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## Nearly \$7b paid for development projects in H1

**TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) said that 290 trillion rials (about \$6.9 billion) has been paid for development projects in the country during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), Tasnim news agency reported.

Mohammad Baqer Nobakht made

the remarks on Tuesday during a conference on the occasions of the National Statistics Day.

Last week, the official had announced that 430 trillion rials (about \$10.2 billion) is going to be allocated for development projects in the next year's budget plan, up 53 percent from the figure for the current year. ➔ **4**

## Advisor slams Bahrain for hosting conference attended by Israel

**TEHRAN** — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker, has strongly criticized Bahrain for hosting an anti-Iran security conference attended by Israel.

"Manama Sec. Conference with the participation of illegitimate Israeli regime will help ending the AlKhalifa regime," Amir Abdollahian said in his

Twitter account on Tuesday.

"It needs to review its short history & think abt future of region more rationally. Definitely, the Al-Khalifa's Zionist Regime has no place in the future of region," he added.

On Monday, Reuters reported that a senior Israeli official attended the maritime security conference in Bahrain. ➔ **3**

## Assad: Erdogan is a thief, Idlib battle basis for ridding Syria of terrorism

**TEHRAN** — Syrian President Bashar al Assad on Tuesday denounced Turkey's leader as a thief for attacking the northeast of his country and reiterated a pledge to retake all areas lost to Damascus in years of foreign backed war, state media reported.

Assad made the remarks as he made a rare visit to a frontline of Syria's conflict, touring an area in war-torn northwestern Idlib province close to the last major

bastion of Turkey-backed rebel forces.

Assad has described the defeating of the Takfiri terrorists holed up in Idlib as the key to ending the eight-year war gripping the country as he visited troops deployed to the frontline against the terrorists in the northwestern province.

Assad made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian army personnel on the frontlines of al-Habit town, on Idlib's southern edges, on Tuesday. ➔ **13**



### EDITORIAL

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## Misusing popular protests in Iraq

All documents suggest that a widespread attempt is underway by the enemies of Iraq to undermine security in the country. They want to create a new wave of domestic violence.

Since March 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq, the chief aim of the West has been to create chronic crises in the country.

Washington and its Western and regional allies believe that in an unstable Iraq they can justify their presence in the country and also interfere in its internal affairs.

In line with this policy, over the last 16 years Washington officials have left no stone unturned to create chaos in Iraq. These moves have been ranging from creating Daesh and other Takfiri groups to misusing and derailing the popular protests in the country.

Now Iraq is in a sensitive and delicate situation. Undoubtedly, the magnificent and miraculous Arbaeen march has been one of the greatest positive episodes in Iraq. That fact that Adil Abdul Mahdi's government was organizing such a huge ceremony and simultaneously working to reshuffle the cabinet and counter corruption was a great success.

Moreover, an insistence by the ulema (religious scholars) that protesters show restraint and that officials pay due attention to the demands of the public is an effective step to find a way of the current crisis.

At the same time, the government has formed a committee to investigate the killing of 106 people and asked to the body to present its findings soon.

In fact, Iraq is moving on the path that has been shown by the ulema.

Though certain political groups are trying to use the protests as an excuse to advance their own political agenda, the men of thought and political wisdom know that there is not better option than Abdul Mahdi as an experienced, hardworking and clean politician as the head of the government.

What is regrettable is that despite an insistence by the ulema and government that the people have the right to peaceful demonstration and it is necessary to meet their demands, certain foreign countries led by the U.S. coupled with certain local groups are working to revive an atmosphere of violence in Iraq. ➔ **13**

## U.S. troops withdrawing from Syria have no permission to stay in Iraq: military

**TEHRAN** — The Iraqi military says U.S. forces that have crossed into Iraq as part of a pullout from Syria do not have permission to stay on Iraqi soil and can only be there if they are later being transported out of the country.

"All U.S. forces that withdrew from Syria received approval to enter the Kurdistan Region so that they may be transported outside Iraq. There is no permission granted for these forces to stay inside Iraq," the military said in a statement on Tuesday.

The statement contradicted an announcement by Pentagon chief Mark Esper on Saturday that all of the nearly 1,000 troops withdrawing from northern Syria were expected to move to western Iraq to

allegedly continue the campaign against the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group and "to help defend Iraq."

A senior U.S. defense official later clarified that the situation was still fluid and plans could change.

News agencies said Monday that U.S. troops had crossed into Iraq from Syria through the Sahela border crossing in the northern province of Dohuk.

Video images showed armored vehicles carrying troops into Iraq, with Iraqi Kurdish sources saying that U.S. troops had crossed into the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region.

President Donald Trump abruptly announced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from northeastern Syria earlier this month.

The withdrawal effectively granted Turkey a

green light to carry out a long-planned invasion of northern Syria targeting U.S.-allied Kurdish forces in the region.

With U.S. troops in Iraq and Turkish forces in Syria, some observers are wondering whether Ankara and Washington are coordinating their moves for a new chess game in the region.

**■ U.S. military companies against bringing troops home**

Meanwhile, Trump says his plans to bring American troops home from Syria and other countries have been met with strong opposition from "military companies," arguing that it is easier for him to let the soldiers get killed and sent back in coffins instead. ➔ **13**

## Erdogan, Putin hold talks as withdrawal deadline for Syria Kurds draws near

**TEHRAN** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, as a deadline draws near for Kurdish militants to withdraw from Syria's northern border areas near Turkey or face a renewed military offensive.

The meeting is being held in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi. The two leaders are expected to exchange views on the "developments in Syria, including the normalization of the situation in the country's northeastern regions," according to a Kremlin statement.

Putin and Erdogan, it added, will also discuss "countering international terrorist groups and promoting the political settlement process, including in the context of the upcoming launch of the Syrian Constitutional Committee."

Speaking at a forum hosted by broadcaster TRT World in Istanbul on Monday, Erdogan stressed that he "will take the necessary steps"

regarding Syria following his talks with Putin.

Turkey launched an offensive in northeastern Syria on October 9 with the aim of purging the region near its border of Kurdish militants, whom it views as terrorists linked to local autonomy-seeking militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The incursion came after the U.S. abruptly pulled its forces out of the region, clearing the path for Ankara to go ahead with a planned military action against Washington's longtime Kurdish allies, Press TV reported.

Nine days into the operation, Turkey agreed on October 17 to pause the offensive for 120 hours while the U.S. facilitates the withdrawal of Kurdish militants from a planned 120-kilometer (75-mile) safe zone between the Syrian border towns of Tell Abyad and Ras al-Ayn.

The U.S.-brokered truce is set to expire at 10:00 p.m. local time (1900 GMT) on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters at the Ankara airport

before departing for talks with Putin on Tuesday, Erdogan said Turkey would resume the Syria operation "with greater determination" unless the Kurds' withdrawal is completed under the ceasefire deal.

"If the promises given to our country by the United States are not kept, we will continue our operation from where we left off with greater determination," he said.

Turkey's Syria incursion led the Kurds to reach out to the Damascus government for support, striking an agreement with Syrian troops to enter towns near the border with Turkey.

Russian forces also moved in to replace American troops in northern Syria in support of the Arab country's army.

"The most important thing for us is achieving long-term stability in Syria and the region," Putin's foreign policy advisor Yuri Ushakov said. "We believe this can only be achieved by restoring the unity of Syria."



IRNA/Rasoul Shojaei

## Gavkhuni wetland comes back to life

Migratory birds have returned to Gavkhuni wetland once again as heavy rainfall has revived the long-dried wetland.

Covering more than 47,000 hectares, the wetland is located in the central province of Isfahan.

It is the 19th wetland in Iran designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands which came into force in 1975. It recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

### PERSPECTIVE

**Hanif Ghaffari**

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## Third British PM may be crucified over Brexit

Brexit is getting more twisted every day. It is obvious that Boris Johnson is spending hard days. He seems severely concerned about the political future of himself and his Conservative Party.

On the other hand, the disagreement between the opponents and supporters of Britain's departure from the European Union has culminated in the recent days.

Britain has recently announced that it will leave the EU on Oct. 31, despite an unsigned letter that the British prime minister was forced by parliament to send to Brussels. "We are going to leave by October 31. We have the means and the ability to do so," Michael Gove, the minister in charge of no-deal Brexit preparations, told Sky News.

He added, "That letter was sent because parliament required it to be sent ... but parliament can't change the prime minister's mind, parliament can't change the government's policy or determination."

It should be noted that Johnson asked the EU to delay the Brexit process. He also sent another note, claiming he did not want any delay or extension. This act was heavily criticized by many British politicians and even those in Johnson's party. The move by Johnson amounts to undermining the legal status of the House of Commons in the eyes of other European actors.

The British prime minister stated, "I have made clear since becoming prime minister and made clear to parliament again today, my view, and the government's position, that a further extension would damage the interests of the UK and our EU partners, and the relationship between us," Johnson said in the third letter, signed "Boris Johnson".

It can be said that Johnson has formally called on European officials to postpone the request of the House of Commons to delay Brexit. In the wake of political crises between the government and the House of Commons, which can lead to premature election, the supporters of another referendum in Britain have begun their work to repeal the first referendum and to stay in the EU. Indeed, if the second referendum is to be held, British nationalists, who are major supporters of Brexit, will launch an extensive uprising against the government. All the developments suggest that like his two predecessors, David Cameron and Theresa May, Johnson will soon become the third victim of Britain's divorce from European Union.



## Defense minister: Deterrence power has secured Iran against threats

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — In view of Iran's high deterrence power, no enemy dares to threaten the country, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said on Tuesday while making a visit to naval industries.

Touching upon the enemies' failed plan to create a naval coalition against Iran in the Persian Gulf, the brigadier general, said, "We have reached a high deterrence point in the entire aspects of a war so that, thanks to the God, no danger is threatening the country, but, we must promote our security mechanism in maritime sector via making more efforts."



The defense chief further said, "Movement along technological edge and matching the country's products with the internationally-accepted standards are the most important indicators of naval products in the Iranian defense ministry."

Highlighting the country's geopolitical status and the importance of free waterways, he said, "Creating naval might in line with promotion of other defense items in aerial, ground and electronic fields enjoys high importance (in Ira's deterrence doctrine)."

Hatami stressed that specialists and researchers in the defense industry must embark on conducting future feasibility studies to find out future threats and then present required plans to the executive bodies who will in their turn choose the best ways to counter possible threats.

"Turning sanctions into opportunities via relying on our valuable human resources' specialty and indigenized knowledge have converted the country's defense industry into an efficient and advancing industry," the minister said, adding such path must continue more willfully.

In relevant remarks last week, Deputy Army Commander for Coordination Affairs Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari underlined the country's steadfast position to maintain its deterrence power, saying that the trans-regional enemies fear Iran's power.

"We are prepared to confront any enemy aggression and our hard power has grown so much that the trans-regional enemies know and fear that if they harm our borders and start a war against Iran, they will not be the terminator of such a war," the admiral said, addressing a forum in Tehran province last Wednesday.

Noting that the Army was standing against all threats, he added, "We never compromise (our) hard power positions and will maintain the deterrence power."

## Rouhani says process of collecting taxes must be transparent

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the process of collecting taxes must be transparent in order to promote interaction with the people and also facilitate tax payment.



"In a transparent process, the people should know the portion of taxes spent on the country's development will promote interaction with the people and facilitate tax paying," he said during a meeting of reviewing tax policies.

He also suggested that the country's tax system should become electronic.

Rouhani also said that it is very important to protect small businesses, saying, "We must act in a way that these enterprises are not put under tax pressure. It is also imperative to plan in a way that they do not evade paying taxes."

The president also said his administration attaches great importance to fighting corruption in regard to tax system.

Judiciary Chief Hojjatolislam Ebrahim Raeisi said on Monday that the economic system should be transparent in order to prevent corruption.

The main strategy to prevent corruption is making the country's economic system transparent and institutionalizing transparency," he said in a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary.

The Judiciary chief added that systems related to customs, tax and banking transactions should be active and coordinated to monitor entrepreneurs, investors, and businessmen.

## Zarif says Iran's relations with China are 'strategic'

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that Iran's relations with China are "strategic".

During a meeting with Zhai Jun, China's special envoy on Middle East affairs, Zarif said that Iran welcomes China's effective role in helping regional peace and stability.

For his part, Zhai said that China attaches great importance to peace and stability in the Middle East region and will continue talks with Iran in this respect.

The Chinese special envoy is visiting Tehran as Iran has unveiled its peace plan for the Persian Gulf security. The plan was announced by President Rouhani at the UN General Assembly in September.

Zhai's trip also comes at a time the Turkish Army has launched an attack on northeastern Syria to drive out Kurdish Democratic Forces (SDF) near the border. Turkey argues that the SDF is an extension of the PKK which has been fighting Turkey for decades.

China along with many other countries have called on Turkey to withdraw its forces from northern Syria and respect the country's sovereignty.

# U.S. lying that sanctions exempt food, medicine: agriculture minister

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati said on Tuesday that the United States is lying that sanctions against Iran do not include food and medicine.

"Despite the United States' claims that sanctions against Iran do not include food and medicine, what has happened in the past months show that importation of food and medicine to Iran is practically under sanctions," he said during a meeting of the chamber of commerce.

"When banking transaction of a country is restricted, the possibility to transfer currency becomes very difficult. So, sanctions include food and medicine because even when they announce they have not imposed sanctions on food and medicine," he explained.

However, he said that there is no concern about providing food and medicine for the people.

In a tweet on November 12, 2018 U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that "the U.S. does not, and never did, sanction food and medicine. They are exempt from sanctions."

Kianoush Jahanpour, spokesman for Iran's Food and Drug Administration, told ISNA in an interview published on November 13, 2018 that the claim by Washington that medicine is exempt from sanctions is a "big clear lie".

Sanctions include food and medicine and the only point is that these two items have not been mentioned in the sanctions list announced by the Trump administration, he said.

Farhad Ehteshamzad, the head of the Iran Auto Importers Association, has also told ISNA that foreign banks refrain from interacting with Iran, because they fear to be punished by the U.S. which also impedes



importing certain commodities such as food and medicine.

Scientific Societies for Medical Sciences in Iran wrote a letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres in March 2019 condemning the U.S. sanctions against Iran, urging the

international community to resist sanctions targeting "medical needs" and "humanitarian aid".

"Scientific Societies for Medical Sciences in Iran call on int'l community to: condemn U.S. sanctions on Iran; strongly resist the

**"When banking transaction of a country is restricted, the possibility to transfer currency becomes very difficult. So, sanctions include food and medicine because even when they announce they have not imposed sanctions on food and medicine," Agriculture Minister Hojjati explained.**

## Iran reiterates peaceful settlement of Turkey's security concerns in Syria

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Minister spokesman in an exclusive interview with Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency has voiced Tehran's opposition to any military incursion into northern Syria, saying diplomatic path is the best way possible for Ankara to allay security concerns.

"Iran has been an influential country in the Astana meeting on (Syria) and has also been one of the guarantors of ceasefire in the war-hit country. Iran has been playing

positive role in de-escalation of tensions too," Seyed Abbas Mousavi said, Anadolu reported on Tuesday.

"We asked the brother and neighboring country of Turkey to refrain from exercising military solution (to end security concerns in northern Syria)," he further said.

"Iran does not believe in resorting to military operations in such cases. We believe in seeking peaceful settlement of difference via dialogue and understanding. We tried to remove differences among all sides," Mousa-

vi said in response to a question about his country's role in recent developments in northern Syria.

The spokesman pointed to the announcement by Geir Pedersen, the special envoy of the UN secretary general for Syria, saying, "The first meeting of constitutional committee will be held on October 30."

Mousavi voiced Iran's full support for the committee and said, "We hope the regional developments (including Turkey's military incursion into northern Syria) would not have

negative impacts on the issue (constitutional committee). We hope the committee can be a preliminary step for basic measures in diplomatic trend of settling crisis in Syria."

He added, "Territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the countries should be respected. Iran will do any effort which it recognizes as a positive move to lessen tensions, Turkey's (security) concerns and meantime to materialize whatever that will benefit the Syrian government and people. We try to make (different) views closer."

## Diplomat: U.S. has turned economic terrorism into foreign policy instrument

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Es'haq Al-e Habib, Iran's deputy ambassador to the UN, said on Monday that the "economic terrorism" is an "illegitimate instrument of foreign policy" by the United States.

"The application of arbitrary unilateral coercive measures, including economic terrorism as an illegitimate instrument of foreign policy, is one of the outcomes of this aggressive unilateralism, which is imposed extraterritorially in defiance of the rule of law," Al-e Habib stated.

The diplomat made the remarks while addressing a special session of the UN General Assembly.

Following is an excerpt of his speech published by IRNA: Among the issues that we face today is the rampant unilateralism forced upon the international community and the undermining of international agreements, by the current U.S. administration. The application of arbitrary unilateral coercive measures, including economic terrorism as an illegitimate instrument of foreign policy, is one of the outcomes of this aggressive unilateralism, which is imposed extraterritorially in defiance of the rule of law. It infringes upon the right of nations to development and leads to the violation of basic human and humanitarian rights of peoples.

We are seriously concerned that the continuation of such abhorrent practice by the U.S. administration can

lead to a very ominous situation at the international level with colossal repercussions for the international peace, security and development.

In this regard, we urge the Department of Global Communications to contribute to raising awareness of the international community on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the socioeconomic development of the targeted countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to emphasize the important responsibility of the United Nations vis-a-vis the Question of Palestine.

Iran fully supports raising international awareness regarding the negative consequences of occupation and embargo on Palestinian people.

We commend the DOC for its special information program on the question of Palestine, including the training program for Palestinian journalists.

We support the work of the United Nations Information Centers (UNICs).

UNICs can play significant role in disseminating the messages of the United Nations as well as promoting its public image, especially in developing countries.

To better achieve these important goals, strengthening the UNICs, in particular in developing counties, should be on the agenda of the DGC.



Multilingualism contributes to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard and as emphasized in the paragraph 29 of the draft resolution B submitted for adoption to the Fourth Committee today, we urge the DOS to disseminate information, in addition to the six official languages of the UN, in other languages, including the Persian language that is spoken by tens of millions of people and is widely regarded as the root of not only great culture and civilization but is also a source of understanding and solidarity among several nations.

## Jack Straw says U.S. must return to nuclear deal

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has said that the United States must admit that it made a wrong decision to quit the 2015 nuclear deal, urging the White House to return to the pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In an interview with IRNA published on Tuesday, Straw said that the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA had "no logic".

He also said that U.S. President Donald Trump quit the nuclear deal because Barack Obama, the former U.S. president, signed it.

Ben Rhodes, former Obama's adviser, said in July that Trump quit the JCPOA, because Obama negotiated it.

"Did anyone really need a leaked document from the UK Ambassador to know that Trump pulled out of the Iran Deal because Obama negotiated it?" Rhodes tweeted.

Kim Darroch, the former British ambassador to the U.S., has said Trump seemed to be discarding the Iran nuclear deal for "personality reasons," as the deal had been agreed to by Obama, the Daily Mail reported in July.

Darroch said the Trump administration was "set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism" in its decision to abandon the JCPOA.

Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal in May



2018 and imposed the toughest ever sanctions on Iran.

On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. abandoned the deal, Tehran began to partially reduce its commitments to the agreement at bi-monthly intervals.

In the first stage, Iran announced that it will not limit its stockpile of the nuclear fuel to 300 kilograms allowed under the deal. However, on that date (May 8) Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said if the remaining parties to the JCPOA, especially Europeans, devise a mechanism

to protect Iran from the sanctions' effect in the two-month deadline it will reverse its decision.

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

Again, as Europe missed the second 60-day deadline, Iran moved to take the third step, removing a ban on nuclear research and development (R&D).

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that Tehran is ready to take the fourth step to reduce commitments under the JCPOA.

"We hope that we would witness special action by the remaining countries to the JCPOA, otherwise Iran is ready to take the fourth step," Mousavi said in a regular press briefing.

Mousavi added that the mechanism for the next step (fourth step) has been devised.

Iran's next step falls on early November.

Reportedly, in the next step, Iran intends to limit nuclear inspections by the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mousavi also said Iran's action in reducing its commitments is within the framework of the JCPOA and the Europeans have no right to complain about it.



# Judiciary dismisses rumors of Zam-linked arrests

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The spokesman for Iran's Judiciary on Tuesday dismissed rumors about arrest of insiders linked to Ruhollah Zam, the head of an anti-Iranian website and Telegram channel who was arrested by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) earlier this month.

"Until today, apart from Ruhollah Zam, no one in the administration, Judiciary, armed forces or elsewhere has been arrested," Gholam Hossein Esmaeili told a press conference, Tasnim reported.

"Do not speculate," Esmaeili said. "My advice is not to point the finger at each other."

He also lauded the IRGC for the "precision" operation to arrest Zam, saying "invaluable" information has been obtained after his arrest.

"Of course, we obtained invaluable information on this issue, but no new arrests have been made since Ruhollah Zam's arrest," he reiterated.

The IRGC announced last week that it had arrested Zam during a complicated



intelligence operation, which involved luring him back to Iran. Zam launched Amad News in 2015. The

channel frequently posted fake news stories and called for violence with the aim of overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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

Amadnews was suspended by the messaging app Telegram last year after Iran accused it of carrying calls for violence during protests that started in late 2017 and continued across the country. But the channel soon reappeared under a new name.

In its statement, the IRGC said Zam was supported by intelligence agencies of certain countries, including France, the U.S. and Israel.

A day after the announcement, Mohammad Tavallaee, a high-ranking IRGC general, said Zam was arrested through cooperation with other intelligence services.

"Intelligence forces had been keeping a careful watch over Ruhollah Zam's movements for a long time and he stepped into intelligence trap of the Guards some two years ago," he said.

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

## Iran-EU joint training workshop on nuclear emergency cases kicks off in Luxemburg

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — A joint training workshop named "Preparing for and Responding to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency" was inaugurated at the venue of the European Union (EU) in Luxemburg City on Monday.

According to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), senior managers and relevant experts from the AEOI, Iran's Crisis Management Organization, the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the Health Ministry along with their European counterparts have partaken in the event.

Michael Hubel, head of the Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Unit of the EU, delivered a speech at the



opening ceremony of the workshop.

In the meantime, Estefan Clement, the official in charge of the joint EU-Iran project under appendix 3 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) described nuclear cooperation as a key element in promoting nuclear safety and security.

During the training workshop, both sides' experts and specialists exchanged views on various fields of crisis management in radiologic and nuclear incidents and emergencies.

In a similar cooperation between Iran and the EU, a five-day training course on nuclear law was launched at the AEOI headquarters in Tehran earlier this month.

