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Rouhani: JCPOA sturdier

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



Health minister appoints women to key posts 12





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. $\rightarrow 2$

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. \rightarrow 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, \rightarrow 12



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 "threa 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 socalled 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. Accordina 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





Trump resorts to snapback mechanism

ventually, the U.S. president announced his strategy for the nu-✓ clear deal with Iran offically 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

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. \rightarrow 7

Climate Change is a threat to rich and poor alike heritage island of Dominica.

The record floods across Bandladesh. 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; The impact is not confined to this region. for both, these events reiterate the need to act on a changing climate that threatens only more frequent and more severe disasters.

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

ni and Puerto Ricc 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.

by Achim Steiner, Patricia Espinosa

and Robert Glasser

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

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. \rightarrow 11



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 Nadalian 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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"... we encourage the U.S. Administra-

tion and Congress to consider the impli-

cations to the security of the U.S. and its

allies before taking any steps that might undermine the JCPOA, such as re-im-

posing sanctions on Iran lifted under the

ensuring the JCPOA is maintained. Inde-

pendent of the JCPOA, we need to make

sure that our collective wider concerns

are being addressed," they said, referring

Foreign Ministry rebuffs Trump

In an announcement on Friday, the

The principles of the Islamic Republic

Iranian Foreign Ministry decried Wash-

of Iran are to support the peace and sta-

bility of the region and confront destabi-

lizing and divisive measures aimed at cre-

ating tension and conflict in the region.

Therefore, the decisive struggle against

ISIL and terrorist groups in the region is a

support for terrorist groups and repres-

sive regimes, has been one of the main

sources of instability in the region. The

United States cannot blame others to es-

cape the burden and should be responsi-

Over the past few decades, the U.S.

policy in support of the Zionist regime

and oppressive and repressive regimes

in the region has led to constant conflict

on the one hand, and the emergence

of the phenomenon of terrorism on the

Meanwhile, U.S. policy, especially its

priority of the Islamic Republic.

ble for its misguided policies.

ington's adventures against Tehran.

"Our governments are committed to

agreement."

strategy

to Iran's ballistic missiles

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Cleric urges authorities to distrust America

POLITICS TEHRAN — Tehran's interim Friday d e s k prayer preacher Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi Kermani said on Friday that officials should learn from past experience that the United States strongly opposes the Islamic Republic.

"America has never been reconcilable with the Islamic (Republic) establishment," Movahedi Kermani said, calling on the country's authorities to counter bullying by the new U.S. administration.

He also described U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks during his speech at the UN General Assembly as "absurd", saying he revealed the real image of America to the world.



Iranian Army backs **IRGC** against U.S. threats

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian Army on d e s k Thursday released a statement giving its strong support for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) against the U.S. administration's hawkish stances toward the IRGC.

Hitting back at the Trump administration for its plan to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization, the Army said all Iranian Armed Forces are "unified" in defending the country and fighting against terrorism.

Without the IRGC's contribution in counterterrorism efforts, the acts of terrorism would have engulfed much of the region, the statement added.



Nuclear chief: Iran prepared for Trump decision on JCPOA

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Salehi, director e s k of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Wednesday that Iran will respond appropriately to U.S. government's move on the nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA.

Following a meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson in London, Salehi said Tehran has "prepared itself for various scenarios", Press TV reported.

He added, "The European Union has so far indicted that it is willing to preserve the JCPOA but whether or not it can resist the U.S. is unpredictable.



Iran, Russia to stage joint naval exercise in Caspian Sea

POLITICS TEHRAN — The naval forces of Iran e s k and Russia are poised to stage a joint exercise in the Caspian Sea to display their military might, Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari told IRIB on Friday.

Sayyari said a naval fleet, comprised of the domestically-manufactured Damavand destroyer and missile-launching Peykan-class warship, would leave for the Russian port city of Makhachkala located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea on Saturday. He added that the exercise would boost bilateral marine cooperation and improve security in the Caspian Sea

The shrill Trumpet

Tehran says to respect JCPOA, pursue missile program, and back IRGC EU leaders back Iran against Trump's rhetoric

POLITICS TEHRAN — While e s k Tehran said it will stand firm in pursuing its missile program and endorsing the IRGC despite U.S. President Donald Trump's decertification of the Joint comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the EU also expressed disagreement with Washington's new Iran strate-

President Hassan Rouhani, in response to Trump, said Iran will respect the nuclear deal despite Washington's new strategy.

Rouhani also said Trump's speech showed that the JCPOA is more strongly built than what Trump had imagined during his election campaigns.

"We will respect the deal as long as our interests are met," Rouhani said, adding Tehran will continue to work with the UN nuclear watchdog in its oversight of the Islamic Republic's nuclear activities. "We were not caught off-guard" by

this new move, for it has many precedents over the past 40 years, Rouhani stated. Addressing other JCPOA parties, he

stressed, "If our partners would attempt to disregard their obligations under the deal, we will not hesitate a moment to

In response to Trump's announced measures to pose restrictions on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Rouhani said it cannot be justified to call the IRGC a terrorist group while it is the main force fighting Daesh.

and Yemeni nations, have fought terrorist groups reared by America and will not sit idle until their destruction.

program, the president noted that Iran's program is only for defensive purposes. "Are you really worried of Iran's missiles? What about weapons you keep selling to aggressor states which bomb innocent people in Yemen with weapons and

"The Iranian nation is now more determined to defend itself and will take

Rouhani earlier the day made a phone call to his French counterpart Emmanuel

"The JCPOA is in no way negotiable,

"The International Atomic Energy Agency is the only body to declare Iran's commitment to its obligations, and mixing multilateral and international commitments with domestic disagreements in



confidence," Rouhani stated. EU say U.S. cannot walk out of nuclear deal

A few minutes after Trump announced his strategy, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini objected to his statements.

In a press conference, Mogherini said the JCPOA is a multinational deal and therefore cannot be terminated by one state

Furthermore, she noted, the deal is backed by a United Nations Security Council resolution. "I do not think a country can violate a UN resolution," she stressed.

In another move, the UK government published on its website a joint statement by Prime Minister Theresa May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron following Trump's statement on Trump's Iran strat-

"We, the Leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom take note of President Trump's decision not to recertify Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action to Congress and are concerned by the possible implications," the three leaders said.

"We stand committed to the JCPOA and its full implementation by all sides. Preserving the JCPOA is in our shared national security interest. The nuclear deal was the culmination of 13 years of diplomacy and was a major step towards ensuring that Iran's nuclear program is not diverted for military purposes.

Rouhani says: "If our partners would attempt we will not hesitate a moment to respond."

other. American friends and allies in the region are the main sponsors of international terrorism, which does not even spare American citizens inside the United States.

Iran's missile power is only defensive and deterrent. This capability has played an important role so far in the path of regional peace and stability.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is serious about maintaining and expanding its defense and security capabilities.

The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, represent the power and authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The government and all of Iran's people strongly support these forces. Any action against the Islamic Republic's armed forces, including the IRGC, will be faced with a consistent response by the Islamic Republic.

The principled and permanent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the fight against weapons of mass destruction throughout the world and the move towards global disarmament.

This policy is the basis, and the compliance of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been approved by the only supervisory authority for 8 times. On the other hand, the failure of the United States to comply with this agreement and its repeated violations of the spirit and the terms of the agreement is clear.

The differences between Iranian and American policies in many regional and global issues are obvious and undeniable. Since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, U.S. governments have pushed these disagreements toward inimical policies against Iran.

Trump's "new strategy"

Trump on Friday said he would not certify the Iran deal, paving the way for the Congress to adopt measures to pose new restrictions on Iran.

Accusing Iran of sponsoring terrorism and violating the nuclear deal, Trump said his government will work closely with Congress to mend what he called the flaws in the JCPOA and work more restrictions into sunset conditions of the deal, in what he said would ensure that a "nuclear breakout" of Iran would be precluded.

He also threatened that in case his administration and Congress do not agree on putting more sanctions on Iran, he will terminate the deal in person.

Trump in particular said Washington will adopt "tough sanctions" on the IRGC.

In the meantime, the Treasury announced it had put under sanctions a number of companies affiliated with the IRGC

to disregard their obligations under the deal,

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

respond."

'The Guards, along the Iraqi, Syrian,

As for Trump's criticism of Iran's missile

planes made by you?"

stronger measures to ensure that."

Macron, where he stressed that any action taken by the president of the United States against the JCPOA means undermining a multilateral agreement.

and all parties must adhere to their obligations and the president or the Congress of the United States must not be allowed to take actions against it," Rouhani asserted

the U.S. can be very dangerous for global



Iran not to start wars but to make aggressors regret: commander

POLITICS TEHRAN — The deputy commander d e s k of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force said on Friday that although Iran is not a warmonger, it will make any aggressor regret.

Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani slammed the recent remarks by top U.S. officials against the Islamic Republic, saying, "Any nonsense they say will be to their detriment."

According to Tasnim, he also emphasized that Iran has not started wars against any country since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Trump resorts to snapback mechanism

 $1 \rightarrow$ Obviously, any attempt by the president of the United States and his advisors to change the nuclear deal will mean a cancellation of the agreement. During the recent UN General Assembly meeting in New York, Trump held talks with European and Israeli officials on this issue. Anyway, any change in the nuclear accord is considered the red line by the Islamic Republic and it means the withdrawal of Washingtons from the JCPOA.

What is certain is that Iran is united against the extremely unacceptable excesses of the United States on the nuclear deal. Trump and his entourage will face a heavy defeat against Iran.

 $1 \rightarrow$ He has repeatedly expressed his strong opposition to the nuclear accord and has desperately sought a pretext to scrap or weaken it.

Trump's stance on the nuclear deal

comes as the International Atomic Energy Agency has verified Iran's adherence to the terms of the nuclear agreement for eight times.

The European Union foreign policy

chief, Federica Mogherini, has said the 27-nation bloc will remain committed to the nuclear deal with or without the United States

the agreement which went into force in early 2016 is working well.

Gabriel also warned, "A denunciation of the Iran agreement would turn the All international dignitaries have said Middle East into a hot crisis region."

Can Europe move from rhetoric to action on Iran deal

By Mohammad Hashemi

Just hours after the United States withdrew from the UN's cultural organization, Richard Hass the President of the Council on Foreign Relations wrote in a tweet "Trump's foreign policy has found its theme: The Withdrawal Doctrine. The U.S. has left/threatening to leave TPP, Paris accord, UNESCO, NAFTA, JCPOA."

By the time this paper appears on the newsstands, Donald Trump, the U.S. president, should have made his decision on whether the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran is in the interest of the U.S. and whether Iran is complying. Irrespective of the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has repeatedly certified Iran's compliance.

In the meantime, in Europe, Trump's move to abandon the nuclear deal, would be seen as far more damaging than his decision in June to pull out of the Paris climate accord. German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on Thursday said that any move by Trump's administration to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal would drive a wedge between Europe and the U.S.

The two-year old agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, was a remarkable diplomatic feat among others as a rare example of European unity. EU members finally could set their differences aside and reach a compromise. That's why fearing Trump might not certify Iranian compliance with the JCPOA European capitals launched "one of the most intense lobbying campaigns in recent memory" in the U.S. to save the deal. European officials in Tehran also employed different measures to ensure the Iranian public of Europe's support for the

agreement. Some even employed unusual methods. Germany's Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchtold tweeted photos of himself posing with "Yes to JCPOA" Posters hanged on the outside wall of German embassy in Tehran. German media referred to the move as "a clear message of support" for the international agreement.

