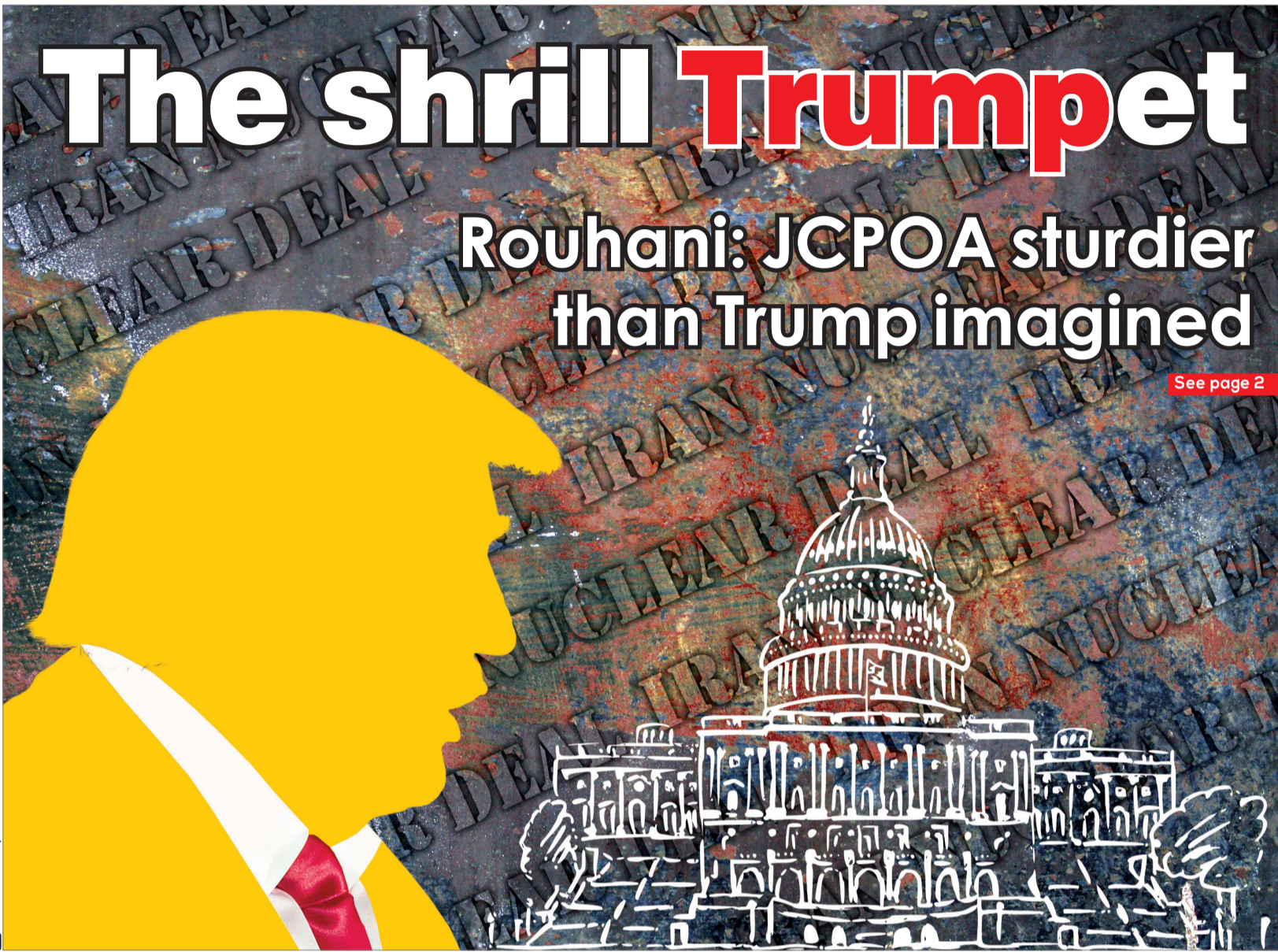


Nothing will remain, if U.S. quits nuclear deal: Larijani **2**

Health minister appoints women to key posts **12**

U-17 World Cup: Iran rout Costa Rica **15**

Iranian cinema receives three nominations at APSA **16**



Revoking Iran deal could push EU to Russia, China: Germany's Gabriel

By staff and agency
 German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Thursday that any move by U.S. President Donald Trump's administration to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal would drive a wedge between Europe and the U.S.
 "It's imperative that Europe sticks together on this issue," Deutsche Welle quoted Gabriel as telling Germany's

RND newspaper group. "We also have to tell the Americans that their behavior on the Iran issue will drive us Europeans into a common position with Russia and China against the USA."
 Trump was expected on Friday to unveil a new strategy on confronting Iran, which would include "de-certifying" Iran's compliance to the nuclear accord. **→2**

Kurds on high alert as Iraqi forces mass near Kirkuk

By staff & agencies
 The Iraqi semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region (KRG/Kurdish Regional Government) has deployed thousands of troops around the disputed oil city of Kirkuk for fear of an attack by Iraqi government army and militia, a senior official said.
 "Thousands of heavily armed peshmerga units are now completely in their positions around Kirkuk," a top aide to Kurdistan regional President Masoud Barzani posted on social media on Friday.

"Their order is to defend at any cost," Hemin Hawrami wrote on Twitter.
 According to the AP news agency, as many as 6,000 Kurdish troops have been deployed in the Kirkuk area.
 The alert came after the Kurdish authorities accused the Iraqi government of massing forces in readiness for a reported offensive to seize Kurdish-held oil fields around Kirkuk, as tensions soar after a vote for secession last month. **→13**

U.S. withdraws from UNESCO

The United States has formally notified the UN's world heritage body UNESCO that it is withdrawing its membership of the organization citing "continuing anti-Israel bias".
 The announcement by the Trump administration was followed a few hours later by news that Israel was also planning to quit the financially struggling cultural and educational agency.
 In a statement Benjamin Netanyahu,

the Israeli prime minister, welcomed the U.S. move saying: "This is a brave and moral decision, because UNESCO has become a theatre of absurd. Instead of preserving history, it distorts it."
 The body is best known for its world heritage listings of outstanding cultural and natural sites but has often drawn the ire of Israel and the Trump administration for a series of decisions, including the listing of Hebron, **→12**

Congressional confusion about Iran nuclear deal

By Saeed Sobhani
 Discussions at the U.S. Congress have taken place with the announcement of a new strategy by Trump in opposition to a nuclear deal with Iran. Democrat senators are opposed to the Trump approach to violating a nuclear deal with Iran. Some Republican senators have not yet decided on this.
 John McCain and Lindsay Graham are two senators who have always opposed the nuclear deal with Iran. In the congressional vote in 2015, the two Republican senators also opposed the adoption of a nuclear deal in Congress. However, these two senators, whose

extreme positions towards Iran have always been considered by the American media, are now confused about the way and the kind of stance against the aggressive and wicked strategy of Trump over the nuclear deal. They are McCain and Graham, on the one hand, can not deny their opposition to the nuclear deal, and on the other hand, they feel at risk of the consequences of the current strategy of Trump for a nuclear deal with Iran.
 John McCain has stated in one of his most recent positions: "I believe that Iran should be punished for its actions by imposing new sanctions on its ballistic missile program,

imposing sanctions against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, imposing sanctions against Iranians accused of violating human rights and intensifying the use of arms embargoes Hold Responsive in Tehran!"
 McCain has tried to take a clear stand in refusing or endorse the current Trump approach to action. The 81-year-old senator, Arizona, has said Congress is willing to work with Trump to resume a deal on a nuclear deal. However, he has not yet explicitly stated that his comments on the formal breach of the conduct and the return of nuclear sanctions against Iran. **→7**

Climate Change is a threat to rich and poor alike

by Achim Steiner, Patricia Espinosa and Robert Glasser
 From Miami and Puerto Rico to Barbuda and Havana, the devastation of this year's hurricane season across Latin America and the Caribbean serves as a reminder that the impacts of climate change know no borders.
 In recent weeks, Category 5 hurricanes have brought normal life to a standstill for millions in the Caribbean and on the American mainland. *Harvey, Irma and Maria* have been particularly damaging. The 3.4 million inhabitants of Puerto Rico have been scrambling for basic necessities including food and water, the island of Barbuda has been rendered uninhabitable, and dozens of people are missing or dead on the UNESCO world

heritage island of Dominica.
 The impact is not confined to this region. The record floods across Bangladesh, India and Nepal have made life miserable for some 40 million people. More than 1,200 people have died and many people have lost their homes, crops have been destroyed, and many workplaces have been inundated. Meanwhile, in Africa, over the last 18 months 20 countries have declared drought emergencies, with major displacement taking place across the Horn region.
 For those countries that are least developed the impact of disasters can be severe, stripping away livelihoods and progress on health and education; for developed and middle-income countries the economic loss-

es from infrastructure alone can be massive; for both, these events reiterate the need to act on a changing climate that threatens only more frequent and more severe disasters.
■ A (shocking) sign of things to come?
 The effects of a warmer climate on these recent weather events, both their severity and their frequency, has been revelatory for many, even the overwhelming majority that accept the science is settled on human-caused global warming.
 While the silent catastrophe of 4.2 million people dying prematurely each year from ambient pollution, mostly related to the use of fossil fuels, gets relatively little media attention, the effect of heat-trapping greenhouse gases on extreme weather events is coming into sharper focus. **→11**

