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CBI governor calls for expansion of banking ties with Turkey

TEHRAN — The Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Abdolnasser Hemmati said on Friday that without proper banking relations between Iran and Turkey, reaching their \$30 billion goal of bilateral trade would be impossible.

"Achieving the \$30-billion trade target between Iran and Turkey will inevitably require development of monetary and banking relations between the two countries," Hemmati

said in an Instagram post.

Mentioning his meeting with Turkey's new Central Bank Governor Murat Uysal, the official noted that "The presidents of Iran and Turkey are determined for boosting the volume of trade between the two countries."

The CBI Governor visited the Turkish capital to hold mutual talks on expansion of banking and monetary cooperation. ➔ **4**

Rouhani: Iran firm to keep paths to save JCPOA open

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has said that Iran is determined to keep all paths open to keep the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Thurs-

day, Rouhani said that all sides should take "balanced steps" in line with saving the JCPOA.

"Europe must speed up its efforts in line with meeting Iran's legitimate interests and reaching a ceasefire in the U.S. economic war (on Iran)," Rouhani asserted. ➔ **2**

UN calls out Saudi Arabia, UAE over 'hypocritical' Yemen aid promises

TEHRAN — The United Nations has slammed Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for undermining the UN's relief operations in Yemen by ditching humanitarian aid pledges to the war-torn country.

"Those who made the largest pledges — Yemen's neighbors in the coalition — have so far paid only a modest proportion of what they promised," UN Emergency Re-

lief Coordinator Mark Lowcock told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, part of a so-called "coalition" fighting in Yemen, each promised \$750 million in aid to the country at a UN fundraising event in February. According to UN figures, Saudi Arabia has so far only paid \$121.7 million and the UAE about \$195 million of the promised funds. ➔ **13**

Full disclosure: Extraterrestrials, no nuclear war, end of the deep state?

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 for Tehran Times.

■ Before we begin discussing what you are calling a full disclosure agenda, let me ask you about your most recent book published at Amazon in both electronic form and hard copy. What is in that book?

A. Great question! I discovered that the American social media, Google News particularly, was censoring all of my interviews with you as published in the Tehran Times, and they had already been censoring the American Herald Tribune in its totality. They briefly censored Press TV and the

Tehran Times in their totality. As of today Press TV, the Tehran Times, and half of my interviews are no longer censored. The American Herald Tribune is still totally censored. So I published a book of the censored interviews and it is one of the most popular of my publications, available as both electronic and hard copy forms at Amazon, and free online as well. All three versions can be accessed here.

■ Let us begin then. For many years you have been the top Amazon reviewer for non-fiction, until you removed all of your reviews from Amazon in protest of Amazon censorship. Recently you have been doing book reviews on extraterrestrial matters and on US politics and culture. Your review of David Icke's book, Everything You Need to Know But Have Never Been Told (David Icke Books, 2018) is 40-pages long with many quotes and links. This is not a normal review. What was your motivation in doing a 40-page summary of a 741 page book?

A. First, let me say that all my reviews — over 2,500 non-fiction reviews across 97 categories of non-fiction, are still free online and accessible both via topical lists and via each of the designated categories. Second, I was never particularly interested in extraterrestrials — or Zionism for that matter — but I backed into both topics — and they are related — because of my long-standing investigations into information pathologies, the abuse of secrecy, and cover-ups. Once I began to focus heavily on the Deep State, and particularly after I was appointed a Commissioner for the International Natural Justice Tribunal (ITNJ), and Chief Counsel for the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Human Trafficking and Child Sex Abuse — the report and videos from our London seating last year are free online — I found that extraterrestrials, Zionists, and the Deep State all converged in Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA). ➔ **7**

Delay in Zakzaky's case unjust, inhuman

By Huda Z

TEHRAN — The leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria Sheikh Ibraheem El-Zakzaky, who has been battling for critical health issues, was scheduled to appear before the Kaduna State High Court on Wednesday for a hearing to allow him to travel to India for medical treatment.

Over the past few weeks protests have erupted in many countries as a result of a medical report published by a team of doctors led by Islamic Human Rights Commission that found high toxicity levels in the body of ailing Sheikh.

The court proceedings started around 9 AM in the morning where Sheikh Ibraheem El-Zakzaky was represented by Advocate Femi Falana San. The session started with the plaintiff expressing

the urgency of the matter citing Sheikh's health condition. The government counsel complained the late submission of the 'bulky' medical report asking for more time, which the judge rejected saying that the claim of the report being bulky was untrue.

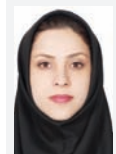
After a round of arguments from both sides and despite plaintiff describing Sheikh's deteriorating health condition and stating that Sheikh hadn't slept for seven consecutive days, the court was adjourned for eleven days. The next hearing is now scheduled for 29th of July.

This delay in judgement comes at a time when Sheikh is in critical health condition and is in need of immediate medical attention.

In an interview published earlier by Zainabia Channel, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Taufeeq Panjwani,

one of the members of the medical board that was sent to examine Sheikh, said: 'We recommended the Nigerian government to allow Sheikh to leave Nigeria for medical treatment as the level of lead toxicity in the Sheikh's body is very high.'

The Nigerian authorities may allow Sheikh to travel abroad at a later time, but the simple act of delaying the procedure might cause numerous complications in his health. As per the report by the IHRC medical team, one of Sheikh's eyes is completely damaged, while the other one only has 20 per cent vision left. This might be a result of the tragic incident when his residence was raided by the Nigerian army back in 2015, murdering three of his sons and assaulting him. ➔ **6**



ARTICLE
Mahnaz Abdi
Head of the TehranTimes
Economy Desk

Forex market stabilized, rial soaring

Forex market in Iran has been experiencing many ups and downs after the U.S. withdrew from Iran's nuclear deal (known as JCPOA) in May 2018.

The exchange rates were mostly affected by the political environment and news in a turbulent market which even saw the exchange rate of 180,000 rials for a dollar, something referred to as a "forex market shock".

Although the high rate of 180,000 rials (in last September) was not real, the government came to act and take the control of market.

The measures seriously taken and continued by the government and Central Bank of Iran (CB) led to a more realistic market in which the rates are set based on the economic realities of the country.

No wild ride, the rates are now coming down in a calm market.

Economic experts believe that the noticeable drop recently witnessed in the exchange rates (for dollar falling from 130,000 rials to lower than 120,000 rials) has been mainly the result of forex management measures taken by CBI.

That's true and CBI Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati said on Monday that the value of Iranian rial is recovering against the U.S. dollar as the CBI policies for shielding the currency against the U.S. sanctions are taking effect.

He said the foreign currency exchange market is stabilized.

"Of the CBI's measures which led to this stabilization in the forex market it could be referred to injecting more foreign currency into the market in a controlled way over the past month which did not led to a sudden drop in the rates, because such drop would again result in rise of the rates", according to Mehdi Sadeqi Shahedani, an economist.

The economist believes that CBI strengthening its supervision over NIMA has been resulted to injection of more foreign currency to the domestic economy via this system making the forex rate coming down.

In early July 2018, Iran launched Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA, to allow the exporters of non-oil commodities to sell their foreign currency earnings to importers of consumer products. ➔ **4**



ARTICLE
Martin Love
Political analyst from
North Carolina

Demand that the Mideast become a nuclear weapon free zone!

Petty and small minded is the sole way to describe the restrictions on Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif's movements to a six block area around the United Nations complex while he is in New York to address a UN group. This kind of action and mentality is the stuff of petty tyrants, not befitting the alleged leader or government of an "empire" that has any serious, responsible sense of itself or of others overseas or internally who don't happen to be "Caucasian". Or "Western" or whatever.

Trump stepped into a hornet's nest when he blathered on both in front of the press and on Twitter about four ladies of color in Congress, all young Democrats, and then even while the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress condemned what were clearly racist comments, only four members of the House on the Republican side of the aisle joined in the condemnation. The series of Tweets aimed at the Congresswomen who hold policy positions antithetical to his own on multiple issues could only be characterized as racist.

Trump's primary exhortation involved telling the four women -- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna Pressley -- that if they did not like Trump's views or the actions of his administration they ought to return to the countries they came from and leave the U.S. But three of the ladies were born in the U.S. It seems that only pure Caucasians are valid "Americans" to Trump, and one of the women is an American-born Palestinian who certainly is not welcome in the Zionist entity, Israel. Some commentators seized on the comment and claimed, jokingly, that Trump had also called for the return of millions of Palestinian refugees to Israel to their former homes, too, when he suggested that Rashida Tlaib leave the U.S.

Anyone alive during the Vietnam War, and back then opposition to it was relatively extreme, remembers the oft stated command: "Love it (America) or leave it." The "it" referred to Washington's war policies under both Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon with respect to Vietnam. ➔ **6**



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Noruz-e Sayyad celebrated in Qeshm Island

Natives of Qeshm Island, clad in traditional attire, stage a regional performance to celebrate their new fishery year, called Noruz-e Sayyad, July 19, 2019.

The locals would not go fishing or eat fish or other seafood on this day and believe that all fish are free and should reproduce.

Nasrallah expresses gratitude to Leader for regional stability

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah has expressed gratitude to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for his aptitude in preventing the region to degenerate into instability. Speaking in a meeting with the visiting Hossein Amir Abollahian, special aide to Iran’s parliament speaker, in Beirut, Nasrallah said, “As the Leader has said, America is not able to impose war on Iran.” He added, “The White House knows that if a war breaks out with Iran, the entire region will be engaged, and it will not be America which would bring about the end [to that war].” Speaking about Palestine, the Hezbollah leader said resistance is the only powerful way to counter the crimes of Zionists. Regarding the American-proposed “deal of century”, Nasrallah said, “We have no problem with the Jews. But the Zionists are the root cause of corruption and insecurity in the region. The Jews should not fall in for the expansionist Zionist policies.”

Zarif says world owes Qassem Soleimani

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that the Middle East and the wider world owe General Qassem Soleimani, commander of the IRGC Quds Force, praising his role in fighting terrorism. “Major General Soleimani has played a great role in fighting terrorism,” IRNA quoted Zarif as saying in a meeting with a number of U.S. reporters and editors in New York on Thursday. The Washington-based magazine Foreign Policy put General Soleimani at the top of its 2019 list of Global Thinkers in the defense and security field in January. The IRGC commander is widely seen as a strategist in the counter-terrorism operations against Takfiri terrorists in Syria and Iraq. The powerful general leads Iranian military advisers backing the national armies of Syria and Iraq in their fight against terrorism. General Soleimani was present on the ground to supervise the decisive stages of Iran-backed operations against Daesh, which lost in late 2017 all the territories it had seized in Iraq and Syria. He had been photographed on anti-terrorism battlefields from Iraq’s Mosul to Syria’s Aleppo. The general took personal command of the battle against Takfiri militants in the Syrian city of Bukamal, located in Dayr al-Zavr Province, in November 2017. In Iraq, at the height of Daesh’s terror camp in neighboring Iraq, he assisted the Baghdad government in commanding the operation to retake the strategic oil-rich city of Tikrit from Daesh in 2015. He declared the end of Daesh’s territorial rule in a letter addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in November 2017. According to Press TV, in January 2015, the head of Iraq’s Badr Organization credited Tehran and General Soleimani with saving the Baghdad government when Daesh first unleashed its campaign of terror in Iraq a year earlier. “If it were not for the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and General Soleimani, we would not today have a government headed by Haider al-Abadi in Baghdad,” Hadi al-Ameri said.

Iran slams West’s double-standard approach to human rights in case of China

(Press TV) — Iran has condemned the West’s double standards on human rights, saying the issue is used by “a few states” as a political tool to exert pressure on the countries they disfavor. The statement by Iran’s permanent mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva came after European countries accused China of mass detention of Uighurs. “Once again, the noble objective of promotion and protection of human rights has served the political interests of a few States that regard human rights as a means in their foreign policy toolbox to exert pressure on the countries they disfavor,” said the mission. On Wednesday, 18 European countries including Germany, Britain and France condemned what they claimed as China’s “mass arbitrary detention” of Uighurs and other minorities in the country’s far western region of Xinjiang. The letter, addressed to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, accused Beijing of inflicting torture and carrying out a political indoctrination against an estimated 1 million Uighur and other Turkic Muslims at detention camps. Beijing has frequently denied allegations that the Uighur minority living in China’s far west are being held in such internment camps. In its statement, the Iranian mission criticized the “unacceptable practice of some Western countries towards China, and application of double standards and abuse of human rights under the pretext of minority situation in this country”. “The fact that the same states routinely turn a blind eye to the gross and systematic violations of human rights, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by themselves and their allies against innocent populations in Yemen and Palestine, reveals the true face and intention of sponsors of the letter,” the Iranian statement said. “Regrettably the casual application of such obvious double standards by them has relegated the international human rights mechanisms to political instruments that they conveniently abuse against whomever that is considered unfriendly,” it added. Resource-rich and strategically located on the borders of Central Asia, Xinjiang is key to China’s growing energy needs. The autonomous region is home to around 10 million Turkic-speaking Uighurs, accounting for 45 percent of Xinjiang’s population.

Rouhani to Macron: Iran firm to keep paths to save JCPOA open

1 → Rouhani said intensification of sanctions on Iran by the United States is putting the JCPOA in jeopardy. Pointing to Iran’s actions in reducing nuclear commitments, he said that Iran will take third step if the time passes and chances are missed. Macron said that France will make efforts to save the nuclear deal. On May 8, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrew from the multi-nation nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran, Tehran announced a partial withdrawal from some aspects of the pact, saying that the country would no longer adhere to some of the limits on its nuclear activities. It also threatened to step up uranium enrichment if an agreement is not made within 60 days to protect it from the sanctions’ effects. In follow-up to that deadline, on July 7 Iran announced that it has started enriching uranium to a higher purity than the 3.67% as the Europeans missed the 60-day deadline to devise a concrete mechanism to protect the country from the U.S. sanctions.

Zarif says Trump has been misadvised on getting a better deal through pressure

I do not think the approach of maximum pressure will get Trump the prize of talks with Iran, foreign minister says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that U.S. President Donald Trump has been misadvised on getting a deal better than the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA, through pressure. “I believe that President Trump does not want war. He believes he is trying to get a better deal through pressure. If he has been advised that that is how to get a better deal, I think he has been misadvised—or ill-advised. Whichever you like,” he told The National Interest in an interview published on Thursday.

Following is the full text of the interview: **■** With the American shooting down of an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz today, are we on a path of escalation? **A:** I checked with Tehran, and we do not have any information about having lost a drone today. So, we don’t know, as of now what has happened. We have the president saying that they shot a drone. We don’t know whose drone it is, but we don’t have that information. But we are certainly moving in the wrong direction. The fact that the United States has an increased presence in the Persian Gulf doesn’t help security or stability in the area—it’s a tiny body of water and you cannot have such congested traffic there without something happening. **■** A lot of the tension is also focused on the tanker that went missing. Is Iran responsible for that? **A:** All the information we have is that we confiscated a small tanker that was only carrying a million liters of smuggled oil products—not oil—and that happens quite often in the Persian Gulf because of heavily subsidized prices in Iran of oil products. There is a lot of smuggling from both sea and land borders and we interdict them on a regular basis. So if that is the tanker they’re talking about, that is a smuggling tanker, not a shipping tanker. **■** Another move that the Trump administration has announced is sending about five hundred more soldiers to Saudi Arabia. What is your response to that? **A:** It’s a symbolic move that doesn’t help security for anybody. Certainly, security in our region cannot be purchased from outside. We believe that countries in the region should provide their own security through cooperation and through regional integration, and not through trying to purchase it from outside. It’s not usually a tenable avenue to getting security. **■** Another move that the Trump administration could make would be to try and supply more weapons again in Syria—for example by downgrading Al Nusra’s status as a terrorist organization. How would you react to those kinds of moves? **A:** Well, they have already provided weapons—let alone Al Nusra, they have provided weapons to Daesh [the Islamic State]. Reports in Western media indicate that American weapons through Saudi Arabia went to Daesh while they were in Syria. You cannot arm terrorist organizations and expect them to win over people’s resistance—this is just impossible. **■** How do you assess the talk of Rand Paul serving as a mediator or negotiator on behalf of Trump as opposed to the National Security Advisor John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo taking the lead? **A:** President Trump said today that he is not an emissary.



So we have to take him at his word. **■** Do you have any comment on any negotiations that might be taking place or any feelers? **A:** I meet with members of Congress but I do not comment on specific meetings with specific members of Congress. But members of Congress, senators, and members of the House are not parties for negotiations. They are representatives of the American people whom we respect and we engage just for clarifications, not for negotiations. We can only negotiate with governments. **■** We already did come close to war in June when Trump called off strikes at the last minute. Do you think that would have inevitably turned into an all-out response by Iran? **A:** It would’ve. It would’ve and the United States was informed of that. **■** When exactly was it informed? **A:** Immediately after the shooting of the drone. **■** I see. Is that what you would call a red line? A direct American attack on Iran, or is there something less that would trigger a reaction? **A:** We defend ourselves. Any attack on us will be reciprocated massively. **■** To sketch it even more broadly, are you more concerned than you have ever been or do you think that Trump’s moves—his unpredictability—do hold the chance for some kind of breakthrough? **A:** Well, I believe that President Trump does not want war. He believes he is trying to get a better deal through pressure. If he has been advised that that is how to get a better deal, I think he has been misadvised—or ill-advised. Whichever you like. **■** Have you been more concerned ever since John Bolton was named national security advisor? Has that been part of your calculus or have you focused more on the president’s unpredictability? **A:** I think the presence of Ambassador Bolton in the White House was not good news for anybody in the world. **■** Do you believe that Trump would like to pull another North Korea in Iran where he would have a direct meeting in Tehran?

New scandal around empire of lies

By Mohammad Ghaderi

TEHRAN — On Thursday, U.S. President Donald Trump, who is also the commander in chief of the country’s armed forces, falsely claimed that a U.S. warship had downed an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz. Speaking at the White House, Trump said the USS Boxer shot down the drone after it got within 1,000 yards, “ignoring multiple calls to stand down and was threatening the safety of the ship and the ship’s crew.” Also, the Pentagon announced the Iranian drone was within a “threatening range” of the Boxer. “At approximately 10 a.m. local time, the amphibious ship USS Boxer was in international waters conducting a planned inbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz,” chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement. The interesting point here is that even the Pentagon did not bother to confirm Trump’s hallucination regarding downing of an Iranian

drone, since its statement does not at all refer to the owner of the drone. But regarding Trump’s false claim, which is an intelligence disaster for a country which boasts of the biggest and most modern army in the world, a few points should be noted: 1- More than approximating reality, Trump’s false and hallucinatory claim of having downed an Iranian drone is rather indicative of the great shock the U.S. suffered after Iran’s Revolution Guards forces downed the Global Hawk spy drone recently, which has become a bitter nightmare for the U.S. president. America’s inability to provide answer in kind to the IRGC’s firm action has severely marred the image of U.S. military power. This is to say that resort to such false claims by the White House depart to the public mind nothing but desperation. 2- It seems that for Trump to make such a false claim is in fact the indication of the onset of a new era of media and propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic, with the hope to realize on the political and media

arena what has not been achieved in field, thus concealing a deep degree of military powerlessness of the U.S. Although Trump’s recent move shows how deeply the U.S. has been impressed by a psychological vibe surrounding the ever-increasing military power of Iran, in case the U.S. Army’s decision-making processes are based on such sort of information we should expect increasing risk of U.S. military presence as well as unexpected moves that should ensue. What should be noted regarding Trump’s claim, is that according to statements by Iranian authorities, all Iranian drones in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, including the one mentioned by Trump, have returned home after their reconnaissance missions, and that the USS Boxer has been unable to engage in any sort of confrontation with the drone. This is why we should conclude that Trump has intended to take initiative and create a favorable media vibe for his administration. 3- Creating tension by resorting to false

news making is a mechanism constantly tapped by the U.S. and its Western allies, which is especially used over the Persian Gulf with a number of objectives. One of the main objectives is to present Iran as a threat to other regional countries and those whose economy somehow depends on the security of the Persian Gulf. A great part of this hype is created especially to mild the backward Arab leaders, especially those of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. 4- The other noteworthy point is that based on the entire international rights, especially those concerning the rights governing seas, since a great part of the Persian Gulf waters are part of Iran’s territory, it is naturally Iran’s right to use whatever in its power to secure the region. This is while none of the international protocols allow U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. This is why the White House, seeking help from its allies such as the UK, is trying to misrepresent the Persian Gulf as insecure, and thereby to justify its bullying presence in the region.

Macron discusses JCPOA with Putin

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — France’s President Emmanuel Macron in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Thursday underlined the pivotal role of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers in ensuring regional security. According to a statement by the Kremlin, the two sides discussed the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), during a telephone conversation on Thursday. “Both sides underlined that the [nuclear deal] is the most important factor for ensuring security in the Middle East and maintaining the nuclear non-proliferation regime,” the statement read, according to Reuters. The JCPOA was concluded in Vienna in 2015 between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of states comprising the United States, UK, France, Russia, China, plus Germany. The JCPOA lifted sanctions against Iran in return for the Tehran to limit its nuclear energy program. The U.S. unilaterally left the JCPOA last year and returned sanctions in a move condemned by the Islamic Republic as “economic terrorism.” The Kremlin said the French and Russian heads of state attached “great importance” to preservation of the deal and pledged to increase their efforts to enable continued exist-



ence of the accord. The two leaders addressed the aftermath of the U.S. departure from the deal and its implementation by the remaining signatories, it added. On the same day, Macron talked over the telephone with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who said “The Islamic Republic is determined to keep open all the paths leading to the JCPOA preservation.”

A: I think he said that, but I do not think the approach of maximum pressure will get him that prize. **■** Why not go for broke with Trump and deal with him directly—which is what he is seeking—and bypass the national security apparatus? **A:** Because we already have an agreement with the government of the United States. Governments deal with each other; they don’t deal with individuals. If we agree that an agreement with the previous government could only last until President Trump came to office, then we would automatically have to consider that an agreement with President Trump could only last as long as he is in office—and that would make his natural inclination impossible to conduct. **■** Do you think there is any conceivable way that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action [JCPOA] can be revived or is there so much mistrust in Iran itself that the calculus has changed? **A:** Well, certainly there is a lot of mistrust in engagement in Iran, but Iran has shown to be committed to its international obligations. So if we see a reciprocal commitment on the other side, then JCPOA is a document that is worthy of resuscitating and we will do our best to keep it afloat. **■** Has your previous backing for the agreement damaged your position in Iran? **A:** Certainly the people are not happy with the outcome because they see that the United States is even less trustworthy than they thought. **■** What is your analysis of relations with Europe? Is Europe going to follow an independent path or is it going to follow the one that the Trump administration is pressuring it to? **A:** If Europe wants to pursue its own interests, it has to follow a different path. I don’t think they have gathered the necessary political will in order to pay the price for that independence. It’s not going to be free of charge. **■** Do you see Germany as the key player here? **A:** I believe all three plus the European Union are important players—each one has their own difficulties. The UK is going through Brexit, France has some domestic difficulties, Germany is going through a succession process. So there are difficulties in each of these countries, but I think they are our interlocutors and we will continue to deal with all three of them. **■** If we were to lurch into war, how would you envision that? **A:** Well, it is something that we all need to avoid but that we cannot run away from. Certainly, we cannot run away from our own region, we are right there—we can’t move. **■** Could it become a World War I scenario where it’s the initial spark that triggers a wider conflagration? **A:** I think whoever starts that war will not end it—and we will not be the one starting it. **■** What would be your assessment of Russia’s moves towards Iran if a war did break out? **A:** Well, it’s unpredictable, but we consider Russia to be an important partner and an important neighbor. We don’t have a military alliance with Russia, but we have good relations. **■** And currently, what are you hearing from Moscow? **A:** We do not build our foreign policy based on assumptions of anybody else’s help. We have learned to rely on our own resources.

Military rejects Trump claim of ‘destroying’ Iranian drone

“I am worried that USS Boxer has shot down their own UAS by mistake!” Araqchi tweets

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A senior spokesman for the Iranian military says Iran has not lost any drone in the Strait of Hormuz, rejecting U.S. President Donald Trump’s claim that a U.S. warship had shot down an Iranian drone over the strait.

“Contrary to Trump’s delusional claim, all drones belonging to Iran in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, including the one mentioned by him, have returned to their bases safe and sound,” Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said on Friday, Mehr reported.

“There has been no report indicating that the USS Boxer has conducted a counter-operation,” Shekarchi announced.

“The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran always feel duty-bound to protect, control, and safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz with full vigilance while observing international standards,” he added.

It came a day after President Trump announced that the USS Boxer downed an Iranian drone that came within 1,000 yards of the Navy ship and ignored “multiple calls to stand down.”

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the drone was “threatening the safety of the ship and the ship’s crew” in the Strait of Hormuz and was “immediately destroyed.”

“This is the latest of many provocative and hostile actions by Iran against vessels operating in international waters,” Trump added.

“The United States reserves the right to defend our personnel, our facilities and interest and calls upon all nations to condemn Iran’s



attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation and global commerce.”

Following Shekarchi’s remarks on Friday, the IRGC issued a statement saying it would soon release some images of the U.S. warship and evidence that refutes Trump’s claim about destroying the Iranian drone.