Berlin's ambassador later gave a statement saying "Germany and its partners will continue their efforts so that the people of Iran and their families enjoy all the potentials of the deal in their everyday life."

EU caves in to U.S. pressure

Despite all these campaigns, the post-sanctions environment in Iran has been full of contradictions and Iranians have mixed feelings about the benefits of the deal. Even though major European firms like Airbus, Total and Siemens announced big deals in Iran, benefits from the 2015 accord have yet to reach Iran's 80 million people. Part of the problem is that hardly any major banks want to get involved in projects and business with Iran due to U.S. sanctions that remain in place. And despite all the rhetoric in support of the accord, Europeans have failed to stand up to the United States and effectively resolve this huge problem.

The UK ambassador to Tehran confirmed the above point in an interview with Iran Students News Agency on Wednesday. Nicholas Hopton said "...some of these banks face issues due to the remaining American primary sanctions including the financial institutions that trade using USD. They have restrictions for working with Iran. There are financial institutions active in the UK that have trade with Americans and use USD for their transactions. This reduces the possibility of cooperation between big international banks including British banks with Iran..."

'Illusion of division'

In Iran, skeptics[m1] of the JCPOA believe, to think of a division between U.S. and EU is merely an "illusion". They say due to close transatlantic bonds between the EU and the U.S., Europeans are not able to turn away from Washington and history has proven that members of EU always coordinate their policies with the U.S. Therefore, they believe the U.S. along with the European countries are playing 'good cop bad cop policy' with Iran in order to extend the JCPOA and impose stronger limits on Iran's ballistic missile capabilities as well as its regional role beyond the timeline set out in the accord. Iran has repeated that its missile program is for defensive purposes and is not open to any negotiations.

Just days before Trump's Friday speech on Iran policy, outgoing Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, had described Trump's concerns about Iran as "justifiable" and suggested that European allies are ready to ramp up pressure on the country through diplomatic means to engage it on the difficult subject of the Middle East.

All said, for Europe to save "this rare triumph of international diplomacy" and gain back the trust of Iranian people, far more than symbolic gestures and rhetoric are needed.

EU ambassador to Washington David O' Sullivan said last month that if Washington targets European firms that do business in Iran, Brussels would revert to a 1990era law that shield European companies from extraterritorial sanctions. Only time will tell if Europe is really prepared to stand up to the United States and prove the skeptics wrong

On Monday, Turkish Foreign Minister

Mevlut Cavusoglu had said Turkey might

cancel its deal on S-400 with Russia and

seek a deal with other partners if Moscow was reluctant to share the technology

of its advanced air defense system with

Ankara. The Turkish foreign minister says Ankara may cancel the deal on buying

S-400 missile systems from Russia if Mos-

cow is not willing to share the technology

a deposit as part of an agreement with Russia for the purchase of the missile sys-

tem. S-400 is designed to detect, track,

and destroy planes, drones, or missiles as far as 402 kilometers away. It has previ-

ously been sold only to China and India.

Ankara's decision to buy the S-400s

has been seen in some Western capitals

as a snub to the United States-led military

alliance of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty

Jens Stoltenberg said this week that Tur-

key was not seeking to antagonize the al-

liance by purchasing the system and was

in talks with France and Italy to buy similar

However, NATO Secretary-General

Organization), of which it is a member.

Last month, Turkey said it had paid

with Turkey.

weapons.

Russia, Saudi Arabia almost finalize S-400 deal

Russia and the House of Saud regime are in talks to sign an agreement on the purchase by Riyadh of the Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile defense system.

"The talks are ongoing now, the terms are being agreed," and a contract could be signed "in the nearest time," Russian President Vladimir Putin said, Interfax news agency reported on Friday.

King Salman of Saudi Arabia last Wednesday became the first Saudi regime monarch to ever visit Russia.

King Salman arrived at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport on a historic first visit.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later briefed reporters about the content of the talks that had been held between Putin and Salman and said bilateral military cooperation between Russia and the House of Saud regime had not been aimed at other countries.

The trip was seen on the one hand as a sign that Saudi Arabia, which has been supporting the anti-Damascus militants since 2011, was coming to terms with the turn of the tide in Syria, where Moscow is successfully helping the government defeat them. On the other, it was seen as an attempt to converge Riyadh and Moscow around efforts to boost and stabilize oil



prices, on which both countries heavily depend.

Turkey, Russia talking S-500

Separately, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said an agreement between his country and Russia on the purchase of S-400 was proceeding without problem, and that Ankara was in talks with Moscow to also purchase the more

advanced S-500.

Erdogan said there would be no joint production in the first stage of S-400 purchases, but in the second stage, "God willing, we will take joint production steps." "In our talks with Putin, we are not

thinking of stopping with the S-400s. We have had talks on the S-500s, too," he added.

Bahrainis stage protest against potential normalization of ties with Israel

People in Bahrain have held protest rallies to voice their anger at Manama's reported plans to normalize ties with the regime in Israel.

On Thursday, protesters took the streets in several villages and towns, chanting "No to Normalization!"

The Bahraini February 14 media network shared footage showing Bahraini citizens, walking over the Israeli flag. They also condemned the United States, Tel Aviv's closest ally, chanting, "The U.S. is the great Satan."

The protester also slammed the Manama regime for the arrest of minors amid its crackdown on political dissent and opposition activists. The protests, however, turned violent,

with reports of clashes between the protesters and regime forces.

The demonstrations come amid reports that Israel is on the path to normalize diplomatic ties with Bahrain as the two sides draw closer. On September 23, unnamed Western and Bahraini officials told the Middle East Eye news portal that an official announcement of the establishment of relations could happen as soon as next year.

Bahrain has no formal diplomatic relations with Israel. However, a trickle of Israeli tourists and businessmen have been known to visit the tiny Persian Gulf state of 1.4 million people in recent years.

Israeli media said last month that Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had called for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, and that he intended to allow citizens from his kingdom to visit Israel.

Also when former Israeli president Shimon Peres died in 2016, Bahrain was the only Persian Gulf state to publicly mourn his death. In 2009, Bahrain's crown prince Sheikh Salman ben Hamad Al Khalifah penned an op-ed for the Washington Post, in which he urged Arab countries to communicate more frequently with Israel for the sake of what he called the "peace process."

(Source: Press TV)

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. police killings undercounted by half: study

Over half of all police killings in the United States in 2015 were wrongly classified as not having been the result of interactions with officers, a new Harvard study based on Guardian data has found.

The finding is just the latest to show government databases seriously undercounting the number of people killed by police.

"Right now the data quality is bad and unacceptable," said lead researcher Justin Feldman. "To effectively address the problem of law enforcement-related deaths, the public needs better data about who is being killed, where, and under what circumstances."

Feldman used data from the Guardian's 2015 investigation into police killings, The Counted, and compared it with data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS). That dataset, which is kept by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), was found to have misclassified 55.2% of all police killings, with the errors occurring disproportionately in low-income jurisdictions.

NVSS data has been collected since the late 1800s and today is responsible



determinations are made by local medical examiners and coroners, reported on death certificates, and submitted to the CDC. To assess how accurately that classification was being used, the team took the 1,146 police-related deaths recorded by The Counted in 2015, removed 60 cases that did not fit the criteria of the CDC's "legal intervention" category and requested death certificate data for the remaining 1,086 individuals. They found that a majority, 599

deaths, were classified as resulting from something other than legal intervention - principally "assault".

Researchers found the accuracy varied wildly by state, with just 17.6% misclassification in Washington, but a startling cases of "legal intervention" captured in the NVSS which were not included in The Counted.

Feldman also noted that this problem was law-enforcement specific. "Évidence suggests that the accuracy of mortality classification for homicide – an outcome similar to law-enforcement-related mortality ... is very high", the report reads. One 2014 study cited puts the figure at 99%

In 2015 the Guardian launched The Counted, an interactive, crowd sourced database attempting to track police killings throughout the U.S. The project was intended to help remedy the lack of reliable data on police killings, a lack that became especially visible after the 2014 unrest in Ferguson put policing in the national spotlight.

Other federal databases, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) arrest-related death count and the FBI's supplementary homicide reports were similarly criticized for severely undercounting police-related deaths. Both programs have been dramatically reworked since The Counted and similar nedia/open source databases torcea officials such as the former FBI director James Comey to admit that newspapers had more accurate data than the government on police violence. (Source: agencies)

Black man attacked at Charlottesville rally charged



The United States police have charged an African American man who was brutally beaten by at least six white nationalists following a far-right rally in Charlottesville with unlawful wounding.

DeAndre Harris, 20, who sustained a spinal injury and a head wound that required 10 stitches, turned himself in to Charlottesville Police on Thursday and was served a warrant charging him with unlawful wounding.

Harold Crews, a white man who identifies himself as a "Southern Nationalist" on Twitter, claimed that Harris injured him at a car park following the "Unite the Right" rally on August 12.

Unlawful wounding is a felony charge punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Police said Harris was taken before a magistrate and released on an unsecured bond.

The confrontation took place after a friend of Harris attempted to take a Confederate flag, widely considered a symbol of white supremacy, away from one of the marchers.

A video of the assault was shared and viewed widely in the days following the rally, which saw hundreds of white supremacists marching in Charlottesville to protest the city's plans to remove a statue of Confederate General Robert E Lee. The video of the assault shows Harris being kicked and punched by a group of white supremacists.

Separately at the rally, a man with links to a white nationalist group allegedly rammed his car into a group of anti-racist protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others.

Jeff Fogel, who is currently in the running to become Charlottesville's Commonwealth Attorney, told Al Jazeera that Charlottesville police had "a lot to explain," noting that authorities had been slow to apprehend far-right protesters accused of similar misconduct.

According to a statement by the Charlottesville police, the alleged "victim went to the magistrate's office, presented the

facts of what occurred and attempted to obtain the warrant". The statement added: "The magistrate requested that a detective respond and verify these facts.

A Charlottesville Police Department detective did respond, verified the facts, and a warrant for unlawful wounding ... was issued."

Regarding the statement's claim that police "verified" the facts, Fogel said he takes "that to mean that the police claim [Harris] committed the offence. Now it's up to the police department to show us the proof".

A national campaign to identify and charge the six men who attacked Harris was spearheaded by Shaun King, a writer and civil rights activist.

King collected photo and video evidence of the assault and shared images of the assailants, leading to the identification of at least two, who were also charged with unlawful wounding.

King was outraged by the warrant, saying Harris "is a victim and only a victim in this".

For many in Charlottesville, the warrant is a continuation of discrimination and inequality in their community. (Source: Al Jazeera)

for, among other things, addregating all annual U.S. deaths. In 1949, the report added a category to capture "legal intervention" as a cause of death along with classifications like cancer, heart disease and accidents. Typically these 100% in Oklahoma.

"[Oklahoma] had more than 30 people were killed by police there in 2015 and none of them were counted on death certificates," Feldman said. According to the report, there were 36

S. Africa court allows corruption prosecution of Zuma

South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal has ruled that President Jacob Zuma can face prosecution over almost 800 charges of corruption relating to a 1990s arms deal.

Zuma had lodged a challenge at the court in Bloemfontein after a lower court decided in 2016 to reinstate the charges that were previously discontinued by prosecutors.

'The reasons for discontinuing the prosecution given... do not bear scrutiny," said Supreme Court judge Eric Leach who read the ruling.

Zuma said he was "disappointed" by the decision.

In a statement from his office, Zuma said he now expects the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to consider representations on the case before making the decision to prosecute him.

The statement did not spell out the representations.