## VP urges Expediency Council to ratify FATF-related bills



**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri has urged the Expediency Council to ratify the FATF-related bills as soon as possible.

"Given that the FATF and CFT bills were passed in the meeting of heads of government branches and also confirmed by the Supreme Leader, the Expediency Council would better ratify these bills," Jahangiri said on Tuesday.

"It would be better if the people were informed about all affairs, including talks within the administration, Majlis, Guardian Council and Expediency Council," he suggested.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said on Friday it had 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, according to Reuters.

"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."

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.

## Arbaeen trek showed Muslim unity against enemies: Baqeri



**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — The Arbaeen march demonstrated the Islamic Ummah's unity in the face of enemies, says Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff.

Presence of millions of pilgrims in the Arbaeen march was against the desire of hegemonic and anti-Islam powers, especially the terrorist regime of America and its regional and trans-regional allies, General Baqeri said, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

He made the remarks in a message to his Iraqi counterpart, Othman al-Ghanmi.

In his message, Baqeri thanked the Iraqi people for their warm hospitality to the Arbaeen pilgrims, and expressed his gratitude to the Iraqi government and armed forces for their services to the pilgrims.

The Arbaeen 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, Arbaeen fell on Saturday, October 19.

Many Iranian officials have thanked the friendly neighboring country, Iraq, for its hospitality during the Arbaeen season.

In a message to Iraqi leaders, President Hassan Rouhani described Arbaeen pilgrimage as a "miracle" and thanked the Iraqi officials for making it possible.

"This gathering shows that Arbaeen is not just an occasion on calendar, but a lasting historic miracle and a most powerful media to introduce Imam Hussein (AS) culture and Ashura," he said.

He added that the Arbaeen march shows unity and solidarity between the Iraqis and the Iranians and is an example of forming a "united front against violence and discrimination".

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

As a positive step, this year Iraq removed visa requirement for Iranian pilgrims, thereby paving the way for more Iranian citizens to visit the neighboring country to perform Arbaeen ritual.

conduct and actions are in a very humane and respected way at prison according to the prisoners and guards," read the statement.

His family also voiced concerns about Soleimani's "poor" mental and physical condition in jail, saying he is suffering from chronic irritable bowel syndrome, has lost 15 kilograms and suffers from severe vision loss.

The statement added that numerous attempts by his family as well as the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the U.S. to provide him with the much-needed medications have been unsuccessful.

Soleimani's family condemned the U.S. government's hostile act.

"[We] believe the abuse of nationals to oppress their government is an inhumane act and a clear example of human rights violation. The conspiracy by the US government and Mayo Clinic to set up and arrest a scientist, who is expert in his field (stem cells) and has stepped in to help hard-to-cure patients around the world was a purposeful movement, especially when we see he has authored numerous articles in the field. This move is meant to keep a non-American scientist away from science and advancement."

No sensible person, the family said, approves of this "biased and inhumane behavior."

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Dr. Masoud Soleimani's family has denounced U.S. government's year-long detention of the renowned scientist as a "hostile" and "inhumane" act, saying that Washington has failed to provide any evidence to substantiate alleged charges against the academician.

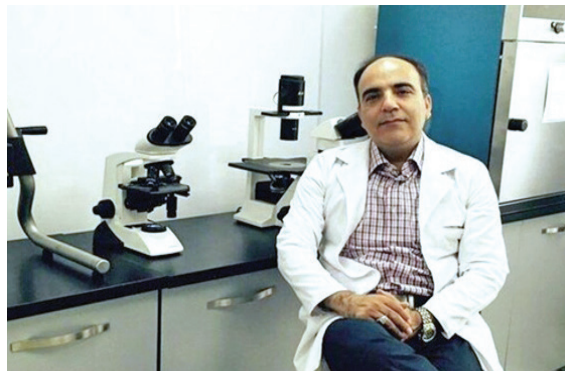
In a statement on Tuesday, Dr. Mahnaz Rabeie, Soleimani's wife, along with other members of his family, said the researcher has remained incarcerated in the U.S. for one year without adequate evidence to convict him.

According to the statement, Soleimani, the full professor and head of the Hematology Department at Tarbiat Modares University, was selected as an outstanding faculty member of the year in 2015. He also won recognition as being among the top 1% scientists and researchers on the basis of ISI (Thomson Scientific Institute) in the same year.

Soleimani arrived in the U.S. on October, 22, 2018 with a visa issued upon an invitation by the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to lead a research program on the treatment of stroke patients.

He was, however, arrested by the FBI upon arrival at the Chicago airport. His visa was canceled and he was transferred to a jail in Atlanta, Georgia.

Soleimani's whereabouts remained unknown for up to a week until the Chicago airport police claimed that the professor had returned to Iran on a Qatari



flight, said the statement.

"It was a failed attempt that ultimately just revealed the deliberate U.S. move to pretend that Dr. Soleimani has 'disappeared' in order to distract the pursuit process. Now, Professor Masoud Soleimani has been held in prison for almost a year without charge and trial. This young scholar, who had no negative or unlawful acts records in his life, was not allowed to be released on bail till his trial. This as his scientific endeavors and research have always been transparent and helpful to humanity, and his

## MP says Bahrain summit will just complicate regional issues

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Iranian MP Ali Najafi Khoshroodi has said that anti-Iran summit in Bahrain is propaganda and will just complicate regional issues.

"The Bahrain meeting will have no result but creating propaganda and complicating issues and problems in the region."



Talking to ISNA in an interview published on Tuesday, he said, "You cannot hold talks about regional security without participation of Iran and regional influential countries."

A two-day United States-led maritime security meeting opened in Bahrain on Monday.

Najafi Khoshroodi said, "Security is not a commodity to be imported by foreign countries. The regional countries should establish security by themselves."

"If Bahrain and certain countries in the Persian Gulf region seek to establish security in the region, they must agree on joint mechanisms with neighbors. Iran has extended hand of friendship and cooperation whose clear example is the Hormuz peace plan," he stated.

At the UN summit in New York in late September, Iran officially unveiled proposal for regional security. The proposal is known as the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE).

"Based upon the historical responsibility of my country in maintaining security, peace, stability and progress in the Persian Gulf region and Strait of Hormuz, I would like to invite all the countries directly affected by the developments in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz to the 'Coalition for Hope', meaning Hormuz Peace Endeavor," Rouhani told the UN delegates.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has invited all regional states to join Iran's initiative for securing the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

In a tweet in September, Zarif said the initiative entails "dialogue, confidence-building, freedom of navigation, energy security, non-aggression, and non-intervention".

In a post on his Twitter account on October 15, Zarif renewed Iran's call to all countries bordering the Persian Gulf to join Tehran's initiative to "forge a blueprint for peace, security, stability, and prosperity" in the region.

## Commander suggests cooperation between Iran and Russia will help stabilize Middle East

**POLITICAL DESK** **TEHRAN** — Mehdi Rabbani, the deputy chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, has said cooperation between Tehran and Moscow will help the Middle East region enjoy durable security, Russia's state-run Sputnik news agency reported on Tuesday.

Rabbani is currently on a visit to Beijing at the head of a delegation to attend the 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.

Beijing Xiangshan Forum, whose original name is Xiangshan Forum, was initiated by the China Association of Military Science (CAMS) in 2006 as a track-2 platform for Asia-Pacific security dialogue.

"Unfortunately, security situation in the Middle East is not currently suitable, but, thanks to cooperation between some nations including Iran and Russia, the situation will improve," Brigadier General Rabbani was quoted as saying by the Persian language website of Sputnik.

The commander reiterated, "We are sure about the mentioned claim."

The commander further touched upon Iran-Russia good relations, especially in military field, saying, "We are sure that durable cooperation among Russia and the Asian countries including China is a positive factor (for restoration of sustainable security and tranquility)."

## Advisor slams Bahrain for hosting conference attended by Israel

**1 →** Israeli Foreign Ministry official Dana Benvenisti, head of its counter-terrorism department, attended the Manama gathering in a rare visit by an Israeli official to Bahrain.

"Aviation and maritime security are at top of the policy agenda in the region," Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed al-Khalifa told the opening of the Maritime and Aviation Security Working Group.

The maritime workshop being held in Manama stems from a Middle East conference held in Warsaw in February that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the time called a "historical turning point" for an alliance against Tehran.

Tensions have risen in the region since U.S. President Donald Trump last year withdrew the United States from a 2015 deal between world powers and Iran under which Tehran agreed to curbs on its nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

Washington has since reimposed rounds of sanctions meant to strangle Iran's vital oil exports, and Tehran in turn has scaled back on commitments under the deal to restrict its uranium enrichment program.



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	308315.0
IFX	3804.88

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,841 rials
GBP	54,520 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$59.19/b
WTI	\$53.73/b
OPEC Basket	\$60.06/b
Gold	\$1,487.55/oz
Silver	\$817.64/oz
Platinum	\$890.95/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Tehran hosting bitumen, asphalt conference, exhibition

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s 11th National Bitumen, Asphalt and Machinery Conference and Exhibition kicked off in Tehran on Tuesday at the presence of the country’s Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami, the event’s portal reported.



As reported, the exhibition and conference is organized by Iran’s Road, Housing and Development Research Center in collaboration with Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (IRMTO) and Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC) as well as Ministry of Transport and Urban Development’s Technical and Soil Mechanics Lab. Company.

The three-day event is aimed at promoting technical knowledge and exchanging valuable experiences between participants and professionals in bitumen and asphalt field.

Nearly \$7b paid for development projects in H1

**1 →** “We intend to invest as much as we can in development sector in the next [Iranian calendar] year (starts on March 19, 2020), so we have increased the budget for this sector by 53 percent to achieve significant growth,” Nobakht said on the sidelines of the 12th meeting of the budget headquarters on October 14.

According to the PBO head, the government is going to allocate all revenues from oil sales to the development projects following structural reforms in the next Iranian calendar year’s budget bill.

During the Tuesday gathering, Nobakht also announced that eight plans have been defined for creation of 988,000 job opportunities in the country.

TEDPIX gains 6,141 points in a day

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 6,141 points to 308,314 on Tuesday, Tasnim news agency reported.

The report said that 3.645 billion securities worth 16.69 trillion rials (about \$397.3 million) were traded through 350,000 deals at TSE on Tuesday.

As previously announced, the index has fallen 3,402 points to 309,647 during the five working days of the past Iranian calendar week (Saturday to Wednesday).



Some 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.

After some consecutive days of fall, TEDPIX registered growth on Monday.

The stock market experts mention the emotional influence created by the new shareholders as the main reason behind the drops that this market has been experiencing recently.

It is 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, closed at an all-time high of 302,103 points.

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.

Iranian companies sign €60m petchem equipment production agreement

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — National Iranian Oil Engineering and Construction Company (NIOEC) signed an agreement with two domestic companies namely Machine Sazi Arak and AzarAb Industries for cooperation on indigenizing the manufacturing of some equipment used in petrochemical industry.

The signing ceremony was participated by Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani on Tuesday, IRIB reported.

Based on the agreement worth €60 million, the manufactured equipment will be supplied to Kian Petrochemical Company (in the southwestern province of Bushehr) and Dehloran Petrochemical Industries (in the western province of Ilam).

During the signing ceremony, Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, the deputy minister of industry, mining and trade, said that 18 petrochemical projects worth €60 billion are currently underway in Iran that 60 percent of their required equipment can be manufactured inside the country.

He said that 3,500 equipment and machinery manufacturing units are active in the country and over 2,000 industrial equipment and machinery have been already listed to be indigenized.



Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani (C) in the signing ceremony of an agreement for indigenizing petchem equipment in Tehran on Tuesday

The official also announced that contracts worth €107 million have been recently signed for manufacturing equipment applied in the auto industry.

Trump is disrupting balance of global economy: analyst

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian Economic Expert and Analyst Mohammad-Ali Kazemian believes that Donald Trump has disrupted the balance of the world economy and the rules of world trade since he took power.

“Before Trump came to power, we saw the global economy abiding by specific rules and regulations. The new American president, being in power, broke all those rules and equations,” Kazemian said in an interview with the Tehran Times.

This is a clear indication that how the U.S. policies and actions will end up harming the world economy and trade, he noted.

“Multinational companies and enterprises have suffered the worst from Trump’s presence in power. Such corporations

adjusted their businesses based on free trade rules, but now Trump has broken all those rules. For example, France’s Peugeot Corporation has been eager to establish trade relations with Iran, however the United States, with its irregular pressures and behavior, prevented this from happening.”

“White House has tied the global economy to its own economic interests, and this is not acceptable at all,” Kazemian said.

The Analyst believes that even though Trump’s actions has had many catastrophic consequences for the global economy, some good has come out of it too.

To put it in his words, “Trump’s presence, despite being a threat to the world economy and free trade, has resulted in emergence

of some valuable concerns among many countries. Economic powers such as Russia and China, and emerging markets like India and Brazil and even Europe have become aware of the negative impact of U.S. hegemony on their economies and therefore are taking measures to reduce their reliance on the United States.”

For instance, China and Russia are moving toward doing trade in their national currencies. Other emerging economies have also come to the same conclusion, acknowledging the fact that America’s economic dominance over the world will result in insecurity of their businesses and economic environment, seeking to free themselves of the “American economic unilateralism.”



Agricultural products account for nearly 11% of non-oil exports in 5 months

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Agricultural products constituted 10.97 percent of Iran’s non-oil exports during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), an official with the Ministry of Agriculture announced on Tuesday.

Abdolmahdi Bakhshandeh, the deputy agriculture minister for planning and economic affairs, said that 2.504 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.952 billion have been exported during the five-month period, IRNA reported.

The official mentioned Iraq, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Russia, India, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Germany as the major export destinations of the agricultural products in the first five months of the year.

He also said that 10.04 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$5.625 billion have been imported to the country during the mentioned time span, accounting for 31.71 percent of the non-oil imports.

Bakhshandeh further announced that the country has exported 6.941 million tons of agricultural products worth \$6.392 billion in the past Iranian calendar year and said that these products accounted for 14.43 percent of the non-oil exports in the previous year.

Agriculture minister attends TCCIMA board of representatives’ meeting

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) held the seventh meeting of its board of representatives at the place of the chamber on Tuesday, TCCIMA website published.

During the meeting, which was participated by Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati, the representatives mentioned the barriers and obstacles that the private sector is facing for production and export of the agricultural products and also in terms of the processing industries related to these products.

They also expressed their concerns about the predictions made by the international economic institutions about high inflation and economic recession in Iran and also the low rank of the country in competitiveness.

Hojjati for his part referred to some statistics about increase in production and investment in the agriculture sector and also in water management throughout the country.

He also expressed his disagreement about some export bans and said, “We are dissatisfied with some bans.”

Addressing the same meeting, TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari mentioned inflation, low value of national currency, government’s high expenditures, banks’ limited ability for granting facilities, unemployment and poverty as the major challenges that the national economy is predicting.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

**Tender Holder:**

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

**Subject of Tender :**

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization intends to use the capacity of the private sector for the Direct Sale of Iranian goods via the Internet online and on live stream television broadcasting on IRAN KALA TV Network by eligible and experienced legal entities. To this end, all companies and individuals active in this field who have good record of fulfilling similar projects and are fully familiar with this field are invited to submit technical and professional documentation, together with Introduction of the company, the number of specialist personnel along with previous experience & projects to the following address.

**Deadline for Delivering (RFI):**

9:00 a.m. Wednesday 2019/10/23 until 16:00 p.m. on Tuesday 2019/11/05.

**Place of Receiving the (RFI) document:**

Interested participants must refer to International Purchase Management (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Hotel Esteghlal St., Vali - Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran

**Deadline for Envelope delivery (RFI):**

The Sealed envelopes must be delivered no later than 16:00 pm on Wednesday 2019/11/27 to the International Purchasing Management Office.

**Time and Place of Opening Envelopes (RFI):**

The date of opening the envelopes is on 09:00 a.m. on Saturday 2019/11/30 at the International Purchasing Management office.

For More information please call: 009821-22167053:

Obviously a meeting will be arranged upon request of IRIB for further explanation.

This call does not create any responsibility for IRIB and no rights for the responsive company, and a comprehensive and sufficient explanation of the tender subject by the interested companies will be effective only in identifying and making the right decision for IRIB.

Purchasing (Kala) Dept., IRIB



# 500 new villages to be connected to national power grid by March 2020

**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** – Iran’s Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) is going to connect 500 new villages to the national electricity network by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020), IRNA reported, quoting an official with the company.

According to Tavanir’s Operator for Rural Electricity Expansion Program Ali Chehel-Amirani, rural networks comprise 31 percent of the country’s electricity distribution network and the country’s rural network reaches 250,000 kilometers.

The official believes that more than 50 percent of the country’s rural network is older than 25 years and therefore highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods and storms and need to be upgraded and protected against damage and accidents.

“Increasing the resilience of rural electricity networks is a priority for Tavanir Company and therefore having programs and resources for the development and maintenance of



the network is of high importance as the cold season approaches,” the official said. Earlier this month, Chehel-Amirani said

“since the 1970s Islamic revolution, every day four villages have been connected to the national power network.”

“The number of villages connected to the electricity grid has increased 13 times since the revolution and now exceeds 57,350”, he said.

“During the last six years, 35 trillion rials (about \$834 million) has been spent for development, maintenance and upgrading of the rural electricity grid and electricity supply to villages without electricity, 3.5 times more than the figure for six years ago,” Chehel-Amirani added.

He further noted that the country’s electricity network has been expanded by 250,000 kilometers to supply electricity to 21.5 million people in rural areas.

Referring to the fact that nearly 99.7 percent of the country’s rural population are currently supplied with electricity, he said “According to the information provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA), this figure is 86 percent in Central and South America, 85 percent in Asia, 78 percent in the Middle East and 36 percent in Africa.”

“Our country is in very good condition in terms of rural electricity supply,” he added.

## Oil slips as demand concerns outweigh U.S.-China trade optimism

Oil prices edged lower on Tuesday as lingering worries over a global economic slowdown that could hurt demand offset some signs of progress in U.S.-China trade talks.

As per reuters.com, Brent crude oil futures LCOc1 were down 10 cents, or 0.2%, at \$58.86 a barrel by 0704 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 were down 12 cents, or 0.2%, at \$53.19 per barrel.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said efforts to end a U.S. trade war with China were going well as negotiators from the two nations work to nail down a Phase I trade deal text for their leaders to sign next month when they meet at November’s APEC summit.

“Commodity markets were cautiously optimistic amid signs that a trade deal was close to being signed by the United States and China,” ANZ bank said in a note.

“Crude oil prices remained in the doldrums, with ongoing economic weakness weighing on sentiment,” it added.

Goldman Sachs on Tuesday trimmed its 2020 global oil demand growth forecast to 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd), from 1.4 million bpd previously. It also wound back its forecast for growth in U.S. shale output in 2020 to 0.7 million bpd in 2020 versus a previous forecast of 1 million bpd.

Although there are some signs of easing ten-

sions between the world’s two largest economies, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on Monday that an initial trade deal does not need to be finalized next month, emphasizing the need to get the right deal.

Adding to tensions, China is seeking \$2.4 billion in retaliatory sanctions against the United States for non-compliance with a WTO ruling in a tariffs case dating back to the era of president Barack Obama.

“In the short term, a possibility of the United States and China signing an initial deal could support prices, but it remains to see whether tariffs set for December will be removed,” said Kim Kwang-rae, commodity analyst at Samsung

Futures in Seoul.

Russia’s missed target for cutting its September oil output was also putting downward pressure on prices, along with talks between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to resume oil production from joint oil fields in the Neutral Zone, Kim said.

Russia, the world’s second-largest oil producer, pumped more oil in September than it pledged under a global supply cut deal due to an increase in natural gas condensate output.

U.S. crude stockpiles are expected to have increased for a sixth straight week, while distillates and gasoline stocks likely fell in the week to Oct. 18, a preliminary Reuters poll showed on Monday.

## The holy grail of energy is finally within reach

By Alex Kimani

Theoretically, two lone nuclear reactors running on small pellets could power the entire planet, safely and cleanly. That’s the promise of nuclear fusion. So, why are we still relying on fossil fuels?

For decades, scientists have viewed nuclear fusion as the holy grail for clean, abundant and sustainable power. Based on the same principle that powers the stars, including our own sun, a couple of nuclear reactors running on small pellets could power our planet without the risk of a catastrophic meltdown and zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Still, we depend on fossil fuels for 80% of our energy needs. So, what’s stopping us from building these reactors everywhere?

After all, scientists have been working on nuclear fusion technology since the 1950s and have always been optimistic that the final breakthrough is not far away. Yet, milestones have fallen time and again and now the running joke is that a practical nuclear fusion power plant could still be decades away.

Well, you can blame some kinky laws of physics for this sad state of affairs.

It turns out that the conditions necessary for nuclear fusion to take place present an extreme challenge for us earthlings.

Fusion works on the basic concept of forging lighter elements into heavier ones. When two hydrogen atoms are smashed together hard enough, they fuse to form helium. The new atom is less massive than the sum of its parts, with the balance converted to energy in the E=MC<sup>2</sup> mass-energy equivalence.

### ■ In a multi-step reaction

Ok, that’s a bit simplistic since hydrogen atoms do not fuse together directly but rather in a multi-step reaction. Anyway, the long and short of it is that nuclear fusion produces net energy only at extreme temperatures - in the order of hundreds of millions of degrees celsius. That’s hotter than the sun’s core



and far too hot for any known material on earth to withstand.

To get around this quagmire, scientists use powerful magnetic fields to contain the hot plasma and prevent it from coming into contact with the walls of the nuclear reactor. That uses a lot of power.

Stars have it easy in this regard because their ludicrously powerful gravitational fields hold everything together.

Unfortunately, every fusion experiment so far has been energy negative, taking in more energy than it generates thus making it useless as a form of electricity generation.

Getting the initial fusion reaction is not a problem - keeping it going is, not to mention that building nuclear reactors takes some extremely sophisticated feats of engineering.

But now scientists are confident that they are close to building a nuclear reactor that will produce more energy than it consumes.

The Saint-Paul-les-Durance, France-based upcoming International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is the world’s largest fusion reaction facility that aims to develop commercially viable fusion reactors.

Funded by six nations including the U.S., Russia, China, Japan, South Korea and India, ITER plans to build the world’s largest tokamak fusion device, a donut-shaped cage that will produce 500 ME of thermal fusion energy.

### ■ The biggest fusion machine

The device will cost ~\$24 billion with a delivery date set

at 2035. The giant machine - the biggest fusion machine ever built - will weigh in at an impressive 23,000 tons and will be housed in a building 60 meters high.

So, what’s different this time around?

