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The epic of Arbadeen

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'EAEU ready for vast trade ties with Iran'

TEHRAN — Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is ready for vast trade ties with Iran, Veronika Nikishina, the union's minister of trade, told IRNA on Saturday. "EAEU members are prepared to expand economic and trade relations with Iran and their cooperation with this country is promising", she noted. **→4**

Hezbollah chief opposed to govt. resignation

TEHRAN — Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has expressed opposition to calls for the resignation of Lebanon's government, vowing not to allow anyone to "burn" Lebanon and cause chaos in the country. **→13**

Amir Abdollahian: INSTEX lacks locomotive engine

TEHRAN — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior advisor to the Iranian Parliament speaker, has said that INSTEX proposed by the European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal to help reduce the impact of Washington's sanctions on Iran lacks locomotive engine to start working. "There is no hope for implementation of the JCPOA by the Europeans. In fact, the U.S., Britain, **→3**



PERSPECTIVE

Afshin Majlesi
Tehran Times journalist

Despite media bias, Western people have right to authentic information on Arbadeen

Mass media outlets, including news agencies, radio, television, the Internet and mobile platforms, have undoubtedly become the primary source of information for the majority of, if not all, individuals in modern societies.

Thus, they can gain a weighty influence to shape a dominant culture, perception or belief in a society by pursuing hidden agenda, which is left implicit in their discourse.

Monitoring Western media, in particular the British and the U.S. ones, in the span of the past ten years, show that they have substantially paid little attention to the Arbadeen pilgrimage, which is regarded as the world's largest annual public gathering on earth.

From a journalistic point of view, the pilgrimage bears adequate news values including impact, magnitude and bizarreness for coverage but we simply realize that the event is underrepresented or misrepresented.

In their portrayals, you cannot realize scenes of affection, fondness, brotherhood, and hospitality that Muslims have towards each other. In return, such outlets are continuously trying to label Islam as a religion that supports violence and terrorism and portray Muslims as extremists.

Each year millions of international pilgrims, including a record numbers of Iranians, come together in Iraq's holy city of Karbala to commemorate Arbadeen, which 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).

Pilgrims enter the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala up to two weeks before Arbadeen that this year falls on October 19. Many arrive in Karbala after trekking about 70 kilometers northward from the holy city of Najaf in a symbolic gesture honoring the third Shia Imam.

Pilgrims are warmly greeted by the generous hospitality of the Iraqi people, who provide them with food, beverages, transport and accommodation needed for the journey. **→10**

Hundreds of thousands march in Barcelona demonstration

TEHRAN — Masked demonstrators have clashed with police in central Barcelona as more than half a million people marched through the city on a fifth day of protests over the jailing of Catalan separatist leaders.

It was the biggest protest since Monday's explosive verdict, which had already brought tens of thousands of demonstrators on to the streets.

Police said 525,000 people joined Friday's protest, the latest in a mass show of anger after Spain's Supreme Court sentenced nine separatists to long jail terms over a banned

referendum and an abortive independence declaration two years ago.

While most protesters remained peaceful, some demonstrators hurled stones and cans at police in riot gear, and dragged large rubbish bins to the middle of a main city boulevard, and set them ablaze. Police vans tried and failed to push people back onto the pavements.

Al Jazeera's Sonia Gallego reporting from Barcelona said that the protest "escalated into a full-blown riot in the city centre".

"It started from outside of the building of

national police headquarters in one of the main squares here where you have hundreds of protesters who turned quite violent towards the police," Gallego said.

"They're protesting against police measures and attempting to take on the police. [The police] responded in kind with smoke bombs."

According to Al Jazeera, Gallego added that the city was in lockdown due to the protest's "violent turn".

"It's quite difficult to see how the police are controlling this as it's spread to part of the city centre," Gallego said.

U.S. imposes record \$7.5 billion tariffs on European goods

TEHRAN — A fresh round of U.S. tariffs on \$7.5 billion in European goods takes effect Friday in retaliation for what the World Trade Organization deemed were illegal subsidies for airplane maker Airbus.

The case, which wove its way through the system for nearly 15 years, culminated in a ruling against the European Union.

The Trump administration celebrated the outcome, which allowed the U.S. tariffs, as justified in the wake of "massive EU corporate welfare."

The new tariffs apply to a wide range of imports from the EU but are concentrated mostly on the four countries deemed responsible for the subsidies: France, Germany, Spain and the UK.

German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz on Friday warned his European Union counterparts against further escalating tensions with the United

States after the country began imposing a range of punitive tariffs on European goods.

Washington introduced the measures in response to EU subsidies for European aircraft maker Airbus. The plan will see duties of 10% on Airbus planes and 25% for agricultural products like French wine, Italian cheese, and Scottish whisky.

Trade agreement to defuse tensions

Speaking in Washington, where he is attending the IMF/World Bank annual meetings, Scholz noted that EU officials were working intensively behind the scenes to hammer out a trade agreement with Washington to avert the threatened tariffs.

The German minister's position contradicted that of EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom who warned that the U.S. tariffs would leave the bloc with "no alternative" but to impose its own countermeasures.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) green-lighted the U.S. tariff move Monday, which seeks to recoup damages of \$7.5 billion (€6.7 billion).

The WTO sided with the U.S. that Airbus received billions of dollars in illegal subsidies, giving the aircraft producer an unfair advantage over American competitor Boeing. Airbus-producing countries Britain, France, Germany, and Spain will be subject to more tariffs than other EU member states.

European regional specialties will be particularly affected by the new taxes. Goods with "protected name status", like Scotch whisky and Parmesan cheese, require a specific production method and geographical provenance to be sold under that name. Such products fetch higher prices and are protected against competition. The new tariffs will give a boost to American copycat products.



ARTICLE

Yurum Abdullah Weiler
Analyst and journalist

"Strategically brilliant" sellout: Trump's betrayal of the Kurds

"At last the world knows America as the savior of the world!"
—U.S. president Woodrow Wilson

Turkey invaded the Syrian Arab Republic on October 9 following a U.S. pullout. The U.S. Congress has started an impeachment inquiry of Donald Trump, who apparently gave the green light for the Turkish invasion. The U.S. president's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was accused of operating a "shadow shake-down" operation against Ukraine's president, and lobbying for a Turkish bank indicted for evading U.S. sanctions against Iran. Meanwhile his secretary of state was pontificating on being a Christian leader who holds himself to a "high set of standards."

Three days after Trump's announcement of a U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordered Turkish forces to enter the country to neutralize the Kurdish People's Defense Units (YPK "terrorists") and stabilize the border zone. Placing his bipolar affliction on full display, Trump has alternated between praise for the Turkish leader's actions and threats to bring down the Turkish economy. "I view the situation on the Turkish border with Syria to be, for the United States, strategically brilliant," he exuded, claiming, "Syria is protecting the Kurds." Earlier, he had stated that he was "fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path."

In his executive order issued October 14, Trump specifically wrote that Turkey's assault "undermines the campaign to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS," and "constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." As a consequence, Trump has declared a national emergency, and authorized sanctions against any "current or former official of the Government of Turkey." **→7**



'Pilgrims who lost Arbadeen' march in Tehran

People who lost the Arbadeen pilgrimage toward Karbala marched on Saturday a long distance from Tehran's Imam Hussein Sq. to the holy shrine of Shah Abdol Azim in Rey to commemorate the occasion.

The trekking is practiced in every Iranian city where the faithful, who were not able for any reason to join the Arbadeen march.

Arbadeen marks the end of a 40-day mourning period following the day of Ashura. This year, Ashura fell on October 19.

The Arbadeen pilgrimage is a spiritual trip by millions of the faithful every year making their way to Karbala that hosts the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), who was martyred in the battle of Karbala in 680 AD.

Leader says steadfastness on right path is key to prosperity

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday morning that believers' firm stance on the right path will certainly result in promotion of the country and prosperity of the mankind worldwide.



The Leader's remarks came in a mourning ceremony marking the Arbæen ritual, an event falling 40 days after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) in the battle of Karbala in 680.

The ceremony was held at the Imam Khomeini Hussayniyah attended by groups of university students as well as some officials including the science minister, vice president for scientific affairs, and chief of the Islamic Dissemination Organization.

Ayatollah Khamenei in a brief speech admired the young students' enthusiastic mourning and said, "The purity and (spiritual) illumination of you dear ones are valuable and I always ask God to keep you and me steadfast on the right path, because if you are steadfast on the right path, the country will progress, and the world and humanity will benefit from the outcomes," the Leader underscored.

Bahrain repeats claims against Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed Al Khalifa in fresh remarks has accused Iran of meddling in the tiny Persian Gulf island's internal affairs, claiming that Iran has been behind transfer of a large quantity of explosives to Bahrain, ILNA reported.

Quoting Asharq Al-Awsat, ILNA said Khaled bin Ahmad, based on unproven reports, has claimed that a large batch of arms and explosive materials has been transferred from Iran to Bahrain.

"The seized explosives and weapons were enough to annihilate half of the capital city of Manama," the foreign minister claimed.

In tandem with the hostile policies of the Al-Khalifa family against Iran, the minister said, "It is important for us that we receive a message of peace and good neighborliness from Tehran otherwise we will consider Tehran as responsible (for transferring arms and explosives)."

MP: World witnessing failure of Washington's "maximum pressure" against Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Spokesman for presiding boards of the Iranian Parliament has highlighted Iran's resistance against hegemonic powers, saying that the world is now witnessing failure of the U.S. "maximum pressure" approach against Iran.



Asadollah Abassi said, "Our nation's resistance against hegemonic powers has never been fragile, so we take next strides strongly towards prosperity."

"The U.S. imagined that it could overthrow the Islamic Republic by applying utmost pressure policy against Iran during last year, therefore, it did whatever it could against Tehran," Abassi said.

"The country's all-out development under sanctions is testifying that the U.S. has suffered defeat in the policy of (maximum) pressure against Iran."

In relevant remarks on Tuesday, President Hassan Rouhani decried the U.S. sanctions on Iran's people as a "crime against humanity". However, he said, the Islamic Republic is moving towards full self-sufficiency despite pressures.

"The U.S. has committed crimes against humanity and taken an act of economic terrorism by imposing sanctions on Iran, Rouhani told the conference of the health ministers of the Eastern Mediterranean countries in Tehran.

Iran to host expert meeting on unilateralism and international law

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran is set to host an international conference on unilateralism and international law at Allameh Tabataba'i University in Tehran on Monday.

The event which has been initiated by Abrar International Research and Studies Institution and Allameh Tabataba'i University will host a number of experts in the field of international law from various nations including Italy, India, Russia, Finland, Poland, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Macedonia and Afghanistan.

Zarif is to deliver speech at the opening ceremony of the event.

The event will include four expert panels over different issues on promotion of international law and multilateralism and fate of peace and international security.

Zarif, Cavusoglu discuss northern Syria

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Mevlut Cavusoglu, the Turkish foreign minister, held a phone conversation on Thursday on the latest developments in northern Syria.

According to IRNA, Zarif also held separate phone conversations with foreign ministers of Iraq, Russia and Syria on Wednesday to discuss the situation in northern Syria.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Zarif said it is "imperative" to end Turkey's incursion into northern Syria.

"The imperative now is to end the incursion into #Syria & address all concerns through #ADANA," he said.

Zarif also suggested that "it is essential that the core principles of JUS IN BELLO are fully observed: distinction between civilians and combatant, & prohibition on inflicting unnecessary suffering."

(International humanitarian law, or jus in bello, is the law that governs the way in which warfare is conducted.)

In another tweet on October 12, Zarif said, "The Adana Agreement between Turkey and Syria—still valid—can be the better path to achieve security. #Iran can help bring together the Syrian Kurds, the Syrian Govt, and Turkey so that the Syrian Army together with Turkey can guard the border."

Turkey launched military operation against Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in northeast Syria on October 9.

In an interview with Turkey's TRT World



aired on October 10, Zarif said that the Syrian Army together with Turkey can guard the border.

"That's a better way to achieve security," he suggested.

"We do not believe that security can be achieved by invading Syria, by incursion into Syria. We have better options. We have offered better options to our Turkish friends like the Adana agreement. There is an Adana agreement between Turkey and Syria which is still valid. We can help bring together the Syrian Kurds, the Syrian government and Turkey so that the Syrian Army together with Turkey can guard the border with Turkey, together with Turkey,"

Britain's Norman Lamont: Trump's decision to quit JCPOA was 'catastrophic'

Baeidinejad says there are abundant capacities to expand ties with Britain

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Ambassador to London Hamid Baeidinejad said on Friday that there are many capacities for Iran and Britain to expand ties.

"In a situation in which it seems that the United States' sanctions have impeded any kind of cooperation and interaction, there exists many capacities for economic interaction between Iran and Britain," he said on the sidelines of a conference.

He attached great importance to small and medium-sized corporations.

"We have always focused on big corporation such as Shell Oil Company and British Petroleum, but the reality is that small and medium-sized corporations can be very profitable," he said, according to a translation of his remarks.

During a speech at the conference, Norman Lamont, the UK special envoy for economic interaction with Iran, said that Britain will spare no effort in expanding economic

relations with Iran.

Elsewhere, Lemont described U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to quit the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, as "catastrophic".

However, he said that Britain will not follow Washington's policy and seeks to expand economic interaction with Iran.

In May 2018, Trump abandoned the nuclear deal and returned the previous sanctions and imposed new harsh ones.

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 nuclear deal 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 October 14.

Hakim supports Pakistan's mediation between Iran, Saudi Arabia

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ammar al-Hakim, leader of the Iraqi National Wisdom Movement, has expressed support for Pakistan's initiative on mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"We praise and support initiative of Imran Khan, the Pakistani prime minister, on mediating between Tehran and Riyadh and ending tension between these two Muslim countries and bringing them into the negotiating table," ISNA quoted him as saying in a message on Saturday.

Khan visited Tehran on October 13 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 and Riyadh's support for Trump's anti-Iran moves.

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

Khan also visited Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric has said that Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general, welcomes Khan's initiative to de-escalate tensions between Iran and

Saudi Arabia.

Dujarric told reporters at the regular noon briefing in New York that the UN chief welcomes any such effort "as a matter of principle". Associated Press of Pakistan reported on Tuesday.

On October 12, 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 in Tehran on October 13, Rouhani, without mentioning Saudi Arabia, suggested that Iran will give a positive response to "good intention".

Rouhani said Iran "welcomes efforts by the Pakistani prime minister to settle tensions in the region" and "restore peace and stability".

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

14, President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran does not approve of Turkey's military attack.

"Turkey has concerns about north of Syria and we accept them. We accept a country's security concerns. Turkey is our friend. However, we do not accept the method it has chosen. This is not a good method. There exists better methods," Rouhani stated.

Despite a five-day ceasefire brokered on Thursday, clashes continued on the border between Turkey and Syria on Friday, according to eyewitnesses and Kurdish fighters,

Shelling and artillery fire was reported Friday in the border town of Ras al-Ain, one of the targets of Turkey's week-old offensive against Kurdish fighters.

The SDF told CNN that shelling by the Turkish military and the Syrian rebel proxies supporting them has hit a number of civilian areas in Ras al-Ain, including a hospital. The SDF says five fighters were killed in the attack.

"SDF are committed to the ceasefire, but from last night until this morning we are seeing shelling on Ras al-Ain by the Turkish military and its mercenaries on SDF and civilian Kurdish targets, and in particular on the Ras al-Ain hospital in the city this morning," SDF Press Commander Merivan Qamishlo said.

"The situation inside the Ras al-Ain Hospital is catastrophic. Three ambulance vehicles belonging to the Kurdish Red Crescent were prevented from entering and were shot at. The city is completely surrounded by air and ground from the Turkish military," he added.

"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."



The Leader said, "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."

Japan not to join U.S. coalition in Mideast waters

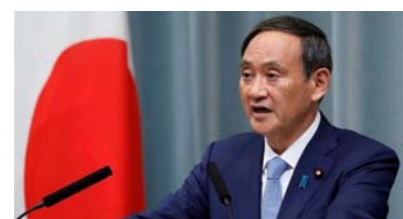
TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Japan said on Friday it will not join any U.S. coalition to protect merchant vessels in Middle East waterways, but will instead send a separate force of ships and planes to guard ships supplying Japan from the key oil-producing region.

"We won't join the United States, but will cooperate closely with them," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news briefing, Reuters reported. "Self Defense Force assets will ensure the safety of vessels related to Japan."

Although it is the closest Asian ally of the United States, Japan has been reluctant to join forces with Washington in the Middle East because it maintains close diplomatic and economic ties with Iran. Tokyo has offered to act as an intermediary between the two countries to help ease tension in the region.

Iran has criticized U.S. efforts to set up a coalition and says countries in the region can protect key waterways used by oil tankers supplying much of the world's oil.

Military assets Japan sends to the Middle East are likely to include warships and aircraft that will patrol the Gulf of Oman, the Northern Arabian Sea and other waters in the area,



Japan's chief government spokesman said. Japan has yet to decide the makeup of the contingent or when it will deploy the force, he added.

Iranian officials have on various occasions underlined that the security of the Persian Gulf region must be protected by the countries of the region not by outsiders.

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Hossein Salami recently highlighted Iran's major role in protecting the Persian Gulf security and said enemies are unable to make the waters insecure.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in August deplored the push by the U.S. to form a maritime coalition in the Persian Gulf and said foreign forces only create insecurity in the region.

U.S. detention of Iranian scientist "very disturbing"

Press TV — The U.S. detention of Iranian scientist, Masoud Soleimani, upon his arrival in the country on an invitation from a research center last year, was very disturbing, says a journalist who also describes the move as "outside of the law."

Canadian author and journalist Eric Walberg said in an interview with Press TV that Soleimani's imprisonment is "outside of the law."

"But there are ways around them they can always keep someone if they [Washington] really want to," he added.

The 49-year-old Iranian professor and biomedical researcher at Tehran's Tarbiat Modares University, was detained by the FBI upon his arrival in October last year.

He was travelling to the U.S. with a visa issued upon an invitation by Minnesota-based medical center, the Mayo Clinic, to lead a research program on the treatment of stroke patients.

"That's very disturbing that even a well-known institute like the Mayo Clinic {is} proudly invites the state department

into serving its anti-Iranian politics," said Walberg.

Prosecutors accused Soleimani and two of his former students of attempting to export biological materials from the U.S. to Iran without authorization, in violation of U.S. sanctions.

Their lawyers, however, insist that the three did nothing wrong.

The two students, who are living in the U.S., are currently free on bail.

Soleimani, still in jail, appeared in court in May this year. He was charged with trying to transfer to Iran via his students a few vials of growth hormone — a substance readily available on the market and not subject to sanctions.

His lawyer, Leonard Franco, said in a court filing that Soleimani's research "has led to global lifesaving medical advancements in regenerating non-functional human body parts."

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

He has also lost his mother during his time in detention.

Jahangiri thanks Iraqis for Arbadeen season hospitality

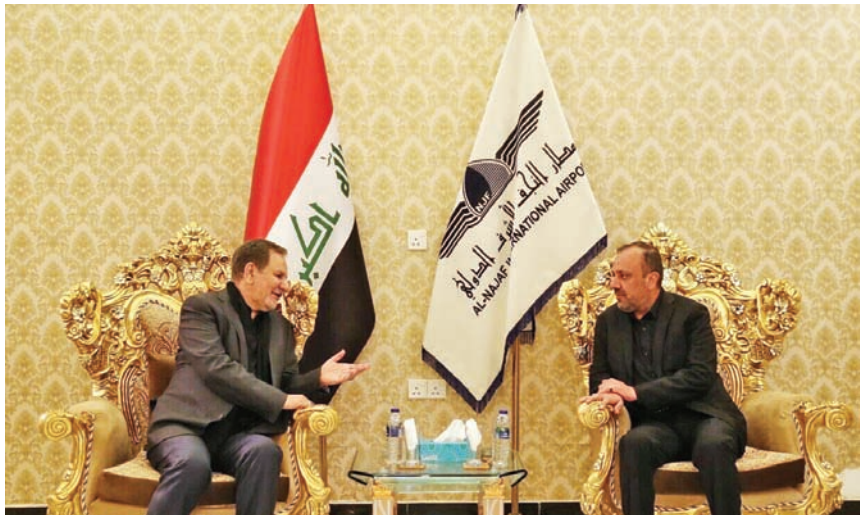
POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri has expressed gratitude to the Iraqi government and nation for their warm hospitality during the Arbadeen season.

"Hosting such number of pilgrims, given certain infrastructural shortcomings, is a difficult job and the Iranian government and people thank the government and nation of Iraq for their hospitality," Jahangiri said on Saturday, in a meeting with Governor of Najaf Luay al-Yassiry.

He also said the gathering of millions of devotees of Imam Hussein (AS) from different sects and religions and countries during the Arbadeen season is a show of friendship, solidarity and unity in the Islamic world, Mehr reported.

The Iraqi governor, for his part, said his country is proud to host the Arbadeen pilgrims, particularly those from Iran, adding that the religious ceremony has played a big role in strengthening the Baghdad-Tehran ties.

Arbadeen, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), who is the third Imam of Shia Muslims and grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



Iranian VP says gathering of millions of devotees of Imam Hussein (AS) from different sects and religions during the Arbadeen season is a "show of friendship, solidarity and unity in the Islamic world".

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

According to reports, more than three million Iranian pilgrims have traveled to Iraq this year to attend the mourning rituals.

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

■ 'Exceptional event'

Jahangiri, who joined the Arbadeen pilgrims on Saturday, told reporters that providing services for such a huge number of pilgrims is beyond the capacity of governments and described the Arbadeen gathering as an "exceptional event" in the world, Tasnim reported.

Some have estimated that over 20 million people gather in Karbala to mark the Arbadeen ritual.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on September 18 that "the Arbadeen march is an extraordinary phenomenon not only in our era but also throughout history."

He added, "We cannot find such a gathering and movement that takes place every year more enthusiastically than the previous years."

FATF gives Iran until Feb. to pass anti-money laundering laws



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said on Friday it has given Iran a final deadline of February 2020 to tighten its laws against money laundering in compliance with the global watchdog's financial standards.

"If before February 2020, Iran does not enact the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions in line with the FATF Standards, then the FATF will fully lift the suspension of counter-measures and call on its members and urge all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures, in line with recommendation 19," the FATF said in a statement on Friday, Reuters reported.

"The FATF expects Iran to proceed swiftly in the reform path to ensure that it addresses all of the remaining items by completing and implementing the necessary Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing reforms."

On February 22, the FATF gave Iran until June to fix its anti-money laundering and terrorism financing rules or face increased international scrutiny of its banks.

However, the Paris-based body extended the deadline until October in an announcement in June.

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, which put the fate of the bill on the hands of the Expediency Council.

Earlier this month, the secretary of the Expediency Council 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," Mohsen Rezaee said.

Also, a member of the Expediency Council said on October 14 that the council had 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," Gholamreza Mesbahi-Moghadam said.

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

Arbadeen has turned into a nightmare for arrogant powers, says cleric



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — An interim Friday prayer leader in Tehran has said the Arbadeen pilgrimage has turned into a nightmare for the hegemonic powers.

