



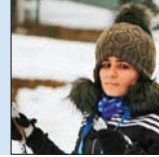
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## Sanctions to have no new impacts on Iran's economy in 2020: IMF

**TEHRAN** — Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Middle East and Central Asia Departmentin said U.S. sanctions are not going to have any new major impacts on Iran's economy in the upcoming year.

"The estimate is that ... sanctions that were reintroduced last year and tightened this year, next year will not have an additional impact," Jihad Azour told Reuters.

According to IMF's latest regional outlook report for the Middle East and Central Asia, published Monday, Iran's annual inflation, which the IMF forecasts at 35.7 percent this year will reduce to 31 percent next year.

However, the country is expected to have a fiscal deficit of 4.5 percent this year and 5.1 percent next year, the fund said. **→ 4**

## Iran: Death of al-Baghdadi won't end Daeshism

**TEHRAN** — Iranian officials have welcomed the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the founder and leader of Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group, but at the same time blamed the U.S. government for creating Daesh and other terrorist groups in the first place.

Iran's presidential chief of staff Mahmoud Vaezi said on Monday that

the criminal activities of Daesh would only end if sponsors of the terrorist group stop funding and arming the terrorists to secure their own interests.

"Fighting terrorism, by any country, is a justified action, but according to the confessions of American authorities, Daesh terrorist group was formed by the U.S. itself," Mehr quoted Vaezi as saying. **→ 2**

## Iraqi Parliament summons Abdul-Mahdi

**TEHRAN** — Iraqi Parliament on Friday summoned Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi to explain about recent protests.

At the start of October, street protests erupted in several Iraqi cities over unemployment and poor public services. The demonstrations resumed on Friday after a pause of about two weeks.

The first round of the protests left over 150 people dead in Iraq, according to the Interior Ministry.

The demonstrators want the government to take meaningful action aimed at ending the country's economic woes and fighting corruption in state institutions.

As part of efforts to satisfy the protesters' demands, Iraq's parliament on Monday passed a set of measures, including reduced salaries for officials, the formation of a committee tasked with drafting constitutional amendments within four months. **→ 13**



**EDITORIAL**  
**Mohammad Ghaderi**  
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## Western scenario to overthrow Iraqi government: A plot that has been foiled

After almost a 10-day pause, the popular protests in Iraq resumed on Friday in various cities. Although, the protests led to clashes and killing of some people by intervention of infiltrators, ultimately it became an opportunity for Iraq's government to put the demonstrators' demands on their agenda while maintaining political independence and sovereignty.

In this regard, there are some important points that should be noticed:

1. The popular protests have been prompted over corruption, bribery of some political parties, and government's incompetence, which have led to class gap. Therefore, as stipulated in the constitution, public protest is a right that none of Iraqi authorities are opposed to.

2. The issues that have been considered as the cause of the protests are not the result of the current government's performance alone, but the result of years of foreign intervention and sabotage by infiltrators, who have fallen short of Iraq's national wealth after the fall of Saddam's regime, and have put the country in many crises in different ways. Creating and backing ISIS and causing a major security crisis is only a simple example of Western hostile actions.

3. Some individuals in the new generation (15-25 years old), who are one of key actors in recent protests, hold the sitting government, which has adopted anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. approach, responsible for the uprising. These Iraqi youth are not aware of the problems that the West and infiltrators have caused for their country, and are influenced by social media and anti-resistance media. But what has so far prevented stability and peace in the country is the result of the policies of the West and its regional actors who are seeking to take advantage of Iraq's insecurity.

4. The role of some powerful political currents in fueling the protests, with the aim of undermining Iraq's government and seeking a share in the government, is obvious. It is a matter which has caused some conflicts, without taking Iraq's interests into account. **→ 7**

## Al-Baghdadi dies for the fourth time? Fake raid? Have Zionists lied to Trump again?

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Robert David Steele, a former Marine Corps infantry officer and CIA spy as well as an activist for Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE), regularly answers questions from Tehran Times.

■ Within minutes of President Donald Trump's announcement of an alleged raid that allegedly killed an alleged ISIS leader known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, skeptical commentary emerged. What is your summary appreciation?

A. Let me begin by saying that people I trust tell me that the raid was very real, with helicopters flying 50 feet above the ground at 130 knots. The cost of the raid has been estimated at \$30 million. What does not appear to be real are the actual location, and the alleged target.

I am among those who denounced the fake

Bin Ladens including the last one provided by the Pakistani military as a gift to help Barack Obama win re-election. We sent men to their death for political theater. I knew immediately that this latest alleged raid was a fake, but chose to start with a headline, "Russia says Baghdadi killing faked by US [& Israel]," credited to Gordon Duff, founding editor of Veterans Today. Gordon, whom I know personally, has a rich network of contacts on the ground, including Russian military commanders as well as honest Jews who despise Zionist provocations and lies. The official Russian denunciation of the raid as having never happened is a matter of record.

To that I add the earlier reported death of Al-Baghdadi in 2015 in an Israeli hospital, and the alleged but credible aspect of al-Baghdadi being a Mossad operative and Israeli citizen named Elliot Shimon, and you have the per-

fect storm. I believe the Zionists and the US neo-conservative lied to President Donald Trump, faked the entire raid, faked the alleged DNA testing, and have now put the President in a terrible spot.

Accepting that our Special Forces carried out a raid — somewhere -- either al-Baghdadi / Elliot Shimon is still alive as Gordon suggests, and the death was faked; or al-Baghdadi died in 2015 and this new death was faked. It is of course possible that as with Jeffrey Epstein, the President is a party to the deception one way or the other, but I tend to think not. I think our President has been lied to.

A deeply suspicious person would also wonder if this is not a potential "kill shot" by Benjamin Netanyahu against Trump — here is what Ha'aretz says, in "Trump Basks in al-Baghdadi's Bloody Assassination, but the Festivities Will End Shortly." **→ 7**

## Iran's healthcare system threatened by U.S. sanctions: HRW

When Ghazal had an operation at a hospital in Tehran to remove a tumour from her thigh, she hoped surgeons could take the whole growth out.

But a crucial tool used to prevent the spread of cancer could not be imported because of sanctions the United States has imposed against Iran. And her case highlights a growing problem, according to a new Human Rights Watch (HRW) report.

The equipment that could have been used to place radiation sources inside of her body to destroy cancer cells and thereby reduce the risk of cellular contamination could not be purchased and imported because of U.S. restrictions on Iranian financial institutions.

"Sanctions have prevented me from recover-

ing if they haven't already ended my life," said Ghazal, who asked that her full name not be used due to political sensitivities. Her cancer returned one year later and is now spreading through her hip.

The HRW report says although humanitarian trade is exempt from U.S. sanctions, "broad restrictions on financial transactions, coupled with aggressive rhetoric from U.S. officials, have drastically constrained the ability of Iranian entities to finance humanitarian imports, including vital medicines and medical equipment".

By listing Iran's central bank as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on September 20, the White House hampered the entity that provides

foreign currency for anyone bringing medical goods into Iran.

U.S. sanctions are deterring banks and foreign companies from engaging in any kind of trade with the country. According to the report, this leaves "Iranians with rare or complicated diseases unable to get the medicine and treatment they require," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch.

### ■ Touching lives

Iran produces 97 percent of its medicines locally, but a third of these drugs are made with active ingredients that are imported, according to the head of Iran's Food and Drug Organization. **→ 3**



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## Mourners mark Imam Reza(AS) martyrdom anniversary

Pilgrims from across Iran and other countries held ceremonies on Tuesday at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in the city of Mashhad, northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, to mark the martyrdom anniversary of the eighth Shia Imam.

According to provincial officials, around 9 million people arrived in Mashhad on this occasion.



**ARTICLE**  
**Ebrahim Fallahi**  
Tehran Times journalist

## Trump's unilateralism hurting global economy

Since 2017, when Donald Trump took office in the White House, the global economy has gone through a whirlwind of deteriorating events. The situation has become worse every year so that most international economic institutions and organizations are becoming skeptic about the outlook of the global economy.

The United States' trade war with China, the country's hostile stance toward many of the world's developing countries and threats and imposition of rounds and rounds of sanctions on many influential nations has pushed the global economy toward a threshold of potential recession.

The global economy's severe condition was the topic of many small talks during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank fall meetings in Washington this month.

Clearly Trump's impulsive acts are not merely affecting some targeted countries and quivers of Washington's irrational decisions are finally being felt all around the world.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva's speech at the IMF gathering was a clear indication of the pain which is being felt by economies all around the world. Mentioning the negative impact of U.S. policies Georgieva said if the situation continues "Everybody loses!"

Many of the Central bank governors and finance ministers attending the events also shared the IMF head's concerns that Trump's actions are destroying all that has been achieved so far based on the international monetary collaborations.

World Bank President David Malpass believed that U.S. policy has shifted from the 1940s, when Washington co-founded the IMF. "In those years, when U.S. co-founded IMF, the Washington message was that broadly shared prosperity benefits everyone," Malpass regretted.

### ■ Trump a threat to economic stability

Christine Lagarde, former head of the International Monetary Fund, and the new head of European Central Bank (ECB) said last week that Trump is the source of many major risks facing the global economy. **→ 4**



## Leader condoles with Lebanon on demise of renowned scholar

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has extended his condolences over the demise of the Lebanese scholar Ayatollah Seyed Jafar Morteza-Ameli.

“I sadly received the news of the death of the industrious and devout scholar, Mr. Seyed Jafar Morteza, in Lebanon. With his valuable, extensive and well-researched works on the history of the early days of Islam, in powerful prose and eloquent style, this honorable scholar has done a great service to the Islamic world and has fulfilled an important cultural need,” the Leader wrote in his message published on the khamenei.ir on October 27.

“I express my condolences to his respectable family, his relatives, and to the scholarly community of Lebanon. I ask Allah to bestow divine blessings and forgiveness on him and resurrect him with his immaculate ancestors (in the Hereafter),” Ayatollah Khamenei went on to say.

Morteza-Ameli died at 74 on Oct. 26 in a hospital in Beirut. He was an expert in Islam and Shia’s history and was among scholars of Qom and Lebanon seminaries.

He left Qom for his homeland in 1993 after a 25-year stay to continue his research and teachings in southern Lebanon.

In the meantime, President Rouhani in a message on Monday extended condolences over the demise of Ayatollah Morteza-Ameli.

“I extend condolences to seminaries and noble people of Lebanon over the regretful loss of the thinker and researcher,” Rouhani said.

In a message on Sunday, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani also expressed his condolences over the death of Ayatollah Morteza-Ameli.

“Demise of the great scholar and rare historian, Ayatollah Seyed Jafar Morteza-Ameli is pathetic. His admirable efforts in training, conducting research, Islamic historiography, defending Quranic teachings’ sanctum, Shia and continuous endeavor in explanation of lifestyle of Ahl al Beit (the household of holy prophet of Islam) will enjoy durable effects and blessings,” Larijani wrote in his message.

Also, Iranian Judiciary Chief Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi sent a message of condolences to Lebanon on Monday over the demise of the ayatollah.

Meanwhile, Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to Iran’s Leader, expressed condolences over the demise of the Lebanese scholar.

## Larijani says unity, empathy to foil plots

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Facing resistance by regional nations, the enemies have resorted to hatching conspiracies, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Monday, suggesting that that unity and empathy will neutralize the foes’ plots.



“Today, resistance (against enemies) is alive in the Middle East region and this is regional nations’ resistance that has pushed the enemies to conspire, but, they will never win,” Larijani said in a conference in Damghan city.

He further said, “Stability of resistance front’s nations is due to their foes’ behaviors that have not left any way out but Islamic resistance.”

Larijani termed Palestine cause as one of the main issues in the Islamic world and

said, “The Zionist regime of Israel’s fear is due to the Palestinian people’s resistance.”

“Patience and resistance in hard times and tolerating people are three characteristics of a believer, so, all Muslims should apply the three advantages in their life,” he went on to say.

“The 4th international conference of Mojahedeen in exile” was attended by 180 elites and scholars from 38 world nations and family members of martyrs from Lebanon, Syria, Nigeria and Palestine.

In relevant remarks in June, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said the doctrine of resistance introduced by the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, is now a well-known concept.

## Zarif: New U.S. regulations targeting Iran’s medicine imports

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif said on Sunday that the new U.S. regulations is even targeting imports of medicine by Iran.

“Now, U.S. Treasury is targeting not merely food but also our imports of medicine,” Zarif tweeted.

In a move that the Treasury Department claimed would ease the shipment of food and medicine into Iran for humanitarian reasons, the Trump administration has announced a move to establish a system of “permissible trade.”

There was never any legal basis for restricting humanitarian aid under U.S. law, though U.S. hostility toward any shipment of anything to Iran made it de facto all but impossible, and banking statements scared many away from even trying.

Statements from NGOs were quick to criticize the effort, saying that far from clearing the way to allow such aid shipments, the U.S. was likely making it even harder to accomplish with new regulations from the Treasury Department.

To send aid to Iran, the Treasury Department will demand institutions submit “substantial and unprecedented” information, all invoices and details of all customers, and whether any of them were on U.S., EU, or UN blacklists.

Zarif said, “Contrary to its deceptive claims, new U.S. regulations will aggravate economic terrorism on ordinary Iranians.”

This is enough of a hassle that some analysts are predicting that there will be “not a single banker in the world” willing to accept these new conditions, and subsequently it will have a chilling effect on aid, according to antiwar.com.

In his Sunday tweet, Zarif said U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo “voiced his delusion that Iranian people must bow to U.S. ‘if they want to elate’.

# Zarif renews Iran’s call to regional states to join Tehran’s peace plan

### FM says: “War is beneficial to no one”



initiative for securing the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

In a tweet in September, Zarif said the initiative entails “dialogue, confidence-build-

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has renewed Iran’s call to all countries in the region to join Tehran’s initiative known as the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE).

“I invite the regional countries to join initiative of trust building known as initiative of Hormuz Peace,” ISNA quoted him as saying on Tuesday in an interview with Aljazeera.

He also noted, “War is beneficial to no one.”

At the United Nations’ summit in New York in late September, Iran officially unveiled proposal for regional security, officially called the Hormuz Peace Endeavour.

“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,” President Hassan Rouhani told the UN delegates.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has invited all regional states to join Iran’s

## Iranian Navy sends 64th fleet of warships to int’l waters

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The 64th combat-reconnaissance flotilla of the Iranian Navy left the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Tuesday for the high seas to safeguard maritime routes used by Iranian vessels in international waters.

The new fleet, which left Iran’s southern waters, consists of Alvand destroyer and a logistic warship named Bandar Abbas.

According to the Iranian army’s public relations, the Navy’s 63rd flotilla was simultaneously welcomed in a ceremony in Bandar Abbas. The ceremony was attended by Admiral Afshin Tashak, commander of the Southern Fleet’s Moqaddam base.

The navy’s 63rd flotilla returned home after 100 days of voyage in international waters.

“One of the components of strengthening combat power is creating strategic depth. Such maritime missions will



result in Iran’s growth of strategic depth,” Admiral Tashak said in the welcoming ceremony.

Earlier this month, two separate explosions, caused by missile attacks, hit the SABITI oil tanker owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC). The vessel was struck 60 miles from the Saudi port city of Jeddah.

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

The missiles hit the right side of the tanker’s hull, creating holes measuring 50-to-150 centimeters.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced on October 15 that “one or more countries” had directed or facilitated the attack.

Zarif also said the raid on SABITI was a “state-sponsored act”.

President Hassan Rouhani also told a press conference on October 14 that “what was clear was that a regime did it with a support of certain countries.”

Rouhani also told a press conference on October 20 that Iran had found some clues about the attack on the vessel but investigations were underway until a final conclusion was reached.

## Iran: Death of al-Baghdadi won’t end Daeshism

### While welcoming death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, Iran slams U.S. for creating Daesh

**1 →** Daesh was supported by the Americans “as long as it was involved in blind terrorist measures and warmongering in the region to secure that country’s interests,” he remarked.

Vaezi added that the U.S. destroyed Daesh’s leader but this will not eradicate the source of violence.

“Obviously, as long as the U.S. and some countries in the region are using terrorist groups, the mindset and mentality of terrorism will not be drained.”

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Sunday that Baghdadi had died during a “dangerous and daring” nighttime operation in Syria.

“Last night the United States brought the world’s number one terrorist leader to justice,” Trump said while addressing the media at the White House on Sunday.

The U.S. president said the Daesh leader blew himself up, dying “like a dog,” and “like a coward” after American forces trapped him inside a dead-end tunnel.

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was born in 1971 in the city of Samarra, Iraq. He earned a PhD in Islamic Studies from Saddam University in Baghdad.

**■ Root of Daeshism won’t be eradicated by bomb**

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Sunday that the death of Baghdadi will not be the end of Daeshism.

“The root of Daeshism will not be eradicated by bomb and mortar fire,” Rabiei said, pointing out that regional petrodollars and Takfirism need to be addressed as the main reasons behind the phenomenon.

“As the death of Bin Laden did not root out terrorism, the death of Baghdad will not end Daeshism,” he added.

He also said the terrorism that exists in the Middle East and North Africa is the result of Washington’s militaristic policies, its oil-driven interventions and its support for dictators.

Rabiei said Iran is at the forefront of fighting terrorism and has favored a diplomatic

and strategic approach to combat Daesh.

**■ Foreign Ministry: Daesh was destroyed by Syrians, Iraqis**

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said the nations and governments of Syria and Iraq, with logistical support from Iran and the pious people of the region, destroyed Daesh through their resistance.

“Daesh was eliminated by the youth of the (axis of) resistance,” Mousavi said on Monday, adding, “Daeshism, terrorist ideologies, extremism and sectarianism still persist and have always been among the instruments used by countries like the U.S.”

**■ ‘Daesh ideology is still alive’**

He said the Americans themselves have claimed and even confessed to have created Daesh and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

“They (terrorists) have an expiration



date, and whenever they are expired, they are destroyed (by the U.S.),” he stated.

“We do not consider the killing of al-Baghdadi as an end to terrorism and Daesh. Although we defeated Daesh with the (help of) regional governments and nations, we warn that the ideology is still alive, and their remnants may be reorganized by the Americans and carry out destructive operations in the region,” Mousavi added.

“The U.S. is the creator of terrorist groups and Trump is the destroyer of expired terrorists,” Abbasali Kadkhodaei, the spokesman for the Guardian Council, said in a tweet on Monday.

“After Daesh, should we expect creation of a new terrorist group?” he asked.

**“Daeshism, terrorist ideologies, extremism and sectarianism still persist and have always been among the instruments used by countries like the U.S.,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry says.**

## London will remain committed to nuclear deal: diplomat

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — British Ambassador to Tehran Rob Macaire has said that London will remain committed to the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the JCPOA, even if it exits the European Union.

“There are many challenges, however, we will be committed to the JCPOA even when we exit the European Union,” he said

in a video message posted on his Twitter account on Monday.

He also said, “Recently, I had the honor to host a delegation of high ranking British nuclear experts. This delegation achieved good advances in line with modernizing the Arak nuclear reactor.”

He said this nuclear cooperation is a benefit of the JCPOA.

“China and Britain have gathered around some of best nuclear experts in the world including Professor Robin Grimes,” he added. Macaire noted that Britain supports Iran’s plans to build an advanced non-military nuclear reactor in order to conduct medical and industrial researches.

“This project is an example of things we do to assure that Britain is still working (even

after the United States’ withdrawal [from the JCPOA],” he said.

He added, “At first, the United States and China guided this project and now we have replaced the United States to continue the project.”

British and Chinese nuclear teams visited Iran in October and discussed the redesigning and upgrading of the Arak heavy water reactor.

## Iran foils 33 million cyberattacks in one year: minister

**(Press TV)** — Iranian Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi has warned of a rise in cyber threats in the world, saying Tehran has foiled some 33 million cyberattacks over the past year alone.

Azari Jahromi made the remarks in an address to a ministerial gathering of the Munich Security Conference Core Group Meeting, chaired by the MSC chairman Wolfgang Ischinger, in the Qatari capital of Doha on Tuesday.

He added that cyber threats are currently endangering the security of people and a wide range of services related to their lives.



“Unilateralism and resorting to sanctions constitute threats against international security in the cyber sector,” said the ICT minister, underlining the need for “multilateral

mechanisms” as “the solution to cyber security problems in the world.”

He noted that Iran, as a victim of cyber-attacks, would continue to play an effective role in designing international initiatives aimed at dealing with the scourge.

The Core Group Meeting in Doha brings together 60 to 80 senior political decision-makers, experts, and representatives of international organizations and civil society from the region with counterparts from Germany, Europe and other parts of the world for frank discussions.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Iranian ICT minister held a meeting with the Emir of Qatar

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

In May, Azari Jahromi said Iran has developed an indigenous firewall securing its sensitive industrial facilities against Stuxnet, a cyber-weapon widely believed to be made by the U.S. and Israel and used in the past to target the Islamic Republic’s nuclear energy program.

Iran said in November last year that it has successfully thwarted a wave of cyber-attacks apparently staged by Israel to target the country’s communications infrastructure, saying it will certainly follow up on the “hostile” scheme via international mechanisms.



# Zarif urges end to killing of Yemeni civilians

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the Yemeni crisis should be resolved through diplomacy, urging an end to the killing of Yemeni civilians by the Saudi-led aggression.

Zarif made the remarks in a meeting with spokesman of Yemen's Ansarullah movement, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, in Tehran on Saturday.

The top Iranian diplomat voiced Tehran's support for the Yemeni-Yemeni talks and the establishment of a ceasefire in the country, according to Press TV.

He said the Islamic Republic is ready to send humanitarian aid to the war-torn country.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing Ansarullah.

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



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

suffering from extreme levels of hunger.

During his meeting with Zarif, Abdul-Salam hailed Iran's support for the Yemeni people and discussed the latest developments in Yemen, possible polit-

ical ways to settle the ongoing crisis and the humanitarian situation in the country.

**■ Zarif says there is only political solution to Yemen crisis**

After the meeting, Zarif took to Twitter to reiterate that there is only a political solution to the Yemeni crisis.

"Met with Yemen's Mohammad Abdul-Salam in Tehran today. Discussed range of issues, incl latest efforts to end the Saudi-led war & humanitarian catastrophe," he said.

"There is only a political solution to this man-made calamity, and it can only be achieved with participation of all actors," the foreign minister added.

Back on October 13, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said a proper end to the ongoing war can have "positive" effects on the region, highlighting Iran's plan as a suitable solution to this crisis.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has for a long time presented a four-point plan to end the war in Yemen," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Tehran.

"The end of this war in the proper way can have positive effects on the region," he added.

## Diplomat says UN Security Council has failed duties regarding Israel's crimes

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Es'haq Al-e Habib, Iran's deputy ambassador to the UN, said on Monday that the United Nations Security Council has failed to fulfill its duties regarding the Zionist regime of Israel's crimes.

"The long dark list of Israel's brutalities goes on and on, leaving no doubt that, by any measure, it is an extremely outlaw regime. Unfortunately, this Council has failed in fulfilling its duties regarding Israel. The reason is crystal clear: the unwavering systematic shielding of Israel by the U.S.," he said at a UN Security Council meeting revolving around the Palestine issue and peace in the Middle East.

Following is the text of his statement published by IRNA: I thank the South African Presidency of the Council for convening this open debate. We sincerely value the principled positions and laudable efforts of South Africa in the Council. I also align myself with the NAM and OIC statements.

So far, this Council has adopted nearly 2,500 resolutions. Around 365 of them were related, partly or entirely, to the Palestinian question.

Many of them were exclusively regarding Palestine and adopted under Chapter of the Charter.

However, none of these resolutions were implemented. Rather, the Israeli regime has continued, with total impunity, to pursue its illegal policies and brutal practices.

This includes systematically committing all four core international crimes.

For instance, it waged over 15 wars, invaded all of its neighbors, without exception, and attacked other countries from the Middle East to Africa.

It still holds the territories of Palestine, Lebanon and



Syria under its occupation and conducts aggressions and invasions against regional countries.

The latest example is the periodic violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and Syria.

It also continues pursuing expansionist policies, through building more settlements.

The most recent example is the declared intention of its Prime Minister on the illegal annexation of the Jordan Valley.

Likewise, it continues developing all types of weapons of mass destruction and refuses to join related treaties. It has brazenly threatened a regional country with nuclear annihilation.

Moreover, Israeli forces continue brutally killing innocent Palestinians. According to the World Health Organization, in 2018 alone, they killed 299 Palestinian civilians and wounded more than 31,000 others, mostly during the Great March of Return in Gaza.

Another inhumane practice committed by Israel is the

over decade-long illegal and inhumane blockade on Gaza.

The long dark list of Israel's brutalities goes on and on, leaving no doubt that, by any measure, it is an extremely outlaw regime.

Unfortunately, this Council has failed in fulfilling its duties regarding Israel.

The reason is crystal clear: the unwavering systematic shielding of Israel by the U.S.

Recently, they moved their embassy to Al-Quds Al-Sharif and recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Occupied Syrian Golan. Both are material breaches of international law.

