



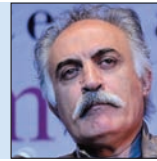
U.S. animosity has brought more dignity to IRGC **2**



Zarif urges moderation for Shia-Sunni unity **2**



Esteghlal, Gary Hooper fail to reach agreement **15**



Alireza Shojanuri to play title role in "Salman Farsi" **16**

Ending war in Yemen will have positive effects on region



See page 2

Gas field discovered with \$40b worth of reserves

TEHRAN — A new gas field with 13,000 billion cubic feet of recoverable reserve and 385 million barrels of condensate, valued at \$40 billion, has been discovered in Fars province, southern Iran.

The field, called "Eram", is located in southern Fars province, Reza Dehqan, the National Iranian Oil Company's deputy director for development and engineering affairs said, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The gas recovered from the field is planned to be delivered to Parsian Gas Refinery in the province due to its close proximity to the field, he noted.

Referring to the numerous oil and gas field discoveries since the 1979 revolution, Dehqan said that 75 percent of the country's gas reserves as well as 20 percent of its oil reserves have been discovered in the past 40 years. **→4**

Judiciary sacks five corrupt judges

TEHRAN — Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, Iran's prosecutor general, announced on Sunday the dismissal of five corrupt judges as the Judiciary's battle against corruption continues.

Montazeri said the corrupt judges were sacked on Saturday, Tasnim reported. In order to fight crime, the Judiciary

itself must be cleansed of corruption, he said, adding that the Judiciary will not show tolerance for wrongdoers in any position.

He pointed out that 11,000 judges are employed by the Judiciary.

The few corrupt individuals must not be allowed to damage the Judiciary's image, Montazeri stressed. **→3**

Syrian Army to seize Kurdish-held town in Aleppo

TEHRAN — The Syrian military is reportedly poised to take over Manbij from Kurdish militants in an attempt to prevent the Northern city's fall to the Turkish army.

Turkish army forces have begun ground operations in Northeastern Syria, and crossed into the country's territories on the Eastern bank of the Euphrates River, hours after kicking off a major military operation against Kurdish militias in the war-torn country on Wednesday. Tens of

thousands of people have been displaced from the area due to the bombardment, according to local and international organizations, while tens of civilians killed and wounded in recent days.

A source told Sputnik news agency on Saturday that Syrian government forces will enter Manbij in Aleppo Province under an agreement reached between Russia and Syria on the one side and Russia, the U.S. and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the other. **→13**



EDITORIAL

Mohammad Ghaderi
Tehran Times editor-in-chief
@ghaderi62

Continuous duality by Washington

The U.S. Special Representative for Iran, Brian Hook, claimed in an interview with Alhurra recently that Iran should decide between its economy or talks with the United States.

The official has called Trump's policies against Iran "diplomatic" and that Trump has acted so "generously" in this regard! Hook also said Washington should not reduce sanctions to have a meeting with Iran.

It is obvious that after a nearly three-year failure against Iran's power, U.S. officials have resorted to dichotomous approach.

Early in his presidency, Trump and his supporters warned Iran to choose between a complete breakdown of its system or meet U.S. demands. But today following the heavy defeat of the "maximum pressure" strategy against Tehran, the White House's officials have taken a few steps back and are talking about wrecking Iran's economy.

On the other hand, many U.S. officials' measures for confronting Iran have turned out to be wrong, since Trump sought to overthrow the Islamic Republic system by implementing John Bolton's anti-Iran plans. But, he was finally forced to dismiss Bolton after lots of strategic and tactical blunders. This situation got to the point that Trump, who had appointed Bolton as his national security adviser, blamed him for the mess.

Hook's recent remarks, also repeated by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, are just an absurd and useless attempt to create duality and dilemma for Iran.

"The Iranian regime must fundamentally change its behavior and act like a normal nation. Or it can watch its economy collapse," Pompeo said in a tweet on Friday. In remarks almost a year ago, Pompeo also said Iranian officials must listen to Washington "if they want their people to eat"

Obviously, there is no dilemma as Iran has rebuffed U.S. demands and its economy has not collapsed. In contrast, there is the dichotomy of Trump's fall and unconditional acknowledgment to the Iranian power. Now, it is Trump's turn to choose one of these options.

Indeed, the harder the U.S. tries to deal with Iran dichotomously, the costs of United States' defeat against a "powerful Iran" will be increased. This is a matter that many of U.S. foreign policy strategists have confirmed.

INSTEX has a limited scope: Finaud

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Marc Finaud, the former French Foreign Ministry spokesman, says that the INSTEX mechanism is operational but has a limited scope.

A senior member of Geneva Centre for Security Policy also says that "Regarding U.S. sanctions in other areas, European companies may be deterred by the impact of secondary sanctions and will most likely not sacrifice their interests on the American market if they have less stakes in Iran. Unfortunately, the EU can offer some legal protection, but the ultimate decisions will be made by the companies."

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le

Drian warned that the United States and Iran have only one month to implement the Paris plan to keep JCPOA alive. Is France in a position to warn against keeping things that the Europeans themselves failed to fulfill?

A: It is always difficult and it takes time to convince all the EU member states but since there is so far no alternative to the French proposals for mediation to salvage the JCPOA, it is likely that the French initiative will be supported by the EU.

■ Does this warning mean a defeat in French diplomatic efforts to mediate between Iran and the United States?

A: French efforts are continuing, so it may be premature to call them a defeat. But the oppo-

sition from the United States does make such efforts a hard challenge.

■ Iran has announced that by early November it will take new measures to reduce its obligations in JCPOA. Why doesn't Europe make a serious effort to preserve the JCPOA and just announce daily that the country has joined INSTEX but nothing actually happens?

A: The INSTEX mechanism was always considered as a limited step to facilitate trade in humanitarian goods. The EU and its member states until now have complied with all their commitments in the JCPOA and regret the resumption of U.S. sanctions that also affect their companies wishing to trade with Iran. **→13**

Why does Trump beg mediators?

By Ehsan Baqeri

TEHRAN — According to a Pakistani source, Prime Minister Imran Khan will travel to Iran and Saudi Arabia to mediate between Tehran and Riyadh.

Also during their meeting on the sidelines of UN General Assembly in New York in late September, Khan accepted Trump's request for mediation between Tehran and Washington.

In addition of Islamabad, Trump has asked other actors such as Doha, Baghdad, Ankara, Tokyo, and Washington's allies to make every effort regarding the mediation.

What has really happened to the U.S. foreign policy? Has Trump — given his particular personality- become well aware of Iran? Has the major American goal of "transforming Iran's political system" changed? The answer would be definitely no!

The truth is that events, such as the dismissal of National Security Adviser John Bolton and Trump's constant efforts to negotiate with Iran, originate from a disaster in examination of U.S. foreign policy and Washington's frustration with Iran. What prompts Trump to negotiate with Iran is not a change in strategy or approach by the U.S. government, but rather it is a strategic necessity that Trump is dealing with.

Trump knows that he is deeply mistaken in examining the costs and interests of maximum pressure strategy against Iran. In such a situation, our diplomacy and foreign policy should maintain Trump's frustration against Iran as an achievement.

Trump knows that any agreement with Iran (and its magnification by U.S. news media) can pave the way for his victory in the next year's presidential election. A sharp decline in Trump's

popularity over the swing states, such as Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin has shocked the U.S. president. One of Trump's weaknesses in American citizens' view is his failed and unbalanced foreign policy. Trump assumed that the dismissal of Bolton can solve this problem by itself, but the result of polls indicates that Americans believe that the White House's foreign policy is disappointing and costly. Today, Trump begs potential mediators from the region, East Asia, and Europe for negotiation with Iran. It is because on the one hand he cannot afford the great costs of Iran's military reaction, and on the other he sees himself only few steps away from failure in the 2020 election. The best plan at the moment is to maintain or even increase Trump's need for an agreement with Iran. Now, it is the time for Trump to see the consequences of three-year confrontation with Islamic Republic of Iran!



©IRNA/ Faraz Samadi

Lovers of Imam Hussein on way to Karbala

Lovers of Imam Hussein (AS) are flocking to Karbala to mark the Arbæen ritual. So far, more than two million Iranians have crossed into Iraq and more is expected in the next few days.

Karbala is home to the shrine of Imam Hussein, who was martyred along with 72 of his relatives and companions in the battle of Karbala against the forces of the Caliph, in 680 AD.



ARTICLE

Martin Love
Political analyst from North Carolina

A speculation about the Trumpian core

Here is a wild and maybe baseless hunch the Zionists and Israel could start working hard but covertly to see Donald Trump impeached by the Democrats in Congress. One might say this sounds bizarre and implausible given all that "Israel" has extracted from Trump and his administrative cronies: more billions of American taxpayer bucks than ever before, the "gift" of the Syrian Golan as recognized Israeli territory as if such U.S. recognition legitimized the Israeli hold on the territory, the further gift of a free hand for the Zionists to build more illegal settlements in the West Bank, the refusal to speak out against the horrors of life in Gaza, the move of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to West Jerusalem, and much more.

This reminds of what the world has long witnessed regarding the Jewish, racist fanatics. They really don't care who they kill or hurt to expand borders that have not even been defined over 70 plus years as long as their agenda is shoved forward. They have made huge extractions from every U.S. president, and more from naïve Trump than any other POTUS, and the speculation is might they now be angling secretly to cast him aside, gutted, because he has nothing more to give these the Israeli parasites. One must wonder, and this begs the obvious question: Why?

First, it is important to mention, and one might almost believe it, that Trump in his weeny heart of hearts is not a bellicose person. He may be all sorts of negative things. He may be a jerk, a misogynist, an often not so sharp businessman, an environmental rapist, a liar and manipulator and much more, including a not particularly bright man despite the chutzpah. But one must imagine he may not be a cold-blooded killer — not like Hillary Clinton, say, or or even well disguised Barack Obama behind his fetching smile, or well, clueless George W. Bush. One must further imagine the Zionists know this about Trump, that he is not a killer who lusts after foreign blood, and they must recall Trump on the campaign trail talking about the utter waste of U.S. wars of choice in the Middle East. The Zionists have forever wanted the wars to continue. Period. **→13**

Ayatollah Khamenei says U.S. animosity has brought more dignity to IRGC

IRGC has dignity both inside and outside of Iran, Leader notes

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that the United States' "animosity" toward the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has brought more dignity to it.



"The United States has brought more dignity to the Guards with its hostile behavior. Today, thanks to God, the Guards has dignity both inside and outside of the country," he said during a ceremony held for the student officers and guards trainees at Imam Hussain Academy.

He added, "The United States brought more dignity to the Guards with its hostile behavior, because animosity of God's enemies makes the faithful servants dearer."

Elsewhere, he attached great importance to military, defense and intelligence preparedness by armed forces in the face of threats against the country.

The Leader also reiterated his long-held position on self-sufficiency, saying the defense equipment must be manufactured inside the country.

"The military equipment of the IRGC must be advanced and up-to-date. You yourselves should invent and manufacture them."

Elsewhere, Ayatollah Khamenei described the Arbæen march as "an example of real power".

"Huge gathering of pilgrims on the route toward Karbala, which means moving toward summit of honor, altruism and martyrdom, shows power of Islam and the Islamic resistance front," he remarked.

He also noted that Iran will not back down against the U.S. pressure based on the teachings of Imam Hussein's movement and Arbæen.

Arbæen marks an end to a 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10 in the year 61 AH (680 CE).

So far more than two million Iranians have crossed the border to visit the shrine of Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (S), in Karbala.

Zarif urges moderation for Shia-Sunni unity

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — To maintain Shia-Sunni unity Muslims must follow a moderate approach, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif suggested on Sunday.

"Fortunately, the Shias have been fighting against extremism and Daesh along with the Sunni brothers and sisters... We should move on the path of moderation to maintain unity among the Shias and the Sunnis," Zarif said in a message to University of Religions and Denominations on the occasion of the new academic year.

The chief diplomat noted that promoting a moderate Islam has been a priority and strategy of the Islamic Revolution.

He also said it is essential to counter the roots of extremism and violence.

"Our region and also the world of Islam are volatile and there is no prospect for improvement of the situation in a short period of time. Current problems are partly caused by unnecessary division among the Islamic countries," Zarif regretted.

He also attached great importance to dialogue among various followers of Islamic sects.

The goal behind such dialogue should be to promote common principles and "increase tolerance to accept other tastes with respect", he insisted.

"Promotion of such view can help us bring the Islamic societies closer together and quit trivial and unnecessary divisions."

Parliament speaker Larijani attends IPU meeting in Belgrade

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani left Tehran on Sunday morning for the Serbian capital city of Belgrade to partake in the 141st Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Larijani, who was accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, is to address the IPU general assembly and hold meetings with his foreign counterparts participating in the event.

Ahead of his departure, Larijani said, "The trip includes two parts, participation in the IPU assembly and expanding mutual cooperation between Iranian and Serbian parliaments."

"The IPU meeting is an opportunity to speak with the heads of parliaments (on issues) in a variety of areas," he further said.

The 141st Assembly of the IPU is being held in Serbia on October 13-17.

All IPU statutory bodies, including the Governing Council, Standing Committees, Committees on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and on Middle East Questions, as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs, will meet on this occasion, according to its official website.

The theme of the general debate is "strengthening international law: parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation".

The event is attended by parliamentary delegations from around 180 countries.

Iran will positively respond to 'good intention', Rouhani says as Pakistan PM seeks to heal Tehran-Riyadh conflict

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Iran will give positive response to "good intention" as Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Tehran on Sunday in efforts to "facilitate" possible dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia whose relations have been cut and been caught in a kind of conflict over a series of issues, mainly the Saudi war on Yemen.

"Iran welcomes good intention and efforts by the Pakistani prime minister to settle tension in the region to restore peace and stability to the region," Rouhani said during a joint press conference with Khan.

Rouhani added that Tehran and Islamabad share the view that regional issues should be settled through dialogue.

For his part, Khan said that any new conflict will be harmful to the regional people.

"The people in the region, especially in Afghanistan and Syria, are still suffering from the consequences of terrorism. So, there must not be a new conflict," the prime minister insisted.

He noted that there must not be a clash between Iran and Saudi Arabia, because its consequences will influence the entire region.

"We believe that we can solve differences through dialogue," the prime minister pointed out.

Khan said it is an initiative by Pakistan itself to resolve conflicts between Iran and Pakistan.

"Pakistan is not a mediator between Iran and Pakistan. It only wants to play the role of facilitator between the two countries."

Pointing to his visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, Khan said that he will introduce



Pakistan's initiatives on peace and stability and an end to differences and tensions.

He also said the main motive behind his visit to Iran is that "Pakistan, under no circumstances, does not like to see another war in the region."

Khan's visit to Tehran took place two days after missile attacks on an Iranian oil tanker in the Red Sea, 60 miles away from the Saudi port city of Jeddah. Suspicious

attacks on commercial ships in the Sea of Oman in June and July also unnerved countries in the region and beyond.

Rouhani said, "It will be a big mistake if a country imagines that it can cause insecurity in the region without receiving a response."

The Iranian president added, "The Middle East region, especially the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, is a very sensitive region

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan says: "We believe that we can solve differences (between Iran and Saudi Arabia) through dialogue"

MP says Turkey seeking physical annihilation of northern Syria

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — MP Karen Khanlari, who represents the Armenian community in the Iranian parliament, on Sunday condemned the Turkish military operation in northern Syria, saying Ankara is seeking to physically annihilating northern Syria under the pretext of war on terrorism.

"Violation of international law is one of the impacts of the Turkish army's aggression against Syria's integrity. Turkey has a very bad record in this regard, including incursion into Syria, Northern Iraq and Cyprus," Khanlari said.

He further lashed out at Ankara officials for their direct interference in Syria's internal affairs.

"The approach based on which Turkey is seeking to restore a so-called security in the region is actually physical annihilation of villages and towns by aerial and ground raids under the pretext of war on terrorism, leaving a large number of civilians killed," the MP regretted.

Khanlari called on the international community to condemn the Turkish aggression against Syria and try to force Ankara to halt its military operation in the war-

hit country.

In relevant remarks, Tehran's provisional Friday prayers leader Ayatollah Seyed Ahmad Khatami said that Turkish troops' operation in northern Syria was nothing but aggression against an independent country and condemned the move.

Addressing a large number of worshippers in Tehran, Ayatollah Khatami termed the Turkish army's heavy attack on the northern part of Syria as a blatant aggression against an independent country, calling on Ankara not to repeat a mistake done by Riyadh which is now in a Washington-made trap in Yemen.

"Iran's stance is an advising position which in meant immediate halt (of the Operation Peace Spring) and withdrawal of forces from the Syrian soil."

"I have an advice to the Turkish government. Saudi Arabia as a servant of the U.S. accepted Washington's order and now it has fallen in a swamp made by Washington. The Saudis wanted to put an end to the Yemen issue in one week, but now (nearly) after five years, these are Yemeni



combatants that have gained upper hand, therefor, Turkey should be very careful in order not to fall in a similar trap made by the U.S." the Friday prayers leader remarked.

Turkey launched an offensive on the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Wednesday. This happened despite warnings by Iran, Russia, Egypt and the European Union. The Syrian Kurdish fighters commonly referred to as the SDF, were instrumental in defeating Daesh.

Ending war in Yemen will have positive effects on region: Ayatollah Khamenei

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that ending war in Yemen will have positive effects on the Middle East region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran presented a four-point plan to end war in Yemen a long time ago and if this war ends in a right way, it can have positive effects in the region," Leader said during a meeting with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The Leader described peace and secu-

urity in West Asia as very "sensitive" and "important" and expressed regret over certain regional countries' "destructive" role in supporting terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria and causing war and bloodshed in Yemen.

He added, "We have no motivation for animosity with these countries, but they are influenced by the United States and act against the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with the United States' will."

Elsewhere in his talks with Prime Minis-

ter Khan, Ayatollah Khamenei said Iran has never initiated a war "but if anyone starts a war against Iran will undoubtedly regret."

In April 2015, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif submitted a letter to Ban Ki-moon, then UN secretary general, outlining Iran's four-point peace plan for Yemen.

The plan calls for an immediate cease-fire and end of all foreign military attacks, humanitarian assistance, a resumption of broad national dialogue and establishment

of an inclusive national unity government.

Elsewhere, Ayatollah Khamenei described Iran-Pakistan relations as brotherly and attached importance to expansion of ties and promotion of security in borders.

For his part, Khan called Iran and Pakistan brotherly countries and said that Islamabad seeks to expand relations with Iran.

Pakistan considers Iran an "important partner" especially in economic area, the prime minister said.

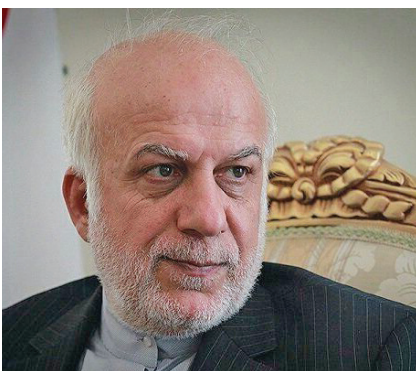
Ex-diplomat says Iran welcomes Pakistan's efforts to reduce tension in the region

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Former Deputy Foreign Minister Ebrahim Rahimpour has said that Iran welcomes efforts by Pakistan to reduce tension in the Middle East region.

"Compared to other countries, Pakistan has better and more acceptable record for mediation which affects Iran's view," he told IRNA in an interview published on Sunday.

Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, visited Tehran on Sunday for talks with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. Khan will then visit Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. His visits are in line with playing a mediatory role to reduce tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Rahimpour said, "There are main powers in the world of Islam which are Iran and Saudi Arabia, and tension in their relations affects the world of Islamic and also Pakistan. In other words, tension in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia causes tension in Pakistan."



He noted that any effort in line with reducing tension and promoting dialogue is "positive".

In an article published by the Etemad daily on Sunday, Rahimpour wrote that Iran trusts Pakistan as an intermediary.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran trusts both Pakistan and Iraq as intermediaries. This

trust will throw the ball at Saudis' court and put them in a difficult situation to accept dialogue or reject mediation," the former deputy foreign minister wrote.

The Pakistani prime minister visited Tehran on Sunday as tension in the region is getting more complicated. On October 11, an Iranian oil tanker was struck by two missiles in the Red Sea, 60 miles away from the Saudi coastlines.

Riyadh and the United States had blamed Iran for the September 14 drone attacks on the Saudi oil facilities without presenting a substantial evidence. Yemen, which is under attack by the Saud-led coalition, had taken responsibility for the attack.

Khan had earlier said that he was making an effort to mediate between Tehran and Riyadh. He held talks with Saudi Arabia's leaders in Riyadh, as well as Rouhani at the United Nations headquarters in New York in September.

In an interview with Al Jazeera published

Jubeir rejects Saudis' involvement in attack on Iranian oil tanker

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir said on Sunday that Riyadh was not behind a suspected strike against an Iranian-owned oil tanker off the Saudi coast in the Red Sea on Friday.

"We did not engage in such behavior at all. This is not how we operate and that's not how we did (it) in the past," al-Jubeir told reporters in Riyadh, according to Reuters.

"The story is still not complete. So let's wait and find out what happened before we jump to conclusions," he added.

On Friday morning, two separate explosions, possibly caused by missile attacks, hit the SABITI oil tanker owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC).

According to a statement issued on Friday by the NITC, the explosions took place some 60 miles from the Saudi port city of Jeddah.

The explosions hit the vessel's hull, causing heavy damages to the ship's two main tanks, which resulted in an oil spill in the Red Sea. The spill was stopped, according to officials.

According to IRNA, the missiles hit the right side of the tanker's hull, creating holes measuring 50-to-150 centimeters.

The NITC said on Friday that the tanker was heading toward the Persian Gulf with a low speed.

Najaf governor: Iraq doing its best to offer hospitality to Iranian pilgrims

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Luay al-Yassiri, governor of the shrine city of Najaf, has said Iraq would try its best to serve Iranian pilgrims during the Arbæen season, which marks the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS).

In an interview with Tasnim published on Sunday, Yassiri highlighted the religious affinities between Iran and Iraq, saying, "Today, the two nations of Iran and Iraq are standing side by side, mourning for Sayyid al-Shuhada (Imam Hussein) and we should say that Imam Hussein (AS) will gather all of us together."

He said as the governor of Najaf, his personal home is full of Iranian pilgrims and "it is an honor for every Iraqi, especially the people of different cities of Najaf Ashraf Governorate, to serve the pilgrims of Imam Hussein (AS) from all over the world."

"Not only do our homes host the pilgrims of Amir al-Mu'minin (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS), but also our hearts and arms are open to welcome the Iranian pilgrims," Yassiri stated.



"We do our best to provide the best services to the pilgrims of Imam Hussein (AS) in the cities of Najaf and Karbala so that they can

return to their countries after their pilgrimage in full health," the local official stated. The Arbæen march, which is the largest

religious gathering in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the second Imam of Shia Muslims and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

This year, Arbæen falls on Saturday, October 19.

Each year, a huge crowd of people flock to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

According to a report, more than 3 million Iranian pilgrims had registered to participate in the Arbæen march by Thursday.

This year, visa requirement was removed for the pilgrims as a "positive step" toward paving the way for Iranian pilgrims visiting the neighboring country.

Last year about 1.8 million Iranians took part in the ceremony. This is while in 2011 only 50,000 took the trek to Karbala which shows a great surge in the number of pilgrims taking the long walk to pay tribute to the third Shia Imam.

Iran may reduce IAEA inspections in next tit-for-tat step: MP

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The spokesman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said Iran may stop its voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol and reduce the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections of Tehran's nuclear activities.

"We implement the Additional Protocol voluntarily and we can stop that," Hossein Naqavi Hosseini said, Mehr reported on Sunday.

"When the other side does not fulfil its obligations, it is not necessary for us to fulfil our obligations and we should not allow the Agency to inspect [Iran's nuclear activities] according to the Additional Protocol," he remarked.

He reiterated that Iran will go on with taking the fourth step of reducing its commitments to the 2015 nuclear agreement, blaming European countries' failure to save the accord for Iran's measures.