Scientists have successfully developed a new superconducting material - essentially a steel tape coated with yttrium-barium-copper oxide, or YBCO, which allows them to build smaller and more powerful magnets. This lowers the energy required to get the fusion reaction off the ground.

According to Fusion for Energy - the EU’s joint undertaking for ITER - 18 niobium-tin superconducting magnets aka toroidal field coils will be used to contain the 150 million degrees celsius plasma. The powerful magnets will generate a powerful magnetic field equal to 11.8 tesla, or a million times stronger than the earth’s magnetic field. Europe will manufacture 10 of the toroidal field coils with Japan manufacturing nine.

However, it will be another decade before a full-scale demonstration power plant will be built using lessons learned from ITER. The industrial fusion power plants will thereafter be connected to the grid.

ITER, however, is not the only fusion energy player on the scene. Commonwealth Fusion Systems is collaborating with MIT to build its fusion reactor. The team has planned a fusion experiment they have dubbed called Sparc which is about 1/65th the volume of ITER.

The experimental reactor will generate about 100MW of heat energy in pulses of about 10 seconds - bursts big enough to power a small city. The team anticipates that the output will be more than twice the power used to heat the plasma thus overcoming the biggest technical hurdle in the field: positive net energy from fusion.

The other good news: the Sparc team has set an ambitious target to have the reactor running in just 15 years.

(Source: oilprice.com)

## A window of opportunity for African fossil fuels

In August, a plaque was installed where Iceland’s once-iconic Ok-jökull glacier stood, before climate change turned it into a lake. “This monument,” the plaque reads, “is to acknowledge that we know what is happening and know what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it.”

As per jordantimes.com, what is happening, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and virtually the entire scientific community warn, is the rapid approach of a climate catastrophe. And while much must be done to prevent it, for developing regions like Africa, this will require a new approach to industrialization.

In many ways, the world is finally beginning to take climate change seriously. A total of 195 countries have signed onto the 2015 Paris climate agreement. In the United States, while President Donald Trump has withdrawn from the Paris accord, and rolled back environmental protections, state governments have taken up the mantle of achieving its goals, and Democratic presidential candidates are proposing ambitious climate strategies.

But it is young people, not political leaders that are leading the call for action. The 16-year-old Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg has grabbed headlines with her eloquent speeches, school strike movement, and voyage across the Atlantic on a zero-emissions yacht. OPEC’s secretary general, Mohammed Barkindo, recently described such activists as “perhaps the greatest threat” to the oil industry’s future.

### ■ The petroleum industry

Barkindo also argued that the petroleum industry is not the sole cause of climate change. In some ways, he is right. However, the oil sector also needs to acknowledge that our reliance on “fossil capitalism” is coming to an end. In his early July remarks, he noted that the international oil industry will need to have some difficult conversations about the future.

But while efforts to shift to increasingly cost-competitive renewable-energy sources should be welcomed, the challenge this poses for developing countries with oil and gas resources, which have contributed far less to climate change than their industrialized counterparts, remains unaddressed.

Fossil fuels have underpinned prosperity-enhancing industrialization wherever it has taken place, from Europe and the U.S. in the nineteenth century to China in the 2000s. But in the Global South, oil and gas resources have not translated into sustained economic development and higher standards of living. Instead, they have generally involved extraction from some for the benefit of others: A “resource curse.”

In this moment of greater interest in sustainable and just transitions, an increasing number of African countries are pursuing new petroleum exploration and production.

Understandably, they hope finally to reap the development benefits of their natural endowments. While more sustainable energy systems are crucial from an environmental perspective, during the transition, and while petroleum resources continue to be required, African states will need to make the most of their fossil-fuel resources and exploit them in ways that contribute to positive welfare outcomes. This is the logic underpinning petro-development.

But even with substantial new investment, especially from China and India, the possibilities for petro-development are waning. What once looked like a source of infinite opportunity now has clear limits, given lower global oil prices and a shift in demand toward renewable-energy sources.

### ■ Exploiting oil and gas

As a former head of Nigeria’s national oil company, Barkindo is acutely aware of the difficulties in exploiting oil and gas resources in ways that produce net benefits to both the state and its citizens.

As renewable energy becomes more cost-effective and societies make the transition to a post-carbon world, the conversation should not be about how the existing oil industry can be part of the solution, but rather about how the industry can make more contributions to socioeconomic development during the transition.

Even if oil prices recover, it seems unlikely that most African countries will be able to achieve the desired petro-development without radically overhauling their approach to natural-resource management and governance. And that will require a long-term, carefully designed, and feasible strategy for social and economic development.

Such a strategy should, for example, recognize that new investment in the oil industry leads to billions of dollars of spending on a wide variety of goods and services from companies that, in many cases, do much more than service the oil industry. In recent years, Nigeria has been leading a push for African petroleum producers to capture more value by promoting “local content”. Across Africa, countries are trying to build local companies and encourage international companies to do more of their work in-country. In effect, they are trying to find a way to make good use of their resources before the window for doing so closes.

The industrialized economies, for their part, must do more to support African oil industries and make sure the negative effects of oil production are mitigated.

## Nearly a third of the Earth’s electricity will come from renewables by 2024: IEA

As stated by edition.cnn.com, renewable power capacity is expected to surge by 50% globally in the next five years, “meteoric” growth that is equivalent to the amount of electricity currently churned out by America’s power plants, the energy watchdog said in a report published on Monday.

That blockbuster growth, led by solar power, is being driven by plunging costs, smarter policies and rising concern about the climate crisis.

However, the international energy agency (IEA) warned that the expansion into renewables will still be “well short” of what’s required to meet aggressive goals aimed at fighting climate change and curbing air pollution.

“They still need to be growing far more strongly in order to achieve long-term sustainable energy goals,” Fatih Birol, the IEA’s executive director, wrote in the report.

The shift toward clean energy has been significant, including in the United States, where power plants are quickly dumping coal in favor of solar, wind and natural gas.

America’s power plants are expected to consume less coal next year than at any point since 1978, according to forecasts released earlier this month by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That’s

despite President Donald Trump’s efforts to revive coal by slashing environmental regulations.

Coal used to be the leading fuel source for America’s power companies. It has been replaced by natural gas in recent years -- and renewables are not far behind.

Globally, however, coal is still king -- and that’s not expected to change in the near future.

While nations are quickly adopting solar and wind, the IEA said coal is still expected to be the largest source of power globally in 2024. The agency predicted coal will generate about 34% of the planet’s electricity in that year, down from nearly 40% in 2018.

### ■ The renewable energy boom

The global renewable energy boom stalled out in 2018 for the first time in two decades. Hurt by slower solar growth in China, last year marked the first since 2001 when renewable power generation capacity failed to increase.

Renewables are back on track this year, with the IEA projecting 12% growth, the fastest in four years. That pace is being driven by solar power, which is being rapidly embraced in the European Union, India and Vietnam. The IEA also pointed to higher

onshore wind growth in the United States, the EU and China.

Solar power plants are expected to be “economically attractive” in most countries around the world by 2024, according to the IEA.

Wind power will play an important role in the next leg of the renewable energy boom. Onshore wind will make up a quarter of the growth in renewables over the next five years.

Wind power is at the heart of the green energy revolution in Texas in particular. By 2020, Texas will get more of its power from onshore wind than from coal, according to Rystad Energy.

Offshore wind, while tiny compared to other energy sources, is also enjoying explosive growth. The IEA said offshore wind capacity is projected to triple by 2024, driven by auctions in the EU and growth in China and the United States.

The enormous potential of offshore wind is on display off the east coast of Britain, where Danish energy company Orsted is working to complete the world’s largest offshore wind farm. The project, Horns Rev One, will produce enough energy to supply 1 million UK homes with clean power when it’s finished in 2020.

### Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

**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](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

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



By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** — State and public opinion polls in the United States show that Donald Trump is not in a good position with public opinion. This will undoubtedly cause serious problems for the US President in the upcoming presidential election. Many US analysts believe that if the current situation continues in the United States, Trump will certainly lose the next presidential election.

National poll: Majority of Americans lacks confidence in President Trump when it comes to making Supreme Court picks

As Journal Sentinel reported, A majority of Americans disapprove of President Donald Trump's handling of appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court and doubt he would pick the "right kind of person" to fill the next opening on the high court, according to a new and wide-ranging national survey about the court by the Marquette University Law School.

But if a vacancy occurs during the 2020 election year and Trump nominates someone to fill it, the public overwhelmingly believes the Senate should hold confirmation hearings. In fact, a lopsided majority (73%) said it was "the wrong thing to do" when Senate Republicans refused during the 2016 election to fill a court vacancy in the final year of Democrat Barack Obama's presidency.

The national survey released Monday offers a sweeping snapshot of public perceptions of the court, its individual justices, its role, major rulings it has handed down and issues it could soon decide. By a large margin, Americans trust the Supreme Court more than either of the other two branches of government (Congress and the presidency), according to the nationwide poll of 1,423 adults taken Sept. 3 to 13.

And most oppose the idea of adding seats on the court, an idea embraced by some on the left who feel Republicans have bent the rules to maintain a conservative majority on the court. But one idea for reforming the court that does have broad approval (72%) is having justices serve fixed terms instead of lifetime appointments, an idea that is strongly favored by Republicans, Democrats and independents alike in the survey.

Compared to the other branches, the high court is well regarded: 80% of those surveyed have at least some confidence in the institution and almost 40% have a lot of confidence. The court rates much higher than Congress and the presidency in this regard. In fact, 57% said they trust the Supreme Court the most of the three branches, compared to 21% who chose the presidency and 22% who chose Congress. Subscribe to our On Wisconsin Politics newsletter for the week's political news explained.

The court is not perceived as highly partisan or extreme. Notably, its chief justice, John Roberts, is the least polarizing member of the court when it comes to the difference between how Democrats and Republicans view individual justices; Brett Kavanaugh, appointed by Republican Trump, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, appointed by Democrat Bill Clinton, are the most polarizing along partisan lines.

About half of those surveyed perceive the court as moderate. Almost 40% perceive it as conservative and a bit over 10% perceive it as liberal. But only one in 10 perceives it as "extremely" conservative or "extremely" liberal. Most think the court follows "mainly the law" rather than "mainly politics" in reaching its decisions.

The poll also found that, while Democrats and Republicans are sharply divided over key rulings the court has handed down, these partisan differences don't extend to the public's view of all cases. For example, of seven major rulings the survey asked about, the most popular was one that is widely embraced by conservatives: the finding in "DC v. Heller" that the Second Amendment confers an individual right to bear arms. It was viewed favorably by two-thirds of those polled.

But the next most popular ruling (viewed favorably by 56%) was one embraced more widely on the left than the right: the ruling establishing a constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry. In the same vein, the court's most unpopular decisions include some decried by liberals (the "Citizens United" ruling allowing corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts to support or oppose political candidates) and some decried by conservatives (allowing race to be considered in college admissions).

Looking ahead to issues that are now before the court, the poll found:

About six in 10 adults were opposed to overturning Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states. The court agreed this month to hear a key Louisiana abortion case and others appear headed its way.

Almost the same number support a decision that would extend protections against employment discrimination on the basis of sex to sexual orientation, as well. The court has three cases before it that will test whether gay and transgender people are covered by existing employment protections.

A little over half support making it constitutional to use public funds for religious school students.

A little over half think a ban on semi-automatic weapons would not violate the Constitution (even though support for the right to bear arms is broad).

A little over half (52%) would oppose the court striking down Obamacare, with 37% favoring such as ruling.

More than half (53%) would oppose a decision that allows the administration to end the DACA program that permits young people brought to the United States illegally to avoid deportation

In addition to being the least polarizing branch of the government, the court is also the least well-known. While almost six in 10 Americans could offer an opinion of Kavanaugh and Ginsburg, only 16% could offer one about the court's most anonymous justice, Stephen Breyer. About half of those polled knew enough to rate at least three members of the court. Only about a third knew enough to rate a majority of the court's nine members. Roberts ranked right in the middle, at fifth, in name recognition, after Ginsburg, Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas and Sonia Sotomayor. Ginsburg, Sotomayor and Roberts had the most positive ratings, while Kavanaugh — who was at the center of a hugely divisive confirmation fight last year — was the only justice who was viewed negatively by more people than viewed him positively.

Asked about Trump's handling of court appointments, 43% approved and 57% disapproved. That was lower than his approval rating on the economy among all adults (48%) and slightly higher than his rating on handling immigration (42%). Asked how much confidence they have that Trump will select the right kind of person if there is another opening on the court, 45% said at least "some" confidence while 55% said very little or none at all.

There were big gaps between Democrats and Republicans over Trump's handling of the court, not surprisingly, as there were over broader questions about the court's decision-making. Most Republicans think the court should base its rulings on the original meaning of the Constitution rather than viewing it as a document whose meaning has evolved over time. Democrats follow the opposite pattern, and the partisan gap is huge on this question. Most Democrats think it's more important that a decision lead to a fair outcome rather than that it "follows the

## Reducing Trump's popularity in state and national polls

# Alarm for the White House



law even if seemingly unfair." Republicans are the opposite.

There are huge partisan differences among U.S. adults over revisiting Roe v. Wade, over how the court should handle Obamacare and over whether the court should decide that a business owner's free speech rights or religious beliefs can justify refusing service to gay customers. But Democrats and Republicans are closer to agreement over key aspects of the confirmation process that has spurred so many bitter partisan fights in Washington. Majorities of Republicans, independents and Democrats all say it was "the wrong thing to do" when Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, refused to take up Democrat Barack Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland during the 2016 election year — including 59% of Republicans, 70% of independents and 87% of Democrats.

Likewise, Americans of all political stripes think that the Senate should hold confirmation hearings if there is an opening in the 2020 election year and Trump nominates someone to fill it — including 75% of Republicans, 76% of independents and 62% of Democrats. Questions about the health of the 86-year-old Ginsburg, one of the court's four more liberal justices, have fueled speculation about that scenario. Four out of five adults said that if a nominee to the court is "qualified and has no ethical problems," then senators are not justified in opposing confirmation just because those senators are from a different political party.

And majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents all say it's not justified for senators to oppose a qualified nominee with no ethical problems simply because of how they think that member of the court would decide cases.

### ■ Majority disapprove of Trump Supreme Court nominations, says poll

Also The Hill reported that A majority of Americans disapprove of President Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court and have little or no confidence that he would pick a suitable candidate to fill any potential future vacancies, according to a new poll from the Marquette University Law School.

The survey found that 57 percent of U.S. adults polled somewhat or strongly disapprove of the way Trump has handled filling vacancies on the nation's top court. Forty-three percent said they somewhat or strongly approve of the president's approach, a figure that is slightly higher than Trump's overall approval rating of 40 percent in the poll. Fifty-six percent said they have little or no confidence that Trump would "select the right kind of person to sit on the Supreme Court" if another vacancy were to open up. Thirty-two percent said they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence, and another 13 percent said they have some confidence.

Unsurprisingly, Trump's record of Supreme Court appointments polls higher among Republicans, with 89 percent of respondents who identify with the GOP saying they strongly or somewhat approve of his approach to filling the court. Eighty percent of respondents who identified as Republican-leaning said the same.

The poll also found widespread disapproval with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) refusal to consider Merrick Garland, former President Obama's nominee to replace Justice Antonin Scalia after his death in early 2016. Seventy-three percent said McConnell's decision not to hold any confirmation hearings for Garland was the wrong thing to do, while 27 percent said it was the right thing to do.

McConnell argued at the time that it would be improper to hold confirmation hearings just before a presidential election. But if a vacancy opens up in 2020 ahead of the next election and Trump puts forth a nominee, 69 percent of the poll's respondents said that the Senate should hold hearings, while 31 said it shouldn't.

Trump later filled Scalia's seat with Justice Neil Gorsuch, who was confirmed in 2017. The poll also shows that the partisan battle over Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation last year has had a lasting impact on the public's perception of the court and Kavanaugh in particular.

Despite being the most junior member of the court, Kavanaugh, who was confirmed in a narrow 50-48 Senate vote last year after being bombarded with accusations of sexual assault, is now only second to Ruth Bader Ginsburg in terms of public awareness. Just 42 percent were unable to rate Kavanaugh in terms of favorability, compared to 41 percent for Ginsburg.

He also has the highest unfavorability rating of the nine justices, with 32 percent. Twenty-six percent said they viewed him favorably. Kavanaugh is one of two justices, along with Gorsuch, that Trump has nominated and seen confirmed to the court. The survey was conducted Sept. 3-13 and is based on answers from 1,423 adults nationwide. It has a margin of error of 3.6 percentage points.

### ■ What Our Poll Shows About Impeachment Views in 6 Swing States

New York Times reported that Voters in the states likeliest to decide the 2020 presidential election support the impeachment inquiry that House Democrats began last month, but a majority still opposes impeaching President Trump and removing him from office, according to a New York Times/Siena College survey.

In the six closest states carried by the president in 2016, registered voters support the impeachment inquiry by a five-point margin, 50 percent to 45 percent. The same voters op-

pose impeaching Mr. Trump and removing him from office, 53 percent to 43 percent. The survey depicts a deeply divided electorate in battleground states a year from the election, with the president's core supporters and opponents exceptionally energized and unified. Yet at the same time, a crucial sliver of relatively moderate voters — just 7 percent of the electorate — support the inquiry without backing Mr. Trump's impeachment and removal from office.

The findings suggest that public opinion has stabilized since shifting quickly against the president in late September, and it leaves American politics where it has been for some time: deadlocked, with neither side likely to face severe political costs for its position on the president. Democrats have long feared that impeachment would alienate moderate voters. But in the pivotal states of Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Arizona, a majority of voters support the inquiry. Self-described independents back the inquiry, 51 percent to 43 percent.

Support for the impeachment inquiry is largely consistent with recent national surveys, which show registered voters backing the inquiry by an average of nine points over the last three weeks, or a margin four points higher than the one in the Times/Siena poll. In 2016, the six battleground states were about four points more favorable to Mr. Trump than the rest of the country was, a pattern that persisted in the 2018 midterm election.

The results suggest that the president continues to be stronger in the top battleground states than he is nationwide. This is keeping his narrow path to re-election alive and insulating him and his party from national political opinion — to an extent. National surveys have been less consistent about the issue of removal. A few high-profile national surveys, including a Fox News poll criticized by the president, show a majority of voters support impeachment and removal. But many surveys have not shown support for removal. Patti LuPone on Getting Bullied by Broadway. And Why She Keeps Coming Back.

An NBC/WSJ poll, for instance, found that adults opposed impeachment and removal by a six-point margin, 49 percent to 43 percent, nearly the reverse of Fox's result of 51 percent supporting and 43 percent opposed. Other surveys — from Marist College, Quinnipiac, CNN/SSRS and Monmouth College — also found more opposition than support for impeachment and removal. The Times/Siena results are fairly consistent with those surveys.

A group that could be crucial to shifting the balance of public opinion is voters who say they support the inquiry but are not ready to support removing the president. This 7 percent slice of respondents tends to be younger — 33 percent are 18 to 34 — and nearly half are self-identified independents. They could prove tough for Democrats to convince: 51 percent say that the president's conduct is typical of most politicians, perhaps suggesting that they hold a jaded view of politics that would tend to minimize the seriousness of the allegations against him. Mr. Trump's supporters from 2016 are nearly unanimous in their opposition to removing him. Over all, 94 percent of respondents who said they voted for him four years ago said they opposed his impeachment and removal. It is possible that Trump voters who have soured on him are less likely to divulge their 2016 preference to a pollster. (Crosstabs available here.)

Trump voters are not convinced that the president's conduct was atypical for politicians in Washington. Only 11 percent of Mr. Trump's 2016 supporters believe that his Ukraine-related conduct is worse than the conduct of most politicians, while 75 percent said it was typical. Democrats and self-reported Hillary Clinton voters strongly support impeachment and removal, but they are divided by ideology and levels of political engagement. Over all, 83 percent of Democrats and 85 percent of Mrs. Clinton's voters said they supported impeachment and removal from office, compared with 93 percent of Republicans who opposed. Just 75 percent of moderate and conservative Democrats say they support impeaching and removing Mr. Trump, while 21 percent are opposed. Very liberal Democrats, on the other hand, are all but unanimous: 93 percent in favor and 4 percent opposed.

Much of the hesitation among Democrats comes from voters who say they aren't following the news about impeachment very closely. Of these voters, 21 percent oppose impeaching and removing Mr. Trump. Support for impeachment could grow as Democratic voters tune in; Democrats who are paying "very close" attention support impeaching Mr. Trump and removing him from office, 94 percent to 5 percent. New developments could sway public opinion as well. The Times/Siena survey of 1,934 respondents had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points and was conducted from Oct. 13-20, largely before the acting White House chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, acknowledged that aid to Ukraine was conditioned on an investigation of Democrats. (He later retracted those comments). But more time doesn't guarantee a shift in public opinion. The rapid increase in support for impeachment after Speaker Nancy Pelosi's announcement of the opening of the inquiry last month has clearly slowed and perhaps even ground to halt. Paying close attention doesn't ensure that voters will resolve to remove the president, either: Trump voters who say they're following the impeachment news "very closely" oppose impeachment and removal from office, 97 percent to 3 percent.

### ■ Trump is Losing to democratic frontrunners in key swing state minnesota: Poll

Newsweek reported that A new poll shows President Donald Trump losing his 2020 re-election bid to every leading Democratic candidate in the key swing state of Minnesota. A Star Tribune poll released on Monday found that the trio of leading candidates for the Democratic nomination, former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, all defeated Trump in head-to-head matchups. The survey also found Minnesota's Amy Klobuchar besting Trump in the swing state despite being less successful in national polling.

Biden had one of the biggest leads over Trump of any of the Democratic candidates, according to the poll. Fifty percent of voters backed the former vice president compared to the 38 percent who supported Trump. Fifty-one percent of voters said they'd choose Warren over the president. But Trump did have slightly more support from voters (40 percent) when matched up against Warren than with Biden. Sanders came in third among Democratic candidates, with 49 percent of voters backing him as opposed to the 40 percent who would support Trump.

But it was Klobuchar who was shown beating Trump by the widest margin of any Democratic candidate, 50 percent to 38 percent. The Minnesota senator has a national polling average of just 2 percent. Candidates need to average at least 3 percent support in four DNC-approved polls to move on to the next debate. The Star Tribune poll was conducted from October 14 to October 16. It consisted of 800 registered voters and has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points. donald trump 2020 rally minnesota

President Donald Trump speaks onstage during a campaign rally at the Target Center on October 10, 2019, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The rally follows a week of a contentious day and forth between President Trump and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey. A new poll shows Trump losing to top Democratic challengers in Minnesota.