EDITORIAL
By Mohammad Ghaderi
 Tehran Times editor-in-chief

Trump resorts to snapback mechanism

Eventually, the U.S. president announced his strategy for the nuclear deal with Iran officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Trump stated that he is seeking to change the text of the nuclear deal. The subject has long been pursued by Trump and his aides. This request has been strongly opposed by Iran. Obviously, it is fundamentally impossible to re-negotiate a deal signed two years ago between Iran and the P5+1 group.
 Trump seems to be trying to use a nuclear deal against a nuclear deal! Undoubtedly, this strategy is ultimately doomed to failure. In this regard, Trump and his advisors are trying to resort to the trigger mechanism.
 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 states:
 "... Decides, acting under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, that, within 30 days of receiving a notification by a JCPOA participant State of an issue that the JCPOA participant State believes constitutes significant non-performance of commitments under the JCPOA, it shall vote on a draft resolution to continue in effect the terminations..., decides further that if, within 10 days of the notification referred to above, no Member of the Security Council has submitted such a draft resolution for a vote, then the President of the Security Council shall submit such a draft resolution and put it to a vote within 30 days of the notification referred to above, and expresses its intention to take into account the views of the States involved in the issue and any opinion on the issue by the Advisory Board established in the JCPOA;
 With a reference to the Resolution 2231, the White House is trying to push other members of the P5+1 to change the nuclear deal. Including the issue of Iran's missile capability, imposing endless restrictions on Iran's nuclear program, and inspecting Iran's military sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency are among the issues that Trump attempts to include in the nuclear deal. **→2**

ARTICLE
By Yuram Abdullah Weiler
 Analyst and journalist

The Iran nuclear "threat": Trump's recycled fake news

"The Fox program [of May 8, 2005] on Iran is simply the latest example of how the U.S. media has traded political favoritism to the White House, and its fierce demonization of Iran, for objective news."
 —Kaveh L. Afrasiabi
 After more than a decade of dire warnings by Washington's neocon war hawks of the Iranian nuclear "threat," most of the civilized world rejoiced when the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed by Iran and the P5+1 in 2015. Hopes for gradually thawing relations between the Islamic Republic and U.S. were short-lived, however, with the ascendancy to the White House of Donald Trump, who unceasingly railed against the so-called Iran nuclear deal during his campaign. Now once again, Iran is being accused by the U.S. media of covertly pursuing nuclear arms.
 In an exclusive article, Fox News has announced that the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a political front organization for the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MeK, MKO), has once again managed to obtain "intelligence" relating to a covert nuclear weapons program hidden skillfully from the peering eyes of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspectors. According to Fox News, the NCRI report, titled "Iran's Nuclear Core: Uninspected Military Sites" and conveniently released days before the expected "decertification" of Iran by U.S. president Trump, claims agents of the MeK operating inside Iran have not only confirmed the existence of a covert nuclear weapons program in the Islamic Republic, but also have discovered an additional secret military base dedicated to building nuclear bombs.
 While this may seem believable to poorly-informed Americans, the information bears a striking resemblance to the secret weapons facilities allegedly discovered by MeK agents inside Iran in 2002. **→6**



Land art adorns Hormoz beach

This file photo from a collection published by IRNA on October 11, 2017 shows people viewing a land artwork created with local minerals on the beach of the southern Iranian island of Hormoz in the Persian Gulf.
 Veteran land artist Ahmad Nadali established the Persian Gulf Land Artists House on the island in 2010 to teach the locals how to conserve their environment, which was being threatened by misuse of the colorful minerals of Hormoz.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Tehran hosting intl. printing, packaging expo

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The first edition of Iran's **d e s k** International Exhibition of Printing, Processing and Packaging (IPAP 2017) kicked off at Tehran's Shahr-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center on Thursday. Some 150 domestic and foreign exhibitors from different countries including Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, South Korea, Poland, Turkey and China are showcasing their latest packaging and printing-related products and services in this event. The four-day exhibition aims to mark Iran as the region's center for printing and packaging industry, and also to gather the companies active in the field to unveil the latest innovations and technologies in this area.

Global economy looking good says IMF chief

IMF chief Christine Lagarde says she is optimistic about the future of the world economy and believes the long-awaited global recovery is taking place. Speaking at the annual joint meeting between the IMF and the World Bank, Lagarde said in terms of GDP nearly three quarters of the world was experiencing an upswing. "What we are seeing is a recovery that is stronger, is much more broadly based than in recent years. And we expect higher global growth this year and next," she said. But World Bank President Jim Yong Kim sounded a warning note: "We are concerned that risks such as arising protectionism, policy uncertainty or possible financial market turbulence could derail this fragile recovery." He added that overall there was a growth rise in most developing and advanced economies but there was a need to build resilience against some of the challenges faced by the world today including climate change, famine and disease. (Source: euronews)

South Africa's rand hits 2-week high after court rules Zuma can face corruption charges

South Africa's rand climbed to its firmest level in two weeks, driven higher by a court ruling on Friday that upheld corruption charges against President Jacob Zuma, a weaker dollar and a global surge in risk appetite. At 0820 GMT the rand had raced 0.74 percent to 13.3775 per dollar, outpacing fellow emerging market currencies that made modest gains in early trade. The rand was on the front in early trade but then raced to a session best 13.3625 shortly after South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal upheld a ruling by a lower court to reinstate corruption charges against Zuma. "Today the catalyst for the rand's positive moves has definitely been that court ruling," said currency strategist at IG Markets Shaun Murison. "The strength we saw earlier this week was from external factors and demand for EM's. Today there is a disconnect with what we are seeing in other emerging currencies and the strength in the rand," Murison said. In a list of 17 emerging market currencies tracked by Reuters, the rand was by far the best performer, with only the Russian rouble and Polish zloty the nearest with gains of around 0.2 percent. The ruling has piled further pressure on Zuma, who is already facing several scandals. Zuma denies any wrongdoing. (Source: cnbc)

S. Korea finance ministry says weak domestic recovery holding back economic growth

South Korea's finance ministry on Friday said weak private consumption and tepid jobs growth are holding back economic expansion even as exports continue to post robust gains. August retail sales declined 1 percent from July as South Korean consumers became less optimistic about the economy, the finance ministry said in its monthly assessment of the economy. The Bank of Korea's composite consumer sentiment index for August declined to a three month low of 109.9, down from July when it hit a six-and-a-half-year high of 111.2. The economy faces uncertainties from geopolitical risks stemming from North Korea and worsening trade environment, the ministry said without providing further details. (Source: Reuters)

Singapore's latest growth nearly doubled estimates

Singapore's trade-reliant economy grew more than expected in the third quarter from the previous quarter on an annualized basis, on the back of manufacturing growth, preliminary data showed on Friday. The economy expanded 6.3 percent in the July-September period on an annualized and seasonally adjusted basis, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Friday in a statement. Economists polled by Reuters produced a median forecast of 3.2 percent annualized growth for July-September. GDP rose 4.6 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, compared to a median forecast of 3.8 percent. (Source: cnbc)

S. Korean company signs airport system sales contract with Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Korea Airports Corp. said Thursday that it signed a contract with an Iranian company for selling navigational aid systems and airport equipment in Iran. The contract with Iranian construction company Tolid Malzomat Bargh was signed Tuesday at the Inter Airport Europe (IAE) trade fair in Germany, the Korea Herald reported. TMB Co., which designs and manufactures electrical equipment in Iran, will promote sales of instrument landing systems and signal analyzers on behalf of KAC. In particular, KAC hopes to promote sales of the new portable signal analyzer,



which uses Wi-Fi to remotely monitor signals. At Inter Airport Europe, KAC showcased its latest developments in airport equipment including passenger boarding bridges and baggage handling systems. IAE was held at the Munich Trade Centre in Germany from Tuesday to Friday.

Iran, Mauritius mull over development of economic co-op

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Mauritius' Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Seetanah Lutchenaraidoo and the Ambassador of Iran to Mauritius Mohammad Moniri Nik in Port Louis discussed expansion of cooperation on trade and economic exchanges as well as cultural, tourism and education sectors, bunkerspot.com reported on Thursday. As accorded, the two countries' chambers of commerce will explore trade opportunities between Iran and Mauritius for further collaborative av-



enues specifically in energy sector. Mauritius and Iran are members of the non-aligned movement, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the G70.

Sri Lanka should come forward for euro transaction with Iran: envoy

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mohammad Zaeri Amirani said that Sri Lanka banks should come forward to facilitate trade with Iran in euro instead of dollar as they are concerned that some U.S. sanctions are continuing to be in place against Iran. The ambassador made this remark on Wednesday while speaking at the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NC-CSL) on the theme, «Bilateral Trade between Sri Lanka & Iran», where local business people and a few Iranian investors

who have business interests in Sri Lanka were present, island.lk reported. «This is only a concern of the banks that they would face problems if they facilitated transactions with Iran. Well, in the context of this concern, the euro channel of trading is available. Iran is trading with the EU and many other countries in euro and there has been no issue with that. As banking is crucial for trade, it is a responsibility of the banks to make the euro channel available», the ambassador emphasized. «Negative people with a short-sighted approach would present problems for

Pakistan approves purchase of additional 100MW electricity from Iran

ENERGY TEHRAN — Pakistan's Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCE) has approved the purchase of additional 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Iran, Pakistan Today reported. According to the report the Ministry of Power has been directed to make immediate arrangements and to complete the spadework expeditiously. «For the additional 100MW, transmission line and grid station have to be constructed to meet immediate needs of Makran division, especially Gwadar Port and industrial area», the report

said. Iran is currently providing 100MW of electricity to Pakistan based on an arrangement which is renewed annually. Earlier this month, Pakistan Today had reported that the country is considering the import of 100 megawatts (MW) of additional electricity from Iran to meet the growing electricity demand in Gwadar. The electricity is going to be supplied to Gwadar area from Iran through 132kv interconnection lines between Pakistan and Iran.

