtually every major energy producer from Iran,

Venezuela, and Russia, but also including its own "allies" such as Saudi Arabia."

He added, "The resulting conflict is also a huge boon for America's other major export - weapons."

Cartalucci went on to say, "The US has used Saudi Arabia as a pawn for decades - encouraging the worst and most unsustainable kinds economic and foreign policies, keeping them dependent on US protection and placing them directly at the center of US-driven conflict in the Middle East."

In addition to the energy oriented implications of this recent incident - the attacks and how they are being exploited by the White House helps move forward Washington's plans to provoke wider conflict with Iran. **->13**

ARTICLE

Ebrahim Fallahi
Tehran Times journalist

Attack on Saudi oil facilities: consequences and solutions

As expected, oil markets started Monday trading with an unprecedented jump in prices following the attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities which wiped nearly five percent of the global oil supply from the market.

Drone attacks claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Saturday struck two of Saudi Aramco's major oil facilities in Khurais and Abqaiq - the world's largest oil processing facility and crude oil stabilization plant.

Now, few days after the attacks, global oil markets are waiting to see how the disrupted oil is going to be compensated for.

Will Saudis be able to get their production back to its full capacity in a short period of time? If not, what are the options for replacing the lost barrels to keep the market in balance?

The market's reaction

A few hours after the strikes, Aramco released a statement confirming that production of 5.7 million barrels of crude (more than half of the kingdom's output) was affected by the attacks.

Aramco's statement sparked a wave of panic in the oil markets across the globe, causing for bets on oil prices to go as high as \$100.

As it was expected, in the first minutes of the Monday morning trades, Brent crude jumped \$12 to reach \$71 per barrel, posting its biggest ever surge in a day.

The market's significant reaction to the incident could also be translated as an indication of the skepticism about the promises of recovery by the Saudis or vows of taping into emergency oil reserves by the United States.

It is also a manifestation of yet another aspect of the world's energy cycle, that is the realization about the vulnerability of the global oil market and the magnitude of the impact of geopolitical factors on this market.

As Ed Morse from Citigroup Inc. wrote in a research note, "No matter whether it takes Saudi Arabia five days or a lot longer to get oil back into production, there is but one rational takeaway from this weekend's drone attacks on the Kingdom's infrastructure -- that infrastructure is highly vulnerable to attack, and the market has been persistently mispricing oil." **->5**

REPORT

Faranak Bakhtiari
Tehran Times journalist

World Ozone Day: Iran well rid of ozone-depleting emissions

Iran has reduced 9,800 tons of ozone-depleting emissions over the past 26 years as part of its commitment to the Montreal Protocol, phasing out the chemical substances responsible for ozone layer depletion while making efforts to cut another 2,000 tons.

Observed on September 16, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated every year across the globe since December 2000. This year was held with the theme of "32 years and healing"; showing over three decades of international cooperation.

32 years ago, use of harmful man-made chemicals began eating away at the ozone, the hole over Antarctica was first discovered by the British Antarctic Survey in 1985.

Therefore, 197 countries signed "the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer" to cut short of the substances that deplete the ozone layer; the United Nations (UN) enforced it in 1989, which is now considered the most successful international environmental treaty.

The ozone hole which was once the major environmental concern turned to the least important concern today; as the concentration of harmful emissions have considerably reduced by 14 percent since 2000.

The hole has been shrinking by 1-3 percent a decade.

However, the upper ozone layer above the Northern Hemisphere is said to be completely repaired in the 2030s, the gaping Antarctic ozone hole should disappear in the 2060s, according to a scientific assessment released in 2018 at a conference in Quito, Ecuador.

According to the UN, efforts to protect the ozone layer have also helped to tackle climate change by preventing the release of about 135 billion tons of carbon dioxide since 2010.

By the end of the century, eradicating Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) emissions not only can lead to the ozone layer repair but to reduce the temperature raise up to 0.4°C. **->12**



Reaping dates starts in Hormozgan province

As hot weather is gradually reaching its end, farmers with a help by women start to reap their date crops from palm trees in the village of Kenarou in Bandar Abbas, the coastal province of Hormozgan. Reaping dates will continue until the middle of Mehr (early October). It is estimated that production of date to reach 140,000 tons in the current Iranian year.

Lawmaker cautions nuclear deal may turn into 'worthless piece of paper'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A reformist parliamentarian has cautioned that if the Iranian rights under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) are not met, the international deal will turn into a "worthless piece of paper".

Mohammad Ali Vakili, a member of the Omid (Hope) bloc in the Majlis, said in an interview published on the Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center website on Sunday that it is reasonable for Iran to gradually reduce its commitments under the JCPOA now that the accord has no benefit for Iran.

"As a matter of fact, if a further step is to be taken to reduce Iran's commitments to the nuclear agreement, the agreement will lose its essence and will be rendered useless," he opined.

Vakili also said that Iran is reducing its obligations as a reciprocal step because the other parties are failing to fulfill their commitments.

In January 2016, the JCPOA was implemented between Iran and the P5+1 group (the U.S., Russia, China, UK, France and



Germany) in relation to Iran's nuclear program.

In May 2018, the U.S. announced its withdrawal from the deal and went on to

impose sanctions against Iran in November of the same year.

In order to preserve the agreements reached as part of the JCPOA, the European signatories of the deal stated in January 2019 that a financial mechanism for maintaining trade with Iran called INSTEX was underway, the benefits of it, however, yet remain to show up.

On May 8, 2019, Iran announced that it had ceased fulfilling its commitments regarding the sale of its surplus of 300 kilograms of uranium, as stated in the deal, basing its decision on the other signatories having not fulfilled their obligations.

On July 7, Iran announced that it would not be fulfilling another one of its commitments regarding limiting its enrichment of uranium to 3.67 percent.

On September 5, Iran announced that it was going to enrich uranium using next-generation centrifuges as part of the third step of reducing commitments under the JCPOA, and announced that a further step will be taken in 2 months' time, should the other signatories not fulfill their commitments.

Iran's nuclear knowledge to astound West, says Rouhani's aide

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hessameddin Ashena, an advisor to President Rouhani, says Iran's vast knowledge of nuclear technology would astonish Western countries.

"The limits of the science and technology in the nuclear field will not stop us anymore," Tasnim on Monday quoted Ashena as saying.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on Iran's steps to reduce its commitments to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which include putting aside certain limitations on its nuclear program.

Ashena reiterated that there will be no limits on nuclear research and development and "we will move towards the cutting-edge of science."

He also said Iran's "third step" in reducing its JCPOA commitments has multiple layers.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Na-



tions Security Council plus Germany signed an agreement in 2015, according to which Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in exchange for termination of sanctions.

However, since U.S. President Donald Trump assumed office, he has done everything in his power to derail other countries' efforts to preserve the JCPOA and finally, on May 8, 2019, he withdrew the U.S. from the multilateral accord.

Much of the international community has voiced strong opposition to the U.S. move and warned of its ramifications for the region and the world.

A year after the U.S. pullout from the JCPOA, Iran started to take steps at 60-day intervals to reduce its commitments to the deal. So far, Tehran has taken three steps in that regard.

Tehran says its reciprocal measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the Iranian economy from unilateral U.S. bans.