Their latest attempt, the so-called "deal of the century" is founded on the illusion to buy all causes and aspirations, honor and dignity, property and territory, and inalienable rights of an entire nation.

The serious, severe and systematic violation of international law by the Israeli regime continues to have serious adverse ramifications on international instruments and institutions.

It gravely erodes the credibility of and the trust and confidence in this Council and the Organization itself. Other impacts of this trend are as devastating as an all-out war, if not greater.

To preserve international peace and security, no nation must be left unheard, unnoticed, unattended, frustrated and despaired.

This can only result in a complete trust and confidence deficit in international instruments and institutions thus leading our world down a path of international disorder.

The Council must be vigilant about this alarming dangerous trend and live up to its responsibilities to prevent the crimes and threats of the Israeli regime.

## UAE seeks de-escalation of tension with Iran, Le Drian says

*By staff and agency*

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Monday that the United Arab Emirates and France call for de-escalation and prioritizing diplomacy with Iran.

During a speech at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, he called for "deep" talks with Iran in order to ease tensions in the Persian Gulf, Asharq Al-Awsat reported.

He noted that tensions in the region were not restricted to Iran, but other crises, particularly in Yemen.

In a press conference on October 14, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that



Iran's relations with the UAE is improving.

Rouhani said Iran has two clear messages for the world: Iran is seeking peace in the region and it is ready for negotiations.

The president also said that Iran has always sought to have good relations with its neighbors, adding Iran has no problem to hold talks with Saudi Arabia.

"In order to solve regional issues, especially relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the issue of Yemen is important. If a ceasefire is reached and the war ends, a knot in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be untied," the president remarked.

## Commander: Sanctions unable to halt Air Force's self-sufficiency plan

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — The U.S. sanctions on Iran not only has failed to influence the Air Force's move towards self-sufficiency but motivated experts to do their best to achieve it, Iranian Air Force Commander Aziz Nasirzadeh said on Tuesday.



Touching upon the aviation industry's growing promotion, Nasirzadeh said, "We have started a very good movement towards growth and development of aviation technology."

"Enemies should know that their brutal sanctions will not make any barrier on our way towards progress; instead, the sanctions will accelerate our movement towards development," the commander underscored.

The brigadier general added, "We will certainly witness broader successes because the way has been opened for us and there is no obstacle on our way towards progress in aviation technology. Our progress will be continuous."

Earlier this month, Iran unveiled a domestically-manufactured training jet, which was among the world's best in terms of takeoff and landing capabilities.

The advanced jet, dubbed Yasin, was put on display in the presence of Defense Minister Amir Hatami, Nasirzadeh and Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari.

The training jet, which had undergone its final test, made its maiden flight over Noje Airbase in western Hamadan Province.

Iran has recently made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware despite facing sanctions and Western economic pressure.

The Islamic Republic says its military power is solely for defensive purposes and does not pose any threat to other countries.

## Rouhani says NAM is able to counter Washington's illegal moves

### President says U.S. is misusing dollar

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani on Friday slammed the U.S. government for dominating the international monetary system and misusing the dollar.

In an address to the 18th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Rouhani said NAM is capable of countering Washington's illegitimate actions and making its sanctions ineffective.

"America's domination over the international monetary system has encouraged the United States in the past several decades and particularly in recent years to misuse dollar regularly to put political pressure on independent states, most of which NAM members, enforce various sanctions and limit access to international monetary systems," he said, according to the president's website.

Rouhani described U.S. measures as direct violation of the "legitimate freedom and rights of independent nations".



The NAM countries "can take important steps to neutralize the impact of such tools," he insisted.

Rouhani explained that international commitment to the requirements of economic sustainability, the expansion of trade ties on the basis of bilateral and multilateral monetary treaties, employment of independent and alternative initiatives on banking services and increased use of cryptocurrencies are among ways to reach that objective.

"Of course, all of this should be accomplished in line with upholding international anti-money-laundering and terrorism financing rules. Many NAM member states including Iran have placed this important issue on their agenda," he stated.

The president noted that the U.S. is employing oppressive economic tools in order to "impose its illegitimate political goals on independent nations out of desperation in such outrageous and arrogant ways considered to be economic terrorism."

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

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

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

So far, Iran has taken three steps in that regard, and has threatened to take the fourth step as well.

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

## Iran's healthcare system threatened by U.S. sanctions: HRW

### Washington's punitive economic measures make it difficult for Iranians to buy foreign-made drugs and medical equipment

**1 →** People like Ghazal are hit particularly hard by the impact that U.S. sanctions are having on Iran's supply of medicines. The majority of drugs used to treat rare and chronic diseases, as well as multiple forms of cancers, are part of the three percent of essential medicines that Iran needs to import.

"It's very difficult to deal with all of this," says Ghazal. "And it costs a very high price, as the health insurance doesn't cover any expenses," she added. Pazopanib, the chemotherapy drug she needs, does not have a local equivalent.

Ghazal spends about 45 million rials (\$1,350) a month on medication, basically the entire monthly income of a typical urban household, according to data gathered by the Statistical Centre of Iran.

Medical costs could rise even further if oil revenues - which sustain Iran's currency and economy - continue to fall. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that inflation could reach 37 percent this year, six points higher than the inflation rate in 2018.

For Iranians who cannot afford to buy foreign medication, the only option is to use the local equivalent covered by Iran's national health insurance.

"In order to fill the gap left by foreign pharmaceutical products, the ministry of health increased the production of local medicines," explains Fereshte, a medical researcher in Tehran, who also was not comfortable sharing her surname.

"But the quality is not the same," she added, referring to Iranian companies that started seeking alternative sourcing for raw material from Chinese and Indian mar-

kets - raising concerns among experts about the quality of the resulting products.

Dr Babak Roshanaei-Moghaddam, founder and director of the Tehran Center for Psychoanalytic Studies, works with patients suffering from the side effects of switching from foreign drugs to their local equivalents.

"Patients develop defences," said Roshanaei-Moghaddam, explaining how the Iranian version of the antidepressant Zoloft gives some of his patients' nausea and diarrhoea. "Definitely, the local manufacturing quality control is not as developed and stringent as [that] of foreign companies".

In addition to being cheaper and less reliable, the number of medicines being locally produced and covered by insurance is shrinking.

In June 2019, the Young Journalist Club news agency published a list of 79 medications that the government regulator labelled as no longer covered in Iran.

**■ Standing with Iranians?**

The HRW report comes only days after Washington officially named Iran as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering under the U.S. Patriot Act. The October 25

**U.S. sanctions are deterring banks and foreign companies from engaging in any kind of trade with Iran.**

designation came alongside the U.S. Treasury's launch of a so-called humanitarian channel.

According to the rules of the new mechanism, financial institutions are required to conduct "special due diligence" on accounts that they hold with Iranian banks to ensure that funds associated with humanitarian trade are not used "by the Iranian regime to develop ballistic missiles, support terrorism, or finance other malign activities".

Critics argue this designation is an excuse for Washington to gain access to information on Iranian banks. The Trump administration could use data about assets held by Iranian entities to determine which of them it may target in the future.

"The consequence of this action will be to further sever Iran's banks from the global financial system and will lead those few European banks continuing to facilitate humanitarian trade to cease all dealings with Iran," Tyler Cullis, a lawyer who specialises in sanctions law at Ferrari & Associates told Al Jazeera.

As part of the Treasury statement, the U.S. special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, said that the new channel would make it easier "to engage in legitimate humanitarian trade on behalf of the Iranian people", adding that the U.S. "will continue to stand with the Iranian people".

But Ghazal feels like she is standing alone: "If the U.S. government was really standing with us ... it would have not taken away everything we have," she told Al Jazeera. "Or it should not have left patients with no other choice but to die".



STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	305969.9
IFX	3852.57

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	46,550 rials
GBP	53,840 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$60.56/b
WTI	\$55.13/b
OPEC Basket	\$62.16/b
Gold	\$1,489.35/oz
Silver	\$817.76/oz
Platinum	\$914.30/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

Sanctions to have no new impacts on Iran’s economy in 2020: IMF

**1 →** Based on the IMF report, Iran would need oil priced at \$194.6 a barrel to balance its budget next year.

The report adds, however, that almost all the countries in the MCD region (Middle East and Central Asia) will experience some level of economic slowdown due to negative global factors like trade tensions as well as internal and regional turmoil.



“The outlook for the MCD region (Middle East and Central Asia) is driven by a large contraction in Iran in the short-term followed by a rebound in 2020,” the report said. “The risks around the forecast are skewed to the downside and are highly dependent on global factors.”

Iran’s economy is expected to shrink by 9.5 percent this year, compared to a prior estimate of a 6 percent contraction, the IMF has said, but real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is expected to be flat next year.

ICCIMA to dispatch delegation to Pakistan in mid-Nov.

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) will be heading a trade delegation on a visit to Pakistan on November 13, the portal of ICCIMA reported.

As reported, Gholam-Hossein Shafeie’s visit to the neighboring country is concurrent with the 29th Meeting of Board of Directors of Islamic Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture hosted by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The delegation is also due to attend the 5th High-Level Working Group (HLWG) Meetings on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Road Corridor and 4th HLWG Meeting on the Kyrgyz-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran Road (KTAI).

Representatives of various companies active in a variety of fields are accompanying the ICCIMA head in his four-day visit to Karachi.

Chinese investors pile into gold as economic worries surge

Chinese investors are piling into gold bullion in a big way as worries over China’s economy and political system surge.

According to forbes.com, holdings of the metal at the communist state’s four bullion-backed exchange-traded funds reached a record-breaking 50 metric tons at the end of September, according to a new report from industry group World Gold Council. That’s metal is worth around \$2.4 billion.

The total bullion held by those ETFs rose 3.5 tons compared to the previous month, meaning that investors piled \$168 million of cash into the funds over the 30 days through September 30.

People familiar with the gold market will already know that the Chinese ETF total is dwarfed by the better known SPDR Gold Shares ETF (ticker: GLD), which alone holds 918 tons of the metal worth more than \$44 billion.

However, the flood of cash going into the four Chinese funds this year is a telling signal about the deteriorating state of investor sentiment in China.

Chinese investors have plenty to worry about, says Gordon G. Chang, author of The Coming Collapse of China.

The “Chinese currency is at weak levels, and the economy is crumbling,” he says.

At the beginning of March, one dollar would fetch 6.7 Chinese Renminbi yuan, but recently you’d do far better with a greenback trading for 7.07 yuan. In other words, the yuan is worth less than it was a less than a year ago.

\$4.5b of projects to go on stream by yearend: IMIDRO

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iranian **d e s k** Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) will put projects worth \$4.5 billion into operation by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020), IRNA reported.

According to the Public Relations Department of IMIDRO, once operational, the projects will play a leading role in development and growth of the country’s mining industry.

The projects include ‘Jonoob Aluminum’, the largest aluminum ingot production plant in Parsian Special Economic Zone, the inauguration of the first phase of Parsian Port, Ghaenat Direct Reduction (DR) factories in South Khorasan province and Baft in Kerman province along with Jajarm Aluminum Production Plant in North Khorasan province.

Jajarm Aluminum project, with an investment worth \$131 million, will produce 40,000 tons of aluminum ingot in the first phase, generating 600 direct and 1,800 indirect jobs, according to IMIDRO.

IMIDRO had previously announced that projects worth nearly \$3.5 billion will be



put into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

In late July, IMIDRO’s Deputy and Executive Advisor Abbas Naiemi said new projects

going operational by yearend up to 50,000 new job opportunities will be created across the country.

Boosting production, creating jobs,

providing infrastructure and making joint venture with the private sector are the main pivots of IMIDRO’s plans.

Given the policies of IMIDRO, planning for stable development of the chain of products, benefiting from the private sector’s capabilities, cooperation with the guilds and associations, reducing the risk of investment, and indigenization of technology will be taken into account once implementing the mentioned projects.

Meanwhile, Gharibpour has recently stressed that his organization has put completing semi-finished projects on its agenda.

The official also said in mid-June, that IMIDRO was planning to establish a consortium in order to accelerate exploration projects in the mining sector.

He said, “The consortium is going to help us in areas like exploration and identification of new mines and minerals”.

According to the IMIDRO head, based on the mining potentials and research and academic capabilities of the country’s provinces, 10 mining regions have been defined in order to manage projects and also utilize the country’s academic potentials in this industry.

Iran, China ink MOU for agricultural co-op

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — The Agricultural Research, **d e s k** Education, and Promotion Organization of Iran signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with China’s Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, for cooperation in agricultural sector, IRNA reported.

The MOU was signed by the head of the Iranian organization, Kazem Khavazi, and head of the Chinese academy, Xuelin li, in China.

The Iranian official visited the Asian country on top of a delegation comprised of head of Iranian agricultural organizations.

In the meeting with Xuelin li, the Iranian official referred to the background of the two countries positive relations, calling for expansion of mutual scientific cooperation under the framework of the plan to revive the Silk Road.

During the delegation’s visit, the Iranian officials sought

holding joint specialized committees and discussing joint agricultural projects besides having the said MOU signed.

In late July, Iran’s Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati also visited Beijing heading a trade delegation. During his visit he held talks with his Chinese counterpart to discuss expansion of relations in agriculture sector.

Hojjati noted, “I think that with the determination and will of high-level officials of China and meetings with the authorities there is a clear determination to work as closely as possible and there are deeper relations between the two countries.”

Pointing out that the two countries are willing to continue technical and scientific cooperation in various fields, the minister stated, “The agricultural cooperation between China and Iran has a solid foundation and a broad vision.”



Trump’s unilateralism hurting global economy

**1 →** According to Lagarde, Trump’s unpredictability is making the market unpredictable and consequently investors and traders are not willing to take risks anymore.

“The trade war is going to give a big haircut to the global economy,” Lagarde said in an interview with CBS on Sunday.

**■ Europe: the exporters**

The damage inflicted by Trump actions is particularly being felt among exporting countries, many of which are heavily dependent on their exports.

Uncertainty has become widespread among traders which, as Lagarde said, due to Trump’s unpredictable personality are less and less inclined to take risks.

The U.S. policy is undermining the world’s open trade and even many developed economies are also beginning to see the fact that U.S.’s unilateralism is a huge threat to the stability of the global economy.

As the European Union’s Economic and Financial Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici put it European countries which



“rely on exports and are open to trade,” are among the nations that are feeling the pressure the most.

**■ Global economy tied to U.S. interests**

Economic expert and analyst Mohammad-Ali Kazemian also 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 these rules and equations.” Kazemian said in an interview with Tehran Times.

This indicates 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 their own economic interests, and this is not acceptable at all,” Kazemian said.

**■ The silver lining**

Kazemian believes that even though

Trump’s actions has had many catastrophic outcomes for the global economy, however 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.”

Lacking market space, German economy trapped in overproduction ‘black hole’

**■ The economy and purchasing power**

In our view, the cause of the German predicament is related to the new stage of world economic development - we have entered a buyer’s world. In a buyer’s world, the most valuable things are not cheap products or abundant supplies of commodities, but the size of the economy and purchasing power. Total consumption strength and a country’s market determine everything. The formation of the buyer’s world is also tied to overproduction, which has been driven by the advancement of science and technology, the global division of labor, the abundance of cheap labor from developing countries, the arrival of an information society, and the development of internet commerce.

When there is massive overproduction, countries with a large market will hold a unique competitive advantage. By comparison, manufacturing countries that used to play a leading role in the era of shortage are now facing passivity. If the surplus products cannot be monetized in the market, what’s the point of such production and capacity? It would only lead to an excess production line, accumulated inventory, idle factory buildings, inflated debt, potential financial risks, massive energy consumption and environmental pollution.

In short, production capacity that cannot be monetized in the market has no value. If such capacities belong to the relatively low end of the value chain, they are more likely to be eliminated. Over the years, we have repeatedly placed an emphasis on the “Chinese market,” because we want to point out that, in addition to being the “world’s factory,” China also has a marketplace that the buyer’s world values. Manufacturing countries that lack the domestic market space will be seriously affected in future competition and in the future of the trade war.

In the buyer’s world, manufacturing countries often face overproduction, which tends to form different levels of a “black hole economy,” consuming the vitality of economic development.



its economy. Moreover, the trade war has added trouble to the German manufacturing industry, which is highly dependent on exports.

The proportion of manufacturing in Germany’s GDP is the highest among developed countries, and its top 10 export products, ranging from automobiles to aircraft, are all manufactured goods. However, manufacturing now seems like a “double-edged sword,” which is both Germany’s strength and the reason for its current difficulties. In the past, Germany relied mainly on exports to Europe, which have yet to recover from the European debt crisis.

The eurozone economy grew by just 0.2 percent on a quarterly basis in the second quarter of 2019, a decrease from 0.4 percent in the first quarter.

Germany’s manufacturing base has become so dominant that it has long overshadowed the development of other industries. Thus when its manufacturing exports languish, no other sectors are able to lift the economy. As an advanced country, Germany lags behind others in terms of digital development. According to the EU Digital Economy and Society Index, Germany doesn’t even rank in the top 10 among the 28 EU countries.



# 10 new dams to be inaugurated across Iran by March 2020

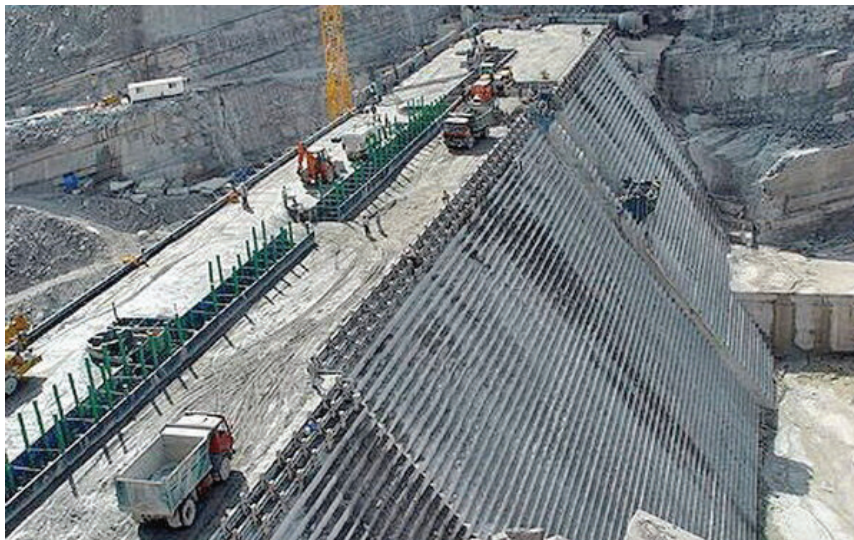
**E N E R G Y** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Energy Ministry plans to inaugurate 10 new dams in six different provinces across the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2020), IRNA reported.

The mentioned dams are going to add 745 million cubic meters (mcm) to the total water storage capacity of Iran's dams.

When operational, these dams will provide 8 mcm of water for the industrial sector and 696 mcm for the agricultural sector as well as 41 million cubic meters of drinking water.

The mentioned projects will be inaugurated as a part of a major program called "A B Iran" [the acronyms A and B stand for water, electricity in Persian], in which 10 trillion rials (over \$238 million) of projects will be inaugurated in each of the country's provinces, on average.

Based on the "A B Iran" program, Energy Ministry plans to inaugurate some water, electricity projects across the country every week.



Earlier this month, Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said 227 major water and electricity projects worth 331.74

trillion rials (about \$7.89 billion) will be inaugurated in the country in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year

(ends on March 19, 2020).

"[In the mentioned period] 10 dams will be inaugurated in six provinces, by which a total of 745 million cubic meters of water will be added to the country's water resources," Ardakanian said.

"The projects will provide drinking water to nine cities with a population of 1.5 million," he added.

According to the official, in the next six months, over 1,124 villages will also be supplied with drinkable water.

The projects worth 7.45 trillion rials (about \$177.38 million) and every week six villages will be connected to the country's water network, Ardakanian said.

During the mentioned period, also 29 Wastewater treatment plants, over 3,000 megawatts (MW) capacity of thermal power plants and 278 MW capacity of renewable power plants, as well as projects for increasing the efficiency of the country's agricultural sector through modernizing the irrigation systems, are planned to be inaugurated.

## The key to Iran's success in the face of sanctions

By Simon Harlow

One of the most humiliating aspects for Iran of the last sanctions era was that it was dependent on the whim of the U.S. for gasoline just to keep its vehicles moving, Mehrdad Emadi, head of risk analysis and energy derivatives markets consultancy, Betamatrix, in London, told OilPrice.com. "At the time that the new sanctions were introduced last year [by the U.S.], Iran was absolutely determined not to be in the dependent position again, which is why it has pushed ahead so determinedly with the PGSR [Persian Gulf Star Refinery], and why Iran is now not just self-sufficient for gasoline but is actually looking to ramp up its export capacity," he added.

According to comments last week from the chief executive officer of the PGSR (also more generically called the Bandar Abbas Gas Condensate Refinery), Mohammad Ali Dadvar, the plant earned US\$100 million by exporting petroleum products in the just the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on 21 March. Plans are afoot, though, to increase both the export volume and revenues within the coming 12 months or so, by initially increasing the PGSR's output to 540,000 barrels per day (bpd) from the current 360,000 bpd, a figure that appears entirely realistic given the breakneck speed of the PGSR's development to date.

The original plan involved a three-phase development, each designed to produce 12 million liters per day (ml/d) of Euro 5 gasoline, plus 4.5 ml/d of Euro 4 standard diesel, 1 ml/d of kerosene and 300,000 liters per day of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). To achieve these targets, the project's developers were given a €260 million additional loan from the National Development Fund of Iran, as part of the estimated total cost for the three stages of approximately US\$3.4 billion. Phase 1 was officially inaugurated only in April 2017, with the first shipment of gasoline delivered for distribution just one month later in June, and Phase 2 began producing Euro 5 standard gasoline shortly after its own official launch in February 2018, running at full capacity by the end of June that year. Phase 3 saw its official inauguration just a few months ago, although it has been basically operational for a few months prior to that.

Vital to its ongoing success is that the PGSR receives its gas feedstock directly from the nearby supergiant South Pars non-associated gas field. Despite various changes in foreign participants of various kinds in this enormous resource, South Pars' gas production has continued to rise, in line with Iran's short-term target of producing at least one billion cubic meters per day. This means that the PGSR is now being supplied with around 450,000 bpd of gas condensate feedstock from the South Pars gas field rather than



the 360,000 bpd original target for the three official phases. This has allowed Iran to add the new Phase 4 (540,000 bpd target), which will also allow the plant to produce sweet naphtha - rather than the previously produced lower value sour naphtha - which has commercial applications and can also be utilized in a broader range of petrochemicals products production.

According to oil and gas sources in Iran spoken to by OilPrice.com last week, Tehran is working again towards its original plan for its gasoline sector, in anticipation for the time when U.S. sanctions are again removed. This plan was that within two and a half years from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) being implemented (as it was on 16 January 2016) Iran would be supplying at least 10 percent of all of Southern Europe's gasoline and diesel needs, and be the top producer of gasoline in the Middle East by a big margin by that point.

Becoming an export of gasoline was one key element of Iran's plan to survive any new U.S. sanctions and the other is petrochemicals (petchems) production. This latter element has always been a key part of Iran's 'resistance economy' model, which is basically the concept of generating value-added returns by leveraging intellectual capital into business development wherever possible.

According to a statement from Iran's Petroleum Minister, Bijan Zanganeh, last week, even with the new U.S. sanctions in place, over 95 percent of Iran's petrochemical companies can still cash in their petchems exports. More specifically, he added that Iran's petrochemical plants are now supplying 66 million tons per year of petchems products annually and that new projects underway in the sector that will be on stream by the end of 2025 will bring the country's annual petrochemical output to 130 million tons per year.

Central to this expansion has been the indigenization of foreign companies' expert processes, technology, and

specialized materials by Iran, and this remains the case. Just after the JCPOA was implemented, in fact, Iran's Deputy Petroleum Minister for International Affairs and Commerce, Amir-Hossein Zamani-Nia, highlighted the necessity of this business co-operation model, saying: "Direct investment is highly favored by Iran's petroleum ministry but before that, Iran's oil industry is in need of technologies and project management." Since then, co-operation between Iran's Petrochemical Research and Technology Company (PRTC) and the National Foundation of Elites and leading domestic universities to indigenize technically savvy methodology and engineering services has dramatically increased.

According to Iran's National Petrochemical Company's Planning and Development Bureau, over 21 petrochemical projects have been introduced to the Chinese, with a total initial development cost projected of nearly US\$20 billion, while another 19 projects are to be financed by the National Development Fund of Iran (NIFI), with costs estimated at nearly US\$6 billion. From the European side, prior to the U.S. sanctions being re-imposed, there was a flurry of offers to provide the latest technology to Iran, with the first deal being signed by Italy's Maire Technimont for the construction of a petrochemical unit in Iran's Pars Special Economic and Energy Zone.