"Arbadeen has turned into a nightmare for the global arrogance and as you see they have boycotted reporting this event and fomented unrest in Iraq before Arbadeen," Mohammad Javad Haj Ali Akbari said on Friday, addressing worshippers in Tehran.

"The world is witnessing a great, unique and stunning event," he said. "Arbadeen of Hussein is a magnificent, marvelous and inspiring phenomenon."

"No doubt that as the Leader of the Revolution [Ayatollah Khamenei] has said, this is a divine and spiritual phenomenon and it really cannot be described," Haj Ali Akbari said.

Ayatollah Khamenei had said on September 18 that "the Arbadeen march is an extraordinary phenomenon not only in our era but also throughout history."

"We cannot find such a gathering and movement that takes place every year more enthusiastically than the previous years," the Leader added.

The Arbadeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gathering in the

world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

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

This year, Arbadeen fell on Saturday, October 19.

Meanwhile, in early October Iraq was rocked by a new wave of protests over economic hardships and unemployment. The timing of the start of the protests with the great march of Arbadeen aroused suspicions.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a member of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, blamed the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for the unrest, saying the two countries tried in vain to impact the deep and friendly relations between Iran and Iraq, and failed to reduce the huge turnout in Arbadeen march.

"Saudi Arabia and the U.S. are angry at all of Iran's policies in Iraq and Syria and they have resorted to military, propaganda and political confrontation," Mehr on Saturday quoted Boroujerdi as saying.

Tehran slams terror attack in Afghanistan's Nangarhar

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran has denounced a terrorist attack on a mosque in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province that has killed dozens of people.

In a statement on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi offered his condolences to the Afghan government and nation, especially the families of victims of the heinous crime.

"This act of terror and targeting of defenseless worshippers who were saying their Friday prayers at God's House shows the nasty nature and vicious goals of terrorists to sow discord among Muslim people of Afghanistan and add fuel to the fire of insecurity and instability in this Muslim neighboring country," Tasnim quoted Mousavi as saying.

At least 62 worshippers have been killed and dozens injured after multiple explosions rocked a mosque in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province during Friday prayers, according to officials.



It came a day after the United Nations said violence in the country had reached "unacceptable" levels.

The attack in Haska Mena district also wounded at least 33 people, the provincial governor's spokesman Attaulah Khogyani told AFP news agency.

However, another senior official in the province told Reuters that more than 100 people were wounded in the year's second-deadliest attack and the toll could rise.

The blast was carried out with "explosives that were placed inside the mosque", Khogyani said, though other sources - including the Taliban - said the building may have been hit by a mortar.

Zahir Adil, a spokesman for the public health department in Nangarhar province, said 23 of the wounded were transferred to Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and the rest were being treated in a Haska Mena clinic.

Witnesses said the roof of the mosque had fallen through after the "loud" explosion. Some 350 worshippers were inside at the time, local resident Omar Ghorzang told AFP.

Rezaee warns govt. against delay to take fourth nuclear step

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Mohsen Rezaee, secretary of the Expediency Council, has warned the Rouhani administration against delaying to take the fourth step in scaling down Iran's commitments to the 2015 nuclear agreement, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The administration's delay in taking the fourth nuclear step due to pinning hopes on the irresolute and incapable Europe is



a total loss," Rezaee said in a tweet on Thursday.

Washington withdrew from the internationally-endorsed JCPOA with Iran on May 8, 2018, reimposed the toughest-ever sanctions against the country and started a plan to zero down Tehran's oil sales.

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

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

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

In the first step, Iran removed cap on its nuclear deal stockpile which was limited to 300 kilograms enriched to purity of 3.67 percent. In the second step, which started on July 7, Iran started enriching nuclear fuel to more than 3.67 percent. And in the third step, which fell on September 6, Iran removed ban on nuclear research and development (R&D).

Tehran has repeatedly said its measures will be revered as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the Iranian economy from unilateral U.S. sanctions.

MP calls on Iran, Russia to mediate and prevent massacre of people in northern Syria

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A member of the Iranian Parliament has suggested that influential countries, including Iran and Russia, mediate and persuade Turkey to halt military operation in northern Syria in order to prevent a fresh human catastrophe, ISNA reported on Saturday.



"People around the world hate wars and massacre of innocent civilians, including what is happening in Yemen and Afghanistan by the Saudi and American forces," said Kamal Dehqani, who is in charge of the international relations of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee.

He touched upon the Turkish incursion into northern Syria and said, "The Turkish president's justification (of attack on northern Syria) refers to Ankara's claim about terrorist activities in northeastern Syria."

"Of course, terrorist acts are not acceptable by anybody, but meantime, no country accepts aggression against another country, destabilizing security under pretext of countering terrorists," the MP emphasized.

"In such cases, influential countries including Russia and Iran need to start playing a mediating role to prevent massacre of innocent people and maintain the Syrian government's sovereignty," Dehqani remarked.

"Definitely, Damascus will overcome problems in case of providing full backup for the country's government," he pointed out.

In an interview with ISNA published on Wednesday, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who sits on parliamentary committee, hoped that Turkey would end offensive on Kurdish populated areas in northern Syria.

"Syria is an independent Islamic country which was dealing with a crisis imposed by the United States for 6-7 years. This country settled its crisis through efforts made by the Syrian Army and government and also countries such as Iran and Russia. It was not right to impose another security crisis on Syria," the veteran MP remarked.

Turkey launched military operation against Syrian Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in northeast Syria on October 9 with the excuse that they are allied to Turkey's Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Dozens of civilians have been killed in the operation so far and at least 160,000 have fled the area, according to the UN.

According to the Associated Press, Syrian forces on Wednesday night rolled into the strategic border town of Kobani, blocking one path for the Turkish military to establish a "safe zone" free of Syrian Kurdish fighters along the frontier as part of its week-old offensive.

Amir Abdollahian: INSTEX lacks locomotive engine

1 → France and Germany have agreed on partitioning mission of weakening the Islamic Republic. INSTEX lacks locomotive engine too," Amir Abdollahian wrote on his Twitter account, the Persian language website of Sputnik

reported on Saturday. He added "Iran needs an act to conduct fundamental reform" in view of "sanctions and economic terrorism atmosphere."

INSTEX - Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges - is

supposed to be a financial channel and a special mechanism for transferring money in spite of U.S. sanctions on Iran. Its objective is to facilitate Iran's transactions with European companies.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	309640.3
IFX	3868.45

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,522 rials
GBP	53,850 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$59.42/b
WTI	\$53.87/b
OPEC Basket	\$59.54/b
Gold	\$1,492.25/oz
Silver	\$817.62/oz
Platinum	\$893.90/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

‘EAEU ready for vast trade ties with Iran’

1 → Iran is a very important market in the region and development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members, the official underscored and said that signing a free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of cooperation.



Eurasian Economic Union's Minister of Trade Veronika Nikishina

“We believe that trade ties with Iran should be increased and all sides should benefit from the created condition”, Nikishina commented.

In late August, Iran's Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei attended a meeting with a senior EAEU official to finalize the agreement on formation of a free trade zone between Iran and the regional union.

A press release from Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) in the same month, also showed that Sanaei and EEC Chief Tigran Sarkisyan had exchanged the documents needed to complete formalities for the deal would come into force in late October.

Based on this agreement, about 840 commodity items will be subject to preferential tariffs, which means tariffs on some goods will be reduced and some will become zero tariffs.

The Eurasian Economic Union is an economic union of states located in central and northern Asia and Eastern Europe.

African debt stabilizing but region faces headwinds: IMF

Sub-Saharan Africa's public debt load is stabilizing but the region's economies face mounting headwinds due to slowing global growth that will weigh on exports, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday.



According to reuters.com, the IMF has previously warned of the continent's rising debt burden, largely the result of borrowing to plug gaping budget deficits in mineral- and oil-producing countries that followed commodities and crude oil slumps.

In its regional economic outlook, the Fund said public debt as a percentage of GDP had settled at about 55% on average.

“What we've seen overall in the region is, by and large, debt levels beginning to stabilize,” Abebe Aemro Selassie, director of the IMF's African Department, told Reuters.

“Going forward I expect it to remain stable provided countries implement the budgets that they've formulated.”

Still, seven countries - Eritrea, Gambia, Mozambique, Congo Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan and Zimbabwe - are in debt distress, the IMF said. Nine others including Ethiopia, Ghana and Cameroon are at high risk of debt distress.

The IMF projected regionwide economic growth of 3.2% this year, trimming an April forecast of 3.5%. It sees growth accelerating to 3.6% next year compared to its April projection of 3.7%.

The Fund blamed the downward revision on suppressed global growth linked to trade tensions between the United States and China as well as output disruptions in African oil-exporting countries and weaker than expected growth in South Africa.

The “region is not unaffected by what's going on globally,” Selassie said.

The continent's most developed economy, South Africa is expected to grow just 0.7% this year and 1.1% in 2020, according to the report. Leading oil exporter Nigeria will grow 2.3% this year and 2.5% next.

Path for legal trade with Iran open: BICC

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Vice-

President of the British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce (BICC), Richard Dalton, said on Friday that the channel for legal trade with Iran is still open despite U.S. sanctions against the country.

He made the remarks in an Iran-UK business meeting dubbed “Iran-UK Business Relations: Opportunities and Prospects” in London.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the British Ministry of International Trade, chambers of commerce of the two countries and British and Iranian trade companies, entrepreneurs, and Iran's ambassador to London Hamid Baedinejad.

In his remarks, Dalton condemned U.S.'s efforts to harm the Iranian nation, peace and security in the region as well as Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Deploing EU's procrastination for implementing their commitments under the JCPOA and inability to bypass the sanction, he said that however, trade with Iran is still possible.



Dalton, who served as UK ambassador in Tehran from 2003 to 2006, also called on Iran to return to JCPOA, though the other parties did not comply with the deal.

Baedinejad for his part, noted that despite the U.S. sanctions which seemingly hinders mutual cooperation, there are many capacities for promoting trade ties between

Iran and the UK.

Also speaking in the meeting, British Government's Special Envoy for Iran's Trade Affairs Lord Norman Lamont told the same meeting that the country will do its best to promote trade ties with Iran.

A delegation of 15 Iranian companies in the fields of agriculture, poultry food, livestock and aquaculture also attended the event which was held in collaboration with the British Ministry of International Trade.

The meeting was significant because the United States' illegal and unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA in May last year and the return of sanctions against Iran have put significant pressures on foreign companies' commercial and financial relations with Iran.

Many European companies that sought to expand trade cooperation with Iran after the signing of the JCPOA continue to consider U.S. penalties, despite encouraging measures by European governments and launching a special Iran-Europe financial mechanism called INSTEX.

Iran plans to build 200 cargo ships inside country

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian

industry, mining and trade minister said Iran is planning to build 200 cargo ships inside the country based on its maritime development program, Tasnim news agency reported.

“In the country's maritime industries development program, we have provisioned the construction of 200 cargo ships with an investment of €300 million,” Reza Rahmani said.

According to the official, aside from strengthening the country's maritime relations, construction of these vessels would create 60,000 direct job opportunities while providing 100,000 indirect jobs.

The minister noted that designing, manufacturing, transporting and installing all kinds of offshore structures by domestic experts is an important achievement for Iran's maritime industry.

“Currently at Sadra Shipyard, vessels with over 10,000 tons of capacity are being manufactured by Iranian experts and engineers”, he announced.

Mentioning the fact that shipbuilding is one of the industries that has been neglected in Iran, he added that in the past,

over 90 percent of Iranian ships went to the Persian Gulf counties for services and repairs, but now more than 80 percent of such activities are being done inside the country.

“We have banned ship repairs abroad,” he stressed.

Back in June, Iranian technicians managed to repair a giant oil tanker inside the country for the first time in the history of Iran's shipping industry.

According to the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) office of public relations, the 320,000-ton supertanker (called Dore) was successfully dry-docked in Bandar Abbas at Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOICO) in late June.

It was the first time that repair and maintenance services of a super oil vessel was assigned to a domestic repair yard.

In the same month, Nasrollah Sardashti, the managing director of NITC, had announced that renovation of the tanker fleet was a priority and the infrastructure was being prepared for building super tankers inside the country based on international standards.

Industrial unit establishment permits rise 19% in 5 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Issuance

of permits for setting up industrial units in Iran increased 19 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) compared to the same period of time in the past year, IRIB reported citing the data released by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

As reported, most of the issued permits were for the industries related to the food and beverage, and also non-metal minerals and Yazd, Semnan, and Khorasan Razavi were the provinces receiving the highest number of the permits.

The provided data indicate that 10,551 permits have been issued during the first five months of this year, creating jobs for 248,000 persons, which shows 20 percent rise in terms of job creation compared to



the same time span of the previous year.

As previously announced by the ministry, issuance of permits for setting up industrial units in Iran increased 16 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2019).

Most of the issued permits were related to the food industries and Semnan, Qom and Khorasan Razavi were the provinces receiving the highest number of the permits.

Iran's 5-month tobacco exports rise 10 folds

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Exports of

tobacco from Iran have increased by nearly 10 times in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21- August 22), Press TV reported citing the data released by Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

A Thursday report by the IRIB cited recent industry ministry's statistics showing that tobacco exports had hit a record high of 799 tons until September, an increase of 955.5 percent compared to the same period in 2018 when Iran exported only 75.5 tons of the commodity.

Cigarette exports declined 83.3 percent, however, as sales to other countries stood at 25 million cigarettes, or 1.25 million packs of 20, down from 150 million in the five-month period last year.

The report said exports of traditional and flavored tobacco, used in hookah pipes, were also down 53.2 percent and 78 percent respectively.

Imports for flavored tobacco declined by 65.8 percent with just over a half a ton of shipments arriving in the country, down from more than one and a half tons recorded between March and September 2018.



Like the previous year, the customs offices continued to report zero imports for cigarettes.

The ministry of commerce said a total of 20 factories across Iran were producing cigarettes and 38 others exclusively processed tobacco.

The data comes amid a major shift in the pattern for licensed production and import of foreign brands of cigarettes in Iran, a country of 83 million where 15 to 20 percent of people smoke more than 60 billion cigarettes, or three billion packs of 20, each year.

Declining exports and zero imports for cigarettes reported over the past two years suggests smokers in Iran have lost their old appetite for expensive foreign brands and are instead opting for domestic products that go through stricter health and safety controls.

TEDPIX down 3,402 points in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TED-

PIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), has fallen 3,402 points to 309,647 during the five working days of the past Iranian calendar week (Saturday to Wednesday), Tasnim news agency reported.

The report said that 16.496 billion securities worth 75.752 trillion rials (about \$1.803 billion) were traded through 1.677 million deals at TSE during the past week.

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 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).

Southern Cone struggling to fend off global economic slowdown

In the context of a possible global recession and mounting trade tensions and uncertainty, the economic situation in Latin America's Southern Cone is notable for its contrasts.

According to bnamericas.com, most observers agree that the next few years are likely to see slow growth at a global level and Latin America is not immune, with GDP growth in Brazil and Mexico expected to be below 1% this year while Argentina is forecast to contract.

A period of low commodity prices, coupled with political uncertainty and sometimes irresponsible fiscal policy, has hurt those economies that have not been able to transition away from a model based on selling primary materials. The trade war between the U.S. and China, meanwhile, has weighed on the latter's spending power, impacting most developing economies around the world.

However, once some of the political uncertainty clears and a new administration outlines its policy goals, at least some of the country's uncertainty-related economic troubles will begin to recede.

“From the point of view of a strengthening growth story in Argentina, we would highlight a commitment to turn around fiscal weakness” which has persisted during the previous and

current administrations, Schineller said.

■ **A commitment to bring down inflation**

“Clarity on rules of the game, clarity on monetary policy, a commitment to bring down inflation, some of these will weigh on growth on the near term, potentially ... but will have benefits in the longer term. A credible policy package (would also help)”, she said.

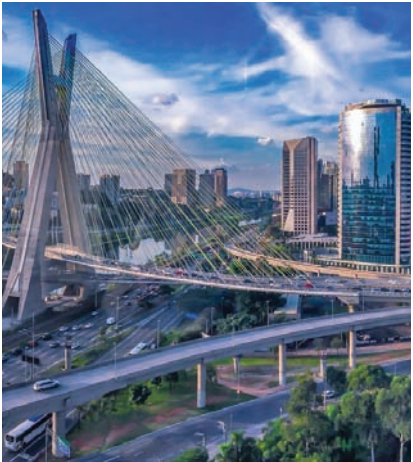
Another key factor will be whether the new administration appears willing to work with the IMF, which will involve complying with some of the multilateral's demands on fiscal policy.

A willingness to work on amicable terms with the country's largest creditors would help ease immediate investor fears.

S&P expects the economy to contract 3% this year and 1% next, regardless of the outcome of the election, with modest growth materializing in 2021 at 1.5%.

Emerging market analysts at Capital Economics predict a 2% contraction this year and another 2% in 2020, with modest growth appearing only in 2021 at 1% of GDP.

However, GDP “is not shrinking. Which, if you think about it, in the case of Uruguay, they have not only this global (slowdown) phenomenon, but the full shock of Argentina, felt



mainly through the tourism sector, which has been hurt quite a bit,” Mukherji said.

Despite a much weaker local currency than in previous years, Uruguay has been able to post positive GDP growth, which shows the resilience of the country's economy, according to Mukherji.

■ **Hit by severe crisis**

This resilience can be explained partly by the fact Uruguayan banks have cleaned up their

exposure to Argentina, which is usually hit by a severe crisis every 20 years or so.

Uruguay will also get a boost next year thanks to an increase in foreign investment, as Finnish firm UPM plans to build a \$2.7b pulp mill in the country. It will be the biggest private investment in Uruguay's history and will add to the company's current plant in the country.

“It's going to involve a lot of public sector investment as well as the even bigger private sector investment. New infrastructure, new railroad, new port, new roads. So, there will be a source of growth coming up, and that doesn't depend on global conditions, as this is a long-term project, and the promoters seem to be quite dedicated to going ahead with this,” said Mukherji.

In Chile, GDP growth of between 2% and 3% this year and next might be disappointing for a country that grew by around 5% between 2000 and the global recession of 2008, but the figure “is still pretty respectable, you still feel it,” Mukherji said.

The bigger challenge for the country is to move towards decoupling growth from the performance of the mining industry, which involves making the non-mining economy more productive and diversifying economic output.

U.S. extends sanction waiver for Iraq to continue gas, electricity imports from Iran

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — The U.S. has extended a waiver on Iran sanctions, granted to Iraq first in November, to let the Arab country continue gas and electricity imports from Iran for another four-month period, Press TV reported on Thursday, quoting a senior U.S. official.

“The waiver ensures that Iraq is able to meet its short-term energy needs while it takes steps to reduce its dependence on Iranian energy imports,” a State Department spokesman said Wednesday.

“We engage regularly with the Iraqi government to support measures that improve Iraq’s energy independence,” he added.

This will be the fifth such waiver the U.S. has issued for Iraq since U.S. sanctions on Iran’s energy exports snapped back nearly a year ago. After an initial 45-day waiver, the State Department issued two 90-day waivers in a row followed by a 120-day waiver in June.

Washington has for the third time extended a 90-day waiver that lets Iraq continue energy



imports from Iran. Gas imports from Iran generate as much as 45 percent of Iraq’s 14,000 megawatts of electricity consumed daily. Iran transmits

another 1,000 megawatts directly, making itself an indispensable energy source for its Arab neighbor.

Iraq and Iran share a 1,400-kilometer-long border. For their run-of-the-mill maintenance, Iraqis depend on Iranian companies for many things from food to machinery, electricity, natural gas, fruits and vegetables.

The administration of Donald Trump is pressing Iraq to stop buying natural gas and electricity from Iran or at least show signs that it is reducing the imports. The U.S. has also urged Iraq to establish contracts with U.S. companies.

However, there are reports that Baghdad is pushing back against the pressure, The New York Times reported in February.

Trump re-imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran’s energy and finance sectors in November last year following his decision to withdraw from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal signed between Tehran and six major world powers.

Iran capable of boosting electricity exports to Afghanistan

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** — Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said the country is capable of boosting its electricity exports to Afghanistan under the framework of the two sides’ energy agreements, IRIB reported on Saturday.

According to the official, Iran intends to expand its energy cooperation with Afghanistan in various areas of this industry including long-term electricity contracts for increasing exports, meeting the needs of the Afghan electricity industry, power plant maintenance, reducing energy waste, and so on.

Mentioning his recent visit to the neighboring country, Ardakanian noted that during the visit the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expansion of cooperation in several areas.

Based on the MOU signed on August 18, the two sides are going to collaborate in several areas including reconstruction and repair of Afghanistan’s worn-out transmission equipment, construction of Zaranj electricity transmission line, and synchronization of the two countries’ networks.

“The contract for Iran’s electricity exports to Afghanistan was also extended for another year,” Ardakanian said.

Earlier in September, Ardakanian announced that Iran and Afghanistan have agreed to accelerate their cooperation in the electricity sector through setting up a joint taskforce.



“The Afghan president has recommended establishment of this taskforce and we are waiting for it to be set up as soon as possible,” the minister said.

Iran and Afghanistan are also considering realization of 16,000 megawatts potential of renewable energy projects in border areas.

“With good wind energy capacity in the two countries’ border regions, the two sides can use that capacity to generate nearly 16,000 megawatts of electricity,” Iran’s Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri said in a meeting with

Afghan Minister of Energy and Water Mohammad Gul Kholmi during his visit to Kabul on August 17.

As the biggest exporter and importer of electricity in the Middle East, Iran plays a central role in power supply in the region.

It exports electricity to Pakistan, Turkey, Iraq and Afghanistan. Under swap deals, Iran exports electricity to Armenia and Azerbaijan in winter and imports in summer.

In late August, Ardakanian said, “We have been able to fulfill our energy export commitments to our neighbors due to good rainfalls this year.”

“About 2.3 billion kWh of electricity was exported in the June to August period, the highest amount of exports in recent years,” the energy minister added.

He said the country’s electricity sector has witnessed new records in generation, exports and consumption management during the current calendar year (started on March 20).

“This year we have set new records in this sector by inaugurating 3,250 megawatts (MW) capacity of new power plants, saving 3,874 MW in peak consumption period in summer, and exporting 2.3 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity to neighboring countries in the hot season,” Ardakanian said in a gathering of energy ministry’s public relation offices in Tehran.

OPEC chief Mohammed Barkindo defends oil amid concerns over climate change and energy transition

By Bilal Abdi

Secretary General of OPEC Mohammed Barkindo defended the oil industry asserting the world needs to combat both climate change and energy poverty together. This comes amid strengthening of the global narrative over energy transition and emissions.

He was speaking at industry event India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK earlier this week here.

Commenting upon the role of oil in the ongoing energy transition, Barkindo said: “This issue is currently dominating international discourse. The signs, facts and the data on which we in OPEC rely upon for decision-making do not support an energy transition where any source of energy will be excluded. These facts and data do not also support a transition where any groups of people in this world will be left behind.”

He also said that the current civilization is oil-fuelled and the globe will continue to rely on hydrocarbons in the future to meet energy and other needs.

“What the IPCC and the scientific community are advocating is a holistic and comprehensive transition where all the sources of energy including oil and gas will be required to continue to benefit consumers today and in the future. We have said many times that this current civilization is an oil-fuelled civilization and our lifestyle is built around hydrocarbons, from electricity, cars, smart

phones etc. this will continue,” Barkindo said.