Rouhani said last week that Iran will take further steps to suspend its commitments in the future if necessary.

The president described the third step as the most important one compared to the previous two, adding, "If necessary, we will take further steps in the future."

Raisi: Iran to have Canada's assets seized in retaliation



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi has warned Canada that if it does not reverse its decision on confiscating Iran's assets, the Iranian Judiciary and Foreign Ministry will cooperate to identify Canada's assets through international bodies and have them seized.

"No country will be allowed to violate the rights of the Iranian nation under any circumstances," Raisi asserted, Tasnim reported.

The comments came days after it was reported that Canada had seized and sold some \$30 million worth of Iranian assets, including two buildings in Ottawa and Toronto, to "victims of terror attacks" that took place in Lebanon and Israel.

Iran has denied any role in the attacks which the courts have based their cases to appropriate the country's frozen assets.

"The Iranian nation has proved that it would not give in to force over any issue, and if Canada does not abandon this course of action and expropriates the Islamic Republic of Iran's assets, we will definitely launch a joint program in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary's international department, to detect Canada's properties," Raisi said.

"We will by no means remain silent on this issue," the top judge added.

Canada severed diplomatic relations with Iran in 2012. The country's pro-Israel lobby has been very influential in shaping Ottawa's anti-Iran policies.

Hatami meets Turkish counterpart in Ankara



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami met on Monday with his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar in Turkey's capital, Ankara.

According to the Anadolu Agency, Akar received Hatami with a military ceremony at the Turkish Defense Ministry, where national anthems of both countries were played.

Hatami greeted the escort of honor in Turkish language.

Following the ceremony, the ministers held a meeting in which regional security and defense issues were discussed.

Ankara was set to host a trilateral summit on Syria between the leaders of Turkey, Russia and Iran later on Monday.

The three countries were the guarantors of the Astana peace talks, which were launched on Jan. 23-24, 2017 with the aim of putting an end to the Syrian conflict.

Kazakhstan has hosted multiple rounds of talks on Syria since January 2017, backed by the three power brokers, most of which involved delegations from the Syrian government and opposition.

The 13th round of talks was held in Nursultan, the new name of Kazakhstan's capital, on August 1-2.

In this round of talks international bodies such as the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross were also present.

MP urges seizure of Canada-destined ships in retaliation

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A top Iranian lawmaker has denounced Canada's seizure of Iran's assets, saying Canadian shipments crossing the Strait of Hormuz should be confiscated by Iran in retaliation.

The ships and goods that set off from the Strait of Hormuz to the destination of Canada should be confiscated through an order, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said on Sunday, according to Fars.

He added that his proposal should be adopted as soon as possible.

Falahatpisheh, who is a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, maintained that courts in Iran should be authorized to seize Canadian government properties in Iran.

He also said that responding in kind to the illegal act would not suffice as Canada has not enough assets in Iran that could be subject to a similar court verdict.

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.

The report said 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.

Abbasali Kadkhodaei, the spokesman for the Guardian Council, has described the move by Canada 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, a law expert, tweeted on Saturday evening.

Iran says closely watching developments in Latin America

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker, has said Iran closely watches developments in Latin America, especially the hostile moves adopted by the U.S. government against Cuba and Venezuela.

"We are following the developments in the Latin American region, including the U.S. government's hostile actions against Cuba and Venezuela, with sensitivity," Amir Abdollahian said, Mehr reported.

He made the remarks at a meeting with Cuban Foreign Ministry Director General for Middle East and North Africa Affairs Hector Igarza Cabrera in Tehran on Sunday.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahian highlighted the importance of strengthening ties and cooperation between Iran and Cuba in different fields.

"The friendly and lasting relations between the two countries is a firm basis for promoting the level of bilateral relations in political, parliamentary, economic and cultural fields," he said.

The Iranian advisor further hailed the 40-year-old relations between the two countries, saying "there has been good cooperation between the two countries over the past four decades."

"Latin America and the leading countries in the region, including Cuba, are at the center of Iran's foreign policy," he added.

The Cuban diplomat, for his part, pointed to the good relations between the two countries, saying "Havana welcomes the development of political, economic and cultural ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Iranian, Cuban parliaments can play an important role in accelerating economic and trade cooperation between Tehran and Havana, Cabrera remarked.

Concluding his remarks, Cabrera thanked the Islamic Republic for its support for Cuba against the U.S. imperialist policies.

Anti-Iran allegations sign of U.S.-Saudi military bankruptcy: Yemen

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Mohammad al-Bakhiti, a member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, said the U.S.-Saudi allegations that Iran has led recent drone strikes on Saudi oil installations are indicative of their "political and military bankruptcy".

Speaking to Tasnim, Bakhiti pointed to the Saturday drone attacks on Saudi company Aramco's oil processing facilities and said, "American and Saudi radars are unable to intercept Yemeni aircraft."



"If they had been able to intercept the aircraft, they would have shot them down," he added.

The Yemeni official further rejected U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's claim that the drones come from Iran, saying there is no proof or evidence to substantiate the claim.

"Essentially, he (Pompeo) had to provide proof that the aircraft came from Iran but he didn't," he said, adding, "This is a military and political bankruptcy for Saudi Arabia and the United States."

The Yemeni forces on Saturday launched drone attacks on two plants at the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, including the world's biggest petroleum processing facility.

Pompeo put the blame for the 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 attacks against the Saudi positions came in retaliation for the continued massacre of civilians and destruction of Yemen's infrastructure by the coalition led by the Riyadh regime.

Yemen's defenseless people have been under massive attacks by the coalition for more than four years but Riyadh has reached none of its objectives in Yemen so far.

Since March 2015, Saudi Arabia and some of its Arab allies have been carrying out deadly airstrikes against the Houthis Ansarullah movement in an attempt to restore power to fugitive former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

Official UN figures say that more than 15,000 people have been killed in Yemen since the Saudi-led bombing campaign began.

The Saudi war has impacted over seven million children in Yemen who now face a serious threat of famine, according to UNICEF figures. Over 6,000 children have either been killed or sustained serious injuries since 2015. UN children's agency said. The humanitarian situation in the country has also been exacerbated by outbreaks of cholera, polio, and measles.

Gharibabadi named vice chairman of IAEA General Conference

TEHRAN (MNA) — Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, has been appointed as the vice president of the General Conference of the international body.

Gharibabadi is to serve as the Middle East and South Asia (Mesa) group's VP of the conference.

The 63rd annual regular session of the General Conference of IAEA kicked off on Monday at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. Strengthening the IAEA's safeguard and implementing them has been cited as the main topic of the conference.

Increasing use of nuclear sciences and technologies for the progress and development of countries are other topics that will be discussed in the conference.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, is taking part at the session.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	305917.2
IFX	4011.39

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,505 rials
GBP	52,405 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$65.57/b
WTI	\$59.52/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.51/b
Gold	\$1,506.15/oz
Silver	\$17.93/oz
Platinum	\$961.25/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Bank loans to economic sectors up over 30%

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian banking system's offered facilities to domestic economic sectors in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), stood at 2.188 quadrillion rials (about \$52.1 billion), rising 30.9 percent from the previous year's same period, IRIB reported.