Trump was just in Minneapolis, Minnesota earlier this month for a 2020 campaign rally. During the event, the president slammed polling that showed him in danger of losing to his Democratic competitors.

"Now, the do-nothing Democrat con artists and scammers are getting desperate," Trump said. "Thirteen months, they've got to move fast because they are not beating us in the polls and they know it. Despite the phony polls that you see all the time."

Trump added that he "knows polls very well" and that polls are "no different than crooked writers."

But his hold on the presidency has become even more uncertain after the House of Representatives launched an official impeachment inquiry against him last month. The inquiry came as a result of reports that Trump pressured a foreign country to investigate Biden and his son Hunter. Trump has waved off the impeachment inquiry as a "Democratic witch hunt" and has claimed that no other president in U.S. history has been treated so badly. But polling shows that a growing number of Americans support removing him from office. According to a recent Gallup survey, 52 percent of U.S. adults now support Trump's impeachment.

Second Announcement

N.I.S.O.C

1398.4532

National Iranian South Oilfields Company AHVAZ-IRAN

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

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

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

Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 3445 7437

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



## East Asia at a glance

## Regional security architecture should emphasize inclusiveness

**GLOBALTIMES** — The 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum kicked off in Beijing on Monday. Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. Wei clarified China's position on a variety of key issues. Global Times reporters Li Qingqing and Yan Yunming talked with two experts attending the forum about the messages China wants to convey. Zhao Suisheng, professor of Chinese politics and foreign policy at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Minister Wei pointed out that regional affairs should be handled by regional countries. China is gaining an increasing influence in the Asia-Pacific region and has an increasing problem-solving capability regarding regional affairs, including security issues. China believes that regional affairs must be solved by regional members through cooperation and coordination. But the US has dominated the region for decades, and a rising China is to some extent in conflict with US interests. If Asian people solve their own problems, will the US still have a sense of being in the region? Will its interests and alliances in Asia Pacific be maintained? Washington is now concerned about this. From China's perspective, relations between the US and its regional allies are mainly against China and are becoming unstable factors in Asia Pacific. For instance, Japan may confront China with US support, and such confrontations may lead to instability. That would not be in the interests of either Japan or China.

Meanwhile, it is not possible or necessary for the US to be excluded from the region. The US has played an active role in some issues shared by Asia-Pacific countries. For example, Japan and South Korea would have developed nuclear weapons if the US had not provided security protection for them. This would bring a threat to the region, as well as to China's interests. It will be hard to build a security architecture for the entire Asia-Pacific region, because the region includes many countries, and some of them have historical disputes and ideological and religious differences. They have different economic development paths and political systems, and do not have a shared perception regarding opposing forces.

But it is certainly possible to build a security architecture at the sub-regional level, such as in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia or the whole of East Asia. The East Asia Summit is a good example, because it forms a regional security cooperation mechanism that is led by East Asian countries and also includes countries from outside the region. Besides, smaller countries like members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can play an important role, because other countries will not regard these countries as a direct threat. China should encourage these smaller countries to play a leading role. Then, China can actively participate in the process and lead the regional security cooperation mechanism together with these countries.

Zhang Jiadong, deputy director of the Center for US Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai

Minister Wei pointed out that security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region should be inclusive and open. In fact, we are not building a completely new security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region; we are making the old architecture more inclusive and fair. This being the case, the definition of external interference is somewhat vague. External countries are not necessarily countries that have absolutely nothing to do with regional affairs. Although regional affairs should be managed mainly by regional countries, this does not mean that countries outside the region cannot have any influence in the region. Different from the past, we are living in an era of globalization. In the past, countries divided up their spheres of influence. But today, nobody is able to do that.

It is a basic principle for regional countries to oppose external interference. It is unacceptable if regional affairs are heavily influenced by countries from outside the region. However, in an era of globalization, countries are more closely integrated with each other, and so is the security issue. Instead of completely blocking external forces from outside the region, we should make regional countries take the lead in managing regional security. Asia-Pacific countries should work to build more security cooperation mechanisms and enhance regional military structures.

The Xiangshan Forum has already become a very influential forum. China should provide its thoughts for the world, such as building a community with a shared future for humanity. Such thoughts are not specific policies, but will lead in a general direction. China should provide a platform for a security mechanism in Asia Pacific. Smaller countries cannot provide such a platform because they



still lack the necessary financial strength. The US and other Western countries have provided some platforms, but these countries cannot bear different opinions. China, however, listens to the voices of smaller countries and gives them an opportunity to talk, even if their opinions are different from China's. This is what we call an open security framework.

#### ■ Taiwan authority is politicizing murder case

Chan Tong-kai, who is suspected of murdering his pregnant girlfriend in Taiwan, will be released on Wednesday. He said he would surrender himself to Taiwan after his release. But Taiwan rejected the offer on Sunday, claiming Chan was manipulated to surrender and that this was Hong Kong's political maneuver.

Chan allegedly killed his girlfriend in Taiwan in February last year and fled to Hong Kong. It is his case that prompted the Hong Kong government to amend the extradition bill and later triggered unprecedented social turmoil in Hong Kong. But before the anti-extradition bill protests emerged, Taiwan had already issued an arrest warrant for Chan, which is still valid today. Hong Kong's relevant law is strict in this regard. It cannot investigate and convict Chan for the murder because the incident occurred outside Hong Kong's jurisdiction. At this point, Chan is willing to turn himself in to Taiwan. The case is supposed to proceed in Taiwan.

Yet in Taiwan, the course of the incident took a turn. Amid the escalating political chaos in Hong Kong, Taiwan authorities are trying to make a few political points. Plus, the "presidential election" is approaching. What if Chan's case brings unknown changes to the current Taiwan authorities' future approval ratings?

Whether Chan decides to turn himself in voluntarily, or under manipulation as Taiwan claims, it would only be known after he arrives in Taiwan. Taiwan authorities could by then hype Chan being politically manipulated if that is the case. But it seems not confident in doing so. It is the Taiwan authorities who are calculating the case from political perspective.

On the other hand, if Chan goes to Taiwan, how Taiwan judges will hardly have any impact on Hong Kong's street violence. Chan's case will not have a huge impact on Taiwan either and the island should make its legal judgment as it is supposed to do as a pure criminal case. But Taiwan authorities have been thinking too much about it. As the election approaches, the current Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen and her colleagues are highly sensitive and fully wary of any risks the case may bring to the Democratic Progressive Party's performance in the elections.

The Taiwan-style elections, which are based on a Western-style political system, have gone extreme. The combination of "presidential election" and the topic of "Taiwan secession" have blurred a variety of issues which used to be very clear, and have confused public opinion. Because of the election, a criminal case cannot proceed in accordance with the law in Taiwan. The island's politics, being narrow-minded, is doomed to a bleak future.

#### ■ Foreign firms need political wisdom in Chinese market

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do" has never been an outdated philosophy. It is particularly true when companies operate on foreign soil in this globally connected world.

A New York Times editorial titled "The Chinese threat to American speech" said China's pressure on foreign companies eager to make money in China poses "a dangerous and growing threat" to the freedom of expression, one of the core values of the US. It also implicitly criticized American companies for accepting restrictions set by China in exchange for their business interests.

The so-called freedom of speech has long been used as an excuse by some US and Western political and opinion elites to

undermine China's interests. When NBA superstar LeBron James was seen taking China's side in the recent NBA row, he was verbally assaulted and humiliated by US netizens. The episode exactly shows the value of "freedom of speech" in the US is built on political correctness.

The Chinese market is big and is not a market without a political or value orientation, nor does it follow US capital. It is a market that embraces the mainstream sentiments of Chinese citizens. This has nothing to do with "freedom" under the Western discourse.

The Chinese people's mixed feelings of pride, hope and care with the territorial integrity of the country are embedded in the way the Chinese market hosts foreign companies. Foreign companies will inevitably experience a backlash when their actions trample on the nerve of the Chinese people.

American companies need to adapt to the Chinese market and they will certainly feel unaccustomed during this process, given the differences in how both sides define values and national interests. They have to think twice if they want to make money in China on the one hand while engaging in speeches or activities that are deemed in violation of China's core interests on the other. Most US companies are doing well in China and a handful of them have made good deals in recent weeks. In September, PayPal clinched a license to provide digital payments. JPMorgan Chase won an auction in August that will allow the bank to control its asset management business in China.

The New York Times editorial encourages American companies to stand up against China by insisting that the companies are responsible for maintaining the commitment to free expression even if they cannot do business in China. But will the New York Times shoulder the responsibility to make up for their losses? Western media serves a role in safeguarding Western values and guides Western society in its feelings toward China. But in China, the interests of China and the Chinese people come first.

#### ■ Japan's emperor has trust on his side

Japanese Emperor Naruhito is scheduled to take part in ceremonies on Tuesday to mark his accession to the throne. Heads of states and representatives from nearly 200 countries and international organizations, including President Xi Jinping's special envoy and Vice President Wang Qishan, US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon, and Britain's Prince Charles, are attending the event.

Emperor Naruhito's enthronement took place on May 1 and was attended mostly by Japanese people. This time, the ceremony is held mainly for the world at large. Which is the first country Emperor Naruhito will visit after the royal event? How will Japan's royal diplomacy look like during the Reiwa era? All this will undoubtedly attract worldwide attention and there will be an element of anticipation.

Activities of Japanese imperial family often attract public attention. But at this moment, imperial events have a special significance in the country - they can boost people's confidence and morale. Not long ago, Japan was hit by Typhoon Hagibis which left dozens dead, and caused shortage of water, food and electricity in many regions. The lives of tens of thousands of people have been affected. The royal ceremony can bring cheer to an otherwise gloomy atmosphere. The ceremony is attended by dignitaries from nearly 200 countries, a leap from the 160 at the enthronement of former emperor Akihito on November 12, 1990.

Some people in Japan believe the increased number of participating countries shows Japan's growing international influence. But as far as I am concerned, it shows how the international community rates Hirohito and Akihito. After Hirohito became the emperor of Japan, the country did make certain contributions to the world, but it also launched aggressions against other

countries that brought disaster to parts of the globe. Thus, opinions differ on Hirohito.

But Akihito has been introspecting over the wars Japan launched, advocating peace, maintaining Japan's pacifist Constitution, refusing to visit the Yasukuni Shrine and being away from the country's right-wing forces. He has thus impressed the world and won worldwide acclaim and recognition from the international community.

That being said, heads of states and representatives from about 200 countries and international organizations attending Naruhito's ascension ceremony not only shows their eagerness to greet the new emperor, it is also a way to pay their respects to Akihito. Akihito's Heisei era has come to an end. Will the core value of Heisei era's imperial diplomacy continue in the Reiwa era? Will Naruhito play the role of a peacemaker and reflect on the wars Japan started? It is worth anticipating.

In fact, there is no such term called "imperial diplomacy" in Japan's royalty. It is against the spirit of Japan's Constitution and would make people think that royal family can be manipulated by other forces. But in reality, imperial diplomacy does play a significant role for Japan both at home and abroad. For example, when Japan's right-wing forces emerged rapidly a few years ago and Japan continuously clamored over historic and territorial disputes, Akihito's remarks about his reflection on wars during his overseas visits to some extent restrained rightist voices. When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attempted to revise Japan's pacifist Constitution, Akihito signaled that he would like to step down from the monarchy to show his dissatisfaction. The move made the country more cautious toward constitutional amendments. Naruhito, who has studied abroad, once said that Japan should remember its wartime history correctly. This infuses people with more confidence in the country's imperial diplomacy during the Reiwa era.

#### ■ Pacific island states not US 'cheese' for China to move

Not surprisingly, Beijing's increasing engagement with the states of the South Pacific Ocean has rattled the nerves of some Western countries. Currently, the participation of a Chinese delegation, led by Vice Premier Hu Chunhua, at the third China-Pacific Island Countries Economic and Development Cooperation Forum, which took place on Monday in Apia, the Samoan capital is being closely watched.

While the West has been hyping the risks of Chinese loans to Pacific nations, what Washington really cares about is not debt but the intensifying geopolitical rivalry in the region. It is true that the US and even Australia have long seen the region as being within their spheres of influence, but now things are bound to change with China's growing presence in the region.

China has no intention to "move the cheese" of any country, but those in the West who tend to believe China poses a threat to their interests in the South Pacific often ignore the fact that those island countries are not their "cheese."

It's inevitable for China to step up its presence in the South Pacific. With China's strengthening economic power, the spillover effect naturally sees its influence around the world, which will affect this region sooner or later.

Bilateral trade between China and the eight Pacific island nations that have established diplomatic ties with Beijing has been on the rise, reaching a combined \$4.3 billion in 2018, up 25 percent from 2017. China's direct investment in the island countries increased to \$4.53 billion last year, a significant jump from \$900 million in 2013. Moreover, the forum is also an opportunity to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the Pacific island countries in areas such as trade, agriculture and fisheries, infrastructure and tourism.

Some Western observers never tire of warning about the so-called "China influence," but such anxiety only reflects their psychological discomfort with what China has achieved and their inability to maintain influence in the region. Some even see new developments in the region as a geopolitical confrontation between China and the US as well as Australia, but that's just paranoia. The West, especially Australia, must recognize that China's influence on the states of the South Pacific cannot be undone, and those island nations are free to choose the most suitable partners. After all, island countries in the region don't belong to the West or Australia.

If the West can correctly understand its relationship with South Pacific nations, which are not their affiliates, then the right approach they may take toward the region is to join China in deepening economic cooperation with these countries instead of standing aside and exaggerating the "China threat."

## Muhammad Toori: Imam Hossein (AS) a universal figure for different schools, faiths

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Muhammad Toori, journalist, says marking of Ashura for a mixed number of people from every faith or religion is held with an open-doors-for-all policy.

In an exclusive interview with FNA, he shed light on how the socio-religious event of Ashura is marked in Pakistan, saying, "No one in these congregations will ask visitors their beliefs, their origins or other identities... no one was stopped from entering mourning sessions anywhere in Pakistan."

Muhammad Toori is a Karachi based broadcast-journalist and documentary filmmaker. He has been covering news and events since 2007. He has worked for different media organizations, including CNBC and Press TV.

Below is the full text of the interview:

■ Pakistani society are formed of different sects. Why do people of different schools of thoughts mark Ashura together?

A: Abaabdillah al-Hossein (AS) is a universal figure and even in the pre-partition times, people of South Asia used to commemorate Ashura in large mix-numbers from different schools and faiths. There are still Brahmins on the both side of the Indo-Pak border who call themselves Hussaini-Brahmans and the tale is that their forefathers helped Hussain Ibn-e-Ali in the battle of Karbala. Of course there are no such traces in history but as the tale connects Barahmins Hindo to Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Same goes for Sikh and Christians. They also respect and participate in mourning congregations all around Pakistan and perhaps do in India, too. One beautiful aspect of this over two months mourning period that starts every new year of Hijra calendar on first of Muharram is its open-doors-for-all policy. No one in these congregations will ask visitors their beliefs, their origins or other identities despite the recent bomb-blast-decade. Even in that bomb-blast-decade as I call it, people only had to go through an extra checking for security and no one was stopped from entering mourning sessions anywhere in Pakistan.

■ British colonization banned marking Ashura for many years. Why do people continue to mark the day throughout the history?

A: The great sacrifice of the grandson of Prophet Muhammad PBUH is like a magnet that attracts hearts towards it so that is why no ban ever worked in subcontinent. Although in British Raj there were restrictions in society but primarily British worked on what they were good at which is divide-and-rule so sectarian conflicts did take place in their era. On this side of the border in today's standards Pakistan witnessed one of the worst form of 5th generation hybrid war in last decade where no stone was left un-turned to spew sectarian venom among people; but, despite all this we saw the opposite. People got even closer to each other and today in Muharram 2019, I see Hindu and Christian boys volunteering on Sabeel stalls in down town Karachi serving beverages to mourners and other passers-by.

■ Why does the government deploys too many police on Ashura?

A: It is not the rate of crime but the preemptive policy of the government to thwart any untoward indecent from happening. Although over 90 percent decrease has been witnessed in Takfiri terrorist attacks but still there is a long way to go to completely root out Takfiri evil from society. Gen Zia-onward, three decades were spent making Takfiri terrorists for CIA sponsored war in Afghanistan so now is the time to undo that ideological mess that did not spare anyone. Christians, Hindus, Sunnis, Shias and you name it. No one was spared, not even children. From APS Peshawar in Northwest to Mehran base, International airport and Dockyards here in Southern port city of Karachi every place was set ablaze. Therefore beefing up security is a precautionary measure until enduring peace is fully achieved. In fact the rate of crime as a whole has gone down in Pakistan comparing to the last decade but due to the brutal memories from recent past and attacks on worship places regardless of the victim's school I think complete and stable peace will take some time to come back to Pakistan.

## A Tale of two protests

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Peaceful marches, a general strike and violent unrest have convulsed Catalonia, in Northeastern Spain, this week after a group of Catalan leaders received long prison sentences.

On Monday, Spain's Supreme Court convicted 12 politicians and prominent activists for their part in a 2017 push to declare Catalonia an independent republic. Nine of the leaders, including the former vice president of the Catalan government, were sentenced to between nine and 13 years in prison for sedition. Four of them also were charged with misuse of public funds. Yet while many Catalans are outraged at the central government in Madrid for the harsh crackdown on the independence movement, the huge demonstrations have obscured deep divisions in Catalan society.

The issue of Catalan independence is one that has never been far from the heart of Iberian politics for a combination of historical, cultural and economic reasons. Catalonia's grievances against Madrid are, in a legal sense, a wholly internal matter. The same is true of Hong Kong. Hong Kong is not a disputed territory, but one which incidentally has far more autonomy within China than Catalonia does within Spain.

Critics of the independence drive often point to Spain's 1978 constitution, which says Spain is "indivisible" but it gives Catalonia some administrative and legal powers as an "autonomous community." For obvious reasons, however, both the riots in Hong Kong and more recent developments in Catalonia are making international news, but major Western media outlets have reported the stories in very different ways.

By objective standards, Spain has been consistent in its treatment of separatist political leaders from Catalonia. The combination of public humiliation of Catalan officials, formal disqualifications from holding office, and lengthy prison sentences have made pro-independence Catalans feel supremely agitated. As Madrid has never given way to Catalan agitators, this is unlikely to change. Incidentally, both conservative and socialist-led Spanish governments have taken a remarkably similar line against Catalan separatists.

In Hong Kong, one sees an inverse issue. No one in Beijing nor in Hong Kong's autonomous legislature has proposed a reduction in Hong Kong's autonomous status under the "one country, two systems" for governance. By contrast, Madrid has, in the recent past, suspended the sittings of the autonomous parliament in Barcelona at will.



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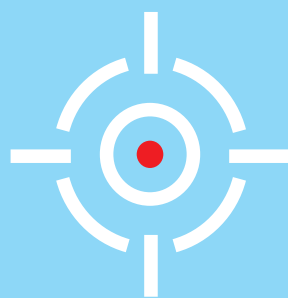
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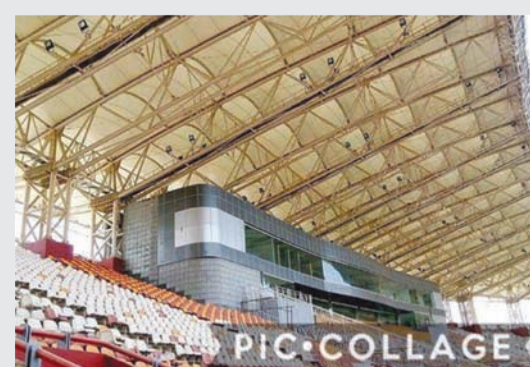
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# New plasma wave accelerator propels electrons to record speeds

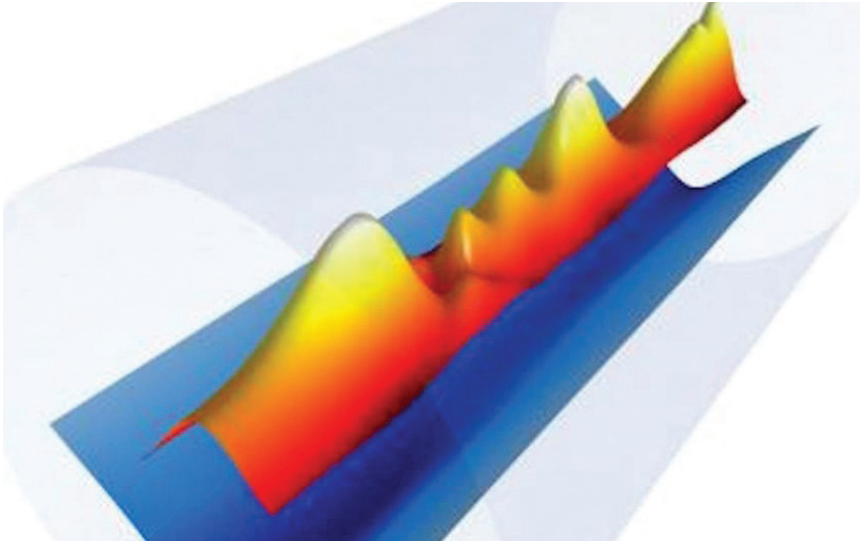
Scientists have set a new record for electron acceleration using a plasma wave accelerator. The new technology produced electron beams with energies up to 7.8 billion electron volts across an 8-inch-long plasma wave.

Particle accelerators are essential to advanced particle physics and the quest to solve the great mysteries of the cosmos. But today's particle accelerators are massive, requiring miles of underground space. They also cost millions of dollars to construct.

To advance the field, scientists have been working to develop particle accelerators in more compact sizes. To shrink the cost and size of the technology, researchers had to boost acceleration.

To enhance acceleration, scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's BELLA Center deployed a new type of plasma waveguide.

The new device features a gas-filled sapphire tube. An electrical discharge triggers the formation of plasma, and a laser fired through the tube hollows out a



channel in the plasma. The wall of plasma surrounding the channel then helps to focus the subsequent laser pulses. By concentrating the energy of the

laser pulses, the accelerator can achieve greater electron beam energies across a shorter space.

«The heater beam allowed us to control the propagation of the driver laser pulse,» lead researcher Anthony Gonsalves said in a news release. «The next experiments will aim to gain precision control over electron injection into the plasma wave for achieving unprecedented beam quality, and to couple multiple stages together to demonstrate the path to even higher energy.»

Gonsalves is scheduled to present his team's achievement on Wednesday at the 61st Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Plasma Physics.