Oil and gas industry

Barkindo while talking at the Indian Energy Forum highlighted the factors dampening investor sentiment in the oil and gas industry. The “oil industry will continue to need a supportive investment climate, if we are to meet the world’s expanding energy needs and also delivering climate solutions. However, factors dampening sentiment in oil sector include extremes in market volatility, geo-political tensions and more recently the discriminatory policies against oil and gas,” he said.

The OPEC chief highlighted energy poverty and climate change as the twin challenges in front of the global community and congratulated India for making strides towards combating energy poverty. “I think the global community needs to rise in unison to congratulate the leadership and industry for what it has done in this country,” Barkindo said.

Talking about the growing narrative over shifting from hydrocarbon-based energy to cleaner fuels, Barkindo said climate change is a global challenge, no part of the world is insulated from it and no part of the world should be left out in its solution. The issue needs a comprehensive solution that carries everybody along, he said.

The oil industry has been facing pressure from environmental groups to act quickly to counter the effects of climate change. In the last year, activists have staged



protests in front of Shell’s London headquarters, Total’s headquarters as well as BP’s office in United Kingdom demanding a closure of their exploration and production activities.

In response to increased pressure from environmental activists and global narrative on the carbon foot-print of the hydrocarbon industry, BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Saudi Aramco, Shell, Total and other oil and gas companies have launched the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI) with a billion-dollar war chest to fund initiatives to reduce climate change emissions.

(Source: energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

Renewables consortium to develop floating wind farm in South Korea



WindPower Korea, EDP Renewables and Aker Solutions have formed a consortium with the aim to develop an initial 500 MW floating wind farm off the coast of Ulsan Metropolitan City in South Korea.

As stated by powerengineeringint.com, the consortium was formed as EDP Renewables, a global wind energy producer, and Aker Solutions, an engineering and technology company, invested in the development company Korea Floating Wind Power (“KFWind”), joining founding shareholder WindPower Korea. Principle Power, which had a role in originating the KFWind project portfolio, will supply its proven WindFloat foundation technology for the project.

The wind farm will use the cutting-edge WindFloat technology, which enables the installation of floating platforms in deep waters that were previously inaccessible, and where the best wind resources in Korea can be harnessed.

The new consortium is committed to support the ambitious

renewable energy plans of the South Korean government, which call for 13 GW of offshore wind to be installed by 2030 and have set a target of at least 30 per cent renewable energy by 2040.

KFWind signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Ulsan in January 2019 to cooperate on the development of floating wind projects and support the industrial development of the Ulsan region, to serve as a manufacturing hub for domestic and export offshore wind markets.

The Ulsan area is well-suited for commercializing floating wind, due to the combination of industry-leading shipyards, maritime expertise and port facilities in the region. The consortium foresees that a potential project will contribute with significant positive economic and environmental benefits to the local community.

The consortium has been committed from the beginning to working hand-in-hand with the local fisheries associations and stakeholders to ensure that projects are well-sited and developed responsibly.

The consortium has the backing of established industry leaders in renewable energy production and offshore project development, combined with the local market and industry expertise provided by WindPower Korea.

EDP Renewables has a solid commitment to the Windplus consortium, which is set to deploy the three largest offshore wind turbines on a floating platform to date at the 25 MW WindFloat Atlantic project currently under construction in Portugal. Therefore, EDP Renewables has a unique expertise in floating offshore energy generation.

Aker Solutions is part-owned by Aker ASA, an industrial investment company with ownership in several energy and maritime companies. Aker Solutions provides offshore technology and engineering solutions globally, and has delivered more than 60 percent of the world’s semi-submersible floating structures.

Europe’s largest floating solar plant opens in France

By Frédéric Simon

The most powerful floating solar PV plant in Europe was inaugurated in southern France on Friday, marking another milestone in the development of solar energy.

The Rhône valley in southern France is best known for its fine wines and gorgeous food. Now, it can also add solar power to its list of attractions.

The O’MEGA1 project is a 17 megawatt (MW) solar plant situated in Piolenc, a commune in the Vaucluse department, near Orange and Avignon.

The project is unique in several ways. To start with, it is the largest in Europe based on floating solar technology. According to its promoters, the floating structure helps reduce conflicts over land use because it can be installed on drinking water reservoirs, industrial pools, flood plains or quarry lakes.

But the solar plant also innovates in its local community dimension, with citizens invited to take a stake in the project.



Marking a first in France, the plant’s capital was opened to physical people who have a home in the Vaucluse or in neighboring departments.

“Today, as well as inaugurating Europe’s largest floating solar plant, we are showing that fighting climate change requires a collective effort,” said Eric Scottot, chairman and co-founder of Akuo Energy, the solar PV developer.

The energy transition

The “aim of this approach is to encourage citizens to become involved in the financing of the energy transition using the region’s stakeholders,” Akuo said in a statement.

EU negotiators reached agreement Monday evening on a legal framework for “citizen energy communities” in a deal solar PV manufacturers hailed as a victory for small-scale renewable energy production.

The project’s innovative aspect doesn’t stop there. Akuo Energy also teamed up with an independent electricity supplier, Plim Energie, to develop a “green electricity of controlled origin” label, which will be the first of its kind in France.

“This offer guarantees its future clients 100% renewable energy produced exclusively in France, hence creating value in this country,” Akuo said.

Works on the O’MEGA1 project started in 2014, on the site of an old quarry that was converted into a lake. The plant is now officially inaugurated today, in presence of French ecology minister Elisabeth Borne and her secretary of state, Brune Poirson.

The plant’s annual output

According to its promoters, the plant’s annual output will be sufficient to power 4,733 homes, avoiding the emission of 1,096 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere.

This is tiny compared to the 1,500 MW of an offshore wind farm such as Hywind in Scotland, which can power up to 1 million homes. But the industry says a myriad of similar projects could see the light in the coming years.

The “market potential for floating PV is immense, with a recent study from the World Bank showing that if only 1% of artificial reservoir surfaces were used, the global capacity for floating solar would amount to 400 GW,” said Walburga Hemetsberger, CEO of SolarPower Europe, a trade group.

“Floating solar plants are an innovative and proven market sector on a rapid upward trajectory, and a perfect solution for countries with restricted or under-utilized land areas,” Hemetsberger told EURACTIV.

In France, the potential of floating solar is estimated at 20 gigawatts (GW), spread over a potential 1,300 sites – mainly old industrial areas, hydropower dams and water reservoirs.

“There is sufficient potential for us to develop the technology and replicate it on an industrial scale,” said Alexandra Sombsthay, director at Akuo in charge of external relations.

And several projects are already underway in Europe. In Belgium, the Flemish government announced six floating PV projects totaling 11.1 MW earlier in January.

In Portugal, there are plans for a hybrid hydro-solar project which involves installing floating solar panels on a reservoir to supplement an existing hydro plant.

According to Hemetsberger, “There is a terawatt-scale opportunity for floating solar, and we are confident that in the coming years many projects will follow Akuo’s lead.”

(Source: euractiv.com)

First Announcement



1398.4464

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN
TENDER NO. : 08-38-9640011

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	ROCK BITS,JET TYPE , LESS NOZZLES WITH API REGULAR TOOLJOINT PIN CONNECTION LEVEL OF INSPECTION -2 (L.O.I.-2) QCP/MP'S DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION" 5-7/8 IN. X 3-1/2 IN. MOTOR TYPE HIGH RPM,MIN.RPM:250 5-7/8 IN. NOZZLES FOR DRILLING BITS ONE SET CONSING OF 3 NUMBERS CONNECTION SIZE AS SPECIFIED FOR SIZE 5.5/8 TO 6-3/4 INCH	60
02	NO.14, 14/32 IN.ID	6
03	NO. 15, 15/32 IN.ID	6
04	NO. 16, 16/32 IN.ID	18
05	NO. 18, 18/32 IN.ID	24
06	NO.20, 20/32 IN.ID	6

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 .2,903 EURO or 366 ,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 .AGHAJARI.IRAN 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 ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱

Turkey should solve its Syria problems through dialogue

TEHRAN (FNA) — Turkey is repeating the same mistakes the United States made in Syria, including the use of force, and is expecting different results.

Turkey has deployed troops for combat missions in Northern Syria. The idea is to destroy the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK and any terrorist group linked to it. Turkey also wants to resettle approximately 3.6 million Syrian refugees into Kurdish areas along the border, who have now become a burden on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his flailing political party. This is while Ankara is getting paid 6.7 billion U.S. dollars by the EU to host these refugees.

It is a fine needle to thread, because in this new rumble for power, which is more than an exercise in geopolitics, Turkish troops have already been in heavy fighting with America's Kurdish allies in the area, who want their own homeland. In a stunning announcement, the Trump administration which gave the go-ahead to the Turkish military incursion, has now decided to impose sanctions on Turkey.

Turkey's misguided re-entry, however, is no coincidence at all. The Turkish attempt to also spin clear combat as a refugee resettlement program is not puzzling either. It shows the decision is in keeping with the Turkish policy goal of a war on Syria's Kurds, primarily the PKK, without end, even if Ankara has to pay through the nose and apologize for creating a new humanitarian mess in the first place.

Not surprisingly, the Turkish government has no international allies to help on combat issues and security, except for a handful of rebels. This does go against the main Turkish plan which is long-standing war on the PKK, nefarious meddling and military adventurism. To stay the course — and to consolidate his one-man rule at home — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has to keep the PKK war at a permanent simmer and occasionally let it boil over instead of settling it. Erdogan can try but a major military incursion into Kurdish regions in Syria won't solve his problems at home.

The world is witnessing that Ankara's cynical militarism, everything-but-the-war strategy, is a plague upon Kurdish communities in the Arab country where innocent civilians, primarily Kurds, could die. Turkey is condemned to fight the PKK forever. As long as this insanity, this power-politics continues, Erdogan's outrageous invasions will get him nowhere, even if we no longer have a clue as to why.

Many years of foreign occupation and terror have taught us that Syria re-entry will be counterproductive even to Ankara's own security interests. The presence of combat forces will make things worse, adding fuel to the lure of jihadism with drastic consequences and straightforward blowbacks for everyone. It is evident that for more than eight years now Turkish and proxy units have been desperately trying to maintain Ankara's supremacy in the chessboard of Syrian-Kurdish politics with little success and thousands of lost lives. All this suggests that only when they are gone, will peace and security return to the war-torn country.

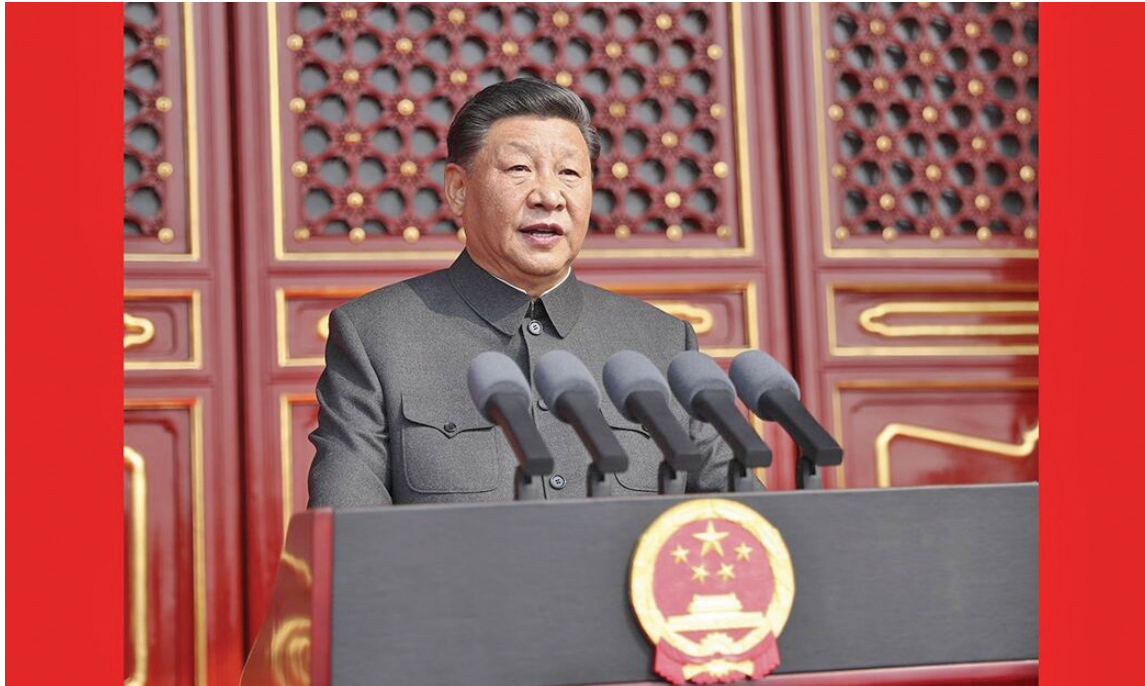
Perhaps that says why Iran has called on Turkey to stop its military action and for all parties to solve problems through political and diplomatic channels within the framework of international law. For those of us in the reality-based community, the Turkish incursion of Northern Syria is indeed a catastrophe. Turkish airstrikes have already killed civilians — though Ankara is officially denying any civilian deaths. Turkish warplanes have already attacked and destroyed civilian targets like refugee camps, schools and prisons. The new push seems to be aiming for these sorts of targets again.

It is the irony of ironies. The world already knows that Ankara seems to have designed the war on the PKK to last forever. This is all about yellow ribbons, endless bombings and endless incursions. It is now and it gives us deep pause. Turkey has every right to resolve its growing refugee problem, but invading Syria is not the answer. Turkish units are there to stay and to protect their alleged interests. No matter what the outcome is in this conflict, and no matter how much more suffering it causes, the official policy shouldn't be "stay and entertain".

Expect nothing less though, as Turkey's regional policy continues unabated. Don't be surprised to see Erdogan delivering a new "War on Terror" speech on the world stage.

In hindsight, thousands of Turkey-backed militants will be stationed as "refugee camp guards", and thousands more will be dispatched from other areas, specially after the Al-Nusra militants are defeated in Idlib, to destabilize another part of Northern Syria. It's a picture that couldn't be uglier, especially given that they have considerable experience from previous entry and occupation. Understanding this rubric, this looming problem, makes it clear that Ankara has a long-term goal in Syria.

China's problem-solving ability powers its optimism



GLOBALTIMES — Substantial progress has been made in various areas during the latest round of high-level trade consultations between China and the US that laid the foundation of an agreement between the two countries, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He said during his Saturday speech at the 2019 World Conference on VR Industry, in East China's Jiangxi Province.

This has been the Chinese side's most clear and authoritative remarks so far on progress of China-US trade talks. Liu reiterated that China is willing to work together with the US to properly address each other's concerns.

During Liu's speech, he has also analyzed the macroeconomic situation of China and put a focus on the characteristics of the Chinese economy and the importance of accelerating the economic transition.

China's per capita GDP is approaching \$10,000. The country is enjoying the advantage of demand originated from its huge number of middle-class families and mature domestic market, as well as the advantage of supply due to accelerated upgrade of the industrial system, including a boom of emerging industries. China is confident and capable of reaching its macroeconomic goals, Liu noted, saying the country has a vital microeconomic foundation, a big room for maneuver and sufficient measures of macro-policy.

Liu's remarks threw light on the Chinese macroeconomic situation and the progress of China-US trade consultations, which are people's concerns, and showed that the Chinese government has been keeping its feet on the ground when handling economic issues.

Unlike the Western system, which is guided by moral and value competition, the Chinese system focuses on solving problems. The rotation of political parties in the West determines that the parties consider their reputation in the first place when they are debating about problems. Chinese system makes it possible for the Chinese government to make long-term road maps without fear of pointing out problems in any economic plan.

There have been problems, especially economic challenges, constantly appearing in different stages of China's development. However, objectively viewing, China has also updated its methods, leading to increasing capabilities to deal with the problems.

China hasn't accurately quantified what challenges it has been through but such experience has become a fountain of confidence for the people.

Economic problems and challenges have formed the so-called downward pressure that China faces. Actually, it is China's economic growth rate rather than the economy that is going downward. Its influence is controllable.

Based on its huge potential of development, China has plenty of measures to deal with the downward pressure. Such being the case, China has been calmly facing challenges without any restlessness. Only an enterprising country can find and never get around problems, figure

way out for problems and keep its people confident and patient in dealing with challenges. China has been not only uncovering problems but also vowing to overcome them. More importantly, Chinese people are striving for a better life, and thus becoming the strongest support and impetus of China in its advancement.

■ West is politicizing the Nobel Peace Prize

Guri Melby, a Norwegian member of parliament, tweeted Tuesday that she nominated the people of Hong Kong, "who risk their lives and security every day to stand up for freedom of speech and basic democracy," to the Nobel Peace Prize for 2020, and hopes her move "will be further encouragement to the movement." She also urged the people of Hong Kong to continue the fight in a "nonviolent" way.

But the "people of Hong Kong" refers to whom: The majority of Hongkongers who oppose violence or a small group of rioters? Melby and many others in the West never make this clear. Confusing these two groups is, in fact, advocating violence. And encouraging a "nonviolent" way is actually an attempt to cover up their motives. With their encouragement and instigation, the rioters in Hong Kong will only become increasingly rampant.

Melby and her supporters may need to know something first: The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Do violent Hong Kong protesters match any of these conditions? Although there is still a long way to go before next year's award, the nomination is seen as absurd. Four months ago, Hong Kong was a stable city with a booming market economy and a good connection with the Chinese mainland. Citizens could walk along the streets with ease. However, what is the city like now? Didn't the violent protesters throw the city into chaos and place ordinary citizens on tenterhooks?

Just two days prior to Melby's nomination, a Hong Kong police officer was stabbed in the neck by a 19-year-old middle school student at a street protest and was rushed to the ICU. Is this what Melby referred to as "nonviolent"? Is this what a potential Nobel Peace Prize winner should do? I call it the opposite of peace.

A group, which has turned a stable and peaceful region upside down, was nominated to a peace prize and gained widely support from the Western community. It is completely absurd. If this is how a "peace" prize works, many anti-government forces and violent demonstrators in the Western world should also be regarded as honored guests at the award ceremony. But why do they receive warrants of arrest instead of invitation letters in the West?

In the past 19 weeks of unrest, Hong Kong has increasingly become an arena of political games where certain anti-China forces and some Hong Kong protesters take advantage of each other. Some Western politicians have long seen China with hostility, and Hong Kong has just given them an opportunity to make a big fuss.

This is an old trick of the West. In 2018, a bipartisan US group of lawmakers nominated Hong Kong secessionists, including Joshua Wong and the "pro-democracy Umbrella Movement," for the Nobel Peace Prize.

It is sincerely hoped that some Westerners stop using their double standards on China, and stop further staining the Nobel Peace Prize, which should have been entirely independent of politics.

■ Hunger prompts India to review Hindu nationalism

Indian dietary culture has kept its unique customs and traditions, some of which hinder its efforts in poverty relief.

India ranked 102 among 117 countries in the Global Hunger Index in 2019, behind such economies as Nepal, North Korea and Pakistan. Although India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, many of its people still live in extreme poverty.

On Monday, economists Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer won the Nobel Prize in Economics for their "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty." Although this year's Nobel Economics Prize set the Chinese internet abuzz, with some netizens airing strong dissatisfaction, Indian-American Banerjee has indeed made great contributions to anti-poverty programs. We advise all Indian poverty relief officials to read Banerjee and Duflo's book, *Poor Economics*, which will make people rethink the relationship between poverty and culture.

Visitors may find the food in India is very different from other parts of the world, due to the country's generous use of herbs and spices. Some statistics show that Indian people may consume less meat than the global average. Vegetarianism has become more popular among Indian

people, as the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government rolled out measures to cater to Hindu nationalists. In 2017, The Guardian newspaper reported that India's government advised pregnant women to avoid meat and eggs to benefit the fetus.

Malnutrition is the predominant underlying risk factor for child deaths in India. The malnutrition challenge also poses an obstacle for manufacturing development. Some Indian workers appear to be young and vigorous, but sticking to vegetarianism leads to inefficient work.

Indian cuisine is deeply connected to its cultural and religious beliefs. It is not only a health issue but also a political one. On the one hand, the Indian government favors Hindu nationalism in its policies, and hopes it can consolidate the national consciousness with nationalistic measures. But on the other hand, the government is trying to break the shackles of old customs and traditions in Indian culture to promote industrialization and modernization. This may explain why there is an inherent contradiction in Indian economic policies.

India has long faced a serious hunger problem, and without solving it, India cannot become a modern industrial country. The pressure of hunger is prompting India to review its dietary culture and Hindu nationalism in the industrial age.

■ Weak governance fuels violence in Catalonia

All the international mainstream media have Catalonia on their front pages again. While the new Catalan riots might have taken foreigners by surprise, but in Spain, we had anticipated this for months.

The fourth general strike in less than two years stirred Catalonia this Friday. Like the others, this strike is linked to the independence movement and has been organized by pro-independent unions. At the beginning of the week, the Supreme Court sentenced several pro-independence political leaders to imprisonment on charges of sedition and embezzlement of public funds. After the verdict was made public, Catalans were called to use their right to civil disobedience and, consequently, riots have started.

Through a virtual platform known as the 'Democratic Tsunami', the mass agitations are being organized. Tsunami convened on October 14 and rallied a protest of more than 8,000 people at the airport. Following that, every night, peaceful manifestations have been interrupted by acts of violence. Besides the Tsunami Platform, there's another important player, the Committee for the Republic's Defense (CDR, in Catalan). It's a joint forum of various social associations.

Both Tsunami and CDR are among the main instigators of civil disobedience, though Catalan political factors are also partly responsible for this. However, even though they have publicly declared that "independence" is achievable through the institutions and streets, it does not mean violence is welcomed. It has been condemned by all political actors in Catalonia and Madrid. As members of the Catalan government said, "Catalan people may have a claiming character, but they are also pacifist".

Hence, who is provoking the violent disturbance?

The police force has detected anarchist, ultra-nationalist, and anti-government groups among the CDR. Those groups from outside Barcelona, the Catalan capital, are ready to unleash the chaos in the capital, including other major cities. This Friday, on the backdrop of the general strike, the so-called "freedom march" set a perfect stage to perpetuate their violence.

According to the Home Office, radical demonstrators use different apps with the QR system, and other social media like Telegram to organize themselves. Madrid has acknowledged that even though those groups represent a minority, their strategies have a strong impact on the events of the week.

Security experts are concerned that from Friday through the weekend, there might be an escalation of violence, and Barcelona has become their playground for "urban guerilla" tactics. In this way, the radical young people with their hoodies on are facing the security forces as they burned containers and urban furniture, set barricades, and hurled acid and Molotov cocktails.

Catalan riots are reportedly taking a lesson from Hong Kong ones. Certainly, Madrid and Beijing are facing deep-rooted historical conflicts, and an easy solution may not be in their near future.

There are some similarities between the Hong Kong riots and the Catalan ones but only on the surface. Five years ago, the young rebels' movement in Hong Kong was relatively peaceful. That year, the umbrella revolt lasted 79 days. But, five years later, that young generation has grown up and this time, their strategy is more sophisticated and violent. In order not to tire up the population, the rallies are short, and mainly on the weekends. Secondly, there are no visible leaders who can be caught. Thirdly, there is an efficient use of technology for organizing demonstrators and building strategies. Finally, when it is necessary, they are willing to use violence.