According to the data provided by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), working capital loans paid to different economic sectors was above 1.3 quadrillion rials (about \$31.15 billion) accounting for 59.8 percent of the total provided facilities in the said period, registering a 27.7-percent increase from the previous year.

During the said period, the country's mining and industry sectors received 486.4 trillion rials (nearly \$11.6 billion) in the form of working capital loans, accounting for 37.2 percent of the total provided facilities.

Back in April, CBI reported that during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019) the country's banking system offered 7.737 quadrillion rials (about \$184.2 billion) facilities to domestic economic sectors to register a 26 percent from its previous year.

Working capital loans paid to different economic sectors was above 4.319 quadrillion rials (about \$102.8 billion) accounting for 55.8 percent of the total provided facilities in the said period, registering a 14-percent increase from the previous year.

INSTEX chairman visiting Iran

STFI, called SATMA in Persian, was established to ease INSTEX implementation. If the financial instrument is decided to become operational, Iran says there will be no problem having it run in the country.



Chairman of INSTEX Michael Erhard Bock (R) met with Head of German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce Dagmar von Bohnstein in Tehran on Monday.

Former German diplomat Michael Bock was appointed as the new chairman of EU trade mechanism with Iran dubbed "INSTEX" on June 6, 2019.

INSTEX is a special-purpose vehicle established in January 2019 by France, Germany and the United Kingdom to facilitate non-dollar trade with Iran in a bid to bypass the U.S. sanctions.

So far, INSTEX has not become operational despite intense efforts on all sides.

Philippines' CA deficit to widen until 2021, Fitch shows

The country's current account (CA) deficit would continue to widen until 2021 due to strong import growth, according to Fitch Ratings.

According to philstar.com, the debt watcher said the subdued export performance and generally strong import growth in 2020 and 2021 would keep the CA in a deficit of between 2.4 percent and 2.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

For 2019, Fitch said the country's CA shortfall may hit 2.4 percent of GDP due to weak export performance in the first half. Exports went down by 0.5 percent to \$34.22 billion from January to June compared to \$34.39 billion a year ago.

On the other hand, imports also declined by around one percent to \$53.12 billion from \$53.63 billion a year ago.

This translated to a 1.7 percent improvement in the trade deficit to \$18.9 billion from January to June compared to \$19.23 billion in the same period last year.

The CA position measures the net transfer of real resources between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. It consists of transactions in goods, services as well as primary and secondary income.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) expects a record CA deficit of \$10.1 billion this year, 27.8 percent wider than the \$7.9 billion shortfall recorded last year.

Iran's 5-month steel ingot output up 4% on year

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Production of steel ingot by Iran's 10 major producers exceeded 8.539 million tons in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), registering a four-percent rise from the same period last year, IRNA reported on Monday.

Production of other steel products also witnessed a nine-percent rise in the mentioned time span in comparison to the last year's same period.

As reported, over 5.834 million tons of such products were produced in the mentioned five months.

Iran's steel production capacity is projected to reach around 40 million tons this year (ends on March 19, 2020) with crude steel production reaching between 25 and 27 million tons.

According to the World Steel Organization (WSO), Iran became the world's tenth largest steel producer in 2018. The country is expected to become the world's seventh biggest steel producer by 2021, reaching 55 million tons of steel capacity.



According to the WSO's report, Iran produced 25 million tons of crude steel in 2018 which indicates 17.7 percent growth

from 21.2 million tons in 2017. Also, a recent report by the WSO says that production of crude steel in Iran

rose 7.1 percent during the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period of time in 2018.

It is while crude steel production in the world increased 4.5 percent in the first quarter of this year.

The country's crude steel production capacity will increase by 25 million tons within the next four years, according to a deputy director in Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Ardehsir Sa'd Mohammadi said that through such increase in crude steel output, the required feedstock for the plants will be properly supplied.

The official further lamented that of the 35 million tons of crude steel produced in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019), 25 million tons were used in the production process.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries where 68 types of minerals have been identified so far, including the world's largest deposits of copper, zinc and iron ore, which are tempting international investors.

'Oman, a good place for re-export of Iranian products'

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Oman is a good place for re-export of Iranian products especially during the sanction time, portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported quoting the head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce as saying.

Mohsen Zarrabi said that as the Arab country is a member of World Trade Organization (WTO) and has free trade agreements with many countries with them Iran has no direct ties, it could be a proper hub for the re-export of Iranian commodities to different markets of world.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of trade between Iran and Oman has increased to \$870 million during the first seven months of this year from \$557 million in the same period of time in the past year.

While the number of Iranian companies registered in Oman was just 263 in 2014

(when President Hassan Rouhani visited Muscat), the figure reached 1,163 by the end of 2018.

Iranian president's trip to Oman led to the all-out expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

Also, despite the U.S. reimposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic, Oman is getting closer to Iran both politically and economically. There is also the same approach adopted by Iran, as Iranian companies now prefer to conduct trade with Oman rather than the United Arab Emirates (UAE), given that the UAE is highly complying with the sanctions.

Iran is somehow replacing some of its previous strategic trade partners such as UAE with Oman, considering the Sultanate as an economic-trade hub.

During the current year there have been many meetings and negotiations between trade and economic officials from the state-run and private sectors of the two sides with

the aim of strengthening and expanding bilateral trade ties.

In a trip to Muscat in mid-July, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani met a number of Omani senior officials including Minister of Transport and Communications Ahmed Mohammed Salem Al-Futaisi and Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Masoud al Sunaid and emphasized the need for strengthening transport and infrastructure cooperation between the two countries in order to provide basis for expansion of trade ties.

During a meeting with Rahmani, Al-Futaisi welcomed economic cooperation with Iran in all areas, saying that Oman's policy is to develop relations with its neighbors, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it welcomes any strategy to expand all-out relations.

Sunaiday, for his turn, expressed his country's eagerness for boosting trade with Iran, saying, "The Islamic Republic of Iran



has significant capabilities and capacities that the two sides can tap in line with the national interests of the two countries."

Developing sea transport between the two sides, facilitating visa issuance for Iranian and Omani traders, rising number of Iranian companies in Oman and also more competitive prices of Iranian products in the Omani market compared to the past are some of the major reasons behind expanded economic cooperation between the two countries.

China's economy is getting worse. That makes a trade deal more likely

By Laura He

China's economic slowdown keeps getting worse. That could give the country incentive to repair its trading relationship with the United States and take more steps to stimulate its economy.

The country released data Monday that showed industrial production — an important indicator for China's economy — increased by just 4.4% in August compared to a year earlier.

That's worse than the sector's performance in July, when it grew by 4.8%, its weakest growth in 17 years.

Industrial production is important because it measures the output of key businesses in China's manufacturing, mining and utilities sectors. The latest figure was also worse than the 5.2% growth that analysts polled by Reuters expected.

Other data released Monday by China's National Bureau of Statistics was also poor. Retail sales growth slowed to 7.5% in August, down from July's 7.6% year-on-year uptick.

The world's second-biggest economy has been struggling because of its trade war with the United States. It's also facing domestic challenges as it tries to rely less on debt to fuel growth.

New round of talks

The new data comes as China's tense trade relationship with the United States appears to be improving, at least a little bit. China announced last week that it would exempt American soybean and pork from tariffs. That was the latest in a series of steps taken by both countries to cool off ahead of a new round of trade talks.