The energies achieved at such a small scale doubled the world record for plasma wave accelerators. But to approach electron acceleration energies comparable to the Large Hadron Collider and other underground facilities, researchers must find a way to connect a series of laser plasma accelerators. (Source: UPI)

## Mars once had salt lakes similar to those on Earth

Mars once had salt lakes that are similar to those on Earth and has gone through wet and dry periods, according to an international team of scientists that includes a Texas A&M University College of Geosciences researcher.

Marion Nachon, a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Texas A&M, and colleagues have had their work published in the current issue of Nature Geoscience.

The team examined Mars' geological terrains from Gale Crater, an immense 95-mile-wide rocky basin that is being explored with the NASA Curiosity rover since 2012 as part of the MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) mission.

The results show that the lake that was present in Gale Crater over 3 billion years ago underwent a drying episode, potentially linked to the global drying of Mars.

Gale Crater formed about 3.6 billion years ago when a meteor hit Mars and created its large impact crater.

«Since then, its geological terrains have recorded the history of Mars, and studies have shown Gale Crater reveals signs that liquid water was present over its history, which is a key ingredient of microbial life as we know it,» Nachon said. «During these drying periods, salt ponds eventually formed. It is difficult to say exactly how large these ponds were, but the lake in Gale Crater was present for long periods of time -- from at least hundreds of years to perhaps tens of thousands of years,» Nachon said.

So what happened to these salt lakes?



Nachon said that Mars probably became dryer over time, and the planet lost its planetary magnetic field, which left the atmosphere exposed to be stripped by solar wind and radiation over millions of years.

«With an atmosphere becoming thinner, the pressure at the surface became lesser, and the conditions for liquid water to be stable at the surface were not fulfilled anymore,» Nachon said. «So liquid water became unsustainable and evaporated.»

The salt ponds on Mars are believed to be similar to some found on Earth, especially those in a region called Altiplano, which is near the Bolivia-Peru border.

Nachon said the Altiplano is an arid, high-altitude plateau

where rivers and streams from mountain ranges «do not flow to the sea but lead to closed basins, similar to what used to happen at Gale Crater on Mars,» she said. «This hydrology creates lakes with water levels heavily influenced by climate. During the arid periods Altiplano lakes become shallow due to evaporation, and some even dry up entirely. The fact that the Altiplano is mostly vegetation free makes the region look even more like Mars,» she said.»

Nachon added that the study shows that the ancient lake in Gale Crater underwent at least one episode of drying before «recovering.» It's also possible that the lake was segmented into separate ponds, where some of the ponds could have undergone more evaporation.

Because up to now only one location along the rover's path shows such a drying history, Nachon said it might give clues about how many drying episodes the lake underwent before Mars's climate became as dry as it is currently.

«It could indicate that Mars's climate 'dried out' over the long term, on a way that still allowed for the cyclical presence of a lake,» Nachon said. «These results indicate a past Mars climate that fluctuated between wetter and drier periods. They also tell us about the types of chemical elements (in this case sulphur, a key ingredient for life) that were available in the liquid water present at the surface at the time, and about the type of environmental fluctuations Mars life would have had to cope with, if it ever existed.» (Source: Science Daily)

## NASA's Bridenstine boosts international pitch for Moon, Mars missions

By Paul Brinkmann

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine made his strongest pitch so far on Monday for other nations to collaborate on the U.S. Artemis mission to build a lunar station and eventually explore Mars.

«When we go to the moon, we want to take all of the partners we have on the International Space Station and we want to grow it,» Bridenstine said at an annual gathering of the International Astronautical Congress in Washington, D.C.

«We need international partners. We can all do more when we work together than anyone of us can do if we go alone,» he said.

Bridenstine laid out a vision of international cooperation, with a key ingredient being open sharing of all plans related to the lunar gateway — a proposed command module that would orbit the Moon permanently. He spoke one a panel that included the heads of space agencies for Europe, Japan, India,

Russia and Canada.

«The way we do environmental control and life support, the way we do avionics and docking, the way we do data and communication. All of these things are gonna be open to the public, available online,» he said.

That would allow nations and commercial enterprises that normally could not afford a Moonmission to piggyback on the international architecture for lunar surface missions or even deep space science, he said.

Johann-Dietrich Woerner, director general of the European Space Agency, also said getting international cooperation for the next phase of space exploration is key to success.

«We are trying to convince our partners to go to Mars,» he said. «It's the most difficult part to convince ministers to pay for it, because it's not a direct return on investment.» He said the argument to make is that the benefits are great, in terms of scientific discovery, monitoring and combating climate change, and protecting the planet's satellite networks.

Bridenstine pointed out that 15 nations are partners in the operation of the International Space Station, which is nearing its 20th anniversary. Four more nations have sent astronauts to the station without formal participation in the operating partnership, while a total of 103 nations have done science experiments on board, he said.

Japan recently announced that it will build an international habitat module for the lunar gateway, while Canada previously said it would build another robotic arm — known as a Canadarm — that was used for space shuttle and it currently used at the International Space Station.

«The gateway is an enabler, it's a critical enabler for international partners and for commercial partners,» Bridenstine said.

He and others said they believe the current operating agreement that governs the space station should be expanded to the lunar gateway, since creating a new one for the Moonmissions could create delays.



Sergey Krikalev, Russia's executive director for piloted spaceflights, pointed out that an Outer Space Treaty signed by spacefaring nations dates to the 1960s. That treaty limits the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes and says any nation may explore them.

«This new venture that we're engaging in is hopefully going to get us into new areas, in terms how humankind regulates itself,» said Sylvain Laporte, president of the Canadian Space Agency.

## It takes a two-atom catalyst to make oxygen from water

The search for sustainable approaches to generating new fuels has brought scientists back to one of the most abundant materials on Earth—reddish iron oxide in the form of hematite, also known as rust.

Researchers say rust has long been seen as a potentially attractive material for solar water splitting, a key process that plants employ in photosynthesis. Plants use an enzyme called photosystem II (PSII) to absorb light and split water, extracting electrons and protons from the water molecules and generating the atmospheric oxygen that sustains life on Earth.

Rust may offer a way to mimic the solar water splitting aspect of photosynthesis, enabling fuel to be generated from water, either by combining protons and electrons for hydrogen generation, or by using the electrons and protons to convert carbon dioxide into hydrocarbon fuels. The problem, scientists say, is that rust's performance in numerous water-splitting experiments has been disappointing compared to its theoretical potential. They say a fundamental understanding of the reaction mechanism is lacking, preventing the development of devices for direct solar water splitting.

A new study by Victor Batista at Yale

University in collaboration with James Durrant from Imperial College, London, and Michael Grätzel from the Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, offers some answers.

The study sheds light on the mechanism of water oxidation occurring at the metal oxide/water interface. A combined computational and experimental study on the water oxidation mechanism found that if you change the intensity of light, you also change the mechanism of water splitting on hematite. The researchers say this provides valuable hints on the nature of the sites responsible for reactivity on the oxide surface.

Computational work performed by study co-author Ke Yang, a postdoctoral researcher in the Batista group, identified isolated catalytic sites—under low-light intensity and a two-atom, Fe(OH)-O-Fe(OH) catalytic core—that build enough oxidation power to extract electrons from water by accumulating up to three oxidizing equivalents (missing electrons) under 1 sun operating conditions (the full intensity of sunlight on a clear, bright day). This mechanism mimics the activation of PSII during photosynthesis, the researchers said.

The study appears in the journal Nature Chemistry.

«The integration of computational and experimental work has been essential for elucidating the nature of the catalytic sites on rather complicated metal oxide surfaces and the dependency of the reaction mechanism under low- and high-light intensity conditions,» said Batista.

In 2018, Batista co-authored a separate study that described similar, two-atom catalysts. The researchers said that finding, together with the new study, suggests that two-atom catalytic cores featuring two adjacent metal centers might be particularly suited to achieve efficient water splitting.

«Making oxygen from water requires multiple oxidations,» Durrant said. «Experimentally, the key to our study has been using optical absorption spectroscopy to measure how the kinetics of water oxidation change as we accumulate more holes on the hematite surface. This has allowed us to determine rate laws and rate constants for the reaction; for example, determining how many holes have to come together to access the rate limiting step of the reaction, and determining the activation energy for the reaction.» (Source: phys.org)

## Sauropods grew big by munching 'superfoods' with sturdy beaks

By John Pickrell

How did sauropod dinosaurs, the biggest creatures ever to have thundered across Earth, bulk up to the weight of more than 10 African bull elephants on a spartan diet of prehistoric greens? Many herbivores today grow fat on energy-rich grasses, but these and other nutritious flowering plants didn't become common until near the end of the dinosaurs' reign. Now, researchers think they have glimpsed the answer: a surprisingly nutrient-rich plant that could have been a mainstay of these dinosaurs' diets, and turtlelike beaks that buttressed sauropods' peglike teeth as they relentlessly stripped foliage from plants.

«We are seeing that they were able to acquire large volumes of food rapidly, and possibly nutrient-rich food,» says Stephen Poropat, a paleontologist at Swinburne University in Melbourne, Australia.

Researchers at the University of Bonn in Germany presented the findings last week at the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology here. Their previous work helped show that sauropods were eating machines that gulped down vegetation without chewing. They swung their long necks over vast areas, like prehistoric lawn mowers, while saving energy by keeping their bodies in one spot. The new studies add detail by exploring the beasts' diet and jaw structure.

One study, by Bonn's Carolee Gee and her colleagues, identified what may have been the superfood of the dinosaur era. Her team zeroed in on the nutritional content of low-growing, spore-bearing horsetails, or Equisetum, which were widespread during the Jurassic period and still grow today.

Horsetails appeared to be poor fodder in previous tests, which simply burned the plants to measure carbon content, Gee says. Instead, her team adapted the Hohenheim gas test, a method for assessing the quality of fodder for farm animals. They fermented modern horsetails for 3 days to simulate the journey through a sauropod's gut and measured the volume of gas produced—an indicator of energy content. The researchers were astounded to find that horsetails released more energy than any other plant group, including 16 modern grasses. Equisetum is rich in protein, they say, and far more nutritious than the ferns, cycads, and conifers common in the dinosaur era. Gee argues that horsetails by rivers and lakes would have offered sauropods, especially young ones, «a plentiful, accessible, and extremely nutritious food.»

Even eating superfoods, sauropods must have vacuumed up as much as 1 ton or more of plant matter per day. To understand the mechanics, another Bonn team analyzed the beasts' jaws.

For decades, paleontologists have dug up puzzling fossils: rows of isolated sauropod teeth, still neatly arranged as they would have been in the mouth, with not a scrap of bone encasing them. «There must have been something holding them in place,» Bonn's Kayleigh Wiersma says. «Otherwise they would have been scattered all around the dig site.»

In some skulls that retain teeth, they seem to be almost falling out of the sockets. «You can't have teeth exposed to that degree,» says Steve Salisbury, a paleontologist at the University of Queensland here. «It seems likely there would have been some tissue that enclosed the base at least.»

Wiersma and research leader Martin Sander studied seven sets of tooth rows, with up to 40 teeth each, from sauropods including Diplodocus, Brachiosaurus, and Apatosaurus. Wiersma said at the meeting that paleontologists may have had the faces of these iconic dinosaurs all wrong: Instead of the lizardlike lips shown in artists' concepts, the behemoths likely sported beaks as well as teeth, unlike any living animal.

The researchers found that sauropod teeth typically show surface wear only about halfway down to the jaw. That suggests the teeth were once deeply embedded in a supporting structure. The researchers also found tiny pits in the surface of the jaw, perhaps indicating blood vessels to nourish beaks. Similar pits and foramina are seen in other dinosaur bones near inferred structures, like the sheaths covering horns, thought to have been made of keratin, which forms our nails and birds' beaks and feathers.

Poropat cautions that expanded gum tissue, rather than a beak, might have held the teeth in place. But bony scaffolding that supported beaks is obvious in other dinosaurs, including Triceratops, Stegosaurus, and duck-billed hadrosaurs. Nevertheless, «I don't think we would have expected sauropods to have beaks,» says Darren Naish, a paleontologist at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. It's a «whole new look.»

### Second 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

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

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 3,832 EURO or 483 ,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

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**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**  
**Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran**  
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## Exhibit of Iranian handicrafts opens in Muscat

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — An exhibition of handicrafts, d e s k featuring wide-ranging works by Iranian artisans, is underway at the Al Bustan Palace, a 5-star luxury hotel in Muscat.



Works by crafters from Fars province form the centerpiece of the exhibition, which opened on Monday upon arrival of Iran's tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan in the sultanate. Seven Iranian craftspeople are holding workshops and promoting their skills at the event.

Works of marquetry, handmade textiles, tiles and mosaics, precious and semi-precious stones, personal ornamentations, glasswork, painting glassware and woodwork are amongst the offerings, Fars tourism chief Mosayyeb Amiri said on Tuesday, IRIB reported.

Mounesan on Monday met with his Omani counterpart Ahmed bin Nasser al-Mahrizi in Muscat, discussing ways to promote bilateral ties particularly in the arena of health and medical tourism.

Handicrafts exports from the Islamic Republic reached \$289 million in the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), demonstrating three percent growth year on year, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

## Lonely Planet names Washington, D.C., the second-best city in the world to visit in 2020

Lonely Planet has released its 15th annual list of best places to visit, which includes exotic lands such as ... Washington, D.C.?

U.S. capital named No. 2 on the travel resource's ranking of top cities to visit in 2020, because, according to Lonely Planet, "the excitement of the year's presidential election" ties into the city's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Washington will have new museum exhibits, new trees and a refreshed waterfront, all for your visiting pleasure.

(Source: MSN)



### ROUND THE GLOBE

## Khangchendzonga National Park

Situated in the northern Indian State of Sikkim, Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) exhibits one of the widest altitudinal ranges of any protected area worldwide.

The Park has an extraordinary vertical sweep of over 7 kilometers (1,220m to 8,586m) within an area of only 178,400 ha and comprises a unique diversity of lowlands, steep-sided valleys and spectacular snow-clad mountains including the world's third highest peak, Mt. Khangchendzonga. Numerous lakes and glaciers, including the 26 km long Zemu Glacier, dot the barren high altitudes.



The property falls within the Himalaya global biodiversity hotspot and displays an unsurpassed range of sub-tropical to alpine ecosystems.

The Himalayas are narrowest here resulting in extremely steep terrain which magnifies the distinction between the various eco-zones which characterize the property. The Park is located within a mountain range of global biodiversity conservation significance and covers 25% of the State of Sikkim, acknowledged as one of India's most significant biodiversity concentrations.

The property is home to a significant number of endemic, rare and threatened plant and animal species. The property has one of the highest number of plant and mammal species recorded in the Central/High Asian Mountains, and also has a high number of bird species.

Khangchendzonga National Park's grandeur is undeniable and the Khangchendzonga Massif, other peaks and landscape features are revered across several cultures and religions. The combination of extremely high and rugged mountains covered by intact old-growth forests up to the unusually high timberline further adds to the exceptional landscape beauty.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Iran, Oman seek to bolster health tourism ties

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Iran's d e s k Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali Asghar Mounesan on Monday met with his Omani counterpart Ahmed bin Nasser al-Mahrizi in Muscat, discussing ways to promote bilateral ties particularly in the arena of health and medical tourism.

As part of his trip to the sultanate, Mounesan on Monday also toured Muscat National Museum, Royal Opera House, and a miniature exhibit featuring works by Iranian artist Fatemeh Maleki, IRNA reported.

Oman's tourism minister had visited the Islamic Republic in February 2018.

Mounesan said in August that medical [and health] travelers constitute a significant share of arrivals in the country.

Mounesan announced in August that medical [and health] travelers constitute a significant share of arrivals in the country.

"[Nearly] 7.8 million foreign nationals visited Iran over the past [Iranian calendar] year [ended March 20] that a significant number of whom were medical tourists."

The Islamic republic hosted a record high of nearly 600,000 medical travelers during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21), nearly equal to the figure for the whole past year, according to an Iranian association for the health tourism promotion.

People from the Persian Gulf littoral states, Iraq and Syria as well as Iranian expatriates residing in Canada and Germany constituted the majority of medical travelers to the Islamic Republic, who received plastic, cosmetic, open-heart



Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ali Asghar Mounesan (L) talks to his Omani counterpart Ahmed bin Nasser al-Mahrizi in Muscat, October 21, 2019.

and orthopedic surgeries amongst other treatments.

Many domestic experts say that medical tourism in Iran produces win-win

outcomes as the country yields considerable benefits to international health-care seekers, offering affordable yet quality treatment services.

The country has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

## IKIA operates 979 flights during Arbæen season

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — Imam Khomeini International Airport has operated 979 flights between Iran and Iraq since the beginning of the Arbæen season on October 9.

"During the period, 164,739 passengers were transported from the airport to Najaf and Baghdad," the airport news service quoted Hassan Khoshkhoo, the deputy director for Airport Operations Department at Imam Khomeini Airport City (IKAC), as saying on Monday.

Last year, over 15 million Arbæen pilgrims left Iran for Najaf and Baghdad to visit the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), he said.



## Havering Hoard: Weapons found on building site to go on show

Ancient weapons discovered on a building site will go on display at the Museum of London Docklands.

The group of 453 artefacts found in Havering, east London, is the third largest ever discovered in the UK.

It "adds immensely to our understanding of Bronze Age life", Historic England said.

The find, which dates from between 800BC and 900BC, was officially declared treasure by a coroner earlier this year.

The discovery, dubbed the Havering Hoard, was uncovered last September, and will form the centerpiece of a major exhibition from April.

Archaeologists believed the manner in

which the weapons had been so carefully buried in groups close together suggested the site could have been a metal workers' former vault or an armoury recycling bank or exchange, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said.

Duncan Wilson, chief executive of Historic England, said: "This extraordinary discovery adds immensely to our understanding of Bronze Age life.

"It also underlines the importance of planned assessment and excavation in archaeological hotspots when new development comes along.

"The finds have already taught us a great deal about this distant age, and ongoing analysis and public outreach means that many more people will benefit



The ancient weapons were discovered in Havering in September 2018

from this window into the past thanks to this example of successful development-led archaeology."

## In the Swiss Alps, walking a cliff's edge to history

Just outside the train station in the Swiss town of Sion, a yellow signpost points hikers in two main directions with no fewer than 16 routes to choose from. As you cross the medieval downtown, keeping the Valere Basilica and the Tourbillon Castle on the right, aim for the Valaisanne Brewery. If you can resist the brewery's new tap room and its outdoor tables, be sure to duck as you scramble up a staircase and through the tunnel of holly and its busy bees and onto the Bisse de Clavau and 500 years of history.

Now you can relax. The babbling flow of water soothes the soul and the Valais sun warms the body. The Bisse de Clavau was built in 1453 to irrigate the terraced vineyards in the region, which is the driest and hottest in all of Switzerland. A bisse (rhymes with peace) is a narrow (two- to six-foot wide) canal that brings water from high-altitude rivers across mountains to irrigate pastures and vineyards.

From the 11th to the early 20th century, about 300 bisses (stretching about 1,200 miles in all) were dug by hand, primarily in the Valais Canton, which is bisected by the Rhone River Valley. Centuries ago workers dug up the channels, flinging the mud and debris next to the canals, thus forming a berm that was used as an elevated walkway. To this day, 80 percent of all pastures and vineyards in Valais are irrigated with water from the bisses, while the paths that run alongside them are excellent for walking or trail running.

Along the Bisse de Clavau, Europe's tallest drystone walls, the highest at 72 feet, support the often-parched soil.

The Bisse de Clavau arcs across the vineyards for about five miles. Sometimes the bisse is a simple channel, or a metal aqueduct when crossing undulating terrain. Sometimes it disappears into pipes underground or

flows into tunnels in the rock.

Then the scenery changes. The rock wall gets taller and the path gets narrower. The Lienne Gorge is up ahead. After a brief tunnel (lighted, thankfully), the bisse goes underground, leaving hikers with the choice of two other bisses that are far more spectacular: the Grand Bisse de Lens or the Bisse de Sillonin. (Or the town of St. Leonard is a 15-minute walk, with train service back to Sion.)

Many bisses are still managed by a consortage, a group — neither public nor private — that is in charge of all aspects of the bisse (repairs, cleaning, enforcing water rights, etc.). A bisse in the upper Valais, in the German-speaking part of the canton, inspired a theory on the shared management of scarce resources developed by Elinor Ostrom, the only woman to have won the Nobel Prize for Economics. The consortages have settled disputes and distributed a scarce resource for more than 500 years.

The tourism potential of the bisses has gone largely untapped. Eric and Martine Danian have been coming to Nendaz, a ski resort on the left bank of the Rhone, for the past 30 years to walk the area's half dozen bisses: "If I can't make it one year, I miss it," Ms. Danian said. "On the bisses you can really disconnect. It's never too hot because they're in the shade. The flowing water is really peaceful and provides quietude. You feel light on your feet."

The area's Bisse du Mileu (3.2 miles long) to the Bisse Vieux (3.7 miles long) loop is wonderful for families, offering shade as well as views of the Rhone Valley and the Bernese Alps. Between the two, the Café des Bisses offers cuisine that is a big step up from typical mountain food, including a savory lamb burger.

(Source: The New York Times)



Walking on a new hanging bridge next to the old wooden section on Bisse de Saviese. (Credit: Lauryn Ishak for The New York Times)



# NYT admonishes Trump as “threat to journalism”, but ignores Obama’s war on free press

By Ali Radmanesh

**TEHRAN** – Liberal-minded U.S. outlets, notably NYT, use every opportunity to lambast President Donald Trump for alleged wrongdoing, but they never point to similar mischief conducted by former president Barack Obama, portraying him as someone in the vein of saints.

The Trump administration is admonished as a threat to journalism worldwide in a new op-ed penned by New York Times publisher AG Sulzberger, according to a column by Danielle Ryan for RT. It’s just a pity that in the 3,200-word screed, he found no time to mention Julian Assange.

Perhaps a worse sin than his purposeful omission of Assange’s pertinent case, though, is Sulzberger’s utterly disingenuous claim that before Donald Trump came along, the US government was “the world’s greatest champion of the free press.”

Readers who make it to the end of the piece would be none the wiser as to the fact that Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama, waged a war on whistleblowers, prosecuting more of them than all previous US administrations combined and paving the way for Trump’s further attacks.

Assange’s name may be appearing less frequently in the news these days, but Sulzberger will be well aware that the Australian whistleblower and WikiLeaks co-founder is still a prisoner at London’s top security Belmarsh Prison, despite the fact that his sentence for skipping bail is up.

Though he was due for release on September 22, a court ruled that Assange must stay in prison until his extradition hearing next year, citing his “history of absconding.” In other words, the whistleblower who exposed US war crimes managed to evade persecution by US authorities once before — and the British



government is determined not to let that happen again.