On the other hand, the situation in Spain should be observed, metaphorically speaking, like an iceberg. On the top, we see the direct conflict. On the second level, there's an important social fracture in Catalonia. On the next level, the Catalan political arena interferes with the State's government. Lastly, during the last couple of years the Spanish government has been unstable, new elections scheduled for the second time this November speak volumes about that. For that reason, state political parties are using the Catalan conflict for their benefit, which further destabilizes and increases the social fracture among Catalan society and the other Catalan regions.

When residents are not satisfied with formal institutions, such as government, certain forces with ulterior motives use their influence through informal platforms such as social networks, clubs or associations to mobilize the masses and launch boycotts, sit-ins, including street demonstrations. When the masses feel that the government is drifting away from their wishes, it will give rise to more rebelliousness against those formal institutions.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 40-32-97101-62-021

1398.4532

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
02	PIPE LAYER with rear winch acceptable manufacturers (brands): CATERPILLAR-JOHN DEER-KOMATSU-PROMTRACTOR	04

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 17,454 EURO or 2,200,000,000 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, AGHAJARI, 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 ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱

Warren on the road to victory over Biden and Trump

By Saeed Sobhani

TEHRAN — Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren of the Year 2020 has found good standing in the polls. He is now ahead of former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump! While the Ukraine Gate story has had a negative impact on Trump and Biden's popularity, Warren's votes are increasing day by day. Here's the latest news and analysis:

Can Warren win the nomination without majority black support?

As POLITICO reported, Joe Biden's advisers have repeatedly downplayed the need for him to win in predominantly white Iowa and New Hampshire — while boasting of his strength in Southern states where black voters often dominate. And the polls, to date, back up their theory that that's his path to the nomination.

But if Biden's firewall ever cracks — and there are some signs it's softening in recent surveys — it will likely start with young black women, according to interviews with a dozen African American female organizers, lawmakers and activists who are heavily involved in the Democratic primary election or closely tracking the mood of black voters.

Their consensus: No candidate, Biden included, has a lock on African American voters in key early primary states. And Elizabeth Warren is gaining traction among black female voters under 50, while Bernie Sanders has a significant following among young black voters as well.

The anecdotal reports from African-American activists on the ground offer a reason for skepticism that Biden has already clinched the Democratic Party's must-win voting bloc. The state of play is more fluid than assumed, they said, offering hope not just to Warren but to other candidates hoping to mount a late surge in the primary should Biden collapse. Nse Ufot, executive director of the voter registration group New Georgia Project, said the notion that black voters are behind Biden no matter what is nonsense.

"In the rural black belt," she said, "the candidate that says they have those voters locked up and that they have pledged some sort of unending fealty is the candidate that is asking for a big surprise and preparing to get their feelings hurt."

Ufot, whose group has registered some 400,000 minorities in Georgia, has a different beat on the race than the one reflected in polls. And fellow black women organizing voters in key primary states like Alabama agree with her.

The current state of the race reminds LaTosha Brown, the cofounder of Black Voters Matter, of 2008. Black voters were behind Hillary Clinton until Barack Obama won Iowa, when, Brown said, her "phone blew up."

"Iowa is a template of what white people will do," said Brown, whose group played a key role in rallying black voters to the polls in Democrats' upset win in the 2017 Alabama Senate race. "And I hate to acknowledge it, but it influences how black people see a candidate, too."

"So if [Warren] wins Iowa or New Hampshire, it's a ball game changer," said Brown.

Warren's support among black women, according to Morning Consult, has inched up from 8 percent three months ago to 13 percent in a survey released this week. Biden currently has 42 percent support among black voters, the poll showed. Morning Consult is one of the few polls that provides breakdowns of their findings by gender and race.

Alisha Thomas Cromartie, a former Georgia state representative and host of the "Fearless Chic" podcast, said establishment black elected officials have flocked to Biden because he's a known entity linked to Barack Obama.

But "it is a mistake to assume that because local elected officials support a candidate that black voters will follow suit," she said. Thomas Cromartie, who is 41, hasn't endorsed a candidate but spoke admiringly of Warren and Kamala Harris and said black women her age and younger are still shopping around.

Antjuan Seawright, a South Carolina Democratic strategist and former senior adviser to Hillary Clinton, disagreed that Warren is gaining momentum with black voters. "Numbers do not lie," he said, referring to polls.

Black voters trust "honesty, authenticity and genuineness," Seawright said, and "Biden represents all of those things for older, battle-tested African-American



voters, people known to show up in elections. Could the temperature change? Absolutely."

But female African American pols interviewed for this story said the growing interest in Warren among black women presents an opportunity for the Massachusetts senator to upend Biden's strategy. In states like Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia — all influential in the primary — black women under 54 outnumber black men of the same age group. And black women consistently vote for Democrats more than most other demographic groups. Polls have captured a gradually expanding base for Warren. In the last few months, her support has expanded beyond white, college-educated to women of color, according to the Morning Consult and Quinnipiac polls — though she still trails Sanders among black voters in certain surveys. Warren also has a big cash advantage over Biden — with \$25.7 million in her war chest compared to just \$8.9 million for Biden — that could allow her to add campaign staff and engage more black voters in Southern states where the former VP is strong.

Biden's campaign pushed back against reports that they've lowered expectations for Iowa and New Hampshire and rejected the notion that he is taking any state or voting bloc for granted. "We have and will continue to invest significant resources into Iowa, New Hampshire and all the early contests to compete aggressively and win those states," said Biden spokesman TJ Ducklo, noting the candidate's heavy campaign presence in both states.

"The VP is the only candidate in this race who can assemble the kind of broad coalition it takes to be successful and start Democrats on the path to victory in November 2020," Ducklo added. Biden's campaign continues to trumpet his strength among black voters, and their commitment to him. And a key piece of Biden's African American support is their ability to deliver crucial delegates needed to win the nomination.

Fox News Poll: Biden and Warren gain ground in Democratic race

As FoxNews reported, Together Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren capture the support of more than half of Democratic primary voters, according to the latest Fox News national poll on the 2020 election.

Biden stays on top in the race with 32 percent support among primary voters, up 3 points since September. He's followed by Elizabeth Warren at 22 percent -- that's up 6 points and a new high for her. Bernie Sanders is at 17 percent, down 1 point since last month.

While Biden's support has stayed between 29-35 percent since March, his current 10-point advantage is about half of his 19-point lead in June.

The rundown continues with Kamala Harris at 5 percent, Pete Buttigieg at 4 percent, Beto O'Rourke at 3 percent, and Cory Booker, Amy Klobuchar and Andrew Yang each at 2 percent. Michael Bennet, Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Tim Ryan, Tom Steyer, and Marianne

Williamson receive 1 percent apiece. Biden retains top billing with strong support among non-whites, voters over age 45, and moderates/conservatives. Warren has strengthened her position by increasing support among suburban voters, very liberals, and men. When Democratic primary voters' first and second choice preferences are considered together, Biden and Warren tie at 45 percent support, Sanders is at 34 percent, Harris 15 percent and Buttigieg 13 percent.

President Trump's allegations about improper actions by Biden and his son have so far failed to chip away at Biden's support in the primary race -- and Democratic primary voters continue to believe the former vice president is the candidate best equipped to beat Trump in 2020: 43 percent feel that way, up from 42 percent last month. Nineteen percent think Warren has the best chance to oust Trump and 15 percent say Sanders. At the same time, the poll finds the three top Democratic candidates with sizable leads over the president in potential head-to-head matchups.

The poll, released Thursday, shows Biden (50-40 percent) and Warren (50-40 percent) both top Trump by 10 points, and Sanders is up by 9 (49-40 percent). This marks the first time all three Democrats have held a lead outside the poll's margin of error. Last month, Biden was up by 14 points, Warren by 6 and Sanders by 8. "If Warren continues to poll as strongly against Trump as the former vice president, it makes it increasingly difficult for the Biden team to keep making the argument he is the most electable candidate," says Democratic pollster Chris Anderson, who conducts the Fox News Poll with Republican Daron Shaw.

The impeachment inquiry hasn't caused any real shifts in the ballot test, as Trump's support in the two-way matchups has been between 37-42 percent all year. However, the poll finds an 8-point shift since last month in the number expecting Trump will be re-elected. In September, more thought he would win by a 6-point margin and now more expect he won't by 2 points. And while most Republican primary voters want to keep Trump as their party's nominee, nearly one in five, 17 percent, would like to see someone else run.

"So far, Trump has been able to keep his Republican base on board," says Shaw. "If the percentage opposing his re-nomination creeps into the 20s, that would be a troubling sign."

Meanwhile, voters continue to believe Donald Trump is dishonest. Sixty-three percent say that -- far more than the 35 percent who think he is honest and trustworthy. By the way, that's the same number who said Trump was honest before he won the 2016 election. On the other side, each of the top three Democratic candidates receives positive ratings on this measure. Sanders performs best with 59 percent saying he is honest and trustworthy (36 percent disagree). Fifty percent think Warren is honest vs. 44 percent dishonest, and for Biden voters split 48-47 percent. Among Democrats, 87 percent think Sanders is honest and trustworthy, while 81 percent feel that way about Warren and 75 percent Biden. Seventy-three percent of Republicans say Trump is honest.

Currently, 51 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Sanders, while 43 percent view him negatively. That puts him in positive territory by 8 points. More view Warren positively by 7 points (46 favorable vs. 39 unfavorable) and Biden by 6 (50 favorable vs. 44 unfavorable).

The ratings are closer to even for Buttigieg (+3 points), Yang (+3), Booker (-2), Harris (-3) and O'Rourke (-4). They each also have large numbers who have never heard of them or have no opinion of them. For example, 43 percent of voters are unable to rate Yang, while 36 percent can't rate Buttigieg and 32 percent can't rate Booker.

Voters view Trump more negatively than positively by 13 points (43-56). His personal favorable rating was underwater by 22 points in the days leading up to the 2016 election (38-60).

Twice as many primary voters say Trump's allegations make them more likely to vote for Biden (21 percent more vs. 10 percent less), while twice as many say health concerns make them less (31 percent) rather than more likely (15 percent) to vote for Sanders in the primary.

Sanders is off the campaign trail since suffering a heart attack October 3. He's 78 years old, while Biden is 76, Trump is 73, and Warren is 70.

Conducted October 6-8, 2019 under the joint direction of Beacon Research (D) and Shaw & Company (R), this Fox News Poll includes interviews with 1,003 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide who spoke with live interviewers on both landlines and cellphones. The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points for all registered voters and 4.5 points for Democratic primary voters (484).

"Strategically brilliant" sellout: Trump's betrayal of the Kurds

1 → Moreover, the order contains broad language that appears to go well beyond sanctions on Turkey and its officials by sanctioning any "foreign person" who is found by the U.S. secretary of state to have been complicit in obstructing or preventing a "political solution to the conflict in Syria."

Minimizing the abrupt abandonment of his Kurdish ally, Trump quipped, "Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte." U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi criticized Trump's impetuous act, noting, "His erratic decision-making is threatening lives, risking regional security and undermining America's credibility in the world." South Carolina Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, perpetually a Trump lap dog, predictably supported his master after some initial squeamish protests categorizing the troop withdrawal as "shortsighted," "irresponsible" and "unnerving to its core."

Turkey's actions in Syria present a conundrum for the United States. As a NATO member with an estimated 435,000 troops, the largest contingent of military personnel in the organization outside of the U.S., Turkey is not a country with which Washington can trifle. Erdoğan is a powerful leader and a man of action, as opposed to his American counterpart who is a blowhard full of bluff, bravado and bluster, but who backpedals and vacillates when confronted by a hardened, politically savvy opponent. By holding U.S. nuclear weapons, about fifty B61 gravity atomic bombs, at Incirlik hostage, Erdoğan effectively has called Trump's bluff of sanctions "devastating to Turkey's economy," leaving the latter little choice but to send his vice president and secretary of state to do damage control on behalf of the NATO alliance.

Off the record, a U.S. defense official has conceded that the U.S. nukes at Incirlik "were now essentially Erdoğan's hostages," but to remove them from there would not only be a politically ticklish endeavor, but also would almost certainly mean the end of the U.S.-Turkey alliance and possibly, even NATO itself. In addition, with its possession of the precise grid coordinates of former U.S., and now Kurdish, positions in Syria, Turkey has the upper hand in this act of unilateral aggression and demonstrated as much when Turkish artillery shells "bracketed" a U.S. command outpost near Kobani on October 4, detonating about 300 meters away on either side. There is deep symbolism in this Turkish shelling of the U.S. outpost; Kobani was the first success by the U.S.-backed Kurdish forces in routing ISIS from their territory.

One aspect of the Turkish incursion into Syria, which may appeal to Trump's demonstrated racist tendencies, is the inherent ethnic cleansing bound to occur. Erdoğan, after failing to topple the government of President Bashar al-Assad, found his country awash in refugees, some 3.6 million ethnic Arabs. His plan for the so-called "safe zone," which his invasion is designed to create by purging the indigenous Kurdish population, is to settle the largely Sunni Arab Syrian refugees in place of the Kurds to form a de facto demilitarized zone, thereby eliminating the threat of cross-border raids by separatists aligned with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Scattered across Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, the Kurds form the largest ethnic group in the world without their own country. Erdoğan has blatantly threatened the Syrian Kurds, declaring, "If you want to live in Kurdistan, there is a Kurdistan in northern Iraq. Take all the terror lovers with you, clear off and live there."

Along similarly racist lines are Erdoğan's threats to flood Europe with refugees, should European leaders fail to go along with his invasion and occupation plans for northern Syria. "If you try to describe our current operation as an occupation, our task will be simple," Erdoğan remarked. "We will open the gates and send 3.6 million refugees your way." While the Turkish leader struck a deal with the EU for a cool €6 billion in 2016 to retain displaced Syrians, pressure has mounted among his supporters to repatriate the refugees following the recession in 2018 and drop in currency value along with double-digit inflation. Erdoğan's perspective on immigrants would also appear closely to parallel Trump's.

Another aspect of the Turkish military operation, which also benefits Trump, is that the resulting chaos will divert public attention from the recently initiated congressional investigation into his impeachment. Shortly after Trump's election in 2016, Harvard University professor of international relations Stephen Walt warned that Trump might make "an Erdoğan-like attempt to use a terrorist attack or some other equally dramatic event as an excuse to declare a 'state of emergency' and to assume unprecedented executive authority." As noted above, by his executive order dated October 14, 2019, Trump has already declared a state of emergency.

In view of the abandonment of the Kurds by the U.S., not the mention the JCPOA, the "Iran nuclear deal," how could the Islamic Republic of Iran negotiate with such a "partner?" Of the 374 treaties negotiated by the U.S. with indigenous peoples of North America, only one was honored. Although signing on the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the U.S. has neither ratified nor enforced it. Trump withdrew from the 2015 Paris Climate Accord; Bush II withdrew from the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The United States is the only nation to have not ratified the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the 1997 Mine-Ban Treaty and over forty other treaties.

Rather than being "the savior of the world," as U.S. president Woodrow Wilson haughtily proclaimed at the Treaty of Versailles after the First World War, the U.S. seems hell-bent on being its scourge. Trump's betrayal of the Kurds not only should give ample evidence of U.S. perfidy, but also should be a lesson for all who fancy themselves as allies of the United States.

Second Announcement



1398.4397

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

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

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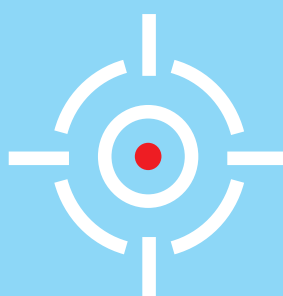
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Planetary ‘autopsies’ indicate worlds like Earth common in the cosmos

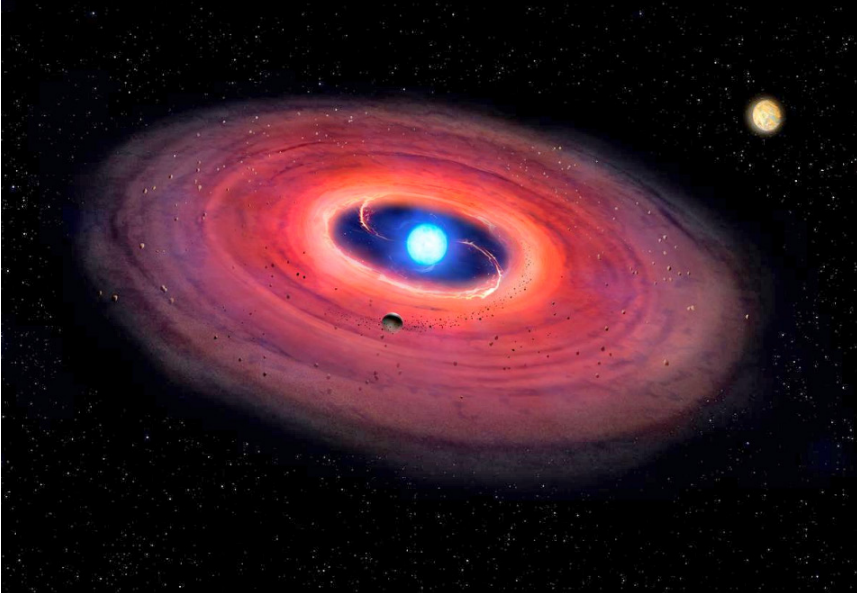
By Will Dunham

A new way of studying planets in other solar systems - by doing sort of an autopsy on planetary wreckage devoured by a type of star called a white dwarf - is showing that rocky worlds with geochemistry similar to Earth may be quite common in the cosmos.

In a study published on Thursday, researchers studied six white dwarfs whose strong gravitational pull had sucked in shredded remnants of planets and other rocky bodies that had been in orbit. This material, they found, was very much like that present in rocky planets such as Earth and Mars in our solar system.

Given that Earth harbors an abundance of life, the findings offer the latest tantalizing evidence that planets similarly capable of hosting life exist in large numbers beyond our solar system.

“The more we find commonalities between planets made in our solar system and those around other stars, the more the odds are enhanced that the Earth is not unusual,” said Edward Young, a geochemistry and cosmochemistry professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), who helped lead the study published in the Journal Science.



“The more Earth-like planets, the greater the odds for life as we understand it.”

The first planets beyond our solar system, called exoplanets, were spotted in the 1990s, but it has been tough for scientists to determine

their composition. Studying white dwarfs offered a new avenue.

A white dwarf is the burned-out core of a sun-like star. In its death throes, the star blows off its outer layer and the rest

collapses, forming an extremely dense and relatively small entity that represents one of the universe’s densest forms of matter, exceeded only by neutron stars and black holes.

Planets and other objects that once orbited it can be ejected into interstellar space. But if they stray near its immense gravitation field, they “will be shredded into dust, and that dust will begin to fall onto the star and sink out of sight,” said study lead author Alexandra Doyle, a UCLA graduate student in geochemistry and astrochemistry.

“This is where that ‘autopsy’ idea comes from,” Doyle added, noting that by observing the elements from the massacred planets and other objects inside the white dwarf scientists can understand their composition.

The researchers observed a fundamental characteristic of the rocks: their state of oxidation. The amount of oxygen present during the formation of these rocks was high - just as it was during the formation of our solar system’s rocky material. They focused on iron, which when oxidized ends up as rock.

“Rocks are rocks, even when they form around other stars,” Young said.

The closest of the six white dwarf stars is about 200 light-years from Earth. The farthest is about 665 light-years away.

Study details version of insecticide DDT lost in aftermath of WWII

In a newly published study, scientists recounted their rediscovery of a fast-acting insecticide DFDT, the forgotten relative of the infamous pesticide DDT.

“We set out to study the growth of crystals in a little-known insecticide and uncovered its surprising history, including the impact of World War II on the choice of DDT -- and not DFDT -- as a primary insecticide in the 20th century,” Bart Kahr, professor of chemistry at New York University, said in a news release.

While studying crystal growth in the lab, scientists happened upon a new crystal form of DDT. When the researchers tested the new pesticide, they found it was more effective and faster-acting than DDT. Because the insecticide can be applied in smaller quantities, DFDT could be more eco-friendly than DDT.

Scientists created the new insecticide by fluorinating molecules of DDT, swapping out the chemical’s chlorine atoms for fluorine. When the researchers exposed mosquitoes and fruit flies to the difluoro analog of DFDT -- with molecules featuring two fluoride atoms -- the targets were killed two to four times faster.

“Speed thwarts the development of resistance,” said NYU chemistry professor Michael Ward. “Insecticide crystals kill mosquitoes when they are absorbed through the pads of their feet. Effective compounds kill insects quickly, possibly before they are able to reproduce.”

After realizing the power of their discovery, scientists surveyed historic chemistry research to see if there was a precedent for the novel insecticide. The researchers found evidence that DFDT was first created by German scientists during World War II. The German military deployed the chemical for insect control in the Soviet Union and North Africa.

In the United States, DDT became the insecticide of choice. Records suggest military officials with the Allied Forces interviewed German scientists about DFDT, but dismissed their claims that the insecticide was more effective and less toxic than DDT.

“We were surprised to discover that at the outset DDT had a competitor which lost the



race because of geopolitical and economic circumstances, not to mention its connection to the German military, and not necessarily because of scientific considerations,” said Kahr. “A faster, less persistent insecticide, as is DFDT, might have changed the course of the 20th century; it forces us to imagine counterfactual science histories.”

Kahr and his colleagues detailed this alternative history and their rediscovery of a long-lost insecticide in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

In most places, DDT has been banned for decades -- outlawed for its harmful effects on the environment and wildlife. Though once sprayed indiscriminately, today, DDT is only occasionally deployed for the treatment of malaria-carrying mosquito populations.

But with the continued prevalence of malaria and the emergence other mosquito-borne diseases, like the Zika virus, scientists and officials have begun to reconsider the use of more powerful insecticides like DDT.

In places where the renewed use of DDT makes sense, DFDT could serve as a safer and more effective alternative.

“While more research is needed to better understand the safety and environmental impact of DFDT, we, along with the World Health Organization, recognize the urgent need for new, fast insecticides,” Ward said. “Not only are fast-acting insecticides critical for fighting the development of resistance, but less insecticide can be used, potentially reducing its environmental impact.”

(Source: UPI)

U.S. astronauts embark on the first all-female spacewalk

Two NASA astronauts made space history on Friday, completing the first spacewalk by an all-woman team when they stepped outside the International Space Station.

Christina Koch and Jessica Meir accomplished the much-anticipated milestone for NASA during a relatively routine mission to swap faulty batteries on the station’s exterior.

“Mission accomplished!” NASA chief Jim Bridenstine tweeted on Friday. “Today’s historic achievement paves the way for our #Artemis program, which will send the first woman to the Moon in 2024.”

“Ad Astra!” he added, Latin for “to the stars”.

NASA aims to return to the moon with crewed missions by 2024 under the program dubbed Artemis, who in Greek mythology was the twin sister of Apollo, the name of the original moon program.