The opposition Democratic Alliance party had sought in 12 court appearances since 2009 to reactivate the charges over controversial post-apartheid military contracts which have dogged Zuma for much of his time in government.

The president, who is accused of corruption, fraud, money-laundering and racketeering, has always insisted he is innocent.

Zuma and other government officials were accused of taking kickbacks from the \$5bn purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and other arms manufactured by five European firms, including British military equipment maker BAE Systems and French company Thales.

Charges were first brought against Zuma in 2005 but dropped by prosecutors in 2009.

(Source: agencies)

Lebanese judge issues arrest warrant for former Libya PM over Sadr abduction

Lebanese investigative Judge Zaher Hamadeh has issued an arrest warrant for former Libyan Prime Minister Abdessalam Jalloud over the disappearance of the country's prominent Shia leader Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two companions in the North African nation nearly 40 years ago.

On Friday, Hamadeh found Jalloud guilty and tried him in absentia for the cleric's abduction, Lebanon's stateowned National News Agency (NNA) reported.

Jalloud was the prime minister of Libya between 1972 and 1977, and operated alongside slain Dictator Muammar Gaddafi as second-in-command. He disappeared from public view in 1995. He is the last surviving leader of Libya's 1969 September Revolution.

The Lebanese parliament speaker says he strongly believes that Sadr is still alive, calling for collective efforts to

find out about the fate of the cleric and his companions. 1978, during an official visit to the Libyan capital Tripoli. Speaking at a ceremony marking the 39th anniversary of Sadr's disappearance in Beirut, Nabih Berri called on Lebanese media outlets to follow up on the clergyman's fate, stressing that Lebanese judicial officials were also looking into the case.

The fact-finding mission formed to inquire about the case has however been unable to visit Libya due to violence and political instability in the North African country, the top Lebanese legislator argued.

Imam Musa al-Sadr was a highly revered Shia cleric of Iranian descent, who founded the Lebanese Amal (Hope) Movement in 1974. He came to Lebanon in 1959 to work for the rights of Shia Muslims in the port city of Tyre, located about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Beirut. The prominent Shia cleric disappeared on August 31,

He was accompanied by Sheikh Mohammad Yaqoub and journalist Abbas Badreddine. Lebanon still holds former Libyan officials responsible for

the disappearance of the trio. Since Gaddafi was deposed and killed in 2011, Lebanon and Iran have repeatedly called on the Libyan government to launch an investigation into Sadr's disappearance.

Hannibal Gaddafi, the son of the Libyan dictator, is currently in custody in Lebanon, facing charges of withholding information regarding Sadr's case.

In August 2016, Sadr's family filed a lawsuit against Gaddafi over his role in the disappearance of the senior Shia cleric.

(Source: Press TV)

Syrian forces advance on ISIL-controlled Dayr al-Zawr

Syrian government forces have pushed deeper into the country's troubled city of Mayadin as they are joined by allied fighters from popular defense groups in major operations to drive the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists from the strategic eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr. Syria's official news agency SANA reported on Friday that army units had carried out intensive operations against ISIL hideouts in Mayadin, located about 44 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city of Dayr al-Zawr, advancing into the western neighborhoods of the city, namely al-Baloum, the Industrial Area and al-Madajin. The report added that Syrian army troops had also managed to establish full control over al-Tibeh village, which lies in the vicinity of Mayadin. Furthermore, scores of ISIL terrorists were killed and injured as Syrian army units engaged in fierce clashes with the Takfiris in Hatla village as well as al-Orfi and al-Sinaa areas on the

outskirts of Dayr al-Zawr. Syrian Air Force fighter jets and artillery units also struck ISIL positions in the towns of Diban, Muhasan, al-Jeneinah, Hawijah Sakr, al-Hussainiyah, al-Boleel, Boqruss Tahtani and Bogruss Foghani as well as al-Hamidiyah and al-Hawiqah districts, killing a number of extremists and destroying their vehicles. Later on Friday, Syrian forces could wrest complete control over the highway linking Mayadin to the city of Bukamal near the border with Iraq.

ISIL overran large parts of Dayr al-Zawr province, including its many oil fields, in mid-2014 as it seized swathes of land in Syria and neighboring Iraq.

By early 2015, the Takfiri terrorists were in control of some parts of the city of Dayr al-Zawr and besieged the remaining parts, which were under government control. It is estimated that 100,000 people remain in the government-held parts of the city.

(Source: Press TV)

N E W S IN BRIEF



Tehran hosting intl. printing, packaging expo

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The first edition of Iran's 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 finanial 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 reiliance 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)

C O N O M Y Е

S. Korean company signs airport system sales **contract with Iran**

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Korea Aire s k ports 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 manu-

will promote sales of instrument landing systems and signal analyzers on behalf of KAC. In particular, KAC hopes to promote

Iran, Mauritius mull over development of economic co-op

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Maurid e s ^k tius' Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo 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.



which uses Wi-Fi to remotely monitor signals

At Inter Airport Europe, KAC showcased its latest developments in airport tre in Germany from Tuesday to Friday.

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equipment including passenger boarding bridges and baggage handling systems. IAE was held at the Munich Trade Cen-

Pakistan approves purchase of additional 100MW electricity from Iran

E N E R G Y d e s k stan'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 Gawadar.

The electricity is going to be supplied to Gawadar area from Iran through 132kv interconnection lines between Pakistan and Iran.

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

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian e s k Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mohammad Zaeri Amirani said that Sri Lankan 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

every solution. It won>t help enhance our trade relations. Innovative, forward-focused thinking is an absolute necessity to increase the two countries> bilateral trade. That>s the way forward to gain from our capacities and opportunities. From the time I took up my assignment as ambassador to Sri Lanka, I-ve received the fullest cooperation and I-m determined to take our historic relations to new heights, Zaeri Amirani assured.

Dr. Hossein Bamiri, the commercial attaché of the embassy of Iran, pointed out with data that bilateral trade volumes between 2009 and 2016 had fluctuated from time to time, always in favor of Iran.

At present Iran and Sri Lanka do not have banking relations. But at the meeting which was held on August 19, between Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament Karu Jayasuriya, both emphasized the need to develop banking relations between the countries.

«We hope that the establishing of banking relations between Sri Lanka and Iran would be possible towards the end of this year or in the beginning of next year, Bamiri said.

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 head-

quartered 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 Luxembourgbased 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 capital-

ize 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)



sales of the new portable signal analyzer,

factures electrical equipment in Iran,

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 (Source: Reuetrs) details.

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)

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 Rohingva 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)

World Bank eyes redirecting Myanmar funds for Rohingya crisis

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 guickly 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) OCTOBER 14, 2017

Oil rallies on Chinese import boost and Mideast tensions

Oil prices firmed on Friday as strong Chinese oil import data and turmoil in the Middle East boosted bulls in a market that has already shown signs of rebalancing after years of excess.

Brent was at \$57.23 at 0914 GMT, up 98 cents. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was at \$51.41 per barrel, up 81 cents from its last settlement.

The contracts were on track for weekly gains of more than 2 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

Chinese oil imports hit 9 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, data showed on Friday. Imports averaged 8.5 million bpd between January and September, solidifying China's position as the world's biggest oil importer.

"We woke up with the strong data from China. That's on the supportive side," said Olivier Jakob, managing director of PetroMatrix.

China's huge imports have been strongly driven by purchases for its strategic petroleum reserves (SPR).

The nation has spent around \$24 billion on building its crude reserves since 2015 and now holds around 850 million barrels of oil in inventory, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Unrest in Iraq, and possible U.S. action on the Iran nuclear deal, also underpinned prices.

On Friday, local television reported that tens of thousands of Kurdish fighters had deployed in the Kirkuk oil region to confront possible "threats" from Iraqi forces.

Tensions between the two, which traders fear could cut off oil exports from the region, have been building since Iraq's Kurds overwhelmingly backed independence in a Sept. 25 vote.

Later on Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to announce that he will not certify the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The deal has to be re-certified every 90 days and is due for renewal on Sunday.

The step would give the U.S. Congress 60 days to decide whether to impose sanctions, but Iran's parliament



speaker told the TASS news agency that decertification would "be the end" of the deal and cause "global chaos".

"U.S. sanctions could cut off a lot of Iranian oil trade finance," FGE President Jeff Brown told Reuters this week.

Despite the bullish signals, Bernstein Research said that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries needed to extend its agreement to reduce oil output beyond its current March 2018 expiry date in

order to clear stocks.

OPEC, with other producers including Russia, have agreed to production cuts of 1.8 million bpd.

"OPEC will not achieve normalized inventory levels before cuts expire at the end of March," Bernstein analysts said, adding: "We believe an extension of cuts through 2018 should allow inventories to reach normalized levels before the end of 2018".

(Source: Reuters)

IEA: oil prices to hit a ceiling in 2018

The global oil market continues to make progress, but the ongoing production gains from non-OPEC countries will probably act as a "the ceiling for aspirations of higher oil prices" in 2018, according to a new report from the International Energy Agency.

In its monthly Oil Market Report, the IEA cataloged the long list of indicators that suggests the oil market has made huge strides this year towards rebalancing. In the second and the third quarter, the global supply/demand balance was in a deficit, putting total inventories on track to drain at a rate of 0.3 million barrels per day for the whole of 2017.

The drawdowns were especially felt in floating storage, oil in transit, and in independent storage. Currently, OECD inventories are only 170 million barrels above the five-year average, a substantial drop from the 318 millionbarrel surplus seen back in January. Moreover, stocks even fell in months when they typically rise.

All of this progress fueled a wave of optimism in the third quarter, culminating in a record buildup in bullish positions by money managers supply about 620,000 bpd higher than a year ago, a figure that already takes into account the 400,000 bpd year-on-year decline in OPEC production.

In fact, the IEA warned that the positive movements towards a tighter market might have run out of steam after two quarters of progress. U.S. shale production is showing some signs of weakness, but is still growing at an impressive rate. The spike in demand this summer is set to soften a bit. The IEA predicts that the supply and demand will be roughly balanced in 2018 after the sizable deficit this year, meaning that further progress towards rebalancing might be disappointingly slow.

Much of that is because U.S. shale is expected to plug the deficit, offsetting the barrels taken off the market by OPEC. The IEA sees non-OPEC growth expanding by 0.7 million barrels per day (mb/d) this year, a figure that doubles to an explosive 1.5 mb/d increase in 2018. This is the real reason why analysts are pessimistic about further price gains.

The upshot of these findings is that OPEC might need to take more dramatic action if it wants stronger and faster price increases. The IEA does not necessarily see that as a likely outcome of the next OPEC meeting, but the agency suggested in its report that OPEC officials are probably seeing the same thing that everyone else is seeing: the oil market stubbornly refusing to move towards balance despite some notable progress, and the prospect that 2018 might bring about more downside



risk unless decisive action is taken.

The IEA sees the recent "bromance" between Saudi Arabia and Russia as a sign that two of the world's largest oil producers "have re-committed to do whatever it takes to underpin the market and to support the long process of rebalancing" The suddenly warm Saudi-Russian relationship is a strong indicator that the OPEC/non-OPEC coalition will at least extend their cuts beyond March 2018 when they meet in a few weeks, perhaps as long as through the end of next year. Although the possibility of deeper cuts remains remote, it is not an impossibility. And because Saudi Arabia and Russia

are demonstrating their resolve, they will almost certainly drag the rest of the group along with them. "While there may still be doubts about some of them, the market heavyweights have once again walked into the ring," the IEA wrote.

