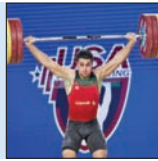




Rouhani set to unveil 'Hormuz Peace Initiative' at UN **2**



'Britain should stop selling arms to Saudis instead of accusing Iran' **3**



Iran's Miri snatches silver at IWF World C'ships **15**



'Castle of Dreams' tops at Batumi festival **16**

Time to move UN headquarters from U.S.



See page 2

Nearly €8b of non-oil income injected to NIMA in H1

TEHRAN — Iran's non-oil exporters injected €7.98 billion of their revenues into the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA, during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

The figure has experienced a significant increase compared to the last year, in which a total of €11.309

billion was injected into the NIMA system during the whole year, IRNA reported.

Such improvement is an indication of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)'s success in controlling and stabilizing the currency market despite the new waves of sanctions which are mostly targeting the country's banking system. **→4**

Russia calls accusations on Aramco strikes 'flimsy'

TEHRAN — Sergei Naryshkin, director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), said on Monday "flimsy" accusations about attacks on the Aramco oil facilities in Saudi Arabia are inadmissible.

"We obviously condemn such actions. However, very clear unbiased evidence of guilt is required. Flimsy allegations about some country, movement or any other force being the initiator of those actions are inadmissible," TASS quoted Naryshkin as saying.

Unfounded allegations about some country being involved in the attack on the oil facilities are inadmissible, he noted.

Yemenis launched drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil installations on September 14, disrupting half of the country's oil supply.

However, Washington and Riyadh claimed Iran was behind the attacks. Tehran has said blaming Iran for the attack is part of a larger game against Iran in line with Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran.

Abandon illusion that Iran can be defeated by pressure: Zarif

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that Iran will not succumb to economic pressure by Washington.

"Abandon the illusion that Iran can be defeated by pressure," he told NPR.

"We are resisting an unprovoked aggression by the United States. I can assure you that the United States will not be able to bring us to our knees through pressure,"

the chief diplomat pointed out.

He also said, "The United States can have a much better deal with Iran if they started talking to us based on respect, based on mutual respect and based on moving forward."

U.S. President Donald Trump quit the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions on Iran as part of "maximum pressure" against the country. **→2**



REPORT

Ramin Hossein Abadian
Mehr News Agency
journalist

Baghdad's definite response to U.S. Congress's hostile plan about Iraq

The U.S. continues its hostile actions and attempts to limit relations between Iran and its regional allies. It seems that Washington does not intend to consider the reverse results of its actions.

In this regard, Americans have recently carried out new efforts to influence Iran's relations with some countries, including Iraq. The U.S. congress has prepared a plan to alter commercial terms and relations between Iran and Iraq. Washington assume that failed policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran will work out.

There is an article that appears to aim to influence energy-related deals and terms between Iran and Iraq in 2020-budget document of U.S. Department of State released by the U.S. Senate on Wednesday. In fact, the U.S. are trying to put more pressure on Baghdad and force its officials to leave relations with Iran through the mentioned plan.

The foresaid document makes U.S. Department of State to help Jordan with \$ 25 million in order to increase the capacity of the country for generating and exporting electricity to its neighbors, including Iraq. Al-Monitor said, "Congress is supporting Trump administration's efforts in limiting Iran's influence in Iraq by ending energy exchange between Baghdad and Tehran."

The U.S. continues its desperate efforts, while Iraqi officials have repeatedly stated on various occasions that they will not stop or even reduce their relations and terms with Iran under any circumstances.

Iraqi Minister of Electricity Luay al-Khatteeb stated that Baghdad is having trouble producing electricity without importing gas from Iran and therefore, it continue to import gas from Iran.

The new U.S. policy toward Iraq and its attempts to restrict commercial relations with Tehran seem to be coming after Washington officials' actions for forcing Baghdad to comply with brutal anti-Iranian sections, which have failed. That is exactly why the U.S. has changed its strategy and are trying to undermine the relationship of two regional allies by passing a plan in Congress. **→13**

The continuance of Riyadh's false claims against Iran instead of stopping the Yemen war

By Farzad Farhadi

TEHRAN — What has troubled Riyadh officials is inefficiency in American Patriot system, and The U.S. positions, as the Saudi Arabia expected to receive more support. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo affirmed the failure of air defense system.

Reuters had earlier reported that Saudi Arabia is spending billions of dollars to buy military equipment from Western countries. It is said that the equipment is designed to counter advanced attacks, but it could not resist cheap drones and Cruise missiles.

■ Inefficiency of air defense systems against Yemeni scathing attacks

Analysts believe the Yemeni attacks reveal the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's air defense system in protecting these important oil facilities. It also shows that the U.S. "dodges" defending

its allies, despite of being paid billions of dollars for this defense.

Secretary General of Hizbullah Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, pointed to Yemeni army and popular committees' attacks on Aramco oil facilities in eastern Saudi Arabia, and extensive international reaction in support of Riyadh. He also said, "Targeting Aramco by the Yemenis was indeed a significant event that shocked the region, and faced many reactions in the world. International positions in attacks on Aramco have shown that oil has more value than blood. I advise Saudi Arabia to stop the war instead of buying large-scale air defense systems and paying millions of dollars to no avail. The only solution is to stop the brutal war against Yemen."

However, what has to be mentioned is that Yemeni attacks moved from alarm level to effectiveness level. The great operation of Yemeni

army and popular committees, in any aspect, was more destructive and effective than their previous reactions. This is a message to Saudi Arabia that Yemen reached the fatal blow level, and the future operations will be more deadly and crushing. This will continue until the attack on Yemen is stopped and the siege of oppressed Yemenis is over.

As Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah claimed, the solution is to stop the war because buying defense systems and paying bribe to the U.S. and Trump will not solve the problem.

But Saudi Arabia that seems to become accustomed to relying on the U.S., insist on continuing the war and accusing Iran. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said in a recent adversarial statement, "the attack on Aramco has been carried out by Iranian weapon, therefore we consider Iran to be in charge of this operation."

UK embassy in U.S. to hold session on Iran

IFP Editorial Staff — As world leaders gather in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, the British embassy in the United States seeks to hold a session regarding British-Iranians held in Iran over espionage for the UK.

The British Embassy will host the event on Thursday, September 26, over the situation of human rights in Iran.

The Iran Front Page has learnt that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights situation in Iran, Javied Rehman, has also been invited to the event.

The session, with the pretext of addressing the situation of human rights in Iran, will have a major focus on the issue of releasing British-Iranian dual nationals detained in the country, in

particular Nazanin Zaghari.

Zaghari was arrested at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport in April 2016 as she was on her way back to London. She was subsequently put on trial and handed a five-year jail term after being found guilty of spying for the United Kingdom government.

British media had claimed that she worked for the Thomson Reuters Foundation and was on vacation in Iran when she was arrested. However, Boris Johnson said in a statement to a parliamentary committee in 2017 — when he was a foreign secretary — that Zaghari had been "simply teaching people journalism."

Johnson's remarks amounted to an accidental confession that Zaghari was plotting against

the Iranian government, but British authorities described them as a gaffe.

As the 74th session of United Nations General Assembly is underway in New York, the British government seems to be pressuring Iran on releasing the Iranians or British-Iranians who have been convicted of espionage for London.

While holding a session on human rights in Iran, the UK government has so far been criticized for serious breaches of human rights at home and abroad. 'CIA Torture Unredacted' report, released in 2019, revealed the British complicity in a secret torture program in "black sites" (secret prison) established by CIA between 2001 and 2009. **→2**



ARTICLE

Damir Nazarov
Journalist from Russia

Always remember about alliance between Iran and ikhwans

This article is a compilation of quotations about relations between Islamic Republic Iran and Egypt Muslim-Brotherhood, between Shia and Sunni scholar and thinkers from crescent. icit-digital.org. The purpose aim of the article is not to forget the glorious past of Islamic Union and continue to work in this direction. Big thanks site creators and authors, inshaAllah their work will help on the revolutionary path of Imam Mahdi (a.s.)

So quotes:

1951 year - This 'letter' was sent by Martyr Sayyid Qutb, the Egyptian writer of renown, to Ayatollah Kashani of Iran as a confirmation of the emerging unity of the Muslim Ummah. It was published by the journal al-Risalah (No. 951, Dhu al-Hijjah 24, 1370/September 25, 1951)"

1992 year - "It is difficult to measure Qutb's direct influence on the Islamic Revolution, but the Islamic government in Iran has acknowledged its debt to him by issuing commemorative stamps."

1999 year - "Sayyid Qutb lives in the hearts of millions of Muslims worldwide. His books have been translated into virtually every language that Muslims read, and remain hugely influential. The main translations into Farsi have been done by the Rahbar of the Islamic Republic, Ayatullah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, himself. This is a great tribute to the martyred scholar of Islam."

2000 year - "In Iran, the late forties and early fifties saw the activity of Ayatullah Abu'l-Qasim Kashani, the most politically engaged 'alim of the period: like his counterparts elsewhere in the Muslim world, he, too, frequently evoked the theme of social justice in the numerous declarations he delivered. Temporarily allied with Kashani was the organization known as the Fida'iyan-i Islam, members of which had both personal and ideological links to the Brethren."

2013 year - "Imam Hasan al-Banna met with Ayatullah Kashani during the Hajj of 1948ce. Both agreed to convene a grand conference that would close ranks and endear Sunnis and Shi'is to each other." **→13**



© Tehran Times / Shahab Ghayoumi

Tehran Times new managing director introduced

During a ceremony on Monday, Mohammad Shojaeian (L) was introduced as the new managing director of the Tehran Times and the Mehr News Agency. Shojaeian replaced Ali Asgari who held the post since May 2014.

Iran rejects European Parliament resolution on human rights as ‘biased’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran has rejected a human rights resolution by the European Parliament against Iran as “biased”, “unilateral” which is not in touch with reality.

“The European Parliament issues biased, unilateral, unrealistic and disappointing resolution against Iran when the United States violates rights of more than 80 million (Iranian) people through economic terrorism. An issue which has been ignored by representatives of the European Parliament,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

Mousavi said that the resolution shows that the European Parliament is not aware of current developments in Iran and has leveled accusations against the country based on “wrong” and “invalid” information.

“Respecting human rights is a legal and religious necessity for Iran in line with national interests and security. Iran has always made efforts in this respect and does not need biased and opportunist emphasis of others,” he stated.

He also condemned applying double standards in issues related to human rights.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on September 19 condemning Iran’s human rights record, claiming Tehran is suppressing women.

Back in May, the U.S. State Department accused Iran of a crackdown on women advocating human rights, according to Press TV.

Mousavi said given the United States’ records on human rights, Washington was in no place to point the finger at others.

He said Washington’s double-standards on the issue was best displayed with the State Department’s “disgraceful silence” on Saudi Arabia’s mass execution of 37 Saudi citizens earlier this year.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also blasted the U.S. and its allies for subjecting Iran to economic terrorism through imposing indiscriminate sanctions, a move that he said was the biggest possible violation of the economic and social rights of a nation.

Time to move UN headquarters from U.S.

By Tehran Times staff writer

TEHRAN — Although the United Nations is not in the political, geographical or legal possession of a particular country, unfortunately the United States is misusing the largest international body just because it is headquartered in New York!

Washington has shown, in recent years, especially during Donald Trump’s presidency, that it is using the United Nations in New York as an instrument to advance its political purposes.

Refusal to issue visa for some politicians who have the right to attend United Nations meetings shows that the U.S. can no longer be accepted as a host to the international body by many countries around the world.

More importantly, the United States has turned into a symbol of terrorism and violence in today’s world.

Legally, Washington is not permitted to prevent participation of individuals or politicians at the UN. Washington has been denying visa for those who challenge U.S. policies on protecting terrorism and violence as well as its development of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms.

It is now time to submit and approve a plan to relocate the UN headquarters from New York to other parts of the world (based on the consensus of the majority of UN members). For example, moving the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council to Vienna, Austria, is a good option.

White House officials’ behavior toward Iranian, Cuban, North Korean, Yemeni, Syrian, and other politicians from other countries proves that the United States no longer deserves to host the UN General Assembly, an issue that has been the subject of much international attention in recent decades.

Abandon the illusion that Iran can be defeated by pressure: Zarif

1 → On Friday, the U.S. announced fresh economic sanctions against Iran in response to a September 14 attack on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by Yemenis, but the U.S. and Saudi Arabia blame Iran. Tehran has called the blame game a “maximum deceit” in line with the “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran

Zarif told NPR, “I know that Iran didn’t have anything to do with it. Who did it? I just take the Yemeni claim at face value. If you want to go to conspiracy theory and ask who had an interest in doing that, there’d be a lot of people in the list of interested participants — not least of which the United States and Israel.”

UK embassy in U.S. to hold session on Iran

1 → The British arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the killing of thousands of innocent civilians in Yemen have been questioned by human rights activists in the West, blaming the UK for violating the humanitarian law.

“Instead of making futile attempts against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UK government should stop selling lethal weapons to Saudi Arabia — which is demanded by many people in the world — and rid itself of the charge of committing war crime against the people of Yemen,” said Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi today in reaction to UK Prime Minister Johnson’s claim that Iran might be to blame for the recent attacks on Saudi oil refineries.

On the issue of detaining British-Iranians for espionage, an Iranian source, on the condition of anonymity, said that the UK sends spies to Iran without considering the consequences. He said “if the UK is worried about those arrested in Iran for espionage, they had better stop dispatching spies to Iran.”

“How come many other European citizens travel to Iran and nothing happens to them? That’s because the UK government is using humanitarian cover for its security measures and is victimizing people for meeting its own political interests, while ignoring the repercussions for those involved in espionage,” the source added.

Rouhani set to unveil ‘Hormuz Peace Initiative’ at UN

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani of Iran is set to unveil the details of his plan for security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, called the “Hormuz Peace Initiative”, at a speech at the United Nations.

The initiative, also called “HOPE”, seeks cooperation among the regional countries for maintaining security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway through which a fifth of the world’s crude oil supplies and a quarter of liquefied natural gas shipments flow.

“In this initiative, we seek collective co-operation inside the Persian Gulf region and we want all regional countries participate,” Rouhani said just minutes before departing to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly gathering.

He added, “All littoral states to the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz are invited to take part in this initiative and the United Nations is also invited.”

The HOPE initiative comes against the backdrop of tensions in the Persian Gulf, where several tankers and commercial ves-



sels have come under suspicious attacks by unknown parties while attempting to cross the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The United States has blamed the sabotage

attacks on Iran, using them as a pretext to build a coalition that would patrol the region.

The U.S. is trying to project the mission as a bid to secure the Persian Gulf, but “the

Europeans argue that Washington created the problem in the first place by trying to kill off Iran’s oil exports”, the New York Times wrote last month.

Iran has dismissed the allegations and called the attacks false flag operations, warning regional neighbors to be vigilant in the face of plots by outsiders to destabilize the region.

Rouhani echoed that stance on Monday, saying any solution to calm tensions must come from the region and what he called a “coalition of hope.”

“We believe the solution for the region comes from inside the region and those who come from the outside can never bring peace and security,” he maintained.

Citing America’s military interventions in the region as an example, Rouhani said since entering the region in 2001, the United States has failed to bring back calm to any of the countries that it has deployed forces to.

“I hope we can roll out this plan and tell the world that Iran is looking for lasting peace in the region and is willing to” discuss it with other countries with the UN involved in the process, he said of his HOPE initiative.

Kerry slams bankrupt policy of ‘maximum pressure’

By staff and agency

Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has said that Washington’s withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran is the cause of escalation of tension in the region, calling policy of “maximum pressure” on Tehran bankrupt.

“We have been pressuring them. Maximum pressure. And it was entirely foreseeable that that would result in further conflict. So we’re seeing the unfolding of really a bankruptcy of approach,” he told CBS News.

“France, Germany, Britain, China, Russia, all still support a multilateral agreement that was a model of multilateral diplomacy. We came together, the world welcomed this, the United Nations Security Council ratified it, embraced it. And that still is there. Along comes President Trump and he pulls out. He broke the agreement... The escalation is the absolutely foreseeable and it was foreseen that this is what would happen. Why do I say that? Because we were ridiculed for saying that the alternative to what we were trying to do in making the agreement was war, was conflict,” he said.

He added, “I mean I-I personally had leaders in the Middle East telling me you’ve got to bomb Iran. We had

a prime minister of Israel come to America and ask for a green light to bomb. So, we were averting war. And when we signed the agreement in Vienna, the initial agreement, we all agreed that this was a way to avoid a war and open up a channel of communicating, and diplomacy to be able to deal with legitimate other issues that are concerned with Iran.”

In an interview with CGTN aired on Sunday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that Washington’s policy of sanction and pressure against Iran has not worked.

“The United States is running out of options. It is desperate. The policy of maximum pressure has not worked,” he said.

Zarif said on Saturday that the U.S. sanctions on the central bank shows “desperation” and failure of “maximum pressure”.

In a tweet, Zarif said that the sanctions displays “the preventing of CBI from financing import of food and medicine for our people”.

He added that the sanctions also display “B_Team’s fear of U.S. return to negotiation and “B_Team’s efforts to drag into war”.

Trump said on Friday that he has ordered sanctions on



Iran’s central bank at “the highest level.” Trump, who had initially imposed the sanctions applied to Iran’s central bank, said the new penalties on Iran mark the “highest sanctions ever imposed on a country.”

Trump quit nuclear deal in May 2018 and reimposed sanctions on Iran.

Government: It is for years that U.S. has taken the UN ‘hostage’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian government spokesman said on Monday that it is for long years that Washington has taken the United Nations as “hostage”.

The remarks by Ali Rabiei came after he was asked about the reasons why the United States delayed issuing visa for Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to participate at the annual UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

“It is quite natural that they try to prevent us to speak less in the United States,” Rabiei told a regular news briefing.

He said the “delay” in issuing visa was



“illegal” and they did not issue visa for many who were to accompany the Iranian delegation.

■ U.S. must lift sanctions and accept provisions of negotiations

On a tweet by CNN correspondent that Zarif has said meeting between Rouhani and his American counterpart Donald Trump is possible is all sanctions are lifted, Rabiei said, “The United States must lift sanctions and also return to the provisions of the negotiations. In that situation, we will adopt necessary decisions.”

The government spokesman also said there is no contradictions between remarks made by officials about the conditions set by Iran for dialogue with the U.S.

■ We develop ties with countries that ignore sanctions

The government spokesman also said Iran

intends to develop ties with countries, such as China, which are standing beside Iran at the time of sanctions.

“With any country, including China, which at the time of sanctions is at our side, we intend to develop ties,” he said in reference to the 25-year strategic partnership between Iran and China.

He added, “We thank the countries that do not pay attention to the illegal sanctions shake their hands warmly.”

The government spokesman also said Iran has established good ties with Russia and have removed dollar in their bilateral transactions.

“We give oil and also export other commodities, and also do not use dollar.”

Iran will call for ‘coalition for hope’ to secure region

Iran’s top diplomat has offered a preview of what he said would be President Hassan Rouhani’s vision to ensure regional stability and to avoid a conflict with the United States and its allies, Newsweek reported.

Speaking to a small group of journalists at Tehran’s diplomatic mission to the United Nations in New York on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif presented his country’s plan for what he termed a “coalition for hope,” officially titled the “Hormuz Peace Endeavor”. Rouhani had introduced the concept himself earlier in the day, with Zarif later elaborating on its potential scope and purpose.

“It’s about freedom of navigation, it’s about energy security, non-aggression, non-intrusion,” Zarif said, adding that it was Iran’s position that “the presence of foreign forces is not conducive to security” in the Persian Gulf, but keeping such forces out would not be a precondition for the coalition itself.

Among those invited would be “Iraq, the entirety of the GCC”—referring to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, whose membership includes Iran’s top rival Saudi Arabia—as well “Yemen, probably, and anyone who depends on the Strait of Hormuz,” the world’s most important maritime oil chokepoint. Zarif said Russia and China would be welcome too as Iran sought international support in countering a U.S.-led anti-Iran campaign.

Unrest has worsened in the Persian Gulf region since President Donald Trump’s decision last year to abandon a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that had significantly curbed the Islamic republic’s nuclear ac-

tivities in exchange for sanctions relief. The Trump administration has accused Tehran of using this money to expand its alleged support for militant groups and its missile development, though fellow signatories China, the European Union, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom have continued to back the agreement.

To crack down on what it calls Iranian provocations in the region, the U.S. began calling for a maritime security initiative in June. So far, only Australia, Bahrain, the UK and, most recently, the United Arab Emirates have joined this coalition.

As the U.S. expanded its military presence in the Middle East and laid out increasingly strict sanctions against Iran in an effort to sever its international trade, unclaimed attacks hit oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman and Iran and the United Kingdom seized one another’s commercial vessels. Iran’s Adrian Darya 1—accused of trying to sell oil to Syria via the Strait of Gibraltar despite EU sanctions—was captured July 4 and has since been released. Iran in turn impounded the UK Stena Impero—accused of endangering maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz—on July 19. On Sunday the British ship was on track to be freed as well, according to a report in Iran’s semi-official Fars News Agency.

Following its release from UK-controlled Gibraltar, the Adrian Darya 1 went on to sell oil in the Eastern Mediterranean, though Iran said it would not disclose the buyer’s identity. “We’re not going to be transparent,” Zarif said Sunday. “Being transparent is equal to the U.S. going after our buyers.”

Global attention again turned to the region as a fossil fuel hub following the September 14 attack on Saudi Arabia’s Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities.

The strikes disrupted the global energy market and, though they were claimed by Yemen’s Ansar Allah, or Houthi, movement, the U.S. has laid the blame squarely on Iran. Zarif reiterated his government’s dismissals of the “conspiracy theories” that Iran had any hand in the attack, which he said only hurt his country in the long run.

“If you want to talk about cost-benefit, a lot of other people gained,” Zarif said, pointing specifically to Trump due to a potential surge in demand for U.S. weapons and oil after the attacks. “If we want to use conspiracy theories, the United States had the most interest in having this happen, and we had the least.”

He did, however, credit Trump with showing “prudence” by not resorting to military action against Iran in response to recent events in the Middle East. “He knows that people are trying to drag him [into a war] on the accusation that Iran was involved in this attack. Believe me, the Saudis want to hear that. Had Iran been behind the attack, there would have been nothing left of that refinery and many others.”

The Islamic republic planned to re-brand Sunday’s date, September 22, nationally infamous as the date of an Iraqi invasion that launched a deadly war 39 years ago. Zarif tweeted earlier Sunday that it would be “a day of peace—not war,” pointing towards Rouhani’s declaration of a “coalition for hope” at a military parade

in Tehran that same day.

Asked by Newsweek what would happen if Iran did not get the international support it sought for the proposed coalition, Zarif said “it’s their loss.” He also accused the U.S. of waging “economic terrorism” on Iran through sanctions that have increasingly affected everyday citizens and pointed specifically to Newsweek’s coverage of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s remarks regarding the use of economic restrictions in order to coerce the Iranian government into following U.S. policy if “they want their people to eat.”

While the Pentagon has held off on directly blaming Iran for the attacks in Saudi Arabia, Pompeo has pointed to Tehran from the beginning.

Trump tightened sanctions again Friday in response to the strikes against the kingdom’s oil sites. As a result of the latest, far-reaching round of restrictions, which included the blacklisting of Iran’s central bank, Zarif said that “President Trump, knowingly or unknowingly, closed the door for negotiations” because such a designation would be harder for the president to reverse, even if he chose to.

While Zarif’s primary goal was to prepare journalists for the so-called “coalition for hope” set to be expanded on by Rouhani at the United Nations General Assembly, the diplomat confided his skepticism as to whether Tehran and Washington could work toward bridging their growing gap in the coming days. Asked if he expected the U.S.-Iran relations to be in a better place following this week’s annual international gathering, Zarif told Newsweek, “I doubt it.”

‘Britain should stop selling arms to Saudis instead of accusing Iran’

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran says London should stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia instead of accusing the Islamic Republic of being responsible for attacks on the Saudi oil facilities.

“The government of England, instead of making fruitless efforts against the Islamic Republic of Iran, should act to stop selling deadly weapons to Saudi Arabia, which is the request of many people in the world, and release itself from accusations of committing war crimes against the Yemeni people,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday, according to ISNA.

It came after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson claimed there was a “very high degree of probability” that Iran was behind the drone and missile attacks on two oil facilities on September 14.

Iran has rejected the accusations, saying it is courageous enough to claim responsibility for anything it does.

The British prime minister declined to rule out military intervention and said sanctions were also a possibility.

Saudi Arabia has also accused Iran of carrying out the 14 September attacks, in which 18 drones and seven cruise missiles



hit an oil field and processing facility.

The U.S., which also blames Iran, is sending more troops to Saudi Arabia.

Johnson added that the United Kingdom desires to avoid any escalation in the Persian Gulf region.

Speaking to reporters on his plane en route to the UN General Assembly in New York, he said he saw the UK’s role as “serving as a bridge between our European friends and the Americans” on the issue of de-escalating regional tension.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that “even the Saudis themselves don’t believe the fiction of Iranian involvement” in the attacks on the Aramco oil facilities.

He said on Thursday that a military strike against Iran by the U.S. or Saudi Arabia would result in “an all-out war”.

“I make a very serious statement about defending our country. I am making a very serious statement that we don’t want to engage in a military confrontation. But we won’t blink to defend our territory,” he told CNN.