Iran's Petrochemical Research and Technology Company, for example, was in advanced talks with French firm Air Liquide to develop a 0.5 million tons propylene via methanol plant. Corollary deals for the purchase of associated technology from companies in Germany, Norway and Japan were also well-advanced. In a similar vein, German engineering giant, Siemens, for instance, had signed an agreement with Iran's MAPNA Group that would allow the latter to acquire the technological know-how to manufacture the German firm's F class gas turbines in Iran, prior to which Siemens was to have delivered two of these turbines to the Bandar Abbas power plant (which services the PGSR).

Given the U.S.'s apparent withdrawal from all Middle East interests, except - albeit tenuously, Saudi Arabia - Iran believes that it is only a matter of time before sanctions are loosened up, if not entirely removed by the U.S. Tehran also believes that even before this is effected by the U.S. European firms will re-engage with Iran, in the first instance in the petchems sector. In this context, last week saw a comment from the NPC's Seyed Reza Ghasemi Shahri that the company's recent participation in Germany's K-Show - the largest exhibition in the plastics and polymer industries in the world - that Iran's Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company had made 'preparations for concluding several agreements with different companies, especially European ones.'

(Source: oilprice.com)

## European gas glut offers green opportunity

By John Bowlus

For several years, analysts have predicted that the world would one day be awash with natural gas thanks to new supplies, mostly liquefied natural gas (LNG), coming on-line. This glut, along with the emergence of spot markets in consuming centers of Europe and Asia, would place steady downward pressure on price. It seems that day has come.

During the third quarter of 2019, prices at the UK National Balancing Point (NBP) and Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) fell to under \$4 per million British thermal unit (MBtu). TTF hit its lowest prices ever of \$3.20/MBtu in July. Now, the continent's storage facilities are full and, if exogenous factors break right, prices could drop to below \$2/MBtu this winter and into 2020, according to a new report Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (OIES). This scenario could result in U.S. LNG exporters actually holding back some shipments because they are no longer profitable.



This possibility undermines conventional wisdom. Many believed that U.S. LNG would be too expensive to compete with Russia's pipeline gas. Regardless of whether Europe passes the \$2/MBtu threshold, rising global volumes from the United States and Australia, most notably, have allowed Europe to enjoy a buyer's market for gas that rivals that for oil in the 1950s and 1960s. The continent's investments and policies since Russia's 2009 disruption of supplies through Ukraine are bearing real fruit.

Storage and supply undergird Europe's strong position heading into the winter, when seasonal demand spikes. Europe's relative low demand during this past summer allowed it to fill up with its storage tanks heading into the fall and contributed to the fall in prices. Shippers are now looking to other markets in Asia, with Europe topped out. The Parisians and others, who suffered though record heat sans air conditioning in July, deserve a pat on the back.

### Global supply growth

Yet global supply growth is the cardinal reason for Europe's elevated position. The continent has embraced LNG imports to reduce dependency on Russian pipeline gas, and has increased imports from Qatar, Russia, and the United States since October 2018.

The rise of spot markets and the reduction in fixed gas contracts with destination clauses and oil-linked prices have also helped. But supply and demand balances and a functioning midstream are the arbiters of price.

The gas market is reminiscent of Europe's golden decades in oil in the 1950 and 1960s. The Suez Crisis of 1956-7 reshaped the transit for oil from the Middle East. The Japanese led the way in developing supertankers, ships so large that the trip around Africa became economic to entrusting oil to Middle East pipelines and the Suez Canal. Spare supply capacity in the Western Hemisphere, Middle East, and Russia created low prices and steady supply.

Europe's Suez moment occurred during the winter of 2009, when Russia cut supplies to Ukraine. Brussels counterattacked with policy and the fair hope that new supplies would, eventually, be on the way. These have now arrived.

Europe's gas glut is a global story. Lower demand in Asia this summer has helped. The U.S.-China trade war, moreover, has redirected U.S. LNG towards Europe, as the Chinese not longer receives it. But within the European context, exogenous factors will have to occur to reach the \$2 threshold. OIES mentions the following: a warm winter, a Ukraine transit deal at the end of 2019, and lower demand in Latin America, the Middle East, and emerging Asia. These would all produce convergence on price across different regions.

### Abandoning Russian gas imports

During the last two winters, however, Russian gas imports surged to Europe due to cold winters, declining production in the Netherlands, and delays in new LNG projects. The \$2 scenario demands no disruption of pipeline flows. But Russia may calculate that it needs to disrupt Europe's supplies to remind Europe that it needs its gas, weaken the new government in Ukraine, and increase its future leverage with a calculated disruption. Russia would have to tread carefully, of course. A disruption would only strengthen European resolve to abandon Russian gas imports. Meanwhile, Nord Stream II remains in the balance.

Europe's gas glut is great news. It will bolster economic growth, permit more coal-to-gas switching, and decrease the pressure of the geopolitics of gas. Low prices always shift burdens to producers, who will be careful not to lose markets and maintain profits.

But cheap gas comes with a cautionary warning for Europe: it could lock in demand for gas and delay the transition to renewables. Cheap oil in the 1950s and 1960s did just that, establishing the dominance of oil in the global energy system.

Climate change and cheaper renewable sources were not available then, of course, but cheap gas will encourage Europeans to consume more of it. New supplies are forthcoming. Australia is set to overtake Qatar as the largest LNG exporter. McKinsey now predicts that the United States will account for half of global gas-supply growth by 2035. Qatar will expand North Field production by 43% by 2024. The glut, in other words, is set to grow.

Europe should use resist the complacency and commercial exuberance of a low-price environment. After all, a recent study by the Rocky Mountain Institute found, after all, that advancements in wind and solar as well as batteries will make gas-fired power plants uncompetitive by the 2030s. Europe's politics are already pushing an energy transition. Let's let low gas prices get us over the hump.

(Source: energy-reporters.com)

## Developers hope to get go-ahead for Scotland's largest wind farm off Angus coast by end of the year

Developers behind Scotland largest wind farm off the coast of Angus are hopeful planing permission can be secured for the £6billion project by the end of the year.

As per thecourier.co.uk, Seagreen Wind Energy's timeline was aired after it emerged Angus Council parks chiefs have withdrawn opposition over the potential impact the cable route would have had on Carnoustie's world-famous golf links.

Talks are continuing between the council and developer over a compulsory purchase order for ground needed to run the cable from landfill at Carnoustie to a substation at Tealing.

However, the withdrawal of the parks service opposition has left only a handful of public representations to the scheme.

A council determination deadline of September 23 passed without the matter going before elected members and a new expiry date of December 19 has now been set.

Documents detailing the specified matters application relating to the permission in principle previously secured by Seagreen confirm statutory consultees including Scottish Water and Scottish Natural Heritage have no objection.

The council owns the golf links land which includes the Open venue Championship course and the authority's parks service said concerns over the proposed cable route which prompted their initial opposition had been "adequately addressed", leading to

the removal of the objection.

A Seagreen spokesperson said: "We have been working closely with Angus Council and other key stakeholders to listen to comments on the matters specified application and are continuing to work through the comments received.

"We would like to thank everyone involved for their constructive engagement in progressing the application towards a decision by the end of the year."

A council spokesman said: "Angus Council, as the planning authority, has not made any decision concerning the acceptability of the proposal. It remains under consideration.

"Our planning service has undertaken consultation with various parties as part of this process and received various comments on the application.

"The applicant's supporting information, as well as comments from interested parties, including other council service departments as appropriate, and consultation bodies is presently being reviewed.

"The application will be reported to a future meeting of the development standards committee for determination."

Perth-based SSE Renewables has recently made major announcements linked to the project which will provide enough energy to power a million homes and, once complete, inherit the crown of Scotland's largest offshore wind farm from the company's Beatrice array in the Moray Firth.

## IMF cuts Persian Gulf countries' growth forecasts on OPEC+ cuts, oil volatility

The OPEC/non-OPEC agreement to cut 1.2 million b/d from the global oil market and prevailing crude price volatility are taking a toll on the economies of the Persian Gulf region, whose growth will more than halve this year from 2018, the International Monetary Fund said Monday.

As stated by hellenicshippingnews.com, the gross domestic product of six Persian Gulf countries - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain - will grow 0.7% in 2019, down from 2% growth recorded in 2018, the fund said in a report published on Monday. This was further lower from a previous 2019 growth forecast of 2.1%, which IMF projected in April.

However, the region's GDP growth is expected to rebound to 2.5% in 2020 as the OPEC/non-OPEC agreement is set to end in the first quarter of next year, according to IMF.

Oil GDP - which refers to oil economy of the Persian Gulf region - is forecast to contract 1.4% in 2019 compared to a 2.5% growth in 2018. The oil GDP is expected to grow 1.9% in 2020, the IMF said.

Oil GDP growth in 2020 "reflects a mix of rising oil production in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Jizan refinery becoming fully operational (in Saudi Arabia), and a pickup in gas output in Oman and Qatar," the fund said.

Saudi Arabia's economy is projected to grow 0.2% in 2019, compared with 2.4% last year, while the UAE's economy will expand by 1.6% this year compared with 1.7% in 2018,

according to the fund.

Saudi Arabia is forecast to produce 9.75 million b/d of oil this year and 9.85 million b/d in 2020, down from 10.31 million b/d in 2018, the IMF said.

### The biggest disruption

Growth in Saudi Arabia, which suffered its biggest disruption to its oil production on September 14 when two key oil sites were attacked, will not be affected this year or next year by the incident, Jihad Azour, director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, said at a press conference in Dubai on Monday.

Persian Gulf countries - including OPEC members Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE and non-OPEC member Oman that are implementing production cuts - continue to rely heavily on oil income to fuel their economies and require high oil prices to balance their budgets.

The drop in oil prices at the start of 2016 to less than \$30/b prompted Persian Gulf countries to create and join the OPEC/non-OPEC alliance.

The IMF expects Persian Gulf countries' breakeven oil prices to remain high in 2019 and 2020 compared to current oil prices, with Brent hovering around \$60/b.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, needs a breakeven oil price of \$86.5/b to balance its budget in 2019 and \$83.6/b in 2020. The UAE needs a price of \$70.2/b in 2019 and \$70/b in 2020, according to the report.



## 4 years of Zaria Massacre

By Abdullahi Junaidu

**NIGERIA/ KATSINA** — 1/03/1441AH in Islamic calendar marks exactly 4 years of Zaria massacre perpetrated by bloodthirsty Wahhabi barbarian's Nigerian army under the order and watch of American proxy server in Nigeria, tyrant President Buhari.

Where they did all sort of evilness and crimes against humanity.

- It was the day that they merciless and inhumanely massacred over 1000+ innocent and patriot civilians with no offence.
- It was the day that they butchered many infants and babies that knew nothing rather than to cry for breast milk.
- It was the day that they set a blazed a 70+ year old woman when she was crying in need of water to survive.



- It was the day that they wiped out 39 families from existence
- It was the day that they mercilessly butchered 193 children
- It was the day that they murdered 297 women, 548 men and 23 pregnant women
- It was the day that they set a blazed hundreds of vehicles due to barbarism and senseless
- It was the day that they merciless and inhumanely exhumed corpses of martyrs that were buried a year before.
- It was the day that they buried all the corpses of the killed Shi'ah citizens in mass grave at Mando, Kaduna state without proper ritual as recommended by any religion and without differentiation between genders, the worst was that, some of them were alive and begging for water to survive.
- It was the day that they demolished worship centers, graveyards and a resident of top Shi'ah cleric, leader of Islamic Movement Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky (H)

All these evilness and crimes against humanity were perpetrated by bloodsuckers Nigerian Army within 48 hours, while they rushed and washed bloodshed on the affected roads to hide evidence and fabricated concocted lies to justify all the killing, but unfortunately to them, all what they hide has become clearly to public.

During his interview with DW channel, Saudi Prince, Mohammad Bn Salman declared that they are the mastermind of all the massacre in other to break Iran's influence in Africa, as he said.

This brought out clearly their absurd plan which they have woefully failed.

Since from that time, Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife were taken to illegal detention incommunicado without trial despite the fact that they have gun wound in their body and there were no proper medical treatment.

Followers of Sheikh Zakzaky sued Nigerian Govt to court demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the couples, the judgement which the couples had finally won but are not yet released due to court order violation and contempt of court by the Govt,



Again, the couple's lawyers had filed an application demanding court to allowed them to travel to abroad for proper medical treatment due to diagnosis made by foreign expert doctors that find worst report on their health status and recommended them to be flown to abroad for that purpose, the trip which the Govt has deliberately aborted after judge had granted them to fly.

This Govt showed all kind of mistreatment, hate, political and religious bias against Sheikh Zakzaky and his followers, because the tyrant President Buhari has given order from his western masters to do so

And the reason behind that, is, the Sheikh used to expose all their evil plot against innocents Nigerians, more especially in terms of looting public treasury, killing innocent citizens in the name of Islam and awakening Nigerians to stand and demand for Justice.

Till date the spouse are in illegal detention incommunicado under Tyrant President Buhari Gulag despite the fact that their health conditions continue to deteriorate, and courts verdict that orders their release and to be paid compensation.

We are reiterating our demand that our leader Sheikh Zakzaky must be free for the peace of our dear nation.

This Govt should know that:

No peace, no reform, not even a national solution should be guaranteed without the freedom of Sheikh Zakzaky.

It is neither in Government's hand, nor in Western powers hand to guarantee that for the country, understand that!

What is going on in American political equations?

# From paradoxical polls in Wisconsin to Trump's concern about Republicans

By Saeed Sobhani

**TEHRAN** — As we get closer to next year, the political and electoral equations in the United States become more complex. This complexity is becoming more and more complicated by the ongoing conflict between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Here's a look at the latest news and analysis on the US presidential election:

Support for impeaching U.S. President Donald Trump surged among political independents and rose by three percentage points overall since last week, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday. People walk past the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, U.S. October 21, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Jasso

More Americans also said they disapproved of the president's handling of foreign threats.

The Oct. 18-22 poll showed public opinion continued to shift as Americans digested a flurry of news over the past several weeks stemming from the congressional impeachment inquiry and Trump's decision to pull troops from northern Syria. Overall, 46% of Americans said they supported impeachment and 40% said they opposed it.

Support for impeachment was relatively steady among Republicans and Democrats over the past week but it surged among independents, a group that includes people who neither identify as Democrats nor Republicans and do not favor either party when they vote.

Among independents, 45% said in the latest poll they supported impeachment and 32% said they opposed it, the strongest level of support recorded in more than a year. A little more than 1 in 3 independents had said they were in favor of impeachment in more than a dozen previous Reuters/Ipsos polls since June 2018. Trump leveraged his advantage in support among independents to narrowly win the White House in 2016 and it is expected that he will need them again to be re-elected. The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted after several administration officials backed up portions of a government whistleblower's report that alleged Trump pressured Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate one of his main political rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden. The report said Trump linked the probe to the release of foreign aid.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing. He has tried to block administration officials from cooperating with the investigation and this week said he was the victim of a "lynching," a racially charged description that was quickly condemned by many lawmakers.

The president also ordered U.S. troops to withdraw from northern Syria two weeks ago ahead of Turkey's cross-border offensive against the Kurds. The Turkish offensive displaced hundreds of thousands of people and raised concerns that it would allow prisoners from the Islamic State group to escape. Trump's decision drew a sharp bipartisan rebuke in Congress and the poll shows it may have hurt his standing among rank-and-file Republicans. Overall, the poll found that Americans were more critical of Trump's handling of U.S. foreign policy and ISIS than they were in a similar poll in April.

Among Republicans, 73% said they approved of the president's handling of U.S. foreign policy and 75% said they approved of his handling of IS, down 6 points and 8 points respectively from April. The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online, in English, throughout the United States. It gathered responses from 4,083 adults, including 1,773 Democrats, 1,542 Republicans and 447 independents. It has a credibility interval, a measure of precision, of 5 percentage points.

■ **Wisconsin poll shows most do not support impeaching Trump**

A new poll shows that most Wisconsin voters do not support holding impeachment hearings against President Donald Trump and even fewer want to see him impeached and removed from office. The Marquette University Law School poll released Wednesday comes after House Democrats began an impeachment inquiry. It comes 13 months before the 2020 election. The poll shows that 46% approve of holding impeachment hearings against Trump, with 49% against. Only 44% support impeaching and removing Trump from office, with 51% against. The numbers are up significantly in support of holding impeachment hearings from January when it was 33% in support and April when it was 29%.

The poll of 799 registered voters was taken between Oct. 13 and Oct. 17. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

■ **Poll: Biden leads Trump in Wisconsin**

Joe Biden continues to lead President Donald Trump in a hypothetical, hyper-early polling matchup in all-important Wisconsin, amid heavy media coverage of Trump's request for a Ukrainian government investigation into the former vice president and his son.

Biden leads Trump 50 percent to 44 percent in the new Marquette University Law School Poll. He had a 9-point advantage in August.

The swing state is among the most closely watched battlegrounds heading into 2020, after Trump's surprise win there over Hillary Clinton in 2016. The poll out Wednesday found Bernie Sanders with a smaller 2-point advantage — inside the margin of error — down from a 4-point edge in August. And Elizabeth Warren took 47 percent to Trump's 46 percent in another matchup, after they deadlocked at 45 percent apiece in the August poll.

The poll for the first time tested Pete Buttigieg, the Midwestern mayor running in part on his regional credentials being an advantage over Trump. He trailed the president by 2 points, 45 percent to 43 percent, with a higher number of undecideds (7 percent) than any of the other potential matchups.

Biden's strength in states like Wisconsin is central to his campaign, which argues that he's the strongest Democrat to take on Trump in 2020 and could win back disillusioned Midwestern voters who flipped key states to Trump in 2016. Trump claimed Wisconsin by fewer than 23,000 votes, and it's become a top target of Democratic leaders, who are holding their national convention in Milwaukee next summer.

The survey also found Biden with an early lead in Wisconsin's April 2020 Democratic primary, at 31 percent followed by Warren at 24 percent. Sanders got 17 percent support in the primary test, while Buttigieg came in at 7 percent, Kamala Harris got 5 percent and every other candidate got 3 percent or less.



Warren was the second choice of 27 percent of respondents, followed by Biden (19 percent), Sanders (13 percent), Buttigieg (10 percent) and Harris (9 percent).

Marquette also looked at impeachment, finding that support in Wisconsin for impeachment has grown since April, to 46 percent — but that 49 percent of respondents believe there is not enough evidence to launch congressional impeachment hearings.

Among those who said they have read the rough transcript of a conversation between Trump and the Ukrainian president, which has become a key piece of evidence in the investigation, 51 percent said they think there's enough reason to hold impeachment hearings, compared with 42 percent among those who have not read the summary of the phone call. The survey of Wisconsin registered voters was conducted Oct. 13-17 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

■ **Evangelicals have stuck by Trump. But polls hint at trouble ahead**

Also Politico reported that Donald Trump is on a rescue mission to preserve his grip on the religious right. In call after call over the past two weeks, Trump has sought counsel from prominent evangelical figures on how to protect his relationship with conservative Christians amid mounting criticism over his withdrawal of U.S. forces from Syria.

Some of the leaders urged him to reverse course after he announced that American troops would no longer be operating near the Turkey-Syria border. They warned of religious persecution in the region and the threat to civilians in Kurdish-held territory. Others advised him of the danger his decision could pose to U.S. allies like Israel, whose security and sovereignty white evangelicals care deeply about.

"This gives evangelicals pause because now they're wondering, 'Hmm, that was not a good move. What's next? Does this mean he's going to throw Israel under the bus if he threw the Kurds under the bus?'" a longtime friend of the president said. Another evangelical Trump ally told the president he was offended by a comment the president made about Kurdish fighters having "plenty of sand to play with," according to a person briefed on the conversation.

It's a first for Trump's presidency: The same evangelical leaders who've been notoriously unmovable through prior controversies have spoken out forcefully to condemn his policy toward Syria. Televangelist Pat Robertson said Trump was "in danger of losing the mandate of heaven." Family Research Council head Tony Perkins described the move as "inconsistent with what the president has done" previously.

"I was concerned about it, but feel more confident after talking with POTUS and seeing the results of the cease-fire and the economic sanctions," former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who initially blasted Trump's decision to ditch the Kurds as a "huge mistake," wrote in an email to POLITICO on Tuesday. (In remarks from the White House Diplomatic Reception Room less than 24 hours later, Trump announced he would be lifting those same economic sanctions against Turkey — remarks that came a day after the U.S. special envoy for Syria engagement told a Senate panel the Turkish military offensive had killed hundreds of Kurdish fighters.)

The outrage over Trump's Syria decision, combined with the growing threat of impeachment, has left the president facing a new test in his relationship with white evangelicals as signs of tensions have begun to surface in recent polls. For some, his culturally conservative agenda may not be enough to keep them from walking away if the situation in Syria deteriorates further.

It's a dilemma that has left Trump's biggest religious boosters asking themselves whether his sky-high support with so-called values voters will last through next November. "If he's going to win in 2020," said the longtime Trump friend, "he has to be north of the 81 percent [of white evangelicals] he won in 2016. I'm not suggesting that the polling is all of a sudden going to show that his support is plummeting because of Syria. But if it stays stagnant, he's a one-term president."

White evangelicals have long grappled with a president they consider their greatest champion since the Reagan years, but who rarely approaches policy matters or discourse with their preferred tone or moral code. They have asked Trump not to curse at his campaign rallies, despite standing by him when he was caught on tape making vulgar comments about women in 2016. They have endorsed his hard-line immigration policies, but privately urged him

to ditch the harsh language about immigrants and refugees. And they have consistently cited his appointment of anti-abortion judges as a hallmark of his presidency without mentioning the uncomfortable moment when, as a candidate, he suggested punishing women who choose to end their pregnancies.

Now, the president's evangelical allies are pressing him to consider the consequences of pulling troops from Syria, which he has cast as a financially sensible decision. And they are warning him of trouble ahead if he doesn't — both in the region, where U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters have been killed by Turkish airstrikes in recent days, and with his political standing back home.

"This is a danger zone for this administration when it comes to evangelicals. They see religious persecution, Iran gaining a foothold, Israel facing threats and the possibility of ISIS reemerging, and what Trump keeps talking about is the land, and the money, and the deal-making," said the longtime Trump friend. "The moral compass is missing, and he's off balance here with evangelicals."

Unlike other voting blocs that have slowly moved away from Trump, white evangelicals have displayed a certain level of elasticity in their support for him — opting to adapt to the worst moments and elements of his presidency, even when they have shown initial signs of shock.

"He's a blue-chip stock for evangelicals and they're cashed in fully. If there's fluctuation in the market, they always ride it out," said the Trump pal.

It's an enduring mystery of the Trump era and one that prompts questions about tribalism and the state of both major political parties. Do white evangelicals stand by Trump because there is no suitable Republican or Democratic alternative? Or do they embrace him because that's what they've seen the most prominent among them do?

"My gut says white evangelicals will jump when and if Fox News does," said Elesha Coffman, a scholar of American religion at Baylor University. "Any movement, if we see it, isn't going to come from within their religious communities."

A lengthy study released this week by the Public Religion Research Institute offers other clues about the current state of Trump's relationship with white evangelical voters, as well as why it could change between now and Election Day. In striking terms, the survey captures just how substantial the president's support is among white evangelicals: 99 percent of GOP-leaning white evangelical Protestants oppose impeaching and removing Trump from office and 63 percent say he has done nothing to damage the dignity of the presidency, separating them from majorities across all other major religious groups that said he has.

Other figures raise questions about the durability of white evangelicals' support for Trump, particularly given the precarious position he finds himself in with Syria.

For example, 63 percent of white evangelical Protestants in the PRRI study said terrorism is a major concern for them — more than immigration (55 percent), which has been Trump's single biggest issue, or health care (53 percent). Those figures come amid warnings that the U.S. pullout from Syria could rekindle terrorism in Europe and cause a resurgence of the Islamic State. Already, a separate NPR/Marist survey found that nearly 30% of white evangelicals believe U.S. security has been weakened by Trump.

By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time. The worse the situation becomes in Syria the more comfortable white evangelicals might feel about distancing themselves from Trump, Coffman said. That happened gradually during the Watergate era, when rank-and-file evangelicals slowly walked away from President Richard M. Nixon.

After the Syria cease-fire, "will things get much worse? Will we get pictures of children who get victimized by chemical weapons? Will there be enough of a rebuke from Republicans or more voices inside white evangelicalism speaking out about this?" Coffman asked, adding that "it's possible we'll see movement then, but I wouldn't bet on it."

There is also the shadow that impeachment has cast over Trump's presidency, and how white evangelicals are responding. A much-discussed Fox News poll found that nearly three in 10 white evangelicals want the president impeached and removed from office — a figure that startled some officials on Trump's 2020 campaign, according to an outside adviser. And in the NPR/Marist survey, which was taken after House Democrats began their impeachment inquiry, only 62 percent of white evangelicals said they definitely plan to vote for Trump next fall. That's the number Trump's top evangelical supporters are closely monitoring and cautioning the president not to ignore. Eighty-one percent of the white evangelical vote in 2016 was enough to carry him to the White House, they say, but with underwater approval ratings among other key constituencies he needs to do even better next fall.



