



Ashgabat hosts Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee meeting

TEHRAN — The 15th Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee meeting was held on Tuesday in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat, IRNA reported.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides and Iran's Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami was the Iranian chairman of the meeting.

Eslami arrived in Ashgabat on Tuesday at the head of a high-ranking economic del-

egation comprised of representatives from the oil, energy and foreign affairs ministries as well as the country's private sector.

The minister is also accompanied by several parliament members, Deputy Oil Ministry for International Affairs Amir-Hossein Zamaninia, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Vice Chairman Hossein Salahvarzi and Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad. ➔4

Ruhollah Zam arrested via co-op with other intelligence services: IRGC

TEHRAN — Mohammad Tavallaei, a high-ranking IRGC general, has revealed more details about the arrest of Ruhollah Zam, the head of an anti-Iranian website and Telegram channel, saying he was arrested through cooperation with other intelligence services.

"Intelligence forces had been keeping a careful watch over Ruhollah Zam's

movements for a long time and he stepped into intelligence trap of the Guards some two years ago," Tavallaei said on Tuesday, according to Mehr.

"Zam was a key figure of (foreign) intelligence services for throwing the country into disarray...and driving a wedge between the Iranian people and government," he said. ➔3

Nearly 70,000 children displaced as violence escalates in northeast Syria

TEHRAN — "UNICEF estimates that nearly 70,000 children have been displaced since hostilities in northeast Syria escalated nearly a week ago.

"UNICEF confirms that at least four children have been killed and nine others injured in northeast Syria. Seven children have reportedly also been killed in Turkey.

"Three health facilities and health vehicles and one school came under attack. The A'louk water station supplying water to nearly 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh is out of service.

"UNICEF is concerned that at least 170,000 children could need humanitarian assistance as a result of ongoing violence in the area. ➔13

Economic terrorism on Iranians is crime against humanity



Arrival of resistance forces in northern Syria: Erdogan's failed political calculations

In response to the Turkish army's incursion into north Syria, the Syrian Army entered Tabqah and deployed forces near the military airport in Raqqah province in the early hours of Monday. Tabqa military airport is located near the Euphrates Dam, one of the biggest and most important dams in Syria, which was lost during the bloody battle between the Syrian army and ISIS in August 2014.

Media sources speak of a great agreement between Kurds in northern Syria and the Damascus government. Following a long meeting, it was agreed that there would be a complete coordination between the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and Damascus across all areas under the control of SDF. This could be the beginning of Syria's control over the eastern Euphrates.

The Turkish army and its affiliated militia have occupied Tell Abiad, Solouk and Mabroukeh towns as well as the villages in the southwestern outskirts of Hasakah. Now, they are approaching Ain Issa on the north of Raqqah. Therefore, the next steps that should be taken by the Syrian army will likely be a deployment in the northern and western outskirts of Raqqah to stop the invading Turkish army.

In this regard, the Kurds have struck a deal with Russia to hand over Ain al Arab (Kobani) to Syria, Ismat Sheikh Hassan, one of the military commanders of SDF, has said.

The fact is that the arrival of the Syrian army and resistance forces in northern Syria has unbalanced all the calculations of Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkish forces had assumed that they could occupy some parts of Syria through their operations in the north and the northeast. Turkish troops had sought to establish an autonomous state in north and northeast Syria, so they launched Operation Peace Spring. But the intervention by the Syrian army and resistance forces to defend the territorial integrity and to protect their national sovereignty aborted Ankara's last plans. ➔13

Top Iranian, Czech MPs discuss Mideast crises including Turkish incursion into Syria

TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and his Czech counterpart Radek Vondracek in a meeting in Belgrade on Monday underlined the need to avoid military option to settle disputes or security concerns in Syria.

Larijani made the remarks in a meeting with Vondracek on the sidelines of the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Serbia's capital attended by parliamentary delegations from around 180 countries.

"Regarding Syria, we believe that diplomatic dialogues are the best way to put an end to the crisis but some countries prefer military approaches which are unwise and will end in heavy losses," Larijani pointed out.

"Military confrontations will reinvigorate ter-

rorism in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria," Larijani said, adding, "Of course, in response to calls from Baghdad and Damascus we helped the Syrian and Iraqi governments to overcome the terrorist group of Daesh."

The Czech speaker, for his part, said, "Militarism will end nowhere, hence, a dialogue-based diplomatic way must be permanently pursued."

"Unfortunately civilians in Syria and Yemen are suffering (from militaristic approaches)," Vondracek regretted.

Turkey launched a military operation against Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), on Wednesday under the pretext that the group is linked to Turkey's Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that it has been fighting with.

In a press conference on Monday President Hassan Rouhani also said the Turkish military moves on northeastern Syria is "unacceptable", adding, "The Turkish government is our friend, but the way they have chosen is not good, and we believe there are better ways."

Also, last week Rouhani said 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... and the Kurds in this region, which is their own country, should be beside the Syrian Army," Rouhani told a cabinet session. ➔2

Nasrallah, Frangieh met for six hours overnight

TEHRAN — The secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah held a six-hour meeting with Marada Movement head Sleiman Frangieh overnight Monday.

The meeting was confirmed to The Daily Star by a Hezbollah source. The meeting touched on the current budget discussions in government, as well as local and regional developments.

This meeting comes days after Nasrallah met with Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil for around seven hours.

Bassil and Frangieh are tipped to be two of the main candidates for the presidency when President Michel Aoun's term is up in three years.

■ **Hariri, Berri meet over budget snags** Meanwhile, Prime Minister Saad Hariri and

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri met Tuesday to iron out the kinks holding up the 2020 budget, which appeared to have hit snags during a Cabinet session earlier this week.

Hariri will head a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday at 5 p.m. to discuss the budget.

Hariri met Berri at the latter's Ain al-Tineh residence and it was reported that the two agreed on the need to approve the budget within the constitutional timeframe, as well as the dangers of delays.

According to the Constitution, Cabinet should send the budget to Parliament by Oct. 22 this year; Parliament then has until the end of the year to pass it.

Lebanon is currently in an economic state of emergency, as was declared last month by the

country's top officials and politicians. Ratings agencies have given Beirut a negative outlook and conventional wisdom holds that passing a 2020 budget with austerity measures is needed to boost confidence and put the country back on the right track — although some have criticized resorting to austerity.

One current budget holdup is raising taxes on citizens, which has been vehemently opposed by Hezbollah. Ministers have also proposed increasing fees on electricity, but the Lebanese Forces and Free Patriotic Movement have rejected this, saying that once 24/7 electricity is provided, they would approve increased taxes. According to a plan endorsed by the government earlier this year, Lebanon will have round-the-clock power next year.



Winners of Isar National Film Awards announced

An unidentified filmmaker receives his award from Cinema Organization of Iran director Hossein Entezami (2nd L) during the 3rd edition of the Isar National Film Awards at Tehran's Eyvan Shams Hall on October 14, 2019.

The awards have been established by the Foundation for Martyrs and War Veterans' Affairs to honor films on devotion and self-sacrifice.



What we eat determines our health and future

In recent decades, our diets and eating habits have dramatically changed, moving from seasonal, mainly plant-based and fibre-rich dishes to high calorie diets and processed foods, loaded with sugar, fat and salt. These days also in Iran, less time is spent to prepare meals at home, and consumers rely on fast food outlets and home delivery of processed foods.

Urbanization and technological innovation have transformed our habits, promoting sedentary lifestyles which involve little or no physical activity; that means fewer calories are burned throughout the day.

A combination of unhealthy diets and sedentary lifestyles has sent obesity rates soaring in high, middle and even low-income countries — where hunger and overweight often coexist.

Based on the latest data provided by FAO, globally, over 670 million adults and 120 million girls and boys (5-19 years) are obese, and over 40 million children under 5 are overweight, while over 820 million people still suffer from hunger.

■ The costs of unhealthy diets and obesity

Unhealthy diet and obesity take a toll on human, financial and environmental resources. Poor diets, combined with sedentary lifestyles, have become world's number one leading risk factor for disability and death from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and certain cancers. Unhealthy eating habits also costs national health budgets up to USD 2 trillion per year globally.

Not only our food systems play a major role in our poor diet, but also contribute to environmental degradation. In the way our food systems currently work, from agricultural production to processing and retailing, there is little space for fresh, locally produced foods as staple crops such as cereals take priority. High demands for specific varieties and mono-cultivation practices, along with excessive use of agricultural inputs made natural resources unsustainable for future generations, the super high pressure on our environment has pushed the biodiversity and wild life to its very limit and extinction. Today only nine plant species account for 66% of total crop production despite the fact that throughout history, more than 6000 species have been cultivated for food. ➔12

Zarif: Attack on Iranian oil tanker was state-sponsored

The minister says one or more states were involved in the vessel attack

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced on Tuesday that “one or more countries” had directed or facilitated the Friday morning attack on the Iranian SABITI oil tanker off the Saudi coast in the Red Sea.

Zarif also said the raid on SABITI was a “state-sponsored act”. He added, “According to received intelligence the Friday assault on the Iranian oil tanker was a complicated move done by one or more states.”

“Investigations are underway. We are not to accuse any government until we come to definite conclusions,” he mentioned.

President Rouhani also told a press conference on Monday that “what is clear is that a regime has done it with a support of certain countries.” Rouhani also told a press conference with the Pakistani prime minister in Tehran on Sunday that Iran has found some clues about the attack on the vessel but investigations are underway until a final conclusion is reached.

In a reaction on Saturday, Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), condemned the attack on SABITI and voiced Tehran’s firm will to give a crushing response to the evil act in international waterways.

“Banditry and wickedness in the international waterways aimed at destabilizing movement of trade vessels will not go unanswered,” the top security official underscored.

“A committee has been formed to conduct probe into the issue of the SABITI oil tanker which came under missile attacks off the Saudi coasts in the Red Sea and its findings will soon be handed over to the relevant bodies to make the required decision,” Shamkhani stated.

He added, “Main clues to the dangerous adventurism have been found following reviewing videos and gathered intelligence evidence.”

Shamkhani also pointed to destructive operations against Iranian oil tankers F Helm and Happiness in recent months in the Red Sea, saying, “Destabilizing international waterways will push the world economy towards worrying threats.”

He further stressed that planners, operators and suppliers of such provocative moves will ultimately be responsible for the consequences of their dangerous measures.

The Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) announced in a statement posted on its official website that none of the regional maritime bodies responded to calls for help by the Iranian oil tanker SABITI when it came under missile attack.

“No regional maritime administration responded to calls for assistance by MT SABITI, and the Ports and Maritime Organization considers this in contrast and violation of international customary requirements, as well as humanitarian principles,” the PMO stated.

The PMO said it is releasing this statement to clarify the ambiguities surrounding the terrorist attack on SABITI and also disprove claims of intention to assist the vessel at the time of distress.

Iran to form specialized anti-money laundering working groups

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Iranian government is planning to form specialized anti-money laundering working groups to intensify the country’s campaign against financing terrorism, spokesman for the Iranian government Ali Rabiei said on Tuesday.



Highlighting ratification of appending article 14th of anti-money laundering law as a prominent step by the government to root out corruption, Rabiei said, “Based on the newly-ratified regulation, the national risk assessment working group will be duty bound to form specialized working groups to review possible threats of money laundering and financing terrorism.”

“The move testifies that Iran is determined to counter money laundering activities and financial supports for terrorism,” Rabiei emphasized.

“According to the regulation, the expert working groups must be formed to monitor various fields of threat assessment, national vulnerability, banking system vulnerability, exchange market vulnerability, insurance sector vulnerability and vulnerability of other credit and financial institutions and non-financial sector,” the spokesman said.

“The entire executive bodies, including Interior Ministry, Trade Ministry, Foreign Ministry, Justice Ministry, Police, Iran Custom Administration, Central Bank and intelligence and security bodies are duty bounded to prepare required information and data for the specialized working groups,” Rabiei stated.

At the beginning of the current year, the Expediency Council gave approval to an anti-money laundering bill seen as crucial to maintaining international trade and banking ties.

The bill on amending the law to counter money laundering was approved with certain changes and sent to the Majlis speaker to be communicated to the government.

The Expediency Council settles disputes between parliament, which approved the bill last year, and the Guardian Council, which vets all legislation and had rejected it.

Top Iranian, Czech MPs discuss Mideast crises including Turkish incursion into Syria

1 → The Iranian Foreign Ministry also issued a statement last week urging Turkey to immediately stop the offensive 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.

William Burns and Jake Sullivan call Trump’s decision to quit nuclear deal ‘foolish’

By staff and agency

William J. Burns, a former U.S. deputy secretary of state, and Jake Sullivan, the national security adviser to former vice president Joe Biden, have said that the Trump administration’s decision to quit the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, was “foolish”.

“The consequences of the Trump administration’s foolish decision to abandon that nuclear deal last year, with no evidence of Iranian noncompliance, were predictable — and predicted,” they wrote in an article published by The New York Times on Monday.

“We are now at a very dangerous point,” the article added.

It added, “The Trump administration, for its part, believed unrealistically that its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign and saber rattling would cause Iran to fold and accept America’s terms. But it failed to see that Iran has its own cards to play.”

It is also said in the article that the U.S. should remove sanctions against Iran and abandon its 12 preconditions to start talks with Tehran.

“The United States won’t get Iran to the table without some economic relief — either directly or through the European Union, as President Emmanuel Macron of France has suggested. The United States will also need to abandon as a precondition for progress the 12 demands that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo laid out publicly last year,” they wrote.

It is also said, “The nuclear deal agreed to in 2015 was meant to be the beginning, not the end, of diplomacy with Iran.”



William Burns

Jake Sullivan

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the nuclear deal and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new

harsh ones.

Tehran has been insisting that the only path to negotiations between Tehran and

“The Trump administration, for its part, believed unrealistically that its ‘maximum pressure’ campaign and saber rattling would cause Iran to fold and accept America’s terms. But it failed to see that Iran has its own cards to play,” the two former senior officials wrote.

Rouhani: Economic terrorism on Iranians is crime against humanity

President says 83 million Iranians “will not forget this crime” of sanctions which have affected medicine and food supplies

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the United States has committed “crime against humanity” through its “economic terrorism” against the Iranians.

“Undoubtedly, the United States’ administration has committed crime against humanity. The United States’ action is economic terrorism,” Rouhani said during a speech at the 66th session of the WHP Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean.

“However,” Rouhani noted, “it does not mean that the Iranian nation has come to their knees as scientists, researchers and manufacturers have doubled their efforts despite unprecedented economic pressure and unfair sanctions.”

The president added, “Today, we are moving toward self-sufficiency.”

U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, in May 2108 and returned the previous sanctions and ordered new ones in line with his administration’s “maximum pressure” policy against Iran.

In late April, Trump’s administration even introduced total ban on Iran’s oil export, Iran’s main source of income. The move was intended to strangle the Iranian economy. Medicine and food are not subject to sanctions, but financial sanctions have made it actually difficult for Iran to import such items.

Rouhani said, “We are thankful to committed physicians who through their efforts prevented people to face health problems and queue up for medicine.”

He noted that the U.S. “cruel sanctions” are “betrayal of humanity and the Iranian people”.

Rouhani said the pullout from the JCPOA that has been

approved by the UN Security Council was a “shame” for the United States.

“The agreement was approved by the United Nations Security Council which adds to this shame. So, it [the U.S.] violated international law and has included food and medicine in sanctions.”

Rouhani said 83 million Iranians “will not forget this crime” by the Trump administration.

The president added, “In the world of politics, ethics and humanity Iran is the victor and the United States the loser.”

Trump has described his government’s sanctions against Iran as “economic war”.

Trump has acknowledged that his administration has slapped the “harshest sanctions” against Iran that its kind has never been seen in history.

Rouhani said in June that the U.S. sanctions are examples of “crime against humanity and economic terrorism” because they have targeted ordinary people’s “lives and needs”.

“It should not be said that the U.S. has imposed sanctions on us because they are not sanctions. They are a crime against humanity. They could be called sanctions if they targeted some of our sensitive industries, but they are a crime against humanity and economic terrorism when they target the people’s lives and needs,” he stated.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on October 9 that the U.S. sanctions and economic war on Iran have targeted the ordinary people’s health and livelihood.

During a speech at an international conference on global economy and sanctions held at Alzahra University in Tehran, the foreign minister said that the United States has turned “economy and dollar” into tools of warfare.



“There was a time when such warfare was used to simply limit the activities of some countries. However, new warfare of the United States and what Trump has called the ‘economic war’ have targeted the ordinary people’s livelihood and health,” the chief diplomat lamented.

In an interview with CNN aired on September 24, Zarif said that sanctions are war.

“Sanctions are war. Because in a war, usually military targets are chosen. In sanctions, civilians are the targets. So, it’s war. It’s more than war,” he said.

During a speech at the 42th session of the UN Human Rights Council in September, Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh, Tehran’s ambassador and permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva, called the consequences of unilateral sanctions against Iran “crime against humanity”.

Iran has acted prudently by reducing nuclear commitments: Kamalvandi

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOD), has said that Iran has been acting prudently by reducing its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the JCPOA.

“We have lost nothing in nuclear industry. We had not closed the path of return wherever we accepted a restriction. We have also been prudent in reducing our [nuclear] commitments,” he said during a meeting with a group of highly talented Iranians who reside in foreign countries.

He noted that Westerners seek to undermine Iran’s nuclear program as an element of power.

“We make efforts to have a good understating of the situation and to use opportunities



properly. We should not lose the elements that empower us,” he remarked.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who quit the nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed the harshest ever sanctions on Tehran, has been repeatedly calling for dialogue with Iran.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S.

abandoned the deal, Tehran began to partially reduce its commitments to the agreement at bi-monthly intervals.

In the first stage, Iran announced that it will not limit its stockpile of the nuclear fuel to 300 kilograms allowed under the deal. However, on that date (May 8) Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said if the remaining parties to the JCPOA, especially Europeans, devise a mechanism to protect Iran from the sanctions effect in the two-month deadline it will reverse its decision.

But since European parties missed the deadline, on July 7 Iran announced that it has started enriching uranium to a higher purity than the 3.67%, thereby starting the second step.

Again, as Europe missed the second 60-day deadline, Iran moved to take the third

step, removing ban on nuclear research and development (R&D).

In a letter on September 5, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif notified European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini about Iran’s third step.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on October 2 that Iran will continue to reduce commitments under the nuclear deal.

“Reducing nuclear commitments, for which the Atomic Energy Organization is responsible, should continue seriously and precisely as it was announced by the government till it reaches favorable result and it will definitely reach the result,” Ayatollah Khamenei said during a meeting with the High Council of the Commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

MP warns of serious consequences of Syria attack

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — A member of the Iranian Parliament presiding board said on Tuesday that the Turkish military attack on northern Syria will make trans-regional powers rude enough to meddle in the region militarily.

Behrouz Nemati said, “When the regional countries do not respect each other’s territorial rights and weaken the region’s security, naturally enemies will dare enough to have unwise presence in the region.”

“In fact, insecurity is the exact pretext sought by trans-regional enemies to deploy their forces in the region which will harm the entire regional nations,” the MP remarked.

He further advised the Turkish president to pull out his forces from northern Syria and solve its disputes with Syrian Kurds through dialogue.

Nemati, meantime, called for an active diplomacy by Tehran to put an immediate end to the invasion of Syria and prevent massacre of innocent Syrians.

The Kurds, who recaptured swathes of northeastern Syria from Islamic State (Daesh), say the Turkish assault could allow the terrorist group to re-emerge as some of its followers were escaping from prisons.

In its first big attack since the assault began last week, Islamic State claimed responsibility for a deadly car bomb in Qamishli, the largest city in the Kurdish-held area, even as the city came under heavy Turkish shelling, Reuters reported.

Five Islamic State fighters fled a jail there, and foreign women from the group being held in a camp torched tents and attacked guards with sticks and stones, the Kurds said.

Iran’s Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi on Monday expressed deep concern that Turkey’s incursion into Syria would bring Daesh back to the stage in the region.

There is a danger that Daesh which “has committed the biggest crimes in the region and their hands are stained with the regional people’s blood to respire and commit crimes again”, Fars quoted Raisi as saying.

Raisi expressed the hope that the Turkish government would pull back to international borders immediately.

Aid groups operating in northeastern Syria have raised the alarm about civilian casualties and an impending humanitarian crisis.

Many countries around the world, including China and India, have urged Turkey to stop its attacks on northern Syria.

Since Turkey launched military operations in northeastern Syria, towns and villages along the border have been hit by heavy shelling and people are fleeing for their lives and are in need of medical and humanitarian aid, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on October 10.

“This escalation can only exacerbate the trauma that the people of Syria have already endured through years of war,” said Robert Onus, MSF emergency manager for Syria. “Displacement and injuries caused by fighting are likely to put additional pressure on the already limited resources in hospitals.”

MP: Saudi elites predominantly back Tehran-Riyadh de-escalation efforts

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, argues that there's a prevailing spirit of deescalating tensions with Iran among the Saudi elites.

Speaking with ISNA on Tuesday, Falahatpisheh said Iran has been in favor of dialogue with Saudi Arabia for years and it was the Saudis that didn't come forward, and they are now searching for mediators.

On September 14, as many as 10 drones bombed the Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities run by the Saudi state-owned oil company Aramco.

Although Yemen's Houthi movement claimed responsibility for the attacks on the Abqaiq and Khurais facilities, Saudi Arabia and its allies laid the blame on Iran.

Tehran, however, rejected any involvement.

In another incident 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.

Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir said on Sunday that Riyadh was not behind the attack.

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

Falahatpisheh said the attack will face a decisive response by Iran when the right time comes.

Iran is capable of finding those behind the attack and this is a separate issue from the process of deescalating the Iran-Saudi Arabia tensions, the MP added.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always announced that it is ready to deescalate the tensions and still is," he said.

Zanjan police seized 1.2 tons of drugs in six months

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A total of 1,200 kilograms of different illicit drugs has been seized in Zanjan province in the first half of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), Zanjan province's police chief has announced.

According to Rahim Jahanbakhsh, the figure indicates a 22% growth in comparison with the same period in last year, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Jahanbakhsh also said 15 drug trafficking bands have been dismantled and a total of 1,974 culprits have been detained in the province during the six-month period.

This also demonstrates a 24% increase compared to last year, he added.

Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking and thousands of Iranian forces have been so far martyred to protect the world from the danger of drugs.

According to reports, in 2018 alone, Iranian forces carried out 1,557 operations against drug traffickers, seizing



approximately 807 tons of different types of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

According to the World Drug Report 2019 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in 2017 Iran had seized the largest quantity of opiates, accounting for 39% of the global total.

Also, Head of Drug Control Headquarters (DCH) Eskandar Momeni has warned of the increase in production of crystal methamphetamine in Afghanistan from 200 tons per year to its present 9,000 tons per year.

He said the report rings the alarm bell for the international community and will harm regional as well as Western countries.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has seized 580 tons of narcotics through 2,000 operations in the first half of 2019," he said in a meeting with Jean-Luc Lemahieu, UNODC Director of Policy Analysis and Public Affairs in Vienna.

"Some ten tons of the seized drugs in the said time were crystal meth, registering 600 percent increase compared to the same period in the preceding year."

General hails IRGC forces for Ruhollah Zam's arrest



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The commander of Civil Defense Organization has hailed the Iranian intelligence forces for arresting Ruhollah Zam, the operator of the Telegram channel Seday-e Mardom (formerly known as Amad News).

Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali said the admin of Amad News was a dangerous person who was supported by Western intelligence services, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

He said having failed to wage a military aggression against Iran, the United States, the Zionist regime and the reactionary states of the region are imposing a media-centered hybrid war against the Iranian nation.

"With God's grace and the good will of the Guards intelligence forces, Ruhollah Zam was captured by the powerful hand of the country's intelligence apparatus," the general said.

Jalali also branded Iran International, Manoto, BBC Persian, and other TV news channels as mercenaries of the "empire of lies" in its hybrid war against the Islamic Republic.

The remarks came a day after the Islamic

Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced Zam's arrest by its intelligence forces.

In a statement on Monday, the IRGC said the arrest shows that the enemies' intelligence services have been defeated by the power of the IRGC's intelligence organization.

The IRGC said it lured Zam into Iran using "clever, multidimensional and innovative tricks", which even deceived foreign intelligence agencies.

Zam launched Amad News in 2015. The channel frequently posted fake news stories and called for violence with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the protest rallies in December 2018, he urged the people to take arms against the government.