The soft August figures reflect an "increasing downside risk to the economy" as the trade war rages on, said Ken Cheung Kin Tai, chief foreign exchange strategist for Asia at Mizuho Bank in Hong Kong. "Against this backdrop, it makes sense that China softened its stance on trade talks" and introduced stimulus plans in recent weeks.

The weak data also fuels speculation about how China's central bank will continue responding to the slowdown, Cheung added.

The People's Bank of China has taken several steps in recent weeks to boost the country's economy. Earlier this month, it reduced the amount of cash banks have to keep in reserve by slashing the reserve requirement ratio for the first time in eight months.

And in August, the central bank launched a new Loan Prime Rate that will become the benchmark for banks to price loans, a reform meant to support growth and

employment. It is fixed monthly. Cheung said Chinese policymakers could fix that rate lower when it is set later this week.

Weaker currency

China has also allowed the yuan to depreciate to its lowest levels in more than a decade in recent weeks. But a weaker currency isn't likely to completely offset problems with tariffs and sluggish global demand, said Martin Lyng Rasmussen, a China economist for Capital Economics. He said in a Monday research note that China will likely keep easing monetary policy in the coming months.

Tommy Wu, a senior economist for Oxford Economics, also said the country needs to take significant steps to stabilize growth. His firm forecasts the economy will grow 6.1% this year and 5.7% in 2020.

The People's Bank of China could consider a cut to its medium-term lending facility rate, which is a key loan rate, said Ting Lu, chief China economist for Japanese investment firm Nomura. He also expects the government to loosen restrictions on the property sector later this year to help stimulate purchases.

Chinese officials have said they have enough tools available to bolster the economy.

The "Chinese economy is facing certain downward pressure from slowing global growth, protectionism and rising unilateralism," said Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in an interview with Russian media, according to a transcript published Monday by the Chinese government. "But the economy also has big resilience, potential and enough space to maneuver."

(Source: edition.cnn.com)

Germany to run world's largest current account surplus in 2019: Ifo

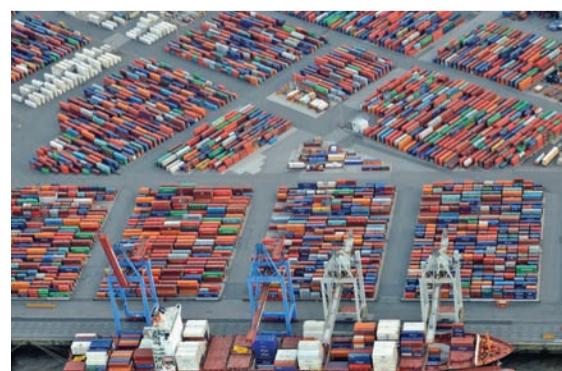
Germany will run the world's largest current account surplus in 2019 for the fourth consecutive year, the Ifo economic institute said on Friday, likely putting further pressure on Berlin to help reduce global imbalances and stimulate domestic demand.

As per hellenicshippingnews.com, this year's surplus in the current account — which measures the flow of goods, services and investments — is seen at \$276 billion (€221 billion), Ifo economist Christian Grimme told Reuters.

He added that Japan's surplus is projected to come in at \$188 billion, followed by China with \$182 billion.

In contrast, the United States is expected to post a current account deficit of \$480 billion, the world's largest, despite President Donald Trump's trade war with China and additional tariffs imposed on products imposed on Chinese products.

Germany's current account surplus can mainly be attributed to the fact that far more German products and services are sold overseas than imported to Europe's largest economy.



The trade imbalances have stirred the wrath of Trump, who has threatened to impose additional tariffs on German carmakers. The European Union's executive body and the International Monetary Fund have also criticized Germany's surplus.

The European Commission considers a current account

surplus of 6% as sustainable over the long-term when measured by the size of a country's economy.

Germany has come closer to that threshold. While the country reached a record high of 8.5% in 2015, Ifo is now projecting 7.1% this year.

Gita Gopinath, chief economist for the International Monetary Fund, said the global lender had long pressed Germany to boost spending and reduce its current account surplus, and there had been some movement of late.

"There has certainly been a shift towards doing more fiscal spending to raise potential output," Gopinath told an event at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington. The "question is whether that's enough."

Gopinath said it made sense for Germany to act now and take advantage of low interest rates.

"If you are a country that needs to undertake spending investment in your infrastructure and today, you're able to borrow at very low rates, just from a pure cost-benefit analysis, it would make sense to do it now," she said.

Over 600 companies to attend IRAN PLAST 2019

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN— Iran's 13th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST) will host 570 Iranian and 35 foreign companies at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground from September 22 to 25, managing director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) announced in a press conference on Monday.

Behzad Mohammadi also said that 12 delegations from 10 countries will attend the exhibition while 14 countries will participate through single pavilions.

He said IRAN PLAST is a platform to make connection between petrochemical industry and enterprises, while flourish downstream industries.

The NPC managing director mentioned more presence of knowledge-based companies and startups in this edition of the event as one of its prominent features which has been achieved as the result of the high attention and support by the Oil Ministry to these companies during the past year.

The official said that 11 ministers of oil and energy from East Asia and neighboring countries have been invited to visit the exhibition and attend meetings with Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh for development of ties.

■ \$17b income, 108,000 direct jobs
NPC managing director further put the annual income of petrochemical industry at \$17 billion which is planned to hit \$25 billion in the second leap [by the end of Iranian calendar year of 1400 (March 2022)] and will witness a significant rise in the third leap [by the end of Iranian calendar year of 1404



(March 2026).

"It indicates the significant role of petrochemical industry in the country's economy", Mohammadi highlighted.

He also put the direct jobs created by this industry at 108,000, which is planned to reach 123,000 in the second leap.

The official said there are already 56 petrochemical complexes in the country of which 54 are production complexes and 2 are utility complexes.

He put the annual petrochemical capacity at 65.8 million tons which is planned to reach 100 million tons in the second leap.

Mohammadi said 44 types of chemical products and 18 types of polymer products (300 different grades) are already produced

in this industry.

Referring to the feedstock that petrochemical industry receives, he said that the industry receives 33 million tons of feedstock, of which 25 million tons is directly used for production of products and eight million tons is used as fuel.

■ Indigenizing all groups of catalysts
The official further mentioned indigenizing all groups of catalysts as a major objective that NPC is pursuing in the field of technology and research.

He said of the 40 groups of catalysts, 16 groups have been already indigenized, 9 groups will be indigenized in the second leap and the rest 15 groups are in the R&D stage to be indigenized.

■ 27 projects to come on stream by March 2022

Elsewhere in his remarks, the NPC managing director said that by the next 2.5 years (that is the end of the second leap), 27 projects are going to come on stream in the petrochemical sector, among them Kaveh Methanol is a major one. The complex with the daily production capacity of 7,000 tons will be the largest methanol production unit in the world. It is scheduled to be inaugurated by the next six months (end of the current Iranian calendar year).

He said that 16 high-capacity projects are also planned to be inaugurated in the next Iranian calendar year of 1399 (March 2021-March 2022) and seven projects are scheduled for the Iranian year of 1400 (ends on March 2022).

In this way the number of petrochemical complexes will increase from the current 56 to 83 in 1400, he added.