# Al-Baghdadi Dies for the Fourth Time? Fake Raid? Have Zionists Lied to Trump Again?

➔ Trump is bound to be criticized for his blood-thirsty style, as well as the fact that he hurried to announce al-Baghdadi's demise before the Pentagon had signed off on final and incontrovertible DNA proof that the ISIS leader had indeed been killed. On the extremely unlikely chance that al-Baghdadi will emerge somewhere safe and sound, which has happened before, Trump would instantly transform, not into a lame duck but into a dead duck.

The above tells me two things: that the DNA was not confirmed as the President claimed; and that Benjamin Netanyahu might well choose one day to "resurrect" Elliot Shimon aka al-Baghdadi, as a reprisal for the Miriam Adelson Medal of Freedom that set the stage for her public denouncement of Netanyahu's wife as crazy and Netanyahu as a servant to his wife – this cost him dearly.

■ Apart from the Russians, who have very sophisticated S-400 target acquisition radars covering the entire region, who else is saying this is a fake raid that never happened?

A. As you might imagine, because the Zionists control most mainstream media enterprises, and this fake raid serves both the Zionists and the warmongering neo-conservatives in the USA that want to keep ISIS alive, keep stealing Syrian oil, and continue to undermine Syrian sovereignty, almost no one else is challenging the narrative with two exceptions: the Daily Star in the UK has run two pieces, "Shock claim top ISIS leader is 'Israeli spy'," and "ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi 'not killed by US military' Russia claims; and citizen journalists everywhere are pointing out the obvious flaws in the story. My favorite comes from a Nordic country, where an alert citizen quickly noticed that Google Earth, which updates on a monthly to yearly basis, not a daily basis, shows the alleged raid site as having been destroyed in the past, not recently. In addition Newsweek has run with a story, "Obama White House Photographer Suggests Trump Situation Room Photo of Unfolding al-Baghdadi Raid Was Staged," a story I agree with.

■ You have been a Marine Corps infantry officer; a clandestine operations officer or spy; the senior civilian responsible for creating a new national intelligence analysis center; and a J-2 intelligence analyst in Afghanistan. What other "indicators" do you personally see that suggest this story is completely false?

A. Please allow me to emphasize my view that President Donald Trump has been lied to, and is not a party to the total deception that has been imposed on him by a combination of Zionists and neo-conservatives including members of his own staff who failed to defend him – in my view this terrible situation demonstrates that his new National Security Advisor – a very talented and nice person – is not up to the task of protecting the President from being lied to by the military-intelligence complex that is still in a state of treason, selected officials not-withstanding. The Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency as well as the Secre-



tary of State have all failed the President by going along with a false narrative that they probably knew was false but allowed to go forward because of some combination of political opportunism, Zionist bribery and blackmail, and the President's own ego – he fell into this one, made it his own, and in so doing has disgraced himself in the eyes of Xi and Putin.

I see two levels of indicators that persuade me that this story is completely false. At the strategic level this strikes me as a blatant attempt by the Zionists and their CIA collaborators who hate President Trump to keep the Kurds whom they are arming and training and leading, in the game. The Daily Beast published "The Kurds Spotted Baghdadi. The U.S. Abandoned Them Anyway" early on, and then I saw "Baghdadi's death underscores what we've lost by abandoning Syria's Kurds," from The Washington Post, and a series of CIA-sponsored stories about how the Kurds continued to provide leads "even after Trump abandoned them" – below is from The Economic Times of India, "CIA got initial tip-off from one of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's wives and a courier. Report,"

American officials told the newspaper that the Kurds continued to provide information to the CIA on Baghdadi's location even after President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the American troops left the Syrian Kurds to confront a Turkish offensive alone.

The Syrian and Iraqi Kurds, one official said, provided more intelligence for the raid than any single country.

suggest that in combination, the Zionists and their bought and paid for allies in the US Departments of State and Defense and the CIA, are all seeking to block the President from fulfilling his campaign promise to get our forces out of the Middle East.

Given that al-Baghdadi has been reported dead multiple times, in 2014, in 2015, in 2016, I have to ask myself, is it possible that CIA and DoD and State did not know this? Or that their Middle East action officers are all Zionists, many dual US-Israeli citizens, and some being bribed and blackmailed directly by the Zionists? From where I sit, the President has fallen victim to a grand deception and he has no one – least of all the treasonous FBI – that

he can rely on to protect him from traitors within our own ranks.

At the tactical level there are too many false notes across the entire story, to include dogs, an alleged tunnel with no exit, a site that has clearly been destroyed in the past, instantaneous DNA testing with the samples provided by the Kurds who are controlled by the Zionists, and more. The similarities with the false final Bin Laden raid that led to many US deaths after the fact as part of the cover-up, are startling to include – I am not making this up – throwing the alleged target's body parts into the ocean. I keep waiting for CIA to release a photo of al-Baghdadi's library before the alleged hide-out was allegedly flattened, it would not surprise me at all to learn that the long-dead al-Baghdadi was allegedly reading Team of Vipers, about all the traitors in the White House.

■ This apparently falsified "triumph" against ISIS – and in favor of the Kurds and the US keeping military troops and even tanks on top of the Syrian oil fields – comes just as Trump appears ready to criminally indict Obama, Clapper, Comey, Brennan, McCabe, Strzok, and Page, among others. How do you assess Trump's prospects for the next months?

A. This falsified event will play well across America, and commentators like mine and those of Gordon Duff will not be noticed. For all practical purposes, this event is a political triumph, never mind that it is rooted in lies. The Chinese know this is a fake attack, the Russians know this is a fake attack, by now Trump knows this is a fake attack. There are now media reports that Trump has ordered the release of the video of the alleged attack, when it comes it I expect it will be picked apart the way the video from the Christ Church false flag in New Zealand was picked apart.

On a positive note, my colleague Ben Fulford, a long-time observer of high finance and low crime based on Tokyo, has published "Third (fourth?) death of Mossad agent Shimon Elliot 'al-Baghdadi' actually signifies major Middle East change," and strikes a very upbeat note that I am prepared to embrace. The view of his Pentagon sources is that this event is going to lead to increased US-Russian collaboration in cutting off illegal oil,

arms, human, and drug trafficking in the Middle East that all benefit the Zionists and the Deep State.

You mention the criminal indictments. I published "SPECIAL: Game-Changing Court Filing by Michael Flynn Defense Lawyer Sidney Powell...PLUS DoJ Criminal Inquiry Plus Seth Rich Murder Central Brennan Task Force Plus Stone & Manafort to Get Off?" a few days ago and it has gone viral in part because Sidney Powell, the attorney for my colleague General Michael Flynn, has filed a detailed federal court document that itemizes the many crimes committed by all those seeking to fabricate the narrative of Russian election interference and Donald Trump as a Russian asset. The murder of Seth Rich is now part of the conspiracy led by President Barack Obama, and complicity in murder is on the table for all those who committed treason in mis-directing secret intelligence against then candidate Donald Trump.

I will end on a most positive note: while I would like to see our President do more to defend the US Constitution (especially the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Amendments), to bring all our troops home from all over the world; and to address the huge problems facing the working class and people of faith in the USA, on balance I believe that in the next few months the world will see political, legal, economic, and cultural triumphs by our President that could not have been imagined since the days of John F. Kennedy.

Unlike JFK, our President cannot be assassinated. He will triumph. It is my hope that Iran will understand that behind the political theater and completely apart from our President's continued tolerance of traitors in key positions, there is a house cleaning going on. From election reform to military tribunals to a global currency reset and a national debt jubilee to the reinstatement of family values and civic virtue, "Orange Man" is on a path pre-ordained by God, who absolutely has a sense of humor.

■ You have included two book covers in your collage. How do they bear on the matter at hand?

A. My own book, EYES ONLY, signals the distress that the USA is undergoing, and the need, a need the President acknowledges, to #UNRIG the system. The book consists of two briefings and sixty-eight answers to key questions, all intended to help our President be the greatest president ever. The other book, Orange Man Good, is from America's greatest conservative cartoonist, a man whose life has been destroyed by the Zionists because his cartoons celebrate our President and tell the truth about the Deep State and its Zionist / banker underbelly. If anyone wants to understand the bright future that is emergent in the USA, a future made possible by the accidental election of President Donald Trump, these two books tell that story.

Laugh with us, not against us. Be assured that we conservatives committed to a foreign policy of freedom, a foreign policy of peace, commerce, and honest friendship, see Iran as our friend.

Invite our President to visit Iran. I predict he will accept.

## West scenario to overthrow Iraqi government: A plot that has been foiled

➔ 5. The exploitation of the protests by foreign elements, who have sought revenge of axis of resistance in Iraq, is an important factor that should not be overlooked. In other words, the context prepared for legitimate protests has provided the opportunity for these elements to use all of their financial, media and intelligence facilities, as well as their embassies in Baghdad to reach their goals in three areas, including:



A. Establishing a nationwide revolution to overthrow the current Iraqi government and pave the way for future plans.

B. Defaming the resistance groups and true friends of the Iraq among the youth. These groups have been the most important factor in fighting against Western proxy terrorism and have prevented the fragmentation of the country.

C. Assassination of key and influential figures of the resistance movement.

Accordingly, all the focus of the Western media was to portray traitor as a friend in the public opinion among the youth.

Of course, this scenario reduced the presence of protestors in Baghdad and changed the slogans from "the fall of the government" to "reforms" by clever leadership of the religious authority, government's great measures and cooperation of parties, as well as continued efforts by domestic media to enlighten the public opinion. The important point is that on Friday and Saturday, the main group of protestors separated their way from rioters, following Ayatollah Sistani's statement and trusting government's promises to solve the problems. Therefore, what happened in southern cities was not a demonstration, but brutal attack on parties' headquarters and government departments by infiltrators. It seems that this event, despite all problems, provided some significant opportunities and foiled agitators' plots.

## Iran's Rouhani, Algeria's Bensalah vow to deepen all-out bilateral cooperation

By Hana Saada

**ALGERIA** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani held a meeting, on Friday in Baku, Azerbaijan, with Algeria's Head of State Abdelkader Bensalah, during which both officials stressed on the need to further deepen mutual cooperation.



The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit meeting in the Azeri capital, with delegations from both countries in attendance.

President Rouhani and Head of State Bensalah dubbed relations binding both countries as historic and strategic, underlining the imperative to strengthen and expend them to cover different spheres.

After highlighting the fraternal relations between Algeria and Iran, both sides called for the intensification of efforts to further promote cooperation at the highest level, in accordance with the will of the leaders of the two countries and on the basis of their converging positions on numbers of causes.

In this aspect, they explored the avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating all-out bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic and trade sectors.

For his part, the Algerian official hailed the historic relations between both countries, calling for more cooperation and its promotion at a higher level in the best interests of both peoples.

"I am happy that the two countries have common stances in most of the fields, which should lead to promotion of economic cooperation proportionate to the two countries' capabilities and capacities," he pointed out.

The 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit got underway, Friday, in this capital city of Azerbaijan, gathering the leaders of more than 120 member countries at a time when the world faces new challenges including a trade war.

With the current 120 member countries, 17 observer countries and 10 observer organizations, NAM is the second-largest multilateral platform after the United Nations and provides a broad and inclusive platform for political consultations and practical cooperation, especially that the movement has demonstrated its ability to become an actor in a new world order, based on the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law. An order establishing a solid foundation for partnerships based on mutual interest and respect for the sovereignty and will of countries.

Likewise, it has shown its foresight in the realization of peaceful political solutions with a view to preserving international peace and security.

During their two-day visit to Baku, both officials illustrated, during the international summit, their countries' stances and positions vis-à-vis regional and international developments and issues, including the Palestinian cause.

President Rouhani and Algerian Head of State Bensalah arrived in Baku on Thursday to attend the 18th NAM Summit, responding to the invitation by Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev.

## U.S. must stop subsidizing torture of Palestinian children

By Ramzy Baroud

**ANTIWAR** — In December 2018, 17-year-old Palestinian teen, Ayham Sabah, was sentenced by an Israeli military court to 35 years in prison for his alleged role in a stabbing attack targeting an Israeli soldier in an illegal Jewish settlement in the West Bank. Sabah was only 14 years old when the alleged attack took place. Another alleged attacker, Omar al-Rimawi, also 14, was reportedly shot by undercover Israeli forces in the Shufat refugee camp, in occupied East Jerusalem. He later succumbed to his wounds.

Although the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a "child" as "every human being below the age of eighteen years", Israel chooses not to abide by that definition. In Israel, there are two kinds of children: Israeli children who are 18 years old or younger, and Palestinians children, 16 years and younger.

In Sabah's case, he was detained for years to ensure that he was tried as an "adult" per Israel's skewed legal standards. According to research conducted by the Israeli rights group, B'Tselem, by the end of August 2019, 185 Palestinian children, including two younger than 14 years old were held in various Israeli prisons as "security detainees and prisoners."

Thousands of Palestinian children are constantly being rotated through the Israeli prison system, often accused of "security" offenses, which include taking part in anti-Israeli occupation protests and rallies in the West Bank. The Palestinian Prisoner's Association estimates that at least 6,000 Palestinian children have been detained in Israeli prisons since 2015. In a statement issued last April, the Association, revealed that "98 percent of the children held had been subjected to psychological and/or physical abuse while in Israeli custody" and that many of them were detained "after first being shot and wounded by Israeli troops."

While Gazan children are the ones most likely to lose their lives or get shot by the Israeli army, the children of occupied East Jerusalem are "the most targeted" by Israeli troops in terms of detention or prolonged imprisonment.

In 2016, the US and Israeli governments signed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, whereby, the US

"pledges" to grant Israel \$38 billion in military aid. The previous agreement, which concluded in 2018, gave Israel over \$3 billion per year. Most of the money went to finance Israeli wars and security for illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank. A large portion of that money was, and still is, allocated to subsidize the Israeli prison system and military courts located in occupied Palestine – the kind that regularly detain and torture Palestinian children. Aside from the US government, which has blindly supported Israel's ongoing violations of international law, many governments and rights groups around the world have constantly highlighted Israel's criminally reprehensible treatment of Palestinian children.

In a written submission by Human Rights Watch to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the State of Palestine last March, the group reported that "Palestinian children aged between 12 and 17 years from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, continue to be detained and arrested by Israeli forces."

"Israeli security forces routinely interrogate children without a guardian or lawyer present, use unnecessary force against children during arrest, which often takes place in the middle of the night, and physically abuse them in custody," HRW reported.

While the US government, lawmakers and media often turn a blind eye to such violations, Congresswoman Betty McCollum does not. The representative for Minnesota's 4th congressional district has taken a stand against the prevailing norm in American politics, arguing that Israel must respect the rights of Palestinian children, and that the US government should not be funding Israel's violations of human rights.

On April 30, McCollum introduced House resolution H.R. 2407 – "Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act".

"I am introducing legislation to protect children from abuse, violence, psychological trauma, and torture," she said in her statement to the Congress.

"The legislation I am introducing is expressly intended to end U.S. support and funding for Israel's systematic military detention, interrogation, abuse, torture, and prosecution

of Palestinian children."

By introducing H.R. 2407, McCollum has broken several major taboos in the US government. She unapologetically characterizes Israel's violations of Palestinian rights with all the correct terms – "torture", "abuse", and so on... Moreover, she calls for conditioning US military support for Israel on the latter's respect for human rights. As of November 17, H.R. 2407 has acquired 22 co-sponsors, with Rep. Mark DeSaulnier being the last Congress member to join the list. This is not the first time that McCollum has taken such brave initiatives. In November 2017, she introduced the "Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act" (H.R. 4391). Then, she pushed the bill with the same vigor and moral clarity as today's campaign.

The 2017 bill was not enacted in the previous Congress. McCollum is hoping to change that this time around, and there are good reasons to believe that H.R. 2407 could succeed. One public opinion poll after another points to a shift in US perception of Israel, especially among Democrats and even US Jewish voters. Eager to exploit the political chasm, US President Donald Trump accused Jewish Democrats who don't support Israel of being "disloyal".

"The Democrats have gone very far away from Israel," Trump said last August. "In my opinion, you vote for a Democrat, you're being very disloyal to Jewish people and very disloyal to Israel."

In fact, it seems that an increasing number of American voters are now linking their perception of Israel to their perception of their own polarizing President and his relationship with the equally polarizing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The above reality is now widening the margins of criticism of Israel, whether in the US Congress, media, or other facets of American life which have historically stood on the side of Israel despite the latter's dismal human rights record.

While one hopes that McCollum's congressional bill pays dividends in the service of human rights in Palestine and Israel, one hopes equally that the current shift in American political perceptions continues unhindered.



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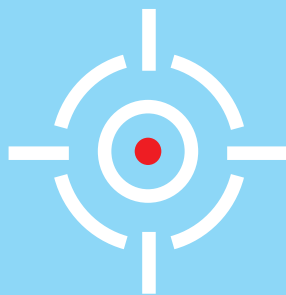
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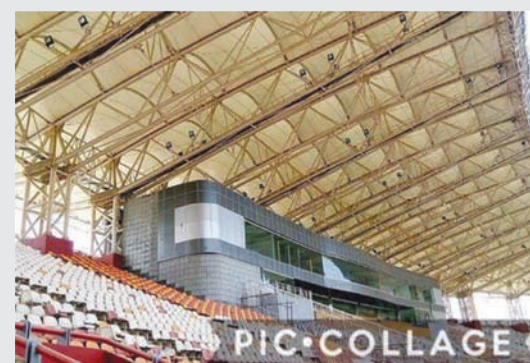
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# NASA plans to send water-hunting robot to Moon surface in 2022

By Joey Roulette

NASA will send a golf cart-sized robot to the Moon in 2022 to search for deposits of water below the surface, an effort to evaluate the vital resource ahead of a planned human return to the Moon in 2024 to possibly use it for astronauts to drink and to make rocket fuel, the U.S. space agency has said.

The VIPER robot will drive for miles (km) on the dusty lunar surface to get a closer look at what NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine has touted for months: underground pockets of “hundreds of millions of tons of water ice” that could help turn the Moon into a jumping-off point to Mars.

“VIPER is going to assess where the water ice is. We’re going to be able to characterize the water ice, and ultimately drill,” Bridenstine said on Friday at the International Astronautical Congress in Washington. “Why is this important? Because water ice represents



something significant. Life support.”

The rover is expected to arrive on the Moon’s south polar region in December 2022,

carrying four instruments to sample lunar soil for traces of hydrogen and oxygen - the basic components of water that can be separated

and synthesized into fuel for a planned fleet of commercial lunar launch vehicles.

In development at NASA’s Ames Research Center in California, the VIPER robot will log “about 100 days of data that will be used to inform the first global water resource maps of the Moon,” NASA said in announcing the plans.

NASA is in the process of kickstarting its Artemis program, an accelerated mission to put people back on the Moon for the first time since the 1970s to train and prove technologies that would later be sent on a Mars mission. Scientists have eyed lunar water as a key resource for enabling long-duration astronaut missions on the Moon, though its form and exact amount are unknown. VIPER will aim to find out.

NASA crashed a rocket onto the Moon’s south pole in 2009 to confirm traces of lunar water ice in the plume of dust kicked up upon impact.

## Astronomers just found what may be the smallest dwarf planet in the Solar System

To be officially counted as a dwarf planet, there are four requirements that a piece of rock in space has to meet, according to the International Astronomical Union.

It has to be in orbit around the Sun; but not around a planet (so, not a moon); it can’t have cleared the neighborhood of its orbit; and it must have enough mass that it has attained hydrostatic equilibrium - that is, it’s more or less round in shape.

There are lots and lots of bodies in the Solar System that meet the first three requirements - like, the entire main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. But new observations of one of the largest chunks of rock in that belt show that, wahey - it might just meet all four!

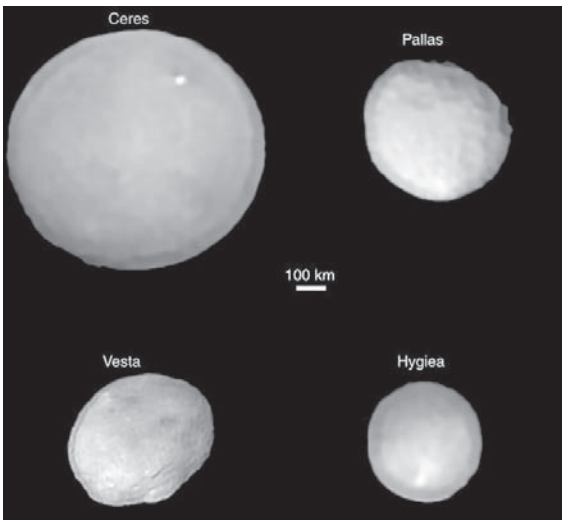
Its name is Hygiea, and it’s the fourth-largest asteroid in the belt, behind dwarf planet Ceres (945 kilometers, or 587 miles, in diameter), and asteroids Vesta (525 kilometers) and Pallas (512 kilometers).

Until now, though, it was poorly studied and understood - thought to be a roughly oblong chunk of rock with diameters of 350 kilometers one way and 500 kilometers the other way, and with a giant impact crater scooped out of one side. New observations using the Very Large Telescope are now table-flipping all of that.

“Thanks to the unique capability of the SPHERE instrument on the VLT, which is one of the most powerful imaging systems in the world, we could resolve Hygiea’s shape, which turns out to be nearly spherical,” said astronomer Pierre Vernazza from the Laboratoire d’Astrophysique de Marseille in France.

“Thanks to these images, Hygiea may be reclassified as a dwarf planet, so far the smallest in the Solar System.”

According to the new measurements, Hygiea is just over 430 kilometer’s in diameter, with a rotation rate of around 13.8 hours. We already knew that it had a similar surface composition to Ceres, and a similarly low density, but the



new observations show it’s also nearly as spherical as its larger sibling.

The lack of an impact crater, though, is truly interesting. Sharing Hygiea’s orbit are around 7,000 small objects of similar compositions. Hygiea is the largest body in this group, so it’s called the Hygiea family of asteroids. It’s thought that the family formed about 2 billion years ago, when a large impact sent debris from Hygiea flying into an asteroid swarm.

Something similar happened to Vesta to create the Vesta family, and Vesta has the impressive impact scars to show for it.

However, after scouring the VLT images, the research team only found two unambiguous impact craters on

Hygiea; teeny-tiny piddling impact craters, nothing like Vesta’s giant wounds.

“Neither of these two craters could have been caused by the impact that originated the Hygiea family of asteroids, whose volume is comparable to that of a 100 km-sized object. They are too small,” said astronomer Miroslav Brož of the Astronomical Institute of Charles University in the Czech Republic.

What a conundrum! But this is where computer simulations are really useful. Behold.

The team ran a bunch of simulations, and this is the scenario that produced a shape like Hygiea’s, and a family of asteroids. Around 2 billion years ago, something between 75 and 150 kilometers in diameter slammed right into a large chunk of rock.

The large chunk was utterly pulverized. Bits of debris went flying off, but the main mass of hot molten chunks collapsed back together. As they cooled and hardened, they reformed into a nearly perfect sphere.

If this is what went down, it would be the only known collision like this in the Solar System. But, however it formed, Hygiea is set to change things.

It’s just over half the size of Ceres, the previous smallest known dwarf planet in the Solar System. And it may be the smallest Solar System body known to have achieved hydrostatic equilibrium, which gives us a more detailed understanding of the phenomenon; at 396 kilometers in diameter, Saturn’s moon Mimas isn’t quite large enough, so Hygiea is cutting it close.

If it is officially designated a dwarf planet, it broadens the range of sizes at which these objects can be found, which means there could be way more dwarf planets out there than we thought, beyond the orbit of Neptune.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

## Jim Bridenstine: “I believe Pluto is a planet”



Jim Bridenstine, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said Friday that he believes Pluto should be classified as a planet.

“I am here to tell you, as the NASA Administrator, I believe Pluto should be a planet,” he said, to applause, during a speech at the International Astronautical Congress in Washington, D.C.

“I like there being nine planets, how about that?” he added later, noting Pluto’s buried ocean, moons and multilayered atmosphere.

Pluto was stripped of its planet status in 2006 when the International Astronomical Union (IAU) made the controversial decision to downgrade it to a “dwarf planet.”

Bridenstine, a former Oklahoma congressman, has voiced support for classifying Pluto as a planet in the past.

“You can write that the NASA administrator declared Pluto a planet once again,” he said during an August speech at the University of Colorado. “I’m sticking by that. It’s the way I learned it and I’m committed to it.”

There’s an ongoing debate within the science community as to how to label Pluto.

A group of researchers argued in a paper published last year that the IAU’s reasoning for declassifying Pluto is in valid.

The IAU defines a planet as a celestial body that “has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit,” meaning the mass must be the largest gravitational force in its orbit.