Italian asset manager buys stake in Iranian rival

An Italian asset manager has become the first foreign investment group to buy a stake in an Iranian financial company. Azimut, a €48-billion group headquartered in Milan, is to acquire 20 percent of Mofid Entekhab, an Iranian asset manager, for an undisclosed sum. «We were looking for an opportunity to invest in a very interesting market. Iran is a great story», said Sergio Albarelli, chief executive of Azimut. Iran, the second-largest economy in the Middle East with a population of around 78 million, is an attractive market

to foreign investors because of its large oil, gas and mineral reserves and its need for infrastructure following years of economic sanctions. Its educated and affluent population is also a tempting prospect for financial services groups and Tehran, keen to win foreign investment, has been wooing European asset managers, sovereign wealth funds and pension funds. However, the 2015 deal has not thrown the door for investment completely open. For U.S. companies relatively little has changed because many

sanctions are still in place. Azimut said it and Mofid have ensured that the partnership will be compliant with economic sanctions requirements. Mofid Entekhab is part of Iran's privately held Mofid Group, a holding company with \$89 million in assets. Entekhab, the asset management business, was carved out from its Mofid Securities business last year. Azimut will buy the stake through AZ International Holdings, its Luxembourg-based unit. Azimut and Mofid also plan to estab-

lish a fund, domiciled in Luxembourg, for foreign investors to invest in Iran. «Our strategic goal is now to capitalize on our track record as the leading financial intermediary in Iran and create with Azimut a benchmark for the local asset management industry», said Hamid Azarakhsh, chairman of Mofid Securities. He said his clients «will be able to access a new suite of financial advisory and wealth management services in line with the highest international standards». (Source: Financial Times)

World Bank eyes redirecting Myanmar funds for Rohingya crisis

Governors of the World Bank Group will consider proposals to allocate at least \$270 million worth of funds to address the crisis in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees have fled into neighboring Bangladesh since late 2016. The decision would entail redirecting some \$200 million of existing World Bank assistance for Myanmar and adding a fresh contribution of at least \$70 million. As part of their annual meetings in Washington on Oct. 13-15, the governors will consider a plan to redirect a \$200 million credit for budget support to Myanmar's government, agreed in August, into programs for Rakhine. The credit, the first direct financial support by an international financial institution for Myanmar's national budget, is part of a longer-term plan for direct budgetary support to be provided in annual tranches. But international condemnation of widely reported military atrocities against Rohingya Muslims



Hundreds of Rohingya people cross Bangladesh's border as they flee from Rakhine state after crossing the Naf River in Bangladesh. (Getty Images)

in Rakhine have fuelled calls to suspend assistance, not just at multilateral institutions but also among donor countries. A top Myanmar economic official told the Nikkei Asian Review on Friday that redirecting existing budget support into new Rakhine programs would be a way to address critics' calls for some form of censure by likely including a stipulation that none of the funds should go toward military-related expenditure. The funds would be used for humanitarian and development activities, including infrastructure such as roads, healthcare, rural electrification and reconstruction of some facilities destroyed during the latest military crackdown. Separately, the Bank is considering up to about \$400 million worth of funding in the form of loans and grants for Bangladesh, which is struggling to accommodate more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees, some from earlier waves of Rakhine violence. (Source: Nikkei)

Trump is giving up a crucial part of American power to China

President Donald Trump's "America First" stance is making the U.S. more isolated on the world stage, with the country quickly losing soft power to China, a former U.S. Treasury official told CNBC Thursday. That shift is readily apparent at this week's annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, according to Scott Morris, who oversaw U.S. global development policy and worked with the World Bank while in the Treasury Department during the Obama administration. «You have a China that is looking to showcase its multi-trillion dollar 'Belt-Road' initiative with very high-profile events and then you have American officials who want to say no to everything: No to ambition at

the World Bank, no to trade agreements», Morris told CNBC's "Squawk Box." «That's a message that is a hard sell to the rest of the international community», he added. The meetings of the IMF and the World Bank — two multilateral institutions that support global financial stability and offer development assistance, respectively — come as Trump indicated again Wednesday he might exit the North American Free Trade Agreement. Morris, who is currently a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, a think tank, said the administration's varying messages on international relationships were «troubling» and he expressed concern about how it could

impact U.S. influence, particularly through the World Bank and IMF. «The stark departure here is a message from this White House saying you should stop lending to a wide swathe of countries and really begin to wind things down», Morris said. «I think that's just not where the rest of the world is and, as a result, the U.S. is increasingly isolated.» His comments followed a Wednesday report by AidData that China could overtake the U.S. as the world's primary donor of foreign aid to most of the developing world. Trump has called for significant reductions in aid, prompting international concern and intense criticism from former White House officials and business executives.

«America First» is really America retrenchment from what we're seeing. It is this administration seeking to pull away from multilateral agreements, multilateral institutions. It is damaging. I think, first and foremost, it is damaging for the United States», said Morris. Other than the U.S. growing increasingly isolated on the global stage, Morris said, Trump's protectionism could also hurt multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF. «The damage to the institutions is that the Chinese lead a group of other member countries to other venues. We have the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank as sort of the leading example of that», he said. (Source: cnbc)

Myanmar's enemy within and the making of anti-Muslim rage

Recent weeks have likely forever stained Myanmar's widely heralded transition from direct military rule. From a feel-good story of the retreat of the military and the rise to power of Nobel laureate and democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, the catastrophically divided nature of Myanmar society has been revealed as the source of new militancy, horrific ethno-religious violence, and refugee flight on a scale not seen since World War II.



All this from a country populated by 90% Buddhists? The world is now in want of answers as to how the country's transition could have taken so drastic a turn, and about the origins of such hatred among a population long viewed as a peace-loving civilians suffering under a violent regime. In his debut book, Myanmar's Enemy Within: Buddhist Violence and the Making of a Muslim "Other," journalist Francis Wade seeks to provide those answers and explain the ferocity unleashed in the name of Buddhism since 2012.

At its finest moments, Wade's book tells the personal stories of Muslim and Buddhist characters who have animated the tragic scenes of Myanmar's deadly morality play; the story of a transition from repressive authoritarian rule not to democracy, but to an awakening of deep-rooted, angry, radicalized movements dedicated to ridding the country of those who do not belong. Or Ma Win, an ethnic Kaman — a Muslim minority that qualifies for citizenship, unlike some other ethnic groups — who was beaten by ethnic Rakhine produce sellers for being "kalar," the derogatory term denoting South Asian origins.

Wade's central theme is that the military manipulated Buddhism since it seized power in 1962 to fuel fervor for its largely coercive and homogenizing nation-building project. Out of this maneuvering, Wade claims, rose the extremism that dominates transitional Myanmar today, from which the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority has suffered disproportionately. "So violently had notions of identity and belonging been manipulated and thrust to the center of life under the military that, as it began to step back, those contestations formed a core part of the search for the new Myanmar," Wade writes.

As reforms unfurled after 2011, that fervor was taken up by a range of forces, including Buddhist farmers who told Wade they traveled in 2012 to Muslim villages with machetes and torches to attack Rohingyas, who were their former friends and business associates. Rohingyas banded together. Hundreds were left dead, villages burned beyond recognition and coexistence among many Rakhines and Rohingyas no longer thinkable. One Rakhine Buddhist explained his fear of Muslims from a nearby village: "If they come we will kill them or they will kill us."

■ The country's de facto leader

Political and moral authorities did little to control the violence. Suu Kyi, who is now the country's de facto leader, steadfastly evaded questions on the bloodshed, which, as Wade argues, meant "she and her party were complicit in fueling the mentality" that led to the debasement of the Rohingya. Almost overnight, "the importance of the nationalist cause had outflanked that of the democratic cause," for many Buddhists, Wade writes. Inter-communal, mostly anti-Muslim violence soon spread to other towns, led by monks and gangs of thugs, the latter usually described to Wade by victims as "outsiders" to the communities affected. Perceptively, the author notes the ambiguity around perpetrators: "Exactly which forces were driving the violence never became clear." By 2013, ethno racial Buddhist nationalism had hugely empowered the politically and socially influential Organization for the Protection of Race and Religion (known by its Burmese acronym, Ma Ba Tha) and monks such as U Wirathu, known for his hate-filled diatribes.

Myanmar's Enemy Within is well-timed to inform debates about Myanmar's most violent crisis of the last 25 years, but its founders on factual misreading of history. Most importantly, the overall narrative is inaccurate; Myanmar's military did not promote Buddhism as its nation-building tool until after a democratic uprising in 1988. In fact, when it entered power in 1962 and established a socialist regime, it halted its civilian predecessor's attempt to make Buddhism the state religion. Wade conflates the socialist period (1962-88) with the military junta era (1988-2011). During the former, Socialist ideology, not zealous promotion of Buddhism, gave rise to the laws and attitudes that led to the "othering" of the Rohingya and the eventual emergence of widespread Islamophobia. Wade's readable explanation of the creation of the enemy within may be incomplete, but his work remains bold and brave in its attempt to tell a story of Buddhist rage in Myanmar.

(Source: Time)

Ditching deals has become Trump's main foreign policy

By Adam Taylor

The U.S. government announced Thursday that it would leave UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization that the United States helped found in the aftermath of World War II. According to a release from the State Department, the decision was made because of alleged financial problems and a need for reform at the organization, as well as "continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO."

The news, broken on Wednesday by Foreign Policy's Colum Lynch, seemed to take many observers by surprise. Perhaps it shouldn't have. Leaving UNESCO fits into the dominant theme of President Trump's foreign policy: what Richard Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations, describes succinctly as "the Withdrawal Doctrine."

You could plausibly argue, in fact, that the one consistent plank in Trump administration policy has been to walk away from every international agreement possible. Before pulling out of UNESCO, Trump ended the United States' participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership — the huge trade pact negotiated with 11 other nations — and withdrew the country from the Paris agreement on climate change.

Trump will also make an announcement on the Iran nuclear deal later, and he is widely expected to "decertify" the deal, leaving its future in doubt. The North American Free Trade Agreement, a trade pact with Mexico and Canada, may soon be on the chopping block. And Trump has spoken negatively about a number of other international deals or organizations, including but not limited to NATO, a trade agreement with South Korea and a nuclear-arms treaty with Russia.

■ Deal-making abilities

A big question is what actually motivates Trump, who often brags about his own deal-making abilities, to seek withdrawal from so many international agreements. Many point to his apparent obsession with overturning the legacy of his predecessor, former president Barack Obama, and it is clearly notable that a number of the agreements Trump aims to back out of — TPP, the Paris agreement and the Iran nuclear deal, for instance — were reached during the Obama administration.