The IRGC also said the French intelligence service was behind Zam's activities, which were also backed by the U.S. and Zionist regime's spy services.

Seday-e Mardom Telegram channel, which is now under the control of the Islamic Republic, reported the arrest of Zam by the Guards on Monday.

It also posted a photo of Zam in custody, under which it was written: "This is just the beginning".

Govt. not permitted to join Palermo Convention: Rezaee



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Mohsen Rezaee, secretary of the Expediency Council, has said the government is not permitted to join the Palermo Convention.

"The bill to join the Palermo Convention was rejected in the Supreme Supervisory Board because it contradicted with the establishment's general policies," Rezaee said in a tweet on Monday.

He further explained that the Guardian Council subsequently recognized the contradiction of the bill with Article 110 of the Islamic Republic's general policies, which put the fate of the bill on the hands of the Expediency Council.

Since the deadline for making a decision on the bill has passed, the government does not have permission to join the Palermo Convention.

Also on Monday, a member of the Expediency Council said the council has set aside studies to approve the Palermo bill.

"Palermo and CFT will help the United States identify the ways we circumvent the sanctions. We will not tighten sanctions with our own hands," ISNA quoted Gholamreza Mesbahi-Moghadam as saying.

He added, "We are managing the country through circumventing the sanctions. Approval of these two bills is not wise."

He also said, "The Guardian Council has found faults with this bill and from this council's point of view, these two bills have not become legal. The Expediency Council has not studied them. So, they are not approved."

The Financial Action Task Force announced in June that Iran had until October to complete reforms that would bring it into line with global norms or face consequences.

One of the actions Iran is required to take to appease the FATF is joining the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which is also called the Palermo Convention, a 2000 United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime.

The other action is to ratify the CFT, the convention combatting financing of terrorism.

On October 7, 2018, the parliament voted in favor of the CFT. However, the oversight Guardian Council rejected the bill by finding 22 faults with it.

lead Iran's economy into collapse had all failed.

"We have been able to defeat the U.S. plots with the strategy of resistance," he said.

"The US threatens the foreign governments and companies (not to cooperate with Iran) but it has not been able to attain its most important goal, that is the collapse of Iran's economy," the VP added.

Also, in July, Jahangiri stressed that his country's economy had remained stable one year after the U.S. imposed the toughest embargos against Tehran.

"The U.S. imagines that it can zero down our oil sales by exerting pressure on the countries which purchase Iran's oil to lead Iran's economy towards a collapse, but fortunately, the situation of Iran's economy enjoys an acceptable stability one year after the U.S. oil sanctions," Jahangiri said.



TEHRAN (FNA) — Iranian Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri said that Washington's plots against Iran through sanctions and pressures have all failed to make the country collapse.

"The Americans imagined that Iran will collapse (under pressures) but Iran enjoys many capabilities in the geographical, economic and human resources fields and has been able to proudly remove the problems," Jahangiri said, addressing a forum in Tehran on Tuesday.

He expressed the hope Iran would be able to continue to remove the problems in future with collective will and determination, noting, "We should show that we can lead Iran towards development and progress at the peak of pressures."

In relevant remarks in August, Jahangiri underscored that the measures and plots hatched by Washington to

Qatari FM: Doha trying hard to prevent escalation of Iran-U.S. tensions

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said on Tuesday that his government is resolved to do its best to prevent any possible escalation of tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

The top Qatari diplomat, who was addressing an international security conference in Doha, was quoted as saying by the Persian-language website of Russian Sputnik news agency.

"Qatar is not a mediator between Iran and the U.S. but it tries to prevent them from engaging in any possible tension," the top Qatari diplomat said as he was addressing an international security conference in Doha.

"We want to make sure that any tension won't be escalated, which would influence regional and trans-regional countries," the Persian-language website of Russian Sputnik news agency quoted Abdulrahman Al Thani as saying.

He further said, "Throughout the history of Qatar, we have not had any problem with Iran; Iran has even been assisting Qatar to survive since neighboring countries imposed sanctions against Doha in 2017."

Ruhollah Zam arrested via co-op with other intelligence services: IRGC

1 → "He was under the strong support of other intelligence services but we trapped and arrested him through a meticulous intelligence operation," the general added.

Tavallaei warned those who have been deceived by foreign spy agencies opposed to the Islamic Republic should know that they will abandon them as soon as coming under pressure or facing a threat.

The remark came as the IRGC announced on Monday that its intelligence unit had arrested Ruhollah Zam, admin of an anti-Iranian website and Telegram channel "Amad News".

The IRGC said in its Monday statement that it succeeded to lure Zam into Iran and then arrest him, adding that further information about the operation will soon be revealed.

The statement was widely welcomed by political factions in Iran.

In a statement on Monday evening, lawmakers praised the IRGC's "awe-inspiring" operation to catch Zam, expressing certainty that the Iranian nation will continue to witness similar victories by the forces of the IRGC intelligence operation.

Zam launched Amad News in 2015. The channel frequently posted fake news stories and called for violence with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the protest rallies in December 2018, he urged the people to take arms against the government.

Pakistani FM says Iran, Saudi Arabia should bridge differences

By staff and agency

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that Iran and Saudi Arabia should bridge differences.

In an interview with Aaj News, he said that Pakistan will continue efforts in line with reducing tension in Iran-Saudi Arabia relations, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Tehran on Sunday to "facilitate" possible dialogue between Iran and Saudi Arabia which have been at loggerheads over a number of issues including the Saudi war on Yemen.

He met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

Khan was scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

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

Khan has said that he is making an effort to reduce tension between Tehran and Riyadh. Prior to the Sunday visit to Tehran, he held talks with Saudi Arabia's leaders in Riyadh as well as Rouhani at the United Nations in September.

On Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Tehran is ready for a talk with Saudi Arabia with or without a mediator.

During a joint press conference with Khan, Rouhani indirectly referred to Saudi Arabia by saying that Iran will give a positive response to "good intention".

"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," he said.

During a separate meeting with Khan, Ayatollah Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said that ending the war in Yemen will have positive effects on the Middle East region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran presented a four-point plan to end the war in Yemen a long time ago and if this war ends in the right way, it can have positive effects on the region," the Leader said.

He described peace and security 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.

The Leader 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."

Deputy Chairman of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Kamal Dehghani Firouzabadi has said that there are promising signs in revitalizing ties between Tehran and Riyadh.

In an article published by IRNA on Monday, he said it seems that the future of relations has become more promising.

"We can point three signs in this respect. First is negotiations on Hajj [in August] which were held without impediment and reached maximum results. The second is direct talks between Iranian and Saudi oil ministers [in October] during which the officials called each other 'friend' despite the tension in past years... The third, and most important one, is Saudi Arabia's call for mediation," he wrote.

However, he said that there are still some "worries" and "concerns".

"Undoubtedly, certain regional players, with the Israeli regime at the head of them, will never tolerate de-escalation. Even the United States can take the same position as Israel because the continuation of tension in the Middle East will be a profitable market for Washington to sell weapons," he opined.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	308978.9
IFX	3917.37

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,333 rials
GBP	53,006 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$59.14/b
WTI	\$53.26/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.95/b
Gold	\$1,495.25/oz
Silver	\$817.67/oz
Platinum	\$897.50/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Ashgabat hosts 15th Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee meeting

1 → On the sidelines of the committee meeting, the two sides' businessmen and entrepreneurs discussed and followed up on expansion of economic relations.

During his two-day visit, Eslami is scheduled to meet and hold talks with Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, minister of industry, communications and transport and also the host country's industrialists.

Back in August, ICCIMA sent a trade delegation comprised of representatives of the country's private sector active in a variety of areas including transportation, tourism, food industry, energy, construction materials, mining and joint ventures to attend Turkmenistan's first Caspian Economic Forum (CEF) which was held in Awaza on August 11-12.

In that meeting the two sides had also agreed to expand their economic and political ties.

Indian economy doing very badly, says Nobel awardee Abhijit Banerjee

Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, who jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize with his wife Esther Dufo and Harvard's Michael Kremer, said Monday that the Indian economy is "doing very badly" even as the government is increasingly recognizing that there is a problem.

The "economy is doing very badly in my view," he told a press conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after winning the prize.

When asked about his opinion on the state of the economy in India and its future, he said, "That's a statement not about what will work in the future but about what's going on now. That I'm entitled to have an opinion about."

Referring to the numbers put out by the National Sample Survey that come out every 1.5 years and give estimates about the average consumption in urban and rural areas in India, Abhijit Banerjee said, the "fact that we see in that is that between 2014-15 and 2017-18, that number has slightly gone down. And that's the first time such a thing has happened in many many many many years so that's a very glaring warning sign."

"There is an enormous fight going on in India about which data is right and the government has a particular view of (that) all data that is inconvenient to it is wrong. But nonetheless, I think that this is something that I think even the government is increasingly recognizing that there is a problem. So the economy slowing very very fast. How fast we don't know, there is this dispute about data but I think fast," he said.

■ The government has large deficit

Abhijit Banerjee added that he does not know exactly what to do. The "government has a large deficit but right now it's sort of at least aiming to please everybody by pretending to hold to some budgetary targets and monetary targets," he said.

Abhijit Banerjee said that in his view when the economy is going into a "tailspin", is the time when "you don't worry so much about monetary stability and you worry a little bit more about demand. I think demand is a huge problem right now in economy."

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week in Mumbai evaded a direct reply to a question on whether the government accepts there is an economic slowdown, and said the government is giving relief to all sectors who need help.

She said since the Budget in July, she has been meeting representatives of various industrial sectors, and sector-wise intervention is being made regularly.

Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Dufo and Harvard professor Michael Kremer jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty."

Abhijit Banerjee, 58, and French-American Dufo both work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) while Kremer is at Harvard University.

In 2003, Abhijit Banerjee founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), along with Dufo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of its directors. He also served on the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

■ Major center for research

J-PAL, a global network of antipoverty researchers that conducts field experiments, has now become a major center of research, backing work across the world.

Walking into the press conference to a round of applause and standing ovation, Abhijit Banerjee in his opening remarks said that it is "wonderful" to get the Nobel Prize "because it's a prize not, I think, for us, but also for the entire movement."

(Source: indiatoday.in)

Industry minister holds talks with private sector representatives

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** – Representatives of Iran's private sector met with the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani and his deputies on Tuesday at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

In the meeting, ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie mentioned some of the major issues that the country's businessmen were facing, noting that the government should come up with a comprehensive plan for improving the country's economy in collaboration with the field's academic and expert entities.

"Issues like privatization and reforming the country's banking and tax systems all must be in service and support of the country's productive sectors. Currently, one of the major structural bottlenecks in the country's production sector is the lack of proper liquidity injection in this area," Shafeie said.



Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani (3rd R) and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (3rd L) in a working breakfast in Tehran on Tuesday.

Stock market offers \$1.9b for funding oil projects in 8 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Masoud Karbasian said NIOC has managed to attract 80 trillion rials (about \$1.9 billion) of funding for oil projects through the stock market during the past eight months.

"We need financial resources to carry out oil projects and to finance such projects we shouldn't solely rely on government resources; public funds can also be used to implement such projects," Karbasian told ILNA on Tuesday.

"Investing in oil projects can create financial security for people's capitals," he said, noting that oil is a public wealth and people have a right to benefit from its profits.

He further underlined the need for directing people's capitals toward development projects, saying "If liquidity is directed toward production and development it would be far better than going toward inflationary paths."

He emphasized that "Although the issue of financing through the stock market is not a new subject, but we have been following up on this issue since last year and in total in the last eight months



we have collected 80 trillion rials through capital market for financing oil projects."

Since the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions Iran has been seriously pursuing the involvement of the private sector in the country's oil and gas sector and since financing and providing liquidity has been for long one of the major issues in the way of domestic companies' involvement in oil industry, NIOC has decided to offer stocks of some oil projects in the stock exchange to help financing such projects.

In early September, the issue of implementing Iran's oil projects by domestic contractors was discussed in the 38th session of the country's Supreme Council of Economic Coordination and rules and regulations pertain to the subject were approved by the council.

TSE's recent performance unique worldwide: Swiss envoy

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — "Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) has had a unique performance among the stock markets of the world during the recent months and it inspired me to visit this exchange market", Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Markus Leitner told IRIB on Tuesday.

"Stock market is the heart of every country's economy and the recent noticeable performance of TSE encouraged me to come and speak with its directors in person", the envoy noted.

In terms of cooperation between TSE and SIX Swiss Exchange (Switzerland's principal stock exchange), the ambassador said, "Cooperation between these two exchanges is not an easy work, we are at the first steps of exploring the possible ways for cooperation."

While lagging the parallel markets of foreign currency, gold coin, and real estate behind, Iran's stock market hit a new record during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as TEDPIX, the main index of TSE, closed at an all-time high of 302,103 points.

It is while the index had stood at 178,000 points at the end of the previous

"As we have seen, despite the increase in liquidity in the industry sector, the country's economic statistics indicate that only a small portion of the allocated financial resources and liquidity has been directed into production sector," he added.

The official further stressed the need for development of non-oil exports as a top priority of the country's economy and said, "if we prioritize non-oil exports in the current economic situation [referring to the U.S. sanctions], then foreign currency policies will have to be in line with this prioritizing."

"However, we see that trade and foreign currency policies are not that much in harmony," he regretted.

The need for focusing on export development, removing internal barriers in the way of exports, coordinating foreign currency and trade policies, and directing liquidity to productive sectors were among other important issues addressed by the representatives of the private sector in the meeting.



calendar year.

Experiencing a growth of 74 percent during the first six months of the present year, TSE witnessed its best performance since the Iranian calendar year of 1382 (March 2003-March 2004).

Also as reported, Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), has experienced a noticeable positive performance during the first half, as its main index, IFX, gained 78 percent during the mentioned period of time.

It seems that these markets will preserve their positive performances also during the second half of the year, as TEDPIX gained 9,367 points (the highest rise so far) in the first day of the second half and the value of trades at TSE and IFB reached 32 trillion rials (about \$761.9 million).

Iran, New Zealand discuss boosting bilateral trade through exhibitions

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — During a meeting between Bahman Hosseinzadeh, the managing director of Iran International Exhibitions Company, and Hamish MacMaster, New Zealand's ambassador to Iran, the two sides explored the ways for boosting trade ties between Iran and New Zealand through exhibitions.

In the meeting, Hosseinzadeh announced his

country's readiness for holding New Zealand's specialized exhibition at Iran's international fairgrounds, the public relations department of Iran International Exhibitions Company reported.

Referring to Iran's first rank in terms of holding exhibitions in the Middle East, the official said many countries hold pavilions at the international exhibitions of Iran.

MacMaster, for his part, said that it is the third time that he serves as his country's ambassador to Iran, saying, "During my service times in Iran I have several times visited different exhibitions at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds and I also have accompanied New Zealand's companies for signing contracts in some international exhibitions of Iran."

Trade ties between Iran and New Zealand

have been always progressing and some products of New Zealand like coffee have been recently entered the Iranian market which is satisfactory, the envoy noted.

He further underscored that holding 90 international exhibitions per year at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds is a proper opportunity for the New Zealand's companies.

U.S. economy being hit harder by the trade war than China, says Chinese financier

By Kevin Stankiewicz

The U.S. economy is being hit harder than the Chinese economy by the long-running trade war between Washington and Beijing, influential Chinese financier Weijian Shan told CNBC on Monday.

"Both parties lose from the trade war, but the numbers suggest that the damage to the U.S. side is greater, in percentage terms, than to the Chinese economy," said Shan, a U.S.-trained economist and chairman and CEO of Asian private equity giant PAG. PAG has offices in China and Hong Kong and about \$30 billion of assets under management.

"That doesn't mean that the Chinese economy is not severely damaged ... for China, the business confidence in particular has been hit very hard in the past 15 months," Shan said on "Squawk on the Street." He spoke just hours after reports that China wants another round of talks before signing what President Donald Trump called last week the first phase of a trade deal between the two nations.

Trump said on Friday that China agreed to buy more U.S. agricultural products and made a commitment to address intellectual property concerns. The U.S. agreed to hold off on a tariff rate hike that was supposed to go into effect Tuesday.

Earlier Monday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on



CNBC would not comment directly on the status of the deal, but said it's a "fundamental agreement in principle" that's "subject to documentation." Mnuchin said he expects "phase one will close." But if it doesn't, he said a new round of tariffs on Chinese goods, set for mid-December, would take effect.

"They've reached an understanding, but the devil is in the details, so they have to work out the details and agree on paper," Shan said, noting how positive signs in June quickly devolved into additional tariff hikes. Both sides are hoping Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are able to meet and sign the phase one of the trade deal at the Asia-Pacific

Economic Cooperation summit next month in Chile.

■ U.S.-China trade war

Shan's argument that the U.S. has seen greater impacts from the trade war were the subject of an op-ed in "Foreign Affairs" with the headline: The "Unwinnable Trade War." Throughout the escalating trade dispute, both China and the U.S. have been saying that the other's economy is bearing the brunt of the tariffs.

However, Shan wrote, the "tariffs did not compel Chinese exporters to reduce their prices; instead, the full cost of the tariffs hit American consumers."

He also pointed to China's decision to only place tariffs on U.S. goods that can be replaced with imports from other countries at similar prices."

"It actually lowered duties for those U.S. products that can't be bought elsewhere more cheaply, such as semiconductors and pharmaceuticals," he wrote. "Consequently, China's import prices for the same products have dropped overall, in spite of higher tariffs on U.S. imports."

Shan acknowledged on CNBC the trade war has "accelerated" the process, already underway, of companies moving supply chains out of China into Southeast Asian countries. "It's having some impact on the Chinese economy, but it is not going to be very substantial."

(Source: cnbc.com)

NCCA encourages LGUs to develop creative economy

Local governments have an important role to play in developing a creative economy.

To fuel the creative sector, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) executive director Al Ryan Alejandre said they have been conducting seminars on the importance of culture and arts as a contributor to the economy.

However, some local executives do not consider the creative sector as a priority, said Alejandre.

He said changes in local government leadership also make it difficult to sustain programs that promote the creative sector.

Marichu Tellano, NCCA deputy executive director, also explained the need for LGUs to recognize that the promotion of culture and arts could boost development in their respective areas.

The NCCA led the two-day 2019 International Conference on Cultural Statistics and Creative Economy, which drew around 450 participants composed of local government officials, cultural officers and tourism officers, focused mainly on how culture contributes to the development.

The conference was held from October 14 to 15 at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino.

It provided a venue for local researchers to showcase how their researches contributed to

policy-making and planning.

According to a profile on the country's creative industries prepared by the British Council, the Philippines has not been able to transform creative products into substantial domestic markets and exports.

This would have resulted in job creation and substantial contribution to the economy.

Creative products include a piece of music, clothing, sculpture, a film, a game or a building.

■ The creative industries

The British Council noted that the creative industries could provide important opportunities to the Philippines. It noted that the country has

deeply rooted tradition in music, performing arts, craft, design and film.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) urges local government executives to prioritize culture and arts to promote a creative economy, according to NCCA executive director Al Ryan Alejandre.

Based on the British Council study, the "Philippines appears to be globally competitive in the handicrafts and cultural event segments."

Because of this, the country has potential to further improve its global positioning for the handicrafts, cultural events, and art segments.

(Source: cebudailynews.inquirer.net)

‘Iran can meet Europe, India’s renewable energy needs’

ENERGY
desk

TEHRAN — Head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA) said Iran can supply the energy needs of Europe and India through its great renewable capacities, IRNA reported.

“Iran can easily meet the needs of European countries as well as India using its solar and wind energy capacity,” Seyed Mohammad Sadeqzadeh said in the opening ceremony of Iran's 4th Renewable Energy Conference on Monday.

The official pointed to the geopolitical shift of energy from fossil to renewable, noting that Iran is going to play a more effective role in this sector.

Sadeqzadeh went on saying that currently, the renewable energies sector in Iran has become more of a people-based economic section and a significant part of



the population of the country has become involved in this field.

The deputy energy minister stated that over the past few years the country's renewables generation capacity has exceeded 800 megawatts (MW) and people's presence in this sector has also multiplied.

“The number of people active in the field of renewable energies, which last year was around 2,000, has now grown to 40,000 and it is expected to reach over 100,000 by the end of next [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020),” he added.

Managing director of Iran's Renewable Energy and Productivity Organization said that despite the abundance of oil and gas resources and other hydrocarbons, renewable energies are harder to come by, but people's presence is promising.

Renewables are not great yet

By Justin Loew

In previous blog posts you have noticed my highlighting of technological progress, especially when it comes to renewable energy. The efficiency and design of wind and solar power technologies has come a long way. Many countries of the world, companies, and individuals have made a large sacrifice to install new renewable energy. The hope is that it will lower our environmental impact for the future.

Significant investments have been made and progress continues, but renewables are not “great” yet.

This review highlights how difficult and potentially environmentally destructive it would be to transition fully to wind and solar in the United States right now. Without a dramatic increase in the efficiency PV solar and wind turbines, current renewables are not practical or economical as a substitute for fossil fuels. One of the more interesting parts of the article is about how energy production is not like computing.



There is no Moore's Law in energy. Physics prevents us from getting a billion-fold increase in energy production with ever smaller technology. Kurzweil's predictions for solar energy, which I have referenced in the past, will probably not come true.

Here is another video that explains the cold hard reality of using current renewable energy.

■ Limits of renewable energy

Even China has realized the limits of renewable energy. Renewables won't scale fast enough to meet China's energy demands and they are dialing back subsidies for wind and solar while increasing subsidies for fossil fuel production.

And in case it didn't sink in, here is another article explaining how difficult it will be to convert completely to (current) renewables.

This particular article also sums up my feelings on the topic as well. I really like to see more solar energy being used, but wind and solar can only go so far.

Other than cost concerns, space is a major factor. Wind turbines and solar farms negatively impact the local environment from killing innumerable bats and birds to disrupting the vegetation.

There is even concern that wind farms could alter local and regional weather in negative ways. Even though I promote the use of solar power, it is mainly roof-top solar that is better for the environment because it doesn't use up any new land.

Biofuels are in the same boat – not economical, and at large scales – possibly environmentally destructive.

Where does that leave us?

■ Solar cells

There is no doubt that technological progress in battery, solar cell, and wind turbine design will squeeze out more efficiency in coming years. These developments, along with more efficient end-use of energy (less waste) will help a lot, but it won't remove fossil fuels from the equation, especially considering that there are billions more people on the planet who would like to enjoy a higher standard of living. It is likely that fossil fuel consumption will increase in coming years unless there is a big breakthrough in energy production.

What technology could revolutionize our energy infrastructure? Nuclear – both fission and fusion. As James Hanson has pointed out repeatedly, nuclear energy is the only viable way to generate mass amounts of energy without the negative side effects of the other options.

But even nuclear has limits. There is not enough uranium to power all the new plants needed to replace fossil fuels. Thorium nuclear reactors could help out in this regard, but we better start building now if we want make a dent in oil, coal, and natural gas usage.

Only basic research into new sources of power will help to provide more energy in the future while using less fossil fuels. Maybe it is “cold fusion”. Maybe it will be space solar power. Who knows for sure.

In the meantime, we do know how to save energy. If you are very concerned about the climate and are certain that fossil fuel usage will destroy the planet, then use mass transit, travel less, grow your own food, don't use disposable containers, shop less, turn the heat down in the Winter, etc... If more people lived similar to this woman, there would be hardly any environmental problems.

(Source: waow.com)

Iran 50% self-sufficient in petchem, power plant equipment

ENERGY
desk

TEHRAN — Nearly 50 percent of the equipment and machinery used in Iran's petrochemical industries, industrial complexes and power plants are built inside the country, Mehr news agency reported on Tuesday, quoting a senior official from Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade as saying.

According to Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, in order to maintain the current status in the next Iranian calendar year (starts on March 2020) at least 3.6 quadrillion rials (nearly \$85.7 billion) of budget is needed in this sector.

In mid-April, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani had also

said that the country needed at \$85 billion of working capital in order to sustain the domestic production.

According to the official, improving the efficiency of important factors in production and creating a movement for promoting domestic production are among the plans which the industry ministry is following to realize a sustainable domestic production.

Earlier in the same month, Director General of Machinery Manufacturing and Equipment Office at Iran's Industry Ministry had stated that several equipment production projects were launched last year, most of which were expected to go operational in the current year.