(Source: msn)

## Secretive military spaceplane lands in Florida after record-long orbital flight



The Pentagon’s secretive X-37B spaceplane landed in Florida on Sunday after a record-long orbital flight lasting more than two years, the U.S. Air Force said, capping the latest test mission for an array of military technologies.

The unpiloted X-37B, built by Boeing Co., touched down on an air strip at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center at 3:51 a.m. ET after spending 780 days orbiting Earth as the Air Force’s fifth flight mission under the Orbital Test Vehicle program, the Air Force said.

The spaceplane, roughly the size of a small bus and sharing many design features with NASA’s Space Shuttle, was sent into orbit in 2017 atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, embarking on a mission managed by the Washington-based Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office to conduct various

classified technology experiments in a long-duration space environment.

“The X-37B continues to demonstrate the importance of a reusable spaceplane,” Barbara Barrett, the newly appointed Air Force secretary, said in a statement. “Each successive mission advances our nation’s space capabilities.”

The previous X-37B mission lasted 718 days and landed in 2017. Sunday morning’s landing tallied 2,865 total days for the program overall, the Air Force said.

The Pentagon, increasingly reliant on space technologies, recently created the U.S. Space Command and is asking Congress to approve funding for a proposed Space Force, which would serve as a new branch of the military.

(Source: Reuters)

## Google unveils quantum computer breakthrough; critics say wait a qubit

Alphabet Inc’s Google said it had achieved a breakthrough in computing research by using a quantum computer to solve in minutes a complex problem that would take today’s most powerful supercomputer thousands of years to crack.

Google researchers expect that quantum computers within a few years will fuel advancements in fields such as artificial intelligence, materials science, and chemistry. The company is racing rivals including IBM Corp and Microsoft Corp to be the first to commercialize the technology and sell it through its cloud computing business.



“We’re hoping that when people start using this and looking at performance stability and cloud interface, they’ll get really excited about what we have to offer at Google,” John Martinis, the company’s chief scientist for quantum hardware, told reporters.

The breakthrough was described in a paper here published in science journal Nature. It followed weeks of controversy since a draft leaked over whether Google’s claim of “quantum supremacy” was valid.

IBM said a supercomputer employing a different set-up could solve the same challenge in under three days, while chipmaker Intel said “quantum practicality” remained years away.

Google defended its position, but did not dispute rivals’ contentions. It has manufactured a handful of chips with 54 ‘qubits’, vastly more powerful than the standard 64-bit chip in many consumer devices. However, for the technology to be useful to customers it would need to make chips with thousands of qubits.

Martinis said Google sees “a pathway” to a computer with 1,000 qubits and expressed confidence that it had a reliable process to make its new chip, dubbed Sycamore.

The U.S. and Chinese governments have led in the burgeoning quantum technology field, pledging billions of dollars in funding to corporate and state researchers to fast-track quantum development and mitigate possible issues, including the tech’s expected ability to break digital encryption.

Google has been among the beneficiaries of the American support. “The United States has taken a great leap forward in quantum computing,” said U.S. chief technology officer Michael Kratsios on Wednesday.

For decades, computer scientists have sought to harness quantum physics, laws governing the behavior of particles that are smaller than atoms and can simultaneously exist in different states.

Quantum bits, or qubits, can be set to one and zero at the same time, unlike today’s computer bits that are either ones or zeros. This superposition property multiplies exponentially as qubits become entangled with each other, meaning the more qubits connected, the vastly more powerful a quantum computer becomes.

But there is a catch: Quantum researchers need to cool qubits to about absolute zero (-273 degrees Celsius or -460 degrees Fahrenheit) to limit vibration - or “noise” - that causes errors in calculations. It is in this challenging task that Google, which has designed much of its own electronics and used liquid helium for cooling, has made significant progress.

CEO Sundar Pichai compared the achievement to building the first rocket to leave Earth’s atmosphere and touch the edge of space, an advance that brought interplanetary travel into the realm of the possible. Sycamore, measuring about 10 mm (0.39 inch) across, is made using aluminum and indium parts sandwiched between two silicon wafers. In their experiment this year, the researchers were able to get 53 of Sycamore’s qubits to interact in a quantum state.

They then had the quantum computer detect patterns in a series of seemingly random numbers, and it succeeded in 3 minutes and 20 seconds. They estimated that the same problem would take 10,000 years for a Summit supercomputer - the most powerful in the world today - to solve.

While the peer-reviewed research has drawn plaudits, with MIT’s William D. Oliver comparing it to the Wright brothers’ first flights, skeptics say Google is over-selling its achievement.

IBM said a supercomputer with additional disk storage can solve the random number problem in at most 2-1/2 days and with greater accuracy. It also said Google risked misleading the public by implying the new-style computers would replace existing ones.

Torsten Siebert, manager of the quantum computing research program at Germany’s Fraunhofer Society, agreed that “progress was likely to be achieved through such hybrid combinations.”

Researchers also have expressed concern about quantum computers being used, for example, to unseal secure data and passwords or enable new forms of surveillance.

But before quantum computers can break codes, security experts have plenty of time to adapt, Martinis said.

“We’re pretty confident we’ll all stay safe and secure in the future,” he said.

(Source: Reuters)

## Photo of Sun resembling a jack-o’-lantern released

Halloween isn’t just celebrated on planet Earth, according to a photo shared by NASA that shows the Sun resembling a flaming jack-o’-lantern.

On Sunday, the space agency shared a photo of the Sun’s 2014 Halloween look on social media, and it is easy to see the similarities between the star at the center of the Solar System and a pumpkin.

“Even our star celebrates the spooky season,” NASA captioned the photo. “In 2014, active regions on the sun created this jack-o’-lantern face, as seen in ultraviolet light by our Solar Dynamics Observatory satellite.”

According to NASA, the active regions appear “brighter” because those are areas that emit more light and energy.

“They are markers of an intense and complex set of magnetic fields hovering in the sun’s atmosphere, the corona,” the space agency explained.

This image of the sun is fitting for the holiday because it “blends together two sets of extreme ultraviolet wavelengths at 171 and 193 Ångströms, typically colorized in gold and yellow, to create a particularly Halloween-like appearance.”

(Source: The Independent)

## Making connections: Bringing astrophysical processes down to Earth

Magnetic reconnection, a process in which magnetic field lines tear and come back together, releasing large amounts of kinetic energy, occurs throughout the universe. The process gives rise to auroras, solar flares and geomagnetic storms that can disrupt cell phone service and electric grids on Earth. A major challenge in the study of magnetic reconnection, however, is bridging the gap between these large-scale astrophysical scenarios and small-scale experiments that can be done in a lab.

Researchers have now overcome this barrier through a combination of clever experiments and cutting-edge simulations. In doing so, they have uncovered a previously unknown role for a universal process called the “Biermann battery effect,” which turns out to impact magnetic reconnection in unexpected ways.

The Biermann battery effect, a possible seed for the magnetic fields pervading our universe, generates an electric current that produces these fields. The surprise findings, made through computer simulations, show the effect can play a significant role in the reconnection occurring when the Earth’s magnetosphere interacts with astrophysical plasmas. The effect first generates magnetic field lines, but then reverses roles and cuts them like scissors slicing a rubber band. The sliced fields then reconnect away from the original reconnection point.

The simulations modeled the results of experiments in China that studied high-energy-density plasmas -- matter under extreme states of pressure. The experiments used lasers to blast a pair of plasma bubbles from a solid metal target. Simulations of the three-dimensional plasma traced

the expansion of the bubbles and the magnetic fields that the Biermann effect created, tracking the collision of the fields to produce magnetic reconnection. Researchers performed these simulations on the Titan supercomputer at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The results “provide a new platform for replicating the reconnection observed in astrophysical plasmas in the laboratory,” said Jackson Matteucci, a graduate student in the Plasma Physics program at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory who led the research.

By bridging the traditional gap between laboratory experiments and astrophysical processes, these results open a new chapter in efforts to understand the universe.

(Source: Science Daily)



## Handicrafts worth over \$12m exported to Iraq via Mehran border in H1

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — Iran exported more than \$12 million of handicrafts to neighboring Iraq through Mehran border in the first half the current Iranian calendar year (Mar. 21-Sep. 22), CHTN reported.



“During the first six months of the year, handicrafts, worth more than 12 million [U.S.] dollars, have been exported to Iraq via Mehran border,” Ilam province’s tourism chief said on Monday. Embossed kilim-carpets and wool felt products constituted the lion’s share of the exports, the official noted.

Currently, 33 fields of handicraft are practiced in 120 workshops across the province, generating jobs for many jobseekers directly or indirectly, the official said.

Handicrafts exports from the Islamic Republic reached \$289 million in the past Iranian calendar year 1397 (ended March 20), showing three percent growth year on year, according to official data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

## Travel medicine planning often skips contraception

When women visit travel medicine clinics before a trip, analysis of their pre-journey health needs often doesn’t cover contraception options and availability, a new paper warns.

Women who visit these clinics are told about vaccines and infectious diseases they might encounter, but it’s also important to discuss contraceptive methods, emergency options and potential gynecological issues, writes Dr. Sarah Borwein of the TravelSafe Medical Centre in Hong Kong in the Journal of Travel Medicine.

“We routinely recommend travelers carry self-treatment for travelers’ diarrhea, for example, but do not routinely recommend that women carry self-treatment for urinary tract or yeast infections, both which occur commonly during travel, are very unpleasant, and can be difficult to find treatment for,” Borwein told Reuters Health in an email.

“There are many options for contraception and managing ‘female issues’ during travel,” she added. “Not liking the pill is not a reason to skip contraception.”

Borwein says every travel medicine appointment should include consideration of contraception. Although few data exist about unintended pregnancies associated specifically with travel, travel medicine experts report that a significant number of travelers engage in casual sex, she said. Pre-travel appointments should include discussions about sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, contraceptive methods, menstrual issues and complications such as urinary tract or yeast infections, she added.

(Source: Reuters)



## ROUND THE GLOBE

### Medina of Sousse

Sousse was an important commercial and military port during the Aghlabid period (800–909) and is a typical example of a town dating from the first centuries of Islam.

Located in the Tunisian Sahel, the Medina of Sousse constitutes a harmonious archaeological complex that reflects Arabo-Muslim urbanism applied to a coastal town exposed through its history to piracy and dangers from the sea.

With the Medina of Monastir, it constitutes the unique prototype of military coastal architecture of the first centuries of Islam that has been passed down to us.



Several monuments of the medina bear witness to this robust, ascetic and imposing architecture, notably the Ribat, the Great Mosque, the Bou Ftata Mosque, the Kasbah and the ramparts.

The Ribat, both a fort and a religious building, is an eminent example of this type of construction. The Medina also comprises juxtaposed dwellings divided into quarters that separate the winding alleys and narrow paths, a fast disappearing type of layout threatened by modern life and the evolution of architectural techniques.

It also contains an ensemble of unique monuments dating from Aghlabid and Fatimid times, enabling study of the evolution of Islamic art in its first period.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Fossilized tooth is first evidence Neanderthals once lived in Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A fossilized tooth found decades ago in the Zagros Mountains, western Iran, proves that Neanderthals once lived in the country, *ARCHAEOLOGY* magazine, a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America, has said, citing it as one of the ten most important archaeological findings in 2019.

“It turns out that a fossilized tooth found decades ago in the Zagros Mountains did not belong to a modern human as previously thought, but rather to a Neanderthal child who lived between 70,000 and 40,000 years ago,” the magazine wrote in an article dedicated to world roundups of the year.

“A recent reexamination using modern techniques established the new dating and identification. The researchers say it is the first evidence that Neanderthals once lived in this area of present-day Iran. The species roamed across much of Europe and Western Asia before going extinct 40,000 years ago.”

It also cited other discoveries that were made in Canada, Mexico, Ireland, England, China and four other places.

The new finding was published earlier in August in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, suggesting that Neanderthals were roaming at the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

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

According to the Public Relations unit of the Iran National Museum, the results of the study by paleoanthropologists and archeologists at the Iran National Museum, University of Poitiers, University of Bordeaux, Iran’s Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and Bioarchaeology Laboratory of the Uni-



A March 20, 2009 photo shows reconstructions of a Neanderthal man, left, and woman, at the Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann, Germany.

versity of Tehran confirmed the existence of Neanderthals in Iran.

Jebrael Nokandeh, director of the Iran National Museum, said the results of this new study that were published this week in the international “*Journal of Human Evolution*” definitely prove that Neanderthals lived in the Zagros region. He further said that given the importance of the results of this discovery, the tooth will soon be displayed in the Paleolithic Gallery of the Iran National Museum.

According to Fereidoun Biglari, head of the Paleolithic Unit of the Museum and co-author of the article, this premolar tooth belongs to a Neanderthal child who

was between six and ten years old at the time of death. He added that the tooth was discovered during the Islamabad Archeological Research Project, led by Kamyar Abdi in the late 1990s. This human tooth has been studied several times since then using various methods.

In a recent study, Biglari said the specimen was re-analyzed by Roberto Macchiarelli and Clement Zanolli by X-ray micro-CT imaging that revealed the inner structure of the tooth, especially the enamel-dentine junction which aligns the tooth closely with Neanderthals and shows that it is distinct from modern humans. He added,

therefore, this tooth is the first direct evidence of the Neanderthal presence in the Iranian Zagros.

Biglari said since the Neanderthals were extinct before 40,000 years ago, and the earliest dated animal remains from the Wezmeh Cave is about 70,000 years old, this individual lived in the region during that time period.

*ARCHAEOLOGY* has been published continuously for more than 70 years by the Archaeological Institute of America, which is dedicated to supporting archaeological inquiry and to fostering the pursuit of knowledge about human heritage

## UNESCO assessors to visit Uraman landscape in western Iran

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** — A team of experts affiliated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is scheduled to visit Iran assessing Uraman landscape for possibly listing of the historical region as a World Heritage.

Houshang Bazvand, the governor general of the western Kermanshah province on Saturday said that a dossier on Uraman landscape has previously been submitted to the UN cultural body, Mehr reported.

Saying that UNESCO has already agreed with the case of Uraman, Bazvand added that the UNESCO experts are expected to pay a visit to the region in the near future.

The official also pointed out that tourism can play a significant role in the economic development of the western province, adding the Uraman region is a natural region untouched by humans with a lot of sceneries that can help tourism blossoming industry in the province.

Local officials believe that inscription of the property on the prestigious list of the UN body could jumpstart tourism in the region and also look at it as a tool for better conservation of its natural landscapes and unique



A view of the Uraman landscape in western Iran

cultural scenes for the next generations, saying its unique rural texture, architecture, lifestyle and agriculture is a prominent example of integration of man into the nature.

Tourism development can lay a ground for accelerating economic development across the province, Bazvand noted.

Some eighty experts in various fields compiled and developed the dossier in terms of anthropology, archeology and history, natural sciences, architecture, historical documents and other related fields, IRNA reported earlier this month.

Uraman is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Pirshalyar, which is named after a legendary local figure, is amongst time-honored celebrations and rituals that are practiced annually across the region.

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad county, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

## 6 universal etiquette tips for anyone who exercises while traveling

By Chris Castellano

Have you ever seen someone working out in the airport terminal? Or using the airplane as his or her own personal gymnasium? If you travel frequently, the chances are pretty good you have.

Fitness is a way of life for many people, including those who fly often. Many travelers struggle to find time to exercise and must get creative, so an airport terminal during a long layover might just do the trick. And there are plenty of leisure travelers who would never consider skipping a workout.

I love to stay fit while I travel. Exercise is part of my daily routine at home, and that doesn’t change when I’m traveling. But people who work out on the road need to keep a few rules of conduct in mind — otherwise you could find yourself on Passenger Shaming’s naughty list.

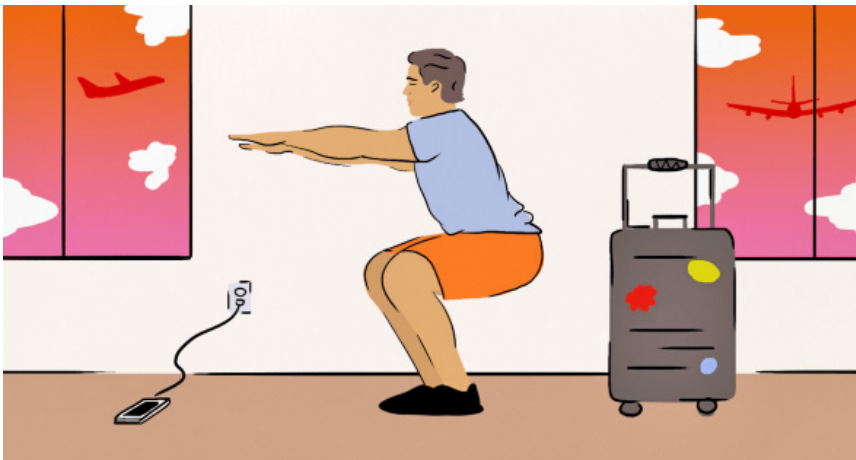
### ■ Freshen up after a workout

That person you saw at the gate doing wall sits could very well be sitting next to you on your flight, so let’s hope he or she freshens up before boarding. Working out in the airport is a great way to pass the time during an extended layover, but you need to make sure you carve out time for hygiene. No one wants to sit next to a sweaty person on a plane, especially in economy.

Many airport lounges — including a handful of top Priority Pass lounges in the U.S. — have showers, so if you’re planning to exercise and have access to a lounge, take a post-workout shower. If that’s not an option, at least bring a change of clothes and body wipes with you. It’ll only take a few minutes, and your seatmate will thank you.

### ■ Be mindful of your fellow travelers

When working out, be considerate of



those around you in the airport, hotel or anywhere else your travels may take you. Stay out of the way of people in a hurry to make their flights, especially if you feel the need to do lunges or air squats on the moving walkway in the terminal. (I’ve seen it happen.)

That also means keeping your shoes on (bare feet are just as gross at the airport as they are on the airplane); trying to avoid excessive grunting and other noises; and getting too sweaty. If you’re working out in the airport, for example, keep the intensity down a bit. I’m not saying you shouldn’t push yourself, but be aware of your perspiration. Shed some layers if need be, and make sure you’re not dripping sweat everywhere.

### ■ Don’t force your fitness routine on others

Let’s not force our workouts on anyone who isn’t interested. Many leisure travelers want nothing to do with physical exertion while on vacation, and that’s fine. Let them enjoy their vacation the way they wish to.

If you can’t resist working out, do your thing. But don’t make others feel like they should be doing it too.

### ■ Keep the noise down

How would you feel if you were trying to get some sleep in a hotel room and the person directly above you was jumping around in their room?

Burpees, for example, are a great travel exercise. They’re very effective for everything from fat loss to muscle growth, and they require no equipment. But there’s a time and a place for them. That goes for jumping jacks, jump squats, jumping lunges or jumping anything. If it requires your feet to leave the ground, save it for when you’re on the ground floor.

The same thing goes for early morning and late-night workouts. We all deal with busy schedules when traveling, so you may have to exercise before the sun comes up or at the end of the day. That’s fine, but just remember that those burpees make a lot of noise and your neighbors might be sleeping.

And, again, no matter where you are, try to keep the shouting, grunting and yelling to a minimum. Also, though it may seem obvious, not everyone wants to listen to your hardcore gym playlist, so use headphones. Many hotel gyms even offer them for free.

### ■ Never wake your travel partners for a workout

A lot of fitness enthusiasts like to start their day with a workout. Whether it’s going for a run, swimming laps in the pool or using the hotel gym, many of us workout “junkies” are early risers. But when you’re traveling with others, keep in mind that it’s best to not wake them because you can’t find your running shoes.

If you’re staying in a room with others, here’s some advice: Lay out your workout clothes, supplements, headphones and anything else you’re going to use during your workout the night before. Set your phone alarm to vibrate and keep your phone close by (this has never failed me). Get up, make as little noise as possible, get ready for your workout and get out the door as quietly as you can.

### ■ Don’t treat the airplane like your home gym

Simple stretches are great for long flights, as are easy, unobtrusive exercises (think: taking a stroll around the cabin when the pilot turns off the seatbelt sign). Staying active on an airplane can make the flight more comfortable, and keep the blood flowing. But as a general rule of thumb, never block the aisle or disrupt your neighbors. That means you won’t be leading any yoga classes in the galley, using the aisle for walking lunges or practicing any stretches that involve banging into your seatmates.

(Source: MSN)



# How Reuters aids U.S. government’s propaganda campaign against Iran

By Ali Radmanesh

**TEHRAN** — A 2013 Reuters report on Iran’s Setad has been cited in four books and was recently used to justify more sanctions on Iran by Mike Pompeo, but a look into the report’s sources and accuracy reveal questionable journalism and a clear agenda.

Given the article’s importance, this article will scrutinize flaws in reporting practices and raise reasonable questions about several of its findings. The article will also mention important historical context that was long assumed, but made official in 2013 - the same year the story was published - when the U.S. government released classified documents about its involvement in the overthrow of Iran’s democratically elected leader in 1953. The purpose of this article is not to tarnish reputation of a news agency – but to simply lay out an alternative context for interpreting a single, influential story.

Ever since the victory of the Iranian revolution, the United States has been leading a propaganda campaign against Iran, downplaying her own harmful role in key historical events, whitewashing an ousted monarchist regime, and demonizing the new political system, Ivan Kescic writes for Strategic Culture. Frequently, the operation is carried out in lighter forms, for example by claiming that new government is far from perfect or even the same as a previous one, but the methods can sometimes be so radical that the characteristics of the two systems are completely inverted.

While the Reuters claims Iran is active in spreading disinformation online, the history of the agency’s reports about Iran shows the opposite. The latest of such reports is a false report about Iran’s missile program. The falsehood of the article has been dissected here. The case which he has dissected is a 2013 article authored by Steve Stecklow, Babak Dehghanpisheh, and Yeganeh Torbati. The article represents a perfect example of such radicalism and disinformation reporting about Iran.

The Reuters report has been cited by at least four books published one after another, the most recently in 2018. The books are “Iran’s Political Economy since the Revolution” by Suzanne Maloney (2015); “Democracy in Iran: Why It Failed and How It Might Succeed” by Misagh Parsa (2016); “Challenging Theocracy: Ancient Lessons for Global Politics” by David Tabachnick, Toivo Koivukoski, and Herminio Meireles Teixeira (2018); and “Losing Legitimacy: The End of Khomeini’s Charismatic Shadow and Regional Security” by Clifton W. Sherrill (2018).

The chorus doesn’t stop there and it’s not limited to academic publishing or book industry. The 2013 report lays the ground for an ongoing war of words and decisions to impose more sanctions on Iran. Speaking at Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library in July 22, 2018, Secretary of State Mark Pompeo used the 2013 Reuters report to attack Iran; he said: “And not many people know this, but the Ayatollah Khamenei has his own personal, off-the-books hedge fund called the Setad, worth \$95 billion, with a B. That wealth is untaxed, it is ill-gotten, and it is used as a slush fund for the IRGC. The ayatollah fills his coffers by devouring whatever he wants. In 2013 the Setad’s agents banished an 82-year-old Baha’i woman from her apartment and confiscated the property after a long campaign of harassment. Seizing land from religious minorities and political rivals is just another day at the office for this juggernaut that has interests in everything from real estate to telecoms to ostrich farming. All of it is done with the blessing of Ayatollah Khamenei.” The speech applauded by Iran hawks in Washington.

The year 2013 was the year of big news about Iran. Four months before the release of the Reuters’ article, CIA finally admitted its role in 1953 Iranian coup. “Marking the sixtieth anniversary of the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq, the National



Security Archive is today posting recently declassified CIA documents on the United States’ role in the controversial operation. American and British involvement in Mosaddeq’s ouster has long been public knowledge, but today’s posting includes what is believed to be the CIA’s first formal acknowledgement that the agency helped to plan and execute the coup.” Disinformation is dangerous. It used once to oust democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh, and has been leveraged again to bring back the Shah of Iran, William David Pear writes. He continues, “Since Iran was a developing democracy, an excuse had to be found for a US intervention. Churchill accused Mossadegh of being a communist. There was no evidence that he was. Mossadegh was an anti-colonial nationalist who cared about the welfare of the Iranian people, and that was all the evidence that Eisenhower needed. Mossadegh had to be punished for standing up to the British and demanding Iran’s natural resources for the benefit of the Iranian people.” The 2013 article of Reuters reminds us of the same pattern of disinformation about Iran.

The 2013 Reuters story claims that the Execution of Imam Khomeini’s Order (EIKO), also known as Setad, a little-known organization created to help the poor, morphed into the \$95 billion financial empire controlled by Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. More precisely, they uncovered something unknown to Western intelligence services, economists and most prominent scholars of Iranian studies, even to the Iranian leadership themselves. In fact, much to the contrary, among ordinary Iranians the organization is known for their social programs, helping the poor families and doing charity works.