The UNESCO withdrawal cannot be



The one consistent plank in Trump administration policy has been to walk away from every international agreement possible.

explained by antipathy to Obama alone. Although the organization may seem relatively benign — it is perhaps most famous for its list of World Heritage sites — it has long been a controversial organization in the United States.

The Reagan administration decided to withdraw from UNESCO in 1984 because of complaints about corruption and pro-Soviet bias. The United States rejoined in 2002 under President George W. Bush, but in 2011 — during the Obama administration — the U.S. government stopped funding the organization after it accepted the Palestinian territories as a member. The Trump administration's claims of anti-Israel bias largely follow this Obama-era stance.

But pulling out of UNESCO certainly fits with another potential aspect of Trump's aversion to international agreements, one often seen on the domestic front. Trump brags that he has cut more regulation than any other president "by far." Whether that's true is hard to gauge, but it's certainly clear that the president sees regulations as hindrances to his leadership, dubbing them "costly and unnecessary" (much like UNESCO, perhaps) in August. Such an attitude may

stem from his days in business: Trump has been accused of breaking contracts routinely when he was a private citizen.

The president's fear of being boxed in extends to the international stage. "We need to send the message that the president does not feel constrained by the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] and does not feel beholden to it," one White House aide told The Washington Post's Anne Gearan recently, using the formal name of the nuclear agreement with Iran. That may go beyond formal agreements to basic norms: As I mentioned on Thursday, then-candidate Trump reportedly asked a foreign policy expert why the United States shouldn't use its nuclear weapons if it had them.

"If you thought 'repeal and replace,' or perhaps, 'repeal and not replace,' was only a strategy for the botched Obamacare repeal effort, you'd be wrong," wrote Kingston Reif and Kelsey Davenport of the Arms Control Association for War on the Rocks, a prominent national security blog, on Thursday.

When it comes to major trade deals or nuclear weapons — and in particular, talks with North Korea about them — that thought is especially grim. Apart

from exposing the country to potentially greater risks, the instinct to back out at the first sign of obligation puts at risk U.S. participation in other efforts down the road. If the Trump administration does decertify the Iran deal, Reif and Davenport wrote, "it will have not only lost credibility in future nuclear negotiations, but also isolated itself and ceded leadership on nonproliferation efforts."

Of course, Trump isn't the only recent U.S. leader to be accused of ceding global leadership — ironically, he's not the only to be accused of having a "withdrawal doctrine" either. But there are huge differences in the ways that Obama and Trump sought to step back from the world's problems. Obama was an internationalist, "leading from behind" and keen to pull back on what he claimed were the excesses of U.S. foreign policy. Trump is simply a unilateralist: He doesn't want anyone to tell him what to do.

To put it more crudely, Obama once suggested his motto was "don't do stupid things —." Trump's mantra might be a demand that he be allowed to do whatever he wants, stupid or not — or he'll simply leave.

(Source: The Washington Post)

The Iran nuclear "threat": Trump's recycled fake news

➔ In fact, the same person quoted in the Fox article, Alireza Jafarzadeh, wrote in 2005, "Based on information received from inside the country, the Iranian regime has started an extensive strategic plan in order to build tunnels and secret centers across the country, in order to hide its nuclear and missiles projects." Aside from being a Fox News commentator and "terrorism expert," and he should be, given his background dating back to 1985 with the terrorist MeK cult, Jafarzadeh is also president of Strategic Policy Consulting, which claims to "provide a wide range of consultancy on issues related to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, Iranian internal and external affairs, as well as Iran's role in Iraq."

Jafarzadeh gained notoriety in August 2002 when he held a press conference to present "evidence" of a nuclear weapons program in Iran. In his 2006 book titled "The Iran Threat," which reads like a pulp-fiction spy thriller, he admitted that he has worked as a lobbyist for the MeK and even managed to convince 219 members of the U.S. House of Representatives to sign a statement in support of the NCRI. Jafarzadeh was particularly proud that George W. Bush gave the credit for discovering Iran's "concealed nuclear program" to the NCRI, which Bush called "a dissident group."

The similarity of the current (2017) Fox News article and the 2005 press release is striking. For example, both speak of large underground tunnels: the present Fox News report speaks of "scores of large underground tunnels," while the 2005 press release reports on "large scale secret tunnels for weapons system [sic]." Likewise, the same claims alleging that the military complex at Parchin, southeast of Tehran, houses a number of secret facilities supposedly used in the ongoing development and manufacture of nuclear weapons. In total, four locations are named: Natanz, Arak, Lavizan-Shian, and Parchin, which the NCRI claims "with high degrees of certainty" to be in some way involved with nuclear weapons research and development.

Jafarzadeh and Fox News have a long history of cooperation going back to 2003 when the self-proclaimed expert accused Iran of smuggling heavy weapons into Iraq "using trucks who [sic] were carrying vegetables and fruits, buses or utility vehicles, and they have been hidden in villages and agricultural fields to be used by them." More to the point, Jafarzadeh was already pushing regime change at that time, calling the Islamic Republic "the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism," advising the U.S. "to step up pressure" on Tehran, and insisting Iranians by the thousands were

demonstrating "for regime change" and an "end to theocracy in Iran."

In an interesting 2005 Fox News interview pitting Joe Cirincione, director for Non-Proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, against Jafarzadeh, the latter claimed to have new evidence from unnamed sources proving Iran's peaceful civilian nuclear activities were a cover for a covert nuclear weapons effort. Citing information that Iran was developing a neutron initiator using polonium-210 and beryllium-9, Jafarzadeh claimed "Iran is actually working to develop a nuclear trigger, which is a necessary part of building the bomb." To his credit, Cirincione, referring to the NCRI, emphasized, "The last couple of exposures that they made haven't really born out." Furthermore, Cirincione estimated that Iran was at least five years away from making an atomic fission bomb and pointed out that "after two years of inspections we haven't found anything actually weapons related work."

Far from being new technology, modulated polonium-beryllium initiation to trigger neutron chain reactions was researched in the 1940s in the early stages of the U.S. atomic bomb program. Also worth mentioning is the fact that India's first atomic bomb tested on May 18, 1974 used a polonium-beryllium initiator almost identical to the one used in "Gadget," the first U.S. nuclear device to be yield-tested on July 16, 1945 near Alamogordo, New Mexico. Away from Washington's watchful eye, Indian scientists took two years to master manufacturing methods and handling techniques for the large amounts of polonium required to produce this type of neutron initiator.

For Iran to attempt to amass the polonium and beryllium needed for a trigger would create an immediately discernable warning sign of proliferation. To date, no such credible sign has been detected. Furthermore, polonium-210 must be produced on an ongoing basis since it has a half-life of only four years, rendering any polonium-beryllium initiator ineffective within that period of time less than that. Even the "experts" associated with the NCRI in 2005 placed the lifespan of an alleged Iranian-designed initiator at 6 months maximum. The point here is that any activity of this sort in Iran would certainly have been detected by IAEA inspectors long ago.

Unfortunately, Jafarzadeh and his ilk seem to have found a receptive audience in Washington, for Trump himself derogatorily referred to Iran thirteen times in his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly. Among his more amusing assertions, Trump stated, "Rather than use its resources to improve Iranian lives, its

oil profits go to fund Hezbollah and other terrorists that kill innocent Muslims and attack their peaceful Arab and Israeli neighbors." Noting the Saudi war on Yemen and the Israeli entity's ongoing usurpation of Palestinian lands should suffice to discredit Trump's remarks in reference to "peaceful Arab and Israeli neighbors," but what of the allegations of Iran's support for "terrorists?"

Simultaneously funding an ongoing nuclear weapons program, if Iran indeed had one, as well as "terrorists," as Trump has accused, would absorb a lot of money, and Iran is not awash in cash. With delays in integrating Iranian banks into the global banking system, Iran's non-oil sector growth has been less than one percent, leaving the country dependent on petroleum revenues subject to the volatile crude oil market and its persistently stagnant prices in the marginally profitable \$50/bbl range. Yet somehow Iran has managed to reduce the poverty rate among its citizens from 13.1 percent in 2009 to 8.1 percent in 2013. Obviously, this achievement of improving Iranian lives could not have been accomplished by diverting oil profits to nuclear weapons programs or funding extremist groups, as the Saudis have done and continue to do by pouring billions into spreading Wahhabism.

Fox News has been quick to note that Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the NCRI, welcomed Trump's bellicose remarks, which were in line with the Iranian people's alleged desire for regime change. While this image of Iranians writhing under theocratic tyranny has much credence among U.S. pundits, the reality on the ground in Iran is quite the opposite. Within Iran, there is much popular support for the country's nuclear program, and Iranians view their expanding homegrown nuclear technology with great pride. Furthermore, surrounded by U.S. military bases in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as U.S. military partnerships with Georgia and Azerbaijan, Iran rightly considers the U.S. to be its number one security threat. Finally, it must be understood that with literally thousands of victims of its terror attacks inside Iran, the MeK has absolutely no credibility among the Iranian people as any sort of an opposition movement.

Former political science professor at Tehran University, Kaveh L. Afrasiabi, warned, "A U.S. policy based on a caricature of Iran's realities is obviously self-serving." Nevertheless, the current caricature of a U.S. president residing in the White House seems determined to do just that based on recycled fake news about Iran supplied by Jafarzadeh and aired on Fox News.

Congressional confusion about Iran's Nuclear Deal

1 → This confusion is also seen in Lindsay Graham's behavior, another extreme senator. Graham, 62, is from South Carolina. Lindsay Graham is also among the main proponents of Iran's sanctions, and subsequently the opposition to the nuclear deal in the Senate. Lindsay Graham believes that instead of coming out of action, it will have to reform the nuclear deal with Iran. This is despite the fact that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have resolutely and correctly stated that the other nuclear deal cannot be negotiated.