“These projects which are mostly aimed at producing the necessary equipment for the production lines at petrochemical, oil and steel sectors will improve the country's domestic production and reduce the reliance on imports,” Amir-Hossein Shiravi said.

Mentioning the exports of machinery and equipment, the official noted that most of the machinery and equipment produced inside the country are also used inside and only parts like pumps and compressors are exported.

Since the U.S. re-imposed sanctions on Iran to pressure the country's economy, Iran has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the sanctions and counter the U.S. actions.



Improving and boosting domestic production has been one of the major strategies that Iran has been following in the past two years in order to increase its independence.

Oil prices extend fall on China, global demand concerns

Oil prices fell on Tuesday, after heavy losses in the previous session, as two days of weak Chinese data added to worries about the top crude oil importer's energy demand growth.

As per reuters.com, Brent crude LCOc1 fell 42 cents, or 0.71%, to \$58.93 a barrel by 0720 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude CLc1 dropped 44 cents, or 0.82%, to \$53.15.

China has been hit by poor economic data for two straight days. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported on Tuesday that China's factory gate prices declined at the fastest pace in more than three years in September.

That followed customs data on Monday that showed Chinese imports had contracted for a fifth straight month.

The U.S.-China trade dispute also continued to cast a shadow on the global economy, despite claims of progress toward a deal, leaving unanswered questions over future



oil demand.

Taken all together that was enough to outweigh any support oil prices might have received from worries about possible escalation of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

“Demand-side concerns emerging from the Sino-U.S. trade war have continued to weigh on oil prices,” said Abhishek Kumar, head of analytics at Interfax Energy in London.

“China's weak economic data is a manifestation of the trade dispute,” he said.

On Monday U.S. President Trump imposed sanctions on Turkey and demanded the NATO ally stop a military incursion in northeast Syria that is rapidly reshaping the battlefield of the world's deadliest ongoing war.

Prices could also get a boost this week as investors are expecting a drawdown in crude inventories in the United States.

OPEC's Barkindo says oil producers committed to maintain oil market stability

By Sambit Mohanty

OPEC and other oil producers remained committed to maintain oil market stability beyond 2020 despite bearish signs of demand growth, OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said Tuesday.

The “stability in the oil market will be sustained beyond 2020,” Barkindo told the India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK in New Delhi. “All the producers are committed to this,” Barkindo said.

While acknowledging bearish views in the oil market supported by slowing oil demand growth, Barkindo said that fundamentals

of oil market are showing some tightness.

The “physical market of oil is tight, meaning fundamental of oil is good,” Barkindo said.

OPEC, Russia and their allies have not ruled out deeper oil output cuts when they next meet December 5-6 in Vienna, the organization's secretary general said on October 10, even as its analysis arm revised upward its forecasts of demand for the group's crude this year and the next.

The current OPEC/non-OPEC supply accord commits the 24-country coalition to 1.2 million b/d in production cuts through March.

Any decision made at the meeting would

likely cover the entirety of 2020, he said then.

OPEC's estimate of global demand for its crude this year was revised up by 100,000 b/d to 30.7 million b/d, which is 900,000 b/d lower than the 2018 level in its latest report.

For next year, OPEC revised up its estimate for the demand for OPEC crude by 200,000 b/d to 29.6 million b/d, around 1.2 million b/d lower than the 2019 level.

OPEC said it expects 2019 global oil demand growth of 980,000 b/d -- 40,000 b/d less than last month's forecast -- but left its 2020 forecast unchanged from last month's projection at 1.08 million b/d.

(Source: spglobal.com)



Wind to grow 9-times current levels by 2050, new study shows



Wind energy is set to grow 9-times current levels, and supply over a third of the world's electricity demand, according to a new study by KPMG.

As stated by smart-energy.com, the report, commissioned by Siemens Gamesa, says that wind power will offset 5.6 billion tons of CO2, equal to the annual emissions of the world's 80 most-polluting cities, by 2050.

The socioeconomic impacts of wind energy in the context of the energy transition highlights the wider benefits wind can offer the general health of the world's populations, including saving a potential four million lives a year through reduced air pollution, which would cut healthcare costs globally by as much as \$3.2 trillion a year.

The report, which also drew on data from the International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projections, further notes that 40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity, and wind will, by 2030, will help save up to 1.57 billion m³ of water per year, which is currently used in fossil fuel power generation.

The “energy transition is essential to achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Universal and affordable access to electricity will empower millions of people around the world and their communities to enjoy a better life. But avoid the worst impacts of climate change, energy will have to be carbon-free,” said Siemens Gamesa CEO Markus Tacke.

“In this context, renewable energy has a major role to play in putting the world on a sustainable path as it will cut emissions, improve air quality, save water, create good-paying jobs and save lives.

“Wind power is ideally positioned to lead that transition, as it is at the cutting edge of technological innovation, driving costs down and market penetration up. In recent years wind energy has become cost-competitive with fossil fuels. That's due to new manufacturing methods and bigger, better, more efficient turbines,” said Tacke.

“But even if the sector is ready for the challenge, more needs to be done to replace fossil fuels while ensuring a stable electricity supply.”

Michael Hayes, global renewables lead at KPMG, noted that renewables such as wind energy had been “embraced” by the investment community as a “highly attractive asset class” current government policies mean that “there are not enough investment-ready renewable projects to satisfy what has become an insatiable demand from investors globally.”

To “address this investment mismatch, it is critical that governments continue to introduce favorable policies, particularly in emerging economies. The investment community will respond in kind if policy certainty and stability can be achieved,” said Hayes, adding that this extended beyond regulatory frameworks into “availability of grid, land ownership, and bankable PPAs (power production agreements).”

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9680033

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
75	P/F"ROLLS-ROYCE"INDUSTRIAL AVON GAS GENERATOR AVON MK.1533-34-76G/101G REF. ROLLS-ROYCE LTD	14. 502

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention to participate" letter via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir , not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 90,540 EURO or 11,405,817,257 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHA JARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC' S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۱ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۲۴

Endless Afghanistan: war without justification

By Maj. Danny Sjursen

ANTIWAR—“Farm boys with guns.” That’s how then Captain Sjursen described average Taliban fighters while serving in Kandahar province. I was speaking to a Reuters reporter that shadowed me for a few days – since I was a New Yorker – to mark the then 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks way back in 2011. Much to the chagrin of my commanders, I was just frustrated enough, and had buried just enough troopers to give the reporter a real story. «When I see this place, I don’t see the [Twin] Towers.» I’d said when asked about the connection between 9/11 and my own mission in Afghanistan during the Obama «surge.» I was right then, but even now, eight more years into America’s longest war, the same old tired arguments are trotted out to justify perpetual military intervention.



Once upon a time, the Taliban regime had harbored Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network. That much is certain. However, the myth that Al Qaeda and the Taliban are one and the same, and that U.S. military withdrawal would inevitably transform Afghanistan back into a transnational terrorist «safe haven» is problematic and easily discredited. Nonetheless, that very argument was, and still is, used as a cudgel by prominent civil and military leaders – from President Obama to General Petraeus – to vindicate what amounts to forever war.

For example, in an absurd stretch of the English language, Petraeus recently penned an editorial asserting that withdrawal from Afghanistan is still “premature.” If Trump pulls the troops out, so the failed general argued, Al Qaeda will return, a new Islamic State caliphate will rise, and terror attacks planned in Afghan caves will again strike the heart of America. Simple, uncomplicated, without nuance – it’s an argument fitting for what passes as strategic thinking in today’s military and the Washington beltway.

Problem is, there’s scant evidence that the rationalization holds any real water. It conflates the Taliban with Al Qaeda, Al Qaeda with Islamic State, and ignores some key realities about (the now deceased) Bin Laden’s historical relationship with the Taliban leadership. To begin with, even analysts at West Point’s Combating Terror Center – far from a bastion of antiwar thought – have noted that Al Qaeda’s relationship with the Taliban was always «contentious,» and characterized by «distrust and divergent ambitions.» Bin Laden’s 9/11 scheme destroyed everything the Taliban movement had fought so long and hard for by causing a US military invasion, and it’s difficult to imagine a revitalized Taliban would want to precipitate a repeat performance.

Furthermore, while the (also now deceased) Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar did indeed push back at the U.S. demand to immediately turn over Bin Laden in 2001, Washington hardly gave Omar much time before unleashing the bombing, and never took seriously hints that Taliban leaders might actually be willing to negotiate. No, in the heated weeks after the shocking 9/11 attacks, George W. Bush would get his war, one way or the other. Too many Americans demanded revenge, and too many of the neoconservatives in the administration relished the opportunity to use the tragic attacks to unleash their existing plans for military intervention across the Greater Middle East.

There are plenty of other problems with the «safe haven» myth and its justification of endless war. The Taliban have always had a rather localized perspective focused primarily on ruling Afghanistan itself. Most of the fighters opposing my troops were indeed wildly provincial, unable even to write their names, identify other countries on a map, or recall what year they were born. And, in somewhat promising «peace talks» with the US – which Trump foolishly spiked – it seemed the Taliban demonstrated a willingness not to harbor transnational terrorists. Forgive me, but isn’t that the ostensible reason Washington sent us soldiers into the Afghan quagmire in the first place? Let’s be clear, no matter how many forever-war-hawks assert otherwise, America never really cared about women’s or minority rights in Afghanistan. If Washington had given a hoot about such concerns it would’ve backed the socialist state in the 1980s – which was rather progressive on women’s issues – rather than regressive mujahideen groups that later morphed into the Taliban. But no, Cold War calculus prevailed over faux feminism.

Finally, it’s far from clear that Al Qaeda would want to reestablish itself significantly in the landlocked Afghan backwater. It’s certainly hard to see how war torn, impoverished, Afghanistan would be any «safer» than its far more substantial and significant haven in Pakistan – or Yemen, or Africa, for that matter. That paradox has always baffled me, by the way. If the «war on terror» was really about destroying Al Qaeda, why has Washington countenanced the terror outfit’s longtime base in Pakistan? Because it was a strategically risky proposal to intervene militarily in an «allied» frenemy state with nuclear weapons, that’s why. Far easier to justify forever war in backward Afghanistan, a country Uncle Sam has counterproductively meddled in incessantly since at least 1979.

No, this particular war was about, first, revenge, and then regional hegemony, checking the Chinese, and potentially exploiting the country’s vast mineral resources. The fact that perpetual war fuels military-industrial complex profits and an exploding defense budget, or that unelected national security state officials are often themselves corporate arms industry lobbyists doesn’t hurt either.

So on the Afghan War will rage, out of sight and out of mind, for the most part. The bipartisan media-politician interventionist elites will rail against Trump’s latest withdrawal from Northern Syria, «liberals» will obsess about an impeachment that won’t amount to anything, and willfully ignore the real national scandal: that American soldiers as old as the war itself are now serving in Afghanistan. This year one of them, probably born after the 9/11 attacks, will certainly die there. Will anyone notice?

Trade data shows resilience of China’s economy

GLOBALTIMES — Data released by the General Administration of Customs Monday shows China’s total trade amounted to 22.91 trillion yuan (\$3.24 trillion) in the first three quarters of the year, growing 2.8 percent from a year ago. The country’s exports rose by 5.2 percent to 12.48 trillion yuan and imports dropped 0.1 percent to 10.43 trillion yuan. Trade surplus of China expanded 44.2 percent during the period to 2.05 trillion yuan.

These data carry weight. The new round of high-level China-US trade talks has made substantial progress in some areas, triggering positive feedback from global markets on Monday. It is of special significance since China’s trade can still grow in a harsh environment, which demonstrates the tenacity of the Chinese economy and the effectiveness of the measures to cope with internal and external challenges.

China-US trade has declined by a large margin in the first three quarters, a result of the trade war. However, China’s trade with the EU and ASEAN has grown significantly, enough to offset a drop in China-US trade. It’s worth mentioning that China’s trade with Belt and Road route countries grew 9.5 percent. The country has diversified its trade markets and optimized its structure.

Under the backdrop of the trade war, the growth of China’s exports proves the competitiveness of Chinese products. The latest WTO data shows that during the first seven months of the year, the growth rate of China’s trade surpassed that of Germany, Japan and South Korea, consolidating its status as the world’s top commodity trading country. This enables China to further restructure its economy, and master more initiatives no matter in trade talks or the trade war with the US.

The most important thing is to do our own things well. It is the lesson the trade war has taught the Chinese people. China will continue to open wider and develop its market. The efforts will create a chain reaction, leading to better-than-expected results.

We have seen the arrogance of some American elites during the trade war. But the performance of the Chinese economy has made them realize that wishing of a unilateral win for the US is increasingly unrealistic. However, there are also Americans who opposed a trade war with China from the very beginning. As China’s economy shows a greater internal driving force, relying less and less on the US market, rational voices will start to influence US society and sway public opinion incited by those elites. There will always be uncertainty, but it is nothing to be feared. The Chinese economy is undergoing a historic transformation, which won’t be an easy process. But we will not be overwhelmed by the difficulties. Hard work, perseverance and an optimistic Chinese society will create a better future.

■ **US should find a better way to fight terrorism**

Will 9/11-style terrorist attacks take place again on the continental United States? That possibility has declined, but no one is sure it will never happen again - Neither the White House nor US State Secretary Mike Pompeo dares or is able to rule out that possibility. In 2018, there were more than 9,600 terrorist attacks around the world, which killed more than 22,980 people, including 7,290 suspects and 15,690 victims, according to the latest report of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism based in the University of Maryland. Counter-terrorism is still one of the toughest challenges the US faces. I’m not saying that the US has achieved nothing in countering terrorism, but it is too early to say the country has found its way out on this issue. One reason is the US should have eradicated the soil that breeds terrorism. Maybe the US government wants to do so but is not able to. If Pompeo or other US politicians could view China’s governance in Northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region from such a standpoint, the US or other countries will probably have more reference to help them figure a way out to fight terrorism.

China is also threatened by terrorist attacks, particularly in its Xinjiang region. Terrorism and extremism used to run rampant in Xinjiang. As mentioned in the white paper on Xinjiang released in August, there had been thousands of terrorist incidents in Xinjiang, including bomb attacks, assassinations and poisonings from 1990 to 2016. China has taken action to explore measures to deal with the threat of terrorism it has been facing. China has found its key, which has proven to be effective. The past three years have not seen any terrorist attacks in Xinjiang. On the contrary, Afghanistan and India, which are China’s close neighbors, have experienced 1,776 and 888 terrorist attacks in 2018, respectively, which caused more than 10,000 deaths.

China’s governance in its Xinjiang Autonomous Region is not and will never be aimed at cracking down on Muslims or minority ethnic groups. When people like Pompeo use so-called human rights and freedom of religion as excuses to smear China, when they attack a straw man in order to achieve their strategic goal of balancing China, they have actually left the door open for terrorist attacks.

Every country has the right to go its own way to guarantee its development and the safety of its people. China, of course, won’t change its measures and policies that benefit its people just because Pompeo or somebody else says something else.

We won’t force other countries to follow the footsteps of China, although what we are doing has something in common with what Americans hope for. If Washington really cares about its people’s safety, it should find a more feasible way of counter-terrorism. China’s measures can be a good reference.



■ **Desperate Japan turns to China**

What’s behind Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s newfound enthusiasm of improving ties with China after he recently once again vowed to take relations to a new level? In a policy speech outlining his goals in an extraordinary Diet session convened in early October, Abe said he hoped to open up a new era in Japan-China relations. The most plausible answer lies in Japan’s poor handling of foreign affairs. Although having boasted about his globe-trotting diplomacy for many years, the Japanese prime minister is actually leading his country into a diplomatic deadlock.

Japan currently does not enjoy good relations with any of its neighbors. There have been signs of unease under Abe’s leadership and he is acquiring the reputation of a noisy trouble-maker in East Asia and Northeast Asia.

Japan has fallen out with South Korea by excluding the latter out of its whitelist of preferred trade partners in August. Despite a denial by the Japanese government, this move is widely seen as retaliation against a judgment by the South Korean Supreme Court asking Japanese companies to compensate forced laborers they drafted in Korea during the World War II.

Japan’s economic coercion triggered national outrage and forced South Korean retaliation. Besides ousting Japan from its own trade whitelist, the most destructive step taken by the South Korean leaders was to terminate GSOMIA, the General Security of Military Information Agreement, which allowed Japan and South Korea to share sensitive military intelligence via the US. The revocation of such a treaty will notably weaken Japan’s ability to detect military activities in its surrounding regions, such as launch of projectiles by North Korea. Furthermore, the military alliance in East Asia led by the US, which Japan holds as the cornerstone of its national security policies, will also be shaken.

Japan’s recent engagements with North Korea similarly yielded nothing positive. North Korean officials rejected Abe’s proposal to negotiate without preconditions and termed the offer “brazen-faced.” The passive reaction from North Korea can be justified by Abe’s duplicity: He had shown the willingness to discuss issues such as kidnapping of Japanese citizens and denuclearization with North Korean leaders while claiming to set no preconditions. As US President Donald Trump strives to mend fences with North Korea, Japan is acting like a recluse and shutting itself out of the historic trajectory toward regional peace in Northeast Asia.

Relations with Russia are apparently deteriorating. A maiden tour to the Southern Kuril Islands, or the Northern Territories as called in Japan, for Japanese tourists scheduled for October 11-16 has been postponed indefinitely. After multiple personal meetings with President Putin, Abe seems to be losing direction to a peace treaty with Russia and the return of at least half of the Southern Kuril Islands. Even the originally planned joint economic activities on the islands have been stalled because of differences over which country’s laws should apply. The main reason for this impasse is Japan’s clinging to the military alliance with the US, which makes Russia squirm.

Even the US is becoming part of the problem. Under pressure from the Trump administration, the US and Japan have agreed an initial trade deal in late September, under which Japan is to cut tariffs on American agricultural products, while the US makes no promise of giving Japanese cars and auto-parts the same treatment.

Given the history of US-Japan trade negotiations and Trump’s stance on trade policies, Tokyo is highly likely to take severe hits from this deal called a “win-win” by Abe.

So, China now turns to be the last hope for Abe to gain some points. He is apparently willing to make those points; the problem is whether by lip service or by substantial measures. Up until now, Japan has not done much to corroborate its words. If the kindness is shown only to assure President

Xi’s visit to Japan in the coming year, which would serve as a major diplomatic event before Abe steps down, Japan will finally find itself in a situation that doesn’t have a way out.

■ **China-Russia missile defense cooperation needed**

Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 3 spoke of helping “Chinese partners create a missile attack warning system” at the final plenary session of the 16th meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in Sochi, Russia. The “big secret” has drawn attention of international media due to not only the way Putin revealed it but also the context in which it was revealed.

Putin said the system is very important and “will drastically increase China’s defense capability.” Putin’s words, which carry the weight of credibility, show Russian confidence in its military technology and strategic capability. First, Russia has its own reliable anti-missile system and is experienced in dealing with missile threat posed by the US. Russian military has paid attention to missile defense system since the days of the Soviet Union and has deployed and upgraded the system for years.

Russia enjoys ideal geographical conditions to develop an anti-missile system. It is feasible for the country to assist its strategic partners develop a warning system and even a missile defense system. Second, the cooperation that Putin was referring to is in line with China’s need to increase its strategic capabilities. The missile attack warning system is an important part of an anti-missile system and nuclear counterattack capability.

As China’s missile striking capability, space surveillance technology and missile launch capability have increased, to integrate and perfect anti-missile defense system is a necessity for China. More importantly, Putin’s remarks amid tensions between China and the US showed the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era between China and Russia. The remarks also reflected the fact that Beijing and Moscow have been deepening political trust and cooperation.

After withdrawing from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the US has showed a clearer intent of strengthening its strategic containment of China and Russia. China-Russia cooperation on missile warning system is aimed to deal with the increasing threat by the US.

As the INF treaty has collapsed, the US would probably speed up its deployment of intermediate-range missiles in regions surrounding China and Russia, which makes it all the more necessary for the two countries to strengthen their missile defense capability.

China would need not only to forewarn intercontinental ballistic missiles coming from the other side of the Pacific Ocean but also to keep an eye on possible attacks by intermediate-range missiles. Such being the case, China needs a more sensitive missile attack warning system that can cover longer ranges and detect incoming missiles faster, so as to buy time for defense and retaliation.

The US is developing missile technology while simultaneously improving anti-missile defense. This is another reason for China and Russia to strengthen cooperation on missile attack warning system. In the meantime, Russia’s concept and experience plus China’s strategic input capability make it possible for the two countries’ joint development and research to be better. To coordinate with its Indo-Pacific Strategy, the US is sparing no effort at wooing allies and ratcheting up the trade war against China and economic sanctions on Russia. Washington is stepping up strategic competition.

The possibility that the US launches a new round of strategic operations to infringe on core national interests of China and Russia cannot be ruled out. Therefore, it is more urgent than before for Beijing and Moscow to be prepared. They need to establish reliable strategic deterrence capability and prevent the breakout of war. Meanwhile, the two countries should have a powerful voice and the will to express their strategic demand.

Will Boris Johnson become the third victim of BREXIT?

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson looks deeply confused! Many analysts believe that he, like the other two conservative prime ministers, will become the third victim of his country's withdrawal from the European Union. Here's a look at the latest analysis of the current political situation in Britain and the recent situation of Boris Johnson:

■ Boris Johnson wins more backing from MPs for Brexit deal

Guardian reported that Boris Johnson is edging towards the parliamentary numbers needed to pass a Brexit deal after more hardline Eurosceptics and pro-deal Labour MPs indicated they could back a new agreement made with the EU. The prime minister will need to win over almost all the 28 Tory "Spartans" who held out against Theresa May's deal if he manages to bring an agreement back from Brussels, as well as either the Democratic Unionist party or a chunk of Labour backbenchers.

There are signs that Tory Eurosceptics are moving towards backing an agreement, partly because they fear that Labour could try to push for a second referendum instead of an election. Lee Rowley, a Conservative MP who voted down May's deal three times, gave a loyal address after the Queen's speech saying he had shifted his position and his view was that parliament must get Brexit done.

"We are in a hard place and all of us, whatever bench or chair we sit in, are responsible for where we end up," he said. "In the last few days, there is at least hope that this toxic and crippling fog, which we have created, might just be lifting as the prime minister sketches the outline of a way forward — and I speak as someone who has been robust in my review of previous proposals, but the House must surely see that we have debated long enough.

"This is a moment for decision and we were elected to make decisions. If there is light at the end of the tunnel later this week, and heaven knows I hope there will be, we have a fundamental responsibility in this place to try and resolve this most vexed of problems and allow our despairing country to move on. For the health of our democracy and to restore faith in this most venerable of institutions, in my view we simply must get Brexit done."

Several of the "Spartans" are now on Johnson's payroll with government jobs, such as Priti Patel, the home secretary, who is understood to be prepared to support whatever the prime minister brings back from Brussels. Another of the Tories who voted against May's deal told the Guardian that he would be reassured if the DUP backed the prime minister but could end up voting for it regardless. "Whatever the prime minister comes back with, I'm going to have a very long and pragmatic look at it. I think a second referendum would be a disaster and I don't think our democracy could stand that," he said.

In a video for the Stand Up for Brexit campaign, Steve Baker, one of the most fervent Eurosceptics, sounded positive about the potential for a deal he could vote for. "Most of us, including me, overwhelmingly want a deal ... we have got to be capable of getting there through a withdrawal agreement," he said.

"The problem with the previous withdrawal agreement is it was capable of leaving us trapped in the orbit of the EU, a declining satellite of the EU with no benefits from leaving. Boris has had a dramatic shift towards a free trade agreement that would leave us a self-governing nation ... So now really, the devil is in the detail ... I am really looking forward to being able to vote for a tolerable deal but, until we get the text, I cannot tell you what we are going to do."

Others have sounded more sceptical, such as the former Northern Ireland secretary Owen Paterson, who criticised the EU for demanding more and more concessions. Several DUP MPs sound unconvinced, but Johnson may not need their votes if he can secure enough support among Labour MPs and retain the support of his own party plus most former Tories who want a deal rather than a second referendum. About 18 Labour MPs signed a letter last week urging the EU to work day and night towards a deal, saying their votes would be decisive in whether it got through parliament. Melanie Onn, a Labour backbencher, has said she would support a "reasonable deal" and wrote on her Facebook page on Monday: "A no-deal Brexit would hinder not help the town and people of Grimsby. I will vote for a deal in the best interests of Great Grimsby to ensure a no-deal Brexit is prevented."