According to the Reuters article, the Iranian president’s office and the Foreign Ministry didn’t respond to requests for comment. Iran’s embassy in the UAE issued a statement calling their findings “scattered and disparate” and said that “none has any basis,” but it didn’t elaborate. Hamid Vaezi, the Setad’s then director general of public relations, said that the information presented is “far from realities and is not correct,” but he also didn’t go into specifics. Their short denials are understandable, considering that the same response would be received from a scientist if asked to make a serious review of a fantasy book. For the same reason, there is no scientific review of Reuters’ article. Fortunately, this review will go deeply into the details, focusing on personal testimonies and claims of several groups of informers, thus developing a linear counter-story.

**Ever since the victory of the Iranian revolution, the United States has been leading a propaganda campaign against Iran, downplaying her own harmful role in key historical events, and demonizing the new political system**

## ■ Baha’i personal testimonies

First, there’s the story of Pari Vahdat-e-Hagh, an 82-year-old Baha’i woman living in Europe, who claims that she lost family’s property, more precisely three apartments in a multi-story building in Tehran, allegedly “built with the blood of herself and her husband.” She further claims that her husband Hussein was imprisoned in 1981 because he began working for a gas company that had been set up to assist unemployed members of the Baha’i faith, and finally executed a year later. All of this happened, as the article claims, just because they were Baha’i.

The article does not mention the fact that her husband, the alleged philanthropist, was actually a lieutenant in Pahlavi regime’s military. It neither mentions the conditions for obtaining such amount of property in Iran’s capital city center at that time. Ordinary military personnel were provided with an apartment, but not three apartments, nor was it possible to earn such vast properties with a salary of a lieutenant and teacher, no matter how hard you work. Miss Vahdat-e-Hagh explicitly stated that all had been obtained by herself and her husband, so it’s very easy to exclude the possibility of inheritance.

The only way of being awarded with three apartments was, in fact, an extraordinary and obedient service to the Pahlavi’s regime, and taking into account that Hussein Vahdat-e-Hagh’s career was military as well as the only war that Shah led was one against his own people, his merits to the dictatorship become crystal clear. This also perfectly explains why Hussein Vahdat-e-Hagh was imprisoned and executed, while tens of thousands of other Baha’is and hundreds of ordinary lieutenants, those without ‘special merits’ and three apartments, were not. In other words, the only blood that Vahdat-e-Hagh mentioned can be the blood of the people and the blood on her husband’s hands. Fake philanthropy and contradictions do not stop here.

Pari Vahdat-e-Hagh, also known as Paridokht Khaze, lives in Berlin where she earns a living by giving interviews and selling memoirs about the Baha’i victimhood. In the preface of her 2014 book titled “In Search of Justice,” Vahdat-e-Hagh claimed that before the 1979 revolution she had hoped to one day fulfill her dream of serving the needy in Africa. Before selling fictitious biographies, according to her own personal testimony to Reuters, during the 1980s she was living in one of the above-mentioned three apartments and was earning by renting other two. During these years of war the country was full of orphans and the poor, but giving any free accommodation

was obviously out of the question for a self-proclaimed philanthropist.

Her lucrative rental business continued in the 1990s when she was living in Germany, taking the rental income out of all three apartments. According to the Reuters article, she left Iran in 1993 and it took six years before Iranian authorities realized she was no longer living in the country. This information contradicts her other statement that government representatives came to her apartment and threatened to beat her if she did not leave, while she bravely opposed them and yelled: “You can come and kill me.” So this old lady, allegedly under constant pressure and control, indeed left her apartment and was further able to leave the country, and the government, allegedly so greedy for her properties that it sent thugs at her doors, did not even notice that she’s out of the country and renting the same properties for six years. Makes perfect sense, isn’t it?

In both the Reuters article and the Vahdat-e-Hagh’s memoirs, her departure from Iran is described as some sort of “courageous escape” typical for a dissident genre, from books to Hollywood movies. In reality, she was free to leave the country and there was no any ban, no control, no chase at the airport. In the Reuters article, her false courage and principles are additionally enhanced by claims that government finally discovered her absence and demanded to pay rent on the unit, but she refused. The reality is again quite the opposite: she was actually refusing to pay tax on the rental income profit for six years, and in the meantime, she did not even report the change of address i.e. living abroad. Putting aside the controversial origin of properties, the consequences of such long-term lawbreaking are pretty much identical all over the world.

The Reuters’ caricature story of courage and injustice ends with a claim that Vahdat-e-Hagh’s “stolen” building appears to be vacant, most of the windows are broken, and property’s ownership isn’t clear. This rumors allegedly came from merchants in the neighborhood, but how three Reuters journalists based in New York, London and Dubai managed to obtain the information in the streets of Tehran, also isn’t clear. Even less clear is their message, which may imply either that the building remains unused since Vahdat-e-Hagh stopped renting it, or it is basically worthless. Both possibilities make the whole story even less credible than it already is. Most likely, it is only a dystopian allegory or their own fantasy conception of post-revolutionary Iran.

Besides the story of Vahdat-e-Haghs, the Reuters article also offers the story of Katirais, yet another Baha’i family, whose narrative is similar in terms of structure. Again, there’s a rented three-story building in central Tehran, owner’s emigration to Canada, controversial ties to the Pahlavi regime, and of course, “just because they’re Baha’i” cliché. Apart from the building, there’re also 750 hectares of land around the city of Hamedan in northwest Iran. The Iranian official version says that owner had left the country and had abandoned properties, as well as that prior to 1979 he collaborated with the Pahlavi government, while owner’s daughter Heideh Katirai claims that he was being targeted solely because of his religion and never had any ties to the Shah’s government. Now, who to trust?

Making a choice on this question is much easier if we consider there was the Shah’s White Revolution of 1963 which its purpose was to weaken those classes that supported the traditional system, primarily landlord elites. Virtually all landlords lost their possessions, with only a few exceptions, i.e. just those with close ties to the government were spared. Taking also into account that the general status of Baha’i during the Pahlavi period was far from thriving, the claim that a Baha’i person without any connections to the Shah’s regime could keep 750 hectares of land and stay intact by land reforms, is clearly an insolent lie.

(To be continued)

## Fake news: emotions and experiences, not more data, could be the antidote

By David Knights, Torkild Thanem

**THECONVERSATION** — At a time when public debate around the world is suffering from a collision between facts and “alternative facts”, experts must find new ways to reach people.

According to the Washington Post, Donald Trump has made more than 12,000 false or misleading statements since becoming US president. Despite this, he remains immensely popular with his own political base, which is energised by his emotional and often aggressive displays. No amount of raw data appears capable of changing their minds.

In the UK, prime minister Boris Johnson is adopting a similar approach. Despite an already dubious reputation in matters personal and professional, and a number of questionable actions since becoming prime minister, including the unlawful prorogation of parliament, he continues to excite political supporters with his ostensible charm and aggressive rhetoric of grit and determination. Similarly, he rarely lets facts get in the way of his message.

No doubt Trump and Johnson are passionate when they speak, but they seem to care little about the truth. Both incessantly repeat their exaggerated, if not always wholly inaccurate, arguments. They routinely exploit their own gut feelings, use animated gestures to make unfounded claims and dismiss experts and facts that contradict their views. This is the dark side of a political world which often thrives on hatred, greed and arrogance, resistance to facts and a short-circuiting of reason and rationality.



## ■ Facts aren’t enough

While it may seem fitting to challenge post-truth politics with quantitative research, statistical data and hard facts, this is unlikely always to be sufficient – at least not when confronting emotive societal problems, such as Brexit or climate change.

Since facts and expert knowledge are frequently dismissed as “fake news” or drowned out in a deluge of “alternative facts”, simply offering more data and facts may not work against politicians and people who show resistance to facts that conflict with their prejudices or feelings.

Whether examining Brexit, public austerity measures or the effects of climate change, one limitation is that facts and data generated through quantitative social research are presented as if detached from the people they concern as well as those involved in their production. Far removed from people’s lived experiences, they risk displacing any sense of what it is to be human. As such, they are, perhaps, too easy to dismiss.

So, can qualitative social research – where the focus is not on abstract facts but on what things mean for people in their everyday lives – come to the rescue? As we argue in our new book, Embodied Research Methods, social scientists do not and cannot rest just on data. When genuinely committed to understanding everyday life, they must also craft rich, nuanced and vivid accounts that flesh out how people live and struggle with the problems they encounter.

The renowned sociologist C Wright Mills knew this when arguing that social science can only be meaningful to people if it examines societal problems, personal troubles – and how they are connected. As well as through data, alternative facts must be countered by the shared stories, experiences and emotions of real people and how they are affected by the big global issues.

Public austerity measures, for example, are not simply about financial facts. Indeed, when presented merely as economic data, many people can neither identify with nor understand them. Instead, austerity poses problems that compel us to examine how they affect people and families in their daily lives. The experiences of those individuals must be shared.

Similarly, the effects of climate change cannot merely be measured and understood in terms of rising temperatures and sea levels. They also require an examination of how people manage their lives in a variety of ways to adapt to this changing world.

## ■ How people feel

Whether social scientists interview people face-to-face or engage in participant observations, they uncover – and can share – felt experiences that reveal how the big issues facing the world are truly affecting individuals and communities. This does not mean the research is any less robust than if they had limited themselves to collecting quantitative data. But it does help to make the big issues – and their consequences – more relatable, more real.

This even has implications for how we investigate pending events, such as Brexit. Statistical estimates have already been made to show the likely effects of a no-deal Brexit on the UK economy but have been vehemently dismissed by Brexiters as scaremongering. Qualitative research can help challenge such dismissals by exploring how people experience and deal with the prospects of Brexit in their everyday lives, and by showing the variety of concerns that drive their views, decisions and actions. While there are never any guarantees in research or politics, qualitative research may connect to people’s lives in ways that raw numbers rarely do.

As world-leading neuroscientist Antonio Damasio has shown, feeling pain and pleasure can help us to make reasonable, rational decisions. As it is feelings of pleasure and pain that make people care about the consequences of their actions, people may be more likely to care about – and strive to understand – qualitative research which evokes such feelings.

This does not mean that we should dress up findings and arguments in strongly emotional claims, but rather conduct and share research in ways that help people connect to, care about and understand the people and issues in the research. As feelings help us care about what is going on, they are an important antidote which can make us question unfounded claims, hasty conclusions and fake news.

If social scientists care about being relevant in the struggle against post-truth politics, we cannot merely rely on quantitative data and raw facts. We also need to do research that connects to, brings to life and fleshes out the struggles of people in everyday life.

## Guardian inclusively forgets to include white children in a ‘kids these days’ piece

By Graham Dockery

**RT** — The Guardian’s latest piece on modern school-children trying to make sense of 20th-century tech is indicative of the times in more ways than one. None of the kids can use a rotary phone – and none of them are white, either.

The Guardian has published a feel-good article describing how modern-day 15-year-olds try to complete everyday tasks using old-timey equipment (actually, it’s not even all that old-timey, it was mostly still widely in use in the 1990s). It’s a tried and trusted trope – Youtube is full of ‘modern teens react’ videos – that stokes older readers’ nostalgia, employed in a light-hearted manner, with kids even given grades for their (lack of) success in adapting to old tech.

But there’s a subtler aspect to it as well. Intentionally or not, none of the six “kids these days” fumbling around with clunky old phones and cassette players in the Guardian’s pictures are white.

It’s not a piece about race, or inclusivity. That aspect isn’t even touched upon. It, presumably, doesn’t need to be – the goal has been achieved, inclusivity is now part of the mindset. Just look at all the different-race kids and... why do I have this feeling that we excluded someone?

Don’t get me wrong. It’s awesome that media coverage

is reflective of reality, and that non-white people, including children, are no longer seen as an oddity, shunned or sidelined. But how do we go about that without shunning and sidelining white ones?

“Move aside whitey, you’ve had your time in the spotlight” isn’t inclusivity. Inclusivity is a diverse cast of kids having fun with the old gadgets together. Imagine if all the children in the pictures were white? That wouldn’t be very inclusive either.

Then again, this is the same Guardian whose writers took turns telling off a four-year-old child in a Mississippi restaurant for his “white supremacy.” To borrow a phrase beloved by Guardian writers, any situation can be bent into a ‘teachable moment,’ an opportunity to spread the gospel of diversity.

A conspiracy theorist would mutter about “subtle propaganda” and “indoctrination,” but that propaganda would be unnecessary. Britain’s demographics are changing, and the majority-white school is already going the way of the rotary phone.

The school in question, Loxford Academy, is situated in the London borough of Redbridge, which has seen its white British population fall from 57 percent in 2001 to 35 percent in 2011. Meanwhile, the borough’s Asian and Asian-British population increased from 26 to 42 percent in that same time. So pronounced has been the



Children of all races, including white ones, attend the school featured in The Guardian’s piece

demographic shift in the area that middle-aged, British-born Asian residents of Redbridge told academic researchers in 2012 that they missed the older, more diverse Redbridge they grew up in - diversity here meaning more white people.

So, was the Guardian’s decision to exclude white children a deliberate choice, an unintentional blunder, or a simple oversight? Who knows. But in an era when we often hear the phrase “diversity is our strength,” its writers would do well to remember that white kids are still a part of that diversity.



## Amazon deforestation could be stopped by ‘miracle tree’

Amid devastating wildfires and clearances for agricultural land in the Amazon, a tree species that can help keep soil fertile could provide a sliver of optimism for the grave situation in the rainforest.

The inga tree – also known as the ice cream bean tree – can not only grow on the very poor soil left by destructive slash and burn land clearing, but can ultimately improve the soil and make it fertile enough for other species to return.



Meanwhile, the beans can be sold by farmers, leaves from the trees can be fed to cattle, and they can be coppiced to create firewood – giving people several reasons to invest in growing them.

The reason the trees, of which there are hundreds of species, are uniquely useful is that they fix nitrogen into the soil, which is a key nutrient for plants.

A project designed to support farmers wishing to plant inga trees is aiming to prove that farmers can expect to get an income from the species – which is a type of legume.

Toby Pennington, a professor of tropical plant diversity and biogeography at the University of Exeter, told the BBC: “Even amongst legumes, they have pretty fantastic growth rates.”

The ecosystems they foster below their branches are also a vital means of boosting ecological diversity and assisting growers with the means of making even greater financial returns.

“If you had a cup of coffee this morning that came from Latin America, the odds are that it was growing underneath one of these inga trees,” Professor Pennington added.

Greater coverage of land where ingas are grown could also provide vital corridors for wildlife in the Amazon, which has become increasingly split into fractured areas.

The Ouro Verde (Green Gold) Institute, which is behind the initiative, hope by encouraging greater biodiversity in areas already affected by slash and burn clearing, they could help mitigate some of the effects of climate change.

And according to the Inga Foundation, planting crops of the trees “provides soil protection, weed control and a nutrient regime”.

However, attempts to re-green areas of the Amazon needs to occur at the same time as stopping the destruction of the rainforest.

Fires in the Amazon have increased by 84 per cent since the same period last year, according to satellite data from Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research.

In June, the institute published data showing an 88 per cent increase in deforestation in the Amazon compared to the same month a year ago.

The data release led to Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro accusing the director of the National Institute for Space Research of lying, which apparently led to him being fired.

Uncontrolled logging and land invasion has been blamed by analysts for much of the loss, some of which occurred in protected areas and indigenous reserves.

In August this year, Professor Thomas Lovejoy of George Mason University, who has studied the Amazon since 1965, told The Independent there are signs the vital rainforest is on course for further extensive deforestation and could soon reach a “tipping point” will soon stretch beyond human control and spell disaster for the forest, and consequently, life on our planet.

(Source: The Independent)

## WORDS IN THE NEWS

### People smuggler arrested

(February 4, 2002)  
Police in southern China’s Fujian province say they’ve arrested one of the region’s most wanted people smugglers, known as snakeheads. The man is reported to have helped almost 400 Chinese illegal immigrants get to Japan last year. In 2000, 56 Chinese were found dead at Dover after they suffocated in a lorry smuggling them into Britain. This report from Duncan Hewitt.

Despite the international **outrage** which greeted the deaths at Dover eighteen months ago, there seems to have been no **let-up** in the activities of China’s **people smugglers**. State media said police arrested the so-called snakehead, identified only by his surname, Wang, as he was attempting to smuggle sixty people from northeast China to Japan last month. He was said to have been responsible for smuggling three hundred and ninety-six people to Japan in four groups last year. Reports said he was just one of ten snakeheads wanted by police in the Fuding district of Fujian province; the area is just south of the town of Changle, home to many of those who died at Dover.

China has **pledged** to cooperate with the international community, and **to take tougher measures** to control the **exodus** - police in Fujian province told the BBC that five hundred snakeheads were arrested in the area last year; and a number of **traffickers** were recently jailed for up to 15 years. Yet there still seems to be no shortage of citizens seeking work abroad - or of people willing to organize the trade. Last month police in the southern town of Shenzhen caught nineteen **stowaways** who were concealed inside a metal container being loaded onto a ship bound for the United States. Such methods continue to bring tragedies - last October twenty-five people **suffocated** in the storage hold of a fishing boat **en route** from China to South Korea.

■ **Words**  
**outrage:** a very strong feeling of anger and shock  
**let-up:** a reduction, something happening less  
**people smugglers:** criminals who take people into or out of a country illegally  
**pledged:** promised  
**to take tougher measures:** to take stronger action to achieve something  
**exodus:** when there is an exodus, a lot of people leave a place or country  
**traffickers:** here traffickers mean the same as smugglers  
**stowaways:** people who hide in a ship or plane in order to make the journey without paying or without legal documents  
**suffocated:** if you suffocate you die because you don’t have enough air  
**en route:** if you are en route to a place then you are travelling there

(Source: BBC)

# Precipitations hit normal, above-normal levels in a month

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Precipitations have reached normal and above-normal levels in Iran as the country has experienced 70.8 percent rise in rainfall since the beginning of the current water year (September 23) compared to the long-term mean.

According to the data released on Tuesday by the National Drought Warning and Monitoring Center affiliated to the Meteorological Organization, the whole country received 16.8 millimeters of precipitations since September 23, which indicates a 70.8-percent rise compared to the long-term averages.

But the amount shows a 7 percent drop compared to last year’s precipitations in the corresponding period.

Over the past month, almost all provinces across the country have met above normal averages of rainfall compared to long-term means except for seven provinces of North Khorasan, Yazd, South Khorasan, Gilan, Khorasan Razavi, West Azarbaijan and Golestan being short of rain by 5 to 63 percent.

Yazd province set the record high for the lowest rainfall during the 37-day period with a precipitation rate measuring at 0.6 mm.

However, statistics show that Gilan, Mazandaran and Qazvin provinces with 127.9 mm, 102.4 mm and 54.9 mm precipitation, ranked the first three provinces respectively.

This is while Gilan province is still short of rain compared to both long run records and the previous year average.

When it comes to the highest variations in mean precipitation, provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan and Tehran are the winners with 16.9, 15.4 and 32.2 mm increase in rainfall compared to their long term means, respectively.

■ **14 provinces short of rain**  
Compared to the last year averages,



**Fluctuation in precipitations amounts received in provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Tehran, Hormozgan, Gilan in the beginning of the crop year is one of the main signs of climate change in the country which not only result in an increase in water resources but it would lead to recurrent destructive floods in the regions.**

all the provinces experienced increase in precipitation, however, 14 provinces were exceptionally precluded.

In terms of variations in last year averages, Sistan-Baluchestan, Zanjan and Hormozgan were ranked first for the highest precipitation rise compared to the same period last

year, recording a 600.5, 283.8 and 271.9 percent rise.

However, last year in the same period only 2.7 millimeters rained in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

■ **Tehran rainfall hits both long-term and short-term means**

## Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award slated for November

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The 4th Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award ceremony will be held on November 2 with the goal of supporting top international urban management projects as well as sharing relevant experiences.

During the event, all the top urban management projects implemented in cities, regions and local communities worldwide will be announced and the best will be certificated while receiving prizes from the mayor of Tehran as the president of the award.

The Tehran Golden Adobe Global Award aims to recognize the importance of local government and urban management in promoting the socio-economic environments, sustainability of cities and regions, and improving the livability of the citizens.

The event takes place concurrent with World Cities Day observed on October 31.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day, by its resolution 68/239.



World Cities Day also aims to promote the international community’s interest in global urbanization, push forward

cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.

This year, the United Nations has selected the theme “Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations” to discuss how urbanization can be used to achieve sustainable development.

The third edition of the Award was held in 2016, after three years the fourth edition of the event will be held focusing on “smart city” and “urban resilience”.

This year’s award will also discuss issues of sustainable urban development, citizens’ participation, cultural and social development of the city, architecture, urban planning, urban cultural heritage and regeneration, smart and creative human-centered city, resource allocation, investment, entrepreneurship, employment and the city’s economy, infrastructure development, public transport and utilities.

Approximately 100 Iranian cities and more than 40 cities from around the world attend each edition of the event.

## FAO warn of climate change impacts on land use, food security in Asia-Pacific

Asia’s vast landmass and growing cities are warming faster than the global average and that will have a disproportional impact on food security and livelihoods for billions of people across the region, FAO and its UN partners warned today.

Some Asian cities are already 0.2 – 2.6 degrees warmer than the global average, as per UN agencies’ report on Climate and Land released today.

The Asia-Pacific region, whose countries are among the most vulnerable to the

impacts of severe weather related events and food insecurity, is home to nearly half-a-billion undernourished people – more than half of the world’s total.

The UN agencies warn that, in Asia-Pacific, food security will be increasingly affected by climate change through yield declines – especially in the tropics – increased food prices, reduced nutrient quality and supply chain disruptions. Tackling land degradation in Asia will be critical, while access to, and competition for, fresh

water will be another major challenge. But consumer demand for foods that require greater natural resources to produce will need to be addressed as well.

Mentioning the active role played by FAO in supporting and contributing to this report, Ms Xiangjun Yao, FAO Regional Programme Leader asserted that “At FAO, we are urging our member countries to do more to adapt and mitigate the effects of extreme climatic events on agriculture and rural livelihoods.”

(Source: FAO)



### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

## Plans on agenda to address sand and dust storms in 4 provinces

Studies to combat sand and dust storms are almost completed and next year (starting on March 21) plans will be implemented in four provinces of Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman and Hormozgan, director of the national headquarters for combatting sand and dust storms has said. Ali Mohammad Tahmasbi-Birgani explained that the national document to fight sand and dust storms will be hammered out next week and will be implemented once it is approved.

The five-year plan will set strategies and guidelines for developing early warning systems for sand and dust storms and restoration plans for wetlands and also task responsible bodies to tackle the environmental issue, ISNA quoted Tahmasbi-Birgani as saying on Friday.

### PREFIX/SUFFIX

#### “agro-, agri-, agr-”

■ **Meaning:** soil or field  
■ **For example:** The workshop presents information on sustainable **agricultural** systems.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Hand something down

■ **Meaning:** to give or leave something to people who will live after you  
■ **For example:** The ring was handed down to her from her grandmother.

### IDIOM

#### Broad strokes

■ **Explanation:** if something is described or defined with/in broad strokes, it is outlined in a very general way, without any details  
■ **For example:** «In a few broad strokes he summed up the situation.»

## ۴ استان جنوبی در اولویت مقابله با گرد و غبار

مدیر ملی ستاد مقابله با پدیده گرد و غبار از تهیه سند ملی مقابله با گرد و غبار و نهایی شدن مطالعات طوفان ماسه و گرد و غبار خبر داد و اظهارکرد: سال بعد استان‌های خوزستان، سیستان و بلوچستان، کرمان و هرمزگان در اولویت مقابله با گرد و غبار قرار می‌گیرند.

علی محمد طهماسبی بیرگانی با اشاره به تهیه سند ملی مقابله با پدیده گرد و غبار اعلام کرد: این سند هفته آینده بررسی خواهد شد و بعد از تصویب اعمال شود.

به گزارش روز جمعه خبرگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: برنامه پنج ساله مقابله با گرد و غبار برنامه‌ها و رهنمودهای کلی را در حوزه سیستم‌های پیش‌بینی هشدار گرد و غبار، عملیات اصلاحی و روش‌های احیایی را شامل می‌شود و وظایف همه دستگاه‌های اجرایی را مشخص می‌کند.



# Al-Baghdadi's death: Trump's show off & reality

**TEHRAN (International Desk)** — on Sunday Oct 27 Newsweek reported the United States military has conducted a special operations raid against Daesh (ISIL) Takfiri chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Separately, U.S. President Donald Trump said Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi blew himself up, dying “like a dog,” and “like a coward” after American forces trapped him inside a dead-end tunnel.

“Last night the United States brought the world’s number one terrorist leader to justice,” Trump said while addressing the media at the White House on Sunday.

The president said the Daesh leader detonated his suicide vest while “crying and whimpering” during an overnight raid by American special ops forces in Syria.

He said the explosion was so strong that al-Bghdadi’s body was “mutilated” and the tunnel was destroyed but forensics teams were able to identify his remains.

“He reached the end of the tunnel as our dogs chased him down. He ignited his vest, killing himself and his three children. His body was mutilated by the blasts. The tunnel had caved on him,” Trump claimed.