Washington withdrew from the internationally-endorsed nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPO), with Iran on May 8, 2018, reimposed the toughest-ever sanctions against the country and started a



plan to zero down Tehran's oil sales.

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

Following the U.S. withdrawal, Iran remained fully committed to the JCPOA for a year, but announced on the anniversary of Washington's bellicose move that its "strategic patience" is over and would gradually reduce its commitments to the deal at 60-day intervals, which were designed as deadlines for Europe to protect Tehran's interests under the deal.

So far, Iran has taken three steps in that regard.

Last week, Chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Mojtaba Zonnour warned that Iran would take the fourth step should the other side continue to fail to fulfil its obligations under the deal.

"If Europe fulfils its obligations during the 60-day deadline, the Islamic Republic will return to its obligations under the framework of Barjam (JCPOA)," he said.

Zonnour said Iran has many options to choose from in the fourth step.

He emphasized that Europe should pay the price if it wants to salvage the nuclear accord.

"Europe is capable to do this, but instead it takes steps in line with U.S. goals, and accordingly it does not have the necessary will to preserve Barjam," the top MP added.

Velayati: Iran intent on backing Syrian nation, government



POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's principal policy is to support the Syrian nation and government and defend the rightful stances of that country, says Ali Akbar Velayati, a top foreign policy adviser to the Leader.

He said the Tehran-Damascus cooperation should continue until complete eradication of terrorism in Syria, Mehr reported.

Velayati made the remarks at a meeting with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Adnan Hassan Mahmoud on Saturday.

All Syrian people will defend their country as a unified nation and "we will witness more and more victories in this region," he said.

"We believe that Syria will be able to counter the threats more than any time," he added.

The Syrian ambassador, for his part, expressed gratitude for Iran's support for Syria and briefed Velayati on recent developments in the region.

He also criticized Turkey's operations in the northern parts of Syria, saying these

military actions are in contrast with international regulations.

Turkey launched military operation against Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in northeast Syria on Wednesday.

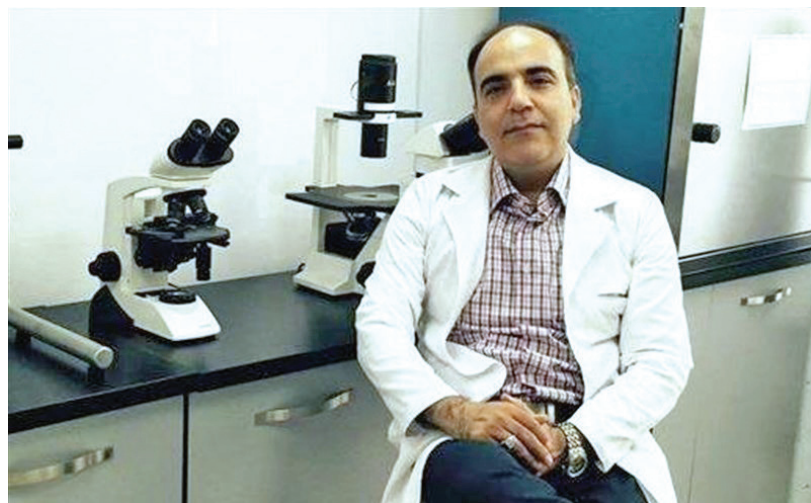
The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Thursday urging Turkey to immediately stop offensive against northeastern Syria and withdraw its forces from the region.

The statement said, "As it has been announced earlier, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the current regional situation a consequence of extra-regional interferences, especially by the United States."

The ministry said Iran, by capitalizing on its regional influence, has solutions to problems haunting the region. "Based on its view on solving problems within its regional capacities, Iran is ready to play a role."

The crisis can just be settled through peaceful solutions and respect for Syria's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the statement added.

Iranian scientist imprisoned illegally in U.S. for one year



TEHRAN (Tasnim) — On October 25, 2018, an airplane carrying Iranian professor Masoud Soleimani heading to the United States on a research mission touched down at a Chicago airport. One year on, the stem cell scientist remains incarcerated without a fair trial.

The 49-year-old Iranian professor and biomedical researcher at Tehran's Tarbiat Modares University, who was traveling to the U.S. with a visa issued upon an invitation by a U.S. research center, was detained by the FBI upon arrival, according to Press TV.

The Mayo Clinic in Minnesota had invited Soeimani to lead a research program on the treatment of stroke patients.

Prosecutors in Atlanta have accused Soleimani, who works in stem cell research, hematology and regenerative medicine, and two of his former students of conspiring and attempting to export biological materials from the U.S. to Iran without authorization, in violation of American sanctions.

The two students were charged in a court and released after posting bail because they held U.S. citizenship.

Federal prosecutors claim the attempted transport was illegal and secretly obtained an indictment against Soleimani in June 2018.

During his sole court appearance on May 14, 2019, Soleimani was charged with trying to transfer to Iran via his students a few vials of growth hormone -- a substance readily available on the market and not subject to sanctions.

Soleimani is reportedly suffering from several health problems which have been aggravated during his incarceration.

Moreover, he has lost his mother during his time in jail, of which he remains uninformed.

Social media activists have launched a campaign with the hashtag #Free_Masoud_Soleimani to draw global attention to the case of the imprisoned Iranian scientist, one year on.

Iranian MPs condemn Turkish attack on Syria

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian lawmakers on Sunday issued a statement condemning Turkey's incursion into northern Syria, which began on Wednesday.

The statement was signed by nearly 100 members of parliament. According to Fars, the number of MPs who are signing the statement is rising.



Turkish military forces and Turkish-backed militants of the so-called Free Syrian Army (FSA) on Wednesday launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion of northeast Syria in a declared attempt to eliminate Kurdish militants from the so-called People's Protection Units (YPG) to push them away from border areas.

Ankara views the U.S.-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Thursday urging Turkey to immediately stop offensive against northeastern Syria and withdraw its forces from the region.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that security at Syria-Turkey borders can just be provided by the Syrian Army.

"We have announced that security at the north of Syria and south of Turkey can just be provided by the Syrian Army and we should make the grounds for the Syrian Army's presence in this region. Other countries should help and the United States' forces leave this region, and the Kurds in this region, which is their own country, should be beside the Syrian Army," he said at a cabinet session.

Judiciary sacks five corrupt judges

1 → Under Ebrahim Raisi, the Judiciary has launched a fresh attempt to combat corruption, which has so far seen the arrest of many individuals, including those working in the Judiciary.

"Officials of the Judiciary will not allow corruption to nest in any location within the system, and on the agenda must be finding the best way to recognize these [corrupt] individuals," Raisi said back in August.

"Anywhere within the administrative, judicial, economic, cultural or political system that becomes infected with corruption, we will confront it," he stated.

Raisi has also said that the Judiciary is dead-set to confront even those "white collars" who deem themselves as the red lines which the system cannot cross.

"In confronting corruption, we do not know any red lines except for [not] implementing the law," he remarked.

MP warns Turkish aggression against Syria will make Daesh reemerge

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A member of Iranian parliament, Jalal Mirzayee, has said that Turkish invasion of northern Syrian will pave the ground for a revival of the terrorist Daesh group.

"The Turkish aggression against northern Syria is unjustifiable because it is opposed to the unity of tribes in the region.



The Turkish government should understand that continuation of such operation not only will not lead to restoration of durable peace and security in Turkey but also will pave the ground for revival and promotion of Daesh," the MP predicted.

He called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry to meddle in the issue to put an end to the military operation.

Mirzayee went on to say that the Turkish operation in northern Syria has brought about nothing but human losses, material damage and displacement of women and children.

Turkey launched an offensive on the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Wednesday. This happened despite warnings by Iran, Russia, Egypt and the European Union. The Syrian Kurdish fighters commonly referred to as SDF, were instrumental in defeating Daesh.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement last week voicing Tehran's strong opposition to the Turkish invasion of Syria, warning that such a move would certainly exacerbate the security situation in the region.

The ministry said Tehran was closely pursuing reports with "concern" over Turkish forces' deployment in Syria.

The ministry further underlined that military aggression against Syria and deployment of Turkish forces in the northern part of the war-torn country would not allay Ankara's security concerns.

Instead, the ministry warned, such a move would inflict broad human losses and material damage on Syria and its people and that is why the Islamic Republic is firmly opposed to any military operation in Syria.

"Iran is ready to mediate via holding urgent contacts with senior Turkish and Syrian officials to meet existing concerns through peaceful and diplomatic ways. Tehran believes that Syria's integrity and national sovereignty should be respected and reiterates that the Adana Pact enjoys suitable basis for resumption of such mediating talks," the ministry's statement read.

Pakistani senator says it's impossible to ignore Iran in international diplomacy

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A member of the Pakistani Senate defense committee has said Iran is a key Muslim country whose important role in international diplomacy is not ignorable.

"Iran is a Muslim and an important country, so ignoring its role in international diplomacy is impossible," Sajed Hossein Touri told IRNA reporter in Islamabad on Sunday.

Highlighting Iran's global and regional status, the senator said, "Even the U.S. seeks settling problems with Iran."

The remarks by the senator come as Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan, visited Tehran on Sunday at the head of a high-ranking political delegation.

Khan has expressed his desire to act as a mediator between Tehran and Riyadh who have been at loggerheads over a number of issues including the Saudi-led war on Yemen.

"We have strong ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia,

therefore we enjoy a firm standing for playing positive role," Sajed Hossein Touri pointed out."

On Pakistani prime minister's trip to Tehran, the senator said, "As soon as taking office, Khan emphasized restoration of peace in the region. Khan's efforts to mediate in the Persian Gulf tension, is a positive development and proves the Pakistani premier's good intention."

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said in a Saturday statement that the visit is "part of his [Khan's] initiative to promote peace and security in the region."

The senator also praised Iran's behavior in the region, saying, "Iran is a responsible country and it has never invaded any Muslim country."

He added, "We must be optimistic about Khan's mediating efforts."

Upon his arrival in Tehran, Khan started talks with Ira-

nian President Hassan Rouhani. He was also set to hold meetings with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

According to reports, he will then depart Tehran for Riyadh. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyed Abbas Mousavi said on Saturday that the issue of Khan's mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has not been raised "but the latest and most important regional and international developments will be discussed during the visit."

"The Islamic Republic has announced that it is always ready, with or without a mediator, to hold talks with its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, so that if there is any misunderstanding, it can be cleared," Mousavi stated.

The Pakistani prime minister made his first-ever official visit to Iran in April during which he held talks with Ayatollah Khamenei and President Rouhani.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	326190.7
IFX	4161.81

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,378 rials
GBP	53,130 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.51/b
WTI	\$54.70/b
OPEC Basket	\$58.71/b
Gold	\$1,490.75/oz
Silver	\$817.63/oz
Platinum	\$899.605/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

TPO to hold seminar on exporting industrial machinery

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) plans to hold a specialized seminar on exporting industrial machinery and production lines on November 12, the portal of TPO announced.



The seminar will be covering various issues including export opportunities to the neighboring countries, investment with a manufacturing and export approach, methods of financing the export of machinery and production lines, export consulting, design, installation and after sales services, as well as exports of second-hand machinery.

Senior officials with the industry ministry, specialists, traders, entrepreneurs, university students and interested experts are expected to attend the event.

World trade is likely to slow down further in 2019, RBI says

The Indian economy, which is already witnessing a slowdown, may be hit further with the world trade expected to drop further, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

As per autoeconomic.indiatimes.com, the apex bank, in its monetary policy report, said the forward looking indicators suggest that world trade is likely to slow down further this year.

The "slowdown in global trade, which began in the later half of 2018, has continued in 2019, with contribution from EMEs slipping into contraction in 2019. Forward looking indicators suggest that world trade is likely to slow down further in 2019," the Reserve Bank of India said.

In the U.S., real GDP growth (q-o-q, annualized) decelerated in Q2:2019 to 2 per cent, after rebounding in Q1, on slumping exports and weak business fixed investment.

The RBI further said the Euro area GDP growth slowed down in Q2:2019 as its major constituent economies lost steam amidst lingering uncertainties around Brexit and trade tensions.

The German economy contracted in Q2 with a struggling auto industry amidst falling exports; it entered Q3 on a weak note as the manufacturing PMI in September remained in contraction zone, marking the ninth consecutive month of decline in factory activity.

■ Contraction in industry

GDP growth in Italy stagnated in Q2 as contraction in industry and agriculture activities was offset by an uptick in the services sector, though its high level of debt and ongoing political uncertainty are downside risks.

The Japanese economy grew at a slower pace in Q2 than in the preceding quarter as escalating U.S.-China trade tensions and slackening global demand prompted a sharp downward revision in business spending.

Real GDP in the UK contracted in Q2 on the back of declining manufacturing activity due to planned early shutdowns of car plants in April following Brexit uncertainty. Risks from a potential hard Brexit deal and evolving global trading conditions cloud the near-term outlook.

The Chinese economy decelerated in Q2 (y-o-y) to its weakest pace in nearly 27 years, weighed down by the adverse impact of the prolonged and unresolved trade dispute with the U.S., and subdued global demand.

Among other BRICS economies, the Russian economy is struggling to regain momentum after undergoing a sharp deceleration in Q1.

The economies of Brazil and South Africa rebounded in Q2, after witnessing a sluggish start to the year. Economic recovery in Brazil was largely supported by strong fixed investment and construction activity in Q2.

The Indonesian economy slowed down to 5.1 percent (y-o-y) in each of the first two quarters of 2019, pulled down by subdued investment and declining exports, amidst global uncertainty.

In Thailand, the downturn that had started in Q1 continued in Q2 (y-o-y), marking the slowest growth in nearly five years. The struggling farm sector, slowing exports and the weakening tourism sector resulted in the slowdown.

Gas field discovered with \$40b worth of reserves

1 → "With 159 billion barrels of crude oil reserves and 34 billion cubic meters of gas reserves, Iran has the world's second largest gas reserves and also the world's fourth largest oil reserves," he said.

The official noted that Iran is currently self-sufficient in oil and gas exploration and

all the country's projects in this area are being carried out by domestic companies.

Earlier this week, Saleh Hendi, NIOC's director for exploration, had announced that the company has had very good achievements in the field of oil and gas exploration, so that now Iran ranks first in terms of oil



and gas reserves.

The official also said that plans were under-

way for beginning new exploration operations in the northeast of the country.

GSI to award 60 new areas for mining exploration

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations of Iran (GSD) said 60 new areas are going to be opened and awarded to the private sector for mining exploration, on the occasion of the organization's 60th establishment anniversary.

"In line with the organization's new approach regarding the contribution of private sector in the country's large-scale exploration activities, we are planning to award new areas for mining exploration, so that the private sector would be able to enter mining activities in a fair and transparent environment," IRIB quoted Alireza Shahidi as saying.

According to the official, the mentioned areas include some new sites which haven't been opened for exploration before, as well as some sites in which information-gathering and prospecting operations have been already carried out and they will be handed over to domestic contractors.

"Existence of valuable minerals such as gold, copper, iron, lead, zinc and other rare minerals has been confirmed in these areas [those prospected] and necessary licenses and certifications for discovery are being



issued," Shahidi said.

Back in August, Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that exploration operations were started in 300,000 square meters of lands across the country.

According to Khodadad Gharibpour, the country's private sector has invested 11.3 trillion rials (about \$269.04 million) in the mining sector since last December up to August.

"This amount of investment is a turning point in the private sector's contribution to the development of the country's mining industries," Gharibpour said in an IMIDRO deputies meeting.

Coal concentrate output up 13 percent in a month on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Production of coal concentrate in Iran increased 13 percent in the past Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (August 23-September 22) compared to the same month in the past year, IRIB reported citing the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported, some 65,126 tons of coal concentrate have been produced in Shahrivar of this year, rising from 57,458 tons in the same month of the previous year.

Iranian mining sector witnessed some prominent growth both in production and export during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019).

According to the data released by IMIDRO, the value of Iran's minerals and mining industries' exports stood at \$9.226 billion in the past year.

IMIDRO data indicate that the steel products account for the lion's share of the exports from this sector in the past year, with the value of \$4.1 billion.

The organization has also reported that production of iron ore concentrate has increased 17 percent year on year as



the country produced over 45.4 million tons of the product during the past year.

Also, iron ore pellet output has reached 6.3 million tons, registering a nine-percent annual growth.

Furthermore, production of copper concentrate in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year was five percent more than the planned figure.

Brexit economic boom will accelerate British growth if done properly

By Gerard Lyons

Investment plans have been put on hold by many firms because of uncertainty over Brexit. Sterling has also weakened, and is now cheap, at very attractive levels. In addition, the world economy has slowed sharply over the last year, with even Germany on the brink of recession.

Brexit uncertainty and global slowdown has dampened growth here. Tomorrow the government's agenda will be outlined in the Queen's Speech. Central to this agenda is the need for economic success.

The most important immediate economic development will be how and when we leave the EU. The latest signs are that the prime minister will secure a deal. This means leaving at the end of October.

Then there would be a transition period during which a new trade relationship would be worked out. This possibility has already seen the pound rally. If it materializes, it would boost business confidence and investment.

In my view, Brexit is a great opportunity.

It is chance for the UK to position itself in a world economy where 90 percent of growth in coming decades is set to come from outside of Europe.

■ An imbalanced economy

There are also many things we should have sorted out when we were in the EU but didn't. We need to address them now as the UK is an imbalanced economy. There are regional imbalances.

Also, there are some high productive and high wage sectors like The City but also too many firms with low productivity and low pay. Thus a major economic reboot is needed and I think it is easier to achieve this outside the EU.

But can we afford it? Yes, because of the Brexit Dividend. This has two parts to it. The first part is that we will be better able to spend at home the large amounts of money we give to the EU.

The second part of the Brexit Dividend causes controversy. The consensus view among economists is that this part will not exist as the UK will underperform once outside the

EU. I disagree.

Outside the EU, there are many reasons to expect the UK economy to do better and grow at a faster pace than if we remained in. If it does then the economy will be bigger and government revenues higher.

It is not just leaving the EU but what we do afterwards that is key. Naturally, it makes sense to have a good future relationship with the rest of the EU. Hence the focus on the exit deal.

■ The economic policy

But this deal needs to be a good one and must not tie our hands on future domestic economic policy or on our ability to cut trade deals across the globe. Hence the prime minister has been pushing for us to be outside the single market and customs union.

One way to think about future policy is like three legs on a stool. Each needs to carry its weight for the economy to be strong.

One economic leg is fiscal policy. As the chancellor has already outlined, this means austerity is over, with increased infrastructure and spending on important areas, plus targeted

tax cuts, when affordable.

The second, and often overlooked, will be what happens at the Bank of England. Monetary and financial policy is as important to future economic success as fiscal policy.

Also a new governor of the Bank of England is to be appointed soon and it is important that they have the authenticity and economic expertise to convey to international financial markets that Brexit is a great opportunity.

The third key leg of future economic success is the "supply side" agenda. This means removing regulatory obstacles that get in the way of success, while ensuring the right incentives are in place to boost output, investment and innovation. Protecting workers rights and safeguarding the environment are vital parts of this and will likely figure in our exit deal with the EU.

To deliver a Brexit Dividend it is not just about leaving the EU. It is also about implementing the right policies once we leave. I am confident we will.

(Source: express.co.uk)

Trade war with China: What is America up to?

In the trade negotiations with China, America doesn't seem to have a clear direction of what it wants to accomplish in the end.

According to forbes.com, a "big part of the problem with the U.S. China trade negotiations is that there are multiple agendas inside the Trump administration," says Ted Bauman, senior analyst and economist at Banyan Hill Publishing.

The "hawkish groups want to try to isolate China and force it to change its political and economic systems. The pragmatists just want to eliminate barriers to free trade."

What about Main Street America? "More broadly, I don't think "America" is all that interested in changing the Chinese system — simply because there are different interest groups involved," Bauman says.

But America wants to remind China who is "number one," according to Deric Scott, senior analyst and Vice President of Metals.com.

The "U.S. has the advantage of being the global reserve currency with the most gold reserves and the most formidable military," he says. "As China seeks to bill itself as the next great superpower, the U.S. seems determined to remind them that they are still number two, which to many respects, points to this trade war not coming to a full resolution regardless of who is in the White House in 2020."

What is it that Americans want to see change in the relations between the two countries?

"Many individual Americans are unhappy with China and would like to see a change," he says. "But our economic relationship with China has been very profitable to certain sectors of the U.S. economy, especially Wall Street. As we've seen with the craven behavior of the NBA and the U.S. entertainment industry, much of American business is perfectly happy to jettison the foundational ideals of the United States itself as

long as they can keep profiting from the China trade."

The lack of clear direction of what the American side wants from China gives Beijing an upper hand in trade negotiations.

And that could explain why they are winning the game thus far, as evidenced by the most recent reports coming out from Washington. "Reports that the White House is prepared to sign on to a limited trade deal suggest that the Chinese have achieved a comprehensive victory in the trade war," says Bauman.

Why is this deal a win for China? Because it's the "limited" deal Beijing wanted all along. A tariff relief in exchange of some agriculture exports, without addressing any broader issues.

"All this deal is going to achieve is some agricultural import concessions in exchange for tariff relief from the U.S. side," he says. "That doesn't achieve any of the goals that the U.S. set when it started this conflict in the first place. It just takes us back to an earlier status quo."

Iran unveils online power plant monitoring system

ENERGY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian unveiled the first phase of a system for online monitoring of the country’s power plants, portal of the ministry (Paven) reported on Sunday.

As reported, designing and implementation of the system which is aimed for assessing, maintenance and repairing the country’s power plants, has been carried out completely by Iranian experts and is the most effective online system for monitoring power plants’ status and troubleshooting.

Offering online reports on the state of the power plants, building a network of specialists, providing all types of power plant services

as well as reducing operating, maintenance and repair costs through continuous monitoring of the units and predicting failures and providing solutions for the problems are among the features of this system.

Also, the system is going to provide information-related services to knowledge-based companies and business intelligence services within the Ministry of Energy.

Other functions of the system include providing reports on the status of power plants and units to the management teams and providing economic and managerial analysis for decision making and building a network of experts, as well as providing additional services needed to operate the



power plants.

According to Iran’s Energy Ministry, currently, a total of 478 thermal power plants are operating throughout Iran.

The nominal capacity of electricity generation at Iranian power plants currently

stands at nearly 85,000 megawatts [84.795 gigawatts (GW)].

According to a report by Tasnim news agency, the country’s power generation capacity is set to reach 85,695 MW by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2020).

Energy ministry announces new electricity purchase regulations

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Ministry has announced new regulations on guaranteed purchase of electricity from the country’s renewable power suppliers, IRIB reported on Sunday.

Based on the new regulations, the ministry has increased the price for the guaranteed purchase of electricity from renewable power plants in order to promote construction of such plants in the country and also to increase competitiveness among the companies active in the renewable electricity industry.

According to Iran’s Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), to address environmental problems in coastal provinces and metropolises, the base rate of guaranteed electricity purchases from biomass power



plants will be doubled.

Also, the electricity purchase rate for wind farms in Sistan-Baluchestan province in southeastern Iran will increase by ten percent compared to the figures set out in their contracts.

Furthermore, renewable power plants which are built to export their generated electricity can, on request, sell their electricity to SATBA in accordance with Article 61 of the Consumer Pattern Amendment Act; which in that case they are required to cancel their export licenses.

Also for power plants that are not fully operational, the time for the price adjustment will be based from the date on which the plants start operating in full capacity.

Melting ice starts a power struggle as shipping routes get unblocked

By T Marc Champion

Melting ice is opening access to new energy resources faster than predicted, prompting a nascent great power struggle in the Arctic as the political and economic map of the world is transformed.

That, at least, is one picture that’s being sharply drawn at this weekend’s Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland, a kind of Davos for the far north. The seven-year-old event is the largest annual forum for politicians, scientists, environmentalists and others to talk about the Arctic, including climate change, security and the exploitation of new oil and gas discoveries.

U.S Energy Secretary Rick Perry called for “free nations” to resist attempts from those “that seek to dominate the Arctic from the outside,” an apparent reference to China, which calls itself a “near Arctic” power. Speaking at Thursday’s opening session, he also warned against countries trying to do the same through energy sales, an oblique dig at Russia.