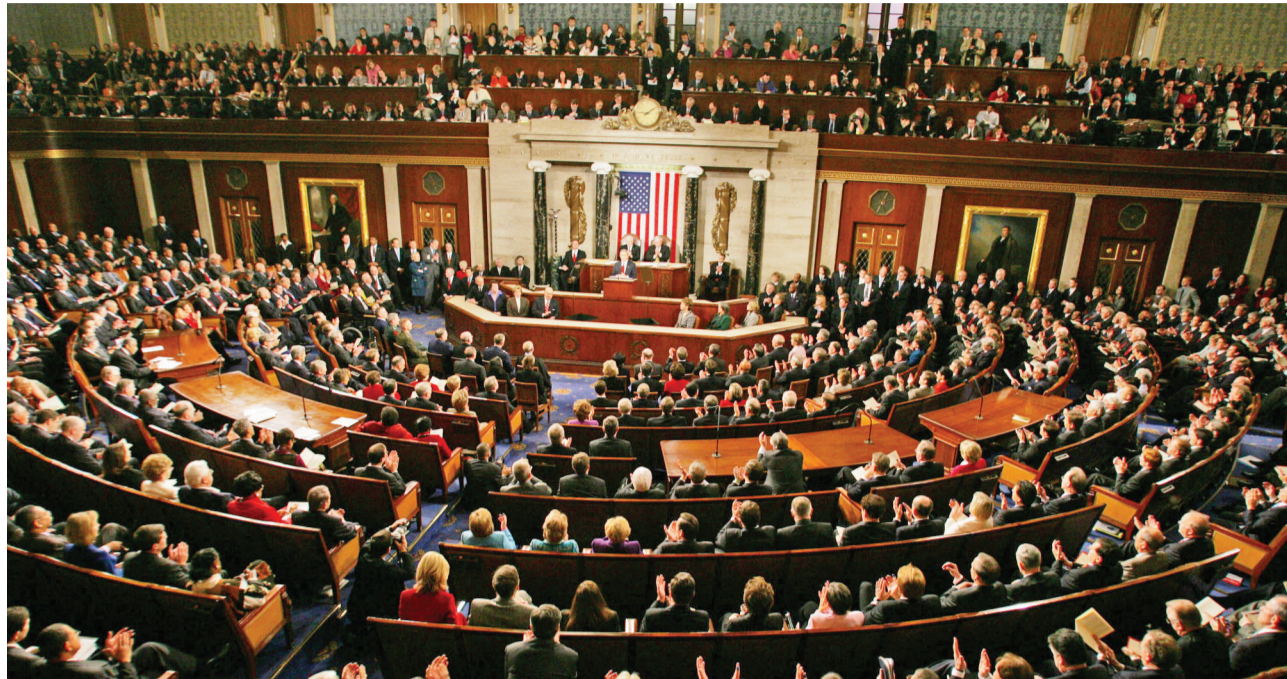
Lindsay Graham has said: "The US government is better off reviewing the nuclear deal with Iran and imposing strict conditions instead of removing it. Iran may technically follow an agreement, but it is breaking the spirit of agreement by continuing destabilizing activities in the region!"

It should be noted that John McCain and Lindsay Graham are two influential senators in the United States Senate, and some other Senate Republican members also follow these two behaviors. Both McCain and Graham are worried about the presence of Trump at the White House. The irrational, emotional and distant attitude of the president of the United States has been the cause of concern for the most extreme senators of the country, such as McCain and Graham. Undoubtedly, then, the controversy between American senators and Trumps will be further expanded on a variety of issues, including how to oppose a nuclear deal.

Now, the world is witnessing an unwillingness of the United States to agree on a nuclear deal with Iran. There was also an unwillingness during Obama's presidency. Under Obama's presidency, the U.S. Treasury Department prevented the normalization of banking relationships with Iran. However, during the Trump presidency, this trend has intensified.

As Aljazeera reported, Foreign Minister Zarif has threatened to partially or fully withdraw from the deal in the event of new US sanctions on Tehran. Analysts say hardliners in Iran will be empowered by any US violation of the deal and would use it as an opportunity to block any further rapprochement with Washington.

European leaders have taken the unusual step of publicly calling on the US to abide by the deal and have affirmed that Iran is upholding its commitments under JCPOA. On Friday, the British embassy in Washington, DC took the unusual step of posting an animation on Twitter showing how



Iran was complying with the deal. French President Emmanuel Macron has told the US that not honouring its side of the deal could push Iran into producing a nuclear weapon in the future. European states have enjoyed burgeoning trade ties with Iran since the deal came into force and experts say US breaches of the deal would damage its reputation as a reliable partner.

As recently as last July, the U.S. imposed sanctions on 18 Iranian individuals and entities for supporting what it said was "transnational criminal activity". Sanctions related to Iran's ballistic missile programme, its activities in other countries and its alleged ties to proscribed groups remain unaffected by JCPOA.

Also Bryant Harris wrote in Al-monitor Under the 2015 law that paved the way for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Congress will have 60 days to take action if Trump won't certify Iranian compliance with the deal by the Oct. 15 deadline. While most legislation takes 60 votes to pass in the Senate, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA) specifically allows the upper chamber to reinstate several hard-hitting sanctions packages with a partisan majority of just 51 senators (Vice President Mike Pence would split a 50-50 tie).

"It's 50 votes, so they can't rely ... upon a minority to block it procedurally," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a supporter of the deal. "I think that would be a difficult vote."

Republicans currently hold 52 Sen-

ate seats and a comfortable majority in the House, more than enough to reinstate sanctions without any Democrats joining them if they band together. Not a single Republican in either chamber voted for the deal in 2015, and congressional leaders are desperate for a political win after back-to-back defeats on health care.

"If you look at the Republican majorities in the House and Senate, none of those members of the Republican caucus voted for the deal during the 2015 congressional review," a Senate aide told Al-Monitor on the condition of anonymity. "So the pressure would be overwhelming on those members."

Already, proponents of the deal are bracing for the worst.

"This could very easily take on a momentum of its own," said Jon Finer, the chief of staff to former Secretary of State John Kerry. "You could be in a situation where the administration [won't certify compliance] and Congress will say, 'Well the administration has spoken as to Iran's implementation of the deal,' and this moves forward whether or not people have fully thought through the consequences."

Kerry himself urged Congress not to rush into action in a Washington Post op-ed on Sept. 29. "Having cast dozens of arms-control votes as a senator — judging not whether they were perfect, but whether we were better off with them — I want to take those who may soon cast a similar vote 'into the negotiating room' to explain the product we negotiated to close Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon, and why it

is so important to keep the agreement in place," Kerry wrote.

Some Democrats are echoing that sentiment on Capitol Hill.

"I think this will be a big fight, but at the end, I don't know if Republicans want to be responsible for Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., told Al-Monitor. "I know there are some Republicans who are so rabidly against the agreement they might vote to impose sanctions, but I have to believe there are enough reasonable Republicans that they wouldn't put both North Korea and Iran on a pathway to nuclear weapons."

At the other end of the political spectrum, some argue that Congress can't be trusted to kill the deal cleanly.

"Perhaps the most inane argument is that Congress should decide the deal's fate and whether to reimpose U.S. sanctions," former U.S. Ambassador to the UN John Bolton wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed Sept. 28. "If a president is unwilling to solve this kind of problem, he shouldn't have applied for the job."

Congressional Republicans for their part have been in no hurry to get pinned down on a potentially momentous vote. "I just don't want to move into public discussions yet about what may occur," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., told Al-Monitor. Corker wrote the INARA bill and has been in contact with the Trump administration regarding certification. The House and Senate leaders who would be tasked with putting potential legislation on the floor are being equally coy.

The shaky steps of the young president

By Mohammad Salehi

TEHRAN — The anger of the worker's unions and the French retired over the economic reforms of their president is rising day by day. In recent days, we have witnessed a general strike in France in protest to this economic reforms. This is while Macron's popularity with French public opinion is still low. According to the latest polls held in France, Macron's popularity has reached 45%. Although this rate is somewhat higher than his popularity over the last month, most French citizens are still not satisfied with the performance of their young president at the top of their country's political and executive equations.

It seems that Macron has a hard time and a lot of troubles ahead. One of the main goals of the new French president is to implement economic reforms in the country. These reforms will be in the fields of tax, pensioners, finance and banking. However, Macron is well aware that he will face the protests of the opposition parties (especially the French National Front) and the workers' unions on his way to implementing these reforms. The young French president is facing a number of obstacles in the



way of fulfilling his economic promises that he can't easily pass them. One of Macron's opponents on this path is the extreme left party led by Melenchon. The party is currently lobbying for general protests against Macron.

Thousands of people have recently protested in Paris, the capital of France, against President Emanuel Macron's plan to reform the labor law. Macron signed a decree a few weeks ago to amend labor laws, which made it easier for companies to dismiss their work-force. The French president promised at the time of the election that the unemployment rate in France would decrease from 9.5% to 7% in the next five years.

In any case, it should be noted that forcing economic reforms in France is not easy at all. During the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy, he also decided to implement some economic reforms, but he faced widespread protests. Eventually, Sarkozy failed to implement these reforms and failed in the 2012 presidential election against Francois Hollande. During the presidency of Hollande, we saw again that he wasn't capable of fulfilling his economic promises. French citizens, and especially workers and teachers, and other influential classes, voted in favor of Socialist Party in the 2012 elections, but Hollande eventually failed to fulfill his important promise of French economic growth. The result of what Hollande did was terrible! He had a 15 percent popularity in his last days at the Elysee Palace. It was not without a sensible reason that in the presidential and parliamentary elections this year in France, socialists became the main losers of this political platform.