The official also referred to the projects for the third leap (from 1400 to 1404), and said 26 projects have been defined which will boost the petrochemical capacity to 133 million tons, bringing annual income of \$37 billion.

■ Boosting exports, flourishing downstream sector

Mohammadi further mentioned NPC's policy to attain sustainable development, and said, "While pursuing quantity increase, we are paying special attention to rise quality to achieve two major objectives."

"The first objective is expansion of exports and having more presence in the global markets and the second one is flourishing downstream industries inside the country and increasing employment", he explained.

Iran's PGPIC climbs in ICIS ranking despite sanctions

ENERGY DESK TEHRAN — Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) has climbed three places to the 35th position in ICIS Top 100 Chemical Companies for 2019, Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

The latest data released by ICIS, which is the world's largest petrochemical market information provider, indicates that Iran's leading petrochemical plant is improving despite the fact that PGPIC is targeted by the U.S. sanctions.

According to the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), the company was ranked 38th in the world in the 2018 ICIS listing. The improvement comes despite the re-imposition of U.S. unilateral sanctions on Iran.

In a statement, PGPIC CEO Jafar Rabiei congratulated his personnel on this remarkable achievement, emphasizing that the U.S. sanctions had no effect on the development of the sector.

The ICIS Top 100 Chemical Companies is a ranking of the world's largest chemical producers by sales. The listing includes both public and private companies, as well as additional metrics on operating profit, net income, capital expenditures, R&D spending, as well as total assets and the number of employees.

PGPIC is the largest company listed in Tehran Stock Exchange and is the second largest petrochemical company in the Middle East. Washington imposed new sanctions on Iran's largest petrochemical holding group in early June, aiming to dry up yet another source of Iran's revenues in order to boost pressure on the country's economy.

The U.S. Treasury said in a statement that it had sanctioned the PGPIC holding group's network of 39 subsidiary petrochemical companies and foreign-based sales agents.

Earlier in April, General Secretary of Iran's Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC) had said U.S. sanctions are not going to have any significant impact on Iran's petrochemical exports.

"The mechanisms of petrochemical exports differ significantly from oil exports and therefore U.S. sanctions will have no impact on the production and export of petrochemicals," Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari said.

Petrochemical industry is one of the most important pillars of Iran's economy and one of the main suppliers of foreign currency especially euro for the country.

According to Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the country is currently producing nearly 65 million tons of petrochemical products annually.



Attack on Saudi oil facilities: consequences and solutions

1 → So, despite all the reassurance, oil markets around the world are once again overshadowed by the geopolitical risks and at least for some time the geopolitical risk premium will be seen in the oil prices.

■ Replacements for the lost oil

Many analysts and experts believe that Saudi Aramco won't be able to get all the lost capacity back over a short period of time and it would at least take a couple of weeks to get back to the full capacity.

Considering the worst case scenario, some analysts believe that the oil market should be looking for new sources of crude supply in case the damage to the Aramco facilities turn out to be more than what is seems and the Saudi's oil production takes more time than expected to get back to its full capacity.

One option, as previously mentioned, is the U.S. emergency reserves which Trump has promised to release to balance the market. However, analysts believe that such an action will likely not be taken in the short term.

"I don't think a release is imminent," Bob McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group, told S&P Global Platts. "Everything depends on how much damage has been done and how long will it last."

There is also the matter of distance and time, as Sandy

Fielden, analyst at Morningstar puts it, "It takes 19-20 days to ship Ras Tanura (Saudi) to Singapore, but 54 days from Houston to Singapore. So U.S. 'relief' will take time."

It should also be mentioned that, although the U.S. strategic reserves are estimated at about 625 million barrels, but its offshore borders have restrictions on oil transportation. As the U.S. Department of Energy said in a report in 2016, the United States could release up to 2.1 million barrels a day from its strategic reserves.

Another option which is more likely in the short term is Saudi Arabia's own reserves in countries like China and Japan, but with the kingdom's limited reserves, the loss could only be replaced for approximately 30-45 days, according to McNally.

"Saudi Arabia has about 188 million barrels of oil stockpiled, which can offset the 5-million-barrels of lost oil only for about 37 days," McNally said.

Even if Aramco manages to recover 2 million barrels of the disrupted capacity in short term (as they have claimed), the other 3.7 million barrels should be supplied from the reserves.

So if the oil which has been disrupted is not replaced before the company's stored supplies end, the market would go into an even more complicated situation.



Finally, some other believe that the easiest solution is to waive the Iranian oil.

"The obvious short-term fix would be waivers on Iran sanctions, but politically that's a hard pill for the Trump administration to swallow. By all accounts the Iranians have tankers full of storage ready to go," Sandy Fielden said.

Jason Bordoff, founding director of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University also believes that Iran could be a reliable source of additional supply in case the disruptions prolong.

New modelling exposed grid problems that forced solar farms to cut output

By Giles Parkinson

New modelling and grid simulations conducted by the Australian Energy Market Operator are apparently at the heart of the decision last week to dramatically curtail the output of five big solar farms in Victoria and New South Wales by 50 percent.

The decision to impose the constraints on the Karadoc, Wemen, Bannerton and Gannawarra solar farms in Victoria, and the Broken Hill solar farm in NSW, has taken the industry by surprise, and led to concern that other installations may also be affected. Or that these solar farms already affected may be further constrained.

The constraint has also blind-sided energy professionals because the solar farms affected have been operating for some time, and in the case of the 53MW Broken Hill solar farm located near the town of the same name in NSW, since 2015.

But that may exactly the reason why these farms have been targeted, as it is understood that all were approved before so-called "system strength" rules were implemented in 2017, and connection requirements further tightened earlier this year.

That means that the solar farms were not subject to system strength impact assessments which are now in place, and it is the lack of system strength, and potentially dangerous (to the system) level of voltage changes that is now causing concern in what is known as the "west Murray" section of the grid.

■ The potential weaknesses

The problems were identified as part of a series of ongoing "simulations" that the Australian Energy Market Operator is conducting across the grid, and particularly in areas where it is concerned about potential weaknesses.

In this case, the modelling suggested dramatic voltage changes after the potential trip of a 220v transmission line. As a result, AEMO imposed the constraint on the five solar farms while it sought to find a solution to the problem with the local network operators, the solar farm owners, and the equipment suppliers.

AEMO — as are the solar farm owners — are confident that a solution can be found soon. But exactly what that might be, and how much it would cost and what time would be needed to fix, is not yet finalized.

Possibilities include an upgrade or changes to the inverter technology or settings, or even the addition of a



synchronous condenser, which are becoming a common and expensive addition to the grid as more wind and solar farms are built.

Many wind and solar farms in Queensland, NSW and Victoria have been required to add syn-cons, a decades-old technology that basically amounts to a spinning turbine with little or no fuel burned — at an estimated average cost of \$25 million to ensure their connection and commissioning goes smoothly.

South Australia is installing four such machines around its grid, but that is being done by the network operator because AEMO had formally identified an issue with system strength, and therefor won regulatory approval. The addition of the syncons in South Australia will mean less dependence on gas plants running in reserve, and lower costs.

■ The solar farms

There is a chance that AEMO may declare a similar system strength issue in west Murray, although because of the time taken for regulatory approvals of such installations, the solar farms will likely want an earlier, or interim solution to allow them to return to their full output.

