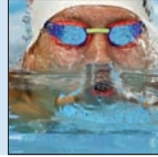




Any aggression will be faced with destruction 3



U.S. secondary sanctions on Iran an 'act of war' 3



Iran wins silver at Asian Age Group Championships 15



Shia clerics oppose Iran-Turkey plan for film on Rumi, Shams 16

Rouhani: Blaming Iran for Aramco strike 'groundless'



'Syria needs Iran as a real friend for reconstruction'

TEHRAN— Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Ali Suleiman Ghanem said that his country welcomes presence of Iranian companies in the Syrian projects, reiterating that Syria needs Iran as a real friend for its reconstruction, IRNA reported.

The minister made the remarks during a meeting of Iran-Syria Joint Econom-

ic Committee held at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Tuesday.

He said many visits of the Iranian and Syrian officials to the other country have strengthened economic cooperation between the two sides and stressed the necessity of expanding bilateral economic ties. →4

Jannati says Iran will never surrender to 'maximum pressure'

TEHRAN— The United States intends to impose its wish on the Islamic Republic through negotiations but Iran will never surrender to Washington's "maximum pressure", Assembly of Experts Chairman Ahmad Jannati said on Tuesday.

"The Americans negotiate to make us agree to whatever they say and we wouldn't emerge victorious in such negotiations," Jannati said, Tasnim reported.

"They want to tie our hands and make us

surrender but the Leader of the Revolution has said 'we won't give in to maximum pressure,' the top cleric added.

Jannati made the remarks while addressing a periodic session of the Assembly of Experts in Tehran on Tuesday.

He underlined the effectiveness of "active resistance" when facing the enemies, saying such strategy has enabled the Lebanese Hezbollah to bring the Israeli regime and the U.S. to their knees. →3

The destruction of Israel is certain, Nasrallah predicts

TEHRAN— The secretary general of Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah says according to the prediction of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the destruction of Israel will definitely happen.

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.

"In our internal meetings in the past years we have heard such statements from the Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei." He added. "Especially in 2000 after the victory to the Zionist regime, he said that if the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people and the regional nations were to act properly and continue this way, Israel would no longer be able to survive in the region." →13

EDITORIAL
Mohammad Ghaderi
 Tehran Times editor-in-chief
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Decoding Iranian president's plan entitled "Hormuz Peace Initiative"

While, only few days left until President Hassan Rouhani's speech at the UN, world media has begun to speculate about the content of his remarks by offering various analyzes.

One of the key points of the president's speech at the UN General Assembly, as he pointed at the Sacred Defense anniversary parade, is "hope coalition plan, Hormuz peace initiative".

There are not any full details and contents of the plan yet. The proposal that the president intends to present, with the aim of offering regional mechanism to establish peace in the Persian Gulf, seems to be based on Article 2 of Resolution 598 of the Security Council.

Article 2 of the resolution, based on which 8-year war between Iran and Iraq was ended, has emphasized on forming security arrangements with the participation of Iraq, Iran and six Gulf states under the UN supervision.

In fact, Iran's "hope coalition plan, Hormuz peace initiative" has several key points, including:

1. Solving security changes of the region requires the creation of a joint domestic structure to prevent security crises and to resolve possible challenges.

The U.S. so far has taken advantage of the lack of domestic mechanism for security in the region, and increasingly expanded its military presence at the expense of regional countries by creating disagreement between the countries. It has created artificial crises to prevent security and stability in the Persian Gulf. While Iran's plan guarantees the security of all countries in the region.

2. Iran has always supported the strategy of establishing security mechanism with the participation of some regional countries. It intends to protect collective interests and prevent the presence of the foreigners. →13

'Iran pushing to double petrochemical production by 2025'

By Ebrahim Fallahi
TEHRAN— Nowadays, petrochemical industry is playing a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy. According to official data, petrochemical exports constitute the second largest hard currency earner in Iran after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already make up nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

Furthermore, considering the undeniable significance of petrochemical industry in Iran's resilient economy in the sanctions era, Iranian Oil Ministry and the country's National Petro-

chemical Company (NPC) have been taking major steps to facilitate further development of this industry in recent years.

As a platform for showcasing the capacities and capabilities of Iran's petrochemical industry, the International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2019) attracts hundreds of exhibitors, industry activists, traders and visitors from all over the world.

On the sidelines of this year's exhibition, which is the 13th edition of the event, Tehran Times has conducted an interview with the Director

of NPC's Projects Ali-Mohammad Bosaqzadeh. What follows is a summary of this interview.

Petchem output to exceed 130mt by 2025

Regarding NPC's plans for development of the country's petrochemical industry in the upcoming years, Bosaqzadeh noted that Iran's annual petrochemical output, which is currently at 65 million tons, is planned to reach more than 100 million tons by the Iranian calendar year of 1400 (ends on March 2022) and to 130 million tons or nearly doubled by 1404 (ends on March 2026). →5

Imposing sanctions on central bank complicates legitimate business with Iran: Nephew

By Javad Heirannia
TEHRAN— Richard Nephew, who served as the lead sanctions expert for the U.S. team negotiating with Iran, is of the opinion that "By imposing sanctions on the Central Bank the way that we have, we are going to make it much more complicated to conduct even legitimate business with Iran."

The fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, says that it is harder to

see U.S. pressure on Iran "The Central Bank is involved in foreign currency transfers and these may create new sanctions exposure, including for humanitarian trade."

Following is the text of the interview:
President Trump imposed new sanctions on Iran. Are these new things?

A: These sanctions are indeed "new," but they target existing sanctions targets and, as such, may not have much by way of practical conse-

quences. By imposing sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran, for example, we are expanding on a prohibition on doing business with the CBI that has been in place since 2012 (albeit suspended under the JCPOA).

There may be some new consequences. By imposing sanctions on the Central Bank the way that we have, we are going to make it much more complicated to conduct even legitimate business with Iran. →11

Imran Khan admits Pakistan army, ISI trained al-Qaeda

TEHRAN— Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan late on Monday admitted that the Pakistan army and its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) trained the al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York, Khan also said his country committed "one of the biggest blunders" by joining the U.S. in its hunt for the perpetrators of September 2001 terror attacks.

The previous governments "should not have pledged what they could not deliver," Khan said, referring to former army chief and president Pervez Musharraf's decision to side with the U.S.

"The Pakistan army, the ISI trained the al-Qaeda and all these groups to fight in Afghanistan," he said in response to a question on whether there was an enquiry conducted into how al-Qaeda mastermind Osama bin Laden came to be

hiding in Pakistan.

According to Livemint, U.S. special forces took out bin Laden in a top secret mission in May 2011 in Abbottabad, a military garrison town in Pakistan.

"(So) There had to be links (with the Al Qaeda) because they trained them. Now as I said, after 9/11 when we did a 180 degree turn and went after those groups. Not everyone (in the Pakistani military) agreed with this. →13



Iran Pharam exhibition opens

The Fifth International Iran Pharma Exhibition was opened on Tuesday, September 24. It was inaugurated by Health Minister Saeed Namaki and Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari at the Imam Khomeini Mosallah. The exhibition, which is related to pharmaceutical industry, will run until Thursday, September 26.

PERSPECTIVE
Hanif Ghaffari
 Head of the Tehran Times
 Politics Desk

Black Days of U.S. President

Revealing the story of the phone calls of the US President and Ukrainian President has turned into a bad crisis for Donald Trump. Trump thinks that this time he cannot easily get out of this crisis. On the other hand, US Democrats also intend to make the most of this.

What Were The Bidens Doing In Ukraine? 5 Questions Answered

As NPR reported, Trump's July 25 conversation this summer with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, flagged by a whistleblower, has sparked competing accusations between Republicans and Democrats. The Democrats want to know if Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Democratic presidential candidate and former vice president Joe Biden.

But Trump claims the real issue is Biden and his son, Hunter Biden, and what they did in Ukraine a few years ago.

Trump And The Ukraine Call — What Happened And What's Next?

"The one who's got the problem is Biden," Trump told reporters on Monday at the United Nations. "Biden did what they would like to have me do, except one problem: I didn't do it. What Biden did is a disgrace. What his son did is a disgrace."

The Biden camp has argued that claims of wrongdoing are unfounded and have been debunked. "Trump's doing this because he knows I'll beat him like a drum," Biden told reporters on Saturday. "And he's using the abuse of power and every element of the presidency to try to do something to smear me."

Here are five questions about the accusations and the facts behind them.

1. So what did Joe Biden do in Ukraine?

Ukraine had a revolution in February 2014, when the pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted and fled to Russia amid massive, sustained protests that focused on corruption in his administration.

A pro-Western president, Petro Poroshenko, took over. Then-President Obama's administration was prepared to work with the new government, a position shared with European governments and international institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. But they were all concerned about the country's endemic corruption, which had plagued the country ever since it gained independence in the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. →7

Iran calls European trio accusations 'provocative' and 'very destructive'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Accusations by Britain, France and Germany - known as E3 - that Iran was involved in the attacks on the Saudi Aramco oil facilities are "provocative" and "very destructive", Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a strongly-worded statement on Tuesday.

"Politically motivated accusations against governments along with adoption of policies that support the child-killer regime of Saudi Arabia through sending weapons to the country are dangerous, and the countries which issued this statement must bear responsibility for consequences," the statement said.

In a joint statement on Monday, the leaders of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom strongly condemned the September 14 attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, and pinned the blame on Tehran.

"It is clear to us that Iran bears responsibility for this attack. There is no other plausible explanation," the statement read.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the European statement, saying it is a "farfetched reasoning" that "there is no other plausible explanation".

"The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns and dismisses the irresponsible claims made by the leaders of Britain, France and Germany about the attacks by the Yemeni government's Armed Forces on the Saudi (oil) facilities, and stresses that holding a third-party government accountable for strikes that have occurred during a full-blown war between the Saudi and Yemeni parties and for which the Yemeni side has formally claimed responsibility, is per se a provocative and highly destructive measure, let alone that such a measure has been taken before any investigations, without providing any clue and proof, and has been only based upon the ridiculous justification that 'there is no other explanation,'" Tasnim news agency quoted the statement as saying.



Rouhani: Blaming Iran for Aramco strike 'groundless'



POLITICAL TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Monday criticized Britain, Germany and France - known as the European troika or E3 - for issuing a joint statement backing a claim by the United States that Iran is to blame for the September 14 drone attacks on the Saudi Aramco oil facilities, saying the statement is based on "groundless blame game".

Rouhani made the remarks during a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

On Monday, the leaders of France, Germany, and Britain strongly condemned attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, and pinned the blame on Tehran.

"It is clear to us that Iran bears responsibility for this attack. There is no other plausible explanation," the statement read, according to Press TV. "We support ongoing investigations to establish further details," it added.

A few hours before releasing the statement, Macron had warned that "one must be very careful in attributing responsibility" for the Aramco attacks.



"There are clusters of clues, but this bombardment is a new military event that changes the region's ecosystem," he said, stressing that caution was needed in apportioning blame for the attack.

The statement came after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson leveled the same accusations against Iran while flying to New York.

Johnson said UK believes Iran was behind the attacks on the Saudi oil facilities and added that London would work with Washington and European allies to de-escalate tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

Tehran has categorically rejected claims that Iran was behind the attacks.

Rouhani and Macron also discussed efforts to preserve the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA.

World leaders meet Rouhani

Rouhani also held a separate meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan during which the two officials discussed security at borders and fight against terrorism.

The Pakistani prime minister praised Iran's supports



for the people of Kashmir. Rouhani also met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, discussing de-escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also held talks with President Rouhani. It was the first meeting between Rouhani and Merkel.

The two politicians discussed ways to salvage the nuclear deal and reduce tension in the Persian Gulf.

According to the media department of the Iranian presidential office, the Rouhani-Merkel meeting was not pre-planned.

Rouhani was also set to meet Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Bolivian President Morales, the Swiss president, and Britain's Johnson.

The Iranian president is also scheduled to present his "Hormuz Peace Initiative" as his UN speech on Wednesday with the aim of collective security for the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz with the involvement of littoral states.

No new deal before compliance with current one: Zarif

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that there will be no talks on any new deal before compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"No new deal before compliance with the current one," Zarif wrote on his Twitter account.

Zarif's tweet came as a response to a joint statement by leaders of Britain, France and Germany on Monday in which they said, "The time has come for Iran to accept negotiation on a long-term framework for its nuclear program as well as on issues related to regional security, including its missiles program and other means of delivery."

In their statement, the three European countries also backed the United States in blaming Iran for the September 14 attacks on the Saudi oil facilities.

The statement says, "It is clear to us that Iran bears responsibility for this attack. There is no other plausible explanation. We support ongoing investigations to establish further details."

Zarif also said inability by the European Union trio - also called E3 - to fulfill their obligation under the JCPOA has become clear to Iran since the Trump administration abandoned the deal on May 8, 2018.

"E3's paralysis in fulfilling their obligations without U.S. permission has been clear since May 2018."

The chief diplomat suggested that the remedy to this inaction is that Europe follow an independent policy rather than "parroting absurd U.S. claims" against Iran which go against the JCPOA.

"Solution to this deficiency: mustering will to forge independent path—not parroting absurd US claims & requests INCONSISTENT with JCPOA," Zarif insisted in his tweet.

Macron's efforts to yield result if Trump lifts sanctions, Rouhani says

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that French President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to save the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, will yield result only if U.S. President Donald Trump lifts sanctions against Iran.

Talking to reporters in New York, Rouhani said, "The continuation of sanctions that have been imposed as maximum pressure means setting preconditions to negotiation by the United States, while we believe that any precondition must be removed before any negotiation."

He also said, "It is a shame that the basis for accusing Iran of attacking Aramco is simply that they do not want to accept that the Yemeni army has the capability to launch missile and drone strikes."

The president added, "This means that those who accuse Iran have no realistic estimation of the Yemeni military progresses, and have closed their eyes, relying merely on speculation."

The president said strikes on the Saudi oil facilities shows the inefficiency of weapons that the U.S. has sold to the Saudi kingdom.

Rouhani said, "The weakness of American radars and massive defense equipment on the alleged route of these missiles and drones cannot be denied and the Yemenis have in fact humiliated the United States and warned suppliers of weapons to Saudis."

In 2018, the Saudi military expenditure reached about 70 billion dollars, coming after the United States and China.

Rouhani also said he was open to discuss small changes, additions or amendments to the JCPOA if the United States lifted sanctions.

"I will be open to discuss small changes, additions or amendments to nuclear deal if sanctions were taken away," Rouhani said, according to Reuters.

Trump exited the deal last year and reimposed and toughened sanctions on Iran that were lifted under the pact in return for curbing its nuclear program.

Sanctions are war, Zarif says

"Very few people are not ready to say that the most sophisticated American weaponry has been defeated by the Yemenis."

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that the United States' sanctions on Iran are "war".

"Sanctions are war. Because in a war, usually military targets are chosen. In sanctions, civilians are the targets. So, it's war. It's more than war," Zarif told CNN in an interview aired on Monday.

Following is full text of the interview:
Q You have said there is possibility of all-out war. Can you expand on that?

A: Well, I said if there is an attack on Iran, there will be an all-out war. But I am trying as a diplomat and I think every other diplomat including my American counterpart should be trying the same to avoid war. This is our job.

Q And do you think that war is in the edge? You smell war or you smell a retreat from a military offensive?

A: Well, I do not call it a retreat. I want to call it prudence and I hope that prudence will prevail. Accusations will not be conducive to a solution in our region. There is a war that has been going on for four and half years in Yemen.

Q The UAE is actually pulling back.

A: The UAE is sort of hedging, but they are moving in the right direction. We hope that Saudis will also understand. Nobody wants a humiliating situation for anybody because that is not sustainable. We want a situation where everybody feels that they have won.

Q I know, because you have been doing a lot of interviews and you have denied point blank that Iran was responsible either for the tankers in June, July or for the Saudi oil fields. Are you just going to say it again despite the evidence?

A: There is no evidence. And it would be a miracle to produce evidence, because it did not take place. Had we been behind this, it would have been disaster for Saudi Arabia. Nothing that they could have been repaired. The reason I am taking this to Yemen is because it is Yemen. It is the Yemeni war.

Q Do you think Yemenis did it?

A: They said they did it.

Q They said it but very few people believe it.

A: Because very few people are not ready to say that the most sophisticated American weaponry has been defeated by the Yemenis.

Q You say you did not do it. I want to react to some of the statements coming from Iran.

One of your top commanders in response to all of this has made threats to the United States and to the U.S. bases within range. Why would they making threats if they are not engaged in this kind of offensive action or you might call it defensive?

A: Because the United States has threatened to use force against Iran. This is the practice of the United States to say all military options are on the table. Secretary Pompeo

was the first which is absolutely incredible for a diplomat to make an accusation against Iran hours after the incident in Saudi Arabia. I have said it too. We have said it in a note to the United States that if the United States starts a war, it will nit the one ending it. We won't start a war. I can promise you that our military will not start a war. But we are very clear that if we are attacked, we will defend ourselves and there will not be a limited war.

Q Another one of your commanders seem to be taunting the United States, saying the U.S. essentially nothing yet, we still have so many cards on the table. Again this statement seems to suggest that if it is not your government, maybe the revolutionary guards or hardliners are in fact to take on the U.S., Saudi Arabia?

A: That is their job. If our country is attacked, then they have to defend the country. And the threat is coming from the United States. So, we have to respond to the threat.

Q Do you think that there's a new opportunity for diplomacy?

A: I always have to believe as a diplomat that there is new opportunities for diplomacy. I think what is important is to stop terrorizing the people of Iran through sanctions that are targeting the people of Iran. Sanctions that have been targeting food and medicine of the people of Iran. So, if the United States is serious about its offers of diplomacy, they would not have taken measures that they took the day before yesterday. Putting our central bank under new sanctions. Because as you know our central bank has been under sanctions for over a year.

Q But the United States feels that it's either sanctions or war.

A: Sanctions are war. Because in a war, usually military targets are chosen. In sanctions, civilians are the targets. So, it's war. It's more than war. Let me go and address the United States' saying that they want negotiations. The re-designation of our central bank has made

it almost impossible for the United States to remove the central bank from the list. That means that not only this president but even the next president are boxed in this scenario of perpetual hostility against Iran. So, what is it to negotiate about if this president is incapable of undoing something that he did the day before yesterday?

Q Foreign Minister, are you saying that there's a plan afoot to close the doors to negotiation by the U.S. president?

A: I think the only reason they re-designate our central bank is to make it impossible or very difficult for this president or his successor to remove their name from the list. The war is very high now and I think those who propose to President Trump wanted to close the door to negotiations not during his presidency but even after his presidency.

Q So, let's just sort of take that piece by piece. I just first want to ask you one thing about the president having said that they were going to respond militarily and then calling it off at the last moment. In public, alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, he floated this notion back then that it wasn't an order from the government, that this was a commander who shot down the drone. He was trying to say that this was a stupid act. I'm not going to respond to it because I bet it wasn't the government's intention. Was it the government's intention to shoot down that drone?

A: The government does not take a decision on a case by case basis because we don't have time to make a decision. You need to have a general order to the military person sitting in front of the missile system or behind it, depending on how you want to shoot it.

Q Back to the Saudi oil fields. Are you surprised that such an important piece of infrastructure, such a massive piece of the global oil economic puzzle seemed to have been left without any air defenses?

A: I am not surprised because I do not

"There is no evidence (Iran was involved in attacks on Saudi oil facilities). And it would be a miracle to produce evidence, because it did not take place. Had we been behind this, it would have been disaster for Saudi Arabia. Nothing that they could have been repaired. The reason I am taking this to Yemen is because it is Yemen. It is the Yemeni war."



believe that military capability alone can prevent disaster. That's been what we have been trying to tell the Saudis. That they cannot buy security purchasing more war weapons. It is a much easier road if they simply start talking to their neighbors, stop bombing the Yemenis.

Q Are you extending a new olive branch?

A: The olive branch has always been on the table and we are holding it again.

Q We also hear from your commanders, military commanders, that they're shortly to begin naval exercises, joint exercises between Iran, Russia and China in the North Arabian Sea, in that very critical area, very close to the Straits of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

A: That is not a hostile act against any country. It is the first time that we are conducting joint military exercises, but it is not like building a coalition war. It is simply engaging in a friendly action we took with our close partners.

Q That you would agree to sign on to the additional protocol, which is most intrusive inspections several years earlier than stated. Is that correct? Had you offered that?

A: Yes, we did offer that and that offer is still on the table, provided that the United States would also do what they're supposed to do in 2023 now, and that is to lift the sanctions through U.S. Congress. We are prepared, if President Trump is serious about permanent for permanent, permanent peaceful nuclear program in Iran and permanent monitoring of Iranian nuclear facilities, as you said, through the most intrusive IAEA inspection mechanism that exists, in return for what he has said he is prepared to do and that is to go to Congress and have this ratified, which would mean Congress lifting the sanctions.

Q Is there any chance that Presidents Rouhani and Trump could meet at this General Assembly? President Trump has been tweeting. He sent out another tweet saying, I have no plans but, you know, nothing is ever off the table but maybe but maybe not. Are you saying that President Rouhani in this heightened atmosphere of tension would still be willing here at the General Assembly to meet with President Trump?

A: Provided that President Trump is ready to do what is necessary.

Trump threatens to tighten sanctions against Iran

PRESS TV — U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to tighten sanctions against Iran during his third address to the United Nations, accusing the Islamic Republic of "menacing behavior" in the Middle East.

"As long as Iran's menacing behavior continues, sanctions will not be lifted. They will be tightened," Trump said Tuesday at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Trump repeated his accusations against Iran's civilian

nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as well as Tehran's support for the people in the war-ravaged countries of Syria and Yemen.

The U.S. president also continued to criticize the 2015 nuclear agreement that he withdrew from last year.

French President Emmanuel Macron expressed hope in late August that a long-anticipated meeting between the presidents of Iran and the United States would take place at the UN General Assembly.

However, Iran has firmly stated that it won't sit for bilateral talks with Trump but is open to a multilateral meeting with the P5+1 - including the U.S. - only if Washington ends its economic war against the Iranian nation.

Trump's speech follows escalating tensions in the Middle East following attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities. Trump accused Iran of carrying out the attacks.

Iran has rejected again claims of involvement in Yemen's retaliatory attacks on the kingdom's heart of oil industry.

Any aggression will be faced with destruction, seizure: military chief

Baqeri says Iran has no enmity toward neighbors

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, has warned that “destruction” and “seizure” await aggressors, according to Mehr.

“We have announced to our enemies numerous times that we will stand decisively against aggressions and the same action that was taken toward the [U.S.] intruding drone and England’s intruding warship and tanker will be taken toward any other aggressor as well,” General Baqeri said, addressing an open session of the parliament on Tuesday. “The result of aggression against Iran is destruction and seizure,” he warned.

The general was referring to two incidents that occurred in June and July.

On June 20, the IRGC Aerospace downed an American RQ-4 Global Hawk drone over the Strait of Hormuz after it violated Iranian airspace. Despite the U.S. claims that the drone had been flying over international waters, Iran put on show the retrieved parts of the drone in its own territorial waters where it was shot down.

The intruding drone was shot by Iran’s homegrown air defense missile system “Khorad-3rd”.

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

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

General Baqeri also highlighted Ira-



nian armed forces’ preparedness to defend the country’s territories, saying, “Today, the enemies, who are fearful of a war against Iran, have taken the path of economic terrorism.”

He also said Iran holds no enmity toward neighboring countries, but Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the top two regional countries that orchestrate conspiracies against the

Islamic Republic. These are Islamic countries that have lost the path and need to return to the Islamic world and take responsibility for security in the region along with Iran, the general remarked.

“We tell the neighboring countries that we do not have any enmity towards you, (but) countries like Saudi Arabia and the

UAE are Muslim states that have lost their path and should stand shoulder to shoulder with Iran to preserve security in the region.”

Baqeri also pointed to Iran’s self-reliant defense industry, saying such military capabilities belong to the Muslim world.

“Everyone should know that regional security should be provided by the cooperation of regional countries,” he said, in reference to Washington’s attempts to form a military coalition in the Persian Gulf.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reiterated Washington’s plan to build a maritime coalition in the Persian Gulf to deter what he called Iranian threats. He was speaking after talks with Saudi and Emirati leaders over the Sept. 14 attack on Saudi Arabian oil facilities that Washington and Riyadh have blamed on Tehran. Iran denies any involvement in the attack.