“We will soon release images taken by the Guards’ drones of the USS Boxer frigate, which is claimed to have shot down an Iranian drone over the Strait of Hormuz yesterday (Thurs-

day), so that the claim’s baselessness would be proved to the world’s public opinion,” the statement said, Tasnim reported.

“These pictures will show that the Guards’ Aerospace Force’s unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was carrying out its mission in the area before the arrival of the American frigate in the Strait of Hormuz,” it added.

Meanwhile, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Thursday he was not aware of any downing of an Iranian

drone in the Strait of Hormuz.

“We have no information about losing a drone today,” Zarif told reporters at the United Nations before a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

He later said the issue is still under investigation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi also reacted to the U.S. claim, saying, “We have not lost any drone in the Strait of Hormuz nor anywhere else.”

“I am worried that USS Boxer has shot down their own UAS (unmanned aerial system) by mistake!” he tweeted on Friday.

This comes almost a month after Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) shot down a highly-sophisticated U.S. stealth drone after it violated Iran’s airspace.

The IRGC brought the drone down by firing a surface-to-air missile at it, only after it gave the drone four warnings.

“In fact, four warnings were given to this drone but they did not pay attention,” Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the aerospace unit of the IRGC, said after the incident.

“Another spy plane was also flying near this drone which carried 35 crew members and we had the right to shoot that down as well, however, we only shot down the unmanned drone,” he added.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have escalated since the U.S. administration of Donald Trump adopted a distinctly hostile approach toward Iran, which included pulling out of the historic Iran nuclear deal and re-imposing sanctions on Tehran.



U.S. more disgraced, defeated than ever: Emami Kashani

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — At no time has the U.S. been so clearly disgraced and defeated in the world, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, a Tehran Friday prayer leader, said on Friday.

Addressing worshippers, Ayatollah Emami Kashani pointed to the U.S. government’s violation of its commitments

by withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear agreement, saying the move brought shame and disgrace on the American people.

He also criticized the Europeans for not fulfilling their commitments to the nuclear deal, adding that Iran will keep scaling back on its commitments to the deal in the face of Europe’s inaction.

Trump’s better deal with Iran looks a lot like Obama’s: Politico

Donald Trump has long trashed the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement as “the worst deal ever” and “disaster”.

In recent weeks, however, the president has indicated that the Barack Obama-era deal might not be so bad after all.

Trump has repeatedly urged Iran to engage in negotiations with him, while saying that Tehran’s nuclear ambitions are his chief concern — “A lot of progress has been made. And they’d like to talk,” Trump asserted Tuesday at the White House. His aides and allies, meanwhile, have recently suggested that Iran and other countries should follow the guidelines of a deal they themselves have shunned as worthless.

At times, analysts and former officials say, it sounds like Trump wants to strike a deal that essentially mirrors the agreement that his White House predecessor inked — even if he’d never be willing to admit it. Iranian officials seem willing to egg him on, saying they’ll talk so long as Trump lifts the sanctions he’s imposed on them and returns to the 2015 Iran deal. And as European ministers warn that the existing deal is nearly extinct, Trump may feel like he is backed into a corner and running out of options.

“Trump got rid of the Iran nuclear deal because it was Barack Obama’s agreement,” said Jarrett Blanc, a former State Department official who helped oversee the 2015 deal’s implementation. “If you were to present to Trump the same deal and call it Trump’s deal, he’d be thrilled.”

The administration’s confusing messaging is a result of warring between two major factions, U.S. officials say, with Trump in his own separate lane. The infighting has been deeply frustrating to those involved in the debate. “In the past, even when I personally disagreed with a policy, I could explain its logic,” a U.S. official said. “Now I can’t even do that.” Trump quit the nuclear deal in May 2018, reimposing sanctions the U.S. had lifted on Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. He said the deal should have tackled Iran’s non-nuclear activities and blasted the expiration dates on some of its clauses.

For a year afterward, Iran continued to abide by the deal’s terms, hoping that the other countries involved — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — could offer Tehran the economic relief Trump had taken away. But as that relief has failed to materialize, Iran has begun backing away from some of its commitments.

Tehran recently breached limits on its enrichment and stockpiling of uranium and has promised more infractions in the coming months. The U.S. has also accused Iran of attacking several international

“Trump got rid of the Iran nuclear deal because it was Barack Obama’s agreement,” says Jarrett Blanc, a former State Department official who helped oversee the 2015 deal’s implementation. “If you were to present to Trump the same deal and call it Trump’s deal, he’d be thrilled.”

oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, and the Pentagon has sent warships and more troops to the region in response.

As tensions have spiked, one voice pushing for a deal has been Trump.

He’s said he’s “not looking for war,” wants to talk to Iran without preconditions and isn’t interested in regime change. He called off a military strike on Iran over its downing of an unmanned U.S. drone, overriding the advice of several top aides. His main public demand is that Iran not build nuclear weapons. In return, Trump has offered to help revive Iran’s sanctions-battered economy.

To observers, that sounds suspiciously like the 2015 deal.

“They can’t have a nuclear weapon,” Trump said Tuesday. “We want to help them. We will be good to them. We will work with them. We will help them in any way we can. But they can’t have a nuclear weapon.”

Trump occasionally nods to other disputes with Iran, such as ballistic missile testing and Tehran’s support of rebel forces in Yemen, but nuclear weapons dominate his rhetoric.

In June, Jackie Wolcott, the U.S. ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency — the body that inspects Iran’s nuclear program under the 2015 agreement — called on Iran to stick to the deal after an IAEA inspection report detailed a disputed potential violation.

“Iran has claimed that it continues to comply with the JCPOA, but it is now reported to be in clear violation of the deal,” Wolcott said, referring to the agreement’s official name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. “This should be of great concern to all of us. The United States calls on Iran to return to compliance without delay.”

Afterward, State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus faced

questions about why the U.S. wants Iran to adhere to a deal that it has claimed doesn’t truly constrain its nuclear ambitions.

“I don’t think it’s contradictory in the fact that we have stated very loudly since the beginning of this administration that we do not want the Iranian regime to get a nuclear weapon,” Ortagus said. “We think it would be disastrous for the Middle East. I — we haven’t changed our position.”

In a statement to POLITICO, a State Department official called the JCPOA “a flawed deal because it did not permanently address our concerns with respect to Iran’s nuclear program and destabilizing conduct. The U.S. is seeking a deal with Iran that comprehensively addresses the regime’s destabilizing behavior — not just their nuclear program, but also their missile program....”

Several European officials express astonishment at the audacity of the Trump administration demanding that Iran adhere to the deal when the U.S. the one who breached the agreement in the first place.

U.S. officials and outside observers say there appear to be two main competing factions inside the Trump administration when it comes to Iran policy.

Neither particularly cares for the nuclear deal.

But one group, led by national security adviser John Bolton, is simply more hardline than the other.

Bolton, who has previously called for regime change in Iran, and his supporters appear determined to kill the deal and heap on sanctions, erasing Iran’s ability to trade beyond its borders. Their version of what the administration calls a “maximum pressure campaign” seems to aim for a major reckoning in Iran, though they demure on whether that could involve a U.S.-led ouster of the regime or would simply set the stage for ordinary Iranians to revolt.

Blanc says what Trump seems to want is a grand show, the type that he’s gotten in his one-on-one meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Leader condoles demise of Hojatoleslam Haeri

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has expressed sorrow over the passing away of Hojatoleslam Seyyed Alireza Haeri.

In a message on Friday, Ayatollah Khamenei voiced condolences to the family, scientific colleagues and followers of Seyyed Alireza Haeri, who recently chaired the Encyclopedia of Islamic Jurisprudence Institute.

In his message, the Leader appreciated the cleric’s scientific services, which would remain as a worthy legacy for those who are following his path.

Iran’s defensive strategy can turn offensive, IRGC chief warns

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned against any aggression against Iran, saying in case of an aggression, Iran’s defensive strategy would turn offensive.

“Iran has adopted a defensive strategy but if our enemies make any mistakes, our strategy would become an offensive one,” said Major General Hossein Salami, according to Mehr.

Salami made the remarks on a visit to the IRGC naval forces in the Persian Gulf on Thursday to inspect the level of their preparedness.

He warned that using the pretext of the region’s sensitivity to enable extra-regional military presence would only stoke insecurity in the region.

The general asserted that the Islamic Republic enjoys perfect command over the waters lying in the northern part of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

The Islamic Republic maintains the command as means of defending its territorial integrity, naval superiority, and aerial security, he added.

Salami also hailed the “infallible readiness” of the Iranian Armed Forces, especially the IRGC, to defend the country.



The comments come as U.S. President Donald Trump and his aides, mainly national security adviser John Bolton and State Secretary Mike Pompeo, have repeatedly threatened Iran with military action, while defending America’s ongoing sanctions campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Last week, Iranian Army Chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said the Islamic Republic has the power to defend itself and mount “destructive” counterattacks if it ever comes under any aggression.

“Our offensive power and capability to deal blows [to enemies] after aggressors start their assault, will be destructive and make them regret [their aggression],” Mousavi said.

He stated that Iran’s military power, while defensive in nature, provides for great attacking capabilities as well, adding, “We have never been the starter of any war, but we don’t solely rely on defense either.”

IRGC captures fuel-smuggling ship near Hormuz Strait

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Thursday it had seized a foreign oil vessel in the Persian Gulf that was smuggling one million liters of Iranian fuel.

In a statement on Thursday, the IRGC Navy said the foreign ship was captured on July 14 by military boats patrolling the first naval Zone in the Persian Gulf on an anti-smuggling mission.

The incident occurred south of Iran’s Larak Island, the statement said.



The “surprise operation” was carried out after the IRGC naval forces made sure the ship was smuggling fuel, it added.

The IRGC said the ship had loaded the fuel from Iranian dhow and was about to hand it over to other foreign vessels in farther waters. The vessel, which had 12 foreign crewmembers aboard at the time of the seizure, is capable of carrying two million liters of fuel.

It also hailed the naval forces’ “perceptiveness” in frustrating the smuggling attempt.

“The [Iranian] naval units in this area will continue to conduct security operations and missions aimed at confronting organized fuel smuggling efforts ... decisively and keenly around the clock,” it added, according to Press TV.

Later on Thursday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the vessel seized by the IRGC was not actually a tanker, but was a small ship used to smuggle one million liters — not one million barrels — of oil products.

“[It is] one of the things that we do in the Persian Gulf because of the heavy subsidies that we provide for our own fuel products,” Mr Zarif told reporters at the Iranian mission to the UN. “There is a lot of smuggling out of Iran. A lot of it goes through the Persian Gulf ... We do things in the Persian Gulf and this is one of those.”

Iran’s oil has been targeted with sanctions by the United States, in an attempt by the Trump administration to drive the Iranian oil exports to zero.

The sanctions, which had been lifted under the Iran nuclear deal, were restored last year after the U.S. unilaterally walked away from the agreement, which was struck between Iran and six major powers in 2015.

Tehran has slammed as “economic terrorism” the U.S. attempts to zero out its oil exports as well as other economic pressures exerted by Washington on Tehran.

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	246790.4
IFX	3206.86

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42,000 rials
EUR	47,211 rials
GBP	52,245 rials
AED	11,437 rials

Source: cbi.ir

COMMODITIES

Brent	\$62.96/b
WTI	\$56.10/b
OPEC Basket	\$64.60/b
Gold	\$1,439.90/oz
Silver	\$16.38/oz
Platinum	\$859.75/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

TPO to hold Iran-East Africa business forum in late-July

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) plans to hold an Iran-East Africa business forum focusing on banking, insurance and transportation on July 24 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds. According to TPO office of public relations, Farhad Nouri, director general of business development services at TPO, said the forum is aimed to explore issues regarding the banking, transportation and insurance relations with East Africa, especially in maritime transportation and shipping. The official noted that the forum will also provide a platform to support capable Iranian companies that are exporting goods to East Africa. Referring to the special position of Africa in trade with Iran, Nouri added, “African countries’ requests for Iranian goods and their constantly expanding markets have made them unrivaled trade destinations for Iranian exporters.”

Forex market stabilized, rial soaring

1 → The system, which seeks to boost transparency, create competitiveness among exchange shops and a secure environment for traders, was aimed to create the ground for importers to supply their required foreign currency without specific problems and for exporters to re-inject their earned foreign currency to domestic forex market.



And in late May, CBI unveiled a new directive package to provide the country’s exporters with guidelines about how they should re-inject their foreign currency incomes into the country’s economy. Saying that forex market is stabilized, the CBI governor said last week that the process of re-injecting foreign currency earned from exports into the country’s economy cycle has been improved which indicates that those involved in the economic activities are welcoming the recent forex policies of CBI. As reported, the CBI’s new policies in NIMA has also led to a NIMA rate closer to the free-market rate, resulting in a stronger rial against dollar. In a report titled “Don’t Look Now Donald Trump, Iran’s Currency Is Soaring”, released on Thursday, Bloomberg has brought some of the reasons for the recent strengthening of rial under the spotlight. The report said, “If there was a currency you wouldn’t expect to be strengthening, it would be Iran’s. But the truth is that the rial is soaring on the country’s parallel market, gaining eight percent against the dollar this week alone to extend its advance since early May to 30 percent. That’s according to Bonbast.com, a local website that monitors the currency. The rial’s resilience is evidence that Iran, which implements a range of import restrictions to preserve foreign exchange, has “hunkered down,” according to Steve H. Hanke, a professor of applied economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.” The report elsewhere said, “There have also been changes to the currency system. The Central Bank of Iran maintains an official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar. But it’s recently tried to get more exporters to use a trading platform known as NIMA, which was set up last year. The rate on NIMA has been allowed to weaken in recent months to encourage more companies to sell their foreign exchange. That’s eased pressure on the rial on the unregulated parallel market, which is used by small businesses and individuals. There, the currency now trades at 120,000 per dollar and has almost converged with the NIMA rate of around 115,0000.” While the CBI’s actions have been the main driver of controlling forex market and calming down this market, the experts also mention some other measures taken by the government to this end. Hadi Haqshenas, another economist, named three factors as the main reasons for dropping forex rate. The first factor is “an agreed NIMA rate”. The government let the exporters and importers to reach agreement on a single rate and in this way there will be no ordered rate for the exports. The second factor is “positive trade balance”, as the country could realize a \$1.3-billion positive non-oil trade balance during spring, which corresponds to the first quarter of Iranian calendar year. And the third factor mentioned by Haqshenas is “bartering agreement with neighboring countries.” All these approaches have led to a stabilized forex market which is moving toward lower rates. Something which seems to continue specially if the country’s foreign policy brings fruitful results.

Iran, Azerbaijan explore avenues of co-op in transportation

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** – Iranian **d e s k** Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami held talks with his Azeri counterpart Ramin Guluzade in Tehran on Wednesday during which the two sides discussed expansion of ties. As reported by the news portal of Roads and Urban Development Ministry, Eslami mentioned the two countries’ historical relations and cultural similarities and stressed the need for boosting cooperation in all areas. Referring to the upcoming Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Transportation Cooperation Committee meeting in Tehran, he noted, “This event is a good opportunity to overcome the obstacles and problems in the way of our joint projects including the Astara (Iran) -Astara (Azerbaijan) freeway, the joint border bridge and the new terminal connecting Azerbaijan’s roads network to the Rasht-Astara highway.” Eslami further pointed to the Rasht-Astara (Iran)-Astara (Azerbaijan) railway project, saying that the project holds great significance for both sides since it is situated in the North-South Corridor and can have a significant role in increasing transit for both countries.



Iran’s Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami (R) and Azerbaijan’s Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies Ramin Guluzade met in Tehran on Wednesday. The Azeri minister of transport, communications and high technologies, for his part highlighted the importance of transport relations between the two countries, saying that “We are working to increase the

level of trade and economic relations between the two countries.” In early June, a high-ranking Iranian delegation comprising a number of MPs as well as representatives of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), visited the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to discuss ways to expand bilateral trade ties. The delegation met with Azerbaijan’s Minister of Economy Shahin Mustafayev and held talks on joint projects and discussed future cooperation in economic areas. Establishing the North-South corridor, launching an automobile plant, co-manufacturing heavy trucks, establishing a joint pharmaceutical plant, as well as ways of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries, and facilitating activities of the Iranian private sector in Azerbaijan, were among the major subjects discussed in the meeting. In March, Iran and Azerbaijan held their 13th Joint Economic Committee meeting in Baku which was followed by a business and investment forum. Talks between representatives of the two countries were held within the framework of eight committees, including trade and industry, investment, finance and banking, customs and borders, transportation and transit, energy and environment, agriculture and health, and finally tourism.

CBI governor calls for expansion of banking ties with Turkey

1 → Leading a delegation of banking managers, Abdolnaser Hemmati left Tehran for Ankara on Thursday morning to meet with his Turkish counterpart. In the meeting, the two sides conferred on the development of bilateral banking and monetary ties. Iran and Turkey are working on a financial mechanism channel to bypass the U.S. unilateral sanctions, Iran’s Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Farazmand announced in early June. While the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran have created some limitations for trade with the Western partners which led the Islamic Republic to expand economic and trade ties with its neighbors and boost non-oil exports to them, trade with the northwestern neighbor, Turkey,

is growing significantly. The statistics recently released about Iran’s trade during spring, which corresponds to the first quarter of Iranian calendar year, indicate that the country’s value of non-oil exports to Turkey has risen five folds compared to the same period of time in the previous year. Iran exported \$2.235 billion of non-oil products to Turkey in spring of this year, rising 430 percent from \$421 million in spring of the previous year. For the expansion of trade with the neighboring countries, Iran has also put boosting trade via border areas on agenda. In this due, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been recently made between Iran and Turkey for the expansion of bilateral border trade.

Tehran hosting exhibit of domestic production opportunities

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran’s **d e s k** first exhibition of domestic production opportunities and manufacturing boom kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on Thursday and will wrap up on Sunday, Shata reported. The exhibition is hosting 210 companies active in various fields like automotive and spare parts, household appliances, mineral industries, oil, gas and petrochemical industries, telecommunications and marine industries. The exhibit is aimed at joining the country’s top manufacturers and producers in the industry sector with the academic and knowledge-based institutions in order to help them reach

their great potentials. Since the U.S. reimposed sanctions on Iran to pressure the country’s economy, Iran has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the sanctions and counter the U.S. actions. Improving and boosting domestic production has been one of the major strategies that Iran has been following in the past two years in order to increase its independence. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Rahmani said holding this exhibition is start of a big movement in domestic production. If domestic industry and production boom, the fruitful results will spread to the other sectors, the minister stressed.

IMIDRO to inaugurate \$3.5b of new projects by March 2020

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Mines and **d e s k** Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) plans to put projects worth nearly \$3.5 billion into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020), IRNA reported on Friday, quoting a senior official with the organization, as saying. According to IMIDRO’s Deputy and Executive Advisor Abbas Naiemi, with these projects going operational up to 50,000 new job opportunities will be created across the country. The official mentioned the country’s first exhibition of domestic production opportunities and manufacturing boom which kicked off at Tehran permanent international fairground on Thursday, and said “This event is the country’s first demand driven exhibition in which big production units present their demands and capable knowledge-based companies will provide them with solutions.” He further explained that in this exhibition industry parties active in various fields like automotive and spare parts, household appliances, mineral industries, oil, gas and petrochemical industries, telecommunications and marine industries will present their technological or financial needs and requirements and knowledge supply partners such as universities, research centers, knowledge-based companies, investors, entrepreneurs as well as fundraising and supportive organizations will provide them with their technological, technical or even financial needs and wants. “Like many other big companies and organizations, IMIDRO is also having an active presence in this exhibition,” he said. In February, IMIDRO announced that it will put 129 projects worth \$17.8 billion into operation by Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022). 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, taking the most benefits of the private sector’s capabilities, cooperation with the guilds and associations, reducing the risk of investment making, and indigenization of technology will be taken into account once implementing the mentioned projects. Meanwhile, IMIDRO Head Khodadad Gharibpour has recently stressed that his organization has accomplishing semi-finished projects as its top priority.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 98-01/100

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Purchasing of H.265/HEVC Video Encoder according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday July 24, 2019.**

Place of Receiving Documents:
Secretariat of Tenders’ Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 7,500** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m.** on **Saturday August 24, 2019** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Monday August 26, 2019** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation. It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: **0098-21-22166313**
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

No worries over fuel supply, senior official says

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** – Iran doesn't have any problems regarding production and supply of gasoline and gasoil despite the U.S. sanctions, Press TV reported, quoting an official with the oil ministry as saying on Wednesday.

"This year we have no worry and concern at all about production and supply of fuel in the country and stocks are in very ideal conditions," said Alireza Sadeq-Abadi, the managing director of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC). Sadeq-Abadi, a deputy oil minister, said Iran's gasoline production had already exceeded 110,000 liters per day, adding that some 2.2 million barrels of fuel are also supplied to refineries across the country each day.

"This is a great achievement at the time of the economic war," said the official, making a reference to Iran's struggle to cope with the impacts of U.S. sanctions on the oil and



gas industry.

Iran has seen its official oil exports decline as a result of sanctions although officials

insist they would continue to sell oil through unconventional channels.

Iran increases its oil and condensate

refining capacity by nearly 40 percent in two years.

The country's oil and gas production has increased since the sanctions began in November as the government seeks to respond to a growing domestic demand for energy.

The refining industry has largely benefited from the sanctions as the capacity for turning crude into other products has increased by nearly 40 percent in the past two years.

Sadeq-Abadi said last month that the total operating capacity of Iran's refineries had increased from 1,550,000 to 2,150,000 barrels per day in the two-year period ending in May 2019.

The NIORDC chief said plans were in place to further expand the refining sector and bring the total capacity of the refineries across the country to 2,400,000 bpd at the end of the current Iranian calendar year in March.

Iran elected as head of OPEC Fund's ministerial council

E N E R G Y **TEHRAN** – Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejjasand was elected the chairman of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) ministerial council, Iranian mission to Vienna announced.

According to Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the international organizations in Vienna, the decision was made during OFID's 40th annual gathering in Vienna on Friday.

Dejjasand visited Austria heading a delegation to hold meetings with some Austrian officials and also the director general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) is the intergovernmental development finance institution established in 1976 by the Member States of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OFID was conceived at the Conference of the Sovereigns and Heads of State of OPEC Member Countries, which was held in Algiers, Algeria, in March 1975. A Solemn Declaration of the Conference "reaffirmed the natural solidarity which unites OPEC countries with other developing countries in their struggle to overcome underdevelopment," and called for measures to strengthen cooperation between these countries.



Oil rises after U.S. falsely claims downing Iranian drone

Oil prices rose on Friday after U.S. claimed that its Navy ship destroyed an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz, a major chokepoint for global crude flows.

As per Reuters, Benchmark crude prices were still on track for their biggest weekly decline in seven weeks, having fallen sharply earlier in the week on hopes for easing Middle East tensions as well as demand concerns.

Brent crude futures were up 81 cents, or 1.3 percent, at \$62.74 a barrel by 0642 GMT, having risen to \$63.32. Brent fell 2.7 percent on Thursday, falling for a fourth straight session, and was set for a weekly drop of more than nearly 6 percent.

West Texas Intermediate crude CL1 futures rose 59 cents, or 1.1%, at \$55.89 per barrel, after touching \$56.36. They ended 2.6 percent lower in the previous session, and were headed for a weekly decline of more than 6%.

Indications that the U.S. Federal Reserve



will cut rates aggressively to support the economy were also behind Friday's gains, said Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets.

The "Fed backstop and the report of the U.S. Navy shooting down an Iranian drone are providing a modicum of support for oil markets amidst a very bearish landscape," he said.

The United States claimed on Thursday that

a U.S. Navy ship had "destroyed" an Iranian drone in the Strait of Hormuz after the aircraft threatened the vessel, but Iran said it had no information about losing a drone.

Iran immediately denied the U.S. claims, announcing that no Iranian drone has been attacked.

Also on Thursday, two influential Federal Reserve officials sharpened the public case for acting to support the U.S. economy, reviving bets the central bank may deliver a double-barrelled interest rate cut this month.

Still, the longer-term outlook for oil has grown increasingly bearish.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is reducing its 2019 oil demand growth forecast to 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) from 1.2 million bpd previously due to a slowing global economy amid a U.S.-China trade spat, its executive director said on Thursday.

The IEA may cut further if the global

economy and especially China shows further weakness, Fatih Birol told Reuters.

"We do believe that oil market fundamentals are at an inflection point. Non-OPEC supply will grow by over 2 million bpd in 2020, while demand growth is weak," said Jason Gammel, analyst at Jefferies.

The "OPEC+ decision to extend production cuts should be sufficient to draw down OECD inventories through the end of the year, but these cuts will need to be extended through 2020 just to keep the oil market near balance."

Speculators have exited options positions that could have provided exposure to higher prices in the next several years, market participants said on Thursday.

U.S. offshore oil and gas production has continued to return to service since Hurricane Barry passed through the Gulf of Mexico last week, triggering platform evacuations and output cuts.

Tanzania's LNG dreams may be scuppered by mistrust

By Ian Lewis

Tanzania's declaration of a timetable towards first production from offshore reserves in the Rovuma Basin underlines the government's willingness to engage with international oil companies (IOCs). But getting the proposed LNG export plant towards final investment decision (FID) still faces significant obstacles.