Others who have indicated they could now be prepared to vote for a deal with the right reassurances on Northern Ireland, workers' rights and environmental protections include Stephen Kinnock, Gareth Snell and Ruth Smeeth. Gloria De Piero has said she will look at any new deal seriously. However, they are likely to face fierce opposition from some of their pro-remain Labour colleagues and possible calls for the whip to be withdrawn. It is likely to become clear within the next few days whether it will be possible for a deal to be done at Thursday's European summit and it could drag on until next week. The government will have to table a motion in parliament by Wednesday if it wants to convene MPs for a Saturday sitting to debate any agreement. A Downing Street spokesman would not confirm whether it would hold the first Saturday sitting since the Falklands war if Brussels talks failed to find an agreement. "The point here is, for example if a deal is done at European council, a Saturday sitting would certainly allow you to start the process of getting the deal through," he said.

■ Jeremy Corbyn or No-Deal Brexit? The U.K. Might Have to Choose

New York Times reported that He is the bane of bankers, a bearded, teetotaling socialist often derided in the British press and in Parliament for his efforts to suppress dissent inside the Labour Party and his radical plans to remake the British economy. But in the unmitigated chaos of Brexit, Jeremy Corbyn, the opposition Labour leader, is trying to remind himself as a safe pair of hands, and an unlikely savior to jittery British markets panicked by Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plans for an abrupt split with the European Union.

"What method of execution would you prefer?" is basically the question," said David Willetts, a Conservative former minister who was once an aide to Margaret Thatcher. "Corbyn would in normal circumstances look like an off-the-scale risky gamble. However, Brexit is the single biggest change in Britain's economic and political relations in 40 years, so Brexit itself is an off-the-scale economic gamble."

With an early election looming, Mr. Johnson's Conservative Party, once a friend to big business and a refuge for establishment



figures of all types, has torched one convention after another, creating dust-ups with Queen Elizabeth II, the Supreme Court and Parliament. The prime minister's proposed Brexit deal, proffered last week to Brussels, was met with so much dismay that most analysts believe he is fully resigned to Britain leaving the bloc without one.

That has turned Mr. Corbyn — a lifelong rabble-rouser and one of the most left-wing leaders in Labour's century-long history — into an improbable figure of restraint. He is implacably opposed to a no-deal Brexit and promises a second referendum that could reverse the split altogether.

Suddenly, banks have been left grudgingly weighing the benefits of a party run by neo-Marxists, radical union leaders and lawmakers with a history of supporting communist regimes.

And some parts of Labour, famously anti-establishment under Mr. Corbyn, are fretting that they will somehow look like the soberer party in an election dominated by voters' desire for a shake-up. "The Tories are promising the most radical and extreme economic disruption in nearly 200 years," said Tom Kibasi, the director of the left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research, calling a no-deal Brexit the biggest upheaval since the British Empire abolished slavery in the 1830s. "The scale of economic chaos the Tories are promising means that any of Labour's policies pale in significance."

But, he said: "The issue is right now the public have a clear appetite for change. The question is, are you going to offer them positive change, or change that's chaos and disruption?"

Mr. Corbyn's new sheen of acceptability has not yet paid dividends with the public. In carving out the middle ground on Brexit — promising a second referendum, but refusing to commit to one side or the other — he has alienated both Leave and Remain voters. And analysts say it is not clear whether Mr. Corbyn's plans for a generational reordering of the economy will cut through as long as voters remain obsessed with Brexit. Despite his involvement in efforts to avert a no-deal Brexit, Mr. Corbyn is still despised by a cohort of anti-Brexit lawmakers, some of whom blame him for failing to get a grip on anti-Semitism in the Labour Party. Those lawmakers have resisted trying to unseat the government and install him as a caretaker prime minister. But in Britain's winner-take-all voting system, Labour is still the party best positioned to wrench power from the Conservatives. That has narrowed the choice awaiting Britain, some analysts say: a Johnson-led government increasingly bent on a no-deal Brexit, or a Corbyn-led government that would stop it. Ken Clarke, a Conservative former chancellor of the Exchequer who has locked horns with Labour for decades, said last month, "Both are awful prospects, but I think a no-deal Brexit could cause far more damage to our future economic success than Corbyn."

Even in the City of London, there is growing feeling that the financial industry could withstand the shock of Mr. Corbyn's hard-left economic plans if that were what it had to do to avoid Britain leaving the European Union without a deal managing future relations. For financial analysts, there is nothing that tempers fears of Labour's plans to redistribute wealth and assets like an even more daring economic experiment: cutting adrift an export market of half a billion people.

"Between a Corbyn government that delivers a second referendum at the cost of some policies which from an economic perspective we may not be entirely happy with, and a Conservative government that is broadly pro-business but does the irreversible damage of the U.K. leaving without a deal, I'd choose the former," said Christian Schulz, an analyst for Citi. Peter Dixon, a senior economist for Commerzbank, said companies could adjust to Mr. Corbyn, but not as easily to the sudden turmoil of a no-deal Brexit. "They're looking at the prospect of a no-deal and saying, actually, this would be an even bigger shock to the economy than a Corbyn government because perhaps at least you'd have a period of time to adjust," he said.

For Britain's financial district, it is the end of an era of being able to freely hammer Labour for moderate tax increases, safe in the knowledge that the Conservative Party would follow market orthodoxy on open trading arrangements. "The markets can't have their cake and eat it," said Paul Dales, the chief United Kingdom economist for Capital Economics, a research company. Mr. Corbyn, a vegetarian with a grandfatherly manner who for decades wandered the hard-left hinterlands of the Labour Party, has not made himself many friends in the City of London with a series of bold proposals he has rolled out over the last few weeks: creating a state-owned pharmaceutical company, attacking private schools, forcing companies to make their workforces into shareholders.

He also wants to nationalize the railways, raise new taxes on the financial industry and create a four-day workweek. Those policies could permanently undo the anti-regulatory crusade waged 40 years ago by Mrs. Thatcher, cementing high-tax, pro-workforce rules. Labour supporters hope these measures will address gaping inequality, while critics fear they are built on an outdated vision of Britain's economy. It's still, to many if not most bankers, a program that looks politically repugnant and personally costly. And the calculation that it might be less catastrophic to banks than a no-deal Brexit remains hotly contested in some circles. But analysts say the markets have taken comfort in the fact that even if Mr. Corbyn performs well in the next election, he will probably not win enough seats in Parlia-

ment to govern alone. Being forced to rely on the backing of one or more smaller parties, like the centrist Liberal Democrats or the economically center-left Scottish National Party, would rein in Labour's most radical plans.

Labour has also made a concerted, if low-key, effort in recent months to prepare the financial industry for a turnover in Downing Street. Industry representatives say they have largely left impressed by John McDonnell, Labour's Treasury spokesman, describing him as solicitous of their needs when it comes to Brexit and matter-of-fact in laying out his party's more confrontational economic plans. "John McDonnell is someone they can talk to, do business with," said Lord Robert Kerslake, a former civil service chief who has set up some of Labour's meetings with businesspeople.

(Bankers cannot, though, buy dinner for Mr. McDonnell, who has protected his abstemious reputation — and the party's anti-elite bona fides — by insisting on "tea and biscuits, nothing else," Lord Kerslake said. That is a contrast with the "prawn cocktail offensive" that a more corporate Labour Party waged under Tony Blair in the City of London two decades ago.)

Labour's rehabilitation in the eye of the markets mirrors a lift that leftist parties have gotten across Europe simply for treading cautiously on European trade. Facing up against right-wing, populist campaigns against European integration, left-wing parties, said Mr. Schulz, the Citi analyst, are finding that "their pro-Europe credentials ultimately trumped question marks about their economic policies."

Whatever respectability Mr. Corbyn has won in the bare-knuckled fight over Brexit may not last long. One of his biggest selling points for bankers, after all, is that some of them think they can reverse his policies within a matter of years. And some of his grudging Conservative backers, like Guto Bebb, a former junior defense minister, have in mind nothing more than "a short-term Jeremy Corbyn government" that would avert what he called "the generational damage that would be caused by a no-deal Brexit."

Mr. Corbyn's more immediate problem is not only pitching himself as a sober option in an era of political madness, but also how to make his proposals stand out amid fervent campaigning on Brexit on all sides. Mr. Johnson, analysts say, has a slew of ready-made slogans for his anti-establishment, no-holds-barred Brexit campaign, even if they disguise the tumult that is almost sure to follow. Mr. Corbyn, on the other hand, has to make a knottier case for caution on Brexit.

"It depends whether the Tories are found out or not," Mr. Kibasi said. "Labour's story is more complicated, if more truthful."

How Boris Johnson's hard Brexit would hit the UK economy Financial Times reported that

The Brexit deal that Boris Johnson, the prime minister, is seeking to strike with Brussels this week would push the UK down the route of a hard Brexit, resulting in the nation missing out on up to 7 per cent of growth, according to new estimates from UK in a Changing Europe.

The analysis undertaken by Hanwei Huang, Jonathan Portes and Thomas Sampson of King's College London and the London School of Economics said Mr. Johnson's "red lines" on regulation and trade policy pointed to a post-Brexit arrangement with the EU more distant than the deal struck by his predecessor Theresa May.

Although the think-tank's estimates differ from the government's own long-term Brexit analysis, the core result is the same, showing that the looser Britain's ties are with the EU, the more economic performance will suffer.

Mr Johnson's negotiators are engaged in intense talks with their counterparts in Brussels ahead of a crucial two-day EU summit that starts on Thursday.

Although the details of Mr Johnson's plan to solve the major stumbling block of the Irish border have not been made public, his "double customs plan" would see Northern Ireland remain in the EU customs union to avoid the need for a hard border in Ireland but remain in the UK customs territory for legal terms.

But while averting a no-deal would remove the immediate threat to the economy, his longer-term proposals suggest a harder Brexit that may struggle to convince the pro-Brexit Labour MPs who Mr Johnson may need to get his plan through parliament.

Mary Creagh, Labour MP for Wakefield, said: "Brexit is not just about [the] Irish backstop, but [the] fact that Johnson's aim to diverge from EU standards — workers rights, food standards and the environment — makes us all much poorer."

For Mr Johnson, an arrangement that keeps Northern Ireland effectively in EU arrangements would allow him to pursue his ambition of a future relationship, "based on a free trade agreement in which the UK takes control of its own regulatory affairs and trade policy".

The academics said that would, at best, be a "Canada-minus" model in which barriers to trade with the EU would be "notably lower than in a no-deal scenario, but considerably higher than under Theresa May's withdrawal agreement".

The modelling work, predominantly carried out for the think-tank by the Centre for Economic Performance at the LSE, was done on the basis of the prime minister's proposal to the EU from earlier this month rather than the precise compromise tabled by Mr Johnson last week. But Mr Portes of King's College London said: "Nothing in the last few days changes the economic impacts here."

There would be significant friction for goods trade arising from full customs control between Dover and Calais and other trade routes between the UK and EU alongside new behind the border restrictions for services.

In the long term, after about 10 years, these new trade barriers alone would reduce national income per head by 2.5 per cent, according to the analysis.

The most controversial part of all long-term Brexit impact assessments is whether to add additional effects for the possibility of weaker productivity growth resulting from additional trade barriers. When the LSE team added these, the economic hit rose to 6.4 per cent, compared with 4.9 per cent under Mrs May's withdrawal agreement.

On the basis of Mr Johnson's proposals, that reduction in future gross domestic product would be the equivalent of every person in the UK missing out on £2,000 of income on average each year. In comparison, a no-deal Brexit would reduce GDP per capita by £2,500 a year.

The UK in a Changing Europe analysis was unique in adding additional effects based on the likely new Australian-style points-based migration system the government wants to introduce following Brexit, which would prioritise higher skilled workers without preferences for EU migrants.

In a more liberal immigration regime modelled by the think-tank, the numbers of lower skilled migrants from the EU would fall by two-thirds, but increase skilled migration from outside the EU by 50 per cent.

Overall numbers of migrants would fall, but the pay levels would rise, leading to a relatively small drop in UK GDP, but a 0.6 per cent rise in per capita incomes, due to the higher average skill levels of migrants.

A more restrictive scenario estimated the effects of a 75 per cent drop in EU migrants earning less than £30,000 and only a 25 per cent rise in skilled migration from outside the EU. This saw a further 1.8 per cent hit to GDP with income per person also dropping because the skilled EU migration would also fall.

In total, the effects of a more restrictive migration regime and the trade impacts could combine so that the UK missed out on 7 per cent of growth over the next decade, almost five years worth of expansion at current rates of economic performance.

The analysis chimes with the government's own long-term Brexit study, and recent statements by HM Revenue & Customs. That showed that customs checks and form-filling alone — which would still be needed if a free trade agreement with the EU was signed — would cost companies £15bn a year.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 31-32-95204-53-027

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	LINE PIPE API 5L GRADE X52 PSL2, SEAMLESS BLACK ACCORDING TO IPS-MPI-190(S)-4 IN. 114.3MM. OD WT. 6.02MM. WEIGHT 16.08. KG/M, (69600 METERS REQUIRED)	6. 000

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention to participate" letter via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 38,426 EURO or 1,841,513,385 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHA JARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex

Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran

Tel. No.: 061 341 25010 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۱/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۱/۲۸

1398.4397

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Elahieh
2nd floor, 700 sq.m, 6 Bdrs.
furn, 2 kitchens, great terrace
outdoor swimming pool
yard, parking, **\$7000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Jordan
3rd floor, 156 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, parking
\$850
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Farmanieh
4th floor, 140 sq.m
3 Bdrs., fully furn, equipped
kitchen, modern style
parking, **\$1800**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 280 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
semi furn, equipped kitchen
spj, gym billiard table
elevator, parking
\$5000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

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

Villa

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

Villa in Mahmoudieh
500 sq.m land, 600 sq.m built up, 5
Bdrs., unfurn, parking
\$6000
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Triplex Villa in Fereshteh
540 sq.m built up, unfurn
good light, completely renovated,
yard, parking
Price: negotiable
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in Shariti - Tajrish
170 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., furn, spj
completely renovated, parking
\$1800
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Duplex Villa in Soheil
500 sq.m land, 600 sq.m built up
8 Bdrs., 6 bath rooms, unfurn
servant quarter, renovated
3 storages, 12 parking spots
3-side entrances
\$5500
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Villa in North Kamranih
duplex, 750 sq.m land, 500 sq.m
built up, unfurn, servant quarter,
renovated
2 parking spots, **\$10000**
Ms.Sara: 09128103207



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141

info@parsdiplomatic.com

www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

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

Office in Zafaranih
administrative office license
brand new, 3rd floor, 180 sq.m
elevator, parking
\$2700
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Super luxury Office
in Mirdamad
administrative office license
4 offices, each office 590 sq.m
elevator, parking
Price: negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Whole building in
Vanak - North Shirazi
administrative office license
3 floors, 3 apts, each apt 220 sq.m,
balcony, renovated
storage, parking
\$5000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Whole building in Jordan
administrative office license
5 floors, units between 500 sq.m
& 700 sq.m, elevator lobby
lots of parking
Price: negotiable
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Ideal Offers

Apt in Qeytarieh
3rd floor, 150 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
furn, equipped kitchen
elevator, parking
near Qeytarieh park
\$1400
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Jordan
130 sq.m, 3 Bdrs. furn
spj, parking
\$1000
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

Apt in Fereshteh
5th floor, 125 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, spj, billiard table
elevator, storage
parking spot
\$1300
Ms.Sara: 09128103207

Apt in Fereshteh
10th floor, 250 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
semi furn, elevator, parking
\$1500
Mr.Shayan: 09128440156

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

Apt in Chizar
1st floor, 110 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, equipped kitchen
back yard, elevator
storage, parking
\$1000
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
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, & F.F
(**\$1800**)

Elahieh villa (\$4000) 1000sq.m, 5bdrs
Jordan Villa (\$6000) 2000sq.m, 6bdrs

((\$7000))
Velenjak bldg
5storey, 15bdrs
S/p, S, J

Farmanieh (\$2400) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F
Zaferanieh (\$2800) 250sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

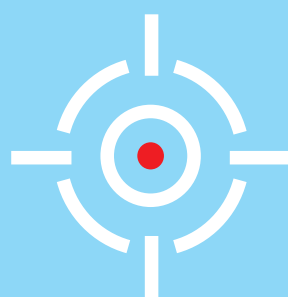
The Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus
seeks the recruitment of one
Clerk/Translator. Requested
qualifications:

- 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.

TEHRAN TIMES

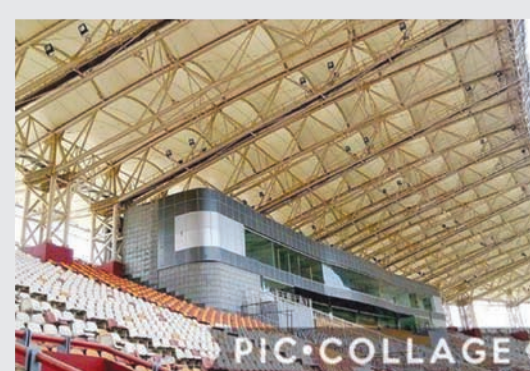
Iran's Leading
International Daily
Advertising Dept



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

maharaja
Indian Restaurant

**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN IRAN**

PRIVATE PARKING LOT

Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani
Crossroads - Valiasr St. **Tell: 66476855**

Interstellar comet just like ones from our solar system – astronomers

The first interstellar comet to be tracked by astronomers as it hurtles through the solar system is unremarkable in every way apart from where it comes from, researchers have said.

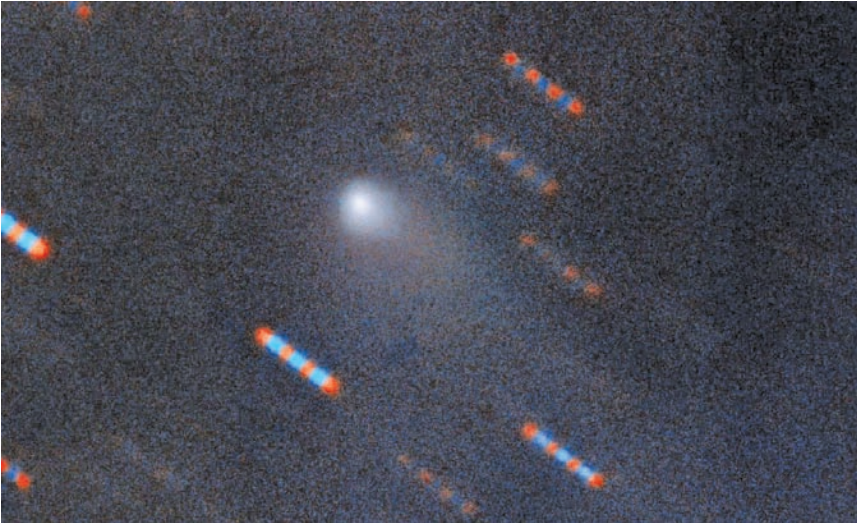
Scientists reached the conclusion after observing 2I/Borisov with two of the most powerful telescopes on Earth. They decided that it looked like any other comet except that it came from beyond the solar system and would soon leave for good.

The unusual body was spotted in August by a Crimean amateur astronomer, Gennady Borisov. It was swiftly identified as an outcast from another star system and may have been wandering the Milky Way for millions if not billions of years.

“This is the first comet known to science that arrived from outside the solar system, and it is completely similar to those we see inside the solar system,” said Michal Drahus, an astronomer at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

The team, led by Piotr Guzik, gathered images of the comet after receiving an alert from a computer system that detects cosmic interlopers. Unlike comets and asteroids that formed in the solar system, the arrivals are on trajectories that do not swing around the sun.

Pictures from the William Herschel Telescope on La Palma, Spain, and the Gemini North telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, revealed that 2I/Borisov has a coma – a billowing cloud of dust and gas that surrounds a comet’s nucleus – and a short, fat tail. Both are created when ices on



the comet’s surface sublimate into gas and blast dust and vapour into space. Details are published in Nature Astronomy.

The observations confirmed that the reddish body is a comet with a nucleus about 2km wide. It is only the second interstellar body to be spotted in the solar system, after the apparently more rocky and cigar-shaped Oumuamua, which was tracked in 2017 as it barreled out of the solar system at 196,000mph.

Comets are what is left over when a planetary system forms, and the similarity of 2I/Borisov to solar system comets suggests our own planetary system is not unusual in the

Milky Way. “The first thing it tells us is that at least some other planetary systems around other stars are similar to ours,” said Guzik.

Scientists are unsure where 2I/Borisov comes from, but another Polish research team has tentatively traced its trajectory back to a star system with twin red dwarves called Kruger 60, 13 light years from Earth.

The new comet tore into the solar system several years ago from an angle of about 45 degrees north. In October 2015 it was as far away as Neptune, the outermost planet, and now it is between Mars and Jupiter. On 27 October it will cross the plane of Earth’s orbit.

The early detection means astronomers will be able to observe the 71,500mph comet as it makes its closest approach to the sun on 8 December, when the extra heat will make the comet more active and its tail longer.

Colin Snodgrass, an astronomer at Edinburgh University and a member of a team that has separate observations of 2I/Borisov coming out in Astrophysical Journal Letters, said: “This appears to be a completely unremarkable comet on a very remarkable orbit.”

“It’s very interesting that this interstellar comet looks like our own ones,” he added. “It implies that some of the formation processes we are trying to figure out with detailed observation of comets and asteroids, or space missions like Rosetta, are common between stars.”

A new mission being developed for the European Space Agency will send a robotic probe into space to intercept and study a passing comet. Geraint Jones, the head of planetary science at UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory and the lead proposer of the Comet Interceptor mission, said the primary target would be a pristine, unaltered comet arriving fresh from the Oort cloud, a distant region of the solar system where comets reside.

“But we on the proposing team made it clear that if an interstellar object could be reached instead, it would clearly make an extremely compelling target,” he said. Launch is scheduled for 2028.

(Source: The Guardian)

How we define death changes with technology, research suggests

By Erin Blakemore

If you’re reading this, you know what living looks like - movement, neurological activity, thought, action.

But what exactly is death?

The answer is complicated, suggests neuroscientist Christof Koch. In “Is Death Reversible?” a feature article in the most recent issue of Scientific American, Koch grapples with a death definition that is much more nuanced than you might think.

“Death, this looming presence just over the horizon, is quite ill defined from both a scientific as well as a medical point of view,” he writes.

Koch tracks a shifting concept of death, from the cessation of breathing to the end of brain activity. And, he suggests, the modern medical definition is being shaken by new scientific



developments.

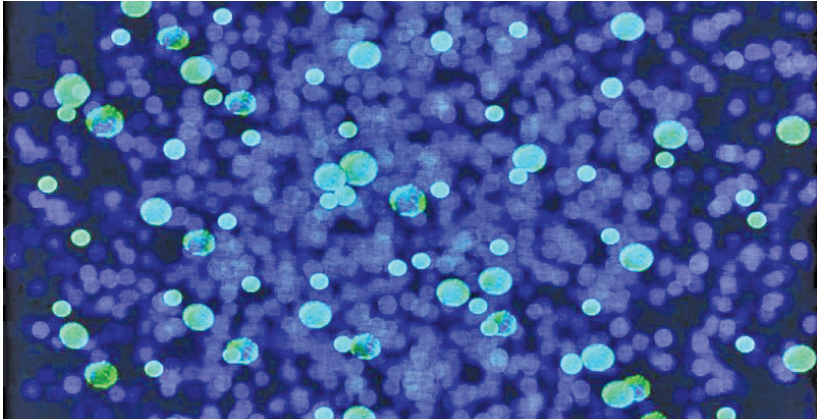
“What at the beginning of the 20th century was irreversible - cessation of breathing - became reversible by the end of the century. Is it too difficult to contemplate that the same may be true for brain death? A recent experiment suggests

this idea is not just a wild imagining.”

Koch is referring to a series of surprising experiments in which scientists managed to restore some function in the brains of pigs that had been dead for hours. The research, which was published this April in the journal Nature, sparked intense ethical and scientific debate. It seems to point to death as a process, not an event, and raises the possibility that one day, scientists will be able to completely revive a dead brain.

If you think the research sounds Frankenstein-like, you’re not alone. Even the scientists who conducted the experiments grappled with the ethical conundrum it presented, and had a plan B in which they’d stop the experiment immediately if the brains presented evidence of consciousness. Luckily for them, they didn’t - but that could change one day as research progresses.