The Yemeni forces on September 14 launched drone attacks on two plants at the heart of Saudi Arabia’s oil industry, including the world’s biggest petroleum processing facility.

The attacks came in retaliation for the Saudi-led coalition’s continued aggression on the Arabian Peninsula country.

In response to Washington’s calls to form the anti-Iran coalition, President Hassan Rouhani has said he will unveil the details of his plan for security in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, called the “Hormuz Peace Initiative”, at his speech at the United Nations.

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

Jannati says Iran will never surrender to U.S. ‘maximum pressure’

1 → The cleric said resistance has forced the U.S. government to back off from responding to the downing of its military drone by Iran.

Resistance has enabled the Yemeni forces to launch drone strikes on Saudi Arabia’s oil facilities, deal a heavy blow to the kingdom’s economy, and leave the Riyadh regime with no choice but to import oil, Ayatollah Jannati remarked. “Resistance against the powers bombarding Yemen led to these victories,” he added.

In remarks last week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei slammed the U.S. bid for talks with Iran as a trick, stressing that Iranian and U.S. officials will not hold negotiations, either in New York or anywhere else.

However, the Leader said, “If the U.S. backs off from its call, repents, and returns to the nuclear treaty it has



breached, then it will be able to join the gathering of the parties to the deal (JCPOA) who hold meetings and talk with Iran, otherwise no negotiations will take place between the officials of the Islamic Republic and the Americans at any level, not in New York and not anywhere else.”

U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018. He has since imposed more than 1,000 individual sanctions on Tehran, which culminated with an oil embargo this May. Zarif himself is also sanctioned.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury on Friday slapped sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran and the country’s sovereign wealth fund, a move Trump described as the “highest level of sanctions”.

Freed sailor arrives in Tehran after four years



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — An Iranian sailor, who was taken hostage by Somali pirates in 2015 and released days ago, arrived in Tehran on Tuesday.

Mohammad Sharif Panahandeh was welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari at Imam Khomeini International Airport on Tuesday, Mehr reported.

Panahandeh was taken hostage more than four years ago by Somali pirates while fishing in the region.

A humanitarian group working to free people taken hostage by Somali pirates in recent years announced the release of Panahandeh on Saturday.

The Hostage Support Partnership said in a statement that the Iranian sailor had become increasingly ill and couldn’t have survived much longer.

The organization says he was one of four remaining hostages held in Somalia. Their Iranian fishing vessel was captured in March 2015.

Iran feels no fear from quantity of enemy’s military hardware



TEHRAN (IRNA) — Habibollah Sayyari, the deputy army chief for coordination affairs, has hailed Iran’s military capabilities, saying Iranian armed forces feel no fear from quantity of the enemies’ military hardware.

Rear Admiral Sayyari made the remarks in an interview with IRNA on Tuesday.

No enemies dare to attack Iran due to great position the country has today, he said.

Referring to Iran’s remarkable mili-

tary power, he said the country feels no shortages in radar equipment as all Iranian equipment are indigenous.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Sayyari said Iran is at the peak of its deterrent power, and the country is recognized as a super military power.

At the outset of Iraq’s imposed war against Iran, most of the weapons Iran was using were from the West, but today, Iran enjoys equipment which are completely indigenous, the admiral emphasized.

Larijani: U.S., Saudi Arabia can’t use nuclear deal dispute to conceal Yemen war failure

TEHRAN (MNA) — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has rebuked the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for their baseless claims against Iran, saying they cannot divert attention from the Yemen war failure by bullying Iran over the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA).

“The United States and Saudi Arabia, which have triggered wars in the region over the past few decades as their traces are visible in many war-inflicted countries, have reached the end of the line in the war against the oppressed Yemeni nation,” said Larijani, addressing the parliament’s open session on Tuesday.

“They cannot drag their failure into the nuclear deal dispute with Iran,” he added.

Larijani criticized Washington and Riyadh officials for



fomenting tensions in the Middle East region, saying it is not good to bully others instead of accepting the truth.

“If they think they can undermine the Iranian nation’s strong will by increasing troops in the Persian Gulf, they are wrong!”

“These troops themselves are the cause of insecurity and tension in the region,” he added.

Larijani thanked the Iranian government for rightfully taking the third step in reducing obligations under the JCPOA in response to other parties’ lack of commitment.

He said, “Iran has always had a clear logic toward the deal, and we had commitments toward other parties, however, the US president disturbed this balance and the others were sluggish in returning the balance.”

Yemen to become Saudis’ Vietnam: ex-Iranian diplomat

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hamid Reza Asefi, a former Iranian diplomat, has said Saudi Arabia’s war on Yemen will go on and Yemen will become the Saudis’ Vietnam.

He was making a reference to the war on Vietnam that started in 1955 and lasted for 19 years.

One of Riyadh’s options is to concede defeat “but this would cost the Saudis dearly, given that they should then accept their political and military mistakes and I don’t see this in [Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad] bin Salman’s small head,” Asefi said in an interview broadcast on TV on Monday night.

Some think that Saudi Arabia’s meddling in Yemen started only a few years ago but in fact it started almost 40 years ago and is as old as the Islamic Revolution, he argued.

Asefi, who served as Iran’s ambassador to France, the UAE, and Foreign Ministry spokesman, further said the Saudis attacked Yemen using weapons they received from the British, Americans and Germans.

“However, the Germans later realized the dimensions of their doings and stopped their arms support of Saudi Arabia,” he added.

On September 14, Yemen’s Ansarullah movement and their allies in the Yemeni army deployed as many as 10 drones to bomb the Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities run by the Saudi state-owned oil company Aramco.

The unprecedented attack knocked out more than half of Saudi crude output, or five percent of global supply.

Saudi Arabia and its Western allies, including the U.S., have accused Iran of carrying out the attack. Tehran, however, has rejected any involvement.

Asefi said the Aramco incident badly dented Saudi Arabia’s prestige and the kingdom was disgraced in the eyes of its people as well.

On the possibility of an all-out war in the region, he said, “Saudi Arabia knows that it is not a [serious] challenger to us in an all-out war, and both Europeans and Americans also do not want an all-out war.”

“However, the Americans want controlled tensions for our region, so that they sell their weapons,” the former diplomat added.

Last week, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned that a possible military strike against Iran by the United States or Saudi Arabia will unleash an “all-out” war in the region.

He made the remarks in an interview with the CNN in Tehran on Thursday.

“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,” Zarif said, adding that a military response based on “deception” about the attacks on Saudi oil installations would cause “a lot of casualties.”

Chomsky: U.S. secondary sanctions against Iran are an ‘act of war’

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Noam Chomsky, a leading American intellectual and political analyst, has described the U.S. secondary sanctions against Tehran as an “act of war” under international law.

“As I’ve often discussed, the sanctions, in my opinion, are illegitimate in the first place, doubly so because they are secondary sanctions, imposed on other countries because of U.S. domination of the international financial system and other elements of its unique power. That means that they in effect amount to a blockade, which would be an act of war under international law,” Chomsky told Tasnim in an interview.

Avram Noam Chomsky (born December 7, 1928) is an American linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historian, social critic, and political activist. Sometimes called “the father of modern linguistics”, Chomsky is also a major figure in analytic philosophy and one of the founders of the field of cognitive science. He holds a joint appointment as Institute Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and laureate professor at the University of Arizona and is the author of more than 100 books on topics such as linguistics, war, politics, and mass media. Ideologically, he aligns with anarcho-syndicalism and libertarian socialism. An outspoken opponent of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, which he saw as an act of American imperialism, in 1967 Chomsky rose to national attention for his antiwar essay “The Responsibility of Intellectuals”.

Following is the full text of the interview. Tasnim: U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed fresh sanctions on Tehran over Iran’s alleged involvement in the 14 Sept. Saudi oil attacks. What is your take on this?

Chomsky: As I’ve often discussed, the sanctions, in my opinion, are illegitimate in the first place, doubly so because they are secondary sanctions, imposed on other countries because of U.S. domination of the international financial system and other elements of its unique power. That means that they in effect amount to a blockade, which would be an act of war under international law. No action is taken against them in the international arena because of U.S. power. If this was being done by some other country, there would be an international outcry, including UN resolutions and possibly more. That includes China, in partial answer to question three.

Tasnim: It seems that the U.S. is facing political confusion in the face of Iran, as it no longer can affect regional equations. What do you think?

Chomsky: The U.S. has enormous power, but it is not omnipotent. In the case of Iran, the Trump administration states quite openly that it aims to destroy the Iranian economy, provoking an uprising that might produce a regime more compliant with U.S. wishes, like the Shah’s. But military planners are well aware of the risks of a military strike.

Tasnim: Experts argue that the U.S. hegemony is in decline as China is becoming a rising power and that the end of this hegemony means an end to liberalism. What are your thoughts on this?

Chomsky: At the end of World War II, the U.S. had an unprecedented level of global dominance. It was bound to decline and began to almost at once. By the 1970s, the global economy was tripolar: U.S.-based North America, German-based Europe, and Japan-based East Asia. China has indeed risen greatly since, but is still a poor country, with per capita wealth far below the West, and facing internal problems unknown in the more developed countries. In the UN Human Development Index it ranks 86th, right below Algeria and Thailand. In military power, of course, the U.S. ranks supreme, far beyond others — indeed potential combinations of others — both in scale and technological sophistication. In answer to your question, U.S. hegemony is likely to continue the decline of the past 75 years, while Chinese power is likely to increase. But U.S. global dominance seems fairly secure for as far ahead as one can predict with any confidence. The last phrase is crucial. Unless the world begins to address seriously the two existential crises — global warming and nuclear war — it won’t matter who dominates what’s left.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	312206.5
IFX	4138.1

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,157 rials
GBP	52,193 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$62.92/b
WTI	\$58.00/b
OPEC Basket	\$65.30/b
Gold	\$1,521.90/oz
Silver	\$818.54/oz
Platinum	\$954.15/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Passenger transport via railway up 5% in H1

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Passenger transportation via railway network has increased 5.3 percent in Iran during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) compared to the same period of time in the past year, the deputy director of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways for passenger affairs told ISNA.



Mir Hassan Mousavi said that over 14.9 million passengers have been transported via railway during the first six months of the present year.

The city of Mashhad (in northeast Iran) has been the most traffic destination in the first half, the official added.

As reported earlier this month, Raja Railway Transport Company, which is the passenger wing of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), has signed deals with three domestic companies for renovating 124 passenger wagons.

RAJA has signed agreements with three different Iranian companies namely Wagon Pars, Novin Sanat Raja Company and Ehya Sanat Co. for renovating 124 of its passenger wagons that are over 30 years old.

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

IMF expects positive growth in Turkish economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced in a report on Monday that it did not expect Turkey to go into recession in 2019.

As per aa.com.tr, the IMF predicted positive growth this year at roughly 0.25%, it said in a concluding statement of the 2019 Article IV Mission after monitoring of economic developments in the country.

"Buoyed by expansionary fiscal policy, rapid state bank credit provision, a strong contribution of net exports, and more favorable market sentiment, the economy registered positive growth in the first half of 2019," it said.

Current positive market sentiment provides "good opportunity" to enact a set of reforms that would address vulnerabilities, strengthen policy credibility and set the economy on a higher and more sustainable growth path, it added.

The report also stressed that the lira had recovered and that the current account had seen remarkable adjustment following a sharp depreciation in the currency in late 2018.

Import compression, a strong tourism season, improved market sentiment and geopolitical developments have taken pressure off the lira, according to the statement.

Clearer monetary and intervention policy would further boost credibility, it highlighted.

Underlining that inflation could drop to single digits over the coming months, it said: "High real policy rates, lira stability, favorable base effects, and resulting lower inflation have allowed the CBRT (Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey) to cut policy rates."

Turkey is looking forward to the forthcoming New Economic Program (NEP), which should clearly diagnose the challenges facing the economy and outline a comprehensive set of policies to address them, it added.

Turkey's new economic program, announced in September 2018, targets a current-account-deficit-to-GDP ratio this year of 3.3%.

Concluding statement of the 2019 Article IV Mission is presented to the IMF Board of Directors for approval in Washington.



'Syria needs Iran as a real friend for its reconstruction'

ECONOMY The official further noted that the two sides' governments should lay the ground for signing cooperation contracts, adding that exhibitions can play some essential role for implementation of the inked contracts.

Addressing the same gathering, Syrian Ambassador to Iran Adnan Mahmoud said the Syrian government considers Iranian private sector its main partner in the reconstruction and economic projects.

"Doors of the Syrian Embassy in Tehran is always open to the Iranian companies", he further highlighted.

Economic ties should be promoted like political relations

The Syrian minister also met Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza

Rahmani at the place of Iran's Industry Ministry on Tuesday, Shata reported.

In the meeting, Ghanem expressed satisfaction over expansion of cooperation between Iran and Syria and said that economic ties between the two countries should be expanded as the level of their political relations.

"Iran-Syria relation is old, strategic and very significant and we highly welcome cooperation with Iranians", he stressed.

Referring to Syria's mining capacities, the minister said: "There are about 20 billion tons of mineral reserves in Syria and we are sure that in the framework of the bilateral cooperation we can rely on the Iranian technology and equipment for development of this sector."



Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Ali Suleiman Ghanem (L) and Keyvan Kashefi, the chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Economic Committee, met at the place of ICCIMA in Tehran on Tuesday.

Rahmani, for his part, said, "Given the existing potentials in terms of minerals and mining industries we can have some vast cooperation in this sector."

"We enjoy engineering capabilities and necessary equipment in mining sector and are ready to cooperate with Syria in any related field", the minister added.

Loading, unloading of cargos at Iran's ports rise 3.6% in 6 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN— Loading and unloading of commodities at the ports of Iran have risen 3.6 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) compared to the first half of the past year, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

As reported, 73.62 million tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded at the ports of country during the first six months of the present year.

While Iran is combatting the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

On May 21, the deputy director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said following a directive by President Hassan Rouhani, IRICA is providing



new facilities for importers of basic goods which makes them able to clear their commodities in less than an hour.

"For basic goods such as meat, system formalities and clearance procedures will be carried out in less than an hour and importers can transport their goods soon after," Mehrdad Jamal Orounaqi said.

Connecting the ports which are the major cargo hubs

of the country to the national railway network is another project seriously followed up by the government.

The head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) has announced that 59 kilometers of railroads are planned to be built for connecting the major cargo hubs in the country to the national railway network by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020).

Saeed Rasouli mentioned linking the cargo hubs to the railway network as one of the main priorities of RAI in the current year.

All such measures indicate the strong will for strengthening the role of ports especially during this time of sanctions.

And they are bringing results; as the head of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has announced that all port development projects are underway with no halt.

Despite the sanctions and the difficulties resulted from them, there are still high traffics in the ports which show that the country's shipping and port activities are running well, Mohammad Rastad has said and underlined taking advantage of such potential to materialize economic objectives of the country.

Minerals extraction at 500m tons in a year

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani put the country's minerals extracted in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019) at 500 million tons, IRNA reported.

Making the remarks in a conference on Iran's mining exploration development, opportunities and challenges in Tehran on Tuesday, the minister also put the value of minerals and mining industries products at \$20 billion in the previous year.

Explanations of new exploration programs, goals, and methods were among the subjects covered at the conference, which was held by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Back in August, head of IMIDRO announced that exploration operations have been started in 300,000 square meters of lands.

Khodadad Gharibpour said the new exploration operation will be conducted by a consortium of IMIDRO and the country's major mining companies.

The official also announced that over 11 trillion rials (about \$262 million) of investment has been made in IMIDRO projects through contribution of the private sector.

Gharibpour noted that in the framework of the country's Sixth National Five-Year Development Plan (2016-2021), efficiency, productivity and maximum utilization of the capacities of the country's mining industry have



been given great importance and so should be considered in every step from exploration up to the production processes.

"In all areas including human resources, this [efficiency] should be taken into account. For example, we are far behind in employee education in the coal sector. Many of the work-related accidents in this sector are due to the lack of education, that is why efficiency and productivity is a priority in all the IMIDRO agreements," he said.

In late May, Gharibpour had said that the country's mining sector currently requires 18 billion euros of investment.

"The mining sector is one of the country's most profitable areas for investment so that 30 percent of the profits in the capital market is pertained to the mining and mineral sector," he said.

IMIDRO currently has \$3 billion worth of projects underway and it also intends to renovate 3,000 industrial units using 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) of investment during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020).

Monthly value of trades increases 22% at IME

ECONOMY TEHRAN— The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) during the past Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 23-September 22) increased 22 percent from its previous month, IME published on its website.

Some 2.168 million tons of commodities worth 102 trillion rials (about \$2.428 billion) were traded at IME during the past month, indicating 49 percent rise in terms of volume.

On June 24, during the meeting of IME shareholders, IME Managing Director Hamed Soltani-Nejad said that this exchange has prepared ten macro plans to improve its performance during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 19, 2020).

He mentioned development of underlying assets through existing instruments, development of financial instruments for commodity-backed securities, expansion of market size and depth, increasing cooperation with other organizations, and strengthening IME brand as some of the mentioned macro plans.

Soltani-Nejad has previously announced that IME accounted for 39 percent of the value of the total trades in the Iranian capital market during the past Iranian calendar year.

He put the value of IME trades at 1.78 quadrillion rials (about \$42.3 billion) in



the past year.

The value of trades at IME rose 52 percent in the past calendar year from its previous year.

Over 24.84 million tons of commodities valued at 884.3 trillion rials (about \$21.05 billion) were traded at the physical market of IME, showing seven percent fall in the amount and 77 percent rise in the worth of trades year on year.

Applying new financial instruments in Iranian capital market was one of the achievements of the country's exchange markets during the past year.

In this due, IME launched "option" in early March 2019 in an approach to diversify financing methods for agricultural products.

Option is a contract which gives the buyer (the owner or holder of the option) the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an underlying asset or instrument at a specified strike price prior to or on a specified date, depending on the form of the option.

We want China to 'wake up' and open its economy even more, says European business group

By Yen Nee Lee

Chinese state-owned enterprises receive preferential treatment from the government such as priority to get financing — which distorted competition in many industries, said the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Such situation has worsened in recent years with the Chinese government "pursuing SOE reform with Chinese characteristics," which aims to make SOEs "stronger, better and bigger," said Joerg Wuttke, the chamber's president.

"Sometimes, you want actually China to wake up and see you can't only throw money at the economy. You actually have to change the structure," he said.

China's efforts to open up its economy have not been enough to improve foreign companies' access into the domestic market, according to a paper released on Tuesday by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

One major hurdle that foreign firms operating in China face is the presence of Chinese state-owned enterprises, the paper said. Those firms, also known as SOEs, receive preferential treatment from the government such as priority to get financing — and that special treatment distorted competition in many industries, according to the report.

The situation has worsened in recent years with the Chinese government "pursuing SOE reform with Chinese characteristics," it added.

"Rather than cutting SOEs down to a manageable size, determining the industries that would be most appropriate



for them to operate in and privatizing the rest, the goal has been to make them 'stronger, better and bigger'," Joerg Wuttke, the chamber's president, wrote in the report.

Pumping more money into the economy
Speaking to CNBC's "Squawk Box Asia" on Tuesday, Wuttke said China has made some inroads in terms of restructuring its economy in recent years. But the authorities have appeared to support growth by pumping more money into the economy, not by making the much-needed reforms, he said.

"Sometimes, you want actually China to wake up and see you can't only throw money at the economy. You actually have to change the structure," he said.

"It's not that the country is in a stalemate, but we're also seeing that opening up is pretty much impaired by interest groups that don't want foreign competition. We believe now

is the time to do it because of the economic headwinds," explained Wuttke.

Growth in the Chinese economy — the second-largest in the world — is slowing down at a time when its trade war with the U.S. looks set to drag on.

Several economists have warned the tariff dispute will hurt the Chinese economy more than the U.S. because the Asian country is relatively more trade-dependent.

Given such headwinds, it's time for the Chinese government to focus on making the economy more competitive, said Wuttke. He pointed out that China has had some success in liberalizing its economy in the southern Guangdong province.

China developed its first special economic zone in Guangdong, which attracted foreign investors and allowed businesses to "pursue their own ambitions," according to the paper. That helped the province to grow faster than some northern provinces, where SOEs still dominate the economy, said the report.

"Old habits are the hardest to break," the paper said. "Strong vested interests have stood against meaningful SOE reform in the past and they will certainly continue to have an influence in this respect."

"However, failure to address SOE reform and advance economic liberalization will leave the market burdened by a bloated and inefficient state-owned sector that weighs the country down as it attempts to climb out of the middle-income trap."

(Source: cnbc.com)

'Iran pushing to double petrochemical production by 2025'

➔ "In this regard NPC is following a master plan which includes two major jumps in the country's petrochemical industry, and it will rise the country's revenues from petrochemical exports to \$25 billion by the year 1400," he said.

According to the official, for the current calendar year (which ends on March 19, 2020), NPC is planning to inaugurate six major projects by the yearend.

The projects include Arak Petrochemical Complex, the first phase of Bushehr Petrochemical Complex, and Takht Jamshid SBR & PBR Production Plant in Mahshahr, Khuzestan province as well as Ilam Petrochemical Complex in northwestern province of Ilam.

The official noted that currently there are 64 petrochemical projects underway across the country with physical progresses between 20 and 99 percent.

"13 prioritized petrochemical projects are also planned to go on stream in the next Iranian calendar year of 1399 (March 2020- March 2021), and four projects are also due to be inaugurated in the calendar year of 1400," he explained.

"With the completion of the underway projects, the country's petrochemical output will exceed 100 million tons in the [Iranian calendar] year of 1400 and the industry's revenues will hit \$25 billion," Bosaqzadeh said.

Impact of sanctions on petchem industry not significant

Asked about the impact of the U.S. sanctions on the country's petrochemical industry and NPC's development plans, the official stated



that with the experience and self-efficiency that the country has achieved since the previous rounds of sanctions, Iran's petrochemical industry, now, is almost completely self-reliant.

"In terms of licenses and engineering and technical knowledge, our petrochemical industry is currently at a very good place and we can even compete with very advanced countries in this regard," he said.

He further noted that "Most of the underway projects in this industry are currently using domestic equipment, licenses and technological knowledge of Iranian experts."

"In some cases which we would be needing

to import equipment from other countries, in addition to European countries, we have also found new markets in Asia and among CIS countries which are more than willing to provide us with the necessary equipment," he added.

Financial and banking issues

Another issue that Bosaqzadeh mentioned as one of the major factors pertaining to the progress of NPC's projects, was supplying liquidity and funding of the projects.

"In this regard, the main policy which NPC has been following is supporting the country's petrochemical companies in order to increase

their exports, so that their own revenues could be used for expansion and development of new projects," he explained.

"That means, the foreign currency that petrochemical companies earn can be used to supply their own equipment needs and the rest which is injected into NIMA [Iran's Integrated Forex Management System] can also be used to buy the necessary equipment for new projects."

Final thoughts

Wrapping up the interview, NPC's projects director underlined the need for supporting domestic production, noting that "Our petrochemical industry is one of the major manifestations of resilient economy in the country and we are moving toward complete self-sufficiency."

"This year, the exhibition is mainly focused on promoting domestic producers. It is aimed to identify the needs and requirements of the domestic market and to support the producers and the industry's downstream sector," he said.

"Every year nearly \$6 billion of petrochemical products are used inside the country and over \$12 billion is also exported. The more we use domestic products the more value added it will have for the domestic producers."

The official, finally expressed hope that, events such as "Iran Plast" could provide a platform for Iranian companies to find new markets to present their products and also to get to know their foreign counterparts and get acquainted with modern technologies in this industry.

Iran ready to reconstruct Syria's oil, petchem industries: Zanganeh

ENERGY TEHRAN — During his meeting with Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Ali Suleiman Ghanem on Tuesday, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh expressed his country's readiness to contribute to reconstruction of oil and petrochemical industries in Syria, IRIB reported.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Zanganeh mentioned expansion of cooperation between the two countries as one of the main pillars of the meeting and said the more stability returning to Syria the more presence of Iranian companies will be witnessed in that country for its reconstruction.