Ultimately, the oil market looks fundamentally different than it did last year or even last quarter. The sharp drop in global inventories alone is evidence that things are heading in the right direction. But the journey isn't over yet. "A lot has been achieved towards stabilizing the market, but to build on this success in 2018 will require continued discipline," the IEA concluded. *(Source: oilprice.com)*

Chevron abandons plan to drill for oil in Great Australian Bight

Chevron has become the second big oil company to abandon plans to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight, almost exactly a year after BP ditched its more advanced plans for the untapped basin.

Oil companies have compared the potential of the bight to the Gulf of Mexico, where there are thousands of oil rigs.

But the push for fossil fuel exploitation of the region has come up against stiff opposition, since the bight also contains virtually pristine waters and is a vital breeding and feeding ground for many marine mammals, including 36 species of whales and dolphins.

Chevron had not submitted an environmental plan to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Agency). Before BP ditched its plans, its environmental plans were rejected by Nopsema three times, finding each time it failed to meet seven of eight requirements, including complying with relevant laws and demonstrating the environmental im-

pacts would be acceptable. Chevron said its decision had nothing to do with government policy, regulations, community or environmental concerns, but was purely commercial, blaming low oil prices and more competitive ventures off the coast of Western Australia.

The company indicated that its drilling licenses could be sold to another party. Chevron Australia's managing director, Nigel Hearne, said: "We are confident the Great Australian Bight can



be developed safely and responsibly and we will work closely with the interested stakeholders to help realize its potential."

After BP announced it was withdrawing from the bight, it said its licenses would be transferred to its junior partner in the venture, Statoil. Statoil still plans to drill one exploration well before the end of 2019.

BP is still paying more than half a million dollars a day for the drilling rig it had purpose-built for the Great Australian Bight to sit in standby mode.

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association said Chevron's move was disappointing, since oil production in the bight would ease Australia's reliance on imports.

[']But any oil produced would most likely be shipped to Asia owing to the lack of refining capability in Australia.

Environmentalists declared Chevron's announcement a victory and called for Statoil and other companies with plans in the bight to follow suit.

"Chevron has worked out what BP realized when it withdrew from the Great Australian Bight a year ago almost to the day," said Peter Owen, South Australia director of the Wilderness Society, which has been leading the campaign against drilling in the bight.

"BP's decision showed that it's too expensive to establish the significant and costly risk-management and clean-up capacity needed to protect our communities from the enormous spill risks associated with drilling in this part of the world," he said.

"Statoil, Santos, Murphy and Karoon will face the same massive costs and increasing community opposition that BP and Chevron experienced. Statoil and others should quit the bight and leave the communities surrounding the bight in peace," Owen said.

Sea Shepherd Australia's managing director, Jeff Hansen, said: "We should not be expanding the fossil fuel industry into pristine treacherous seas where the risk of spills is far greater than we've seen before. A rapid transition away from this industry is our only hope for a livable climate for our children."

A Greenpeace Australia campaigner, Nathaniel Pelle, said: "The news Chevron has given up on drilling in the bight means the coastal communities of southern Australia have dodged another bullet, but the threat of Statoil still looms. "Chevron's announcement shows the only sane thing to do is for the federal government to terminate all oil leases in this area, reform our national oil regulations to world's best practice, and move quickly to protect one of the world's most bio-diverse regions and the communities that surround it." *(Source: The Guardian)*

in September. However, like many of the bull runs seen in the past few years, money managers often take things farther than the fundamentals justify, leading to a sudden correction, which is what we saw earlier this month.

Also, global oil production was actually up in September by 90,000 bpd on non-OPEC growth. That puts total

OPEC sees oil inventory glut finally gone in one year

OPEC expects its efforts to clear the surplus in oil inventories to finally succeed by the end of the third quarter of next year, said people familiar with the group's internal forecasts.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia have been cutting oil production this year to bring fuel inventories in industrialized nations back in line with the five-year average. They hope to end an unprecedented build-up that sent prices plunging from above \$100 a barrel in 2014 to around \$50 currently, but the process has taken longer than expected and the deal has already been extended beyond its initial June expiry.

OPEC estimated that stockpiles in developed nations were still about 171 million barrels above that average in August, but expected trends in supply and demand will eliminate the surplus in about a year, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information isn't public. The forecasts assume that Libya and



Nigeria's production will remain at current levels and U.S. shale output will expand by no more than 500,000 barrels a day next year, two of the people said.

Although the current production

curbs are due to expire at the end of March, OPEC's estimates suggest producers will have to extend them to achieve their long-stated objective. They would need to maintain output around current levels in order to create a supply deficit next year big enough to erode stockpiles, according to Bloomberg calculations based on data published in the group's monthly market report.

OPEC and its allies will hold a meeting in Vienna on Nov. 30 where they may decide whether to prolong the measures. Russian President Vladimir Putin signaled earlier this month that he's prepared to keep the accord going until the end of next year.

OPEC's projections align with those of the Energy Information Administration, the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The International Energy Agency estimated in its monthly report on Thursday that the decline in inventories this year will halt in 2018 due to rising supplies from the U.S. and elsewhere. Even if stockpiles remain stable, they could continue to converge with the five-year average, which is steadily rising following years of oversupply. (Source: Bloomberg) Two stages General Tender with RFQ (Request For Qualification) Tender subject: Intelligent Pigging Survey on IGAT IV gas pipeline



Iranian Gas Transmission Company (IGTC) intends to give the above mentioned subject to the qualified Contractor. Herewith, we invite you to refer Contract Department of IGTC for receiving RFQ against a letter of introduction. **Tender subject**: Intelligent Pigging Survey on IGAT IV gas pipeline Place & date of document receiving: the Contract Department of Iranian Gas Transmission Company situated in room no.334,3^d floor,no.273,building of IGTC,Hafte—Tir Sq.Tehran, Iran Closing Date of document receiving: Not later than **22,10,2017** Closing Date of proposal submission: Not later than **05,11,2017** against obtaining a receipt **3.Approximate estimate:** 2,041,200 Euro **5.Other terms for Bidb cont**: 76,390 Euro **5.Other terms for Bidb cont**: 76,390 Euro **5.Other terms for Bidb end:** 76,390 Euro **5.Other terms for Bidb end:** 76,390 Euro **5.Other terms for Contractors** to have such technology **5.3** References quality of similar Contracts Performance

6. General information of the Tender is available on National Data Base of $\ Iran$ Tender's Information as well as shana.ir

7. For further information you are required to contact tel :+98-21-81314322 / +98-21-88831046

www.nigc-nigtc.ir www.shana.ir

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OCTOBER 14, 2017

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 feelgood 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.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY **TEHRANTIMES**



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. Rohingya bands retaliated. 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 From a feel-good Tha) and monks such as story of the retreat U Wirathu, known for his hate-filled diatribes. of the military and Myanmar's Enemy Within the rise to power of is well-timed to inform Nobel laureate and debates about Myanmar's most violent crisis of the last democracy icon 25 years, but it founders on Aung San Suu Kyi, factual misreading of history. the catastrophically Most importantly, the overall divided nature of narrative is inaccurate; Myanmar's military did not Myanmar society promote Buddhism as its has been revealed nation-building tool until as the source of after a democratic uprising new militancy, in 1988. In fact, when it entered power in 1962 horrific ethnoand established a socialist religious violence, regime, it halted its civilian and refugee flight predecessor's attempt to make Buddhism the state on a scale not seen religion. Wade conflates the since World War II. socialist period (1962-88) with the military junta era (1988-2011). During the former, Socialist ideology, not zealous promotion of Buddhist, 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.

Ditching deals has become Trump's main foreign policy

By Adam Taylor

U.S. government announced The 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.

also make Trump will 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

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

explained by antipathy to Obama alone.

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

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 then-candidate Trump Thursday, reportedly asked a foreign policy expert why the United States shouldn't use its nuclear weapons if it had them.

The one consistent plank in Trump administration policy has been

to walk away from every international agreement possible.

stem from his days in business: Trump

has been accused of breaking contracts

"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,

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 stupids ---." Trump's mantra might be a demand that he be allowed to do whatever he wants, stupid or not - or

(Source: The Washington Post)

and unnecessary" (much like UNESCO, talks with North Korea about them ---he'll simply leave. perhaps) in August. Such an attitude may that thought is especially grim. Apart The Iran nuclear "threat": Trump's recycled fake news

 $1 \rightarrow$ 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 pe, given his background dating back to 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. Jaferzadeh 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 aroup." 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 selfproclaimed 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 oil profits go to fund Hezbollah and other terrorists that kill 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 poloniumberyllium 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 yieldtested 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 Iraniandesigned 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

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



(Source: Time)

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 guite 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-disserving." 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

 $1 \rightarrow$ 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 Mc-Cain 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 Fin-er, 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 has 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 leftwing 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 presidentordefeated 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 di Arabia presented a peace plan. Saudi Arabia con-

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 Émirati 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-

tinued 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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7 hobbies science says will make your brain work smarter and faster

By Andy Preisler

All parts of our body age. And our brain does too. We've all witnessed the natural deterioration of brain functions in older relatives. Unfortunately, they lose their short-term memories and they gradually lose the executive functions, as the right frontal lobe loses gray matter and gets "mushy." Even without the dreaded Alzheimer's, our brains just age. Now; however, neuroscience tells us that we can delay this process. In some instances, we can reverse brain deterioration by engaging in some pretty specific activities, most of which we would consider hobbies.

1. Read anything

Whether you love old classic comic books or the New York Times, brain researchers tell us that reading actually increases brain function in several areas. It stimulates the growth of new neural pathways as we absorb new information. Reading flexes those parts of the brain that deal with problem-solving, seeing patterns, and interpreting what others are saying to us about their feelings. It also improves memory, builds on prior learning (more neural connections), and exercises parts of the brain that allow imagination. Some research also points to speedreading as a method to increase synapses (electrical connections between regions of the brain), since the brains must process sensory information quickly. Indeed, for many students, speedreading is a valuable skill.

2. Learn to play a musical instrument For years, neuro-scientists have conducted research on the benefits of music instruction for children relative to improved cognitive functions memory, problem-solving, sequential processing, and pattern recognition. Playing an instrument (the voice is also an instrument), increases gray matter volume and makes neural connections between the two hemispheres of the brain. For this reason, scientists believe that early musical training allows students to be better at both linear math work (algorithms, equation solving) and mathematical problemsolving (modeling, optimization, problem research). Playing an instrument ensures



both sides of the brain work together much better.

Now, researchers tell us that taking up a musical instrument as an adult – young, middle-aged, or older – can produce the same neurological effects as it does in children.

3. Exercise on a regular basis

Here's what the science tells us. Exercise produces a protein (BDNF) in the blood stream. As blood travels through the brain, cells absorb this protein, which is responsible for both increased memory and focus. One of the most notable experiments was a photo memory test given to experimental and control groups. The experimental group exercised before the test, while the control group did not. The experimental group's test results were overwhelmingly better. Members were able to focus on the photos and then recall them after a period of waiting.

4. Learn a new language Several areas of the brain are used as we take in sound, give it meaning, and then respond to it -4 areas in all. Bilingual people have more gray matter in their language centers. They can focus on more than one task at a time because parts of the brain that relate to reasoning, planning, and memory are more developed. Again, scientists began to study this in children first, looking at those in whose households a foreign language was spoken, but in whose schools only English was spoken. Being forced to take in sounds from two different languages and "sort out" which language was being heard forced these areas of the brain into greater functioning. Now, it is also known that learning a language at any stage in one's life has the same forceful effect on the brain making it smarter.