Genetic engineering tool promises to aid discovery of new drugs inside microbes



By Brooks Hays

Scientists have found a new way to coax microbes into producing valuable secondary metabolites, chemical compounds that help microbes adapt to changing conditions.

Despite the contributions secondary metabolites have made to medical and material science, researchers suspect they have only barely skimmed the surface of the biochemical secrets hiding within microbes -- a tool called chassis-independent recombinase-assisted genome engineering, or CRAGE, may help them unlock those secrets.

Secondary metabolites are named so because they’re non-essential. Stop a microbe from producing its primary metabolites and it is likely to die. Lock the production of secondary metabolites, however, and the microbe is sure to persist, even if at a disadvantage.

But while secondary metabolites may not be necessary for basic survival, they are necessary to thrive, and they have been an important source of agricultural, industrial and medical products.

Groups of genes called biosynthetic gene clusters are responsible for instructing the production of secondary metabolites. Different codes for different traits are constantly traded back and forth between relative microbes through a process known as horizontal gene transfer.

It’s quite difficult to study biosynthetic gene clusters and secondary metabolites. Microbes produce these compounds in response to their dynamic environs. As their conditions shift, the diversity of secondary metabolites produced by complex cellular processes also changes.

Unfortunately, when microbes are brought into the clean, sterile environs of the lab, secondary metabolite production slows to a halt.

“These metabolites are like a language that microbes use to interact with their biomes, and when isolated, they go silent,” Yasuo Yoshikuni, researcher at the Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, said in a news release. “We currently lack the technology to stimulate microbes into activating their BGCs and synthesizing the complete product -- a cellular process that involves many steps.”

Yoshikuni and his colleagues at the Energy Department’s Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory created the CRAGE technique, which allows scientists to replicate horizontal gene transfer at high speeds.

The technology works by transplanting BGCs from one organism to a variety of potential production hosts. This technique allows researchers to more efficiently identify microbial strains that can produce secondary metabolites under laboratory conditions.

Scientists described the new technology and its many advantages this week in the journal Nature Microbiology.

“CRAGE therefore allows us to access these compounds much more readily than before,” said Helge Bode, a microbiologist at Goethe University Frankfurt in Germany. “In several cases, it has already enabled us to produce and characterize for the first time a compound of interest.”

The new technology will also help researchers begin to decipher the complex cellular machinery and production processes responsible for secondary metabolite synthesis.

“This is a landmark development, because with CRAGE we can examine how different organisms can express one gene network differently, and thus how horizontally transferred capabilities can evolve,” said David Hoyt, a chemist at the DOE Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory. “The previous tools to do this are much more limited.”

We found evidence of life on Mars in the 1970s, former NASA scientist says



NASA found evidence of alien life in the 1970s, according to a former senior scientist – and ignored it.

The Viking landers were sent to the Martian surface more than 40 years ago, with the aim of exploring the planet. They included an experiment known as Labeled Release, or LR, which was intended to look for signs of life on the planet.

The results came back in 1976 – and seemed to indicate that something was happening on the surface. Gilbert V Levin – an engineer and inventor who was the principal investigator on the experiment – has now written a long article arguing that those findings were indications of life on Mars, which were ignored by NASA.

“On July 30, 1976, the LR returned its initial results from Mars,” Levin wrote in an article for Scientific American. “Amazingly, they were positive.”

“As the experiment progressed, a total of four positive results, supported by five varied controls, streamed down from the twin Viking spacecraft landed some 4,000 miles apart. The data curves signaled the detection of microbial respiration on the Red Planet. The curves from Mars were similar to those produced by LR tests of soils on Earth.

“It seemed we had answered that ultimate question.”

But NASA’s experiments failed to find organic matter: the physical stuff of life itself, not just the indications of microbial respiration that the LR experiment discovered. That meant that NASA concluded that the LR results came from a substance that was mimicking life but was not actually life itself.

Since then, NASA has not run a similar experiment has focused on examining whether the Martian habitat could be a

suitable home for alien life.

But Levin argues that those findings actually suggested that there is alien life on Mars. And, he argued, NASA must do more to follow them up – because they could pose a significant threat to life on Earth.

“NASA maintains the search for alien life among its highest priorities,” he wrote. On February 13, 2019, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said we might find microbial life on Mars.

“Our nation has now committed to sending astronauts to Mars. Any life there might threaten them, and us upon their return. Thus, the issue of life on Mars is now front and center.”

Summing up the evidence of alien life, he wrote his experiment had found a whole host of positive results. But perhaps most strongly of all, he said there had been no experiment that had provided an alternative explanation for the results that came back from the LV experiment.

“What is the evidence against the possibility of life on Mars? The astonishing fact is that there is none,” he wrote. “Furthermore, laboratory studies have shown that some terrestrial microorganisms could survive and grow on Mars.”

In his conclusion, he asked that Nasa conduct the same kind of experiments again, taking an altered version of the LR experiment to Mars on the next possible trip. And he asked that scientists be convened to examine those more than 40-year-old findings to see if they really were proof of life on Mars.

“Such an objective jury might conclude, as I did, that the Viking LR did find life,” he wrote. “In any event, the study would likely produce important guidance for NASA’s pursuit of its holy grail.”

(Source: The Independent)

NASA engineer claims ‘Helical Engine’ concept could travel 99% the speed of light

When it comes to space, there’s a problem with our human drive to go all the places and see all the things. A big problem. It’s, well, space. It’s way too big. Even travelling at the maximum speed the Universe allows, it would take us years to reach our nearest neighboring star.

But another human drive is finding solutions to big problems. And that’s what NASA engineer David Burns has been doing in his spare time. He’s produced an engine concept that, he says, could theoretically accelerate to 99 percent of the speed of light - all without using propellant.

He’s posted it to the NASA Technical Reports Server under the heading “Helical Engine”, and, on paper, it works by exploiting the way mass can change at relativistic speeds - those close to the speed of light in a vacuum. It has not yet been reviewed by an expert.

Understandably this paper has caused buzz approaching levels seen in the early days of the EM Drive. And yes, even some headlines claiming the engine could ‘violate the laws of physics’.

But while this concept is fascinating, it’s definitely not going to break physics anytime soon.

As a thought experiment to explain his concept, Burns describes a box with a weight inside, threaded on a line, with a spring at each end bouncing the weight back and forth. In a vacuum - such as space - the effect of this would be to wiggle the entire box, with the weight seeming to stand still, like a gif stabilized around the weight.

Overall, the box would stay wiggling in the same spot - but if the mass of the weight were to increase in only one direction, it would generate a greater push in that direction, and therefore thrust.

According to the principle of the conservation of momentum - in which the momentum of a system remains constant in the absence of any external forces - this should be not completely possible.

But! There’s a special relativity loophole. Hooray for special relativity! According to special relativity, objects gain mass as they approach light speed. So, if you replace the weight with ions and the box with a loop, you can theoretically have the ions moving faster at one end of the loop, and slower at the other.

But Burns’ drive isn’t a single closed loop. It’s helical, like a stretched out spring - hence “helical engine”.

“The engine accelerates ions confined in a loop to moderate relativistic speeds, and then varies their velocity to make slight changes to their mass. The engine then moves ions back and forth along the direction of travel to produce thrust,” he wrote in his abstract.

“The engine has no moving parts other than ions traveling in a vacuum line, trapped inside electric and magnetic fields.” It sounds really nifty, right? And it is - in theory. But it’s not without significant practical problems.

According to New Scientist, the helical chamber would have to be pretty large. Around 200 meters (656 feet) long and 12 meters (40 feet) in diameter, to be precise.

And it would need to generate 165 megawatts of energy to produce 1 newton of thrust. That’s the equivalent of a power station to produce the force required to accelerate a kilogram of mass per second squared. So a lot of input for a teeny tiny output. It is horribly inefficient.

But in the vacuum of space? It just might work. “The engine itself would be able to get to 99 per cent the speed of light if you had enough time and power,” Burns told New Scientist.

And here’s the other thing. Humans - not all of us, but still more than a few - desperately want to go to interstellar space. We may never get there. But if we never even try to think about it, that “may” becomes a “definitely.” What’s that saying - you miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take?

Burns notes the efficiency problem in his presentation, and also adds that his work hasn’t been reviewed by experts, and there may be errors in his maths. We don’t exactly have the blueprints for a fully functional space travel engine here.

What we do have is a piece of groundwork that could be used to develop such an engine. What we have is a dream of the stars.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Creating 2D heterostructures for future electronics

Nanomaterials could provide the basis of many emerging technologies, including extremely tiny, flexible, and transparent electronics.

While many nanomaterials exhibit promising electronic properties, scientists and engineers are still working to best integrate these materials together to eventually create semiconductors and circuits with them.

Northwestern Engineering researchers have created two-dimensional (2D) heterostructures from two of these materials, graphene and borophene, taking an important step toward creating integrated circuits from these nanomaterials.

“If you were to crack open an integrated circuit inside a smartphone, you’d see many different materials integrated together,” said Mark Hersam, Walter P. Murphy Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, who led the research. “However, we’ve reached the limits of many of those traditional materials. By integrating nanomaterials like borophene and graphene together, we are opening up new possibilities in nanoelectronics.”

Supported by the Office for Naval Research and the National Science Foundation, the results were published October 11 in the journal Science Advances. In addition to Hersam, applied physics PhD student Xiaolong Liu co-authored this work.

Any integrated circuit contains many materials that perform different functions, like conducting electricity or keeping components electrically isolated. But while transistors within circuits have become smaller and smaller -- thanks to advances in materials and manufacturing -- they are close to reaching the limit of how small they can get.

Ultrathin 2D materials like graphene have the potential to bypass that problem, but integrating 2D materials together is difficult. These materials are only one atom thick, so if the two materials’ atoms do not line up perfectly, the integration is unlikely to be successful. Unfortunately, most 2D materials do not match up at the atomic scale, presenting challenges for 2D integrated circuits.

Borophene, the 2D version of boron that Hersam and coworkers first synthesized in 2015, is polymorphic, meaning it can take on many different structures and adapt itself to its environment. That makes it an ideal candidate to combine with other 2D materials, like graphene.

(Source: Science Daily)

Exhibitions of handicrafts, souvenirs set up for Arbaeen pilgrims

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Several sales exhibitions, featuring local handicrafts and souvenirs, have been set up across Ilam province, where thousands of Arbaeen pilgrims are on their way to the holy city of Karbala in Iraq.

“Arbaeen provides a unique opportunity to introduce Ilam’s culture, rituals and handicrafts to [pilgrims coming from] every counter of the country,” provincial tourism chief Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh said on Monday, CHTN reported.



“The exhibits feature various kinds of local clothing, embossed kilim-carpets, stoneware, mosaics, leatherwork, potteries, traditional knives... as well as natural honey, indigenous foods and pastries.”

A total of 85 booths have been set up in the cities of Ilam, Mehran, Dehloran, Chardavol, Eyvan and Sirvan that pilgrims are passing through, the official added.

“The exhibitions opened on Monday and will be running through October 22.”

Last year, over 15 million Arbaeen pilgrims left Iran for Najaf and Baghdad to visit and pay tribute to the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), where the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is laid to rest.

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

Tourists are paying people to scare pigeons to get the perfect Instagram shot

We’ve all probably scrolled through our Instagram feeds and passed by a well-orchestrated travel photo with just the right colors, right angles, and perfectly “candid but not candid” poses. But have you ever wondered how that photo magic happens?

Well, in the case of people taking pictures of themselves being surrounded by majestic pigeons near Tha Pae Gate, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, there’s actually a person with a real “job” to help make those birds flutter around for your ‘Gram.

Travel influencers can be pretty notorious for doing strange or even dangerous things in order to get a good picture, like hanging out of a moving train or faking photos in order to curate their online presence.

According to Metro, Tha Pae Gate is well-known for its flocks of pigeon hanging out on the sidewalks nearby. Most of the time, however, they’re not terribly active and don’t fly around people’s heads like they seem to on social media.

(Source: MSN)

ROUND THE GLOBE

Ancient City of Aleppo

The Ancient City of Aleppo is the historic city center of Aleppo, Syria. Located at the crossroads of several trade routes since the 2nd millennium BC, Aleppo was ruled successively by the Hittites, Assyrians, Akkadians, Greeks, Romans, Umayyads, Ayyubids, Mameluks and Ottomans who left their stamp on the city.



The Citadel of Aleppo in 2010

The Citadel, the 12th-century Great Mosque and various 16th and 17th-centuries madrasas, residences, khans and public baths, all form part of the city’s cohesive, unique urban fabric.

The monumental Citadel of Aleppo, rising above the suqs, mosques and madrasas of the old walled city, is testament to Arab military might from the 12th to the 14th centuries. With evidence of past occupation by civilizations dating back to the 10th century BC, the citadel contains the remains of mosques, palace and bath buildings.

The walled city that grew up around the citadel bears evidence of the early Graeco-Roman street layout and contains remnants of 6th century Christian buildings, medieval walls and gates, mosques and madrasas relating to the Ayyubid and Mameluke development of the city, and later mosques and palaces of the Ottoman period.

Outside the walls, the Bab al-Faraj quarter to the North-West, the Jdeide area to the north and other areas to the south and west, contemporary with these periods of occupation of the walled city contain important religious buildings and residences.

Fundamental changes to parts of the city took place in the 30 years before inscription, including the destruction of buildings, and the development of tall new buildings and widened roads.

(Source: UNESCO)

Apadana Staircase leads you to mythical arts of Persia

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — Apadana Staircase is one of the most striking sections of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, southern Iran.

The lavishly decorated monument draws hundreds of domestic and foreign visitors every single day, showing them off scenes of mighty Achaemenid Empire (550 –330 BC) and grandeur of its fabled arts.

Visitors can observe finely crafted friezes along three major panels each divided into several tiers depicting sovereigns, dignitaries and the then visitors to Persepolis.

The northern panel itself is divided into three tiers of well-preserved bas-relief figures of Persian nobility including the Imperial Guard and the Immortals.

On the upper tier, according to the Lonely Planet, the figures are followed by the royal procession, valets and horses of the king’s chariot; on the lower two tiers these figures precede Persians wearing feather headdresses and Medes in their round caps.

The central panel of the staircase is dominated by traditional symbol of Zoroastrianism which is flanked by two winged lions with human heads.

Elaborate panels at the southern end of the staircase depicts a record of nations, showing 23 delegations bringing their gifts to an Achaemenid king. The Ethiopians begin the frieze in the bottom left corner and are joined by Arabs, Thracians, Kashmiris, Parthians and Cappadocians. The Elamites, Egyptians and Medians occupy the panel at top right. Accompanying this pantheon of guests are an assortment of delicately carved sheep with ram’s horns and curled wool, two-humped Bactrian camels, oxen and mules.



A view of the Apadana Staircase in the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, southern Iran.

The lavishly decorated monument draws hundreds of domestic and foreign visitors every single day, showing them off scenes of mighty Achaemenid Empire (550 –330 BC) and grandeur of its fabled arts.

On the northern panel exists inscriptions with fairly stereotypical texts by king Xerxes; one in Old Persian and others in Elamite and Babylonian.

Excavations to continue at ancient Tabriz university using German expertise

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — Excavation and restoration works will continue at Rab’-e Rashidi, a 14th-century educational complex in Tabriz, with the presence of German archaeologists for two other archaeological seasons.

Located in the northwestern East Azarbaijan province, Rab’-e Rashidi has so far yielded several archaeological layers, which date from Ilkhanid, Safavid and Qajar eras. It is said that students from Iran, China, Egypt, and Syria studied there under the supervision of physicians, intellectuals, scientists and Islamic scholars.

The fourth and fifth seasons are scheduled to be carried out during the next two [Iranian calendar] years (1399 and 1400) with presence of German experts, provincial tourism chief Morteza Abdar said on Tuesday, ISNA reported.

The third round of excavation and restoration work is currently underway at the ancient site by a panel of



East Azarbaijan province’s tourism chief Morteza Abdar (L) visits the ruins of Rab’-e Rashidi inspecting the third archaeological season of the 14th-century educational complex in Tabriz, northwest Iran.

international cultural heritage experts, archaeologists, and restorers from Iran, the German Archaeological Institute, the Otto-Friedrich University in Bamberg, and the Louvre Museum in Paris.

A vast centuries-old structure was unearthed from the site earlier in October, which is estimated to date from the 8th century AH (1299 CE – 1397 CE) to 10th century AH (1495 CE – 1591 CE).

The Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Center in collaboration with Tabriz Islamic Art University completed geophysical surveys, 3D laser scans, and endoscopy of the ancient structure during the first season to lay a groundwork for its possible UNESCO recognition.

The ancient complex embraces a paper factory, a library, a hospital (Dar-al-Shafa), a Quranic center (Dar-al-Quran), residential facilities for teachers, students’ quarters and a caravanserai amongst other facilities.

Iran seeks to win registration of the site on the UNESCO World Heritage list by 2025.

Former Thomas Cook boss defends record after firm’s collapse

LONDON (Reuters) — The former chief executive of bankrupt travel firm Thomas Cook said on Tuesday he understood public anger over his pay but defended his record, saying he had worked tirelessly to try to save the company.

Thomas Cook, the world’s oldest travel firm, collapsed last month after it failed to finalize a restructuring plan, stranding over a hundred thousand passengers.

Peter Fankhauser apologized again to customers, staff and suppliers as he appeared before a British parliamentary committee, and said that responsibility for the collapse was shared among several parties who tried, and failed, to agree the rescue deal.

Asked about his salary, which totaled 1.02 million pounds (\$1.29 million) in 2018 including pension and benefits, Fankhauser

said he did not set his own pay or decide any bonus.

“I’m not going to try and defend my base pay, because in relation to a normal worker’s base salary, this is an enormous amount... I fully understand the sentiment in the public,” he told the committee.

“However, what I can say to that is that I worked tirelessly for the success of this company and I’m deeply sorry that I was not able to secure the deal.”

Fankhauser said his efforts to transform the company after his appointment in 2014 had been constrained by its debts.

He said that a 750,000 pound (\$947,475) bonus he was paid in 2017 could theoretically be clawed back, but 30% was paid in shares which were now worthless.

“My commitment to the company was

shown: I never sold one share, because I was believing in the company,” he said.

He said he would take some time to reflect on what was the right thing to do with his pay after business committee chair Rachel Reeves said that it could be put to better use if it funded redundancy packages for his colleagues.

“The number of times you’ve said “sorry” - it just rings rather hollow when you’re not willing to put something back,” she said.

■ **Fought so hard**

The firm collapsed after it became unable to service its debts and failed to convince banks to back a rescue plan in the face of changing customer habits and intense competition from low-cost airlines and internet companies.

Thomas Cook’s management said a deal was possible until the final hours before the company failed, and that banks and share-

holder Fosun would have backed a deal to save the company if there had been government support.

Thomas Cook’s German airline Condor is still operating with support of a loan from the German government, while its Nordic business may still be bought. Its UK business went straight into liquidation, with its UK shops bought by a rival last week.

Fankhauser said he would not criticize the UK government for its decision not to provide support but that the cost of Thomas Cook’s collapse was “far higher” than what the firm requested, adding that he had not spoken to any government ministers in the week before the collapse.

Britain’s transport and business ministries did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

United Airlines extends Boeing 737 MAX cancellations into 2020

United Airlines is extending cancellations of Boeing 737 MAX flights through the holiday season until January 6, 2020, ensuring that the troubled aircraft won’t resume operating passenger flights in the U.S. until next year at the earliest.

According to Reuters, the Chicago-based carrier plans to cancel more than 8,000 flights scheduled for October, November, December and early January.

“We have cooperated fully with the FAA’s independent review of the MAX aircraft, and we won’t put our customers and employees on that plane until regulators make their own independent assessment that it is safe to do so,” the company said in a recent statement.

The 737 MAX has been grounded all over the world since March in the wake of two crashes that killed a combined 346 people in a five-month span. Boeing has since worked to update flight control software involving angle-of-attack sensors in the anti-stall system that have been linked to both crashes.

FAA Administrator Steve Dickson told Reuters that the agency will need approximately one month following the 737 MAX’s certification test flight before it could clear the aircraft to return to service. However, the test flight isn’t expected to occur before November 1, meaning late-November or December would be the earliest the plane would be allowed to return to the sky.

(Source: MSN)

First Announcement



NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN TENDER NO. : 48-32-9500090

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TRIPLEX RECIPROCATING PLUNGER PUMP MANUFACTURER: LEWA (GERMANY) MODEL: G3K200	01

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their “ Intention to participate” letter via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir , not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the .tender will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit .a bid bond of 1,443 EURO or 175 ,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’ S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir
تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۲۸

MSM peddling manufactured story of “blue girl” to spread Iranophobia

By Ali Radmanesh

TEHRAN – The western mainstream media has for a couple of months been peddling a distorted narrative of the case of the self-immolation of an Iranian girl, pushing a heart-breaking story to stir anti-Iranian sentiments and prepare the ground for increased pressure on Iran.

The storyline goes something like this: a female football fan, nicknamed as the Blue Girl, tried to enter the men-only Tehran’s Azadi Stadium in March this year and she was arrested by the security guards only because she was a woman, as Ivan Kesic writes for the Saker Blog. Six months later, more precisely in early September, she was ordered to attend a court in Tehran and after she found out about the prison sentence, she poured petrol on herself and set herself on fire outside the courthouse. She died in hospital one week later due to the third-degree burns. These reports in the Western media quickly gained a vast readership and triggered numerous reactions. Some compared her to Jan Palach, some wrote to international sports organizations seeking sanctions against Iran, and some went so far as to argue that the case would cause mass unrest or even revolution.

But just like other cases of MSM pushing anti-Iran stories targeting the audience’s emotions, fact-checking the story details and comparing them with the statements of victim’s family given to the Persian-language media shows that virtually all of the claims are incorrect, or even false. First of all, she was not arrested because she was a woman who wanted to go to the stadium, but because she violently attacked the policemen at the stadium gates, after refusing the security check. According to her sister, strife erupted when she told the security guards that they shouldn’t touch her because she is a girl from a conservative family. It means that the alleged liberal feminist, implied as such by the Western media, in reality was someone completely opposite, a conservative girl from the holy city of Qom. Most important of all, she did not attack the guards due to any sort of political protest, but because she was a mentally ill girl who had a hysterical attack. Unfortunately, she was alone so there was no one to explain her about the stadium rules, or to the guards about her mental health.

Unknowing about her medical record, police placed her in three-day detention, which led to a worsening of her mental condition. Her family came from Qom to Tehran, paid bail and showed documents about her health. When her scheduled trial came six months later, the judge was away so no verdict had been issued. There is no sentence of six months or two years in prison, as falsely claimed. Whether it’s due to a judge’s absence, rumors about potential penalties or something else, eventually setting fire to herself outside the building. It had nothing to do with football, politics or verdicts, only her mental disorder and an unfortunate set of circumstances. Her family further noted about her suicide attempt several years ago when she was a university student and was hospitalized for a while, adding that all related medical documents also exist. All these information were systematically ignored in the Western mass media. Even alleged image of the victim wearing a blue hat, circulated widely on the Internet, is false. It actually shows a transgender boy.

Her death is undoubtedly a tragedy and it provoked a number of reactions within Iran, especially among fans of the Esteghlal FC. Some public figures have criticized security guards for treating her as a normal citizen, and some also criticized the Iranian judiciary for the alleged prison sentence, which proved to be only a rumor. Still, these public criticisms have nothing in common with a distorted story from the foreign press, based on the misinformation by political activists who recognized the tragedy as the perfect opportunity to spread propaganda and manipulate the emotions of the world public. Their main focus was on sex-segregation in certain football stadiums and they have been seeking to stir an online outcry to call on the world football’s governing body to ban Iran from international competitions.

■ **hypocritical sex segregation debate**

Speaking of sex segregation, which is completely irrelevant to this case, it is true that certain sports venues implement a policy of sex separation. Some have exclusive male audiences for men’s team matches, others have special sections for both men and women, while third ones are mixed. However, anyone who has visited Iran can testify that the country is far from some kind of segregationist society, since it does not exist in universities, theaters, cinemas, restaurants, urban transport, offices, mosques, holy shrines, etc. Certain football stadiums are rare exceptions, along with prayer halls, schools and public baths.