Zarif said that Iran hoped to avoid conflict, adding that the country was willing to talk to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

France says after de-escalation of U.S.-Iran tensions



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Sunday his country’s main aim at the UN General Assembly meeting is to de-escalate the Tehran-Washington tensions.

Speaking to reporters, Le Drian said holding a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Iranian

President Hassan Rouhani was not the number one subject, Reuters reported.

“The priority subject is whether we can restart a de-escalation path with the different actors,” he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron has started mediation efforts between Iran and the U.S., in the hope of reducing tensions.

However, a September 14 attack on Saudi oil facilities, which the United States has blamed on Iran, has complicated matters.

Iran denied involvement in the attack, while Yemen has claimed responsibility.

“This moment is dangerous for the world and the situation is serious because of the magnitude of the strikes (on Saudi Arabia) and its targets and ... (they) came when we thought there was a window of opportunity for talks,” Le Drian said.

Calling the attack a turning point, he added that it was imperative to get to the bottom of it so there can be a firm political response, although he declined to say what that response could be.

“What we want is that these events and actions are documented and then the international community will be within its right to ask for explanations. But first we need to know who and why they acted like that,” Le Drian said.

Britain has also said it believes Iran was responsible for the attack and will work with the United States and European allies on a joint response.

“The UK is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran for the Aramco attacks. We think it very likely indeed that Iran was indeed responsible,” Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday, according to Reuters.

“We will be working with our American friends and our European friends to construct a response that tries to deescalate tensions in the [Persian] Gulf region.”

Johnson said he would be discussing Iran’s actions in the region with President Hassan Rouhani at the UN meeting.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab also said it was very likely that Iran was responsible for the attack on Saudi Arabia’s oil installation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said linking Iran to the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is a “maximum deceit” in line with Washington’s “maximum pressure” on Tehran.

In remarks on Friday, Zarif also said “even the Saudis themselves don’t believe the fiction of Iranian involvement” in the attacks on the Aramco oil facilities, citing Saudi Arabia’s retaliation attack on Hodaideh in Yemen as a reason.

Trump had the illusion that maximum pressure would make Iran to capitulate: Fareed Zakaria

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Fareed Zakaria, the author of “In Defense of a Liberal Education” and “The Post-American World”, says predictions of those Iranians who believed the United States cannot be trusted finally came true as Donald Trump abandoned the 2015 nuclear deal and introduced sanctions on Iran.

Writing an article in the Washington Post published on September 20, the CNN host said Trump had the illusion that maximum pressure would make Iran to capitulate.

Following is an excerpt of the opinion headlined “The central mistake of Trump’s Iran policy”:

In confidential 2018 cables that were leaked this summer, Britain’s then-ambassador to Washington, Kim Darroch, wrote something that was obvious to most observers: Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal largely because “it was Obama’s deal” and had given little thought toward a “day-after strategy.” Darroch also noted that Secretary of State



Mike Pompeo tried to put some distance between himself and Trump on this issue, privately referring to the move as “the president’s decision.”

The Trump administration’s strategy, such as it is, appears to have been to dou-

ble down on pressure on Iran, force other nations to abide by the United States’ unilateral sanctions and bet that this would cause Iran to capitulate.

Tehran’s initial reaction was restrained. It simply sought to bypass the

United States. It continued to adhere to the deal and made efforts to trade with other countries. This failed. European countries, furious about the abuse of the dollar’s role, tried to create an alternative payments mechanism, but so far, it has not succeeded.

(However) maximum pressure did not make Iran come crawling back to the table.

There is also the reality of domestic politics within the Islamic republic. The Iran deal was unpopular with hard-liners in the United States, but it was also unpopular among some in Iran. Those who opposed the deal argued that Tehran was making major concessions — shipping away 98 percent of its enriched uranium, pouring concrete into its plutonium reactor — in return for promises that the United States would lift sanctions and allow Iran back into the global economy. They predicted that Washington would renege on its commitments. Once Trump pulled out of the deal, they claimed vindication.

War with Iran would be disastrous, U.S. senator warns

TEHRAN (FNA) — U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, cautioned the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump over engaging in war with Tehran, advising Washington to try diplomacy.

Cardin told “Fox News Sunday” on Sunday that there’s “really not a military solution” to the U.S. problem with Iran. “We need to make diplomacy work. We have to reduce where we are, where we could have this miscalculation.”

“It would be disastrous if we got into a fighting war with Iran, it would not be in our national security interests,” he added.

A key Saudi oil facility was seriously damaged on September 14 in a raid by Yemen’s Houthis. Washington and Riyadh insist, without providing any reliable evidence, the group was incapable of launching such an elaborate assault, and accused Iran of being the perpetrator. Tehran, however, has rejected the accusations of involvement in the attack.

The attacks shut down about 50 percent of the kingdom’s crude and gas production, and cut the state oil giant’s crude oil supply by around 5.7 million barrels per day. A return to normal production could take months, not weeks, according to reports.

Cardin also stressed that Trump’s withdrawal from the

2015 nuclear deal had made tensions with Iran worse, referring to a landmark agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was struck between Iran and six world powers.

“By pulling out of the nuclear agreement it’s the view of Europe that this is an American problem rather than an international problem,” Cardin told guest host John Roberts, saying, “We isolated the United States rather than isolating Iran.”

Tensions mounted between Tehran and Washington last May, when Trump pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal, and re-imposed harsh sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global objections. The American leader and his hawkish advisers, including former national security advisor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, stepped up pressure against Iranians.

The crisis saw a sharp rise on the first anniversary of Washington’s exit from the deal as the U.S. moved to ratchet up pressure on Iran by tightening its oil sanctions and sending military reinforcements, including an aircraft carrier strike group, a squadron of B-52 bombers, and a battery of Patriot missiles, to the Persian Gulf region.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran hit a new high in June after the U.S. sent a number of military aircraft to



the Iranian skies under a tense climate of escalating threats, forcing the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force to shoot down one of the intruding American aircraft.

Following the recent attacks by the Yemeni forces on Riyadh-owned major oil facilities, the United States announced it will send troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to bolster Riyadh’s air defenses.

Iran has stressed that it will not be the initiator of any war, but reserves the right to self-defense and will give a crushing response to any act of aggression by the United States.

‘Maximum pressure’ has produced ‘maximum resistance’, says Araqchi

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that “maximum pressure” from the United States has produced “maximum resistance” from Iran, and that Tehran will continue to resist.

Speaking at the Iranian mission to the UN in New York, Araqchi rejected the prospects of negotiations until the U.S. stops its campaign of maximum pressure on Tehran, The Independent reported on Sunday.

He said “to get real negotiations started, this economic war has to end,” referring to U.S. sanctions that Iran also describes



as “economic terrorism”.

“And to end this economic war, we first need a ceasefire in order to do real negotiations and find sustainable solutions,” Araqchi said.

“Not only us, but no country will negotiate under pressure,” he added.

This year’s UNGA meeting comes amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf following a 14 September attack on Saudi Arabia’s oil fields, which the Saudis and their Western allies blamed on Iran.

Yemen’s Houthi forces claimed responsibility for the attack and Tehran has denied it was involved.

Asked what Tehran would do if the maximum pressure from Washington turns into military pressure, Araqchi said, “Then we will resist militarily.”

The Islamic Republic has warned Washington that any military action against Iran will lead to an “all-out war”.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump has shown willingness for a meeting with President Hassan Rouhani at the gathering of the world leaders in New York. Tehran, however, dismissed the possibility of such meeting last Monday, saying “neither is such a plan on our agenda nor will such a thing happen.”

However, Araqchi suggested that President Rouhani would be willing to meet with his American counterpart in a multilateral setting if the U.S. returned to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly referred to as the Iran nuclear deal.

“If Trump returns to the JCPOA, we will again negotiate with the United States in the format of a P5+1 meeting”, he said.

Tensions have been high since Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal last year and re-imposed sanctions on all major industries in Iran, including oil and petrochemicals exports.

Iran has stayed in the deal with the other signatories, but has started to gradually reduce its commitments to the JCPOA.

French President Emmanuel Macron has started mediation efforts between Iran and the U.S., in the hope of reducing tensions.

Araqchi, who was one of the top negotiators of the Iran nuclear deal, explained: “Mr. Macron and Rouhani’s plan is to have a ceasefire to be able to conduct real extensive negotiations and find a long term solution.”

He added: “This is the path and the roadmap that we believe will work.”

“Otherwise without a ceasefire and under pressure, no country will negotiate and neither will we.”

“If we get to sell our oil, we will return to full compliance of the deal,” said Araqchi.

“But meeting with Trump is a different discussion,” he added.

Asked whether Tehran is ready to stay in this resistance mode for the next two to six years, considering Trump may very well win re-election, Araqchi said: “We will continue ultimate resistance in the face of maximum pressure. If they put maximum pressure aside, the path to negotiation will open.”

IRGC receives four homegrown helicopters

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has received four military helicopters that were produced domestically, Deputy Defense Minister Qassem Taqizadeh announced on Monday.

Taqizadeh said that three Shahed 278 and one Shahed 285 helicopters were delivered to the IRGC Ground Force, according to the Fars news agency.



“Mechanical, hydraulic and electro avionic systems along with full body of the helicopters have been built after indigenization by the Iranian experts from 0 to 100,” he stated during a ceremony in the central province of Isfahan.

Experts from 6 top Iranian universities, 25 knowledge-based firms, 20 part-producer companies and 43 contractors cooperated with the Defense Ministry in launching the production line of Shahed 278 helicopters, the brigadier general explained.

The other model, Shahed-285, is a single-seat helicopter used for solo flights and close combats, added.

The general went on to say that Iran is now among a handful of countries with the technical know-how to design and make helicopters.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great headways in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient in the arms sphere.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	311471.4
IFX	4121.15

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,290 rials
GBP	52,432 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$62.81/b
WTI	\$57.67/b
OPEC Basket	\$64.39/b
Gold	\$1,519.95/oz
Silver	\$18.41/oz
Platinum	\$957.85/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

The eurozone economy slips even further into malaise

Europe's single currency area is sinking further into economic malaise and the authorities will likely need to act further to help. As per forbes.com, the latest economic metrics for the eurozone, which covers 19 European Union countries, show sharply slowing growth across the main sectors, manufacturing, and services.

The "eurozone flash PMI dashed hope that the worst was past and supports those that were calling for bold ECB (European Central Bank) action," states a recent report from currency dealing firm Bannockburn Global Forex. IHS Markit Eurozone Composite PMI registered 50.4 for September, down from 51.9 in August and also below investor expectations of 51.9.

The composite PMI covers both the services sector as well as manufacturing, with a reading of above 50 indicating growth and below 50 a contraction. In this case, that means the latest data shows that the eurozone economy is moving closer to a recession and Germany may already be there.

A recent report from London-based research company Capital Economics sees nothing but gloom. It states:

All in all, with the euro-zone's manufacturing sector in the doldrums and services activity starting to lose pace, there is little reason to think that GDP growth will pick up as the ECB and the consensus forecasts assume.

The Capital Economics report says overall growth this year could slip further and may already mean that a significant part of the economy is shrinking.

Europe's biggest economy, Germany, saw its worst Composite PMI reading since the dark days of October 2012, seven years ago, when the entire continent was stuck in economic contraction. The country's manufacturing PMI is the worst in a decade, the report says.

While the overall eurozone could limp along with slightly positive growth this year, the same is not true for Germany. "(T)here is a strong chance that Germany fell into recession in Q3," the Capital Economics report states.

What does this mean? Expect further efforts by the ECB to help stimulate the European economy as current efforts will likely fail.

"(T)he ECB's latest action (is) unlikely to do much good, pressure will build on policymakers to offer further support next year," the Capital Economics report states.

That will likely involve more money printing and the cost of borrowing could dip even further into negative territory.

Earlier this month, the ECB cut a key interest rate to minus 0.5% and restarted its bond-buying program, which is also known as quantitative easing (QE). QE is akin to printing money.

Such moves will likely send the value of the euro tumbling relative to the U.S. dollar.

Germany is 'firmly in contraction territory' after manufacturing sentiment fell to a crisis-era low

New data on Monday showed that Germany's composite PMI sank to its lowest level since October 2012. And sentiment among manufacturers fell to a 2009 low.

According to marketbusinessinsider.com, German PMI, or business sentiment, last month showed its lowest reading since October 2012. And sentiment among manufacturers took the biggest hit, posting its lowest level of factory activity since the depths of the financial crisis, according to IHS Markit.

According to IHS Markit, the flash reading for Price Manufacturing Index for September, across all sectors of the economy, was at 49.1, down from 51.7 August.

Much of the decline has been put down to external uncertainties in the forms of the trade war between the U.S. and China, and Britain's plan to exit the European Union. All three countries have reduced the number of orders from Germany, hurting Europe's biggest economy.

The "manufacturing numbers are simply awful," said Phil Smith, principal economist at IHS Markit. "All the uncertainty around trade wars, the outlook for the car industry and Brexit are paralyzing order books, with September seeing the worst performance from the sector since the depths of the financial crisis in 2009."

PMI is a tool used by economists to see how the economy is faring, by assessing how managers are feeling about the future — the flash reading gives a snapshot of the main reading, taking in about 85% of usual monthly replies.

The September flash reading marked Germany's first reading below the 50 threshold, which is a major signal of decline.

Private sector disapproving of trade law amendment bill

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN — On September 1, Iranian parliament (Majlis) approved a bill on amending the country's trade law.

The amendment bill addressing 109 articles of the trade law has become a matter of concern for the private sector as this sector believes that approving it has been a hasty action.

During the monthly meeting of the board of representatives of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on September 18, the representatives expressed their definite disagreement about the hasty approving of that bill and called on the parliament to omit this bill from its agenda.

Saying that this bill will bring losses for the country's economy, the private sector's representatives announced that they will make necessary correspondences to the related organizations for stopping the process of approving the amendments.

During that meeting, Masoud Khansari, the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), said: "Trade law is 85 years old and is a reference for all traders and business people in the country; therefore, changing it in a short time is not logical, while the viewpoints of economists, lawyers, political and social experts, especially businessmen and business owners are required for such measure."

"It is unfortunate that in a hasty approach and within just a few hours such bill was approved. We definitely call on Majlis to stop more action on this bill, because amendments on such law in this way is not in the interest



of the country", he added.

■ Ambiguities should be removed

Also in their recent meeting held at the place of ICCIMA, the heads of the country's chambers of commerce announced their dissatisfaction over this bill and called on Majlis to stop following up it, as they believe that there are serious ambiguities and faults in it that removing them requires some more expert works.

During that session, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafei said that a letter signed by the heads of ICCIMA, Chamber of Cooperatives, and Association of Guilds, has been sent to the Majlis speaker and chief of Guardian Council (that must review and approve a bill after it has been approved

by Majlis) indicating the private sector's complaints about a hasty approach for approving such a sensitive and important bill.

Private sector believes that such bill should not become a law.

Reza Baradaran Esfahani, the vice chairman of the Legal Committee of ICCIMA, says that this bill becoming a law will endanger the safety and security of investment making.

■ No amendment, a new law

While announcing the private sector's disagreement with the amendment bill, Mohammad Jafari, the chairman of ICCIMA Committee of Trade Facilitation and Imports Management, is of the opinion that many parts of the bill are not amendments to the existing law, while they are aimed at

Nearly €8b of non-oil income injected to NIMA in H1



Iran provides foreign currency for the country's exporters with significantly low exchange rates and the exporters are obliged to return the equivalent of the supplied fund in the form of foreign currency.

NIMA, which seeks to boost transparency, creates competitiveness among exchange shops and promotes a secure environment for traders, is a new chance for importers to supply their required foreign currency without specific problems and for exporters to re-inject their earned foreign currency to domestic forex market. It was inaugurated to allow exporters of non-oil commodities to sell their foreign currency earnings to importers of consumer products.

In mid-November last year, CBI issued the instructions on return details of the hard currency earned by exporters back to the domestic financial system.

The instructions, aimed to lead the export revenues from

the non-oil exports back into the country's economy through NIMA, mandate all the exporters of goods and services to guarantee bringing back to the country the foreign currency amount allocated to them by the government at lower prices than the free market.

In late May, CBI unveiled a new directive package to provide the country's exporters with guidelines about how they should re-inject their foreign currency incomes into the country's economy.

Based on the directive, for the petrochemical sector, the exporters should present at least 60 percent of their foreign currency incomes into the NIMA, and a maximum 10 percent could be injected into the financial system in the form of hard currency and the rest could be used for importing necessary goods.

As for other exporters, at least 50 percent of the total



earnings should be presented at the NIMA system and a maximum 20 percent could be distributed in form of hard currency and the rest can be used for imports.

IRICA opens office at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has opened a representative office at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds in order to facilitate custom operations for exhibitors and participants of international exhibitions in the country.

As reported by IRNA, the office, which was officially opened on Sunday, is aimed to facilitate customs services and commodity clearance for the exhibitors.

According to Iran's new deputy industry minister in trade affairs, Hossein Modares Khiabani, the office is going to operate only for clearing commodities which are going to be exhibited in events or are needed for international exhibitions.

Iran International Exhibition Company holds about 90 exhibitions annually, according to the Managing Director of the company,



Bahman Hosseinzadeh.

"The [representative] office has been launched in accordance with the existing customs conventions in order to encourage the presence of foreign companies in these exhibitions and their cooperation with Iranian companies," Hosseinzadeh said.

"The office provides important services to companies intending to import technology into Iran, and in the face of the U.S. sanctions this step can have a significant impact on developing the country's industry," he added.

CBI governor visits Kuwait to attend intl. banking conference

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) traveled to Kuwait on Monday to attend an international banking conference in the neighboring country, IRNA reported.

"Today [September 23] I attended an international banking conference in Kuwait upon an invitation from the governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait," Abdolnasser Hemmati wrote in an Instagram post.

Hemmati has also held talks with the chief bankers of other neighboring countries on the sidelines of the event.

The official noted that in the conference several important issues were raised including the political and economic challenges of the banking system.

"Two major issues were mainly focused



in the event, one of which was the pace of technology growth and how the banking system should adapt to technological developments, and the second was the rapid growth of corporate debts that, with its current growth rate, in up to 20 years it will exceed 500 percent of the total global GDP," he said.

The conference was attended by the governors of the central banks of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan.

To endure coming global recession

The second shock, "the slow-brewing cold war" between the U.S. and China over technology, and the third one, potentially rising global oil prices due to the U.S. military confrontation with Iran.

Morgan Stanley has recently warned its clients that the risk of a global recession is high and rising as trade headwinds aggravate economic slowdowns. Its chief economist, Chetan Ahya said, the "downtrend in some global economies is becoming contagious and if trade tensions escalate further, we will enter into a global recession ..."

■ The Korean economy

South Korea could be one of the greatest victims of the global "perfect storm" simply because of its economic size. The Korean economy is the 4th-largest in Asia and the 11th largest in the world. Its GDP for 2018 was \$1.62 trillion. But it relies heavily on international trade. In 2017 its exports were \$577.4 billion and imports \$457.5 billion.

South Korea's three major trade partners are China, Japan and the U.S. South Korea imports high-value intermediate goods from Japan. By using these, South Korea manufactures sophisticated final products and exports them to higher-income countries

and to China.

Amid an increasing risk of global recession, residents of South Korea fear that the economy will soon face this "perfect storm" due to increasing diplomatic and political uncertainties. The country's diplomatic relations with Japan, China, and the U.S. seem to be getting worse.

■ Long-term private investments

Under these circumstances, long-term private investments in South Korea cannot be sustained. The number of foreign investors is decreasing. Confrontations between the ruling and opposition parties are becoming more intensified. Even the government's short-term fix for an economic recovery is not being timely implemented.

The Bank of Korea and the state-funded Korea Development Institute have revised downward a few times their early GDP forecasts for 2019. Now South Korea's annual GDP growth for 2019 is forecast to be as low as 1.4 percent. The GDP growth rates for the first and second quarter are 1.7 percent and 2.1 percent. The forecasts for third and fourth quarter growth are 0.6 percent and 1.1 percent. These statistics show that South Korea has already entered into the early stage of a recession.

The Korean people should be able to withstand the strongly blowing headwind of the perfect storm. To this end, political leaders and policymakers should undertake the following measures:

(1) Provide the people with vision and hope for the Korean economy so that they will shake off their fears. Recession fears tend to be self-fulfilling and can bring on a recession.

(2) Adopt both demand and supply policies to put the nation's economy on the right track. Income-led demand policy alone will not work. Consumer spending out of government subsidies cannot help boost production capacity. A supply-side policy that can increase longer-term investment must accompany it.

(3) Improve diplomatic relations with our major economic partners China, Japan and the U.S. Being antagonistic to our traditional trade partners will only pull our economy backward.

(4) Read just the nation's internally inconsistent nuclear-power phase-out policy. With the current nuclear-power policy, we cannot continually sell our first-rate services, related to both construction and operation of nuclear power plants, abroad.

(Source: koreatimes.co.kr)

By Dr. Jeffrey I. Kim

Many people in the world are worried that they are going to encounter another huge global recession soon. Economists often define a recession as when annual growth falls below 2.5 percent that lasts for at least two consecutive quarters.

Economic analysts predict that the escalation of the Sino-U.S. tariff war will form an economic "perfect storm" and lead to a very serious global recession. This time not only the U.S. and China but Europe and Latin America will also suffer from a deadly miserable economic disaster.

International news agencies are reporting that the trade war will damage the Chinese economy more than the U.S. because of China's enormous outstanding debt. Its state industries as well as consumers have borrowed heavily from banks. So there is world-wide speculation that China could face a local debt crisis before meeting the global recession.

Nouriel Roubini of New York University has recently predicted that three negative supply shocks could trigger a global recession by 2020. The first shock is the Sino-American trade and currency war.

‘Iran exports up to \$200m of gasoline via IRENEX every week’

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** – Managing director of Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) said up to \$200 million worth of gasoline is traded at international ring of IRENEX every week, Tasnim reported on Monday.

“Over the past seven weeks, on average, over 100,000 tons of gasoline has been offered and sold every week at IRENEX,” Ali Hosseini said.

According to Hosseini all the mentioned offerings have taken place at the international ring of IRENEX and have been traded base on foreign currencies.

The official noted that in addition to gasoline, every week up to 500,000 tons of other oil products including gasoil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) are offered at the international ring of IRENEX, adding that all the mentioned products are sold and the buyers even compete for their purchases.

“According to our plan, these volumes will increase by the end of the year [March 19, 2020], and in terms of quality we will try to provide multiple and varied grades of such products and also expand export



destinations,” Hosseini said.

Earlier this week, IRIB reported that National Iranian Oil Company has sold 450,000 tons of oil products worth \$160.656 million at IRENEX’s international ring during the week ended on September 20.

As reported, in the mentioned week, 168,000 tons of gasoline worth \$64.297 million as well as 162,500 tons of gasoil worth \$73.964 million along with 20,000 tons of kerosene and 50,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas were sold to foreign buyers at IRENEX.

Since the U.S. withdrew from Iran’s nuclear pact in May 2018, vowing to drive Iran’s oil exports down to zero, the Islamic Republic has been taking various measures to counter U.S. actions and to lessen its economy’s reliance on oil.

The country also sought new strategies to help its oil exports afloat, one of which is diversifying the mechanism of oil sales, like offering oil and oil products at the country’s stock market.

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

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

Iranian firms ink deal for indigenizing polymer production technology

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Petrochemical Research and Technology Company (PRTC) has signed an agreement with Tabriz Petrochemical Company (TPC) for cooperation on indigenizing the technology for production of high density polyethylene (HDPE), Shana reported.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of Iran’s 13th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2019), in a ceremony attended by National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Managing Director Behzad Mohammadi on Monday.

The agreement was inked by Ali Pajouhan, the managing director of PRTC, and Siavash Darafshi, the CEO of TPC.

Speaking in the event, Pajouhan noted that PRTC has been working on the production of high-density polyethylene for over 15 years, adding that “The company is now capable of delivering technical knowledge of

this technology in various scales.”

He further noted that all the necessary equipment in this regard is available in the Petrochemical Research and Technology Company, adding that the agreement includes the license for production of 310,000 tons of high density polyethylene on an annual basis.

High-density polyethylene (HDPE) or polyethylene high-density (PEHD) is a thermoplastic polymer produced from the monomer ethylene.

Iran’s 13th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2019) kicked off at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground on Sunday.

The inauguration ceremony was participated by Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, NPC Managing Director Behzad Mohammadi, Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani, and a number of senior officials and directors of the related industries.



Managing Director of Iran’s Petrochemical Research and Technology Company (PRTC) Ali Pajouhan (R) and Siavash Darafshi, the CEO of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (TPC), signed an agreement on Monday for cooperation on production of high density polyethylene (HDPE).

Oil edges further above \$64 on doubts over Saudi supply



Oil rose further above \$64 a barrel on Monday, supported by doubts about how quickly Saudi Arabia can restore output

by investors on supply risks.

As per ca.reuters.com, despite efforts by the top crude exporter to reassure the market it can resume full production by the end of September, state oil company Saudi Aramco has asked some customers to switch crude grades and delay shipments.

The “geopolitical risk premium has returned with a vengeance and supply-side developments have been thrust back into the spotlight,” Stephen Brennock of oil broker PVM said. “While Saudi oil facilities smolder, the potential for fresh outages in Nigeria, Libya and Venezuela continues to hang over the market.”