Sulzberger knows all this but consciously chose to ignore it in favor of anecdotes about the heroism of the Times’ own reporters around the world and the Trump administration’s reluctance to stand up for journalists, American and otherwise. Some of the stories he tells are indeed worrying and deserve to be told — but let’s be clear: No defense of the free press is sincere and complete without a strong and unambiguous defense of Julian Assange.

Nonetheless, the piece was praised by mainstream journalists on Twitter. “A call to arms,” said NYT columnist Jim Rutenberg. “The best analysis” of the damage Trump has done to the free press, said Brazilian journalist Rosental Alves. “A powerful defense,” of journalism, declared Gannett

CNY editor Jeffrey Platsky.

But Sulzberger’s things-were-great-and-then-Trump-happened tone is typical of the overly simplified manner in which US media elites have been framing the Trump presidency from the outset. From targeting whistleblowers, to deporting migrants, to turning a blind eye to Saudi atrocities in Yemen — if Obama did it, it was fine, admirable and initiated without malice. If Trump does it, it’s unacceptable, reprehensible and rooted in evil — even if there is little meaningful difference in outcomes.

Without a hint of Assange-related irony, Sulzberger warns that governments around the world are targeting journalists who have been “exposing uncomfortable truths and holding power to account.” The current administration has “retreated from our

country’s historical role as a defender of the free press,” he continues, throwing in a quote from the late Senator John McCain — chief senate warmonger and friend to Ukrainian neo-Nazis and Syrian terrorists, who the intrepid muckrakers over at the Washington Post once lauded for his ability to “make journalists love him.”

Truly explosive stuff; someone find these risk-takers a free cell at Belmarsh immediately.

Back at home, Trump’s attacks on the media have served to “undermine” the public’s faith in journalists, Sulzberger argues, noting that the president has tweeted about “fake news” 600 times since taking office. There is no denying that Trump has undermined the public’s already waning faith in the free press by labelling all reporting which displeases him as “fake.”

Yet, what Sulzberger fails to acknowledge is how the media has been so helpful to him in this regard. Times editor Dean Baquet admitted recently that three years of Russiagate coverage which essentially amounted to nothing had left the paper of record “flat-footed.” Trump, of course, took full advantage of the genuinely abysmal coverage of his presidency.

Concluding, Sulzberger assures the reader that he has raised his concerns with Trump personally, to no avail, and warns that threatening to prosecute journalists for doing their jobs gives repressive leaders around the world “implicit license” to do the same. Someone should remind him that if Trump bears responsibility here, he rightfully shares it with Obama.

As for those repressive leaders, they need look no further than Assange — and when they examine his case, they’ll be emboldened further, knowing that even his fellow journalists failed to stand up and loudly advocate for him.

**No defense of the free press is sincere without a strong defense of Julian Assange**

## Twitter has made liberal media bias more overt — and that’s a good thing

By Philip Klein

**WASHINGTONEXAMINER** — Last night, the New York Times reported that as a college student Brett Kavanaugh was interviewed by police in connection with a bar fight in which he was accused of throwing ice at somebody during an altercation. Conservative twitter immediately highlighted the fact that the first bylined author, Emily Bazelon, had already made clear her opposition to Kavanaugh right after President Trump nominated him to the Supreme Court.

In a July 9th tweet, she wrote:

As a @YaleLawSch grad & lecturer, I strongly disassociate myself from tonight’s praise of Brett Kavanaugh. With respect, he’s a 5th vote for a hard-right turn on voting rights and so much more that will harm the democratic process & prevent a more equal society. 1/2

■ **Emily Bazelon (@emilybazelon) July 10, 2018**

Some conservatives complained that it was unethical for somebody with stated public opposition to Kavanaugh to write a story that attempts to portray him in a bad light. I disagree. I think it’s perfectly appropriate for her to have written the story, which should be praised or mocked on its own merits, and I’m glad that Twitter exists so that there’s more transparency to the liberal bias in the media. Would conservatives have preferred to live in an era in which Bazelon’s personal opinions would have been unknown? In which she keeps them to herself and insists publicly that she has no sort of ideological bias? Or in which the Times assigns the piece to some other reporter who may be equally liberal but who has been more quiet about it? I know I wouldn’t.

Having reported in the pre-Twitter era, I’m familiar with how things used to work. Members of the media



would spout off about objectivity when speaking publicly, yet they’d regularly speak among themselves and develop certain narratives that more often than not reinforced the liberal agenda — in down times before campaign rallies, or press conferences, or stakeouts, or at the bars. I went to Columbia Journalism School and remember quite vividly how the next generation of journalists was distraught on election night 2000 when Florida was taken off the board for Al Gore.

Now, thanks to Twitter, none of this is hidden. We see all the snark and narrative building happen in real time, and can see how closely the tweets of reporters parallel Democratic talking points for the day. Democrats have lately decided to focus on Kavanaugh’s history of drinking in high school and college, and voila, we suddenly get an avalanche of stories that both A) Misrepresent Kavanaugh’s testimony to claim he denied drinking to excess and then B) Write stories

debunking that straw man in an effort to make him seem less credible, thus calling into question his categorical denials of sexual assault.

You can see how the narrative spreads here as the Washington Post’s Philip Rucker, normally one of the better reporters, tweets out the Bazelon article while reflexively perpetuating the myth that Kavanaugh denied excessive drinking, then corrects himself:

It’s important to make something clear. I don’t think that just because somebody has an explicit bias, that they can’t write a well-reported story that sheds light on an important issue. If that were the case, I’d be arguing that everybody should dismiss all the reporting I’ve done on healthcare because I have a strong bias in favor of free market solutions and against government control. In reality, I’ve had liberals tell me that my critical reporting on Obamacare has helped shed light on some of its objective weaknesses, and I regularly read pro-Obamacare liberals to get a better understanding of the arguments being made in its favor. The Washington Post’s Greg Sargent is overtly liberal, yet I find him invaluable to read to understand Democrats’ thinking because he’s well sourced. There are a lot of issues and arguments raised by MSNBC’s Chris Hayes that I would not have thought of myself had I been only reading conservatives.

In the end, I don’t think it’s realistic to think that the media, absent certain exceptions, can be truly objective arbiters of the news. In the very choice of stories, in the decision of who to speak to and what questions to ask and what quotes to use, they are making decisions based on their own biases. Given this, I’d much rather live in a world in which the biases are out in the open than in one in which journalists have biases but sanctimoniously pretend they do not.

## Facebook outrages grifters in push to ‘protect our democracy’ – but who will protect it from them?

By Nebojsa Mali

**RT** — Mark Zuckerberg’s social behemoth is desperately trying to get into the Democrats’ good graces by handing over cash and control to those who shriek the loudest about “attacks on our democracy.” Not surprisingly, it isn’t working.

On Monday, Facebook announced “new measures to help protect the democratic process,” including “fact-checking” posts on both Facebook and Instagram; protecting the accounts of elected officials, candidates and campaigns; labeling “state media”; and spending billions on “media literacy” training.

Facebook also announced it had shut down four “inauthentic networks” on Instagram, one “Russian” and three “Iranian” — supposedly not based on content they posted, but their behavior.

As news coverage of the measures admits, all of this is based on the assertion — accepted as fact without evidence — that “Russian trolls” used the social media platform to meddle in the 2016 presidential election. Pointing out that this remains an unproven allegation, and itself a fallback position from the “Russian collusion with Trump” conspiracy theory, gets one labeled a “Russian agent” of course. ➔13

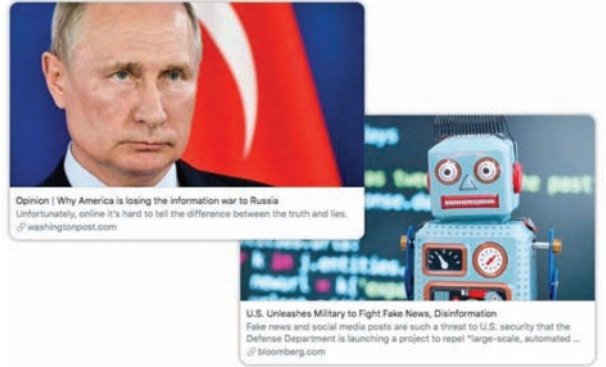
## WaPo warns U.S. needs more narrative control as Pentagon ramps up narrative control

By Caitlin Johnstone

**MEDIUM** — Do you lay awake at night terrified that the Russians are able to control your mind with information warfare while the US government’s slavish devotion to democratic values leaves it powerless to stop them? Me neither. But according to The Washington Post, whose sole owner is a CIA contractor and Pentagon board member bent on hijacking the underlying infrastructure of the economy, we should be.

WaPo columnist David Ignatius, who has been one of the more hyperbolic promulgators of Western Russia hysteria in written media, has published an article titled “Why America is losing the information war to Russia” about a new book by former State Department undersecretary for public diplomacy Richard Stengel. Stengel and Ignatius engage in a joyful Red Scare frolic with the exuberance of two little boys with a box of spray paints, each trying to one-up the other in hysterical apocalyptic ominousness about the way evil, authoritarian governments like Russia have been able to weaponize information while freedom-loving democracies can only look on in passive despair.

“The cruel paradox of the Internet, once hailed as a liberating force, is that it empowers governments that control information and enfeebles those that let it run free,” warns Ignatius.



“[Authoritarian governments] have gone from fearing the flow of information to exploiting it,” cautions Stengel. “They understand that the same tools that spread democracy can engineer its undoing.”

Unsurprisingly, at no point during this brotherly romp does Ignatius bother to make mention of the fact that Stengel is actually on record saying he supports the use of propaganda and believes the US government should be using it on its own citizens.

“Basically, every country creates their own narrative story and, you know, my old job at the State Department was what people used to joke as the ‘chief propagandist’ job,” Stengel said last year at an event organized by the shockingly ubiquitous narrative management firm Council on Foreign Relations.

“I’m not against propaganda,” Stengel said. “Every country does it, and they have to do it to their own population, and I don’t necessarily think it’s that awful.”

When an audience member objected to what he’d just heard, Stengel curtly dismissed him and ended the talk.

So anyway, that’s what the CIA/Pentagon/plutocracy-tied Washington Post wants you to be sure of: that evil governments are controlling your mind with information warfare, and that the US government is struggling to rescue you from that fate. Lucky for you, this report just so happens to be coming out at the same time as we’re learning that the Pentagon is already currently working on a program to protect you from wrongthink by controlling your access to information.

A recent Bloomberg article titled “U.S. Unleashes Military to Fight Fake News, Disinformation” reports that the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is funding a new project called the Semantic Forensics program with which “the military research agency hopes it can spot fake news with malicious intent before going viral.”

“If successful, the system after four years of trials may expand to detect malicious intent and prevent viral fake news from polarizing society,” Bloomberg reports.

DARPA (formerly ARPA) is a top contender among some very stiff competition for the absolute creepiest of all US government agencies. Journalist Yasha Levine has done a lot of work documenting the way the agency has been intimately involved in internet surveillance since before the internet was even really a thing, beginning in the 1960s with its ARPANET program whose technologies went on to form the foundation of the World Wide Web. DARPA is also engaged in such charming activities as exploring ways to knit AI into human neurology, funding programs to control America’s election infrastructure, pouring billions of dollars into the creation of a robot army and constructing robotic insects which can crawl up walls.

Futurists have long envisioned a utopia where mankind reaps the benefits of soaring technological innovations which will overcome our every obstacle and lead us to an unprecedented state of human thriving. What they failed to account for was sociopathic government agencies like DARPA being intimately involved in those technologies from the very beginning.

Power is being able to control what happens. Absolute power is being able to control what people think about what happens. If you can control what happens, you can have power until the public gets sick of your bullshit and tosses you out on your ass. If you can control what people think about what happens, you can have power forever. As long as you can control how people are interpreting circumstances and events, there’s no limit to the evils you can get away with.

Whoever controls the narrative controls the world. Governments understand this and so do their propagandists, and so, increasingly, do the rank-and-file public. Which is why you’ve now got establishment narrative managers like CNN’s Jim Sciutto saying things like “Let’s please ban the word ‘narrative’ from our discussion of the news and this president. There is only one version of the facts and the truth.” Mass media propagandists would like nothing better than to have people cease paying attention to the concept of narrative and go back to believing that when they turn on CNN they are receiving objective truth from the authoritative arbiters of absolute reality.

But that cat’s out of the bag. What has been seen cannot be unseen. A large number of people are aware that there are some very powerful forces who have a vested interest in controlling the thoughts that are in their head, and that number is growing every day. These powerful forces have responded to this new development by becoming increasingly ham-fisted in regulating the public’s access to ideas and information, and now it’s a race to see if they can slam the gates on us before we escape our cage forever.

Second Announcement

1398.4536

  
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	Tullilal 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 LGTH 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 REV.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

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 .111,377 EURO or 14 , 038 ,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**  
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Public Relations [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)  
تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۸/۷/۲۸ نوبت دوم ۹۸/۸/۱



## Ocean acidification can cause mass extinctions, fossils reveal

Ocean acidification can cause the mass extinction of marine life, fossil evidence from 66m years ago has revealed.

A key impact of today's climate crisis is that seas are again getting more acidic, as they absorb carbon emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Scientists said the latest research is a warning that humanity is risking potential "ecological collapse" in the oceans, which produce half the oxygen we breathe.



The researchers analysed small seashells in sediment laid down shortly after a giant meteorite hit the Earth, wiping out the dinosaurs and three-quarters of marine species. Chemical analysis of the shells showed a sharp drop in the pH of the ocean in the century to the millennium after the strike.

This spike demonstrated it was the meteorite impact that made the ocean more acidic, effectively dissolving the chalky shells of many species. Large-scale volcanic activity was also considered a possible culprit, but this occurred over a much longer period.

The oceans acidified because the meteorite impact vaporised rocks containing sulphates and carbonates, causing sulphuric acid and carbonic acid to rain down. The mass die-off of plants on land after the strike also increased CO2 in the atmosphere.

"We show ocean acidification can precipitate ecological collapse," said Michael Henehan at the GFZ German research centre for geosciences in Potsdam, who led the study. "Before we had the idea, but we did not have the empirical proof."

The researchers found that the pH dropped by 0.25 pH units in the 100-1,000 years after the strike. It is possible that there was an even bigger drop in pH in the decade or two after the strike and the scientists are examining other sediments in even finer detail.

Henehan said: "If 0.25 was enough to precipitate a mass extinction, we should be worried." Researchers estimate that the pH of the ocean will drop by 0.4 pH units by the end of this century if carbon emissions are not stopped, or by 0.15 units if global temperature rise is limited to 2C. Henehan said: "We may think of [acidification] as something to worry about for our grandchildren. But if it truly does get to the same acidification as at the [meteorite strike] boundary, then you are talking about effects that will last for the lifetime of our species. It was hundreds of thousands of years before carbon cycling returned to normal."

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, analysed sediments that Henehan encountered by chance, during a conference field trip in the Netherlands. The sediments, which straddle the moment of the impact, lie in caves that were used by people hiding from the Nazis during the second world war. "It was so lucky," said Henehan.

The rocks contained foraminifera, small-shelled marine organisms. "In the boundary clay, we managed to capture them just limping on past the asteroid impact. But you can see their shell walls were much thinner and poorly calcified after the impact," he said.

It was the knock-on effects of acidification and other stresses, such as the "nuclear winter" that followed the impact, that finally drove these foraminifera to extinction, he said: "You have the complete breakdown of the whole food chain." He said oceans also faced additional stresses today, from global heating to widespread pollution, overfishing and invasive alien species.

Phil Williamson, at the University of East Anglia, who was not involved in the research, said: "It is relatively easy to identify mass extinction events in the fossil record, but much harder to know exactly what caused them. Evidence for the role of ocean acidification has generally been weak, until now."

(Source: The Guardian)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### US criticizes Yasser Arafat

(January 28, 2002)

Arab and European officials are urging the United States not to break off ties with the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Both President George Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney say Mr Arafat has not done enough to combat terrorism. While George Bush **contented himself with saying** he was disappointed with Mr Arafat, Dick Cheney used much **blunter language**. Sunday's bomb attack in Jerusalem, he said, was one more sign Mr Arafat was not in «effective control». As for the Palestinian leader's **denial of any knowledge** of an attempt to smuggle a boatload of weapons into Palestinian areas, Mr Cheney said bluntly, «We don't believe him.»

The US administration is debating a number of options, including the severing of ties with Mr Arafat and his administration. **This is causing alarm** among Arab and European officials -- not because they like Yasser Arafat or consider him blameless, but because they're worried about **where all this may be leading**. Many believe Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, wants to topple Mr Arafat, and fear the **language coming from Washington** will simply encourage him.

Later this week George Bush will meet King Abdullah of Jordan. He's been in close touch with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and will tell Mr Bush that all three countries believe it would be highly dangerous for the US to **break its ties** with Mr Arafat. They fear such a move would **further radicalize opinion** in the Arab and Muslim worlds. They also argue that, **for all his faults**, Yasser Arafat is **better placed** to promote peace with Israel than any possible successor would be.

■ **Words**  
**contented himself with saying:** said only that...  
**blunter language:** more direct or less polite words  
**denial of any knowledge:** statement that he didn't know  
**this is causing alarm:** the debate is increasing worries  
**where all this may be leading:** what may result  
**language coming from Washington:** the tone of statements made by the United States government  
**to break its ties:** to stop all contact  
**further radicalize opinion:** cause people to have more extreme views  
**for all his faults:** although he has many weaknesses  
**better placed:** in a better position

(Source: BBC)

# Iran becomes vice president for HONLEA Asia, Pacific

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran was chosen as the first vice president of the 43rd Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, which is underway in Bangkok, Thailand from October 22 to 25.

Annually organized by United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), HONLEA is a meeting designed to allow participants to discuss major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.

The meeting is also a venue to for practitioners and law enforcement agents to exchange expertise, share best practices and information on drug-related matters and to develop a coordinated response.

Membership of HONLEA for East Asia and the Pacific is open to any state or territory that is a member or associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Masoud Zahedian, head of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police, was elected as the first vice president of the conference by a vote of all member states present at the meeting, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Prevention of drug abuse, treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of blood-borne infectious diseases, prevention of drug-related crime, countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, misuse of pharmaceuticals are among the topics being discussed during the event.



**Masoud Zahedian, head of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police, was elected as the first vice president of the conference by a vote of all member states present at the meeting.**

## Vision screening test for children begins nationwide

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A national vision screening program is underway to diagnose Amblyopia and other visual impairments in children aged 3 to 6 years across the country.

Lazy eye is a vision development disorder in which an eye fails to achieve normal visual acuity, even with prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Since the past 23 years, the Welfare Organization annually conducts vision screening tests on children aged 3 to 6 years by the beginning of the eighth Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 23) which lasts for 2 months, Minoo Rafiei, head of disability prevention department of the Welfare Organization, said.

Emphasizing that all children aged 3 to 6 years should refer to vision screening centers even those who has undergone the test last year, she noted that maybe the disease has not shown up last year, so children should be diagnosed at least three times during this period.

She went on to say that more than 40,000 centers have been set up in different parts of the country to offer vision screening, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Stating that the target population of the project is around 4 million children, she lamented that last year, 75 percent



of children of the same age were screened nationwide, and 16,000 were diagnosed with Amblyopia.

According to Rafiei, these children have been referred to appropriate eye care professional for further evaluation and treatment, and the Welfare Organization is monitoring the condition of these children until they are 10 years old to make sure they are treated.

During a year, 2,000 fixed centers at the Welfare Or-

ganization provide eye screening services, which will reach up to 40,000 during the implementation of the plan, she highlighted.

Mobile, temporary and childcare facilities, welfare complexes, health centers, mosques, and other places that are accessible to the public will be set as a vision screening center, she added.

Mobile clinics will also be deployed for remote, deprived, nomadic and rural areas, she stated.

The services will be conducted on a very low price, Rafiei concluded.

Screening tests in the previous year showed that 75,000 children were suffering vision impairments, except for those diagnosed with lazy eyes.

Welfare Organization's director Vahid Qobadi Dana said in August that over the past 23 years, 70 billion rials (about \$1.7 million) has been allocated for Amblyopia screening tests in different parts of the country.

According to World Health Organization, it is estimated that at least 2.2 billion people globally have a vision impairment or blindness, of whom at least 1 billion have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed.

## First 'green school' inaugurated in Tehran

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's first green school, built based on environment protection standards, was inaugurated in Tehran, Ali Shahri, director general of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of Tehran schools, said on Tuesday.

Green schools, also known as eco-schools, bring a range of benefits, including waste management, waste reduction, biodiversity, energy, water, transport, health, global sustainability, healthy nutrition, citizenship and climate change. Countries considering their own socioeconomic and cultural characteristics must be able to adapt these criteria into their own particular circumstances.

The school, measuring 7,000 square meters, is located in district 5, and was constructed by the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools, he said, ISNA reported.

Adopting schools with environment protection standards and criteria is one of the organization's main policies, which is done in cooperation with Shiraz University that



## More plastic water bottles being sold in UK than ever before

There are more plastic water bottles being sold in the UK than ever — and robust growth is expected for brands using alternative materials despite widespread campaigns to reduce single-use items.

Experts say biodegradable and compostable plastics — which are often billed as more environmentally friendly — could make pollution "even worse".

More of us are carrying reusable bottles to reduce our dependency on single-use plastic — but our thirst for plastic bottles shows no sign of slowing.

In 2018, UK use of plastic water bottles increased by more than 7 per cent, according to market research company Zenith. The industry is worth £3.3bn.

"Everything I've heard suggests that the market will continue to grow," said Libby Peake, a senior policy adviser at independent think tank Green Alliance.

Her research shows that a shift to aluminium cans, glass bottles, cartons or even compostable plastics is simply creating new environmental problems, without actually decreasing overall consumption of plastic water bottles.

The term "compostable" or "biodegradable" suggests the plastic degrades into nothing. However, researchers have found that biodegradable plastic bags can still be in tact after three years at sea.

Importantly, neither of these terms mean that the material can break down in the natural environment.

(Source: The Independent)

### Second Announcement



1398.4465

### 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

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

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit .a bid bond of 26,531 EURO or 3 ,338 ,480,400 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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**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**  
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Public Relations [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

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



# Assad: Erdogan is a thief, Idlib battle basis for ridding Syria of terrorism

➔ "We have always said and we still say that Idlib battle is basic for ending chaos and terrorism in all the Syrian areas," he said during his first visit to the embattled region since 2011.

Idlib remains the only large area in the hands of anti-Damascus militants after the Syrian military — backed by Iran and Russia — managed to undo militant gains across the country and bring back almost all of Syrian soil under government control.