Yet the attempt to rally U.S. allies faces an uphill battle as the Arctic emerges as a potential 21st century geopolitical flashpoint in the way transportation routes like the Suez Canal were in the 20th. Perry was followed on stage by Dmitry Artyukhov, the governor of the Yamal-Nenets region in Russia. He spelled out the growing international involvement in his region’s new and planned liquefied natural gas fields.

■ The global LNG market

In the three years from 2016 to 2018, these have quadrupled Russia’s share of the global LNG market to 8 percent, from 2 percent, with much more growth to come. Investors so far include Total SA of France, CNOOC and China National Petroleum of China, and Mitsui and Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, of Japan. Further projects are already approved.

South Korea, meanwhile, is building ice-hardened LNG supertankers to ship the gas, at more than \$300 million apiece. They can only deliver to Asia when Russia’s Northern Sea Route is relatively ice free. Still, this year it became navigable in August and traffic is still passing in October. The time-frame for when the passage will be consistently ice free is shrinking all the time.

Artyukhov was followed by a double act of diplomats from China and U.S. treaty ally South Korea, who talked about their tight trilateral cooperation on Arctic affairs with another U.S. treaty ally, Japan.

Asked if China might stop calling itself a near Arctic state in the light of U.S. opposition, Gao Feng, special representative for Arctic affairs in China’s Foreign Ministry, said simply: “No.”

“We see the emergence in front of our eyes of a new economic, business and political map,” said former Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, who founded and chairs the Arctic Circle Assembly.

“What is happening now is first, the emergence of Asia as the leading source of economic

growth in the 21st century, and second, the opening up of the Arctic which, combined with new technologies, is creating access to the oil and gas to supply that growth,” he said in an interview just ahead of the conference in the Icelandic capital Reykjavik.

■ London-based investment bank

That emerging new world order was mapped out in a slide show on Friday morning by Henry Tillman, who runs Grisons Peak, a London-based investment bank, and its research arm, China Investment Research. Projected onto the conference hall’s giant screen, he called it “Paving the Polar Silk Road.”

The Polar Silk Road is part of China’s Belt and Road Initiative and aims to reduce its trade logistics costs. Not only is the Northern Sea Route much shorter than current energy shipping lanes to Asia via the Indian Ocean and Suez Canal, there’s also less political risk, Tillman said. There’s nothing like the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, for example, where tension with Iran has escalated.

The U.S. has ambitions of its own to become one of the world’s leading LNG exporters. It’s projected to be producing 100 million tons of LNG by 2024, to Russia’s 63 million tons, but could face higher extraction and transport costs to get to export markets in Asia and Europe, according to Tillman.

That explains the aggressive stance the U.S. has taken against a planned natural gas pipeline from Russia to Europe and toward Russia and China’s activities in the Arctic, said Grimsson, Iceland’s president from



1996 to 2016.

Shawn Bennett, deputy assistant secretary for oil and natural gas at the Department of Energy, said the U.S. was not concerned about competition. Growth projections for natural gas demand in India and other Asian countries are so high, and the need for supply diversification in Europe so acute that there’s little risk of a glut, he told Bloomberg.

“Global demand for LNG is just going to grow,” he said. The U.S. may be pushing back in more concrete ways. On September 30, the Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on units of China’s Cosco Shipping Corp., over alleged breaches of U.S. sanctions against Iran. The move immediately hit the Yamal project’s LNG tanker routes because of Cosco’s share in one of the main shipping companies involved.

For those who have been working in the Arctic for a long time, much of the geopolitical discussion sounds a little breathless.

(Source: business-standard.com)

These oil giants won’t become dinosaurs as the world pivots away from fossil fuels

By Matthew DiLallo

Oil and gas are vital fuel sources for the global economy. In 2018, they combined to supply 57% of the worldwide energy mix, according to BP’s Statistical Review of World Energy. Add in coal at another 27%, and fossil fuels provide the lion’s share of the world’s energy needs.

Unfortunately, they’re also major contributors to climate change, which is why the world’s economies are investing trillions of dollars in switching over to renewables. That accelerating transition is forcing oil companies to seek ways to reduce their carbon footprints so that they’re part of the solution and not just contributing to the problem. Two of the oil giants leading the way are Total (NYSE:TOT) and Occidental Petroleum (NYSE:OXY).

Occidental Petroleum firmly believes that oil has a bright future. That’s why it paid \$55 billion earlier this year to buy rival oil producer Anadarko Petroleum. However, the company knows that the industry can do a better job of reducing carbon emissions. That’s why it’s investing in projects that will help it supply lower-carbon oil.

One way it’s doing that is by developing the world’s largest Direct Air Capture and sequestration facility. The plant would capture up to 500 kilotons of carbon dioxide per year directly from the atmosphere. To put that number into perspective, it’s like taking 100,000 cars off the road.

■ Injecting carbon dioxide

Occidental would then inject that carbon dioxide into an older oil field. That would enable the company to produce more oil out of that field while permanently storing the carbon dioxide underground.

In addition to that project, Occidental recently started up its first solar energy-generating facility. The 16 MW solar farm will provide power to its Goldsmith oil field in Texas, reducing its reliance on fossil fuel power from the grid.



Meanwhile, the company signed long-term power purchase agreements for another 109 MW of solar capacity starting in 2021. That will further reduce the carbon footprint of the company’s oil fields in Western Texas. These investments are all part of Occidental’s aspirational goal to eventually become carbon neutral.

French oil giant Total is also investing in a variety of initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint. The company, for example, is planning to double its liquefied natural gas (LNG) production by 2025. That fuel produces roughly 40% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than coal, when used to generate electricity.

In addition to that, it’s investing directly in several low-car-

bon businesses. In 2011, for example, the company bought a controlling stake in solar panel maker SunPower. Meanwhile, in 2016, it acquired battery company Saft.

■ Total’s direct investments

Total has also made several direct investments in building renewable energy-producing assets. It recently started construction on a third solar power plant in Japan. That 52 MW project is the largest one in the country and will boost the company’s total solar capacity in Japan to 100 MW when it comes online in 2021.

In Total’s view, these low-carbon businesses could account for 15% to 20% of its revenue by 2040. That implies hefty growth, considering that the company’s gas, renewables, and power division only supplied 4% of its sales in 2017. While the company isn’t completely pivoting away from carbon, it’s working to reduce its footprint in a meaningful way.

Oil companies can see that the global economy is working on weaning itself off of fossil fuels. That led Total’s CEO to say at a recent industry conference that, “if we don’t want to become dinosaurs, we’ll have to adapt.”

That’s why his company is one of a growing number of oil producers that are starting to make investments that will lower their carbon footprint so that they’ll be part of the solution. By doing so, they’re increasing the probability that they won’t go extinct as fossil fuels become less relevant in the coming decades.

When investing geniuses David and Tom Gardner have a stock tip, it can pay to listen. After all, the newsletter they have run for over a decade, Motley Fool Stock Advisor, has quadrupled the market.

David and Tom just revealed what they believe are the ten best stocks for investors to buy right now ... and Occidental Petroleum wasn’t one of them! That’s right -- they think these 10 stocks are even better buys.

(Source: fool.com)

Solar reaches 80 percent share of demand in South Australia

Solar power continues to set stunning new milestones in the renewable state of South Australia, reaching 80 percent of total demand on Saturday and accounting for more than 70 percent of demand over four hours in the middle of the day.

According to reneweconomy.au, the 80 percent share (well, 79.6 percent actually, but we are rounding up) was reached at 1.10pm (network time, AEST) on Saturday, with rooftop solar providing the bulk of the output – 819MW or 63 percent of state demand – and utility scale solar (Bungala 1, Tailem Bend and the partially complete Bungala 2) providing a combined 219MW, or 17 percent.

While that took solar’s total share of demand to 80 percent at 1.10pm, according to the OpenNem website, its share of total generation at that time was closer to 66 percent with just over a quarter of the total coming from gas generation. The excess over state demand was exported to Victoria, as it was for most of the week.

The interesting thing about this new milestone is that it means it will not be long until solar output is high enough during some daytime hours to meet all the state’s demand. Bungala 2 is currently on a “hold point” position (as it has been for a long time), that limits its output to around 20MW.

■ Solar farms

But if and when Bungala 2 satisfies AEMO requirements and reaches its full rating of 120MW, and Sanjeev Gupta’s 280MW Cultana solar farm comes on line, and more rooftop solar is added, as is inevitable, then the total output of solar will inevitably exceed total demand on some occasions. AEMO has warned that rooftop solar alone could do that within a few years.

Given the new wind farms being built (including the 214MW Lincoln Gap), it will be interesting to see what happens to the gas generation when the four synchronous condensers are installed next year by ElectraNet.

These spinning machines do not burn fuel, but provide the spinning mass that AEMO says is needed to maintain system strength. This will allow more gas generators to be switched off when not needed for electricity output.

The state Liberal government has a target of net 100 percent renewables and become a major exporter of renewable power. It says this net 100 percent target will meet by 2030, or soon after, but it will likely be met earlier given the huge pipeline of projects.

The government, and AEMO, will be hoping to see more examples of the complementary qualities of wind and solar output as occurred in near, but not quite perfect sequence in South Australia over this past week. Wind generated mostly at night, while solar provided the bulk of output during the day, although they didn’t quite get the handover quantities right in the early evening.

There was enough wind and solar to meet 100 per cent of state demand on some occasions, and 67 percent of local demand across the week, a percentage that will grow significantly as more projects are added.

■ The gas generation

Of course, gas generation will continue to be needed when the combined output of wind and solar is insufficient to meet local demand. Shorter term storage will help remove the pricing peaks that occurred this past week in the early evening, when the sun sets and wind generation hadn’t yet ramped up.

But given the huge quantities of new wind, solar, and pumped hydro and battery storage projects, and even hydrogen plants, that are in the pipeline in the state, then the role of gas generation may be reduced to just a series of fast-start generators.

That’s why AGL is building two new fast-start generators at Barker’s Inlet, and plans to close down capacity at Torrens Island, although part of this closure has been delayed for one summer to ensure the transition is smooth. Infigen and Nexif plan to lease and operate the state-owned fast-start generators in a similar way, alongside the wind and battery storage assets they own.

A new transmission line is expected to be built between Robertstown in South Australia and Wagga Wagga in NSW, which will increase South Australia’s ability to export excess capacity, and to import when needed, as well as an added back-up to the current line to Victoria.

This is also expected to unlock a huge amount of new developments, including Neoen’s Crystal Brook and South Gwyder projects, and the Solar River solar and battery project that has already secured a power purchase agreement with Alinta.

Taiwan completes first pin piles assembly for offshore wind turbines

A ceremony to mark the completion of Taiwan’s first underwater pin piles assembly for its offshore wind turbines was held at the port in Bali District, New Taipei, on Saturday.

As per focustaiwan.tw, speaking at the ceremony at Port of Taipei, President Tsai Ing-wen said green energy will allow Taiwan to generate revenue from all over the world, and her administration will continue its efforts to develop the industry, despite the challenges.

The renewable energy sector can be likened to the country’s high-speed railway system, which at first was heavily criticized as not being sustainable but later was praised and used by everyone, Tsai said.

She said that when Taiwan’s first offshore wind farm begins commercial operations, it will mark a huge milestone in Taiwan’s efforts to develop green energy.

The pin piles assembly is the first step, as Taiwan works toward having all underwater structures and components for its offshore energy projects manufactured domestically, Tsai said.

Offshore wind energy has the potential to become a NT\$1.2 trillion a year industry in Taiwan, providing additional jobs, she said. For example, Tsai said, the pin piles assembly project has directly and indirectly helped to create 300-500 jobs at higher than average pay.

By 2025, when Taiwan goes nuclear-free, green energy is expected to account for at least 20 percent of the country’s domestic energy needs, according to Tsai.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Lai Wen-hsiang, head of the company contracted to carry out the pin piles assembly work, said the manufacture of the relevant underwater structures and components has become a huge business internationally in recent years, driven by an expanding market.

Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany are all working to manufacture such products amid growing domestic demand, said Lai, chairman of Century Iron and Steel Industrial Co.

Against that backdrop, he said, his company has invested NT\$6 billion in an assembly plant at Port of Taipei.

Founded in 1987 and headquartered in Taoyuan, the company specializes in the manufacture of steel structures for a variety of projects. In 2018, it signed a deal with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners K/S to build the underwater infrastructure for two wind power generators off the coast of Changhua County.

By Saeed Sobani

TEHRAN — The political game in the United States of America is extremely complicated. Most US citizens' support for Donald Trump's impeachment has created difficult conditions for the White House. On the other hand, revelations against former Vice President Joe Biden have diminished his popularity in the polls. In such a situation we are witnessing the rise of Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Here's a look at the latest news and analysis on the situation of the US president and his rival, Joe Biden:

Fox News pollster Braun Research misrepresented impeachment poll: analysis

As New York Post reported, The poll released last week by Fox News that claimed most Americans favor the impeachment of President Trump underrepresented Republican and independent voters, The Post has found.

The poll said 51% of voters were in favor of Trump's impeachment and removal from office, while 40% did not want him impeached.

Princeton, New Jersey, pollster Braun Research, which conducted the survey, noted 48% of its respondents were Democrats. But the actual breakdown of party-affiliation is 31% Democrat, 29% Republican and 38% independent, according to Gallup.

A poll weighted for party affiliation would have concluded that 44.9% favored impeachment and 44.4% opposed it, a Post analysis has concluded. The poll prompted Trump to tweet: "Whoever [Fox News'] Pollster is, they suck."

Braun could not be reached for comment.

■ **Impeachment Support Grows, but So Does the Public Divide**

But New York Times reported that Americans are as divided over impeachment as they are over President Trump. But support for the Democrats' inquiry is building even in places Mr. Trump won, and among politically crucial independents.

Over lunch at the Frost Cafe, a corner diner in a picturesque pocket of Virginia that President Trump won handily in 2016, opinion over his impeachment is as varied as anywhere in the country. Garland Gentry, 74, a pro-Trump retiree, declared the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry "another in a long line of hoaxes," while Cindy Rafala, 59, a therapist, sat nearby and wondered, "If we don't impeach, then what are our principles?"

Donnie Johnston, a newspaper columnist who voted for Mr. Trump but has since soured on him, said Democrats are right to look into the president's effort to pressure the leader of Ukraine to dig up dirt on political rivals. Mr. Trump, he said, makes "a wonderful tyrant but he's a miserable president."

The shifting tides in Culpeper, a rural town of about 18,000 nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and in communities across the country, are a warning sign for Mr. Trump as Congress returns to Washington Tuesday after a two-week recess and Democrats' impeachment inquiry kicks into high gear. They suggest that while Americans are deeply split along party lines over the push to remove Mr. Trump, their views on impeachment are beginning to crystallize in some unexpected ways.

From Iowa to Texas to Virginia to Ohio — and especially in swing districts like this one, where Representative Abigail Spanberger, a freshman Democrat, flipped a seat long held by Republicans — interviews with dozens of voters suggest what public polls have begun to show: that there is growing support for the impeachment inquiry that could ultimately result in Mr. Trump's ouster, even as sharp divides remain over his conduct and character.

Democrats, aware of the risks of a backlash by voters against the impeachment process, have been monitoring public opinion vigilantly and tailoring their message and strategy accordingly. On a private conference call on Friday afternoon, leaders briefed their rank and file on private polling of 57 politically competitive districts that confirmed what public polls have reported in recent days: while a stark partisan divide persists, public support is growing for impeaching the president, and for the inquiry itself.

An average of impeachment polls calculated by the website FiveThirtyEight found that, as of Oct. 11, 49.3 percent of respondents supported impeachment and 43.5 percent did not. A survey released this past week by The Washington Post found 58 percent said the House was correct to open an inquiry.

And polling by a group of Democratic strategists found a potential opportunity to sway the public still further: nearly a quarter of the respondents categorized by strategists as "impeachment skeptics" opposed the inquiry but were not ready to say that Mr. Trump did nothing wrong.

Those figures do not point to a broad consensus around impeachment, and the interviews in recent days made clear there is none. Republicans here and around the country view the Democrats' inquiry as just one more effort to undo the results of the 2016 presidential race. Just 14 percent of them back impeachment, according to FiveThirtyEight, compared to 82 percent of Democrats.

At a weekly steak fry in Trump-friendly Bandera, Texas, a town that bills itself as the "Cowboy Capital of the World," most people seemed to agree with Holly Mydland, a fiddler, that the inquiry is "just bull crap," and the local congressman, Representative Chip Roy, a Republican who has said he wants to follow the facts, but insisted that "only in Washington are people all in a tizzy about this."

But Michael Clark, 69, a retired purchasing agent for an oil company who considers himself an independent, said the inquiry "has merit — we need to know the truth whatever the truth may be."

And in Westerville, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus that will host a Democratic presidential debate Tuesday, Don Foster, who voted for Mr. Trump but no longer supports him, said he found the latest allegations more dire than those investigated by the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, involving Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"This one seems more true than the Mueller report," he said. "I'm guessing that Trump really is guilty, I just don't know yet."

Still, Democrats are confronting some warning signs of their own as they pursue what Speaker Nancy Pelosi has conceded is the most divisive process in American political life. While the Democratic base overwhelmingly supports impeachment, many share the view of Ms. Rafala, the therapist in Culpeper, who said she is "worried to death that it could backfire."

Michael Clark, who considers himself an independent, said the inquiry "has merit."

■ **Michael Clark, who considers himself an independent, said the inquiry "has merit."** CreditCallaghan O'Hare for The New York Times

In West Des Moines, Iowa, Dimeka Jennings said she is far more focused on the 2020 election than on the efforts in Congress to remove Mr. Trump, which she predicts will fail. "We need to look at beating Trump, and doing so at all

What about the fate of two politicians? Hurricane at Trump and Biden Nest



costs," Ms. Jennings said.

And in Reno, Nev., April Friedman, 48, a teacher for students with special needs, said she thought the impeachment inquiry was important but wished the government would also address other more pressing issues.

"I'm in a Title I school and we have cockroaches in our trailer," she said, referring to the law that mandates extra federal funding for schools with large concentrations of low-income students. "I know there's a lot going on, but that's what I'm focused on."

When lawmakers left Washington for their home districts at the end of September, Ms. Pelosi instructed her fellow Democrats to speak about impeachment in "prayerful, respectful, solemn" tones in an effort to persuade the public that Democrats were acting out of principle, not politics. Two weeks later, it is not clear whether they have succeeded.

"I think the jury's still out," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster. For Democrats, she said, "the risk is less that voters disagree with them on impeachment and more that people will think: 'Why are you engaged in this when my prescription drug bill has gone up, my health care is uncertain, my job doesn't pay very well, my kid's got student debt?'"

Meantime, the impeachment inquiry is barreling ahead as Democrats seek to build their case that Mr. Trump abused his power by using a security aid package and the promise of a White House visit to pressure President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine to investigate Democrats including former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Mr. Biden's younger son, Hunter. On Friday, Marie L. Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine, testified behind closed doors, telling impeachment investigators that the president had personally pushed for her ouster based on "false claims."

During their conference call on Friday, Representative Cheri Bustos of Illinois, who runs the party's campaign arm, urged fellow Democrats to focus on kitchen-table issues and to speak about impeachment in "direct, simple and values-based" language, according to aides who listened to the call.

The advice reflected the findings of internal polls that the most potent argument for Democrats is that Mr. Trump has abused his power and put himself above the law. It was also an acknowledgment that Republicans are succeeding at persuading some voters that the impeachment push is distracting Democrats from getting things done for their constituents.

"They've been hassling the president since the day he got in office," said Diane Segura, 56, who works as a nurse near the 11th Street Cowboy Bar in Bandera. "I'm tired of hearing it, tired of dealing with it."

"It's just more of the same," she added.

But for many Democratic voters, the impeachment push is long overdue.

"Regardless of what your party is, I don't understand how you could look at that and think this is not worthy of an investigation," said Deborah Harris, a self-described "strong Democrat" in Iowa City, referring to Mr. Trump's entreaties to President Zelensky. She added, "This is crossing a line."

But in between there are hints of an important shift among a constituency critical to the president's future: independents. The FiveThirtyEight tracker shows 44 percent of independents favor impeachment, up from 33 percent after Mr. Mueller concluded his two-year investigation. A memo prepared by Navigator Research, a progressive polling project, entitled "How to Talk About Impeachment," found even stronger support among independents, with 51 percent backing impeachment. Culpeper, a town that is older than America itself and sits roughly halfway between Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville, Va., offers a snapshot of America's impeachment divide.

At the Rusty Willow Boutique, an upscale women's clothing shop that was preparing for its grand opening, just the mention of Mr. Trump prompted a squabble between Sonya Pancione, 57, the shop's owner, and Denise Reynolds, 50, one of her best friends from church. Ms. Pancione is dead-set against impeachment.

"Respect the office. It's a democracy. People voted for him," she said.

Ms. Reynolds loathes Mr. Trump and blames him for inciting racial hatred. She was once excited about his candidacy — "I thought we needed somebody who understood business in that seat," she said — but says now that if he were impeached and removed from office, "it would not upset me in the least."

Ms. Spanberger, a former C.I.A. officer and federal postal inspector who worked on money laundering cases before joining Congress, reflects the shifting tide. She won her district,

which includes Culpeper, narrowly in 2018, casting herself as a moderate who wanted to solve problems like the high cost of prescription drugs. She visited Culpeper this past week, making it the first stop on a two-day "education tour," but declined an interview for this article.

For months, she resisted calls for impeachment. But after the Ukraine news broke, she joined six freshman Democrats who have national security backgrounds in writing an opinion piece in The Washington Post to call for Ms. Pelosi to open an inquiry.

Now Mr. Trump and his allies are targeting vulnerable Democrats like her. In Pennsylvania, Florida, Iowa and other battleground states, scores of Republicans turned out this month for "Stop the Madness!" rallies orchestrated by the Trump campaign. Here in Culpeper, the local party staged its own rally last Saturday.

"Abigail won on a blue-wave year, and she really won on this whole notion that she was going to go down and be an independent voice, that she wasn't interested in impeachment, she was really interested in getting things done," said Nick Freitas, a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates, who helped organize the event.

"And here we are."

■ **Why Populist Democrats Have Gained the Upper Hand in the 2020 Race**

Also New York Times reported that As next week's debate looms, polls and donor contributions suggest a party seeking candidates who will push the boundaries, while moderates argue they can beat President Trump.

With a crucial debate looming next week in the Democratic presidential primary, the party's populist wing appears increasingly in control of the race — rising in the polls, stocked with cash and with only a wounded leading candidate, Joseph R. Biden Jr., standing in its way.

Several slow-building trends have converged to upend the race over the last few weeks: Senator Elizabeth Warren's steady ascent in the polls has accelerated. Both she and Senator Bernie Sanders, a fellow progressive, have raised immense sums of money from small donors online, dominating the Democratic field and each collecting about \$10 million more than Mr. Biden in the last quarter. And Mr. Biden's numbers have gradually slipped in a way that has alarmed his supporters.

The race is far from over: All three of the top candidates — Ms. Warren, Mr. Biden and Mr. Sanders — have a path to victory, and there is still time for longer-shot candidates to make a real run at the nomination. The CNN/New York Times debate in Ohio on Tuesday is likely to test Ms. Warren's status as an emerging front-runner, subjecting her to new criticism from her fellow Democrats on matters ranging from health care policy to trade and the role of the government in overseeing the economy. Above all, she may need to allay lingering reservations about her appeal to swing voters in the general election.

■ **Terms of Service | Privacy Policy**

And Mr. Biden signaled on Thursday night that he will come into the debate fighting. "One of the problems I'm finding, I've got to be more aggressive," he said at a fund-raiser in Los Angeles. He then used a roundabout example to explain that debate time restraints don't allow time for lengthy answers.

"When someone says, you know, you know, 'Are you still beating your wife?' And, and I go, 'I have a long explanation,' and they say, 'You got 30 seconds to answer.' And you say, 'No. And then, wait a minute, what'd I just say? No, I'm not still beating my wife.' But so, I've had, I've had some difficulties," he said.