Koch and Meir, clad in white spacesuits and tethered by cords to the station some 254 miles (408 km) above Earth, stepped into outer space at 7:38 a.m. Eastern time (11:38 GMT) to replace a faulty power unit designed to help condition energy stored from the station’s solar panels, NASA announced online as it showed live video of the action.

A first attempt at an all-female spacewalk in March was called off because one of the astronauts’ medium-sized spacesuits was not configured and ready for the journey.

U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with Koch and Meir by phone from the White House during the final stretch of the spacewalk. “Station, this is President Donald Trump. Do you hear me?”

The president, flanked by his daughter Ivanka Trump and vice president Mike Pence, said the astronauts were “brave, brilliant women” and mistakenly lauded the two as the first women to step outside the space station, prompting a gentle correction from Meir.

“We don’t want to take too much credit, because there have been many other female space-walkers before us. This is just the



first time that there have been two women outside at the same time,” Meir, the 15th woman to conduct a spacewalk, responded.

Astronauts on the space station, which became operational in 2000, have tallied 221 maintenance spacewalks, 43 of which included women astronauts, according to NASA.

Friday’s spacewalk, formally called extravehicular activities, is in line with the U.S. space agency’s aim to ramp up inclusivity in space.

Koch is scheduled set to complete the longest single space flight by a woman by remaining in orbit aboard the station until February 2020. She said gender milestones such as the spacewalk are significant.

“There are a lot of people who derive motivation from inspiring stories from people who look like them, and I think that it’s an important aspect of the story to tell,” she said at a NASA briefing in Houston this month.

Sandra Magnus, a former NASA astronaut who spent 136 days on the International Space Station, told Reuters she did not want events like Friday’s spacewalk to become gimmicks.

“We want them to happen because people have the skill sets and they’re available to do the job,” said Magnus.

“On the other hand, it’s important for young women to see women role models doing extraordinary things,” she said. “So there’s two sides of the coin. You want it to be normal but yet you want it to be special.”

(Source: Reuters)

Cemeteries offer evidence of social inequality in Bronze Age households

By Brooks Hays

Researchers in Germany have unearthed archaeological evidence of social inequality, including the possible usage of servants and slaves, in Bronze Age households.

The evidence, recovered from a series of burials sites on homestead farms in southern Germany, was described this week in the Journal Science.

“In southern Germany, 4,000 years ago, several generations of high-ranking families were buried in cemeteries on their farmsteads, with husbands alongside wives, sons, children who died young, and poor, unrelated helpers,” scientists wrote in their paper.

Researchers knew that social inequality had emerged by the early Bronze Age, as evidenced by previously excavated elaborate burials -- proof of a revered warrior class. But the latest findings speak to a more relatable kind of inequality, a kind confined to a single household.

The latest excavations revealed another peculiar feature of Bronze Age society. Scientists found one family member was absent from the homestead burials, the adult daughters. Researchers also determined that many of the well-to-do women were reared far from the Lech River Valley, where they were buried.

Scientists were able to use archaeological and genetic analysis to show that women left the farm when they were adults, and that the mothers of the sons found buried in the grave sites all came from elsewhere.

“Archeogenetics provides us with a completely new view of the past. Until recently, we would not have thought it possible to examine marriage rules, social structure and social inequality in prehistory,” Johannes Krause, director of the department of archaeogenetics at the Max Planck Institute for Human History,



said in a news release.

Researchers estimate that women who moved far away to marry and raise families in distant towns likely aided the exchange of information and cultural practices between different Bronze Age communities.

The new findings also showed that Bronze Age families had established practices of inheritance by at least 4,000 years ago. “Wealth was correlated with either biological kinship or foreign origin,” said Philipp Stockhammer, professor of prehistoric archaeology at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. “The nuclear family passed on their property and status over generations. But at every farm we also found poorly equipped people of local origin.”

Scientists have previously detailed evidence of household inequality in classical Rome and Greece, but the people of the Lech River Valley predate Roman civilization by 1,500 years.

“This shows how long the history of social inequality in family structures goes back in time,” Stockhammer said.

European SolO probe ready to take on audacious mission

The European spacecraft that aims to take the closest ever pictures of the Sun is built and ready for launch.

The Solar Orbiter, or SolO, probe will put itself inside the orbit of Planet Mercury to train its telescopes on the surface of our star.

Other instruments will sense the constant outflow of particles and their embedded magnetic fields.

Scientists hope the detailed observations can help them understand better what drives the Sun’s activity.

This goes up and down on an 11-year cycle. It’s sure to be a fascinating endeavor but it’s one that has direct relevance to everyone on Earth.

The energetic outbursts from our star have the ability to damage satellites, harm astronauts, degrade radio communications, and even knock power grids offline.

“We’re doing this not just for the sake of increasing our knowledge but also for being able to take precautions, for example by putting satellites in safe mode when we know big solar storms are coming or letting astronauts not leave the space station on these days,” said Daniel Müller, the European Space Agency (Esa) project scientist on SolO.

The probe was assembled in Stevenage, UK, by Airbus (Britain has invested €220m in the €1.5bn project), with the past year spent here at the IABG facility in Ottobrunn, Germany, for testing.

The spacecraft has cleared its checks and will now ship out to Florida to be mated with the Atlas rocket that will hurl it towards the Sun in early February.

SolO was first conceived in the late 1990s with the industrial contract to produce it awarded in 2012.

A key challenge has been to mature technologies that can protect a probe that flies to within 43 million km of our star.

Temperatures at this proximity will get up to 600 degrees.

SolO’s plan to survive these conditions involves hiding behind a large titanium shield, and cooling itself with a complex series of radiators.

Sophisticated fault-recovery systems will also ensure SolO stays out of trouble.

“If we de-point, we very quickly run into difficulty thermally,” explained Airbus project manager Ian Walters.

“Our requirement is to make sure we recover under any failure scenario within 50 seconds and actually our spacecraft will go back to normal pointing in 22 seconds, all autonomously.”

But the probe still needs to observe the star and to do that it must use peepholes in the shield.

These will briefly open to allow the telescopes to grab their observations before closing shut again.

The pictures and movies that come back will be unprecedented in their fine resolution.

Features as small as 70km across will be visible.

“It’s amazing; every time we get better resolution we see more and more,” said Holly Gilbert, the US space agency’s deputy project scientist on the mission.

“The interactions between the Sun’s plasma (energetic gas) and its magnetic field are incredibly dynamic, not just on the large scales but on the very, very small scales.

“When the magnetic fields interact in a very explosive process called reconnection - that’s a very small region.

“And to see how that leads to eruptions, we need to see the small stuff that’s happening.”

One of the major differences between this mission and all previous such ventures is that SolO will get to take the first close-up images of our star’s polar regions.

The high latitudes are known to be significant locations for magnetic behavior and the generation of the fastest outflows of particles.

“We’ve never seen the solar poles directly because from Earth we just have a very grazing view,” said Frédéric Auchère, a mission principal investigator from the Institut d’Astrophysique Spatiale, Orsay, France.

“But these regions are very important because they are the source of the very fast solar wind and we also know that in the solar interior things are happening at the poles that may be the key to understanding solar activity and the solar cycle.”

SolO will be following the American Parker Solar Probe, which launched to space last year.

The pair share many of the same scientific goals and even the same kinds of instruments, although only SolO will look directly at the Sun.

Parker can’t do that because it’s venturing even closer to the star, a mere 6 million km at closest approach.

It uses just in-situ sensors, to sample for example the particles flowing over it. But scientists believe the duo when in the right position will make a powerful team in observing processes that initiate close in to the Sun but then propagate outwards.

“There are so many ways we can combine these spacecraft to get incredible science. The first serious opportunity will come in September next year,” Tim Horbury, from Imperial College London, told BBC News.

(Source: BBC)

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 40-32-96606-62-005

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

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01	CRAWLER EXCAVATOR-long reach acceptable manufacturers (brands): CATERPILLAR-FIAT GROUP (KOBELCO, NEW HOLLAND, FIAT ALLIS, FIAT), HITACHI, KOMATSU, LIEBHERR, HYUNDAI	02

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

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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 ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱

Remnants of Safavid-era bathhouse discovered

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Archaeologists have discovered remnants of a Safavid-era (1501–1736) public bathhouse within a former royal ensemble in the Iranian city of Qazvin.



A new archaeology season in Qazvin’s Safavid Garden Ensemble, locally known as “Dowlatkhaneh Safavi”, has yielded relics and remains of a historic bathhouse, which dates from the Safavid era, Qazvin tourism chief Alireza Khazaeli said on Wednesday, Mehr reported.

“Fortunately, the main parts of this structure have been unearthed flawlessly, some of which reaching a depth of three meters below the surface,” the official said.

The archaeologists have also recovered piles of simple and glazed pottery, fragments of simple and glazed tiles, glazed bricks, bones of consumed and meat and poultry, flawless earthenware jars and remains of a human skull amongst other objects that date from Safavid era onwards, Khazaeli added.

Qazvin used to be the capital of the Persian Empire under Safavids from 1548-98. The city sits in a wide, fertile plain at the southern foot of the Alborz Mountains.

Returned Achaemenid tablets to go on show in Qazvin

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** — A select of 1,783 Achaemenid-era clay tablets and fragments, which were on loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago since 1935, will be put on show in the city of Qazvin.

Some of the recently-recovered clay tablets will go on display in Qazvin museums, deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian said on Thursday.

These treasured documents decipher an important segment of recorded history of Achaemenids during the reign of Darius I (Darius the Great who reigned from 522 to 486 BC).

The tablets also reveal economic, social and religious history of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the larger Near Eastern region in the fifth century BC.

The Achaemenid [Persian] Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time. The empire stretched from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia and to India.



ROUND THE GLOBE

Old town of Regensburg with Stadthof

Located on the Danube River, the Old Town of Regensburg with Stadthof is an exceptional example of a central-European medieval trading center, which illustrates an interchange of cultural and architectural influences.



The property encompasses the city center on the south side of the river, two long islands in the Danube, the so-called Wohrde (from the old German word: waird, meaning island or peninsula), and the area of the former charity hospital St Katharina in Stadthof, a district incorporated into the city of Regensburg only in 1924. A navigable canal, part of the European waterway of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal, forms the northern boundary of Stadthof.

A notable number of buildings of outstanding quality testify to its political, religious, and economic significance from the 9th century. The historic fabric reflects some two millennia of structural continuity and includes ancient Roman, Romanesque, and Gothic buildings.

Regensburg’s 11th to 13th century architecture still defines the character of the town marked by tall buildings, dark and narrow lanes, and strong fortifications. The buildings include medieval Patrician houses and towers, a large number of churches and monastic ensembles as well as the 12th century Stone Bridge.

The town is also remarkable as a meeting place of Imperial Assemblies and as the seat of the Perpetual Imperial Diet general assemblies until the 19th century.

(Source: UNESCO)

10 reasons why tourists must visit Iran

By David Robie

I stumbled on the scene by chance. Our host family in Iran’s second city Mashhad, a modern and beautiful metropolis that would comfortably fit in New Zealand’s entire population, was taking us on a drive to the outskirts to visit the tomb of the famous poet and chronicler Abul-Qasem Ferdowsi.

It just so happened that this was the very day that a new section of the surrounding gardens was being opened and the red carpet was being rolled out for a visiting cultural affairs minister.

Shortly after we arrived, the political scrum began – a mass of photographers, press people and ceremonial guards pressing.

Bodyguards whisked the minister, Ali-Asghar Mounesan, head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, into the cavernous tomb among the sculptured friezes of mythical hero Rostam fighting off dragons and monsters in defense of ancient Persia.

The hero’s exploits are featured in the 10th century epic Shahnameh: The Book of Kings, penned by Ferdowsi and comprising some 50,000 couplets.

Ferdowsi is the hometown literary giant and one of Iran’s best universities and medical schools is in the city and named after him. It was opened in 1949.

Modern day Iran is steeped in massive historical and intriguing cultural icons, and also a swathe of mosques and other religious shrines, dating back to the Achaemenian empire founded by Cyrus the Great five centuries before Christ and ancient pre-Islam Zoroastrianism (fire-worshipping), one of the world’s oldest continuously practiced religions believed to have its roots some 4000 years ago.

■ Impressive attractions

Some critics say that Iranian authorities since the 1979 Islamic Revolution spend far more and devote greater attention to the religious artefacts and buildings of Islam to the neglect of some historical sites. However, whatever the truth about that Iran boasts a never-ending range of impressive and attractive places to visit.

The tragedy is that not enough is known about the country’s cultural and historical wonders in the West and the refusal of many mainstream travel companies to run regular tours.

Some homegrown Iranian tour operators, worried about the downturn in tourist numbers – a fall in spite of Iran’s plans to boost tourism and visitors by fivefold to 20 million a year by 2025 (blame Donald Trump for the fall) – have now recruited social media “influencers” to tour the country and blog about the attributes.

One group of 12 Instagram global posters with about 16 million combined followers are this month visiting Iran on a familiarization trip organized by Iranian traveler Hoda Rostami and social media “influencer” who is trying encourage foreign tourists to “discover” Iran’s fascinations.

Iran embarked last year on ambitious plans to boost tourism. Neighboring Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey have been added to the list of countries whose nationals can get visas on arrival. Getting an e-visa for New Zealanders is now far more straight forward than it used to



People visit the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

be – thank goodness for us not being American or British.

Iran also has plans to revive passenger sea lines, including routes between the country and Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia – or at least that was the idea before the recent tensions over the Persian Gulf and sanctions-busting for vital Iranian oil exports.

Also there have been reports on plans to build a railway from Iran’s southwestern Khuzestan province, travelling west through Iraq and ends at the Syrian port city of Latakia. This is expected to boost religious tourism, including the massive annual pilgrimage to Karbala.

Having just toured Iran myself while on sabbatical, I highly recommend the country as an absolute must visit.

■ My bucketlist

Here is my bucket list of 10 reasons why you should go to Iran – but there are also many other reasons.

■ Imam Reza (AS) shrine, Mashhad

The incredibly impressive Haram-e Razavi, the Imam Reza (AS) shrine in Mashhad, is widely regarded as the ‘heart of Shia Iran’. More than 20 million religious tourists visit this vast shrine each year. Affluent Mashhad, Iran’s second-largest city with a population comfortably equivalent to New Zealand’s total, thrives on “religious tourism”. The city is in north with Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.”

■ Tomb of Ferdowsi, Mashhad

Abul-Qasem Ferdowsi, Iran’s greatest and one of the world’s most renowned poets. He penned the epic mythical and historical Shahnameh: The Book of Kings, the world’s longest poem in the 10th century. With some 50,000 couplets, the original book weighs 75 kilos and chronicles the saga of the early Persian empires until the seventh century Arab invasion and conquest. Ferdowsi’s tomb and museum at Tus are today one of Mashhad’s inspiring attractions.

■ Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Isfahan

Isfahan’s impressive and peaceful Naksh-e Jahan Square is the world’s largest after Tiananmen. It is indeed a spectacle. Once a vast polo field, the hewn stone goalposts are still at one end. Designed and laid out in 1602 under the reign of Shah Abbas (Safavid epoch) when Isfahan was capital of Iran, it is today a popular place of family picnics and horse-drawn carriage rides. The square is ringed by a maze of fascinating shops and traditional Sheikh Lotfallah bazaar.

■ Khaju Bridge, Isfahan

The 133m Khaju Bridge and weir is one of several historical bridges across the Zayandeh river, which has started flowing again after being dry for several years. Built about 1650 by Shah Abbas II, the bridge has 23 arches and a place in the middle for a throne for the shah to admire the water flowing by.

■ Azadi Tower, Tehran

Iran’s impressive Tehran Milad Tower, is at 435m the 6th tallest TV tower in the world. It also has the world’s biggest head structure of any telecommunications tower. The top floor of the 12-level head structure can be reached by high speed lifts within 50sec.

■ Persepolis, near Shiraz

One of the seven great wonders of the ancient world, Persepolis was the extraordinary capital of Darius the Great in 520 BC, conceived and established following the vast Persian Empire forged by Cyrus the Great. The ruins near Shiraz are still very impressive from the Gate of all Nations onwards.

■ Karim Khan Citadel, Shiraz

The 18th century Karim Khan Citadel was once a political prison for 40 years. It has a strange “leaning tower” where the impressive bathhouse outflows eroded the foundations over a couple of centuries. The nearby Bazar-e Vakil traditional bazaar network and Hammam-e Vakil bathhouse, which has a display of traditional ablutions, are also fascinating and worth visits.

■ Tombs of Hafez and Sa’adi, Shiraz

Tombs of Hafez and Sa’adi in Shiraz are major sites for Iranians, and they ought to be for Westerners too.

■ Golestan Palace, Tehran

An elegant complex standing as a reminder of the glories and opulence of Iran’s Qajar dynasty in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is where the coronation of Reza Shah took place on a Marble Throne on display and where his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was also crowned in the Museum Hall before being deposed in the 1979 Revolution.

■ Sa’ad Abad Museum Complex, Tehran

The Mellat, or White Palace, is the largest mansion in the Sa’ad Abad forest museum complex in north Tehran. This was built in the 1930s and has bullet proof windows. It was used by Mohammad Reza Shah (Pahlavi dynasty), and empress Farah, as a summer palace before he was deposed in the 1979 Revolution. Among the more interesting museums in this complex are one devoted to the exploits of the Iranian adventurer brothers Omidvar and the brilliant contemporary artist Mahmoud Farschian.

This is a mere introduction to places in Iran to visit, and thanks to Zahra Ebrahimzadeh (our former homestay student), her family and friends for such a wonderful start. I haven’t even mentioned the amazing United Nations heritage old mudwalled town of Yazd on the edge of a desert, or the northwestern mountain city of Tabriz with one of the finest bazaars, and a host of other fascinating places.

When I return, I would love to go to the north of the country and around the Caspian Sea.

Visit Iran and enjoy.

Dr David Robie traveled independently and with no political “minders”. (The text has slightly been edited by the Tehran Times for clarity)

(Source: Asia Pacific Report)

Second Announcement



1398.4401

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

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 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

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۴ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۷/۲۸

The big lies disseminated by western MSM on Syrian crisis

By Ali Radmanesh

TEHRAN – The western governments have for years been working to smother all discussions about Syria in a fog of propaganda, trying to ensure that their fabricated narrative of the crisis is what the world believes about the Syria debacle.

The Syria crisis could act as a kind of geopolitical detonator; the first domino in a chain of dominoes that could lead to a war involving international powers. This war could develop on multiple fronts, most importantly on the economic front, but it could very well turn into a shooting war involving numerous actors.

Syria is so important, in fact, that the establishment has been careful to smother all discussion about what is really going on there in a fog of propaganda. And make no mistake, both Republicans and Democrats as well as Eastern and Western governments are participating in the lies and misdirection. Obviously, the first and most important lie is a multi-sided one, and we can't continue forward until it's dissected – we are speaking of the lie of US involvement in the region. The list is compiled by Smith for Activist Post.

■ **Lie #1: U.S. has legitimacy in the original Syrian conflict**

First, most people reading this should know by now that US covert intelligence agencies (among others) were the force behind the “revolution” in Syria against the Bashar al-Assad. The majority of the fighters coming into the region were trained and equipped in Jordan in camps run by Western agencies. The program was called “Operation Timber Sycamore” and was launched in different stages from 2011-2013.

It's clear according to the evidence that the Arab Spring and the conflict in Syria were



A man stands atop a building looking at the destroyed Syrian town of Kobane, also known as Ain al-Arab, 2015.

products of global establishment meddling in the area. Weapons were funneled from the Libyan crisis into the hands of “rebels” that infiltrated Syria, and equipment directly provided by the US found its way into the hands of groups that would eventually become what we now know as ISIS. The Obama Administration, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, John Bolton and many others were intimately involved in Timber Sycamore. The war in Syria was entirely engineered from behind the scenes.

The bottom line: The US has no legitimacy there.

In the Liberty Movement we talk about this conspiracy fact often, but I don't think many people consider the wider implications. Was the purpose merely to overthrow Assad? Was it about installing a government that

was hostile to Russia? Was it to lure Iran into a vulnerable position? Was it all about oil? The answer is no to most of these questions. These are surface explanations that do not satisfy the facts on hand. There is far more to Syria than meets the eye.

■ **Lie #2: original conflict in Syria is the current conflict**

Let's distill this down to some primary facts: The US and other nations created ISIS and deliberately destabilized Syria. The establishment then tried to convince the American public to support the use of military forces in the region to back the insurgents and the civil war they created. This initial plan failed.

Then, the establishment used the terror groups they created in Syria as an argument for why the US needed to send troops into Syria. This plan partially succeeded, but failed

overall to generate public support for wider US involvement.

Kurdish tribes in northern Syria were then forced to defend themselves against the spread of the ISIS plague. The Kurds fought bravely to defend their homes from the terror threat that western agencies had conjured, losing 11,000 fighters in the process. They seem to be the only innocent people involved in the entire affair. They joined the US as allies under the assumption that the US goal was to destroy ISIS. This was NOT the US goal. Not under Obama, nor under Trump. The real goal has always been to use ISIS as an excuse to maintain a US presence in Syria (we will get to why in a moment).

Today, the war has shifted once again. This time, Turkey is invading Syria with claims that the Kurds present an existential danger. The reality is that the Turkish government has sought to erase all Kurdish culture from Turkey and Northern Syria since the 1970s, including banning the Kurdish language and Kurdish dress and Kurdish names. Even the words “Kurd” and “Kurdish were eventually banned. The Kurds responded by forming the PKK and calling for a sovereign Kurdish state which would allow them to live without oppression. The Kurds did not turn to direct action until the 1980s after many years of totalitarian subjugation.

The Turkish invasion today is made possible by the rather convenient surprise pull-back of US forces from the northern border. Now, there is yet another excuse for wider involvement in Syria. The US is not out of the war; the war is just getting started. Each time the Syrian problem starts to fade and it looks like it will be resolved, something else happens which triggers another explosion of fighting. This is not a coincidence.

(to be continued)

Are concerns about Israel's image behind pressures against Iran-related courses in U.S. universities?

By Hamid Dabashi

ALJAZEERA – The United States Department of Education has recently been incensed by a Middle East studies programme run by two major American universities. Why? Let us explore.

“The Education Department”, according to the New York Times, “has ordered Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to remake the Middle East studies program run jointly by the two schools after concluding that it was offering students a biased curriculum that, among other complaints, did not present enough ‘positive’ imagery of Judaism and Christianity in the region.”

You will have to read a bit further down the report to discover that what the US Department of Education, led by Betsy DeVos, is really concerned about is the programme's supposed “anti-Israeli bias”.

President Donald Trump's civil rights chief in the Department of Education, Kenneth L. Marcus, it seems, is now leading a campaign to make all US universities Israel-friendly. Marcus is a Zionist crusader who, as the New York Times puts it, “has made a career of pro-Israel advocacy and has waged a years long campaign to delegitimize and defund Middle East studies programs that he has criticized as rife with anti-Israel bias”.

We learn from the report that two courses offered as part of the programme, titled “Love and Desire in Modern Iran” and “Middle East film criticism”, particularly angered the Evangelical Zionists led by Marcus and DeVos who are currently in charge at the Department of Education.