Iranian private sector can play some significant role in manufacturing of equipment and machinery and also industrial units in the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors of Syria, Iranian minister added.

Ghanem, who came to Iran on invitation of Zanganeh for visiting Iran's gas and petrochemical industries in the southwest port city of Assaluyeh and also to visit Iran's 13th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2019), briefed the reporters upon his visit to Assaluyeh, saying, "I had heard that Iran's energy industry is very huge, but when I visited South Pars installations in Assaluyeh yesterday, I was astonished by Iranian capabilities."



Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Ali Suleiman Ghanem (L) met Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh in Tehran on Tuesday.

Equinor considering supplying of electricity from floating offshore wind farm

Equinor reports that Enova has approved an application for funding of up to NOK2.3 billion (\$256 million) to support the Hywind Tampen project in the Norwegian North Sea. This would be the world's first floating offshore wind farm supplying renewable power to offshore oil and gas installations.

According to offshore-mag.com, Equinor and its partners are considering the possibility of supplying electricity from a floating offshore wind farm to the Gullfaks and Snorre fields.

"With this support we have taken an important step forward in realizing the project. Now it is up to the licensees to further mature the project towards a final investment decision this autumn," said Pal Eitheim, executive vice president for New Energy Solutions in Equinor.

Earlier the Business Sector's NOx Fund decided to support the Hywind Tampen project by an investment grant of up to NOK566 million (\$63 million).

The "Hywind Tampen project will contribute to further developing floating offshore wind technology and reducing the costs of future floating offshore wind farms, offering new industrial opportunities for Norway, the licenses and Norwegian supplier industry in a growing global offshore wind market," said Olav-Bernt Haga, project director for Hywind Tampen.

Hywind Tampen may be the first project in the world for supplying electricity generated by floating offshore wind turbines to oil and gas platforms. The project will ensure profitable oil and gas production from the Snorre and Gullfaks fields with low CO₂ emissions. The project may reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 200,000 tonnes per year, equivalent to emissions from 100,000 private cars.

The Hywind Tampen offshore wind farm will consist of 11 wind turbines with a total capacity of 88 MW. The wind farm will be able to meet around 35% of the annual demand for electricity of the five platforms:

Snorre A and B and Gullfaks A, B, and C. In periods of strong wind, the percentage will be much higher.

Equinor has awarded Green Marine a three-year contract to deliver operations and maintenance work for the Dudgeon offshore wind farm in the southern North Sea.

Operation of the wind farm

Green Marine will supply its Damen-built 2610 Twin Axe vessel, Green Storm, to assist in the operations and maintenance of the wind farm alongside support from the company's onshore team.

The Green Storm is a dedicated vessel for the offshore wind industry. It transports personnel and cargo to offshore installations.

Simon Underwood, Equinor's marine & logistics leader for the Dudgeon project, said: "The Green Storm is an excellent vessel that will allow us to continue safe and expeditious operations offshore at the Dudgeon wind farm."

The "Green Storm provides the tech-

nicians with a comfortable and efficient transfer platform that enhances efficient productivity whilst maintaining the highest level of safety. She is a welcome addition to our fleet and will work in tandem with our service operations vessel."

The Dudgeon offshore wind farm is located off the coast of Cromer in North Norfolk. Since its completion in late 2017, the 402-MW offshore wind farm has been producing enough energy to power more than 410,000 UK homes from its 67 6-MW wind turbine generators.

Orsted has contracted Heerema Marine Contractors to transport and install 111 turbine foundations and two substations for the 900-MW Greater Changhua 1 and 2a offshore wind farms in Taiwan.

The company will also be responsible for onshore marshalling services as well as the seabed preparations and scour protection.

The heavy-lift vessel Aegir will carry out the installation in water depths of 30-35 m (98-115 ft) during 2021 and 2022.

Saudi Aramco to push ahead with IPO despite supply chaos

Saudi Aramco is reportedly continuing plans for its initial public offering (IPO) with banker meetings due this week after it added numerous junior underwriters to the operation.

According to energy-reporters.com, Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, is reportedly the most profitable firm in the world.

Aramco reported a profit of \$46.9 billion in the first six half of 2019; almost 10 times that of Exxon Mobil, the largest listed oil company.

IPO underwriters will hold two days of analyst presentations with banking researchers from Wednesday near Saudi Aramco's headquarters in the east of the kingdom, according to Bloomberg.

Newly appointed bookrunners on the deal are due to attend meetings with Saudi Aramco next Monday, according to unnamed sources. The aim was purportedly to have everything ready for the Saudi Aramco list as early as November if the oil giant decides to proceed.

The Saudi royals hope to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil and gas, which account for about 50 percent of gross domestic product and 70 percent of export earnings.

Saudi Arabia has 297.7 billion barrels



of proven reserves and great influence over its OPEC partners and Russia, which together account for 77.9 percent of world oil reserves and 53.6 percent of production. The U.S. accounts for 3.6 percent of reserves and 16.6 of production.

Saudi Arabia says it will bring oil production back to its full capacity by the end of the month.

But repairs at the Khurais field and the Abqaiq processing refinery may take several months to complete, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Specialists working for Aramco said equipment manufacturers and service providers were being offered premium rates for faster delivery and installation.

But equipment had to be specially manufactured, delivered and installed, which could take up to a year, the paper reported, quoting Saudi sources.

Any delay could boost oil prices a combined 5.7 million barrels per day (bpd) from global oil markets.

Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman last week said more than half of the lost production had been restored. He said by the end of the month, Saudi production would have 11 million bpd in production capacity, rising to 12 million bpd by late November.

But sources say that equipment needs to be made to measure, which could take considerable time.

Second Announcement



1398.3863

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-8746063

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

Items	Material Description	Qty
4	P/F " BORSIG " CENTRIFUGAL GAS COMPRESSOR TYPE: GC 355/8.5/N 23-1714 7	20NO 12 ST
1	P/F " BORSIG " CENTRIFUGAL GAS COMPRESSOR TYPE: GC 355/2.5/N 23-1755/56	5 NO
2	P/F " BORSIG " CENTRIFUGAL GAS COMPRESSOR TYPE: GC 355/4.5/N 23-1757/58	20 NO

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 4,715 EURO or 225, 567,716 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 ۹۸/۶/۳۱ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۳

How to solve the North Korea crisis once and for all

National interest talks with North Korea have essentially been stalled since February's Hanoi Summit. Despite great hopes after the July handshake meet-up at Panmunjom, nothing more has developed. U.S. officials predicted imminent negotiations. The North Koreans threatened to choose a different path—and undertook a series of short-range missile tests.

However, Choe Son Hui, first vice foreign minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, offered to begin talks. But she added a warning: "if the U.S. side fingers again the worn-out scenario which has nothing to do with new decision methods at the DPRK-U.S. working negotiation to be held with so much effort, the DPRK-U.S. dealings may come to an end." That is, unless Washington offers something more, Pyongyang will walk. Punctuating her comment was the launch of two projectiles, likely short-range missiles.

Obviously, there is more than a little theater in the North Korean "offer." It obviously is intended to increase the North's negotiating leverage. But it also reflects Chairman Kim Jong-un's stated position and perceived interests. Washington should take it seriously.

How to negotiate with Pyongyang over its nukes? First, be realistic. With John Bolton out as national security adviser, perhaps President Donald Trump will be more willing to abandon his expectation of getting the DPRK to turn over all its nukes within a year or so.

Irrespective of what Kim has said, almost all his incentives run against yielding the North's arsenal. The dynasty has invested heavily in nuclear weapons—prestige as well as resources. The regime's nukes and missiles cause other nations to pay attention to the poor, small, isolated and otherwise irrelevant nation. Acquiring the weapons of a superpower also rewards the military for its loyalty.

Most important, nuclear weapons are the ultimate deterrent. As Henry Kissinger once observed, even paranoids have enemies. Kim could possess aggressive designs, like his grandfather, but the destruction visited on the North during the Korean War is a strong argument against any renewed attack. In contrast, the United States has regularly imposed regime change or otherwise coerced small states. The list is long, especially after the Soviet Union collapsed, when Washington viewed itself as the unipower, the hyper-power, the essential nation, the decider and more.

After the Berlin Wall fell came Panama, Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq again, Libya, Syria, Iraq yet again and Yemen. Then there are the regular threats against Iran. Proposals for war against Venezuela. And the ease with which U.S. presidents have routinely intoned "all options are on the table," meaning military strikes, against a number of countries—including the DPRK.

Particularly disconcerting to any potential member of the Axis of Evil is Washington's willingness to violate the spirit if not the letter of its agreements. Poor Muammar el-Qaddafi: he believed the Americans and Europeans when they toasted his abandonment of his nation's missile and nuclear programs. Then his supposed friends took him out at the first opportunity when he was vulnerable. Given Washington's record, Kim would be a fool to trust oral or paper promises. And he is no fool.

So Washington should listen to what he says. The statement at the Singapore summit was short but specific. And North Korean diplomats contend that the order of agreed steps was intended: Washington and Pyongyang would develop their relations, the regional security environment would be improved, and denuclearization would occur. South Koreans reported that Kim observed that multiple meetings between the United States and the North would demonstrate that his nation no longer needed nuclear weapons.

Even if he was serious, it seems unlikely that he would be willing to yield his full deterrent. After all, Trump's withdrawal from the Iranian nuclear agreement illustrates how a future president could repudiate a Trump administration deal with Kim. Nevertheless, ignoring Pyongyang's conditions seem certain to preclude denuclearization. Why bother proceeding if failure is certain? Especially since breaking expectations could exacerbate tensions. Indeed, if the president feels betrayed, he could return to "fire and fury," especially under pressure in an election campaign.

How to meet North Korea's conditions? Start by ending the U.S. ban on Americans visiting the DPRK and North Koreans visiting the United States. Encourage private individuals and organizations, especially humanitarian NGOs, to establish relationships. Expanding contact promotes a friendlier relationship. Most important, establish diplomatic ties of some sort, such as liaison offices, which were on the agenda in Hanoi.

Easing tensions on the peninsula could be achieved in several ways. One would be relaxing sanctions which inhibit inter-Korean cooperation. Another would be making a peace declaration or treaty. The war is long over and the belligerents should formally conclude hostilities. Those who fear such an action, who would encourage the removal of U.S. troops from South Korea, mistake symptom for cause. Combat is over and the Republic of Korea is able to defend itself, so America's military presence should be reconsidered. In making that decision, a peace statement would be makeweight.

Taking such actions would enable the Trump administration to challenge Pyongyang to follow the Singapore schedule and begin moving toward disarmament. The president's team should develop a schedule of potential small deals that would ultimately lead to full denuclearization.

A good start would be to formalize North Korea's promise of no nuclear or missile (short- and long-range) tests and America's commitment to end military exercises on the peninsula. Another would be to negotiate a trade similar to that proposed in Hanoi, closure of Yongbyon in exchange for selective sanctions relief. Conventional disarmament steps also could be included in the process.

If the North is unwilling to do anything it should become evident quite quickly. If Pyongyang ultimately is only willing to move partway down the disarmament road, then the United States (and South Korea) should pocket those benefits. For instance, a DPRK with an arsenal capped at fifteen or sixty (or somewhere in between) warheads and subject to at least some inspections is less dangerous than one expanding to one hundred, two hundred or more—and with no oversight. Some safeguards against proliferation are better than none.

Who knows? If the past is prologue, nothing much might be accomplished. If Kim completes his break with his father and grandfather, perhaps he will make meaningful concessions but halt before full disarmament. And if relations are improved and deals are made, perhaps Kim or his successor might be willing to complete the denuclearization process.

In any case, there's no way to find out without negotiating. Which requires breaking the post-Hanoi stalemate. Doing that requires making a best effort. Which in turn requires adopting a strategy calculated to appeal to the North's obvious interests and address Kim's expressed conditions.

President Trump courageously began the process of engaging the DPRK. He should complete the effort by following the best negotiating strategy possible.

Doug Bandow is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute. A former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan, he is the author of several books, including *Tripwire: Korea and U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changed World* and coauthor of *The Korean Conundrum: America's Troubled Relations with North and South Korea*.

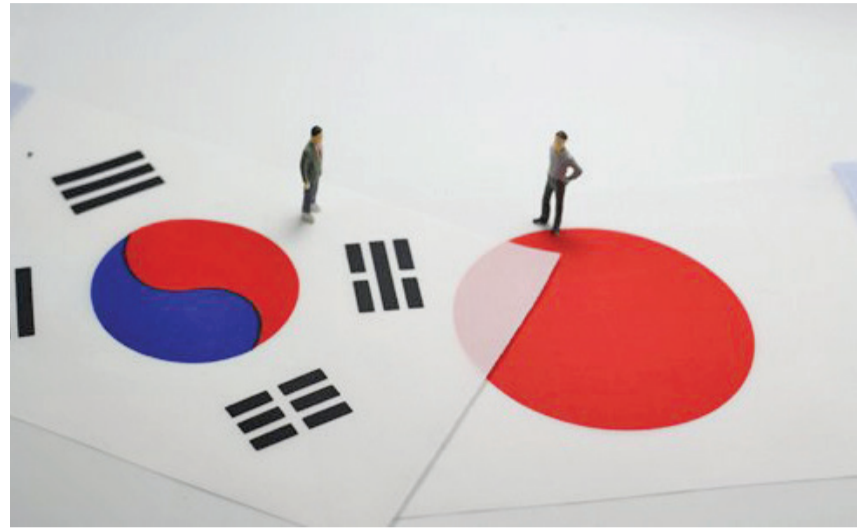
Japan should avoid emulating the U.S.

By Chen Yang

Citing informed sources, Jiji Press of Japan reported on September 18 that the Japanese government will set up at its National Security Secretariat an economic division to formulate strategic economic policies. The move is aimed at strengthening links between economic policies and national security. The new division is anticipated to be set up in the near future. Once established, it will concentrate more economic and diplomatic power in the hands of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. It will also blur the boundaries between Japan's foreign and economic policies, and the economic policies may serve diplomacy as well as ideology.

The most pertinent reason for the Abe administration to set up the economic division is due to trade disputes with South Korea. As early as March, there were voices from the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (LDP) suggesting that Japan should follow the example of the US to set up a Japanese National Economic Council (NEC) to safeguard national security from the economic and trade perspective. The LDP may have been inspired by the Donald Trump administration, since during the US-launched trade war against China, Washington has often suppressed Chinese enterprises in the name of national security.

As for the issues related to Huawei's 5G technology, the Japanese government used to follow the US lead, but this move was criticized at home for lack of reason. Meanwhile, in early July, Japan restricted the export of three kinds of semiconductor raw materials



to South Korea, citing national security concerns. The move did deal a big blow to South Korea, but there was insufficient evidence to show how Japan's "national security" was threatened at home and abroad.

In such a case, it is very necessary for the Japanese government to set up a special division on economy and national security. For now, however, the planned economic division is only a branch of Japan's National Security Secretariat, with a much lower status than originally intended. In the context of the Abe administration occupying the majority of seats in the National Diet, it is likely that legislation will be passed during an extraordinary Diet session in October.

As the world's third-largest economy, Japan can maintain security through the establishment of the economic division, but this may also provide a "reasonable" basis for some future actions to be taken by the Japanese government which lack public support or evidence. Since the end of the WWII, Japan has established an alliance with the US, and it has followed or referred to the US in many institutional settings and regulations. However, Japan has hardly used the economic stick as frequently as the US to suppress or sanction other countries and regions.

In fact, the current economic sanctions against South Korea are relatively rare in post-

war Japanese economic history. Even during trade war between Japan and the US in the 1980s, Tokyo hardly ever imposed economic sanctions or took retaliatory measures against Washington. But today, inspired by the US attempt to suppress China during the US-China trade war, Japan is preparing to build its own mini version of the NEC. This indicates that similar economic sanctions against South Korea will take place. The possibility cannot be ruled out that Japan will also brandish the stick of "trade protectionism" in the future.

After all, so-called national security is sometimes a very vague concept. In the absence of any substantial evidence, the US sanctioned Huawei using "national security" as an excuse. Therefore, "national security" is a fig leaf for some countries.

Japan's relations with South Korea and North Korea have been cold, and limited progress has been made in its ties with Mongolia and Russia. The only bright spot is the continuous improvement in bilateral relations with China. Therefore, after the establishment of Japan's mini version of the NEC, it may not immediately become a tool to cooperate with the US to suppress Chinese enterprises.

However, it should be noted that as China's 5G technology has led the world, it gives Japan a sense of crisis for the rapid development of information and communication technology in China. If China-Japan relations worsen again due to Japan's misplaced pronouncements and moves in the future, Japan's mini version of the NEC will inevitably become a new and important means to confront China, which deserves our vigilance.

West should not judge China with tinted glasses

By Xu Hailin

GLOBALTIMES — "Are Chinese people secluded from the world?" Deutsche Welle asked after a climate movement swept the world but incited no protests in China. An odd question by the German media outlet, reflecting the West's misunderstanding of China.

Millions of climate activists in 156 countries and regions reportedly participated in the Fridays for Future street demonstrations on Friday, demanding the international society to take more actions to deal with global climate change.

However, not engaging in protests doesn't mean that Chinese people don't care or support climate protection. On the contrary, according to a 2017 survey issued by the China Center for Climate Change Communication, an institute focusing on climate, 94 percent of respondents supported China's implementation of the Paris Agreement and 96.8 percent supported the Chinese government to participate in international cooperation on climate change. The ratios are higher than those of almost all other countries. Such misunderstanding also shows that the logic of Westerners' mentality is flawed. Is occupying streets the only way for people to express their appeals? Can such demonstrations really solve environmental problems?

When people from the West encounter social problems, they first organize protests, through which they hope the problems could be solved. But the key to whether the problems can be solved and how the problems will be handled lies in how their governments pay attention to and respond to people's demands. In this respect, the Chinese government is at the forefront of the world.

After people repeatedly complained about air pollution in Beijing several

years ago, the Chinese government took immediate and effective measures to combat air pollution, and Beijing's air quality has greatly improved. Some 227 days were rated to have good air quality in 2017, compared to just 176 days in 2013.

Also in 2017, the average concentration of fine particulate matter, or PM 2.5, in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta dropped by 39.6 percent, 34.3 percent and 27.7 percent, respectively, compared to the concentration in 2013.

The Chinese private sector also actively contributes to the country's environmental protection. For example, the Ant Forest, a green initiative launched by China's e-commerce giant Alibaba, was awarded with UN Champions of the Earth on Thursday. Ant Forest has planted about 122 million trees in China, covering an area of 112,000 hectares, since its launch in August 2016. China's achievements in environmental protection originate from the country's very strong system, which determines how the Chinese leadership's attention to the issue is effectively turned into pragmatic actions. We don't think it is right for a government to take action only when there are demonstrations.

Some environmental demonstrations took place in China in the past few years. They didn't last long as people's appeals were properly met. The Chinese government provides various channels for people to submit their demands and suggestions, which are often quickly addressed. Having such an effective mechanism, people don't need to crowd into the streets to pressure the government.

China's sound development has been a sign to Westerners not to judge China through tinted spectacles. China is not secluded from the world but develops in its own way to integrate with the world and even lead the world in some fields.

U.S. interests can't dictate UN agenda

GLOBALTIMES — The general debate of the 74th UN General Assembly will start Tuesday. On Sunday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vilified China's policy on the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in a meeting with the foreign ministers of five Central Asian countries. He accused China of attempting "to erase" minority cultures and religions and called on all countries to resist China's demands to repatriate the Uyghurs. The US also noted that US President Donald Trump may mention the Xinjiang question at the general debate.

The UN General Assembly is held in New York, and thus US political elite like Pompeo think the general assembly would agree to whatever the US says. Pompeo may have forgotten that in addition to the US, only 22 Western countries publicly criticized China's policy in Xinjiang, while at least 51 countries openly showed their support for China. Those who lashed at China's policies in Xinjiang are only a small part of the UN.

Washington's elite arrogantly declare that their human rights concept is universal. They do not admit that conflicts between their human rights concept and the diverse reality have created destructive side effects. When Pompeo spoke on the Xinjiang question, most people saw him as a Western centralist and an arrogant interventionist.

The five Central Asian countries are close to Xinjiang and member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO aims to fight terrorism and extremism, which is in line with the governance in Xinjiang. The five foreign ministers acted politely during the meeting, but if Pompeo has some political acumen, he should know that his pitch was repugnant to them.

The UN is not a Western organization

and has no obligation to expand US interests. The US has provided the venue for the UN and is the largest financial contributor to the UN. The US has profited enough for being the site of the UN's permanent headquarters. The US could ask the UN to move out of the country if Washington feels wronged. But the UN does not owe the US anything, nor will the UN Charter be dominated by the US Constitution or interests.

The themes of this UN General Assembly include "climate action." The US should be blamed during this year's general assembly because it has been jeopardizing the globe's actions on climate change. Washington should not use the Xinjiang question to distract the attention of the international community. It is hoped that public opinion of the European countries will not be tricked by Pompeo. Climate action is a common issue of humanity that European countries have been promoting, and Washington betrayed Europe on the issue. If European countries are effortlessly led to focus on Xinjiang during the upcoming general debate of UN General Assembly, then Washington can fool Europe easily.

More than 20 million people of all ethnic groups live in Xinjiang, and their security, public welfare and living standards have improved there. When terrorism and extremism spread in the region, restoring Xinjiang's order is the priority of human rights. Some US and Western forces advocate so-called human rights while deviating from real human rights. Most of the countries clearly see this.

Consequently, the US and a few Western countries have failed to rope in the numerous developing countries to criticize China's Xinjiang policies. The US and those Western countries have lost the war of morality and justice.

India should give up its contradictory China policies

By Shi Tian

GLOBALTIMES — After a "rare integrated military exercise" in eastern Ladakh bordering China last week, the Indian Army and Air Force will conduct joint war games in South Tibet - alleged as "Arunachal Pradesh" by India - in October, according to Indian media reports. Frequently carrying out military exercises along the Chinese border, India is clearly targeting China by seeing the latter as an imaginary enemy.

Since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August revoked the special status of India-controlled Kashmir, his personal popularity has reached a new peak within his country. It seems that the tough leader has tasted the sweetness of such a practice and hopes to continue hyping nationalism by aiming at other countries.

India is experiencing a severe economic downturn. In the second quarter of 2019, the country's GDP growth decreased to an over five-year low of 5 percent, way below analysts' expectations. In 2018, many economists believed that India had the potential to become the world's fastest-growing economy. Nonetheless, the growth rate of India's economy dropped drastically from 8 percent



in the same quarter of the last fiscal year to 5 percent, making the prediction unlikely to come true.

Against such a backdrop, it is more apparent that Modi's recent moves are a bid to cover up domestic troubles as well as consolidate his public support.

Be as it may, as China-India relations are entering a crucial phase, Modi also expects a stable bilateral relationship with China, which is a significant partner of India in various domains. In 2018, the trade between

the two countries reached \$955.4 billion. Chinese venture capital funds in India pumped in more than \$5 billion, surpassing investments from the US and Japan. Worsening ties with China amid the economic downturn will bring India nothing but adverse impacts. The Modi administration is well aware of this.

Modi's policies are contradictory. His administration is loath to give up its cooperative relationship with China on the one hand, but does not stop inciting nationalism against China on the other. Such a paradox can never be sustainable. It will only hurt mutual trust and harm India's own interests.

China has been putting efforts in enhancing cooperation with India. Given New Delhi's concerns over its trade deficit with Beijing, China is adjusting accordingly. For instance, China's revised drug law removes drugs that are legal in other countries but illegal in China from the list of fake medicines, opening a door for Indian generic medicines.

Contradictory policies can solve neither domestic nor diplomatic problems. It is hoped that New Delhi will adopt effective measures, rather than relying on national sentiments, to deal with its issues and get along with China.

Black Days of U.S. President

1 → Obama made then-Vice President Biden the point man, and he became a frequent visitor to Ukraine.

2. What role did Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, play in Ukraine?

In the spring of 2014, as Joe Biden began his trips to Ukraine, Hunter Biden took a position on the board of the country's largest private gas company, Burisma. He was reportedly paid up to \$50,000 a month.