If Tuesday's debate could break in any number of directions, what may be resolved is the overall mood of Democratic primary voters, and whether they are more inclined to seek a politically cautious nominee who promises to restore normalcy in Washington, or a more confrontational standard-bearer with an ambitious and disruptive reform agenda. It is candidates in the latter category who now control the bulk of the financial might in the race, and are best positioned in most of the early primary states.

Which Democrats Are Leading the 2020 Presidential Race?

There are 19 Democrats running for president. Here's the latest data to track how the candidates are doing.

Anna Greenberg, a Democratic pollster who is not aligned in the primary, said an "anti-establishment" current had plainly taken hold, with voters rewarding candidates for defying the conventional limits of political debate and "pushing boundaries in really productive ways." She pointed not only to Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders but also to former Representative

Beto O'Rourke, who has embraced a new political identity for himself as a gun-control activist and a critic of his own party's relatively cautious platform on the issue.

"Across the board, whether it's Beto talking about assault weapons or Warren and Sanders talking about Wall Street," Ms. Greenberg said, "it does feel like there is a shift in the party that is kind of new."

Ms. Greenberg said there was still space for Mr. Biden to run a strong campaign because of the way voters perceive his values and character. Americans, she said, believe Mr. Biden "cares about people and working class people, regular people, and that's not an insignificant asset."

Yet it has been Ms. Warren, rather than Mr. Biden, who has consistently gained strength. Campaigning on a message of purging corruption in Washington and restructuring the economy, Ms. Warren has closed Mr. Biden's lead in the polls every week since the beginning of the summer and is now in a position to upset him in both Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two states to vote.

Mr. Biden remains a strong contender for the nomination, largely because of the support he collects from African-American voters. But he has struggled for months to articulate a clear vision for the future and has relied heavily on Democratic nostalgia for the Obama administration. In recent weeks, he has been consumed in a grisly political clash with President Trump.

So far, the support Mr. Biden has lost does not seem to have gone to another moderate, like Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Ind. Only Ms. Warren has been moving up in the national polls, suggesting either that Mr. Biden's lost supporters have defected to her camp or that they have become undecided altogether.

IFMs. Warren has become the leading liberal standard-bearer, Mr. Sanders has been a steady third in national polls and his fund-raising power is likely to keep him among the most formidable competitors in the race. Yet his campaign has been grappling with the implications of Mr. Sanders's heart attack in Las Vegas last week, a medical emergency that landed him in the hospital and has kept him off the trail for days.

He has sent mixed signals about his path forward, first indicating that he would scale back his campaign schedule and then defiantly reversing that suggestion.

It is unclear whether Mr. Sanders's physical condition will affect his poll numbers: He has a solid base of support nationally and few other candidates believe his core followers will be easily dislodged. There is at least a new degree of uncertainty about whether he will be in a strong position to vie for liberal Democrats who have already been migrating toward Ms. Warren.

Nearly all of the candidates feel pressure to do something in the Ohio debate to stop the race from becoming a contest entirely defined by a Warren-Biden rivalry, either by inflicting direct damage on Ms. Warren's campaign or by outflanking her as an alternative to Mr. Biden. The ongoing impeachment inquiry targeting Mr. Trump has only added to the pressure on the Democratic field, since the tumult in Washington is likely to leave voters with even less time to devote to reviewing underdog options.

Mr. Buttigieg in particular has been moving assertively in recent weeks to position himself as a center-left alternative to both Mr. Biden and Ms. Warren, using his considerable war chest to run television ads in Iowa.

Several other candidates of different ideological stripes are counting on Iowa for a breakthrough, including Senators Kamala Harris, Cory Booker and Amy Klobuchar. A wild-card joining them onstage will be a new contender, Tom Steyer, a former hedge fund investor who has spent lavishly from his personal fortune to brand himself as a reform-minded outsider.

For Ms. Warren, meanwhile, the debate may help reveal whether she can consolidate her gains across the Democratic Party. On Wednesday, she campaigned in South Carolina, where she has so far struggled to gain traction with the African-American voters who largely decide the primary there. To cement her status as a front-runner, she may have to win over a range of constituencies torn between their interest in her ideas and a more cautious political calculus that draws them to Mr. Biden.

Joseph R. Biden Jr. speaks at a campaign event in Manchester, N.H. His numbers have gradually slipped in a way that has alarmed his supporters.

■ **Joseph R. Biden Jr. speaks at a campaign event in Manchester, N.H. His numbers have gradually slipped in a way that has alarmed his supporters.** CreditElizabeth Frantz for The New York Times

One of those voters is Ohio's former governor, Ted Strickland, the only Democrat to hold that office this century. Like many Democratic voters, Mr. Strickland, a populist with close ties to organized labor, said he saw Mr. Biden as the safer bet for the general election but found it hard to resist the appeal of Ms. Warren's proposals, most of all her plan for a new tax on vast private fortunes.

"I think there may be something to the electability issue for Mr. Biden, in Ohio," Mr. Strickland said. "But if I could just choose to put someone in the presidency — if that was my choice alone — it would be hard for me to pass up Elizabeth Warren."

Mr. Strickland said he had spoken with Mr. Biden recently and saw him as a seasoned diplomat and a reliable "economic progressive." But Ms. Warren, he said, was gradually easing voters' reservations about her ability to go up against Mr. Trump by talking about policy issues "in ways that are easily understood."

Mr. Biden remains a clear favorite in just one of the early states, South Carolina, and his advisers have predicted that he would fare better in larger, more diverse states that vote later in the calendar. He is counting, in particular, on older and more moderate African-American voters to hold back the party from stampeding toward a more ideological liberal candidate. In 2016, black and Latino voters helped Hillary Clinton withstand a persistent primary challenge from Mr. Sanders.

Yet scattered polling in the later states has largely followed the national trend: Last week, for instance, the Public Policy Institute of California released a poll finding a statistical three-way tie in the nation's most populous state between Mr. Biden, Ms. Warren and Mr. Sanders.

Mark Baldassare, president of the institute, said there was no indication in his poll that the state's diversity would represent a stumbling block for candidates on the left, as Mr. Biden is hoping. The primary debates would be crucial to determining Ms. Warren's continued momentum, he said, because voters seemed to be using them for insight into the general election.

"It has become kind of a proxy for: How are these candidates going to do when they stand up next to Trump?" Mr. Baldassare said. "I think this will be Elizabeth Warren's moment now, because if she is in the mix for front-runner, people are going to be testing her and seeing: How does she do? How does she do when she has to be on defense?"

Zahraa al-Derzi: Hezbollah's response indicates new deterrence equations

TEHRAN (FNA) — Zahraa al-Derzi, journalist, says the operation by Hezbollah shows the Resistance Front is in a new defensive stage, in which Israel will receive military responses for every assault it launches on any member of the Resistance Front.

In an explosive interview with FNA, al-Derzi said, "This is not the first time for Seyed Hassan Nasrallah to keep his promises and Israelis know that very well. Thus, they know from now on, they cannot commit an assault without getting a response, unless they want to take risks to face new surprises, or to enter a war they cannot handle."

Zahraa al-Derzi is a Syrian freelance journalist based in the Lebanese capital. Her reports from the war fields in Syria were published by various media. As a field correspondent, she extensively covered the war against Daesh [ISIL, also known as ISIS] in Syria.

Below is the full text of the interview:

■ Hezbollah's attack came in response to an Israeli air raid that killed two of its fighters. It sounds Hezbollah can shatter Israel's sense of impunity?

A: First, thinking out of the box, Seyed Hassan Nasrallah is an official speaker not only for Hezbollah, but for a whole axis of resistance and expresses the policies of the axis, then we can consider the latest operation of Hezbollah, is a stern message to Israel announcing new deterrence equations for Lebanon primarily in addition to Syria, Iran, Palestine, Iraq and Yemen too. Seyed Hassan Nasrallah in his latest speech a day after the operation verified that there are no red lines anymore and the current phase of deterrence makes the whole occupied territories as a target for Hezbollah. This is not the first time for Seyed Hassan Nasrallah to keep his promises, and Israelis know that very well. Thus, they know from now on, they cannot commit an assault without getting a response, unless they want to take risks to face new surprises, or to enter a war they cannot handle.

We are probably coming to a new stage of defensive equation to respond to any new Israeli assaults on Syria, which means that any offensive may get response from any of the axis parties.

■ How do you view Hezbollah in terms of its defense policies?

A: Since the establishment of Hezbollah in 1982, it was established for a cause, to face the Israeli occupation who invaded Lebanon's capital Beirut and occupied one third of the country's territories. Form the beginning



they took responsibility of defending Lebanon against any aggression.

Israel is a military entity, not a civil society; because they all serve at the occupation army, at least once each year. In addition, their state was established to protect their army, not the opposite. Although Hezbollah was aware of the composition of Israeli community, they do not target civilians for ethical law they built their ideology on.

■ As ISIL was existing only a few kilometers away from Israeli forces, they would target Syrian soldiers and Hezbollah fighters. How do you view Israel's military policies?

A: Israel was considering itself as an unbeatable state, and this illusion got shattered by the defeat they faced in 2006's war against Hezbollah. Then, they had to change the way of functioning. Later, proxy wars became preferred for Israel over direct battles, and they depend on tearing societies apart and erase any values that lead to

consider Israel as the enemy, as well as dividing countries without losing any soldiers and avoiding battles inside the occupied soil. This strategy is related to the weakness of the Israeli society, which cannot afford being shelled and staying in shelters, and it was proven in the war of July 2006, when public pressure was assessed on the Israeli government to go to a ceasefire.

They created and supported Daesh (ISIL) and other radical terrorist groups as a tool in the hand of Israel, and that was documented in many places, especially in Southern Syria, where the borders of the occupied Golan Heights were opened for the terrorists who were in control of the parallel territories to receive their support (funds, ammunitions, weapons and logistics) and to get the health care. Their main role was to destroy the state of Syria, weaken the Syrian Army and topple not President Assad as a person, but to topple his orientation of supporting resistance and cutting Syria's ties with resistance factions and Iran

Xi-Modi summit points way for China-India ties East Asian developments at a glance

GLOBALTIMES — At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping began his visit in India on Friday for his second informal meeting with Modi in the southern Indian city of Chennai. This is one of this year's most anticipated summits.

In April 2018, the first informal summit between Xi and Modi in Wuhan pulled bilateral relations back on track from the shadow of the Doklam standoff. Exchanges and cooperation in various fields have been comprehensively promoted. This time, the meeting in Chennai will set the tone and direction for the next stage of China-India ties while providing stability and positive energy for the current world full of uncertainties.

Public opinions from China and India have been very positive toward the second Xi-Modi informal summit, yet a few Western media are focusing on differences between the two. This is not unexpected. Some people in the West have been constantly driving a wedge between Beijing and New Delhi, hoping to see frictions or even clashes break out.

People with even a slight political sense know why the US and the West do not want China and India to be close to each other, and why they hope to see a fight between the Chinese dragon and Indian elephant, because the two emerging powers could consume their energies while the West gains strategic benefits. Although some Indian media tend to make impulsive statements from time to time, Indian policymakers have maintained strategic rationality and geopolitical sense. Both countries have gradually formed an increasingly stronger ability to control their problems.

China-India relations are complicated given their border disputes, historical grudges and respective concerns on geopolitics. Any of these differences could lead to fiercer conflicts stimulated by nationalist sentiments and the intervention of foreign forces, which would disturb the bilateral relationship.

In the past decade, overall peace and rapid development have prevailed between the two amid differences and frictions. That's because the leaders of both countries have a clear understanding over the key issue - friendly cooperation is in line with China and India's fundamental strategic interests. Chinese society is full of goodwill to India and hopes to see India achieve peaceful development. They should expand their friendly collaboration. The two countries are adjacent to each other. Both sides

should turn this into a driving force of their own development, rather than using it for conflicts. We believe, guided by leaders from the two sides, ties between China and India would become a significant factor in defining international relations in the future.

■ **Tsai's speech malign, ridiculous**
In a speech on Thursday, Taiwan regional leader Tsai Ing-wen hyped the mainland's "diplomatic offensives and military coercion" and said the mainland is "threatening to impose" the "one country, two systems" principle on Taiwan. She recounted the "serious challenges" Taiwan had faced over the past 70 years, saying that "we wipe away our tears and stand up once again."

Tsai also mentioned the so-called three goals of the future - "to defend our sovereignty," "continue to build a stronger Taiwan and bolster our economic capabilities to create a prosperous society and powerful country" and "actively engage with the world and overcome challenges, so that the Republic of China (Taiwan) can hold its head high on the international stage with confidence." Tsai did not forget to brag about her political achievements, but she only said a few words about it because there was nothing much to say.

Obviously, Tsai wants to wangle votes by creating panic and intensifying cross-Straits confrontation. She said "we will not act provocatively or rashly," which reflects her trembling heart. In the context of Taiwan's current condition and the cross-Straits situation, Tsai's speech is malign and ridiculous.

First, does the island have "sovereignty"? Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. This is an ironclad fact recognized by the whole world. Since Tsai took office three years ago, Taiwan has lost seven "diplomatic allies." Based on the trend, it may soon lose all. What Tsai referred to as "sovereignty" is nonexistent. How can the island defend it?

Second, since the Tsai authority always messes things up, how can Taiwan develop its economy? Taiwan's "ministry of finance" released Monday the island's export data for September, showing a decline beyond expectations. The unemployment rate in Taiwan remains high and wages have remained stagnant. Since Tsai assumed office, cross-Straits relations have deteriorated drastically, and Taiwan's tourism industry and agricultural exports have suffered a blow. Poor cross-Straits relations will lead to a poor economy in Taiwan. This is com-

mon sense.

Third, because Tsai refuses to recognize the 1992 Consensus, will there be any space for Taiwan in the international community? Tsai is boasting without shame. Are there any formal international occasions that Taiwan can engage in? The island can only send uninvited representatives. Even netizens in Taiwan pour ridicule on them.

Tsai made up to the Western countries in her speech on October 10, 2018, but she said nothing about them on Thursday. Obviously, Tsai intended to raise her status by bonding the island with the US tighter last year. However, after one year, Tsai realized she had gained nothing from such a move and began to be aware of the high risk of being a chess piece of the US. In the past year, Tsai could have clearly seen the fact that she doesn't mean much to Washington.

What hasn't changed is Tsai and her Democratic Progressive Party's attitude against reunification. This has pushed the island to the edge of the cliff. We don't know what was in Tsai's mind after she watched the military parade held on National Day in Beijing. What we know is confronted with such power and the strong will of the mainland, the island can easily see the consequences.

■ **Viewing trade talks progress with rationality, calmness**

The new round of high-level economic and trade consultations between China and the US concluded Friday in Washington. US President Donald Trump met with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. Information released by both sides suggests that substantial progress has been achieved. The two sides agreed to continue meeting each other halfway and working together toward a final agreement.

Public opinion was not optimistic about the negotiation results before this new round of trade talks. In particular, the US exerted new pressure on China ahead of the consultations, which triggered a wave of pessimistic analysis from the international community. But the outcome is clearly better than what was expected.

The trade war has lasted for more than a year. Both sides have suffered losses, and no sign of victory by any side can be observed.

Although a majority of people in both the US and China are in favor of ending the trade war, it is not easy for the two countries to truly address key differences and meet each other halfway. Efforts are still needed to find a way out of the pre-

vious stalemate and let rational emotion dominate both sides' opinion field. During this round of consultations, the two sides conducted frank, efficient, and constructive discussions and made substantial progress in areas including agriculture, intellectual property rights protection, exchange rate, financial services, trade cooperation, technology transfer, and dispute settlement. Follow-up consultation arrangements were also discussed. However, every time the two sides achieved something in trade talks, there would be criticisms in both countries, saying their own country "suffering losses" or even "caving in."

Among these criticisms, some are naïve, and some are intentional due to politics or other reasons. It is hoped that neither side will be disturbed by these criticisms. The two negotiation teams should speed-up consultations and pave the way for a final agreement.

Ending the trade war means removing all imposed tariffs, which is a prerequisite. The longer the trade war, the more the tariffs. However, the original intention of trade talks - returning to the tariff level before the trade war - cannot be forgotten.

Eliminating a part of tariffs only signifies mitigated tensions, rather than an end of the trade war. To end the trade war, both sides need to move forward in accordance with the consensus reached between the two state leaders.

The two sides agreed that China will purchase more agricultural products from the US. But if China purchases them on and off, a stable environment cannot be created in which US agriculture can make use of the Chinese market to accelerate its progress toward prosperity. Only if the two sides sign a comprehensive economic and trade agreement, business partners of the two countries, including US farmers, can make long-term development plans and stay away from turmoil.

A great deal of work needs to be done for the two sides to reach a final deal. It is important for the two countries not to be disturbed by temptations. Past experience has shown that there would always be such interferences, and both China and the US need to be determined.

Uncertainty still exists. China should be calm about the current progress. Regardless of whether the current progress is a "turning point," as long as we do our own things well, China will by no means helplessly drift with the tide facing an uncertain future.

Another humanitarian crisis in Syria looms

TEHRAN (FNA) — Aid groups operating in north-eastern Syria have been raising the alarm about civilian casualties and an impending humanitarian crisis this week, as Turkey began a military assault on the turbulent region's Kurdish militants. Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Human Rights Watch and other groups have warned about everything from massive new flows of refugees to conditions for detained ISIL fighters from a previous phase of chaotic war in Syria.



Turkish forces began an offensive in Syria's northeast on Wednesday to clear out Kurdish militias, within days of US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw some US troops from Syria's turbulent north. MSF teams remain ready to provide medical care after the Turkish military launched operations and are preparing for a potential increase of patients linked to the conflict.

Every day people are being displaced from locations along the border due to the conflict and are extremely worried that the military intervention will threaten their safety and wellbeing. Military operations against Kurdish fighters began Wednesday with air strikes rocking the Syrian border town of Ras al Ain with large explosions, as Turkey moved tanks, artillery, and howitzers in preparation for a broader assault.

UN Spokesman Farhan Haq says aid groups would have to scale-up at a time of crisis and urged the region's armed forces to keep the Turkey-Syria border open so that aid trucks could bring food, medicine and other gear to those affected by fighting. Ankara claims to be seeking to create a "safe zone" to return millions of refugees to Syrian soil and end a "terror corridor" on Turkey's southern border. Turkey says Kurdish YPG fighters in northeast Syria are also terrorists due to their links to militants waging an insurgency inside Turkey.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the new escalation will only make the situation worse for millions of Syrian refugees who are still unable to return to their homeland. What the war-torn country needs is now a complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from the region, including American and Turkish forces. The truth is that only Syrian forces have the right to take security matters into their own hands and not foreign forces.

According to estimates by the UN, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Syria since the start of the war. The UN reports that, as of January 2019, more than 5.6 million have fled the country, and over 6 million have been internally displaced. Many refugees have fled to Jordan and Lebanon, straining already weak infrastructure and limited resources. More than 3.4 million Syrians have fled to Turkey, and many have attempted to seek refuge in Europe.

Meanwhile, external military intervention - including the provision of arms and military equipment, training, air strikes, and even troops - in support of proxies in Syria threatens to prolong the conflict. Outside actors - namely Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the US-led coalition - increasingly operate in proximity to one another, complicating the war and raising concerns over a deliberate escalation. Ongoing violence and proxy conflicts could also facilitate the resurgence of terrorist groups.

At any rate, Turkey is not the only player in the Syrian crisis. In fact, a prominent role is played by the US, also interested in an endless war that has been tearing for several years the Middle Eastern country. However, there are other actors that want an immediate end to the current crisis, namely Iran, Russia and China.

Despite the Turkish escalation and American occupation, they have shown themselves as strong supporters of dialogue between government forces and opposition as a unique and desirable solution to the conflict. Their position towards the Syrian crisis can be summarized as: Political resolution; no outside interference; inclusiveness in transition process and national reconciliation, unity, and commitment to humanitarian assistance.

There are no hidden motivations here. Iran, Russia and China are opposed to any suggestion of tightening the already tense situation in Syria and the Middle East. A worsening of the crisis in Syria, threatening the start of a regional conflict, would lead to unimaginable dangers for regional and global security in terms of humanitarian support and energy supplies that make the Middle East so vital to the livelihood of the global economy. Regional instability could cause serious problems for trade and oil imports.

Saying "no" to the military intervention not only protects the economic interests, albeit basic, but responds to a specific political logic as well. The goal is to block western claims of direct intervention in the domestic affairs of individual countries. There remains still an opportunity for a political solution to the Syrian conflict to ensure the regional and international stability. For that to happen, all foreign forces that have no mandates from the UN or the Syrian government should pack up and leave.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Fereshteh
1st floor, 180 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
furn, great balcony, parking
\$2500

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
14th floor, 230 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
one separate suit, fully furn
equipped kitchen, spj, gym
gathering room, nice view
elevator, parking
\$1500

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Niavaran
3th floor, 240 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. unfurn,
spj, balcony, roof garden, storage,
parking

Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Mirdamad
180 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn
equipped kitchen, parking
\$1500

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Zafarani
2nd floor, 155 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen, 3 bath
rooms, yard, 2 parking spots
Price: negotiable

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Shariati - Sadr
1st floor, 200 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen, elevator
storage, parking
\$2000

Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa

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

Duplex Villa in Jordan
1200 sq.m built up, 3700 sq.m
land, 6 Bdrs., servant quarter
2-side entrances
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Villa in Farmanieh
triplex, 3rd floor, 350 sq.m
furn, fire place, terrace
15 parking spots, **\$10000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Mahmoodieh
Triplex villa, 620 sq.m land
800 sq.m built up, 10 Bdrs.
unfurn, balcony, 8 bath rooms
2-side entrances, lots parking
\$7000

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Triplex Villa in Velenjak
1000 sq.m, 14 Bdrs., semi furn
2 kitchens, sauna, outdoor pool
indoor pool, lots of parking
\$20000 negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156



Holder of

ISO 9001:2008

ISO 10004:2012

ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in Qeytarieh
300 sq.m land, 3 floors, 3 units
each units 120 sq.m with 3Bdrs.
parking, **\$4000**

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Whole building in
Vanak - Molla Sadra
administrative office license
10 floors, 10 units, each unit 400
sq.m, elevator, lots of parking
\$15 per sq.m

Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole Building in Jordan
floors, each floor 2 units 5
each unit 170 sq.m with, 2 Bdrs
unfurn, elevator, roof top, good
light, storage, 30 parking spots
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole building in Darous
administrative office license
brand new, 6 floors, 6 offices
400 sq.m land, each office
183 sq.m, parking, **\$15000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Ideal Offers

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

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

Apt in Shariati - Mirdamad
110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn
storage, parking, **\$700**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Tajrish
almost new, 5th floor, 144 sq.m
3 Bdrs., furn, roof top
lobby, parking, **\$2000**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Zafarani
2nd floor, 90 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, beautiful design, parking
\$1500
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh
1st floor, 90 sq.m, 1 Bdr.
furn, spj, beautiful yard
\$1000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
2nd floor, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen
elevator, parking, **\$1300**
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

SHANON
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Jordan Apt (\$2200) 250sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p S, J, balcony, & F.F	Farmanieh (\$2000) 200sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F	Elahieh Villa (\$5000) 1000sq.m, 5bdrs S/p, S, J, & F.F
Elahieh (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p S, J, balcony, & F.F	Darrous (\$2800) 3bdrs, 280sq.m, S/p S, J, balcony, & F.F	Vali-e-Asr Office 200sq.m, 4bdrs, pkgs (\$20 per sq.m)

1ST CHOICE
REAL ESTATE

Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does it better

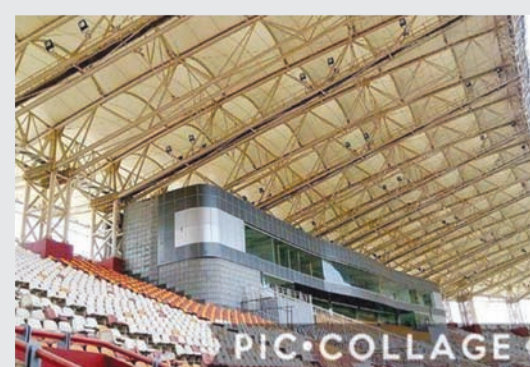
LOOKING FOR RENTAL PROPERTY?
Call: 22041212 - 09121081212
Visit: WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM
E-mail: property@firstchoiceco.com
Since 1987 مسکن انتخاب اول - غنی زاده

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading
International Daily
Advertising Dept

Tel:
021 - 430 51 450

Modern Stadium of Martyrs of Khuzestan Football Club (KSC)



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus seeks the recruitment of one Clerk/Translator. Requested qualifications:

- University degree and/or any other degree proving excellent command of English and Farsi (writing and speaking).
- Excellent command and use of PCs (Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Similar work experience with diplomatic missions and/or good knowledge of Greek will be considered as an additional advantage.