Furthermore, there are a number of problems in defining “discrimination,” whether at Iranian or international level. All those who are holding moral lectures about “discriminated women banned from stadiums” forget or intentionally ignore the fact that, in their own words, there are also “discriminated men banned from stadiums.” To be more precise, as there are stadiums for men’s matches with a men-only audience, there are also stadiums for women’s matches with an exclusively female audience. One example is the Ararat Stadium in Tehran, used by Iran women’s national football team.

Debates over two-way segregation in stadiums are being waged within Iran itself, but foreign individuals and organizations operating under the guise of human rights and equality are always hypocritically invoking one-way segregation, specifically female spectators at men’s matches. The reason is apparent; the advocacy of this kind fits perfectly into the archaic Orientalist narrative about “oppressed women,” long propagated in the West and covered extensively in academic literature. The same one-way argument can be applied, for example, to the male-only schools in Iran, ignoring the fact that there are also female-only schools, or that there are plenty of single-sex schools in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and other countries.

One may say that the focus on female spectators is due to the popularity of men’s football, which is partly true. For example, the match between Iran and Belarus at Ararat Stadium in last March was attended by less than one hundred female spectators. Even women’s matches in other countries are not better attended, but this tells us about the global discrimination against women’s football and sports in general. Advocating alleged equality by seeking mixed audience for single-sex matches is a bit ironic itself, despite the fact that female football players can hardly physically compete with their male counterparts. Similar justification is



Dying after setting herself on fire, “Blue Girl” spotlights Iran’s women’s rights movement



Iranian women cheer in October 2018 as they wave their country’s flag after authorities, in a rare move, allowed a select group of women into Tehran’s Azadi Stadium to watch a friendly soccer match between Iran and Bolivia. (Vahid Salemi / Associated Press)

LA Times was among MSM outlets who peddled the “blue girl” story hard.

however difficult to find for sports segregation in numerous international motor racing competitions, which implicitly suggest that women are bad drivers. But this is not the case in Iran, its female racing drivers like Laleh Seddigh and Mitra Fallahpour competed against their male counterparts and won medals, which is a hard-to-find example in most countries of the world.

The only valid argument about sex segregation in football stadiums is the fact that Iran is one of the rare exceptions in a global context. Nevertheless, as in the example of the aforementioned female racing drivers, Iran is also a rare exception in various other fields of women’s emancipation. For example, Iran has women like Zohreh Sefati in the highest level of clergy, while the vast majority of other countries, including Western ones, have none. There is still no media circus or public debate on the issue. Another example is that despite being 4-5 times less populous, Iran has more female students at technical universities than the five largest EU countries combined, or twice as many as the second-ranked United States. Therefore, if you feel morally superior to give Iran lectures on the topic of women in stadiums, keep in mind that Iran can also do the same, but on much more serious topics. And if you believe that female cheerleaders are a better indicator of women’s emancipation than female engineers, then you have a serious problem in understanding gender equality.

The last ones who have a moral right to participate in this public debate are precisely those who were among the first and the loudest about the Blue Girl case, namely anti-Iran activists and the Saudi media clique. The former ones because in the pre-revolutionary period only a quarter of Iranian women were literate, and the latter ones because they represent the country with the most rigid sex segregation in the world, present in virtually all public places. This fact did not hamper The Independent, a half Saudi-owned British newspaper, from being among the first to publish a heartwarming false story, based largely on rumors by the apologists of Pahlavi regime.

■ **The propaganda factory of fake martyrs**

A particularly intriguing case is the role of the United States and the United Kingdom whose mass media and PR agencies have a long tradition of manufacturing fake martyrs for Iranophobic propaganda purposes. Notable cases include Mahmoud Asgari and Ayaz Marhoni, executed in 2005 for allegedly being “gay lovers,” Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, allegedly sentenced to death in 2010 because of “her love for another man,” Zahra Bahrami, alleged “democracy activist” executed in 2011, and Hashem Shabani, an alleged “poet and human rights campaigner” executed in 2014. In reality, the first two were sentenced for raping a 13-year-old boy, the second one for murdering her husband, the third one for drug trafficking, and the fourth one for Takfiri terrorism. These criminals were misrepresented as brave individuals who stood for freedom, and the Internet contains tons of heartbreaking reviews, fake biographies and quotes, calls to action, and so on.

All these cases have a lot more in common: they all emerged during the fiercest tensions between Iran and the United States, they all followed the same propaganda modus operandi, and all were promoted by the same media, organizations and individuals. For example, if you intend to learn more about these controversies on the highly popular English Wikipedia, do not expect anything credible in most cases and bear in mind that literally all articles were arranged by the same person, a pro-Israeli activist nicknamed as Plot Spoiler, who got indefinitely banned only since last year after administrators had uncovered that he was paid for contributions. The current version of the Blue Girl article is arranged by a user who openly declares himself as a monarchist and a hater of the Iranian political system. Do not

Fake news stories from the days of media hypes will appear at the top, while relevant critical reviews and scholarly articles are technically “hidden” for ordinary people.

expect much more from Internet search engines because fake news stories from the days of media hypes will appear at the top, while relevant critical reviews and scholarly articles are technically “hidden” for ordinary people.

In all the above cases, a propaganda campaign followed the same order. First, a particular judicial case was selected, to which rumors and false information were added. Secondly, a distorted version was released in the mass media, causing a moral crusade which involves politicians, organizations, celebrities and others. Everyone is asked for a reaction. Thirdly, after the officials in Tehran deny false information, they accuse it of hiding facts or seeking excuses. A media hype thus keeps going on, along with demonization in the eyes of the world public. Such repetitive method was also used on the eve of aggression against Iraq, misinformation were repeated and the public debate has been prolonged until the majority of Americans were misled that Baghdad had weapons of mass destruction and military invasion was justified. A propaganda campaign sometimes includes a fourth step: when certain trial does not end in line with false sensationalist announcements, they claim that Iran has withdrawn under international pressure. This gives an impetus for a new round of same games, particularly among benevolent but manipulated activist volunteers, who believe that their babbling on social networks has an impact on the Iranian judiciary.

There is no shortage of resources for such games and potential “martyrs,” especially pseudo-feminist ones, as there are currently 7,440 women in Iranian prisons. It is easy to dig up domestic news, turn numerous stories upside down, and claim that trials are “dubious” or “unfair.” Theoretically, it is, even more easier to do the same with the United States, considering there are 211,870 women imprisoned in that country or proportionally seven times higher than in Iran, but in practice virtually no one bothers with such facts and all find it quite normal when Americans are holding moral lectures. One may wonder whether it is because of the well-known “credibility” of the US courts, the same ones that seized billions of Iranian assets, delivered a verdict holding Iran responsible for the 9/11 attacks, and ordered the sale of Iranian antique art from American museums. Or perhaps many find the US trustworthy because their official criticism is always confirmed and joined by “eminent” Human Rights Watch?

Human Rights Watch (HRW), as well as similar US-funded organizations allegedly in charge of “promoting human rights,” plays an already seen game. Their modus operandi is to act in symbiosis with the mass media and Washington’s politics: at the beginning of propaganda campaigns, they back the biased claims and timely participate in provoking mass outrage, but after the media circus passes and its purpose was served, then they publish a more factual review, thus building the reputation of a credible and neutral institution. In this particular case, the HRW’s report about the Blue Girl contains a false balance, i.e., they do mention her mental illness and certain statements by her sister, but the title and most of the text deals with unfounded criticism, thus serving as a reference for the more aggressive mass media. Later, they can simply deny earlier allegations or the whole story; however, media coverage will then be absent. The most (in)famous example of such modus operandi is the false testimony of a Kuwaiti girl that helped build public support for the First Persian Gulf War. Both Human Rights Watch and their British equivalent Amnesty International initially supported the story of Iraqi teeny Kuwaiti babies from incubators and issued corrections only after the war. In other words, they fulfilled the task of their governments, and as “truthful organizations that acknowledge their own mistakes,” they continued to fulfill the same tasks later.

Even if the Blue Girl was a sane girl and immolated herself in political protest, which is definitely not the case, the United States would be among the last in a position to criticize. In just a few months before the self-immolation of Czech student Jan Palach, a celebrated anti-Soviet dissident who gained huge media coverage in the West, eight US citizens self-immolated themselves in protest against the Vietnam War. The media coverage of these American examples was negligible, as was in cases with ten other US citizens who later set themselves on fire in various political protests. On the other hand, no such case has been recorded in Iran, with the exception of two rumors based on dubious dissident sources.

The only valid criticism of the Iranian authorities over the Blue Girl case is that they treated her as an average sane person in the first three days. The security forces defended themselves that they did not know about her mental condition, further explaining that it was not even possible to know in given circumstances, which can be seen as a valid excuse. Even with regard to the treatment of people with a mental health condition, the United States would be the last candidate to sit on a high horse. We do not have to deal with hypothetical questions about what would happen if someone refuses a security check and violently attacks policemen at the US stadium gates, it is enough to recall the empirically confirmed cases of Artogi Groshe, Kevin Thorpe, Ronald Madison and many others. All of them were shot for resisting the police, and the responsible police officers later confronted them with fact that they killed people with mental disabilities, not arrogant criminals.

Exploiting the tragic death of a mentally ill person for political purposes of any kind is disgustingly shameful and below any human level. The same goes for this article, its purpose is not to justify any state policy, security guards or stadium rules, but merely to point out lies, hypocrisy, double standards and mass propaganda. Out of respect for the victim and her family who criticized the intense politicization in the foreign media, the identity of Blue Girl is deliberately not mentioned in the text. It’s not hard to notice that these media manipulations emerged in the midst of US-Iranian tensions and warmongering propaganda, orchestrated by the same group of people who called Iranians as “a terrorist nation,” sanctioned Iranian humanitarian organizations like Setad, along with child cancer patients and flood victims. They had previously manipulated the emotions of the world public with the aim of provoking a war with hundreds of thousands dead, and judging by their latest actions, they would be happy to repeat it all. Ultimately, we should remember that one of the basic points of John Bolton’s policy towards Iran included “a close cooperation with the media.” He may be gone, but his policies and old manipulation methods are still alive.


Major media bury groundbreaking studies of pentagon’s massive carbon footprint

By Joshua Cho

FAIR — In 2010, Project Censored (10/2/10) found that the “U.S. military is responsible for the most egregious and widespread pollution of the planet, yet this information and accompanying documentation goes almost entirely unreported.”

Almost a decade later, Project Censored’s observations are still applicable, with two major studies published in June remaining buried by most major media outlets. The first study, Pentagon Fuel Use, Climate Change, and the Costs of War, by Neta Crawford for Brown University’s Costs of War Project, confirmed previous findings that the U.S. military is “the single-largest producer of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the world,” and that the Pentagon is responsible for between “77 percent and 80 percent of all U.S. government energy consumption” since 2001, and that from the beginning of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 to 2017, the U.S. military emitted approximately 1.2 billion metric tons of CO2 equivalent.

The second study, Hidden Carbon Costs of the ‘Everywhere War’: Logistics, Geopolitical Ecology, and the Carbon Footprint of the U.S. Military, published by Oliver Belcher, Benjamin Neimark, and Patrick Bigger from Durham and Lancaster universities in the Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers (6/19), found that if the U.S. military were a country, its “fuel usage alone would make it the 47th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sitting between Peru and Portugal.”



Authors of both studies note how “existing military aircraft and warships” are “locking the U.S. military into hydrocarbons for years to come.” (Photo: Scott Nelson/Getty Images).

Yet these groundbreaking studies received no coverage in virtually all the U.S.’s biggest newspapers and TV news channels. An initial search in the Nexis news database from June 1 to Oct. 4 of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, NPR, PBS, ABC, MSNBC, CBS, and CNN turned up nothing.

A broader Nexis search of all the English-language outlets only confirmed that the biggest media outlets in the country, with much better resources for reporting, are burying the study.

Here’s a list of the outlets, according to the Nexis news database, that mentioned the Costs of War study:

- Arab American News (U.S.)
- Indian Agriculture News (India)
- Yerepouni Daily News (Armenia)
- Pressenza International Press Agency (Ecuador)
- Washington Examiner (U.S.)
- Defense Monitor Worldwide (U.S.)
- International Business Times India (India)
- The Conversation (U.S.)
- Straits Times (Singapore)
- The Nation (U.S.)
- Defense One (U.S.)
- Real News Network (U.S.)

Here’s a list of the outlets, according to Nexis, that mentioned the study published in the Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers:

- Daily Mail (U.K.)
- Asian News International (India)
- Science Daily (U.S.)

To be fair, Nexis isn’t able to catch every report or reprints in other outlets. On my own, I found nothing that contradicts the finding that these studies are being buried by most of the biggest media outlets in the U.S. But these studies were mentioned by Reuters (6/12/19), Grist (6/12/19), Gizmodo (6/13/19), Bloomberg (6/13/19), USA Today (6/14/19), Forbes (6/13/19), GQ (9/13/19), The Hill (6/13/19), New York Post (6/13/19), CNBC (6/13/19), U.K. Independent (6/13/19), Intercept (9/15/19), TomDispatch (6/23/19), and Mic (6/26/19). The Real News Network (7/10/19) provided exemplary reporting on these two studies by featuring their authors in an interview to discuss their findings.

Aside from the findings, these studies are also especially significant because they’re the first to use comprehensive data based on the publicly available emissions data from the Department of Energy, and on multiple Freedom of Information Act requests to the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency managing the U.S. military’s supply chains, which includes hydrocarbon fuel purchases and distribution. Most greenhouse gas accounting focuses on how much energy and fuel civilians use, because it has always been difficult to obtain reliable and consistent data on the Pentagon’s carbon footprint; the Pentagon doesn’t publicly and regularly report its fuel consumption or greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite not signing the 1992 Kyoto Protocol international agreement to fight climate change, the U.S. succeeded in obtaining an exemption for all countries’ militaries from having to report, let alone cut, their carbon emissions, which Congress later locked in. Although that exemption was later removed by the 2015 Paris Accord—despite the Obama administration’s longstanding policy of undermining international climate agreements—the Trump administration has the U.S. due to withdraw from the Paris Accord in 2020 (New York Times, 6/1/17), which would make it harder to collect data and conduct future studies like the ones above. This is why it’s especially important for media outlets to cover studies like this when they’re published.

Although the authors of both studies acknowledge that the U.S. military has been cutting its emissions over the years, they both note how “existing military aircraft and warships” are “locking the U.S. military into hydrocarbons for years to come,” and that the “Pentagon does not acknowledge that its own fuel use is a major contributor to climate change.” That shouldn’t be surprising. Given corporate media’s propagandizing for starting and staying in wars (FAIR.org, 10/23/17, 9/11/19) and for never-ending arms races (FAIR.org, 5/17/19, 7/12/19), one should expect corporate media to bury evidence that the U.S. military is a threat to itself and its citizens with its massive carbon output.

Mighan wetland hosts migratory birds once again

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Mighan wetland in central province of Markazi has returned back to life due to above normal rainfall and is now home to flocks of migratory birds which come to spend the winter, Mehr reported on Tuesday. Mighan wetland is among the most important sites for ecotourism and bird-sighting in the country, which is home to over 130 migratory bird species, including cranes, ducks, flamingos, and geese.



In February, Ezzatollah Amere’ei, the provincial water company director, told IRNA that some 100 million cubic meters of water is flowing in the wetland, however, it can contain water twice the current amount.

According to the data published by National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to Iran’s Meteorological Organization, since the beginning of the current water years (starting on September 23, 2018) Markazi province has received 436.3 millimeters of rain, which shows a 268.4 percent rise compared to that of last year, in addition to 88 percent increase in comparison to long term means of 232.1 millimeters.

Every year, when the autumn begin, birds migrate up to thousands of kilometers returning to the same place they migrated to last year.

High temperatures, food shortages and habitat destruction are the main causes of their migration, but despite the fascinating view they on the wetlands and ponds, sometimes increase the risk of avian influenza transmission.

The veterinary office and the provincial department of environment (DOE) are responsible for controlling these outbreaks when occurs.

■ Efforts being made to reduce burden of avian influenza

Mohsen Shaneghi, director of veterinary office of Markazi province, said that since the beginning of this year, more than 5,000 flu tests have been carried out in various industrial and rural poultry as well as natural habitats in the province, with all the results being negative, now surveillance have intensified to prevent the disease from occurring.

No cases of bird flu in the province have been reported last year, and the country has been free of the disease till now, but care is constantly done to control the possible outbreak, he stated.

He went on to note that there is a team consisting of two forces who monitor the bird flu in all the cities of the province and report the results.

Abbas Joudaki, the provincial DOE director, told Mehr that last week “we witnessed the migration of a thousand of flamingos to the Mighan wetland, and in recent weeks Siberian cranes migrated to the area.”

These migratory birds stay during the winter and almost by the end of the year, and some even stay in the wetland until early spring, then return to the northern areas after the hatching season, so their deployment is almost long, he explained.

Every year since the migration of birds to the area begins, monitoring of the wetland and its margins is constantly on the agenda, he said, highlighting, in case of any carcasses found in areas, the veterinarians are dispatched to determine the cause of death.

Of course, deaths usually occur in the wetland however are not always caused by the flu, he said, explaining, there is a parasitic disease in some birds that infects due to contaminated food and can lead to death.

“We try our best to prevent the prevalence of bird flu and reduce the huge economic burden of diseases in poultry industry,” he concluded.

WORDS IN THE NEWS

War on Terrorism Phase Two

(January 09, 2002)

In an interview with the New York Times, the US Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, has said the next phase of America’s war on terrorism will focus on preventing terrorist groups establishing a foothold in such places as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia and the Philippines. This report from Roger Hardy. The interview with Mr Wolfowitz, seen as one of the more **hawkish** members of the US administration, makes it clear that while the Americans have not ended their military involvement in Afghanistan, they’re already active in a number of other areas. In that sense, the **much-discussed** Phase Two of President Bush’s war on terrorism has already begun. As in Afghanistan, the Americans want others to do the fighting wherever possible. They’re helping friendly governments, in the Philippines for example, with **counter-terrorist** training. In lawless states like Somalia, which lack a strong central government, they’re trying to find reliable **proxy forces**. One of the most difficult things, Mr Wolfowitz said, was to establish which of America’s current «**allies of convenience**», as he put it, would become real allies over the long term. Some countries were afraid of **getting on the wrong side of** America, they weren’t acting, he said, **out of the goodness of their heart**. The interview reinforces the impression that the United States is **putting a string of** governments **on probation** giving them a chance to carry out their promises to act against people the Americans regard as terrorists. But the **undisguised** threat is that, if they don’t do enough, the Americans are ready to take action themselves, preferably with their allies, but if necessary alone.

■ Words

hawkish: more interested in violence and force than peaceful, diplomatic methods

much-discussed: people have been talking about it a lot

counter-terrorist: anti-terrorist

proxy forces: people who will carry out military actions on your behalf

allies of convenience: friendly because it suits them at the moment

getting on the wrong side of: making someone angry

out of the goodness of their heart: because they’re nice, kind people

a string of: a number of

putting on probation: here, watching carefully to see that someone behaves properly

undisguised: clear, obvious

(Source: BBC)

WHO Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean kicks off

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — The 66th session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean opened in Tehran on Tuesday.

Health ministers and high-level representatives of the 22 countries and territories of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, partner organizations and civil society are taking part in the 3-day event.

During the opening ceremony, Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that cruel U.S. sanctions and denial of access to drugs, medical equipment and food are crimes against humanity, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

■ Achievements towards universal health coverage

Iran is committed to fully implement the resolutions of the WHO and the United Nations on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and universal coverage of health services, and has achieved remarkable success in this regard, Namaki highlighted.

He went on to note that prior to the Alma-Ata Declaration [in 1978], Iran had provided health care services to all its citizens, so that in the past four decades it had set up 17,000 of health centers which are under supervision of comprehensive health system.

In October 2018, heads of state and government, ministers and representatives of states and governments, participated in the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, in Kazakhstan, reaffirming the commitments expressed in the visionary Declaration of Alma-Ata of 1978 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in pursuit of Health for All.

Namaki highlighted that Iran could provide comprehensive health coverage of the rural population by 100 percent and the urban population by 90 percent.

■ Infant, maternal mortality declined

Iran succeeded in reducing maternal mortality from 200 to less than 20 per 100,000 live births by 2018, while infant mortality also



decreased from 120 per 1,000 live births to less than 17.4 per 1,000 live births, he added.

Increasing child immunization rate to over 98 percent is the other important achievements, he emphasized.

Stating that the Iranian health care system has been repeatedly approved by the WHO, Namaki said that in 2014, Iran adopted a health transformation plan that aims to provide everyone with access to quality health services without imposing heavy financial burdens and supporting low-income groups of the society.

■ A step toward reducing the burden of NCDs

Undoubtedly one of the major challenges for the health system in the world is non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the leading one of which is hypertension, he lamented, noting, in this regard, Iran launched a national blood pressure campaign last summer that covered 31 million people over the age of 30 while identified and treated 2 million new cases.

■ Flood response a commendable model

“During the recent floods that has engulfed

our country, the Iranian health system has shown, without any foreign technical assistance, the ability to deal with natural disasters; constant monitoring prevented all epidemic intestinal illness usually caused by contaminated water or food.

Measures implemented in response to flood have provided a unique model that can be exploited as a successful model in crisis management for the WHO,” Namaki stated.

■ On the way to eradication

“We are implementing one of the most successful health care models to eradicate malaria,” he said, adding, as before that accomplished a comprehensive strategy to eliminate Measles including mass immunization campaign for people aged 5-25 years.

Iran, as head of the 9th WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, calls on countries to reduce the prevalence of drug use and recommend intensification of activities in this field, urging countries to decrease tobacco consumption by 30 percent by 2050, along with fighting illicit trade, he also announced.

What we eat determines our health and future

1 → What’s the alternative?

It is important for us to change our approaches in terms of the food we produce, process and consume.

At governmental level, countries must expand their agriculture policies beyond staple food production to include investments and research on crops such as fruits, vegetables and legumes. The officials should put in place policies and laws with proper incentives to protect healthy diets and encourage the private sector to produce healthier foods. Governments also need to adopt agriculture-led approaches that protect biodiversity and promote dietary diversity through solutions such as home gardens and other homestead food production models, intercropping and mixed landscapes, promotion of forgotten and under-utilized local crops, improved irrigation, aquaculture, responsible fisheries and small animal production systems.

When it comes to the farmers, they can make a contri-

bution to sustainable food and nutrition security through pursuing ways to grow more food with the same amount of land, water and agricultural inputs broadening their use of new tools that make weather and market-related information more available to all, and getting involved in policy, programme and monitoring processes to make their voices heard.

Private sector should cooperate and follow government regulations in restructuring food chains to make final healthier.

As consumers, we can support local food producers, adopt a more nutritious diet, reduce food waste and be more environmentally conscious. We must increase our intake of fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains.

FAO based on its broad network of offices, partners and technical expertise could provide countries with information on various dimensions of malnutrition and support

national efforts to develop food and nutrition policies, legislation and dietary guidelines.

Two days ago FAO released its new edition of the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), a flagship report that aims at bringing to a wider audience balanced science-based assessments regarding world food losses and waste. The report released the Food Loss Index (FLI) which indicates that globally – in term of economic value – around 14 percent of food produced is lost from post-harvest up to, but not including, the retail level.

“Our actions are Our future,” today we celebrate the World Food Day calling people and stakeholders all around the world to take action to make healthy and sustainable diets accessible and affordable to everyone.

FAO calls on everyone to start thinking about the environmental impact of the foods we eat and make choices that benefit our health but also the environment.

Toxic algal blooms increasing in lakes worldwide, study finds

Toxic algal blooms which can be fatal to humans, are increasing across the world as temperatures rise, according to the first global survey of dozens of freshwater lakes based on 30 years of Nasa data.

The increase is being driven by climate change, run off from chemicals used in agriculture and urban development, according to the research published in the journal Nature.

In humans, algae blooms cause symptoms such as tingling, numbness, shaking, slurring of speech, burning of the stomach and fever. They also release toxins that can cause

liver damage, lead to respiratory paralysis or produce other fatal conditions.

A number of dogs have been killed after drinking water containing algal blooms.

Researchers from Carnegie Institution for Science used data from Nasa and the US’s Geological Survey’s Landsat 5 near-Earth satellite which monitored the planet between 1984 and 2013. They studied long-term trends in 71 large lakes in 33 countries on six continents and analysed more than 72 billion data points.

Co-author Jeff Ho from the Carnegie Institution for Science told The Independent:

“It’s been well known that nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are the main drivers of algal blooms. Usually they get into lakes and reservoirs after extreme participation events and when they are in the lake, warmer temperatures exacerbate algal blooms.