The question of a possible conflict of interest — with Hunter Biden profiting in a country where his father was actively working with the government — was raised publicly at the time. Joe Biden said that he followed government ethics regulations and that his son was a private citizen who made his own decisions.

Also, the Obama administration actually supported an investigation into the gas company because the owner, Mykola Zlochevsky, was close to the ousted president and they had both fled the country.

3. Is there any sign of wrongdoing by either Joe Biden or his son, Hunter Biden?

This is what Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, are suggesting. But they have not provided evidence of illegal actions. Multiple fact checks have called Trump's accusations of corruption by the Bidens misleading....know the correct facts. Is he on our Country's side. Where does he come from. Is this all about Schiff & the Democrats again after years of being wrong?

Joe Biden has actually boasted about his work in Ukraine as a spokesperson for the White House and the West generally. He called for the ouster of the top Ukrainian prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, for what was widely seen as his failure to investigate corruption.

In March 2016, Biden made one of his many trips to Ukraine and told the country's leaders that they had to get rid of the prosecutor if they wanted \$1 billion in U.S. aid. Biden told the story last year at the Council on Foreign Relations:

"I said, 'You're not getting the [\$1 billion]. I'm leaving in six hours. If the prosecutor is not fired, you're not getting the money.' Well, son of a b****. He got fired," Biden said.

4. How do Trump and his supporters see Joe Biden's work?

They argue that Joe Biden wanted the prosecutor ousted to protect his son from being investigated. But there has been no evidence of wrongdoing, and Joe Biden was tasked as vice president with helping to weed out corruption in Ukraine.

The key figure in pushing the corruption narrative appears to be Giuliani. He has been in contact with Ukraine multiple times and urged officials there to look into the Bidens. The story has been percolating for the past few months. Giuliani has repeatedly tweeted about it and discussed it on TV.

Meanwhile, Hunter Biden stepped down from his post at the gas company this past spring as his term expired, saying he turned down an offer to have it extended. He recognized that it was going to be an issue in the 2020 campaign. "My qualifications and work are being attacked by Rudy Giuliani and his minions for transparent political purposes," Hunter Biden said in a statement at the time.

5. What's next?

Democrats are demanding to see a transcript of Trump's July 25 conversation with Ukraine's president, which the White House has declined to release.

The inspector general of the intelligence community, Michael Atkinson, reported the whistleblower complaint about the call to the House Intelligence Committee in a Sept. 9 letter.

But when Atkinson was called before a closed-door committee hearing last Thursday, he reportedly told members that he was being blocked from releasing the details of the complaint by Joseph Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence. Maguire has been called for the same committee this Thursday in a public hearing.

Meanwhile, congressional Democrats are talking

about a new investigation of the president and whether they should pursue impeachment, a move that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has so far opposed.

Trump Said to Have Frozen Aid to Ukraine Before Call With Its Leader

Also New York Times reported that The revelation came as leading congressional Democrats demanded that the administration turn over documentation about the matter and calls for impeachment grew.

Trump personally ordered his staff to freeze more than \$391 million in aid to Ukraine in the days before he pressed the new Ukrainian president to investigate the Democrats' leading presidential candidate, two senior administration officials said Monday.

Mr. Trump issued his directive to Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, who conveyed it through the budget office to the Pentagon and the State Department, which were told only that the administration was looking at whether the spending was necessary, the officials said.

The timing of the decision to block the aid and Mr. Trump's personal involvement, which were first reported by The Washington Post, add vital new elements to the raging debate over the president's effort to persuade Ukraine to examine unsubstantiated corruption allegations involving former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and his son Hunter Biden.

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The revelation came as leading congressional Democrats demanded that the administration turn over documentation about the matter. Even before news of Mr. Trump's involvement in freezing the aid, a flood of Democrats had said that the president's actions could warrant impeachment.

Several House Democrats from more moderate districts who had long resisted such a move added their voices on Monday to calls for an inquiry that could lead to charges of high crimes and misdemeanors against the president.

Mr. Trump, buffeted by questions earlier in the day at the United Nations about his conduct, denied that he withheld the aid from Ukraine in an attempt to press President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine to dig up dirt on the former vice president.

"No, I didn't — I didn't do it," Mr. Trump told reporters. But just moments before, he suggested that there would be nothing wrong with linking American funding for Ukraine, a former Soviet republic that is fighting Russian-backed separatists, to a corruption inquiry about Mr. Biden and his family.

"Why would you give money to a country that you think is corrupt?" Mr. Trump said.

It was one of a series of whipsawing declarations Mr. Trump made throughout the day on Monday as he defended himself, vilified the Bidens and appeared by turns eager and reluctant to reveal the facts at the root of the allegations. Mr. Trump first said he hoped that the transcript of a July 25 phone call he had with Mr. Zelensky would be released, claiming that it would exonerate him, only to angrily deny moments later that he had committed to doing so.

"I hope you get to see it soon," Mr. Trump said, before arguing that making the transcript public would set a bad precedent — a position that one person familiar with White House deliberations said was being advanced by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Mr. Biden chimed in via the president's favorite social media platform, Twitter, responding to Mr. Trump's dismissal of charges of misconduct by writing, "So release the transcript of the call then."

Mr. Trump has acknowledged raising Mr. Biden and the corruption questions with Mr. Zelensky in the July 25 telephone call. People familiar with the conversation said Mr. Trump repeatedly urged his



counterpart to speak with Rudolph W. Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer, who has been pushing Ukraine aggressively to look into the Bidens and any contacts that the previous government in Kiev had with Democrats during the 2016 campaign.

Mr. Trump did not discuss the delay in the military assistance on the July 25 call with Mr. Zelensky, according to people familiar with the conversation. A Ukrainian official said Mr. Zelensky's government did not learn of the delay until about one month after the call.

Congressional Democrats have said that if the president really pressured Ukraine for dirt on a domestic political rival, it could be an impeachable offense whether or not he tied the demand to American aid. But if evidence emerges that the president linked the two, it would most likely bolster the case of critics who call that an abuse of power.

The decision to hold back the aid, which had been approved by Congress, came at a time when the president was looking for ways to curb a variety of foreign assistance programs, and some aides at least initially saw it in that broader context. But Mr. Trump singled out Ukraine as a place he considered corrupt and railed about wasting money there, according to people who heard him discuss the matter, and he questioned the aid package for weeks.

The president asked advisers how to think about Mr. Zelensky, a former comedian outside the Ukrainian establishment who was largely unknown to American policymakers and had shown little interest in Mr. Giuliani's calls for investigations related to American politics.

It soon became clear that the Ukraine aid freeze was different from the hold placed on other programs. Even after other foreign aid was restored, the money for Ukraine remained blocked.

The suspension of the aid caused confusion and frustration in both Washington and Kiev for months. Mr. Zelensky and other Ukrainian officials were mystified and complained to visiting American lawmakers. For five years, Russia has sponsored separatists in eastern Ukraine, and the government in Kiev had relied on American and European security aid.

American government officials were left in the dark, as well. When staff members at the State and Defense Departments who work on issues related to Ukraine learned of the holds in July, they were puzzled and alarmed, according to current and former government officials familiar with the situation. Pentagon officials tried to make a case to the White House that the Ukraine aid was effective and should not be looked at in the same manner as other aid. But when those arguments were ignored, and when the other

aid was allowed to move forward, the Pentagon officials began to wonder about the White House's skepticism, a former official said.

The assistance came in two pots overseen by different agencies — \$250 million from the Defense Department's Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and \$141 million from the State Department's foreign military financing program. The funds were intended to help train and equip Ukrainian forces in their fight to stave off Russian incursion.

Congressional committees had approved the defense assistance to the Ukrainian military in two tranches — the first in early April and the second in early June, shortly after the Pentagon submitted the spending for approval, according to the officials.

That cleared the way for the administration to finalize the release of the assistance. The Defense Department had already begun processing some of those funds, and officials worried that if the White House did not release the funding before the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, it would be lost.

Defense and State Department staff members were frustrated when they sought explanations or resolutions from the White House Office of Management and Budget and contacted the offices of members of Congress considered sympathetic to the cause.

Lawmakers pressed the administration on why the Ukraine aid was being held, but were first told the assistance was being reviewed to determine whether it was in the best interest of foreign policy. Other administration officials said, without detail, there was a review on corruption in Ukraine, according to current and former officials. Then, as August drew to a close, other officials told lawmakers they were trying to gauge the effectiveness of the aid, a claim that struck congressional aides as odd, the officials said. But Vice President Mike Pence later said that the review was based on concerns from the White House about "issues of corruption." Without detailing those concerns, Mr. Pence, after a meeting with Mr. Zelensky in Warsaw on the sidelines of a commemoration of the outbreak of World War II,

told reporters that to invest more taxpayer funds in Ukraine, "the president wants to be assured that those resources are truly making their way to the kind of investments that will contribute to security and stability in Ukraine."

A handful of Republican and Democratic senators who belong to a bipartisan Ukraine caucus wrote a letter to Mr. Mulvaney early this month expressing "deep concerns" over the delay in releasing the funding. The funding is "vital to the long term viability of the Ukrainian military," helping it "fend off the Kremlin's continued onslaughts within its territory," the senators wrote.

Pressure on the White House from Republican senators intensified. Senator Rob Portman of Ohio spoke to Mr. Trump about the funds, and Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina informed the White House that he planned to support an amendment by Senator Richard J. Durbin, Democrat of Illinois, that would block Pentagon spending to ensure that the Ukraine funds were released. On Sept. 11, the administration told lawmakers it would release the funds.

Two days before, Representative Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, had released a letter he had sent to the acting director of national intelligence revealing the existence of a whistle-blower case that might involve the president — touching a series of disclosures in the news media that brought the controversy over the Ukraine aid to a full crisis.

House Democrats on Monday moved to try to force Mr. Trump's hand, even as they weighed voting on a resolution this week condemning his actions. At the same time, the chorus of lawmakers demanding impeachment grew louder, underscoring how the latest revelations about the president have touched off a seismic shift under Democrats' feet. Seven freshman House Democrats with military and national security experience — most of whom have been reluctant to call for impeachment — spoke out Monday night in a strongly worded opinion article in The Washington Post.

"If these allegations are true, we believe these actions represent an impeachable offense," the lawmakers wrote. The authors were Representatives Gil Cisneros of California, Jason Crow of Colorado, Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, Elaine Luria of Virginia, Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey, Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia.

The chairmen of three House committees investigating the matter threatened to issue subpoenas in the coming days if the administration did not hand over a transcript of the call and documents related to the decision to withhold the aid money. A failure to do so — or to disclose to Congress a secretive whistle-blower complaint said to be related to the Ukraine matter — would be considered obstruction, they said, an indication that they could consider it grounds for impeachment.

"If press reports are accurate, such corrupt use of presidential power for the president's personal political interest — and not for the national interest — is a betrayal of the president's oath of office and cannot go unchecked," the chairmen of the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Reform Committees wrote on Monday in a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. →13

First Announcement

Call for public tender (First/Second publish)

Two-Stage (semi compressed) tender

N.I.O.C Subject of Tender: COMPLETION TUBING PIPE 3-1/2" & 4-1/2" National Iranian Drilling Company

1398.3968

The Tender holder	Registration No. through national electronic tendering system	Tender No./Andent No.	Estimated value (Rial/Euro)
National Iranian Drilling Company	3215363	PPP/AZD/98/004 48-22-9822017	194,542,000,000

Qualitative evaluation of tenderers

Method

Based on minimum scoring (50) made in award criterion reflected in the tenderers pre-qualification forms.

1. The tenderers who have more than four (4) active contracts with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender.

2. The tenderers who have more than two (2) active contracts with same subject (exactly compliance with this subject) with NIDC are not allowed to attend in this tender.

Purchasing & Submitting

Tender Documents Distribution by Company	Distribution Place	Submitting Method
	The distribution of the documents will be started one day after the publishing of second advertisement and ended on the following tenth days thereof.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt in the amount of Iranian Rial's under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC Incomes Centralized Fund" is sued by I.R. Of Iran Central Bank. Submitting format Request for the purpose of receiving Tender Documents.
	Hall No. 316, 3th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept. (DRILLING PROJECTS), National Iranian Drilling Company, After Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN. Tel: 061341468222 B) jomhuri street , yaghma alley nioc 8th building floor no : 04 room no 428 – tehran -iran . Tel: 02166700249	
	Closing date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Days after the last time of Purchasing.
	Documents Receiving Method	H Hall NO. 107, 1st floor, Tender committee, Operation building, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN. Tel: +98-61-34148580 +98-61-34148569

Tender Guarantee

Value of guarantee	5,859,000,000 Rial/ 124,443 Euro
Type of guarantee	Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that obtain activity license from the central bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Submitting one original Bank Fund Receipt under account number 4001114006376636 (Shaba No. IR520100004001114006376636) in name of "NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.
Duration of credit & quotation	"NIDC saving account" by the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. Tender Guarantee and quotation should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial validity duration.

(Name of department)

More of this & other tenders are accessible by click on: www.nidc.ir http://sapp.ir/nidc_pr

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Second Announcement

1398.3861

N.I.S.O.C

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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. 2, 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 21,469 EURO or 2, 662, 850,000 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

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Qeytarieh park
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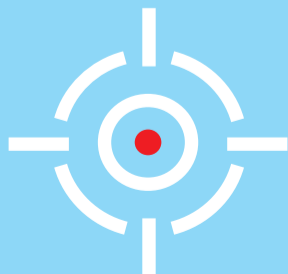
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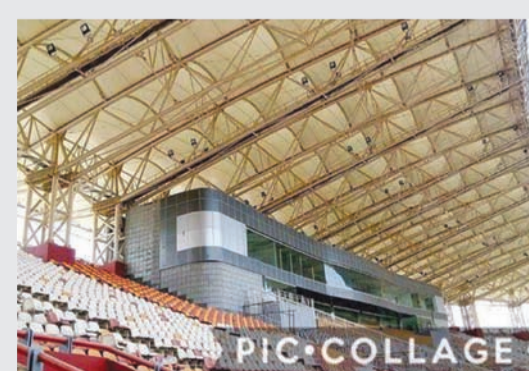
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NASA in megadeal with Lockheed for Moon mission

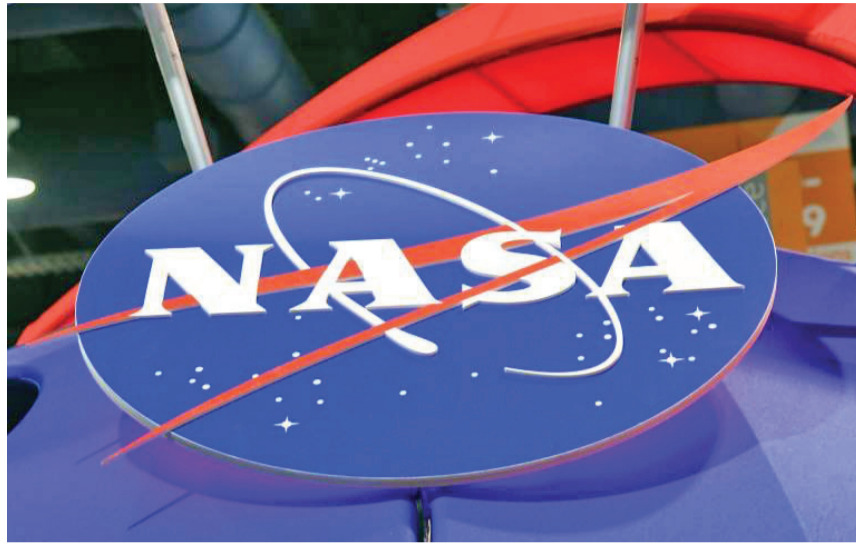
NASA on Monday earmarked almost \$3 billion to Lockheed Martin to build three Orion capsules, to allow US astronauts to return to the Moon by 2024.

The megadeal calls for a first phase including three capsules for \$2.7 billion, for Artemis missions III to V - to take astronauts back to the Moon.

Each capsule can carry four astronauts. The space agency plans to order three more capsules during fiscal year 2022 for missions VI to VIII, for a total of \$1.9 billion, said a NASA statement.

Six other capsules can be ordered later. «This contract secures Orion production through the next decade, demonstrating NASA's commitment to establishing a sustainable presence at the Moon to bring back new knowledge and prepare for sending astronauts to Mars,» said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

The Orion capsule must be able to bring astronauts to the Moon and back, and it must also be capable of traveling to Mars and beyond.



«Orion is a highly capable, state-of-the-art spacecraft, designed specifically for deep space missions with astronauts, and

an integral part of NASA's infrastructure for Artemis missions and future exploration of the solar system,» Bridenstine added.

NASA believes that ordering in groups of three capsules - up to a dozen are now envisaged - should help it save money.

The service module - the part of the ship that has the main elements to keep astronauts alive during their flight - is the responsibility of the European Space Agency.

Orion capsules must also be reusable at least once.

In addition to the capsule that will orbit around the Moon attached to a mini-station (the Gateway), NASA asked the aerospace sector at the end of July to propose detailed vehicle projects to land two astronauts on the Moon by 2024, including the first woman.

For now, the Artemis program is running behind schedule, mainly because of the construction delays of the SLS heavy rocket, piloted by NASA.

The flight of the Artemis I mission - unmanned - is scheduled for 2020. The first manned Artemis II flight is scheduled for 2022.

(Source: msn)

New route to carbon-neutral fuels from carbon dioxide



If the idea of flying on battery-powered commercial jets makes you nervous, you can relax a little. Researchers have discovered a practical starting point for converting carbon dioxide into sustainable liquid fuels, including fuels for heavier modes of transportation that may prove very difficult to electrify, like airplanes, ships and freight trains.

Carbon-neutral re-use of CO₂ has emerged as an alternative to burying the greenhouse gas underground. In a new study published in Nature Energy, researchers from Stanford University and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) show how electricity and an Earth-abundant catalyst can convert CO₂ into energy-rich carbon monoxide (CO) better than conventional methods.

The catalyst - cerium oxide - is much more resistant to breaking down. Stripping oxygen from CO₂ to make CO gas is the first step in turning CO₂ into nearly any liquid fuel and other products, like synthetic gas and plastics. The addition of hydrogen to CO can produce fuels like synthetic diesel and the equivalent of jet fuel. The team envisions using renewable power to make the CO and for subsequent conversions, which would result in carbon-neutral products.

«We showed we can use electricity to reduce CO₂ into CO with 100 percent selectivity and without producing the undesired byproduct of solid carbon,» said William Chueh, an associate professor of materials science and engineering at Stanford, one of three senior authors of the paper.

Chueh, aware of DTU's research in this area, invited Christopher Graves, associate professor in DTU's Energy Conversion & Storage Department, and Theis Skaftø,

a DTU doctoral candidate at the time, to come to Stanford and work on the technology together.

«We had been working on high-temperature CO₂ electrolysis for years, but the collaboration with Stanford was the key to this breakthrough,» said Skaftø, lead author of the study, who is now a postdoctoral researcher at DTU. «We achieved something we couldn't have separately -- both fundamental understanding and practical demonstration of a more robust material.»

One advantage sustainable liquid fuels could have over the electrification of transportation is that they could use the existing gasoline and diesel infrastructure, like engines, pipelines and gas stations. Additionally, the barriers to electrifying airplanes and ships — long distance travel and the high weight of batteries — would not be problems for energy-dense, carbon-neutral fuels.

Although plants reduce CO₂ to carbon-rich sugars naturally, an artificial electrochemical route to CO has yet to be widely commercialized. Among the problems: Devices use too much electricity, convert a low percentage of CO₂ molecules, or produce pure carbon that destroys the device. Researchers in the new study first examined how different devices succeeded and failed in CO₂ electrolysis.

With insights gained, the researchers built two cells for CO₂ conversion testing: one with cerium oxide and the other with conventional nickel-based catalysts. The ceria electrode remained stable, while carbon deposits damaged the nickel electrode, significantly shortening the catalyst's lifetime.

(Source: Science Daily)

Cats, like children and dogs, develop attachments to their caregivers, study shows



A new Oregon State University study finds that pet cats form attachments with their human owners that are similar to the bonds formed by children and dogs with their caretakers.

It's the first time that researchers have empirically demonstrated that cats display the same main attachment styles as babies and dogs, said study lead author Kristyn Vitale, a researcher in the Human-Animal Interaction Lab in OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences.

The study published today in the journal Current Biology.

«In both dogs and cats, attachment to humans may represent an adaptation of the offspring-caretaker bond,» Vitale said. «Attachment is a biologically relevant behavior. Our study indicates that when cats live in a state of dependency with a human, that attachment behavior is flexible and the majority of cats use humans as a source of comfort.»

In their study, the OSU researchers had cats participate in a "secure base test," similar to a test that has been given to infants and dogs to study their attachment behaviors. During this test, the cat spends two minutes in a new room with their caregiver, followed by a two-minute alone phase, and then a two-minute reunion phase.

Upon the caregiver's return from the two-minute absence, cats with secure attachment to the person are less stressed and they balance their attention between the person and their surroundings. For example, they continue to explore the room. On the other hand, cats with an insecure attachment show signs of stress such as twitching their tail and licking their lips, and either stay away from the person (avoidance) or cling to them by jumping in their lap and not

moving (ambivalence).

The researchers conducted the test on both kittens and adult cats. Behavioral experts watched recordings of the tests and classified the animal's actions on criteria that have been used to describe attachment patterns in infants and dogs.

Of the 70 kittens that were classifiable, 64.3% were categorized as securely attached and 35.7% were categorized as insecurely attached.

The researchers were then interested in finding out if socialization training would change those percentages. After a six-week training course, there weren't any significant differences.

«Once an attachment style has been established between the cat and its caregiver, it appears to remain relatively stable over time, even after a training and socialization intervention,» Vitale said.

Cats, like most domesticated animals, retain several juvenile traits into maturity and remain dependent on humans for care, Vitale said. So, the researchers tested 38 cats that were 1 year old or older. The percentages nearly mirrored the kitten population—65.8% secure and 34.2% insecure.

It was surprising, Vitale said, to find how closely the proportion of secure and insecure attachments in the kitten and adult cat populations matched the human infant population. In humans, 65% of infants are securely attached to their caregiver.

«Cats that are insecure can be likely to run and hide or seem to act aloof,» Vitale said. «There's long been a biased way of thinking that all cats behave this way. But the majority of cats use their owner as a source of security. Your cat is depending on you to feel secure when they are stressed out.»

(Source: phys.org)

Laser prototype for space-based gravitational wave detector

Researchers have announced a prototype for a laser at the heart of the first space-based gravitational wave observatory, known as the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) mission. The team's new laser nearly meets the stringent requirements outlined for LISA's instrumentation, representing an important step toward bringing the ambitious observatory program to fruition.

«What a motivating challenge it was to realize a laser system with state-of-the-art performances, capable of meeting the stringent reliability requirements of a space mission,» said Steve Lecomte with the Swiss research firm CSEM, who will present details of the prototype's performance at The Optical Society's (OSA) 2019 Laser Congress, held September 29 to October 3 in Vienna, Austria.

LISA will complement ground-based gravitational-wave detectors, like the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), by deploying a gravitational wave detection system in space. In 2016, NSF announced that LIGO had made the first-ever direct observations of gravitational waves, ripples in the fabric of space and time that were predicted by Albert Einstein 100 years earlier in his general theory of relativity.

Both the LIGO and LISA observatories rely on lasers to detect gravitational waves. In addition to the precision and reliability required for any gravitational wave detector,



the laser onboard the LISA mission must meet additional criteria to ensure it is suitable for long-term use in space.

LISA is led by the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

LISA, scheduled to launch in the early 2030s, will consist of three spacecraft arranged in a triangle millions of kilometers across. The spacecraft will relay laser beams back and forth and combine their signals to find evidence of gravitational waves.

The multitude of components within the LISA system must function perfectly individually and together in order for the mission to succeed. For its part, the laser must meet exacting standards in terms of power output, wavelength, noise, stability, purity and other parameters.

The researchers developed a laser that meets nearly

all of the requirements outlined by ESA and NASA. All of the laser system's optical and electronic components are either compatible with the space environment or based on technologies for which space-grade components are available.