Over the past few days, Syrian troops have been deployed to parts of the country's north to support the Kurds in the face of a Turkish military offensive, which was launched on October 9 after the US abruptly abandoned its longtime Kurdish allies and withdrew its forces from Syria's north.

Turkey views the Kurds as terrorists linked to local autonomy-seeking militants of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The developments prompted the Kurds to reach out to the Damascus government for support, striking an agreement with Syr-



ian troops to enter towns near the border with Turkey.

Lashing out at Ankara, Assad described

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as a "robber," who has robbed Syrian "factories, wheat and oil," saying he is

now "robbing the land."

"When we face an aggression or robbery, we should stand by each other ..., but some Syrians haven't done that, particularly over the first years of the war... We told them not to bet on the abroad, but on the army, the people and the homeland," he said, referring to the Kurds who had put their trust in the U.S. and relied on its support.

According to Press TV, the Syrian president further said that Syria's first measure in the face of the Turkish offensive was "to communicate with different political and military forces on the ground, and we said that we are ready to support any group that would resist, and it isn't a political decision, but a constitutional and national duty, and if we don't do that, we don't deserve the homeland."

In the wake of Turkey's Syria offensive earlier this month, Assad said the Damascus government would respond through all legitimate means available in the country's northern areas.

## Al-Wefaq slams Bahrain for hosting Israeli official

TEHRAN — Bahrain's main opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, has slammed the Manama regime for hosting an Israeli official at an anti-Iran event led by the U.S. in the kingdom.

In a statement, al-Wefaq said that the presence of Israeli officials at the so-called Working Group on Maritime and Aviation Security would lead to "destabilization in the region."

According to press TV, the two-day event started on Monday.

The movement described as a "crime" attempts by the ruling Al Khalifah regime to normalize ties with Tel Aviv, saying those measures do not reflect the views of the general public in Bahrain.

The condemnation came after a source in Bahrain told The Times of Israel online newspaper on Sunday that a senior Israeli

foreign ministry official would take part at the event.

Israel's Channel 13 also reported on Saturday that an Israeli delegation would attend the summit.

The Manama summit's main agenda was what its sponsors described as "the Iranian threat in the Persian Gulf."

The Palestinian Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, has also reacted to the news of an Israeli delegation participating in Manama's security meeting.

Israeli businessmen had previously attended a workshop in Manama in June on US President Donald Trump's controversial proposal for "peace" between the Israeli regime and Palestinians.

Israel has recently stepped up its push to make its clandestine ties with Arab governments public and establish formal relations with them.

## WHO says cholera has killed over 910 people in Yemen since January

TEHRAN — The World Health Organization (WHO) says cholera has killed more than 910 people in war-torn Yemen since January and nearly 700,000 suspected cholera cases has been reported.

The UN agency on Monday said in a statement, cited by Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network, that the water-borne bacterial infection had claimed the lives of 913 Yemenis from the beginning this year until the end of September.

It added that it had also received reports of 696,537 suspected cholera cases during the same period.

"Children under the age of five constitute 25.5 percent of the total suspected cases of cholera," WHO further said, noting that 305 out of 333 districts in Yemen have been reported as having the epidemic.

The agency also pointed out that due to heavy rains there was an expected increase in the coming weeks in cases of suspected cholera in some provinces, including Hudaydah in the west, Lahij in the south-west, Ibb in the central-west as well as the capital Sana'a.

According to Press TV, Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the devastating campaign in March 2015, with the aim of bringing a former government to power and crushing the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Airstrikes conducted by the Saudi-led coalition have brought about considerable damage to Yemen's infrastructure, including the sewage systems. They have also destroyed partially destroyed many hospitals and medical centers in the impoverished country.

## U.S. troops withdrawing from Syria have no permission to stay in Iraq: Military

Trump: U.S. military companies against bringing troops home from Syria

➔ "We're bringing our troops back home," he told a cabinet meeting at the White House. "I got elected on bringing our soldiers back home. Now, it's not very popular within the beltway because, you know, Lockheed doesn't like it. And these great military companies don't like it. It's not very popular."

Earlier this year, a report from the Security Assistance Monitor project of the Center for International Policy found that the Trump administration in coordination with U.S. weapons manufacturers made \$78.8 billion in arms deals in 2018 alone.

A quarter of those deals involved the production of American weapons overseas, the report stated, Press TV reported.

Trump said bringing back the troops was what his supporters asked him when he appeared before a large

crowd of 25,000 during a campaign rally in Dallas on Thursday.

"When I said we're bringing our soldiers back home, the place went crazy," the president said. "But within the beltway, you know, people don't like it. It's much tougher for me. Be much easier for me to let our soldiers be there, let them continue to die."

He said "the most unpleasant thing" he has to do is meeting with the families of the soldiers who have been killed or sustained injuries while deployed abroad.

"I see that big cargo plane open and I see those coffins get rolled off," he said.

Trump said Monday that ending American military presence overseas was one of his two key campaign pledges -- besides building a wall -- and that he was intent to fulfill that promise despite facing opposition in Washington.



## Canada's Trudeau clings to power; must court left after losing popular vote

TEHRAN — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hung onto power after a tight election on Monday that saw his government reduced to a minority, results that will likely push his agenda to the left while alienating energy producing provinces.

Trudeau, one of the world's most prominent progressive politicians, struggled domestic scandals. He now looks set to govern with support from the left-leaning New Democrats, who have 24 seats, Reuters reported.

His Liberals did not win any seats in the oil-rich provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The party was leading or elected in 157 seats, a decrease of 20, preliminary results showed.

Minority governments in Canada rarely last more than 2-1/2 years. Although the New Democrats lost 16 seats, leader Jagmeet Singh is positioned to press for action on priorities such as more social spending and increased action on climate change.

One senior Liberal noted that many legislators need to serve another two years to meet the six-year requirement for a Parlia-



mentary pension.

"That gives us a pretty free hand for that period," said the Liberal, who requested anonymity given the sensitivity of the matter.

The New Democrats struck deals to help

keep Liberal minority governments in power from 1972-1974 and in 2005.

Together the two parties can muster a majority 180 seats in the 338-seat House of Commons.

The Canadian dollar weakened 0.2% to

1.3120 per U.S. dollar, or 76.22 U.S. cents, as investors worried about how the minority government would manage the resource sector. Canada's main stock index edged higher at the open.

Trudeau visited Montreal's subway, posing for selfies with commuters early on Tuesday, an echo of 2015 when he did the same thing.

This win was different. But Trudeau barely mentioned the loss of his majority when he spoke to supporters early on Tuesday, saying he had "a clear mandate" for a progressive agenda and more action to combat global warming.

This is unlikely to please the western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which cast out every Liberal legislator amid anger over what the energy industry sees as overly stringent environmental rules.

The most prominent victim was Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, one of Trudeau's top cabinet members.

Trudeau's liberal image took a blow early in the campaign when photos emerged of him wearing blackface in the early 1990s and in 2001.

Russia with his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan.

Syromolotov was also quoted as saying he expected the Putin-Erdogan meeting to clarify who controlled oil-rich parts of northeast Syria.

## Russia says Turkey's operation violates Syria's territorial integrity

TEHRAN — Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday that Turkey's incursion into northern Syria was violating Syria's territorial integrity, the Interfax news agency cited Deputy Foreign Minister

Oleg Syromolotov as saying.

Syromolotov, who said only the Russian and Iranian militaries had the legal right to be in Syria, made the comments as President Vladimir Putin held talks in southern

## Facebook outrages grifters in push to 'protect our democracy' – but who will protect it from them?

➔ "I can't say exactly what their goal was," Nathaniel Gleicher, Facebook's head of cybersecurity policy, told Reuters about the banned accounts. It turns out the person responsible for making the determination was none other than Ben Nimmo, formerly – or still? – of the Atlantic Council think-tank, now at the "social media analysis company" Graphika.

In case that sounds familiar, Graphika was one of the companies commissioned by the US Senate Intelligence Committee to validate their assumptions about "Russian meddling," alongside the actual social media meddlers New Knowledge.

Nimmo himself was exposed last year as a hatchetman of the Integrity Initiative, a shady outfit funded and operated by the British government with the task of shaping public opinion against Russia. As for his "expertise" in social media research, the best example of it is the argument that imperfect English makes one a sure Russian spy, troll, bot – or all three.

Nor is he alone in this. The inability of Hillary Clinton and the Democrats to accept the outcome of the 2016 election has spawned a veritable bubble of "cyber experts" and "troll hunters," cashing in by accusing social media platforms of enabling "Russian" and other foreign meddling, and demanding to be paid to prevent it. The same dynamic has driven the explosive growth of the "fact-checking" industry, which mainly serves to target non-establishment politicians and non-mainstream media outlets.

Determining who qualifies as "state-owned media" is a perfect example. Facebook says it has consulted 40 experts across a variety of organizations, naming some of them: Reporters Without Borders, Center for International Media Assistance, European Journalism Center, Oxford Internet Institute's Project on Computational Propaganda, Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS) at the Central European University, the Council of Europe, UNESCO...

In what is surely a remarkable coincidence, this list overlaps entirely with organizations mentioned by Twitter back in August as its arbiters of what qualifies as "state ownership."

To the surprise of precisely no one, the verbiage these "experts" came up with was at the same time broad and flexible, to the point of being arbitrary. So while Russian, Chinese or Iranian media are by definition evil "state owned" outlets, those funded by the US, British or NATO governments are good "public broadcasters," because of their supposed editorial independence.

What any of this has to do with actual democracy or elections integrity is anybody's guess, since social media companies essentially end up bending the knee to partisan grifters and give them control of the process they tell us is so very vulnerable.

If you thought that would get Facebook in their good graces, however, think again. A number of mainstream media reporters and Democrats huffed and puffed on Monday afternoon, declaring Facebook "right-wing" because conservative sources accounted for most of the content shared on the platform.

It doesn't matter that Zuckerberg is reportedly giving advice to the presidential campaign of Democrat Pete Buttigieg – per Bloomberg – either. The clear message here is that Facebook will be "right wing" until its content is 100 percent from Occupy Democrats, and anyone however mildly critical of the DNC is banned as a "Russian asset." If you think this is hyperbole, you must have missed Hillary Clinton's latest smears of Tulsi Gabbard.

## Misusing popular protests in Iraq

➔ On the other hand, the way the Western media outlets are covering demonstrations in Iraq shows that the United States, in harmony with leaders of social media groups, newspapers and TV networks, are seeking to put a great pressure on the Iraqi government to create insecurity inside Iraq. To realize this issue more clearly, for example, Facebook omits any comment in support or against protests in Iraq and Lebanon.

In such a situation, it is necessary that the Iraqi government and nation show vigilance in the face of these provocative moves by regional and extra-regional countries, who have been providing arms to terrorist groups to make Iraq insecure at the cost of the lives of thousands of people.

Now what can help settle the crisis is unity between political groups and parties in line with meeting the legitimate demands of the people without seeking a share in the government.

It is quite clear that the prerequisite to materialize this goals is to back the legal government to resolve the economic problems by building upon the advice by the ulema. In that situation, the evil plots against the Iraqis will reach nowhere.

## EU team to start work on post-Brexit ties with UK on November 16

TEHRAN- The European Commission team in charge of negotiating the divorce deal for Britain's withdrawal from the EU will become the "Task Force for Relations with the United Kingdom" and is due to start work on Nov. 16, the Commission said on Tuesday.

The task force will begin its work regardless of developments in the United Kingdom, the Commission said.

The task force, which will continue to be headed by the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, will finalize the divorce talks, be in charge of the Commission's preparations for a "no-deal" and the future relationship with the UK.

"Once the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by the UK Parliament, and the European Parliament has given its consent, the EU is ready to immediately kick off work leading to negotiations on our future relationship with the UK, in full respect of European Council guidelines," the Commission said in a statement.



## Jazz sign Ingles to one-year extension

The Utah Jazz signed forward Joe Ingles to a contract extension on Monday, the team announced.

The Jazz did not disclose terms of the deal, but ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski reported that it was for one year and \$14 million. The extension keeps Ingles under contract through the end of the 2021-22 campaign.

He is due to make \$11.95 million in the season that is about to start, then \$10.96 million in 2020-21.

Ingles, 32, started all 82 games last season and averaged 12.1 points, 5.7 assists and 4.0 rebounds. The Australia native has spent all five of his NBA seasons with the Jazz.

"As one of our longest tenured players, Joe's shooting acumen, playmaking ability and unselfishness have been integral to our team's identity," Jazz general manager Justin Zanik said in a statement. "We are excited to keep a player like Joe, as his character and leadership are critical for the foundation of our team."

(Source: Reuters)

## Federer celebrates 1,500th match with Basel breeze

Roger Federer opened his bid for a 10th title at the ATP Swiss indoors in Basel on Monday, crushing German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk in what was the Swiss legend's 1,500th career match.

This landmark 6-2, 6-1 success in his hometown set the 38-year-old up for his tilt at a 103rd title.

"I thought the match was good," Federer said. "I felt a nice spring in my step. I was quick to the ball and it didn't take me long to get used to the conditions, that's positive."

"There is a danger in playing Peter indoors since he's already had two solid qualifying matches. He also serves great indoors."

"But I was able to control things."

Federer is defending the 2018 title at his hometown event. The victory improved his career record at the tournament to 72-9 and increased his Basel win streak to 21 straight matches.

Federer, who has made the Basel final on all of his last 12 visits, owns ATP titles this season in Dubai, Miami and Halle.

The Monday rout took just 54 minutes with Federer forced to break back in the second set before sprinting to the win.

He will face the winner from Radu Albot and Dusan Lajovic in the second round.

Federer, the winner of the previous two editions, last lost here in the 2013 final to Juan Martin del Potro.

Australian Alex de Minaur beat Bolivian Hugo Dellien 6-1, 7-5, a victory which sends the wild card into a match with the winner from second seed Alexander Zverev and American Taylor Fritz.

Henri Laaksonen knocked out French eighth seed Benoit Paire 6-3, 7-5 for the evening's second Swiss victory and German Jen-Lennard Struff defeated Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia 6-4, 6-2.

(Source: AFP)

## Man United remove fan over alleged racist abuse

Manchester United removed a supporter from Old Trafford over alleged incidents of racist abuse during their 1-1 draw with Liverpool on Sunday.

"We are aware of an incident at yesterday's game where an individual in the home section has allegedly engaged in racial abuse," the team said in a statement on Monday.

"The individual was identified and ejected from the stadium. We are currently investigating the matter as a priority."

"Racism and all forms of discrimination are completely unacceptable and do not reflect the values of our club."

Liverpool, who equalised in the 85th minute to secure a point on the day, said in a statement they would support "the strongest possible action" taken toward whoever is responsible.

The incident comes days after England's black players were subjected to racist abuse during a Euro 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria in Sofia, which led to arrests and the resignations of manager Krasimir Balakov and football union president Borislav Mihaylov.

And on Saturday, an FA Cup match between Haringey Borough and Yeovil was abandoned after racist abuse was aimed at goalkeeper Valery Douglas Pajetat by Yeovil fans.

(Source: Soccernet)

## Still no date for El Clasico

The Spanish Football Federation's (RFEF) Competition Committee haven't been able to find a fixed resolution over the rescheduling of El Clasico.



The ball is back in Barcelona and Real Madrid's court, with the two clubs asked to come up with a date by 20:00 CEST on Tuesday. The Competition Committee will then meet again and review the proposals.

The original match at the Camp Nou was postponed due to the ongoing political and social crisis in Catalonia.

LaLiga have made it clear that the rescheduled Clasico should be played on Wednesday December 4 rather than Wednesday December 18.

December 18 was the date agreed on by both Barcelona and Real Madrid, but LaLiga don't find it compatible because the Copa del Rey is due to be played that day.

The Competition Committee have asked the RFEF to verify whether the Clasico would be allowed to be played on December 18.

(Source: Marca)

# Rapinoe named but Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist

While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.

Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016.

Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer.

She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July.



The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker, already a campaigner for LGBT rights and gender equality, made headlines during the tournament by publicly taking on US President Donald Trump.

Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg



was the first women's winner.

The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze and France captain Amandine

Henry.

Virgil Van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a rare defensive winner of the men's award.

Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker is ineligible to defend his Kopa trophy for the best player under 21 last year as he celebrates his 21st birthday on December 20.

This year also sees the introduction of the Yashin trophy, named after the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon D'Or, Lev Yashin of the Soviet Union, to give that ignored minority a chance to get their hands on a prize of their own.

The award winners will be unveiled on December 2 during a ceremony in Paris after a voting process including journalists from 180 different countries.

(Source: Mirror)

## Murray in Britain's squad for Davis Cup



Andy Murray has been selected for Britain's Davis Cup squad 24 hours after winning his first tournament since 2017.

Former world number one Murray clinched his first ATP Tour title for over two years on Sunday when he beat Stan Wawrinka in the European Open final in Antwerp.

It was only the sixth singles event the 32-year-old Scot has competed in since returning from the hip resurfacing operation he had in January.

GB captain Leon Smith on Monday named four of his five-man team, with two-time Wimbledon champion Murray alongside his brother Jamie, Dan Evans and Neal Skupski.

The group will compete in the new-format Davis Cup in Madrid next month as Murray looks to emulate his star role in Britain's 2015 victory in the competition.

"I'm delighted to name our first four players to represent GB for the Davis Cup Finals," Smith said.

"Dan is playing some of the best tennis of his career and firmly deserves his place back inside the world's Top 50."

"It's been absolutely fantastic to see Andy back competing again, headlined by his incredible win in Antwerp yesterday."

"Jamie and Neal have been gaining much momentum as a team with impressive semi-final runs at Cincinnati, US Open, Beijing and Shanghai."

"We are in a good positions with improved strength and depth in our team and will be naming the fifth player in the next couple of weeks."

"We are looking forward to bringing our best tennis to the group phase."

The Davis Cup will have a round-robin stage before the group winners and the next two top teams advance to the knockout stages.

The tournament takes place on the hard courts of La Caja Magica in Madrid from November 18-24.

The ties themselves will have two singles matches and one doubles, all of which will be best-of-three tie-break sets.

Great Britain are in Group E with Holland and Kazakhstan, who they face on November 20 and 21 respectively.

(Source: Eurosport)

## India tour in doubt as Bangladesh cricketers go on strike



Bangladesh's professional cricketers -- including several members of the national squad -- went on strike Monday to call for better pay and benefits.

The protest, announced by national Test and Twenty20 captain Shakib Al Hasan, could also put next month's tour of India in jeopardy.

"Unless our demands are met we will not get involved in any cricketing activities," said Al Hasan, flanked by former and current national players, at a press conference in Dhaka.

"It includes everything -- first-class cricket, national team preparations, (and) international cricket."

The industrial action is significant in cricket-mad Bangladesh, where national players are idolised.

It comes amid increased criticism from players that the Bangladesh Cricket Board is not sharing its wealth with those who contribute most to the game.

The strike comes just weeks before Bangladesh is due to play three Twenty20 internationals and two Tests in India.

The cricketers want local players and coaches to be paid more equitably with

foreign hires.

This includes a 50 percent pay hike for first-class players, the expansion of national pay contracts, increased match fees in domestic four-day and 50-over games, and better benefits for groundskeepers.

Al Hasan, the de facto leader of the revolt, said players called the strike as they wanted to "keep a good environment for the new generation so that Bangladesh cricket can move forward".

The cricketers also want franchises to be allowed to run the lucrative Bangladesh Premier League.

The BCB last month announced it would drop the franchises from the upcoming BPL, which kicks off again in early 2020, and take over ownership of the tournament.

The decision raised fears among players that they would have to accept a pay cut.

The governing body said Monday it was considering the players' demands.

"The players are very important for us. They also made demands in the past and we always try to accommodate their demands," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury told AFP.

(Source: AFP)

## Is team's decision to walk off pitch over racist abuse a watershed moment for soccer?

As soccer's authorities search for answers in the ongoing fight against racism, the manager of a club in England's ninth tier decided enough was enough.

The abandonment of a FA Cup game -- the tournament is one of soccer's most prestigious and historic competitions -- between non-league side Haringey Borough and Yeovil Town on Saturday, because of racist abuse, marked a potentially seismic moment in the sport's struggle with racism.

After Haringey's goalkeeper Valery Douglas Pajetat was reportedly spat at and hit by an object thrown from the Yeovil fans, Haringey manager Tom Loizou led his team, which was trailing 1-0, off the field in the 64th minute.

Just five days before, England's players had been subjected to racist abuse during a Euro 2020 qualifier against Bulgaria.

The English Football Association (FA) said they were "deeply concerned" over Saturday's events and were investigating them "as a matter of urgency", but Loizou's stand begs the question as to how good a job soccer's regulators are doing in dealing with the issue of racist abuse.

For journalist Darren Lewis the actions of the Haringey players have set "a new standard."

"Football has conditioned fans as well as players into believing that the way to beat racist abuse is to play on, complete the game, win the game emphatically," he told CNN. "To use it as a motivational tool. That hasn't worked for a number of generations and we should not be using it as a motivational tool now."

"And after seeing the effect on players, are we still going to be thrusting young men into situations like that and basically saying that the result matters more than their mental health and emotional well-being?"

### ■ A big step?

The FA has ruled that the FA Cup fixture between the two sides will be replayed on Tuesday, October 29.



Over the last year in England, two other games have been abandoned after players left the pitch following alleged racist abuse.

Wymeswold Reserves walked off after a player was abused by a Cosby United Development supporter in April. In October 2018, Padiham FC walked off during a match against Congleton Town in response to alleged racist insults from members of the crowd.

"Black players now have to start leaving the field of play," said Lewis. "We've got to a stage now where black players can no longer leave it to the authorities."

"They've done it for five decades, the authorities have come up with all sorts of schemes, all sorts of ways to try to motivate and encourage them but we should not, in 2019, be sending young, black men into any situation where they should expect racial abuse."

### ■ Going one step further

In co-ordination with UEFA's three-step protocol, England's game against Bulgaria was stopped because of

the racist abuse.

According to the procedure, the first step is to bring the match to a halt and instruct the stadium authorities to call on spectators to stop the discriminatory behavior.

If that goes unheeded, another announcement is made, and the match is suspended with players sent to their dressing rooms for a "specific period."

Lastly, following consultation, the match will be abandoned "if the discriminatory behavior still does not cease or breaks out again."

But despite the abuse appearing to continue in the second-half, the players finished the remainder of the game, a decision anti-discrimination organization Kick It Out questioned.

"TV footage also clearly shows that racist abuse continued in the second half, so it is unacceptable that step three was not enforced," the organization said in a statement.

Loizou never thought he'd lead his players off the pitch because of racist abuse, confessing that by doing so he'd be admitting defeat.