Energy minister Medard Kalemaji told parliament on 28 May that the government plans to wrap up discussions in September, culminating in heads of agreement (HoA) as a precursor to construction starting in 2022 and running until 2028. Kalemaji suggested the onshore plant, which it proposed to build at Lindi in southern Tanzania, would have a 10m t/y capacity.

Estimated reserves in those blocks are around 16 trn f3 of recoverable gas. Equinor, as operator, and partner ExxonMobil hold the license for Block 2, where reserves are estimated at more than 20 trn f3 of gas in place. Shell operates nearby Blocks 1 and 4 in partnership with Ophir Energy.

Tanzania's overall recoverable gas reserves, mainly in its section of the Rovuma Basin, are estimated at 57 trn f3. That's plenty for an export project but there are hurdles still to be surmounted.

The government invited Equinor to resume talks earlier this year, after previous discussions foundered.

A definitive step towards realization

If a HoA was to be signed, it would indicate Equinor and its partners at least remain attached to the project. However, it would be by no means a definitive step towards its realization. HoAs may show commitment on both sides, but have little legal standing. An FID to give the go-ahead to the project isn't expected until 2022, even by the government's estimate.

The main beneficiary of an HoA may be Magafuli. He faces a general election in 2020 and will want to demonstrate that the national economic transformation promised



by a \$30bn LNG project-for a country with average annual GDP per capita of little more than \$1,000-remains a possibility.

Tanzanians need only look across the southern border to Mozambique, where three LNG projects exploiting its share of Rovuma Basin reserves are either under way or expected to get the green light soon.

It seems unlikely that Magafuli's government is suddenly going to become a soft touch in talks with the IOCs, given the president's track record of combative dealings with foreign investors and lenders.

In 2017, he threatened to slap an estimated \$190bn of back taxes on gold mining firm Acacia, claiming it had under-reported export earnings over 17 years. Efforts to settle that dispute, which have drawn in Acacia's Canadian-registered parent Barrick Gold, rumble on. The presidency also introduced more onerous local content requirements for the extractive industries sector, with little consultation with mining companies. In June 2019, Magafuli said Tanzania was suspending the development of a huge Chinese-backed \$10b port development at Bagamoyo, which had been initiated by his predecessor. He called the terms on offer "exploitative and awkward".

Tanzania has also had a fitful relationship with the World Bank due to disagreements over economic and social development issues-which has resulted in it withholding financial

support for various projects in recent years.

The government is likely to drive a hard bargain on maximizing its share of revenues and gas from the Rovuma Basin project and getting early gas flow to the domestic market. But perhaps of even greater concern to the IOCs are doubts over the ability of the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to function as a reliable development partner, given its recent track record.

The state-owned agency is trying to reach a host government agreement (HGA) for the building of a £3.5bn, 1,445km pipeline from landlocked Uganda's oil reserves to the Tanzanian port of Tanga-but it has hit delays. The project has become bogged down in red tape and issues relating to tariffs, government obligations and environmental standards, as well as a dispute over whether the pipeline holding company should be domiciled in the UK, rather than in East Africa.

"If the FID timeframe for the pipeline can't be met, it could raise questions over Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation as a reliable and credible partner to deliver complex infrastructure projects in Tanzania's LNG sector," says Ed Hobey-Hamsher, an Africa analyst at consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.

"Will it be able to meet its fiscal contributions?" he questions, noting that under existing legislation TPDC would be

able to a stake of take up to 25% of any development.

The allocation of gas from the project to the domestic market could be another sticking point. Magafuli is a proponent of resource nationalism and wants to maximise the amount of offshore gas going to the country's power sector and industrial base, as homegrown demand expands.

A regional gas hub

The president is also keen to convert Tanzania into a regional gas hub. On a trip to Kenya in July, Magafuli and his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta discussed the possibility of sending Tanzanian gas to Kenya.

Equinor says its production and sharing agreement allows for 10pc of gas to go to the domestic market. But the amount, cost and timing of any gas supply to Tanzania remains unclear. Even if the project progressed according to the government's schedule, no gas would be produced for almost another decade and the first commercial quantities to the domestic market would take even longer.

By then, Mozambique, which also wants to be a regional gas hub, may be in a position to supply swathes of east and southern Africa with the first domestic supply from its Rovuma Basin reserves potentially flowing in the second half of 2020s, if agreements can be struck with its IOC partners.

With start-up from any plant at Lindi set to be at least five years later than Mozambique LNG that could mean Tanzania's domestic and regional supply aspirations may have to wait well over a decade before being fully realized.

Hobey-Hamsher says the ease-or otherwise-with which Mozambique can raise equity for its share of LNG projects should give an indication of investor appetite for similar projects in Tanzania. But, he adds, the caution among foreign investors engendered by Tanzania's tough attitude towards the mining sector may have scuppered the country's chances of capitalizing on its Rovuma Basin reserves as swiftly as it would like.

(Source: petroleum-economist.com)

Oil will go "bust" if recession hits

By Nick Cunningham

An unexpected increase in inventories underscored the downside risk to oil prices. The EIA reported a drawdown in crude stocks, but a huge 9.25 million barrel combined increase in gasoline and diesel inventories, which surprised traders. Also, gasoline demand plunged by 0.5 mb/d in the week ending on July 12, although week-to-week changes are typical and make the data a bit noisy.

The data release renewed fears of a slowdown in demand. But cracks in U.S. demand are larger than one week's worth of data. The "(year-on-year) increase in demand for the year to 11 July was just 29 thousand barrels per day (kb/d), up 0.1%," Standard Chartered wrote in a note. "Demand will have to be strong for the rest of the year if consensus forecasts for 2019 growth are to be achieved." The investment bank sees U.S. oil demand only rising by 89,000 bpd this year, while the EIA expects a stronger 248,000-bpd increase. Standard Chartered says U.S. oil demand "appears consistent with a slowing economy."

The worrying thing for the oil market is that the U.S. economy has held up better than elsewhere. In China, GDP growth has slowed to its weakest pace in nearly three decades. India, which is widely seen as the most important source of oil demand growth in the medium- and long-term, has also disappointed.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said that global oil demand only grew by 0.45 mb/d in the second quarter. That contributed to a surprise 0.5 mb/d supply/demand surplus in the second quarter. As recently as June the IEA anticipated the oil market would see a 0.5 mb/d deficit.

Tepid demand in recent months

The agency said that there were many reasons for tepid demand in recent months. "European demand is sluggish; growth in India vanished in April and May due to a slowdown in LPG deliveries and weakness in the aviation sector; and in the U.S. demand for both gasoline and diesel in the first half of 2019 is lower year-on-year," the IEA wrote in its July Oil Market Report.

Nevertheless, the IEA stuck with its full-year forecast for demand growth at 1.2 mb/d, arguing that economic growth would rebound in the second half of 2019. Some of that optimism hinges on a resolution to the U.S.-China trade war, which seems a bit speculative. Reports suggest that trade negotiations are "stalled" while the Trump administration wrestles with how to handle Chinese tech giant Huawei. The Trump-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the G20 conference in June was supposed to lead to a restart in trade talks, but as the Wall Street Journal reports, no meetings have been scheduled as of yet. The WSJ also said that the Trump administration "appears to have resigned itself to a drawn-out battle."

That certainly calls into question the optimism surrounding the IEA's demand growth figures. "Both IEA and EIA remain optimistic in assuming an economic rebound in 2H19 and see global demand growth nearly tripling from ~0.6 mb/d/y/y in 1H19 to ~1.5-1.8 mb/d/y/y in 2H19," said Allyson Cutright, Senior Analyst at Rapidan Energy Group. "While we do see some pickup in 2H19, in particular in China due to macroeconomic stimulus and eased restrictions on gasoline-cars, the overall trend in agency revisions is still probably headed down."

Call on OPEC

Weak demand and rising supply are creating a perfect storm heading into 2020. The IEA said that the "call on OPEC" could fall by 0.8 mb/d next year, and even that is based on the agency's rather optimistic demand growth figures.

As a result, OPEC+ has a serious problem on its hands. On the one hand, it can continue to cut production in order to prevent oil prices from collapsing. But that would require mustering up consensus and taking on deeper sacrifice. The alternative is not much better. OPEC+ can keep the current production cuts in place (or abandon them altogether) and let prices crash.

"Our balances have long assumed OPEC+ would have to extend and deepen cuts next year and project Saudi Arabia will be the brunt of the additional cuts," Allyson Cutright of Rapidan Energy Group said. "Our most recent update sees Saudi Arabia need to cut production toward the low-9 mb/d range next year, and that's assuming decent economic growth."

Rapidan is betting that OPEC+ will opt for cutting, which might be just enough to head off a price slide. "However, if a recession develops or U.S. sanctions on Iran are removed, then the deluge of new oil would more likely prove too large for OPEC+ to manage and oil prices would bust," Cutright said.

(Source: oilprice.com)

China to add more coal power in 2019 and 2020 to meet energy demand

In order to meet the growing demand for electricity, China's biggest power generator, China Energy Group is planning to build 11 gigawatts (GW) of new coal power during this and next year, according to senior official with the firm on Thursday.

According to oilprice.com, more than 6 GW of new ultra-low emission coal-fired capacity will be added this year while another 5 GW is planned for 2020. Xiao Jianying, the head of the state-run firm's coal-fired power department, told Reuters.

"China still has quite a big demand for electricity. The government now supports regions with poor wind and solar resources to use coal-fired power ... it's a more practical measure, as gas is still too expensive," said Xiao.

China Energy, which operated coal-fired plants with a total capacity of 175 GW, is planning to gradually replace small, polluting coal-fired power units with efficient ones, noting that total capacity would continue to increase but at a slower rate of growth.

China's coal consumption has steadily decreased by a few percent a year since 2013. In 2018 coal accounted for 59% of China's total energy consumption, 1.4 percent less than the previous year, and the first time coal has accounted for less than 60% of the total energy used.

Committed to suppressing pollution and fighting global warming, China is making a great efforts to control new coal production and new coal-fired power capacity.

The authority's pollution-cutting efforts have eased this year with building centralized "clean coal" heating systems instead of converting them from coal to natural gas or electricity.

As the world's biggest greenhouse gas producer, China is aiming to bring its total emissions to a peak by "around 2030."

According to China's environmental ministry, citing the latest carbon "inventory" submitted to the United Nations, China's climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions hit 12.3 billion tons in 2014, up 53.5% in just a decade.



Delay in Zakzaky's case unjust, inhuman

➔ There are high possibilities of government interference in postponing and delaying his case in hope of minimizing the international pressure. Amnesty International Nigeria's Interim Director Makmid Kamara made a statement in 2017 hinting at that.

He was quoted saying that 'El-Zakzaky is being unlawfully detained. This might be a part of a wider effort to cover up the gruesome crimes committed by members of the security forces in Zaria in December 2015 that left hundreds dead.'

The Chairman of the Free Zakzaky Campaign Committee Mr. Abdurrahman Abubakar Yola issued a press statement to thank the international activists and allies supporting Sheikh's cause and stated that 'when it mattered the most, the court ducked and failed to stand for truth and justice against tyranny and impunity.'

He further added that 'the applicants are known to be very ill in detention, consequent on the brutal wounds inflicted on them by the state agents in the name of the Nigerian army, the resultant prolonged dehumanizing detention in the custody of the Department of State Services and the obvious poisoning of the Sheikh. ... He has now found to have more than twenty times the toxic levels of lead poison in his body!'

'Even today, both were unable to walk to the courtroom and had to wait outside while the case went on. In spite of all these, the court has once again allowed the government to kill these innocent people by instalments via unnecessary delays,' said Yola.

Despite its importance, the delay in the case with Sheikh's deteriorating health might not be the only pressing issue regarding him at the moment. There is a chance that an ultimate ruling by the court allowing him to leave the country for treatment may not be implemented at all.

The fact that a 2016 ruling by the Federal High Court in Abuja that ordering the release of the Sheikh and his wife within 45 days was disregarded by the Nigerian government leaves little hope for a future verdict allowing his international travel for medical purposes to be put into effect.

Justice delayed, as they say, is justice denied.

Demand that the Mideast become a nuclear weapon free zone!

➔ The reference had nothing to do with the country as a whole and with its alleged tenets of democratic inclusiveness and American "ideals" of fair play and rational policies, such that these beliefs or policies existed to any degree back then.

It also has come to light that Trump likely trashed the JCPOA as well as other U.S. endorsements such as the Paris climate accord simply because they were accords upheld and promoted by Barack Obama, a Black man, and the same goes for internal policies involving healthcare and other matters. It's rather hard to comprehend that a fair number of Americans claim that Obama was the "best President" in their lifetimes when even Obama's actions when he was in the White House compared to Trump's were to date more extreme in terms of actually attacking other countries (like Libya) and supporting or sparking revolutions, as in Ukraine. No question that Obama, even if he did not live up to his alleged views, was one relatively smooth talker and a President of charming disposition compared to Trump's abrasive and divisive postures.

One might credit Trump that he has not started yet another war in the Mideast despite the urgings of people like Bolton and Pompeo. Perhaps the overriding factor that has held Trump back has been Iran's clarity and consistency as well as Iran's threats to strike back overwhelmingly around the Persian Gulf if it were attacked militarily.

But make no mistake. a Jewish female commentator in New York has written: "What has taken place over time is that a relatively small group of extremists have received moral support from right wing media outlets in recent years and those with racist proclivities have been nurtured among Trump's "base" of voters to form a movement that is anti-democratic and pro-fascist." What also seems to be occurring is that there is a convergence between treatment of alleged "enemies" overseas and the treatment of Americans who don't support Trump's policies whether internal or overseas.

Iran spokesman President Rouhani, in any event, has stated it is ready to attend negotiations with the U.S. to defuse war tensions provided Trump returns to the JCPOA and lifts sanctions that have barred Iran from exporting its oil resources. Although Trump's administration has also announced it is open to negotiations with Iran on a more far-reaching agreement on nuclear and security issues, the U.S. president declared on Wednesday that sanctions on Iran might soon be increased "substantially." This latter comment is hardly encouraging, but just more of the same arrogance.

According to diplomatic leaks from the United Kingdom mission in Washington, a former U.K. ambassador warned London that the U.S. administration had committed an act of "diplomatic vandalism" by withdrawing from the nuclear pact, considering that behind the move last year there were ideological and personality motivations.

Here is what could possibly be a posture for Iran (that would appeal to the world) if and when negotiations ever occurred again. Yes, it's vaguely possible that if the JCPOA were resurrected it might be, after serious talks, modified somewhat without Iran being obliged to dismantle its entire nuclear program and expertise, or dismantle its defensive missile capacities.

What if, for example, Iran were to suggest again what it has suggested before and do it decisively and fully: That Iran is open to change IF or on condition that the U.S. also pledges to work honestly towards making the entire Middle East a nuclear weapons free zone. This means, of course, that the sole country in the Mideast that actually has nuclear weapons, Israel, gives up their own weapons in the interests of regional peace. Nothing else could be more constructive for the region, but inasmuch as Trump has maintained a myopic foreign policy that has catered almost exclusively to the right-wing Zionists and Netanyahu, this may be and probably is impossible. Israel has been determined to kill any good deal with Iran, and even an Israeli NGO is suing the European Union over INSTEX, and trying to assert that Iranian assets in it, if any, ought to belong to Israel. Stealing Iranian assets in Europe based on US court rulings, as part of an effort to undermine EU attempts to save the nuclear deal with Iran, is clearly a huge problem. But the EU may well object to an attempt to impose US policy on them.

As it has been for decades, the U.S. willingness to give the Zionists whatever they want, including the destruction of several countries in the Mideast, has been the primary fly in the ointment that could in time lead to relative peace in the region. The only thing positive here is that more and more Americans are becoming sick and tired of the Zionist control over U.S. foreign policies and insane charges of "anti-Semitism", despite all the mainstream media propaganda.

Europe needs to develop independent policy to curb U.S. unilateralism: Austrian prof.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An Austrian university professor said Europe is seeking to develop an independent policy so that the 28-member bloc can fight American unilateralism.

"So the INSTEX mechanism and the blocking statute that Europeans have is already an example that Europeans are trying to develop an independent policy, but we'll take a long time until you become stronger and can replace the US dollar in some areas. That may take five years, ten years maybe so that is not a good argument for Iran. I understand this, but this is the example that Iran and INSTEX might help us to think about the future that Europeans should be more independent of the US," Dr. Heinz Gartner told Tasnim.

Gartner is a lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna, at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, and at Danube University. He was an academic director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs until 2016. He held a Fulbright Fellowship as well as the Visiting Austrian Chair at the Stanford University where he had further visiting fellowships. He is the editor of the book series "Internationale Sicherheit" (- Peter-Lang Publisher). Heinz Gartner is a senior external expert of the "RAND-Corporation Europe". He chairs the advisory board Strategy and Security of the Austrian Armed Forces. Among others, he is a member of the editorial board of the Journal "International Politics" and the "World Journal of Behavioral Science" (Synchro Publisher), and member of the Advisory Board of the "International Institute for Peace" in Vienna and the Journal "Security and Peace". Gartner received the Bruno Kreisky (legendary former Austrian Chancellor) "Award for most outstanding Political Books".

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ Iran strongly believes that it is unjust that Iran abide by the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers as other parties to the agreement have failed to abide by their commitments. What is your take on this?

A: It was one of the best-negotiated Arms Control agreements in history in a way that every comma and full stop had to be agreed upon. So there's no better Arms Control agreement. It has a very comprehensive verification mechanics. And what we hear in mainstream media in the West (is) that it's expiring and it's only (for) a short time, (but) it is not. It's a permanent agreement because in the preamble it says Iran never will acquire nuclear weapons.

So that's the best of what we can have, that's why I'm saying I think Donald Trump violated the JCPOA. He withdrew and violated international law. It is based on international law because we have the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. So one party violated the agreement and international law. But I do think that it's in the interest of all the other parties that the JCPOA will be kept alive, so it should be kept as long as possible and I understand your question that Iran didn't benefit that much from the agreement economically. So some of the sanctions have been lifted yes but new ones have been imposed by the US and Iran did not really economically benefit. However, there's another dimension on that, our the international law and international agreements are important as such and Iran and the other parties so far are on a much higher moral level than the US. So Iran abided by the agreement. The IAEA confirmed 15 times, as you know, that Iran abides by the agreement and all the order parties have an interest that the JCPOA stays in place.

However, now Iran is coming to the Europeans and saying okay you have to compensate (for the damages inflicted on Iran by) the sanctions. I have to say the Europeans don't have the capacity, the Europeans will not be able to compensate Iran for the losses of Iran so that's because, as you know, European companies are threatened by so-called secondary sanctions if they do business with Iran and so these companies withdrew from Iran. It is the market economy. It is capitalism. The European Commission cannot tell companies that you have to invest in Iran. It is not possible.

Small and medium enterprises are all looking for possibilities to keep the trade open with Iran. They are not big companies, they're small ones. They have all their own businesses, car parts or tools you know what, so if you want to build infrastructures on the streets. All these businesses are not threatened by sanctions. So I calculated that if we combine...these very small in the European Union it would be a hundred thousand. On top of that, what is important is that the JCPOA remains in place. If Iran now is saying we are going beyond the limit of the JCPOA, it will not change much. The Iranian government is expecting the Europeans to put a little bit pressure on the US and to increase the bargaining



power of Iran. It might happen but will not change (the situation much) because the Europeans do not have the leverage for that. That's why I think I'm a strong supporter of the JCPOA.

So if that is violated, the so-called B-team, as (Iranian) Foreign Minister Zarif described, will cry foul that Iran wanted to have a nuclear weapon all along. Now they're violating the JCPOA, which is kind of ironic and paradoxical that Trump, Bolton, Pompeo and also Netanyahu would say Iran is violating the JCPOA that they say it was a bad agreement anyway from the first place. So that is a kind of paradox.

■ Then it makes sense to say that the JCPOA is a good deal, but how could one convince Iran to remain in the multilateral deal after Washington withdrew from it unilaterally. What would be the incentive to keep Iran in the deal?

A: I understand what Iran is doing is still legal but I don't think it's politically wise to leave the JCPOA altogether because if the situation changes, Iran would be in the higher moral ground.

I cannot predict what is happening, I cannot predict maybe Trump will be there for another 4 years and all his advisers will press him for military operation but there are some desperate attempts of Europeans to keep this agreement alive. So I have to say Federica Mogherini, who is the higher representative of the European Union, is trying very hard to keep the deal alive. She was the one who installed the INSTEX mechanism but she doesn't have much of power. The power rests in as the (EU) member states.

Many of the members (have) so far wanted to appease Trump so they are not really fully committed anymore, they want to have a free trade agreement with the US, and look at the NATO members that want to have the protection of the US against Russia. They're afraid that Trump is threatening of withdrawing the support for the Europeans. So some Europeans start to support the JCPOA less strongly. Politically, they're not supporting the JCPOA strongly enough. Economically Iran doesn't have the benefit, the Europeans do not have the leverage and are too weak but I would say the Europeans should support the JCPOA much louder and stronger. About how to convince Iran? What I can say is that Iran so far (has been) abiding by the treaty and Iran cannot be accused of anything.

Now they're trying to accuse Iran already for the incidents in the (Persian) Gulf and they are starting to find reasons that Iran is to blame. If Iran chooses to leave the JCPOA, Iran would be the one to be blamed for everything. If it comes to military action, if it comes to war, so Iran would be the one who started this, not the US. So that's for political reasons and moral reasons. I would say that's the reason for me enough for Iran to stay in the deal. Having said this, I understand the economic difficulties.

There is another point that I found out before my visit to Tehran. Iran's economy is very resilient. It has been under sanctions for 40 years now and still if you look at the statistics, purchasing power parity statistics which means the capacity of the people in the country to buy and survive, Iran is still under the 19th place in the world. Of course, it has lost some ranking over the years. It was 10th before these sanctions were imposed, but it is still on the 19th, not compared to other countries. So people are very strong and they have some power to buy and some power to survive. And I know it is just a question of time.

About Iran's one year of strategic patience, I think one year is not that long. One year in politics in history has a very tiny period. So I understand that Iran is under pressure, but in terms of historical perspective, in terms of conflict resolution one year is very little... If you look back at history, Iran would be in the higher moral ground and the US and Trump would be the ones who started the whole conflict.

■ Given the fact that the Trump adminis-

tration is pursuing a self-centered approach to international affairs and agreements, this unilateral policy could pose threats to Iran and the JCPOA as well. Do you believe that the EU needs to adopt an independent policy in the face of the US?

A: I do agree with that. I think that the JCPOA is an example of multilateralism. It is an example of an arms control agreement. It is also the second example of common security and an example of engagement. Of course, the JCPOA is one of other several agreements which the Trump administration does not observe like the INF treaty, missile treaty which he left as well. My hunch is that he will also leave the New START treaty about the continental missiles which will expire in 2021 but I guess by an assumption that he will announce before the election that he will not continue the treaty. So that would be the last arms control treaty. He doesn't even like bilateral treaties, INF was a bilateral treaty, so if we follow the Trump example, we appease Trump in his approach to the international society. We should try to keep the international system as we built it after the Second World War alive as much as possible. I know Trump is working with sanctions and unilateralism but we shouldn't follow the example.

■ How can we support the international system?

A: By abiding by it. Abiding by all these multilateral institutions. Abiding by all these international agreements and international treaties.

I do think that the JCPOA, after the Helsinki agreement in 1972, is the best example of cooperation. So my conclusion would be the JCPOA and Helsinki are the best examples for the future world order.

■ Do you believe the JCPOA will collapse or do you think mechanisms like INSTEX could save it?

A: INSTEX is not really operational and so far I don't know it would be possible to do any business with Iran like Iran would like to sell oil with INSTEX. I would say it's a demonstration of goodwill by the Europeans, demonstration of goodwill by Federica Mogherini. It's an example that Europeans resist American pressure. For example, if European companies do business with Iran through INSTEX, the Americans would think they're violating our sanctions so if the CEO of this company leaves the EU, he might be arrested in America like the CEO of Huawei in Canada because they said they do business somehow with Iran and that is possible.

So the INSTEX mechanism and the blocking statute that Europeans have is already an example that Europeans are trying to develop an independent policy, but we'll take a long time until you become stronger and can replace the US dollar in some areas. That may take five years, ten years maybe so. That is not a good argument for Iran. I understand this, but this is the example that Iran and INSTEX might help us to think about the future that Europeans should be more independent of the US.

Europeans will never leave transatlantic relations with the US because of all the security mechanism and trade and for so other reasons that are never going to happen. But more independence will be possible. Of course, America is a much stronger power than Iran economically. Diplomatically and politically INSTEX is a very good example.

■ You mentioned the employment of independent mechanisms or financial policies by the EU. Apart from the JCPOA, do you think Europeans can see this as a starting point for Europe's independent policies and decisions?

A: Yes, I do think so. Yes, that is an example. I think it was a wakeup call for Europeans. We are still used to the Obama administration. Obama was learning as well, he imposed sanctions on Iran before as well but he was learning that multilateralism is a good thing and he was negotiating the JCPOA and he was not working with threats of sanctions against the Europeans. Now we have Trump and he is doing all these as

a wakeup call (for Europe). We never know who will be the next president of the US. So the Europeans might think that it would be a good idea to have more independence in financial terms especially because of bypass sanctions. Also, the Chinese think the same to form an independent currency system from the dollar, which is difficult because everything especially oil (revenues) will be transferred in terms of the dollar. Of course, there are small businesses and enterprises that are trying to do their best to have business independently. But the problems are the banks. Since most banks somehow use the US money, US administration, and US links. So the banks are the ones who are most afraid of American sanctions. So there have to be some banks that can make transactions more independently. So it's an illusion to think that you are really independent of the US. That's not going to happen for the next century maybe.