Most of the solar farms have pre-agreed contracts, supplying customers such as the Victoria tram network and corporate customers such as Carlton & United Breweries.

And it should be pointed out that this is not about the variability of solar, or the need for storage. Gannawarra has a co-located Tesla big battery, and it is also constrained like others in the areas.

A spokesperson for AEMO said the issues in the West Murray area have not previously been experienced to this level.

"AEMO, the generators and the network businesses are working through a number of technical variables,

however the situation remains dynamic, so constraints are required to protect the power system while we are collaboratively pursuing a range of solutions for current and future network users," the spokesperson said.

"Ultimately, AEMO's aim is to generate outcomes that are acceptable from a system security perspective but, as far as possible, are reasonable and proportionate for existing users and those seeking to connect."

(Source: reneweconomy.com.au)

Second Announcement



1398.3634

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TENDER NO. : 40-32-90207-20-001

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 2,868 EURO or 366, 165,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

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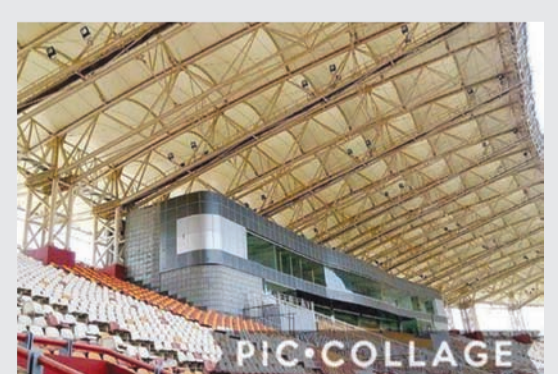
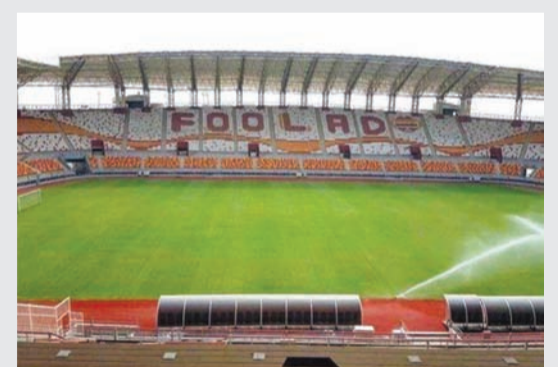
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No restriction on Iranian women to attend Cambodia match: Govt Spox

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Monday that the Iranian women can buy tickets to watch the match between Iran and Cambodia.

Team Melli will host Cambodia in the 2022 World Cup qualifier in Group C on Oct. 10 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

The Iranian authorities have been accused of allowing a select group of women into Azadi stadium to watch the matches but Rabiei says there is no restriction on the females to attend the match.

"Tickets will go on sale for all females for the match against Cambodia. We cannot ignore the women-related issues. We need to show tolerance and should not create a situation in which a girl like Sahar Khodayari setting herself on fire," Rabiei said.

The FIFA officials will check the preparations made by the Iranian FA to provide access to that Oct. 10 match for women.

In a statement FIFA expressed its condolences and said it reiterated "our calls on the Iranian authorities to ensure the freedom and safety of any women engaged in this legitimate fight to end the stadium ban for women in Iran."

Soccer is Iran's most popular spectator sport, with wrestling and volleyball not far behind. Team Melli, which literally means "the nation's team," enjoys tremendous support. Club teams attract crowds that rival those in Europe.



Very nice to score four goals in my debut: Gucci



S P O R T S TEHRAN — PEC Zwolle forward Reza Ghoochannejhad says that he is very happy to score four goals in his debut.

Gucci made a historic return to the Eredivisie on Sunday. The striker came off the bench to score four goals as PEC Zwolle came from behind to defeat RKC Waalwijk 6-2.

Gucci made history since he is the first player in Eredivisie history with four goals after coming on as a substitute.

"We had to do something. As a team,

we played very well in the second half, this tastes like more. I am very happy because I had a very good debut," Ghoochannejhad said after the match.

Ghoochannejhad joined Dutch Eredivisie side PEC Zwolle from APOEL Nicosia in early September.

"I was well received here from day one. I came here because it was easy to acclimatize. I am feeling good being here," he added.

Zwolle sit 12th in 18-team league with seven points from six matches.

Iran crowned CAFA U15 Women's champions



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran lifted 2019 CAFA U15 Women's Championship trophy on Monday.

Iran defeated Uzbekistan 3-2 in their third match and topped the event with three wins.

Ghazal Morshedi, Diana Norouzi and Fatemeh Yousefi scored for Iran.

The Persians had already defeated Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan respectively.

Iran captain Moaddeh Zolfi was named as the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

She 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.

The round-robin competition featured Kyrgyz Republic, Iran and Tajikistan compete as well as host nation and 2017 winners Uzbekistan.

The competition was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from September 13 to 16.

The CAFA Youth Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

Navruzbek Abdurasulov suspended for anti-doping violation

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has suspended Uzbekistani powerlifter Navruzbek Abdurasulov for four years for committing an anti-doping violation.

The athlete who competed in the men's up to 107kg class returned an adverse analytical finding for dehydrochloromethyl-testosterone metabolite 4a-chloro-17β-hydroxymethyl-17a-methyl-18-nor-5a-androst-13-en-3a-ol (DHCMT metabolite) in a urine sample provided on 15 April 2019 in an out of competition test in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

This substance is included on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2019 Prohibited List under the category S1.1A Anabolic Androgenic Steroids (exogenous).

As a result of his violation, Abdurasulov will be ineligible for competition for four years from 15 April 2019 to 14 April 2023. All his results obtained from 15 April 2019 and onwards will be disqualified including forfeiture of any medals, points, records and prizes.

James Scater, the IPC's Anti-Doping Director, said: "As part of our increased investment in anti-doping



activities, the IPC is conducting more targeted out of competition tests on athletes.

"Abdurasulov was part of the IPC's Registered Testing Pool, a group of top-level athletes in specific Paralympic sports who take part in an out-of-competition testing programme."

The IPC would like to remind all athletes the principle of strict liability applies to anti-doping matters and that any athletes who need to take a prohibited substance for medical reasons should seek a Therapeutic Use Exemption.

Each athlete is strictly liable for the substances found in his or her sample, and that an anti-doping rule violation occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in his or her bodily specimen, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), the IPC remains committed to a doping-free sporting environment at all levels. The IPC, together with the International Federations and the National Paralympic Committees, established the IPC Anti-Doping Code to prevent doping in sport for Paralympic athletes, in the spirit of fair play.

The IPC Anti-Doping Code is in conformity with the general principles of the WADC.

(Source: Paralympic)

Endurance athlete completes longest ocean swim

VIEUX FORT, St Lucia (Reuters) — Endurance athlete Cameron Bellamy completed the longest recorded ocean channel swim on Sunday, covering the 151.7 km (94 miles) from Barbados to St Lucia in the Caribbean in 56 hours and 36 minutes, according to the official website tracking his progress.