Curriculum vitae with a recent photo and the relevant documents, including a list of referees with their contact details, must be scanned and emailed to: tehranembassy@mfa.gov.cy, the latest by **Thursday, 31 October, 2019.**

ATIGHECHI MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Bring clarity
TO extremely perplexing
SOLUTIONS

Enquire at
salam@atighechi.com
(009821) 22330984

Newly-discovered asteroid could strike Earth within decades

As technology advances, scientists have become more and more skilled at spotting potentially threatening objects in space. This is great news for the human race, but it also means that when we spot a distant space rock, we may not know just how much of a threat it really is for a long time to come.

That's the case with asteroid 2019 SU3, a newly-discovered space rock that doesn't appear dangerous at the moment but may end up being a serious problem several decades down the road. The asteroid, which was just added to the European Space Agency's Risk List, will make a shockingly close pass of our planet in around 65 years.

Based on observations of the asteroid's trajectory, the risk of collision is still relatively small, with even the most pessimistic estimates placing the chances of a strike at less than 1%. Still, the fact that the odds aren't a nice round 0% means that astronomers



will need to keep an eye on it.

When the space rock enters our neck of the woods in 2084 it will pass within 6,000 miles of Earth. That might seem like a nice, comfortable distance, but when you consider that Earth's moon is a whopping 238,000 miles away you get an idea of just how narrow the window truly is.

Generally speaking, mankind has gotten pretty lucky when it comes to asteroids. Humanity hasn't had to deal with any devastating objects from space, and if we're lucky we'll have the technology to deal with those threats before they become a serious problem.

In the coming years, astronomers will be able to increase the certainty of their predictions, and hopefully rule out the possibility that 2019 SU3 poses a threat to our planet. If it does, however, hopefully we'll be ready.

(Source: msn)

Scientists have figured out how to extract oxygen from Moon dirt

By Michelle Starr

The Moon is a pretty inhospitable place for humans. It's all dry and dusty, and there's no atmosphere for us to breathe. But there is a bunch of oxygen: The lunar regolith - the crumbly top layer of dirt and rubble on the Moon's surface - is loaded with it. And now scientists have figured out how to get it out.

The process also doesn't produce waste. On the one hand, you get a bunch of oxygen. On the other, a bunch of metal alloys that it was bound up with. Both of these would be really useful on any future lunar bases or colonies.

Thanks to regolith samples returned from previous lunar missions, we know that oxygen is really quite abundant up there. Between 40 and 45 percent by weight of the regolith is oxygen - by far the most abundant component by weight.

There's just one big problem. "This oxygen is an extremely valuable resource, but it is chemically bound in the material as oxides in the form of minerals or glass, and is therefore unavailable for immediate use," said chemist Beth Lomax from the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Those samples are too valuable to experiment on directly, but having them means we can precisely recreate their consistency using terrestrial materials. This 'fake' lunar dirt is called lunar regolith simulat, and Lomax and her team used it for their research.

There have been previous attempts to extract the oxygen from lunar regolith, such as the chemical reduction of iron



oxides using hydrogen to produce water, and then electrolysis to separate the hydrogen from the oxygen in the water; or a similar process with methane instead of hydrogen.

But these techniques have either been low-yield, overly complicated, or too hot, requiring such extreme temperatures that the regolith actually melts.

Lomax and colleagues have skipped the chemical reduction step and gone straight to electrolysis of the powdered regolith.

"The processing was performed using a method called molten salt electrolysis. This is the first example of direct powder-to-powder processing of solid lunar regolith simulat that can extract virtually all the oxygen," Lomax explained.

"Alternative methods of lunar oxygen extraction achieve significantly lower yields, or require the regolith to be melted with extreme temperatures of more than 1,600 degrees Celsius (2,900 F)."

First, the regolith is placed in a mesh-lined basket. Calcium chloride - the electrolyte - is added, and the mix is heated to around 950 degrees Celsius, a temperature that doesn't

melt the material. Then, an electrical current is applied. This extracts the oxygen, and migrates the salt to an anode, where it can be easily removed.

It took around 50 hours to extract 96 percent of the oxygen bound up in the regolith sample, but 75 percent of the oxygen lifted in the first 15 hours. Roughly a third of the total oxygen in the sample was detected in off-gas, and the rest was lost, but this is still a vast improvement on the yields of previous techniques.

In addition, the metal left behind is usable - the first time a lunar regolith oxygen extraction technique has produced this result.

"This is the first successful demonstration of solid-state powder-to-powder regolith simulat processing that yields metal alloys as products," the researchers wrote in their paper. "Furthermore, the clear separation of various alloy phases, and the apparent depletion of other metallic components, introduces the exciting potential for metal/alloy separation and refining from unbeneftiated lunar regolith."

There were three main alloy groups in the by-product, sometimes with small amounts of other metals mixed in: iron-aluminum, iron-silicon, and calcium-silicon-aluminum. This discovery means the technique could still be valuable even if it turns out that oxygen can be extracted from suspected water ice reserves on the Moon.

"This process would give lunar settlers access to oxygen for fuel and life support, as well as a wide range of metal alloys for in-situ manufacturing," said ESA lunar strategy officer James Carpenter.

Space firm founded by billionaire Paul Allen sold to new owner



Stratolaunch Systems Corp., the space company founded by late billionaire and Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) co-founder Paul Allen, said on Friday it was continuing operations after transitioning ownership, but did not name the new owner.

The company, a unit of Allen's privately-held investment vehicle Vulcan Inc, had been developing a fleet of launch vehicles, including the world's largest airplane by wingspan, to send satellites and eventually humans into space.

Allen, who founded Seattle-based Stratolaunch in 2011, died at age 65 in October.

Reuters reported in May that the company was exploring the sale of its assets and intellectual property while in the process of closing operations. It had slashed headcount.

"Stratolaunch LLC has transitioned ownership and is continuing regular operations," a spokeswoman said by e-mail.

It declined to provide details beyond the short announcement, which also said its "near-term launch vehicle development strategy"

focuses on testing reusable rocket-powered vehicles and associated flight services.

It said the company would continue operations under the new owner with a mission that "will bring the carrier aircraft test and operations program fully in-house."

Allen's Stratolaunch had been compared to other space ventures backed by billionaires, including Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit, which is developing a similar but smaller high-altitude launch system to cash in on growing demand for ferrying small satellites into orbit.

While Virgin Orbit Chief Executive Dan Hart told Reuters in July his company had discussions in the past with Stratolaunch about their desire to sell, Virgin Orbit was not the buyer, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The centerpiece of Stratolaunch's strategy was its carbon-composite carrier plane, with a 117-meter (384-foot) wingspan and powered by six engines. The plane flew for the first time in April.

(Source: Reuters)

Alexei Leonov, first human to walk in space, dies at 85



Alexei Leonov, who became the first human to walk in space in 1965, died on Friday at the age of 85 after a long illness, Russia's TASS news agency reported.

Though less well known internationally than Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, Leonov was a household name in his native Russia and will be remembered in particular for his role in the 1965 Voskhod-2 mission.

During that flight, one of two he made into space in his career, Leonov became the first human to conduct a space walk, an episode that lasted 12 minutes and 9 seconds.

The outing was stressful for Leonov whose space suit filled with air to the point where he struggled to get back into his spacecraft.

Leonov flew into space again in 1975, commanding the Soviet half of the Apollo-Soyuz mission, the first U.S.-Soviet space flight. It occurred at a time when Russia and the United States, which spent part

of the Cold War locked in a space race, were pursuing a policy of detente.

Leonov trained as a military pilot before becoming a cosmonaut. He received a 'Hero of the Soviet Union' medal - one of the Russian state's most prestigious awards - twice and has a small crater on the Moon named after him.

Leonov helped train other cosmonauts before retiring in 1992, a year after the Soviet Union collapsed. He devoted himself to private business and his twin passions of art and writing in later life.

Russian President Vladimir Putin knew Leonov well and had great respect for his courage, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday, TASS reported.

NASA said in a statement on Twitter it was saddened by Leonov's death.

"His venture into the vacuum of space began the history of extravehicular activity that makes today's Space Station maintenance possible," it said.

(Source: Reuters)

Huge new 'shark toothed' dinosaur found

Today, the land near Ban Saphan Hin in central Thailand is dusted with thin reddish soil where local farmers plant corn and tapioca. But more than 113 million years ago, this region hosted ancient floodplains that were terrorized by a fearsome dinosaur with shark-like teeth.

Described today in the journal PLOS One, the newfound predator—called Siamraptor suwati—is the most complete dinosaur of its type and age ever found in Southeast Asia. The bones of the 25-foot beast add to a string of major dinosaur finds from the region, and they reveal new insight into how a major group of predatory dinosaurs spread across the ancient world.

"It's one of the most important Thai dinosaurs ever found," Steve Brusatte, a paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh

who reviewed the study for publication, says in an email.

For instance, a team led by Duangsuda Chokchaloemwong, a researcher at Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University, pored over the bones and found that the skeleton is shot through with air sacs. This would have made the dinosaur's frame lightweight and perhaps helped it breathe faster, an idea that future scans of the bones could put to the test.

"It would have been a fierce, fast, dynamic beast," Brusatte says.

Teeth like a shark's

Tens of millions of years before giant tyrannosaurs such as T. rex arrived on the scene, another group of large predatory dinosaurs reigned: the allosauroids. Among these meat-eating

heavyweights was a group called the carcharodontosaurs (kar-KA-ro-DON-toe-SORES), which were the top predators for most of the Cretaceous.

"It was only with the decline of the carcharodontosaurs that small tyrannosaurs got big and moved into the apex predator role," Brusatte says.

Evidence of the group first arose from the Egyptian Sahara in 1914, when an expedition funded by German paleontologist Ernst Stromer found dinosaur teeth that were serrated like steak knives. The forbidding chompers reminded Stromer of those of Carcharodon, the shark genus that includes the great white shark, so in 1931, he named the dinosaur Carcharodontosaurus saharicus.

(Source: msn)

Black holes stunt growth of dwarf galaxies

Astronomers at the University of California, Riverside, have discovered that powerful winds driven by supermassive black holes in the centers of dwarf galaxies have a significant impact on the evolution of these galaxies by suppressing star formation.

Dwarf galaxies are small galaxies that contain between 100 million to a few billion stars. In contrast, the Milky Way has 200-400 billion stars. Dwarf galaxies are the most abundant galaxy type in the universe and often orbit larger galaxies.

The team of three astronomers was surprised by the strength of the detected winds.

"We expected we would need observations with much higher resolution and sensitivity, and we had planned on obtaining these as a follow-up to our initial observations," said Gabriela Canalizo, a professor of physics and astronomy at UC Riverside, who led the research team. "But we could see the signs strongly and clearly in the initial observations. The winds were stronger than we had anticipated."



Canalizo explained that astronomers have suspected for the past couple of decades that supermassive black holes at the centers of large galaxies can have a profound influence on the way large galaxies grow and age.

"Our findings now indicate that their effect can be just as dramatic, if not more dramatic, in dwarf galaxies in the universe," she said.

Study results appear in The Astrophysical Journal.

The researchers, who also include Laura V. Sales, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy; and Christina M. Manzano-King, a doctoral student in Canalizo's lab, used a portion of the data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, which maps more than 35% of the sky, to identify 50 dwarf galaxies, 29 of which showed signs of being associated with black holes in their centers. Six of these 29 galaxies showed evidence of winds -- specifically, high-velocity ionized gas outflows -- emanating from their active black holes.

"Using the Keck telescopes in Hawaii, we were able to not only detect, but also measure specific properties of these winds, such as their kinematics, distribution, and power source -- the first time this has been done," Canalizo said. "We found some evidence that these winds may be changing the rate at which the galaxies are able to form stars."

Manzano-King, the first author of the research paper, explained that many unanswered questions about galaxy evolution can be understood by studying dwarf galaxies.

"Larger galaxies often form when dwarf galaxies merge together," she said. "Dwarf galaxies are, therefore, useful in understanding how galaxies evolve. Dwarf galaxies are small because after they formed, they somehow avoided merging with other galaxies. Thus, they serve as fossils by revealing what the environment of the early universe was like. Dwarf galaxies are the smallest galaxies in which we are directly seeing winds -- gas flows up to 1,000 kilometers per second -- for the first time."

Manzano-King explained that as material falls into a black hole, it heats up due to friction and strong gravitational fields and releases radiative energy. This energy pushes ambient gas outward from the center of the galaxy into intergalactic space.

(Source: Science Daily)

A filament fit for space: Silk is proven to thrive in outer space temperatures

Their initial discovery had seemed like a contradiction because most other polymer fibres embrittle in the cold. But after many years of working on the problem, the group of researchers have discovered that silk's cryogenic toughness is based on its nano-scale fibrils. Sub-microscopic order and hierarchy allows a silk to withstand temperatures of down to -200oC. And possibly even lower, which would make these classic natural luxury fibres ideal for applications in the depths of chilly outer-space.

The interdisciplinary team examined the behavior and function of several animal silks cooled down to liquid nitrogen temperature of -196 oC. The fibres included spider silks but the study focused on the thicker and much more commercial fibres of the wild silkworm Antheraea pernyi.

In an article published today in Materials Chemistry Frontiers, the team was able to show not only 'that' but also 'how' silk increases its toughness under conditions where most materials would become very brittle. Indeed, silk seems to contradict the fundamental understanding of polymer science by not losing but gaining quality under really cold conditions by becoming both stronger and more stretchable. This study examines the 'how' and explains the 'why'. It turns out that the underlying processes rely on the many nano-sized fibrils that make up the core of a silk fibre.

In line with traditional polymer theory, the study asserts that the individual fibrils do indeed become stiffer as they get colder. The novelty and importance of the study lies in the conclusion that this stiffening leads to increased friction between the fibrils. This friction in turn increases crack-energy diversion while also resisting fibril slippage. Changing temperature would also modulate attraction between individual silk protein molecules in turn affecting core properties of each fibril, which is made up from many thousand molecules.

Importantly, the research is able to describe the toughening process on both the micron and nano-scale levels. The team concludes that any crack that tears through the material is diverted each time it hits a nano-fibril forcing it to lose ever more energy in the many detours it has to negotiate. And thus a silk fibre only breaks when the hundreds or thousands of nano-fibrils have first stretched and then slipped and then all of them have individually snapped.

The discovery is pushing boundaries because it studied a material in the conceptually difficult and technologically challenging area that not only spans the micron and nano-scales but also has to be studied at temperatures well below any deep-freezer. The size of scales studied range from the micron size of the fibre to the sub-micron size of a filament bundle to the nano-scale of the fibrils and last but not least to the level supra-molecular structures and single molecules. Against the backdrop of cutting edge science and futuristic applications it is worth remembering that silk is not only 100% a biological fibre but also an agricultural product with millennia of R&D.

(Source: Science Daily)

Millennia-old coins recovered in northern Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** — Iranian police have recently confiscated some 1,000 coins, reportedly dating back to three thousand years ago, from two antique smugglers in Miandorud, northern Mazandaran province.

The police traced the smugglers following reports by local



people and finally stopped them in a stolen car that resulted in the discovery of a clay jug and some 1,000 coins, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The culprits were detained and handed over to judiciary officials for further investigation, and the objects were submitted to the local cultural heritage department, the report added.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation on the Iranian plateau is found from deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites in the Zagros Mountains, which dates back to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

Golden Eagle passengers on tour across Iran

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A number of international rail travelers arrived in Isfahan early on Sunday on an excursion across Iran.

The train, operated by The Golden Eagle Luxury Trains, has so far passed through the cities of Mashhad, Yazd, and Kerman, IRNA reported on Sunday.



Boarding 21 passengers and 42 crew members, it arrived in the country on October 9 and is slated to leave it on October 21, the report said.

The Golden Eagle Luxury Trains is amongst long-distance rail tour operators to the country that offers exclusive itineraries between Moscow and Tehran and vice versa under the name “Persian Odyssey.”

The company also operates another prestigious tour titled “Heart of Persia” that commences and ends in Tehran. The 14-day voyage explores so many of Iran’s remarkable sites and incredibly scenic landscapes.



ROUND THE GLOBE

Summer Palace in Beijing

The Summer Palace in Beijing integrates numerous traditional halls and pavilions into the Imperial Garden conceived by the Qing emperor Qianlong between 1750 and 1764 as the Garden of Clear Ripples.



Using Kunming Lake, the former reservoir of the Yuan dynasty’s capital and Longevity Hill as the basic framework, the Summer Palace combined political and administrative, residential, spiritual, and recreational functions within a landscape of lakes and mountains, in accordance with the Chinese philosophy of balancing the works of man with nature.

Destroyed during the Second Opium War of the 1850s, it was reconstructed by Emperor Guangxu for use by Empress Dowager Cixi and renamed the Summer Palace. Although damaged again during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 it was restored and has been a public park since 1924.

The central feature of the administrative area, the Hall of Benevolence and Longevity is approached through the monumental East Palace Gate.

These are linked by roofed corridors which connect to the Great Stage to the east and the Long Corridor to the West. In front of the Hall of Happiness in Longevity a wooden quay gave access by water for the Imperial family to their quarters.

As the culmination of several hundred years of Imperial garden design, the Summer Palace has had a major influence on subsequent oriental garden art and culture.

(Source: UNESCO)

Influencers reflect firsthand experience of Iran journey

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — A group of Instagram and Twitter influencers from Turkey, Russia, Italy, Ukraine, India and China have been visiting Iran for the past couple of days.

The influencers, who have some 16 million followers in total, made their journeys on a fam tour organized by the private sector with the aim of getting familiar with different aspects of the ancient land and introducing them to others.

During their trip, the influencers come across Iranian food, crafts, and tourism infrastructure such as hotels, restaurants, transportation and shopping malls, and share their experiences on social media with their audiences, ILNA reported on Sunday.

“With every passing day, I am falling in more love with Iran, the culture, heritage and of course the amazing people. #Esfahan is so amazing. The #NaqshEJahan, one of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites is a treat to the eyes and the soul,” one of the bloggers, Harjinder Singh Kukreja, who is an Indian businessman, social activist and restaurant owner, posted on Twitter on October 8.

What comes to the mind of a travel agent when hearing the term “fam trip” is normally an exclusive program, including seminars and meetings, organized by tour operators to market their services and maximize profits but this one was totally different as pursued a new way to introduce the and its beauties to a world of social networks, medium.com reported on Saturday.

The first stage of the tour began with 12 influencers, starting from Tehran on an itinerary that included a well-known route with stops in famous cities such as Kashan, Isfahan and Shiraz.

“That’s because it is a well-known journey route with hotels meetings international standards and appropriate infrastructure for the tourism ambassadors in Iran. These tourism ambassadors, who are major influencers in this sector, take photos and shoot videos of the attractions, publish them on the social networks, and will help change the cliché image of what people in the world think about Iran. It could build trust and eventually encourage them to visit Iran to discover the other places,” medium.com quoted Hoda Rostami, organizer of the fam tour, as saying.

“Our guests have all arrived in Iran, finally. The trip begins today in an effort to present Iran from the viewpoint of twelve influencers and travel bloggers who have come here from different countries. Let’s hope for a memorable trip and experience,” Rostami wrote on her Instagram page.

Kashan is where foreigners will remember their first encounter with the desert and its houses with traditional designs, Rostami explained, saying the group of ambassadors would stay in a typical Iranian house in the desert areas to enjoy supper in a delightful evening at the watered yard of the house.

“We and a young meal planner, with exquisite taste and great cooking skills, designed the meals for the entire Famtrip. We’re going to set such tables for them that would be indelibly imprinted on their photos.”

On how she came up with the idea of arranging the Famtrip, Rostami said in her Instagram page, “Last year, I was in Turkey’s Canakkale with a group of trip influencers from various countries. We talked about our countries, and, as usual, they asked about Iran, and I told them ‘I’d invite you soon...’. I did not imagine that the very same invitation and idea would become the Famtrip project a year later.”

In order to attract financing for the project and buckle down to work, Rostami came up with a plan to design and sell a “Travel Book” at her office, called “Ro Studio”. A non-Iranian airline has agreed to sponsor the flights for the Famtrip, the report added.

“The Travel Book is a functional planner accompanying you from the time you begin to plan a trip until you return home,” she says.

Rostami noted that a long list of world renowned influencers and travel photographers had been compiled in the beginning, while a final list of 15 people with a combined total of 16 million followers was chosen for the visit to Iran.

Iran’s deputy minister of tourism, Vali Teymouri, has told ILNA on Friday that the ministry welcomed the proposal for the Famtrip it had received three months ago.



“With every passing day, I am falling in more love with Iran, the culture, heritage and of course the amazing people. #Esfahan is so amazing. The #NaqshEJahan, one of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites is a treat to the eyes and the soul.”

He said the ministry found no problem with the proposed trip after careful consideration, and the foreign influencers were permitted entry.

Teymouri said all plans, coordination and costs for the Famtrip have been done by the private sector, and the tourism ministry has only facilitated the program.

“We need a good image of Iran to be displayed by the world media, thus, we would pursue any method perceived to be easy or less costly in compliance with the Islamic Republic of Iran’s regulations. The ‘Feel Iran’ Famtrip has been carried out with the spiritual support from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts as their plans are under control,” the deputy minister noted.

“We do our best to create a good image of Iran in the minds of the world people,” he concluded.

Moreover, tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Thursday that the ministry supports certain Instagram influencers to travel to the country.

“Instagram influencers’ trips to Iran are backed by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and, in the advertising arena, we do a lot of work to fight Iranophobia and introduce the true face of Iran,” Mounesan said.

“One of the areas [in travel & tourism advertising] is to bring famous figures to Iran, get the country known to them in terms of its rich culture, beautiful natural landscapes and historical monuments...this is part of programs to introduce the country that we will definitely continue.”

The guests, who are introduced below, reportedly arrived in Iran on October 6:

- Ciler Gecici; managing director of a famous concert hall in Istanbul with 705,000 followers

- Alina Rudya; a famous Ukrainian photographer residing in Germany; Her photos have been published in prominent magazines like “Vogue” and “Der Spiegel”. She has 65,000 followers. Alina’s wedding ceremony will be held two days after the Famtrip to Iran.

- Mehmet Kirali; a famous Turkish photographer living in Turkey. His style of ‘travel photography’ has attracted 1.2 million Instagram followers. Mehmet has been listed among the world’s wealthiest and most successful photographers.

- Vutheara Kham; a renowned French photographer with 1.2 million followers. He published a book “Point Of Vuth” in 2013. He is known as the most influential French Instagrammer.

- Ekaterina Mishchenkova; a Russian photographer and artist with more than 1.3 million followers on two Instagram pages.

- Alex Atmolex; he has not ever published photo taken by himself, but has attracted around 480,000 Instagram followers by publishing the photographs of travel and other influencers.

- Cathy; a Chinese expert on media and management and a travel blogger. She is the author of 12 best-selling books, and is going to write a book on Iran after the Famtrip project.

- Harjinder Singh Kukreja; a famous Indian businessman, social activist and restaurant owner, famous for his family trips in the social networks. Harjinder has 1.6 million followers on Twitter and more than 100,000 Instagram followers.

- Shi Enbo-hugo; one of the most famous and the representative of Chinese bloggers with more than 2 million followers in 3 Chinese social networks.

- Vanessa Ziletti, an Italian beauty and fashion blogger with some 186,000 Instagram followers. Vanessa works with famous brands such as Hermes, L’Oreal, and other popular clothing brands.

- Artem Shestakov; a Ukrainian travel influencer, businessman, and social media specialist with around 1.1 million followers on Instagram. Artem has worked with major carmakers such as Porsche, Land Rover, Ferrari, and Mercedes Benz.