Europeans do not have an independent policy even towards the Middle East as such. So you have to keep (Jared) Kushner plan for the Israeli-Palestinian issue, where are the Europeans? They are not there. We have the Korean conflict, that is denuclearization, Trump is doing this. Where are the Europeans?

Europe has to be there. (that is also the case regarding the) independent China policy. Europe has the interest to keep an independent China policy. Europe has to develop an independent policy to solve several international issues. So Europe has to learn to become independent, it's not only Iran. That is disappointing that the Europeans has nothing to say in these affairs.

■ Europe was unhappy with the US administration's attitude towards European parliamentary elections. Do you think such policies will change if Trump fails to win re-election? What might the future hold with respect to EU-US, EU-Russia and EU-China ties?

A: Unfortunately, I have to say if Trump is gone, Trumpism is here to stay for a while. It will not disappear altogether and he has his base and his support domestically. Those people feel encouraged now, of course that doesn't mean the same policy will continue. Trump wants to talk with Berlin, Paris, and Moscow individually. What you're asking is whether Europeans are coming closer to Russians or Chinese. It should be said that it might happen but still, the transatlantic relations are here to stay whoever is president in the United States.

■ What is behind this Trumpism policy? What does he want to achieve?

A: America First! We, political scientists, have this theory of relative gains. Many in the media are saying that Trump is playing a zero-sum game that means I win, you lose. But that's not what he's doing. He is too smart to say he cannot have any partner who loses all the time. Relative games mean we both win but I win more! So that is his attitude and America first means that. We can have a business together but I'm always the winner.

I think Trump is very predictable. You can calculate what he is doing. I just mention four points.

First, he wants to abolish everything that Obama and his other predecessors did, as much as possible so the JCPOA was an Obama thing. Second, he wants to abolish all multilateral treaties and if possible other international treaties as well. The JCPOA is just one of them. Third to implement the camping promises and the JCPOA is one of those things. Fourth, I would say is Trump's ego, if he does not come out as a president very strongly in the limelight, he wouldn't do it.

Take the Korean example, that's all he is doing. Actually, that's another thing because, in Korea, Obama was not successfully doing anything in Korea so now he (Trump) is reversing the things and says that I can do it. That was a campaign promise as well. You might remember that he said he might want to go to eat a hamburger with Kim, now he (Trump) is trying to demonstrate that 'I'm doing what I just promised.' Of course, he is blasted by the Democrats who say that he is in business with dictators. But he doesn't care about this. That is why I am saying that he is predictable.

Of course, there are people who have an influence on him. Netanyahu is one of those who has a big influence on Trump. Some reports in Israel said it has been leaked that Netanyahu said in a private meeting that he was the one who convinced Trump to leave the JCPOA. But of course, in this tactic and strategy, there is Bolton who has influence. Trump makes a decision but there is this blueprint by Bolton in 2017 where Bolton describes point by point what we have to do with Iran so you could read it in 2017 already and one of these options at the end of this blueprint is war with Iran. How can you put pressure on Iran and you can get allies to support the US against Iran?

Full disclosure: Extraterrestrials, no nuclear war, end of the deep state?

I → began reading more books related to extraterrestrial matters, and I have been nurturing a very fine book by Joachim Hago-pian, Pedophilia & Empire: Satan, Sodomy, & The Deep State, that is both free online and also available by the chapter, each as an Amazon Kindle within the 26-chapter series.

To sum this all up very quickly – and the reason this matters to Iran – there appear to be multiple stellar civilizations (their preferred term) active on Earth, with those that have been supporting the Deep State now on the run, and the more peaceful progressive civilizations literally disarming the US, UK, and others – literally melting down nuclear warheads, frying the electronic systems of inter-continental missiles, and generally placing those who might wish to fire a nuclear missile – including the Zionists – under quarantine. I don't think this is absolute – but generally speaking, I now believe it is impossible for there to be a nuclear exchange on Earth. This is not to say that the Zionists and the Cabal cannot continue to wage wars, create millions of refugees, do geoengineering and artificially create earthquakes and violent weather while continuing to poison us all, but on balance, we are at the beginning of 1,000 years of peace and prosperity and the Deep State and its Zionist underbelly are going to be put down. The bottom line is that no one – not Israel, or Saudi Arabia or the USA or Iran or Russia – no one – can start a nuclear war.

■ It is very difficult for most people to grasp the concept of stellar civilizations being present on Earth, and governments interacting with them secretly. Is there a “bridge concept” you can offer that can provide context within which extraterrestrials can be recognized as a legitimate topic by thinking people?

A. That is a truly lovely question, and essential to what I am saying, that 1,000 years of peace and prosperity began from 2012 and the future is bright for Iran, for the Middle East, for all of us. There are three concepts that are interconnected: energy, consciousness, and cosmic infinity.

Albert Einstein is on record as saying that everything – including matter – is energy. Others have interpreted that as meaning that matter as we know it, is simply slow moving or inert energy. Forbes – one of our best magazines, did an article by Paul Rodgers, “Einstein Was Right: You Can Turn Energy Into Matter.” (Forbes, 19 May 2014).

As a side note, I am certain that “free” energy, anti-gravity propulsion, and other technologies including healing and anti-aging technologies that have been secret and held back from the public are on the verge of release, perhaps during President Donald Trump's second term. This will have massive positive political, socio-economic, and techno-demographic implications, particularly when combined with my concept of Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE).

Consciousness is the bridge between Einstein's dictat on energy and cosmic infinity that includes thousands of different forms of civilization across billions of planets. The West made a huge mistake when it substituted scientific reductionism for religious faith, in part because the priests, and particularly indigenous shamens, the Gnostics, and pagan religions all have oral histories going back thousands of years about both gods from the skies, and pure consciousness leading to a rainbow body or merger with infinity. The public is awakening, and local to global consciousness is now hitting an Earth-changing strength, which will lead to new dimensions of interaction, both among ourselves on Earth, and with the stellar civilizations. The ultimate stellar civilization is pure energy infused with love.

As a side note, I believe that we are recovering from over 6,000 years of being repressed – humans are capable of telepathy, remote viewing, out of body experiences, teleportation, and other marvels, but since the movement of Saturn around 4,000 B.C. a hostile stellar civilization in consort with various forms of governance and religion has sought to sharply repress human intelligence, human integrity, and human imagination. The 1%, in service to a hostile presence, has sought to create chaos, fear, pain, and suffering – including many wars – because the most evil among us and across the cosmos thrive on fear, orphaned children, and displaced adults who lose their moral compass.

Cosmic Infinity is the easiest way to grasp that it is simply not possible to conceptualize our Earth as the only Earth, and our present miserable state of humanity, as the highest form of life. Indeed, we are finding that consciousness includes all forms of life including all plants, and that Earth is one large collective consciousness that is not only speaking across species using a “channel” that is not electro-magnetic, but Earth as a planet is speaking to other planets and other stellar civilizations, and it was Earth's turn toward the good – enough people meditating, praying, saying “no” to corruption and war, that tipped the scales and “invited” positive stellar civilization to help us displace the

negative stellar civilizations that use Earth and humanity, in chaos and suffering, as a food source.

As a side note, and as an intelligence and counterintelligence professional, let me observe that the most interesting counterintelligence threat is not human, but extraterrestrial. I do not believe we have done enough to detect representatives of enemy civilizations in human form who seek to wreak havoc for reasons that have nothing to do with human needs, and everything to do with creating chaos on Earth. Benjamin Netanyahu has my vote for most likely to be a Reptilian in human disguise followed by the top leaders of Great Britain, Germany, and France, in that order. In the USA my vote goes to Leslie Wexner, the Zionist billionaire that appears to have funded both Jeffrey Epstein, a working Mossad officer managing a pedophilia entrapment operation with CIA and FBI complicity, and 9/11.

The easiest way to sum all this up is to suggest to any thinking person that they consider two thoughts together: first, if they could become absolutely pure, what might that look like? Cosmic energy filled with love, perhaps? And second, if humanity were not wasting 90% of its resources on war and enriching the rich, if humanity leveraged holistic analytics, true cost economics, and OSEE, might humanity not be more likely to successfully leave the Earth and become a stellar civilization?

Evolution is a cosmic process. Infinity is God's time. I believe, as my colleague John Petersen put it so well, that a critical mass of good people on Earth have achieved a sufficiency of positive consciousness so as to both close down the Deep State and its Shadow Government negative impacts including lies intended to start wars – there is a huge anti-war movement and a growing anti-Zionist movement across America – and to connect with and invite superior stellar civilizations to come to our aid in avoiding nuclear war and making the transition toward 1,000 years of peace and prosperity for all.

■ Okay! Back to the Icke book. Can you summarize the book very succinctly?

A. Certainly. The 40-page review is free online both in full text form, and as a downloadable document. It is also available as an Amazon Kindle with many active links. Here are the core points at the highest levels:

- Extraterrestrials have been all over the Earth for tens of thousands of years, with hostile beings forming alliances with priests and then bankers, turning them – along with secret societies and religions – into their human slave masters. Only recently – with positive consciousness groups all over the world praying for peace – have friendly stellar civilizations responded to our “invitation” to intervene, and we are now on a very positive trajectory. Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA), the sacrifice of children, and the drinking of adrenochrome (blood infused with adrenaline induced by torture) has gone on for thousands of years.

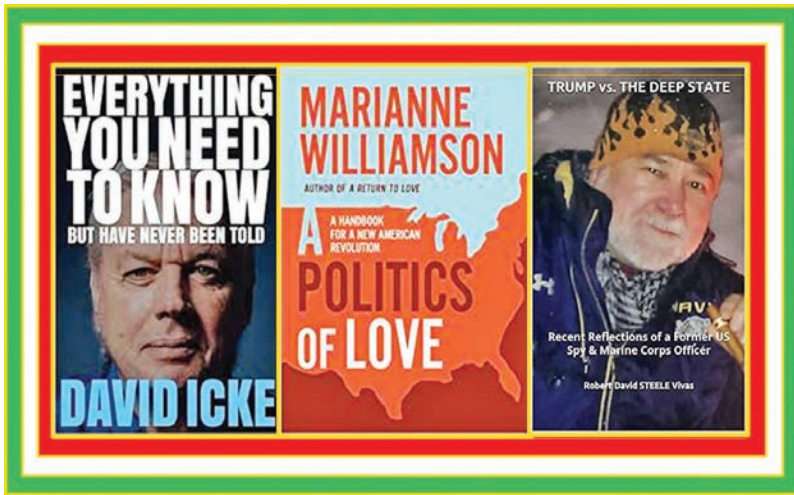
- Governments have been completely captured by banks and secret societies, with the exception of those governments such as Iran, Libya, and Venezuela that have refused external controls. Governments and their secret intelligence agencies have conspired to poison, infect with disease, and generally diminish their own populations with a particular focus on feminizing men and increasing sterility particularly among women in poor countries. Vaccines, illegal immigration, electromagnetic pollution, opioids, false flag events, drugs, alcohol, poisons in all forms of food, are all standard. Human beings are being treated as disposable animals who are a profit center, nothing more.

- Moral decline -- and particularly the normalization of all forms of perversion including pedophilia and Satanism – has been part of the deliberate effort to reduce people to libertine consumers with no values. I cannot overstate the degree to which Zionists specifically are accused of being central to every form of moral decline, cultural and financial subversion, and political corruption, across all countries. It is of course essential to point out that Zionists are not Jews – the Jews largely reject Zionism.

I did a 40-page review because I cannot do the book or the author justice. This one man represents decades of independent investigation and I recommend his book as a starting point for anyone interested in exploring the fact that most of what we are taught – most of our news, science, medicine, and government declarations – is simply not true.

■ Where are you reading about extraterrestrial intervention to prevent nuclear war?

A. Let me start by giving Dr. Stephen Green's books Disclosure and Hidden Truth Forbidden Knowledge credit for establishing in my own mind a reasonable certainty that the US Government was at a minimum concealing passive encounters with extraterrestrials and extraterrestrial technology. What Greer missed – what most other authors have missed until recently – was the degree to which hostile extraterrestrials were able to capture the Rothschilds, the British Royal Family, and



the Vatican as well as the Chabad cult that most Jews reject – they are the essence of the Deep State on the financial side.

I began to pay attention to books, including one from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) documenting abductions, and many other books on crop circles, free energy, remote viewing, and more. The references to nuclear quarantine have been spread across books and media and conference reports; one that includes very specific information on nuclear and missile intervention is by William Tompkins, Selected by Extraterrestrials (Amazon, 2016).

I have told directly by a French source that French nuclear capabilities have been neutralized by extraterrestrials resident in France, and that the Israelis, who bought the French system, have very likely had their nuclear capabilities neutralized as well.

Separately I have been doing a lot of reading in the consciousness and collective intelligence domains, my reviews across many categories associated with human and cosmic intelligence are free online, and the bottom line is quite clear: prayer and medication work, mass prayer and mass medication have cosmic and earthly impacts, and there is absolutely no question in my mind that humanity is on the verge of re-instating (over the next century) mental capabilities that have been deliberately repressed for thousands of years, including remote viewing, telepathy, and seeing through “objects.”

With respect to nuclear weapons, my friend John Petersen points out, and I quote him with permission:

To your question: a nuclear war would introduce wide-based fear into the system, constricting, if not stopping, the push toward increasing consciousness, therefore it is not in the cards. Lots of indicators that we've (enough people), have stepped over the threshold into the new space that our ET friends who have the responsibility for our ultimate development would not allow that to happen. That is – in part – why they famously showed up at both US and Soviet missile bases on succeeding days and shut whole squadrons of Minutemen and their Soviet equivalent systems decades ago.

Also, when nuclear weapons are set off, they mess with the fabric of space/time and have very far-reaching galactic – and even universe-wide – effects. So the ETs really don't want that stuff to happen again.

In my view, Benjamin Netanyahu is a liar, a war criminal, and a war-monger. Not only will nuclear war not happen, but the invented state of Israel, a scourge not only in the Middle East but everywhere that the Mossad is entrapping people with pedophilia and then blackmailing them, needs to be un-invented.

There is every reason for the Supreme Leader or the President acting with the Supreme Leader's permission, to have this conversation directly with our President Donald Trump, who knows all of this.

■ Before we move, are there any of your summary reviews you particularly recommend to our readers in the extraterrestrial arena?

A. Yes, start with these two, and note that the second one includes many links to all other books and posts on the extraterrestrial topic at my blog, Phi Beta Iota.

- Review: Project Human Extinction – The Ultimate Conspiracy

- Review: Our Universal Journey + Extraterrestrial RECAP

I would add that I think highly of Kerry Cassidy's work at Project Camelot, so much so that I did a special video interview with her, and I am about to read a book many consider a fundamental reference, by David Wilcock, The Source Field Investigations: The Hidden Science and Lost Civilizations behind the 2012 Prophecies (Dutton, 2011). I am halfway through and deeply impressed, this is a 6-star offering. My free review will appear at Phi Beta Iota before Monday.

■ This interview was inspired by my reading that you will be giving a speech at the Dimensions of Disclosure Conference in California in August, on the topic of “What Would a Full Disclosure Government Look Like?” What can you tell us about your planned remarks?

A. Well, first let me point your readers to

my preliminary post, Robert Steele: What Would a Full Disclosure Government Look Like? Bill and Robert's Excellent Adventure (Preview) UPDATE 20 where I have integrated proposed topics from a number of my readers. For many years I did something called SPY IMPROV: Ask Me Anything, but with the election of Donald Trump we are in completely new territory where the possibilities for Full Disclosure are very high. I am doing another speech in October with the working title of “Full Disclosure: What Has Been Hidden, What Can We Know, Why Does It Matter?” based mostly on my non-fiction reading, and the two together are actually defining a notional presidential campaign platform that seeks for the first time to offer the American people a holistic grand strategy rooted in true cost economics, with full transparency promised. This has never been done before. For myself I areas to cover include:

- The “Borg” or enemy extraterrestrials are real, US, Russia, China, Iran – all countries, must unite.

- The crimes against humanity by the US Government and the Deep State must be acknowledged.

- The crimes of the CIA, FBI, and others against the American people must be acknowledged.

- The greatest threat to humanity is moral & spiritual decline.

- Natural Law matters – public rights exist in a state of nature and precede government control.

- In specific relation to the above, I am seeing the re-emergence of indigenous leaders and indigenous spirituality and “Earth Rules” that the Catholic and Protestant religions tried hard to destroy.

- There are enough sane people left in the USA to mount the Second American Revolution.

- 9/11 disclosure on top of the new Jeffrey Epstein disclosures will eradicate Zionist influence in the USA.

- Donald Trump is going to surprise everyone – he will win in a landslide and terminate Israel.

- Free energy, healing energy, life extension, and an explosion of human imagination loom large.

- Full disclosure of the history of our secret space program will help humanity advance more quickly.

- Nuclear war is off the table and the day will come when Iran and the USA, like North Korea and the USA, will pursue what Ron Paul calls a foreign policy of freedom – peace, commerce, and honest friendship.

- Politically I will address the closure of all US bases overseas, termination of US financial support for Israel and all dictators starting with Saudi Arabia; full employment and a debt jubilee at home, and many domestic initiatives that cut the federal government in half starting with the US military, while returning two thirds of the land west of the Mississippi (stolen by the federal “park” authority) to the fifty still sovereign states for development. America has new frontiers at home and across the oceans and into space, without having to invade anyone.

If you will permit, and since I was the person who broke the story of the unification and denuclearization of the Koreans in my article “Is Zionism Over? From Korea to Syria to the Latest #GoogleGestapo Purge, President Donald Trump's Divorce from Zionism Appears Increasingly Possible” (American Herald Tribune, 4 March 2018), allow me to offer your readers an image that has gone viral in the USA.

Now imagine the day – I am certain it is coming – when our President travels to Iran and calls on your Supreme Leader, with respect, in Tehran. That day is coming sooner than most people realize, and I assure you, every single American will be very happy when that day comes.

■ Let's turn to your recent political reading, the most controversial book being Marianne Williamson's A Politics of Love. You wrote an open letter to the First Lady, Melania Trump, copied to Kellyanne Conway, and according to the US Postal Service, the copies of the book that you sent them, your letter, and three printed book reviews,

in two duplicate packages, were signed for by the White House on Monday morning – on 8 July. What was your message and what were you trying to accomplish?

A. I am so glad to include this material here, because all the dots are being connected. Extraterrestrial disclosure is not only related to nuclear neutralization and the demise of Zionist Israel, but a new politics is emergent in the USA in which a return to conservative principles; a restoration of individual sovereignty over the state, and what Marianne Williamson calls a politics of love, all suggest that a Second American Revolution is about to take place under the leadership of President Donald Trump.

First, your readers can see the full text of my letter to the First Lady – perhaps the most gracious First Lady in modern American history, easily the equal to Jacqueline Kennedy in my view – at the below link, which includes links to the three book reviews that I printed and sent to the White House along with a copy of the one book by Marianne Williams.

Memorandum for the First Lady: Subject – A Politics of Love (the book and the author), you, your husband, and America

I would be glad to see your readers share this link using the share buttons at the link, it may be my most important contribution to both US domestic tranquility and world peace. Here are the key points that I make:

- Marianne Williamson is the only authentic Democratic candidate for President, with a real message.



- President Trump will be a better President if he integrates her ideas into his program.

- The era of women in charge is returning – matriarchal societies were common in the past.

- There is a huge anti-war movement across the USA, largely invisible, led by 22 million veterans.

- The President could lose Florida if he does not honor his promises on 9/11 disclosure (which will destroy the Zionist parasite in the USA) and on pulling our forces and dollars out of the Middle East.

- A new conservative era has begun in which individual and state sovereignty will sharply limit federal imperial powers – President Trump is aware of this, he simply needs to speak to it more clearly.

- The 27 states that passed laws making it a felony to speak against the Zionist genocide of the Palestinian people could see the Governors and many state legislators fired from office in 2020.

- America is ready for – America wants – a politics of love instead of fear. The President needs to stop posturing about a strong military that is known to be 50% waste and unable to win wars, and start getting serious about closing down overseas and cleaning house at home.

■ Who is Tomi Lahren? Why does she matter?

A. I only know her from her book, but she matters for the same reason George Will matters, for the same reason President Donald Trump and all the Supreme Court Justices he will appoint – I hope of total of five at least – matter. The silent majority in America is conservative (individual freedom, family values), and they are sick and tired of political correctness, the normalization of perversion, the nanny state that has turned many Americans into dependent infants, and the militarization of the police, many trained by the Zionists to treat US citizens as if they were “cockroaches.” ENOUGH. What Iran is going to see in the next few years is the return of America the Beautiful, an America that values children, families, communities, hard work, honest, and peace – Ron Paul's America, also the America of Dennis Kucinich, an America in which intelligence, integrity, and imagination are valued and rewarded.

■ Any parting thoughts?

A. Yes! I am so glad you asked. I was speaking with the French shadow foreign minister about different matters, and he mentioned in passing what he sees as a new Russian-UK axis complemented by a new Russian-Turkish axis. We also discussed the inevitable demise of Zionist Israel, starting with their being thrown out of the Golan. Here are some high points

- Our President's “confirmation” of the Golan as being Israeli territory was intended to set off a firestorm and accelerate behind the scenes discussions toward expelling Israel from the Golan.

- S-400 systems are all over Syria and Lebanon now, and soon in Turkey. The Zionists have lost air superiority and in combination with Russian and Iranian electromagnetic capabilities, can be grounded at will.

- Extremely nuanced negotiations have been taking place about the future of Savoy in France that will impact on the future of Lebanon, Crimea, and Donbass as well as Golan. The expulsion of the Zionists from the Golan is inevitable. If they do not bow to unified diplomatic and financial pressure, they can be pushed off militarily, starting with the flattening of “Trump Heights.”

My closing comment: I don't think the Zionist controlled Departments of State or CIA understand that Turkish is a principle language in seventeen countries, that Putin personally saved Erdogan from being shot out of the sky recently, and that Iran, Tur-

key, Russia, and China have already agreed on the future of Central Asia. I knew about Iranian reach in Central Asia, I did not know about Turkish reach into Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia. I have put two graphics together below because neither is sufficient by itself. Both show the degree to which the Turkish language or variants of the Turkish language are common.

We now know that Hitler intended to settle the Jews in Madagascar and that it was Zionist leaders in Switzerland who refused to pay the \$3 million to pay for the emigration of all Jews from Germany. My final thought is to observe that China, which plays a very long game, has not only take over key Israeli ports, but has also created a completely new multi-billion dollar Jewish Autonomous Zone in Manchuria, connected by new expensive rail and road links to the Jewish Autonomous Oblast in Russia. A new port, perhaps to be called New Haifa, is under discussion across from Vladivostok, perhaps on coastal land contributed by North Korea to a new economic zone that opens trade with Japan for the entire region. Those who doubt my ability to see “weak signals” about the future might note that I was the first to report on the unification and denuclearization of Korea, in the American Herald Tribune in March 2018,

The Zionists have much to atone for. I pray they find happiness in Manchuria and that we all have an opportunity to celebrate the restoration of the Palestinian state at the same time that every Jew can give thanks to God for no longer being hostage to a criminal state. The denuclearization of the Middle East is in my view as certain as the denuclearization of the Koreans, in part because the extraterrestrials have made the nuclear option untenable, even for the criminally insane. Now it is a question of restoring ethnic and historical balance. Israel is an invented state – a genocidal, apartheid, criminal invented state. It must be US policy that no US taxpayer dollars will ever again be spent to support genocide against the Palestinians, encroachment against the Syrians, or warmongering against the Iranians, Yemenis or anyone else. A politics of love – and an intolerance for contrived illegal immigration – this is the correct new direction for America. I would like very much to see Jerusalem as an international open city.

“Yalla, yalla bye, Zionist Israel.”

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Apollo 11: Moon landing video tapes bought by NASA intern for \$218 could sell for millions

Three videotape reels of the Apollo 11 mission that a former NASA intern originally bought for just \$218 is up for auction ahead of the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing, and could sell for as much as \$2 million.

The footage is being auctioned by Sotheby's, and has been described as "the only surviving first-generation recordings of the historic moon walk".

Bidding for the footage will start at \$700,000, and Sotheby's expects the reels to ultimately sell for anywhere from \$1 to \$2 million.

The auction house says that the footage is among 1,150 reels that Gary George purchased in 1976 from a government surplus auction. Mr George, a former intern at the space agency,

paid just \$218 then for them, or about \$975 in modern dollars.