5. Engage in cumulative learning Cumulative learning is defined as that process by which we take what we already know and layer new information of the same type on top of that. For example, math is cumulative learning. Children first learn basic functions. Then they learn how to use those basic functions to solve word problems. Next, they learn algebra, using

Some research also points to speedreading as a method to increase synapses (electrical connections between regions of the brain), since the brains must process sensory information quickly.

basic functions to solve equations. Every layer goes on top of what was learned before. As we age, and especially as we leave the workforce, we tend to cease cumulative learning activities. However, research says if we continue to engage in them we sharpen memory, sequential ordering, problem solving (executive functioning of right frontal lobe), and language. Maybe we should all take a math or writing class in our senior years!

6. Exercise your brain with puzzles and games

We need to think of our brains as both computers and muscles. The more information we put into our brains, the more functions they can perform. Likewise, the more we exercise our brains, the stronger they function. Brain plasticity is a term that is used to refer to the continually new connections that are made when we take in information, engage in thinking, and force ourselves to remember things. Crossword puzzles, deductive thinking activities, and strategic games such as chess or even some video games, force our brains to take in new information and make new connections.

7. Meditate / practice yoga

Meditation is no longer something that can be thought of as "that thing that Hindu and Buddhist monks do." What research says about meditation is actually pretty astounding. First, it allows better control of one's thinking when not in a meditative state. This control allows focus, concentration, and better memory. In fact, students who meditate do better on tests, and adults who meditate have better memories. Meditation increases gray matter in areas of the brain that control learning and memory. Senior citizens who meditate keep more gray matter than those who do not. For students with behavior problems in school, meditation has been shown to improve behavior and school attendance because it reduces stress and anxiety. It would appear that meditation is a great thing for all ages.

All of these hobbies are things that we can easily incorporate into our daily lives. Given what science now tells us, they will keep our brains wonderfully healthy. (Source: lifehack.org)

The best and worst foods for healthy teeth

Brush twice a day, floss often, use mouthwash...and eat? The secret to healthy teeth for life might be in the refrigerator. Certain foods can help prevent cavities and tooth decay, keep plaque (sticky bacteria filled-film that can cover the teeth and gums) at bay, and even freshen breath. Here's how to impress the dentist by incorporating tooth-friendly foods into every meal. Best foods

• Milk and eggs

You might have guessed milk would be on this list. Dairy products like milk and egg yolks are excellent sources of calcium and vitamin D. (Fun fact: You can also get vitamin D from about five to 30 minutes of sun exposure at least twice a week). Think of calcium and vitamin D as the Batman and Robin of bone health. The body requires a dose of vitamin D to absorb calcium, which in turn strengthens bones and teeth. Not into milk? There are plenty of non-dairy alternatives.

your brew, take heart: Coffee does have several health benefits. Tomatoes They might make taste buds happy all summer long, but tomatoes are less beneficial for teeth. Both raw and in sauce form, tomatoes are pretty acidic. The solution? Eat them as part of a meal to get the health benefits, and avoid the dental issues.

Soda

We already know that soda is bad for happiness and health. The combination of sugar, acids, and carbonation is a death sentence for teeth. Countless studies have linked soda consumption (both regular and diet) with

Timeline: what happens to your body when you start exercising



By Kimberly Gillan

Whether you've taken a long fitness hiatus or you've never really exercised at all, you'll be amazed at how quickly your body will thank you from your first sweat session.

Professor Robert Newton, director of Edith Cowan University's Exercise Medicine Research Institute, joins Coach to share how our bodies benefit from day one.

After one day

Putting your body under stress will induce an immediate fight-flight response, which has instant brain benefits.

"Your blood flow to your brain increases, making you more alert, more aware and more awake," Professor Newton says.

That lovely hormone epinephrine is released, which makes you more motivated, it blocks pain and makes you smarter immediately."

If you're doing some weights, your muscle's ability to capture and store glucose will improve, which is really good if you are diabetic or pre-diabetic.

But a day or two later, you will likely feel a bit stiff and sore. "Understand that when you do something you're not accustomed to, the body goes into a repair process and there is inflammation that is natural and normal as the body repairs," Professor Newton says.

The body adapts extremely quickly though - the next session you have two to three days later, you will find you can work at a higher level and you won't get anywhere near the soreness."

Meanwhile, Professor Newton says your body will start to mobilize its fat stores immediately to start reducing body fat. One week

After you've done a few cardio workouts, the mitochondria

in your cells proliferate. The mitochondria are the energy factories of the cell, which makes you fitter so you can produce energy more efficiently," Professor Newton explains.

"It's also beneficial for cell health – it makes them more resilient and helps them remain healthier for longer. There's also increase in enzymes involved in producing energy for muscle contraction."

One month

After two to four weeks your strength and fitness will start to really improve and you'll start to see measurable changes in muscle cells.

"After two to four weeks your nervous system is much more efficient at being able to contract your muscles," Professor Newton explains.

"If you look at the muscle cells under a microscope, you see the slow and fast twitch muscle fibers are getting bigger. It means you are laying down more protein into your muscles, and you start to see your metabolic rate increasing so that even when you are asleep you are burning more energy."

You'll also notice day-to-day living becomes a little easier. 'You'll be able to climb stairs better or get in and out of the car more easily," Professor Newton says.

'You're also over the painful bit – you won't be getting so fatigued or feeling tired and if you're working out properly, your muscles shouldn't be stiff or sore."

You'll be a bit fitter so will be able to work at a higher tensity lifting heavier weights and running cycling at a higher intensity, which can increase the feel-good endorphins filtering into the brain.

• Cheese and yogurt

Foods rich in calcium and phosphorus can protect tooth enamel and even help replace minerals in teeth (a process called remineralization). Low-fat cheese and plain nonfat yogurt are classic calcium-rich choices. Cheese is especially beneficial because it contains casein, a protein found in milk products that can shore up enamel.

• Meat, fish, and tofu

Meat, fatty fish (like salmon), and tofu are loaded with phosphorus, another important mineral that may protect tooth enamel. Homemade broth made from meat bones is a particular good source of this essential mineral.

• Broccoli, bok choy, and other dark, leafy veggies

Looking for vegetarian-friendly sources for the minerals we've mentioned? Broccoli, bok choy, kale, okra, collards, and other dark, leafy veggies are excellent animal-free ways to get plenty of vitamins and minerals.

• Celery, carrots, and other crunchy veggies

Just like the rest of your body, teeth require a little work every now and then to stay sharp. Crunchy, firm foods that contain lots of water (and require lots of chewing) are good for oral health because they stimulate the flow of saliva and can actually scrub tooth surfaces, brightening your pearly whites. Saliva also contains enzymes that buffer the acids present in food and clean bits of food out of nooks and crannies.

Celery is almost always a good dietary choice. Full of water and fibrous strands, this raw veggie is basically nature's floss.

Artificial sweeteners

Whether artificial sweeteners are safe is still up for debate, but some dentists might be in the "pro" camp. Some fake sweeteners, like Xylitol, can actually prevent cavities. So when an urge to snack on sweet stuff hits, grab a stick of sugar-free gum instead of a lollipop.



Apples

Apples and other high-fiber fruits can scrub away plaque and freshen breath

The worst foods

• Lime, lemons, oranges, and grapefruit

It's no surprise that citrus is loaded with citric acid. Strong acids (foods with a low pH rating) are the number-one cause of enamel erosion and tooth decay.

But if you just can't go without a glass of Florida O.J. in the morning, minimize your acid exposure by drinking the juice in one sitting (a.k.a. not sipping for hours) and then avoiding other acidic foods and drinks for several hours. And keep in mind: If a food or drink easily stains the teeth (we're looking at you, coffee), it's usually fairly acidic.

Pickles

What happens when you mix veggies and vinegar? If you guessed a tooth's worst nightmare, you'd be right. Pickles are tasty on a sandwich, but the combination of super-acidic vinegar and sugar is a recipe for enamel erosion

Coffee

Sorry, coffee addicts. Not so surprisingly, that morning cup (or three) of Joe puts oral health at risk. The tannic acids in coffee (and some teas) wear down enamel and can even stain teeth brown. But if you refuse to give up

Sugar candies are much worse than a sugary treat that's quickly chewed and swallowed they linger in the mouth expose teeth to sugar and acids for a long period of time.

tooth erosion and decay.

Candv

Remember how Mom cautioned against a sugar binge on Halloween? Turns out, she was right: Chowing down on tons of sugar is bad for tooth health. The sweet stuff can cause cavities and get stuck in crevices (becoming tasty fodder for bacteria).

Hard candies are particularly bad for your pearly whites. Lollipops, mints, and any other sugary treats (even cough drops) that linger in the mouth expose teeth to sugar and acids for a long period of time. They're much worse than a sugary treat that's quickly chewed and swallowed (especially if they're sour or tart flavored).

• Dried fruit

Though yummy in granola or energy bars, dried fruit is a perfect storm of stickiness and chewiness. The gooey bits are practically made for getting stuck between teeth, and most dried fruits (even those without added sugars) are off-the-charts sweet.

The takeaway

Avoiding dentures by age 40 doesn't mean swearing off all dark liquids, sweets, and citrus fruits. Keeping teeth healthy (and making the dentist happy) is all about using techniques that limit damage. Here are a few easy tips:

• Eat acidic or sugary foods or drinks as part of a meal rather than on their own. Pro tip: Though brushing after a meal is generally a good idea, avoid brushing your teeth after consuming acidic foods. Acid softens your enamel, and brushing can speed up tooth wear.

Limit snacking on acidic or high-sugar foods.

• Use a fluoride toothpaste, which can help repair enamel, and reduce the risk of tooth decay and dental erosion

• Don't swish acidic drinks or hold them in your mouth-this exposes the teeth to acids for longer than necessary. Better yet, use a straw when drinking coffee, wine, or soda to protect enamel. Others might poke fun at you, but we'll see who's laughing at your next dentist appointment.

(Source: greatist.com)

After six months

After half a year working out, your muscles will be visibly bigger and noticeably more efficient, meaning you'll enjoy better endurance.

Meanwhile your heart will actually have increased in size. "In response to all the fast pumping and stretching it has been going through, your heart has grown and has become more efficient," Professor Newton says.

"Your resting heart rate will also have decreased, which means your heart is able to pump more strongly and eject more blood with each contraction so it doesn't have to contract as frequently."

As a result, you'll reduce your risk of a heart attack, and even if you did have a heart attack, it won't be as damaging so you're much more likely to recover more quickly. One year

After a year, your bone health will be significantly improved. "In general it takes around six months of weight bearing exercise before you can see measurable changes in the skeleton," Professor Newton says.

"Then you start to see increases in bone density and by 12 months, you see people who are osteoporotic return to normal bone health, and that's massive in terms of reducing your risk of fracture."

Your mental health will likely have also stabilized after one

"Very large systematic reviews indicate that appropriate exercise is more effective than cognitive behavioral therapy in reducing anxiety and equal to or better than pharmaceuticals for certain types of anxiety," Professor Newton says.

But perhaps the best thing that will happen after maintaining exercise for a year is the fact it will have become a solid habit.

"When you don't exercise you feel terrible," Professor Newton points out.

"It's a good addiction because these are natural drugs and by 12 months, you are pretty well hooked on these drugs." (Source: coach.nine.com.au)



OCTOBER 14, 2017

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

Samsung announced that the CEO and Vice Chairman of Samsung Electronics, Kwon Ohhyun, 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).