Macron was also very popular with French voters at the beginning of his presence at the Elysee Palace. On this basis, most French citizens were optimistic about the promised economic reforms. But this popularity fell and eventually fell below 50%. Right now, Macron speaks about economic reforms and a decline in the general budget of France in 2018 at a time when he doesn't really have the public's sodality with himself. Strikes and protests from workers unions represent the same thing. In any case, it's President Macron that stands at the top of France political and executive equations at this time. He is scared to face the same fate as Sarkozy and Hollande. On the other hand, the French president should always keep a look at relations within the European Union. At any rate, on the path to the implementation of its economic reforms, he should consider the financial and commercial obligations of France towards the member and non-member countries inside the Eurozone. During the time of Hollande presidency, the former president of France did not actually find the power to manage the economic relations between France and the European Union, and when he spoke of relying on economic growth (in contrast to austerity plans), he was faced with resistance. The same rule can be applied to Macron and his economic reforms. Therefore, the French president will not have an easy way to pursue financial and business reforms inside and outside his country.

Meanwhile, Macron plans to use the opportunities around him as much as possible. The absolute majority in the French parliament belongs to the supporters of the French President. Obviously, under such circumstances, he can use the power of his supporters to advance his economic reforms and resist existing opposition. However, during the recent protests, Macron has lost some of his supporters among French citizens. Under these conditions, the French National Front led by Marin Le Pen and the Left Party, led by Melenchon, both are trying to make use from existing situation to increase the popularity of their own party. During the French presidential campaigns, both extreme left and right fronts were operating effectively in France. This is despite the fact that the popularity of parties such as the Socialist Party and the Conservative Party has fallen sharply in the eyes of the French. The main question here is that if the French president does not succeed in his economic reforms, what fate awaits the traditional parties of France in 2022 (when the next French presidential election will be held)? Can 2022 be considered the year in which one of the two right-wing or left-wing extremists find their way to the Elysee Palace?

Finally, the French president faces a tough economic test. If he succeeds in it, he will become a special politician in his country, and if he fails in this direction, he will find the same fate as Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois Hollande. Obviously, Macron doesn't have the slightest interest in being a single-term president or defeated in the presidential election of 2022. However, we should wait to see whether he passes this test with success or fails in it tragically.

Bin Salman's over, covert ties with Israeli Regime

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia has no reservations about establishing relations, secretly or openly, with Israel, when it comes to scenarios such as countering Iran.

As Basirat Reported, Ever since Mohammed bin Salman climbed up the ladder of success and became Saudi Arabia's crown prince, his name has been mentioned in many key Saudi cases. Bin Salman, who is said to be very close to being crowned as the Saudi king and assuming his father's throne, has been a high-profile figure in the Saudi aggression against Yemen, and now he is on course to play a key role in the establishment of ties with Israel. Some time ago, Israeli media spoke of a secret trip to Israel by one of the members of the Al Saud dynasty. Afterwards, some Western media quoted an Emirati intelligence officer as saying that bin Salman was Riyadh's secret emissary to Israel. Tel Aviv and Riyadh have not yet officially responded to the news; however, as the Emirati official says, the trip comes to resume the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The news was published days after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced last week that Tel Aviv's ties with the Arab world was at their highest level. Addressing the staff members of the Israel Foreign Ministry, he said the relations were at their highest level, ever, in Israel's history.

Around three months ago, Israeli Transportation and Intelligence Minister Israel Katz asked Saudi King Salman to invite Netanyahu to visit Saudi Arabia, and send heir to the throne Mohammed bin Salman to Tel Aviv to advance common interests and counter Iran. The minister had also referred to bin Salman as an active and dynamic individual. Now with reports of bin Salman's trip to Israel, it seems King Salman has met Israel's demand.

Despite efforts by the Israeli regime as well as Saudi Arabia's mediation and insistence, some Arab countries have not agreed to recognize Israel as a country so far. Nevertheless, Tel Aviv has covertly established diplomatic and economic relations with



some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman had already called for the establishment of economic and diplomatic relations with Arab countries. As the minister says, these relations should take shape openly.

This comes as Israel signed peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan years ago. In the meantime, Israeli newspapers report of Tel Aviv forging closer security and military cooperation with Jordan on the country's border with Syria. Israel has openly helped Egypt in fighting ISIS on the Sinai Peninsula. Maybe that is why many Israeli authorities have announced, time and again, over the past two years that Arab countries' hostile look has been superseded by willingness to have cooperation with Israel.

The Israeli regime has got closer to Persian Gulf littoral states such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in recent years under the pretext of Iran's growing influence in the region. Of course, Saudi Arabia's alignment with Israel, especially in their campaign against Iran, is nothing new, and documents recently released by WikiLeaks show Israel and Saudi Arabia began establishing close relations in the mid-1990s. At that time, Saudi Arabia removed some companies linked to Israel from its list of banned entities. The close relationship between Tel Aviv and Riyadh grew stronger in 2002 when Sau-

di Arabia presented a peace plan. Saudi Arabia continued sending positive signals to Israel in 2005 when Riyadh removed level-two and level-three sanctions.

On the other hand, former Mossad Director Meir Dagan travelled to Saudi Arabia in 2010 for secret talks on Iran's nuclear program. Also in recent months, the handing over of the ownership of Tiran and Sana fir islands to Saudi Arabia has enabled Riyadh and Cairo to jointly monitor Israeli vessels' traversing the Tiran Strait.

The Israeli regime is banking on young and ambitious Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Maybe that is why the former US ambassador to Tel Aviv said the designation of Mohammed bin Salman as the Saudi air to the throne amounted to an Israeli dream coming true. From the viewpoint of this American diplomat, bin Salman believes Riyadh and Tel Aviv have common interests and threats, which, at last, will be in the interest of Israel.

Bin Salman stands ready to return Israeli-Saudi relations back to normal within the framework of the implementation of an Arab peace plan. Meanwhile, one should not forget the role of transregional players, including the US. American President Donald Trump, during his first trip to the Middle East, spoke of the possibility of a new level of cooperation which would pave the way for more security and welfare in the region and across the world.

Bin Salman's secret trip to Israel ushers in a new era of cordial relations that Trump had spoken of. Still, it remains to be seen whether Saudi-Israeli close relations will be conducive to a permanent and strategic agreement or will just be a transient alliance aimed at countering a common threat called Iran.

All in all, the Saudis, who have claimed to be advocates of the cause of Palestine and still do, have broken the taboo of having relations with the Israeli regime at this juncture and have no reservations about having ties with Tel Aviv, secretly or openly, within the framework of scenarios such as Iranophobia and countering the resistance front.

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10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

Here are high rated IT titles in the world that reviewed by savvy tech users:

- 1** Samsung announced that the CEO and Vice Chairman of Samsung Electronics, Kwon Oh-hyun, plans to resign. He is known as "Mr. Chip" for turning Samsung into the world leader in memory chips. For the second quarter ended in June, semiconductors were responsible for profits of 8 trillion won (\$7.20 billion USD).
- 2** Man gets T-Mobile tattoo, receives a free iPhone 8. Philip Harrison tweeted that he'd happily tattoo the T Mobile logo on a visible place of his body in exchange for an iPhone 8. The tweet does address T-Mo's CEO John Legere, who is quite active on the social media and was quick to reply – deal!
- 3** Customers who want to buy the Xperia Touch interactive projector will have to come up with no less than \$1699.99. The Xperia Touch interactive projector is supposed to turn any flat surface into a 23-inch HD touchscreen via a horizontal or vertical ultrashort-throw laser projection. The device runs Android 7.0 Nougat with a 13-megapixel camera with Exmor RS sensor and a two-way stereo speaker. Connectivity-wise, Sony Xperia Touch includes Bluetooth 4.2, USB Type-C, NFC (Near Field Communication), HDMI and Wi-Fi support.
- 4** KGI Securities analyst Ming-Chi Kuo predicts that Touch ID, which debuted on the Apple iPhone 5s, will go the way of the 3.5mm headphone jack with the 2018 models. The analyst says that all iPhone models to be unveiled in 2018 will come with the TrueDepth Camera and Face ID.
- 5** Huawei continues to tease information about its flagship and the next thing the Chinese company has decided to talk about is the OS that comes pre-installed on the Mate 10. Just like its predecessor, the Mate 10 will be Huawei's first smartphone to ship with Android 8.0 Oreo on board. Although the Mate 10 will be introduced next week, it's unlikely that it will hit the shelves until early November.
- 6** The Taiwan Fair Trade Commission has fined Qualcomm \$774 million for abusing the monopoly it happens to have in the handset market where its chips are widely used in the manufacture of smartphones.
- 7** The latest Samsung software update gives you the ability to completely disable the physical button that launches its Bixby virtual assistant on the latest high-end Galaxy phones.
- 8** Nokia 8 was announced back in August with 4 GB RAM and 64 GB storage. Now a new, more premium version of the flagship appeared in Finland. Several retailers in the company's home market now offer the Nokia 8 with 6 GB RAM and 128 GB storage for the sweet price of €649.99.
- 9** Lyft announced a new feature of the Lyft Driver app today called Lyft Navigation. Lyft Navigation is built with Google Maps and is accessed right from the Driver app.
- 10** iOS 11 was released a little over three weeks ago, and now it's already managed to overtake its predecessor as the most used version on Apple's mobile devices. According to analytics company Mixpanel, iOS 11 now has 47% market share, compared to 46% for iOS 10.

Hyperloop One Gets 'Virgin' Name Following Branson Investment

We're not going to be talking about "Hyperloop One" anymore because the company has a new name. It's now "Virgin Hyperloop One," following an investment by Richard Branson's Virgin Group.

The core idea of a hyperloop, as described in the original whitepaper released by Musk, is that of a magnetically driven pod propelled down a depressurized tube. In the original concept, the joint SpaceX-Tesla team speculated that such a vehicle could reach a speed of 760 miles per hour (1,200 kph), taking passengers from Los Angeles to San Francisco in around 35 minutes.



Hyperloop One has conducted several tests to show off its technology. In 2016 it ran a propulsion open-air test or "POAT" to show that its linear-electric motors worked. Then just a few months ago, it used a full-scale demo pod inside a 500-meter test track to reach speeds of almost 200 miles per hour. You can see Branson standing in front of the open test track above. We're still years away from a viable Hyperloop system, but Hyperloop One is definitely in the lead. That's probably why Virgin Group came calling.