- Erika Santos; she has more than 1.5 million followers on two Instagram pages. She has won the prize for the best World Travel Blogger 2019.

With over one billion active monthly users, it seems reasonable that Instagram has enough power to set new trends on traveling to a country that boasts hospitable people and some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments, rich natural and rural landscapes as well as 22 UNESCO World Heritage sites to name a few.

8 tips for hotels, from a hotel guest

By Steve Bailey

These are not tips for travelers. They are tips for hotels and inns on how to make a guest (me, to be specific) happy. My wife, Jane, and I travel a lot and stay in a variety of accommodations, from a sleep-on-the-floor desert oasis in Iran to landmark hotels in Europe to jungle eco-lodges in Nicaragua. Wherever we are, though, it’s easy to see things that could be changed to make our stay more pleasant.

■ The room itself

We recently stayed at the five-star Esplanade in Zagreb, Croatia. Although we had booked almost six months in advance and were staying for four nights, we were given a room with a view into an air shaft. A hotel might call this “a courtyard view,” but air ducts and other visible infrastructure made this just a large air shaft. We complained to the desk and were told that rooms are not assigned until the night before a guest’s arrival. We ended up staying one night in the original room, and the next day we were moved to a room in the same price category and just as spacious, with park and city views. If we had been walk-ins with no reservation, we might have been happy to get the original room, but it was poor customer care for the hotel to place guests there who had a long-standing reservation. We now know to ask if we’re getting the best possible room in our price category.

■ Luggage racks

My wife and I each travel with a carry-on-size wheeled suitcase and usually

another under-the-seat-size bag. Hotel rooms that are clearly set up for couples (two bathrobes, for example) almost never have a second rack for a suitcase. So the room’s chair (and it is likely there’s only one chair) gets used for a suitcase, or maybe the cabinet that the TV or the coffee maker sits on.

■ Safes

The safe should be large enough to hold a small laptop or at least a tablet, and it should be mounted high enough that the guest doesn’t have to sit on the floor to use it.

■ TV

Please provide a list of the channels, and set the TV so that it returns to the same channel after being turned off and on again. I hate it when every time the TV is turned off, it returns to a default setting, so that it again welcomes you to the hotel and makes you click through a menu to get to television channels, and then you have to click through maybe 30 channels to find the one you were watching earlier.

And in the bathroom:

■ Single-use plastics

Many hotels and cruise lines are getting rid of these little bottles of bath gel, shampoo and conditioner. I’d rather have those three products in wall-mounted dispensers in the shower.

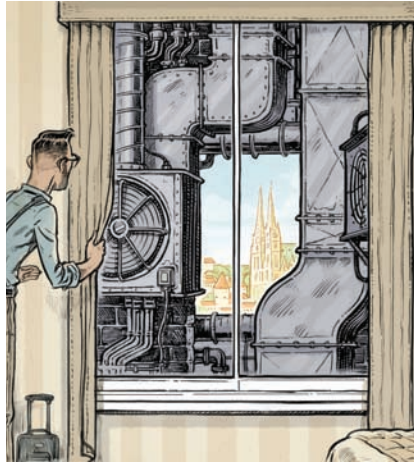
■ Counter space

There should be room for at least two toiletry bags on the counter or a shelf in the bathroom. Even the most rustic inns usually have room for a wooden shelf above the toilet or elsewhere in the bathroom. And there should be a rack or shelf in the shower for the guest’s razor or the guest’s own soap and hair products in the shower.

■ Laundry

Traveling with small suitcases for weeks at a time means there is going to be laundry to do. We often handwash items at night and hope they will dry overnight, hanging on doorknobs or shower heads. Remember the clothes lines that some motels had in their bathrooms? Guests could pull a line out of a stainless-steel disc on one wall

My wife, Jane, and I travel a lot and stay in a variety of accommodations, from a sleep-on-the-floor desert oasis in Iran to landmark hotels in Europe to jungle eco-lodges in Nicaragua. Wherever we are, though, it’s easy to see things that could be changed to make our stay more pleasant.



and attach it to a receptacle on another. Why aren’t they universally available? Even quick-drying clothes marketed to travelers need a place to hang.

■ Hooks

It’s a small thing, but a few wall hooks can be important, especially in the bathroom. Many hotels encourage guests to use their bath towels a second or third time, but give them no place to hang the towel to dry other than maybe a shower curtain rod. And, like the towels, the bathrobes are likely to be folded and on a shelf at check-in. Where do we put them when we take them off? We need hooks, which are also good for baseball caps, shopping bags and other things. Such a small thing can make a difference.

(Source: The New York Times)

How corporate ownership of U.S. media hurt efforts to fight climate change

By Ali Radmanesh

TEHRAN — Like all reliable watchdogs, the media are expected to bark, but when its voice is owned by a small number of corporate masters, concerns about its willingness to keep barking arise. The only sane response to current situation is to support the independent media and to overhaul the big media to address their unfair use of public airwaves for gain and compromise.

Sen. Bernie Sanders recently noted that corporate ownership of media interferes with the core societal function of the press: reporting and investigating key issues at the intersection of public need and governance. And nowhere is that more critical than when it comes to climate. Due to their corporate conflicts of interest, trusted news authorities have diverted us from our primary responsibility—assuring a viable habitat for our children and grandchildren.

As Alison Rose Levy writes for FAIR, a journalist who has worked both inside and outside of establishment media could see the influence as embedded in a corporate media culture rather than in isolated cases of CEO dictates. It happens in little ways, such as how an interviewer frames a question, and in big ways, like the decision to exclude a topic, a person or a group of people from the airwaves.

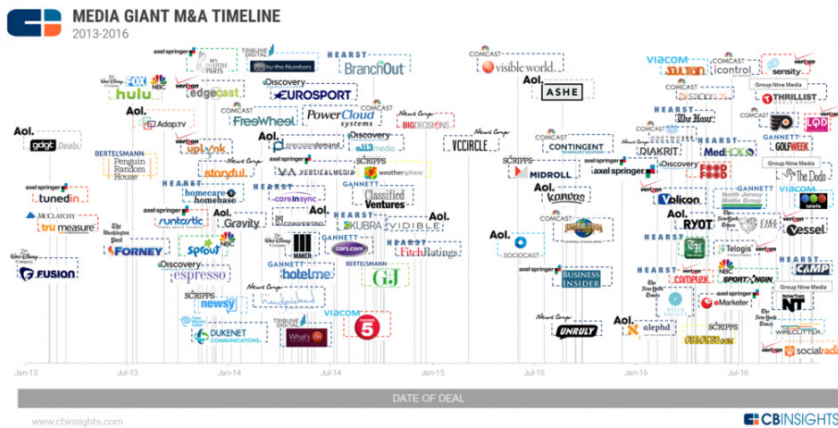
Like most US companies, news organizations are hierarchies, which people who have worked in corporate offices can readily understand. Given that “90% of the United States’ media is controlled by five media conglomerates,” the top executive at many news outfits is likely the CEO of a multinational corporation. The word comes down from the business execs to the company’s division chiefs. This was how it was when Alison Rose Levy worked on primetime national news at CBS in the 1990s.

On the inside, it wasn’t easy to see organizational bias, when job security and team work required overlooking it. The response to the heavily promoted primetime news pairing of two well-known anchors exemplified how news personnel learn to toe the line. The two anchors had zero chemistry, but no one mentioned it, as if an unwritten code had been instantly internalized. This dragged on for two years, pulling down the network’s ratings.

Higher-ups would never offer editorial staff direct input on content. That’s what the executive and middle management were for. Would these managers confide to their staff that the big guns gave them a certain direction? No. Whatever it was, they would present it as their own, and it would be adopted.

Within this culture, controlling the content goes on in whispers, frowns, headshakes and decisions made behind closed doors. If anyone strays into a verboten zone, as Levy did when she proposed a feature about Native Americans, those in the know privately communicate the ethos that is expected and allowed. “We never put American Indians on air because they talk too slow,” a producer explained.

Despite such experiences, when Levy left CBS, she respected the many producers with whom she had worked, many of whom are still employed at various networks. That work experience honed editorial judgment in ways impossible to measure, for which she is infinitely grateful. It also showed her that organizational agendas and values can trump claims to objectivity.



Here’s what the MSM media universe currently looks like.

■ Reporting from independent media

Yet over a decade later, working in progressive online media, she was still astonished that several major stories she covered, were anywhere from underplayed to entirely absent from establishment news.

When she began to cover fracking in New York state in 2009, at first both 60 Minutes and the New York Times covered it as a Hatfield/McCoy feud between upstate rural neighbors, rather than as an invasive industrial activity with a host of health and environmental repercussions.

During the critical years of the major fracking buildup from 2005 to 2016, the New York Times gave a prominent environmental platform to self-declared “climate champion” Andrew Revkin, whose reporting FAIR called “a source of some comfort—and crowing—for the climate change denial crowd.” His pro-industry stance on fracking and naysaying on methane impacts condoned an industrial expansion that has produced far-reaching environmental damage.

The Times’ Ian Urbina did invaluable reporting on fracking’s faulty economic model. But in 2013, the paper of record closed its environmental desk, even as Inside Climate News was reporting that “worldwide coverage of climate change continued a three-year slide.”

MSNBC show hosts like Rachel Maddow and Chris Hayes rarely covered fracking, instead letting gas and oil industry ads reassert claims of safety. Nonprofit environmental groups, leading activists, along with a growing body of independent journalists filled the media void, including Levy’s reporting at Huffington Post, AlterNet and EcoWatch.

■ The TTP

In 2014, she began to report on the Transpacific Partnership (TTP) and other concurrent global trade agreements, which are often characterized as core to President Barack Obama’s “legacy”. The agreement’s full provisions were never revealed to the public prior to the June 2015 vote granting absolute trade authority to Obama—authority that would have passed to Trump if the agreement had been ratified in late 2016, as Obama hoped.

In conducting multiple interviews with trade analysts, as well as following the protests in Europe and the resulting leaks of the

contents, Levy learned from trade analyst William Warren that even prior to the TPP’s passage and ratification, plans were underway for the buildup of fracking, gas and oil, and coal trade and global export freed by its anticipated passage.

Nothing within the unenforceable Paris Agreement would have prevented it. In fact, the Paris Agreement provisions were nonbinding, while the trade agreements that were being secretly negotiated concurrently, including the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), were designed to be binding, to “effectively trump whatever commitment is made in Paris,” Warren revealed on Connect the Dots.

Further, the TPP’s planned instatement of an international corporate tribunal with international legal authority over all nations would have mortally injured global democracies. In 2016, Mark Ruffalo summed up what was at stake in the fight: Expanding the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in NAFTA via TPP would block worldwide environmental and social progress while empowering corporations to undermine existing climate and environmental policies.

As we witness the Trump administration’s deconstruction of US environmental regulatory infrastructure—appointment by appointment, policy by policy—let’s appreciate that in defeating TPP and associated trade deals (thanks to the work of grassroots organizers and independent media), Americans dodged a bullet.

If the US had passed the TPP as planned during the 2016 lame duck session of Congress, both the US and all co-signers (a total of 12 countries) would have been contractually bound to a wholesale takedown of environmental regulations and economic barriers to fossil fuel development—as well as the loss of any right to challenge corporate rule or prevent health and environmental impacts. The climate impacts of the intended gas and oil buildup would likely have been devastating and decisive.

Nevertheless, the forward drive to pass the TPP occurred in a near void of corporate coverage. What had been negotiated behind closed doors with multinational corporations remained their business secrets. Prior to its authorization in June 2015, no mainstream outlet thoroughly investigated and disclosed

Taking into account that “90% of the United States’ media is controlled by five media conglomerates,” the top executive at many news outfits could likely be the CEO of a big international corporation.

the TPP’s provisions. Obama’s most memorable pro-TPP television appearance was singing about it with Jimmy Fallon. FAIR called the enthused Vox coverage of Obama’s performance a borderline parody of everything wrong with corporate-owned “new media”: What we have here is a Comcast-funded website plugging a Comcast-owned TV show to promote a trade deal aggressively lobbied for by Comcast.

Both the New York Times and its liberal economist columnist, Paul Krugman, covered the TPP infrequently. Krugman professed he was a “lukewarm opponent” of it, and minimized its importance. “We’re not talking about a world-shaking deal here,” he wrote three months before the Senate granted Obama the authority to sign the final agreement without further consultation or deliberation.

Prior to the vote, a college friend of the MSNBC host Chris Hayes assured me that Hayes, a former environmental reporter for The Nation, would be deeply concerned about these trade deals. I was dubious, but she was insistent. With the contact she provided, I sent all of my TPP research and sources on to Hayes. I received no response.

Rather than cover the TPP, MSNBC went on to fire Ed Schultz, the sole show host who covered trade agreements. In surveying TPP coverage, Media Matters found that Schultz was the exception in a near-total blackout by all three major networks. Week after week, Hayes and other MSNBC hosts devoted airtime to meticulously dissecting far more minor concerns.

As in any large organization, the firing and hiring of staff speaks volumes to surviving staff members about the owners’ priorities. The unseen casualties among reporters of integrity, and the disservice to journalism, cannot be overestimated. Those working in corporate media get the message without anyone having to tell them, and highly paid show hosts have the most to lose.

The press’ mission is to inform the citizenry and flag abuses to power, not promote special interests. When citizens blind themselves to a news organization’s corporate entanglements, and trust the outlet to be truthful anyway, it is, to put it mildly, extraordinarily naïve.

It’s not about whether or not the public has access to a private conversation or confidential memo sent to editorial with a corporate dictate. The evidence is what’s given airtime and what isn’t over many years.

Was it just happenstance that MSNBC, for example, failed to cover the TPP after firing Ed Schultz? Comcast, the owner of MSNBC, sat at the table behind closed doors during the five-year long negotiations of the TPP’s specific trade provisions.

Have MSNBC or any of its competitors uncovered Comcast’s agenda for the trade agreements? What if concerns over intellectual property rights, for example, made it a corporate mission to pass a deal that also happened to radically hasten the climate tipping point? Should any company have that much power?

No business, no matter how sizeable, should have the right to subvert the actions and political choices necessary to address climate, as well as the activated movement capable of assuring that at long last we do what needs to be done. The only sane response is to support the movement, and the independent media outlets that provide a platform for ideas, facts, studies, polls, policy initiatives and disclosures outside the corporate media frame—and to overhaul the media to address this unfair use of public airwaves for gain and compromise as the world burns.

Why it’s time to end government-funded media

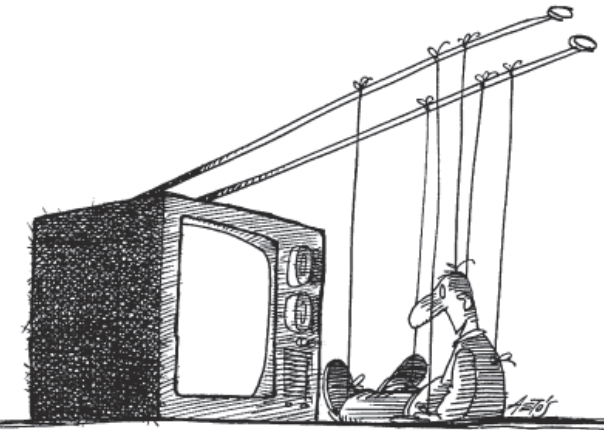
By Bill Wirtz

ActivistPost — In the effort of maintaining “quality journalism,” publishers and journalists around the world make the case for press subsidies. In Europe, this phenomenon is largely present, with many papers completely dependent on, or even owned by, the government. But is the state really needed to produce quality content?

■ Conflicts of interest

It seems to be a general rule that if you defend a position that also works in the favor of a certain industry, you will be asked who funds you. In fact, this has been so prevalent that instead of debating the actual points, we find ourselves arguing over who has been more influenced by private interests, regardless of people’s intentions. The question, however, is never raised for public funding.

With public ownership or subsidization, the stations lose their independence when it comes to critically analyzing a government’s policies. Not convinced? Imagine yourself watching a documentary about Silvio Berlusconi on a channel owned by Silvio Berlusconi (which, if you’re in Italy, is not that unlikely). Elected officials hold influence over TV channels via their administration or the financing thereof. In Central and Eastern Europe, this is even more apparent. In the Czech Republic, the minister of finance, Andrej Babiš, personally owns two newspapers, a TV station, and the most popular radio station in the country.



Or take the example of media fees in Switzerland: When a group of young and enthusiastic libertarian students organized a ballot initiative to rid the population of a hefty yearly public media tax, public broadcasters, who hold a very large audience, used their airwaves to argue against the initiative. Simultaneously, private newspapers also defended the royalty because of government promises that a part of the tax would be extended to papers in the form of subsidies.

And this is only natural. After all, who would saw off the branch they’re sitting on?

■ Why have public broadcasts at all?

Ironically, the argument for public broadcasters was that they would ensure the independence of media outlets and civilize public discourse. In a way they have—in that private companies are now needed as a counterbalance to the influence of public media. Publicly-owned stations like the BBC are rife with controversies. They also offer very high-paying jobs: in France, there was public outrage after the CEO of the state-owned France Télévisions was found to make €322,000 a year, with almost two hundred other high-ranking employees cashing in over €120,000 a year at the taxpayers’ expense.

In the United States, broadcasters such as PBS and NPR receive their funding through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which requests and receives appropriations from the federal government of almost half a billion dollars. However, public television receives 40 percent of its funding privately; for public radio, the figure is 60 percent.

PBS and NPR actually wouldn’t disappear if government funding were cut. They simply would be forced to operate under the same economic pressures as other U.S. media.

■ A lack of trust

Bottom of Form

The idea that without government-funded journalism there would be no good journalism at all is comparable to the question of funding of the arts. As the French economist Frédéric Bastiat put it:

Socialism, like the ancient ideas from which it springs, confuses the distinction between government and society. As a result of this, every time we object to a thing being done by government, the socialists conclude that we object to its being done at all. [...] It is as if the socialists were to accuse us of not wanting persons to eat because we do not want the state to raise grain.

Bastiat is right when he dismisses the myth that those who oppose government funding of journalism oppose journalism itself, and his reflections should be opposed with an analysis of the unintended consequences of government intervention.

When we deprive citizens of a certain amount of their income in order to fund journalism, how do we know what those people would have spent the money on had they been able to decide for themselves? The creativity of the individual is immeasurable if it is given the opportunity to manifest itself.

Adding to that, it’s important to ask: Who is to decide what quality journalism is, anyway? In a way, it should be the consumer, based on his or her need for information. Should it be left up to a roomful of bureaucrats to establish a collective standard of quality information?

■ Imperfections of the market

This is not to say that everything is fine and dandy with privately-owned media. Yes, publishers are influenced by advertisers and the need to generate a lot of views and clicks. On the other hand, a new economy is rising, with people willing to pay for premium content or to listen to podcast conversations that last several hours.

It is that diversity of choice that makes the consumer pick winners and losers in the marketplace of media. We should not let the established media tell us that this is the best it can get and that we need public money to sustain it.

If the media landscape changes, then that change should be directed by consumers.

Highlight: PBS and NPR actually wouldn’t disappear if government funding were cut. They simply would be forced to operate under the same economic pressures as other U.S. media.

‘Whitewash’: UK accused over journalism prize promoting ‘tolerant’ UAE

By Areeb Ullah

MEE — The British government has been accused of whitewashing human rights abuses and the “near-obliteration of free speech” in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by launching a “young journalist award” in the Gulf state.

The award, launched on Thursday by the British embassy in Abu Dhabi in conjunction with The National newspaper, asks entrants to write an opinion piece on the UAE’s “Year of Tolerance” initiative.

Aimed at students aged between 16 and 18, guidelines for entrants urge them to consider “What can the world learn from the UAE’s model for tolerance?” and “How does the Year of Tolerance reflect the already established values of diversity within the UAE?”

“The United Kingdom remains committed to supporting the growth of journalism around the world and particularly amongst aspiring youth. Now known as a leading regional media hub, home to a growing number of outlets, the UAE is well positioned to push forward the passion for journalism within education and youth,” the British government said on its website.

But the guidelines also tell entrants that they must abide by media laws in the UAE, which forbid criticism of the Emirati government and ruling families, its monarchical system, political decisions or “defaming public officials”.

The Year of Tolerance campaign was reportedly designed to promote the values of the country’s founder, Zayed bin Sultan. Citizens were urged to film themselves reciting a number of pledges to tolerance, forgiveness, peace and harmony.

Hiba Zayadin, a Gulf Rights expert for Human Rights

Watch, criticised the British government for its participation in this initiative and said it was “helping whitewash” the UAE government.

“It is not just important to host such an initiative in one of the world’s most repressive countries, but downright irresponsible,” Zayadin told Middle East Eye.

“The UAE is a country where the red lines are constantly shifting, and where journalists, academics and critics have been targeted, harassed, threatened, and jailed simply for expressing their opinions.”

Press freedom in the UAE has been a constant source of criticism for the Emirates. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked the UAE at 133rd in its 2019 Press Freedom Index and described the country as the “masters of the online surveillance of journalists”.

“The least criticism of the regime by citizen-journalists or bloggers is likely to lead to charges of defamation, insulting the state or posting false information with the aim of damaging the country’s reputation, with the possibility of long jail terms and mistreatment in prison,” RSF said in the report.

Earlier this year, the UAE upheld a 10-year jail sentence

Competition launched by British embassy in Abu Dhabi asks entrants to consider what world can ‘learn from the UAE’s model for tolerance?’



Blogger Ahmed Mansoor is serving a 10-year sentence for ‘insulting the UAE’s leaders online’ (YouTube)

for Ahmed Mansoor, an Emirati blogger, for “insulting the UAE’s leaders online.”

Mansoor was charged with “sully the status and prestige of the UAE and its symbols” and posting false information on social media.

Commenting on press freedom in the Emirate, Zayadin noted that “independent journalism is not allowed to flourish in the UAE”.

She added: “By launching such an initiative, the British embassy is not supporting the growth of journalism around the world so much as it is helping to whitewash a repressive regime’s near-obliteration of the space for free speech.”

Middle East Eye has asked the British government for comment.

61 online betting sites blocked in 2 months

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Nine groups running 61 online betting sites networked across the country have been busted by the police over the past two months, Cyber Police Chief Vahid Majid has announced.



Nine betting gangs have been identified and arrested by the cyber police and the law enforcement force following a nationwide operation that lasted for 2 months, he stated.

In this line, 61 websites have been involved with a total financial transaction of 4 trillion rials (nearly \$95 million), he added, IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

As per the Iranian law, designing, launching, and running betting websites are forbidden as they are considered as examples of gambling.

Mont Blanc climate change impact revealed in photos 100 years apart

Exactly 100 years after the Swiss pilot and photographer Walter Mittelholzer flew over Mont Blanc in a biplane to photograph the landscape around the mountain in southern France, a team of scientists have recreated his photographs to show the impact that climate change.

A century on and researchers from the University of Dundee took three photographs to show the impact on the mountain's glaciers.

Using a process called monoplanotting to triangulate the original camera position in airspace Dr Kieran Baxter and Dr Alice Waterson from the 3DVisLab at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, flew over the Mont Blanc massif in August.

The pair used the peaks and spires of the alpine landscape as anchor points to find the geolocation of where the historical shots were taken.

The resulting photographs of the Argentiére, Mont Blanc Bossons and Mer de Glace glaciers show the large scale of ice loss in the region.

Equipped with waypoints from the digital analysis and multiple GPS devices, Dr Baxter hung from the side of the helicopter as it hovered at a height of around 4,700 metres, just below the summit of Mont Blanc, to capture the images.

"The scale of the ice loss was immediately evident as we reached altitude but it was only by comparing the images side-by-side that the last 100 years of change were made visible. It was both a breathtaking and heartbreaking experience, particularly knowing that the melt has accelerated massively in the last few decades," he said.

"Mittelholzer played a key role in popularising commercial air travel in Switzerland, an industry which ironically came to contribute to the warming of the climate and the detriment of the alpine landscapes that the pioneering pilot knew and loved. Unless we drastically reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, there will be little ice left to photograph in another hundred years."