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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

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

By Cherlynn 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 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 US-CIS 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

Google's Duo voice chat app

is about to become Android's

12:30

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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 fulltime 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.

RAM

I got used to the freedom to air my thoughts on any topic in public forums like Twitter and Instagram. I still refrain from saying anything that would make me look insensitive or give away too much personal information, though. My posts tend to be a mix of my own articles, random musings, funny videos or frustrating stories about poor customer service and bad PR.

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. 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.

(Source: Engadget)





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."

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) part of iOS.

the pan.

FaceTime

According to a Google blog post, the company is rolling out integrated video calling to firstgeneration Pixel, Android One and Nexus devices. (Source: google)

Gabrielle Williams Mobile, 4 min. ago

When Google's standalone video calling app

Duo came out last year, we wondered if it

would become another niche app, a flash in

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

Why do we need another communication app

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.

Cortana may talk users

(Source: mashable)

Razer's new smartphone is only expected to launch

5.7 inch screen with a 2650 x 1440 resolution, a Qual-

comm 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

So the upcoming Razer should be a lot more adept

According to Phone Radar, the phone will have a

on Nov. 1, but the leaks have already begun.

Razer's first smartphone

with 8GB Ram

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)



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.

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 utilising 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.



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: kitguru)

(Source: extremetech)

Future NASA planes could cross country in one hour: study

A gram of boron nitride nanotubes material costs \$1,000 — but it could transport you across the country in under an hour.

A collaborative team involving material engineers from NASA and Binghamton University are investigating the mechanical properties of a nanotube — that is, an extremely microscopic tube-shaped structure- made of boron nitride, a combination of boron and nitrogen. In particular, the team wanted to investigate the ability of these structures to withstand heat.

The study examined whether the properties of the material would change in a high-temperature environment. "We found that there is no change in mechanical properties with boron nitrate nanotubes," says Changhong Ke, a mechanical engineer at Binghamton University and senior author on the study, published recently in Scientific Reports.

Air travel

The work has a particular relevance to air travel. Currently, certain airplane structures use carbon nanotubes, a strong, lightweight structure that can withstand temperatures up to 450 degrees Celsius. But as this study showed, boron nitride nanotubes, which are similar in function, can withstand 900 degrees Celsius, temperatures that extremely fast airplanes need to be equipped to handle. They are also lighter and better than carbon nanotubes. Planes made from this struc-



ture could potentially reach hypersonic speeds, says Ke.

These nanotubes are something of a super-material. They are single-dimensional, tubular "nanostructures" that are not very dense and are therefore light.

They have a high tensile strength and are chemically and thermally stable.

NASA is now investigating whether these new nanotubes could contribute to the construction of a supersonic plane (the first "a" in NASA is for aeronoautics,

Currently, certain airplane structures use carbon nanotubes, a strong, lightweight structure that can withstand temperatures up to 450 degrees Celsius.

after all). Supersonic is fast: 900 to 4,000 miles per hour, versus transonic speeds, classified as 600 to 900 miles per hour. (And beyond supersonic comes hypersonic.) Ke explained that boron nitride nanotubes could be ideal for NASA's supersonic and even hypersonic jets. "For hypersonic technologies, not only does a material need to be light and strong, it needs to survive in high-temperature environments," says Ke.

Boron nitride nanotubes

In addition to being used in planes, boron nitride nanotubes could be added them as a filler to ceramic or metals to make them stronger without damaging them. They might also be useful in environmentally-efficient cars and nanoelectronics.

While the price of \$1,000 per gram is much too high to invest in for fast airplanes and rockets, economies of scale are at play. If NASA manufactures enough of the better material, the price will go down

And as Ke points out, carbon nanotubes cost about the same in the 1990s. But because they have been manufactured so extensively, high-quality carbon nanotubes now cost about \$10-\$28 per gram. Ke believes that boron nitride nanotubes could be the standard manufacturing material in airplanes in the next five to ten years.

(Source: Newsweek)

An Alzheimer's drug helps teeth repair themselves in just 6 weeks

Dental fillings may soon be left in the ash heap of history, thanks to a recent discovery about a drug called Tideglusib.

Developed for and trialed to treat Alzheimer's disease, the drug also happens to promote the natural tooth regrowth mechanism in mice, allowing the tooth to repair cavities.

Tideglusib works by stimulating stem cells in the pulp of teeth, the source of new dentine. Dentine is the mineralized substance beneath tooth enamel that gets eaten away by tooth decay. Teeth can naturally regenerate dentine without assistance

but only under certain circumstances. The pulp must be exposed through infection (such as decay) or trauma to prompt the manufacture of dentine.

But even then, the tooth can only regrow a very thin layer naturally - not enough to repair cavities caused by decay, which are generally deep. Tideglusib changes this outcome because it turns off the GSK-3 enzyme, which stops dentine from forming.

In the research, the team inserted small, biodegradable sponges made of collagen soaked in Tideglusib into cavities. The sponges triggered dentine growth and within six weeks, the damage was repaired.

The collagen structure of the sponges melted away, leaving only the intact tooth.

Thus far, the procedure has only been used in mouse teeth. Yet as King's College London Dental Institute Professor and lead author Paul Sharpe told The Telegraph, "Using a drug that has already been tested in clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease provides a real opportunity to get this dental treatment quickly into clinics.

He added, the "simplicity of our approach makes it ideal as a clinical dental product for the natural treatment of large cavities, by providing both pulp protection and restoring dentine."

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Did Mars once harbor deep-sea cradles of life?

Ancient Mars may have harbored deep-sea hydrothermal vents, the same type of environment where many scientists think life on Earth got its start, a recent study suggests.

Observations by NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) show evidence of ancient sea-floor hydrothermal deposits within the Eridania basin — a region in the southern hemisphere where some of the Red Planet's most ancient crust is exposed.

The deposits are believed to have formed due to volcanic activity in the planet's crust at the bottom of the basin. Study team members therefore think that hot, mineral-laden water pumped directly into the ancient Martian sea, which probably held 10 times more water than all of North America's Great Lakes combined, NASA officials said.

"Even if we never find evidence that there's been life on Mars, this site can tell us about the type of environment where life may have begun on Earth," co-author Paul Niles, a planetary scientist at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, said in a statement. "Volcanic activity combined with standing water provided conditions that were likely similar to conditions that existed on Earth at about the same time when early life was evolving here."

Researchers estimate that the hydrothermal deposits found within the Eridania basin are approximately 3.7 billion years old. Life got its start on Earth at about that time, and deep-sea hydrothermal environments may have been the cradle. (Although many different life-forms continue to thrive in these environments on Earth today, we are unable to find direct geological evidence preserved from the time when life began because of our planet's active crust, study team mem-(Source: Scientific American) bers said.)

Egg-shaped dwarf planet Haumea discovered to have a ring

Astronomers have discovered that Haumea, an eggshaped dwarf planet at the edge of the Solar System, is surrounded by a ring of particles. Haumea is one of the five recognized dwarf planets in the Solar System, and now also the only one to have a ring.

This recent discovery implies that there might be more small bodies in the outer Solar System surrounded by rings, and humans simply haven't been able to determine every single one of them yet. Such a task is probably impossible since space is so vast.

The researchers revealed that Haumea is surrounded by a ring of material that's roughly 43 miles in width. This marks the third instance in the last few years were a ring was discovered around an object that's technically not a planet.

Solar System rings

As the researchers suggest in their new work, published Wednesday, Oct. 11, in the journal Nature, ring systems in the outer Solar System are not uncommon. The team, made up of international astronomers, watched the dwarf planet briefly pass in front of a star,



which blocked out that star's light.

This kind of passing is observed by astronomers to look at the foreground object, determine its size and shape, and figure whether or not it has rings.

On Jan. 21, the astronomy team observed Haumea via 12 telescopes scattered across Europe. It passed a distant star, which caused a momentary eclipse called an occultation. As a result, the team was able to pick

up certain things about the dwarf planet, including the possibility of having a ring.

Haumea's ring has a radius of nearly 1,500 miles, the team discovered, and it moves very slowly in contrast with its host planet. By the time its ring is able to complete one revolution, Haumea will have already spun around its axis thrice.

Why does Haumea have a ring?

Why is there a ring there in the first place, though? Unfortunately, the astronomers have no clue, because the way rings form around giant planets don't seem to mirror how a ring formed around Haumea. Saturn's rings, for example partly came from Enceladus, one of its 53 moons. Haumea, by contrast, has a couple of moons, but they're far too small and distant to have contributed to the ring, according to Amanda Sickafoose, an MIT planetary astronomer who wrote a Nature entry on Haumea's ring.

"I think that where the rings are coming from, how they're forming essentially, is going to be a big topic of (Source: Tech Times) research."

Expanded bluefin tuna quotas could reverse recovery: scientists

Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna's spectacular recovery will be reversed if the region's 51-nation fisheries management body embraces quota recommendations finalized late Friday by its scientific advisory panel, scientists at the meeting warned.

The warm-blooded, fatty fish -- which can grow to the size of a small car, and swim nearly as fast -- underpins a billion-dollar business and is a culinary mainstay of sushi and sashimi in Japan.

The suggested new guota of 36,000 tons per year

have recovered", said the Ocean Foundation's Shana Miller, a scientist who participated as an observer at the meeting in Madrid.

"Hopefully, this doesn't return ICCAT to the situation it was in a decade ago, when an international trade ban was being considered," she told AFP.

In 2010, the UN body governing trade in endangered species considered a motion to outlaw international sales of eastern Atlantic tuna, which can fetch tens of



would need to be reduced by nearly a quarter to ensure at least a coin-toss chance of continued growth of the highly prized fish's stocks, currently about half-a-million tons

Negative impact

Inexplicably, both the higher quota recommendation and the evidence of its negative impact were contained in the same report by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' (ICCAT) science body, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

The committee "recommended guotas that will lead to the decline of populations that it can't even confirm delphia-based non-profit organization.

thousands of dollars per fish. The motion failed

But ICCAT did impose stricter quotas on member nations and cracked down on illegal fishing, especially off North Africa's Mediterranean coast.

The measures worked better and more quickly than expected, bringing the species to the edge of full recovery

Global Tuna Conservation

"We were expecting the scientists to come back after the stock assessment and say, 'eastern bluefin tuna has recovered"," said Rachel Hopkins, an officer for Global Tuna Conservation at the Pew Charitable Trusts, a Phila-

But when scientists ran projections, not all showed continued growth over the next five years.

"Because of that -- and other uncertainties around the science -- they could not declare that the stocks had recovered," Hopkins told AFP.

Nor did ICCAT's science panel estimate the current recovery status, as it normally does. (Source: AFP)

Climate change is a threat to rich and poor alike

 $1 \rightarrow$ It could not be otherwise when the impacts of these weather events are so profound. During the last two years over 40 million people, mainly in countries which contribute least to global warming, were forced either permanently or temporarily from their homes by disasters.

There is clear consensus: rising temperatures are increasing the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere, leading to more intense rainfall and flooding in some places, and drought in others. Some areas experience both, as was the case this year in California, where record floods followed years of intense drought.

TOPEX/Poseidon, the first satellite to precisely measure rising sea levels, was launched two weeks before Hurricane Andrew made landfall in Florida 25 years ago. Those measurements have observed a global increase of 3.4 millimeters per year since then; that's a total of 85 millimeters over 25 years, or 3.34 inches.

Rising and warming seas are contributing to the intensity of tropical storms worldwide.

We will continue to live with the abnormal and often unforeseen consequences of existing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, for many, many years to come.