The specifics of the investment are not clear, but Branson must have contributed a hefty chunk of change to convince the company to change its name. Virgin is not acquiring Hyperloop One—I mean Virgin Hyperloop One. The company will continue with its mission of perfecting hyperloop technology and deploying initial lines in the next few years.

(Source: Newyorktimes)

Fear of the US government led me to censor myself on Twitter

By Cherynn Low

The day I've been dreading for months is drawing near. On October 18th, the Department of Homeland Security's modified system of records is scheduled to go into effect. The updated policy would affect all US immigrants, whether they are new, existing or permanent residents or even naturalized citizens, and how they are identified by the government. More accurately, it would allow the DHS, Border Patrol and other immigration authorities to collect social media handles as part of an individual's official record. As someone who's working in the US on a visa, I was immediately worried about how it would affect my standing.

The reason the DHS gave for the update is that it is beginning to conduct "more immigration actions in an electronic environment" and that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is adjudicating "more immigration benefits and requests for action in its USCIS Electronic Immigration System."

Basically, people are increasingly applying online, and the changes would reduce the existing reliance on paper records. What the DHS wants to do is be able to officially identify you by your online personal information in addition to existing attributes like your name, birthday and address. The update would also add an individual's "country of nationality; country of residence; the USCIS Online Account Number; social media handles, aliases, associated identifiable information, and search results" to one's records.

A DHS spokesperson said in a statement, "This amendment does not represent a new policy." The notice published on September 18th was "an effort to be transparent (and) comply with existing regulations" and "due to updates in the electronic



immigration system." Multiple requests for clarity on what would change for immigrants -- whether they would have to fill out new forms asking for their social media handles or what would happen for those with private profiles, were not answered.

I was raised in Singapore, where political criticism can get you sued (if interpreted as libel), arrested (if seen as inciting violence) or even jailed. At my first full-time job, as a marketing executive for a local oil and gas company, my boss told me not to speak in meetings -- playing dumb was always better than potentially making a mistake, he said. For most of my life, I learned to swallow my feelings. My mother's mantra was "Keep your opinions to yourself," and she sternly repeated it as we made our way to family gatherings and social functions.

When I first came to live in the US, in 2008, I was surprised by how liberally people expressed themselves.

I started posting what I imagined an immigration officer would like to see, rather than show an unfiltered version of my thoughts. Truth is, Chinese New Year matters more to me than Fourth of July does, and I didn't really care if the Patriots won. I love America, and I love many of its festivities and people, but I can't change the fact that I grew up elsewhere. And honestly, I shouldn't have to.

I continued to tweet, trying mostly to stay on neutral topics. Occasionally, I let myself express anger at institutions or people, but I only feel safe ranting about issues that people agree on regardless of political views.

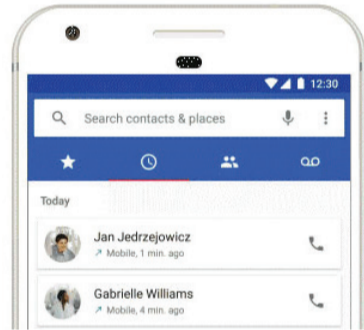
But it's what people don't see that I found the most telling. I agonized over whether to soften a jokingly violent tweet about New York's subway system. I didn't want someone to come across those thoughts, assume I was serious, and decide I'm a dangerous individual. Who knows what an immigration officer might think? Eventually, I toned down the language and added qualifiers like "I guess" to make it clear I was merely musing.

Maybe I'm being paranoid. A DHS spokesperson said the agency already does "and continues to monitor publicly-available social media to protect the homeland." They might already know everything they need to about me from years of unfiltered tweeting. But when your job, life and future depend on how strangers in some government agency perceive you, wouldn't you be careful too? Yes, my profile is public and anyone can already access it and judge me. But it's one thing to allow random people online to decide if they like you -- it's almost debilitating when your beliefs or personality are used to officially determine if you can visit a country.

Something changed a few months ago, after I first heard of the DHS' plans to incorporate social media into its visa application process. I started to second-guess myself. I avoided weighing in on topics that would show my political leanings. I dutifully wished my followers a happy Fourth of July, shared the results of the Super Bowl and retweeted posts honoring the fallen victims of 9/11. I sent these tweets mostly out of goodwill, but a small part of me felt it was better to look like I participate in American activities.

(Source: Engadget)

Google's Duo voice chat app is about to become Android's FaceTime



When Google's standalone video calling app Duo came out last year, we wondered if it would become another niche app, a flash in the pan.

Why do we need another communication app in a crowded market? Today's news shows us that we can't always be right, as Google takes the first steps to integrating Duo into its Android operating system, much like Apple's FaceTime is an integral part of iOS.

According to a Google blog post, the company is rolling out integrated video calling to first-generation Pixel, Android One and Nexus devices.

(Source: google)

Razer's first smartphone with 8GB Ram



Razer's new smartphone is only expected to launch on Nov. 1, but the leaks have already begun.

According to Phone Radar, the phone will have a 5.7 inch screen with a 2650 x 1440 resolution, a Qualcomm Snapdragon 835 processor, 64 GB of internal storage — all pretty standard stuff for a smartphone, except for one standout. It'll also come with 8GB of RAM.

So the upcoming Razer should be a lot more adept at handling heavy 3D games and multitasking, going by its specs. This should come as no surprise, given Razer's plan to position its phone as a gaming powerhouse.

(Source: mashable)

Xbox chief says Sony won't allow cross-platform Minecraft



The release last month of the Better Together update for Minecraft brought together Minecraft players on most of the game's many platforms: the Xbox One, Windows 10, mobile, and VR versions of the game now all use the same engine and can all play together without borders.

Speaking to Gamespot, Xbox chief Phil Spencer said Sony regards platform lock-in as a way of driving sales and "that reason [for blocking cross-platform play] is not going away."

In June, Sony execs insisted that the company has no "profound philosophical stance" against cross-platform play, and it has permitted play between the PC and PlayStation 4.

(Source: arstechnica)

Chinese startup's '8K' VR headset is surprisingly advanced



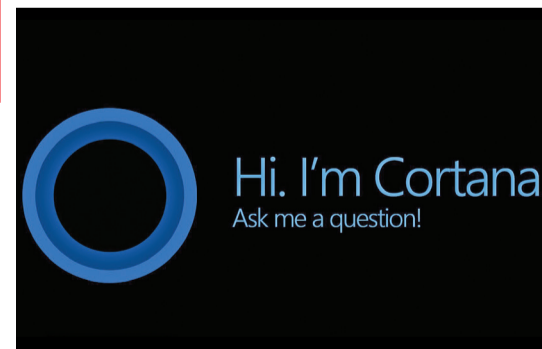
Pimax launched its Kickstarter campaign for the world's first 8K VR headset to overwhelming positivity, smashing its \$200,000 goal in just over a day.

The headset itself is set to make huge improvements over current offerings in VR, eliminating ghosting entirely, reducing the Motion to Photon (MTP) latency to less than 15ms currently and utilizing outside-in 360-degree tracking via a single base station.

Of course the main draw is its 8K visual output, which is split between a 4K display per eyepiece. This results in 16.6 million pixels and is touted by the company as six times the resolution of current VR headsets. The specifications note a minimum of 75Hz refresh rate, but aim for 90Hz as well as supporting 150/180Hz with Brainwrap.

(Source: kitguru)

Cortana may talk users through Windows settings with 'follow me'

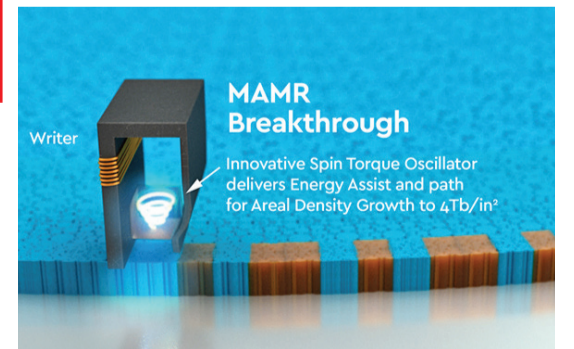


Microsoft tipster Walking Cat spotted a new feature that could be coming to Windows. Called 'Follow Me,' it will allow the voice assistant Cortana to verbally walk users through processes, like configuring settings or installing software. While the video in Walking Cat's original tweet isn't available to watch in some regions, another was uploaded to YouTube demonstrating the new feature.

The video shows Cortana helping a user hook up a Bluetooth device to Windows. There's no indication when the feature will get added to the voice assistant's repertoire, but with the Windows Fall Update possibly coming next week, here's hoping it's included.

(Source: OnMSFT)

Western Digital Reveals MAMR Technology



Western Digital just surprised the storage industry by announcing its upcoming Microwave Assisted Magnetic Recording (MAMR) technology, which could keep the price per gigabyte of spinning drives lower than SSDs for at least the next decade.

In MAMR, the magnetic write head is modified to also carry a tiny spin torque oscillator (STO) that generates microwaves with a frequency of 20-40GHz. If MAMR works out, it would most likely replace Heat Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR) and the next generation standard.

Western Digital is talking about the possibility of 40TB enterprise hard drives using MAMR by 2025, which is a mind-boggling amount of storage. The first hard drives with MAMR technology could hit the market around 2019 or 2020.

(Source: extremetech)

Health minister appoints women to key posts

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iranian Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi appointed three women to senior managerial posts on Wednesday.

According to Health Ministry's official website, Qazizadeh Hashemi has appointed Maryam Hazrati as the deputy health minister for nursing, Sareh Mohammadi as the advisor to women affairs, and Shahla Khosravi as the advisor to midwifery affairs.