The system starts with a seed laser, the first packaged self-injection locked laser to be realized at the mission-specified wavelength of 1064 nanometers. The light emitted by the seed laser is injected into a core-pumped Yb-doped fiber amplifier (YDFA), which boosts the average power from 12 to 46 milliwatts. A fraction of the amplified light is then directed to an optical reference cavity, which improves the spectral purity and stability of the laser by orders of magnitude.

The main part of the light then crosses a phase-modulator, which adds features that will allow the mission to compare signals across the three spacecraft through a process known as interferometry. Finally, a second core-pumped YDFA and a double-clad large mode area YDFA amplify the signal to almost 3 watts. Additional components help stabilize the power output.

The team created a special test station to assess their prototype laser system. They used a cavity-stabilized ultra-narrow 1560 nanometer laser, an optical frequency comb, an active H-maser and temperature-stabilized low-drift photodetectors as references for measuring the stability of the system's frequency and amplitude.

(Source: Science Daily)

Sean Carroll's new book argues quantum physics leads to many worlds

Quantum physics is about multiplicity.

Its equations describe multiple possible outcomes for a measurement in the subatomic realm. Physicists have devised a dozen or two different interpretations of what that really means. And in turn, dozens and dozens of books have been written to explain, defend or deny the validity of those various interpretations.

Caltech physicist Sean Carroll's Something Deeply Hidden defends one of the most provocative of those interpretations: that multiple possible measurement outcomes imply a multiplicity of universes. Known as the Many-Worlds Interpretation, that view contends that all the possible outcomes of quantum experiments actually come true.



Measuring the spin of an electron, for instance, might yield the result that the spin axis points either up or down. When the measurement is made, the universe splits, branching into two copies, one with the spin up, the other with the spin down. As each measurement is made, this view of quantum theory insists, additional universes are instantly created.

«The theory describes many copies of what we think of as 'the universe,» Carroll writes, «each slightly different, but each truly real in some sense.» If you want to know where these branches are, he says, «There is no 'place' where those branches are hiding; they simply exist simultaneously, along with our own, effectively out of contact with it.»

Many Worlds is a well-known quantum interpretation, originated in the 1950s by American physicist Hugh Everett III. It was mostly ignored for a long time. But in recent decades, many physicists have found it (or variants of it) preferable to the traditional view of quantum mechanics associated with Danish physicist Niels Bohr.

That standard approach is often glibly derided as «shut up and calculate,» since all the quantum math does is provide a recipe for calculating the likelihood of different experimental results. It doesn't have anything to say about what unseen, or deeply hidden, mechanisms might be responsible for the recipe. And all competing interpretations, it seemed, predicted the same observable results.

But maybe not. Carroll argues that the various interpretations are actually «well-constructed scientific theories, with potentially different experimental ramifications.»

Carroll echoes Everett in contending that the key mathematical expression in quantum physics, known as the wave function, should be taken seriously. If the wave function contains multiple possible realities, then all those possibilities must actually exist. As Carroll argues, the wave function is «ontic» — a direct representation of reality — rather than «epistemic,» a merely useful measure of our knowledge about reality for use in calculating experimental expectations. In epistemic interpretations, «the wave function isn't a physical thing at all, but simply a way of characterizing what we know about reality.»

In the ontic view, favored by Carroll, reality as a whole is one comprehensive universal wave function. We split up into copies of ourselves as we travel along the branching paths of events that the wave function encompasses. Or, as Carroll suggests, you can think of the process «as dividing the existing universe into almost identical slices.»

As quantum books go, Carroll's is exceptionally clear, conversational and enjoyable. He has a knack for linguistic lubrication that helps make some highly technical concepts reasonably smooth to swallow. His is by far the most articulate and cogent defense of the Many-Worlds view in book-length depth with a close connection to the latest ongoing research (in the arena known as quantum foundations).

There are some minor shortcomings. Carroll's historical passages are sketchy and sometimes misleading. The atoms proposed by Greek philosophers were not pointlike, as Carroll writes — they had size and shape and possibly even parts. And the last salvo of Bohr's quantum debate with Albert Einstein was not papers on quantum entanglement in 1935, but Bohr's 1949 essay on the debate in a collection of papers about Einstein, and Einstein's reply.

Toward the end of the book, the clarity of Carroll's narrative diminishes somewhat — no doubt, as he acknowledges, because he has passed from the realm of established physics to the current unsettled search for the correct theory combining quantum physics with gravity. From that search, recent work indicates, an understanding of the quantum origins of space and time might emerge.

As for the many quantum worlds, Carroll's case is strong but not conclusive. As he notes, a process known as quantum decoherence is «absolutely crucial to making sense» of the Many-Worlds view, explaining what happens when measurements select one possibility out of the wave function. In essence, decoherence occurs when microscopic quantum objects get entangled with the macroscopic environment, ensuring that only one result is observed by an experimenter on one branch. The other outcome occurs in another branch.

But other quantum experts use decoherence to explain quantum phenomena without invoking multiple universes. And as Carroll admits, the decoherence process does not require belief in the reality of the other branches. It just seems to him (and many others) to be the most elegant explanation for quantum mysteries.

So it remains the case that the ultimate definitive account of how to properly explain quantum mechanics remains unwritten. That secret remains hidden, if perhaps not quite as deeply as it once was.

(Source: Sciencenews.org)

Traces of early humans found in southern Iran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — A team of archaeologists has found traces of early humans and their basic handmade tools near the village of Bangelayan, southern Hormozgan province.



"Traces of early human presence, which dates over 40,000 years, were discovered in Bandar Abbas [county]," CHTN quoted Hormozgan province's tourism chief as saying on Monday.

"Stone artifacts discovered from this area include parent rock, related components, modest chips, as well as serrated and abrasives tools, which were notably scattered across the area," Reza Borumand added.

Regarding technological and typological features of the stone tools, this area can be attributed to the Middle Paleolithic, which spans [somewhat] from 300,000 to 40,000 years ago, which is coincident with the presence of Neanderthals and possibly Homo sapiens in Iran (the Iranian plateau), the official explained.

Earlier this year, the Journal of Human Evolution, suggested that Neanderthals were roaming at the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

The new study on a human tooth discovered in 1999 in a cave called Wezmeh near Kermanshah, western Iran, showed that this tooth that previously thought to be modern human in fact belongs to a Neanderthal child.

According to Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic Department of the Museum and co-author of the article, this premolar tooth belongs to a Neanderthal child who was between six and ten years old at the time of death.

Lower fares make Sin City most popular fall travel destination in U.S.

Las Vegas has emerged the most popular fall travel destination for flyers, says CheapOair.com.

According to the online travel agency, Americans are heeding the call of Sin City this fall, thanks to lower airfare and cooler weather.

Savvy, flexible travelers know that delaying their summer holidays until early September can help them score better airfares, while some of the best airfares of the year can be found during off-peak travel season.

Rounding out the podium of most popular fall travel destinations for flyers this year is Denver, Colorado and Orlando, Florida. "Throughout 2019, Denver has shined as a highly booked getaway due to a variety of outdoor activities available for consumers to take advantage of, and an overall increase in adventure travel among millennials," said spokesperson Tom Spagnola in a press release.

"Fall is also a great time to travel to Orlando to take advantage of less crowded amusement parks during this off-peak travel season."

Here are the top fall destinations according to bookings made between September and November, 2019: Las Vegas, NV; Denver, CO; Orlando, FL; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Los Angeles, CA; Tampa, FL; Dallas, TX; New Orleans, LA; Philadelphia, PA; and San Francisco, CA (Source: MSN)

Exhibition on peace along the Silk Roads opens in Hamedan

TOURISM TEHRAN — A cultural exhibition, revolving around peace and friendship along the famed Silk Roads, opened to the public in the city of Hamedan on Monday.

The exhibit started concurrent with the 6th meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads, which will be running through September 26 in the ancient city.

The exhibition is intended to develop tourism and strengthen cultural relations [among the Silk Road countries], Hamedan Mayor Abbas Sufi said, IRNA reported.

"Undoubtedly, organizing such a meeting on the Silk Roads is of very high importance and we try to be a perfect host," the official added.

Organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Center and UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran in cooperation with the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism, the meeting is scheduled to



bring together experts from sixteen participating countries of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the Silk Roads serial transnational World Heritage nomination.

Representatives from Iran, Afghanistan, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as Bhutan as an observer have been invited to the event.

The ancient Silk Road has existed for thousands of years, passing through many different empires, kingdoms, reigns and societies throughout history. At certain times in its long history, traders could travel freely along these routes, whereas at others, travel was difficult or dangerous.

According to UNESCO, the Silk Road enriched the countries it passed through, transporting cultures, religions, languages and of course material goods into societies across Europe, Asia and Africa, and uniting them all with a common thread of cultural heritage and plural identities.

Iranian adventurer tells of journey to the North Pole

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN — Hossein Naseri, an avid Iranian voyager, has recently come back from an epic journey to the North Pole. He tells us about the expedition in an interview with the Tehran Times.

The North Pole is one of the most remote, yet inaccessible places on Earth. However, it is possible to reach there particularly in June and July when the ice is thinner.

"Planning for my journey took some 35 months because it concerned some fitness measures to enhance physical strength needed for kayaking and ice-climbing to name a few," Naseri explained.

He said that the journey required some time-consuming paper work and legal issues, including a Schengen Visa, adding "Even in an earlier attempt last year, I was deported from one of the Norwegian islands, because I didn't have a visa for entering the free zone."

"Prior to the tough voyage, I made massive efforts to win support from the [Iranian] government or the private sector. Unfortunately I wasn't successful. However, Iran named me a goodwill ambassador of the environment to the North Pole. I also stayed some time in Canada to complete some fitness programs."

He stated that his departure point was from Imam Khomeini International Airport, when he left Tehran for Istanbul on August 14. Paris and Oslo were his following stopovers.

"We (travelers to the North Pole) were a group of 12 people from nine countries, including Finland, England, Australia and the U.S., the Czech Republic and Iran. We had a year of interaction in order to plan our journey," he said.

In response to a question regarding how they organized the journey, he answered, "We coordinated our departure date and got together in Oslo. That wasn't easy at all because everyone wanted to come from somewhere in the world, some from long distances, but eventually we were together; beginning our adventure."



Hossein Naseri (L) and his fellow adventurers during an epic journey to the North Pole.

It might be interesting to know that we had about two trucks of burden that included security devises, guns, medical supplies, tents, boxes of food and clothing, amongst many other things such as kayaks, motor boats.

"Well, so many are traveling to the Arctic by boat or car, as tourists but our itinerary was the same as that of Iranian brothers, Abdullah and Issa Omidvar, had some 65 years ago."

In the 1950s, the Omidvar brothers set out on a 10-year expedition around the world on motorbikes and in a Citroen 2CV, a journey that deliberately passed through places that include Congo, the Arctic Circle and the entire length of the Andes.

"It might be interesting to know that we had about two trucks of burden that included security devises, guns, medical supplies, tents, boxes of food and clothing, amongst many other things such as kayaks, motor boats. Bringing together such stuff by icebreakers was a huge and tough project itself."

He added, "We eventually left our campsite, moving some eight hours per day. However, every two hours at night, two of us were guarding with open eyes to notice polar bears, which were abundant there."

Talking about tough moments, he noted, "During the darkness, two of us were guarding others during posts that changed every two hours. Our special outfits helped us to tolerate 60 degrees below zero."

"The weather in those days varied between 17 to 33 degrees below zero, as a very fierce wind was blowing. There we examined environmental issues such as extinction of animals, clean Earth, clean air, melting polar ice, rising water levels and global warming."

Talking about cultural scene of the journey, the adventurer said, "In addition to our adventurous journey, I carried three flags as ambassadors of Iranian artists, ambassador of Iranian music, and ambassador of Iranian sports, which the three were planted there for the first time."

"I came back home on August 22." Naseri has so far visited 75 fascinating spots of the world including, the Grand Canyon, the Antelope Canyon, Amazon rainforest, various waterfalls and mountains and the most recently the North Pole.

Africa, 2nd fastest growing tourism region in the world

Travel and tourism remained one of the key growth drivers of Africa's economy, contributing 8.5% of the GDP in 2018; equivalent to \$194.2 billion.

According to the 2019 Jumia Hospitality Report Africa, this growth record placed the continent as the second-fastest growing tourism region in the world, with a growth rate of 5.6% after Asia Pacific and against a 3.9% global average growth rate.

"Our focus is to continue showcasing Africa as a continent full of beauty and opportunity. Through this report, we want to help draw attention to the vast potential of the tourism industry, that we believe is an untapped lever of economic growth," said Jumia's Head of Travel (Travel.Jumia.com), Estelle Verdier. She was speaking during the official release of the annual report at the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Addis Ababa, ahead of the 2019 World Tourism Day.

Africa received 67 million international tourist arrivals in 2018, to record a +7% increase from 63 million arrivals in 2017 and 58 million in 2016. This gradual increase is attributed to the affordability and ease of travel especially within the continent, with spending among domestic travelers accounting for 56% as compared to 44% international expenditure. Additionally, leisure travel remains an important component of Africa's tourism industry, taking up a majority 71% of the tourist expenditure in 2018.

Verdier notes that the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) is expected to further boost domestic travel. "To realize the full potential gains will require cooperation from all industry players. Gov-



ernments have to be willing to eliminate visa requirements for African nationals traveling to their countries.

Ministries and other responsible partner organizations should create campaigns that will promote their local travel destinations and tourism offerings to attract more regional travelers. At Jumia, we will continue to offer diversified products at affordable prices including resident rates for regional travelers booking through our platform".

The report, now in its third edition, shows that while pay-at-hotel remained the most popular mode of payment among travelers booking via Jumia's travel platform, its percentage use went down from 65% in 2018 to 62% in 2019 (down -5%). Card transactions gained popularity with +24% within the same period, "and this reflects an increased trust in our booking

platform," Verdier affirmed.

On the other hand, the use of mobile money and travel agencies decreased by -11% and -20% respectively. The mobile, as a source of traffic on the Jumia Travel platform, accounted for a record 74% in 2019 from 57% in 2018, seen as a result of the increased mobile penetration in the continent. The mobile industry contributed \$144 billion to Africa's economy (8.6% of total GDP) in 2018, up from \$110 billion (7.1% of total GDP) in 2017.

While Africa's passenger traffic increased from 88.5 million in 2017 to 92 million in 2018 (+5.5%), its world share was only 2.1% (down from 2.2% in 2017). The report attributes this trend to high competition from other regions such as the Asia Pacific. Africa's share is however predicted to grow by 4.9% annually over the next 20 years.

Improved visa facilitation in major tourism countries in Africa remains a major boost to both the tourism and aviation industries. For instance, Ethiopia's visa relaxation policies combined with improved connectivity as a regional transport hub placed the country as Africa's fastest growing travel country, growing by 48.6% in 2018 to be worth \$7.4 billion.

"Most African government leaders are now committed to making travel between African countries easier and more affordable. An example is the creation of the East Africa Visa program that allows travelers to apply for a visa online before visiting Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. Such collaborations are visionary. It is when we work together, pool our resources, partner and share our best knowledge that we can do much more," stated South African Tourism's Acting Chief Executive Officer Sthembiso Dlamini through her insights on the report.

In terms of top airlines generating most revenue in the African airspace, the report sites Emirates at the top of the list; earning over \$837 million with popular flights from Johannesburg, Cairo, Cape Town and Mauritius. Africa's most profitable air route between April 2018 and March 2019 was from Johannesburg in South Africa to Dubai, generating \$315.6 million in revenue; while state-owned Angola Airlines and South African Airways were the only two African airlines that made it to the top 10 Africa's highest revenue air routes within the same period. Respectively, the two airlines generated \$231.6 million flying from Luanda to Lisbon and \$185 million flying between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

(Source: Africa News)

ROUND THE GLOBE

Aranjuez Cultural Landscape

The Aranjuez Cultural Landscape in Spain is a singular entity of complex and historic relationships between nature and human activity, the sinuous watercourses of the rivers and the geometrical design of the landscape, urban and rural life, and between the forest wildlife and the refined architecture.



The Tagus and Jarama rivers are the two main arteries of the Aranjuez Cultural Landscape, an extensive area (2,047.56 ha) in the south of the Autonomous Community of Madrid. The surrounding buffer zone is located within the municipal boundaries of Aranjuez (16,604.56 ha).

Aranjuez bears witness to various cultural exchanges over a span of time that had a significant influence in the development of its landmarks and the creation of its landscape, thereby becoming a model for its culture's use of its territory.

The process of transformation dates back to the reign of Philip II when, with the influence of the Crown and the wealth of nature as the determining elements, Aranjuez was established as a Real Sitio (Royal Site) in the sixteenth century. The Royal Commands of Ferdinand VI, Charles II, and Isabella II marked its evolution in the 18th and 19th centuries. This landscape survived during the 20th century when it was opened for the enjoyment of the public.

(Source: UNESCO)

C conspiring against Algerian army, state: First heavy trial, involving Bouteflika brother and two intelligence chiefs, begins

By Hana Saada

ALGERIA — The youngest brother of the deposed President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Said Bouteflika, General Mohamed Mediène, known as Toufik, former head of the former Department of Intelligence and Security (DRS), General Tartak, former head of the Department of Surveillance and Security (DSS), as well as Louisa Hanoune, Secretary General of the Workers' Party (PT), along with the former National Defense Minister, Major General Khaled Nezzar, his son Lotfi and the "Mediator" Farid Ben Hamdine, are facing the military judge!

The first heavy trial following the popular movement that broke out on February, 22, calling for the departure of the ancient guard and the prosecution of corrupted officials, began, Monday, September, 23rd, 2019, at the military court in Blida, awaiting further trials that are no less dangerous than the crime of "conspiracy" like the Khalifa and Sonatrach corruption cases, Al-Butcher, the main defendant following the seizure of more than 701 kg of cocaine in Algeria's western port of Oran, a heavy case that show the scandalous involvement of judges and other high-ranked officials in what is being described as the biggest cocaine seizure in Algeria that continues to uncover corrupt officials. In addition to the highway cases, and the trials of the "entourage" of the Bouteflika regime who are accused of corruption, obtaining undue privileges, embezzlement, squandering and concealment of files such as the Prime Minister, Ahmed Ouyahia, and his predecessor Abdelmalek Sallal and ministers in their governments, in addition to the generals, former ministers, such as Ould Abbas, Amar Ghoul, Djemai and Amara Ben Younes. Those trials are part of the wave of arrests targeting the deposed president's inner circle.

With respect to Blida's military Court trial, the court rejected, earlier the request to cancel the arrest warrant issued against the Secretary General of the Workers' Party, Louisa Hanoune, as well as those of the former presidential adviser, Said Bouteflika, and the two former generals, Athmane Tartak known as "Bachir" and Mohamed Mediène known as "Toufik". Indeed, an application for the release of the four defendants was submitted by their lawyers but to no avail. Last April, and May, the military judiciary ordered the four's detention.

Said Bouteflika, the former President's brother and advisor who is widely seen as the real power in the country following his brother illness, called as one-time king-maker, is facing charges of "undermining the authority of the army" and "conspiring" against the state.

The other defendants are facing the same charges, accused of "conspiracy" against the army and the state, an act that is severely punishable under article 284 of the Code of Military Justice which stipulates that: "Any individual guilty of conspiracy to violate the authority of the commander of a military formation... shall be punished by criminal imprisonment from five (05) to ten (10) years".

The conspiracy to change the regime is, also, "punishable by Article 77 of the Criminal Code to the death penalty.

Mediène, nicknamed Toufik, was the Chief of the all-powerful DRS intelligence agency from its foundation in 1990 till 2015.

Tartak, his deputy, succeeded him and following the bodies dismantle in 2016; he served as Algeria's security coordinator under the supervision of the presidency.

The judicial investigation focused on these "secret meetings" between Said Bouteflika and the implicated, that the chief of staff of the ANP, Ahmed Gaid Salah, denounced in his speech of April 16, 2019 and evoked in his declaration of March 30, speaking of "parties that plot against popular demands and the army." If we refer to the indiscretions of some lawyers, there would have been three meetings at the villa



Dar El Afia belonging to the Directorate of Internal Security (DSI).

The facts of this case go back to the end of March when Said intensified calls and meetings with high-ranked officials, including Intelligence Chiefs, along with politicians seeking their advice on the transitional period amid protesters demanding Bouteflika to step down after announcing his candidacy for a fifth term.

According to the Algerian French language news website "ElWatan" two meetings took place on March 27th. The first grouped General Toufik with Said Bouteflika in the morning, followed by another in the afternoon, attended by Louisa Hanoune, General Toufik and Said Bouteflika. It was the day after the Deputy Minister of National Defense, Chief of Staff of the National People's Army, Army Corps General Ahmed Gaid Salah's declaration where he asked for the application of Article 102 which provides for the resignation of the President or the impediment for illness.

As head of a political party worried about the country, noted one of the lawyers, Louisa Hanoune wanted to inquire about the situation with the brother and adviser of the President, then still in office. General Toufik joined them and asked that the meeting be held at the villa Dar El Afia, which is not far from his home instead of going to the residence of the Presidency.

The discussions were related to possible roadmaps "for an exit" of President Bouteflika "after a period of transition." Some names of politicians who could lead this period were mentioned and the possible departure of Gaid Salah mentioned by Said Bouteflika. The meeting lasted only one hour.

On March 28, Said Bouteflika received in the same villa General Toufik to which he asked to convince former President of the Republic Liamine Zeroual (.....) to agree to lead the transition. The next day, the two men meet at his home at the Moretti State Residence on the morning of March 30. The meeting is very short. Liamine Zeroual refuses the offer of General Toufik and returns to Batna province, his home land.

Following these development, discovered by Gaid Salah, this latter said about the arrests: "There is no doubt that the heads of discord, which have been exposed, as well as their criminal and pernicious acts harmful to Algeria, are now suffering the fair and equitable punishment they deserve by the force of the law", revealing that there will be more arrests.

"The investigation will reveal new people involved in the plot against the Army and Algeria." "Those whom the ongoing persevering and thorough investigations will undoubtedly reveal in the future, will also be punished in a fair and equitable manner by the force of law," he argued.

■ Saturday, March 31, the long-st day

On March 31, Gaid Salah convened the heads of the armed forces, the commanders of the six military regions and the secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense. He demanded the "immediate" application of Article 102, denouncing "those who plot against the people and their army".

Gaid Salah reiterated that the application of articles, 7, 8 and 102 of the Constitution is "the only guarantee" to preserve the country's stability.

"The solution to the crisis cannot be considered outside the application of Articles 7, 8 and 102" of the Constitution, "the Army Chief highlighted from the 1st Military Region, affirming that "the Army position remains unchangeable insofar as it is constantly in line with the constitutional legality and places the interests of the Algerian people above all other considerations."

Article 7 of the Constitution adopted in 2016 stipulates that "the people are the source of all power" and that the "national sovereignty belongs exclusively to the people.

Article 8 stipulates that the "constituent power belongs to the people". It also provides for that "the people exercise their sovereignty through the institutions ..." and that they (the people) "exercise it also by referendum and through their elected representatives".

Under this article, "the President of the Republic may resort directly to the expression of the People's will."

Article 102 of the Constitution applicable when the President of the Republic "because of a serious and lasting illness, is totally unable to perform his duties" or in case of resignation, stipulates that the President of the Council of the Nation shall assume the Function for a period of 45 days, in case of "impediment" of the Head of State.

On 1 April, at the end of the day, a communiqué from the Presidency mentions Bouteflika's resignation "before" the end of his term on April 28th.

■ Important changes

On April 3, Former President Liamine Zeroual (1994-99) broke the wall of silence, confirming his meeting with General Toufik, at the request of the latter, who would have proposed to him to preside over the transition, in agreement with Said Bouteflika, but he refused.

On 16 April, Gaid Salah accused Toufik of having participated in secret meetings "to conspire against the demands of the people and to hinder the solutions of the ANP and the proposals for ending the crisis". He threatens him with "resorting to firm legal measures in case he persists in his actions". A few days later, a judicial inquiry was opened at the Blida military court.

Other heavy cases will be launched in tandem with this case; one of them is the Khalifa file, described as the scandal of the century during the tenure of the former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. In addition to Sonatrach case, revived by the popular movement "El Hirak".