In 2009, Swiss Re published a case study focused on Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, which envisaged a moderate sea level rise scenario for the 2030s which matches what has already taken place today. If a storm on the scale of Andrew had hit this wealthy corner of the US today, the economic damage would range from US\$100 billion to US\$300 billion. Now the estimates suggest that the economic losses from Harvey, Irma and Maria could surpass those numbers.

Reduce disaster risk now; tackle climate change in the long-term

Miami is working hard on expanding its flood protection programme; US\$ 400 million is earmarked to finance sea pumps, improved roads and seawalls. Yet, this level of expenditure is beyond the reach of most low and middle-income countries that stand to lose large chunks of their GDP every time

they are hit by floods and storms.

While the Paris Agreement has set the world on a long-term path towards a low-carbon future, it is a windy path that reflects pragmatism and realities in each individual country. Thus, while carbon emissions are expected to drop as countries meet their self-declared targets, the impacts of climate change may be felt for some time, leaving the world with little choice but to invest, simultaneously, in efforts to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk. The benefits of doing so makes economic sense when compared to the cost of rebuilding.

This will require international cooperation on a previously unprecedented scale as we tackle the critical task of making the planet a more resilient place to the lagging effects of greenhouse gas emissions that we will experience for years to come. Restoring the ecological balance between emissions and the natural absorptive capacity of the planet is the long-term goal. It is critical to remember that the long-term reduction of emissions is THE most important risk reduc-

tion tactic we have, and we must deliver on that ambition.

The November UN Climate Conference in Bonn presided over by the small island of Fiji, provides an opportunity to not only accelerate emission reductions but to also boost the serious work of ensuring that the management of climate risk is integrated into disaster risk management as a whole. Poverty, rapid urbanization, poor land use, ecosystems decline and other risk factors will amplify the impacts of climate change. Today on International Day for Disaster Reduction, we call for them to be addressed in a holistic way.

Achim Steiner is Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme www.undp.org

Patricia Espinosa is Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change www.unfccc.int

Robert Glasser is the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction www.unisdr.org

A mysterious 'hole' larger than Maryland has reappeared in Antarctica after 42 years

A mysterious 'hole' larger than Maryland has reappeared in the middle of Antarctica after 42 years. Scientists aren't sure how it got there.

But this isn't the first time it's appeared.

The hole is a type of polynya. Polynyas are a region of open water surrounded by sea ice. But the Weddell polynya is unlike any other.

While most polynyas form near the shore, this polynya is located hundreds of kilometers from the coast.

Scientists first saw it in 1974. Back then, the opening was as large as Oregon. But in 1976, the opening closed up seemingly for good.

Then, in 2016, a NASA satellite spotted a small opening. It was the first sighting of the polynya in over 40 years.

Since then, the opening has grown considerably larger. Now, it's large enough to fit Maryland. It's still 5X smaller than it was in the '70s. But this polynya's reappearance is a mystery to scientists.

One expert said it was like someone had punched a hole in the ice. Many questions remain:

Did it exist before the '70s?

Will it close up again for another 40 years?

Is climate change the cause?

Scientists are currently collecting as much data as they can. Perhaps we'll have the answers before the hole fills in ag (Source: Business Insider) ain.



LIFE&SOCIETY

OCTOBER 14, 2017

Health minister appoints women to key posts

SOCIETY desk san 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 women, 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 d e s k 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!

Tehraners donate \$1m to underprivileged students

SOCIETY d e s k a contribution of 39 billion rials (nearly \$1 million) over a charity event called Jashn-e Atefeha 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



 $1 \rightarrow$ 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."

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 Atefeha 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.

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 of 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 a gent a day of fun to celebrate the National Children's Day in Karaj, Alborz province, on Thursday.

g children Coordinated by the municipality of Karaj, lebrate the the welfare department general of Alborz rovince, on 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.



engaged ... as a non-mem contribute U.S. views, pers The statement added: lightly, and reflects U.S. co

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)

قرارگاه جهاد اجتماعی زندگی خوب

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.

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.

تجهیز و افزایش پارکهای بانوان استان تهران

معاونت زنان ریاست جمه وری ۱۰۰ میلیون تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز و افزایش پارک های بانوان استان تهران اختصاص داده است. ثریا شارقی مدیر کل 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 شهرستانهای ۱۶ گانه استان به پارک بانوان مجهز شوند. شارقی 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 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.

Donald Trump has 'turned into a pressure cooker that frequently explodes', say White House staff

The United States President Donald Trump, angry with officials he appointed and frustrated with his failure to progress his legislative agenda, is said to have turned into a "pressure cooker" who frequently explodes at those around him.

Reports suggest that in recent days, Trump, fed up with criticism of his handling of the crisis in Puerto Rico and furious over comments from a senior Republican who claimed he was setting the U.S. on "the path to World War III", Trump has been lashing out at those around him and burning political bridges.

Meanwhile, his relationship with Chief of Staff John Kelly, the former general appointed to try and bring order to the chaos of the White House, may have become "irreparable", according to one report.

"I'm not all surprised by this," Christina Greer, associate professor of political science at Fordham University in New York, told The Independent. "He has never had to work together with people before, he has always been the king."

She added: "He doesn't not seem to understand that the President is a public servant and those people working for you are meant to help make you better."

The Washington Post said Trump's fuse had been lit by several factors. He was perturbed when it was reported last that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had called him "a moron". America' top diplomat held a press conference to deny reports that he had considered quitting, but Trump was sufficiently thin-skinned to suggest the pair of them take IQ (intelligence quotient) tests and compare the results

Sources in Kirkuk also confirmed to Al Jazeera the

In some areas, the Iraqi forces have moved two to

The peshmerga closed roads to Kirkuk early on

movement of Iragi forces on two fronts in Kirkuk, in the

three kilometers from Kurdish peshmerga positions, Al

Thursday after Kurdish authorities warned that the Iraqi

government was moving forces in the direction of the

tervene and call on Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

to "order PMU to pull back if he can or if they listen to

them back if they attack," the senior adviser to Barzani

ish voters overwhelmingly backed separation in a

non-binding referendum that the federal government

the Iraqi semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region. The over-

all formal head of the peshmerga is the President of Iragi

Kirkuk's inclusion in Kurdish vote angers Iraq

Hawrami urged the international community to in-

"No escalation from our side. Just defend and roll

The surge in tensions comes two weeks after Kurd-

Peshmerga (Before death) are the military forces of

Jazeera's Charles Stratford reported from Erbil.

city. They reopened them later in the day.

provoke a confrontation.

south and west of the city.

him"

said.

Kurdistar

condemned as illegal.



Over the weekend, Trump hit out on Twitter at Republican Senator Bob Corker, who had said the White House had devolved into an "an adult day care center".

Trump said of Corker, who has announced he will not seek reelection to his Tennessee seat: "Senator Bob Corker "begged" me to endorse him for re-election in Tennessee. I said "NO" and he dropped out".

The Post said the President had in recent days been displaying flashes of "fury". It said one confidant of Trump had likened the President to a "whistling teapot", adding that when he did not blow off steam, "he can turn into a pressure cooker and explode".

"I think we are in pressure cooker territory," the person added. It has fallen to Kelly to try and deal with this fall-out and smooth things over. Yet the atmosphere inside the White House may have already taken on the former military officer, who joined the administration in January as head of the Department of Homeland Security.

Last month it was reported that



Trump delivered an ear-bashing to Kelly that the former officer said was unprecedented in his 35 years of military service. While Trump, along with his daughter, Ivanka, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, were said to be working though Kelly's lines of authority, the President has become frustrated at the latest attempt to rein him in.

Kelly has on several occasions been photographed looking exasperated at various events, most memorably at a press conference inside Trump Tower when the President clashed with reporters over the violence during a neo-Nazi led rally in Charlottesville.

Now Vanity Fair has said the relationship between Trump and kelly may have become "irreparable"

One person close to Kelly, said: "He doesn't love this job. He's doing it as a duty for the country.

Even the Trump family has become a flash point. On Monday, the president's first and third wives - Ivana and Melania, respectively — engaged in a public spat.

In an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America" to promote her new book, "Raising Trump," Ivana Trump, the mother of the president's three eldest children, said: "İ'm basically first Trump wife. Okay? I'm first lady."

The actual first lady, Melania Trump, did not let the slight go unanswered. Her spokeswoman at the White House, Stephanie Grisham, issued a statement dismissing Ivana's comments as "attention-seeking and self-serving noise."

(Source: agencies)

Kurds on high alert as Iraqi forces mass near Kirkuk

 $1 \rightarrow$ They accused the Popular Mobilization Units Tension grips Iraqi Kurdish region (PMU/Al-Hashd Al-Sha'abi) of massing fighters in two post-referendum mainly Shia Turkmen areas south of Kirkuk in a bid to

Meantime, the spokesman of Iraq's state-sanctioned paramilitaries has issued a stern warning to Masoud Barzani while saying his fighters have no immediate plans to take military action against the Kurdish leader. Karim al-Nouri, spokesman for the PMU, has accused

the KRG of behaving like the leader of a "fifth column" during the war against ISIL.

Barzani "is more dangerous than Daesh (ISIL) because he comes from within Iraq," said Nouri.

Nouri accused Kurdish forces, known as the peshmerga, of "occupying" Kirkuk and "stealing the oil wells". The peshmerga assumed control of the oil-rich, mul-

ti-ethnic Kirkuk in the summer of 2014, when ISIL swept across northern Iraq and the Iraqi military crumbled.

"Anyone occupying Iragi land must be thrown out. We do not discriminate between Daesh and anyone else in this manner," Nouri told the Associated Press news agency.

He said the paramilitaries have no immediate plans to move on the city, and would follow orders from Baghdad. But other commanders suggested clashes were on the horizon.

"I think Kirkuk will stay Iraqi, and there will be a major sacrifice to retake Kirkuk, after the approval of the Iraqi government," said Rayan al-Kaldani, commander of the Babylon Movement, a Christian militia in the PMU

Abadi denies army, allies plan attack on Kurdish Peshmerga forces



basis for any dialogue requested by the local government of the region.

The remarks came in response to an offer for dialogue made on Wednesday overnight by Kurdish authorities.

Turkey to close border crossings with northern Iraq

Separately, a Turkish government spokesman said on Thursday that his country would gradually close border crossings with Irag's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in coordination with the central Iragi government and neighboring Iran.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim is expected to visit Baghdad on Sunday to meet with his Iraqi counterpart

The Iraqi prime minister has already demanded the

Suicide attacks kill Deir Az Zor refugees and Kurds

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist outfit's suicide attackers have killed dozens of people, including Syrian refugees and Kurdish security personnel, with car bombs in northeastern Syria, according to multiple sources.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said Thursday's attack took place at Abu Fas, near the border of Deir Az Zor and Hasakah provinces, and the dead included refugees, as well as members of the Kurdish Asayish security force.

ISIL, has lost large expanses of its territory in both Syria and Iraq this year and is falling back on the towns and villages of the Euphrates valley southeast of Deir Az Zor.

The United States-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance of Kurdish and Arab paramilitaries is pressing it from the north and a rival offensive by the Syrian army is attacking it from the west.

Talal Sello, an SDF spokesman, confirmed that a car bombing targeting people displaced from Deir Az Zor occurred in Abu Fas in Hasakah's south.

"Dozens of people were killed and wounded," he told AFP news agency.

After the blast, "the civilians escaped towards desert areas where mines exploded and the toll rose."

Much of Hasakah province and Hasakah city are under the control of a Kurdish "autonomous administration", with smaller parts of both controlled by the central government.