Imagine the chutzpah, the nerve, to convene a conference, or offer courses, that include discussions of “Love and Desire in Modern Iran”, or even worse “Middle East film criticism” - with taxpayers' money that could be put to far better use building bombs and fighter jets to gift to Israel and sell to the Saudis so that they might slaughter Palestinians and Yemenis. Love and desire in Iran? The cinema of Abbas Kiarostami or Elia Suleiman, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, or Moufida Tlatli? You must be out of your “Eye-Rain-an” mind!

“We do not see how these activities support the development of foreign language and international expertise for the benefit of US national security and economic stability,” US Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education Robert King has declared.

Wise up and do as we say and start training spies and other intelligence officers for the benefits of the US and Israel or else we will shut you down - to put it in the plain English these fanatical prudes understand and want to parrot in Arabic and Persian and Turkish too.

■ **The usual suspects**

The delusional functionaries who believe they can control the critical thinking of an entire nation are of course the usual suspects. According to another report published by the Daily Mail, DeVos ordered an investigation into the programme back in June, after North Carolina Rep George Holding, a Republican, complained that “it hosted a taxpayer-funded conference with ‘severe anti-Israeli bias and anti-Semitic rhetoric’”.

The conference, the report adds, was titled “Conflict Over Gaza: People, Politics and Possibilities”. Of course. These are all Pavlovian signals. You just utter the word “Palestine” or “Gaza” or “settler colonialism”, and all the dog-whistles are out jamming the airways.

What the platoon of Zionists nestled and tucked away in various branches of the US government dislike is what they call “taxpayer dollars” being spent on academic gatherings investigating any aspect of their favourite settler colony. What they want to do with those “taxpayer dollars” is to enable the garrison state to kill more Palestinians or anyone else who dares to say “no” to the armed robbery of their homeland.

Those are the kind of taxpayer dollars they enjoy spend-



U.S. President Trump and Vice President Pence wait as Education Secretary DeVos speaks to students at an event at the White House, May 3, 2017.

ing. But “love and desire” in Iran - or film, fiction, poetry, truth, reality, rebellion in words and deeds against the colonial thieves? You must be kidding. That is a threat to US and Israeli national security.

The bogus charge is loud and clear: “The Trump administration has threatened to withdraw federal funding for a Middle East studies course jointly taught by Duke University and the University of North Carolina because it believes the course is too positive in its depiction of Islam in comparison with its portrayal of Judaism and Christianity.”

It is imperative for the world to know, as they indeed do, by “Judaism and Christianity” they mean Zionism and particularly the irredeemably anti-Semitic Evangelical Zionism to which the ruling oligarchy gathered at the Trump administration, beginning with US Vice President Mike Pence, belong.

The fields of Jewish or Christian studies are thriving or suffering alongside Islamic studies all at the mercy of the meagre budgets allocated to social sciences and humanities across US campuses. Anyone who has studied or taught or chaired any relevant department in any major or even minor US campus knows this charge is a Zionist subterfuge for prevalent Islamophobia that begins with their commander-in-chief, Donald Trump, and extends all the way to the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

For close to 40 years now, my colleagues and I have been fighting to secure funding for Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and other religious studies disciplines within the shrinking budgetary allocations in social sciences and the humanities in American universities. That fact is entirely blindsided by these fanatical stormtroopers tucked away in the US Department of Education.

Legal observers who know the machinations of the Israeli Fifth Column in US governmental agencies inform us: “While the department's micromanagement of the Duke-UNC program in response to the demands of Israel advocates is unprecedented, this attack is a continuation of nearly two decades of right-wing targeting of area studies programs, and Middle East studies programs in particular.”

■ **Redefining ‘American national security’**

At stake is the academic and intellectual freedom that the Zionist paratroopers and Hasbara-apparatchik see as the culprit in cultivating the critical judgement of the responsible citizenry in the US that will in and of itself dismantle the decades of propaganda with which they have fooled Americans.

As the ACLU put it: “In a move that would make even Senator McCarthy blush, the Trump administration is threatening to pull federal funding from a Middle East

What is really behind the US Department of Education's fury over a Middle East studies programme?

Studies program for failing to toe the government's line on Islam and Muslims.”

This, however, is a lost cause. As a group of concerned UNC-Duke graduate students put it: “This is the first time in a decade that the state has intervened to make an academic department more amenable to its politics. Title VI extortions in the mid-2000s attempted to force Middle East Studies programs to churn out tools for the state through programs that focused on linguistic skills, security frameworks, and hostility to the Middle East and Muslims during the War on Iraq.”

The battle these bureaucratic functionaries are waging against the critical thinking of an entire nation is, of course, entirely futile. The cat of their thievery of Palestine is out of the bag and their bete noire, the mighty and magnificent Edward Said, even or particularly after his death has enabled and let loose an entire generation of bold and brilliant critical thinkers around the globe who have flooded university presses and commercial publishers with an avalanche of books exposing their corrupt and crooked colonialism in Palestine.

We on the other side of their fence are the real defenders of US national security. They are in fact defaming, maligning, and endangering the very idea of being American. They had their heyday and they did the best they could to keep this nation stupid and ignorant. But they lost the game. We won. We sneeze on our campuses here in the US and the whole world says gesundheit.

We are redefining the very terms of “American national security” away from bombs and fighter jets and tanks and bullets and spies and gaudy propaganda precisely towards love and desire and life and hope and beauty and truth and justice in Iran, in Palestine, in the Arab world, in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. And there is nothing they can do to stop us. We love and desire. They hate and disgust. The world is on our side. History is on our side.

Canadians are over PM's image obsession, lack of substance and broken promises

By Pablo Vivanco

RT — Whether Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party government wins or loses in the Canadian federal election later in October, it is clear that the honeymoon is over for voters.

By any measure, it was a remarkable meteoric rise. Despite polling at 25 percent just three months before the 2015 election, Trudeau led the battered Liberals to a historic win that saw the party increase its percentage of the vote by close to 21 points from its showing in 2011. More importantly, the party grew from 36 seats to 184 to secure the largest increase in seats in Canadian history and a healthy majority government.

Trudeau pledged to abandon the callous policies and cynical outlook of his predecessor, Stephen Harper, in favor of a 'progressive' agenda based on economic growth and compassion and justice for those who were being ignored or left behind, especially Canada's indigenous communities.

His family pedigree gave many Canadians reason to believe that he was indeed a new brand of reformer, especially for those who can trace their entry into the country to the immigration policies created by the liberal government of Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Justin's father. Regarded as a maverick politician, Pierre also introduced the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and famously deployed a foreign policy that made him no friends in Washington.



Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

Shortly after taking the reins in Ottawa, Justin Trudeau burst onto the international scene, thanks to carefully scripted viral moments designed to highlight his intellect, liberal social views and, of course, his good looks and youthful energy.

Trudeauania 2.0 was at its height and by 2016, his approval ratings hit as high as 65 percent.

A few short years later, however, and the lustre has largely worn off, with nearly two-thirds of Canadians disapproving of his performance and his Liberal Party facing the real possibility of losing government or at best, holding a minority government position.

Some have suggested that Trudeau's fall from grace began during his blunder-filled trip to India in 2018, which was certainly one of the first moments that the Canadian prime minister's obsession with image and its contrast to substance began to be debated.

There is little doubt, however, that the number of broken promises have contributed in no small part to the end of Trudeau's honeymoon with Canadian voters.

According to the TrudeauMeter, “a non-partisan collaborative citizen initiative that tracks his performance with regards to his electoral platform,” Trudeau has broken 63 - or just over a quarter - of his 240 promises. Another exhaustive study by two dozen Canadian academics analyzed 353 Liberal pre-election promises and found Trudeau's government had followed through on about 50 percent of them, while breaking roughly 10 percent.

Trudeau's opponents have reminded voters that he has broken his promises to balance the books, reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions and enact electoral reform that included making the 2015 election the last to use the “first past the post” system, which Trudeau announced to thunderous applause during that campaign.

While there are other pledges that have been broken or only partially completed, there have also been some accomplishments. Among the 140 promises completed and 20 underway, as cited by TrudeauMeter, is the settlement of thousands of Syrian refugees and the passing of a child-benefit program that provides support to many of Canada's poorest families.

Beyond what did or didn't get done, however, are questions of honesty and sincerity that have loomed heavily over the second half of Trudeau's term. ➔13

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 31-95204-53-092

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	Tuillral Description LINE PIPE API 5L GRADE X52 PSL 2 , SEAMLESS BLACK ACCORDING TO IPS-M-PI - 190(3) SUPPLEMENTED TO API, SL 45" EDITION 2012 , BASIC OXYGEN OR ELECTRIC FURNACE PROCESS, FULLY KILLED & FINE GRAIN, IN RANDOM LENGTHS OF .M, FROM MIN. 10 MAX 12.8 MIN LENGTH, MIN AVG 12,11.6M IN LEGTH WITH A MINIMUM OF 95% OF PIPES BETWEEN (12.2MM IN LENGTH) DAUB OF FULLY, CIRCUMFERENTIAL PAINT STRIP, ON INSIDE SURFACE AT BOTH ENDS, OF EACH PIPE CAP & BEVEL & PROTECTOR ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH, PIPE SUPPLIED BARE (UNOILED), DELIVERY CONDITION OF PIPES, IS NORMALIZE .(N OTHERWISE SHALL BE APPROVED BY CLIENT, PRODUCT , INSPECTION SHALL BE DONE BY APPROVED THIRD PARTY INSPECTOR ACCORDING TO "NISOC / MPS, QCP, ITP-1394 REW.1 DATED 2016/03/05 NOW. PIPE SIZE OD (IN) PIPE (OD(MM), PIPE SCHI.PIPE WT(MM) PIPE WEIGHT (KG/M AS SPECIFIED, SERVICE CONDITION: SOUR SERVICE PIPE END BEVELED FOR WELDING AT ANGLE OF 30 DEG (+5-0) WT 22MM, 12 IN.323.8 MM ODWT. 11.13 MM. WEIGHT 85.82 KG/M NOTE: TECH. EVALUATION SHOULD BE DONE BY END USER (E&C OIL&GAS PLANS, MECH. ENG , AHVAZ) ATTENTION : THE ABOVE ITEMS HAVE TO BE MANUFACTURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NACE STANDARD MR 0175/ISO 15156 (METRA 58000)	5000 .LE

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

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FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱

Little progress made in tackling air pollution in Europe, research says

Little progress has been made on tackling air quality in Europe, new research shows, despite public outcry in many countries and increasing awareness of the health impacts of pollution.

Levels of the dangerous fine particulate matter known as PM2.5, which can lodge deep in the lungs and pass into the bloodstream, appear to have reached a plateau across Europe, after more than a decade of gradual reductions. The results come from the European Environment Agency's Air Quality in Europe 2019 report, published on Wednesday, which collates data taken from thousands of monitoring stations in 2017.



“We do not see any big improvement, or worsening, year on year,” said Alberto Gonzalez Ortiz, air quality expert at the EEA, Europe’s environmental watchdog. “It is PM2.5 that we should worry most about, and it is coming from domestic heating [such as wood-burning stoves], industry and transport.”

In 2016, the latest year for which an accurate count can be made, there were about 412,000 premature deaths in Europe from PM2.5 alone, according to the EEA. From 2014 to 2017, the levels of fine particulate matter remained broadly flat, after long-term reductions in levels of the pollutant stretching back to 2000.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels have fallen further, but remain a serious problem. Nitrogen dioxide is an irritant gas, emitted from diesel vehicles in particular. In 2017, according to the report, about 10% of monitoring stations in Europe showed levels above safety limits. In the UK, the monitoring station at Marylebone Road continued to record the highest level of nitrogen dioxide pollution in western Europe, despite falls in the overall concentrations of the gas.

Jenny Bates, air pollution campaigner at Friends of the Earth, said: “People across the UK are paying a heavy price for the government’s continuing failure to clean up the nation’s filthy air, with tens of thousands of premature deaths every year. While half of our European neighbours manage to comply with legal limits for toxic NO2 pollution, 36 out of 43 UK air quality zones continue to suffer unlawful levels. And we’re also failing World Health Organization standards for the most deadly fine particle air pollution [PM2.5] in places across the country.”

The government has pledged to bring forward air quality commitments in new legislation announced in the Queen’s speech on Monday. A spokesperson for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said more recent data than that included in the EEA report showed “positive progress”, including one fewer road zone showing breaches in safe levels of NO2 in 2018 compared with 2017.

“We are working hard to reduce transport emissions and are already investing £3.5bn to clean up our air, while our Clean Air Strategy has been praised by the WHO as an ‘example for the rest of the world to follow’,” the spokesperson said. “Our environment bill will drive further improvements, increasing local powers to address key sources of air pollution and introducing a duty to set a legally-binding target to reduce fine particulate matter.”

Campaigners urged ministers to include legally binding targets based on WHO standards, with a duty on public bodies to take action to meet the targets, and a right to clean air enshrined in law.

(Source: The Guardian)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Press Freedom in Malaysia

Journalists at one of Malaysia’s leading English language newspapers have held protests at the owners’ decision last week to dismiss nearly half the editorial staff. Protestors claim that it marks the end of independent journalism in Malaysia. This report from Simon Ingram. Last night’s **vigil** outside the offices of the Sun newspaper will probably be the last. The symbolic protests involving several dozen staff members, their friends and supporters have been held every evening since New Year’s Eve. That was the week after the tabloid daily paper **ran** a front-page **splash story** under the headline “**Plot** to Kill PM”.

The sensational claim of a plot by local politicians to assassinate the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, was untrue. The suspicion is that the journalists who wrote it, and the editors who decided to run it, fell into a trap. The Sun is one of three English-language dailies in Malaysia and until now had been considered the most independent in its journalism. In a country where most media operate under the suffocating control of the ruling National Front government, or else **engage in** strict self-censorship, the Sun dared print what others did not.

In particular it reported extensively on a recent damaging split within the main pro-government ethnic Chinese party. Following the embarrassing Christmas Day **gaffe**, several senior editorial staff were suspended. The journalists who protested were among the forty people subsequently sacked. Meanwhile, special editorial advisors were appointed with a **brief** to **vet** all sensitive stories before publication. A local human rights group, Aliran, said the fate of **mainstream** media in Malaysia was now almost sealed. The **saga** of the Sun, a statement said, showed that even remotely independent journalism could not be tolerated in Malaysia and therefore could not survive.

■ **Words**
vigil: a period of time spent quietly in a place, especially at night for prayer or political protest
ran: printed
splash story: a sensational story which takes up most of a newspaper or magazine page
plot: a secret plan by a group of people to do something illegal or wrong
engage in: if you engage in an activity, you do it
gaffe: something you say or do that is considered socially incorrect
a brief: precise instructions about a particular task that has to be carried out
to vet: to check a report to make sure that it is acceptable
mainstream: mass market and conventional
saga: a long and often complicated sequence of events

(Source: BBC)

Iran elected International Social Security Association’s bureau member

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Mostafa **d e s k** Salari, the managing director of Iran’s Social Security Organization, has been elected as a member of the bureau of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), representing Asia and Pacific region, ISNA reported.

The World Social Security Forum took place in Brussels, Belgium, from October 14 to 18, 2019.

The Forum is the largest and most important international event for social security. Involving more than 1,000 participants, from more than 150 countries, including ministers, administrators, CEOs and senior managers in social security administration, according to ISSA website.

The Bureau constitutes the administrative authority of the Association, composed of the President of the ISSA, the Treasurer, the Secretary General, and elected members



representing the different geographical regions of the world.

In particular, its main functions are to define the plan of action, the timetable and

the guidelines to be followed in drawing up the programme of activities and budget of the Association, to set programme priorities, to monitor and evaluate actual accomplishments, to rule on membership applications and to adopt the financial regulations.

The ISSA is the world’s leading international organization for social security institutions, government departments and agencies.

The ISSA promotes excellence in social security administration through professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services and support to enable its members to develop dynamic social security systems and policy throughout the world.

The ISSA was founded in 1927 under the auspices of the International Labour Organization, and today has over 320 member institutions from over 150 countries.

Higher temperatures driving ‘alarming’ levels of hunger: report

The climate crisis is driving alarming levels of hunger in the world, undermining food security in the world’s most vulnerable regions, according to this year’s global hunger index.

The annual report, a ranking of 117 countries measuring hunger rates and trends, shows progress since 2000, but warns that the world still has a long way to go to reach the zero hunger target agreed by world leaders by 2030.

The report is published as a series of committee on world food security meetings take place in Rome in the run-up to World Food Day on 16 October. The findings show levels of hunger are “serious” or “alarming” in 47 countries, and “extremely alarming” in one: the Central African Republic.

Rates are categorised as “alarming” in Chad, Madagascar, Yemen and Zambia. Nine countries have worse scores today than in 2010 – the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Venezuela, Yemen, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Lebanon and Oman.

Data is lacking for several countries – Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Libya, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

The authors acknowledge an overall global decline in poverty and increased funding for nutrition but argue that current action and spending will not meet the global sustainable development goals or World Health Assembly nutrition targets.

Dominic MacSorley, CEO of Concern Worldwide, co-sponsors of the report with Welthungerhilfe, said that progress towards the zero hunger by 2030 goal is now “under threat or is being reversed”.

“Approximately 45 countries are set to fail to achieve

low levels of hunger by 2030,” he said. “Conflict, inequality, and the effects of climate change have all contributed to persistently high levels of hunger and food insecurity around the world.”

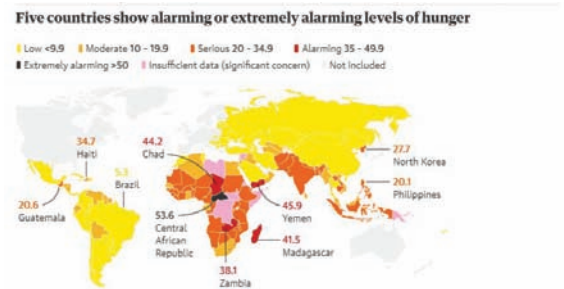
The report finds that the number of undernourished people across the globe is increasing. The rise has been biggest in countries in Africa that are south of the Sahara and affected by conflict and drought.

Extreme weather events are putting food production and security in jeopardy and the risk is expected to increase. Food production is likely to fall due to higher temperatures, water scarcity, greater CO2 and extreme weather events. Yields of maize and wheat are already declining.

It is estimated that the global food system contributes 21–37% of total human-related emissions. Loss of food after harvesting and before reaching the retail level is estimated at 14% globally, meaning a proportion of food production is likely to exacerbate the climate emergency without even contributing towards food security or nutrition. Current climate commitments are projected to result in warming of 3–4C by 2100, and increased climate pressures could lead to further conflict, according to the report.

The authors conclude that what is needed is a profound shift toward sustainability, with changes in values and behaviours and a fairer global balance of power.

In her foreword, the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, said: “With the number of hungry people rising from 785 million in 2015 to 822 million in 2018, we can no longer afford to regard the 2030 agenda and the Paris climate agreement as voluntary and a matter for each member



state to decide on its own.” Instead, she called for “the full implementation” of both to secure “a liveable world for our children and grandchildren”.

“This requires a change of mindset at the global political level,” she added.

Responding to the report, Lawrence Haddad, executive director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, said that the poor quality of diets is at the heart of malnutrition and also has a critical impact on greenhouse gas emissions and natural resource use.

He too believes that global systems must be reformed, with nutritious foods simply out of reach for billions of people, “either because they are not available or are too expensive”.

“To change this we need to transform the food systems that low and middle-income people depend on – and that means supporting the growth of small and medium food businesses that already produce and market nutritious foods,” he said.

(Source: The Guardian)

UK plans to accelerate decarbonization of transport sector

The UK government has vowed to accelerate its climate action for transport sector by drafting new plans to end emissions from trains, planes and cars by 2050.

Ministers promised to begin the ground-work on the government’s first detailed plan to decarbonize the transport sector immediately, and unveil the plan in full next year.

The climate action roadmap will be one of many new government climate proposals expected in 2020 to help meet the UK’s legally binding target to build a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

The plans follow a damning rebuke from the UK’s Committee on Climate Change (CCC) earlier this year, in which John Gummer, the committee chair, likened the government’s climate efforts to the TV comedy Dad’s Army.

Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, said: “We want to work with industry and communities around the country to develop this plan – to make our towns and cities better places to live, help to create new jobs,



improve air quality and our health, and take urgent action on climate change.”

Shapps was speaking on the same day that environmental protesters targeted the Department for Transport offices over its support for the HS2 rail project, which is expected to run through ancient woodlands.

The transport climate roadmap is expected to bring forward a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040 after Shapps

told the Conservative party conference this month that the government would “thoroughly explore the case” for a 2035 deadline.

The government also hopes to unleash a large-scale battery boom by cutting red tape in the planning system for energy storage projects larger than 50MW. This should help energy companies build bigger batteries faster, and at lower costs, to make help use more of the UK’s renewable electricity projects.

Under separate plans the government has proposed setting out tougher minimum energy efficiency standards for rented workplaces which could put British businesses in line for savings of around £1bn a year on energy bills.

Andrea Leadsom, the business secretary, said the government would build on Britain’s track record on climate action, and “will keep on going further and faster to ensure our action meets our ambition”.

The ambition was broadly welcomed by

industry, but many warned that the UK needs to take action rather than rely on proposals and plans.

The campaign group Transport and Environment said the plan to accelerate the transport sector’s climate agenda does not go far enough. The group said ministers should have announced a 2030 ban on the sale of new combustion engine vehicles, an end to the fuel duty freeze and new taxes on aviation.

Chris Stark, the chief executive of the CCC, said: “When it comes to preparing for the effects of climate change, the government’s approach continues to rest on the need for further research and guidance, instead of action. Meanwhile, the country remains unprepared for even a 2C rise in global temperature.

“The UK’s role as a genuine climate leader now rests on tangible commitments – we will be watching next month’s budget closely.”

(Source: The Guardian)

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-9740016

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING, API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS VAM FLUSH JOINT THREADD, RANGE 2, AS PER API 5 CT/ISO) 11960.MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACC. WITH API 5 CT SIZE (OD), WEIGHT (PPF), THREAD AS SPECIFIED.NOTE: LEVEL OF INSPECTION: 1 (L.O.I : 1)"QCP/MPs DOCUMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REVIEW & CONFIRM" "ITP DOCUMENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TECHNICAL EVALUATION"3-1/2 IN, 9.3 PPF	5.000 LE

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The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 26,531 EURO or 3,338,480,400 RIAL, in favor of NISOC

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FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱

(Source: The Guardian)

Hezbollah chief opposed to govt. resignation

➔1 Speaking on Saturday following days of protest rallies across Lebanon, Nasrallah expressed solidarity for recent economic and anti-corruption demonstrations in the country, saying that the Hezbollah party is “determined to work hard” to solve the country’s problems and “not allow anyone to drown this country and take it to the abyss”.

Nasrallah explained that the problems in the country were “systematic” and would not be fixed by a change of government, given that the new government would most probably include the same combination of already existing political factions.

The Hezbollah chief denounced certain political figures who had been quick to call for a new government, saying that such a thing was only a “waste of time” and that it would take a year or two for the new cabinet to take shape.

Nasrallah added that such initiatives were being proposed by factions seeking to evade their responsibilities instead of resolving Lebanon’s hardships.