Last May, and four years after the folding of the Khalifa case, the file was reopened by the second chamber of the Supreme Court. Earlier, the criminal court of Blida imposed an 18-year sentence against the principal defendant in the case, Abdelmoumene Khalifa, who appealed the ruling at the Supreme Court level. This case caused a loss of \$5 billion to the state treasury.

The opening of this file coincided with another heavy file involving Algeria's larg-

est oil company, Sonatrach. According to Echourouk news website, this case is linked to a \$ 250 million bribe that the company and the public treasury incurred, with the complicity of certain parties, by manipulating the Public Transactions Law, which was not respected by Sonatrach that is under the control of the Accounting Board and the General Inspectorate of Finance.

The case goes back to early 2010 involving two files known as Sonatrach cases 1 and 2, with former energy minister Chakib Khalil as the first defendant, along other ones, such as: the former General Director of Sonatrach Mohamed Meziane. Varying charges were issued in February 2016 against the defendants ranging from guiltiness to six years of imprisonment with fines against some of them, while Khalil escaped prosecution after dropping an international arrest warrant against him due to a mistake in the proceedings, he was summoned on April 24 by the Supreme Court for interrogation, but the latter filed a medical file.

In the same vein, the judicial authorities will commence adjudication in another scandal that made the event in 2018 related to the seizure of 701 Kg of cocaine. The shipment was seized en route from the port of Valencia, Spain, to the port of Oran in western Algeria, and the drugs were then found aboard the Liberian-registered ship, the Vega Mercury, in boxes marked "halal meat".

This scandal led to the arrest of the influential businessman and real-estate mogul Kamal Shikhi, nicknamed "Al-Boushi" or "the Butcher", the main defendant in this trial that will unveil many facts involving important high-ranked figures as worldwide drug traffickers have a long history of using their political connections to evade arrest and expand their operations.

The string of prominent politicians and businessmen from the "entourage" of former President Bouteflika, part of them remanded in custody, will, also, face trials following the preliminary investigations launched against them. These officials; Prime Ministers, influential Ministers, Governors, and executives, are facing various charges, including unjustly obtaining or granting undue privileges, granting deals and contracts which are contrary to the regulation and legislation in force, embezzlement, abuse of power. The trials of tycoons and oligarchs, imprisoned in El Harrach, such as Rabrab, Haddad, Kouninev and others, on suspicion of involvement in corruption cases, will begin too.

Returning to conspiring against the Algerian army and state, national and international public opinion awaits this heavy and unique trial impatiently given the weight of the accusations and the high-ranked military and political figures involved. If convicted they could face lengthy prison terms.

According to an AFP photographer, security was tight with police blocking access by vehicles and pedestrians to the court's two entrances.

The Algerian National Television revealed that the lawyer of General Toufik has pleaded, during the trial still taking place, for the session to be adjourned because of his client's poor health.

"He's not in a state to explain himself, listen to questions, defend himself or be judged," Miloud Brahimi was quoted as saying by the Algerian French language Soir d'Algerie newspaper.

In a letter, the Mediène family, also, referred to the deterioration of the general's state of health. "His state of health worsened after his imprisonment on May 5, 2019 following a fall on the tenth day of his detention in the Blida prison, causing a complex fracture of the right shoulder blade," said the family of General Toufik.

The trial is closed to non-state media and none of the accused has made public comments about the allegations. Observers are still waiting for the verdict of this historic trial, to be pronounced in the coming days.

(To be continued)

Five big companies control most of the mainstream media. Can they be trusted?

By Rick Hayes

If there is one critical component responsible for the division this country is suffering with, it is the loss of trust in the information provided by news organizations once relied upon by Americans. According to a September 2018 article in the Columbia Journalism Review, poll conducted by the Knight Foundation and Gallup found that a majority of those surveyed said they had lost trust in the media in recent years, and more than 30 percent of those who identified themselves as being conservative said they had not only lost faith in the media but they "expect that change to be permanent." The report added, "According to a separate Gallup poll from earlier this year that tracked trust in major institutions, newspapers, and television news were among the lowest, exceeded only by Congress."

He who holds the reins of communication shapes the opinions and to a large extent the direction of the country, and for now, the Left has a near monopoly on much of what Americans are exposed to. Inside an Investor's Business Daily November 2018 article:

Despite journalists' denials, it's now pretty much a fact that journalism is one of the most left-wing of all professions." The piece went on to say that researchers from Arizona State University and Texas A&M University questioned 462 financial journalists around the country from organizations such as the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press and a number of other newspapers, and found that 17.63% called themselves "very liberal," while 40.84% described themselves as "somewhat liberal."



In attacking Trump, the Left is generously making use of the ideas of Germany's Joseph Goebbels, who said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." They publish and air lies made out of whole cloth without a shred of fear of accountability as they debate among themselves whether Trump is either incompetent or treasonous.

According to a May 2017 report from the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School, "Trump's coverage during his first 100 days set a new standard for negativity." Negative reports outpaced positive ones with 80 percent negative against 20 percent positive. Trump's coverage was merciless. In no week did the coverage drop below 70 percent negative, and it reached 90 percent negative at its peak."

Regarding Trump's fitness for office, the New York Times had published 6 to 1 in negative coverage, while the Washington Post ran negative coverage at a staggering 24 to 1.

The report concluded, "Trump's coverage during his first 100 days was negative even by the standards of today's hyper-critical press. Studies of earlier presidents found nothing comparable to the level of unfavorable coverage afforded Trump." Far left of center TV show The View has routinely descended into a level of the demented regarding relentless attacks on Trump. Joy Behar, one of the show's hosts, actually said on air that "Trump is basically working with ISIS to kill us" — an insane statement met with agreement by morally corrupt co-host Whoopi Goldberg. Simply put, Trump was never given a chance.

So destroying the president with extreme dishonesty is a penalty-free propaganda activity for the leftist media who are also interested in systematically eliminating the First Amendment. Under President Obama, attacks against conservatives went mostly unreported. Back then, a large number of conservative groups were targeted and crushed by Obama's powerful IRS without much reporting or fallout. Today, the IRS's anti-conservative functions have been substituted by Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Conservative-based social media channels with large followings such as Diamond and Silk, Steven Crowder of Louder with Crowder, and Mark Dice regularly face social media suspensions and demonetization attacks due to their conservative beliefs.

Conservatives from around the country should, at the very least, be concerned because the wide net containing what is considered hate speech is unquestionably broad enough to cover every conservative site in the country. Facebook defines hate speech as "a direct attack on people based on what they call protected characteristics — race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, caste, sex, gender, gender identity, and serious disease or disability."

There has been an unmistakable shift in the extremely unhinged ways the leftist propaganda machine attacks anything honoring American values. This is why Trump's slogan, "Make America Great Again," is seen as akin to a KKK hood.

What has drastically changed in these past many years is the consolidation of who owns the news media. It was the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that established media cross-ownership. At the time, it was thought that the act would encourage competition, but it instead increased mergers. In 1983, there were about fifty companies that had control of 90% the media. According to a report in 2018 by Jaron Brandon, digital content manager at Opera Software, a total of five holding companies and media conglomerates control most of the mainstream news stations. These were identified as Comcast, Walt Disney Corporation, Time Warner, 21st Century Fox, and National Amusements. Some billionaires like Rupert Murdoch and Michael Bloomberg have always been longtime media people, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post as a side venture — the kind of purchase that will appeal to leftist billionaires.

Stopping the takeover of the media by leftists must become a top priority. NBC, MSNBC, CNBC, and Telemundo are under NBC Universal and owned by Comcast.

The Walt Disney Corporation owns ABC. It also owns ESPN, Marvel, Disney Studios, and A&E networks. CNN is owned by Turner Broadcasting, which is owned by Time Warner. They also own HBO and Warner Brothers. A telling sign that the left will not stop until it has total domination of the media in this country is the fact that all these enormous leftist communication giants aim to silence Fox News, one of the last places conservative voices can be heard.

(Source: AmericanThinker.com)

Imposing sanctions on central bank complicating legitimate business with Iran: Nephew

➔ The Central Bank is involved in foreign currency transfers and these may create new sanctions exposure, including for humanitarian trade. But, this will have to be detailed by the Treasury Department as it clarifies the content and extent of its sanctions in the coming days and weeks.

Likewise, there may be complications for those buying natural gas from Iran, which is presently covered by waivers. Those waivers may need to be reissued.

■ Trump claimed they would be the "highest sanctions ever imposed on a country" and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said "We've now cut off all source of funds to Iran." How much these sanctions will impose pressure on Iran?

A: If these sanctions create new pressure on Iran, then it is only because of the humanitarian consequences.

Existing sanctions already sharply limited the economic activity of these institutions abroad and I do not see much greater damage coming from them.

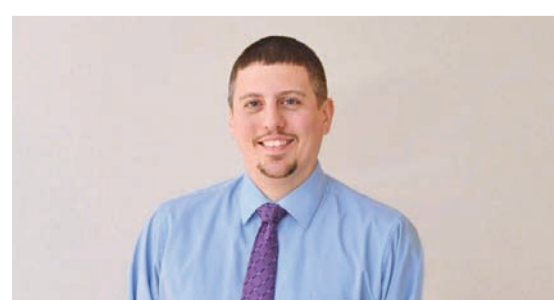
■ U.S. has sanctioned Iran central bank in 2012. Why does he sanction it again? What is the new in this case?

A: What is new is that the CBI is now subject to a formal designation under U.S. law, meaning that there are direct, secondary sanctions consequences. In other words, while it was already sanctionable to do business with the CBI if significant financial transactions are concerned, it is now mandatory to impose sanctions on those found to be engaged in significant financial transactions with the CBI.

The scope of how far this goes and how Treasury will interpret its rules in this regard are what we need to be clarified.

■ Are there another sanctions for imposing to Iran? Do you think that all sanctions that imposed on Iran will fulfill the Trump goals about Iran?

A: Sure, there are other sanctions that could be imposed. But, ultimately, I think that our sanctions have already targeted Iran's biggest economic activities. So, the real



question now is: will the pressure of those actions -- which is cumulative, building as time goes on and activity is limited -- ultimately change Iran's thinking on its nuclear and other policies? I am skeptical but this is, after all, for Iran's leaders to say.

Tehran metro hosts 13,000 cyclists in 10 months

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Some 13,000 bike riders used the metro since last year on the Iranian calendar month of Azar (November 22 to December 21, 2018), according to Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company.

Taking bikes on trains is allowed at Tehran's subway during off-peak hours on weekdays.

Peak hours for subways are from 6:30 am till 9:30 am and between 4 pm and 7 pm on weekdays. There are no peak hours on weekends.



During the first month of summer (June 22-July 22), 2,277 bike riders took a trip on metro and a month later the number increased to 2,681.

While, some 2,402 bike riders used metro over the last month of summer, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The number of cyclists raised to 7,370 during the summer compared to the first three months of this year which was reported 4,298.

Launching the scheme, cyclists will also be able to use the subway, while ordinary bikes are only allowed to enter wagons marked with labels on the train since past 8 months.

During non-peak hours, bikes are allowed in metro as long as they can be folded and stored in luggage racks, while ordinary bikes can enter the trains only on weekends and holidays.

Mohsen Pourseyed Aqaei, deputy mayor of Tehran for traffic and transport affairs, said in June that the national document on bike transport development proposed lately will increase cycling transport to 3.5 percent in the capital.

Deadly red haze shrouds Indonesia as rainforest burns

Fires burning since July have destroyed over 800,000 hectares of rainforest in Indonesia, blanketing the islands in thick toxic smoke which has turned the sky a violent red.

The gigantic conflagrations are causing respiratory problems and there are numerous reports of deaths, including at least six farmers and two children.

Air pollution has reached hazardous levels in neighbouring Singapore, where smoke has shrouded the city state.

The Indonesian government has refused to publish an official death toll as a result of the fires, which are largely illegal slash-and-burn operations designed to clear land for agriculture – predominantly for palm oil plantations.

The worsening situation has also sparked a diplomatic spat as Malaysia has lodged an official complaint accusing Indonesia of not doing enough to tackle the fires.

Last week hundreds of Malaysian schools were forced to close due to the smoke, and the government has distributed half a million face masks. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 20 (NOAA-20) image satellite detected an increase in hotspots with 777 in Sumatra and 363 in Kalimantan – the Indonesian part of the island of Borneo.

The devastating blazes have been exacerbated by a long dry season since June.

Indonesian president Joko Widodo visited one of the burnt forest areas this week and told reporters he had sent 5,600 more personnel to assist in controlling the fires, as well as 52 aircraft to dump water on the areas still alight.

(Source: The Independent)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Political process has been stalled over arms issue

(October 24, 2001)

The IRA has said it has put some weapons 'beyond use' in what will be widely seen as an historic breakthrough for the Northern Ireland peace process. The process will probably follow a different pattern from what happens in other parts of the world, because of the Province's unique political situation. This report from Richard Black:

Usually, armed groups give up their weapons which are simply destroyed. For small arms, this means bending, cutting or crushing them, while explosions are sometimes used to get rid of larger guns and landmines. Often the destruction takes place **in public**, as a visible symbol of peace replacing war. This has been the fate of weapons used in **civil conflicts** in Cambodia, Mali, El Salvador and many other nations. It has happened in Northern Ireland too - in 1998, when the Loyalist Volunteer Force **handed over a batch of guns** for public destruction.

But politically, it's very difficult for the IRA to have its weapons destroyed: it would be seen as betrayal by some parts of the Republican community. And so, **the body in charge** of decommissioning has developed a new formula - that weapons must either be made **permanently unusable**, or **permanently inaccessible**.

The favored option may well be to bury the guns in concrete. If it's done properly, this would certainly make them inaccessible. And if the concrete gets into the **barrels** and mechanisms of the guns, it would **render them unusable** too.

Words

in public: if you say or do something in public, you say or do it when a group of people are present

civil conflicts: conflicts between different groups of people who live in the same country

handed over: if you hand something over to someone, you give the control of and responsibility for it to other people

a batch of guns: a certain number of firearms

the body in charge: the specially appointed group of people who have control over and take responsibility for the situation (in Northern Ireland)

permanently unusable: that cannot be used ever again

permanently inaccessible: that cannot be reached or seen ever again

the favored option: the preferred way of going about it

barrels: the barrel of a gun is the tube through which the bullet moves when the gun is fired

render them unusable: make them unusable

(Source: BBC)

Tehran joins European Mobility Week campaign

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — The Municipality of Tehran has joined the European Mobility Week campaign to enhance sustainable transport policies, ISNA news agency reported.

Tehran was officially announced a member of the campaign in a meeting held on Tuesday attended by United Nations Development Program representative in Iran.

Since 2002, European Mobility Week has sought to improve public health and quality of life through promoting clean mobility and sustainable urban transport.

Annually held on September 16-22, the campaign gives people the chance to explore the role of city streets and to experiment with practical solutions to tackle urban challenges, such as air pollution.

European Mobility Week 2019 held with a theme "Walk with Us" puts the spotlight on safe walking and cycling and the benefits it can have on health, environment, while being emission-free.

Cities that promote walking and cycling over private vehicles have also been found to be more attractive, with less congestion and a higher quality of life.

In terms of individual health benefits, studies show that cyclists on average live two years longer than non-cyclists and take 15 percent fewer days off work through illness, while 25 minutes of brisk walking a day can add up to seven years to your life.



Pirouz Hanachi, the mayor of Tehran, said for his part that although metropolises around the world are different, they have issues in common such as air pollution and traffic congestion; so, the solutions might come efficient in other cities.

Reducing the use of personal cars and fossil fuels could be so effective, as 80 percent of Tehran's pollution has a root in fossil fuel, while 40 percent of pollution is directly

related to personal cars, he explained.

Referring to the one percent share of cycling in urban transportation in the country, he noted that many cities in the world are having good share of cycling which must also be promoted in Iran by restricting road building.

Automotive cities today are posing serious threat to people's lives which is mainly caused by inactivity and moving by private cars; so residents needs to cooperate in this

regard for their own sake, he highlighted.

He went on to say that the most important solution to reduce the burden of diseases on the society is promoting cycling and encouraging people to use bikes; the cities' infrastructure however must be developed compatible with biking.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hanachi said that this year Tehran experienced more clean air quality which was due to mandatory technical inspection of the cars and also increased fuel quality.

Referring to metro as a clean transportation system, he stated: "We are trying to reduce waiting times for the passengers, but there is a shortage of 2,000 metro cars."

"Therefore, we put cycling in priority by establishing bike lanes and paths in streets of the capital which being seriously pursued and cycling is going to be verified as a transportation vehicle," he added.

"We should strive to use the opportunities in order to improve people's quality of life," Hanachi said, referring to the need for electric scooters.

He also stated that about 150 bicycles were provided to the students through a scheme called home-school piloted in a school.

He further expressed appreciation to the UNDP representative and said that "We hope to be able to cooperate with the UNDP, one of which is the renovation of old buildings and areas; as Tehran is constantly at risk of earthquakes."

Dental screening to start in elementary schools next month

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A scheme screening oral and dental health of students in elementary schools will be implemented by the upcoming month (starting on November 23) nationwide, head of oral health organization affiliated to the Health Ministry has stated.

Under the scheme, 7 million students will undergo dental screening, ISNA quoted Hamid Samadzadeh as saying on Tuesday.

The oral health screening of elementary students is carried out in collaboration with the Education Ministry in 62,000 urban and rural schools, he said, highlighting, training courses on tooth caring, prevention, screening and fluoride therapy will also be provided to the students.

Health care providers will actively identify the students suffering from tooth decay and refer them to higher levels of treatment, he added.

Referring to a scheme providing free dental health services to students on sixth grade implemented last school year, he said that some 1.2 million students have undergone dental diagnosis; 60 percent of them have so far received free treatment services.

He went on to add that this year the scheme will also be implemented for the sixth-grade students.



After identifying cavities or problems, the student is referred to dentists for further services, and all documents are provided to families if they wish to see their trusted dentist, he noted.

Dental filling, extraction and scaling are the three services provided free of charge to the students residing in areas with a population of less than 20,000, he stated, adding, while Fluoride therapy is done completely free

of charge in all areas.

"It is noteworthy to say that 70 percent of the treatment services are free."

Fluoride therapy prevents tooth decay in children older than 6 months while reducing tooth decay by 20 percent in children, which was offered to 700,000 students last year, he explained.

Last year, 9.5 million students were provided with services, of them 4 million students were diagnosed with cavities and referred to receive higher level of services, and 1.6 million students were provided with dental filling, he added.

The scheme will be started in early-October and will continue to the end of the current school year (June 21), he also noted.

Referring to Decayed, Missing, and Filled Teeth (DMFT) indicator demonstrating the situation of oral and dental health among people of a society, he stated that the DMFT index among first-grade elementary students reduced from 2.09 to 1.8.

"We expected to reduce the index to 1 by the next two years, while it is far reaching and the index will be 1.4 within the next two years," he concluded.

Should meat be banned to save the planet?

That late-night kebab might be considered a guilty pleasure, but could it one day be seen as a crime against the planet? Will the time come when the only means of procuring a slab of Aberdeen Angus is from a dodgy dealer with a cool box? The barrister Michael Mansfield has suggested that we should have new laws against ecocide – practices that destroy the planet – and that under them, meat could be targeted. "I think when we look at the damage eating meat is doing to the planet, it is not preposterous to think that one day it will become illegal," he said.

A study last year by researchers at the University of Oxford, published in the journal Nature, showed meat and dairy produces 60% of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions and takes up 83% of farmland, but delivers just 18% of calories and 37% of protein.

"A vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, eutrophication, land use and water use," said Joseph Poore, who led the research.

Taxes on red meat have been discussed, but is a ban the way to go? "There is not a single magic bullet," says Tim Benton, a professor of population ecology at the University of Leeds. "You could think about changing agricultural subsidies, trade laws, changing what is eaten in hospitals and schools to train people to eat differently. You can think labelling and education, and carbon taxes. All of those have a role but none by themselves will solve the issue, and the idea of saying we're going to make meat illegal becomes somewhat farcical."

Better, he says, to change farming practices to ensure meat has a smaller impact and to

wean ourselves off eating so much. "That, to me, is a much more sensible future – that we start saying it's a treat and we should treat it with the respect it deserves." However, it is worth bearing in mind that even low-impact meat production produces more greenhouse gas emissions than plant substitutes, according to Poore's study.

Don't we need something drastic, such as a ban, to turn us all vegan? "I think it might be a step too far," says Lorraine Whitmarsh, a professor of environmental psychology at Cardiff University. "Our latest survey results show people have mixed feelings about whether we should reduce the amount of meat we consume. Just over half of the public think we should, whereas 67% think we should reduce the amount of flying that we do. So while people are on board with something that previously was seen as quite controver-

sial – reducing flying – meat consumption is something I think is going to be harder to tackle."

Talking about banning it, she says, "might provoke a defensive reaction and risks alienating people who are maybe coming round to the idea that we need to do something about climate change".

(Source: The Guardian)




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(Source: The Guardian)

First Announcement 1398.3922


N.I.S.O.C
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN
TENDER NO. : 01-31-9780015

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

Items	Material Description	Qty
3	P/F " cooper-Bessemer" GAS Turbine Type cobera-182. ROTOR ASSY.RT48-1-7.COL-B. ROTOR ASSY./BALANCED.P/N:10-RT48-1-7.182FUEL CONTROL DIAG.ASSY.RT48-42-49.AEG ACTUATOR.P/N:2-02G-022-003. ROTOR ASSY.RT48-1-7.COL-B.NUT PLAIN RD.P/N:RT48-1-7B	26NO
5	GAS GENERATOR.PRESSURE GAUGE P/N:2-01J-058-512&507.SWITCH PANEL P/N:1-01F-001-016-016OIL CONSOLE ASSY.P/N:2-13-P-025-001.FUEL GAS START/P/N:2-05V-373-001	39 NO
8	P/F " cooper-ROLLS" power GAS Turbine Type RT48.INLET DIFFUSER& NOZZLE ASSY.RT48-4-21.DIFFUSER.P/N RT48-4-6G NO 2. ROTOR ASSY. NO. RT48-1-19. COLLAR THRUST.CEAR HELICAL.BEARING.ASSY.NO.RT45-3-6.SPACER (NOZZLE ADAPTER) INLET DIFFUSER&NOZZLE	110 NO

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. 2, 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 55,246 EURO or 7,126,181,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: WWW.nisoc.ir-material procurement management tab. 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 ۹۸/۶/۳ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۶

(Source: unenvironment.org)

UK Supreme Court rules Parliament suspension 'unlawful, void'

TEHRAN — Prime Minister Boris Johnson acted unlawfully when he suspended the United Kingdom's Parliament, the country's highest court has ruled.

The suspension was "unlawful, void and of no effect", the UK's Supreme Court concluded on Tuesday. Parliament will reconvene its current session at 11:30am on Wednesday morning, House of Commons Speaker John Bercow announced.

Johnson said he "strongly disagrees" with the ruling, but that Parliament "will come back". He hinted that he would seek another suspension.

The prime minister, who suffered a series of defeats when he lost his parliamentary majority and ability to govern through the legislature, suspended Parliament just weeks before the crucial October 31 deadline for the UK to leave the European Union.

Johnson said at the time that a five-week suspension - also known as "prorogation" - was necessary in order to present a new domestic legislative agenda, a ceremonial event which culminates in a speech made by the queen outlining the government's plans.

But the UK's Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Tuesday that the real motivation was to prevent MPs from scrutinising the government ahead of the divorce deadline.

"This was not a normal prorogation in the run-up to a Queen's Speech," said Lady Brenda Hale, president of the Supreme Court, while handing down the judgment. "It prevented Parliament from carrying out its constitutional role for five out of the possible



eight weeks between the end of the summer recess and exit day on 31st October...

"This prolonged suspension of Parliamentary democracy took place in quite exceptional circumstances: the fundamental change which was due to take place in the Constitution of the United Kingdom on 31st October. Parliament, and in particular the House of Commons as the elected representatives of the people, has a right to a voice in how that change comes about. The effect upon the fundamentals of our democracy was extreme."

The normal period to prepare a legisla-

tive agenda was four to six days, she added.

The suspension was "unlawful, void and of no effect", she concluded.

"Parliament has not been prorogued. This is the unanimous judgement of this court."