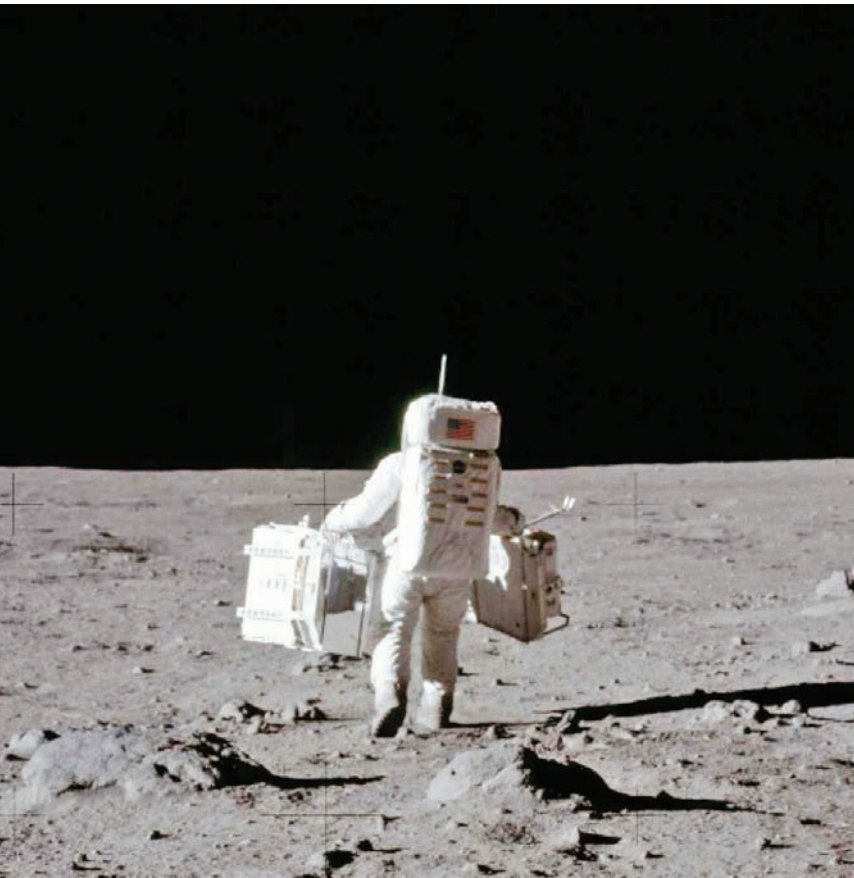
Mr George has said that he didn't know the contents of the tapes for decades, and originally didn't believe they contained anything of value.

But in 2006, NASA admitted that they had lost the Apollo 11 landing tapes, and Mr George realized the value of the tapes that he had purchased.

NASA says that other recordings of the landing were likely reused or erased in the early 1980s.

The auction being held by Sotheby's is dedicated to space exploration, and opened over the weekend.

(Source: The Independent)



Strange warping geometry helps to push scientific boundaries

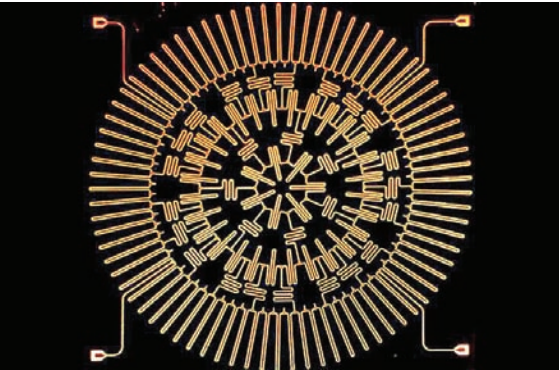
Atomic interactions in everyday solids and liquids are so complex that some of these materials' properties continue to elude physicists' understanding. Solving the problems mathematically is beyond the capabilities of modern computers, so scientists at Princeton University have turned to an unusual branch of geometry instead.

Researchers led by Andrew Houck, a professor of electrical engineering, have built an electronic array on a microchip that simulates particle interactions in a hyperbolic plane, a geometric surface in which space curves away from itself at every point. A hyperbolic plane is difficult to envision -- the artist M.C. Escher used hyperbolic geometry in many of his mind-bending pieces -- but is perfect for answering questions about particle interactions and other challenging mathematical questions.

The research team used superconducting circuits to create a lattice that functions as a hyperbolic space. When the researchers introduce photons into the lattice, they can answer a wide range of difficult questions by observing the photons' interactions in simulated hyperbolic space.

"You can throw particles together, turn on a very controlled amount of interaction between them, and see the complexity emerge," said Houck, who was the senior author of the paper published July 4 in the journal Nature.

Alicia Kollár, a postdoctoral research associate at the Princeton Center for Complex Materials and the study's



lead author, said the goal is to allow researchers to address complex questions about quantum interactions, which govern the behavior of atomic and subatomic particles.

"The problem is that if you want to study a very complicated quantum mechanical material, then that computer modeling is very difficult. We're trying to implement a model at the hardware level so that nature does the hard part of the computation for you," said Kollár.

The centimeter-sized chip is etched with a circuit of superconducting resonators that provide paths for microwave

photons to move and interact. The resonators on the chip are arranged in a lattice pattern of heptagons, or seven-sided polygons. The structure exists on a flat plane, but simulates the unusual geometry of a hyperbolic plane.

"In normal 3-D space, a hyperbolic surface doesn't exist," said Houck. "This material allows us to start to think about mixing quantum mechanics and curved space in a lab setting."

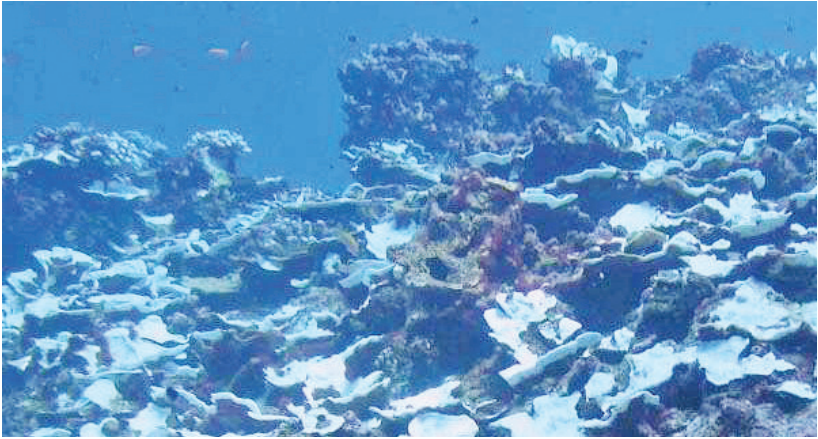
Trying to force a three-dimensional sphere onto a two-dimensional plane reveals that space on a spherical plane is smaller than on a flat plane. This is why the shapes of countries appear stretched out when drawn on a flat map of the spherical Earth. In contrast, a hyperbolic plane would need to be compressed in order to fit onto a flat plane.

"It's a space that you can mathematically write down, but it's very difficult to visualize because it's too big to fit in our space," explained Kollár.

To simulate the effect of compressing hyperbolic space onto a flat surface, the researchers used a special type of resonator called a coplanar waveguide resonator. When microwave photons pass through this resonator, they behave in the same way whether their path is straight or meandering. The meandering structure of the resonators offers flexibility to "squish and scrunch" the sides of the heptagons to create a flat tiling pattern, said Kollár.

(Source: Science Daily)

Thirty-year study reveals cause of coral bleaching crisis



Corals are disappearing across the world's oceans, and most scientists have pointed to warming water temperatures -- the result of climate change -- as the primary driver. But new research suggests nitrogen pollution is the main cause of coral bleaching in Florida.

The study, published this week in the journal Marine Biology, was compiled using three-decades worth of observational data collected at the Looe Key Reef in the lower Florida Keys.

"Our results provide compelling evidence that nitrogen loading from the Florida Keys and greater Everglades ecosystem caused by humans, rather than warming temperatures, is the primary driver of coral reef degradation at Looe Key Sanctuary Preservation Area," lead study author Brian Lapointe, research professor at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, said in a news release.

Data collected at the test site showed nutrient runoff has boosted the nitrogen-phosphorus ratio in reef algae. As more and more treated sewage and fertilizers from commercial farms rinse into local waterways and flood the oceans with nutrients, including reactive nitrogen, corals are unable to absorb sufficient levels of phosphorous.

According to the new research, phosphorous-starvation lowers the temperature threshold for coral bleaching and increases the chances of coral disease and mortality among reefs.

The symbiotic relationship between coral polyps and the microalgae that provide them food evolved in a low-nutrient environment. Human-caused nutrient loading is disrupting a balance achieved over millions of years.

In addition to measuring the levels of

nutrients in macroalgae, or seaweed, among Looe Key reefs, scientists also monitored changes in temperature and salinity. To better understand how nitrogen makes its way to the lower Florida Keys, researchers analyzed nutrient gradients between the Everglades and Looe Key.

In 1984, coral cover in the Looe Key Sanctuary Preservation Area was estimated at 33 percent. By 2008, it was just 6 percent. Today, it's less than 4 percent. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary has the lowest coral cover of anywhere in the Caribbean.

Scientists found periods of accelerated coral decline followed heavy periods of rainfall and water releases from the Everglades. The correlation highlighted the negative impacts of nutrient loading on coral health.

Climate models suggest the region will experience increasing levels of rainfall. Rising water temperatures, however, will only make matters worse, researchers warn.

The new research doesn't discount the negative impacts of global warming on coral health. Coral bleaching has occurred in several remote reefs mostly unaffected by land-based nutrient runoff. But the findings are a reminder that coral face a diversity of threats.

"Citing climate change as the exclusive cause of coral reef demise worldwide misses the critical point that water quality plays a role, too," said study co-author James W. Porter, emeritus professor of ecology at the University of Georgia. "While there is little that communities living near coral reefs can do to stop global warming, there is a lot they can do to reduce nitrogen runoff. Our study shows that the fight to preserve coral reefs requires local, not just global, action."

(Source: UPI)

'Landscape of fear': Human presence alone has lethal effect on large predators, study finds



Carnivores like pumas, bobcats and skunks are so afraid of humans they hunt drastically less when they sense their presence, potentially harming the species' long-term survival, according to a new study.

Scientists said this "landscape of fear" inadvertently benefits rodents which are more able to forage without fear of getting caught. This shows humans have a profound effect on ecosystems even if they are not hunting or destroying habitats.

"Our results indicate that many of the globally observed impacts on wildlife attributed to anthropogenic activity may be explained by fear of humans," researchers wrote in the paper, published in Ecology Letters.

The study is the first large-scale research into how fear of humans cascades through the food web from top predators to the smallest prey.

Lead author Justin Suraci, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California Santa Cruz, said: "Humans are sufficiently scary to pumas and smaller predators that they suppressed their behavior and changed the way they used their habitats when they thought we were around."

Scientists looked at two remote sites in the Santa Cruz Mountains that are closed to the public. They placed 25 speakers in a grid pattern across an area of one square kilometer and broadcast human voices.

Pumas significantly reduced their activity when they heard human voices and bobcats became more nocturnal. Skunks reduced their overall activity by 40 per cent and opossums reduced their foraging activity by 60 per cent.

Dr Suraci said: "Bobcats pretty much gave up on daytime activity, shifting almost

entirely to the night, when they presumably feel safer. These predators aren't necessarily leaving the area, they're just less active, presumably because they're hiding more."

At the same time their prey became much more audacious. Deer mice increased their activity by 45 per cent and mice and wood rats increased their levels of foraging by 17 per cent.

Dr Suraci said: "They were apparently responding to the reduced activity of everybody else. They're feeling braver, so they're moving around more and finding more food."

"They're not too averse to people, so they're taking advantage of the opportunity."

"Humans are incredibly lethal. We are major predators, and thus a source of fear, for a lot of these species. What's novel about this study is that we can see what that fear looks like in the environment at a relatively large scale."

Scientists are worried these behavioral changes could have dire consequences for predators if their food intake drops. They want to look in more depth at the costs of living near humans for specific species.

Senior author Chris Wilmer, a professor from UC Santa Cruz, previously studied how fear of humans affects mountain lions.

He said: "With human population growth and development, there is often a dual mandate to preserve wildlife and give people access to open spaces."

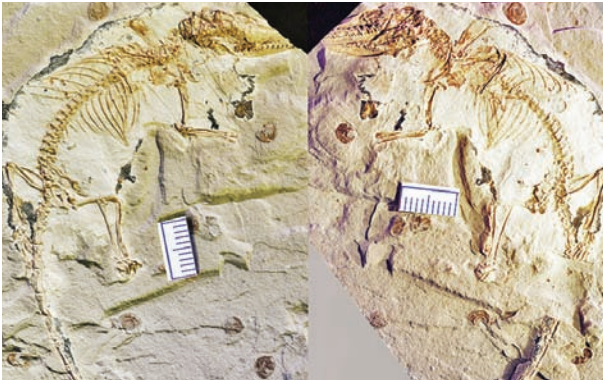
"This research starts to get at how we can realistically do both. We need to understand how animals react to our presence to make decisions and craft policies that protect their wellbeing."

(Source: The Independent)

A flexible bone that helps mammals chew dates back to the Jurassic Period

Millions of years before the emergence of true mammals, an early ancestor had a tiny, saddle-shaped bone connected to the jaw that was thought to belong to mammals alone. That bone, scientists say, helps all mammals chew and swallow, and ultimately was one secret to our success, enabling the spread into various ecological niches.

Microdocodon gracilis, a shrew-sized mammal ancestor, lived about 165 million years ago in what's now China. Scientists led by vertebrate paleontologist Chang-Fu Zhou of the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning in Shenyang, China, examined the fossil and discovered that it included a beautifully preserved hyoid bone. That bone bears a remarkable resemblance to the shape of hyoids in modern mammals, the researchers report in the July 19 Science.



When it comes to food, mammals have staked their claims across many types of environments. And different modern species have teeth specially adapted for their widely differing diets. Large carnivores like lions and tigers have sharp, cutting blades; some small mammals have high cusps on their teeth to help crunch insects; and others have ridge-packed teeth to help grind down plants.

But one thing that all mammals have in common is that we do chew, breaking food down into tiny pieces before swallowing it. That's unlike, say, reptiles, which have a penchant for swallowing food whole, says vertebrate paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo of the University of Chicago. Furthermore, mammals' mouths, throats and tongues are also designed to be flexible and strong enough to suckle milk, a defining characteristic for the group.

"The food transport and the swallowing of the chewed-up food is all controlled by muscle related to this highly mobile bone" called the hyoid, Luo says.

All jawed vertebrates, from fishes to felines, have a hyoid, but in mammals this bone is uniquely mobile. Luo likens it to a child's backyard swing, with a curved seat suspended by two chain links. "[The bone] can bend and is flexible, like a kid swinging back and forth," he says.

Whether the evolution of that flexible bone pre-dated the rise of mammals or came later was unknown. Many mammal ancestors living during the Jurassic Period between 201 million years and 145 million years ago were already diversifying in terms of food niches and had a variety of different kinds of teeth. That suggested that the animals likely had at least some sort of transitionally mobile hyoid, Luo says. But what the bone actually looked like remained unclear.

Enter M. gracilis. The Jurassic fossil, an ancestor of mammals called a mammaliaform, represents a key stage between more primitive mammal ancestors that lived during the late Permian and Triassic periods and still retained a rigid hyoid, and the later burst of mammalian diversity that occurred during the Cenozoic Era. That period, from 65 million years ago to modern times, is sometimes called the Age of Mammals. By then, mammals had the mobile hyoid.

Crucially, the fossil is the first Jurassic mammaliaform that included a well-preserved hyoid, enabling researchers to note the distinctive shape. "Once we knew what to look for, we started to search for corroboration of similar structures in other extinct mammal lineages," Luo says. "And we found them left and right."

That suggests this structure was common among early mammal ancestors living during the Jurassic, and may have been an important part of mammals' ultimate ability to diversify, the researchers say. "Mammals just chewed and swallowed themselves into evolutionary success," Luo says.

That was a particularly interesting aspect of the discovery, says Simone Hoffmann, a vertebrate paleontologist at the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury.

(Source: sciencenews.org)

Microsoft designers create replica of Apollo 11 hatch

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, designers at Microsoft built a replica of the spaceship's iconic hatch, the door that Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong used to exit the command module and enter the lunar lander, Eagle.

The hatch has been used for a live build event, dubbed Project Egress, at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Different components of the Apollo 11 command module, Columbia, have been created by 44 teams of makers and assembled onsite.

Event host Adam Savage, from the TV series "Mythbusters," requested that designers at Microsoft's Advanced Prototyping Center build the hatch.

"This was a passion project that people put their whole heart and drive into," John Haley, manager of the Advanced Prototyping Center, said in a news release. "They went above and beyond, because the regular work didn't stop. It's going to be amazing to have a piece in the Smithsonian."

Because the Advanced Prototyping Center is set up to build computer components, its tools aren't exactly meant for creating large pieces of equipment. Designers at APC had to develop several small components using the center's 3D printers, laser cutters, fabric splitters and industrial waterjet machines.

The team of makers integrated 211 brass inserts into the design to make the hatch's assembly during the live build event easier.

The design team had to make the door and its components sturdy enough to support the components provided by other makers, but not so heavy that the hatch would be difficult to manage.

"This is not only about providing something that's going to look great, but making the experience as easy and seamless as possible," said Jay Trzaskos, a model maker and prototyping architect at Microsoft.

(Source: UPI)

‘Longquan Celadon and Globalization’ exhibition kicks off at the Palace Museum

The Longquan of the World: Longquan Celadon and Globalization exhibition opens at the Palace Museum in Beijing on Monday. Featuring 833 Longquan celadon items from 42 domestic and international museums and archaeological institutes, it boasts the largest number of Longquan celadon wares ever put on display at the museum.



Longquan celadon wares on the exhibition of “Longquan Celadon and Globalization” at the Palace Museum on July 15, 2019.

Longquan is a county-level city in East China’s Zhejiang Province. There were once around 400 kiln sites in Longquan, most of which were established during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) or Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). Many archeological sites throughout China have unearthed Longquan celadon, a testament to their popularity. In fact, thanks to the increasing demand for Longquan celadon around the ancient world, these porcelains can be found in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan and the UK.

Longquan celadon discovered in ancient shipwrecks and post house sites show how these wares were transported across the vast land and ocean trade routes that made up the Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road. Not only did Longquan celadon spread abroad, the techniques and styles were also imitated by kilns in countries like Iran, Japan, the UK and Vietnam. For this reason, Longquan celadon has become a symbol of cultural communication and a sign of the early stages of globalization.

The exhibition consists of four sections. The first section, Longquan Millennium, demonstrates the development process of kilns in the region and reveals the reason why Longquan celadon wares were able to influence the ceramic industry around the world. The second section, National Vessels, shows the role of Longquan celadon wares in the imperial courts.

The third section, Global Spread, displays how Longquan celadon wares were traded and distributed in China and abroad as an important constituent of the global trade system between the 12th and 15th centuries. The last section, Brilliant Harmony, demonstrates how kilns in different areas of China and foreign countries imitated Longquan celadon by learning its patterns, glaze colors and forms.

After the Palace Museum exhibition ends on October 20, it will travel to the Zhejiang Provincial Museum, where it will be held from November 15 to February 16, 2020.

(Source: globaltimes.cn)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Lord Howe Island Group

The Lord Howe Island Group, which a World Heritage in Australia, is widely considered as an outstanding example of oceanic islands of volcanic origin containing a unique biota of plants and animals, as well as the world’s most southerly true coral reef.

It is an area of spectacular and scenic landscapes encapsulated within a small land area, and provides important breeding grounds for colonies of seabirds as well as significant natural habitat for the conservation of threatened species.



A remarkable example of isolated oceanic islands, born of volcanic activity more than 2,000 m under the sea, these islands boast a spectacular topography and are home to numerous endemic species, especially birds.

Iconic species include endemics such as the flightless Lord Howe Woodhen (*Gallirallus sylvestris*), once regarded as one of the rarest birds in the world, and the Lord Howe Island Phasid (*Dryococelus australis*), the world’s largest stick insect that was feared extinct until its rediscovery on Balls Pyramid.

About 75% of the terrestrial part of the property is managed as a Permanent Park Preserve, consisting of the northern and southern mountains of Lord Howe Island itself, plus the Admiralty Islands, Mutton Bird Islands, Balls Pyramid and surrounding islets. The property is located in the Tasman Sea, approximately 570 kilometers east of Port Macquarie.

The entire property including the marine area and associated coral reefs covers 146,300 hectares, with the terrestrial area covering approximately 1,540 hectares.

■ Protection and management requirements

The property is subject to a comprehensive protection, management and monitoring regime which is supported by adequate human and financial resources.

All World Heritage properties in Australia are ‘matters of national environmental significance’ protected and managed under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This Act is the statutory instrument for implementing Australia’s obligations under a number of multilateral environmental agreements including the World Heritage Convention.

(Source: UNESCO)

Damage to Hassanabad Sq. to be compensated soon

HERITAGE DESK **TEHRAN** — Iran’s tourism chief has said that damage to Tehran’s Hassanabad Sq., which was on fire late on Wednesday, will be compensated as soon as possible.

Ali-Asghar Mounesan, the director of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, also expressed regret at the incident in a Thursday tweet, referring to the fire damage, CHTN reported.

With reference to the importance of Hassanabad’s historic square as a part of Tehran’s identity, the official announced formation of a special task force to determine the cause of the incident and to compensate for the damage.

“The cultural heritage organization has always paid attention to the Hassanabad Square because it is part of Tehran’s identity registered as a national cultural heritage,” Mounesan wrote.

A special task force has been set up to coordinate with other responsible authorities as soon as possible to trace the cause of the incident by the judicial and urban authorities, he said.

A 500-square meter storehouse went on fire late on Wednesday. The fire spread to other centuries-old premises round



Portion of a fire truck, firefighters and passersby are seen in Hassanabad Sq., downtown Tehran, where a raging fire has just been distinguished, July 17, 2019. In the background smoke still rises from a Qajar-era building that encircles the square.

the square, however, it was put out by the fire brigade.

Hassanabad, also spelled Hasanabad Sq., is named after an old and historical

area of the same name, which is situated in the Monirieh district of the Iranian capital.

The area was originally developed dur-

From labyrinthine bazaars to nomadic landscapes: Feel Iran on walking tours

TOURISM DESK **TEHRAN** — To offer tourists with new experiences and fresh points of view, a number of tour operators have developed a range of creative “off-the-beaten-track” tours and activities in Iran, in order to explore new tastes of the ancient land, ISNA reported in a recent article.

Many international travelers to the country say that traversing Iran equals an endless charm, as it embraces so many diverse cultures and landscapes.

Iran has so much to offer if you thoroughly visit every nook and cranny. Forget the VIP cars and become an adept at slow travel by discovering Iran through walking tours. There are many stunning mosques and pristine deserts!

One of the most popular ways to visit a city is to experience it on foot. Whatever their size, most historical cities, towns and villages in Iran are best appreciated by walking, as their century-old city centers were first conceived to wander around.

Below is an edited excerpt of the article:

Take Isfahan, for instance: a masterpiece of Safavid-era architecture popularly known as “half of the world”. Numerous craftspeople are boasting skills in the mazing bazaars, producing beautiful handicrafts with copper, woods,

ceramics, and wool.

A walking tour in its narrow alleys yields a unique opportunity to listen to the stories behind this Iranian heritage. While in Shiraz, local guides help to revive the traditions by showing visitors the old and forgotten jobs of the bazaar.

Here, a woman is sewing “Giveh”, the oldest type of handwoven Iranian shoes; over there, a man is repairing old books in its antics shops, while his neighbor quietly prepares nuts with saffron and salt all day long. Crossing the threshold of their old shops with a walking tour would be a priceless opportunity to meet with the last representative of these ancient jobs, before they become part of the past.

From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye.

It is possible to pierce the mystery of Persian cookery, and getting familiar with the concept of hot and cold natures in food, through joining a walking tour in the bazaars of Tehran, Shiraz, Yazd, or Isfahan. Not only it’s an opportunity to discover dozens of unique local ingredients, but it’s also a chance to taste the Iranian street foods and delicacies, in some traditional bakery known only by locals and shopkeepers.

People watching and even mingling with them in the bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaars have traditionally been major economic and social centers in any Iranian city.

But for those who wish to have insights into the authentic Persian culture, adding a cooking workshop to a walking tour seems to be a must. Some believe that Persian cuisine is the soul of the country and meals are a cheerful moment beloved by every Iranian family.

From Tehran to Shiraz, participating in a cooking class gives the opportunity to discover local cuisine far from the usual restaurants. For instance, in town of Taft, near Yazd, there is an eco-lodge managed by a Zoroastrian couple, which

aims to share their traditions with tourists, through cooking workshops performed in a pomegranate field.

You can also skip cities to be connected with another aspect of Iran. Yes, some of the most memorable walking experiences in Iran could take place beyond the city walls. Iran has an incredible nature, offering trekking experiences in the green peaks of the northern Gilan province, climbing Asia’s second highest volcano Mount Damavand, or experiencing both snow-capped mountains and sand dunes in two days, nearby Shirkoo, in central Iran.

Yet, the most authentic and moving walking adventures in Iran is without a doubt sharing the lives of nomads. For centuries, Iranian tribes have walked between their summer pastures and winter quarters in the mountainous areas, taking with them all their belongings.

Accompanying nomads during their migration, even for a day or two, may be a lifetime experience. It will undoubtedly produce a rare insight into the culture of these ethnic groups.

No matter you visit a Shahsavari or a Qashqai tribe, the point is that in the twenty first century, you will leave behind you all technologies and modern life, to feel a nomadic life and their herds and a taste of the most authentic Iran.



Archaeology’s Neolithic ‘big bang’ moment found in a 9,000-year-old city near Jerusalem

The 9,000-year-old metropolis — pre-dating both Britain’s Stonehenge and ancient Egypt’s pyramids — was uncovered during a survey before the construction of a new highway, is one of the biggest ever found.