Brent crude was up 31 cents at \$64.59 a barrel at 0911 GMT, having risen as high as \$65.50. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude CLC1 rose 28 cents to \$58.37.

Brent has gained 18% this year, helped by a supply-limit-

ing pact led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, although concern about slowing economic growth has limited the advance.

A survey on Monday showed euro zone business growth stalled this month, and the latest U.S.-China talks have failed to produce signs of a breakthrough in the two countries’ prolonged trade dispute.

“Investors remain unconvinced that a trade deal is about to see the light of day soon,” said Hussein Sayed, analyst at broker FXMT. “That’s likely to put a cap on any further gains in risk assets.”

Tension in the Middle East has escalated since the Saudi attack, also lending oil some support. The Pentagon has ordered additional U.S. troops to be deployed in the Persian Gulf region to strengthen Saudi Arabia’s air and missile defenses.

Crude oil: The fundamentals are bullish

If you’ve been watching the crude markets last week, you’ve likely been aware of the incredible amount of volatility seen in the price of oil. With prices trading in a range of over 10%, serious money has been either made or lost by traders in the Saudi export facilities. In this piece, I will make the case that crude oil is actually undersupplied right now and that prices will rise going into the future. In other words, it is time to buy crude oil.

As stated by seekingalpha.com, let’s start with the bearish side of the crude balance: demand. Put simply, demand has been absolutely terrible this year in the domestic crude markets with the vast majority of weeks coming in below the 5-year average in refining utilization.

When it comes to isolating exactly why demand is so weak, it’s hard to peg a single source. However, demand is largely a function of the economy and when economic activity is lower than could be desired, demand tends to taper.

Economic activity as measured by a number of indicators has been subdued this year and as a result, we have seen demand for gasoline and distillate reduced. This reduction in the economy has resulted in pretty dismal refining demand and is by far is the most bearish piece of the balance.

The other component that makes up demand is exports and exports have been very strong this year.

With the average somewhere in the range of 3 million barrels per day of crude leaving the United States for other countries, demand in the form of exports is strong.

Plenty of crude oil buyers

In terms of where this crude is actually going, the United States is fortunate in that several countries are receiving its barrels, which means that there are plenty of buyers,



regardless of tariffs and trade wars.

The primary economic signal for exports in the United States is the Brent-WTI spread (which factors into a few coastal spreads) and this pricing signal has continued to support exports.

To summarize demand, we can say that refining runs are pretty bad but strong exports make the demand situation just be “bad”. Luckily for oil bulls, demand is just one side of the equation. As we’re about to see, supply is the real story right now and the bullishness of supply dwarfs the bad demand for crude in the United States.

On the supply side, production and imports constitute the equation. Let’s start with production.

This year, we have seen production continue to grow and make several new highs as the year progresses.

While these levels are strong, there is more to the picture. Specifically, when it comes to production, it’s not a question of if it is rising or falling, but it’s a question of how fast is the growth. The reason for this is that in

a standard year, refining demand actually grows by a baseline amount simply due to population growth: more people driving = more barrels needed.

This year, we have seen production grow, but behind the scenes, agencies like the EIA have been revising down growth forecasts. In other words, production is going to keep growing through the rest of this year, but at a slower pace than anticipated. This is moderately bullish for the crude balance because it indicates that we will need a higher price to incentivize more production.

The true gem in the bullish thesis for crude oil comes in the form of imports. Put simply, imports are hitting several historic landmarks in how bullish they are and going forward, this situation is likely to remain. Let’s start with a 5-year range of weekly imports.

As you can see in the chart above, only 3 weeks this entire year have seen imports above the 5-year average. In fact, the majority of weeks of the year have come in below the 5-year range. Seen another way, on a year-to-date basis, the total amount of barrels

imported in the United States is at the lowest level in several decades.

Arresting the price declines

To arrest the price declines of late 2018, OPEC met and agreed to cut exports to price up crude. This decision led to an immediate rally in crude oil which lasted until around the time of the OPEC meetings in the middle of the year. At this second meeting, OPEC extended these cuts into March of 2020. In other words, this strongly bullish piece in the United States crude balance is going to continue in all likelihood.

Putting all of these pieces together, we have a crude balance which shows inventories below the 5-year average on the back of one of the largest 3-month periods of crude stock declines ever seen.

On a year-to-date basis, we are seeing the crude balance just a few barrels shy from the largest drop ever reported.

Notably, the two other similar years (the last two years) witnessed strong price rises going into this time of the year on the backs of inventory drops.

As crude stocks continue to decline, I expect that prices will rally and will rally strongly as the market realizes that crude supply is very weak.

What is truly noteworthy and exceptional about the current supply and demand situation is that stocks are falling and prices are starting to grind higher despite weak demand. If we even see a moderate recovery in demand, prices could strongly accelerate because the current situation is untenable.

The baseline case for crude oil right now is that as long as OPEC cuts continue, crude stocks are going to keep falling. An even moderate uptick in demand would result in stocks falling sharply and prices rising.

Put simply, it is time to buy crude oil.

LNG tankers divert to Asia, floating storage rises after price spike, sources say

At least five laden liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers changed course from Europe to Asia and a rising number of other tankers were being used as floating storage following a spike in Asian LNG prices in the past week, trade sources said.

As per hellenicshippingnews.com, while there may be specific reasons for the re-routing of individual cargoes, the diversion of so many tankers at the same time indicated a long market, meaning sellers were holding positions in the expectation of higher prices, the sources said.

Spot Asian LNG prices jumped last week after a rise in European gas prices and extended gains this week following the oil price spike in the Saudi Arabia’s oil facilities.

The price for LNG delivered to Asia in the second half of October grew to around \$5.70 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) last week, over a \$1.00 rise from two weeks ago. November delivery traded above \$6.00/mmBtu last week.

European LNG price benchmarks, Dutch gas for October and November deliveries, were trading at around \$4.10/mmBtu and \$5.64/mmBtu, respectively, on Thursday.

Four of the tankers that changed direction are carrying cargoes from the United States, while one is sourced from Nigeria, Refinitiv vessel ship tracking data shows.

Energy Liberty, chartered by Japan’s Tokyo Gas, had been signaling Barcelona as a destination but changed course last week and is now heading to Japan, where hot weather has increased gas demand in the past month.

Methane Alison Victoria made a U-turn from Europe towards the Cape of Good Hope after loading in Nigeria last week and is likely to go to Asia.

Cheniere’s Yari LNG sailed towards Cape of Good Hope last week too, having loaded a cargo in the U.S. three weeks ago, headed to Europe, then waited near Gibraltar for ten days.

Diamond Gas Sakura loaded a U.S. Cameron LNG cargo in mid-August and was first expected to go to Gibraltar but is now heading to the Indian Ocean, having paused near the Panama Canal.

Gaslog Saratoga, chartered by trading house Gunvor, was going to Italy, before changing route late last week and is now heading to Pakistan, where Gunvor won two delivery slots for October delivery in a recent tender.

Some of the tankers are sailing quickly, implying sellers made quick decisions and were now in a hurry to deliver. But others, like Diamond Gas Sakura, may still have no exact destination and are simply being slowly moved to Asia where prices increased, one LNG trader said.

In Asia, at least three cargoes, BP’s Sean Spirit, Petronas’ Seri Cemara and Royal Dutch Shell’s Gallina, are identified as a floating storage, data firm Kpler said.

UK pledges \$250m towards Global Energy Storage Program

The UK pledged £200 million (\$250 million) to the Climate Investment Funds’ Global Energy Storage Program, which in collaboration with the World Bank’s Energy Storage Partnership aims to deliver breakthrough energy storage and renewable energy solutions at scale.

According to esi-africa.com, France’s Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Netherlands pledged \$100 million to the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI), with the Netherlands also announcing \$20 million for the Bank’s planned Clean Cooking Fund.

The UK’s contribution supports the World Bank Group’s goal of mobilizing \$1 billion in concessional climate funds for a global program on energy storage, alongside its own commitment of \$1 billion, announced at the One Planet Summit in September 2018.

The program is expected to help middle-income and developing countries increase their use of renewables, particularly wind and solar power, improve energy security, increase grid stability and expand access to electricity.

It also aims to finance 17.5GWh of battery storage by 2025 – more than triple the 4-5GWh currently installed in all developing countries.

“Energy storage is essential to maximize the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. The transition to renewable energy and clean cooking are at the heart of development and two of our biggest priorities,” said Riccardo Puliti, World Bank global director for energy and extractive industries and regional director for infrastructure, Africa.

The pledges from France and the Netherlands, as part of SRMI, will provide support to countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which have some of the world’s largest gaps in electricity access, as they scale up their off-grid and grid-connected solar energy programs.

Upendra Tripathy, Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), commented: “I am extremely proud and honored that the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative is demonstrating its first concrete results. This is a fundamental and comprehensive mechanism that will greatly support the ISA member countries in developing solar energy.

“I believe this is the kind of partnership that will allow us to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreements and SDGs 7 and 13.”

The Dutch government committed \$44 million to the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project in the Sahel, in addition to the \$224.7 million from IDA and Climate Investment Funds’ Clean Technology Fund announced in April 2019.

The project aims to increase electricity access for households, businesses and public institutions using modern, standalone solar systems. About 1.7 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are expected to get electricity access or improved service through the effort.

France’s €50 million (\$55 million) will provide private investors with guarantees for smaller solar projects in sub-Saharan Africa through the Africa Trade Insurance Agency.

This will help bridge the gap for smaller projects and help countries deploy privately financed solar projects quickly and efficiently.



Mehran Kamrava: U.S. Persian Gulf coalition to fail

TEHRAN (FNA) — Mehran Kamrava, Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar, said the US efforts to form a coalition in the Persian Gulf to contain Iran's power will prove a failure.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with FNA, Professor Mehran Kamrava said the US has long tried various means to contain Iran's military presence and its influence in Persian Gulf region. In doing so, the Americans have not followed a coordinated, thoughtful, and long-term strategy and have always failed.



Mehran Kamrava is Professor and Director of the Center for International and Regional Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He is the author of a number of journal articles and books, including, most recently, *Troubled Waters: Insecurity in the Persian Gulf* (Cornell University Press, 2018); *Inside the Arab State* (Oxford University Press, 2018); *The Impossibility of Palestine: History, Geography, and the Road Ahead* (Yale University Press, 2016); *Qatar: Small State, Big Politics* (Cornell University Press, 2015); *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War, 3rd ed.* (University of California Press, 2013); and *Iran's Intellectual Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). His edited books include *The Great Game in West Asia: Iran, Turkey, and the Southern Caucasus* (2017); *Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East* (2016); *Beyond the Arab Spring: The Evolving Ruling Bargain in the Middle East* (2015); *The Political Economy of the Persian Gulf* (2012); *The Nuclear Question in the Middle East* (2012); and *The International Politics of the Persian Gulf* (2011).

Below is the full text of the interview:

■ The United States has moved to form a new military coalition in the Persian Gulf. What is the purpose of this coalition?

A: Over the years, the US has tried various means to contain Iran's military presence and its influence in Persian Gulf region. In doing so, the Americans have not followed a coordinated, thoughtful, and long-term strategy. And, despite pushing to make the Peninsula Shield a viable military force in the [P]GCC, they have failed to do so. This latest attempt, to create a new military coalition, appears to be part of yet another attempt by the United States — uncoordinated and without a long-term strategy — to maintain a military presence in the Persian Gulf and to share the costs of doing so. It does not appear to be heading for any meaningful success.

■ The UK also first called for a separate Persian Gulf coalition that was welcomed by France but rejected by Germany. Why do you think the UK called for a separate coalition in the first place?

A: The Europeans have tried to distance themselves from the erratic, uncoordinated, and confrontational policies of the United States. This is not to say that European diplomacy has been any more successful, and clearly evident by the Grace 1 tanker debacle, which Britain now doesn't know how to resolve. Nevertheless, the Europeans are eager to show a military presence, but at the same time distance from Donald Trump's foreign policies.

■ Another Plan for Persian Gulf security order was raised by the Russians that is close to Iranian views. The Russian plan merely envisages a supervisory or observer role for the trans-regional powers in the Persian Gulf. How practical do you believe this plan is?

A: In theory this plan makes a lot of sense, and the security of the region should be the responsibility of the regional actors. But in reality there is great mistrust among regional actors, especially when it comes to security issues. The recent announcement of collaborative security arrangements between Iran and the UAE is a very positive sign, and hopefully there will be more similar developments between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The smaller sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf feel vulnerable to the military powers of countries like Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Iran and Russia and other actors need to do what they can to lessen this feeling of vulnerability and threat — unreasonable as they are — that the smaller states feel. Only then would a viable regional security arrangement be possible.

■ Iran's proposed plan for the Persian Gulf is based on the establishment of security by the littoral states. How feasible is this plan, specially under the present circumstances?

A: Any viable and meaningful regional security arrangement needs to start with confidence-building measures. For several years now, Iranian diplomacy has been designed to reduce regional tensions and to build confidence among neighbors. For the longest time, the Saudis and the Emiratis were not willing to listen to the voices of calm and reasoned diplomacy coming out of Tehran. The tide seems to be turning in the UAE. And there are positive signs that Riyadh may also be reducing its animosity toward Iran. Let's hope this trend continues.

■ After 16 years, American troops returned to Saudi Arabia once again. How does this redeployment affect the security situation in the region?

A: This is more symbolic than militarily important. So far, the troop deployment has been only 500. But for the Americans it shows the expansion of their footprint in the Middle East, literally, and for the Saudis it ensures the continued acquisition of US military hardware at a time when the Congress is firmly opposed to it. As far as the security of the region is concerned, in the long run it makes the region only more insecure. No one likes foreign troops on their soil, and the people of Saudi Arabia are no exception. And the 500 troops are not going to enhance the security of the Kingdom, but only deepen its security dependence on the US. This is yet another ill-advised and short-sighted move by the Trump White House on the one side and by Mohammed bin Salman on the other.

Ashraf Shannon: killing of Palestinians Part of Israel's Ethnic Cleansing Policy

TEHRAN (FNA) — Ashraf Shannon, journalist, says Israeli regime has killed thousands of Palestinian descendant families in Gaza since 2008 by military aggression.

In an exclusive interview with FNA, he commented on the plight of Palestinians in besieged Gaza, saying, "People in Gaza say that the world has been turning a blind eye to their suffering and they also believe that the normalization of ties between Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf region has only encouraged Tel-Aviv to further kill more Palestinians."

Ashraf Shannon is a Gaza-based journalist and TV producer. He has spent more than 20 years working in Gaza as a news anchor, journalist, war correspondent and writer. Shannon has reported extensively on the Palestinian Israeli conflict. Below is the full text of the interview:

■ The headlines read Israeli forces shooting a child in head, or killing fishermen, in Gaza. Why does Israel insist on killing defenseless Gaza civilians?

A: Killing or maiming Palestinians whether they are children fishermen farmers or any Palestinian from all walks of life has been part of the Zionist ideology for decades. The Zionist entity does not treat Palestinians especially those in Gaza as humans and deprives them of the most basic human rights. They have been under a hermitic blockade since 2007 and let us not forget that Israeli regime forces have killed thousands of innocent Palestinians in Gaza during multiple wars and military aggressions since 2008 and has killed hundreds of peaceful demonstrators and injured thousands more in the Great



March of Return which was launched in 2018 to highlight the plight of millions of Palestinian refugees. People in Gaza say that the world has been turning a blind eye to their suffering and they also believe that the normalization of ties between Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf region has only encouraged Tel-Aviv to further kill more Palestinians. The killing of Palestinians has been the Modus Operandi of the Zionist movement even before the inception of the illegitimate Israeli entity in 1948 and is a part of the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian in order to empty the land of Palestine of its indigenous population.

■ All Gazan sources of income have been blocked by Israel. Fishing is the only way they survive. Why do Israeli forces target fishermen then?

A: Fishing has for decades been a vital source of income for Palestinian families in the blockaded Gaza Strip and has also been declining for more than a decade due to Israeli restrictions. Dozens of Palestinian fishermen were killed and injured in recent years during Israeli naval attacks on their fishing boats. Experts say that Israeli attacks on fishermen are part of its systematic Apartheid policy against Palestinians and to further worsen the food security for nearly two million Gazans. The forty-kilometer-long coastline of the Gaza Strip is rich in marine life but Palestinian fishermen in the impoverished territory have been deprived of the gift for many years. The Israeli regime's navy restricts fishing off the coast of Gaza and attacks fishermen damaging their boats on an

almost daily basis. Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen in Gaza increase during the peak of the fishing seasons in order to allow Israeli fishermen in Israeli towns North of the enclave to have better fish catches.

■ Why is Hamas supported by the people of Gaza, despite the hardship Gazans encounter?

A: In 2006 Hamas democratically and overwhelmingly won the Palestinian legislative elections; a year later it took control of the Gaza Strip and was placed along with inhabitants of the Gaza Strip under a tight blockade. Years on the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement Hamas continues to garner support from Palestinians all over the world especially in Gaza due to its adherence to armed resistance against the Israeli regime. Most Palestinians living in Gaza; 1.3 million out of the two million inhabitants of the tiny coastal enclave are Palestinian refugees or the offspring of Palestinian refugees who were displaced and disposed upon the creation of the Israeli regime in 1948. For them Hamas is their last hope to liberate every inch of the historic land of Palestine because Hamas does not recognize the Israeli regime. Despite more than a decade of Israeli land, air and sea blockade as well as three devastating wars since 2008 wars, Hamas has managed to defy all odds and survive all Israeli attempts to weaken the Palestinian resistance movement. Hamas also has a very strong military wing known as the Izzidin al-Qassam Brigades which is seen as a very powerful military force in the face of Zionist forces and has bravely defended the people of Gaza against Israeli wars several times since 2008.

Will Justin Trudeau win Canada's federal election?

By Liu Dan

GLOBALTIMES — Canada has entered the federal election campaign season. During the campaign for the October 21 vote, voters, media, incumbents and challengers are likely facing more domestic and foreign subjects than ever.

Voters will focus on economy, welfare, healthcare and other domestic issues. In the meantime, they will also pay attention to international issues such as climate change, which will be a reference to their final decision on October 21. In addition, problems triggered by refugees and indigenous affairs are voters' concerns.

Political parties and media will focus on financial deficit, carbon tax, debates over oil pipelines and the SNC-Lavalin affair - a political scandal and controversy in which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is accused of political interference with the justice system. They will also pay attention to the various diplomatic mistakes and dilemma of the Trudeau administration. Besides, the case of Meng Wanzhou, Chinese tech giant Huawei's chief financial officer, which has dented Canada-China relations, will also be the subject of heated debates.

Voters are likely to get more information about all the aforesaid topics before heading to the polls. This will add to the uncertainty.

It appears either the Conservative Party or the Liberal Party is likely to win the election. According to a national survey of Ottawa-based research and strategy firm Abacus Data a day before the official election campaign began on September



11, the Conservatives would capture about 35 percent of popular support while the ruling Liberals would get 33 percent.

The Conservatives are most supported by people aged more than 60, while the Liberals are the most popular among voters aged 18 to 29. This is why the Liberals are hoping that young voters who helped the party win in 2015 won't stay at home this year. However, about 62 percent of voters under 30 said they may swing, compared to only 24 percent among those over 60.

We can see that popular will is uncertain now especially among main voters for Liberals. Nevertheless, Trudeau could likely remain prime minister for the following reasons.

First, over 74 percent Canadians surveyed said the country's economy is

"excellent" or "acceptable" as the election started, according to Abacus Data. In a survey conducted by Nanos Research, a Canadian public opinion and research company, for Bloomberg News in August, 37 percent of respondents say they trust Trudeau the most to promote economic growth, compared with 27 percent for Conservative leader Andrew Scheer.

Second, voters' attitude over the SNC-Lavalin scandal differs. Some think it is a legal problem and thus question the credibility of the Trudeau administration. Others believe it is political and accept Trudeau's remarks that he was trying to protect Canadian jobs when he and his staff spoke with former attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould about a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) with SNC-

Lavalin. Therefore the scandal has not dealt a heavy blow to Trudeau's approval rating.

Last but not least, although diplomacy is a weak point of Trudeau, which has led to dilemma over bilateral relations with many countries, Canadian people's attitude is also split. Take China-Canada relations. Some people think the Trudeau administration's foreign policy is acceptable even though opposition parties denounce moves that affect trade ties with China. Moreover, international affairs that concern most Canadians are mainly related to climate and poverty governance. They wish their government could help Canada establish a positive image on the international stage in those regards, which is exactly what Trudeau is good at, compared to handling bilateral relations.

If Trudeau is reelected, Canada-China ties would offer him a good opportunity to improve his diplomatic skills. In the wake of Canada's detention of Meng in December 2018, more than half of Canadians stood by the move, showed a poll in January. However, a poll by Nanos Research in August demonstrated that only one in four say the Canadian government has done a good (20 percent) or very good (5 percent) job in handling the Meng issue.

The Trudeau administration has appointed Dominic Barton, who was based in Shanghai as McKinsey's Asia chairman from 2004 to 2009 and has immense knowledge about China, as its new ambassador to China earlier in September. The nomination to some extent showed the Trudeau government's resolve to better relations with Beijing.

Unlike Australia, India treads softly on ties with US

GLOBALTIMES — US President Donald Trump will travel to Texas on Sunday to attend an event with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi culminating in their third meeting. Later the same day, Trump will join a tour in Ohio with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. Why does the US attach importance to advancing relations with India and Australia? Is it indicative of efforts by the superpower to reinforce its Indo-Pacific strategy? Global Times reporter Lu Yuanzhi talked to two Chinese experts.

Ni Feng, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of American Studies

Trump may talk with leaders of India and Australia on intensifying the Indo-Pacific strategy and boosting bilateral ties with the two countries. Trump may discuss current tensions in South Asia with Modi, as India's revocation of the special status to India-controlled Kashmir has led to strong repercussions in the international community and strained India-Pakistan ties. Additionally, trade and investment could also be discussed at the bilateral meetings.

Amid the US-launched trade war against China, Washington needs support and wants the backing of other countries, especially its allies and partners, in order to mount its leverage against China. In the backdrop of the China-US rivalry, Washington hopes New Delhi and Canberra can side with it, while the two Indo-Pacific countries have their own considerations. They may support the US in some aspects, but won't side with the US without reservation. However, as a traditional ally, Canberra may lean more toward Washington.

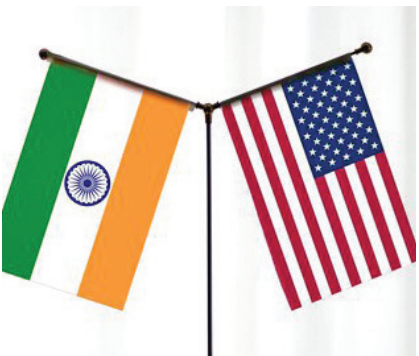
The Trump administration began using the "Indo-Pacific" label in November 2017 and regards the notion as its regional strategy by close cooperation among Japan, India, Australia and the US. Washington's paying attention to the ties with two of the core countries shows its intention to cement the Indo-Pacific strategy, which will pile more pressure on China and thwart the development of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

China should strengthen relations with countries in its periphery so as to hedge against attempts at containment by the US.

The US has long been wooing India to contain China because of India's strategic value. With China's rise, both the US and India have felt threatened by China, leading the two countries to get closer. But because of Trump, pace of improving Washington-New Delhi ties has slowed down. India seems not to trust Trump and believes he does not keep his word. Trump is reluctant to assume the alliance obligations and even blackmail the US allies for the sake of American interests.

Washington does want to consolidate its Indo-Pacific strategy, but is encountering difficulties. As a US ally, Australia lacks diplomatic independence and tends to rely on the US. In this context, Canberra has proactively responded to Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy. However, India is different. On one hand, New Delhi wants to utilize Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy to restrain China; on the other, this South Asian country hopes to maintain its status as an independent power. Therefore, India will not throw itself into US arms like Australia did.

Furthermore, Canberra is concerned with India's pursuit of hegemony in the



Indian Ocean region. The divergence between India and Australia may add the difficulties for the US to consolidate its Indo-Pacific strategy.

Australia has been a close ally of the US and there is not much room for further development. But there seems a lot to do with India, which is following a balanced strategy and having frequent interactions with great powers such as China, Russia and the US. To reinforce its Indo-Pacific strategy, Washington will make efforts to achieve more solid ties with India.

Trump and Ukrainian President colluding against Biden

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — In recent days a new case has been opened against the President of the United States of America. The case concerns the collusion between Trump and Ukrainian President over former US Vice President Joe Biden. In this regard, the New York Times reports that we will review:

Trump acknowledged on Sunday that he raised corruption accusations against former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. during a phone call with Ukraine's leader, a stunning admission as pressure mounted on Democrats to impeach Mr. Trump over allegations he leaned on a foreign government to help damage a political rival.

In public and in private, many Democrats said the evidence that has emerged in recent days indicating that Mr. Trump pushed the Ukrainian government to investigate Mr. Biden, and his administration's stonewalling of attempts by Congress to learn more, were changing their calculations about whether to charge him with articles of impeachment.

The influential chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, who has resisted such action, said the House might now have "crossed the Rubicon" in light of the new disclosures, and the administration's withholding of a related whistle-blower complaint. A group of moderate freshman lawmakers who had been opposed to an impeachment inquiry said they were considering changing course, while other Democrats who had reluctantly supported one amplified their calls. Progressives, meanwhile, sharpened their criticisms of the party's leadership for failing to act.