Johnson must go

Jolyon Maugham, founder and director of the Good Law Project, was one of the driving figures behind the case.

"I am delighted today the Supreme Court has protected the foundational principle of any democracy - the right of MPs to do the job for which they were elected," he said outside the court.

He paid tribute to the 8,000 people who had contributed to a crowdfunding campaign for the legal case. "This victory is yours," he said.

"It's now up to the Speakers of both houses - the House of Commons and the House of Lords - to work out what comes next," Al Jazeera's Rory Challands reported from the Supreme Court.

"The effect is that parliament is still in session and Boris Johnson has said he would respect the decision - the ball is now in his court."

Commons Speaker John Bercow said the House must "convene without delay" and that he would be consulting party leaders "as a matter of urgency".

Pressure on Boris Johnson to resign mounted immediately the judgment was announced.

To huge cheers and chants of "Johnson out!", Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said Johnson should become the shortest-ever serving British prime minister - and that Labour was ready to form a government.

"I invite Boris Johnson, in the historic words, to 'consider his position'," Corbyn told delegates at the Labour Party's annual conference in Brighton.

Scottish National Party politician Joanna Cherry, another key figure bringing the legal case, joined Corbyn's call.

"His position is untenable and he should have the guts for once to do the decent thing and resign," she said outside the court.

Saudi airstrikes hit Yemen's southwest, kill 16

TEHRAN — Latest Saudi airstrikes have killed at least 16 people, 11 of them women and children, in southwestern Yemen.

Yemen's al-Masirah TV reported that the aerial bombardment targeted a residential building in the province of Dhale on Tuesday.

Al-Masirah said other people were still trapped under the rubble.

One paramedic was also injured at the site.

Saudi jets on Monday bombed a mosque in the western province of Amran, killing seven people, including children and women, who had taken refuge in the mosque to escape Saudi attacks.

The intensified air raids come despite an offer by Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement for a ceasefire.

A Houthi official on Friday said the movement would stop targeting Saudi territory if Riyadh ended its strikes.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its allies launched a war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing a former regime back to power.

According to Press TV, The U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the war has claimed more than 91,000 over the past four and a half years.

The war has also taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN says over 24 million Yemenis are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 10 million suffering from extreme levels of hunger.

Russia blasts U.S. for denying visas to UN team members

TEHRAN — Moscow has lashed out at the United States for denying visas to several members of the Russian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), saying the move contravenes the U.S.'s international commitments.

In a statement on Tuesday, Russian Foreign Ministry said that 10 members of the Russian delegation to the UNGA session, including seven employees of the ministry and Leonid Slutsky, the head of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian lower house, had been denied visas, Interfax reported.

The ministry also dismissed as "untenable" the U.S.'s references to technical reasons for denying visas.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov called the U.S. move "outrageous,"

saying that Moscow would respond in kind.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the United States' refusal to provide visas to Russian UN delegates warrants a tough response from both Moscow and the United Nations.

As the host government, the U.S. is generally obliged to issue visas to diplomats who serve at UN headquarters.

According to Press TV, Interfax quoted the ministry's spokeswoman Maria Zakharova as saying that Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov would discuss the issue with his U.S. counterpart Mike Pompeo in New York.

In a similar hostile move, the United States also refused to issue visas to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's aides and the team of reporters, who were to accompany him to New York.

Saudi Arabia blocking UN oceans report

TEHRAN — Oil giant Saudi Arabia is blocking the adoption of a major UN report on oceans and climate change by challenging an earlier UN assessment highlighting the need to slash carbon emissions caused by burning fossil fuels, multiple sources told AFP.

Already deep into overtime, a meeting of the 195-nation Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Monaco remained deadlocked early Tuesday, with delegates tweeting pictures of the rising sun.

A 30-page executive summary is scheduled for release on Wednesday morning.

"It has been 24 hours and there has been absolutely no compromise from the Saudis," said a participant.

"They are undermining the science underlying this report, and it is despicable."

At issue is what might have been a routine reference to an October 2018 IPCC report on the feasibility of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

That assessment detailed the stark consequences for



humanity of piercing that threshold, and the need for deep cuts in the use of fossil fuels.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter, and has

raised similar objections to other IPCC reports.

"It really seems like Saudi Arabia only came to this meeting to block any language on 1.5 C," a participant in the Monaco meeting told AFP.

Two other sources taking part in the five-day talks confirmed the stand-off, noting that Norway, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Chile and the European Union were resisting Saudi proposals to drop any reference to the 1.5 C report, or include a reference to its alleged "shortcomings."

Global warming and pollution caused by humanity's carbon-heavy footprint are ravaging Earth's oceans and icy regions in ways that could unleash misery on a global scale, the IPCC report is set to conclude.

Observed and projected impacts include vanishing glaciers, and expanding marine heatwaves, irreversible sea level rise that could eventually displace hundreds of millions of people, according to a draft seen by AFP.

Trump, Moon meet on North Korea, military cost-sharing

TEHRAN — U.S. President Donald Trump and his South Korean counterpart held a summit in New York on Monday to discuss plans to restart stalled nuclear talks between the United States and North Korea, before a meeting in Seoul to discuss sharing the cost of American soldiers stationed in South Korea.

Although negotiations with North Korea have stalled since a failed second summit between Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong Un in February, the North has said it is willing to restart talks in late September. No date or location has been set.

"There's been no nuclear testing at all," Trump told reporters as he met South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"And the relationships have been very good... We want to see if we can do something. If we can, that'll be great. And if we can't, that's fine, we'll see what happens."

Moon said he hopes working-level negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea will be held soon in preparation for a third summit, but Trump said he would want to know the North's position in the run-up to a third summit with Kim before agreeing to it.

"Right now, people would like to see that happen. I want to know what's going to be coming out of it. We can know a lot before the summit takes place," the US president said.

Military cost-sharing

North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator, Kim Myong Gil, last week welcomed Trump's suggestion for a "new method" in talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programmes, saying he wanted to be "optimistic" the U.S. would present the "right calculation method".

Last week, Trump distanced himself from a suggestion by his former national

security adviser, John Bolton, for a Libyan model of denuclearization for North Korea. Bolton was fired this month, with Trump naming Robert O'Brien as his new national security adviser.

Talks on renewing a military cost-sharing deal with the U.S. will begin on Tuesday in Seoul, South Korea's foreign ministry has said.

South Korea has shouldered part of the cost of stationing 28,500 U.S. troops in the country since a 1991 pact. In March it signed a deal with the U.S. to pay 1.04 trillion won (\$870.94 million) this year - an increase of 8.2 percent on the previous year.

Death toll rises to 26 in protests in Indonesia's Papua

TEHRAN — The death toll from violent protests in Indonesia's restive Papua province has risen to 26 after several bodies were found under burned buildings, officials said Tuesday.

An angry mob torched local government buildings, shops and homes and set fire to cars and motorbikes in Papua province's Wamena city Monday in a protest by hundreds of people sparked by rumors that a teacher had insulted an indigenous student.

Papua police spokesman Ahmad Musthofa Kamal said Tuesday that six more bodies were found in and around the burned-out wreckage of buildings engulfed in the fires

set by rioters. Another 70 people were injured.

He said the number killed is expected to rise as authorities comb through affected areas in Wamena. Another 70 people were hospitalized, many with burn wounds or head injuries.

National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said police were questioning 733 university students involved in another protest in Jayapura that left one soldier and three civilians dead.

The students were among those studying in other Indonesian provinces who returned home during previous protests last month. Those protests were triggered by videos circulated on the internet showing security forces calling

Papuan students "monkeys" and "dogs" in East Java's Surabaya city when they stormed a dormitory where Papuan students were staying, after a torn Indonesian flag was found in a sewer.

The students had forced a local state university to accommodate them, and their protest turned violent on Monday as a mob of angry students attacked a soldier and several police officers with machetes and rocks. Security forces responded with gunfire, killing three civilians. The soldier died on the way to a hospital. At least five police officers were in critical condition, AP reported.

Decoding Iranian president plan entitled "Hormuz Peace initiative"

➔ 3. Based on the experience of the 8-year war between Iran and Iraq, which directly or indirectly involved the countries in the region, the international community concluded that the establishment of stable security can be carried out through the use of domestic capacities and regional consensus. So far, and due to various reasons, this approach has not been applied in the Persian Gulf. The main reason is the conflict of the approach with the interests of some trans-regional powers, especially the U.S.

U.S. government seeks to make aviation and shipping conditions in the Persian Gulf insecure, and to form a coalition for the so-called security in the region. It does so through the strategy of maintaining maximum presence and selling weapon to the regional countries.

Indeed, the main cause of insecurity in the Persian Gulf was the enormous and illegal presence of U.S. military fleets in the region. Surely, by stopping this intervention and active presence of the Gulf states in the process of comprehensive security, there will be no need for the presence of other countries and useless coalitions.

Resolution 598 and Article 2 were formed as a result of long and dreadful experiences caused by regional conflicts, and aimed to end war. One of the goals of the Resolution is to provide a legal and consensual context for establishing stable security arrangements in the region.

Iran's proposal and initiative on the anniversary of the sacred defense is a reminder of the bitter and dreadful experiences of the past. It emphasizes on the need to prevent the formation of similar situations through the cooperation and participation of all countries in the region. The proposal is a legal and consensual plan to put an end to the continuous iniquities of foreign countries, especially the U.S. in the region. It is a beginning for removing current tensions and misunderstandings, and establishing security and stability in the Persian Gulf.

Black Days of U.S. President

➔ 7 They added, "By withholding these documents and refusing to engage with the committees, the Trump administration is obstructing Congress's oversight duty under the Constitution to protect our nation's democratic process."

It appeared increasingly likely that the brewing conflict would come to a head on Thursday, when the House Intelligence Committee was already scheduled to question Joseph Maguire, the acting director of national intelligence, who has withheld the whistle-blower complaint under advisement from the Justice Department and the White House. The panel has demanded that Mr. Maguire bring a copy of it with him.

Now, lawmakers also want a decision by Mr. Pompeo — and by extension, Mr. Trump — by that day on whether he will furnish a transcript of the presidential conversation, as well as other materials they have requested. Mindful that Democrats may have only a brief window to decide their course, Speaker Nancy Pelosi summoned the leaders of six House committees involved in investigations of the president to meet on Tuesday, telling the lawmakers to come without aides. Afterward, she planned to convene a special meeting of the Democratic caucus to discuss impeachment.

Their decisions could have grave implications for Mr. Trump's presidency. A growing number of House Democrats said on Monday that the new revelations all but demanded the move. They warned that a decision by the Trump administration not to hand over documents about a matter of urgent national security would leave the House with no choice but to initiate full-bore impeachment proceedings. At the same time, they said, any material that corroborated news reports about Mr. Trump's actions could lead to the same outcome.

"It is clear that the sitting president of the United States placed his own personal interests above the national security interests of the United States," said Representative Angie Craig of Minnesota, who flipped a Republican seat last fall. She called for impeachment proceedings to begin "immediately, fairly and impartially."

Ms. Craig's announcement came alongside that of another Minnesota freshman, Representative Dean Phillips, who warned, "If the reports are corroborated, we must pursue articles of impeachment and report them to the full House of Representatives for immediate consideration."

Ms. Slotkin, a former C.I.A. officer who participated in briefings with Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, and who advocated whistle-blower protections while working for Mr. Bush's director of national intelligence, said the issue was "personal" for her.

Imran Khan admits Pakistan army, ISI trained al-Qaeda

➔ 1 The army people did not agree with this and so there were more insider attacks in Pakistan. There were two attacks on General Musharraf which were from inside," Khan said.

"The (Pakistan) Army chief, the ISI chief had no idea about this (bin Laden being in Pakistan). I know this because they were listening to their conversation the night the raid took place and they said so. So if there was (any knowledge of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad) it took place at lower levels," he said.

On Pakistan joining the U.S.-led War on terrorism in 2001 after the 9/11 attacks, Khan said "Pakistan took a real battering in this," he said, adding that Islamabad should have stayed neutral in the conflict.

The destruction of Israel is certain: Nasrallah

➔ 1 "Israel now has a nuclear weapon and more than three nuclear warheads. This regime has always sought to increase its power over the whole region" Nasrallah said.

Nasrallah also calls Israel's U.S. arm in the region, rejecting Israel as an independent regime.

Earlier, the secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did his utmost to escalate tensions and crises in the Middle East as part of attempts to secure another term in office, but all to no avail. 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.

Trump in April boasted to his supporters about a bizarre phone call with Saudi Arabia's King Salman, where he made the monarch pay more money in exchange for the military support that the kingdom receives from Washington.

Two Schumachers on track in Sochi support races

Two Schumachers will compete in Russian Grand Prix support races this weekend, with Michael's son Mick racing in Formula Two and Ralf's son David taking the Formula Three seat of injured Australian Alex Peroni.

Peroni, 19, suffered a broken vertebra in a huge airborne crash at this month's Italian Grand Prix weekend and has been ruled out of the season-ending double-header.

Mick, 20, is a Ferrari academy driver and competes for the Prema team in Formula Two, one rung below Formula One. His father won a record seven F1 championships.

Campos Racing indicated 17-year-old David, whose father won six races with Williams between 2001-03, could have a future with them beyond 2019.

"He is a young talent and it would be nice to get a commitment in place for longer than Sochi," said Campos CEO Salvatore Gandolfo in a statement.

(Source: Eurosport)

Injured player takes taxi to hospital mid-match

A player for Bolivian club Oriente Petrolero was forced to take a taxi after suffering a broken ankle during a match when the stadium's ambulance driver went missing.

Mario Cuellar suffered the injury in the 74th minute of the club's Sunday match against Guabira at Ramon "Tahuchi" Aguilera stadium, located in the city of Santa Cruz.

When Cuellar went down on the pitch, players from both sides beckoned for medical assistance. The player was then placed on a stretcher and carried to the ambulance at the end of the stadium, where apparently the vehicle was locked and the driver missing.

Television images showed Cuellar being carried on the stretcher through the venue's tunnels and onto the street where he was then placed in the back of a sport-utility vehicle taxi and driven to the hospital.

Oriente Petrolero confirmed Cuellar's injury in a statement, adding that he had underwent surgery and is expected to miss six months. Bolivia's football federation (FBF) stated that the home side -- in this case Oriente Petrolero -- is "obligated" to provide "all security and guarantees" for all those in attendance.

The director of Santa Cruz's municipal sporting services department said in Monday news conference that medical support, among other things, "are the responsibility of the clubs that organize the match."

Media reports in Santa Cruz said the club is looking at legal proceedings against the ambulance operator and the missing company. It is unclear where the driver was during Cuellar's injury.

(Source: ESPN)

Top Russian athlete hits out at Moscow sports officials

Russian high jump champion Mariya Lasitskenskaya on Tuesday hit out at Moscow's sports officials ahead of this month's world championships in Doha, saying she will not let them stop her from going to another Olympics.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Monday gave Russia three weeks to explain "inconsistencies" in a cache of laboratory data handed over to investigators, raising the possibility of a fresh ban on the country in the build-up to the Tokyo Olympics.

Lasitskenskaya, a two-time Olympic champion, is one of the Russian athletes who has been allowed to compete under a neutral flag while others have been banned from sport since November 2015 over a vast doping scandal.

She was barred from taking part in the 2016 Rio Olympics, and said she has "no certainty" that Russian athletes will be allowed to take part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I do not intend to miss a second Olympics in a row because of some strange people that cannot do their job honestly," the 26-year-old wrote on Instagram, referring to Russian athletic officials.

She vowed that Russian athletes will "fully defend our rights to take part" in the Tokyo games.

In June, Lasitskenskaya said athletes were fed up with promises to reform the country's doping-tainted coaching while blaming their failures on an anti-Russian conspiracy.

Russia stands to be declared non-compliant by WADA if it fails to explain why evidence of some positive tests handed over by a whistleblower does not show up in data provided by Moscow's anti-doping laboratory in January.

In another blow on Monday, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) maintained a ban on the Russian athletics federation pending analysis of the data.

(Source: AFP)

Champions League absence darkens Manchester United financial outlook

English soccer club Manchester United forecast annual revenue would fall for the first time in five years after its failure to qualify for this season's UEFA Champions League.

The 20-time English champions endured a "turbulent season" in 2018-19 that saw the departure of manager Jose Mourinho, and could only manage a sixth place finish in the domestic league under former striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

The club, which will play in the less lucrative Europa League this season, has made a stuttering start to the new Premier League campaign and sits eighth.

Executive Vice Chairman Ed Woodward has come under fire as United have seen a string of high-profile managers and expensive players underperform since the departure of Alex Ferguson at the end of the 2012-13 season, when they last won the league title.

"We remain focused on our plan of rebuilding the team and continuing to strengthen our youth system, in line with the philosophy of the club and the manager," Woodward said.

Despite a couple of big-money signings to bolster its defence -- most notably making English centre-half Harry Maguire the most expensive defender in history -- the club has been forced to rely more heavily on its youth system.

The club, whose stock has dropped more than 7% this year, is also lagging other European clubs that have either surpassed it in terms of revenue or are quickly looking to close the gap.

Last week, Spanish giants FC Barcelona reported 990 million euros (872 million pounds) in turnover for 2018-19 and expect it to surpass 1 billion euros this year, while United's domestic rivals Manchester City and Liverpool are also breathing down their necks.

United, which have won Europe's premier club competition three times, forecast revenue of 560-580 million pounds for fiscal 2020, down from 627.1 million reported for 2018-19.

(Source: Reuters)

Best Fifa Football Awards 2019: Things you might have missed

The Best Fifa Football Awards were full of sophistication, elegance and swankiness in Milan's Teatro alla Scala.

Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp came up trumps in the best men's player and best men's coach categories.

United States forward Megan Rapinoe won the best women's player, with her international boss Jill Ellis claiming the women's coach award.

But there was plenty going on away from the actual handing out of the prizes, from the tactics of voting beforehand to a high-profile no-show and one or two remarkable outfits.

■ Ronaldo and Messi's voting habits

With more than 400 managers, players and media representatives voting for the best men's player (each selecting a first, second and third choice), Cristiano Ronaldo remarkably found common ground with Mauritania captain Abdoul Ba and his Eswatini counterpart Dlamini Banele.

How, you may ask? Well, they were the only three people to select Netherlands defender Matthijs de Ligt as their first pick for player of the year.

Was it a case of tactical voting from Ronaldo, who managed to exclude winner Lionel Messi from his top three? Or just a show of solidarity for his current Juventus team-mate?

In the 2018 voting Ronaldo also omitted his old rival Messi, instead favouring former Real Madrid colleague Raphael Varane.

Messi did include Ronaldo as his second pick behind Sadio Mane. The other



main candidate for the men's player award, Virgil van Dijk, went with Messi ahead of his Liverpool team-mates Mohamed Salah and Mane.

■ Where was Ronaldo?

There was a strange moment when the Fifa Fifpro Men's Team of the Year was announced.

Ten names were read out, in formation. Ten players - all present on the stage - lined up. And then the hosts moved on to the next prize.

The absentee? Ronaldo, whose name was not called out but whose inclusion was confirmed by Fifa's official website.

So why was the Portugal captain not there? Juventus travel to Brescia on Tuesday, just 24 hours after the glitzy ceremony and manager Maurizio Sarri has suggested Ronaldo might not feature because of muscle fatigue.

Juve team-mate De Ligt did make the 60-mile journey to Milan, which is a neat stopping-off point given its location between

Turin and Brescia.

Messi is also due to be in action on Tuesday, a home game for Barcelona against Villarreal. His 90-minute flight home to Spain would have taken longer than Ronaldo's drive back to Turin.

Whatever the reason for his absence, Ronaldo was happy enough on Tuesday evening, posting this Instagram message just as the ceremony was reaching its conclusion. "Patience and persistence are two characteristics that differentiate the professional from the amateur," he wrote.

"Everything that is big today has started small. You can't do everything, but do everything you can to make your dreams come true. And keep in mind that after night always comes dawn."

■ Man City not at the party

While Manchester City became the first English club to win a domestic treble in 2018-19, they barely registered a mention at the awards ceremony.

They had eight players shortlisted for the Fifa Fifpro Men's World11 but Raheem Sterling, Sergio Agüero and Bernardo Silva were all overlooked.

So too was manager Pep Guardiola, who lost out in the best men's coach category to Klopp.

Apparently recording the second-highest points tally in Premier League history - 98 - and winning three major trophies just isn't quite enough.

(Source: BBC)

'Crazy old dreamer' Klopp inspired to make charity pledge



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has revealed that the emotional high of his side's Champions League triumph inspired him to join the Common Goal charity.

Klopp will join a host of star names from the world of football, including Manchester United's Juan Mata and FIFA women's player of the year Megan Rapinoe, by donating one percent of his salary to aid the work of charities across the world.

The 52-year-old, who was crowned FIFA men's coach of the year on Monday, told the Players Tribune of difficult times he suffered early in his career as an amateur footballer, working in a warehouse while trying to support his young family.

And while he now faces the pressure of trying to deliver Liverpool's first Premier League title in 30 years, Klopp insisted he and his players have the luxury of no longer living in the 'real world'.

"We should not forget what it was like when we had real problems," said Klopp.

"This bubble we live in is not the real world. I am sorry, but anything that happens on a football pitch is not a real problem. There should be a bigger

purpose to this game than revenue and trophies, no?"

"Just think what we could accomplish if we all came together and gave one percent of what we earn to make a positive difference in the world. Maybe I am naive. Maybe I am a crazy old dreamer.

"But who is this game for? We all know damn well that this game is for dreamers."

After a stunning comeback from losing the first leg of their Champions League semi-final 3-0 to Barcelona to beat the Spanish champions 4-0 at Anfield in May, Liverpool lifted their sixth European Cup by beating Tottenham 2-0 in Madrid.

On their return to Liverpool, an open-top bus parade took the team passed hundreds of thousands of celebrating fans on the city's streets.

"If you could've put all the emotions, all the excitement, all the love in the air that day and bottled it up, the world would be a better place," added Klopp.

"I have not been able to get the emotion of that day out of my head. Football has given me everything in my life. But I really want to do more to give back to the world."

(Source: AFP)

Zidane brushes off criticism as Madrid look to continue recovery



Zinedine Zidane claims he has not even thought about the criticism aimed at him in recent weeks as Real Madrid look to build on Sunday's morale-boosting win away at Sevilla.

Madrid eased the growing pressure on their coach with a determined performance at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan after they had been beaten 3-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League four days before.

That loss was Madrid's worst during Zidane's two spells as coach and prompted questions about the Frenchman's future, with Jose Mourinho among those linked with taking charge.

Madrid play newly-promoted Osasuna on Wednesday and could go top of La Liga with a victory.

"It's always the same, there has always been criticism and there always will be," Zidane said in a press conference on Tuesday.

"I don't even think about it. It is what it is, it happens. When we lose, I'm going to get sacked and when we win, I'm the best. You just have to keep working."

"I feel strong but I feel the same as I did a month ago. The important thing is to give 100 per cent and to give my best. I remember playing badly for this team as well but the important thing is to give

your best."

Madrid have won three of their six games in all competitions so far this season and, after Osasuna, play Atletico Madrid at the Wanda Metropolitano on Saturday.

"We played a good game in Sevilla but most of all we played as a team from the first minute until the last," Zidane said. "Playing as a team, fighting for each other, that's what we have to do against Osasuna and we have to keep playing like that."

Not for the first time this season, Zidane singled out Gareth Bale for praise on Sunday after the Welshman continued his reintegration at the club with another tenacious display.

"I am not surprised," Zidane said. "I'm with him every day and we know he can do a lot offensively but he is helping us defensively too. When we work together we can achieve good things."

Madrid will be without Ferland Mendy on Wednesday after the defender injured his hamstring against Sevilla.

It is the second muscle injury Mendy has suffered since joining Madrid from Lyon for 50 million euros in July and leaves Zidane short at left-back.

(Source: Mirror)

Wimbledon champion Halep targets strong finish in Asia

Simona Halep said that winning her first Wimbledon title this year meant "everything", but she was determined to have a better Asian swing than in past years after an emphatic start to her Wuhan campaign on Tuesday.