The Hezbollah chief also lauded the demonstrations for being “spontaneous” and independent from any foreign or domestic political influence, warning participants to beware of the rallies being hijacked by political groups.



Nasrallah also called for a “new spirit” in resolving the country’s problems which he described as a “problem of confidence” between the government and the populace.

He added that the party will avoid intervening in street protests as it seeks to resolve the matter through legal means.

Nonetheless, Nasrallah warned that if taxes were to be imposed on the poor or other necessities were to arise, the party would act.

We will “be everywhere” and we will “change the balance” in the country, Nasrallah said.

The Hezbollah chief’s remarks come against the backdrop of three days of ongoing nationwide protests born out of frustration over new taxes being examined as part of the country’s 2020 budget.

Protesters demand that politicians provide serious solutions to solve the country’s faltering economy and corruption in government.

On Friday, Lebanon’s Prime Minister Saad Hariri canceled a scheduled cabinet meeting on the 2020 budget and delivered a live televised speech instead, issuing a 72-hour ultimatum for “partners in government” to exhibit determination in bringing about “real reforms”.

He said certain figures in the government had blocked his intended reforms. The premier did not name the individuals or specify the actions he would take if his ultimatum was not met.

According to Press TV, on Saturday, Lebanon witnessed renewed protests with security forces firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse a huge gathering in Beirut’s central Riyadh al-Solh Square.

The Internal Security Forces said 70 protesters were arrested.

The Lebanese army has also been deployed to control the demonstrations. The troops opened a number of major highways that had been blocked by the protesters.

Turkish invasion must stop, all foreign troops must leave Syria: Assad

TEHRAN — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has demanded a complete halt to Turkey’s operation against Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria, and a full withdrawal of foreign forces illegally present in Syrian territories.

During a meeting with a Russian delegation headed by the Kremlin’s special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev, in Damascus on Friday, Assad said efforts must be directed at ending Operation Peace Spring and the pullout of all illegal forces, including the Turkish and American soldiers, from Syrian territories since they are considered occupying forces under international conventions.

The Syrian people are entitled to resistance by all available means, Assad said.

On Thursday, the Syrian leader said Damascus would give an appropriate response to the ground offensive by Turkish soldiers and allied Takfiri militants against Kurdish fighters in the region.

“No matter what false slogans could be made up for the Turkish offensive, it is a flagrant invasion and aggression. Syria has frequently hit (Turkish-backed) proxies and terrorists in more than one place. Syria will respond to the assault and confront it anywhere within the Syrian territory through all legitimate means available,” Assad told the visiting Iraqi

National Security Adviser Falih al-Fayyadh in Damascus.

An unnamed source at the Syrian Foreign Ministry on the same day condemned the “treacherous Turkish aggression.”

On October 9, Turkish military forces and Ankara-backed militants launched a long-threatened cross-border invasion of northeast Syria in a declared attempt to push Kurdish fighters from the People’s Protection Units (YPG) away from border areas.

According to Press Tv, Ankara views the U.S.-backed YPG as a terrorist organization tied to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region in Turkey since 1984. The YPG constitutes the backbone of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The Kurdish-led administration in northeastern Syria says the Turkish offensive has killed 218 civilians, including 18 children, since its outset. The fighting has also wounded more than 650 people.

Turkish authorities say 20 people have been killed in Turkey by bombardment from Syria, including eight people who were killed in a mortar attack on the town of Nusaybin by YPG militants on October 11.

Lavrentiev, for his part, stressed Moscow’s firm support



for Syria’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Kremlin’s special envoy to Syria further noted that Russia rejects any step or action that violates Syria’s sovereignty, further complicates crisis there and negatively affects attempts aimed at settlement of the conflict.

The two senior officials also exchanged viewpoints on preparations for the start of the work of Syria’s long-awaited constitutional committee.

The epic of Arbaeen

Huge processions were held in the Iraqi holy city of Karbala as millions of mourners commemorated Arbaeen, the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, Press TV reported on Saturday.

Images showed hundreds of thousands of pilgrims descending upon the shrine of Imam Hussein in Karbala as Arbaeen culminated on Saturday.

Starting since a few days before Arbaeen, hundreds of different religious mourning processions, usually representing different communities and tribes of pilgrims from Iraq and around the world, passed by the golden-domed shrines of Imam Hussein

and his half-brother Abbas ibn Ali (PBUH).

The pilgrims mourned and chanted slogans commemorating Imam Hussein’s martyrdom along the way.

Due to the large amount of pilgrims present during the ceremonies, processions usually take several hours to enter and exit the areas adjacent to the shrines.

The ceremonies in Karbala came as pilgrims flocked to the holy city for more than two weeks, many of whom trekked about 70 kilometers northward from the holy city of Najaf in a symbolic gesture honoring Imam Hussein.

Religious processions and symbolic marches were also held across different cities in Iran marking Arbaeen on Saturday.

In one of the symbolic processions, 3,000 university students mourned Arba’een at the University of Tehran before walking on foot toward the Imam Khomeini Hussainieh in downtown Tehran to meet with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and join him in mourning the day.

The Arbaeen walk to Karbala commemorating Imam Hussein has been a longtime tradition among Shia Muslims, specifically in Iraq.

The tradition was largely abandoned after being prohibited during the despotic rule of deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Annual Arbaeen ceremonies have, however, been revived in recent years, with about 20

million pilgrims visiting Karbala according to recent statistics.

The turnout of Iranian pilgrims during this year’s event went beyond 3.5 million pilgrims, topping previous records, according to Iranian officials.

Up until six years ago, only a maximum number of 35,000 Iranian pilgrims were reported to have taken part in any year during the event, marking a stark contrast with recent participation levels.

Participation numbers from other countries have also increased in recent years, with tens of thousands entering Iraq notably from countries such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Lebanon.

‘Queen of warmongers’: Democratic hopeful slams Clinton

TEHRAN — U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard has fired back at Hillary Clinton after the former secretary of state appeared to call her “the favourite of the Russians” in the 2020 elections race.

“I think they’ve got their eye on somebody who’s currently in the Democratic primary, and they’re grooming her to be the third-party candidate,” Clinton said on the “Campaign HQ” podcast that first aired on Thursday.

“She’s the favourite of the Russians. They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far.”

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, did not name Gabbard directly, but the Hawaii congresswoman essentially acknowledged she was the target by blasting out a stunning Twitter thread against the former first lady on Friday.

“Great! Thank you @HillaryClinton. You, the queen of warmongers, embodiment of corruption,

and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long, have finally come out from behind the curtain,” Gabbard ranted at her fellow Democrat.

Gabbard, 38, accused 71-year-old Clinton, long a doyenne of the Washington establishment, of leading a “concerted campaign” to destroy her reputation since she announced her presidential run in January.

“Now we know - it was always you, through your proxies and powerful allies in the corporate media and war machine, afraid of the threat I pose,” she added.

“It’s now clear that this primary is between you and me,” she sneered. “Don’t cowardly hide behind your proxies. Join the race directly.”

Clinton has said she is done running for president.

In the 2016 presidential election, Clinton won the popular vote with a margin of some three million votes but

lost to Donald Trump through the electoral college vote, which went in the Republican candidate’s favour with 304 to Clinton’s 227.

■ **‘Trump is Putin’s dream’**

There is lingering trepidation in the Democratic Party of a repeat of the 2016 presidential race, when Russia interfered in the polls in an effort to help Trump defeat Clinton.

U.S. intelligence agencies have warned that Russia intends to meddle in the 2020 presidential election, as well.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has mocked that possibility, joking earlier this month that Moscow would “definitely intervene” again.

According to Al Jazeera, during a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday, Gabbard criticised a TV commentator who she said had called her “an asset of Russia”. She called the comments “completely despicable”.

Turkey, Kurdish militants accuse each other of violating truce

TEHRAN — Turkey has accused Kurdish militants of violating a temporary truce in northern Syria even as a fragile ceasefire was reported to be holding.

Ankara on Thursday agreed to pause its incursion into Syria for 120 hours while the U.S. facilitates the withdrawal of Kurdish SDF militants from a 20-mile safe zone along the Syrian-Turkish border.

Reuters journalists said on Saturday bombardment heard near the Syrian border city of Ras al Ayn had subsided and that there were just a few Turkish military vehicles crossing the frontier.

However, the Turkish Defense Ministry said Kurdish militants had been violating

the ceasefire deal over the past hours using various light and heavy weaponry including rockets.

“The Turkish armed forces fully abide by the agreement,” the ministry said in a statement. “Despite this, terrorists... carried out a total of 14 attacks in the last 36 hours.”

It said 12 of the attacks came from Ras al-Ayn, one from the town of Tell Abyad in Raqqah Province, and another from the town of Tell Tamr in Hasakah.

Turkey was coordinating with the US “for the agreement to hold soundly and to keep the calm with exception of self-defense,” it added.

Kurdish militants accuse Turkey

On Friday, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Turkish airstrikes killed at least five civilians while sporadic clashes continued despite the ceasefire.

Mustafa Bali, a spokesperson for SDF militants, tweeted that “despite the agreement to halt the fighting, air and artillery attacks continue to target the positions of fighters, civilian settlements and the hospital in Serekaniye/Ras al-Ayn.”

“Turkey is violating the ceasefire agreement by continuing to attack the town since last night,” he said.

Erdogan denied the claims as “disinformation,” and US President Donald Trump in a tweet dismissed it as “minor.”

■ **Macron: Turkish operation ‘crazy’**

According to Press TV, French President Emmanuel Macron also decried NATO’s inability to react to the “crazy” military campaign of Turkey - a NATO member state - in Syria.

“I consider what’s happened in the last few days (in northern Syria) to be a serious mistake by the West and NATO in the region,” he told reporters after a European Council summit in Brussels.

“It weakens our credibility in finding partners on the ground who will be by our side and who think they will be protected in the long-term. So that raises questions about how NATO functions,” he added.

Canadians are over PM’s image obsession, lack of substance and broken promises

➔11 The promise to give indigenous communities a veto over natural resource development in their territories was broken a number of times by the Liberals, including for a \$9 billion mega-dam project in the western province of British Columbia. The Trudeau government’s purchase of the Trans Mountain pipeline after considerable opposition and protest was not only seen as an about-face to his commitment to “reconciliation” with indigenous people, but also to his supposed climate change plans.

Then, of course, there was the SNC-Lavalin scandal, when Trudeau and his top staff looked to have the Quebec-based infrastructure firm evade criminal charges for bribing Libyan officials and defrauding Libyan organizations over a 10 year period.

Trudeau initially denied that his office pressured Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould and subsequently demoted her after her refusal to balk to the pressure. After Wilson-Raybould produced a recorded conversation with Trudeau’s staff, he acknowledged her account of events, but claimed he was acting to save jobs. The actions of Trudeau and his government were deemed to be a breach of the Conflict of Interest Act and are now under review.

Despite a local MP’s claim that Black Canadians ‘love’ that their head of government wore ‘blackface’, the incident was widely repudiated and viewed by many as more evidence of Trudeau’s duplicity in practically every area, even in his ‘virtue signalling’ (recall the ‘peoplekind’ debacle where Trudeau scolded an audience member at an event).

Though media outside of Canada have recently started to catch on to what people inside the country have been feeling for some time, letting go can be hard.

On his Netflix special, US comedian Hasan Minhaj interviewed Trudeau and grilled him with questions about the SNC-Lavalin case, pipelines and arms sales to Saudi Arabia, to name just a few. Yet despite his extensive questioning of Trudeau over the gap between his progressive image and a considerable number of decisions by his government, Minhaj couldn’t help but swoon. “I’m in Wakanada, speaking to the leader of Wakanada, the son of the former leader of Wakanada,” Minhaj says, referencing the enlightened, social justice-oriented ruler/ superhero in the Marvel universe.

“Which makes you... you’re White Panther!”

The remark didn’t age well after Trudeau’s blackface gaffe, which only reinforced the view of voters in ‘Wakanada’ that Trudeau is more a paper tiger than anything else.

Even if he is able to pull off more last minute heroics and salvage a minority government, Trudeauania is officially over in Canada. The rest of the world should take note.

69 worshippers die in bomb blasts in mosque in eastern Afghanistan

TEHRAN — At least 69 worshippers have been killed and more than 100 injured in bomb explosions at a mosque in eastern Afghanistan during Friday prayers.

The spokesman for Nangarhar’s provincial governor, Attaullah Khogyani, said there were multiple blasts from explosives placed inside the mosque in the Jawdara area of Haska Mena district, around 50 kilometers from the provincial capital Jalalabad.

He added that the roof of the mosque had completely caved in. “The number of casualties may rise as the rescue team and people are working to bring out the bodies from the rubble,” said Sohrab Qaderi, a member of the provincial council in Nangarhar. Malik Mohammadi Gul Shinwari, a tribal elder from the area, also said the mosque had completely collapsed. “It was a heart-breaking scene I witnessed with my eyes.”

Tezab Khan, a member of the local police who was on duty in the area, said, “When I arrived on the scene, people were trying to bring out the bodies and injured who were stuck under the fallen roof.”

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the terrorist attack.

Jalalabad is the scene of frequent acts of terror by the Taliban and the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, which has carried out a string of bombings targeting government offices, schools, and aid groups over the past few months.

The United Nations said on Thursday that an “unprecedented” number of civilians were killed or injured in the third quarter of 2019 across Afghanistan, calling the violence “totally unacceptable.”

British MPs vote to delay Brexit deal decision

TEHRAN — British MPs Saturday voted to delay a decision on Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Brexit deal, arguing they needed more time to study its contents before an October 31 deadline.

Lawmakers backed an amendment which effectively forces the government to request an extension until January next year, while they scrutinized the proposed domestic legislation to enforce the deal with Brussels, AFP reported.

Erdogan to discuss Syrian deployment in ‘safe zone’ with Putin next week

TEHRAN — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday he would discuss the deployment of Syrian government forces in a planned “safe zone” in northern Syria during talks with Russia’s President Vladimir Putin next week, but warned Ankara would “implement its own plans” if a solution was not reached.

Turkey agreed with the United States Thursday to pause its military offensive in northeastern Syria for five days while Kurdish fighters withdrew from a “safe zone.” Erdogan will visit Sochi for emergency talks with Putin on what steps to take next.

Speaking at an opening ceremony in the central Turkish province of Kayseri, Erdogan also said Turkey would “crush the heads” of Kurdish militants in northern Syria if they did not withdraw from the area during the 120-hour period, Reuters reported.

Bulgaria coach quits after racism row at England match

Bulgaria's coach quit Friday over the 6-0 loss to England in a Euro 2020 qualifier which was overshadowed by racist abuse that sparked a storm of protest.

Monkey chants and apparent Nazi salutes during Monday's match in Sofia caused indignation in the football world and led to the resignation of Bulgaria's football federation chief.

Bulgaria coach Krasimir Balakov, who took over the team in May, said he handed in his resignation during a meeting of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) executive committee.

"I said that if I am the problem of Bulgarian football, I am handing in my resignation. There is no way back," the former midfielder told reporters after the meeting.

"I will keep my fingers crossed for the next manager as the situation is not rosy at all... The racist incidents during the game with England were the final straw."

Bulgaria are winless in seven Euro 2020 qualifiers -- losing four and drawing three -- and occupy last place in their group.

They conclude their qualifying campaign at home to Czech Republic on November 17.

Monday's game was halted twice during the first half due to the abuse but England players decided to complete the match instead of walking off the pitch.

The 53-year-old Balakov, a former national team star, apologised on Tuesday to the England players over the incidents.

On the eve of the match, Balakov had claimed that there was a bigger problem with racism in English football than in his country.

Five more Bulgarian football fans were detained Friday for taking part in the racist abuse, while police continued to look for five others, the interior ministry said.

Police have now identified 16 people suspected of being involved in the "abusive actions", it said.

(Source: AFP)

Everton beat West Ham to ease pressure on Marco Silva

Everton climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone on Saturday with a well-deserved 2-0 victory against West Ham that eased the pressure on Marco Silva.

The Portuguese boss described the match at Goodison Park as a "must-win" game following four straight league defeats and a goal from Brazil forward Bernard in the 17th minute set his side on their way.

Everton dominated the match and had multiple chances to extend their lead but had to wait until injury time to score their second, through late substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson.

Victory in Saturday's early kick-off lifted Everton to the relative safety of 12th in the table, one place above struggling Manchester United, ahead of the later fixtures.

The home side took the lead when, having looked like he might have missed the opportunity to shoot, Bernard twisted past Arthur Masuaku and slipped the ball under goalkeeper Roberto.

Manuel Pellegrini's side were disappointing in the first half but made it to the break trailing by just one goal.

Everton's Richarlison had the ball in the net just after the re-start following a neat build-up but his well-taken effort was ruled out for off-side.

Pablo Fornals had a golden chance to equalise just five minutes into the second half but he could only steer it wide of the left post, falling to his knees in disappointment.

Everton were quickly into their stride again and Yerry Mina had two chances with headed efforts but on both occasions Roberto was equal to the task.

Alex Iwobi looked certain to double the lead with less than a quarter of an hour ago but poked the ball straight at Roberto when clean through.

Despite being outplayed, West Ham were still in the game and earned a couple of late chances against an increasingly edgy Everton.

(Source: Mirror)

Conte: 'Opportunity in a crisis'

Antonio Conte and Inter are "disappointed" at losing Alexis Sanchez, but wants to "see the opportunity in a crisis" against Sassuolo.

It kicks off on Sunday at 11.30 UK time (10.30 GMT), click here for a match preview.

After the break for international duty, which cost Alexis Sanchez a three-month lay-off and ankle surgery, leaving the Nerazzurri short-staffed upfront.

"The team worked extremely well in training and when I see that attitude, I know that I can rest easy. We can win or lose the game, but this is what reassures me," said the Coach in his Press conference.

"We are all very disappointed for Sanchez, as he was starting to make a real impact. He arrived with great enthusiasm and desire to challenge himself, working hard to be the Sanchez we all knew, only for this to happen. It's sad, but injuries are part of football.

"It's important now more than ever to realise everyone in the squad is a first choice, there are no back-ups or reserves, we just need different players at different times."

Paulo Fonseca of Roma and Atalanta Coach Gian Piero Gasperini complained that their players had returned injured from international duty.

"It's difficult for me, because I've been on the other side too," noted former Italy CT Conte. "It's inevitable that you see it from your point of view. I realised after that experience that you need space and every opportunity to work with the players, as from November to March, you don't see them at all."

Inter lost both their last two games by 2-1 scorelines to Barcelona in the Champions League and Juventus in Serie A.

(Source: Football Italia)

Hardy's UFC win overturned due to inhaler use

Four fights into his UFC career, former NFL star Greg Hardy continues to find himself at the center of controversy.

A heavyweight bout between Hardy (5-1) and Ben Sosoli (7-2) ended in a no-contest Friday at UFC Fight Night in Boston because of Hardy's unapproved use of an inhaler between the second and third rounds of the three-round bout. The fight was initially ruled a unanimous decision win for Hardy but was quickly overturned to a no-contest by the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission.

Hardy's coach provided him the inhaler prior to the third round. Hardy asked an MSAC inspector whether he was allowed to use it and then did so after the inspector asked, "Is it medically approved?" MSAC later ruled against Hardy's use of the inhaler, even though UFC's anti-doping partner, the United States Anti-Doping Agency, allows the use of certain inhalers in sport.

"I was in the ring, me and my coach asked the commission if it would be OK to use my inhaler, and they said yes, so I took it," Hardy said. "I'm still a new guy in this sport. I did what I do in every situation. I asked permission, I got permission, and I did what I was told."

(Source: ESPN)

Barca-Real Madrid clash postponed amid Catalan crisis, set for Dec. 18



Barca added that they had "utmost confidence in the civic and pacific attitude of its fans and members", also apologising to supporters who were in-

convenienced by the decision and saying tickets purchased would be refunded.

Real coach Zinedine Zidane said he and his players would accept any new

Di Maria sends PSG five points clear as Nice see red



Angel Di Maria once again proved his worth with a double that earned Paris St Germain a 4-1 win at Nice and a five-point lead in the Ligue 1 standings on Friday.

The result put PSG on 24 points from 10 games as Nice, who reduced the arrears in the second half through Ignatius Ganago, finished with nine men after Wylan Cyprien and Christophe Herelle were sent off during the last 20 minutes.

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench in the closing stages to round off the win to mark his return from injury.

Nice are ninth on 13 points.

Nantes, who are second on 19 points, will play Metz on Saturday with Olympique Lyonnais new coach Rudi Garcia making his debut at home against Dijon in the day's opening match.

With Mbappe and Edinson Cavani on the bench and Neymar injured, Mauro Icardi started up front but it was Di Maria who got PSG going.

Icardi flicked the ball into the path of Di Maria, who raced into the area and beat Walter Benitez from close

range to put the visitors ahead in the 15th minute.

Benitez was beaten again six minutes later when Di Maria was played through on the right flank by Leandro Paredes and found the back of the net with a lovely angled lob.

PSG comfortably held off Nice, until Ganago, set up by Kasper Dolberg, unleashed a fierce strike that went under the bar in the 67th minute.

But their hopes of levelling were dashed in the 74th minute when Cyprien was shown a second yellow card for protesting to referee Francois Letexier, who three minutes later handed Herelle a straight red card for elbowing Paredes.

"There was a foul against him and he got upset, there's no logic there," Ganago said of Cyprien's red card.

Mbappe made his return from a thigh injury in the 82nd minute as he replaced Pablo Sarabia, scoring with a low shot from inside the box six minutes later.

One minute into added time, Icardi netted for the third match in a row when he tapped in from Mbappe's cross.

(Source: France 24)

Nets draw Hong Kong protest backers as NBA-China row simmers



Supporters of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement made their presence felt Friday as the Brooklyn Nets played their first game in New York since they were caught in the middle of the NBA's rift with China.

Tensions between Beijing and the American basketball league erupted this month after Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey tweeted an image in support of the demonstrations that have rocked the financial hub for months.

China has portrayed the protesters as violent separatists and the backlash against Morey's comments has cast a cloud over the NBA's lucrative broadcasting, merchandising and sponsorship interests in the country, where it has legions of fans.

The Nets found themselves in the thick of the controversy as they arrived in China to play two pre-season games against the Los Angeles Lakers days after Morey's tweet.

Several hundred people clad in T-shirts that read "Stand with Hong Kong" chanted slogans in support of the protesters from the Barclays Center stands during the Nets' pre-season showdown against the Toronto Raptors, the reigning champions.

"We want to use our performance art to

date for the fixture, also calling the images of violence in Catalonia "difficult".

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators waving pro-independence flags and chanting "freedom for political prisoners" joined marches across Catalonia on Friday, the fifth day of protests.

Barcelona town hall said 700 garbage containers were set ablaze since protests began on Monday and estimated that the city had suffered damage totalling more than 1.5 million euros.

An official from Barcelona town hall said around 10 trees were set on fire on Thursday. Regional police said 16 people were arrested across Catalonia on Thursday, while health officials said medical aid was provided to 42 people.

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola, a former Barcelona player and their most successful ever manager, called on European countries to try to resolve the crisis.

"The international community must help us to solve the conflict of Catalonia and Spain and we need a mediator from outside to sit in and talk," he said in a news conference ahead of his side's visit to Crystal Palace in the Premier League.