(Source: The Independent)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Euro cash launch

(January 02, 2002)

Citizens of twelve European Union countries are getting used to some new banknotes and coins. Euro, the EU's common currency, is now in circulation, but what are the implications? This report from Andrew Walker:

The single currency will make it more obvious if prices are different and **consumers** will be able to choose where to shop. One important **drawback of the cash changeover** is the cost, especially to business - changing bank accounts, shop tills and all the vending machines and parking meters.

But many of the economic effects are already with us. The Euro **made its debut** in the financial markets three years ago and it has been **an option** for any non-cash **transaction** ever since.

Another benefit for business is the elimination of currency risk in the Euro area - the possibility that you might lose money in **cross border** trade because of exchange rate movements.

That too came three years ago, when the **conversion rates** for the national currencies were fixed.

It's also three years since the Euro countries lost the power to set their own independent **interest** rates, a job that is now done for all of them by the European Central Bank. As expected, it has proved to be difficult for the Bank to get it right for all countries all the time.

Germany in particular could probably do with rather lower interest rates **to stimulate** an economic recovery.

Words

consumers: people who buy goods or services

drawback: a disadvantage, or a negative aspect of something

the cash changeover: the replacement of existing banknotes and coins with new ones, as a result of the introduction of the Euro

made its debut: here - was introduced

an option: one of a number of means/ways

transaction: a piece of business, for example an act of buying or selling something

cross border trade: buying, selling or exchanging goods or services between countries

conversion rates: here - exchange rates between the Euro and the national currencies of the countries in the Euro zone

interest: extra money that you receive if you have invested a sum of money, or extra money that you pay if you have borrowed money

to stimulate: to encourage something to begin, or to develop further

(Source: BBC)

Choked by air pollution, Shahr-e Rey struggling to survive

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — As several cities in Tehran province are experiencing severe air pollution, high concentration of industrial and residential units as well as large amounts of emissions produced by vehicles and landfill sites are among the major sources of pollutants choking the ancient city of Shahr-e Rey, southern Tehran.

However, what makes the city's air quality problem particularly difficult to tackle is its location which is less considered.

Air pollution predicament in southern Tehran

An AQI is a daily measure of six major air pollutants used to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become.

The index categorizes conditions according to a measure of polluting matters into excellent (0-50), good (51-100), moderately polluted or unhealthy for sensitive groups (101-150), polluted or unhealthy (151-200), heavily polluted (201-300) and severely polluted (301-500).

Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), Shahr-e Rey's AQI, has consistently reached 101/150 for 37 days, which is several times higher than the air quality control's safe limit.

While a day got polluted due to the high concentration of PM 10 exceeding 156 micrograms, according to the Tehran Air Quality Control Company.

PM 2.5 and other pollutants in the city also stood out last year polluting the city for 13 days, as the daily average in some days reached 170 micrograms seventeen times the 10 microgram "safe" level set by the World Health Organization; in addition to 110 days which got unhealthy for sensitive groups.

Comparing this year with the same period last year, the city witnessed increased PM concentrations being moderately polluted for 48 days, while the other capital's neighboring cities all experienced lower figures during the same period.

If unsafe air-pollution levels persist, it will contribute to gradual declines in health levels and labor productivity and many other consequences. Poor policy reactions, such as the closure of schools, always failed to address the root causes of pollution, which lie in industrial and waste management practices.



Illegal landfill sites a source of pollution

Although Shahr-e Rey is a city out of the traffic zone of Tehran, it is choking with air pollution, thus, it is not being paid much attention to, for its being located in southern part of the capital, both in terms of not implementing any air pollution mitigation scheme, and the nearby landfills located in Kahrizak county.

Member of Tehran City Council, Afshin Habibzadeh, has announced that some 60 tons of medical waste containing infectious toxic substances are being stockpiled daily on Arad mountain in Kahrizak, southern part of the capital.

Meanwhile, head of Shahr-e Rey department of environment, Zohereh Ebadati, told Tasmin in January that there were 37 illegal landfills and waste disposal centers in Kharavan district, about 50 percent of which were recyclable and were removed from the area, but the rest was incinerated at night, which resulted in severe environmental pollution in southern part of the capital.

According to a report published by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in October 2016, in Tehran alone

waste generation per capita is estimated at 750-800 grams per day and each Tehrani citizen generates about 270-450 kilograms of waste per years.

The report continues that unfortunately only 7 percent of the waste is separated at the source, 13 percent is recycled and only 2.5 percent of them end up in formal or sanitary landfills and some 77.5 percent of the waste will be burnt or buried in informal landfills located in the countryside or deserts near cities.

Industrial units adding insult to injury

The cement factory located in Shahr-e Rey since 66 years ago highly affects the city's air quality due to producing particulate matter, Ebadati told ISNA in January 2018.

During the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017- March 2018), Shar-e Rey residents breathed foul air for 34 days which was unhealthy for all groups of the people and some 139 days were reported to be moderately polluted and unhealthy for sensitive groups.

The figure was much higher than other cities of Tehran metropolis which was mainly rooted in the industrial unit emissions.

In addition to the unfavorable natural conditions, the lack of effective air pollution management policies and execution is probably equally problematic.

Green roofs can vastly improve city life, so why don't we see more of them?

Rooftops covered with grass, vegetable gardens and lush foliage are now a common sight in many cities around the world. More and more private companies and city authorities are investing in green roofs, drawn to their wide-ranging benefits which include savings on energy costs, mitigating the risk from floods, creating habitats for urban wildlife, tackling air pollution and urban heat and even producing food.

A recent report suggested that the UK's green roof market is expanding at a rate of 17 per cent each year. The world's largest rooftop farm will open in Paris in 2020, superseding similar schemes in New York City and Chicago. Stuttgart, in Germany, is thought of as "the green roof capital of Europe", while Singapore is even installing green roofs on buses.

These increasingly radical urban designs can help cities adapt to the monumental challenges they face, such as access to resources and a lack of green space due to development. But buy-in from city authorities, businesses and other institutions is crucial to ensuring their success – as is research investigating different options to suit the variety of rooftop spaces found in cities.

A growing trend

The UK is relatively new to developing green roofs, and governments and institutions are playing a major role in spreading the practice. London is home to much of the UK's green roof market, mainly due to forward-thinking policies such as the 2008 London Plan, which paved the way to more than double the area of green roofs in the capital.

Although London has led the way, there are now "living labs" at the Universities of Sheffield and Salford which are helping to establish the precedent elsewhere. The Ig-



nition project – led by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority – involves the development of a living lab at the University of Salford, with the aim of uncovering ways to convince developers and investors to adopt green roofs.

Ongoing research is showcasing how green roofs can integrate with living walls and sustainable drainage systems on the ground, such as street trees, to better manage water and make the built environment more sustainable.

Research is also demonstrating the social value of green roofs. Doctors are increasingly prescribing time spent gardening outdoors

for patients dealing with anxiety and depression. And research has found that access to even the most basic green spaces can provide a better quality of life for dementia sufferers and help prevent obesity.

In North America, green roofs have become mainstream, with a wide array of expansive, accessible and food-producing roofs installed in buildings. Again, city leaders and authorities have helped push the movement forward – only recently, San Francisco created a policy requiring new buildings to have green roofs. Toronto has policies dating from the 1990s, encouraging the development of urban farms on rooftops.

These countries also benefit from having newer buildings, which make it easier to instal green roofs. Being able to store and distribute water right across the rooftop is crucial to maintaining the plants on any green roof – especially on "edible roofs" which farm fruit and vegetables. And it's much easier to create this capacity in newer buildings, which can typically hold greater weight, than retro-fit old ones. Having a stronger roof also makes it easier to grow a greater variety of plants, since the soil can be deeper.

The new normal?

For green roofs to become the norm for new developments, there needs to be buy-in from public authorities and private actors. Those responsible for maintaining buildings may have to acquire new skills, such as landscaping, and in some cases volunteers may be needed to help out. Other considerations include installing drainage paths, meeting health and safety requirements and perhaps allowing access for the public, as well as planning restrictions and disruption from regular activities in and around the buildings during installation.

(Source: The Independent)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

Kish to host World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2019

The 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting will be held on April 29-30 in the Persian Gulf island of Kish, IRNA reported on Monday.

Ali Jafarian, international president of World Health Summit 2019, said that it is the first regional meeting in West Asia and North Africa to host 700 participants, including 150 foreign guests.

Pointing out that playing host to the event is an important opportunity for the country, he added that over 100 health experts from different countries have expressed readiness to attend the meeting.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“demi-”

Meaning: half or partly

For example: Putting deities and *demigods* aside, investors must also worry about interest-rate risk.

PHRASAL VERB

Hit out

Meaning: to try to hit someone

For example: When he felt someone grab him, he hit out wildly.

IDIOM

On the back burner

Explanation: decide to deal with an issue at a later date because you do not consider it to be that urgent or important

For example: When Julie was offered a promotion she put her MBA plans on the back burner.

نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در کیش برگزار می‌شود

به گزارش روز دوشنبه ایرنا هفتمین نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در روزهای ۹ و ۱۰ اردیبهشت ۹۸ در جزیره کیش برگزار می‌شود.

علی جعفریان نماینده دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تهران در مجمع جهانی سلامت گفت: این نخستین نشست منطقه‌ای در غرب آسیا و شمال آفریقا است که قرار است ۷۰۰ شرکت کننده از جمله ۱۵۰ مهمان خارجی در آن حضور یابند.

جعفریان، میزبانی از این نشست منطقه‌ای را برای جمهوری اسلامی ایران فرصتی مهم دانست و گفت: حدود ۱۰۰ نفر از افراد سرشناس حوزه سلامت کشورهای مختلف جهان به عنوان سخنران برای شرکت در این نشست اعلام آمادگی کرده‌اند.

Syrian Army to seize Kurdish-held town in Aleppo

➔ The deal includes the deployment of Syrian army units with heavy and medium weapons in Manbij, where they would raise the national flag over government buildings as well as entrances to the city, he revealed.

The Syrian army build-up in Manbij is meant to prevent the invasion of the city by Turkish forces and their allied militants, who have been attacking Syria's Northeast over the past few days. Earlier on Saturday, the U.S. reportedly withdrew its last military equipment from Manbij.

Manbij was liberated from the ISIL (ISIS or Daesh) terrorist group in 2016. Since then, it has been controlled by Washington-sponsored SDF, led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

Damascus has censured Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's latest remarks concerning his keenness to protect Syrian people and their rights as far from reality, emphasizing that the Damascus government will respond to Ankara's offensive into the Northeastern part of the country through all available legal means.

Syria's Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad has also attacked Kurdish fighters,



saying they had betrayed their country. He accused U.S.-backed Kurdish militants of following a separatist agenda that gave Turkey a pretext to violate his country's sovereignty.

The Turkish military had launched two cross-border incursions in Northern Syria, namely "Euphrates Shield" in August 2016 and "Olive Branch" in January 2018 with the

declared aim of eradicating Kurdish militants and ISIL terrorists near Turkey's borders.

Addressing the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in late September, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem lashed out at Turkey for providing "terrorists with all forms of support, including weapons that are more sophisticated", stating that Ankara's action undermines all agreements reached during the Astana talks in Kazakhstan.

"If Turkey is truly committed to the security of its borders and the unity of Syria, as it claims, it must choose whether to respect the Astana understandings and the bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism to secure the borders and to withdraw its forces from Syria, or to be the aggressor and the occupier – and to face the consequences," he noted.

Muallem stated that Syria is resolved to rid the entire Arab country of foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants.

In a recent interview with Al-Mayadeen television news network, the top Syrian diplomat said "every inch" of the Syrian territory will be liberated from terrorists very soon.

Merkel tells Erdogan to halt Syria offensive immediately

TEHRAN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel told Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call Sunday to bring to an immediate halt the military operation in northern Syria, a German government spokesperson said.

"The Chancellor advocated an immediate end to the military operation," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The phone call took place at Erdogan's request, she said.

Turkish-led forces have seized control of Syria's M4 highway, some 30-35 km (19-22 miles) deep into Syrian territory, as part of its incursion against a Kurdish militia in northeast Syria, Turkey's Defense Ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry made the announcement on Twitter, referring to the main road that runs parallel to the Turkish border in northeast Syria. Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are clashing with Turkish forces and allies on the highway, said SDF officials.

The Turkish army and its Syrian rebel allies seized the Syrian border town of Tel Abyad Sunday, according to Reuters. Turkish President Recep Erdogan said at a news con-

ference on Sunday that they had already seized control of the town of Ras al Ain.

He said two Turkish soldiers and 16 Turkey-backed Syrian rebels had been killed in the operation. Nine people including five civilians were killed in Ras al Ain, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said the strike had hit a gathering of civilians who had come to Ras al Ain from the city of Qamishli to show support to the town. An official in the SDF said a "civilian convoy" had been attacked.

According to Daily Star, Tel Abyad is a town at the Syrian border and one of the main focal points of the Turkish offensive that began Wednesday against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

Further, Erdogan said Sunday that threats of sanctions and arms embargoes by Western powers would not stop Turkey's military offensive against Kurdish militants in Syria.

"After we launched our operation, we have faced threats like economic sanctions and embargoes on weapons sales.



Those who think they can make Turkey turn back with these threats are gravely mistaken," Erdogan said in a televised speech.

Trump defends decision to pull U.S. forces out of northern Syria

TEHRAN — U.S. President Donald Trump has defended his decision to pull American forces out of northern Syria in the face of mounting criticism.

Days after the U.S. had withdrawn its forces and abandoned its Kurdish allies in the area, Turkey launched its military campaign there, dubbed Operation Peace Spring, which Ankara says is meant to purge the Syrian region of YPG militants. Turkey views YPG militants as terrorists linked to local autonomy-seeking militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The offensive is Turkey's third such military operation inside Syria against the Kurds since 2016. It has sparked widespread

condemnations as well as concerns about the humanitarian situation of the civilian population and a possible resurgence of the Daesh terrorist group.

Speaking before a crowd of evangelicals on Saturday, Trump did acknowledge that his choice was unpopular, but asserted that it was time to stop U.S. soldiers' participation in an "endless war."

"I don't think our soldiers should be there for the next 50 years guarding a border between Turkey and Syria when we can't guard our own borders at home," Trump said.

Trump, however, garnered muted applause from the audience as many in the religious community have condemned the president's move.

The U.S. has "paid a lot of money to the Kurds over the years", said the president, adding, but "don't forget, they are fighting for their land, they haven't helped us fight for our land."

Meanwhile, Pat Robertson, a longtime Trump supporter and founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network, had said Trump was "in danger of losing the mandate of heaven" for betraying the Kurds, press TV reported.

On Friday, the Pentagon said Washington was "greatly disappointed" by the Turkish incursion, noting the U.S. had not abandoned its Syrian Kurdish allies to a Turkish military onslaught.

"We are not abandoning our Kurdish

partner forces, and U.S. troops remain with them in other parts of Syria. The impulsive action of President Erdogan to invade northern Syria has put the United States in a tough situation."

The Pentagon later that day threatened to take an "immediate defensive action" after a contingent of its forces was caught up in Turkish shelling in the area.

Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Brook DeWalt said, "The United States remains opposed to the Turkish military move into Syria and especially objects to Turkish operations outside the Security Mechanism zone and in areas where the Turks know U.S. forces are present."

Russia to build \$1bn oil complex in Saudi Arabia & further boost investment in joint projects

TEHRAN — Russian President Vladimir Putin has revealed plans to boost economic ties with Saudi Arabia by setting up a \$1 billion oil plant there. He also reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to the OPEC agenda of keeping the oil market steady.

"There is still a lot to be done, but we have set a good pace. Last year [trade turnover] was up 15 percent. In the first six months of 2019, growth was as high as 38 percent," said Putin.

"We are considering some good joint projects. Our Direct Investment Fund and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia have jointly established a \$10 billion platform. \$2 billion has already been invested. Work is underway on other projects, and some promising and interesting projects have already been implemented," the Russian president said in a joint interview with Al Arabiya Sky, News Arabia and RT Arabic ahead of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia later this month. He also noted that Russia is considering the possible construction of a petrochemical plant in the region, as well as a number of other ambitious projects.



We also consider it possible to operate on the territory of Saudi Arabia. One of our companies is exploring the possibility of building a petrochemical facility with an investment of more than \$1 billion. It is SIBUR Holding,

Russia's largest company in this sector.

More generally, Putin spoke about a "dramatic" improvement in Saudi-Russian relations over the past few years.

"We have been making good headway practically in all fields," and Russia considers Saudi Arabia to be a "friendly nation," he said.

He also described Russia's cooperation with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which, according to last year's estimates, holds 79.4 percent of the world's proven oil reserves, with Saudi Arabia its largest producer. Russia shares its OPEC+ partners' intent to keep the oil market stable, Putin said.

"We need to respond to any attempt to destabilize the market. Russia will certainly continue working with Saudi Arabia and other partners and friends in the Arab world to counter any attempts to wreak havoc in the market," he stated, alluding to the September drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities, as well as earlier attacks and seizures of oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, RT reported.

INSTEX has a limited scope: Finaud

➔

Do you think that the INSTEX mechanism will be operational in light of U.S. warnings about sanctions on the companies that work with them and meet Iran's needs?

A: The INSTEX mechanism is operational but has a limited scope. Regarding U.S. sanctions in other areas, European companies may be deterred by the impact of secondary sanctions and will most likely not sacrifice their interests on the American market if they have less stakes in Iran. Unfortunately, the EU can offer some legal protection, but the ultimate decisions will be made by the companies.

A speculation about the Trumpian core

Trump's instincts seem to be telling him NOT to start a war even if he has so far kept going those he did not start. But one must also ask why he peppered his administration with some of the worst Neocons and Zionist lovers like John Bolton and Mike Pompeo and Nikki Haley and others? Why would he have chosen such sinister souls to sully his administration? Could it be at some gut level Trump realized the importance of keeping his alleged friends close, but his enemies even closer? And recall that Trump did dump Bolton when it became apparent Bolton was working at cross purposes while Trump was trying to get a "deal", for example one with North Korea.

Now, with the demise of the Russiagate scam erected by "Deep State" opponents and Democrats as the sorriest losers of the election in 2016, and of late the erection of yet another not too credible charge that Trump was literally and baldly conspiring to twist the arm of Ukraine's Zelensky to dig up dirt on the nepotistic Joe Biden (a weak man and opportunist if ever there was one), the Democrats are back in full-blown impeachment mode and Trump, awkwardly at best, is scrambling to defend himself although it does in fact seem unlikely he can be impeached.

The Democrats are rabid about impeachment because they may well be more entrenched with the so-called "Deep State" powers than even the Republicans, although this is admittedly a very close call. It is anyway terribly unfortunate that Trump's "base" among the electorate happens to center on mindless Christian evangelicals who seem to care not a whit about anything but bringing on a war to end all wars to bring on the "rapture" or some other insane and impossible fantasy. As for the Democrats, yes, they are entertaining a few candidates like Bernie Sanders, a true progressive, and weaker ones like Elizabeth Warren, possibly a faux progressive, but they are, it seems, NOT pushing the better candidates, especially the clearest anti-war mentality of them all, Tulsi Gabbard. And Joe Biden has been, if the mainstream media is any reliable voice (and it is not), alleged to be the front runner until recently and this seems to be some kind of bad joke. Moreover, there are some Democrats who literally think Hillary Clinton ought to jump in to the fray and run against Trump again, and she has marginally threatened to do this.

Clinton by any measure may the most "Zionified" and corrupted Democrat of them all, and it was she whom the corrupt Democratic Party nominated in 2016 in very questionable circumstances over Bernie Sanders, who probably could have beaten Trump had he not acquiesced to Clinton's nomination. But that is history, and it is quite possible that the party will somehow bend the rules once again and nominate someone who is far more like Clinton than anyone else currently in the race for the nomination.

This bears careful watching over the next year, in part because any Democrat who is not like Clinton probably stands a better chance against Trump than anyone else, but too many of the power brokers don't seem to care. Yes, Trump won in 2016, but it seems foolish not to believe the Zionists were alarmed by Trump's campaign postures about ending fruitless wars that have solely benefitted the far rightwing Zionists and the U.S. military industrial complex. And this is why one must wonder whether Israel is ready to pull the plug on Trump and covertly go for most anyone who is NOT talking about ending the various extant wars. We know the Zionists are appalled by Trump's move to pull back American troops from northeast Syria and allow Turkey to go in and decimate the Kurds, who have constituted Israeli allies. And Erdogan has not been friendly towards the Zionists even though he, like the Zionists, may still prefer to see Syria broken in to conflicted pieces. But that posture may be changing, too.

Whether there is any validity to these speculations only events over the next year will confirm or nullify, but Trump, however he may be reviled, does not look of late with the sacking of Bolton and the refusal to bomb Iran and the rejection of the Kurds any worse than most of the Democrats who again have stirred up a hornet's nest of charges and those hornets may well turn to sting them rather than result in Trump's impeachment.

Trump says working with Congress on imposing 'powerful' sanctions on Turkey

TEHRAN — U.S. President Donald Trump said on Twitter that he is considering imposing "powerful sanctions on Turkey".

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Stephen Mnuchin also said the department is prepared to "impose" sanctions immediately if necessary.

The statement comes amid the U.S. preparing to withdraw an approximate 1,000 troops from the northern part of Syria, where a Turkish military operation against Kurdish militants and terrorists is underway, in order for American troops to not end up trapped between opposing forces, since Turkey appears to be extending the initial geography of its offensive, while the Kurds are seeking support from Russia and Syria.

On 9 October, Erdogan announced the start of a military offensive in northern Syria against the Daesh* terrorist group and the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which Ankara designates as terrorists. The air component of the operation began the same day in the town of Ras al-Ain in Al Hasakah province, while the land operation was launched shortly after.

The Turkish operation in northern Syria is part of Ankara's longstanding goal to clear its border area of both Kurdish militants and Daesh terrorists, as well as to create a so-called safe zone along the cleared line. The military offensive has already resulted in civilian deaths on both sides of the border. Damascus views the operation as a violation of Syria's territorial integrity. The offensive has also been condemned by some Western countries.

Typhoon Hagibis kills many as it batters Japan, troops deployed

TEHRAN — Japan has sent tens of thousands of troops and rescue workers to save stranded residents and fight floods caused by one of the worst typhoons to hit the country in recent history, which killed 23 people, Reuters news agency has said.

Typhoon Hagibis - which means "speed" in the Philippine language, Tagalog - was the most powerful typhoon to hit Japan in six decades.

It paralyzed the capital, Tokyo, and surrounding areas, causing rivers to overflow and leaving almost half a million homes without power. public broadcaster NHK reported on Sunday.

Rescue efforts were in full force, with troops, boats and helicopters deployed to the flooded areas, as rescue crew dug through dirt in other areas to try to get people out from homes buried by landslides.

Hagibis made landfall on the main Jap-

anese island of Honshu around 7pm (10:00 GMT) on Saturday, with wind gusts of up to 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles per hour). A magnitude 5.7 earthquake shook Tokyo shortly after.

By Sunday morning, the significantly weakened storm had moved back off land and was expected to head out to sea in the evening after churning its way along the northern island of Hokkaido.

But serious flooding was reported in central Japan's Nagano, where a burst levee sent water from the Chikuma River gushing into residential neighborhoods, flooding homes up to the second floor on Sunday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe convened an emergency meeting of relevant ministers and dispatched the minister in charge of disaster management to the worst-hit areas.

He offered condolences to the families



of those who died and said the government was working to save people's lives and property.

"The government will do everything in its power to cooperate with relevant agencies to restore services as soon as possible," said Abe.

American Biles wins record 25th medal at worlds

All conquering American gymnast Simone Biles won her fifth gold, her second of the day, at the world championships on Sunday in the women's final to extend her own all-time record to 25 worlds medals.

Having earlier won the beam final, the 22-year-old also extended her own record of 19 world championships golds after success earlier this week in Stuttgart in the team, all-round and vault events with the USA.

Biles was crowned world floor champion for the fifth time in her career after winning the final by a full point from team-mate Sunisa Lee, who earned silver with Russia's Angelina Melnikova taking bronze.