The 37-year-old South African set out from St Peter's Bay in Barbados at 8.20 on Saturday morning, swimming in flat seas with gentle swells but hot conditions, reaching St Lucia just before 5 p.m. local time on Sunday to be met by the country's prime minister Allen Chastanet.

"He did it!" read a banner message on the tracker website.

Local media reported that paramedics took Bellamy to a medical facility for mandatory tests, but he appeared in good spirits when he exited the water after being swept a little further by the current than planned.

The swim is the latest in a list of endurance achievements by Bellamy, who previously rowed across the Indian Ocean and has swum the English channel, raising money for charity.

His swim beats a 124.4 km swim by Chloe McCardel from the south of Eleuthera Island to Nassau in the Ba-



hamas five years ago, recognized by the Marathon Swimmers Federation as the longest ocean swim. The organization is yet to formally verify Bellamy's swim. Bellamy drank every 30 minutes and

ate every hour, according to updates on his Facebook page, following a strict feeding schedule to ensure his body stayed nourished and covered his body with a zinc-based lotion to protect it from the sun and salt water.

To combat "salt water mouth", he applied petroleum jelly to his mouth, lips and tongue hourly and washed his mouth out with a dental solution.

Bellamy had originally sought to swim last month from Cuba to the Florida Keys, but said his plan had been scuppered by the refusal of American authorities to allow his support boat to make the journey.

Australia stun Iran at Asian Volleyball C'ship

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Australia defeated Iran 3-1 (25-22, 23-25, 21-25, 21-25) at the 2019 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship at the 12,000-seater Azadi Sports Complex here on Sunday.

Iran sit second in Pool A behind Australia after two wins over Sri Lanka and Qatar.

Iran advanced to Pool E along with Australia, China and India. Pool F consists of Japan, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Pakistan.

The next round will be held on Tuesday. The event is a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian volleyball governing body, the Asian Volleyball Federation (AVC). The tournament is being held from Sept. 13 to 21.

Top eight teams of this tournament will qualify for the 2020 Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament, which will be held in Jiangmen, China from 7 to 12 January 2020, where the winners will qualify to the 2020 men's Olympic volleyball tournament.

Iran's national men & women teams qualify for Asian Table Tennis Championship

IRNA — Iran's national men and women table tennis teams registered their second wins on the first day of the playoff to cruise to the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Indonesia.

The national women's team, comprised of Neda Shahsavari, Fatemeh Jamalifar and Mahshid Samet, quashed Makao 3-0 on Sunday and qualified for the knockout stage. They had defeated Nepal in their first match.

The men's team also beat Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be eligible for the last round.



The 2019 ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Championships kicked off on Sunday September 15 at Yogyakarta's GOR Among Rogo Stadium, Indonesia.

This tournament also serve as Tokyo 2020 Olympic qualifier competition with quota places up for grabs in each category.

The tournament in Indonesia will have participants plying their trade in six different categories - men's team, women's team, men's doubles, women's doubles, men's singles and women's singles.

The team events were conducted first from Sunday (September 15), with nations contesting in eight groups for the women's team and nine groups for the men's team events. The finals for the women's team event will be played on September 17 while the men's team final will be held the next day.

On September 18, the women's singles games are slated to begin with 64 participants taking to the court for the first round of the knockout games, alongside the men's doubles' first rounds.

The men's singles, on the other hand, are scheduled to be played the following day, coinciding with the women's doubles. The finals for these two categories will be played on September 22, while the women's singles and men's doubles finals will be played a day earlier.

IPL: Esteghlal held by Naft Masjed Soleyman

TASNIM — Esteghlal football team were held to a 1-1 draw by Naft Masjed Soleyman in week three of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Sunday.

Mehdi Ghaedi gave visiting Esteghlal the lead after 16 minutes but Hamed Noormohammadi equalized the match with a header in the 70th minute.

Esteghlal have yet to win with Andrea Stramacconi in the new IPL season.

In Isfahan, Zob Ahan and Tractor played out a goalless draw. Saipa defeated Nassaji 4-3 and Shahin Bushehr drew 1-1 with Paykan

AFC President meets Uzbek Head of State to discuss football development

The Asian Football Confederation President, Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, has arrived in Tashkent and has met HE Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The high-level discussions centered on the role and impact of the government reforms in the rise of football in Uzbekistan.

On his arrival in the Uzbek capital, the AFC President was greeted by Dilmurod Nabiev, Sports Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Oybek Kasimov, the Deputy Minister and Ravshan Irmatov, Uzbekistan Football Association Senior Vice President.

The AFC President also met Abdusalom Azizov, the Uzbekistan FA President and other top officials at the FA headquarters to discuss the further development of football in the country and co-operation in organizing AFC events in Uzbekistan in the near future.

As part of the Central Asian tour, the AFC President will also visit the Kyrgyz Republic (September 17-19) and Tajikistan (September 19-21).

(Source: the-afc)

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Refrain from suspecting someone's word which you may regard as an evidence of goodness.
Imam Ali (AS)

Film scores by Alfred Newman up for discussion at Tehran center

TEHRAN — Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center will be hosting a session on Thursday to review film scores by prominent American composer Alfred Newman (1900–1970).

Iranian musician and scholar Nassrollah Davudi is scheduled to discuss a number of Newman's works during the session.

Newman was born in New Haven, Connecticut. He is known for his work on "All About Eve" (1950), "How the West Was Won" (1962) and "Camelot" (1967).

In a career spanning more than four decades, Newman composed the scores for over 200 motion pictures. From his start as a music prodigy, he came to be regarded as a respected figure in the history of film music.

He won nine Academy Awards and was nominated 43 times, contributing to the Newmans being the extended family with the most Academy Award nominations, totaling 92 nominations in various music categories.

"Wuthering Heights", "The Hunchback of Notre Dame", "The Mark of Zorro", "How Green Was My Valley", "The Song of Bernadette" and "Captain from Castile" are among his other noteworthy credits.

Newman and two of his fellow composers, Max Steiner and Dimitri Tiomkin, were considered the "three godfathers of film music".

Iran's "Zero to Platform" nominated for Discovery Award at Raindance Film Festival

TEHRAN — "Zero to Platform", a documentary by Sahar Mosayyebi, chronicling the life of three Iranian wushu athlete sisters, has been nominated for the Discovery Award at the 27th Raindance Film Festival in London, the organizers have announced.

The documentary recounts the concerted efforts of the Mansurian sisters, Elaheh, Shahrbanu and Soheila, who chose wushu martial art to achieve success in life despite all the hardship they have faced throughout their life.

The film registered as "Platform" in the festival's schedule will be competing with five other films, including "A Dobugawa Dream" from Japan, "Miguelito" from Australia and "Oray" from Germany.

As a large independent film event in the UK, the Raindance Film Festival will be running from September 18 to 29.

The festival is officially recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and the British Independent Film Awards. Selected shorts will qualify for Oscars and BAFTA considerations.

Tom Stoppard's "A Separate Peace" to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN — The Bistun Theater Group led by Iranian actor and director Kurosh Soleimani plans to perform Czech-born British playwright Tom Stoppard's "A Separate Peace" at Tehran's Neauph-le-Chateau Theater during November.

Soleimani has renamed the play "The White Silence" to perform it in Iran.

The play is about John Brown, who goes to a country nursing home with a case of money expecting hotel-style service. He's a kind of a dropout who is bound to be a puzzle to a profession geared to treating the sick, since he is not physically ill and apparently is not mentally ill, either.