“Climate change means extreme weather events are increasing which increases runoff of these chemicals.” There were very few lakes in which algal bloom improved, researchers found. The lakes that did were ones that warmed the least which suggests global warming counteracts management efforts to improve water quality.



(Source: The Independent)

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9680034

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
40	P/F"ROLLS-ROYCE"INDUSTRIAL AVON GAS GENERATOR AVON MK.1533-34-76G/101G REF. ROLLS-ROYCE LTD	1. 854

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their “ Intention to participate” letter via Fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: WWW.nisoc.ir , not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the .tender will be disregarded

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit .a bid bond of 35,925 EURO or 4,525 ,689,345 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, AGHA JARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’ S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437
Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir
تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۱ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۲۴

Russia will not allow clashes between Turkey and Syria

Russia patrolling Manbij dividing line between Turkish and Syrian forces

TEHRAN — Russia said on Tuesday it would not allow clashes between Turkey and Syria as Ankara presses a military operation against Kurdish forces.

“This would simply be unacceptable,” Moscow’s special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentyev, was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies. “And therefore we will not allow it, of course.”

Lavrentyev also called Turkey’s military offensive in northeast Syria “unacceptable” Tuesday and complained that the operation had not been cleared by Moscow in advance, the Interfax news agency reported.

He confirmed that Russia had brokered an agreement between the Syrian government and Kurdish forces that saw the Kurds cede control of territory to Syrian troops, AFP reported.

■ Russia patrolling Manbij dividing line

Russian troops are patrolling front lines between Turkish and Syrian army positions outside Manbij in a bid to keep the forces separated, Russia’s defense ministry said.

“No one is interested” in potential fighting between Syrian government troops and Turkish forces, Russia’s envoy for Syria Al-



exander Lavrentyev told Russian state news agencies. Russia “is not going to allow it,” he said.

A video posted online by Russian journalists travelling with the country’s soldiers meanwhile showed what appeared to be an

abandoned outpost where U.S. troops had been stationed earlier.

■ UN urges Turkey to investigate executions in Syria

Turkey could be deemed responsible for summary executions by an affiliated armed

group of captured Kurdish fighters and a politician, acts that may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said.

Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN human rights office, said video footage appeared to show executions of three Kurdish captives carried out by Ahrar al-Sharqiya fighters, affiliated with Turkey, on the highway between Hassakeh and Manbij on October 12.

The UN had received reports that Hevrin Khalaf, a Kurdish politician, was executed on the same highway by the same group on the same day, Colville said.

“Turkey could be deemed responsible as a state for violations by their affiliated groups as long as Turkey exercises effective control of these groups or the operations in the course of which those violations occurred,” he told a news briefing, adding that UN war crimes investigators would follow up on all incidents.

“We urge Turkish authorities immediately to launch an impartial, transparent and independent investigation and to apprehend those responsible, some of whom should be easily identifiable from the video footage they themselves shared on social media,” Colville said.

India blocks SMS services in Kashmir after trucker killed

TEHRAN — Text messaging services were blocked in Indian Kashmir just hours after being restored when a truck driver was killed by suspected militants and his vehicle set ablaze, authorities said Tuesday.

Separately Indian officials said that a 24-year-old woman died in the latest exchange of artillery fire with Pakistan over their de-facto border dividing the blood-soaked Himalayan region.

Security sources said the decision to cut text messaging services was taken to reduce the ability of militants to communicate.

Indian authorities had only restored call and text services for mobile phones on Monday, following a 72-day blackout in the restive northern territory imposed after New Delhi scrapped the region’s semi-autonomous status.

The seven million-plus people of the Kashmir Valley -- the main hotbed of resistance to Indian rule -- are still cut off from the internet, however.

Authorities said SMS services were cut again on Monday night following the attack on the driver of a truck carrying apples in Shopian.

Residents said two masked gunmen told the driver to use his truck to block the road,

but it skidded and got stuck.

“The gunmen then fired at the truck and set it on fire,” a witness told AFP.

Apples are a sensitive issue in Kashmir, which exports vast quantities of the fruit to markets across India.

Many orchard owners say they are refusing to harvest this year to protest against the government’s move to scrap Kashmir’s autonomy.

Indian authorities say that militants -- backed by arch-rival Pakistan -- have been intimidating farmers and businessmen.

The latest death from Pakistani artillery fire over the Line of Control (LoC) dividing Kashmir brings the number of fatalities on the Indian side to three in the past four days, the Press Trust of India reported.

Two Indian soldiers were killed in two separate incidents on Friday and Sunday, PTI said. It was unclear if there were any fatalities from Indian fire on the Pakistani side.

Also on Tuesday, police arrested 13 women activists in Srinagar after they staged a protest calling for civil liberties and the release of detainees.

Israel violates intl. law, wants to impose new status quo: Michel Aoun

TEHRAN — Lebanese President Michel Aoun has censured the Israeli regime over breaching international regulations, treaties and principles, and seeking to impose a new fait accompli in the occupied territories.

“Israel violates other states’ sovereignty, occupies the Golan Heights while declaring al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital and occupying Palestinian territories,” Aoun said during an event in the capital Beirut.

The Lebanese president then described the Israeli regime’s violation of international law as a dangerous precedent of the conspiracies being hatched for the Middle East region.

“It is true that big wars have receded somehow; but their repercussions continue to have a bad impact. The most dangerous issue in this framework is the investment of these wars’ impacts by fragmenting the east to establish new alliances based on racism and sectarianism,” he said.

Aoun then strongly condemned the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem al-Quds as the capital of Israel, and the Tel Aviv regime “flagrant violation of all international law and resolutions.”

“Israel’s violations include settlement expansion, racist legislation and its disre-

spect for the inviolability of internationally recognized borders,” the Lebanese president pointed out.

U.S. President Donald Trump on December 6, 2017 defied global warnings and said Washington formally recognized Jerusalem al-Quds as the capital of Israel.

His decision infuriated the Palestinians, who declared that Washington could no longer play a role as lead mediator in the Middle East peace process. It also sparked outrage across the Muslim world and even Washington’s Arab allies.

The United Nations General Assembly on December 21 that year overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution that calls on the U.S. to withdraw its controversial recognition of Jerusalem al-Quds as the Israeli capital.

According to Press TV, on May 14, 2018, the United States officially announced the opening of its new embassy in Jerusalem al-Quds.

“Today we open the United States embassy in Jerusalem [al-Quds], Israel,” U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said at the beginning of the inaugural ceremony on Monday, attended by a U.S. delegation from Washington and officials of the Israeli regime.

EU’s Barnier sees three Brexit scenarios: deal, extension, ‘breakdown’: sources

TEHRAN — The European Union’s Brexit negotiator told the 27 EU states staying on together that he saw three possible scenarios ahead: a deal with Britain later on Tuesday, another delay to Britain’s departure or a “breakdown” of talks, according to diplomats with the bloc.

Barnier also told EU ministers meeting in Luxembourg that customs arrangements for the island of Ireland, the issue of giving more say to Northern Irish authorities as well as the so-called level-playing field clauses were all still open in the talks, the diplomats also told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Finland’s prime minister, Antti Rinne, said on Tuesday that for the first time, it looked like Britain was trying to reach an agreement to avoid a hard Brexit at the end of October.

“For the first time I feel that Britain is seriously trying,” Rinne told a news conference in Helsinki.

Finland holds EU’s rotating presidency.

The European Union gave Britain until the end of Tuesday to work out a Brexit deal that can be approved at a leaders’ summit this week but said a delay to the Oct. 31 scheduled departure date and a breakdown of talks were also still on the cards.



If London is unable to clinch a deal, an acrimonious divorce could follow that would hit trade and business, roil financial markets and potentially lead to the United Kingdom splitting.

Even if he wins the approval of Europe’s big powers, Johnson must still sell any deal to a British parliament in which he has no majority.

Johnson, a leading figure in the 2016 referendum who came to power as head of ruling Conservative Party in July, has pledged to take the country out of the bloc on Oct. 31 whether or not a withdrawal agreement has been reached.

But parliament has passed a law saying it cannot leave without an agreement and Johnson has not explained how he can get around that.

British Brexit Minister Stephen Barclay struck a positive note in Luxembourg, saying a deal was “still very possible.”

As ministers met in Luxembourg, British Brexit negotiator David Frost held another round of negotiations with the EU’s executive European Commission in Brussels.

“The possibility of a deal is clear,” a French official said Macron and Johnson spoke. “A possibility of a deal is still not the same as having a deal.”

A spokesman for Johnson said the British leader told Macron that London would work hard to secure a deal before the summit. A German government source said London had to move further to get there.

Second Greek migrant camp in flames as arrivals continue to rise

TEHRAN — A fire in a severely overcrowded migrant camp in Greece forced hundreds of people into the streets, compounding their plight with more refugees arriving on Greek islands daily in what an aid group called a worsening “nightmare”.

Greece sent more police to the island of Samos on Tuesday after the fire, which

occurred two weeks after a deadly blaze at a troubled camp on nearby Lesbos triggered protests there.

The Samos fire flared outside the camp on Monday night, firefighters said, before spreading inside. Earlier, three Syrians had been taken to hospital with stab wounds suffered in a fight with a group of Afghans, police said.

Several tents and housing containers were destroyed and 600 people were given shelter by aid groups, the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) charity said. It estimates that half of the camp’s residents are women and children.

“This nightmare must end!” MSF wrote on Twitter. “Children and other vulnerable

people must be evacuated from the Greek islands to safe accommodation.”

According to Reuters, Greece is struggling with the biggest resurgence in refugee and migrant flows across the Aegean Sea from Turkey since a 2015 crisis when more than a million streamed into Europe, many of them entering the continent via Greece.

Arrival of resistance forces in northern Syria: Erdogan’s failed political calculations

➤ Earlier, Ankara had been warned that if tensions in northern Syria were to escalate, army and resistance groups in the country would extend their efforts to stabilize the eastern Euphrates. However, Turkish officials ignored those warnings.

It seems that the arrival of resistance forces and

the change of Erdogan’s calculations can put an end to illegal operations of Turkish forces against Syria as an independent and sovereign state. It should be noted that because of successive achievements against the Takfiri terrorism, the resistance movement in Syria is at its best condition.

It is obvious that the current developments in the north and northeast Syria due to the arrival of resistance forces have entered a new phase. Undoubtedly, the Syrian resistance forces will overcome the Turkish army in any possible military conflicts, and will not allow Erdogan’s dreams come true.

Nearly 70,000 children displaced as violence escalates in northeast Syria

➤ “Despite the ongoing violence, UNICEF is working through partners to deliver immediate assistance including: * Emergency assistance to families arriving at collective shelters.

* 95,000 litres of water and 12 water tanks to mitigate water shortages in shelters in Al-Hasakeh city.

* Planned repairs to the A'louk station.

* Primary health consultations, including nutrition screening, to women and children.

* Foster arrangements for 13 separated children.

“In addition, UNICEF continues to support the delivery of clean water and provide health and nutrition services in Al-Hol camp, home to nearly 64,000 children and women.

“As violence continues to escalate, UNICEF renews its calls on all parties to the conflict and those who have influence over them to protect children at all times. Those fighting in the northeast and elsewhere in Syria must protect civilian infrastructure and not use it for military gains.”

U.S. imposes sanctions on Turkey over Syria offensive

TEHRAN — The United States has imposed sanctions on two Turkish ministries and three senior government officials over the country’s military offensive against Kurdish militants in northern Syria.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury said in a statement on Monday that it has imposed sanctions on Turkey’s Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, as well as the heads of the two ministries and the minister of the interior in response to the country’s military operations in Syria.

Earlier on Monday, President Donald Trump also released a statement to announce new sanctions against “current and former officials of the Government of Turkey and any persons contributing to Turkey’s destabilizing actions in northeast Syria.”

He said he will be soon issuing an “Executive Order” which authorizes the imposition of these sanctions.

He also vowed to increase tariffs on Turkish steel by up to 50 percent, and immediately stop negotiations with respect to a \$100 billion trade deal with Turkey.

Trump also telephoned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and demanded an immediate ceasefire, Vice President Mike Pence said.

Pence announced that he would be traveling to the region “as quickly as possible.”

According to press TV, in another tweet on Monday, Trump said that “big sanctions” on Turkey were coming in response to the country’s military offensive in northern Syria.

“Big sanctions on Turkey coming! Do people really think we should go to war with NATO Member Turkey? Never ending wars will end!” he tweeted.

Mossad chief admits to having ‘prestigious’ assassination list

TEHRAN — Yossi Cohen, who is the director of the Israeli spy agency Mossad, has acknowledged having a “prestigious” assassination list at his disposal, claiming that targeting foreign influential figures, including Iran’s Major General Qassem Soleimani, is “not impossible.”

“With all due respect to his bluster, he hasn’t necessarily committed the mistake yet that would place him on the prestigious list of Mossad’s assassination targets,” Cohen said in reference to General Soleimani, a globally famous Iranian defense strategist who played a key role in the counterterrorism operations that led to the collapse of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

The Times of Israel published the remarks on October 11.

“He knows very well that his assassination is not impossible. His actions are identified and felt everywhere... There’s no doubt the infrastructure he built presents a serious challenge for Israel,” Cohen argued.

The New York Times had earlier revealed a March 2017 meeting in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, in which top Saudi intelligence officials close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman asked a small group of businessmen last year about using private companies to assassinate Iranian enemies of the kingdom..

According to Press TV, Last week, the intelligence unit of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said it had thwarted an Arab-Israeli plot to assassinate General Soleimani, who commands the IRGC’s Quds Force, in the southeastern Iranian province of Kerman.

Cohen’s remarks come after a senior Israeli minister boasted that Israel was the only entity “in the world killing Iranians” with impunity. He said that only a minority of the Israeli regime’s bombing raids on Iranian targets in Syria had been publicly acknowledged.

UN Security Council to meet on Syria, likely on Wednesday

TEHRAN — The United Nations Security Council will likely meet on Wednesday to discuss latest developments in Syria, diplomats said, adding that a closed-door discussion had been requested by the body’s five European members - Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and Poland.

It will be the second council meeting since Turkey began a military incursion across its southern border with Syria, days after U.S. troops pulled back from the area, Reuters reported.

Anti-racism body says England game should have been abandoned

Anti-racism organization Kick It Out has criticized European football's governing body UEFA for failing to abandon Monday's Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria after England's black players were subjected to monkey chants.

The game was twice halted in the first half, first when England manager Gareth Southgate informed the UEFA delegate about incidents and a public announcement was made.

The abuse continued and the Group A match, which England went on to win 6-0, was again temporarily suspended by the referee under a three-step UEFA protocol for tackling abuse.

UEFA said it would announce possible disciplinary proceedings later on Tuesday or on Wednesday once it had received full reports from match officials.

Around 50 black-clad Bulgarian fans, some of whom were seen making Nazi salutes, left the stadium before halftime and the second half was completed without further stoppages.

Kick It Out said it was "sickened by the disgusting racist abuse" and suggested UEFA should have taken stronger action.

"We are encouraged that the protocol was initially enforced by the match officials, but UEFA must explain why players weren't sent to the dressing room during Step Two, as is clearly stated in the rules," a statement read.

"TV footage also clearly shows that racist abuse continued in the second half, so it is unacceptable that Step Three was not enforced. This match should have been abandoned by the officials.

"It's now time for UEFA to step up and show some leadership. For far too long, they have consistently failed to take effective action."

The first step of UEFA's protocol was enacted after 28 minutes when England defender Tyrone Mings was subjected to abuse and an announcement was made calling on supporters to stop using racist chants.

(Source: Eurosport)

Derby pair banned after pleading guilty to drink-driving

Derby players Tom Lawrence and Mason Bennett avoided prison after they admitted drink-driving over a crash that left their club captain seriously injured.

Wales international Lawrence and Bennett were detained by police after the incident shortly before midnight on September 24, which followed a team-building dinner.

Both players admitted drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident when they appeared at Derby magistrates' court on Tuesday.

District Judge Jonathan Taaffe had warned the players that a prison sentence was an option but the men walked free from court after probation services told the hearing of concerns they would struggle in custody.

He imposed a 12-month community order on both defendants, ordering them to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work, and banned them from driving for two years.

The judge told them both: "You are extremely fortunate to be here today. You had been drinking and have been involved in a road traffic collision that could have led to death."

"You are both intelligent and talented young men who have brought shame upon yourselves, your family, your profession and your club," he said.

Richard Keogh, captain of the Championship club, suffered a serious leg injury in the crash and will miss the rest of the season.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Fati, Felix, Haaland, Sancho on Golden Boy list

Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix, who has been labelled the "new Cristiano Ronaldo" could achieve something his Portugal teammate failed as he was named as one of the final 20 nominees for the 2019 Golden Boy award.

The honor, presented by Italian newspaper Tuttosport, is given to the best player aged 21 and under. Juventus defender Matthijs de Ligt is the holder but, as with Paris Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe the year before, the champion is not allowed to retain his title.

Felix joined Atletico from Benfica in the summer for €126 million and the 19-year-old is the favorite to win the award.

However, Felix will face serious competition Borussia Dortmund winger Jadon Sancho, as well as Barcelona's 16-year-old sensation Ansu Fati.

FC Salzburg forward Erling Haaland is also in contention, along with Bayer Leverkusen's highly rated midfielder Kai Havertz. Bayern Munich's Canada international Alphonso Davies is also among the nominees.

The award first started in 2003 with Rafael van der Vaart, then of Ajax, the first recipient. Manchester United's Wayne Rooney won it a year later, before Lionel Messi claimed the award in 2005.

Other notable winners include Sergio Agüero, Mario Balotelli, Paul Pogba and Raheem Sterling.

(Source : ESPN)

Guardiola: The Catalan leaders' sentence is an attack on human rights

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola has spoken out in opposition to the sentence handed to Catalan independence leaders after their imprisonment on Monday.

Spain's Supreme Court sentenced nine Catalan leaders to prison terms ranging from nine to 13 years for, in part, an alleged misuse of funds for their role in the failed bid for independence in 2017.

Guardiola, though, expressed his opinion that the decision is an attack against human rights such as the right to assembly and demonstration, the right to freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial.

«The leaders condemned today [Monday] represent the majority of political parties in Catalonia,» Guardiola said in a press release done simultaneously through TV3, the BBC and AFP.

«Spain lives in an authoritarian drift in which anti-terrorist laws are used to prosecute dissent.

«This fight won't stop until the repression stops and we find a peaceful and democratic solution.»

(Source: Marca)

Bulgarian football chief turns down PM's call to resign

Bulgarian Football Union's (BFU) president Borislav Mihaylov has turned down the prime minister's call to resign following racist abuse and monkey chants from Bulgaria fans towards black England players during their Euro 2020 qualifier.

Prime minister Boyko Borissov called earlier on Tuesday for former goalkeeper Mihaylov to step down after the match, won 6-0 by England, was temporarily halted by the referee to tackle abuse from the crowd under a three-step protocol by European soccer governing body UEFA.

"Of course he would not resign," BFU's spokesman Hristo Zapryanov said. "The state has no right to demand that and interfere in football.

"The football union cannot be held responsible for the hooliganism of a group of people."

Zapryanov said that the BFU's executive committee will have a meeting on Friday where Mihaylov will make a statement.

A group of black-clad Bulgarian fans, some of whom were making right-wing salutes, were moved from an area behind the dugout at the Vasil Levski national stadium with home team captain Ivelin Popov trying to appeal to the supporters in a heated discussion at halftime.

"I urge Borislav Mihaylov to immediately resign as president of the Bulgarian Football Union!" Boyko Borissov posted on Facebook after the footage of Monday night's match



was seen around the world on television and social media.

"It is unacceptable for Bulgaria, which is one of the most tolerant countries in the world, and people of different ethnicities and religions live in peace, to be associated with racism and xenophobia."

Winger Raheem Sterling, one of the black England players on the field, backed the prime minister's call.

"A good move credits to you M. Borissov,"



the Manchester City striker wrote on Twitter.

Earlier Sports Minister Krasen Kraliev said the government would suspend relations with the BFU, including financial ties.

The Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) was not immediately available to comment. However, after Monday's match, it tried play down the incidents.

"It's quite disappointing to focus on racism," BFU vice-president Yordan Lechkov

said. "It's not serious to concentrate on that if there's a qualifier like this and we're playing against a team like England."

UEFA had ordered the BFU to partially close the Vasil Levski stadium for England's visit after supporters were found guilty of racist behavior in matches earlier this year.

Racist chanting was heard from the stands and reported by England players to manager Gareth Southgate, with the referee informed and a public announcement made on two occasions.

Most of the Bulgaria players and their coach said after the match they had not heard any abuse of the visiting team.

Coach Krasimir Balakov said there had not been such racial incidents before and blamed England fans for being disrespectful to Bulgarian supporters.

"During the second half they used words against our fans which I find unacceptable," he said.

The BFU and a number of Bulgarian clubs have been fined by for racist abuse several times over the past few years.

Troy Townsend, of soccer equality campaign group Kick It Out, urged UEFA to ban Bulgaria.

"(UEFA) have to take the strongest possible action and that for me, is to kick Bulgaria out of the European qualifiers. It's the only way people will take note of what they are doing to our black players."

(Source: Reuters)

'I don't look for records, they look for me' - Ronaldo after 700th goal



Cristiano Ronaldo has lost count of the number of records he has broken, the Portugal forward said after scoring the 700th goal of his career during a 2-1 defeat to Ukraine on Monday.

"The records come naturally, I don't look for them, the records look for me," he told reporters after scoring his 95th goal for his country.

"It's not for anyone to reach this number and I thank everyone, team mates, colleagues, coaches and everyone who helped Cristiano become the player that he is."

However, Ronaldo said that the defeat to Ukraine in a Euro 2020 qualifier took some of the shine off the achievement.

"It's a nice moment in my career but there was a bitter taste because we didn't win," he said. "We played well, but we didn't win. We did everything we could and we had plenty of chances."

Ronaldo is the all time leading scorer in the Champions League with 127 goals, holds the record for the most goals in

a single Champions League season, is Real Madrid's all time highest scorer and Portugal's most capped player and record scorer.

The first five goals of Ronaldo career were scored for Portugal's Sporting in 2002-03.

He then scored 118 goals in 232 appearances during six seasons with Manchester United and, remarkably, averaged over a goal a game for Real Madrid, scoring 450 in 438 appearances over the course of nine seasons.

In just over one season with his current club Juventus, he notched a further 32 goals in 51 matches.

Despite the defeat, Portugal remained second in Group G with 11 points from six games, one ahead of Serbia, and will qualify for Euro 2020 if they win their remaining matches, at home to Lithuania and away to Luxembourg.

"We played too much with our hearts and not enough with our heads," said coach Fernando Santos.

(Source: Mirror)

French politicians call for action after Turkish players repeat military salute



French politicians and ministers have called for sanctions against the Turkish national football team after its players repeated a military salute during Monday's Euro 2020 qualifier against France.

Several leading politicians in the country had previously called for the game in Paris to be canceled after Turkey's footballers performed the same gesture during Friday's victory over Albania.

The salute came days after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched an incursion into Syria to drive Kurdish forces away from the border, following US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw all remaining American forces out of northern Syria.

After the match, the official Twitter page for the Turkish national team uploaded a table of Group H -- with Turkey still top following the 1-1 draw -- with the players' salute as the background image.

"Thanks to the (French) federation and the police for their work to ensure the smooth running of the game," France's sports minister Roxana Maracineanu said following the game.

"The Turkish players spoiled these efforts by doing a military salute, against sportsmanship. I ask UEFA for an exemplary sanction."

Meanwhile, Eric Ciotti, a senior member of conservative party Les Republicains, tweeted: "The military salute of the Turkish players in solidarity with the army of #Erdogan who is killing our Kurdish allies had no place last night at the Stade de France!"

"Football does not have to be a vector of military propaganda and such infamous causes!"

Alexis Corbiere, a senior member of populist left-wing party France Insoumise, added: "The Turkish army strikes the Kurds, murders civilians and meanwhile, in France, the players on their team salute their troops and we remain in NATO with Turkey without contesting it. In short, we're enabling it."

The Turkish Football Federation was not immediately available for comment.

On Saturday, France -- along with Germany -- announced it would be halting the sale of arms to Turkey following the country's incursion into Syria.