The fast-moving developments prompted Speaker Nancy Pelosi to level a warning of her own to the White House: Turn over the secret whistle-blower complaint by Thursday, or face a serious escalation from Congress.

In a letter to House Democrats, Ms. Pelosi never mentioned the word "impeachment," but her message hinted at that possibility.

"If the administration persists in blocking this whistle-blower from disclosing to Congress a serious possible breach of constitutional duties by the president, they will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation," Ms. Pelosi, Democrat of California, wrote in the letter.

The allegations center on whether Mr. Trump pressured Ukraine's newly elected leader, implicitly or explicitly, to take action to hurt Mr. Biden's election bid at a vulnerable moment for the former Soviet republic, possibly using United States military aid as leverage. Ukraine has been fighting Russian-backed separatists, and the Trump administration had temporarily been withholding a \$250 million package of military funding. There have been no indications to this point, however, that Mr. Trump mentioned the aid money on the call.

Mr. Trump showed no sign of contrition on Sunday, telling aides that Democrats were overplaying their hand on a matter voters would dismiss. Publicly, he worked to focus attention not on his own actions but on Mr. Biden's. Speaking to reporters, the



president defended his July phone call with President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine as entirely appropriate, and stopped short of directly confirming news reports about what was discussed. But he acknowledged that he had discussed Mr. Biden during the call and accused the former vice president of corruption tied to his son Hunter's business activities in the former Soviet republic.

"The conversation I had was largely congratulatory, with largely corruption, all of the corruption taking place and largely the fact that we don't want our people like Vice President Biden and his son creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine," Mr. Trump told reporters before leaving for a trip to Texas and Ohio.

It is still far from clear that the latest scandal surrounding Mr. Trump's conduct will lead Ms. Pelosi or other top Democrats to bless full impeachment proceedings and a vote. The House Judiciary Committee is already investigating whether to recommend articles of impeachment against Mr. Trump over other matters, but Ms. Pelosi has consistently questioned the strength of the case.

Proponents of impeachment have repeatedly pointed to damaging revelations — including several instances of possible obstruction of justice by Mr. Trump detailed by the special counsel investigating Russia's interference in the 2016 election — that they believe warrant seeking Mr. Trump's removal. But they have run into resistance or indifference from their colleagues and the general public, in part because any impeachment proceeding could end in an acquittal by the Republican-controlled Senate.

On Sunday, the pattern appeared to be holding, with the vast majority of Republican lawmakers refraining from comment about the latest allegations against Mr. Trump. A few prominent lawmakers suggested, however, that the White House should disclose the contents of the phone call with Mr. Zelensky. "I'm hoping the president can share, in an appropriate way, information to deal with the drama around the phone call," said Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. "I think it would be good for the country if we could deal with it."

Senator Mitt Romney of Utah, the Republican presidential nominee in 2012, was more critical, deeming it "critical for the facts to come out" and saying, "If the president asked or pressured Ukraine's president to

investigate his political rival, either directly or through his personal attorney, it would be troubling in the extreme."

At the same time, interviews with more than a dozen Democratic lawmakers this weekend made clear that they believed the latest allegations had the potential to be singularly incriminating, with the potential to advance the impeachment drive just as it appeared to be losing steam. Not only do the allegations suggest that Mr. Trump was using the power of his office to extract political gains from a foreign power, they argued, but his administration is actively trying once again to prevent Congress from finding out what happened.

"I don't want to do any more to contribute to the divisiveness in the country, but my biggest responsibility as an elected official is to protect our national security and Constitution," said Representative Debbie Dingell of Michigan, adding that it is "becoming more and more difficult" for Democrats to avoid an all-out impeachment inquiry.

Several first-term lawmakers who had opposed impeachment conferred privately over the weekend to discuss announcing support for an inquiry, potentially jointly, after a hearing scheduled for Thursday with the acting national intelligence director, according to Democratic officials familiar with the conversations. A handful of them declined to speak on the record over the weekend, with some still reluctant to go public and others looking for cues from Ms. Pelosi and their freshman colleagues.

Representative Tom Malinowski, a New Jersey freshman who has supported an inquiry, said the fresh revelations made it clear that Congress must move more decisively. "There are lines being crossed right now that I fear will be erased if the House does not take strong action to assert them, to defend them," he said in an interview. "If all we do is leave it up to the American people to get rid of him, we have not upheld the rule of law, we have not set a precedent that this behavior is utterly out of bounds."

The Intelligence Committee chairman, Representative Adam B. Schiff of California, said Sunday morning that the accumulating evidence of wrongdoing, and of a presidential cover-up unfolding in real time, left the House with few other options. Mr. Schiff spoke with Ms. Pelosi before making his remarks to coordinate their statements, two people familiar

with their conversation said, a sign that the speaker may be more comfortable moving toward a direct discussion of impeachment.

"I have been very reluctant to go down the path of impeachment," Mr. Schiff said on CNN. "But if the president is essentially withholding military aid at the same time he is trying to browbeat a foreign leader into doing something illicit, providing dirt on his opponent during a presidential campaign, then that may be the only remedy that is coequal to the evil that that conduct represents."

Mr. Schiff first brought the existence of the whistle-blower complaint to light a little more than a week ago, and has been the party's lead negotiator with the acting director of national intelligence, who has refused to turn it over to Congress.

Progressives in Congress have watched the stonewalling with seething frustration, and in recent days, they have begun to openly second-guess Ms. Pelosi's go-slow approach.

"At this point, the bigger national scandal isn't the president's lawbreaking behavior — it is the Democratic Party's refusal to impeach him for it," Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Democrat of New York, who commands considerable influence among progressives, wrote on Twitter late Saturday night.

Representative Pramila Jayapal, Democrat of Washington and the co-chairwoman of the Progressive Caucus, said in an interview that she was now ready to vote outright to impeach Mr. Trump, rather than simply continuing the investigation, and that she planned to make her case in public.

"There is no congressional authority anymore that we are being allowed to exercise, except the one that we have not exercised yet," Ms. Jayapal said.

But the more crucial issue is whether Democrats from the districts Mr. Trump won or nearly lost can stomach a push to expel him.

Representative Dina Titus of Nevada said once a transcript is made public of Mr. Trump pressuring Mr. Zelensky, she doubted that even Democrats from competitive seats could continue to resist impeachment.

"Once that comes out," said Ms. Titus, an impeachment proponent, "I don't see how they can fight it any longer."

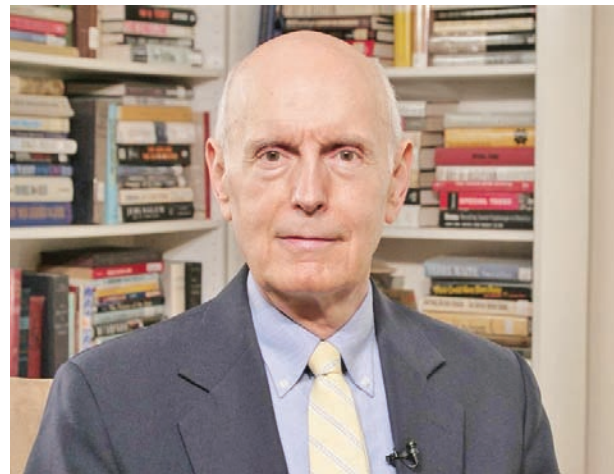
Strikingly, some traditionally cautious veteran Democrats said the party might have no choice but to move toward impeachment. They believe that Senate Republicans, who are clinging to their majority of 53 seats, would pay a political price for protecting Mr. Trump if they voted to exonerate him in the face of damning evidence of malfeasance and a House vote to impeach.

"They've got to take a second look" at impeachment, Terry McAuliffe, the former Virginia governor and national party chairman, who is an ally of Ms. Pelosi, said of fellow Democrats. He predicted that the latest revelations would "push some of our folks over."

James Carville, the longtime Democratic strategist, said he had opposed impeachment, but now thinks the House should move "quick and clean" after obtaining a transcript of Mr. Trump's phone call. "Let the Senate Republicans stew," he said.

Iran right to distrust U.S.: American analyst

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A political expert based in the US city of Atlanta defended the reasoning behind Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei's decision to reject the US' calls for talks with Iran, saying the Islamic Republic has the right to distrust the Trump administration.



"Ayatollah Khamenei certainly has the right to not trust US intentions based on the long history," Jim W. Dean, the managing editor of VeteransToday.com, told Tasnim in an interview.

"One cannot even trust that Trump is sincere in wanting negotiations. He might be doing this just for show so he can claim in his 2020 election campaign that 'he did all he could do but Iran refused to talk,' he added.

Jim Dean is a regular geopolitical commentator on various media outlets around the world. He and Sr. Editor Gordon Duff have begun their own bridge building campaign with Iranian university youth via Skype conferences. Jim comes from an old military family going back to the American Revolution.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ On Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei deplored the US' calls for talks with Iran as a trick and said Tehran will not negotiate bilaterally or multilaterally with Washington at any level. What do you think about Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks?

A: Ayatollah Khamenei certainly has the right to not trust US intentions based on the long history. But if there are no talks then the chances for a resolution are basically zero. How does that benefit Iran? The sanctions continue as does the demonizing of Iran as the devil of the Mideast when much of the world thinks Israel and its big brother the US fill that role.

One of the tenants of diplomacy is to "always engage" as talks are a learning and diffusing tensions process. The negotiators you are dealing with now can be replaced by negotiators from a new administration who wants to show it is different from the past. When there are no talks, the fuse for war burns faster. This must be avoided.

■ Iran sees the United States' calls for negotiation as a trick and part of the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign which has failed to force the Islamic Republic to give in to US demands. How do you assess Iran's policy of "active resistance" against the US pressures?

A: The policy will not have worked until Trump could get Iran to accept changing the JCPOA. Israel, the Neo-Cons and Trump want Iran to not have a retaliatory strike capability if someone would be stupid enough to hit Iran first. Israelis and criminal Western governments love to negotiate with countries that cannot defend themselves.

The US breaking the JCPOA and sanctions move was mainly one of triggering more and more dissatisfaction with the long suffering Iranian people to undermine the current leadership politically.

The US is trying to say to Iranians that the leadership is their enemy, not the US. I think the Iranian people see through that fraud. If the US or Israel attack Iran its people will be united even more as they were in the Iraq war.

■ Iran has said the US' return to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the removal of sanctions against the Islamic Republic is the only way that Washington can hold talks with Tehran. How do you see the prospects of open diplomacy between Iran and the US as well as the other parties to the JCPOA?

A: This is a very reasonable position by Iran. The US broke the deal. It is in violation, not Iran, which the IAEA has backed up. The US accepts that Iran has been compliant despite Israeli continued charges that Iran has a secret nuclear program while Israel has the major unclaimed weapons of mass destruction stockpile in the region.

One cannot even trust that Trump is sincere in wanting negotiations. He might be doing this just for show so he can claim in his 2020 election campaign that "he did all he could do but Iran refused to talk".

The flip side of that coin is a new president might emerge after the election where a fresh start could be made on trying to resolve the issue. But the risk is that during that period the ticking time bomb in the Mideast could blow up.

■ Can we regard the Islamic Republic's strategy of "active resistance" against the US pressures as successful?

A: This is an easy question. Iran has avoided a shooting war, so far, so it has been successful. But we still see ongoing threats through the multiple plots being devised and deployed to trigger a war indirectly. The current situation with the Aramco attack is a classic example. Trump recently said that he is waiting for Saudi's evaluation as to who was responsible for the attack and what their desired response would be because they would have to pay for it. Analysts quickly sensed that Trump wanted the Saudis to be responsible for any ensuing response disaster, not the US, a classic Trump move of leaving the other guy to take the blame. This is a very dangerous time for us all. We pray for deliverance from our tormentors.

Any war on Iran would destroy Trump's chances for re-election, says U.S. Activist

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A peace activist and journalist based in the US state of Virginia said President Donald Trump is aware that most of Americans are strongly opposed to military actions against Iran and that any war against the Islamic Republic would destroy his chances for re-election.

September, 21, 2019 - 17:02 Politics Comments

Any War on Iran Would Destroy Trump's Chances for Re-Election, Says US Activist

"President Trump is no doubt aware that almost 3/4ths of Americans polled prefer diplomatic solutions over military actions regarding Iran," Janice Kortkamp from Leesburg, Virginia, said in an interview with Tasnim.

"War against Iran would destroy his chances for re-election in my opinion; most of the public are no longer 'buying' the false narratives being sold by the regime change warmongers in DC," she added.

Janice Kortkamp became an independent, completely self-funded, journalist after "seeing Western media bias regarding Syria and how that bias was promoting war and destabilization in Syria and all the Levant". She has researched the current crisis for six years, putting in over 7,000 hours of study. She has visited Syria five times over the past three years, spending months traveling around the major population areas and the outskirts of Damascus, Homs, Latakia (including Kessab), Hama, Palmyra, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo. She has also gone to Germany, Lebanon, and Kuwait to meet with Syrian refugees and emigrants. Through friends and contacts in Syria as well as reports from genuine news sources around the world, she tracks the situation on the ground in Syria on an hourly basis.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ On Tuesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei deplored the US' calls for talks with Iran as a trick and said Tehran will not negotiate bilaterally or multilaterally with Washington at any level. What do you think about Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks?

A: There is no reason to assume any good will or integrity regarding negotiations from the American side towards Iran based on history so Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks make total sense. Why negotiate with a power that has dealt so treacherously and aggressively? How to trust the United States after its disastrous wars and interventions just over

the past 16 years in the region? However, the quite reasonable counter response by Iran of being willing to engage in multi-lateral talks should the US comply with the 2015 nuclear deal and end its hostile stance and sanctions is one that should be taken very seriously by the American administration.

■ Iran sees the United States' calls for negotiation as a trick and part of the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign which has failed to force the Islamic Republic to give in to US demands. How do you assess Iran's policy of "active resistance" against the US pressures?

A: One has to consider the big picture to make sense of the daily shifting details. Why is the US applying "maximum pressure" on the Islamic Republic of Iran to begin with? What are Iran's "crimes"? Iran has been 100% in compliance with the terms of the JCPOA agreement. Iran has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Iran has been fighting ISIS and al Qaeda in Syria. Iran hasn't invaded another country in centuries. Tragically, America's foreign policy is so inextricably tied to Israel's expansionist ambitions and Saudi oil that non-crimes are turned upside down and inside-out and propagandized as justification for economic, covert and military warfare. Resistance is therefore necessary. American politicians and decision makers know next to nothing about Iran. Most have never been nor have ever listened to Iran's concerns and grievances — their "understanding" comes primarily from hostile regional powers and is therefore immeasurably flawed, in fact often they've been given outright intelligence fabrications.

■ Iran has said the US' return to the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the removal of sanctions against the Islamic Republic is the only way that Washington can hold talks with Tehran. How do you see the prospects of open diplomacy between Iran and the US as well as the other parties to the JCPOA?

A: If the US would end its actions to try to achieve hegemony in the Middle East and unshackle itself from the demands of the pro-Israel lobby, Israeli officials, and Saudi Arabia by entering into mutually respectful and beneficial relations with Iran, the result would be highly advantageous for not only the US and Iran but the rest of the region as well. The key is showing respect for the sovereignty of the countries of the region and replacing



the current violence and chaos with the stability required for increased prosperity and ability to plan for future generations for everyone.

President Trump is no doubt aware that almost 3/4ths of Americans polled prefer diplomatic solutions over military actions regarding Iran. Much of his support during the last election was from people here who are against war as a policy and if he wants to get re-elected he must prove that he intends to follow through — and is capable of following through — on those election promises. So far his record on those promises is dismal. War against Iran would destroy his chances for re-election in my opinion; most of the public are no longer "buying" the false narratives being sold by the regime change warmongers in DC.

■ Can we regard the Islamic Republic's strategy of "active resistance" against the US pressures as successful?

A: So far I would say yes though it's been such a difficult time for the Iranian people and we won't know the long term consequences for quite a while. What happens in Israel's upcoming elections will affect this as will the election process and election results in the US. What is looking hopeful is that some European leaders are starting to balk at US policies and are wanting to save the JCPOA. If Iran is successful in maintaining their support for the deal that will be hugely significant I believe.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Mahmoodieh
2nd floor, 350 sq.m, 4 Bdr.
fully furn, spj, 4 balconies
lobby, storage, parking
\$4000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Elahieh
2nd floor, 240 sq.m with
3 Bdrs., fully furn, equipped
kitchen, nice terrace
outdoor swimming pool
without over look, parking
\$3500
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh
103 sq.m, 2 master bedrooms
furn, equipped kitchen
spj, elevator, parking **\$1800**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafaraniieh
ground floor, 180 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen, spj
gym, renovated, parking
\$2500
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Darous
4th floor, 147 sq.m, 3bdrs.
fully furn, renovated
swimming pool, parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
brand new, 2nd floor, 150 sq.m 3
Bdrs., fully furn, equipped kitchen,
parking, **\$1500**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Villa

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

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

Villa in Niavaran
1200 sq.m land, 400 sq.m built up,
4 Bdrs., furn, outdoor swimming
pool, yard without overlook,
parking, **\$7000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Villa in Shahrak Qarb
duplex, 300 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
semi furnished/unfurnished
green yard, parking
storage, large terrace
backyard with good privacy
outdoor swimming pool
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in
Shariati - Soheil
2 floors, 600 sq.m totally
8 Bdrs., 6 bath rooms
one 40 sq.m suit, renovated
3 storages, 3-side entrances
12 parking spots
\$6000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Modern Office in Jordan
administrative office license
brand new, 2nd floor, 2 units
180 sq.m & 220 sq.m flat, modern
design, lobby, lobby man
lots of parking
\$40 per sq.m
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Whole Building in Farmanieh
3 floors, 760 sq.m land, each apt
320 sq.m with, 3 Bdrs., unfurn
elevator, 6 parking spots
\$6000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Jordan
3 floors, 500 sq.m land, totally
650 sq.m built up, swimming pool
renovated, parking, **\$7000**
**Suitable for
Embassies, International companies
& Guesthouses**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Ideal Offers

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

Apt in Motahari St.
4th floor, 99 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, renovated, parking
\$1000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Office in Sheykh Bahayi
brand new, 5th floor, 98 sq.m
3 Bdrs., elevator
2 parking spots, **\$850**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Park Way
9th floor, 135 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, spj, elevator
storage, parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Vanak
3rd floor, 90 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
furn, renovated, parking
\$1100
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 155 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
furn, balcony, lobby
storage, parking, **\$1200**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

PARSIAN Real Estate

SHANON
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Farmanieh Apts (\$2600) 2bdrs (\$3200) 3bdrs with S/p, F.F	Zafaraniieh Villa (\$6000) 1000sq.m, 5bdrs, S/p green garden, S/q balcony, & F.F
Velenjak (\$2000) 3bdrs, S/p, S, & J	Jordan bldg (\$5000) 3sorey, 10bdrs, pkgs

Jordan 2bdrs, F.F (\$1500)
Elahieh Apts (\$2500) 2bdrs (\$3400) 3bdrs

1st CHOICE REAL ESTATE

Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does it better

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

Intercity travel service

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

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties
www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners
HOME
Real Estate
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com

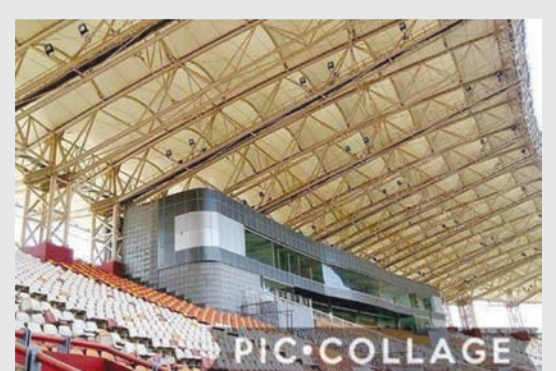
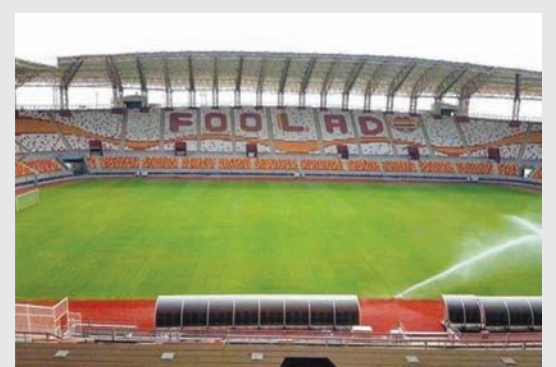
+9821 430 51 450
www.tehrantimes.com

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading
International Daily
Advertising Dept

Tel:
021 - 430 51 450

Modern Stadium of Martyrs of Khuzestan Football Club (KSC)



Rumors hint that Google has accomplished quantum supremacy

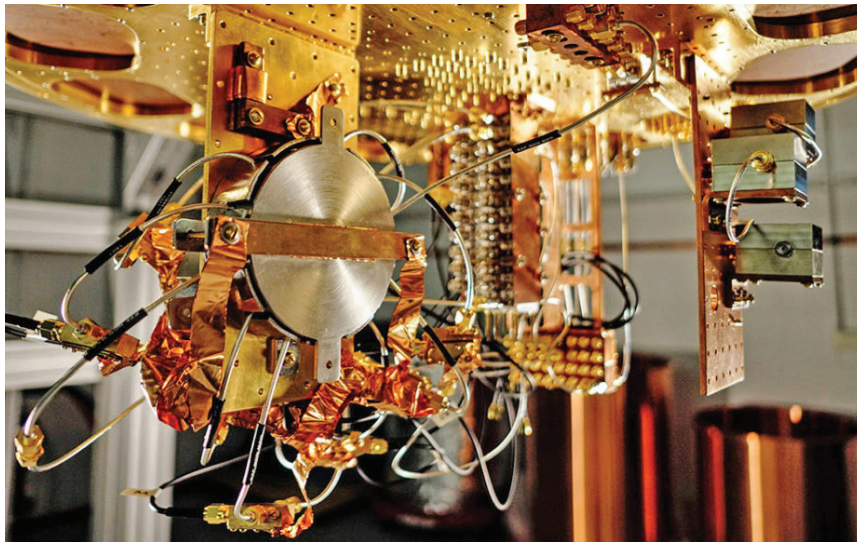
By Emily Conover

A leaked paper suggests that Google has achieved a milestone known as quantum supremacy, using a quantum computer to perform a calculation that couldn't be achieved even with the world's most powerful supercomputers.

It's a hotly anticipated goal, and one intended to mark the beginning of a new era of quantum computation. But it's also largely symbolic: The calculation in question serves no practical purpose and is designed to be difficult for classical computers, standard computers that are not rooted in quantum physics.

On September 20, the Financial Times reported that a scientific paper, briefly published on a NASA website before being removed, claims that Google has built a quantum computer that achieved quantum supremacy. It's a benchmark that the company's quantum researchers, led by physicist John Martinis of the University of California, Santa Barbara, have set their sights on for years. An apparent plain-text version of the paper, posted anonymously on the site Pastebin, has since been circulating among scientists and on Twitter. A spokesperson for Google declined to comment to Science News.

According to the Pastebin version of the paper, Google created a quantum computer named Sycamore with 54



quantum bits called qubits, 53 of which were functional. The researchers used it to perform a series of operations in 200 seconds that would take a supercomputer about 10,000 years to complete.

The calculation consists of performing random operations on the qubits and reading out the result. After doing this many times, the researchers are left with a nearly random assortment of numbers, one that is extremely

difficult to reproduce with a classical computer.

Despite its lack of applications, quantum supremacy has been billed as a major breakthrough in the quest for a quantum computer that could eventually perform useful calculations that are not possible with classical computers. "This dramatic speedup relative to all known classical algorithms provides an experimental realization of quantum supremacy on a computational

task and heralds the advent of a much-anticipated computing paradigm," the text of the Pastebin paper reads.

The machines might eventually be capable of defeating encryption techniques used to secure certain transmissions, such as financial transactions made by computers. But that advance will require many more qubits and a method to correct the errors that inevitably creep into quantum calculations. "While this is a milestone, it is *very* far from being a quantum computer that can compute anything useful," physicist Jonathan Oppenheim of University College London wrote on Twitter.

Not everyone agrees that quantum supremacy is a useful benchmark. "Quantum computers are not 'supreme' against classical computers because of a laboratory experiment designed to essentially (and almost certainly exclusively) implement one very specific quantum sampling procedure with no practical applications," IBM's director of research Dario Gil wrote in a statement sent to Science News.

IBM is developing their own line of quantum computers, and researchers there prefer to talk about "quantum advantage," which they define as "the point at which quantum applications deliver a significant, practical benefit beyond what classical computers alone are capable." The new result falls short of that standard.

Roscosmos knows what caused the hole in the ISS, and NASA wants answers



By Michelle Starr

The tiny hole aboard the International Space Station (ISS) that caused so much drama in August of last year is still producing controversy, over a year later. According to new reports, Russia now knows the source of the hole, but it doesn't look like NASA has been informed.

While talking to the participants of a youth science conference themed around cosmonautics, Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Russian space agency Roscosmos, revealed that the investigation into the incident had been fruitful.

"[The hole] was in the living quarters [of the capsule], it has long since burned up upon reentry. We took all the samples. We know exactly what happened, but we won't tell you anything," he said, as reported by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

"We do need to retain some sort of secrecy," he added, likely as a tongue-in-cheek remark, considering his young audience.