"The White Silence" will remain on stage for one month.

Be tested for HIV to watch "Monkey" on Reza Abdoh

TEHRAN — Vahid Rahjuy and Hossein Maleki, the directors and writers of "Monkey", have arranged for theatergoers to be tested for HIV and informed about AIDS voluntarily at no cost before and after watching the play that is about the Iranian-American theater director Reza Abdoh who died of the disease in 1995 at the age of 32.

"In collaboration with the Health Ministry, several medical teams are present in the courtyard of the Molavi Theater to test theatergoers for HIV and give them information about AIDS," Rahjuy told the Persian service of Honaronline on Saturday.

"One of the play's aims is to educate people about AIDS and raise their knowledge of the disease as well as to improve the treatment of those people who are suffering from AIDS," he noted.

The documentary play tells the story of a theater student who decides to write his thesis on the plays staged by Abdoh, but his research on the subject leads him to a new path in his life.

"This play is the outcome of several months of research about AIDS and dialogues with people with HIV from all walks of life," Rahjuy said, and added that the play gives the audience a real insight into the interactions among people, the disease and environment.

He also said, "This is the first time a play focuses on the life of one of the most important Iranian directors in the American avant-garde theater. He has been acknowledged in the West, but unfortunately, is unknown in Iran."

Abdoh, writer and director of acclaimed plays such as "The Hip-Hop Waltz of Eurydice", died in 1995.



Behnam Hassanpur acts in a scene from "Monkey". (Tiwall/Sara Saqafi)

"Relentlessly inventive, he pushed his actors and audiences to their limits amid ambitious, unusual, disorienting stage sets.

Abdoh's aesthetic language borrowed from fairy tales, BDSM, talk shows, raves, video art, and the history of avant-garde theater,"

the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York wrote about him in June 2018 when it hosted an exhibition on Abdoh.

Yarava Ensemble to perform at German festival



German violinist Susanne Zapf accompanies the Tehran-based ensemble Yarava in a concert at the Da Theater House in May 2017.

TEHRAN — Yarava Ensemble from Tehran will be giving a concert in October at Randfestspiele, a music festival taking place in Zepernick, a district in the German city of Berlin.

Mehdi Jalali is the leader of the ensemble, which is scheduled to perform a repertoire of works by contemporary Iranian musicians at the festival, the organizers have announced.

"Water" is the theme of the 27th edition

of the festival, which will be held from October 3 to 6.

German opera singer and composer Margarete Huber, her fellow cellist Ulrike Brand and double bass player Matthias Bauer will accompany Yarava in their first performance on October 3.

The ensemble will give their second performance on October 6.

Golnaz Khalili, Pegah Taslimi, Shaqayeq Baqeri and Asal Karimi are members of the group.

Khorshid film festival to review German shorts



A scene from "Sara the Dancer" by German director Tim Ellrich.

TEHRAN — A lineup of 17 short movies by German filmmakers will be screened at the 7th edition of the Khorshid Independent and Experimental Film Festival, the organizers announced on Monday.

"A Year along the Geostationary Orbit" by Felix Dierich, "Three Casualties" by Jens Pecho and "Sara the Dancer" by Tim Ellrich are among the films.

The lineup also includes "The Wolf Fearing the Wolf", "Darkness" and "The

Effect of Cannonry on Thunderclouds", all co-directed by Juliane Jaschnow and Stefanie Schroeder.

"Cold Valley" and "Umbra", both co-directed by Johannes Krell and Florian Fischer will also go on screen at the festival.

The Khorshid Independent and Experimental Film Festival, which aims at supporting independent filmmakers and developing the production of experimental films, will be held at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran from September 30 to October 3.

Montreal cinemathèque to screen Iranian shorts

TEHRAN — The Cinemathèque Québécoise in Montreal, Canada plans to review 13 Iranian short films during a program, which will be held from September 23 to 26.

The program aims at offering an opportunity for Canadian audiences to discover a new portrait of Iranians, which has never been shown in the Western media, the organizers have said.

"Bayern Munich" by Negin Aminzadeh, about a man who finds out his girlfriend is leaving him while watching a soccer match, "Black Eared" by Behzad Azadi, about a young babysitter who is accused of mistreatment, and "Gaze" by Farnush Samadi, about a woman who witnesses a robbery, are among the films.

"Elephant's Shadow" by Arman Khansarian, "Retouch" by Kaveh Mazaheri, "Lay My Bed in the Room" by Amir Tuderusta and "Highlight" by Shahrzad Dadgar will also go on screen during the program.

"Elephant's Shadow" tells the story of Leila whose father has only a few days left to live according to his



A scene from Iranian director Shahrzad Dadgar's short film "Highlight".

doctors. His only concern is for his daughter's welfare as he knows how difficult life can be for a divorcee in

Tehran. Leila decides to plan a scenario for her dad so that he can die peacefully.

"Retouch" is about a young woman whose husband is trapped under a halter during a workout, but she declines to save him and, consequently, he dies.

"Lay My Bed in the Room" is about a family that has to leave together in a house for a while after the death of a loved one.

The lineup also includes "Like a Good Kid" by Arian Vazirdaftari about the tensions between a child and his babysitter, "Greed" by Mohammad Mojjallal about a man who is accused of stealing a golden tooth of a deceased and "Vision" by Soheil Amir-Sharifi about a man who betrays his girlfriend's trust.

The program will also screen "Manicure" by Arman Fayyaz, "Marzieh" by Dornaz Hajiha and "Daad" by Moha Arzhang.

Each screening will be followed by a review session, which will be attended by critics and film experts, including Canadian filmmaker Simon Galiero.

Auction for Banksy artwork depicting MPs as chimpanzees

LONDON (The Guardian) — Banksy's withering view of the UK parliament, showing a Commons chamber packed full of chimpanzees, is to appear at auction for what could be a record amount of money.

The artist painted Devolved Parliament in 2009, when the word Brexit would have baffled people.

But timing is everything. The artwork will go on display in London for the first time later this month at Sotheby's auction

house, less than a mile from the House of Commons.

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's European head of contemporary art, said Banksy was a modern-day Voltaire.

He said: "Regardless of where you sit in the Brexit debate, there's no doubt that this work is more pertinent now than it has ever been, capturing unprecedented levels of political chaos and confirming Banksy as the satirical polemicist of our time."

At nearly 4 meters (13ft), the work is the largest known canvas by Banksy. It is being sold with an auction estimate of £1.5m-£2m. That means it could exceed the record of \$1.9m (£1.52m) paid for Keep it Spotless, a Damien Hirst spot painting on to which Banksy stenciled a maid cleaning.

Banksy originally painted Devolved Parliament for his takeover of his hometown museum in Bristol in 2009, a show that attracted more than 300,000 visitors

and became one of the top 10 most visited exhibitions anywhere in the world that year.

It was lent earlier this year, by its anonymous owner, to a display at Bristol Museum marking both the exhibition's 10th anniversary and Britain's original planned exit from the EU on March 29.

At the time, Banksy wrote on Instagram: "I made this 10 years ago. Bristol museum have just put it back on display to mark Brexit day. Laugh now, but one day no one will be in charge".