Al-Baghdadi’s identity was confirmed by on-site DNA tests “15 minutes” after he was killed, Trump said, adding, the tests provided “certain, immediate and totally positive” identification that the body belonged to the terrorist chief the US has hunted for so long.

## ■ U.S. says cannot verify credibility of U.S. statement on al-Baghdadi's death

Meanwhile, spokesman for the UN Secretary General says the world body cannot verify the accuracy of the United States’ claim on the death of Daesh leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

“We’ve taken note of the announcement by the President of the United States on the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of



the UN designated terrorist group Daesh,” Farhan Haq said in a press briefing Monday.

However, he said the UN “cannot personally verify the accuracy of this.”

“We trust the reliability of the various sources of information that have been speaking up, but, obviously, any sort of information would need to be verified by the various authorities on the ground,” he noted.

When asked why the UN was only taking note of, and not welcoming the death of Daesh chief who was killed in a weekend operation, Haq stuck to the wording and refused to welcome the development.

“This is one of the events that we’ve taken note of. We’ve made very clear that any progress against Daesh is to be welcomed. The Secretary General and the many branches of the UN, including our offices dealing with political affairs, with counterterrorism and others, have repeatedly urged all Member States to work together in the fight against Daesh, and any progress against them is to

be commended,” he added.

“Daesh has committed heinous crimes and brought tragedy and death to thousands of men, women and children. And we should take this moment to remember the victims and families of victims of terrorism,” Haq said.

## ■ Russia view

In another event, Russia said Monday that the killing of the ISIL terrorist group’s leader by U.S. forces, if confirmed, would represent a “serious contribution” by U.S. President Donald Trump to fighting terrorism.

The Russian military had earlier raised doubts about Trump’s announcement that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in north-western Syria.

But President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday: “Our officers really saw US planes in the area, they saw drones in the area which could have been working there” as Trump had claimed.

“If this information about Baghdadi’s death is really confirmed, then in general we

can speak of a serious contribution by the US president to the battle with international terrorism,” Peskov told reporters.

## ■ Baghdadi given burial at sea, afforded religious rites: U.S. officials

The United States has given the remains of ISIL terrorist group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi a burial at sea and afforded him religious rites according to Islamic custom after he was killed in a U.S. commando raid in Syria on Saturday, three officials told Reuters.

Baghdadi who rose from obscurity to declare himself “caliph” of all Muslims as the leader of ISIL, died by detonating a suicide vest after fleeing into a dead-end tunnel as elite U.S. special forces closed in at the weekend, according to the U.S. government.

The U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not disclose where the ritual was performed or how long it lasted. Two officials said they believed his remains were delivered to the sea from an aircraft, Reuters reported.

U.S. Army General Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Pentagon news briefing on Monday that the U.S. military disposed of Baghdadi’s remains “appropriately, in accordance with our (standard operating procedures) and in accordance with the law of armed conflict.”

Given the gruesome nature of Baghdadi’s death, it was unlikely the U.S. military followed as complete a process as it did after Navy SEALs killed al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden in a 2011 raid into Pakistan.

In the case of bin Laden, his body was transported to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson. It was washed before being covered in a white sheet, and religious remarks translated into Arabic were read over bin Laden’s corpse.

Baghdadi’s remains were transported to a secure facility to confirm his identity with forensic DNA testing, Milley said.

## Golan will remain integral part of Syria: Ambassador Ja’afari

**TEHRAN** — Syria’s Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Ja’afari says the occupied Golan Heights will always remain an integral part of Syria despite attempts by the White House and Tel Aviv to distort the reality.

According to Press TV, addressing a UN Security Council session on Monday, the Syrian diplomat said Damascus reserved the right to re-establish control over the mountainous plateau.

“Liberating Golan and restoring it to the 1967 line, through all means which are guaranteed by the international law, will remain a priority for Syria,” he said.

The Israeli regime has long been pushing for the U.S. recognition of Tel Aviv’s ‘sovereignty’ claims over the territory, which, as the Syrian ambassador mentioned, was seized in 1967.

On March 25, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a decree that suited the Israeli interest

regarding Golan. The signing took place at the start of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington.

Trump’s move came over a year after he recognized Jerusalem al-Quds as the “capital” of Israel and moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied Palestinian city.

The United Nations has time and again stressed Syria’s sovereignty over the heights.

Back in December 2018, the majority of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Israeli regime to withdraw from Golan.

The resolution, titled The Syrian Golan, was adopted by a record vote of 99 in favor, 10 against and 66 abstentions. It declared that Israel’s controversial move to extend its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied heights is null and void.

## UN nuclear watchdog picks Argentina’s Grossi as next chief

**TEHRAN** — The UN nuclear watchdog’s board on Tuesday picked Argentina’s Rafael Grossi to become the agency’s next chief, and he immediately pledged to act independently and neutrally on issues including Iran.

According to Reuters, Grossi had been running neck-and-neck with Amano’s former right-hand man and current acting director general, Cornel Feruta of Romania, in repeated votes by the International Atomic Energy Agency’s 35-nation Board of Governors until Grossi took the lead on Monday.

Grossi, who had the early support of heavyweights including Brazil and the United States, reached the two-thirds of votes required on Tuesday, with 24 countries backing him. His appointment will now be signed off on by another board meeting and a wider meeting of all member states, both formalities.

“I will do my job and I think my job is

to implement the mandate in a manner which is independent, which is fair, which is neutral,” Grossi told reporters after the vote when asked about Iran, declining to go into specifics.

Diplomats do not expect a major shift under Grossi in the IAEA’s stance on its most high-profile issues, such as policing Iran’s deal with major powers, which Iran is breaching step by step in response to crippling U.S. economic sanctions.

“What I think is important is that I give my member states and the international community the guarantee that I am absolutely independent and impermeable to pressure,” said Grossi, a veteran of nuclear diplomacy and currently Argentina’s ambassador to the IAEA.

The IAEA board aims to have Grossi take office by Jan. 1. Grossi said that might happen earlier.

## U.S. threatens ‘military force’ against ‘any group’ challenging occupation of Syria oil fields

**TEHRAN** — The Pentagon has threatened that American forces deployed around Syrian oil fields will use “military force” against any party that may seek to challenge Washington’s control of those sites, even if it is Syrian government forces or their Russian allies.

Speaking at a news briefing on Monday, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper referred to “multiple state and non-state” forces vying for control of Syrian territory and resources.

The U.S. military announced last week that it was reinforcing its position in Syria with additional assets, including mechanized forces, on a mission claimed to be aimed at preventing Syrian oil fields from falling to remnants of the Takfiri Daesh terror group in Syria, reversing President Donald Trump’s promise of a full military withdrawal from the Arab state, Press TV reported.

Speaking about the mission, Esper said Washington “will retain control of oil fields in northeast Syria,” which provided the bulk of Daesh’s income at the height of its terror campaign. The Takfiri outfit has, however, collapsed after it lost all the territories it had captured in 2014 in Syria and Iraq.

“U.S. troops will remain positioned in this strategic area to deny ISIS (Daesh) access [to] those vital resources. And we will respond with overwhelming military force against any group that threatens the safety of our forces there,” he added.

Asked whether the U.S. mission included keeping oil fields out of Syrian or Russian control, Esper replied, “The short answer is, yes, it presently does.”

He added that the American deployment will allow the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to use the oil revenues to fund its militants, who Washington calls allies in the so-called fight against Daesh.

“We want to make sure that SDF does have access to resources in order to guard the prisons, in order to arm their own troops, in order to assist us with the defeat-ISIS mission,” he said.

The Pentagon chief further confirmed that American forces in Syria would remain in “close contact” with Kurdish-backed militants.

The claims come just weeks after Washington shocked the entire world by abruptly abandoning its longtime Kurdish allies in northeastern Syrian and announcing a troop pullout in the face of a Turkish offensive against the Kurds.

The Kurdish militants called Washington’s move “backstabbing” and quickly reached out to the Damascus government for support against the Turkish military.

Esper further said, “Turkey continues to bear responsibility for the consequences of their unwarranted incursion, which has brought further instability to the region.”

The defense secretary was speaking days after Washington claimed that it had killed Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi during a raid in Syria’s northwestern Idlib Province.

While detailing the military operation that Washington says led to Baghdadi’s death, Trump said American troops would remain in Syria to “secure” oil reserves and even put up “a hell of a fight” against any force that tried to take them.

“We’re keeping the oil,” Trump said. “I’ve always said



that — keep the oil. We want to keep the oil, \$45 million a month. Keep the oil. We’ve secured the oil.”

“We should be able to take some also, and what I intend to do, perhaps, is make a deal with an ExxonMobil or one of our great companies to go in there and do it properly,” he added.

Legal experts, however, say if U.S. forces or firms take any oil without the consent of Syria’s legal government, that would amount to pillaging, a technical term meaning theft during wartime. Pillaging is illegal under both U.S. and international law. It is explicitly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention.

situation was not stable enough for such visits.

The EU delegation - some of them from far-right parties - was driven in a cavalcade of black SUVs, accompanied by armed troops and security jeeps, to a military cantonment in Srinagar. This was to be followed by meetings with civil society members, businessmen, two government officials told Reuters.

On Monday Modi received the delegation and said their visit would give them a clear view of the development priorities of the region, the prime minister’s office said.

Minister Narendra Modi’s government revoked Kashmir’s special status and imposed a harsh crackdown to stifle dissent.

“MPs (members of parliament) from Europe are welcome to go on a guided tour of Jammu and Kashmir while Indian MPs are banned and denied entry,” Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet. “There is something very wrong with that.”

Indian security officials turned back several opposition politicians from Srinagar airport over the last several weeks saying the

## Iraqi Parliament summons Abdul-Mahdi

**➔1** and the dissolution of all provincial and local councils outside the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region.

Meanwhile, Iraqi officials have dismissed reports of fatalities during Monday’s anti-government protests in the holy city of Karbala, saying certain media outlets have been fabricating news.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Karbala Governor Nassif al-Khattabi said viral footage of security forces shooting at protesters were fake and meant to “incite the street” in the city.

He said that a curfew had been enforced in Karbala upon a request by protesters in a bid to protect their lives.

No one was killed, but some sustained injuries, most of them security forces, Khattabi added.

Khattabi further told Iran’s Al-Alam news network that life has now returned to normal in Karbala.

He added that the protests will not hinder the pilgrims from visiting the holy shrines in the Shia city.

Additionally, Karbala’s police chief confirmed that no protester had been killed, noting that there was only a premeditated murder that happened some two kilometers away from the protest zone.

He said some elements had infiltrated into the protests to disrupt peace and incite violence.

Earlier on Tuesday, Reuters quoted medical and security sources as saying that Iraqi security forces had killed at least 14 people and wounded 865 others in Karbala.

## Lebanese PM Hariri announces resignation

**TEHRAN** — Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri has announced that he will be submitting his resignation amid the anti-government protests that the country has been witnessing since 17 October.

Hariri, who was in the office since December 2016, announced quits during a televised address to the nation< RT reported.

“I have reached a dead end today,” he said. The outgoing PM also reminded the country’s political parties that it was their responsibility to protect Lebanon.

The resignation went on against the will of influential Lebanese group, Hezbollah, who earlier insisted that the PM should maintain his post to avoid a power vacuum.

Last week, the head of the government announced a set of economic reforms and anti-corruption measures as thousands walked out across the country, blocking roads and calling for a revolution.

But the move backfired for Hariri, with people saying it weren’t enough and remaining in streets, while his opponents in the cabinet reportedly blaming the 49-year-old PM of siding with the demonstrators.

## Military option won’t bring peace to Yemen, region: Houthi

**TEHRAN** — The leader of Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement has warned Saudi Arabia about the consequences of its ongoing campaign of blockade and aggression against the country.



According to a statement by the spokesman for Ansarullah, Mohammed Abdul-Salam, during a meeting with the visiting United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths in the capital Sana’a on Monday, Abdul Malik Badruddin al-Houthi highlighted the fact that the Saudi military option had miserably failed to advance peace and security in the region.

According to Press TV, the Ansarullah leader also urged an end to the conflict and the lifting of the blockade, while calling for a solution to more than four years of the bloody war the regime in Riyadh imposed on Yemen.

He blamed Saudi Arabia for obstructing prisoner swap under an agreement reached after UN-sponsored peace negotiations in Sweden last year. Houthi pointed to initiatives developed by Ansarullah for the release of hundreds of prisoners in line with the deal.

Griffiths is in Sana’a to work for the implementation of the Stockholm agreement.

In December 2018, Ansarullah delegates and loyalists to Yemen’s former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi held a round of peace talks in Rimbo, north of the Swedish capital, which culminated in the announcement of the Stockholm agreement.

The document included three provisions, namely a ceasefire along the Hudaydah front and the redeployment of armed forces out of the city and its port, an agreement on prisoner exchange, and a statement of understanding on the Yemeni city of Ta’izz.

The port of Hudaydah is the main entry point for humanitarian aid into Yemen.

There have been several attempts to end the Saudi war on Yemen so far, all in vain due to Riyadh’s intransigence.

Ansarullah has been bringing to a halt its retaliatory missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia since last month.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched the devastating campaign against Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the government of Hadi back to power and crushing Ansarullah.

The US-based Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, estimates that the war has claimed more than 91,000 lives so far.

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

## EU lawmakers visit Kashmir amid stone pelting and empty streets

**TEHRAN** — European Union lawmakers arrived in Srinagar on Tuesday, the first foreign delegation to visit Indian Kashmir’s main city since New Delhi revoked the region’s autonomy in August.

Hours before their arrival, small protests erupted in at least 40 locations around the city, prompting security forces to fire tear gas, a police official and Reuters witnesses said, despite heavy troop deployment.

According to Reuters, many streets remained strewn with stones, shops were

closed and roadside vendors absent as the delegation of around 20 EU lawmakers arrived in the city shortly after noon.

Indian officials say the situation in Kashmir is returning to normal and hope that the EU delegation’s visit will help counter international condemnation of the government’s handling of the situation.

But opposition parties are angry that European lawmakers are being allowed to visit a region from which most Indian politicians have been barred since Aug. 5, when Prime



## Osaka withdraws from WTA finals with shoulder injury

Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from the WTA Finals in Shenzhen due to an injury to her right shoulder, tournament organisers said on Tuesday.

The Japanese world number three was due to face Australia's Ash Barty later in the day and her place in the tournament will now be taken by alternate Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

"I'm disappointed to have to withdraw from the Finals," Osaka said. "It has been a great event in Shenzhen, and it's the biggest WTA event of the year. This is not how I wanted to end this tournament or my season."

"I look forward to getting healthy and hope to be back here in Shenzhen next year."

Osaka won her first match of the tournament against Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 7-6(1) 4-6 6-4 on Sunday.

(Source: Reuters)

## Spanish women footballers to strike over pay and conditions

Top-flight women footballers in Spain are going on strike indefinitely from Nov. 16 over a disagreement about pay and conditions, the Association of Spanish Footballers (AFE) said on Monday.

Last week, 93% of players employed by 16 first division clubs voted to go on strike and after a meeting between the AFE, other unions and the Association of Women's Football Clubs (ACFF) failed to resolve the issue the plans were announced.

"There has been no agreement with the Association of Women's Football Clubs and, therefore, an indefinite strike of first division matches has been called, which will begin the weekend of Nov. 16-17," said the AFE in a statement.

The main point of conflict between the clubs and players is part-time contracts, with the AFE asking for a minimum of 12,000 euros net a month for players on a part-time salary, while the clubs offer 8,000.

"We are 100% football players, every hour of the day," said Ainhoa Tirapu, vice-president of the AFE women's football committee and the Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper, last week.

The women's top flight is run by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF). An RFEF source said the governing body was following the matter with concern although it was an issue between the clubs and the players.

(Source: Eurosport)

## Stam quits as Feyenoord manager after Ajax mauling

Jaap Stam has stepped down from his role as Feyenoord manager after less than five months in charge, the Dutch top-flight club has said.

Under former Manchester United defender Stam, who took over from Giovanni van Bronckhorst in June, Feyenoord have won just three of their 11 league games this season, leaving the Rotterdam club in 12th place.

The 47-year-old's last match in charge was a 4-0 defeat at Ajax Amsterdam on Sunday.

"It certainly has not been an easy decision," Stam said in a statement on the club's website "I have thought about it long and hard. My ultimate conclusion is that it is better for the club, the players and myself if I step aside."

Stam was previously manager of English club Reading, who he led to the second-tier Championship playoffs in his first season in charge.

He joined Feyenoord, who are also bottom of their Europa League group, from Dutch side PEC Zwolle.

(Source: Mirror)

## Southampton FC donate wages to charity after 9-goal home defeat to Leicester City

Southampton's players and coaching staff will each donate one day's wages to the Saints Foundation following their embarrassing 9-0 defeat to Leicester on Friday.

The offer comes the home humiliation to Leicester: a record-equalling score in Premier League history.

The club said in a statement: "Southampton Football Club's first-team players and coaching staff have announced they will be donating their wages from last Friday to Saints Foundation."

"The squad has been in at Staplewood Campus throughout the weekend, working on putting things right for the club's supporters. "As the first step towards that, the group has decided that they wish to donate their wages from the day of the Leicester game to Saints Foundation, in order to help the vital work that is conducted by the charity."

The Saints Foundation works with children, young people and at-risk adults in the Southampton area to develop their potential and transform lives.

Saints are currently bracing themselves for two consecutive trips to face Manchester City within the next six days.

(Source: Independent)

## Ibrahimovic drops hint of LaLiga Santander return

Whilst LA Galaxy suffered a disappointing MLS playoff exit at the hands of city rivals, LAFC, the club has been dealt a further blow by Zlatan Ibrahimovic not signing a contract extension, and the veteran forward has teased Spanish football fans by saying he is coming back.

Ibrahimovic spent a solitary year in LaLiga Santander with Barcelona, although his time at the Camp Nou was clouded by a poor relationship with Pep Guardiola.

As many speculate on his next destination with his current contract with the MLS club expiring in December, the former Manchester United star posted a hint on a video to his social media profiles.

"Hello Spain, I'm back," he stated.

His time in MLS has been very fruitful, especially after he had to recover from an ACL injury suffered at Old Trafford.

(Source: Marca)

# Soccer club donates 3,000 food parcels to the homeless after match washed out

The idea of social justice is deeply rooted in the English county of Nottinghamshire. After all, the city of Nottingham and the surrounding Sherwood Forest are believed to be the traditional haunts of legendary outlaw Robin Hood.

The local football team has been following in the footsteps of its folklore hero — who famously stole from the rich to give to the poor — by donating food to homeless people in the community.

On Saturday, Nottingham Forest, who play in English football's second tier, provided almost 3,000 parcels of food to a local homeless charity, after its game against Reading on Saturday was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Nearly 3,000 pies, pasties, sausage rolls, and other "terrace" food were given to the charity Framework, who work to help homeless people across Nottingham, according to a club spokesperson.

According to the UK's Office for National Statistics there were an estimated 726 deaths of homeless people in England and Wales in 2018 -- a 22% increase on the previous year.

Over the last few years supporters of a number of British football clubs — notably Liverpool, Everton, Newcastle, Arsenal as well as Rangers and Celtic in Scotland — have



set up food banks to help people struggling financially. Forest also works with a food bank called Hope Nottingham.

■ 'Jumped into a van'

Forest's match against Reading was abandoned just a few hours before kickoff but the club had made "provisions" to avoid waste. Forest told that this was something they

have done before when games were canceled but that Saturday's action had been more planned.

"We were trying to make the best out of the situation when the game was canceled," the club said.

Forest's CFO Samantha Gordon and Community CEO Graham Moran even "jumped

into a van" to help deliver the food.

"These kind of initiatives are of paramount importance to Nottingham Forest Football Club, coming straight from our owner Evangelos Marinakis who is a great believer in working in the community to help the area improve and grow," Club Director, Jonny Owen said.

"By donating these food items, we were able to help those who need it most in the Nottingham community, those people who are at the sharp end of homelessness, as we continue to try and tackle the issue in the city," he continued.

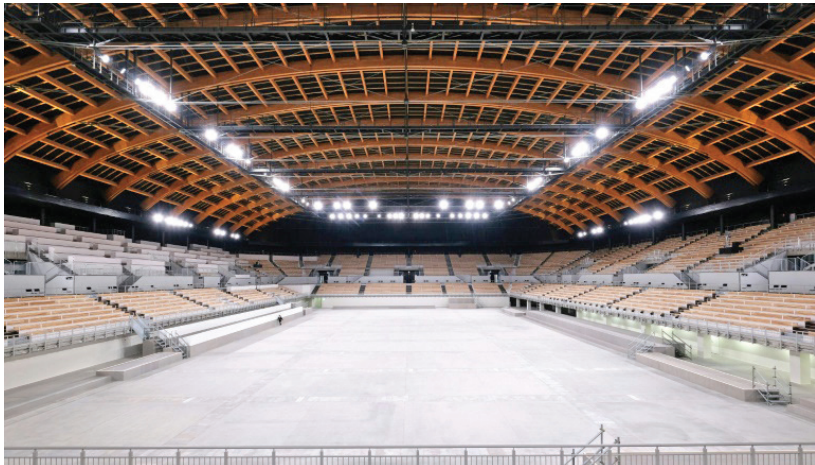
Tom Crossland, who has supported Nottingham Forest his whole life, said: "I think it's great. In this day and age we waste so much. I am surprised it didn't end up in the bin," he told CNN Sport.

"Forest do a lot of work in the community now with local schools and they do a big camp out to raise money for homeless charities."

Forest won the old first division championship -- now the English Premier League -- relatively recently in 1978 and then shocked the football world by lifting Europe's top club trophy -- the European Cup -- in the following two seasons.

(Source: CNN)

## Tokyo unveils 2020 venue inspired by traditional Japanese techniques



A custom-built \$188 million gymnastics venue inspired by traditional Japanese building techniques and using wood from around the country was unveiled by organizers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on Tuesday.

The futuristic-looking Ariake Gymnastics Centre in central Tokyo uses 2,300 cubic meters of wood and is intended to hark back to methods that predate the use of modern construction materials in Japan.

The structure features a gently undulating roof, with external walls constructed from lengths of cedar wood. Supporting rods allow the building to look from a distance as though it is suspended in the air.

Organizers said it was intended to look like a "a wooden bowl, floating in the bay area".

The building, one of a handful custom-built for the Games, "symbolizes Japan's wood culture and viewers can feel its simple beauty", the organizers said.

"We're using a lot of wood," venue general manager Koichi Fukui told

reporters. "We can smell wood and feel the warmth of wood," he said.

Built at a cost of 20.5 billion yen, the venue features a domed ceiling constructed from Japanese larch with no steel framework and is among the largest of its kind in the world.

The venue can seat 12,000 spectators on long benches, and will host Olympic artistic, rhythmic and trampolene events, as well as Paralympic boccia.

The main Olympic stadium designed by renowned Japanese architect Kengo Kuma also heavily features the use of wood in a nod to traditional techniques.

The gymnastics venue is a temporary site, which is expected to be converted into an exhibition Centre after the Games.

Organizers say they plan to repurpose some of the wood from the site, including the benches, in the exhibition Centre and other sites including schools.

To save money, organizers will use 25 existing sites in hosting the 2020 Games, building just eight new permanent venues and 10 temporary venues.

(Source: France 24)

## AC Milan post record 145.9m euro loss



Italian giants AC Milan, struggling to recapture the glory days of seven European Cups and of their heyday under media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, on Monday posted a record loss of 145.9 million euros (\$165 million) for 2018.

The losses, which were some 20 million above 2017, will be covered by majority shareholder, US fund Elliott, which took over the Rossoneri last year after Chinese businessman Li Yonghong defaulted on a loan to buy the outfit.

Milan, one of Europe's most storied clubs, have accumulated some 500 million euros of losses over the past six seasons, during which time they have been absent from the money-spinning Champions League.

This season they were excluded from the less lucrative Europa League for financial fair play violations.

As one means of pulling the club out of the financial mire its owners are pushing, along with neighbors Inter Milan, for the construction of a new stadium complex in Italy's northern business hub.

The two have long shared the current

home the San Siro.

If municipal authorities give the green light to that plan that would "raise revenues substantially," said chairman Paolo Scaroni, former boss of energy group Eni.

"All the top European clubs bring in stadium receipts topping 100 million euros. For AC Milan and Inter they reach about 34 million," said Scaroni.

"This difference risks being the reason the clubs don't put in the showing they ought to in Europe," he added.

AC Milan won the last of their European titles in 2007 -- three years before Inter won their third and most recent crown.

If the stadium deal does not come off then "there is a plan B, still with Inter," said Scaroni without elaborating.

He did note that the search was under way to increase sponsorship but "if we are losing games then it's more difficult."

Unlike the club's late 1980s zenith when the likes of Dutch trio Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard were in their pomp, this season the Milanese are mired in mid table.

(Source: ESPN)

## Live sports, the newest weapon in the TV streaming war



HBO Max.

Walt Disney Co. already shook up the established order in April 2018 with ESPN + -- an on-demand version of its vast network of sports channels, which is the largest in the world.