Halep suffered opening-round exits in three of her previous five appearances at the Chinese event -- including the last two seasons -- but was dominant in a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Wimbledon semi-finalist Barbora Strycova to reach the last 16.

A solid contender for clinching one of the six remaining spots in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, sixth-ranked Halep also has a shot at finishing the year as world number one for a third consecutive time with a strong finish to the season in Asia.

"Very, very tough goals honestly after winning Wimbledon, I was a little bit let's say more relaxed in results, making big results. But I'm still motivated. I'm working hard," said the fourth seed, who next faces Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina for a place in the quarter-finals.

"For this period I just want to be better because every year I promised myself that I will do the best I can, and I couldn't for different reasons.

"Now I feel healthy, I feel motivated, I feel fresh. I just



want to go there and win every match I play."

Halep recently announced she will be reuniting with coach Darren Cahill from the start of 2020, and the Romanian is convinced they can pick up where they left off last year when the Australian helped her win a maiden Grand Slam title at the 2018 French Open.

"I'm really happy and I feel confident that next year I can do some good things again," she said.

Halep skipped past Strycova in just 85 minutes on Tuesday, benefiting from her opponent's 30 unforced errors.

Meanwhile, reigning WTA Finals champion Elina Svitolina took an important step forward to lock down a place in Shenzhen by overcoming Spaniard Garbine Muguruza 7-5, 6-2 in round two in Wuhan.

A semi-finalist at Wimbledon and the US Open this year, Svitolina is competing for a fifth consecutive week -- while managing a lingering knee injury -- as she continues to chase the opportunity to defend her Finals crown.

"I am not a robot, but I am extremely motivated to play in Shenzhen," said the Ukrainian No.3 seed. "When I step on court, every single match matters."

French Open champion Ashleigh Barty clung on to her No.1 ranking by rallying back to defeat Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, and set up a third round with American Sofia Kenin.

A loss for Barty on Tuesday would have seen Karolina Pliskova replace the Australian at the top of the rankings next Monday.

The pair are locked in a battle for the summit this week in Wuhan, but Barty's opening victory here means Pliskova must at least reach the semi-finals for a shot at leapfrogging her rival.

(Source: France 24)

Russian Olympic chief fears Tokyo 2020 ban over data tampering claims

Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) President Stanislav Pozdnyakov has admitted the country's participation at Tokyo 2020 is «under threat» after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) uncovered «inconsistencies» in data retrieved from the Moscow Laboratory.

Pozdnyakov said the situation was «very serious» after WADA opened a compliance procedure against the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), which could lead to Russia being banned from next year's Olympic Games.

Stricter rules for non-compliance are available to WADA under the new standards, including preventing countries from participating at major events.

WADA has given RUSADA and the Russian Sports Ministry three weeks to explain the discrepancies following allegations the country manipulated the data.

They will have to address the differences between the Laboratory Information Management System database provided by a whistleblower in October 2017 and the version WADA extracted from the facility in January.

Compliance Review Committee (CRC) chairman Jonathan Taylor told inside the games a team of forensic experts, who analysed the data, could find no «innocent reason» for the inconsistencies.

Taylor warned the CRC will pursue the strongest available sanctions if deliberate manipulation is proven, although their recommendation would have to be approved by the WADA Executive Committee.

«The Russian Olympic team's prospects of taking part in the Games in Tokyo next year could be under threat,» Pozdnyakov said.

The launch of the procedure against RUSADA has reignited the doping scandal, which some thought was nearing its end after WADA retrieved the data from the Moscow Laboratory earlier this year.

WADA has so far sent 47 cases to International Federations and claimed they will not be affected as they did not contain any inconsistencies.

The International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission said it was «extremely concerned» by the update from WADA and called for the process triggered against RUSADA to be completed «as swiftly as possible».

Michael Ask, chairman of the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organizations, believes Russia should be severely sanctioned if evidence of tampering is found.



«If deliberate manipulation has taken place and it can be linked to the Russian state, then it should also have consequences for the state as such,» Ask told inside the games.

«Exactly what that should be is difficult to say. «But WADA has previously mentioned severe sanctions, so I expect them to hold Russia responsible.»

The accusations of manipulation have prompted some to claim WADA should not have reinstated RUSADA last September until the data had been fully analyzed.

Taylor said, however, that the tampering allegations were not unexpected and how WADA dealt with them

will be a test of the new compliance standards.

«The reason I, along with Oceania, voted against Russia's reinstatement back in September of last year, was because we first wanted to assess all the data given, and then decide whether Russia should be rendered compliant or not,» WADA vice-president Linda Helleland said. «This would have been the right way to proceed. «This process has already stripped the sports bodies of a lot of credibility.

«We owe it to all the fans and athletes around the world to at the very least try and restore some trust.» (Source: inside the games)

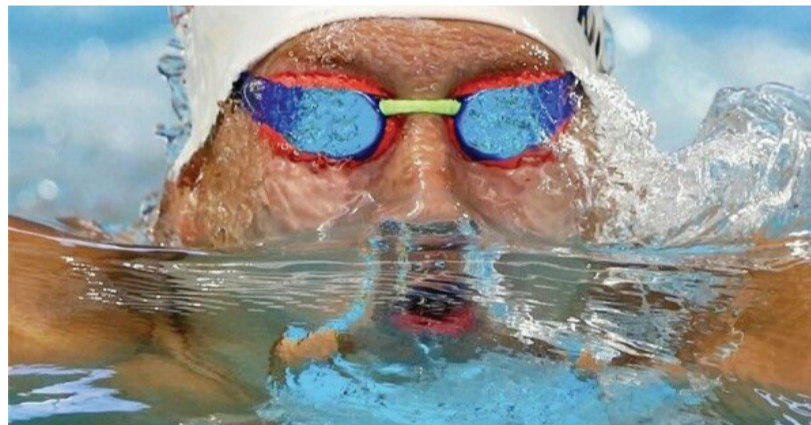
Hamed Haddadi signs for Naft Abadan



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran Super League champions Naft Abadan landed experienced 34-year old Iranian international center Hamed Haddadi. Haddadi played most recently at Champville in Lebanese LBL league. In eight games, he averaged 14.1ppg, 11.3rpg, 4.0apg and 1.8bpg last season. Haddadi helped them to win the regular season and make it to the semifinals. He also played for Xinjiang Flying Tige (CBA) in Chinese league where in 22 games he had 10.5ppg,

10.7rpg, 3.1apg and 1.6bpg. Haddadi was one of Iran's players in the 2019 FIBA World Cup and helped Team Melli book a place at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He is in Thailand to accompany Naft Abadan at the 2019 FIBA Asia Championships. Naft Abadan are drawn in Pool A along with Bahrain's Al-Muharraq, Fubon Braves of Chinese Taipei and Thailand's Hi-Tech Bangkok City.

Iran wins silver at Asian Age Group Championships



MNA — Iranian national swimming team won the silver medal in the 4X100 meters men's freestyle relay on the opening day of the Asian Age Group Championships. Iranian national swimming team comprising Mehdi Ansari, Benyamin Ghare Hassanlou, Sina Gholampour and Alireza Yavari won silver in the 4X100 meters men's freestyle relay on the opening day of the Asian Age Group Championships after emerging almost

five seconds slower than their Indian rivals on Tuesday. The Iranian quartet clocked 3:28.46 seconds, almost five seconds slower than the Indian team which timed 3:23.72. Uzbekistan finished third, clocking 3:30.59 seconds at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence. The 10th Asian Age Group Swimming Championships is currently underway at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru, India.

Tsunami-hit town gets ready to welcome the world

TOKYO (Reuters) — Fiji's clash with Uruguay on Wednesday may seem like just another Rugby World Cup group fixture, but for the people of Kamaishi, where the match will be played, it is an event packed with significance.

The small, rugby-mad town was devastated by the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's north-eastern coastline on March 11, 2011.

More than 1,000 people were killed or went missing in Kamaishi that day, leaving the community on its knees. In the aftermath of the disaster, the local club, Kamaishi Seawaves, became a beacon of hope for the town as it gathered around the team and began to rebuild.

After Japan was awarded the rights to host the 2019 World Cup, Kamaishi was chosen as a tournament venue.

Since then, infrastructure projects, including the construction of a new expressway and trainline in the region, have boosted the economy and brought jobs and dynamism to the region.

The Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium was built on the site of schools destroyed by the quake and tsunami, and will play host to the match on Wednesday.

LOOKING FOR CLOSURE

For locals such as 63-year-old Masaaki Kimura, Wednesday's match might just bring a little bit of closure.

Kimura lost his wife, mother and mother-in-law in the tsunami. His wife Takako, whose body has never been found, worked in the elementary school that was completely destroyed in the disaster.

As adults and children fled, Takako stayed. Kimura still doesn't know why.

«She was the only one who was left behind at the school,» Kimura told Reuters at his newly built house on the outskirts of town.



Hearing that all those from the school were safe, Kimura, who survived because his office was in a building that didn't collapse, spent five hours searching for his mother. «I walked along the rail track looking for her,» said Kimura, who needs crutches to walk.

«On the rail track, there were sleepers and gravel, so it was difficult for me.

«My boss who was walking with me said he is worried about his wife but he could not leave me alone so he kindly came with me. I said he did not have to, but he came along.»

Kimura has had Sept. 25 circled on his calendar all year, and will have a seat in an area near where the school's staff room was located.

That was the last place Takako was seen alive. Kimura says he can imagine himself watching the rugby match with her.

«It is not exactly where it was ... I will be sitting just off

the spot,» he said.

«But I think it is correct (to say) that I will be sitting close to staff room where she worked.»

FISHERMEN

As well as rugby, the region is known for its steel and fishing industries.

The steel industry may be almost completely gone, but there are still plenty of fisherman hunting for the premium produce that ends up on expensive dinner plates down in Tokyo and Osaka.

The port town of Ofunato, just down the coast from Kamaishi, was also badly damaged in the disaster.

Many fishermen were lost, and those that survived are still haunted by that fateful day in March 2011.

«We lost two boatloads of fishermen out in the sea. They were too late to escape,» said 71-year-old Ko Inagawa, who still works in Ofunato.

«I was cleaning fish when the earthquake happened. The pier shook so strongly that I was having difficulty standing up.»

«I escaped to the rail track on high ground by car. I thought it would be safe enough, but within a moment the water came as near as the rear of my car so I escaped further up.»

After the disaster, people in the area take nothing for granted.

«There is nothing 100% safe that humans make. Nothing,» said fisherman Taka Shigihara.

«Everyone should remember that.»

The new Recovery Memorial Stadium in Kamaishi may not stand forever but tournament organizers and locals alike are hopeful that Wednesday's match can leave a lasting legacy in the small town.

Alireza Faghani to officiate Guangzhou Evergrande v Urawa Reds

IRNA — Iranian referee Alireza Faghani has been chosen to officiate the match between China's Guangzhou Evergrande and Urawa Reds Diamond of Japan.

Guangzhou will host Urawa Reds on October 23 at the Tianhe Stadium in Guangzhou at the second leg of the 2019 AFC Champions League semi-final.

Faghani has recently moved to Australia for personal reasons but said he will officiate as an Iranian referee.

Faghani, who started his career in 1994 and became a FIFA referee in 2008, has officiated finals of the 2014 AFC Champions League, 2015 AFC Asian Cup, 2015 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Football Tournament.

He was also chosen to referee third-place playoff between Belgium and England in the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Naft Abadan beats Al-Muharraq at FIBA Asia Champions Cup

Palayesh Naft Abadan of Iran defeated Bahrain's Al-Muharraq 85-64 at the 2019 FIBA Asia Championships Cup on Tuesday.

Naft have been drawn in Pool A along with Bahrain's Al-Muharraq, Fubon Braves of Chinese Taipei and Thailand's Hi-Tech Bangkok City.

Pool B consists of China's Guangdong Southern Tigers, Ulsan Hyundai Mobis Phoebus from South Korea, Japan's Alvark Tokyo and Al Riyadi Beirut from Lebanon.

The 2019 FIBA Asia Championships Cup is the 28th staging of the FIBA Asia Championships Cup, the international basketball club tournament of FIBA Asia.

The competition is being held in Thailand from September 24 to 29.

(Source: Fiba)

Esteghlal striker Diabaté sidelined for one month

TASNIM — Esteghlal football team forward Cheick Tidiane Diabaté has been sidelined for one month.

The Malian striker will be out of action with a strained left oblique muscle.

He injured in the match against Naft Masjed Soleyman and also missed Tehran derby, where Esteghlal lost to its arch-rival Persepolis 1-0 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

It will be a big injury blow for Esteghlal since the team have scored just two goals in four matches.

Esteghlal will meet Zob Ahan on Thursday in week 5 of Iran Professional League.

Iran women fans to attend Cambodia tie

There will be 4,600 tickets available for women fans to watch the Islamic Republic of Iran and Cambodia Asian Qualifiers match at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on October 10.

Iran Sports Minister Masoud Soltanifar said all necessary preparations have been made for Iranian women fans to attend the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Group C qualifying tie, adding that the approval is initially only for international games.

Soltanifar said the decision was made after consultation with religious institutions and members of parliament, adding there will be extra police to ensure the safety of the women fans.

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) cultural advisor Gholam Hossein Zamanabadi said tickets would be available for all women fans to purchase.

«All Iranian women can buy tickets to watch the match and it's not for a select group of women,» said Zamanabadi.

Separate entrances, stands and toilets have been prepared for women fans at the iconic Azadi Stadium.

Women fans attended the second leg of the 2018 AFC Champions League final between Persepolis and Kashima Antlers last November.

The move to allow women fans to attend football matches in Iran is in line with FIFA's stand, with President Gianni Infantino having said on Sunday that the world governing body had been assured by Iranian authorities that women will be able to watch an Asian Qualifiers tie in Tehran next month.

(Source: the-afc)

Two Brits jailed over leaked image of Sala

Two workers from a British closed circuit TV firm were jailed on Monday for accessing graphic mortuary footage, later circulated on social media, of the body of the late Argentine soccer player Emiliano Sala, who was killed in a plane crash in January.

Sala, 28, was flying from his previous club Nantes in western France to Wales to join Cardiff City when the Piper Malibu aircraft disappeared over the English Channel.

After his body was recovered, Sherry Bray, 48, and Christopher Ashford, 62, accessed footage of his body in the mortuary and the images later appeared on social media.

«Sherry Bray and Christopher Ashford caused immense suffering to Mr Sala's family and friends with their deeply offensive actions,» Anthony Johns of Britain's Crime Prosecution Service said.

«It is impossible to imagine why anyone would wish to record or view these sorts of images in such a flagrant breach of confidentiality and human decency. It was truly appalling and they both now face time in prison as a consequence.»

Police launched an investigation in February after officers became aware that a graphic image of the post-mortem of Sala was appearing on social media.

(Source: ESPN)

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest fault is a fault which you ignore in yourself, but see it in others.

Imam Ali (AS)

Shia clerics oppose Iran-Turkey plan for film on Rumi, Shams

CULTURE TEHRAN — Shia clerics Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi and Ayatollah Hossein Nuri Hamedani have expressed strong opposition to a plan by Iran and Turkey to make a film on Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and his mentor, Shams-i Tabrizi, due to the Sufism content of the project named “Drunk on Love”.



This combination photo shows Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi (L) and Ayatollah Hossein Nuri Hamedani in an undated photo.

In letters sent to the offices of the clerics on September 18, a number of students in the Islamic seminaries asked them about the film project, which will be directed by Iranian filmmaker Hassan Fat’hi in Konya, a Turkish town that is home to the mausoleum of Rumi.

“Due to the fact that this film helps to promote the deviated sect of Sufism, making the film is impermissible based on sharia and must be stopped,” Ayatollah Makarem wrote in response to the letter.

In his response to the letter, Ayatollah Nuri Hamedani wrote, “Based on a remark from Imam Sadeq (AS), the sect of Sufism is our enemy and its promotion in any form is not allowed and it is haram.”

The Iranian actor Parsa Piruzfar is slated to star as Rumi, while Palme d’Or-winning actor Shahab Hosseini also from Iran will play the role of Shams in “Drunk on Love”.

Fat’hi and Farhad Tohidi are co-writing the screenplay. The ENG Yapim Medya Organization from Istanbul is collaborating in this project.

Rumi (1207-1273) undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish, Shams.

However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit in Konya on November 30, 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

“Tehran: City of Love” wins award at Hungarian festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Ali Jaberansari’s film “Tehran: City of Love” won the International Ecumenical Jury Prize at the 16th CineFest Miskolc International Film Festival in the Hungarian city, the organizers announced on Saturday.



A scene from “Tehran: City of Love” by Iranian director Ali Jaberansari.

The film follows the stories of Mina, who is unhappy about her weight, Hessam, a retired bodybuilder who trains older men, and Vahid, who sings at funerals and weddings.

“The Lighthouse” by Robert Eggers from Canada won the grand prize of the festival, while “Monos”, a co-production between Colombia and Argentina by Colombian director Alejandro Landes, was named best film.

“Tehran: City of Love” has been awarded at several international events, including the Beijing International Film Festival and the Sofia International Film Festival.

War photographer Saeid Sadeqi displays modern lives of veterans

A R T TEHRAN — Prolific photojournalist Saeid Sadeqi who is mostly famous for his collections on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war is showcasing his new series featuring current portraits of people he once photographed on the warfronts in an exhibition at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF).

The exhibition entitled “After That Day” has been organized to commemorate the 39th anniversary of the war.

Speaking about his plan in January to work on this collection, Sadeqi said that the collection would provide an opportunity for visitors to make a comparative study between the lives of the soldiers on the warfronts and their lives as citizens of today.

“This collection can actually open a new window to the post-war era,” noted Sadeqi, who covered 34 major military operations during the war.

He said that each photo of the collection surely tells new stories of the war and added, “These soldiers are not fake heroes for me. They are individuals who each can narrate different stories of the situations they have been through.”

Each photo in this collection shows the subjects posing with their photos Sadeqi took on the warfronts.

“When I began the project I found out that many of the soldiers in the photos were martyred, and when the families came across their unseen photos they were highly impressed, and I also recorded those moments with my camera,” he said.

Sadeqi plans to publish this collection in book. He has previously published his series in several books, including “Broken Blossoms”, “Mirror of the War”, “Halabja” and “Lovely Defense”.

Sadeqi’s black and white photograph “Conquest of Khorramshahr” that depicts Iranian soldiers celebrating the liberation of Khorramshahr at the Friday Mosque of the city was sold for 750 million rials (about \$18,000) at the 10th Tehran Auction in January.

The exhibition, which is currently underway at the Paeiz Gallery of the IAF, will run until October 1.



Photojournalist Saeid Sadeqi speaks during the opening ceremony of his exhibition “After That Day” at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on September 22, 2019. (Tasnim/Amin Ahui)

Russia-K broadcasting Iranian series “Shahrzad”



A scene from the “Shahrzad” series directed by Hassan Fat’hi.

A R T TEHRAN — The first season of popular romantic and historical Iranian series “Shahrzad” is currently being broadcast on Russia-K, a Russian television network that is also known as Russia-Cultura.

Prominent Iranian filmmaker Hassan Fat’hi is the director of the series, whose first season was released in 2015.

Written by Fat’hi and Naghme Samini, the series tells the story of a beautiful young woman, Shahrzad, who is getting married to Farhad during the coup d’état against

Mohammad Mossadeq’s government in 1953.

During the coup chaos, Farhad gets arrested and sentenced to death, while Shahrzad is willing to accept any conditions to set him free.

“Shahrzad” was made over three seasons to be distributed exclusively on the home video network in Iran. The second and third seasons were released in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The series, which has been dubbed into Russian, is on the air every night at 22:20 local time.

Tehran to host 2nd Intl. Trumpism Cartoon and Caricature Contest



A poster for the 2nd International Trumpism Cartoon and Caricature Contest in Tehran.

A R T TEHRAN — The 2nd International Trumpism Cartoon and Caricature Contest will be held in Tehran in mid-December. Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, the secretary of the event, said in a press conference on Tuesday.

“What makes the world and especially the West angry is the power and superiority of Iran in organizing such a contest and the active participation of the artists,” Shojaei-Tabatabai said.

He added that works focusing on U.S. President Donald Trump and his role in the war in Yemen, his interference in other countries, and his relations with the Zionist regime are among the major topics of the contest.

Interested applicants must submit their works to the secretariat of the contest before December 1, and winners will be awarded in a ceremony on December 16.

A selection of top works will be put on view in an exhibition.

Iran Finnish Film Week announces lineup

A R T TEHRAN — A lineup of 16 short and feature movies from Finnish filmmakers will go on screen during Finnish Film Week, which will be held in three Iranian cities from September 28 to October 4, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

World-renowned Finnish filmmaker Aki Kaurismaki’s films “I Hired a Contract Killer”, “The Bohemian Life”, “The Man Without a Past” and “Le Havre” are the highlights of the lineup.

“I Hired a Contract Killer” is about Henri Boulanger, who is laid off from his job after fifteen years of service. He fails to commit suicide, so he hires a contract killer to murder him at some unspecified time in the future. But almost immediately he meets and falls in love with a young girl. He decides to cancel the contract but he cannot find the killer.

“The Bohemian Life” is about three poor, struggling artists who try to make living in Paris tolerable despite setbacks and tragedies.

“The Man Without a Past” follows a man who arrives in Helsinki and gets beaten up so severely he develops amnesia. Unable to remember his name or a single detail about his past life, he cannot get a job or an apartment, so he starts living on the outskirts of the city and slowly starts putting his life back on track.

“Le Havre” tells the story of a middle-aged shoe shiner, Marcel, who tries to save an underage illegal immigrant from Africa. Marcel and his neighbors and other townspeople help



A scene from “The Fencer” by Klaus Haro.

to hide the child from the police, while a police inspector is searching for him.

The lineup also includes “Time Out” by Matti Kinnunen, about a father and son who are forced to move to a small snowy village, “Little Wing” by Selma Villhunen, about a teenage girl who steals a car to find her father she has never met, and “The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki” by Juho Kuosmanen, about a famous Finnish boxer who loses a fight for the world championship.

“The Fencer” by Klaus Haro and “East of Sweden” by Simo Halinen are also among the films.

“The Fencer” is about a young champion Estonian fencer, who is forced to return to his homeland to run from Russian secret police during 1950s. He finds work as a teacher in a local school and starts teaching his students fencing.

“East of Sweden” tells the story of the lives of three troubled people who are connected by an accident and they are faced with moral questions.

Short films “The Tiger” by Mikko Myllylahti, “Askan” by Ville Tantt, “Super Comfort” by Kirsikka Saari and “Fingerling” by Reetta Aalto will also be screened during the festival.

The festival will also screen “The Death of an Insect” by Hannes Vartiainen, “Fantasia” by Teemu Nikki and “Ceiling” by Teppo Airaksinen in this section.

Finnish Film Week will be organized by Iran’s Art and Experience Cinema and the Finnish Film Foundation at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran, the Hoveizeh Cineplex in Mashhad and the City Center Cineplex in Isfahan.

Finnish Film Foundation Chief Executive Officer Lasse Saarinen, the director of the International Department of the foundation, Jaana Puskala, and a number Finnish cineastes, including actor and producer Kaarle Aho, are scheduled to attend the festival.

Moreover, workshops on joint film production and meetings by Iranian and Finnish filmmakers will be organized on the sidelines of the festival.

Children under spotlight at IIDCYA photo contest for Arbaeen pilgrimage

A R T TEHRAN — Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has launched a photo contest on the annual pilgrimage of Arbaeen, which will put its spotlight on children who will attend the large gathering of Shia Muslims in Iraq.

The contest will be held in two sections with participants aged 12 to 18 and the adults above 18, the IIDCYA announced in a press

release published on Tuesday.

The young-adult pilgrims are being asked to take photos of any interesting subject they notice during the gathering, while the adult photographers must place their focus on the children who will attend the event.

Photos must be submitted to the IIDCYA before November 6. Winners will be announced on December 6, and a selection of top works will be showcased in an exhibition afterwards.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians embark on a journey to the Iraqi city of Karbala to observe the holy day of Arbaeen at the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia, and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

Arbaeen, which will be observed on October 19 this year, marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.



A poster for Iran’s Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults’ photo contest for the annual pilgrimage of Arbaeen.