Hazrati, PhD in gerontological nursing, is currently the chancellor of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. Mohammadi, a cardiologist, is the director for treatment monitoring department of the Health Ministry. Khosravi is also holding a master's degree in midwifery and a PhD in reproductive health.

Earlier, after his re-election to office, Qazizadeh Hashemi assigned another woman, Tahereh Changiz, as the caretaker for Isfahan University of Medical Sciences.

International police exhibition to kick off in Tehran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The 16th international police exhibition, IPAS 2017, showcasing police equipment will open in Tehran on October 16.

The exposition officially called "International Police, Safety, and Security Equipment Exhibition (IPAS 2017)" will run until October 19 at Imam Khomeini Mosalla, Fars news agency reported.

Numerous Iranian and foreign companies will display their products at the exhibition. According to the report, 29 countries will attend the four-day event.

Last year some 302 companies, both from Iran and 27 other countries, participated in the exhibition.

This year 25 percent of the companies participating in the exhibition will showcase their domestically produced equipment. The event is significantly promoting domestic production.

Road and border control equipment, uniforms, armor, and optical equipment are on display in the exhibition.

LEARN ENGLISH

Guns

A: Hey Nick, what are you up to?
 B: Not much, just heading over to the **shooting range**. You wanna come?
 A: Seriously? You mean to fire a real weapon? I don't know man.
 B: Yeah it will be fun! I have a 9mm **pistol** that is really easy to shoot. I also have a **revolver** that's really fun too! They have big **targets** at the range that we could use to practice and improve your aim.
 A: Yeah that would be cool! Maybe I can also have a try at other weapons like a **machine gun** or a **shotgun**! Maybe even a **rocket launcher** or an **anti-tank missile**! Or what about a **flame thrower**!
 B: Whoa, **take it easy** there Rambo. Don't **get carried away**. These weapons are not toys, and you must first learn how to handle them properly. There are basic rules that you must **abide by** in order to be safe. For example, never handle a weapon that you haven't **inspected** yourself. Always make sure there isn't anything in the **chamber**, and never put your finger on the trigger unless you are ready to shoot!
 A: Wow, I didn't know! It always looks so cool and easy in the movies!
 B: The reality is different you know, running and firing a weapon is a lot harder than in the movies! So are you ready?
 A: Let's do it!

Key vocabulary

shooting range: a specified place to practice shooting
pistol: a small gun you can use with one hand
revolver: a small gun with a container for bullets
target: object to be aimed at in shooting practice
machine gun: a gun that fires a lot of bullets very quickly
shotgun: a long gun fired from the shoulder, that shoots many small round balls at one time, used especially for killing birds or animals
rocket launcher: a device that can be carried by soldiers and used for firing rockets
anti-tank missile: a guided missile primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily armored military vehicles
flame thrower: a weapon that sprays out burning fuel
take it easy: proceed in a calm and relaxed manner
be/get carried away: to be so excited, angry, interested etc. that you are no longer really in control of what you do or say, or you forget everything else
abide by: to accept and obey a decision, rule, agreement etc., even though you may not agree with it
inspect: to look at (something) carefully
chamber: the part of a gun where you put the bullets

Supplementary vocabulary
rifle: a shoulder firearm with spiral grooves cut in the inner surface of the gun barrel
scope: instrument on a gun for viewing and aiming at the target
magazine: a metal receptacle for a number of cartridges, inserted into certain types of automatic weapons
round: ammunition for a single shot
barrel: the metal, cylindrical part of a rearm through which the bullet travels

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Tehraners donate \$1m to underprivileged students

SOCIETY TEHRAN — People in the city of Tehran made a contribution of 39 billion rials (nearly \$1 million) over a charity event called Jashn-e Atefeh to underprivileged students.

The contributions were collected over the first phase of the charity event held nationwide on September 15, according to YJC.

Tehran Province's Relief Foundation director Mohsen Valiee explained that the contributions offered by philanthropist Tehraners last year amounted to some 28 billion rials (nearly \$700,000) which indicates a 40 percent growth relatively speaking.

As Valiee said, some 13,000 students



nationwide are provided with coverage for monthly educational allowance from Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation which is tasked with providing support for underprivileged families to regain financial stability.

The second phase of the Atefeh charity event was held on October 11 across the country. The amount of contributions made over the second phase are yet to be announced.

Such charity events would certainly encourage altruistic behaviors and generosity in the society. Particularly encouraging the youngsters to practice giving even though this brings no advantage to them would result in bringing up a caring generation.

U.S. withdraws from UNESCO

→ a city in the southern part of the occupied Palestinian territories, as a Palestinian world heritage site.

UNESCO's director general, Irina Bokova, expressed her "profound regret" over the U.S. decision. "This is not just about World Heritage," she said, describing the withdrawal as "a loss to both the organization and the U.S."

"At the time when conflicts continue to tear apart societies across the world, it is deeply regrettable for the United States to withdraw from the United Nations agency promoting education for peace and protecting culture under attack," she added. "This is a loss to the United Nations family. This is a loss for multilateralism."

Disclosing the U.S. government's decision, the state department said in a statement it would seek to "remain engaged ... as a non-member observer state in order to contribute U.S. views, perspectives and expertise."

The statement added: "This decision was not taken lightly, and reflects U.S. concerns with mounting arrears at UNESCO, the need for fundamental reform in the organization, and continuing anti-Israel bias at UNESCO," the U.S. state department said.

The withdrawal will take effect on 31 December 2018. In 2011 the U.S. cancelled its budget contribution to UNESCO in protest against the admission of Palestine as a full member.

The Israeli ambassador Danny Danon said the U.S. withdrawal was proof that the "absurd and shameful resolutions against Israel have consequences."

Danon said: "Today is a new day at the UN where there is a price to pay for discrimination against Israel!" UNESCO members are voting on a replacement for



Bokova, whose term in office is coming to an end.

After two days of a secret ballot that could run until Friday, Qatar's Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari is leading France's Audrey Azoulay and Egyptian hopeful Moushira Khattab.

The emergence of Kawari has been seen by Israel and the U.S. as a failure of their efforts to secure the post for a figure they regard as more friendly.

Earlier this week Israel's UNESCO ambassador described the trajectory of voting in the secret ballots as "bad news for the organization and unfortunately also for Israel".

The U.S. decision to quit UNESCO, however, was regretted by other member countries who said the move could harm the struggling organization.

France's ambassador to the UN, Francois Delattre, said UNESCO's ideals are "part of America's DNA" and that "we need an America that stays committed to world affairs."

Tatiana Dovgalenko, Russia's deputy permanent representative to the agency, told The Associated Press that the departure of "one of the countries that founded the UN system" is "a shock and a pity."

According to a report in Foreign Policy, the U.S. decision was also driven by a desire to make budget cuts. Foreign Policy reported that the decision to pull out had been made several weeks ago during the UN general assembly in New York, and was taken over the heads of officials who had argued that the U.S. should wait until after the UNESCO election process was complete.

The U.S. previously withdrew from UNESCO under Ronald Reagan, only to rejoin under George W Bush.

In May this year, Israel was infuriated by a resolution identifying Israel as "the occupying power" in the divided city of Jerusalem and calling on it to rescind any move changing the city's "character and status".

The Trump administration has been preparing for a withdrawal for months, and a decision was expected before the end of the year, according to US officials. Several diplomats who were to have been posted to the mission this summer were told that their positions were on hold and advised to seek other jobs.

In addition, the Trump administration's proposed budget for the next fiscal year contains no provision for the possibility that UNESCO funding restrictions might be lifted.

The lack of staffing and funding plans for UNESCO by the U.S. have been accompanied by repeated denunciations of UNESCO by senior U.S. officials, including the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

(Source: The Guardian)

Working children have a fun day

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Working children spent a day of fun to celebrate the National Children's Day in Karaj, Alborz province, on Thursday.



Coordinated by the municipality of Karaj, the welfare department general of Alborz province, and some NGOs the festivities gathered some working children who spent a

day off playing and having just fun. Iran annually observes the National Children's Day on October 8 and the National Children's Week on October 7 to 13.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Govt. to expand, equip women-only parks in Tehran

The presidential office for women and family affairs has allotted 1 billion rials (around \$25,000) to expand and equip women-only parks in the province of Tehran.

Underscoring the importance of bringing joy to women's life and making arrangement for achieving this goal, Sorayya Shareqi, director general for women's affairs of Tehran governor general's office, explained that women-only parks have so far been developed and built in most cities of the province.

"All 16 cities of Tehran province will be soon provided with women-only parks," YJC quoted Shareqi as saying. It is mandatory both for families and schools to create a positive and happy atmosphere for girls and women, Shareqi suggested.

تجهیز و افزایش پارک‌های بانوان استان تهران

معاونت زنان ریاست جمهوری ۱۰۰ میلیون تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز و افزایش پارک های بانوان استان تهران اختصاص داده است.

تریا شارقى مدیرکل امور بانوان استانداری تهران با اشاره به ضرورت برنامه ریزی برای ایجاد نشاط بانوان اظهار داشت استانداری در حال حاضر در اکثر شهرستان های استان پارک های بانوان ایجاد کرده است.

وی در گفتگو با باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان گفت: قرار است تمام شهرستان های ۱۶ گانه استان به پارک بانوان مجهز شوند.

شارقى تصریح کرد: ایجاد تحولی عظیم در شیوه آموزش و شاد زیستن دختران و بانوان سطح استان امری ضروری است و در همین راستا خانواده ها و مدارس باید فضایی شاد را فراهم کنند.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Ask no questions and hear no lies

Explanation: Don't ask question because you will probably hear a lie
For example: I'm not going to tell you what we're planning for your birthday, so ask no questions and hear no lies.

PHRASAL VERB

Dredge something up

Meaning: to start talking again about something that happened a long time ago, especially something unpleasant
For example: Newsweek magazine dredged up some remarks which he made last year.

ENGLISH IDIOM

It's beyond me

Explanation: to say 'it's beyond me' means that it is impossible for you to understand
For example: It's beyond me why Mary wants to marry John.