It is about to do so again when it launches a new platform on November 12 called Disney +.

■ 'Unique events'

For \$12.99 a month, the same price as a standard Netflix package in the United States, consumers will be able to bundle it together with ESPN + and Hulu.

"Live sports is the most valuable content in the media universe because people care

passionately about it and because they are unique events that cannot be replicated," former ESPN president John Skipper said last year.

In 2018, 43 of the top 50 American television audiences were for sporting events.

Broadcasting rights -- which can cost billions of dollars -- are a major issue in sports coverage, just like they are for series and films.

Generalist platforms like Amazon have few rights at the moment while young startups specializing in sports, such as "DAZN," are focusing on more niche sports.

Disney seems best placed due to its unique and unrivalled rights portfolio. As well as

ESPN, it is also the parent company of television giant ABC.

"Every deal that we're negotiating right now we are looking at how do we acquire rights not just for the linear package but for ESPN+," ESPN President Jimmy Pitaro told Bloomberg in May.

WarnerMedia is also a sporting heavyweight and has already secured the digital rights to several events, including college basketball, which is massively popular in the United States.

Even if Disney and WarnerMedia offer sports with their online video services they are unlikely to make all of their content available on a streaming platform, analysts say.

That is because traditional television, despite suffering decline in viewers, is by far still their main source of income owing to cable subscriptions and advertising.

"What Disney is doing with ESPN will be the norm for years to come -- a mixture of streaming and traditional distribution," said John McGuire, a professor of media and sport at Oklahoma State University.

There is also a technical reason for the cautious approach.

"It takes a lot of infrastructure and the infrastructure is not there right now. The ability to stream concurrently to a large number of people can only be done by a few services," Skipper, the ex-ESPN head, told CNBC in November.

(Source: AFP)



# Jahanbakhsh’s future at Brighton remains a mystery

Brighton and Hove Albion coach Graham Potter admitted it’s possible Alireza Jahanbakhsh could depart during the upcoming January transfer window.

Jahanbakhsh, 26, has not featured in the Premier League this season and has made just one appearance in the Carabao Cup at Bristol Rovers.

The Iranian joined Brighton for £17m from AZ Alkmaar in July 2018. He made 24 appearances under Chris Hughton, without scoring or claiming an assist.

Asked if you could move-on in January, Potter responded: «Yes and no is the answer.

«I can understand why a footballer always wants to play. There will be a time where, if that’s the case, we have to make that decision with the player.

«At the same time he is an important member of the group. Things change in football really quickly. I know he could play in the next week or so, that’s how things can go.

«Ultimately the club will make that decision as well. It’s a bit of a tricky one. You don’t want players here that don’t want to be here.

«But that is not the case with Ali. He is fully committed. I spent most of my career not playing and I fully understand how he feels. But that is the challenge of the Premier League.»

Potter did stress however that despite the disappointment of not playing, Jahanbakhsh has been a model professional and is a valuable member of the group.

«Ali (Jahanbakhsh) is a bit stop-start,» Potter added. «He came back a little bit late and then he wasn’t in the group and the team and then he picked up a little injury when



he was away with Iran.

«He has got back well and he is part of the group again and he is training really hard. Trains well. It is just there are competition for places.

«He is of course disappointed because

everyone wants to play, everyone wants to be involved. He wants to help the team. He is a good lad, Ali.

«I like him a lot. He is professional, he supports the lads. No problem at all around the club. He has been fantastic in that regard. «Unfortunately it is the nature of the job as well. There is competition and there are players and I have to make these tough calls. He has just got to keep patient and keep working.»

(Source: brightonandhoveindependent.co.uk)

## Iran to play Iraq in Basra: official

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The match between Iraq and Iran national football teams will be held at the Basra International Stadium, head of the Iraqi Football Federation, Abdul-Khaliq Masoud, said.

The 2022 World Cup qualifier has been scheduled for Nov. 14 in the stadium and the Iraqi top official says that they will not change the stadium.

The anti-government demonstrations in Iraq have gripped the capital, Baghdad, and swept through several other cities in the country’s south, however Masoud says that they have no problem to host the match.

Iran are third in Group C with six points. Iraq lead the table with seven points and Bahrain sit second on goal difference.

## Iran move four places down at FIFA rankings

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Iran national football team dropped four places to 27th in the latest FIFA ranking released on Thursday.

Team Melli still are the best Asian football team, followed by Japan (28th), South Korea (39th) and Australia (44th).

Iran lost to Bahrain in the 2022 World Cup qualifier on Oct. 15 in Riffa, Bahrain.

Belgium (1st, unchanged) still lead the way from France (2nd, unchanged) and Brazil (3rd, unchanged), although top-ten rivals Uruguay (5th, up 1), Croatia (7th, up 1), Argentina (9th, up 1) have at least edged closer to the summit.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on 28 November 2019.

## Iran’s Kakoosh wins gold at Asian Para Archery C’ships

**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — Majid Kakoosh from Iran claimed a gold medal at the 3rd edition of Asian Para Archery Championships in Bangkok, Thailand on Friday.

He defeated his countryman Mohammadreza Zandi 132-125 in the W1 men’s event final.

Hadi Nouri had also won a silver at the men’s compound open.

In total, 107 para athletes participated in the championships. Seventy-two of those were also eligible to compete in the quota event.

Bangkok is set to host the Asian Archery Championships in November as well, where three recurve men’s and three recurve women’s places at the Olympics will be won.

The 2019 Asian Para Archery Championships took place on 20-25 October in Bangkok, Thailand.

## Mehdi Taremi doubt for Iraq match

Iran national football team forward Mehdi Taremi will likely miss the match against Iraq in the 2022 World Cup Qualifier.

In the Paços de Ferreira and Rio Ave match, Taremi was forced to leave the field due to a foot injury.

The Portuguese media reported that the Iranian forward will be sidelined for three weeks.

Iran national football team will meet Iraq in Group C at the Basra International Stadium in Basra on November 14.

Iran sit third in the table with six points, behind Iraq and Bahrain with seven points.

(Source: abola.pt)

## Iran discover fate at Women’s Asian Olympic Qualification

Iran national women’s volleyball team discovered their opponents at the 2020 Women’s Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament.

Iran have been drawn in pool B along with South Korea, Kazakhstan and Indonesia.

Pool A consists of Thailand, Australia and Chinese Taipei. The competition will be held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand from January 7 to 12.

The Women’s Asian Olympic Qualification is a volleyball tournament for women’s national teams organized by Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) and Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

The winners of the competition will qualify for the 2020 women’s Olympic volleyball tournament.

(Source: asianvolleyball)

## Sitting volleyball team remain top in ranking

**TASNIM** — Iran national sitting volleyball team remained at the top spot in the world para volleyball rankings.

Team Melli are the first with 5500 points, followed by Brazil with 4573 points.

Egypt (4314) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (4005) are third and fourth in the ranking.

Iran’s women’s sitting volleyball team sit seventh with 3018 points.

The U.S. sit top with 5350 points.

China (4915) and Brazil (4313) are second and third, respectively.

## Gholi Fallah wins BP Courage Award



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The BP Courage Award was presented to Iranian cross-country skier Elaheh Gholi Fallah on Friday.

She became the first Iranian female to qualify for a Paralympic Winter Games, Paralympic.org reported.

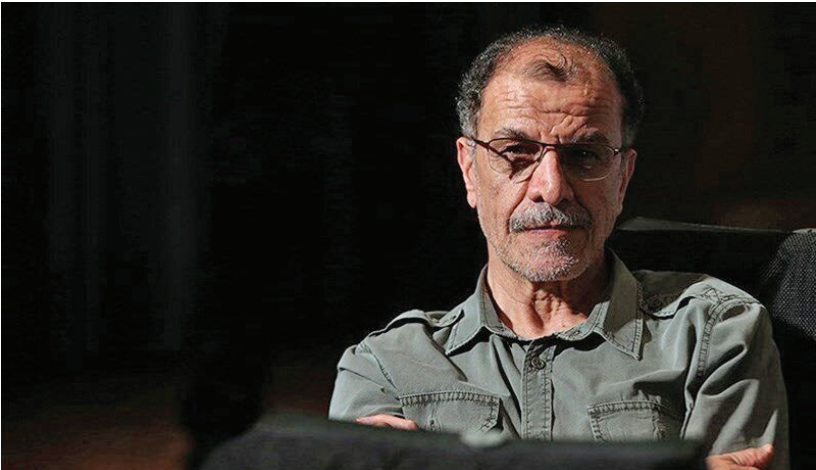
Courage is one of the Paralympic Movement’s four values, and is displayed in different shapes and forms each day by Para-athletes, teams and IPC member organizations.

Fallah, who lost her eyesight aged five due to a brain tumor, finished 11th

in the cross-country sprint in Pyeong-Chang. In Iran she acts as a mentor encouraging others to take up winter sports.

“It is so exciting to win this award among millions of athletes with impairment all around the world,” Fallah said. “It makes me more committed to Paralympic Movement and to the people with impairment in the world, specifically Iranian women, to help them participate in the social events and contribute to their inclusion.”

## Khosravi Vafa receives Paralympic Order



**S P O R T S** **TEHRAN** — The Paralympic Order, the highest honor a person connected with the Paralympic Movement can receive, has been awarded to head of Iran’s National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa.

At the 30th anniversary of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) held in Bonn, Germany Thursday night, Khosravi Vafa received his award.

He received the International Paralympic Committee’s (IPC) highest honor for his services to Para sport in the country and worldwide.

He was joined by former IPC Governing Board member Alan Dickson, France’s Rudi van den Abbeele, World Para Powerlifting’s Dr. Bassam Qasrawi and former IPC Chief Operating Officer and Agitos Foundation Director Georg Schlachtenburger.

The Paralympic Order is the highest tribute a person connected with the Paralympic Movement can achieve.

It honors someone who has exemplified the Paralympic ideals through their actions, made remarkable strides in Paralympic Sport or rendered outstanding services the Paralympic cause.

## AFC Futsal Championship: Turkmenistan 2020 cast finalized

After 52 grueling matches played across the Continent, we now have the 16 teams for the AFC Futsal Championship Turkmenistan 2020 next February.

**Qualified Teams**

**Hosts:** TURKMENISTAN

**West Zone:** KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN, LEBANON, OMAN

**East Zone:** CHINA PR, JAPAN, KOREA REPUBLIC

**Central & South Zone:** UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**Asean Zone:** THAILAND, INDONESIA, VIETNAM

In the West Zone Qualifiers, Kuwait topped Group A with a dominant performance, followed by Bahrain, who edged UAE for the runners-up spot on goal difference.

In Group B, Lebanon registered a perfect record of three wins with 20 goals scored, while Saudi Arabia finished second in the group, ahead of Oman on goal difference.

Oman then sealed the final West Zone ticket to the Finals after beating UAE 5-1 in the play-off match.

In the East Zone, China PR finished as Group A



winners in style, claiming three wins, while three-time champions Japan cruised past their opponents in Group B to book their 16th appearance in the Finals.

Korea Republic then beat Mongolia 5-0 in the play-off tie to seal their place at Turkmenistan 2020.

The Central & South Zone Qualifiers witnessed Uzbekistan and defending champions Iran surge to the top of Group A and B respectively, with Tajikistan and Afghanistan securing their places in the Finals as the respective group runners-up.

The 2020 hosts, Turkmenistan, competed in the Qualifiers and despite failing to grab any points, gained valuable experience that will serve them well in the Finals, which is set to take place from February 26 to March 8.

The AFF Futsal Championship served as the ASEAN Zone Qualifiers, where Thailand lifted a record 15th regional title after beating Indonesia, who also secured their spot to Turkmenistan 2020.

Vietnam defeated Myanmar to finish third and book the final ASEAN ticket.

(Source: AFC)

## Late Leicester owner Vichai’s memory honored by hospital

Leicester City’s late owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha’s generous donations to children’s health care are to be honored by having his name attached to the intensive care units at the local hospital, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

Vichai -- who was killed along with four others in a helicopter crash shortly after taking off from Leicester’s stadium in October last year -- made several donations including £2 million (\$2.6 million) toward Leicester Hospitals Charity’s Children’s Hospital Appeal following the club’s historic Premier League title win in 2016.

“Leicester Hospitals Charity has confirmed that both the Children’s Intensive Care Unit (CICU) and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at the Leicester Royal Infirmary will be designated ‘The Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Children’s Intensive Care Unit’, in honor of the late Chairman,” read a statement from the club.

“The new Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Children’s Intensive Care Units will be consolidated at the Leicester Royal Infirmary’s Kensington Building as part of an ambitious plan to create the East Midlands’s first dedicated children’s hospital where all

children’s services will be located under one roof, separate from adult services.”

Leicester City Vice Chairman Apichet Srivaddhanaprabha, son of Vichai, said it was a great honor for his family.

“This is a very proud moment for my family,” said Apichet.

“My father always supported Leicester’s communities because he believed in giving back to the people that have given so much to us.

“Our family, Leicester City Football Club and the Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation intend to honor my father’s legacy by



continuing to support those communities in the same spirit.”

(Source: Daily Mail)



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GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Check the wicked from evil by rewarding  
the good. *Imam Ali (AS)*

## Readers pick “Persimmon Garden”, “Enigma” at Seyyed Ali Andarzgu Literary Awards

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — “Persimmon Garden” by Hadi Hakimian and “Enigma” by Sadeq Karamyar have won the readers’ choice awards at the Seyyed Ali Andarzgu Literary Awards.



A poster for the Seyyed Ali Andarzgu Literary Awards.

“Persimmon Garden” was selected in the Novel for Children and Young Adults section and “Enigma” won the award in the Novel for Adults category.

The Association of Islamic Revolution Publishers has launched the Seyyed Ali Andarzgu Literary Awards to honor books on the 1979 Islamic revolution.

“Persimmon Garden” is about Reza Shah’s life in exile after Iran was occupied by Britain and the Soviet Union on 25 August 1941.

The book had already shared the award in the Novel for Young Adults section with “Two Captions for One Picture” by Ebrahim Hassanbeigi in the main section of the competition.

“Enigma” centers on the life and family of Mehdi Zeineddin, the top Iranian commander who was martyred during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

“Literary Struggle against the Distortion of Contemporary History” and “Depiction of Realities and Enlightenment on the Pahlavi Regime” were the main topics of the first edition of the awards named after Seyyed Ali Andarzgu, a revolutionary who was killed by the SAVAK intelligence services on August 24, 1978.

Winners of the first edition were awarded in Tehran in August.

“Romance in a Van Gogh Style” by Mohammadreza Sharafi-Khabushan and “The Story of Goharshad” by Saeid Tashakkori shared the award in the Novel for Adults category.

In the Oral History section, “Dairies of a Journalist” by Musa Haqqani was honored.



A scene from “Son-Mother” by Iranian director Mahnaz Mohammadi.

The film set in the current era in Iran is about a widow who works tirelessly at a factory that is failing due to the U.S.-imposed sanctions. She receives a marriage proposal that could mean financial security, but could also tear apart her family.

Starring Maryam Bubani, Raha Khodayari and Shiva Ordui, the film is a co-production between Iran and the Czech Republic.

“The Dazzled” by Sarah Suco from France was named best film in the Alice nella Città section, which is a parallel and independent section of the festival dedicated to new generations of filmmakers.

The award for best director went to Lorenzo Mattotti for his animated film “The Bears’ Famous Invasion of Sicily”, a co-production between Italy and France.

“Santa Subito” by Alessandro Piva from Italy won the BNL People’s Choice Award, which is the only award given in the official section of the festival.

# “The Boxer” wins Bratislava biennial grand prix

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian illustrator and writer Hassan Musavi has won the grand prix of the Biennial of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) in Slovakia for his book “The Boxer”.

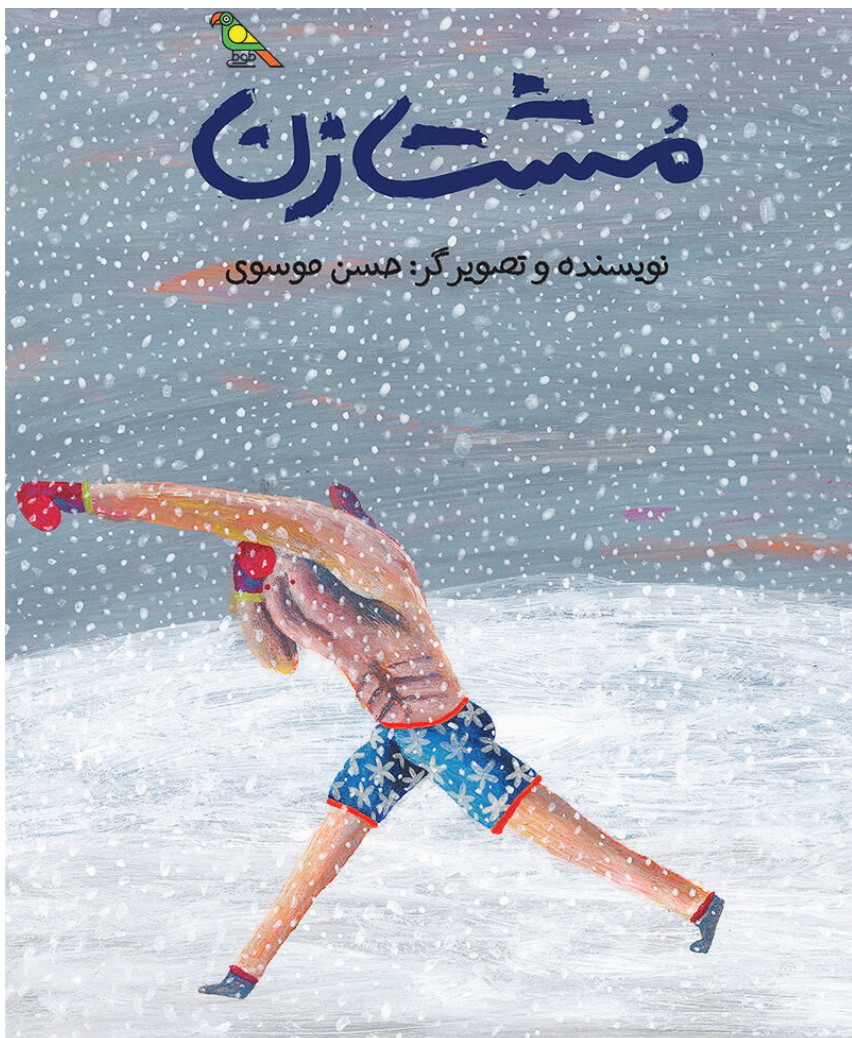
Winners were announced on Friday by a jury composed of Iranian illustrator Ali Buzari and nine other artists from other countries.

Published by the Fatemi publishing house, “The Boxer” narrates the story of the hectic life of a champion who is struggling between kindness and violence, the more he boxes, the smaller his surrounding world becomes.

15 Iranian illustrators also received nominations at the 2019 biennial.

The Bratislava biennial awarded a number of artists with the Bib Golden Apples. Janis Blanks from Latvia won the award for “Mole Cricket”. Other winners of the Bib Golden Apple were Soojung Myung from South Korea for “The Skirt That Spreads to the End of the World”, Anton Lomaev from Russia for “Lullaby for a Small Pirate”, Wen Dee Tan from Malaysia for “Lili, Circus of Monsters” and Chengliang Zhu from China for “Don’t Let the Sun Fall”.

Iranian illustrator Narges Mohammadi won a Golden Apple for her work in the book “I Was a Deer” at the previous edition of the biennial in 2017.



Front cover of “The Boxer” written and illustrated by Hassan Musavi.

## “Paternal House” banned again after modifications fail to satisfy court

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Kianush Ayyari’s controversial movie “The Paternal House” is facing a ban once again after modifications to the honor killing drama failed to satisfy the Tehran Public and Revolutionary Court.

In a statement published on Monday, the court ruled that all theaters across the country must stop screening the movie, which began screenings last Wednesday following a ban of about ten years due to allegedly violent scenes.

The film is about a young woman who is killed by her own father, with the aid of her younger brother nearly seventy years ago.

“Screening the movie has caused negative and extensive impacts on people’s minds,” the statement stated.

“The film contains scenes insulting the Iranian people’s religious beliefs, promoting violence against women, undermining the perfect Iranian-Islamic traditions and culture, and representing a false and distorted image of the Iranian family,” it added.

The statement also said that according to the reports the court has received from its agents, screening the movie “has imperiled the mental health of society” and added that “to prevent any threat to public order and maintain the mental health of society” the court decided to stop the screening of the movie.

The court also said that no modifications have been made to “The Paternal House” and



Mina Sadati (L) and Shahab Hosseini act in a scene from “The Paternal House”.

“all the culprits will be prosecuted.”

Earlier last week, Mohammad-Mehdi Tabatabaiejad, the director of the Culture Ministry’s Supervision and Evaluation Office, said that Ayyari had already obtained the approval of the office to screen his movie after making the necessary modifications.

A council composed of a group of experts at the office assesses screenplays and films to grant production and screening licenses in Iran.

In a new response to the court’s decision to ban the movie, Tabatabaiejad said that the office will stand pat on its decision to

approve the film.

The Cinema Organization of Iran (COI) as the country’s highest policymaking body in film industry also criticized the judicial decision in an interview published by the Persian service of IRNA on Tuesday.

“Is it possible at all to get a screening license from the council, all of whose members are experts that work hand-in-hand with officials, for a film that is unfavorable towards Iran or is anti-religion or anti-family?” COI director Hossein Entezami lamented.

“The council is comprised of film critics and sociologists who do not view ‘The Paternal House’ as a vehicle to promote violence,” he added.

Entezami also asked Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi to intervene in the matter to overturn the court’s decision.

“The Paternal House” was directed about ten years ago, but it failed to receive the approval of cultural authorities to be screened at that time due to the allegation that it contained some violent scenes.

“The Paternal House” recently received the approval of cultural authorities for screenings in the country after it had been banned in the country for about ten years due to some allegedly violent scenes.

Ayyari finally agreed to make some modifications to his movie to get the green light for his movie and screenings of it began last Wednesday.

## Mohammad Rahmanian’s “Joan of Arc in Fire” on stage in Budapest

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Celebrated Iranian writer and director Mohammad Rahmanian’s play “Joan of Arc in Fire” was staged by the Hungary-based Iranian director Farid Tehrani in Budapest, Hungary.

Produced by the Budapest-based PishPardeh Dramatics Persian Theater Association, the play was performed in Persian and Hungarian on September 29, October 21 and 24. The troupe’s last performance will be held on November 8.

The play is about Charlotte, a young girl who has survived one of the Nazi concentration camps in World War II. She remembers every moment of almost six years of suffering in the camp and tries to narrate them all for the audience.

Solmaz Foruzandeh is the main member of the cast for the Persian performance, while Orsolya Kálczi is performing the Hungarian version.



A poster for “Joan of Arc in Fire” by director Farid Tehrani.

## “Daughters of Winter” crowned best at Brazilian festival

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Behzad Khodaveisi’s movie “Daughters of Winter” was crowned best feature film at the 1st edition of the Alter do Chão Film Festival in the Brazilian city of Santarém on Sunday.

The film is about two young girls from a working-class family, who try to change their lives and destinies.

“Earth” by Julia Kushnarenko from Russia received the award for best mid-length film, while “Elephantbird”, a co-production between Iran and Afghanistan by Iranian director Amir Masud Soheili, won the best short film award.

“For Amir” by Iranian director Javad Hakami was named best smartphone film and “Fisso” by Raito Low Jing Yi from Taiwan won the best animation award.

Over 20 Iranian films were screened in various sections of the Alter do Chão Film Festival, which was held from October 21 to 27.



A scene from “Daughters of Winter” by Iranian director Behzad Khodaveisi.

## Bronx steps in “Joker” movie become a tourist attraction

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Move over, Rocky, there’s a new stairway to climb.

A set of outdoor steps in the Bronx has become a tourist attraction in recent weeks since the release of the movie “Joker.”

The stairs are between two buildings on Shakespeare Avenue, about a half-mile from Yankee Stadium.

In the movie, lead actor Joaquin Phoenix dances as he goes down the steps, wearing a bright red suit and clown makeup.

These days, neighborhood residents using the steps are being joined by tourists trying to recreate the scene.

The visitors have been taking selfies, and some have

even shown up in costume.

Coming to the stairs is “really immersive,” said Oliver Bonallack, visiting from Brighton, England.

“You never really get to experience a film first-hand,” he said. “I feel like it is so iconic.”

Not everyone is thrilled with the upsurge in popularity. “We live in the neighborhood, it’s taking up all of our time, we’re all being inconvenienced,” said Bronx resident Cathyrine Spencer. “Every day when I come down the stairs, I have to go through a barrage of people.”

The stairway joins the ranks of well-known movie settings, like that of the steps at the Philadelphia Museum of Art seen in “Rocky.”



People pose on the steps between two apartment buildings, Monday Oct. 28, 2019, in the Bronx borough of New York. (AP/Bebeto Matthews)