A team of archaeologists estimated a population between 2,000 and 3,000 people, which would have constituted a large city for the time.

It covered dozens of hectares near what is today the town of Motza, some five kilometers west of Jerusalem.

Before the discovery, it was widely believed the entire area had been uninhabited in that period, during which people were shifting away from hunting for survival to a more sedentary lifestyle that included farming.

“This is most probably the largest excavation of this time period in the Middle East, which will allow the research to advance leaps and bounds ahead of where we are today, just by the amount of material that



Archaeologists say a huge prehistoric settlement discovered near Jerusalem offers new insight into how civilizations developed around the end of the Stone Age.

FAA says mobile phones could pose safety risk on some Boeing jets

Let’s be honest. Many travelers leave their cell phones in transit mode during flight, either because they want to use it at low altitudes or because they forgot. Most people don’t think it’s such a big deal. Is it possible they’re wrong?

U.S. government officials in 2014 revealed an alarming safety issue: Passenger cellphones and other types of radio signals could pose a crash threat to some models of Boeing 737 and 777 airplanes.

More than 1,300 jets registered in the U.S. were equipped with cockpit screens vulnerable to interference from Wi-Fi, mobile phones, and even outside frequencies such as weather radar, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, which gave airlines until November 2019 to replace the units made by Honeywell International Inc.

Today, potentially hundreds of planes worldwide are still flying with the unsafe systems cited in the FAA report. Flight-critical data including airspeed, altitude, and navigation

could disappear and “result in loss of airplane control at an altitude insufficient for recovery,” the FAA said in the safety bulletin, known as an airworthiness directive.

Honeywell hasn’t heard of any blanking display screens caused by cell phones or other radio frequencies while an airplane was in flight, spokeswoman Nina Krauss said. When airlines and Honeywell argued that radio signals were unlikely to cause safety problems during flight, though, the FAA countered that it had run tests on in-service planes — and the jets flunked.

Boeing Co. found the interference in a laboratory test in 2012 and hasn’t seen similar issues on other aircraft, a company spokesman said. Honeywell is aware of only one case where all six display units in a 737 cockpit went blank, Krauss said. The cause was a software problem that has been fixed and is currently being flight-tested, she said.

The affected 737s are the so-called Next Generation model,

a predecessor of the Boeing Max, which was involved in two crashes in less than five months. Cockpit displays on the Max were made by Rockwell Collins, now a unit of United Technologies Corp., not Honeywell. Boeing’s 777s also were covered by the FAA order.

The FAA order didn’t quantify the amount of radio signals needed to cause interference problems. Still, the radio-signal threat extends beyond that specific display system and FAA warning.

Numerous cell phones left on during any airplane flight “could be a real problem,” said professor Tim Wilson, department chair for electrical, computer, software, and systems engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The greater the number of phones emitting radio signals, he said, the greater the potential for interference with a plane’s flight system.

(Source: Skift)

10 million Iranians at risk of hypertension: health minister

HEALTH **TEHRAN**—Some 10 million Iranians have prehypertension, according to the results of a recent national campaign for controlling hypertension, said Health Minister Saeed Namaki.

Prehypertension is an American medical classification for cases where a person's blood pressure is elevated above normal, but not to the level considered hypertension. Prehypertension is a warning sign that you may get high blood pressure in the future. High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, coronary heart disease, heart failure, and kidney failure.

According to Namaki, the national campaign for controlling hypertension examined the blood pressure of 30.6 million Iranians who were between the age of 30 and 70, ISNA reported on Thursday.

The campaign also identified 2.7 million people with hypertension who were formerly not aware of their condition.

“Now that we have the results, we are planning for controlling the blood pressure of at least 14 million people, so that the risk of more serious diseases are reduced and we need less CCU and ICU hospital beds in the future,” said Namaki.



The campaign also identified 2.7 million people with hypertension who were formerly not aware of their condition.

“It’s better to block the river source, rather than searching for corpses and the injured at the bottom of the river,” he added.

The national campaign for controlling blood pressure ran from May 17 to July 6. It focused on the issue as one of the most important causes of cardiovascular disease, which is the main reason for 40 percent of deaths in Iran.

■ 100,000 Iranians die of high blood pressure annually

In mid-May, the Health Ministry’s director for non-communicable diseases Afshin Ostovar announced that about 100,000 Iranians die of high blood pressure annually.

One third of Iranian population above 30 years old suffer from hypertension and during past 25 years, the number of Iranians suffering from hypertension has increased by three-fold in Iran.

Some 97,000 Iranians died of diseases caused by hypertension in 2017, according to Dr. Ramin Heshmat, who is an associate professor of epidemiology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

World Health Organization (WHO) has set a target for a 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure by 2025.

Dairy consumption declining among Iranians: report

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — The low rate of dairy consumption in Iran has always been one of the main concerns of the health ministry during recent years. However, the rate has decreased more after cutting the government subsidy on milk, which has led to an increase in milk price. Moreover, free-of-charge milk is no longer distributed in elementary schools.

Sepideh Dolati, an expert at the nutrition department of the health ministry, believes that this situation will lead to a rise in treatment costs of diseases caused by insufficient dairy consumption.

According to the food pyramid, all healthy people should consume two or three types of dairies including milk, yoghurt and cheese each day. The dairy is considered as the main source of calcium, which is essential for different parts of body, hormones, bones and teeth, she explained.

According to a study done in the Iranian calendar year 1390 (March 2011-March 2012), Iranians consumed 190 ml, less than one glass of milk, of dairy per day, she lamented.

“Note that the recommended use of milk per day is minimum 250 grams to maximum 450 grams,” she explained.

According to global statistics in 2016, the per capita dairy consumption in Iran was 27 liters while the figure was 125 liters in Ireland and 120 liters in Finland, she added.

“Dairy products are necessary for all age groups and their omission leads to different diseases like cardiovascular diseases and osteoporosis.”

With increasing prices of dairy products during recent years, some Iranian families have to consume dairies weekly or even monthly, she said, adding, about 90 percent of Iranians do not receive an adequate amount of calcium daily.

People of different age groups need different amounts of calcium each day, she said.

Children aged between one and three years need 700 ml of calcium per day, while those between four and eight



years need 1000 ml. The figure is 1300 ml for children aged between 9 and 18 years, while adults aged between 19 and 70 years need 1000 ml of calcium. Above 71 years old, one should consume 1200 ml of calcium per day, she explained.

The amount of calcium in one glass of milk or yoghurt is estimated to be about 300 ml, she added.

“However, there are other sources of calcium other than dairy. For example, almond, sesame and vegetables with green leaves as well as some fish like salmon and sardine contain calcium as well.”

But, dairy products are also good sources of potassium, protein, vitamin B and zinc, she said, concluding that according to studies, calcium in dairy products prevents obesity.

■ Why is dairy so important?

According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), milk is a major source of dietary energy, high-quality protein and fat. It can make a significant contribution to meeting the required nutrient intakes of calcium, magnesium, selenium, riboflavin, vitamin B12 and pantothenic acid. Milk from some animal species can also be a source of zinc and vitamins A, C, D and B6.

Bioavailability of some nutrients in milk, for example calcium, is high compared with that in other foods in the diet.

Milk and dairy products can be important in diversifying the diet. They are nutrient dense and provide high quality protein and micronutrients in an easily absorbed form that can benefit both nutritionally vulnerable people and healthy people when consumed in appropriate amounts. It is important to recognize that a combination of food is necessary for a healthy diet and that milk and dairy products are not the only sources of essential nutrients.

The critical window for adequate child growth and cognitive development is between conception and 24 months of age and hence many recent international nutrition initiatives focus on the first 1000 days. The components of milk that are thought to be particularly important to supporting child growth are protein, minerals and lactose. Milk-based food products have also been used successfully in the treatment of moderate and severe malnutrition in children. Milk fat contributes about half of the energy in whole milk. For this reason, animal milk can play an important role in the diets of infants and young children in populations with a very low fat intake, where the availability of other animal source foods is limited.

There are no global recommendations for milk or dairy consumption. Many countries have developed national dietary guidelines that are based on local food availability, cost, nutritional status, consumption patterns and food habits. Because of differences in these factors, recommendations vary widely. Most countries recommend at least one serving of milk daily, with some countries recommending up to three servings per day. Currently, many national and international bodies recommend consumption of lower-fat dairy foods for developed/high income countries to address problems of overweight and obesity.

Do multivitamins work? The surprising truth

Multivitamins are the most commonly used supplements in the world.

Their popularity has increased rapidly in the past few decades. Some people believe that multivitamins can improve health, compensate for poor eating habits, and even reduce your risk of chronic diseases.

However, you may wonder if these supposed benefits are true. This article examines the scientific evidence behind multivitamins.

■ What are multivitamins?

Multivitamins are supplements that contain many different vitamins and minerals, sometimes alongside other ingredients.

As there's no standard for what constitutes a multivitamin, their nutrient composition varies by brand and product.

Multivitamins are also called multiminerals, multis, multiples, or simply vitamins.

They're available in many forms, including tablets, capsules, chewable gummies, powders, and liquids.

Most multivitamins should be taken once or twice a day. Make sure to read the label and follow the recommended dosage instructions.

Multivitamins are available in pharmacies, large discount stores, and supermarkets, as well as online.

■ What do multivitamins contain?

Thirteen vitamins and at least 16 minerals are essential to your health.

Many of them aid enzyme reactions in your body or function as signaling molecules or structural elements.

Your body also needs these nutrients for reproduction, maintenance, growth, and regulation of bodily processes.

Multivitamins may offer many of these vitamins and minerals — but in varying forms and amounts. They may also contain other ingredients like herbs, amino acids, and fatty acids.

Because dietary supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), multivitamins may contain higher or lower levels of some nutrients than the label states.

In some cases, they may not even provide all of the listed nutrients. The supplement industry is notorious for fraud, so it's important to purchase your vitamins from a reputable manufacturer.

Keep in mind that the nutrients in multivitamins may be derived from real foods or created synthetically in laboratories.

■ Multivitamins and heart disease

Heart disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. Many people believe that taking multivitamins can help prevent heart disease, but the evidence is mixed.



Some studies suggest that multivitamins are correlated to a reduced risk of heart attacks and death, while others show no effects.

For more than a decade, the Physicians' Health Study II investigated the effects of daily multivitamin use in over 14,000 middle-aged, male doctors.

It found no reductions in heart attacks, strokes, or mortality (10Trusted Source).

A more recent study revealed that among women — but not men — taking a multivitamin for at least 3 years was linked to a 35% lower risk of dying from heart disease.

■ Multivitamins and cancer

The evidence regarding multivitamin use and cancer risk is also mixed.

Some studies suggest no effect on cancer risk, while others link multivitamin use to increased cancer risk.

One review examined five randomized, controlled trials in 47,289 people. It found a 31% lower risk of cancer in men who took multivitamins but no effect in women.

Two observational studies, one including women and the other including men, tied long-term multivitamin use to a reduced risk of colon cancer.

The Physicians' Health Study II noted that long-term, daily multivitamin use reduced the risk of cancer in men with no cancer history. Still, it had no effect on the risk of death during the study period.

■ Do multivitamins have any other health benefits?

Multivitamins have been studied for several other purposes, including brain function and eye health.

■ Brain function

Several studies have found that multivitamins can improve memory in older adults.

These supplements may also improve mood. Research reveals links not only between poor mood and nutrient deficiencies but also between multivitamins and better mood or reduced depression symptoms.

However, other studies reveal no changes in mood.

■ Eye health

Age-related macular degeneration is a leading cause of blindness worldwide.

One study found that taking antioxidant vitamins and minerals may slow its progression. However, no evidence suggests that these compounds prevent the disease in the first place.

All the same, some evidence indicates that multivitamins may reduce your risk of cataracts, another very common eye disease.

■ Multivitamins may be harmful in some cases

Dosage is an important factor to consider when taking multivitamins.

Although high doses of some vitamins and minerals are fine, high amounts of others can be seriously harmful.

The appropriate dosage often depends on solubility, for which vitamins are categorized into two groups:

- Water-soluble. Your body expels excess amounts of these vitamins.

- Fat-soluble. As your body has no easy way to get rid of these, excess amounts may accumulate over long periods of time.

- Fat-soluble vitamins include A, D, E, and K. While vitamins E and K are relatively nontoxic, vitamins A and D can have toxic effects if overconsumed.

Pregnant women need to be especially careful with their vitamin A intake, as excess amounts have been linked to birth defects.

Vitamin D toxicity is extremely rare and unlikely to develop from multivitamin use. However, vitamin A toxicity is more common.

If you take multivitamins and eat a lot of nutrient-dense foods, you can easily exceed the recommended daily intake of many nutrients.

Smokers should avoid multivitamins with large amounts of beta carotene or vitamin A, as these nutrients may increase your risk of lung cancer.

Minerals may also be harmful in high doses. For example, too much iron can be dangerous for people who don't need it.

Another risk is faulty production, which may cause multivitamins to harbor much larger amounts of nutrients than intended.

(Source: healthline.com)

Is exercise more effective in sperm function or diet?

HEALTH **TEHRAN** — In a new study, scientists in Royan Research Institute investigated the effects of diet and physical activity on male reproductive cells.

Concern about male reproductive health has grown in recent years to become a major preoccupation in some developed countries. A possible decline in human sperm concentration was suggested in the early seventies following studies in the U.S.

According to Health Line, infertility affects about one in every six couples, and researchers estimate about one in every three cases is due to fertility problems in the male partner alone.

Semen quality and male fertility depends on a variety of factors including age, environment, lifestyle, physical activity, genetic background and occupation.

But which one is more important, diet or physical activity?

To answer the question, researchers in Royan Institute examined the effect of aerobic exercise, low?fat and high?fat diet on the testis tissue and sperm parameters in obese and nonobese mice model.

Testicular morphometric characteristics, sperm concentration and motility, sperm morphology, lipid peroxidation and chromatin were compared within obese groups and nonobese groups.

Both exercise and diet interventions did not show any change in testicular morphological characteristics, sperm morphology and DNA fragmentation within both obese and nonobese groups.



However, exercise and/or diet resulted in a significant increase in sperm concentration and motility within both groups.

Exercise in both groups led to high percentage of lipid peroxidation. Exercise intervention significantly improved sperm protamine deficiency within obese group.

It was concluded that exercise intervention was more effective than diet in improvement of sperm function within obese groups.

Scientists discover pathway to skin regeneration

Doctors use lasers and retinoic acid to treat skin damage. Scientists have now uncovered a common mechanism that links both, paving the way for new treatments.

Skin damage, in the form of dark spots and wrinkles, naturally occurs as we age. Ultraviolet light from the sun is a major factor in skin aging and causes what experts call photoaging.

Cosmetic procedures, such as laser treatment, chemical peels, and microdermabrasion, can reduce some of the signs doctors associate with photoaging.

Indeed, experts predict that the facial rejuvenation industry will increase its market revenue from just over \$17 billion per year in 2018 to around \$25 billion in 2025.

Yet our knowledge of how the techniques that dermatologists and plastic surgeons traditionally use on our skin work is still in its infancy.

Researchers from the Department of Dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, along with national and international collaborators, are seeking to further our understanding of the molecular processes underpinning skin rejuvenation technologies.

In a recent publication in the journal Nature Communications, they present their latest findings and explain how this may lead to better treatments in the long run.

■ Lasers and retinoic acid

Dr. Luis Garza, an associate professor of dermatology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and his team used data and skin biopsies from 17 women who had undergone treatment with a common form of laser rejuvenation therapy, which they say improves skin photoaging.

The team found an increase in the expression of genes that sense a particular type of molecule called self-noncoding double-stranded RNA (dsRNA).

In previous research, Dr. Garza showed that damaged skin cells release dsRNA, which, in turn, acts as a danger signal and kickstarts skin and hair follicle regeneration in mice.

In the current study, the team also found an increase in the expression of genes involved in producing retinoic acid. This vitamin A derivative plays a central role in embryonic development, and scientists know that it contributes to skin and limb regeneration in animal models.

Doctors use retinoic acid to treat skin conditions, such as psoriasis and acne, but also for skin rejuvenation.

In experimental cell cultures, using human skin cells, Dr. Garza saw an increase in retinoic acid production when the researchers applied a synthetic form of dsRNA.

Armed with this knowledge, the team set out to identify how dsRNA and retinoic acid may work together to drive skin regeneration.

■ Danger signals drive regeneration

Using mice that lacked the molecule toll like receptor 3 (TLR3), which senses dsRNA, they found “limited regeneration capacity.” They attribute this to lower levels of retinoic acid in these particular animals.

When they applied retinoic acid to the mice, they found a modest but statistically significant increase in regeneration.

“It’s not an accident that laser rejuvenation and retinoic acid have both been successful treatments for premature aging of the skin from sun damage and other forms of exposure,” Dr. Garza observes. “They’re actually working in the same molecular pathways, and nobody knew that until now.”

“In retrospect, it makes a lot of sense because retinoic acid is already a mainstay of wrinkle reduction and nobody knew what turned it on,” he continues. “Now, we know that damage leads to dsRNA, which leads to TLR3 activation and retinoic acid synthesis.”

In a further experiment, Dr. Garza saw greater levels of retinoic acid in the skin after exposing three volunteers to laser rejuvenation treatment.

(Source: medicalnewstoday.com)

15,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The Welfare Organization and Khatam ol-Anbia Central Headquarters have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to build 15,000 housing units for those under the Organization’s coverage. As per the MOU, 15,000 underprivileged families will become house owners.



To empower the vulnerable groups of the society, including, financially struggling families, female heads of households or persons with disabilities, provision of housing is of great importance, the Welfare Organization’s head, Vahid Qobadi-Dana said. Pointing out that so far 110,000 residential units have been provided to those covered by the organization, he added that some 50,000 other houses are under construction. Some 113,000 families are waiting to receive the houses, he further noted, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Referring to the plan to provide families with two or more disabled members, he said that some 6,250 families have become house owners so far through the plan, and some 6,500 houses will soon be completed thanks to the participation of benefactors.

‘Quite phenomenal’: Arctic heatwave hits most northerly settlement in world

The planet’s most northerly human settlement is in the midst of an “unprecedented” heatwave as parts of the Arctic endure one of their hottest summers on record.

Canada’s weather agency confirmed on Tuesday that temperatures in Alert, Nunavut, peaked at 21C at the weekend – far exceeding the July average for the area of around 5C.

Overnight temperatures on Sunday remained above 15C; again, well in excess of nighttime lows that usually hover around freezing in a settlement that lies less than 900km from the North Pole.

The previous temperature record for the town, of 20C, was set in 1956. In a further alarm bell for the region, the mercury climbed above 20C for a second day on Monday – the first time Alert’s climate station has recorded two consecutive days of 20C-plus temperatures in its history.

Alert is the northernmost permanently inhabited place in the world – with a population numbering less than 100 – and is far to the north of the Arctic Circle.

David Phillips, Environment Canada’s chief climatologist, said the weather in the far north of Canada was “quite spectacular” and “unprecedented”.

He told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: “It’s nothing that you would have ever seen.”

Armel Castellán, a meteorologist at the Canadian environment ministry, told AFP the extreme weather was “quite phenomenal”. “It’s an absolute record, we’ve never seen that before,” he said. Unusually, Victoria, 4,000km south of Alert, enjoyed cooler temperatures of 20.6C while the Arctic settlement baked.

Tyler Hamilton, a meteorologist at The Weather Network, said: “These two communities have a staggering amount of lines of latitude in between them, with the City of Victoria situated at 48°N, while Alert is plopped north of 82°N.

“This is in fact the first time a temperature warmer than 20C has been measured north of 80° on the planet.”

Alert’s heatwave comes as nearby Alaska saw its own record temperatures earlier this month.

Anchorage, the state’s largest city, sweltered in 32C on 4 July – shattering the seasonal high of around 24C.

Other local records were set across southern Alaska and came after five weeks of above average temperatures in the outlying US state. (Source: The Independent)

WORDS IN THE NEWS

Brazilian oil platform sinks

(March 22, 2001)
The world’s largest floating oil platform has sunk into the Atlantic a hundred-and-twenty-five kilometers off the coast of Brazil. Tom Gibbs, BBC Brazil correspondent, reports from Sao Paolo. Petrobras officials say the platform **keeled over** and sank despite efforts of **salvage** teams to save it. So far, there have been no details of the damage it may have caused. Salvage teams had been evacuated from the platform several hours before it sank after it gave a sudden **jolt**. They’d been pumping liquid air and nitrogen into the submerged tanks of the platform to try to stabilize it but, **with steep waves**, they were **fighting a losing battle**. The last measurement, taken about three hours before the platform sank, shows it was leaning over at an angle of thirty-one degrees. Salvage teams have been saying all week that any boat close by would be **in extreme danger of also being sucked into the water**.

The platform had one-and-a-half-million liters of fuel on board. This will almost certainly leak into the ocean. Ships have been **standing by** for a **cleanup operation**. However, officials have been saying that the **well-head**, almost a mile down on the seabed, **should not be damaged** as it was not directly beneath the platform. The fact that the platform has sunk will make it almost impossible to recover the bodies of eight workers who’ve been missing since the explosions last week. It’ll also make it much harder to investigate the causes of the accident. The rig was built in Italy in 1994. There remain unanswered questions as to why the explosion caused so many of the underwater containers of the rig, which normally keep it afloat, **to flood**.

■ **Words**
keeled over: fell over sideways
salvage: if you salvage something, you manage to save it
jolt: a sudden and violent movement is a jolt
with steep waves: because there were steep waves at this time
fighting a losing battle: struggling unsuccessfully
in extreme danger of also being sucked into the water: if the rig sank, boats near it might also be pulled down
standing by: ready to take action
cleanup operation: activity to remove the oil
well-head: machinery on the sea floor at the top of the well
should not be damaged: will probably not be harmed
to flood: to fill with water

€150m earmarked for watershed management

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — A total **d e s k** budget of €150 million has been allotted to watershed management measures in the current [Iranian calendar] year (to end March 2020), deputy director for Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO) has announced.

Watershed management aims at the sustainable distribution of its resources and the process of creating and implementing plans, programs, and projects to sustain and enhance watershed functions that affect the plant, animal, and human communities within the watershed boundary.

Features of watershed that agencies seek to manage include water supply, water quality, drainage, storm water runoff, water rights, and the overall planning and utilization of watersheds. Landowners, land use agencies, storm water management experts, environmental specialists, water use surveyors and communities all play an integral part in watershed management.

The vision of the aquifer management is to identify and map aquifers at the micro level, to quantify the available groundwater resources, and to propose plans appropriate to the scale of demand and aquifer characteristics, and institutional arrangements for participatory management.

In order to protect the country’s watersheds and aquifers, this year, a budget amounting to €150 million has been allocated from the National Development



100 million hectares of the country’s land area is subject to drought and subsidence, while soil erosion in Iran is three times the world’s average.

Fund in this regard, ISNA quoted Khosro Shahbazi as saying on Wednesday. Aquaculture and watershed management

plans will be implemented in 377 cities and about 1,034 rivers across the country, he highlighted.

July on course to be hottest month ever, say climate scientists

Record temperatures across much of the world over the past two weeks could make July the hottest month ever measured on Earth, according to climate scientists.

The past fortnight has seen freak heat in the Canadian Arctic, crippling droughts in Chennai and Harare and forest fires that forced thousands of holidaymakers to abandon campsites in southern France and prompted the air force in Indonesia to fly cloud-busting missions in the hope of inducing rain.

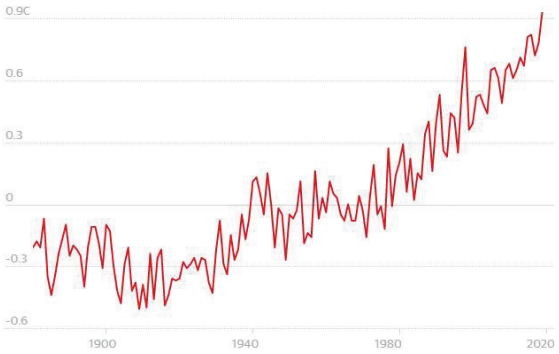
If the trends of the first half of this month continue, it will beat the previous record from July 2017 by about 0.025C, according to calculations by Karsten Haustein, a climate scientist at the University of Oxford, and others.

This follows the warmest-ever June, which was confirmed this week by data from the US space agency Nasa, following Europe’s Copernicus satellite monitoring system.

In response to the new numbers, Michael Mann, the director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, tweeted: “This is significant. But stay tuned for July numbers. July is the warmest month of the year globally. If this July turns out to be the warmest July (it has a good shot at it), it will be the warmest month we have measured on Earth.”

The scientists stressed that this outcome is uncertain because conditions could change in the second half of the month, but it underscores a broader pattern of steadily rising temperatures caused by increasing emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants, deforestation, cars, planes and other sources.

Mann estimated the chance of a new record this month at about 50%. In the longer term, he said records would continually be broken. “We have shown in recent work that the record warm streaks we’ve seen in recent years cannot be explained without accounting for human-caused plan-



etary warming. Those warm streaks are certain to not only continue but to worsen if we continue to burn fossil fuels and warm the planet.”

Nine of the 10 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Data from the first six months of this year indicates this year has a 99.9% chance of entering the top five, according to Gavin Schmidt.