The hole was discovered in August 2019 when astronauts aboard the ISS noticed that they were slowly but steadily losing air pressure.

A search of the station revealed the source - a tiny, 2 millimeter hole in the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft, the Roscosmos shuttle used to ferry astronauts to and from the ISS. When it arrives, it docks onto the Rassvet module and is used as living quarters and a potential life raft until part of it returns to Earth, carrying astronauts whose mission has concluded.

The astronauts plugged the hole with epoxy and tape, and embarked on an investigation, even conducting a spacewalk to inspect the outside of the spacecraft to determine if the hole had been punched by a micrometeoroid - because if tiny rocks could punch holes in the ISS, that would be valuable information.

Later, it was determined that the hole had been created by a drill, although whether

accidentally or on purpose, or on the ground or in space (the latter of which would be highly unlikely due to Newtonian physics), was yet to be revealed. The landing module of the spacecraft returned safely to Earth in December 2018, while the detaching living quarters - complete with the hole - burned up on reentry.

Roscosmos continued to conduct its investigation, and RIA Novosti reported that it was a mistake made during manufacturing - which Rogozin swiftly denied. What caused the hole is yet to be officially revealed.

Whether or not Rogozin's remarks were tongue-in-cheek, the results of the investigation have yet to be communicated with NASA, according to the US agency's administrator Jim Bridenstine.

"They have not told me anything," Bridenstine told the Houston Chronicle during an energy conference. "I don't want to let one item set (the relationship) back, but it is clearly not acceptable that there are holes in the International Space Station." He also said he would be speaking with Rogozin.

The relationship between the two space agencies is deeply important for NASA, which shut down its own shuttle program in 2011. Since then, it has relied upon Russia's Soyuz program to transport its astronauts to the ISS, at a cost ranging from \$21.3 million to \$81.9 million per astronaut per round trip.

NASA's uncrewed supply missions are handled by SpaceX's Dragon and Northrop Grumman's Cygnus.

SpaceX is currently in the testing phase of its Dragon 2 crew spacecraft, and it intends to launch its first astronaut flight by 15 November of this year. Boeing's CST-100 Starliner astronaut transport is also in development, hoping to launch a crew by 30 November.

However, both projects have been bedeviled by delays, and whether they will meet those deadlines remains an open question.

Even hefty shark pups struggle on degraded reefs



By Brooks Hays

It's better to be born small and grow up around healthy coral reefs than born big and be relegated to degraded reefs.

According to a new study, bigger, heavier shark pups that live near struggling reefs fare worse than their smaller peers living near healthy reefs. In the battle of genes versus nature, the influence of nature wins out.

For the study, researchers followed the growth patterns of two populations of newborn reef sharks: one living near St. Joseph atoll in the Seychelles and the other living near Moorea, a French Polynesian island northwest of Tahiti.

"We found that although shark pups are born larger, heavier and better conditioned in Moorea, they soon lost their physical advantage over the pups in St. Joseph," Jodie Rummer, a scientist with the ARC Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University, said in a news release.

The coral reefs that make up the St. Joseph atoll are healthy, free from environmental damage, whereas Moorea's reefs are still recovering from a massive die-off. Five years ago, more than 90 percent of the coral surrounding the island died.

The latest research suggests the coral degradation is still affecting local wildlife, including the health of shark pups.

Sharks are on their own as soon as they're born. To give them the best chance of survival, mom's give their pups extra fat reserves.

"These energy reserves sustain them during the first days and weeks after birth," said Ornella Weideli, researcher at the Center of Island Research and Observatory of the Environment in France. "The 'energy boost' is important, as sharks are independent from their mothers from the moment they are born."

Scientists caught and measured the weights of more than 500 sharks during their first few weeks of life. They found

sharks were being born bigger in Moorea, but that they were losing that weight more quickly.

"Against our expectations, the larger pups from Moorea that received greater energy reserves started foraging for food later in life, which resulted in considerable declines in their body condition," Weideli said. "On the contrary, despite being smaller and lighter for their size, the pups from St. Joseph started foraging for food earlier in life and became more successful predators than their Polynesian counterparts."

Researchers surmised that the bigger sharks of Moorea are struggling as a result of the degradation of the local reefs. Sharks hunt the many smaller fish that rely on the food chain anchored by the coral. It's also likely that many of the same stressors that caused the reef's degradation in the first place -- over-fishing, climate change and coastal development -- have directly impacted local fish and shark species.

Scientists published their research Tuesday in the journal Scientific Reports.

"Sharks are at risk from human-induced stressors because they may not be able to adapt fast enough to keep pace with the changes that are happening in their environment," Rummer said. "They are slow growers and take a long time to reach sexual maturity. When they do reach sexual maturity, they only have a few babies. Even fewer survive."

Previous studies have suggested bigger, slow-growing species, which typically reproduce at slower rates, are especially at risk of climate change and other human-induced stressors -- and therefore, may warrant stronger protections than smaller, faster-reproducing endangered species.

"Not enough generations are being born fast enough to make the genetic changes to adapt to what's going on in their habitats," Rummer said. "Mitigating human-induced stressors, especially during shark pupping season, is key to protecting these species and the ecosystems they support."



have tasked astronauts with breathing into a small machine that measures the saturation of nitric oxide in their breath, revealing lung inflammation.

Lung issues during missions to the Moon and Mars

are of great concern, and if a space traveler experiences inflamed lungs -- similar to what asthma sufferers deal with on Earth -- the low-pressure environment could make things even worse. Astronauts aboard the ISS performed breathing tests in an airlock to simulate the reduced pressure that future travelers may have to deal with on the Moon and Mars, and the readings are helping scientists better understand how to prevent potentially life-threatening situations in the future.

At present, NASA intends to return to the Moon by 2024, which is right around the corner. In the near future, lunar habitats may be a reality, and eventually, NASA believes a crewed trip to Mars will be possible. When those trips finally happen, breathing troubles will hopefully be the last thing on astronauts' minds.

(Source: msn)

Sigmund Jaehn, 1st German in space as 1970s cosmonaut, dies

Sigmund Jaehn, who became the first German in space at the height of the Cold War during the 1970s and was promoted as a hero by communist authorities in East Germany, has died. He was 82.

The German Aerospace Center said Sunday on its website that Jaehn died Saturday. The center did not give the cause of death. German news agency dpa said he died at his home in Strausberg, outside of Berlin.

Astrophysicist Pascale Ehrenfreund, who chairs the German Aerospace Center's executive board, said the center was deeply saddened by Jaehn's death and that German aerospace had lost a "globally respected cosmonaut, scientist and engineer."

"The first German in space always saw himself as a bridge builder between East and West and for a peaceful use of space" Ehrenfreund said.

Jaehn flew to the Soviet space station Salyut 6 on Aug. 26, 1978 and spent almost eight days in space. Upon his return, he was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union. The East German government showcased his achievement as evidence of the communist state's superiority over capitalist West Germany.

While Jaehn was a household name for a generation of East Germans, he remained largely unknown in West Germany. German Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz described Jaehn last year on the 40th anniversary of his space flight as "an impressive man and a rather quiet hero."

"It is high time for his courage and his work to be recognized not just in the east but in all of Germany," Scholz said.

Jaehn was born Feb. 13, 1937, in Morgenroethe-Rautenkranz, a village near the Czech border. After he finished school, he trained as a printer before joining the East German air force in 1955. He became an officer and a fighter pilot with the National People's Army in the late 1950s.

Between 1966 and 1970, he studied at the Gagarin Military Air Academy in Monino, near Moscow. After returning to East Germany, he worked in the air force administration, where he was in charge of pilot education and flight safety.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and Germany's reunification a year later, Jaehn became an adviser to the German Aerospace Center and the European Space Agency. He helped prepare future astronauts for space missions until his retirement in 2002.

Recalling his seven days, 20 hours and 49 minutes in space, during which he orbited the Earth 124 times, Jaehn said last year that he vividly remembered the many sunrises he saw during his mission.

"It's not only one; every 1 1/2 hours you can see the sun rise. It's very fast. One can see exactly how the sun goes up and down and shows its many colors," Jaehn told the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

Jaehn said that unlike many people, he had no problems getting used to zero gravity. "I didn't even get sick. I thought it was very pleasant," he said.

He said if he had grown up in West Germany, he probably would never have made it into space.

"I didn't go to university right away. ... I was the best student, but my father wanted me to become a painter. When you're 14, you listen to your parents," he remembered.

"I caught up on everything later, got my university entrance degree, went to university," he added. "But in the West, they still sometimes like to say: This Jaehn, he only was a simple worker."

Jaehn was married and had two daughters.

(Source: AP News)

Researcher predicts volcano on Jupiter's moon is about to erupt

In a presentation this week, planetary scientist Julie Rathbun predicted the largest volcano on Io, Jupiter's fourth biggest moon, is about to erupt.

Volcanic eruptions are quite difficult to predict on Earth, let alone a few hundred million miles away. But the lunar volcano Loki, or Loki Patera, erupts with surprisingly regularity -- like clockwork.



By studying the pattern of volcanic activity inside the massive crater, Rathbun was able to work out that Loki should erupt in mid-September.

"Loki is the largest and most powerful volcano on Io, so bright in the infrared that we can detect it using telescopes on the Earth," Rathbun said in a news release.

Because Loki brightens when it erupts, the timing of its volcanic activity can be calculated using archived observations of the moon. Rathbun and her research partners at the Planetary Science Institute studied more than 20 years of observations.

In the 1990s, Loki erupted roughly every 540 days. More recently, the Loki Patera has brightened every 475 days.

"If this behavior remains the same, Loki should erupt in September 2019," Rathbun said. "We correctly predicted that the last eruption would occur in May of 2018."

Rathbun presented her prediction of Loki's forthcoming eruption at the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society's 51st annual meeting, held this week in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Volcanoes are so difficult to predict because they are so complicated," Rathbun said. "Many things influence volcanic eruptions, including the rate of magma supply, the composition of the magma -- particularly the presence of bubbles in the magma, the type of rock the volcano sits in, the fracture state of the rock, and many other issues."

Because Loki is so big, scientists suggest basic physics dominate its behavior, making it more predictable.

"The small complications that affect smaller volcanoes are likely to not affect Loki as much," Rathbun said. "However, you have to be careful because Loki is named after a trickster god and the volcano has not been known to behave itself. In the early 2000s, once the 540 day pattern was detected, Loki's behavior changed and did not exhibit periodic behavior again until about 2013."

Rathbun and other scientists will be watching Loki closely in the coming days to see if the volcano remains on schedule.

(Source: UPI)

Astronauts are breathing into weird little machines for science

Dealing with low gravity in space can take some getting used to for scientists who make their way to the International Space Station. They prepare as best they can back on Earth, but the human body tends to do some weird stuff when you remove gravity from the equation, and astronauts who return from space can exhibit a variety of issues that take some time to correct.

Now, researchers from the European Space Agency are using data from astronauts aboard the ISS to learn more about how space travel affects one very basic function of the human body: breathing.

In the near future, humans will venture back to the Moon and perhaps even find their way to Mars. When that happens, scientists want to be sure that basic functions of the human body don't cause issues, especially during long-duration missions. To that end, experiments aboard the ISS

Thomas Cook collapses as last-ditch rescue talks fail

Thomas Cook has collapsed after last-minute negotiations aimed at saving the 178-year-old holiday firm failed.

The UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the tour operator had "ceased trading with immediate effect".

It has also triggered the biggest ever peacetime repatriation, aimed at bringing more than 150,000 British holidaymakers home.

Peter Fankhauser, Thomas Cook's chief executive, said the firm's collapse was a "matter of profound regret".

Commenting as the company entered compulsory liquidation, Mr Fankhauser also apologized to the firm's "millions of customers, and thousands of employees".

The tour operator's failure puts 22,000 jobs at risk worldwide, including 9,000 in the UK.

One of the world's best-known holiday brands, the business was founded in 1841 in Leicestershire by cabinet-maker Thomas Cook.

BBC transport correspondent Tom Burridge said 16,000 holidaymakers were booked to come back on Monday. Authorities hope to get at least 14,000 of them home on chartered flights.

The government has chartered 45 jets to bring customers home and they will fly 64 routes on Monday, in an undertaking dubbed Operation Matterhorn. The size of the fleet will make it temporarily the UK's fifth-largest airline.

Operators including easyJet and Virgin have supplied some aircraft, with jets coming from as far afield as Malaysia.

What is the government doing?

The BBC understands the government was asked for a bailout of £250m, which was denied. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps defended the move on the Today programme.

"I fear it would have kept them afloat for a very short period of time and then we would have been back in the position of needing to repatriate people in any case," he said.

The company's large debts and High Street-focused business made it a poor candidate for survival, he said.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell told the BBC the government should have bailed out Thomas Cook "if only to stabilise the situation while a real plan for the future of the company could be addressed".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged to help stranded holidaymakers, but also questioned whether company directors were properly motivated to "sort such matters out".

How will holidaymakers get home?

While an estimated 150,000 Britons are affected by Thomas Cook's collapse, the company has a further 350,000 to 450,000 customers abroad.

In Germany, one of Thomas Cook's main markets, insurance companies will help organize the response to its collapse.

UK customers will be brought home "as close as possible" to their booked return date, the Department for Transport (DfT) has said.

Customers will be on special free flights or booked on to another scheduled airline at no extra cost, with details of each flight to be posted on a dedicated website as soon as they are available.

The DfT added that a "small number" of passengers might need to book their own flight home and reclaim the costs.

Customers have been urged not to cut short their holiday or go to the airport without checking the website for more information about their return journey.

The CAA is also contacting hotels accommodating Thomas Cook customers, who have booked as part of a package, to tell them the cost of their accommodation will be covered by the government, through the Air Travel Trust Fund and Air Travel Organiser's Licence scheme (Atol).

Tim Johnson, policy director of the CAA, told BBC News that customers whose future holidays had been cancelled would be informed of how they could claim a refund on the website.

(Source: BBC)



ROUND THE GLOBE

National Archeological Park of Tierradentro

The National Archaeological Park of Tierradentro is located in the south-western of Colombia in Andean's central cordillera, in the municipality of Inza, department of Cauca.

Four areas, dispersed over a few square kilometers, make up the archaeological park: Alto de San Andres, Alto de Segovia, Alto del Duende, El Tablon and as a site of importance but outside the park boundary the Alto del Aguacate.



The park contains all known monumental shaft and chamber tombs of Tierradentro culture, the largest and most elaborate tombs of their kind.

The area holds the largest concentration of pre-Columbian monumental shaft tombs with side chambers—known as hypogea—which were carved in the volcanic tuff below hilltops and mountain ridges.

The structures, some measuring up to 12 m wide and 7 m deep, were made from 600 to 900 CE, and served as collective secondary burial for elite groups.

The present state of archaeological and anthropological knowledge suggests that the builders of the hypogea (underground tombs) lived in the mountain slopes and valleys in the area. In the valleys they established small settlements whereas on the hillsides settlement was dispersed, close to the fields.

Underground tombs with side chambers have been found over the whole of America, from Mexico to north-western Argentina, but their largest concentration is in Colombia.

Authenticity

The main attributes of Tierradentro hypogea are the architectural features of the tombs, including the stairs and chambers, and the internal decoration including carvings and mural paintings. Those features have retained their original characteristics. The sites were abandoned before the 13th century CE and modern occupation gradually uncovered the tombs, many of which were opened and looted during the 18th and 19th centuries.

(Source: UNESCO)

Ancient Iran: a glimpse of Persian art and architecture under Sassanids



A bas-relief carving at Naqsh-e Rostam depicts Shapur I (on horseback) capturing Roman emperor Valerian (standing) and Philip the Arab (kneeling), suing for peace, following the victory at Edessa.

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of the Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" -- to its World Heritage list.

The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized

utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Efforts made by the Sassanids also yield a revival of Iranian nationalism took place, for example, Zoroastrianism was declared as the state religion.

The dynasty evolved by Ardashir I and was destroyed by the Arabs during a period of 637 to 651. The dynasty was named after Sasan, an ancestor of Ardashir I.

Under his leadership who reigned from 224 to 241, the Sassanians overthrew the Parthians and created an empire that was constantly changing in size as it reacted to Rome and Byzantium to the west and to the Kushans and Hephthalites to the east, according to Britannica Encyclopedia.

At the time of Shapur I (reigned 241 CE–272), the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east it extended to the Indus River and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.

According to UNESCO, the ancient cities of Ardashir Khurreh and Bishapur include the most significant remaining testimonies of the earliest moments of the Sassanid Empire, the commencement under Ardashir I and the establishment of power under both Ardashir I and his successor Shapur I.

"The architecture of the Sassanid monuments in the property further illustrates early examples of construction of domes with squinches on square spaces, such as in the chahar-taq buildings, where the four sides of the square room show arched openings: this architectural form turned into the most typical form of

Sassanid religious architecture, relating closely to the expansion and stabilization of Zoroastrianism under Sassanid reign and continuing during the Islamic era thanks to its usage in religious and holy buildings such as mosques and tombs," the UN cultural body say in its website.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.



Bust of a Sasanian king, most likely Shapur II

Eco-lodges thriving in Iran's Golestan province

TOURISM TEHRAN — The idea of staying at an eco-lodge has been welcomed by thousands of travelers to Golestan province, northern Iran.

"[Many] travelers to Golestan province have welcomed staying at eco-lodges as some 33,000 people have been accommodated during the first half of the current [Iranian calendar] year (Mar. 21- Sep. 22)," a local tourism official Ahmad Tajari said, CHTN reported.

"Such eco-lodges are a source of sustainable employment, yet they help to increase household income, especially in rural areas of the province," he explained.

Iran's tourism body said in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges will be constructed countrywide until 2021. Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on the average so that the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

Three ski resorts under construction in Ardebil

TOURISM TEHRAN — Three ski resorts, estimated to cost 930 billion rials (some \$22 million), are currently under construction in Ardebil province, northwest Iran.

"Three ski resorts are being built [in Ardebil province] with an investment of 930 billion rials in line with materializing [our provincial] motto of 'Winter, Awake!'," provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi said on Sunday, CHTN reported.

"The three resorts will cover over 245,000 square meters in area and are estimated to generate jobs for 180 people."

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardebil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people



and its silk and carpet trade tradition, it is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

Iran has long been an international destination for avid powder chasers during winter and early spring, while - in total contrast - its arid and semi-arid climate reaches sweltering levels in summer.

Maybe not the first that comes to mind, snow-capped mountains above Tehran are home to some of the world's best ski resorts where powder hounds can enjoy famous Iranian hospitality. Amongst uppermost are Dizin, Tochal, Shemshak and Darbandsar, all situated within some 100 kilometers of the capital city and up to international standards.

Iran "discovers" the Mediterranean with an archaeological exhibition in Alicante

Visitors to the National Museum of Iran, in Tehran, will discover the civilizations that have populated the western Mediterranean thanks to an ambitious exhibition with almost 300 pieces of the Archaeological Museum of the Diputacion de Alicante, Marq, the first of a Spanish exhibition center in the Persian country.

The exhibition occupies three temporary rooms of the Iranian National Museum until April 8, 2020. It is a consideration to the collection that this center exhibited in Alicante between March and September 1, 'Iran. Cradle of Civilizations', with great public success by adding 101,000 visitors.

Among the 283 pieces carefully selected by the Marq for this special occasion, since it is the first time they have exhibited outside Alicante, there are objects from their permanent collection and others recently found in excavations, and four high-quality replicas are included.

One of them is the one that, without a doubt, grab more attention: an exact copy of the Lady of Elche (6th century BC), a masterpiece of Iberian art whose original is in the National Archaeological Museum, in Madrid.

Also the Roman bronze hand with a double-headed eagle (1st century AD), which is exceptional for being the single piece with this symbol of the classical world, as well as replicas of the commemorative tombstone of the foundation of the Mosque of the Ribat of Guardamar del Segura and a sheet of lead with Greco-Latin writing.

In the collection they call the attention of the Iranian great Iberian jars of the second century BC, for

example one found in the Penon de Ifach, and also Phoenician and Iberian funeral urns. A 11th century bronze candlestick made in modern Iran, ancient Persia, and brought by boat through the ports of Alexandria, Tripoli, Kairuan (Tunisia) and Oran (Algeria) to Denia (Alicante), where it was found, occupies a special place in the showcases of the National Museum. This piece arouses great curiosity because it was a gift from the Caliph of the Fatimi dynasty of 1055 to the Taifa of Denia in gratitude for sending food for the famine to Egypt.

Amphorae, weapons, ceramics and jewels also make up this collection, which reaches the Modern Age, with reasons that particularly please Iranians, like the bulls, for example a basin of triana sheep with a horn and hand-painted glass plates of a nineteenth-century bullfight in the old bullring of Goya, in Madrid.

Cultural diplomacy

In addition to the Minister of Culture, Heritage, Tourism, Handicrafts and Museums, Ali Asghar Mounesan, numerous authorities in the country have attended the premiere, such as his deputy minister, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian, and the director general of Museums, Reza Karegar, along with the director of the center exhibition, Jebrael Nokandeh. Everyone has agreed that "cultural diplomacy" helps "Strengthen" ties between peoples, and the director of the museum has explained that generally in Iran the European history is known from the Romans, so the pieces of the Marq suppose a "discovery" of the previous civilizations, like the Iberian, Phoenician art, in addition to the Paleolithic with flint pieces from



thousands of years ago.

The director of the Marq Foundation, Josep Albert Cortes, has headed the delegation of Alicante, together with the Spanish ambassador, Eduardo L?pez Busquets, and has wished that the collection contributes to "A more Mediterranean and warmer than ever Iran". Manuel Olcina, technical director of the Marq, has stressed that the pieces are from a dozen cultures throughout the centuries in the Mediterranean and, therefore, are a review of the "origin of the civilizations of the world."

The Spanish ambassador has valued the Alicante museum for its "flexibility, innovation and adaptability" to become the first Spanish exhibition center to bring part of its funds to Iran.

(Source: newsy-today.com)

MSM scapegoating Iran for Aramco attacks brought to surface hidden agendas

By Alireza Hashemi

TEHRAN — On September 14, the Yemenis hit the Saudi government where it hurts, successfully orchestrating drone attack to the world's biggest petroleum installations in the country's oil heartland.

In the eyes of Yemenis, perhaps this was a small, yet sweet revenge for nearly five years — or decades — of suffering at hands of Saudi Arabia.

Since 2015, Saudi air strikes on villages and towns in Yemen have killed tens of thousands of civilians and left 80 percent of the population in dire need of aid and several millions on the brink of starvation.

But this was not the narrative the world heard. The big media outlets quickly began to reframe the story.

The Aramco attack was all about illegal interference of Iran and efforts to elicit a military strike on the country.

And the barbarous invasion of Yemen by Saudi Arabia and its continued bombing and blockade of Yemen, with US military support, was all but omitted from the media coverage of the drone strikes.

■ New act of Iranian villainy

In a matter of days, the western mainstream media published a mountain of commentary about Iran being behind the Aramco attacks.

The articles, adopting a familiar Iranophobic language, implied Iran has committed a new act of villainy in its pursuit of world domination.

But no convincing proof has been presented to back such a charge.

When you drill down a few centimeters below the surface, you find this charge instead: Iran supports rebel forces battling a Saudi-led coalition and has provided them weaponry, so it must be held accountable for attacks claimed by the rebels.

Yes, Iran supports the Yemenis. Nevertheless, the extent of Iran's backing



for the Yemeni people has never been factually established and both sides deny arms support.

But even assuming the assertion is true, an important notion is intentionally being disregarded: Isn't Iran entitled to support the Houthis the same way western governments were entitled to back resistance movements in France during the World War II?

Supporting a rebel movement against a brutal occupying force does not make you the bad guy. The bad guys are those who occupy, bomb and kill, like the Nazi Germany or the US "ally" Saudi Arabia.

If Iran is entitled to support the Yemenis, then nobody should object why Iran is providing weapons to Yemenis.

If Iran is not entitled to support the Yemenis, then the western powers are also not entitled to support an occupying force in Yemen.

However, no big news agency is covering the story from such angles. No US or Saudi practice is sweepingly condemned in a comparable fashion.

How would this headline look? Yemenis Stage Anti-Saudi Attacks After Western-Backed Bombing of Yemen Kills Thousands. Or this? Latest Escalation in Yemen War Highlights Need for Quick End to Saudi Occupation.

Such headlines could attract millions of clicks. Why weren't they published? Maybe that's because major outlets didn't want the audience to think about the story from that perspective.

■ Unrevealed Agendas

There is a far more serious situation in Yemen that doesn't attract even an equal level of indignation from the western press.

No blood was shed in the assault, unlike the cruel attacks by the Saudi government against school buildings or refugee camps in Yemen.

But why was the heavy emphasis put on the involvement of Iran? Maybe to obscure the illegality of the Saudi intervention and the western support for it.

"Let's make the story all about who we claim is supporting the Yemenis, rather

than what the Yemen war is."

Big news media decide whether to focus on the Who or the What, in each news-worthy case. "Should we give overwhelming coverage to the attack and its reasons or who might have enabled the attack?"

That is not your choice. They are making the choice for you.

And this game is played over and over for years, with the rules of the game shifted depending on unrevealed agendas. Who do we want to hit this time? Who do we want to come out like a winner? Who are our pals at the CIA supporting?

■ Obscuring Yemen Truth

There is no logic in the MSM approach to wars. The Who and What are decided on the basis of serving government interests, and repressing the public interest.