Her double gold success came within a two-hour spell after earlier winning the beam final with China's Liu Tingting, 19, taking silver with 16-year-old team-mate Li Shijia in bronze place.

Her victories on the beam and floor makes Biles the most decorated gymnast in history, surpassing the previous all-time record of 23 world medals won by men's star Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus in the 1990s.

This is the first time Biles has finished a world championships with five gold medals having said she is "99 percent" sure Stuttgart will be the fifth and final worlds of her career.

The only blot on Biles' near-perfect record in south-west Germany came in Saturday's uneven bars final when she finished fifth. *(Source: Reuters)*

UEFA will 'examine' Turkey footballers' military salute

European football's ruling body said Saturday that they will "examine" reports that Turkey footballers performed a military salute in their Euro 2020 qualifier against Albania to mark their country's widely-condemned armed offensive against Kurds in Syria.

"Personally, I have not seen this gesture, which could be considered a provocation," UEFA's press chief Philip Townsend told the Italian Ansa news agency.

"Does the regulation prohibit references to politics and religion? Yes, and I can guarantee you that we will look at this situation."

The salute was made after Cenk Tosun's winning goal for Turkey in the game in Istanbul on Friday.

After the match, a photo was also posted on the official Twitter account of the national team.

In it, the players are seen making a military salute with the tweet indicating the players "have dedicated their victory to our brave soldiers and fellow martyrs".

In Turkey, it is common for celebrities, including footballers, to show their support for the security forces after attacks or during military operations.

The Turkish offensive began on Wednesday after US President Donald Trump ordered American troops to pull back from the border area of north-east Syria.

Meanwhile, at the world gymnastics championships in Stuttgart, Turkey's Ibrahim Colak made a military-style salute on the podium after winning gold in the men's rings event.

It was not known if the gesture was linked to the military campaign.

(Source: Mirror)

Neymar limps off as Brazil draw with Nigeria

Neymar's return to Champions League action may be delayed after the Paris Saint-Germain forward limped off after just 12 minutes of Brazil's friendly against Nigeria on Sunday.

The 27-year-old, who played the full 90 minutes against Senegal on Thursday, clutched his hamstring after eight minutes and was replaced by Philippe Coutinho shortly after.

Neymar, who was playing his 101st international, is now a doubt for PSG's Champions League meeting with Club Brugge on October 22. He has missed the first two rounds because of a UEFA suspension.

He was injured while on national duty back in June when he hurt an ankle in a friendly against Qatar. It ruled him out of the Copa America which Brazil went on to win.

If the injury was bad for Neymar then the result was disappointing for Brazil -- it is their fourth successive match without a win.

Their previous three outings since winning the Copa America had yielded draws against Colombia and Senegal and a defeat by Peru.

Even when Neymar was on the pitch, the Nigerians were causing problems with Brazil goalkeeper Ederson at full stretch to keep out Victor Osimhen.

Gabriel Jesus went close for Brazil but it was the Super Eagles who took the lead in the 35th minute when Moses Simon slipped the ball to Joe Aribo who got the better of Marquinhos before firing home.

Brazil showed more invention in the second half and levelled three minutes after the break. Marquinhos' header came back off the bar but Casemiro was on hand to stab the ball across the line.

Jesus and Coutinho both had chances to wrap up the win for Brazil but Nigeria held firm for the draw.

(Source: Goal)

Conte: 'In tears at Italy exit'

Antonio Conte confirms he didn't want to leave Italy for Chelsea in 2016. "We were all very crying, because we knew we'd no longer see each other every day."

The current Inter Coach spoke on stage at the Festival dello Sport event in Trento this afternoon.

"I feel that wearing the Azzurri jersey is a dream come true and when you stand there listening to the national anthem, it's a unique sensation, because it means you have reached that level," said the former Nazionale boss.

"I represented Italy as both player and Coach. Being the manager does provide enormous responsibility. You can feel an entire nation behind you, hoping and pushing you on. I think I was very fortunate to be both Coach and player for Italy."

Conte took the Azzurri to the Euro 2016 quarter-finals, a team known more for its passion and unity than any particular talents.

"I remember we worked together for three-and-a-half weeks, which was the most important thing, as we formed a group where each player was ready to give his life for his teammate.

"We defeated Spain 2-0, they had been unbeaten for a long time, becoming world and European champions. It was a great match, because despite the lack of quality in the squad, we found 23 men who were happy to work together and help each other out."

(Source: Football Italia)

1000 lost balls in 40 years – the team who play on Europe's 'highest' pitch

It's so high that in winter it becomes a ski run and so remote that the pre-match journey has to be done by two cable cars.

It's remarkable the Ottmar Hitzfeld Stadium even exists at all.

The pitch is perched 2,000 meters above sea level, surrounded by peaks twice that high, in the Swiss Alps close to the resort of Zermatt.

"It is the most beautiful place you can play football," says FC Gspon defender Diego Abgotsson, who has played here for 18 years.

"You see the mountains, the glaciers, the trees - it is fantastic."

FC Gspon are an amateur team who play in the Swiss Mountain League and they proudly call their home ground the highest football stadium in Europe.

The village of Gspon - inaccessible by road - is made up of around 70 wooden chalets and in winter becomes a small ski resort. The air is thin and breathing can be more difficult than at your usual football ground.

"We are used to it," says Abgotsson, who plays for the club around being a ski instructor turned salesman.

"For the opponents it is harder. If we are 5-0 down at half-time we know we can come back and win.

"We are a team that is extremely strong in our home town."

The artificial pitch, smaller than your standard size because of the unsurprising lack of flat land, was built in 2009, 35 years after the club was formed.



The reasons for wanting to play here are clear, but it is not without its downsides.

A large net spans one side of the pitch and while it stops the ball disappearing down the mountainside most of the time, accidents can happen.

The estimation is the club has lost 1,000 balls in 40 years.

"Most of the time the balls travel about 100 meters down the hill - sometimes they're 200 or 300 meters further down," says defender Alfons Brigger.

Mancini's new-look Italy roar into Euro 2020 after World Cup flop



Roberto Mancini has succeeded with stage one of his mission to bounce back from failing to qualify for the last World Cup by sealing Italy's place at Euro 2020 with Saturday's 2-0 win over Greece that pushed their perfect qualifying run to seven matches.

In November 2017, headlines spoke of an 'Apocalypse' after the four-time world champions missed out on a World Cup for the first time since 1958 following playoff defeat to Sweden.

However on Sunday the Gazzetta Dello Sport gave the national side "Green light" after they qualified for next summer's tournament in front of 60,000 fans at Rome's Stadio Olimpico, wearing green for just the second time since 1954.

"Dear Europe, here we are!" added Turin daily Tuttosport.

Previous coach Gian Piero Ventura, largely seen as an uninspiring replacement for Antonio Conte who dragged Italy to the quarter-finals of Euro 2016, took the brunt of the blame for the failure almost two years ago.

But the problems ran deeper, with the 2006 World Cup winners also exiting in the group stages of the South Africa and Brazil tournaments.

Former Italy international Mancini took

over in May 2018 with the task of rebuilding a demoralised team around a new generation, with the ageing heroes of Berlin bowing out.

And in front of a 60,000-crowd in the Stadio Olimpico on Saturday night Italy advanced with three games to spare to a multi-host tournament they are kicking off on June 12 in Rome.

"I feel very proud, because it was not a good situation when I arrived," said 54-year-old Mancini.

"I tried to make the players believe in themselves, when everyone else said Italy didn't have good quality players."

The 'Azzurri' won thanks to Jorginho's 63rd-minute penalty and a deflected strike from Federico Bernardeschi with 12 minutes remaining.

Mancini conceded his side "were not brilliant, maybe a little nervous at being back in Rome", but it was enough to get past the 2004 European champions and qualify from a modest group which also includes Finland, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Liechtenstein.

Under Mancini Italy have lost just two matches in 17 months, against European champions Portugal, and in June 2018 to the France team who went on to lift the World Cup.

(Source: France 25)

No longer a dominant force; Spain's new, stark reality



It is difficult to admit, but it appears as though Spain's glory years are now behind them.

An almost impeccable qualifying campaign seemed to hide the reality that was becoming evident during the League of Nations, which saw La Roja lose to the likes of England and Croatia, was brought back to the fore against Norway on Saturday night: Spain are no longer amongst the higher echelon of nations in Europe.

The reasons are diverse but obvious. There has clearly been an attempt to mix players from Spain's dominant period, such as Sergio Ramos, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, together with those who are beginning to emerge, however this has not been an easy transition.

Although some of the players coming through are very talented, thoughts still revert back to the days of Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Carles Puyol and so on.

In order to try and fill that vacuum, Spain and Robert Moreno have opted to select some experienced players like Raul Albiol, Jesus Navas and Santi Cazorla, peculiarly those are offering the best performances, but it speaks to the

"Normally there is half a meter on the pitch and we have to get it all off.

"It is really annoying and hard work."

Crowds at FC Gspon games range from as low as three or four in extreme weather to 40 or 50 in the height of summer, with spectators coming from Gspon or Staldenried, the larger, more developed village at the start of the five-minute cable ride below.

"Every time it is good weather it is really special to play here," says captain and mid-fielder Sebastian Furrer.

"My father also played here. I used to come up and watch him play and it is nice to be able to play where he played. It is a very special place."

The stadium is named after German former Switzerland and Bayern Munich manager Ottmar Hitzfeld, who took the ceremonial opening kick-off when it hosted the inaugural European Mountain Village Championship in 2008.

The tournament runs alongside the conventional European Championship every four years, with "mountain teams" representing nations from across the continent, and will return to Gspon in 2020.

Almost all who visit leave stunned by the ground's beauty.

"It is your hometown and it makes you proud that a lot of people think it is beautiful," Brigger says. "And of course it is - a beautiful view and beautiful village."

(Source: BBC)

Bottas wins in Japan, Mercedes celebrate six title doubles

Valtteri Bottas swept to victory in Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix as Mercedes clinched the Formula One constructors' championship and guaranteed themselves an unprecedented sixth consecutive title double.

The Finn crossed the line 11.3 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who made a hesitant start from pole position and had to fend off a charging Lewis Hamilton in the closing laps.

The result moved Mercedes 177 points clear of Ferrari, allowing them to wrap up a record-equaling sixth consecutive constructors' crown, with a maximum 176 points from four races still to be won.

It also assured Mercedes of the drivers' title with only Bottas now capable of challenging five-times world champion Hamilton, whose lead narrowed to 64 points.

Mercedes have now equalled Ferrari's record six constructors' titles in a row between 1999-2004. The Italian team won five successive drivers' crowns with Michael Schumacher from 2000-04.

"Starting third is never easy here but there's no point giving up," said Bottas after his third win of the season and first since the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April.

"I had a really nice car and Sebastian had an issue, so it was good to get the lead. Really proud of the team, a sixth title in a row is so impressive."

Ferrari looked like they might delay the title celebrations after locking out the front row in a qualifying session held on Sunday morning, after being postponed from its traditional Saturday slot due to Typhoon Hagibis.

But both Vettel and team mate Charles Leclerc ran into trouble at the start.



Vettel launched off his grid spot a fraction too soon and slammed on the brakes before moving again. He was investigated for a false start but let off without a sanction because his car had not crossed the line.

The momentary hesitation was enough to allow Bottas to sweep around the outside and into the lead.

Leclerc collided with Max Verstappen as the Dutchman tried to pass around the outside, damaging the Ferrari and pushing the Red Bull, which later retired, into a spin.

The Monegasque nevertheless carried on, crucially holding up Hamilton as his car shed bodywork in a shower of debris before

eventually pitting for repairs at the end of the third lap.

Penalties

Leclerc, 21 and winner of two of the last five races, crossed the line sixth but dropped to seventh behind Renault's Daniel Ricciardo after being slapped with two post-race time penalties.

He collected a five-second penalty for the Verstappen incident and a further 10 seconds for continuing to drive a car deemed to be in an unsafe condition.

Ferrari were also fined 25,000 euros (\$27,600) for the latter offence while Leclerc was given two penalty points on his superlicence.

Ricciardo and 10th-placed team mate Nico Hulkenberg could still drop back, however, with Racing Point lodging a protest against the French manufacturer for an alleged brake bias infringement.

"The lights were on but it was my mistake (at the start)," said Vettel, a four-time winner at Suzuka.

"The Mercedes were difficult, they had more pace than us and Valtteri was flying. I'm not happy with the start of the race but everything else was fine, just lacked a bit of pace."

Hamilton's joy at Mercedes's success was muted after the team gambled on a one-stop strategy for the Briton, even as Bottas and Vettel opted for two.

With tyre degradation higher than expected, the 34-year-old was forced to pit a second time and lost track position to Vettel.

"Firstly, congratulations to the team," said Hamilton, who can still clinch the drivers' title at the next race in Mexico. "That's the main point. I just wanted to bring home good points for the team."

(Source: Reuters)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79



Tehrantimesdaily

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Justice is fairness, and generosity is liberality.
He who offers something in spite of a short
arm, will receive more from a long arm.

Imam Ali (AS)

“Fault Line” named best short at London festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — “Fault Line” (Gosal), a short film by Soheil Amirsharifi from Iran, has won the award for best short at the 63rd BFI London Film Festival, the organizers have announced.

“Fault Line” tells the story of a schoolgirl who tries to hide a mistake she made in the morning that has caused problems for her friends and herself.

“This is a film that provoked intense discussion as we continued to decode it long after watching; for its sophisticated layering of story, beautifully controlled performances and uncompromising and singular vision that provokes the audience to piece together the unseen events that motivate all of the characters’ actions,” Jacqui Davies, the president of the jury for the short film competition said.

The festival presented a lineup of 229 feature films from some of the world’s greatest directors and emerging filmmakers for 12 days from October 2.

“Monos” by Alejandro Landes from Colombia won the award for best film, while “Atlantics” by Mati Diop from France won the award for best debut feature.

“The Warden” by Nima Javidi and “Coup 53” by Taqi Amirani were other Iranian films screened at the festival.

Iranian filmmaker selected for DOK Leipzig jury

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Switzerland-based Iranian filmmaker Majid Movasseghi has been selected as a member of a jury for the 62nd DOK Leipzig.

He will judge the films in the Interreligious Section of the international festival for documentary and animated films, which will be held in the German city from October 28 to November 3, the organizers have announced.

Filmmaker Tom Alesch from Luxembourg, German pastor Anne-Kathrin Quaas and French writer Aurite Kouts are other members of the panel.

A lineup of six Iranian films will also go on screen during the festival.

The lineup includes “Family Relations” by Nasser Zamiri, “Exodus” by Bahman Giarostami, “Khatemeh” by Hadi and Mehdi Zarei and “None of Your Business” by Kamran Heidari.

Also included are “Asho” by Jafar Najafi and “Am I a Wolf?” by Amir-Hushang Moein, which will be competing in the short competition section.

Iran to hold cultural meetings during Frankfurt Book Fair

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Iran Cultural Fairs Institute (ICFI), which will represent the country at the Frankfurt Book Fair, will hold talks with a number of foreign cultural officials during the world’s largest trade fair for books in the German city.

The meetings have been arranged to help expand cultural relations with other countries, ICFI director Qader Ashena said on Sunday.

The ICFI will organize meetings with Frankfurt Book Fair President Juergen Boos, Ronbo BolognaFiere Shanghai Ltd. General-Manager Donna Chai and Leipzig Book Fair director Oliver Zille.

Meetings with Azerbaijan First Deputy Culture Minister Vagif Aliyev Gadir Oglu and Jessica Sanger, the Legal Counsel and deputy director of the Legal Department of Germany’s Publishers and Booksellers Association, will be held.

About 20 Iranian publishers, two literary agencies and six cultural associations will attend the event, which will be held from October 16 to 20.

The Union of Tehran Publishers and Booksellers, Iranian Association of Academic Publishers, Association of Women Publishers, Iran’s Association of Sacred Defense Publishers, and Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth are among the participating associations.

Iran also plans to introduce 14 new Turkish translations of Persian books at the book fair.

A German version of “A 250-Year-Old Person”, a book containing a collection of speeches and writings of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about the household of Prophet Muhammad (S), will also be unveiled during the book fair.

Parisa Manuchehri wins Architecture MasterPrize in Bilbao

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian architect Parisa Manuchehri has won the Architecture MasterPrize (AMP) in Spain, the organizers have announced.

She won the award in the Restoration & Renovation section for renovating the Saadat Historic House located in the central Iranian city of Kashan.

The restoration of this once-dilapidated mansion reconciles the past with the present. Executed exquisitely by the finest of craftsmen and women, the design juxtaposes age-old traditions of Iranian architecture and crafts with cutting-edge new materials, details and techniques.

The AMP architecture award celebrates creativity and innovation in the fields of architectural design, landscape architecture and interior design.

The prize was instituted by the Farmani Group, an organization curating and promoting art, design and architecture across the globe since 1985.

The winners’ gala ceremony will be held today at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in the Spanish city.



This combination photo shows the Saadat Historic House before and after the restoration by architect Parisa Manuchehri.

Alireza Shojanuri to play title role in “Salman Farsi”

A R T **TEHRAN** — Alireza Shojanuri, the star of Majid Majidi’s 2015 blockbuster “Muhammad (S), the Messenger of God” about the life of Muhammad (S), will play the title role in “Salman Farsi”, a TV series about the life story of the Iranian companion of the Prophet of Islam.

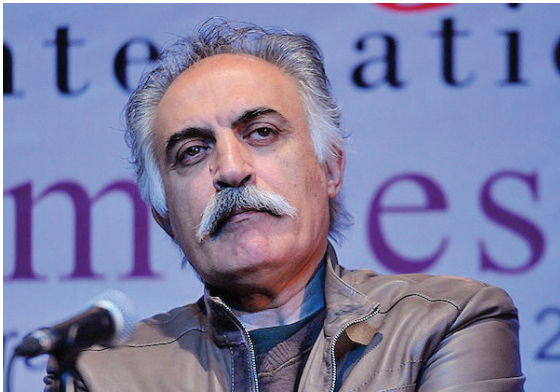
Shojanuri will portray Salman’s middle-age and old-age, director Davud Mirbaqeri said on Saturday during Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Managing Director Abdolali Aliasgari’s visit to the Iran Television and Cinema Town.

Aliasgari also planted a rose to celebrate launching the construction of a set for the TV series in the town.

“No project as large as ‘Salman Farsi’ has been produced by IRIB,” noted Mirbaqeri who has turned stories from the history of Islam into series such as “Mokhtarnameh” and “Imam Ali (AS)”.

Mirbaqeri said that he will begin filming “Salman Farsi” on location on Qesham Island in southern Iran in late autumn.

Salman Farsi was one of several individuals of Persian origin residing in Arabia, probably as a consequence of Sassanid



Actor Alireza Shojanuri in an undated photo.

involvement in Yemen. He was among the freedmen (mawali) of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and became the model of Persian converts and the symbol of the role that Persia and Persians would play in the future of Islam.

According to certain traditional narrations, Salman Farsi

was the first who translated parts of the Holy Quran into Persian during the 7th century.

The plan to make “Salman Farsi” was first announced in April 2018.

The story of the series will be recounted over three seasons, the first of which will be set in the Sassanid cities of Gabae, modern Isfahan, and Ctesiphon located about 35 kilometers southeast of present-day Baghdad, Mirbaqeri said at that time.

“The second season covers the period of Salman Farsi’s life when he lived in the Byzantine Empire, and the third season is about the rise of Islam and the life of Salman in Mecca and Medina where he was in the company of the Prophet (S),” he added.

The necessary sets for the first season will be made in Iran, and the second season will be shot on location in Armenia, Turkey and Morocco, where Mirbaqeri is scheduled to hire a local cast.

The third season will be shot on a set where “Muhammad, the Messenger of God” was filmed.

He estimated that the series would take about five years to complete.

Sharjah children’s festival picks movies from Iran



A scene from “Asho” by Iranian director Jafar Najafi.

A R T **TEHRAN** — A lineup of seven Iranian films will go on screen in the various sections of the Sharjah International Film Festival for Children and Youth, which will open today in the Emirati city.

“The Skier” by Fereidun Najafi, “Here My Village” by Abbas Aram and “Hendi and Hormoz” by Abbas Amini are among the feature films competing in the festival.

“The Skier” tells the story of a boy from Kuhrang who faces problems on his way to take a little ibex to a tribal ritual in a snowy, remote region in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province.

“Here My Village” is about Farhad, a 12-year-old village boy who is crazy about photos and magazines. He tries hard to work and to buy a second-hand camera,

but he does not succeed.

“Hendi and Hormoz” is set on the hematite-rich island of Hormoz where Hendi, a 13-year-old girl, is married off to Hormoz, a 16-year-old boy who is jobless and lives in poverty like most of the rest of the island’s inhabitants. When Hendi becomes pregnant, Hormoz turns to a drug smuggler in an effort to ensure his family’s livelihood.

Short films “Are You Volleyball?!” by Mohammad Bakhshi, “The Day of Duty” by Ali Farahani and “Serok” by Zhivar Farajzadeh are also among the films.

“Asho”, a documentary by Jafar Najafi about a shepherd boy who is obsessed with Hollywood movies and wants to become an actor, will also be screened at the festival.

The Sharjah International Film Festival will continue until October 18.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform “The Fateful Day”



The Tehran Symphony Orchestra performs a concert at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on April 19, 2018. (YJC/Alireza Farahani)

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Tehran Symphony Orchestra will be performing “The Fateful Day” film score composed by Iranian maestro Majid Entezami at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) in Tehran on October 21.

Entezami himself will conduct the concert, which is part of the program “Forty Days of Love” organized by NLAI to honor 40 Iranian artists who have created outstanding works about the tragedy of Ashura over the past century.

“The Fateful Day” was directed by Shahram Asadi in 1995 based on a play written by Bahram Beizai.

The film is the story of a Christian man who converts to Islam for the love of a Muslim girl. At the wedding, he hears voices

calling for help. He leaves the ceremony and takes a journey to Karbala. But he arrives at the end of the Battle of Karbala after the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

Beizai and master of Persian miniature Mahmud Farshchian are among the artists who will be honored in the program “Forty Days of Love”.

Farshchian has created several paintings including “The Evening of Ashura”, “Ali-Asghar (AS)” and “The Standard-Bearer of Truth” about the tragedy of Ashura.

Ashura is the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in Karbala as a result of their valiant stand against the injustices of the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE.

Jessye Norman, opera icon, memorialized at hometown funeral

NEW YORK (AP) — Jessye Norman’s illustrious opera career and extraordinary artistry was honored at her public funeral. So was Jessye Norman the loyal friend, the humanitarian, the teacher and the person not only celebrated for her golden voice, but for her heart of gold.

Several speakers at Saturday’s four-hour service, from family members to close friends to former colleagues, recalled intimate dinners Norman held at her home — one friend called her cooking “immaculate” — while others told stories about Jessye Norman, the goddess and diva who essentially walked on air. Norman also was recognized as a black pioneer in the arts world who was proud of her Georgia roots and spoke publicly about the challenges she faced in career and called out racism.

The funeral took place in Norman’s hometown of Augusta at the William B. Bell Auditorium. Laurence Fishburne, the Emmy- and Tony-winning actor who was born in Augusta, told the attendees as a struggling young actor looking for



A horse-drawn hearse containing the body of opera star Jessye Norman passes by the Bell Auditorium, site of her funeral, in Augusta, Ga., Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019. (AP/Michael Holahan)

inspiration, he looked at photos of great artists, from Miles Davis to Zora Neale Hurston to Duke Ellington to Norman.

“It made me feel connected to something bigger than myself,” Fishburne said, adding that his black-and-white photo of Norman revealed someone energetic, whimsical and vulnerable. “So I am here at the request of Jessye’s family to grieve with you, to say thank you to God for sharing her with us and the world, to celebrate her life, her good words, her accomplishments, and to praise her for using her talents, her gift, her compassion, her intellect to lift all of us up a little higher.”

Several people spoke passionately onstage as they remembered Norman and honored her life.

Georgetown University sociologist and author Michael Eric Dyson proudly said: “(Jessye) was black girl magic before the term ever existed. Before there was Oprah and before there was Beyoncé and before there was Michelle Obama, there was Jessye Norman.”