(Source: CNN)

LeBron under fire after blaming China row on 'misinformed' Rockets GM



tions of (Morey's) tweet. I'm not discussing the substance. Others can talk About that," he wrote.

James's Lakers and the Brooklyn Nets were thrust into the whirlwind when they arrived in China last week for a pair of pre-season exhibition games after Morey had tweeted: "Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong."

■ **Difficult week**

The former British colony, now a semi-autonomous Chinese territory, has been rocked by months of demonstrations by citizens who accuse Beijing of chipping away at its freedoms.

China, however, portrays the protesters as violent separatists and bristles at any foreign interference in the matter.

James complained in his subsequent tweets on Tuesday that Morey's comments put the Lakers through a "difficult week" in China.

Twitter users pounced, saying acidly that Hong Kong's demonstrators and China's Uighurs also were "having a difficult week".

Users also spread a doctored image showing James's smiling face imposed on the giant portrait of Mao Zedong overlooking Tiananmen Square.

Chinese sponsors have cut ties with the NBA and broadcasters refused to air the two exhibition games in China, sparking US accusations that Beijing was using access to its vast market as leverage to dictate speech in other countries.

Many in the US, including NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and top American politicians, have defended Morey's right to speak out, but James said that right should be exercised with care.

"Yes, we do have freedom of speech, but there can be a lot of negative that comes with that too," he said.

Several normally outspoken NBA figures, like Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr and his star guard Stephen Curry, were criticized for declining to take a clear stand on the issue.

A hashtag lauding James's remarks became one of the most-searched on Weibo, China's leading social media platform, with more than 94 million views as of Tuesday afternoon.

One post suggested James should be the league's spokesman to the world: "This is why we love you, the NBA's foreign ministry spokesman."

(Source: AFP)

Bright future ahead for Iranian child prodigy

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN — Abolfazl Nasri, who turned nine today, has a bright future ahead. He is full of promise.

He was born without lower legs but the congenital disorder cannot stop Abolfazl and his family encouraged him to keep going.

The video went viral on social media, showing him to climb a rope at his home.

“We never bought a wheelchair for him. We wanted Abolfazl to stand on his own knees,” Abolfazl’s father Ali says.

“We have a long-term plan for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics where Abolfazl will be 18.”

He was invited to Iran’s National Paralympic Committee on Monday and visited the Olympics Museum. He first became acquainted with Paralympic movement and was also awarded a mascot.

“I like swimming, sitting volleyball, football and archery,” Abolfazl says while looking at medals and Paralympics’ torches at the museum.

He lives in Province of Qazvin, northwest of Tehran, where a lack of proper infrastructure in the area can be problematic for him.

“We have a short-term and a long-term plan for Abolfazl. At the moment, we are supportive of him since he is a child. In the future, he will be involved at professional sport. We are looking for 2028 Paralympics,” the father said.

Iran has introduced great Paralympians in the past years. Ghader Modabber is the most decorated Iranian para athlete with five gold medals.

Mokhtar Nourafshan and Mohammadreza Mirzaei (athletic) and Ali Kashfia (sitting volleyball) have each won four gold medals in the past years.



In the recent years, powerlifter Siamand Rahman, shooter Sareh Javanmardi, archer Zahra Nemat, and sitting volleyball player Morteza Mehrzad have been in the spotlight and are

role models for the children with disabilities.

“I like participate at Olympics and Paralympics but I have to grow up,” Abolfazl smiles.

One more loss for Iran at FIVB World Cup



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran finished the 2019 FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Cup with a loss against Poland.

On Monday, Team Melli lost to Poland 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-16) at Hiroshima Green Arena.

Wilfredo Leon Venero led Poland with 17 points and Porya Yali scored 14 points for Iran.

Iran had previously lost to Russia, Egypt, Brazil, the U.S., Japan and Italy in the tournament and defeated Australia, Canada, Argentina and Tunisia.

The 2019 FIVB Volleyball Men’s World

Cup is the 14th staging of the FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Cup, contested by the senior men’s national teams of the members of the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport’s global governing body.

The tournament is being held in Japan from Oct. 1 to 15.

Japan played hosts for this event for the twelfth consecutive time since 1977.

This is the first time since 1989 that FIVB decided not to allocate any spots in the Olympics, due to Japan hosting the 2020 Summer Olympics.

Iran U23 defeat Australia in friendly



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran U23 football team defeated Australia 2-1 in a friendly match in Doha, Qatar on Monday.

Ali Shojaei gave the Iranian team a lead just five minutes into the match and Aref Aghasi extended the lead in the 30th minute.

Australia pulled a goal back in the 47th minute from the penalty spot.

The warm-up game was held as part of preparation for the 2020 AFC U23 Championship.

Iran have been handed a tough group in

the competition, where they are drawn in Group C along with defending champions Uzbekistan, China and South Korea.

The competition will be held in Thailand from Jan. 8 to 26 and the top three teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics men’s football tournament in Japan as the AFC representatives.

Iran u23 football team are headed by Hamid Estili.

Iran have not been in the Olympics since the 1976 games in Munich.

North and South Korea play first men’s soccer match on North Korean soil in almost 30 years

Seoul (CNN) — For the first time in almost three decades, North and South Korea’s men’s football teams faced each other in Pyongyang.

The FIFA World Cup Qualifier match -- which was held at Kim Il-sung Stadium on Tuesday evening local time -- saw the two national teams draw 0-0.

It was the first time the sides have played in North Korea since a friendly match in 1990. The last time they met was in Japan in 2017, when South Korea won 1-0 against North Korea as part of the East Asian Cup.

The match comes amid renewed tensions on the peninsula, which worsened recently after hints last year that the relationship between the two countries could be thawing.

Although football is incredibly popular in both countries, the draw represents a good result for the North, which entered the match as the underdog. South Korea is ranked 37 in the world -- much higher than North Korea’s 113 ranking.

Despite the historic nature of the event, South Korean media and fans were prohibited from attending and the game was not broadcast live. Instead, their only choice was to monitor into FIFA’s website for occasional, written updates.

At a press briefing Monday, a spokesman for the South Korean Unification Ministry, Lee Sang-min, said that officials had attempted to «sound the North out several times» to arrange fan access and broadcasting rights but had not received a response.



It wasn’t just South Korean fans who missed out. Foreign tourists who had traveled to North Korea for the match were also prevented from attending, according to tour groups.

Rich Beal, a tour manager from Koryo Group, which operates tours to North Korea, said the company’s group wasn’t at the stadium for the match. They were told they weren’t able to attend the game, although they were given no reason. «It is very disappointing,” he told CNN in an email.

Young Pioneer Tours -- which organizes tours from China to North Korea -- also said its tour group of 10 people were not allowed to watch the game.

Foreign tourists were interested in attending as they were intrigued to see how North Koreans embraced football

culture, said Rowan Beard, the North Korean tour manager for Young Pioneer Tours.

«The Koreans take football super seriously, it’s the most popular sport by miles and their knowledge on football leagues and players outside of North Korea is quite impressive,” he told CNN.

South Korea has qualified for the FIFA world cup on multiple occasions, and reached the semifinals of the FIFA World Cup in 2002. By comparison, the furthest the North Korean team got was when it reached the quarterfinals in 1966.

But North Korea’s current squad has a star in 21-year-old Han Kwang Song, who plays professionally for Italian football club Juventus.

Ahead of the game South Korea’s star player Son Heung-min said that he was just focused on winning. «The fact that fans can’t come is a heavy blow to us,” he said. «I hope we can prepare well for such atmosphere and come back with good results.»

The teams will need to maintain their top two spots during this qualifying round to move onto the next qualifying round -- and keep their dreams alive of making it to the 2022 World Cup. In theory, both teams could qualify.

While the match in Pyongyang is significant for the men’s teams, the women’s teams faced off much more recently. In 2017, the North and South Korean women’s teams played each other in Pyongyang in an Asian Cup qualifier game.

MD4 - Group F: Tajikistan 0-3 Japan

Takumi Minamino’s second half brace ensured Japan’s winning start to the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 continued on Tuesday with the East Asians claiming a 3-0 victory over Tajikistan in Dushanbe.

Two goals in two minutes from the Red Bull Salzburg star saw off a determined Tajikistan before Takuma Asano completed the scoring eight minutes from time as Hajime Moriyasu’s side moved into pole position on their own in Group F with a maximum nine points.

The Japanese struggled on the artificial

pitch in the first half at the Republican Central Stadium and the visitors looked most threatening from set-pieces, with Shoya Nakajima’s delivery almost unlocking the home defense on several occasions.

Maya Yoshida forced Tajikistan goalkeeper Rustam Yatimov into action 13 minutes into the game when his volleyed attempt was comfortably kept out while the defender was unfortunate just after the half hour mark when his header -- again from a Nakajima corner -- was wide of the target.

Tajikistan’s wingers Ehsani Panshanbe and Jahongir Ergashev carried a threat and Panshanbe would have opened the scored

25 minutes into the game but for a fine save from Shuichi Gonda, whose reaction with his left hand was enough to kept out the goal-bound effort.

Japan, though, should have gone into the break in front, with Minamino at fault as the visitors failed to take advantage of a gilt-edged chance. Daichi Kamada fed Nakajima down the left and his centre reached the unmarked striker, only for his header to find the arms of Yatimov.

After labouring for much of the first half, the Japanese were energised as the second period kicked off and, eight minutes after the restart, Minamino finally found the net

with a header that bore similarities with his earlier miss. This time, though, he directed Nakajima’s cross beyond Yatimov.

Two minutes later the 24-year-old doubled Japan’s lead with a deft flick to finish off a flowing move that ended with Hiroki Sakai’s low ball towards Minamino, who steered his backheel out of the reach of the sprawling goalkeeper.

Either side of Minamino’s quick-fire double, Alisher Dzhalilov and Manuchekhr Dzhalilov both had chances to score for the home side, but solid defending and poor finishing denied the home side.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran fail to advance to ANOC World Beach Games final

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran beach soccer team lost to Russia 6-2 at the Association of National Olympic Committees World Beach Games semifinals on Tuesday.

Mohammad Masoumizadehand and Mohammadali Mokhtari were on target for Iran and Fedor Zernikov (two goals), Aleksey Makarov, Dmitry Shishin, Andrei Novikov and Boris Nikonorov scored for Russia.

Iran will face either Brazil or Italy in the bronze medal match on Wednesday.

Iran have previously defeated Ukraine, Senegal and Paraguay in the competition. Beach soccer is one of 14 sports being showcased at the World Beach Games, which are being held in Doha, the capital of Qatar, from 11-16.

Iranian players are exhausted: Igor Kolakovic

Iran national volleyball team coach Igor Kolakovic said his men are exhausted after a long tournament.

Iran lost to Poland 3-0 (25-18, 25-18, 25-16) at the FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Cup at Hiroshima Green Arena on Tuesday.

“First of all, congratulations to the Polish team for the silver medal and for this victory. It was a game in which we could learn a lot, because we played against one of the best - maybe in this moment the best team in the world, even though they took a silver medal here,” Kolakovic said.

“We are exhausted after this long tournament. Some young players are also so tired and that led to some special things in this game. Today, they had an opportunity to play against the best team in the world and they couldn’t give all of their energy to play until the end.”

“I can understand this because some of them have some injury problems, some of them are without experience, and some of them were without such good preparation for this tournament. So I think this game is important because Poland could celebrate the silver medal,” he concluded.

(Source: FIVB)

Thailand beat UAE to top Group G

Thailand secured one of the biggest wins in their football history on Tuesday night when they beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier.

Teerasil Dangda gave the home team the lead after 26 minutes and Ali Mabkhout equalized for the visitors in the 45th minute.

Teenager Ekanit Panya made it 2-1 early in the second half. In Tuesday night other Group G game of Asia’s qualifying round for the 2022 World Cup, Vietnam won 3-1 against Indonesia, who are still looking for their first point of the campaign.

After three games, Thailand lead Group G with seven points and are ahead of Vietnam on goal difference.

The UAE, the top seeded team in the group, have six points and Malaysia three.

The eight group winners and four best runners-up advance to the continent’s 12-team final qualifying stage for the Qatar World Cup.At Thammasat Stadium, Thailand were without their influential midfielder Chanathip Songkrasin but welcomed back defender Theerathon Bunmathan.

Akira Nishino’s men got off to a lively start and came close to opening the scoring inside the first five minutes as Teerasil saw his shot go over the bar.

Moments later Supachok’s shot was saved by UAE goalkeeper Khalid Elsa.The War Elephants were the better side throughout the first half and deservedly went ahead when Ekanit’s cross perfectly found Teerasil, who headed the ball past Elsa in the 26th minute.

As Thailand squandered several scoring chances, they were punished in the final moments before the interval by Bert van Marwijk’s men.

Thailand’s defenders failed to clear a Saleh Easa cross and Ali Mabkhout’s header beat Thailand goalkeeper Siwarak Tedrungron.

Thailand returned strongly in the second half and restored the lead in the 52nd minute when Ekanit scored with a beautiful volley.

(Source: Bangkok Post)

Saudi Arabia held by Palestine in World Cup qualifier

Palestine held three-time Asian champions Saudi Arabia to a goalless draw on Matchday Four of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Asian Qualifiers Group D on Tuesday.

Facing a Saudi side ranked 31 places above them in the latest FIFA rankings, 101th Palestine dominated from start to finish in front of a large home crowd, but ultimately could not convert their chances.

Palestine had a golden chance to open the scoring inside 10 minutes after Mohammed Yameen recovered the ball and fed Nazmi Al Badawi in the middle of the pitch. The US-born midfielder released Saleh Chihadeh through on goal. Chihadeh went for power but goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais was alert and punched away the effort.

The Saudis responded in the 14th minute as Abdullah Otaif supplied the ball out wide for his Al Hilal teammate Yasser Al Shahrani who squared for Yahya Al Shehri to control and fire from close range. Goalkeeper Rami Hamadeh rose to the occasion and made a quick reflex save to deny Al Shehri.

Palestine came close again halfway through the second period, and against it was Switzerland-based Chihadeh threatening the Saudi defense.

Islam Batran advanced through the middle and supplied a defense-splitting pass for Chihadeh inside the box. The 25-year-old turned and fired first time, but his strike went agonizingly close off the wrong side of the post.

With five minutes left on the clock, Mahmoud Abu Warda sent a diagonal long ball for fellow substitute Khaled Salem who outmuscled his marker, controlled inside the box with only the goalkeeper to beat, but his attempted lobbed finish missed the target, leaving him to rue the chance as Palestine settled for a stalemate.

The result means it is Uzbekistan who lead the group with six points from three games, while Saudi Arabia come second with five points. Palestine and Singapore have four points each.

Next up for Palestine is an away trip to face Yemen, while the Saudis travel to Tashkent for the clash with Uzbekistan.

(Source: the-afc)

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 Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 **Tehrantimesdaily**

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
 P.O. Box: 14155-4843
 Zip Code: 1599814713




The words of the wise are a remedy if true, and a source of pain for the body and soul if wrong.
Imam Ali (AS)

DEFC keen to collaborate on joint film projects

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN — Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) announced on Tuesday its plans for collaborations on joint documentary and animated film projects.



Documentary and Experimental Film Center director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam attends a press conference in Tehran on October 15, 2019. (Mehr/Mohammadreza Abbasi)

Speaking during a press conference, DEFC new director Mohammad Hamidi-Moqaddam also said his center would welcome any proposal for joint film productions from overseas. "One of the main objectives of the center in its new era is to improve its position in international film markets, to introduce Iranian documentarians to the world and therefore to secure a return on its investments," he noted.

Hamidi-Moqaddam also lamented that although Iranian documentaries are very successful at international festivals, they are facing problems in marketing.

"We need professional film distributors specialized in documentary cinema to introduce Iranian documentaries not only to the festivals but also to ordinary audiences in the world," he mentioned.

Moreover, the DEFC plans to organize screening programs for the films competing in the 13th Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international documentary film festival, after the event.

The Documentary and Experimental Film Center is the main organizer of the festival, which will be held in Tehran from December 9 to 16.

"Fault Line" to compete in Izmir short film festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Soheil Amirsharifi's movie "Fault Line" (Gosal) will go on screen at the main section of the 20th Izmir International Short Film Festival in Turkey.

The film 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.

Earlier this week, "Fault Line" was named best short film at the 63rd edition of the BFI London Film Festival.

The Izmir International Short film Festival will be held from November 4 to 10.

"Henry and Cato" published in Persian

C U L T U R E TEHRAN — British writer Iris Murdoch's novel "Henry and Cato" has recently been published in Persian by Nimaj Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Zohreh Mehrnia, the 1976 book is about two childhood friends, Henry Marshalsan and Cato Forbes, who grew up as neighbors in the English countryside but they have not seen each other for several years.

Now in their early thirties, Henry is an art historian who is returning to England from the United States upon inheriting his family estate, and Cato is a Roman Catholic priest who is losing his faith and has secretly fallen in love with someone.

Earlier this year, Murdoch's 1978 novel "The Sea, the Sea" was rendered into Persian by the same translator and published by the same publisher.

The book, which won the Booker Prize, is about the strange obsessions that haunt a self-satisfied playwright and director as he begins to write his memoirs.



"Sabokbal" composer Hossein Dehlavi passes away at 92

A R T TEHRAN — Celebrated **d e s k** composer Hossein Dehlavi, who was mostly famous for "Sabokbal", "Bijan and Manijeh" and many other compositions that connect traditional Iranian music with Western classical music, died at his home in Tehran on Tuesday at the age of 92.

He had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for years, his son, Hooman, told the Persian media.

Along with some other Iranian musicians such as Ali Tajvidi, Dehlavi made strenuous efforts during his professional career, which spanned over 70 years, to adapt melodies in Iranian music for orchestral performances.

Born into a family with a refined sense of music, Dehlavi began to learn music at age five from his father, Moezzeddin, who was a student of Ali-Akbar Shahnazi, a prominent composer and tar virtuoso.

On his mother's advice, he decided at nine to study playing the violin with Abolhassan Saba, the legendary Iranian composer and master of string instruments.

Dehlavi shot to fame at age 26 in 1953, when he wrote his first orchestral composition, "Sabokbal". He did the composition based on a short motif, which was derived from "Qasemabadi", a piece composed by Saba.

He also attended the Tehran Conservatory of Music to take lessons in composing from Hossein Nasehi and some Western musicians working at the center.

Saba and Dehlavi co-founded the Saba Orchestra at the Fine Arts Office and he



Composer Hossein Dehlavi in an undated photo.

served as a conductor for the orchestra. In 1957, when Saba died, the orchestra began to give a performance every week on Iranian TV.

He was appointed as director of the Academy of National Music in 1962 and held the position until 1971 when he received

a two-year scholarship to study Western classical music in Austria and Germany.

In 1978, he was commissioned by Iranian cultural officials to compose the Mani and Mana opera, which was scheduled to be performed on International Children's Day, however, the opera was never performed

due to the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

He also collaborated in several film projects, including "The Lovers' Wind", French filmmaker and producer Albert Lamorisse's 1970 documentary about the daily life and natural attractions of Iran.

IIDCYA to display bestsellers at Frankfurt Book Fair



Picture of a catalog containing information about Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults and its latest offerings, which will be offered at the 2019 Frankfurt Book Fair.

C U L T U R E TEHRAN — Iran's **d e s k** Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) will be displaying about 100 new and bestselling books at the Frankfurt Book Fair, which opens today.

Some IIDCYA catalogs containing information about the institute's latest offerings and copyright regulations will be available at the institute's pavilion during the world's largest trade fair for books in the German city, IIDCYA announced in a press release published on Tuesday.

The IIDCAY also plans to hold meetings with the representatives of publishers from other countries taking part in the fair.

In addition, the Iran Cultural Fairs

Institute (ICFI) will be representing the country at the Frankfurt Book Fair, and hold talks with a number of foreign cultural officials during the fair.

The meetings have been arranged to help expand cultural relations with other countries.

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, the Iranian Association of Academic Publishers, the Association of Women Publishers, Iran's Association of Sacred Defense Publishers, and the Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth are among the participating associations.

Audio version of "A Trip to the Prohibited Zone" released in English



Cover of the audio version of the English translation of "A Trip to the Prohibited Zone" written by Hedayatollah Behbudi.

C U L T U R E TEHRAN — An **d e s k** audio version of the English translation of "A Trip to the Prohibited Zone" containing memories of an Iraqi prisoner of war in Iran has recently been released by Avanameh, a major Tehran-based center for publishing audiobooks.

Written by Hedayatollah Behbudi, the book has been narrated by Mohammad Tajeddin.

"A Trip to the Prohibited Zone" contains eleven sweet and bitter memories of an Iraqi POW in captivity during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

"Many Iraqi POWs used to write memories in captivity during the war and submit them to the Art and Literature Department of the Art Bureau, but this

prisoner was an exception when I met him," the writer has written in the introductory of the book.

"I asked him to write eleven memories. I still believe that the memories of the Iraqi POWs can reflect a better image of Iran's Sacred Defense," he added.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has written a commendation for the book.

"This is one of the strongest and most beautiful books about the war. The text and translation are both powerful. This book completes other memories written by the brave, oppressed and lovely basijis," the Leader has written about the book.

The book is also available on Ketabkhan, an e-book app that belongs to the Sureh-Mehr Publications.

It's a tie: Atwood and Evaristo share fiction's Booker Prize

LONDON (AP) — Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo split the Booker Prize on Monday, after the judging panel ripped up the rulebook and refused to name one winner for the prestigious fiction trophy.

Chairman Peter Florence said the five judges simply couldn't choose between Atwood's dystopian thriller "The Testaments" and Evaristo's kaleidoscope of black women's stories, "Girl, Woman, Other."

Partly inspired by the environmental protesters of Extinction Rebellion, who were demonstrating near the prize ceremony's venue in London's financial district, Florence said the judges refused to back down when told the rules prohibit more than one winner.

"Our consensus was that it was our decision to flout the rules," he said. "I think laws are inviolable and rules are adaptable to the circumstance."

Prize organizers didn't see it that way. Gaby Wood, literary director of the Booker Prize Foundation, said prize trustees repeatedly told the judges they couldn't have two winners, but they "essentially staged a sit-in in the judging room" as deliberations dragged on for five hours.

Wood insisted the decision "doesn't set a



In this Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019 file photo, Canadian author Margaret Atwood poses for a photograph during a press conference at the British Library to launch her new book "The Testaments" in London. (AP/Alastair Grant)

precedent." It means Atwood and Evaristo will split the 50,000 pound (\$63,000) Booker Prize purse.

Florence said both of the winning books "address the world today and give us insights into it and create characters that resonate with us."

"They also happen to be wonderfully compelling page-turning thrillers," he added.

Both winners said they were happy to share the prize.

"Joker" remains box office ruler with \$55 million

LOS ANGELES, (Variety.com) — Joaquin Phoenix is king of the North American box office once again as "Joker" scores an easy victory in its second weekend with \$55 million at 4,374 sites.

"Joker" dominated a trio of new entries with animated comedy "The Addams Family" leading the rest of pack with \$30.3 million at 4,007 venues, topping forecasts. Will Smith's "Gemini Man" wound up under expectations with \$20.5 million at 3,642 locations. Adam DeVine's artificial intelligence comedy "Jexi" generated little interest with \$3.1 million at 2,332 screens.

"Joker" showed plenty of traction, declining only 43% from its impressive opening of \$96.2 million, the fifth-largest domestic launch of 2019 despite worries about the negative impact of the film's darker themes. Moviegoers have stayed strongly engaged with a 10-day total of more than \$192 million.

The psychological thriller has already become hugely profitable for Warner Bros., which partnered with Village Roadshow and Bron on the \$55 million project. And with a solid international performance of \$351 million, "Joker" has hit \$543 million at the worldwide box office in less than two weeks.

"The Addams Family," handled through



Joaquin Phoenix attends the premiere for the film "Joker" in Los Angeles, California, U.S., September 28, 2019. (Reuters/Mario Anzuoni)

MGM's United Artists Releasing, had been projected to earn \$21 million to \$27 million. The PG film, which has been marketed toward family audiences, follows Morticia, Gomez, Wednesday, Pugsley and Uncle Fester as they bring their love of the macabre to 21st century life in New Jersey.

Pre-release forecasts had placed "Gemini Man" between \$24 million and \$29 million, but competition from "Joker" plus downbeat reviews — the film currently sits at 26% on Rotten Tomatoes — yielded a disappointing result, given the \$138 million price tag for Paramount, Skydance Media, Fosun and Alibaba.