(Source: Reuters)

Messi, Suarez, Griezmann all on target as Barcelona dispatch Eibar



Barcelona's 'MSG' is finally up and running as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann all scored in a ruthless 3-0 victory over Eibar on Saturday.

Griezmann's place in the newly-formed attacking trident has not been secure this season but the Frenchman opened the scoring at Ipurua before teeing up Messi and then playing the crucial pass for Suarez to make it three.

An authoritative Barca display thrusts them to the top of La Liga, for a few hours at least before Real Madrid play Real Mallorca, and dismissed suggestions the players might be affected by Friday's postponement of the Clasico due to protests in Catalonia.

Violence in the city of Barcelona and disruptions at El Prat airport meant Ernesto Valverde's side chose to alter their pre-match routine and embark on a 589-kilometre bus trip to the Basque County on Friday.

And all the while, discussions continued over the Clasico against Real Madrid, which had originally been scheduled for next Saturday at Camp Nou but was postponed on Friday and is expected now to go ahead in December.

Perhaps chaos off the pitch inspired Barca to unite on it.

This was their fifth consecutive victory in all competitions, a sequence which is

swiftly erasing memories of their stumbling start to the season.

The resurgence has coincided with Messi's return from injury but it was the fluidity and cohesion of the front three, rather than the Argentinian's familiar solo brilliance, that will have been most pleasing for Valverde.

■ Four for Griezmann

Griezmann now has four goals since joining Barca from Atletico Madrid last summer but he has not entirely convinced

so far, a series of underwhelming showings leading to Ousmane Dembele taking his starting spot against Sevilla before the international break.

Dembele might even have continued had he not been sent off and suspended for this game but Griezmann certainly took his chance. This was the third time he has started alongside Messi and Suarez but the first that they have really gelled as a trio.

There was good news too for Barcelona

in defence, where Samuel Umtiti came through 90 minutes in what was his first appearance of the season. Umtiti, who has been out with a foot injury, replaced the banned Gerard Pique.

The only blot on the afternoon was an injury to Sergi Roberto, who hurt his left knee and was replaced at half-time.

The visting fans chanted in support of the nine Catalan leaders imprisoned last week for their failed independence bid in 2017.

Suarez tried his luck from the halfway line early on before Griezmann's finish clipped the inside of the post and found the net after 13 minutes.

Messi should have made it two before half-time but was denied one-on-one by goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic. He then he played Suarez through but the Uruguayan's goal was ruled for offside.

Barca did make it two just before the hour as Frenkie de Jong's incisive ball was collected by Suarez. As he lost control, Griezmann took over, flicking left to Messi, who made no mistake.

The third involved all three again. Griezmann's superb reverse pass set Messi clear and while he could have had his second, he generously slipped the ball left for Suarez who found the back of an open goal.

(Source: AFP)

Ronaldo will surpass my goalscoring record: Daei

S P O R T S T E H R A N – Former d e s k Iran national football team forward Ali Daei says Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo will surpass his goalscoring record sooner or later.

Ronaldo reached 700 career goals in official matches by scoring for Portugal in their 2-1 loss to Ukraine in a Euro 2020 qualifier on Monday.

At international level, Ronaldo's tally of 95 goals is second only to Ali Daei's 109 for Iran.

"I am very proud of this world record as long as it lasts, and I think it's the same for all the Iranian people. They are happy with what I have achieved in my career. In fact, the record does not belong to me, but to all my people," Daei said in an interview with La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"I won't be disappointed because records are meant to be broken. It will happen sooner or later: I am happy that such a great player will surpass me. I really like him and the way he moves in the field. Ronaldo is still in top form, I consider him in the top three ever. I can only wish him the best," ex-Iran forward added.

"Ronaldo has made contribution to his country's improvement in the recent years while Lionel Messi failed to do that with Argentina. This is why I think that he will break my record," he stated.

"The challenge of winning the UEFA



Champions League is, perhaps, even more difficult than the goal record in the

national team. There are other great teams with the same ambition, but Juventus

with Cristiano is one of those with more chances to make it," Daei concluded.

Esteghlal into Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 8



S P O R T S T E H R A N – Esteghlal d e s k defeated Fajr Sepasi at the Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 16 on Thursday.

Esteghlal, the most decorated football team with seven titles in Hazfi Cup, beat the First Division team 3-0 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Two teams went into extra time following a 0-0 draw in the regular time.

Vouria Ghafouri opened the scoring in

the 112th minute with a set-piece.

Substitute Sajad Aghaei made it 2-0 four minutes later and Daryush Shojaei scored Esteghlal's third goal in the 118th minute.

Earlier on the day, Shahrdiri Mahshahr defeated Esteghlal Mahshahr 2-1.

On Wednesday, Shahr Khodro lost to Naft Masjed Soleyman 1-0 in Mashhad, Mes Kerman defeated Zob Ahan 4-2 in Isfahan and Shahin Bushehr beat visiting Saipa 2-0.

Iran handball edge South Korea at 2020 Olympics qualification



S P O R T S T E H R A N – Iran d e s k handball team started the 2019 AHF Men's Asian qualification with a nail-biting win over South Korea.

Team Melli beat the Korean team 28-27 in Group B at the Duhail Handball Sports Hall in Doha. Bahrain went top of the group with a 26-21 win over Kuwait.

In Group A, Saudi Arabia defeated India 35-24 and hosts Qatar thrashed

Hong Kong 49-19.

Iran will meet Bahrain on Sunday while Korea face Kuwait in the group.

The top two teams of each group advance to the semi-finals and then final, with the winner booking their ticket through to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The runner-up will qualify for the IHF Olympic qualification in April.

Tokyo 2020 Women's Tournament final qualifying round groups drawn

The journey to identify the two teams who will join Japan in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Women's Football Tournament has begun, following the official draw for Round 3 of the Asian Qualifiers at the AFC House on Friday.

Group A will have DPR Korea, hosts Korea Republic, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Group B pitted Australia, hosts China PR, Thailand and Chinese Taipei.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the two-leg crossover play-offs - to be played on a home and away basis - with the Group A winners facing the Group B runners-up and vice versa.

The two play-off winners will join Japan,

WOMEN'S OLYMPIC FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2020 ASIAN QUALIFIERS FINAL ROUND			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
A1 DPR KOREA		B1 AUSTRALIA	
A2 KOREA REP. (H)		B2 CHINA PR. (H)	
A3 VIETNAM		B3 THAILAND	
A4 MYANMAR		B4 CHINESE TAIPEI	

who have already qualified by virtue of being hosts, in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The third round will be played on February 3-9, 2020 with the play-offs

scheduled for March 6 and 11.

Football at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will commence with the women's matches on July 22 – two days before the Games' official opening ceremony – with the men's competition to begin on July 23. The 12-team women's tournament will conclude on August 7, with the men's tournament ending the following day.

Asian teams have established a long and proud tradition at the Olympic Games, with China PR (1996) and Japan (2012) winning silver in the women's tournament, while Japan (1968) and Korea Republic (2012) clinched the bronze medals in the men's competition.

(Source: the-afc)

Javanmardi wins silver at World Shooting Para Sport Championships

S P O R T S T E H R A N – Rio 2016 Paralympic gold medalist d e s k Sareh Javanmardi claimed a silver medal at the Sydney 2019 World Shooting Para Sport Championships on Thursday.

The Iranian shooter came second in the P2 (women's 10m air pistol SH1) with the score of 233.6 points.

Ukraine's Iryna Liakhu won the gold medal with 235.8 and bronze medal went to Aysegul Pehlivanlar from Turkey who scored 214.2 points.

The Sydney 2019 World Shooting Para Sport Championships run until Friday.

The prestigious competition has brought 283 shooters from 55 countries together in the Australian beautiful city.

Mehdi Mahdaviaikia becomes member of IFAB

IRNA – Former Iran national football team winger Mehdi Mahdaviaikia became a member of the International Football Association Board (IFAB).



He has been appointed in the new role as a member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in the board.

IFAB is the body that determines the Laws of the Game of association football.

IFAB was founded in 1886 to agree standardized Laws for international competition, and has since acted as the "guardian" of the internationally used Laws. Since its establishment in 1904, FIFA, the sport's top governing body, has recognized IFAB's jurisdiction over the Laws.

IFAB is known to take a highly conservative attitude regarding changes to the Laws of the Game.

Iranian duo win bronze medals at World Taekwondo Grand Prix

TASNIM – Armin Hadipour and Soroush Ahmadi from Iran claimed two bronze medals at the 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix underway in Sofia, Bulgaria on Friday.

Hadipour and Italy's Vito Dell'Aquila seized the bronze in the men's under -58kg.

The gold medal went to South Korean Jang Jun who defeated his countryman Kim Tae-hun 12-1 in the final.

In the men's under -68kg, Ahmadi and Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu-jei were the men's under-68kg bronze medalists.

Zhao Shuai from China defeated three-time world champion Lee Dae-hoon 17-7 to win gold.

The 2019 World Taekwondo Grand Prix is the 7th edition of the World Taekwondo Grand Prix series.

Para-cyclist Mohammadi takes silver at Asian C'ship

Iranian Para-cyclist Mehdi Mohammadi claimed a silver medal at the Asian Track Championship in Incheon, South Korea.

Mohammadi came second in the 4,000-meter individual pursuit class C4-5 with five minutes and 3.355 seconds.

Indonesian Muhammad Fadli Imamuddin won the gold medal with a time of four minutes and 56.396 seconds.

And the bronze medal went to Mohd Najib Murano from Malaysia with a time of five minutes and 4.572 seconds.

(Source: ANTARA)

Brazilian striker Reis de Jesus joins Iran's Machine Sazi

TASNIM – Iranian football club Machine Sazi has signed Brazilian forward Jefferson Reis de Jesus.

The 23-year-old player completed his move to the Tabriz-based football club following a successful medical exam.

Reis de Jesus started his professional career at Brazilian club Maringá FC and left the team for Operário-MS.

The Brazilian forward has most recently played for Armenian football team Alashkert.

Machine Sazi sits 10th in Iran Professional League (IPL) after six games.

Bell appointed Korea Republic women's head coach

Englishman Colin Bell is now the head coach of the South Korean women's national football team.

The Korea Football Association (KFA) announced Bell as the new boss for the Taeguk Ladies on Friday. He's signed through the 2022 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Bell, 58, is the first foreign national to coach the South Korean women's team.

Bell played for Mainz in the Bundesliga in the 1980s and has enjoyed a far more decorated career as a coach. He led 1. FFC Frankfurt to the UEFA Women's Champions League title in 2015, a year after winning the German league cup with the same club.

(Source: Yonhap)

Record-breaking demand for Paralympic tickets

A record number of 390,000 sports enthusiasts participated in the first Paralympic ticket lottery that was held for residents of Japan during the period from 22 August to 10 September 2019.

This is more than three times the number of people who took part in the initial offering of tickets for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Such a level of interest has never been seen before in the history of the Paralympic Movement. The ticket demand was well spread across the 22 sports which will be part of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Andrew Parsons, IPC President overwhelmed by the response said, "The demand for tickets experienced during the first Tokyo 2020 Paralympic ticket lottery is unprecedented and like nothing we have seen before in Paralympic Games history.

"London 2012 set the benchmark high with 116,000 applicants in their first ticketing window back in 2011, but the Japanese public have completely blown this figure out of the water with around 390,000 applicants.

"This is further proof that the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games are on course to be the best and most exciting yet. The key now is to sustain this demand until all tickets for the Games are sold."

Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto commented, "More than 390,000 Japan residents applied for tickets in the first lottery of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games – this was a great start.

I'm glad that people in Japan have such high expectations for the Paralympic Games and are showing such interest in them.

"We look forward to everyone cheering on the athletes from all over the world and helping to bring out many personal best performances at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games."

Residents of Japan clearly seized the opportunity to be part of the biggest and the most exciting Paralympic Games ever in their capital city.

With the first Paralympic Ticket lottery now fully closed, Tokyo 2020 announced today that around 160,000 people have been allocated tickets in the first phase of the ticket lottery, and about 600,000 tickets have already been purchased.

Residents of Japan will be able to participate in a second lottery which will commence next year. A further phase of ticket sales will start in the spring of 2020, offering first-come, first-served sales on a global basis.

Details will be announced later. Tickets may only be purchased via authorized channels and Tokyo 2020 urges all prospective ticket purchasers to be aware of unauthorized or potentially fraudulent ticket offerings.

Applications from residents of Japan can only be made on the Tokyo 2020 Official Ticket Website. Pre-registration via the TOKYO 2020 ID portal is necessary to enter the lottery; this can be done at <https://id.tokyo2020.org/>.

Tickets for all sports are being offered at affordable prices



ミライトワ
MIRAITOWA

which aim to encourage people to attend with her family and friends.

Seats at competitive events will be priced from just JPY 900 and will cost no more than JPY 7,000. This is part of the Organizing Committee's commitment to enhance the family atmosphere at the Paralympic Games and attract as many young spectators as possible. Tickets for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will cost from JPY 8,000 up to JPY 150,000.

(Source: Paralympic)



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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Turning away from sin is easier than asking for help.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ An exhibition of paintings by Saeideh Sabetnejad and Azar Khatabakhsh is currently underway at Haft Samar Gallery.

The exhibit named "Spirit of the Times" will run until October 23 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motehghari Ave.

■ Paintings by Akram Beirami are on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Self Portrait" will run until October 28 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

■ Hoor Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Farshid Maleki.

The exhibition will be running until November 11 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motehghari Ave.

■ A collection of paintings by Mohammadreza Mirzai is currently on view in an exhibition at Tarrahan Azad Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Dashed Lines, Stretched Lines" will run until October 24 at the gallery located at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.

■ Maryam Salehi is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

Entitled "Silent Utterer", the exhibit will be running until October 25 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Nader Mahramfar, Leila Mohammadi, Elina Nabipur, Maryam Mokri, Hossein Nazari, Zohreh Rahnam and nine other artists is underway at Atashzad Gallery.

The exhibit named "Another Frame" runs until October 23 at the gallery, which can be found at 3 North Abbaspur (Tavanir) St. near Vanak Sq.

Installation

■ Sets of installation by Kian Vatan are currently on display in an exhibit at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Elephant City" runs until November 5 at the gallery located at No. 8, Forth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Multimedia

■ Golestan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Hooman Nasiri.

The exhibition will run until October 30 at the gallery that can be found at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

Photo

■ Photos by Leila Keivan are on display in an exhibition at AG Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until October 24 at the gallery located at 43 Azodi St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ A collection of photos by Nirvan Rezaei is on display in an exhibition at Gooya Gallery.

The exhibition will run until October 24 at the gallery that can be found at No. 89, Kharim Khan Ave.

Calligraphy

■ The CAMA — Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is hosting an exhibition of calligraphy works by Voria Hashemi.

The exhibit titled "Last Piece" will run until October 23 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

Iranian artists ask Turkish counterparts to stop Erdogan's war machine

A R T **TEHRAN** — A group of 106 Iranian artists and filmmakers has asked their Turkish counterparts to oppose Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's assault on the Kurds in Syria.

In a letter published by the Persian service of ISNA on Friday, the artists wrote, "Stop Erdogan's war machine. A catastrophe has happened. An awful crime is being perpetrated."

"You are the real power. Return peace, calm and living in beauty to the region. You can do it. We are with you," they added.

Members of the group, which remained anonymous, also wrote, "As representatives of Turkey's history, culture, religion and civilization, you have a duty to stop the war machine and crazy and fatal imperialism. This is your and our real mission."

"Let us recollect the new Turkey with its brilliant literature, wonderful music, lovely voices of its singers, Istanbul and its fascinating nights, beautiful architecture, kind hospitable people, and the joie de vivre underway in its streets."

"The war ruins all these beautiful recollections from your culture and civilization and will leave nothing except killings, bloodshed and homelessness."

Kurdish militias in northern Syria have been a crucial U.S. ally in the fight against ISIS. But Turkey launched an attack on the U.S.-backed Kurdish forces after U.S. troops withdrew about two weeks ago.

Turkey and the Kurds agreed to a temporary ceasefire on Friday.



Children arrive in Tall Tamr in the Syrian Hasakeh province on October 10, 2019 after fleeing the Turkish bombardment. (AFP/Delil Souleiman)

The assault on the Kurds has been censured by many celebrated cultural figures and artists around the world.

Earlier on October 11, Kurdish Iranian kamancheh virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor announced during his London concert that

he would cancel his upcoming concert in Istanbul in protest over Turkey's assault on the Kurds in Syria.

Iran's "Last Fiction" among submissions for Oscars consideration

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Ashkan Rahgozar's acclaimed movie "The Last Fiction" is among the 32 submitted for consideration in the animated feature film category for the 92nd Academy Awards.

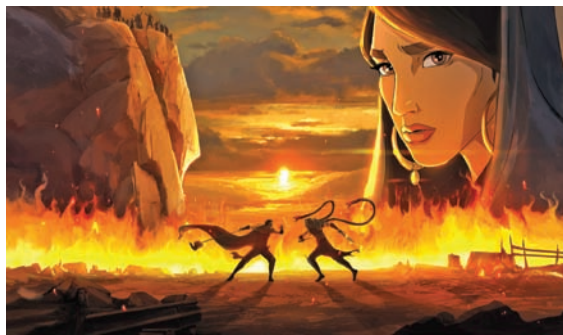
This is the first Iranian animation ever selected as a submission to the race, Hoorakhsh Studio, which is the producer of the movie, said on Saturday.

The submissions also include "Ne Zha" by Yu Yang from China and "Weathering with You" by Makoto Shinkai from Japan.

Popular American productions including "The Angry Birds Movie 2" by Thurup Van Orman, "Frozen 2" co-directed by Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck, "The Lego Movie 2" by Mike Mitchell, "The Secret Life of Pets 2" by Chris Renaud and "Toy Story 4" by Josh Cooley are also among the films.

"The Last Fiction" started its world premiere on September 1 in Sweden, Finland, Norway, the U.S., Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Spain, Greece, Albania, Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and several other countries.

It is currently on screen at Hollywood's Arena Cinelounge until October 24 for its Los Angeles seven-day qualifying run to become eligible for awards consideration.



A scene from "The Last Fiction" by Iranian director Ashkan Rahgozar.

The movie will soon be screened at Iranian theaters as well. "The Last Fiction" recounts a story from Persian poet Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh. It is about Zakhak's treacherous rise to the throne in Jamshid in Persia. The young and naive hero Afaridoun will have to save the kingdom and its people from darkness. But he must first conquer his own demons in this portrayal of Persian mythology that reveals human nature.

Iranian movies line up for São Paulo festival

A R T **TEHRAN** — A lineup of seven Iranian films have been selected to compete in the 43rd São Paulo International Film Festival, which will be running in the Brazilian city from October 17 to 30, the organizers have announced.

"Just 6.5" by Saeid Rustai, "Labyrinth" by Amir-Hossein Torabi and "The Warden" by Nima Javidi will be competing in the New Directors Competition.

"Castle of Dreams" by Reza Mirkarimi, "Tehran: City Of Love", a co-produced by Iran, the UK and the Netherlands by Ali Jaber-Ansari, "A Moon for My Father", a co-production between Iran and the UK by Mania Akbari and Douglas White, and "The Graveless" by Mostafa Sayyari will be competing in the International Perspective section.



Members of the Leev Theater Academy perform Arnold Wesker's "The Kitchen" at Tehran's Paliz Theater in November 2016. (Theater.ir)

Leev troupe to perform "Kitchen" in Tehran

A R T **TEHRAN** — A troupe from the Leev Theater Academy will perform British writer Arnold Wesker's 1957 play "The Kitchen" at Tehran's Molavi Hall on Monday.

Leev CEO Hassan Majumi will direct the troupe, which performed the play in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz during summer.

The academy also took the play on stage at Paliz Theater in Tehran during autumn 2016 and winter 2017.

In addition, the troupe performed the play at the Hamun Theater in the northern Iranian city of Rasht in winter 2018.

"The Kitchen" was Wesker's first work and is his most frequently performed play. It has been produced in sixty cities including

Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Paris — where it was the first widely recognized production by Théâtre du Soleil in 1967 — Moscow, Montreal and Zurich.

The play follows the staff in a café's kitchen during the course of a busy morning.

British filmmaker James Hill made a screen adaptation of the play in 1961.

The play will be on stage for one month.



Navid Mohammadzadeh acts in a scene from "The Warden" by Nima Javidi.

Alicia Alonso, Cuba's ballet legend, dies at age 98

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Legendary Cuban ballerina Alicia Alonso, who achieved global acclaim in the 1940s and went on to run the internationally renowned National Ballet of Cuba for decades, died on Thursday at age 98, state-run media said.

"Alicia Alonso has gone and left an enormous void, but also an unbeatable legacy," President Miguel Diaz-Canel said in a post on Twitter. "She positioned Cuba at the altar of the best of dance worldwide. Thank you Alicia for your immortal work."

One of the greatest 20th century ballerinas, Alonso used her star power to make a sometimes elitist art form popular on her Caribbean island, forging the world's largest ballet school with a unique bravura style.

Alonso immediately identified herself with the 1959 revolution and, with her dance partner of many years, the Russian Igor Youskevich who died in 1994, performed

for the bearded guerrillas of Fidel Castro's rebel army after they took power in Havana. She remained closely associated with the Communist government until the end.

So revered is Alonso in Cuba — where a perfume carries her name and the huge Coppelia ice cream parlor is named after one of her signature roles — that she carried the rare title of prima ballerina assoluta, reserved for only the most exceptional of dancers.

"As the daughter of a small Caribbean island, Alonso confronted all the barriers, those who said ballet was an art of developed countries, that the Latino physique and temperament could not adjust to the needs of classical dance," Cuban-born Carlos Acosta, former principal guest artist of the Royal Ballet, said in a statement on Thursday.

"Alicia Alonso destroyed all these prejudices when she made her entrance on the stage."

Alonso's breakout role was "Giselle" in New York on Nov. 2, 1943, when she replaced British dancer Alicia Markova, who fell ill, in the newly formed company that would become the American Ballet Theatre (ABT).

For her debut in the ethereal 1841 French Romantic role, Alonso had learned the steps with her hands while recovering from eye surgery.

"Her imprint on ABT as one of the charter members of Ballet Theatre is immeasurable," said Kevin McKenzie, artistic director of the New York-based company, in a statement on Thursday. "Alicia's grace, intelligence and courage will surely leave a lasting impact on our art form."

Petite with an angular face, Alonso danced until her 70s despite having trouble walking, and continued to direct her company with the help of trusted artists who served as her eyes. "She has a very vivid imagination which

allows her to see things in her mind as they would appear on stage," Suki John, an American scholar on Cuban dance whom Alonso had invited to choreograph for the National Ballet of Cuba, told Reuters in a July 2015 interview. "She developed this visual acuity as a young dancer when she had one of her first operations on her eyes."

Alonso for years did not name a successor because, she said, "I will live until I'm 200," according to several of her dancers and collaborators. Critics accused her of holding onto power for too long, even as her health faltered.

Dancer Viengsay Valdés, who was named deputy artistic director in January, is widely expected to take over the company.

Together with her first husband Fernando Alonso and his brother Alberto, the ballerina forged a national ballet style that Castro used to showcase Cuban culture.