“It is clear that 2019 is shaping up to be a top-five year – but depending on what happens it could be second, third or fourth warmest. The warmest year was 2016, which started with a big El Niño, which we didn’t have this year, so a record year is not particularly likely,” he said.

Of the many recent temperature anomalies, perhaps the most remarkable was in the Canadian Arctic community of Alert, Nunavut, which hit a record 21C on 14 July, although temperatures at this time of year are usually just a few degrees above freezing.

Last month, France shattered its previous heat record during a heatwave across much of Europe that was made

at least five times – and possibly hundreds of times – more likely by human-driven climate disruption, according to scientists.

Political leaders have failed to halt the rise in emissions that is behind global heating. On Tuesday, the UK environment secretary, Michael Gove, warned that time was running out to prevent a breakdown of the climate and natural life support systems. “These twin challenges of biodiversity and climate change are massive and urgent and interrelated. The action taken so far hasn’t been sufficient, but late as it may be, there is still time,” he warned. “The scale of action required may be daunting, but the need to act is imperative.”

The UK has avoided most of the extreme heat seen in Europe in elsewhere in recent weeks. The average temperature in the first two weeks of July was 15.1C, which equals the July average, though Mark McCarthy, the head of the Met Office’s National Climate Information Centre, said there might be a modest rise because the second half of the month is usually marginally warmer than the first.

Concerns about rising temperatures and their impact on health are growing. On Tuesday, the Red Cross launched a new Heatwave Guide to help urban planners and city authorities reduce the risks, which are particularly great for the elderly, very young children, pregnant women and people who are socially isolated.

“Heatwaves are one of the deadliest natural hazards facing humanity and the threat they pose will only become more serious and more widespread as the climate crisis continues,” said Francesco Rocca, the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Previous heatwaves have killed tens of thousands of people, including 2,500 in India in 2015 and 70,000 in Europe in 2003, according to the Red Cross.

(Source: The Guardian)

Cambodia to send plastic waste back to the U.S. and Canada

Cambodian officials announced Wednesday that they were sending 1,600 tons of trash back to their source -- the United States and Canada.

A total of 83 shipping containers of plastic waste were found on Tuesday at the major southwestern port of Sihanoukville, said Neth Pheaktra, Secretary of State and Spokesman to the Ministry of Environment.

The containers, opened by customs and excise officials, were labeled as “recyclable products” with no labels of plastic waste, said Pheaktra.

The customs ministry is now conducting an investigation into how the containers ended

up in Cambodia, and which companies or groups are behind the import. If discovered, they would be fined and brought to court, Pheaktra said. Meanwhile, the federal government will begin the process of sending back the trash to the US and Canada.

“Cambodia is not a dustbin where foreign countries can dispose of out-of-date e-waste, and the government also opposes any import of plastic waste and lubricants to be recycled in this country,” said Pheaktra.

This is just the latest incident in a global trash crisis, in which electronic waste, plastics, and other trash from mostly Western

countries get shipped to Southeast Asia.

Last year, China banned plastic waste imports as part of an initiative to clean up its environment. That move caused a ripple effect through global supply chains, as middlemen sought new destinations for their trash -- such as Malaysia or the Philippines.

This pivoting of trash imports has created an illicit industry of unlicensed plastic recyclers. In Malaysia earlier this year, a government crackdown found at least 148 unlicensed recycling factories that pollute local communities with toxic fumes and contaminate bodies of water.

In response, governments are trying to crackdown and stem the inflow of trash. Earlier this year, the Philippines and Canada engaged in a drawn out diplomatic row over the issue of imported trash, growing so heated that Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte recalled his ambassador to Ottawa -- before Canada agreed to take back 2,450 tons of trash in May.

Also in May, Malaysia sent back 450 tons of plastic waste to their countries of origin, including the United Kingdom, Canada, the U.S., Japan, and the Netherlands.

(Source: cnn.com)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ج

FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

Iran’s Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced.

PREFIX/SUFFIX

“chloro-, chlor-”

■ **Meaning:** green or chlorine
■ **For example:** This is the fundamental process by which **chlorophyll** ‘captures’ the energy of sunlight.

PHRASAL VERB

Pan out

■ **Meaning:** to happen or develop in a particular way
■ **For example:** We’ll have to see how things pan out.

IDIOM

Crystal clear

■ **Explanation:** to understand or has an obvious meaning
■ **For example:** There was no need to repeat the instructions. They were crystal clear.

سازمان غذا و دارو با محصولات تراریخته فاقد برچسب برخورد می کند

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو، وحید مفید در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اعلام کرد: تمام محصولات تراریخته در سطح عرضه کنترل می شوند و در صورتی که تراریخته باشند اما برچسب نداشته باشند، حتماً برخورد می کنیم.

UN calls out Saudi Arabia, UAE over ‘hypocritical’ Yemen aid promises

➔ The initial pledges of humanitarian aid came amid years-long Saudi war on the impoverished country seeking to restore power to Yemen's Riyadh-allied former officials.

The coalition has, however, been unsuccessful due to the resistance of Yemen's armed forces, led by the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The Saudi invasion has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of Yemeni civilians. The UN has described Yemen's humanitarian condition as being the “the worst in the world”.

■ “Man-made famine”

Meanwhile, reports have underlined the Saudi kingdom's role in creating a “man-made” humanitarian crisis in Yemen, with some studies revealing Riyadh's deliberate sabotage of the war-torn country's food infrastructure.

Yemen consequently relies heavily on foreign-supplied humanitarian aid to sustain its impoverished population, with the UN food agency warning that



about 15 million Yemenis are in a food crisis.

Earlier this year, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited a report indicating that over 80,000 Yemeni children under

five years had died as a result of severe malnutrition.

A major fall in UN humanitarian funding will further jeopardize the country's vulnerable population.

Speaking on Thursday, Lowcock said that as result of the two coalition countries' underpaid pledges, the UN's humanitarian appeal in Yemen currently had only 34 percent of its planned funding.

The fall in funding comes despite Saudi Arabia and the UAE's heavy investment in foreign arms amid the war in Yemen.

Between 2014 and 2018, Saudi Arabia alone imported more than \$15.6 billion worth of arms.

The United States, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Germany continue to be among the oil-rich kingdom's top arms suppliers despite mounting international opposition to the Saudi war.

On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass resolutions that block certain arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

According to Press TV, U.S. President Donald Trump has strongly defended arm sales to the oil-rich kingdom. The president is expected to veto any resolution banning the sales.

Merkel says Trump tweets ‘go against what makes America great’

TEHRAN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel Friday condemned President Donald Trump's xenophobic tweets against four minority Democratic congresswomen, saying the U.S. leader's attacks “go against what makes America great.”

“I firmly distance myself from [the attacks] and I feel solidarity towards” the women, she told journalists.

“In my view, the strength of America lies in that people from different [origins] contributed to what makes the country great.” Trump Sunday urged a group of four progressive Democratic congresswomen of color – all American citizens and three of them U.S.-born – to “go back” to their countries of origin, AFP reported.

Despite a domestic uproar over the comments which were deemed “racist” by the House of Representatives, Trump repeatedly renewed his attack.

“If you're not happy here, you can leave.... This is about love for America, certain people hate our country,” he tweeted Tuesday, while repeating the same message to a rally Wednesday.

International condemnation has rained down over the comments. British Prime Minister Theresa May called them “completely unacceptable.” New Zealand's leader Jacinda Ardern said she “completely and utterly” disagreed with Trump.

While usually refraining from commenting on other countries' domestic politics, Merkel Friday had markedly sharp words about Trump's latest attacks.

Questions over racism are particularly sensitive in Germany given its Nazi past, and the government routinely speaks out forcefully in favor of tolerance and diversity.

Trump and Merkel's relationship had been strained from the start, with the U.S. leader haranguing the German chancellor even before he took office.

During his election campaign, the U.S. property mogul called Merkel's decision to take in a million asylum seekers a “catastrophic mistake” and suggested that she was “ruining Germany.”

While Merkel had shared a visibly warm relationship with former U.S. president Barack Obama, her contact with Trump has been formal and firm.

Besides the striking differences in their personalities, the trained German physicist with a deliberative approach and the brash U.S. billionaire known for his Twitter outbursts also have contrasting views and stances on policies.

Setting the tone in her first phone call with Trump after he took office, Merkel offered cooperation, but also reminded him of democratic values.

That unusual warning led some commentators to suggest she had taken on the mantle of the “leader of the free world,” a title usually reserved for U.S. presidents.

Since then, Trump has repeatedly ripped into Germany for failing to pay its “fair share” for transatlantic defense.

He has also lashed out against Germany's vital export



industry which he claims is harming U.S. producers.

The fraught ties and Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Paris climate accord led Merkel to draw the startling conclusion that the U.S. may no longer be a reliable partner for Germany and the European Union.

Europe must step up as a player in world affairs, Merkel said in 2017, signaling that the EU needs to take control of its destiny in the Trump era.

Moscow: U.S. decision to bar Turkey from F-35 programme part of policy to punish for sovereign moves

TEHRAN — Washington previously stated that the Pentagon was working to unwind its ties to Turkey in the international F-35 programme following the country's move to acquire Russian S-400 air defense systems.

The move by the United States to exclude Turkey from the F-35 programme is consistent with the US policy of punishing nations for acting as sovereign entities, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko.

“This is the US policy line to punish those who show the slightest signs of sovereignty, defend their own economic interests and try not to obey the dictates of Washington”, Grushko told reporters, commenting on the US decision.

The White House stated earlier this week that Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defence systems had rendered its continued involvement with the F-35

impossible.

President Trump has, meanwhile, given contradictory statements regarding the US intention to punish Ankara over purchasing Russian-made systems, failing to provide clear-cut answers to whether the US administration intends to punish Ankara over the acquisition or not.

Turkey received the first batch of S-400 system components last week. Since then, a

dozen Russian aircraft have delivered parts for the Russian systems to the country.

Moscow and Ankara signed a \$2.5-billion contract for the delivery of S-400 systems in December 2017. Turkey's cooperation with Russia on the matter has been strongly condemned by the United States and NATO, which have cited concerns over the S-400's incompatibility with NATO's air defense systems, Sputnik reported.

Israel, Bahrain foreign ministers hold first public meeting

TEHRAN — Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifah have held an official meeting during a visit to the United States, the first ever public meeting of this kind between Tel Aviv and Manama.

“Yesterday I met publicly with the foreign minister of Bahrain,” Katz said in a tweet on Thursday.

Katz added that he “will continue to work with the Israeli prime minister to advance Israel's relations” with the Persian Gulf countries.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries that maintain official diplomatic relations with Israel. However, in the past years, some other Arab governments have become interested in getting closer to Tel Aviv amid common concerns over Iran.

Also in Katz's tweet, there was a picture of the two foreign ministers showing them standing side by side while smiling.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday that the meeting was “coordinated behind the scenes by the



U.S. State Department as part of a conference on religious liberty organized in Washington by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.”

The subject of Iran and regional threats as well as cooperation between states were among the top issues discussed in the agenda, the Israeli statement added.

Persian Gulf Arab nations have increasingly found common cause with Israel due to their shared hostility towards Iran.

According to Press TV, the Bahraini FM said in late June that Manama wants “peace” and “better” relations with Tel Aviv. The top Bahraini official said his country recognized Israel's “right to existence,” saying the regime was “there to stay, of course.”

“Who did we offer peace to [with] the [Arab] Peace Initiative?... We offered it to Israel,” he said. “We want better relations with it, and we want peace with it.”

The Arab initiative, which has been adopted by the Arab League, calls for the normalization of ties between Tel Aviv and Arab states in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from lands it occupied in the 1967 war, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem al-Quds and Syria's Golan Heights.

Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), are also known to have secretly developed expansive ties with Tel Aviv over the past years, encouraging other Arab countries to also follow suit.

Blast near Afghan university kills six, injures 27

TEHRAN — An explosion on Friday near a gate to the campus of Kabul University in the Afghan capital killed six people and injured at least 27 as students waited to take an examination, officials said. Afghan security forces are facing almost daily attacks by Taliban militants, despite reported progress in efforts by the United States to broker an end to Afghanistan's nearly 18-year war.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's blast just hours after Taliban militants set off two car bombs outside police headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar, killing at least 12 and wounding more than 80.

Health ministry spokesman Wahid Mayar said there were students among the 27 injured taken to hospital after the blast, which a student at the university campus said took place while a number of students waited to appear for an exam.

An eyewitness and an interior ministry official said a vehicle caught fire after the explosion caused by a sticky bomb, a common threat in Kabul, where insurgents often stick explosives under vehicles, Reuters reported.

A police team defused a second bomb placed near the explosion site, Kabul police spokesman Faramarz Firdaws said.

Talks between Venezuela government and opposition continuing, says mediator Norway

TEHRAN — Talks between the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and the opposition are continuing in Barbados, the foreign ministry from mediator Norway said late on Thursday in a rare statement about the progress of the discussions. “The representatives of the central political actors in Venezuela are continuing the negotiations initiated in Oslo with the purpose of working continuously and as efficiently as possible,” the ministry said in a statement.

Talks resumed this week to try to find ways to resolve the political crisis in the Latin American nation.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido invoked the constitution in January to assume a rival interim presidency after declaring Maduro's 2018 re-election a fraud.

Maduro calls him a puppet of the United States and blames the country's economic problems on U.S. sanctions meant to force him from office.

Venezuela is suffering a hyperinflationary economic meltdown that has resulted in malnutrition and disease and spurred a migration exodus of four million citizens, Reuters reported.

‘Not deterred’: A defiant Ilhan Omar vows to fight Trump

TEHRAN — US Representative Ilhan Omar says she will not be intimidated by President Donald Trump, who has attacked her with racist comments more than once this week, as she returned to a warm welcome in her home state of Minnesota in the United States.



“We are not deterred. We are not frightened,” she told her supporters who held signs saying “End racism now” and “I stand with Ilhan”.

“We are ready,” Omar said to cheers, before heading to a town hall on Medicare for All.

On Wednesday, Trump renewed his attacks against four congresswomen of color, including Omar of Minnesota, at his first campaign rally in North Carolina since announcing his 2020 re-election bid.

“They never have anything good to say. That's why I say, ‘Hey if you don't like it, let 'em leave, let 'em leave.’” He added, “I think in some cases they hate our country.” Taking aim at Omar, he said: “She looks down with contempt on hard-working Americans saying ignorance is pervasive in many parts of this country.”

According to Al Jazeera, The crowds, decked out in the colors of the US flag and “Make America Great Again” caps, responded with the chant - “Send her back! Send her back!”

Pakistan PM to meet Trump hoping to mend fences, attract investment

TEHRAN — Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan travels to the United States on Sunday hoping the arrest of a militant leader with a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head and progress in Afghan peace talks will help secure a favorable reception.

Khan is expected to try to mend fences and attract much needed investment during his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump in exchange for assurances of full cooperation in ending the war in Afghanistan and fighting militant threats.

Trump, a property developer turned reality TV star, and Khan, World Cup-winning captain of the Pakistan cricket team, both came to office after achieving fame away from politics and the personal chemistry between the two may be decisive.

“A lot will depend on the kind of mood that President Trump and indeed Prime Minister Imran Khan find themselves in,” said Farzana Sheikh, associate fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London.

“Neither of them is known to be particularly predictable.”

Battling to stave off a balance of payments crisis and forced to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, according to Reuters, Pakistan is badly in need of foreign investment but security is likely to be the main focus of the visit.

TEHRAN — The United States House of Representatives approved three resolutions aimed at blocking President Donald Trump's planned sale of guided missiles and other weapons to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan.

The approval of the measures is another political rebuke of Trump's relationship with Saudi Arabia, which has drawn sharp criticism in Congress over human rights abuses and the mounting death toll from the war in Yemen.

Citing new military tensions with Iran in May, Trump used an “emergency” loophole in U.S. arms control law to bypass Congress to complete the sale of more than eight billion dollars in weapons to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan. The move circumvented U.S. law that gives Congress the power to review major weapons sales.

Many politicians view Trump's claims of an emergency as exaggerated, pointing out

that most of the weapons sales at issue could not be delivered for months, even years.

The House vote sends three of 22 joint resolutions of disapproval of already passed by the Senate to the president who is expected to veto the measures.

■ ‘Most significant’

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, a Democrat, said the three specific resolutions were “most significant” because they would cancel contracts related to arms that could be used in the war in Yemen.

The three contracts relate to plans by U.S. weapons-maker Raytheon to build a co-production plant in Saudi Arabia to assemble “Paveway” smart bombs, the type of laser and GPS-guided weapons that in 2018 destroyed a school bus in Yemen killing more than 40 boys.

“It's bad considering the Saudi war crimes in Yemen and the humanitarian crisis they are perpetuating through a blockade and air



strikes on so many civilian targets,” Hassan El-Tayyab, codirector of Just Foreign Policy, an advocacy group in Washington seeking to end the war in Yemen, told Al Jazeera.

“It's not a good thing for Yemen or the region or the national security interests of the U.S.,” El-Tayyab said.

Raytheon's agreement to co-produce

hi-tech weapons in Saudi Arabia was reached in May 2017 during Trump's visit to Riyadh.

It is unclear whether Congress has enough votes to override a veto, but the controversy is a warning sign of potential trouble ahead in the U.S.-Saudi relationship as the opposition to doing business with the kingdom grows.

Sources: Isco, Asensio sales could fund Pogba bid

Real Madrid have refused to rule out selling Isco and Marco Asensio if the money could be reinvested in signing Manchester United's Paul Pogba or another marquee midfielder, sources have confirmed to ESPN FC.

Madrid have already spent over €300 million shaking up a squad which failed in 2018-19, with Eden Hazard the headline addition to their forward line, and centre-forward Luka Jovic and winger Rodrygo also arriving.

That puts the futures of Isco, Asensio, Mariano and Gareth Bale in doubt as coach Zinedine Zidane remains keen to add a new central midfielder.

Sources at the club have told ESPN FC that they would be open to selling Isco if a "big offer" is received and that Borussia Dortmund had made an initial enquiry, but the 27-year-old himself decided the Bundesliga club were not "important enough."

Sources close to Isco have told ESPN FC that he remains firm in his intention to stay, especially after his exile from the team under previous coach Santi Solari last winter was ended when Zidane returned as coach.

Madrid sources told ESPN FC that they want to keep hold of Asensio unless a "crazy offer" is received, with the 23-year-old being given one "last chance" to prove himself after his poor form last season. Sources close to the player said he is keen to take this opportunity to earn a regular starting spot during 2019-20.

The club are still looking to sell at least one big name this summer, although at this point even Zidane is accepting that it will be difficult to sell Bale at their €80-100m asking price.

(Source: ESPN)

Dennis offers no explanation for mystery Tour withdrawal

Rohan Dennis said he "reluctantly" withdrew from the Tour de France on Thursday but provided little indication as to why he left the race and went off the radar for over an hour.

"I am very disappointed to leave the race at this point," Dennis said in a statement released by his Bahrain Merida team on Friday. "Obviously the individual time trial tomorrow had been a big goal for me and the team but given my current feeling it was the right decision to withdraw."

Time trial world champion Dennis, one of the favourites for Friday's 27.2-km individual effort against the clock, pulled out 80km from the finish of the 12th stage on Thursday.

The Australian's team, Bahrain Merida, however, were unable to locate him for over an hour, before he was spotted with his bike parked against the team bus near the finish line.

According to French TV, Dennis was seen arguing with his team car before climbing off his bike.

Sports director Gorazd Stangelj told reporters he 'knew nothing about it', adding that Dennis's withdrawal had 'nothing to do with his physical condition'.

"I wish my team mates the very best for the remainder of the race ... I will hopefully be back competing in this great race over the coming seasons," Dennis, 29, added.

Last month Dennis had told the Stanley Street Social podcast that 'in 2018, I reckon there were half a dozen times when I thought - I could quit right now'.

It has been a weird Tour for Bahrain Merida, who celebrated a stage win when Dylan Teuns won at top of La Planche des Belles Filles in the sixth stage, before their French campaign took a sour turn on Thursday.

(Source: Eurosport)

France legend Trezeguet stopped for drink driving in Turin

Former France striker David Trezeguet faces legal action in Italy after being stopped by police for drink driving in Turin.



The 41-year-old, who scored the winning goal for France at Euro 2000, was pulled over shortly before 1:00 am Thursday (2300 GMT Wednesday), returning from an evening out with friends.

According to media reports, Trezeguet initially refused to take the breathalyser test.

When he did take the test it showed a blood alcohol level of 1.5-1.7 grammes per litre -- the legal limit in Italy is under 0.5g/l.

Trezeguet played 71 times for

France and spent a decade as a player with Juventus, for whom he is now a club ambassador.

(Source: France 24)

Icardi, Nainggolan not in Inter plans, says Conte

Inter Milan striker Mauro Icardi and midfielder Radja Nainggolan are not in his plans for the new season, coach Antonio Conte said on Friday.

Conte, tasked with reviving a team who have not won a major trophy for eight years, play Manchester United on Saturday at Singapore's National Stadium in the International Champions Cup.

Argentine Icardi left the club's training camp in Switzerland last week, local media reported.

"The club was very clear to tell that he (Icardi) is out of this project. This is the reality, he is gone," Conte said, adding that Nainggolan was also "out of the project".

Conte did not hide his desire to lure United striker Romelu Lukaku to Inter, adding that getting a new striker was imperative for the club. [L8N24K342]

"For sure it is not easy to play without a striker at the beginning of the season like this. The market is still open. It is not easy to play against teams like Juventus and Manchester United without strikers," Conte said. The former Juventus, Chelsea and Italy boss is the club's 11th coach in nine years.

He voiced frustration at Inter's management saying they were "a bit late" on the transfer market.

Among players signed are winger Valentino Lazaro from Hertha Berlin, midfielder Nicolo Barella from Cagliari and Uruguay defender Diego Godin from Atletico Madrid.

(Source: Mirror)

Top U.S. swimmer King slams FINA doping controls in Sun row

American world record holder Lilly King hit out Friday at swimming's governing body over its doping protocols, as claims China's Sun Yang destroyed blood samples stunned athletes before the world championships in South Korea.

Asked about her thoughts on a leaked FINA doping panel report -- alleging China's triple Olympic champion Sun had smashed vials of his own blood when testers visited him last year -- King pulled no punches.

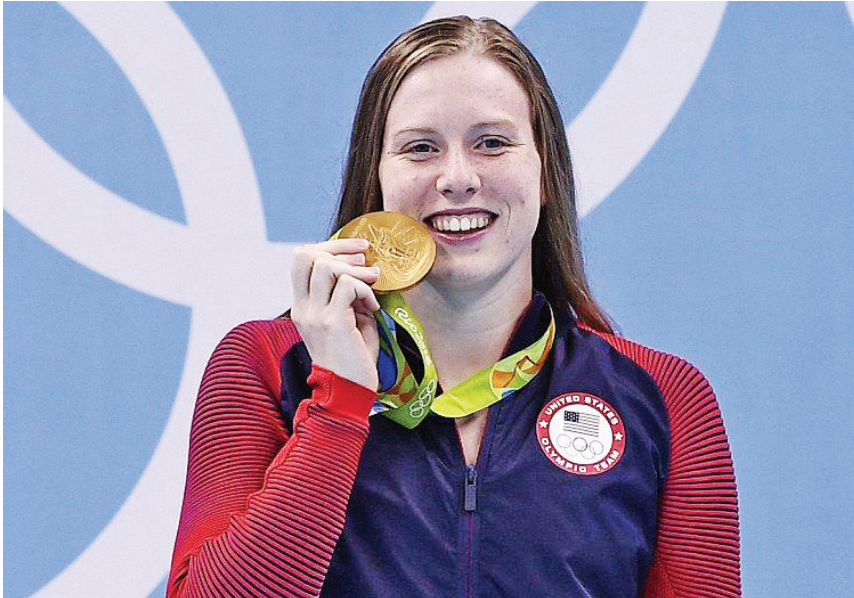
"Personally I'm not comfortable with FINA's approach to doping control and what we're doing to control it," she told reporters.

"As we've seen, I think all of us would say that we're racing dopers at some point and we shouldn't really have to say that," she added two days before the start of the pool competition in Gwangju.

"First they can start with not letting people who have smashed blood vials in tests compete in your meets -- that's really sketchy."

"It's kind of sad that we all have raced dopers and they're all probably swimming in this meet. I don't know what needs to change but something does."

King previously let fly at Russian rival Yulia Efimova -- who had served a 16-month ban for taking a banned steroid -- after beating her to gold in the 100 metres breaststroke



in the 2016 Rio Olympic final.

King, then 19, refused to shake Efimova's hand and, with the Russian in tears beside her at an emotional Rio press conference, also blasted the selection of convicted doper Justin Gatlin to the American Olympic track and field team.

U.S. fans at heart of growing Arsenal fan protests



Arsenal fan websites in the United States are playing a pivotal role in a protest campaign against the club's owners as a petition demanding change surpassed 100,000 signatures on Thursday, three days after launching.

Sixteen supporters' groups, three from the U.S., came together to launch the "#WeCareDoYou" campaign in response to "poor leadership" from owner Stan Kroenke and Kroenke Sports & Entertainment (KSE), declaring the Premier League club to be in need of "meaningful action" to "reinvigorate" it.

Supporters said they are unhappy with the fact that Arsenal face a third successive season in the Europa League, believe the atmosphere at their Emirates Stadium to be "soulless" and feel "marginalized" by the club's owners.