That's why the western MSM can continuously bemoan Iran's intervention in Yemen while probably never mentioning that Saudi Arabia is occupying Yemen and bombing its people to death.

Why would years of Saudi atrocities against the Yemeni people doesn't prompt even a verbal condemnation, but a strike into Saudi oil facilities require an immediate retaliation? Why would the U.S. not retaliate for bombings of the Yemeni people?

What's going on here is another brazen case of reality-inversion.

The Saudi criminal aggression is, incredibly, being laundered with a moral license by the lying MSM which have the gall to name their unashamed war propaganda "news services".

But these propaganda plots cannot change ground realities. The people of Yemen do not count in imperialist calculations, but they demonstrated that they can fight back against Saudi aggression.

The only sensible way forward is a quick end to this four-year travesty, and the Saudi princess would be wise to wake up to the mess they created for themselves.



The danger of conflating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism

By Ian Almond

I still remember the shock I felt when, at the age of 12, my teacher told me the word "joo" I had just spoken, which I had thought to mean to lie or cheat, was actually "Jew" and was anti-Semitic. Throughout my British childhood, I had used that word casually and frequently, without ever knowing what it really meant. I start with this example to make a simple point: anti-Semitism is so entrenched in our society, so depressingly persistent, that to trivialise it is to trivialise the blueprint of prejudice itself. It is a barometer of moral cowardice: when someone doesn't want to take responsibility for their own faults or problems, they blame the Jews.

At the moment, two phenomena are taking place in UK politics. For the first time in nearly 40 years, a politician with seriously left-wing ideas, and pro-Palestinian sympathies, is approaching political power. Over the past two years, that same politician's party has been going through a series of anti-Semitism allegations so comprehensive and systematic that we may employ the term "blanket coverage".

There is definitely a long-overdue debate that needs to be had over anti-Semitism in the Labour Party - but the current barrage of media attention is not that debate. There are definitely some voices who claim to support the Labour Party, and who allow their anti-Zionism to spill over mindlessly into anti-Semitism. What we are witnessing in the UK media, however, is a near-complete evaporation of critical debate. So many aspects of this coverage are disturbing: the widespread assumption among TV hosts and commentators that anti-Semitism is a problem exclusive to the Labour Party (polling suggests it is clearly not); the alarming paucity of any evidence or statistics, so that the sentence "anti-Semitism in the Labour Party", repeated ad nauseam, becomes its own self-generating fact; the frankly ridiculous allegations of anti-Semitism levelled at the leader Jeremy Corbyn himself (Alan Sugar, one of the most famous faces in British business, tweeted a photo of the Labour leader sitting next to Hitler); the unconditional authority and respect given to voices who have been widely criticised elsewhere for bias - the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, for example, whose unreserved equation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism drew a letter of protest from 88 Jewish celebrities; the lack of journalistic professionalism in giving any sense of proportion to the actual problem (the membership of the British Labour Party is 570,000 - the number of cases pending for expulsion from the party for anti-Semitism, the Guardian reported this week, is 70). Media coverage has been so appalling that, earlier in the summer, a group of 40 senior British academics accused the media of relying for its sources on a handful of "well-known political opponents of Corbyn himself".

In particular, the Labour Party is being called "anti-Semitic" because it has refused to recognise the entirety of a disputed definition of "anti-Semitism" - the code of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), repeatedly described in the media as an "internationally recognised" definition, but in reality is a highly controversial one. The IHRA code considers any description of the Israeli State as a "racist" institution to be anti-Semitic - the Labour Party's rejection of this clause has been portrayed as a rejection of the UN bill of human rights. In reality, the IHRA code has not only been challenged by groups such as the ACLU and Jewish Voice for Peace, but was even queried by an all-party Select Committee for the UK Parliament earlier this year. Absolutely none of this nuance makes the mainstream media.

In a way, this really leads us to the heart of the problem - and the heart of Labour's problem. I will choose my next words as carefully as possible, fully aware that the quarter of a million British Jews in the UK are in no way accountable, nor should ever be held accountable, for the actions of an aggressive Israeli state.

There is a basic level of ignorance in British society - partly wilful ignorance, partly genuine misinformation, partly flat-out denial - about how the Israeli state actually came to be. There seems to be in Britain - in TV commentators, in mainstream academics, in ordinary public opinion - a deep reluctance to acknowledge how, in 1948, three-quarters of a million Palestinian Arabs were forcibly evicted, with British backing, off their own land. To recognise this as racist, in the words of the IHRA code, would be "anti-semitic". A large part of the mainstream media anger towards the Labour Party for refusing the "internationally recognised" code is an establishment anger against a political party for refusing to accept the post-war narrative - a narrative, moreover, which has been successfully disseminated and internalised among many people in the UK since 1948. This is the scale of the British Labour Party's problem - if it is to go through with this, it has to ask a large segment of the UK population to unlearn their history.

On the BBC programme Newsnight last week, we saw a visible example of this. The presenter (Emily Maitlis) asked a British Labour campaigner for Palestine whether he thought the Israeli state was a "racist endeavour". The premise of the question itself betrayed how little the presenter knew about how the Israeli state was actually established. The activist avoided the question (he clearly thought it was), even after she repeated it - because to declare, on a BBC programme, that the Israeli state was an act of settler colonialism is, in the present climate, simply unspeakable.

If the mainstream media wins and Labour has to re-formulate its definition of anti-Semitism to fit the one currently used by the government, I see two dangers emerging, one for each side. For pro-Palestinian campaigners, any serious attempt to call Israel "racist" or revise its history will be criminalised. This is not hyperbole: organisers at the University of Birmingham a few years ago asked panellists not to use the word "apartheid" in a debate on Israel and Palestine. Within the Labour Party, the pro-Israeli, right-wingers will have won a subtle victory - a chance to purge the party of Corbyn-supporters under the guise of "extremism".

For the Jewish community, a much more long-term danger emerges. By enfolded criticism of Israel within the definition of anti-Semitism, a cherished goal of the Israeli Right will have finally been realised. There is a subtle mechanism here - British Jews critical of Israel (and there are many) will be involuntarily yoked together with Israel itself within such a definition, ironically mirroring the anti-Semitic logic of the mindless idiots who lump all Jews together in the first place. It might not be exaggerated to say that the result of all this, ultimately, will be the death of the term "anti-Semitism" itself as a meaningful word.

(Source: Aljazeera.com)

WaPo no longer discloses its owner's Uber investment

By Pete Tucker

A new California law threatens to upend Uber, but the Washington Post claimed the law doesn't apply to the ride-hailing giant. This is convenient, since Post owner Jeff Bezos is not only a major Uber investor, but also founder and CEO of Amazon, which is likely to also be negatively impacted by the new law.

The recently passed legislation requires companies to classify workers as employees if their work is central to the business. Throughout its decade of lawbreaking and staggering growth, Uber has classified its drivers as independent contractors, not employees. This has allowed the ride-hailing giant to avoid providing benefits and job protections, creating huge savings for Uber and financial hardship for many drivers.

Despite California legislators' clear intent that the new law applies to ride-hailing companies, the Post says it doesn't. In a recent news story, Post reporter Faiz Siddiqui offered this questionable legal opinion as fact:

The law compels companies to prove that contractors are performing work that is outside the core function of the business. Uber can meet that standard because it's a technology platform for several types of marketplaces, though legal challenges are likely.

That's what appeared in the print version of the Post. The online version of the story (9/11/19) offers a similar legal opinion, only now attributed to Uber general counsel Tony West (who declared that Uber would defy California's law):

The law, [West] said, compels companies to prove that contractors are performing work that is outside the core function of the business. Uber, he said, can meet that standard because it's a technology platform for several types of marketplaces, though he expects legal challenges going forward.

Other news outlets appear less confident



than the Post and Uber that the ride-hailing giant will prevail in court. (Elsewhere, the Post—9/17/19—was also skeptical that Uber would prevail.)

Uber's central argument is that drivers aren't performing a core function, because Uber is a tech platform, not a cab company. But it "could be hard for Uber to make such an argument" (Bloomberg, 4/11/19), since this is "a hard-to-believe sleight of hand" (American Prospect, 9/12/19), which is why the company is "unlikely to win" in court (New York Times, 9/12/19).

On Twitter (9/12/19), New York Times reporter Noam Scheiber pointed out that Uber didn't fare well when making this argument before a New York judge in 2017.

Post columnist Megan McArdle (9/13/19) isn't optimistic about Uber's chances in court, nor is she happy about California's new law, which she blames on lefties and predicts will lead to mass job losses. Also, McArdle says, it's unfair to ask more of Uber and Lyft:

Yes, you in the back, wearing the Che Guevara T-shirt, I can hear you muttering about how they could "just take a little less in profits." That might be fine for older companies that make heavy use of contractors and have old-fashioned things such as profits. But the gig-economy companies are still hemorrhaging cash.

Uber and Lyft are indeed hemorrhaging cash, even as they make their investors, including McArdle's boss, unbelievably rich.

■ Bezos and Uber

Returning to Post reporter Siddiqui's Uber-friendly legal opinion, which he later (accurately) attributed to Uber: This may have been an innocent mistake (albeit one the Post has yet to acknowledge, as no correction has been posted), but it looks less innocent when considering Bezos' ties to Uber.

Bezos is a major Uber shareholder, whose stock in the company is worth an estimated \$400 million (CBS News, 5/3/19), or possibly a lot more. By comparison, Bezos paid \$250 million to buy the Post in 2013.

On top of that, Uber co-founder and former CEO Travis Kalanick—who remains on Uber's board and is one of the company's largest shareholders—is a Bezos fanboy.

As CEO, Kalanick worked with a Bezos disciple to create 14 corporate principles for Uber, mimicking Amazon's 14; although Kalanick's list, which had "Always Be Hustlin'" at the top, read like it was "run through a bro-speak translation engine," Mike Isaac writes in Super Pumped: The Battle for Uber.

The love flowed both ways, as Bezos praised his mentee's brash style. "Travis is a real entrepreneur," Bezos said of Kalanick, according to Brad Stone's The Upstarts: How Uber, AirBNB and the Killer Companies of the New Silicon Valley Are Changing the World.

Bezos' and Kalanick's companies share a lot in common, as both are known to bully competitors, cheat the government, mistreat workers and, crucially, rely on large numbers of independent contractors.

"By some estimates, nearly half of Amazon's packages in the US are now delivered" via third party vendors, according to a year-long BuzzFeed investigation (8/31/19). These vendors in turn hire drivers, appearing to place distance between them and Amazon, even though Amazon "dictates almost every aspect of that operation, down to what drivers wear, what vans they use, what routes they follow, and how many packages they must deliver each day."

With California's new law taking hold, and other states looking to follow suit, Bezos could end up the biggest loser if his holdings in Amazon and Uber take a hit.

■ 'I Have No Idea'

The Post's recent pro-Uber reporting is not an anomaly, but part of a pattern at the paper (HuffPost, 6/21/16), which no longer bothers to inform readers of Bezos' ties to the ride-hailing company.

"Conflicts this basic—as in, our boss stands to make a substantial fortune from the success of this company—typically require disclosure, if only to fend off the appearance of impropriety," noted Adam Johnson (FAIR.org, 11/10/15).

Post executive editor Marty Baron wrote to me in a 2016 email: "We have frequently identified him [Bezos] as an investor" in Uber—even though, he added,

it's unnecessary to do so since Bezos is a passive rather than active investor.

But in 2017, as Uber hit turbulent waters, the Post stopped disclosing Bezos' ties to the ride-hailing giant (Washington City Paper, 7/18/17). I followed up with Baron. "No," there had been no change in policy, he wrote. "We knew he was an early investor. I have no idea if he remains an investor."

This is strange coming from Baron, whose investigative prowess was heralded in the movie Spotlight. Apparently when it comes to his boss, Baron prefers to play dumb.

Even if Baron is reluctant to ask Bezos about his investment in Uber, he can still read about it in any number of media reports, and even find a passing mention of it in a Post story in April (4/4/19). But by maintaining a façade of ignorance, the Post evades having to disclose to readers about its owner's ties to Uber.

Independent of Baron's let-there-be-darkness edict, it's understandable that Post reporters might ease up on companies closely tied to the guy cutting their checks. "I would say that I tend to do less critical thinking about Amazon than I do, say, about Facebook or Google or Walmart," an anonymous Post employee told HuffPost (12/4/18). "The reason is fairly obvious: because I am thankful for the opportunity I have, which wouldn't exist without [Jeff] Bezos."

As Rolling Stone journalist Matt Taibbi (8/16/19) writes, "Media companies run by the country's richest people can't help but project the mindset of their owners."

Threatening Amazon as well as possibly being an "existential threat" to Uber (American Prospect, 9/12/19), California's new law poses a potential two-fold hit to Bezos' holdings. In light of this, it'd be surprising if Bezos' newspaper didn't take a skeptical view of the law.

(Source: FAIR.org)



The same language that the Washington Post print edition presented as legal fact appeared in an online version of the story (9/11/19) as Uber's lawyer's opinion.



It's not true to say that the Washington Post (3/2/17) is never interested in its owner's other business activities.

Countries must triple climate emission cut targets to limit global heating to 2C

An assessment backed by the world’s major climate science bodies has found commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions must be at least tripled and increased by up to fivefold if the world is to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The report, launched as leaders gather at a UN climate action summit in New York on Monday, says current plans would lead



to a rise in average global temperatures of between 2.9C and 3.4C by 2100, a shift likely to bring catastrophic change across the globe.

Coordinated by the World Meteorological Organisation, the United in Science report says it is still possible to reduce the gap and keep global heating to a safe level, but it would require an urgent shift in commitments and action.

The five years between 2015 and 2019 are on track to be on average 1.1C hotter than pre-industrial times and the warmest of any equivalent period on record.

The report says many of the changes linked to the temperature rise, including long-lasting heatwaves, record-breaking wildfires, declining sea ice and glaciers, cyclones, floods and drought, have hit sooner and harder than predicted a decade ago.

Speaking ahead of the summit, UN secretary general António Guterres said the world was fraying and needed international cooperation more than ever.

“Let’s face it, we have no time to lose,” he said.

Pep Canadell, the executive director of the Global Carbon Project and a contributing author on the report, said the report confirmed well-established trends, including that climate changes had accelerated in the past three decades, and particularly in the past 10 years.

“How many climate records does it take to accept the unprecedented nature of what we are living and to act upon it?”

Millions of people took part in an unprecedented global demonstration on Friday demanding urgent action to tackle global heating , joining a movement started by Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg. Like the report, the strike was timed to put pressure on the leaders gathering for the climate summit, which is being held ahead of the annual UN general assembly. Leaders from about 60 countries are scheduled to speak at the summit, including India’s Narendra Modi, Germany’s Angela Merkel and Britain’s Boris Johnson.

Guterres asked leaders to come to the summit with new commitments to put the globe closer to meeting the Paris agreement goals of limiting global heating to at least 2C, and as close to 1.5C as possible, compared with pre-industrial levels. He said it required countries to cut emissions by 45% by 2030, end fossil fuel subsidies and ban new coal plants after 2020.

Donald Trump, who has pledged to pull the US out of the Paris agreement, will not attend the summit. Australia will be represented by Marise Payne, the foreign affairs minister, despite the prime minister, Scott Morrison, being in the US this week, after Morrison refused to meet a request from Guterres that countries announce new commitments before attending. As leaders headed to New York on Sunday, Trump and Morrison opened an Ohio box factory owned by Australian Anthony Pratt.

The United in Science report, which is also backed by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, estimates global emissions are not likely to peak before 2030 on the current trajectory.

It says policies to reduce emissions must triple to meet the 2C target and increase fivefold to keep heating to within 1.5C.

A separate report to be released on Monday has found emissions from coal power would need to peak next year and fall to zero by 2040 if the world is to meet the Paris goals.

For developed countries that have the capacity to move more rapidly to cleaner sources, such as Australia, the US and those in western Europe, it would mean ending coal use for electricity by 2031. Less developed countries would need to shut their coal plants across the following decade.

(Source: The Guardian)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Left-handedness linked to a better memory

(October 22, 2001)

A new study suggests that being left-handed or related to lots of left handed people can give you a better memory. The study, which looked at handedness and brain function, also goes some way to explaining why people don’t remember events which happened in their very early childhood. This report from Julian Siddle:

The researchers **conducted experiments** into two different types of memory function: remembering events and remembering facts. Overall, they found that people who were left-handed or had left-handed members **in their immediate families** could remember events more easily. In remembering facts, there was little difference.

The experiments also involved measuring brain activity during the memory tasks. Results from these **brain scans backed up** earlier studies which suggest that both halves of the brain are involved in remembering events, whereas only one half seems to be used when remembering facts.

The researchers say this shows that remembering events at least has little to do with **brain dominance**. They say the key to how we remember events is likely to be the **corpus callosum**. In left-handed people and those with left-handed relatives it is generally larger. This part of the brain doesn’t develop fully until about the age of four, which could explain why memories of early childhood are **difficult to recall**.

■ **Words conducted experiments:** carried out scientific tests **in their immediate families:** among their closest relatives **brain scans:** medical tests that involve using special technology to measure and record brain activity **backed up:** confirmed the results of **brain dominance:** the widely held, but scientifically unproven belief that one half of the brain is more active than the other, making it either right- or left-handed **corpus callosum:** the part of the brain through which information between the two halves passes **difficult to recall:** not easy to remember

(Source: BBC)

‘Cycling holds less than 1% share of urban transport in Iran’

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — Cycling constitutes less than 1 percent of urban transportation in the Iranian cities, while in bike-friendly cities, such as Amsterdam and Copenhagen, some 40 percent of trips are being conducted by bikes, an official with the Municipalities and Village Administration Organization has said.

The shocking rate of cycling in the country is the result of ignorance and lack of serious follow-up, ISNA quoted Marzieh Salehi as saying on Monday.

Implying that there are no deficiencies in laws for using clean public transport especially bicycles in the country, she noted that many plans have been drawn up to improve urban transport, reduce the share of private cars, decrease fuel consumption and air pollution.

“We also have government approvals in this regard, however, weak enforcement led to such condition,” Salehi lamented.

“The early adopter cities, such as Amsterdam, recording such strong levels of cycling were once like us, suffering traffic jams; auto-centricity was widespread in their country, and industrialization was associated with the growth and development of automobiles,” she explained.

“Gradually, most developed countries have come to the conclusion that as we increase roads and highways, we are moving away from eco-friendly cities,” she added.

In recent years, citizens infected with diseases caused by inactivity, including overweight, diabetes, fatty liver, but mayors and government officials have Instead of focusing on reducing the negative impacts of private car use, insisted on developing automotive cities, she regretted.

■ **Automotive cities major obstacle to cycling**

Salehi went on to say that developing cities highly reliant on car-based mobility had two dire consequences for the country, one of which was rise of streets regardless of the infrastructure quality and the other was increased traffic-related accidents as well as spending national fund on such inefficient planning.

To say that developing roads is a disadvantage does not mean that the development of passages should be abandoned altogether, she said, implying, in fact, the disadvantage was mainly the increase of car mobility across the cities.

“However, it was decided ultimately to revise the development approach and focus on human-centered cities and clean transport infrastructure.

Projects proposed lately were more in line with human-centered issues; it was planned that to boost cycling in small towns that do not require buses or taxis,” she added.



Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Tehran air quality has been unhealthy for sensitive groups for 25 days due to high rate of ozone emissions, while one day reported to be unhealthy for all the residents, according to the Tehran Air Quality Control Company.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Salehi said that “biking holds a share of less than 1 percent in cities across the country, while in some pioneering cities, such as Amsterdam and Copenhagen, cycling accounts for 40 percent of the urban trips.

Urban management in our country is mostly seek immediate result, while cycling take years to develop; in fact, the reason why riding remains a minority mode of transport in so many cities was a lack of serious incentive and national attention.

Preparing bicycle infrastructure at the national level is a daunting task which requires serious determination, which has so far not been formed.”

Referring to the ‘Car-free Tuesdays’ campaign, she noted that such movements towards cleaner transportation needs co-operation of people and all responsible bodies.

‘Car-free Tuesdays’ campaign kicked off in 2016 by NGOs aiming to decrease the number of private cars in cities, hence mitigate air pollution.

She went on to say that Tehran mayor participating in the campaign resulted in its revival; so officials can encourage the public to an action in case they are taking the same action.

Tehran, Qom, Qazvin and Arak cities

are developing a comprehensive bicycle transportation plan, and some have even finalized it; so far, a 40-km bike path has been built in Qazvin, she added.

■ **Biking to be promoted by all responsible bodies**

Criticizing the Health Ministry, she said that the Ministry was supposed to cooperate in promoting cycling as it reduces inactivity and related diseases but turned out reluctant and avoided cooperation, as well as the Ministry of Education, not issuing a permit to establish bike networks at schools.

Therefore, all the related organizations must take steps toward a combination of changing attitudes, demographics, and emerging technology that help urban populations lower their dependence on the private cars, she said, adding, media and the Ministry of Sports and Youth can play a vital role in this regard.

“We sent a plan to the economic council of parliament to pay the citizens from the fuel-saving profit; but unfortunately it did not reach any results since past 5 months,” she regretted.

She further called on the government to support the development of bike sharing system and infrastructure to achieve an effective result.

■ **Which country records strong levels of cycling?**

No country matches the Netherlands, either in the proportion of the population who cycle, or in cycling safety, as it is commonly said that the Dutch are ‘blind to cycling’; meaning that it is such an ordinary activity, undertaken by such a broad section of the community (13 percent of trips by those 75 years and over are by bike), that it has simply not warranted much attention, according to the Dutch National Travel Survey.

■ **Cycling promotion experiences**

In August, it was announced that an Iranian startup set out to provide a system based on Internet of Things (IoT) for its bike sharing service in Tehran in coming months. Using an application very similar to that of ride-hailing apps citizens can find the nearest bikes to them and by paying a small fee they can cycle in different parts of the city and leave the bike wherever they wish for the next user.

But since other schemes designed to promote cycling in the city proved to be ineffective due to lack of necessary infrastructure, most importantly safe bike lanes, the new bike sharing scheme future is yet uncertain for now. However, the project initiated in past few months and Tehraners are using the greener transport option to help curb messy air pollution.

As cities around the world struggle to manage the competing demands on finite road space, a reallocation of road space may be necessary in order to overcome the perceived and real safety concerns that hold back bicycle riders in countries with low cycling levels.

■ **How biking affects the cities?**

A study by World Health Organization published in 2016 asserts that Tehran is one of the most air polluted cities in the world. Tehran is ranked 12th among 26 megacities in terms of ambient PM10 levels.

While cars are the most abundant in the city, heavy-duty vehicles including buses and trucks the most polluting ones contributing to 85 percent of the air pollution in the city.

Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Tehran air quality has been unhealthy for sensitive groups for 25 days due to high rate of ozone emissions, while one day reported to be unhealthy for all the residents, according to the Tehran Air Quality Control Company.

Traffic congestion and cars can contribute to ozone raise, as toxic emissions of oxides of nitrogen is released by diesel cars during fuel combustion in an engine.

Bicycles, as a cleaner transport fleet can have immediate and long-term benefits for the cities being haunted by air pollution.

Scientists prepare to drill for million-year-old ice in Antarctica

Million-year-old ice buried deep in Antarctica could hold crucial information about the planet’s past and help climate predictions.

And scientists with the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) are a step closer to unearthing it.

On Monday, they unveiled a drill designed to reach three kilometers below the surface of the frozen continent.

“What we’re embarking on over the next few years is to solve one of the last great problems in climate science,” glaciologist Tas van Ommen said.

The ice, believed to be up to 1.5m years old, is the target of several international research projects.

Hundreds of people hold ‘funeral’ for Swiss glacier lost to global warming

Hundreds of people have held a high-altitude “funeral” for a Swiss glacier that has been lost to global warming.

Climate activists dressed in black clothes climbed to 2,600 metres above sea level to pay their respects to the last remnants of the Pizol glacier in the Glarus Alps, east Switzerland.

More than 80 percent of the ice has disappeared since 2006, with just 26,000 sq metres now remaining. The glacier, which measured at 320,000 sq m by scientists in 1987, is expected to have vanished completely by the end of next decade.

But it has already “lost so much substance that from a scientific perspective it is no longer a glacier,” said Alessandra Degiacomi of the Swiss Association for Climate Protection.

Pizol was declared “dead” in a ceremony on Sunday. The glacier, which has been monitored since 1893, will be the first to be removed from the Swiss glacier surveillance network.

“I have climbed up here countless times,” said Matthias Huss, a glacier expert at ETH Zurich university who attended. “It is like the dying of a good friend.”

The gathering echoes a similar event to commemorate a melted glacier in Iceland in August.

(Source: The Independent)

“We’ll see in the ice, tiny bubbles that are trapped between snowflakes in the ice as it gets buried,” van Ommen said. “These tiny bubbles are time capsules of past atmosphere.

“We want to get that ice, analyze those time capsules and understand what [carbon dioxide] did in that period around one million years ago when the climate was changing.”

About 1 million years ago the Earth shifted from a 40,000-year ice age cycle to a 100,000-year cycle, van Ommen said.

“[Carbon dioxide] is tied up in that change and it changes the rate at which ice ages have worked in the past,” he added.

“We need to understand if the CO2 we put in the atmosphere will have long-term consequences for the Earth

in the future.”

The drill, made from stainless steel, aluminum bronze and titanium, is a mix of international and Australian technology and can withstand -55C.