"(A few weeks ago) there was something going on with Paul Pogba and he urged players to walk off if they got racially abused," said Loizou, referring to Manchester United's French international midfielder.

"When I got asked this question four weeks ago, I said there was no way I would walk off the pitch with my players and let these people win."

"Now three, four weeks later, I've contradicted everything I've said and done a complete U-turn. It was something that happened at the time and I felt I had to act."

Like Loizou, for Haringey chairman Aki Achillea, Saturday's unsavory events were a turning point in his attitude towards racist abuse at football, after being left "mortified" by what transpired.

(Source: CNN)



# Iran’s Mojiri makes history at World Wushu Championships

**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Mohammadali Mojiri Foroushani became the first Iranian practitioner to win a gold medal in Taolu in the World Wushu Championships.

He finished in first place in the nandao (broadsword) event with 9.633.

Yung Chen Huang from Chinese Taipei (9.620) and Korean Donghae Yun (9.616) won silver and bronze, respectively.

The 15th edition of the World Wushu Championships started on Oct. 17 in Chinese city Shanghai and will run until Oct. 24.

Practitioners from 102 countries and regions have participated in the competitions.

On Monday, Iranian women won two gold medals in Sanda. Shahrbanoo Mansourian overpowered Brazilian practitioner Raine Cristina De Oliveira Martins in the women’s 70kg final.

Maryam Hashemi also claimed a gold medal in the women’s 75kg after defeating Poonam from India.

China sit top of the table with seven gold medals, followed by Iran with three golds.

The hosts will be hoping for a repeat of their success at the 2017 World Championships in Kazan, where they achieved 15 golds to top the medal table.

Iran finished second with eight gold medals, one silver and two bronze, while Hong Kong were third on five gold, three silver and three bronze.

Wushu was one of three sports from a final shortlist of eight not to be recommended for inclusion at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

It missed out alongside bowling and squash.

Baseball and softball, climbing, karate, skateboarding and surfing were all accepted.



## Iran held by Kuwait at 2020 Olympics qualification



**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Iran handball team drew 36-36 with Kuwait at the Duhail Handball Sports Hall in Doha at the 2019 AHF Men’s Asian qualification on Tuesday.

Iran started the campaign with a 28-27 win against South Korea in Group B on Friday but lost to Bahrain 29-26 two days later. Earlier on the day, South Korea de-

feated Bahrain 31-30.

Bahrain and South Korea qualified for semifinals both with four points.

Iran finished third with three points and Kuwait sit fourth with one point.

The winner of the tournament will book their ticket through to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The runner-up will qualify for the IHF Olympic qualification in April.

## Esteghlal midfielder Shojaeian out for season



**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team midfielder Dariush Shojaeian will miss the rest of the Iran Professional League (IPL) season due to a knee injury.

The 27-year-old player tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during the match against Saipa on Monday.

The MRI has confirmed the injury.

It will be a big blow for Esteghlal since Shojaeian is a key player in the Iranian popular football team.

“Dariush has suffered an ACL tear in his left knee and will miss the season,” Esteghlal’s doctor Kaveh Sotoudeh announced that.

Shojaeian had already suffered an ACL tear in his right knee last year.

## Elaheh Mansourian seizes gold at World Wushu C’ships



**S P O R T S   TEHRAN** — Elaheh Mansourian won a gold medal at the 15th edition of the World Wushu Championships on Tuesday.

She defeated Ece Çakir from Turkey in the final match of the Sanda’s women’s 65kg category.

Iranian Talolu practitioner Hanieh Rajabi also won a silver medal at the nandao discipline.

She scored 9.490 points and came second after Cheong Min Tan from Malaysia who scored 9.610.

Uzbekistan’s Darya Latisheva (9.483) won the bronze medal.

Sanda practitioners Maryam Hashemi in the 75kg and Shahrbanoo Mansourian in the 70kg had won two gold medals on Monday.

Talolu practitioner Mohammadali Mojiri Foroushani also claimed a gold medal in the nandao event on Tuesday.

The 15th edition of the World Wushu Championships started on Oct. 17 in Chinese city Shanghai and will run until Oct. 24.

Practitioners from 102 countries and regions have participated in the competitions.

## Paris reveals golden Marianne logo for 2024 Olympics

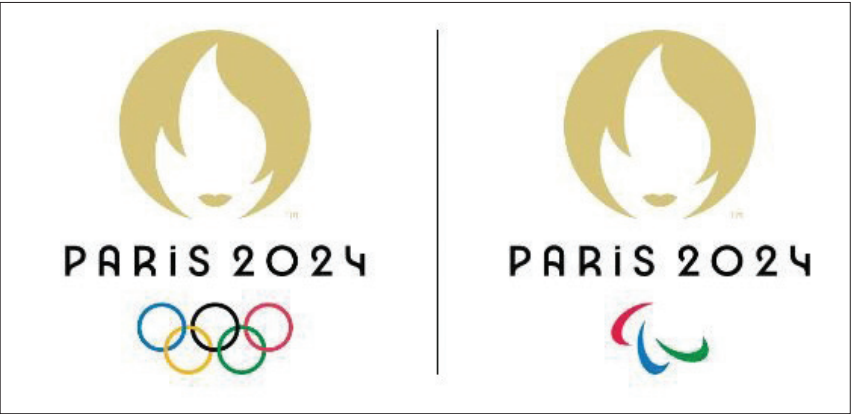
The logo for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, depicting the Olympic flame within a gold medal, was unveiled in host city Paris on Monday.

The circular design with Paris 2024 in the art deco style which was in vogue in 1924 when Paris last hosted the Games, also incorporates the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789.

«It is made up of three symbols, both simple and powerful,» the organizers said in a statement.

«The gold medal, symbol of sport. The flame, icon of the Olympic and Paralympic movement. Marianne, image of France.

«These symbols reveal a face that embodies our ambition to put people at the heart of the Games.»



The golden Marianne marks a break from the colorful Eiffel Tower <24> logo used for

the bid campaign. Organizers called it «a new phase» in the

project where the objective was no longer the bid but the promotion of the Games themselves to the public and potential sponsors.

«For the first time in the history of the Games, our emblem will be common to the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games,» said organizers.

«Because we are taking on both challenges with the same passion, the same determination, the same ambition.

«Through this artistry, the emblem honors French culture and creativity.

«It expresses the pride of a country which will welcome the world in 2024, to its capital city, Paris.»

Parisians got their first glimpse of the logo when it was flashed up on the outside of the French capital’s iconic Grand Rex cinema.

(Source: AFP)

## Goalkeeper sacked for mocking deaths

Argentine goalkeeper Gaspar Servio has had his contract terminated by Mexican side Dorados Sinaloa after allegedly posting videos on social media mocking the violent incidents that occurred in Culiacan last week.

The Mexican second division club based in the Sinaloa city of Culiacan, opened an investigation after Servio allegedly placed controversial videos, which included music and written comments, on his Instagram account related to the events that took place on Oct. 17 in their city.

At least eight people died and 20 were injured after heavy fighting broke out when security forces detained the son of drug lord Joaquin «El Chapo» Guzman.

A club statement said: «Dorados Sinaloa states that as a result of the case and following the event that occurred last week with the player Gaspar Servio, the club has decided to unilaterally terminate his contract early.

«We reiterate our commitment to the city of Culiacán, to our fans as well as to the values that we have always

tried to project and encourage in the Sinaloense society.»

In the videos allegedly posted by Servio, armed men were seen firing on police with bodies strewn on the road.

The videos were later removed, with Servio posting a Instagram message denying any wrongdoing and claiming that his Instagram account had been hacked.

Servio, 27, made 69 appearances for Dorados, including three league appearances this season.

(Source: ESPN)

## Iran to face Turkmenistan at AFC Futsal C’ship 2020 Qualifiers opener

Iran will open the AFC Futsal Championship 2020 Qualifiers with a match against Turkmenistan.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group B of Central and South Zones along with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The competition will be held in Oroumiyeh, Iran from October 23 to 25.

The six group winners - two each from West, East and the combined Central and South zones - from the Qualifiers will advance to the Finals.

They will be joined by the respective group runner-up from the Central and South Zones. The third team from the East Zone will be decided through a playoff.

The respective runner-up from the West zone will also qualify with the fifth spot to be decided via a playoff between the third-placed teams from the two groups.

The AFC Futsal Championship 2020 will be held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan from February 24 to March 10.

(Source: the-afc)

## Ex-Iran goalkeeper Haghighi joins Nassaji

**TEHRAN** — Iran top-flight football club Nassaji Mazandaran completed the signing of former Iran goalkeeper Alireza Haghighi on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old keeper has most recently played for Swedish club Sundsvall.

He has penned a one-year contract with the Iranian club for an undisclosed fee.

Haghighi, who started his goalkeeping career in Iranian club Persepolis, was a member of Iran national football team in the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

He has also played in Russian club Rubin Kazan, Portuguese teams Sporting Covilha, Penafiel and Marítimo and Swedish club Eskilstuna.

## Freestyle wrestlers bag three medals in CISM World Games

**MNA** — Iranian freestyle wrestlers earned one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal in the 7th edition of CISM Military World Games in China.

Mohammad Hossein Mohammadian bagged the gold medal of 97kg category with a 3-2 win over Aliaksandr Hushtyn of Belarus in the final on Tuesday. Russia’s Vladislav Baitsaev and Fatih Yasarli of Turkey collected bronze medals of this category.

Iran’s Yadollah Mohebi suffered a 3-0 defeat in the final of 125kg against Turkey’s Taha Akgul. Bronze medals went to China’s Zhiwei Deng and Poland’s Robert Baran.

Also on Monday, Ahmad Bazri won a bronze medal in 86kg.

Russia finished the freestyle event with three gold and two bronze medals to lead the table while North Korea (2 golds, 2 bronzes), China (2 golds, two bronzes), and Iran stand next.

The Greco-Roman competitions will kick off on Wednesday.

The 7th CISM World Games – the 7th PEACE GAMES – kicked off in the Chinese city of Wuhan on October 16 in 27 CISM disciplines with some 9000 athletes from more than 100 countries in attendance.

## Son, Kerr nominated for Ballon d’Or

Two of Asia’s biggest stars have been shortlisted among the world’s best players, with Korea Republic’s Son Heung-min and Australia’s Sam Kerr nominated in their respective categories for the prestigious honor awarded by France Football.

Son was one of 30 players to make the final shortlist in the men’s category, while Kerr was one of 20 to be selected on the women’s side.

Spanish-based Korean youngster Lee Kang-in was also among nominees, earning a place on the 10-man shortlist for the Kopa Trophy, which is awarded to the best performing player aged 21 or under.

Son’s nomination in the men’s category makes him the first Korean to be shortlisted for the Ballon d’Or since Park Ji-sung in 2005 and the first player from any Asian nation to achieve the honor in men’s football since Iraq’s Younis Mahmoud finished 29th in 2007.

The Tottenham Hotspur forward enjoyed a stellar 2018-19 season, scoring 20 goals in all competitions and earning Player of the Season honors for the London club as they reached a first ever UEFA Champions League Final.

He also featured prominently for Korea Republic in both the 2019 AFC Asian Cup and 2018 Asian Games, winning a gold medal as captain in the latter.

While Son is nominated for the first time, Australia’s Kerr has been recognized for a second season in a row after finishing fifth in the first ever women’s Ballon d’Or poll in 2018.

The Matildas has had another stunning year, scoring five goals at FIFA Women’s World Cup France 2019 and setting a single season scoring record for Chicago Red Stars in the American National Women’s Soccer League.

Kerr will have the opportunity to add team silverware to her impressive collection of personal accolades when her Chicago side faces defending champions North Carolina Courage for the NWSL Championship on Sunday.

Japan’s Saki Kumagai missed out on a nomination after finishing 12th in 2018, while six of her teammates at UEFA Women’s Champions League winners Olympique Lyonnais received the nod, including last year’s winner Ada Hegerberg.

Lee’s Kopa Trophy nomination comes after the Korea Republic youngster starred at the FIFA U-20 World Cup in Poland, winning the FIFA Golden Ball as the East Asian side made it all the way to the Final before losing to Ukraine.

The Ballon d’Or Awards ceremony will be held in Paris on December 2.

(Source: the-afc)



INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.  
Tel: 88911433  
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
» Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

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No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran  
P.O. Box: 14155-4843  
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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A creature who sins recklessly, has rejected  
his devotion.  
Imam Ali (AS)

## “Kiarostami and His Missing Cane” named best doc at Salto festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Mahmudreza Sani’s film “Kiarostami and His Missing Cane” about the world-renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami has won the award for best documentary feature at the 4th Salto Independent Film Festival in Uruguay.



A scene from “Kiarostami and His Missing Cane” by Mahmudreza Sani.

The story of the film is a new narrative of Kiarostami’s point of view on life, his vision and worldview that Sani tried to portray during four years of workshops held by Kiarostami in Spain and Colombia.

The award for best narrative film went to “Lorik” by Alexey Zlobin from Armenia, and the award for best experimental feature went to “Children of Spring” by Dusan Solomun from Germany, the organizers announced last Friday.

## Overseas troupes to perform at Hamedan children’s theater festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Theater troupes from six countries including Spain, Italy and France will attend the 26th International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults in Hamedan.



International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults director Majid Qanad attends a press conference in Tehran on October 22, 2019. (Iran Theater)

Groups from Argentina, Greece and Tajikistan along with over 20 Iranian troupes will also go on stage during the event, which will be held from November 7 to 12 with the motto of “Children and the Environment”, the director of the festival, Majid Qanad, said in a press conference in Tehran on Tuesday.

In addition, workshops by theater experts from Belgium, Italy, France, Algeria and Spain will be organized on the sidelines of the festival.

The organizers also plan to honor Iranian veteran actor Reza Babak for his lifetime achievements in children’s theater.

## Superhero films are ‘cynical exercise’ to make profits for corporations: Ken Loach

**LONDON (The Guardian)** — Ken Loach has joined the chorus of auteur directors criticizing superhero movies, saying they have “nothing to do with the art of cinema”.

Loach spoke to Sky while promoting his new film, “Sorry We Missed You”, an account of the breadline existence of a gig-economy delivery driver in Newcastle.

Loach said of superhero films: “I find them boring. They’re made as commodities ... like hamburgers ... It’s about making a commodity which will make profit for a big corporation — they’re a cynical exercise. They’re a market exercise and it has nothing to do with the art of cinema.”

Loach, who has won the Palme d’Or at Cannes for “The Wind That Shakes the Barley” and “I, Daniel Blake”, echoes the sentiments of American directors Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola in criticizing blockbuster superhero films.

# Cultural figures with top works on Ashura tragedy honored

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) honored a selection of 40 cultural figures who have created outstanding works about the tragedy of Ashura over the past century during the program “Forty Days of Love” on Monday.

Speaking at the honoring ceremony, NLAI director Ashraf Borujerdi said that the program was organized to remember that Ashura is not an event but a culture based on the knowledge that was presented to mankind by Imam Hussein (AS).

“The knowledge that says that the mission of mankind is to gain peace and to love others,” she added.

Ashura is the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in Karbala as a result of their valiant stand against the injustices of the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE.

The ceremony continued with handing the awards to those honorees who were present at the event.

In the visual art section, Mahmud Farshchian, Mohammad-Baqer Aqamiri, Hossein Qollar Aqasi, Gholamhossien Amirkhani, Ali Shirazi and Jalil Rasuli were honored.

The honorees in the dramatic arts section were Alireza Shojanuri, Reza Kianian, Faramarz Qaribian, Alireza Raisian, Nasser Taqvai, Davud Mirbaqeri, Bahram Beizai, Ahmadreza Darvish, Mehdi Fakhimzadeh, Abbas Kiarostami, Ali Rafiei, Behruz Gharibpur and Mohammad Rahmadian.

In the literature section, Ali Musavi Garmarudi, Mehdi Shojaei, Qeisar Aminpur, Abolqasem Hosseini, Qader Tahmasbi and Hassan Hosseini were honored.

Mohammadreza Shajarian, Hossein



This combination photo shows the honorees Majid Entezami, Hesameddin Seraj, Alireza Shojanuri and Sediqeh Bahrani during the program “Forty Days of Love” at the National Library and Archives of Iran on October 21, 2019. (IRNA/Mojtaba Mohammadlu)

Alizadeh, Loris Tjeknavorian, Majid Entezami, Sediqeh Bahrani, Turaj Zahedi, Fardin Khalatbari and Hesameddin Seraj were the honorees in the music section.

And the honorees in the writing and research section were Jafar Shahidi, Shahabeddin Marashi Najafi, Sheikh Abbas Qomi, Mohammad-Ebrahim Ayati,

Rasul Jafarian, Mohammad Esfandiari and Ali Shariati.

The ceremony came to an end with a performance by the Tehran Symphony Orchestra led by conductor Majid Entezami. The orchestra performed “The Fateful Day” film score composed by Entezami.

Beizai is the writer of the play “The Fateful Day”, a screen adaptation of which was

made by director Shahram Asadi in 1995.

The film relates the story of a Christian man who converts to Islam for the love of a Muslim girl. At the wedding, he hears voices calling for help. He leaves the ceremony and takes a journey to Karbala. But he arrives at the end of the Battle of Karbala after the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

## Serbian translation of “The Stories of Majid” unveiled at Belgrade book fair



Iranian writer Hushang Moradi Kermani (C) autographs a copy of his bestseller “The Stories of Majid” for a Serbian visitor at the 64th Belgrade International Book Fair on October 22, 2019. (ISNA)

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — A Serbian translation of a selection of Iranian children’s book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani’s bestseller “The Stories of Majid” was unveiled at the 64th Belgrade International Book Fair in the Serbian capital on Tuesday.

Aleksandar Dragovic is the translator of the book, which has been published by the Serbian publishing house Sluzbeni Glasnik in collaboration with Iran’s Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

Moradi Kermani, Iranian cultural attaché Mehdi Shirazi, Sluzbeni Glasnik editor Peter Arbutina and translator

Dragovic attended the unveiling ceremony of the book.

“The Stories of Majid”, tells the story of an ambitious teenage boy, Majid, who lives with his grandma Bibi in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

Kiumars Purahmad directed a TV-series of the same title based on the book during the 1990s. The serial went down very well with viewers and film critics.

“The Stories of Majid” has previously been published in several languages.

An English translation of the book by Caroline Croskery is scheduled to be released in London by the Iranian-British company, Candle and Fog Publishing, in the near future.

## Atila Pesyani to stage play based on Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein”



Iranian actor and stage director Atila Pesyani in an undated photo.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director and actor Atila Pesyani plans to stage a play based on American filmmaker Mel Brooks’ 1974 horror comedy “Young Frankenstein” in Tehran, a public relations team announced on Tuesday.

The play titled “Hereditary Frankenstein Family Palace” will go on stage at the Samandarian Hall of the Iranshahr Theater Complex in Tehran on November 7.

“Young Frankenstein” is about a respected medical lecturer Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, who learns that he has inherited his grandfather’s estate in Transylvania. Arriving at the castle, Dr. Frankenstein soon begins to recreate the

experiments of his grandfather, who was an infamous mad scientist, with the help of servants Igor and Inga.

After he creates his own monster, who is eventually brought to life by electrical charges during a lightning storm, new complications ensue with the arrival of the doctor’s fiancée, Elizabeth.

The film, which received numerous awards in different festivals, is a parody of the various film adaptations of Mary Shelley’s novel “Frankenstein” produced by Universal Pictures in the 1930s.

Rambod Javan, Ali Shademan, Khosro Pesyani, Setareh Pesyani, Fatemeh Naqavi, Asghar Piran, Navid Jahanzadeh, Sima Khoshnevis and Mehdi Sadr are the members of the cast for the play.

## London Iranian Film Festival unveils official lineup

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Eleven films will be competing in the 10th London Iranian Film Festival as the organizers have announced the official lineup.

“Rona, Azim’s Mother”, an acclaimed movie by Tehran-based Afghan director Jamshid Mahmudi, is among the films selected to screen at the festival, which will open on Friday.

The lineup also includes “A Man Without Shadow” by Homayun Asadian and “Weightlessness” by Mehdi Fardqaderi.

The six-day festival plans to organize the Middle East Guest Programme in which movies by filmmakers from the region will be reviewed.

“In the Last Days of the City” by Egyptian director Tamer El Said is one of the films, which will be screened during



A poster for the 10th London Iranian Film Festival, which will be held from October 25 to 30.

this program.

The film is about a documentary filmmaker in Cairo who has difficulty finishing his film, so his friends send him footage from the cities they live in: Baghdad, Beirut and Berlin.

“Zagros”, a co-production between Iraq and Belgium by Sahim Omar Kalifa, and “Turkish Ice-Cream” by Turkish filmmaker Can Ulkay will also go on screen in this section.

During the event, the organizers also plan to hold a session on October 27 to discuss Iranian cinema.

“The purpose of the discussion is to bring further awareness to the Iranian film industry and learn more about how it has gained great cultural significance in Iran,” the organizers said in a statement for the meeting.

## British-born Nigerian actor hopes black skinhead film will ‘heal’ pain

**LAGOS (Reuters)** — British-born Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje was taken into foster care by a white family near London as a baby in the 1960s. As a youth, the unthinkable happened: the black boy joined a gang of violent white supremacists.

Now an award-winning actor, he has brought his story to cinemas in his country of origin - Nigeria. He hopes his directorial debut will be part of a “healing” process for people who sought foster care to give their children a better life.

“Farming”, the film’s title, takes its name from a term used to describe the practice of Nigerian immigrants fostering their children to white families in Britain so they could work, study and save money. It refers to the idea that the children were “farmed” out.

The aim of the practice, mainly prevalent from the 1960s to 1980s, was for the immigrants to eventually return to Nigeria.

“Perhaps this can provide a healing in some sense but ultimately a re-evaluation of our child-rearing processes,” Akinnuoye-Agbaje

told Reuters at the film’s Nigerian premiere in the country’s commercial capital, Lagos, after first being screened in London last month.

“I’m hoping that it will create a dialogue and a collective therapy for those that are still suffering, and a healing because many of the Nigerian farmers don’t actually go back for the children that were fostered,” he said.

As a six-week-old baby in 1967, Akinnuoye-Agbaje was left in the care of a white family in Tilbury, a southeast England town around

20 miles east of central London. And, as a youth, he joined a gang of skinheads - a far-right subculture often associated with racist violence in Britain.

Membership in a gang that previously tormented him ended when his biological father, who had relocated to Nigeria where he worked as a barrister, paid for him to attend a private school in the affluent English county of Surrey.

That step was taken after he was contacted by Akinnuoye-Agbaje’s foster mother.