Arsenal director Josh Kroenke, son of Stan, responded with an open letter "respectfully disagreeing" with the fans' view of where the club is at and insisting he, his father and the club "want to win".

This response did little to quash the unrest with signatories continuing to come from across the globe, and Michael Price, based in Philadelphia and founder of YouAreMyArsenal blog, said the club's global fanbase has never been more united.

"100,000 drives the ante up. It goes beyond open letters being exchanged," Price told Reuters. "The

engagement has to evolve.

"This is global now, when the letter came out, we had signatures from all over the world.

"It shows that U.S. fans care just as much. We care just as much as someone who grew up in Islington (London). The only thing that is different is we cannot go to games every week, and we are so jealous of that.

"Before we had a very fractured fanbase. Some who were very unhappy about the way Arsene Wenger managed towards the end, some the way (manager) Unai Emery coached towards the end of the last year. Now we are unified, more than we have ever been."

Emery said this week Arsenal are lining up "three or four quality signings", which may appease fans unhappy about the lack of player investment, but Price insisted new arrivals alone will not prevent further action.

"I think the club think it is about money, and we will see some big transfers come in," he added. "Some of the signatories will say 'great, we have achieved what we wanted to do', but for those of us in the 16 blogs that set it up, that is not enough.

"The leadership and vision, addressing European Super League concerns, the atmosphere at the stadium, the improvement of our commercial profile, these areas need to be addressed."

(Source: Guardian)

Tour de France organisers plan to launch major women's race



Tour de France organisers are looking to launch a women's equivalent of the most prestigious race in men's cycling, they said on Friday.

A senior Amaury Sport Organisation (ASO) official told Reuters that ASO was setting up a group dedicated to developing women's cycling.

In addition to the Liege-Bastogne-Liege and Fleche Wallonne classics, ASO also organises La Course by Le Tour, a race held the same day as a Tour de France stage, every year since 2014.

After organising the event over two days - a mountain stage followed by a time trial - in 2017, ASO has since back-tracked to a single-day race.

Dutchwoman Marianne Vos, the most decorated female rider, won the 2019 edition on Friday in Pau, with a devastating attack on the final uphill drag at the end of a 121-kilometre ride.

The three-times road racing world champion won four stages in the Giro Rosa, the biggest race in women's cycling.

Although it has been often dubbed as the female version of the Giro d'Italia, the Giro Rosa is not organised by the same organisation, Epinike Associazione Sportiva Dilettantistica not being linked to RCS - the owners of the men's race.

"We are setting up a cell to develop women's cycling within ASO," the ASO official, who declined to be

named, told Reuters.

"We cannot have a women's Tour de France at the same moment as the men's Tour because it would be logistically impossible. The Tour has grown so much and is so big that having two races at the same time would not be feasible."

There was a women's Tour de France at the same time as the men's race from 1984-89 but lack of media interest and logistical issues prompted ASO to stop organising it.

Opinions have changed, however, according to Vos, one of the leading voices in women's cycling who believed ASO was not doing enough to promote it.

"There are a lot of things that are changing. It's growing, the teams are getting bigger and at the moment it's more important to look at the calendar and I think maybe change the calendar and add more women's races," Vos said on Friday.

ASO faced criticism this year when it was reported that it would not provide TV coverage for the Liege-Bastogne-Liege and Fleche Wallonne races.

The senior official, however, said ASO would partner with Belgian TV channel RTBF to provide one hour of coverage on both events in 2020, above the 45-minute minimum requirement to be granted World Tour status by the International Cycling Union (UCI).

(Source: Reuters)

Pacquiao battling age, hungry Thurman in title showdown

Twenty-four years after first climbing into a professional boxing ring, Manny Pacquiao will attempt to defy the march of time here Saturday when he battles undefeated American Keith Thurman for the WBA welterweight crown.

The 40-year-old Filipino icon clashes with Thurman at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas in what is arguably his most challenging assignment since losing to Floyd Mayweather in 2015's money-spinning "Fight of the Century".

Pacquiao, who has managed to successfully juggle a political career in the Philippines while continuing to box at a high level, looked sharp in his last outing in January, a unanimous decision against Adrien Broner.

But the eight-division world champion is facing an altogether higher-calibre opponent in the shape of Thurman, renowned as one of the hardest punchers in the welterweight division with 22 knockouts in 30 fights.

Thurman, who at 30 years old is a full decade younger than Pacquiao, sees Saturday as an attempt to build his legacy, and has bluntly vowed to send the Filipino into retirement.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to destroy a legend," Thurman declared, placing Pacquiao in the boxing pantheon alongside some of the sport's greatest practitioners.

■ 'Nothing personal'

Pacquiao (61-7-2, 39 knockouts) has shrugged off Thurman's blood-curdling pledges of destruction, insisting he harbours no animosity towards the brash American.

"For me nothing is personal," Pacquiao said. "Our job



is to fight. He has to prove something, and I have to prove something. It's easy to say things. But it's not so easy to do it in the ring."

Pacquiao's preparations for the fight have followed a familiar routine.

After spending the first part of his training camp in the Philippines, he relocated to Los Angeles to work under the guidance of long-time trainer Freddie Roach at his Wild Card gym in Hollywood.

Roach maintains that Pacquiao has shown no sign of decline during gruelling sparring, and is confident that his speed and mobility will cause problems for the naturally bigger Thurman.

Roach, who expects Thurman to enter the ring at around 160 pounds once he has rehydrated after Friday's weigh-in, is bracing for an early onslaught.

"I feel he's going to try and come for Manny and try to

prove that he's the bigger, stronger man," Roach told AFP. "He will come forward. He's a pretty good puncher but Manny's footwork should keep him out of trouble.

■ Time to quit?

Yet Roach acknowledges that for all Pacquiao's impressive form in training, the acid test will come under the bright lights of the MGM Grand's Garden Arena on Saturday. Boxing history is littered with veterans who needed one fight too many to realise they are shot.

"This is true," Roach said. "Usually it doesn't show up in the gym. It only shows up in the fight. And I'm very aware of that. And if it does show in the fight I'll be the first one to stop the fight if need be."

Roach is nervous that a verbal agreement brokered with Pacquiao several years ago -- namely that when the veteran cornerman believes it is time to retire, he will heed the advice and hang up his gloves -- may no longer be valid.

"There's too many people around him who will tell him I'm full of shit, and he may listen to them," Roach told AFP. "At one time I'd have said our agreement was pretty solid and he'd listen to me. But today I'm not so sure."

The financial incentives may tempt Pacquiao to keep plugging away regardless of the outcome of Saturday's contest.

This weekend's fight will reportedly add another \$20 million to career earnings estimated at \$200 million. A lucrative offer to fight Britain's Amir Khan in Saudi Arabia in November is on the table, though Pacquiao's camp deny a contract had been signed.

(Source: AFP)

Solhipour claims gold, Gharibshi seizes silver at World Para Powerlifting

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian athletes claimed a gold and a silver medal at the Nur-Sultan 2019 World Para Powerlifting Championships on Thursday. Iran's Hamed Solhipour snatched a gold medal in the men's up to 97kg thanks to his 235kg lift.

"It was a strong competition and I am very happy to win the gold here. This is one of my best wins after the Indonesia 2018 Asian Para Games," said Solhipouravanji.

"I want to take one step at a time. My next target is the Fazza 2020 Dubai World Cup before I take my shot at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold."

Chinese powerlifter Panpan Yaan clinched a silver with 227kg and bronze medal went to Colombian Fabio Torres who lifted 225kg.

In the men's up to 107kg, Aliakbar Gharibshi from Iran took a silver medal with 240kg.

The gold medal went to Mongolian Sodnompiljee Enkhbayar with 247kg.

Mexican representative Jose De Jesus Castillo claimed a bronze medal with 235kg.

All eyes are on the Kazakh capital city of Nur-Sultan as the strongest Paralympians fight for the World Para Powerlifting Championships title between 13-20 July.

A total of 441 athletes from 78 nations aim to win one of the 20 gold medals up for grabs.

The IPC Powerlifting World Championships, is an event organized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Competitors with a physical disability compete, and in a few events athletes with an intellectual disability compete. First held in 1994, the competition is held every four years.



Iran's Khalaji wins IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Behnam Khalaji of Iran won a gold medal at the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships.

Khalaji, who had won a gold medal at the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships in Innsbruck, Austria last year, defended his title with two qualification tops and an even faster pace, one minute and seven seconds.

Benjamin Mayforth from the U.S. came second and Manikandan Kumar finished third.

The competition featured a record number of participants with 167 athletes

registered to attend. The event took place from July 16 to 17 at Parc des Sports in Briançon, France where elite athletes from 24 countries took on the lead wall.

The IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships are the biennial world championships for competition climbing for people with disabilities organized by the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC).

This event determines the male and female world champions in various categories.

The first event was organized in Arco in 2011, held together with the IFSC Climbing World Championships.

Iran fixtures released for Qatar 2022 & China 2023 race



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran will raise the curtain at the 2022 FIFA World Cup and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 with a match against Hong Kong on September 10.

Iran have been drawn in Group C alongside Iraq, Bahrain, Cambodia and Hong Kong.

The eight group winners and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The next best 24 teams from the

second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

Iran fixtures in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

September 10, 2019: Hong Kong vs Iran

October 10, 2019: Iran vs Cambodia

October 15, 2019: Bahrain vs Iran

November 14, 2019: Iraq vs Iran

March 26, 2020: Iran vs Hong Kong

March 31, 2020: Cambodia vs Iran

June 4, 2020: Iran vs Bahrain

June 9, 2020: Iran vs Iraq

Iran crowned Asian Para Open Taekwondo champion

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran won the title of the fifth edition of the Asian Para Open Taekwondo Championships in Amman, Jordan.

The Iranian athletes won four gold and two silver medals in the competition.

Saied Sadeghianpour was among their winners at Princess Sumaya Hall, winning the men's K42 under-61 kilograms category.

He defeated Sanjarbek Muhtorov of Uzbekistan in the final with Pha Manyong of Laos and Anton Lipoviy of Ukraine taking bronze.

Another Iranian success came in the K42 under-75kg class as Mohammadreza Shabani defeated Zhumagali Yerzhanov in a two-man competition.

In the K44 under-75kg Mahdi Pourrahnama was Iran's winner as he beat South Korea's Jeonghun Joo in the gold medal bout.

Bronzes went to Vladimir Feofanov of Russia and his team-mate Magomedzagir Isalidibirov.

Iran also won in the K44 over-75kg class thanks to Ash-



gar Aziziaghdam's gold medal win over Russia's Aliskhab Ramazanov.

The bronze medals were shared by Evan Medell of the United States and Russia's Bilal Iakhiaev.

Ukraine and Turkey also enjoyed a good day in Amman with two gold medals apiece, with the event open to non-

Asian fighters.

Viktoria Marchuk won the women's K43 under-49kg tournament for Ukraine by getting the better of Serbia's Violeta Todorov.

Serbia's Danijela Jovanovic and India's Aruna, fighting under the World Taekwondo Asia flag, won the bronze medals.

A second Ukrainian gold arrived in the women's K43 over-58kg as Yuliya Lypetska saw off Serbia's Bobana Kozic in a two person event.

Turkey topped the podium through Vasif Mehmet Yakut and Ali Can Ozcan who won the K43 men's over-75kg and K44 men's under-61kg events respectively.

Vasif Mehmet Yakut defeated Iran's Mahdi Bahrniazar in the final of the K43 men's over-75kg as Serbia's Minja Jandric won the sole bronze medal.

Uzbekistan's Azizjon Marasulov was crowned champion in the men's K42 over-75kg by beating Iran's Ahmad Narimani in his final.

The event was a key stop on the road to taekwondo's Paralympic debut at Tokyo 2020 next year.

Milad Mohammadi joins Belgian club KAA Gent



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran international winger Milad Mohammadi has joined Belgian top-flight football club KAA Gent.

The 25-year-old player has signed a three-year contract with the Belgian team for an undisclosed fee. The versatile player has joined KAA Gent from Russian football

team Akhmat Grozny as a free agent.

Mohammadi, who started his career in Iranian team Rah Ahan, had been recently linked with a move to Celtic but eventually opted to join KAA Gent.

He was a member of Iran national football team in the 2018 FIFA World Cup and the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

Hashempour named Iran beach soccer head coach



S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Abbas Hashempour has been named as new head coach of Iran national beach soccer team.

He replaced Brazilian coach Marco Octavio who left Iran in May due to personal reasons.

Hashempour's first mission will be at this year's Association of National Olympic

Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games. The competition will be held in Doha from October 12-16.

Hashempour has worked as Iran assistant coach for eight years.

He also helped Iran to win a bronze medal at the 2017 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup as coach.

Siamand Rahman takes gold at World Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The world's strongest Paralympian Siamand Rahman claimed a gold medal at the Nur-Sultan 2019 World Para Powerlifting Championships on Friday.

Rahman, who holds the world record of 310kg in the men's over 107kg, lifted 265kg to win his third successive gold medal in the world championships.

His countryman Mansour Pourmirzaei was a distant runner-up with 236kg, bettering third-placed Faris Al Ageeli from Iraq by 1kg.

Iran wrapped up the competitions with three gold medals, three silvers and one bronze.

A total of 441 athletes from 78 nations competed at World Para Powerlifting Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

The IPC Powerlifting World Championships, is an event organized by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Competitors with a physical disability compete, and in a few events athletes with an intellectual disability compete. First held in 1994, the competition is held every four years.

Abedini win Iran's first ever medal at World Fencing Championships

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Mojtaba Abedini claimed a bronze medal on the first day of finals at the World Fencing Championships in Budapest on Thursday.



In the men's sabre final, South Korea's Oh Sanguk defeated 2017 world champion András Szatmári from Hungary 15-12.

The semi-finals saw second seed Oh defeat Italy's Luca Curatoli 15-11 and Szatmári beat Abedini 15-8.

Curatoli and Abedini were the bronze medalists.

Abedini's medal is Iran's first ever medal at the World Fencing Championships.

FIFA claims progress in letting women attend games in Iran

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA says Iran's football federation supports letting women attend 2022 World Cup qualifying games of its men's national team, though government approval is still needed.

FIFA is working with Iranian authorities to overcome a ban on women entering stadiums for men's games since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Some women were allowed to watch the Asian Champions League final in Tehran last November when FIFA President Gianni Infantino also attended.

FIFA wants the issue resolved before Oct. 10 when Iran — the top-ranked team in Asia — hosts its first home World Cup qualifier against Cambodia. The next is March 26 against Hong Kong.

Football's world body says Iran federation president Mehdi Taj has replied to Infantino saying "the matter has been taken up directly with the minister of sports and youth."

Bosnian striker Haskic linked with Iran's Persepolis

TASNIM — Nermin Haskic has been linked with a move to Persepolis football team of Iran.

The 30-year-old forward scored 24 goals for FK Radnicki Niš in Serbian SuperLiga last season.

Haskic began his career with local team FK Buducnost Banovici, making his first-team debut in 2008.

Mehdi Taremi, former Persepolis striker, is also on the team's radar.

Persepolis are going to defend title in Iran Professional League.

Ryan Tafazolli pens deal with Hull City after successful trial

Hull City have completed the signing of Ryan Tafazolli on a two-year deal — with the club holding an option for a further year — After the defender enjoyed a successful trial period at the KCOM Stadium.

The Tigers brought Tafazolli in to train with the squad earlier this month following the expiry of his contract at Peterborough United and the 27-year-old impressed during pre-season fixtures against Leyton Orient and Lincoln Red Imps, scoring the winner in the latter.

Tafazolli has worked his way back up the football pyramid since being released by Southampton as a youngster. Short spells with Concord Rangers and Cambridge City preceded a move to then National League side Mansfield Town in 2012 and, after more than a century of appearances for the Stags, he joined League One side Peterborough United in 2016 who were managed by current Tigers Head Coach Grant McCann at the time.

Another 131 senior games were banked, leading to a move to the KCOM Stadium with Tafazolli pleased to have become a Tiger.

"I'm delighted to have signed for the club — it's a fantastic opportunity and one which I'm determined to grab with both hands," he said.

"I've enjoyed my time here so far and it was a great experience to be with the squad for a week or so over in Marbella.

"To finally sign and have my future sorted is a fantastic feeling. My only focus now is to work harder than I've ever worked before and give my all for Hull City."

(Source: Hull City Tigers)

Locarno Semaine de la critique to screen “Copper Notes of a Dream”

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Reza Farahmand's documentary “Copper Notes of a Dream” will be screened in the 30th edition of the Semaine de la critique (Critic's Week), an independent section organized by the Swiss Association of Film Journalists in cooperation with the Locarno Film Festival.

The film is about a ten-year-old Palestinian refugee, Malook, who lives in Jarmuk, a suburb of Damascus in Syria, which is ruined during the war with ISIS.

Malook dreams of becoming a singer. Together with his older sister Ghofran, he is planning to organize a concert with professional musicians.

To earn money for the concert, Malook and some friends pull the copper lines out of the walls of empty buildings that are riddled with bullets and rockets and write apologies for their theft on the walls, in hope the people who have fled ever return.

Farahmand's acclaimed documentary “Women with Gunpowder Earrings”, about a female journalist who covers stories about Syrian and Iraqi women and children in the war against the ISIS terrorists, was selected for the previous edition of the Semaine de la critique.

Six more documentaries including “Shalom Allah” by David Vogel from Switzerland, “Murghab” co-directed by Martin Saxer, Marlen Elders and Daler Kaziev from Germany and “The Euphoria of Being” by Réka Szabó from Hungary will go on screen in this section.

“Adolescents” by Sébastien Lifshitz from France, “Another Reality” co-directed by Noel Dernesch and Olli Waldhauer and “Lovemobil” by Elke Margarete Lehrenkrauss, both from Germany are also among the films.

The organizers of the Semaine de la critique plan to celebrate its 30th anniversary by a review of Swiss director



A scene from Iranian director Reza Farahmand's documentary “Copper Notes of a Dream”.

Fredi M. Murer's “Der Grüne Berg”, which was screened during the first edition in 1990.

The Semaine de la critique will take place in the Swiss

city of Locarno from August 9 to 16, focusing on innovative films on the periphery of the mainstream – both formally and content wise.

Iran's first documentary filmmakers' celebration held in Tehran



Documentarians Ebrahim Mokhtari (L) and Mohammad Tahaminejad attend Documentary Filmmakers' Night at Tehran's Parsian Hotel on July 17, 2019.

A R T TEHRAN — The first edition of Documentary Filmmakers' Night was held at Tehran's Parsian Hotel Wednesday evening honoring documentarians Ebrahim Mokhtari and Mohammad Tahaminejad for their lifetime achievements.

“Wherever Ebrahim Mokhtari is, he is effective and a man of good morals and he can be a positive role model for filmmakers,” filmmaker Mehdi Qorbanpur said in a short speech.

Mokhtari, who is mostly famous for his film “Mokarrameh, Her Memories and Dreams” about self-taught Iranian painter Mokarrameh Qanbari, also spoke briefly.

“I'm so happy being with you at this gala, which has a different meaning for as I receive this honor alongside Mohammad Tahaminejad,” he said after receiving his award.

Filmmaker Azadeh Bizargiti who has

collaborated with Tahaminejad on several productions said, “I learned a lot from him; he is a great scholar who has been committed to enriching documentary filmmaking in Iran.”

Another filmmaker, Mohammadreza Aslani, also said, “Tahaminejad is really devoted to the topics he is dealing with in his films, and has never viewed filmmaking as his sole profession.”

“Documentary Filmmakers' Night speaks its own unique language, which will gradually be understood,” said Tahaminejad who is the director of the acclaimed documentary “Iranian Cinema: From Constitutional Movement to Sepanta”, which is about pioneers of Iranian cinema.

“This night's memories will undoubtedly live on,” he added.

The Documentary Filmmakers' Night has been initiated by the Association of Iranian Documentary Filmmakers.

Spanish festival picks six films from Iran



A scene from “Win and Lose” by Mohammad-Sadeq Hosseinpour.

A R T TEHRAN — The Elche International Independent Film Festival has picked one fiction and six animations from Iran to screen during its 2019 edition, which opened in the Spanish city on Friday, the organizers announced.

The film in the fiction category is “In Perspective” by Arshia Zeinali. It is a story about humans or human beings that takes place in an inappropriate place and time.

“The Window” by Hamidreza Saket, and “CycLove” by Seyyed Emad Karimifard are two of the animations.

Also included are “Win and Lose” by Mohammad-Sadeq Hosseinpour, “Tears of Rain” by Esmaeil Abbasi, “On the Cover” by Yeganeh Moqaddam and “Cinderella” by Ali Adil.

“The Window” depicts a boy in the dark of the day who suddenly celebrates his birthday.

“CycLove” shows a young boy who is struggling to come back to his mistress. But towards the end of his way, he becomes weary, and in the end, the girl returns.

“Win and Lose” tells the story of two boys from two countries who are involved in the war. They are volleyball players who play behind barbed wire.

“Tears of Rain” depicts the confrontation between man, animals and nature.

“On the Cover” is about a nature photographer who enters a forest, and to his surprise, all the animals begin to pop up in front of his camera just to have their image on the cover of a magazine.

“Cinderella” talks about some issues of violence against women in three minutes.

The festival will be running until July 26.

Iranian House of Cinema pays tribute to actor Ferdows Kaviani

A R T TEHRAN — A large number of artists and friends gathered for a meeting at the Iranian House of Cinema on Wednesday to pay tribute to veteran screen and stage actor Ferdows Kaviani.

Kaviani who is famous for his role in the TV series “The Couples” co-directed by Bijan Birang and Masud Rasam is suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

“Some actors give all their hearts and soul in acting, and Kaviani made use of his lifetime experience to make us familiar with life's difficulties and help lessen our pains in life. He has brought us a smile, and has forced us to add more days to the productive days of our lives,” filmmaker Masud Jafari Jozani said at the meeting.

Actor Hamid Jebbali was called on stage to talk about his friend.

“We do not learn from words and advice but from behaviors. We also learned a lot from Kaviani such as discipline, respect and politeness,” Jebbali said.

Director Hassan Fat'hi in a video message talked about Kaviani and said, “I was 18 when I became familiar with master Kaviani in his classes where he taught theater. His assistance and encouragement played a significant role in the



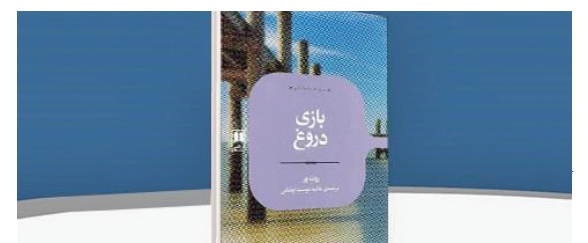
Actor Ferdows Kaviani's daughter Armita (C) receives a plaque of honor of the Association of Iranian Actors from actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya on behalf of her father during the ceremony held at the Iranian House of Cinema (IHC) in Tehran on July 17, 2019. IHC director Manuchehr Shahsavari is also seen in the photo. (Mehrfarman Karami)

Ruth Ware's “The Lying Game” published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of “The Lying Game” by British psychological crime thriller author Ruth Ware has recently been published in Tehran.

Translated into Persian by Hanieh Doostoshani, the book has been published by Elmi Publications.

Ware's chilling novel “The Lying Game” begins with a woman who is walking her dog in the idyllic coastal village of Salten on a cool June morning. The dog charges into the water to retrieve what first appears to be a wayward stick, but, to her horror, turns out to be something much more sinister.



Front cover of the Persian translation of British author Ruth Ware's novel, “The Lying Game”.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY

www.tehrantimes.com

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» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hold your pact firmly and never speak of reconciliation with those who violate the pact.

Imam Ali (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ An exhibition of paintings by Akram Sartakhti is underway at Saleess Gallery.

The exhibit named “Color of Life” will run until July 24 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

■ Paintings by Sale Sharifi are currently on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibit titled “Lie, Lay, Lure” will be running until July 30 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

■ A collection of paintings by Fariba Farqadani is on display in an exhibition at Etemad Negarestan Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until August 13 at the gallery that can be found at Negarestan Garden near Baharestan Square.

■ Ali Parizad is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shalman Gallery.

The exhibition runs until July 24 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.

■ Tehran's CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Marzieh Fakhr.

Entitled “Metamorphosis”, the exhibit will run until July 24 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

■ Oranus Afsharian, Sara Rashidi, Tabib Ara, Kimia Nuriar, Narges Mirnejad, Hedieh Sadeqi and 17 other artists are displaying their paintings in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit titled “Contemporary Human 1” runs until July 24 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

■ An exhibition of paintings by Elnaz Kazemdash is currently underway at Idea Gallery. The exhibit named “Haiku” will be running until July 24 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Drawing

■ A collection of drawings by Abbas Khanjar is on display in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery. The exhibition will run until July 24 at the gallery, which can be found at 42 Kamasa St. in the Darus neighborhood.

Multimedia

■ Sets of installation and a collection of sculptures by Ali Etebar are on display in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibition titled “Insecurity” will run until July 26 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

Photo

■ Photos by Catherin Nazari are on display in an exhibition at Dena Gallery. The exhibit titled “Encounter” runs until July 26 at the gallery located at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

■ An exhibition of photos by Alireza Azizi is underway at 14 Gallery.

The exhibit named “Sleep Walk” will run until July 26 at the gallery located at 14 Khark St., off Enqelab Ave.