But reaching the buried ice won’t be a quick, or easy, feat. Drilling is expected to begin in 2021 and take four years in total. A mobile 500-tonne base will take equipment to the work site, 1,200km inland from Antarctica’s coast.

“We are sending men and women into the most remote extreme environment on earth,” AAD director, Kim Ellis, said. “It’s a really challenging adventure.”

(Source: The Guardian)

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9780020

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	PARTS FOR ROLLS ROYCE “INDUSTRIAL AVON GAS GENERATORS AVONMK. 1533-3476G 101G. INTERNAL WHEELCASE AND CENTRE BEARING BEARING ASSY-BALL MAIN CENTRE.P/N:AG 58259	20 Nos

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit .a bid bond of 6,353 EURO or 891, 565,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

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

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۶/۳۰ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۲

UN chief announces formation of Syria constitutional committee

TEHRAN — United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced on Monday the formation of a constitutional committee for Syria, a long-awaited step in a stalled peace process.

“It will be facilitated by the United Nations in Geneva,” Guterres told reporters, adding that it would be convened in the coming weeks. The United Nations sees the committee as a next step in efforts to find a political solution to end the more than eight-year war in Syria.

■ **‘Syria respects political solution, but fight to continue’**

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem has held a “positive and constructive” meeting with the United Nations special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, in Damascus.

During the meeting on Monday, Muallem reiterated Syria’s adherence to the political process, and reaffirmed his country’s readiness to continue cooperation with the UN special envoy in order to reach a political solution through intra-Syrian dialogue, official news agency SANA reported.

Syria’s top diplomat also stressed that Syria preserves the right to fight terrorism, and stressed that the counter-terrorism operations will go on in parallel with the



political process.

According to SANA, the two sides discussed the formation of a constitutional committee that could pave the way for a political solution to the country’s eight-year conflict, and mechanisms that would guarantee its effectiveness.

Damascus reiterated that the constitutional committee should be a purely Syrian affair to be decided by the Syrian people alone without any foreign interference.

Writing a new constitution for a post-war Syria is part of a potential political solution to end the eight-year crisis in the Arab country.

To that end, an agreement was made in the Russian town of Sochi last year for the formation of a UN-backed Constitutional Committee composed of 50 members from the incumbent Damascus government, 50 opposition members, and another 50 independent figures chosen by the world body.

SANA reported that the meeting was “positive and constructive,” adding the two sides agreed that only the Syrian people have the right to lead the constitutional process.

They also agreed that the Syrians should decide their future without any foreign interference or pressure in order to achieve a progress in the political process and subsequently restore security and stability to all the Syrian areas.

The two sides also stressed the necessity of respecting Syria’s sovereignty and its territorial integrity, and affirmed their utter rejection of all forms of terrorism.

For his part, Pedersen hailed the progress made in the political process, stressing his readiness to make all efforts to facilitate the intra-Syrian dialogue.

According to Press TV, earlier this month, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the United States was throwing a wrench in efforts to form a UN-backed constitutional committee in Syria.

Labor denies ‘civil war’ ahead of Brexit showdown

TEHRAN — With the United Kingdom’s Conservative party riddled with divisions over the country’s withdrawal from the European Union and unable to command a governing majority in a now-suspended parliament, Labor, the nation’s principal opposition party, is facing its own Brexit showdown on Monday.

The left-wing party’s many factions are divided between those wanting to campaign to cancel Brexit and those backing the wait-and-see approach of party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Corbyn has called for a neutral position going into a general election, saying he would negotiate a new Brexit deal with Brussels that would then be put to a public referendum.

It remains unclear if Labor would then campaign to support its own deal, or to

remain in the European Union. The party’s position would be decided at a special conference, after the expected general election.

Shadow chancellor John McDonnell, who has said he would campaign for a Remain vote in the promised referendum, said Corbyn’s suggested process was “logical” and insisted “there isn’t any war in the Labor Party” over the issue.

According to al Jazeera, as Labor’s national executive prepared to open the party’s annual conference at the weekend, a sudden proposal emerged on Friday designed to oust Tom Watson - the deputy leader of the party who had questioned Corbyn’s approach and said Labor should campaign to remain in the EU and abandon any ambiguity.

The bid failed but exposed again the deep divisions within the party.

Western countries raise concerns over Saudi rights record

TEHRAN — Two dozen mainly European countries voiced concern on Monday at alleged torture, unlawful detentions and unfair trials of critics, including women activists and journalists, in Saudi Arabia.

According to Reuters, it was the second joint statement criticizing the kingdom read out at the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva in six months, following the first censure of Saudi Arabia at the forum in March.

It urged Saudi authorities to establish the truth about the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Istanbul consulate last October and ensure that the perpetrators are held to account.

Fifteen European Union members, including Britain and Germany, were among the signatories, as well as Canada, New

Zealand, and Peru, diplomats said.

There was no immediate response by the Saudi delegation, which is among the council’s 47 member states but whose seat was empty. The Saudi ambassador left the room about an hour before to host his country’s national day reception.

The kingdom has regularly denied allegations of torture and unfair detention.

The joint statement acknowledged Saudi reforms, including the announcement last month that restrictions on the rights of women to travel will be lifted, but said deep concerns remained.

“However, we remain deeply concerned at the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. Civil society actors in Saudi Arabia still face persecution and intimidation,” Australia’s ambassador Sally Mansfield said, reading out the statement.

Arab parties endorse Gantz, break tradition to remove Netanyahu

TEHRAN — Israel’s main Arab political parties endorsed ex-military chief Benny Gantz for prime minister, breaking a nearly 27-year-long standard of not endorsing a candidate in the hope of removing current leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The leader of the so-called Joint List, Ayman Odeh, said on Sunday the alliance’s decision was not an endorsement of Gantz’s policies or the man himself.

Gantz’s centrist Blue and White party won the most seats in the September 17 election with 33 out of parliament’s 120 seats, while Netanyahu’s Likud finished second with 31. Meanwhile, the Joint List coalition won 13 seats, making it the third-largest grouping.

Sixty-one seats are needed to form a government.

“This will be the most significant step towards helping create the majority needed to prevent another term for Mr Netanyahu. And it should be the end of his political career,” Odeh wrote in an op-ed for the New York Times newspaper, released on Sunday as he met President Reuven Rivlin at his residence in West Jerusalem.

Rivlin spent the day meeting with officials from the major parties to break the deadlock and form a government.

Neither the Joint List nor the Blue and White Party



indicated they planned to work together if Gantz formed a coalition government.

But the endorsement “is a clear message that the only future for this country is a shared future, and there is no shared future without the full and equal participation of Arab-Palestinian citizens”, Odeh wrote.

It was the first time that majority Arab parties had en-

dorsed a candidate for prime minister since 1992, when they backed Yitzhak Rabin, who went on to sign the Oslo Accords, agreements aimed at fulfilling the right to self-determination for Palestinians.

The break from tradition showed the Arab parties, and their Arab constituents who came out in increased numbers, wanted to “engage more in Israeli politics”, said Al Jazeera’s Harry Fawcett, reporting from West Jerusalem.

“What the Joint List is saying is that they want social policies, policing policies, economic policies changed in this country,” Fawcett said.

But it was far from certain on Sunday if the endorsement would succeed in ending Netanyahu’s 13-year tenure as prime minister.

“Now the question is how the other parties will respond to this,” Fawcett said.

Rivlin, who as president must designate someone to form a government at the end of the discussions, has said he believes Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud and Gantz’s centrist Blue and White should be in the next coalition.

There has been speculation he will bring Gantz and Netanyahu together to explore options for a unity government, Al Jazeera reported.

Saudi regime in final stages of its life: Nasrallah

TEHRAN — The secretary general of Lebanon’s resistance movement Hezbollah says the Al Saud regime may be in the final stages of its life, and the incumbent rulers are expediting the regime’s demise through their policies.

“The Al Saud regime is old and may be in the final stages of its life because of natural reasons like its cruel measures over the past 100 years and the systematic corruption in the regime, suppression of people, and totalitarianism of its rules,” Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said.

However, he added, the performance

of incumbent Saudi rulers - which is in contradiction to that of their predecessors - will expedite the collapse of the Saudi regime.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s war on Yemen, the crimes committed by the regime and the Saudi’s interference in other countries will seriously affect the future of the kingdom, Nasrallah said.

“We currently see for the first time that ‘Death to Al Saud’ slogan is being chanted in several Arab countries, and we see political and popular powers and

governments that take explicit stances toward Al Saud and its interference in the region,” he noted.

According to Al Jazeera, Nasrallah made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the office for preservation and dissemination of the works of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolution.

The Hezbollah chief blamed Saudi Arabia for the tension with Iran, saying it was Riyadh who started the animosity due to the Islamic Republic’s support for Palestinians and the resistance movements

in the region.

“Saudi Arabia started its hostility toward Iran after the victory of the Islamic Revolution [in 1979] and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, which supported the issues of Arab and Islamic countries,” he said.

Nasrallah also said the U.S. president’s recent comment about the kingdom’s payment of hundreds of billions of dollars to Washington in just one hour after Donald Trump’s call, and the silence of Saudi media over the issue showed the Saudis’ ultimate humiliation against Trump’s laughter.

Baghdad’s definite response to U.S. Congress’s hostile plan about Iraq

➔ Earlier, amid U.S. pressure on Baghdad to comply with sanctions against Iran, informed sources revealed that Washington has intended to blackmail Baghdad. The source emphasized that the U.S. stated that it will grant sanctions exemptions to Baghdad if it signs huge contracts and agreements with American companies.

At the same time, Baghdad opposed U.S. blackmail, and passed Trump’s suggestion. Prime Minister of Iraq Adil Abdul-Mahdi said during a meeting with ambassadors of some European countries such as France and Britain, “Baghdad will not be a part of anti-Iranian sanctions.”

As noted, one of main goals of the U.S. in their plan in Congress is to reduce Iran’s influence in Iraq. In fact, the U.S. considers the increase of Tehran’s influence in Iraq as opposed to its policies in the country. It believes that Iran’s extensive and close relations with its regional allies will disrupt Washington’s strategy for isolating Tehran. It should be noted that the strategy has failed so far.

White House and Congress officials are trying to restrict Iran-Iraq commercial relations, while Baghdad officials have explicitly stated that Baghdad will not be able to replace imported electricity from Iran with any resources inside the country or from neighboring countries.

Therefore, the clear and decisive positions of Iraqi politician, especially those in the oil and energy field, indicate that Baghdad continues its relations and deals with Iran, regardless of extensive pressure by the U.S. This could be a precise message to Washington from Baghdad that Iran-Iraq relations cannot be subjected to external imposed actions.

Always remember about alliance between Iran and ikhwans

➔ 2014 year - “One of the members of the Ikhwan delegation that visited the late blessed Imam Khomeini upon his triumphant return to Iran was a Saudi, Abdullah Suleiman al-Aqeel.”



“The martyred Imam Hasan al-Banna, who was one of the pioneers of the modern Islamic movement, had revived the thought of bringing the Sunnis and Shi’ites together. He was one of the leading participants in the works of Jami’at at-Taqrīb Bain Al-Mathāhib Al-Islāmiyah (The League to Bring Together Islamic Schools of Thought).”

This was believed by some to be impossible to achieve but al-Banna and other Islamic scholars and leaders believed it possible and very near being achieved. They agreed that Muslims should come together on the basic beliefs and principles which are accepted by all of them and that they should accept each other’s opinions on matters which neither constitute a condition for the faith nor a pillar of the religion, nor amount to denying what is known to be one of the necessities of the religion.”

“It is well known that Imam al-Banna met the Shi’ite Imam, Ayatullah Kashani, during his pilgrimage in 1948 and an understanding occurred between them. This was referred to by one of today’s distinguished personalities of the Ikhwan al-Muslimun and a student of the martyred Imam al-Banna, that is, ‘Abd al-Muta’ al al-Jabri, who says in his book, Limatha yuqitla Hasan (Why Hasan al-Banna was Assassinated), 5 quoting Robert Jackson’s words. “If the life of this man (al-Banna) had been longer, it would have been possible to gain many benefits for this land, especially in the agreement between al-Banna and Ayatullah Kashani, one of the Iranian Muslim leaders, to uproot the discord between the Sunnis and Shi’ites. They met each other in the Hijaz in 1948. It appears that they conferred with each other and reached a basic understanding but Hasan al-Banna was quickly assassinated.” 6 Mr. Jabri comments on this saying, “Jackson is right and realized by his political common sense the efforts of Imam al-Banna in bringing together various Islamic schools of thought.”

“One of the Ikhwan al-Muslimun’s thinkers, Salim al-Bahna-sawi, says in Al-Sunna Al-Muftara alaiha (The Tradition Being Falsified)3, “Since the formation of the group of bringing together Islamic schools of thought in which Imam al-Banna and Imam al-Qummi clearly participated, cooperation existed between the Ikhwan al-Muslimun and the Shi’ites that led to the visit of Nawab Safawi to Cairo in 1954. “ He also says on the same page, “This kind of cooperation is not surprising or strange because the beliefs. of both groups (the Sunnis and the Shi’ites) lead to it.”

“It is well known that Imam al-Banna met the Shi’ite Imam, Ayatullah Kashani, during his pilgrimage in 1948 and an understanding occurred between them. This was referred to by one of today’s distinguished personalities of the Ikhwan al-Muslimun and a student of the martyred Imam al-Banna, that is, ‘Abd al-Muta’ al al-Jabri, who says in his book, Limatha yuqitla Hasan (Why Hasan al-Banna was Assassinated), quoting Robert Jackson’s words. “If the life of this man (al-Banna) had been longer, it would have been possible to gain many benefits for this land, especially in the agreement between al-Banna and Ayatullah Kashani, one of the Iranian Muslim leaders, to uproot the discord between the Sunnis and Shi’ites. They met each other in the Hijaz in 1948. It appears that they conferred with each other and reached a basic understanding but Hasan al-Banna was quickly assassinated.” Mr. Jabri comments on this saying, “Jackson is right and realized by his political common sense the efforts of Imam al-Banna in bringing together various Islamic schools of thought.”

Most Europeans countries detached from reality in Syria: Assad

TEHRAN — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says the position of most European countries on what is happening in Syria has been detached from reality since the onset of foreign-backed militancy in the Arab country in 2011.

The Syrian leader made the remark during a meeting with a delegation of Italian legislators and politicians headed by Senator Paolo Romani in the Syrian capital, Damascus, on Sunday, adding that European countries persisted in their stance despite the major changes that have been witnessed during the past eight years.

Assad further said that instead of working to achieve

their own interests, European countries continued to pursue a policy that served the interests of the United States.

The Syrian president said there were a number of positive developments despite the fact that “the countries that fueled the war — mainly Turkey and the US and its pawns — are still continuing their policies by hindering the full elimination of terrorism.”

Assad also urged European politicians and parties “to determine the shape of Europe they aspire to and the role they want it to play.”

Members of the Italian delegation said that the long-held unrealistic narrative promoted by mainstream media

outlets about events in Syria had started to gradually lose its effect in the European public opinion.

They said what was actually happening in the Arab country required European governments to adopt a different policy based on reality and not on what was being promoted by the media.

According to Press TV, Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The Syrian government says the Israeli regime and its Western and regional allies are aiding Takfiri terrorist groups that are wreaking havoc in the country.

The conflict has largely wound down recently.

Man City will score 10 goals in a match soon - Watford's Foster

Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster says Manchester City are in such rampaging form that it will not be long before Pep Guardiola's side pump in 10 goals against a team in the same match.

Foster was on the receiving end of City's record top-flight scoreline at the Etihad Stadium, as the hosts racked up an 8-0 victory over Watford in the Premier League on Saturday.

Beaten five times after just 18 minutes, Foster feared the worse was yet to come as City looked to rebound from a shock defeat by Norwich City in their previous league match.

"To get in at 5-0 at half-time I was over the moon," Foster told British media. "As a goalie, coming here in the first place it's almost an achievement to keep it at one or two goals. At times, if they're on it, they are incredible.

"They will do it to somebody, there will be a nine or 10 out there soon," Foster said.

"They were scary at times. It was just relentless. You could see them opening us up and the chances developing in front of your eyes. It was absolutely no fun. In all honesty, it could have been double digits."

Guardiola's City have now scored 24 goals in six league matches this season, seven more than leaders Liverpool and 20 more than basement side Watford.

(Source: Reuters)

Silva comes under fire from anti-racism charity over Mendy tweet

Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva has come under fire from anti-racism body Kick It Out after a Twitter post concerning team mate Benjamin Mendy that he deleted an hour after posting.



Silva, who scored a hat-trick in Manchester City's 8-0 hammering of Watford on Saturday, posted a message comparing Mendy to the character used in the logo for Conguitos, a brand of confectionary popular in Spain and Portugal.

"We are extremely disappointed to see the tweet posted by Bernardo Silva, which has since been deleted," Kick It Out said in a statement on Monday.

"Racist stereotypes are never acceptable as 'banter', and we're shocked that someone who is a role model to millions has failed to understand the discriminatory nature of his post."

Kick It Out said the FA had been notified and that they believe "retrospective action" should be taken, including "mandatory education".

Silva, who deleted the post an hour after it was published on Sunday, posted another message saying "Can't even joke with a friend these days....you guys."

The two players were team mates at Monaco before joining Manchester City in 2017.

(Source: Goal)

Valverde: I know that I'm in a position where results matter

Ernesto Valverde is aware that the pressure on him is growing because of Barcelona's poor start to this LaLiga Santander season.

A defeat at Granada over the weekend saw their struggles continue, and he'll be hoping they can get on the right track against Villarreal on Tuesday.

"It's nothing new," he said of the questions surrounding his future. "There's a huge demand on all of us [coaches]. Even more so at Barcelona.

"I know that I'm in a position where results matter. The coach is always in the spotlight.

"We haven't started well and we have to recover. It's time to get over this pothole."

When asked about the reasons for the form, Valverde was at something of a loss, though he did mention the Champions League collapse at Anfield.

"I don't know if they're from further back or if they're beginning," he admitted.

"I think we have to focus on this season to analyse what's happening now.

"If we go back to last year we also suffered but then came back. Then we had the Liverpool setback.

"But we're not getting good results away from home and we have to get back [to winning ways]."

Clement Lenglet and Gerard Pique have been key for Barcelona but with little depth at the back, Valverde doesn't have many options to rotate.

"They played in a lot of games last year," he said when asked if they needed to be rested.

"Centre backs have less wear than others, but we have players who can help.

"[Jean-Clair] Todibo is there, and the youth team." (Source: Marca)

Rabiot unhappy with Juve situation?

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot is reportedly unhappy with his lack of playing time at the club.

Rabiot only joined Juve over the summer, arriving on a free transfer from Paris Saint-Germain.

However, he has managed just 27 minutes of football in the Bianconeri's first four Serie A games this season.

"What must Rabiot think? That Matuidi is strong," Coach Maurizio Sarri said after the Old Lady struggled to beat Verona 2-1 on Saturday.

According to Soccer Link, the Frenchman is "beginning to get impatient" and wants to get back playing "once and for all".

Sarri has preferred to stick with the status quo, chiefly lining up with Blaise Matuidi, Sami Khedira and Miralem Pjanic in the middle of the park.

(Source: Football Italia)

FIFA chief urges action after racist abuse halts Serie A game

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Sunday the problem of racism in Italian football has "not improved" after a Serie A match between Atalanta and Fiorentina was halted for several minutes because of racist abuse of Brazilian Dalbert.

Fiorentina defender Dalbert, 26, asked the referee to halt play after half an hour at the Stadio Ennio Tardini until a warning statement was read out by the stadium speaker to jeers and whistles from the Atalanta fans.

Play resumed after three minutes with visitors Fiorentina leading 1-0 after a goal from Federico Chiesa.

"In Italy the situation has not improved and this is serious," Infantino, in Italy ahead of the FIFA Best Awards on Monday, told the Italian Rai2 channel.

"Racism is fought through education, condemning it, talking about it, we cannot accept racism in society and in football.

"We have to identify those responsible and throw them out of the stadiums, we need clear sentences, as in England, we must not be afraid to condemn the racists, we must fight them to the end."

Since the beginning of the season, Inter Milan's Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku and AC Milan's Ivorian midfielder Franck Kessie have been targeted by monkey cries during league games without any sanction being taken.

Last season, Blaise Matuidi, Kalidou Koulibaly and Moise Kean were also victims of the problem which has been recurring for



years in Italy.

■ Llorente scores double

On the pitch, Atalanta rescued a 2-2 draw with two late goals to avoid a second consecutive defeat after their 4-0 Champions League thrashing at Dinamo Zagreb in midweek.

Franck Ribery scored his first Serie A goal by netting Fiorentina's second.

Elsewhere, Fernando Llorente scored a brace as Napoli eased past Lecce 4-1 to keep in touch with leaders Inter Milan and second-

placed Juventus, while Edin Dzeko struck a stoppage-time winner for Roma.

Spaniard Llorente, who scored in Napoli's midweek 2-0 win over Champions League holders Liverpool, grabbed the opener on 28 minutes at the San Paolo Stadium. He added a late fourth for Napoli eight minutes from time.

"It was a game that could have been a trap after the high of Liverpool, but the many changes helped us," said Napoli coach Carlo

Russia facing potential Olympic ban after WADA cites 'inconsistent' data



Russia is once again in danger of being banned from next year's Olympics after the World Anti-Doping Agency revealed that historical data supplied by the country's anti-doping authority contained "inconsistencies".

WADA said on Monday it had opened compliance proceedings against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) after examining the vast bank of historical testing data finally handed over in January.

The news means RUSADA is in danger of being declared non-compliant by WADA a year after a suspension was lifted, which could put increased pressure on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to exclude Russia from the Tokyo Games next year for failing to ensure that its athletes are clean.

The WADA Executive Committee received a report from its Compliance Review Committee on Monday updating it on the analysis of data from the Moscow laboratory which contained the results of thousands of anti-doping tests undergone by Russian sportsmen and women.

"The ExCo was informed that further investigation... of inconsistencies in Moscow Laboratory data had led WADA to open a formal compliance procedure against RUSADA on 17 September 2019,"

WADA said in statement.

Jonathan Taylor, chair of WADA's Compliance Review Committee, presented the information to the executive committee in Tokyo on Monday. It also said that 47 potential rule violation cases that had been highlighted and were being acted on were not affected by the inconsistencies.

Alexander Ivlev, chairman of RUSADA's supervisory board, told Interfax news agency: "WADA has given the Russian side three weeks to give explanations regarding the alleged changes in the database from the Moscow laboratory. Such an answer will be presented."

RUSADA director Yuri Ganus could not immediately be reached comment.

RUSADA had been ruled non-compliant by WADA following the 2016 report that exposed the country's massive state-sponsored doping programme.

Last September, the WADA executive committee voted to reinstate RUSADA before it had fulfilled the requirements laid out in a "Roadmap to Compliance", which included giving access to the data stored at Moscow's anti-doping laboratory.

They missed the December deadline but an inspection team was finally allowed to retrieve the data in January, handing over more than 2,200 samples.

(Source: Reuters)

Former tennis great Li Na says China crying out for male star



Li Na, who blazed a trail for a generation of women tennis players in China, says the country's men are now in desperate need of an inspirational role model.

Li sparked unprecedented interest in tennis across China after becoming Asia's first Grand Slam singles champion at 2011 French Open. She retired in 2014 after adding a second major at that year's Australian Open.

There are currently four Chinese women in the world's top 50. By contrast the country's top-ranked male, the unheralded Bai Yan, is 222nd on the ATP Tour rankings.

"I wish to see the men's side do well. That would be great," Li told reporters at the WTA Tour's Wuhan Open in her home city this week, where a special ceremony was held to celebrate her induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

"I think for the men's side, they need one player to grow up and show everyone 'I can make it' and give confidence for other young athletes."

That could be a male version of herself, it was suggested. "Yes," Li smiled.

At the US Open earlier this month, Wang Qiang became the first Chinese player since Li in 2013 to reach the quarter-finals in New York and took the

Ancelotti.

Arkadiusz Milik started up front alongside Llorente, and the Polish striker's assist contributed to the Spaniard's opener.

Lorenzo Insigne scored Napoli's second goal from the spot five minutes before the break, at the second attempt after Lecce's goalkeeper left his line prematurely before he saved the first.

■ Sarri fine-tuning

Ancelotti's side sit third, three points behind leaders Inter Milan, who are on maximum points after four games, after their 2-0 Milan derby win on Saturday.

Champions Juventus won 2-1 at home against Verona and are second with 10 points from four games.

"Juve still look to be under construction," warned Ancelotti.

"Knowing (coach Maurizio) Sarri and his teams, I think he is still fine-tuning things. Inter are already up and running, Juventus will get there in the coming matches."

In Bologna, Dzeko's late winner sealed a 2-1 win for 10-man Roma, who are fourth, a point behind Napoli.

The Romans were hit by Gianluca Mancini's sending off on 85 minutes, but Dzeko headed home a Lorenzo Pellegrini cross to get the winner deep into injury time.

City rivals Lazio are fifth after beating Parma 2-0 with goals in either half from Ciro Immobile and Adam Marusic.

(Source: Eurosport)

My goal is to follow in Guardiola's footsteps and manage Barcelona – Xavi

"Pep Guardiola is the best coach in the world and I am a novice," says Xavi. "The comparison happened as a player but now we can't be compared."

Xavi was one of the best players of his generation but he accepts coaching is a discipline he is a long way from mastering.

Five months after his stellar playing career ended the former Spain star is taking his first steps in management with Al Sadd in Qatar.

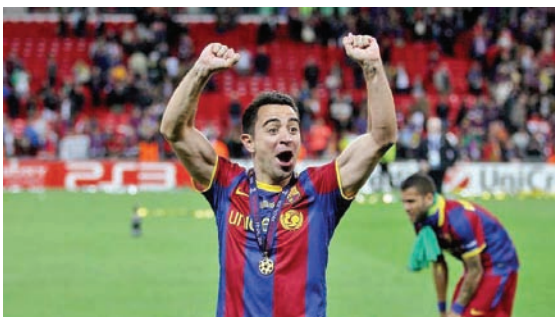
It is where he spent his final four years as a player and where he has set up home.

The lure of Barcelona remains strong, he still describes himself as a "cule" – a nickname reserved for Barca's ordinary fans – and remains determined to return as manager one day.

But, having worked with the best, the World Cup winner and double European champion is ready for the next chapter.

"Guardiola is a reference for me," he tells the PA news agency. "As a player he already was, because we played in the same position, we spent three years together in Barcelona as players and then four magnificent years with him as coach.

"He is a brilliant, demanding, passionate, obsessive person, that's why he's doing so well. It transmits a lot to the



footballer. I learned a lot and enjoyed my time at his side."

Those lessons are something he hopes to take with him on a new journey in Doha.

"Obviously Al Sadd is not in Europe but it is a winning team," Barca's record appearance holder said.

"I have no experience as a coach and we are obligated to win since Al Sadd is historically a winning team and also one of the best in the country – or the best.

"We are obligated to achieve great challenges, even here.

The league has improved a lot in recent years. Obviously, there is still a step from what football is like in Europe but they are competing.

"It's a good experience for me to start in a club like Al Sadd, even if it is in a small country but speaking in terms of football it's growing and I am learning.

"It is an extraordinary country for me, in life it is a very important project."

He may be a rookie but success has been instant with a Qatari Super Cup victory over Al-Duhail and three wins, scoring 13 goals, from the opening three games.

The defending champions travel to Al Sailiya on Tuesday joint top of the Qatar Stars League.

Xavi helped them to their first title since 2013 in his final year as a player and is revelling in the transition to manager.

"In the end it's football, it's true that it's more work because you have to control a whole technical and medical staff, as well as the players," says the 39-year-old.

"You feel even more responsible for them, but I like it, I enjoy it, it is my passion, to help players improve as individuals and as a team – which is the most important thing."

(Source: Four Four Two)

Preparation goes according to plan: Iran's NPC chief

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — President of Iran Paralympic Committee (NPN) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa says that their preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games goes according to plan.

Iranian athletes have earned 34 quota places so far. Khosravi Vafa says they are going to send 103 athletes to Tokyo 2020.

"We will announce our delegation within the next three months. All I can say is that our preparation goes according to plan," Khosravi Vafa told reporters on the sideline of 17th General Assembly of Iran's National Paralympic Committee on Monday.

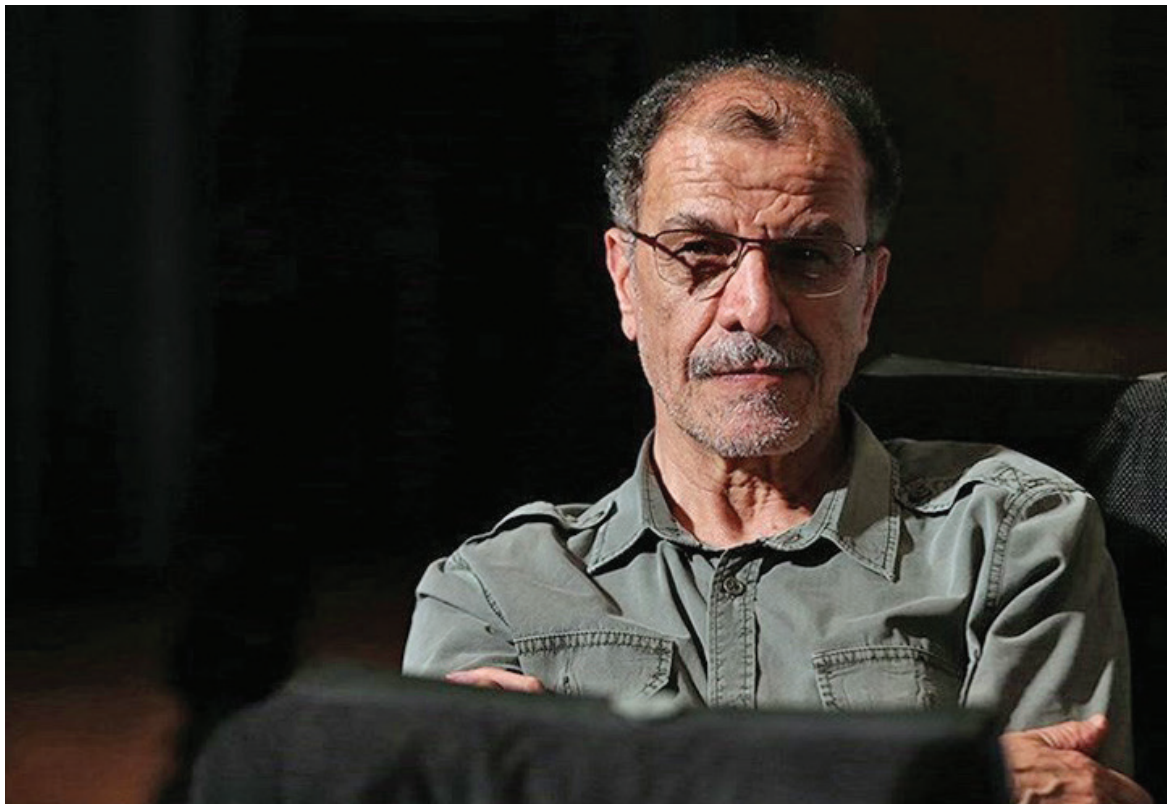
"As I've already said, we are going to be among the 10 top countries in Tokyo 2020, however, it depends on the other teams' performance in the games. For example, Brazil finished in seventh place in London 2012 Paralympic Games but they came eighth four years later in their home. It shows that many countries are working hard and have invested on Paralympic sports," he added.

Iran sent a record number of competitors to Rio 2016, being represented by 110 athletes in 12 sports.

The Iranian athletes won eight gold, nine silver and seven bronze medals and finished in 15th place.

Iran's best performance at the Paralympic Games since they made their debut at Seoul in 1988 was at London 2012 when they finished 11th with a total of 24 medals, including 10 gold.

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are set to be the biggest and best yet with around 4,400 Para athletes from more than 160 countries taking part in 22 sports.



Time to change Iran volleyball main squad?

By Mohammad Ali Haqshenas

Iran national volleyball team are going to take part in the 2019 FIVB World Cup with their main players while experts are worried about consequences of Igor Kolakovic's decision to use the same squad in successive events.

Iran recently lifted the Asian trophy at home with their main players and less than a week after the event's final, they again have to prepare for another important world competition, 2019 FIVB World Cup.

Amir Khoshkhabar, the team's manager, told Mehr news agency on Sunday that 14 players who were part of the team in Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship will be dispatched to Japan for the World Cup. He said that Mohammad Mousavi has asked not to be part of the team in the upcoming competition.

"I'm neither injured nor there is any other issue; my body just needs more rest," Mousavi, the Asian Championship's best middle blocker, told Fars news agency on Monday on his decision.

"We are soldiers of Team Melli and whenever coaches ask, we should play. Any decision by coaches is respectable and we should follow it. I think the team is doing a good job in giving space to the young players but I believe technical staff can do more in this regard," Mousavi added.

Iran have used almost the same squad in the past several years under Igor Kolakovic, raising criticism from



experts in the field that he may be putting the future of Iran volleyball at risk.

"We should not seek podium in the World Cup and we should set the stage for younger players because in the near future we will need most of these younger athletes. The belief and confidence should be injected into the youth through formation change and what a better place than FIVB World Cup to take the risk of doing this," Jabbar Ghouchannejad, a volleyball expert told Mehr news agency on Sunday.

"We should provide more space for the

youth so that we can use them in major competitions like Olympics qualifiers and even in the Olympics in case the main players suffer from fatigue or injuries."

"Players such as Saeid Marouf, Amir Ghafour, Mousavi, and Milad Ebadi-pour need to rest and we should not put pressure on them more than usual," he said, adding, "Every individual has a different line of thinking. Igor doesn't have the courage to change and I think he is making a mistake."

Iran volleyball technical staff have repeatedly said that their main is to se-

cure a berth to 2020 Tokyo Olympics; the qualifications will be held in China's Jiangmen on January 7-12 where the team have to compete with top eight Asian rivals to win the event and secure their second presence in Olympics after 2016 Rio.

The Iranian team will start training again on Tuesday for 2019 FIVB World Cup which is going to be held in Japan from October 1 to 15. A total of 12 teams which are top two teams of each continent, plus Japan as hosts and Poland as World champions, will compete in the World Cup in a round-robin format. So, Iran have to play 11 high-pressure matches which will start with an encounter against 2019 VNL's winners Russia on October 1.

Fielding top guns in an event where the team have little chance of podium certainly increases the risk of injuries.

It also should be noted that Kolakovic has not totally eliminated the younger players. He invited the MPV of 2019 FIVB Men's U21 World Championship, Amir Hossein Esfandiari, to Team Melli for the first time in the Asian event and he proved his qualities in this competition.

The coach has also trusted some younger talents like Mohammadreza Hazratpour, Aliasghar Mojarad, Porya Yali, and Javad Karimi who have not let him down with their world-class performances.

What experts say is that giving the younger generation a chance to experience world-class events would give them the courage and confidence to build a shinier future for Iran volleyball.

Iran's Miri snatches silver at IWF World C'ships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Ali Miri from Iran claimed a silver medal at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Championships on Monday.

Miri managed 167kg in the snatch and 207kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 374kg.



Armenian lifter Hakob Mkrtchyan finished on 375kg overall with 167kg in the snatch and 208kg in the clean and jerk.

Georgian Revaz Davitadze was third overall with 371kg after managing 172kg in the snatch and 199kg in the clean and jerk.

The total field for the IWF World Championships, which are due to conclude on Friday (September 27), is made up of 606 athletes – 323 men and 283 women.

The 2019 World Weightlifting Championships are being held in Pattaya, Thailand.

The World Weightlifting Championships is an event organized by International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The first competition, held in March 1891, was won by Edward Lawrence Levy of England.

Iran into AFC U16 Championship finals

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran are through to the AFC U16 Championship 2020 Finals as Group C winners after beating Afghanistan 4-0 in Hamedan, Iran on Sunday.

Iran will make their 12th appearance in the Finals as they sailed to three wins in Group C, with Afghanistan finishing as group runners-up.

Both sides came into the match needing a win, but it was Iran who took the lead through Mohammad Reza Kooshki in the 17th minute.

Iran doubled their advantage two minutes into added time with Yadegar Rostami converting a spot-kick, the-afc.com reported.

Rostami found the back of the net again in the 59th minute and Kooshki doubled his tally in the 76th to seal an emphatic win.

Poorshab wins silver in final event of Karate 1-Series A

MNA — Zabihollah Poorshab settled for a silver medal at this season's final event of Karate 1-Series A, held in Santiago, Chile.

The Iranian karateka suffered a narrow 1-1 defeat against his Turkish rival and world number one Ugur Aktas in the final bout of -84kg category.

Japan's Rikito Shimada and Igor Chikhmarev of Kazakhstan won bronze medals of this category.

The fourth and final event of Karate 1-Series A was held in Chilean capital from September 20 to 22 with the participation of some 800 competitors from 72 countries.

The Karate 1-Series A is a world-class competition that provides karatekas across the globe with more competitive opportunities to shine at the highest level.

Presented in an open format, thus allowing every athlete in the world to compete, the Karate 1-Series A is framed under the umbrella of Karate 1 to bring together the best competitors in a series of open championships of unprecedented scale and quality.

In addition to this, the Karate 1-Series A offers karatekas the chance to increase their ranking position as the universality of the sport's top tournaments is showcased.

Iranian volleyball teams learn rivals at Olympics Asian Qualification

TASNIM — Iran's men's and women's volleyball teams learned their rivals at the 2020 Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament.

The men's team have been drawn in Pool B along with Australia, Pakistan and India.

Pool A consists of host China, South Korea, Qatar and Chinese Taipei.

The competition will be held in Jiangmen, China from January 7 to 12.

The Iranian women team have been drawn in Pool A along with Thailand, Kazakhstan and Australia.

Pool B consists of South Korea, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and India.

The competition will be held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from January 7 to 12.

Iran futsal held by Azerbaijan at Caspian Cup

TASNIM — Iran national futsal team were held to a 2-2 draw by Azerbaijan at the Caspian Cup 2019 International Tournament on Monday.

Mehdi Javid and Abolghasem Orouji were on target for Iran. Iran had defeated Kazakhstan 2-1 in its first match.

Tema Melli will meet host Russia on Wednesday.

The tournament is being held in Astrakhan, Russia from September 22 to 25.

The Iranian national futsal team are preparing for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship Qualifiers and also 2020 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Iran finished third at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 after a 4-3 penalty shootout win over Portugal following a 2-2 draw.

Uzbekistan part ways with Cuper

Uzbekistan will have a new head coach for next month's FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Asian Qualifiers fixtures after parting ways with Hector Cuper on Monday.

The Argentine's tenure as White Wolves boss comes to end after 14 months in charge and having reached the Round of 16 at the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019, with this month's unexpected 2-0 Asian Qualifiers defeat to Palestine his final game in charge.

The Uzbekistan Football Association confirmed the news on its official website, saying: "The Football Association of Uzbekistan expresses gratitude to Hector Cooper and the coaching staff for their work with the national team of Uzbekistan and wish them further success."



Cuper's replacement is yet to be named, with Uzbekistan to return to Asian Qualifiers action with a home match against Yemen on October 10, before travelling to Singapore for another fixture five days later.

A former boss of major European clubs like Inter Milan and Valencia, Cuper also held national team head coaching roles with Georgia and Egypt prior to his August 2018 appointment, guiding the latter to the African Cup of Nations Final in 2017.

Uzbekistan's Round of 16 exit from UAE 2019 was their earliest elimination for the Asian Cup since 2000, with their 2-0 loss to Palestine ultimately ending Cuper's time in charge of the side now 88th in the FIFA World Rankings.

(Source: the-afc)

High quality cast for Finals



to the 2018 final, emerged Group A winners to take their place alongside Asia's elite, as did India who saw off tough challenges to top Group B.

United Arab Emirates, runners-up in 1990, sailed into the Finals with a perfect record of three wins in Group F while three-time semi-finalists Australia saw off the challenge

of Vietnam in Hanoi to win Group H.

Yemen will be making a long overdue return to the Finals, with their only previous appearance having been in 2002.

Another team who will return to the Finals after a long lapse are Indonesia, whose last appearance was in 1990.

The AFC's Competitions Committee has recommended that Bahrain hosts the 2020 Finals, scheduled for September 16-October 3 next year.

■ **The Cast - Host:** Bahrain.

■ **Group Winners:** Tajikistan (A), India (B), Islamic Republic of Iran (C), Saudi Arabia (D), Qatar (E), United Arab Emirates (F), China PR (G), Australia (H), DPR Korea (I), Japan (J), Korea Republic (K).

■ **Best Runners-up:** Yemen (E), Indonesia (G), Uzbekistan (B), Oman (D).

(Source: the-afc)

The qualifying cast for the AFC U-16 Championship 2020 was finalized on Sunday with nine of the 15 teams who qualified having lifted the Continental trophy at least once before.

The 11 group winners were joined by the four best second-placed teams - Yemen, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Oman - with the 16th spot reserved for the host country.

Defending champions Japan, who have won the title three times, led the group winners as they finished top of Group J.

Also through as group winners were China PR, DPR Korea, Korea Republic, Oman and Saudi Arabia - all of whom have won the title twice each.

Islamic Republic of Iran, Qatar and Uzbekistan, who have all emerged champions once each, also advanced to the Finals. Tajikistan, who impressed with their run

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com
■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713

**GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Oppressors are of those groups: those who oppress their superiors through sins, those who bully their inferiors, and those who support oppressors.

Imam Ali (AS)

Tehran Intl. Book Fair set for mid-April

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — The next edition of the Tehran International Book Fair will be held mid-April, about a month sooner, due to its concurrence with the holy month of Ramadan, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance has announced.



People visit the 31st Tehran International Book Fair at Imam Khomeini Mosalla on May 8, 2018. (IRNA/Fatemeh Behbudi)

The decision was made on Monday during a meeting of the members of the book fair policymaking council headed by Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs Mohsen Javadi.

The fair is held annually in May with publishers from different countries.

Films from Iran line up for Brazilian festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — A lineup of 22 Iranian movies will compete in the various sections of the 1st edition of the Alter do Chão Film Festival, which will be held in the Brazilian city of Santarém from October 21 to 27.



A scene from "Termite" by Masud Hatami.

"Termite" by Masud Hatami, "One Night in Tehran" by Farhad Najafi and "Daughters of Winter" by Solmaz Etemad have been selected to go on screen in the main section of the festival.

Etemad's short films "Doof", "Cellmate" and "White Tree" will also be screened at the festival.

The lineup also includes Yasser Talebi's acclaimed documentary "Beloved" as well as short films "Red Eyes" by Shahram Kharazmi, "A Beautiful Woman" by Seyyed Sajjad Musavi, "The Café" by Javad Hakami and "It Rains for You" by Mehdi Delkhasteh.

"Fishnet and the Fish" co-directed by Ali Nikfar and Saied Mayahi, "Noon" by Mohammad-Ali Najimi, "Loneliness" and "Unknown", both by Azar Faramarzi, "Separation" by Hossein Tarkjush and "Time to Change" by Maryam Rahimi are also among the films.

The festival will also screen "The City of Honey" by Moein Ruholamini, "A Trivial Thing" by Seyyed Morteza Sabzeqaba, "Warm Autumn Night" by Mohammad Sharifi-Asl and "The Last Embrace" and "Slaughter", both by Saman Hosseinpour.

Poems by Agota Kristof published in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — A selection of poems by Hungarian-Swiss author Agota Kristof has recently been published in Persian in a collection entitled "The Nails".

Asghar Nuri is the translator of the book, which has been released by Morvarid Publications in Tehran.

Nuri has previously translated Kristof's novels and short stories, including "The Notebook", "The Proof", "The Third Lie", "Yesterday" and "The Illiterate", all of which were published by the same publisher.

Kristof received the European prize for French literature for "The Notebook". She won the 2001 Gottfried Keller Award in Switzerland and the Austrian State Prize for European Literature in 2008.

“Castle of Dreams” tops at Batumi festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Reza Mirkarimi's drama "Castle of Dreams" was named best film and won him the award for best director at the Batumi International Art-House Film Festival in Georgia, the organizers announced on Sunday.

"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.

The film has been screened at several international events, including the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, where it won awards in three categories, including best film and best director.

The film's star, Hamed Behdad, also shared the award for best actor with Chinese actor Chang Feng at the event.

Russian writer and director Alexander Mindadze was the president of the Batumi international jury, which also had Tatiana Detlofson from the U.S., Martin Blaney and Carmen Grey from the UK and Rusudan Glurjidze from Georgia.

"Let There Be Light" by Czech filmmaker Marko Skop received the grand prix of the event, which was organized in Batumi from September 15 to 22.

Polish producer Krzysztof Gierat presided over the documentary competition jury, which was composed of Ghasideh Golmakani from Iran, Karen Avetysian from Armenia, Oles Yanchuk from Ukraine and Vakhtang Kuntsev-Gabashvili from Georgia.



Hamed Behdad acts in a scene from Iranian director Reza Mirkarimi's drama "Castle of Dreams".

“The Dust and the Crown” on stage at Charleville-Mézières festival



Iranian director Zahra Sabri in an undated photo.

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Iranian puppetry troupe Yase Tamam led by director Zahra Sabri is staging "The Dust and the Crown" at the Festival Mondial des Theatres de Marionnettes (World Puppet Theater Festival), which is currently underway in the French town of Charleville-Mézières.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Monday, Sabri said that her troupe is performing the puppet show at the festival in memory of Maryam Mirzakhani, the Iranian genius mathematician and the first-ever female winner of the prestigious

Fields Medal prize, who died of breast cancer in 2017.

Giti Safarazad has written "The Dust and the Crown" on the subjects of betrayal and lying based on English playwright William Shakespeare's popular plays "Hamlet" and "Macbeth".

Saeid Abak and Fahimeh Barutchi are collaborating in the play as puppeteers.

The puppet show is scheduled to go on stage at Tehran's City Theater Complex in late November.

The festival, which hosts hundreds of puppeteers from all over the world every two years, will continue until September 29.

Photographs represent connection between humanity, architecture

A R T **TEHRAN** — A collection of 68 photos representing the connection between life and humanity, and architecture are on display at Avaye Honar Gallery in Tehran.

The photos were taken by 26 students of architecture and several other photographers during an art project led by veteran photographer Mohammad-Mehdi Shirvanian, the gallery announced in a press release on Monday.

"I teach photography to the students of architecture at the Tehran University of Art, and naturally, the collection has been influenced by their architectural outlook," Shirvanian said during the opening ceremony of the exhibition on Friday.

"This exhibition intends to explore the hidden levels of life and the desire to enjoy life in Iran," he noted.

He said that students can learn the techniques of photography from books and other media, so he directed his focus during his classes on developing a special



People visit "Outlook", an exhibition of photography by the students of architecture from the Tehran University of Art, at Avaye Honar Gallery in Tehran on September 20, 2019. (Honaronline/Sara Sassani)

“Game of Thrones,” “Fleabag” take top Emmy honors on night of upsets

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Medieval drama "Game of Thrones" closed its run with a fourth Emmy award for best drama series while British comedy "Fleabag" was the upset winner for best comedy series on Sunday on a night that rewarded newcomers over old favorites.

Billy Porter, the star of the series "Pose", became the first black man to win a best dramatic actor Emmy, while British newcomer Jodie Comer took the Emmy for her lead actress role as a psychotic assassin in the quirky BBC America drama "Killing Eve."

"I am so overjoyed to have lived long enough to see this day," said Porter, 50, crowning a standout year in which he made waves on red carpets at the Oscars and the Met Gala for his outfits.

The Emmys are Hollywood's top honors in television, and the night belonged to

Phoebe Waller-Bridge, the star and creator of Amazon Studios' "Fleabag" who also created "Killing Eve."

Waller-Bridge took the trophy for best comedy actress, beating out six-time "Veep" actress winner Julia Louis-Dreyfus as well as last year's Emmy champ Rachel Brosnahan for "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Waller-Bridge also won an Emmy for comedy writing. "This is just getting ridiculous!", Waller-Bridge said as she accepted the comedy series Emmy.

"It's really wonderful to know, and reassuring, that a dirty, pervy, angry, messed-up woman can make it to the Emmys," Waller-Bridge added.

Already the most-awarded series in Emmy history with 38 wins, HBO's "Game of Thrones" went into Sunday's awards show as the clear front runner, despite a fan uproar

over the conclusion of the series.

It emerged from the Emmys with a leading 12 wins, with Soviet nuclear accident drama "Chernobyl" taking 10 and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" winning eight, including for supporting actors Tony Shalhoub and Alex Borstein.

Among networks, HBO won 34 Emmys overall, followed by Netflix with 27.

"These last 10 years have been the best years of our lives," "Game of Thrones" co-creator David Benioff said.

"I can't believe we finished it, I can't believe we did it. We did it all together and it's over, and we shall never see your like again," he added.

Peter Dinklage was the only one of the nine nominated "Game of Thrones" actors to win, for his supporting role as Tyrion Lannister.

"We literally walked through fire and ice for you, and I would do it all again in a heartbeat," Dinklage said, thanking Benioff and co-creator D.B. Weiss.

In the closely contested limited series category, the Television Academy spread its honors among "Chernobyl," wrenching social justice drama "When They See Us" and "Fosse/Verdon," starring Michelle Williams as Broadway singer and dancer Gwen Verdon.

Williams used her acceptance speech to thank the FX network and make an impassioned plea for pay equity in Hollywood.

"They (FX) understood that when you put value into a person, it empowers that person to get in touch with their inherent value, and where do they put that value? They put it into their work," Williams said.

Syria praises Iran's performance at Damascus book fair



Children read books during the 31st Damascus International Book Fair at the Al-Assad Library in Damascus, Syria on September 12, 2019. (Xinhua/Ammar Safarjalani)

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iran's good performance at the 31st edition of the Damascus International Book Fair was praised by Syrian cultural officials during the closing ceremony of the event on Sunday.

Syrian Minister of Culture Mohammad al-Ahmad honored the Iran Cultural Fairs Institute (ICFI) with an award at the ceremony, the ICFI institute announced on Monday.

The institute took part in the fair with over 350 titles.

More than 235 publishing houses from Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Oman, Iran and Denmark participated in the book fair, which opened on September 12.

The book fair opened at the Al-Assad National Library under the slogan "The Book Builds the Mind".

Iran organized some cultural programs at the fair, including meetings with poets and publishers.

The Syrian publishers were also invited to attend the Tehran International Book Fair in April.