Abu Fas is where Kurdish authorities gather people displaced by conflict before allowing them to enter camps where they can shelter, the SOHR said.

Earlier on Thursday, the SOHR, which relies on a network of sources inside Syria, said government forces had retaken four neighborhoods in the town of Mayadeen in Deir Az Zor. The state news agency SANA confirmed that troops had

re-entered Mayadeen.

Last week, ÍSIL, succeeded in expelling Syrian forces from Mayadeen, two days after they entered the town.

A Syrian army source recently described Mayadeen as the "military capital" of ISIL in Deir Az Zor.

In a separate development on Thursday, Syrian armed groups reached a ceasefire agreement for southern Damascus during a meeting in Cairo, according to Egyptian state media.

The deal includes opening main crossings and halting forced displacement of people living in the opposition-held district of Eastern Ghouta, a report in the state-run Al Ahram newspaper said. It quoted Mohamed Alloush, the political head of Jaish al-Islam (Army of Islam), as saying that Egypt had pledged to help break the siege on Eastern Ghouta using diplomatic means and allow in aid "in sufficient quantities to alleviate the suffering in the region".

Eastern Ghouta, near Damascus, is one of the last strongholds of fighters battling President Bashar al-Assad's forces and was the scene of a chemical weapon attack that killed hundreds in August 2013.

(Source: agencies)

NATO warns of 'devastating consequences' of war in N. Korea

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has warned that military action against North Korea could trigger "devastating consequences" amid the United States President Donald Trump's war threats.

"The use of military force will have devastating consequences, I think nobody really wants that, therefore we need to continue to push for a negotiated solution," Stoltenberg said in Brussels on Friday.

The NATO chief urged a diplomatic solution to the Korean Peninsula crisis

His remarks came before his visit to South Korea and Japan, which he will make in the coming weeks as a show of support.

Polling was held in the three provinces that have long formed a semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region as well as neighboring areas, including Kirkuk, that the Iraqi forces seized from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group during the fight back against the terrorist outfit's 2014 offensive through areas north and west of Baghdad.

Kirkuk province is the location of northern Iraq's main oil fields and, even though far more crude is now pumped from the south, it is bitterly disputed between Baghdad and the Kurds.

The referendum of September 25 organized by Barzani, escalated long-running tensions between the Iragi Kurdish region and the central government over the sharing of oil wealth and the fate of disputed territories such as Kirkuk.

Kirkuk is held by Kurdish forces, but lies outside their semi-autonomous zone.

Iraq, Iran and neighboring Turkey as well as the United Nations, United States, European Union and the Arab League have all rejected the referendum and insist Iraq's borders will not be redrawn.

Baghdad continues to reject decades-old Kurdish ambitions to incorporate Kirkuk and other historically Kurdish-majority areas in their autonomous region.

The development followed as Iragi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has denied an attack plan against the positions of Kurdish Peshmerga forces amid ongoing tensions between the central government in Baghdad and authorities of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

"We are not going to use our army to fight our people or to make war on our Kurdish citizens or others," Abadi said in televised comments broadcast on staterun al-Iragiya television network on Thursday.

He added, "Our duty is to preserve the unity of our country, to implement the constitution, and to protect citizens and national forces."

Iraqi Vice President Iyad Allawi said on Monday there could be "civil war" over Kirkuk if the two sides failed to show restraint.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi government spokesman said Baghdad has a series of conditions that the KRG must meet before any talks on the resolution of the referendum crisis could start.

"The KRG must first commit to Iraq's unity. The local authorities in the [Kurdistan] region ... must accept the sovereign authority of the federal government on ... oil exports, [as well as] security and border protection, including land and air entry points," the unnamed Iraqi official added.

The senior Iraqi official further said, "These are the

annulment of the Kurdish secession referendum results

Elsewhere, a leading official of a Kurdish opposition party offered late on Thursday to dissolve the Kurdish administration of Kirkuk and enter into "unconditional negotiations" with Baghdad over the city.

Kirkuk's governor belongs to the party known as the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK/Yekêtiy Ni?tîmaniy Kurdistan).

Befal Talabani, son of Jalal Talabani, the late Iraqi president, said he wanted to avoid war with the Iraqi central government.

Talabani's PUK is a rival of Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP/Partiya Demokrat a Kurdistanê).

The Iraqi government said on Thursday it would not hold talks with the KRG on reopening its airports and providing dollars for its banks, unless the Kurds commit to "Iraq's unity".

Iraq's central government imposed a ban on direct international flights to the land-locked region, stopped selling dollars to four Kurdish-owned banks and called for a halt to its independent crude oil sales

The Kurds have repeatedly called for negotiations following the referendum in which an overwhelming majority voted for separation.

Turkish troops enter northern Syria in new operation

Turkish troops travelling in a convoy of 12 armored vehicles have entered northern Syria in a new military operation.

Turkish news media reported that the vehicles carrying the troops crossed into Idlib province late on Thursday.

The development came after Turkey said it was sending troops into Syria to enforce a de-escalation zone in Idlib, which is largely controlled by

the Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham (HTS/Organization for the Liberation of the Levant) alliance.

The de-escalation zone forms part of an agreement reached between Turkey, which backs forces battling the government of President Bashar al-Assad, and Iran and Russia, which support his government.

Turkish media sources said the convoy included about 80 soldiers.

troops were headed towards the western over Idlib province. part of Aleppo province.

Civilians there have been living in fear of potential clashes between Turkish-backed opposition Free Syrian Army fighters and HTS

A military build-up has taken place of late along Turkey's border with Syria, with the Turkish government supporting

Local sources told Al Jazeera the a campaign to secure opposition control

The Turkish army began setting up "observation posts" in Idlib province as part of its efforts to create a de-escalation zone, the military said on Friday

"On October 12 (Thursday), we began activities to establish observation posts," the military said in a statement. (Source: Al Jazeera)

The U.S. and South Korea are set to hold naval drills on October 16-26 in the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, despite international calls for the de-escalation of tensions with North Korea

Earlier this week, the U.S. flew two supersonic heavy bombers over the Korean Peninsula, staging the first nighttime joint aviation exercises with Japan and South Korea, the latest in a series of flyovers.

Stoltenberg, however, emphasized that NATO was "not planning any military presence in that part of the world" and no such request had been received from Tokyo or Seoul.

The United States and North Korea have been at loggerheads over Pyongyang's weapons and nuclear programs and Washington's military posture against the North.

Pyongyang says it will not give up on its nuclear deterrence unless Washington ends its hostile policy toward the country and dissolves the U.S.-led United Nations command in South Korea. Thousands of the U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea and Japan.

Tensions have recently significantly risen between North Korea and the U.S. The two countries have been trading threats of military action against one another, and there is a potential for a real armed conflict to erupt.

On Tuesday, Trump discussed "a range of options" with his national security team to respond to North Korea's recent missile and nuclear tests.

The meeting came after Trump ratcheted up his rhetoric against North Korean officials last weekend, claiming that a diplomatic approach over the past 25 years "hasn't worked" and that Pyongyang has made "fools of U.S. negotiators."

In a speech to the UN General Assembly last month, Trump warned North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that the United States, if threatened, would "totally destroy" his country of 26 million people.

In response, Kim said Trump will "pay dearly" for threatening to destroy North Korea.

He added that Trump is "a rogue and a gangster fond of playing with fire," who is "unfit to hold the prerogative of supreme command of a country."

Ex soccer star leading Liberia election



Former international soccer star George Weah has taken an early lead in Liberia's presidential election as the West African nation begins releasing provisional results.

The National Election Commission data shared late on Thursday show Weah ahead in 14 of Liberia's 15 counties while Vice President Joseph Boakai leads in his home county, Lofa.

With 20 candidates in the race, observers expect a runoff election.

Commission Chairman Jerome Korkoya warned that the early results represent a small portion of the total vote, and he cautioned candidates' supporters against declaring victory.

Liberia seeks a successor to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who led the country as it recovered from civil war and the Ebola outbreak that killed nearly 5000 Liberians.

One of the largest political parties called for a halt to vote-counting on Thursday, alleging voting irregularities and fraud.

Angry Liberty Party supporters claimed that polls opened late and that ballot- tampering occurred in at least one location in the capital, Monrovia.

The Liberty Party's candidate is Charles Brumskine, a corporate lawyer who placed third in 2005 elections and fourth in 2011.

The Carter Center, which observed elections, commended Liberians "for the calm and peaceful atmosphere" of the vote.

It noted difficulties with long lines and management of voter lists but said it could not give a final assessment until vote counting was complete.

"No matter the outcome of this election, it will result in a transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another for the first time in the lives of many Liberians," it said in a statement.

(Source: AP)

Vettel 'let the team down' with Baku antics

While his Singapore crash may have cost him a World title, Sebastian Vettel says his collision with Lewis Hamilton in Baku was worse as he "let the team down."

Believing that Hamilton had brake checked him at the Azerbaijan F1 Grand Prix, Vettel pulled alongside Hamilton and deliberately swerved into him.

Vettel was slapped with a 10-second stop-go penalty but escaped further sanctions after admitting "full responsibility" and extending his "sincere apologies" for his actions.

And although that wasn't the defining moment in his season, Vettel says it was his worst.

"I think Baku was worse [than Singapore]," he told Autosport in an exclusive interview. "I felt I let the team down, because something that I did obviously cost a race win potentially.

"So I think in Singapore, to be honest, the way I look at it, it's racing and it happens. Obviously it is extremely unfortunate, but I don't know how many start crashes there have been in the past and there will be in the future. "If you happen to be inside them, it always sucks. There is no better way to describe. Did it come in a good time? No. Is there any ever a good time for this to happen? Probably not. "So it doesn't matter. It happened. We cannot control it. We need to focus on what we have in our hands and try to focus on things we can control."

PSG's Qatari chairman faces World Cup TV rights 'bribery' probe

Swiss prosecutors have opened criminal proceedings against Paris St-Germain's chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi over the sale of World Cup TV rights.

The proceedings relate to Qatari-owned beIN Media Group, of which Al-Khelaifi is chief executive, being awarded the TV rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

Federal prosecutors say the new proceedings are connected with an ongoing investigation which the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) opened last year against former FIFA secretary general Jerome Valcke in relation to "various acts of criminal mismanagement."

The proceedings also relate to "suspicion of bribery of private individuals ... fraud ... and forgery of a document."

In a statement issued Thursday, the OAG said new proceedings have been opened "primarily on the basis of findings obtained by the OAG in this earlier proceeding."

The statement added: "It is suspected that Jerome Valcke accepted undue advantages from a businessman in the sports rights sector in connection with the award of media rights for certain countries at the FIFA World Cups in 2018, 2022, 2026 and 2030 and from Nasser Al-Khelaifi in connection with the award of media rights for certain countries at the FIFA World Cups in 2026 and 2030."

Prosecutors said the new investigation was opened in March 2017 and that Valcke was interviewed in Switzerland as a suspect.

Prosecutors also said it was working with authorities in France, Greece, Italy and Spain, where properties had been searched.

Valcke was banned from football for 10 years for his alleged involvement in a scheme to profit from World Cup ticket sales. The Frenchman has appealed against the sanction.



Al-Khelaifi, 43, was appointed PSG chairman and chief executive in 2011 and was instrumental in the French club's acquisition of Neymar from Barcelona in August for a world record fee.

["]Following a request by the office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG), the beIN SPORTS offices in Boulogne-Billancourt (France) were searched this morning," said a beIN statement.

"The employees on site cooperated with the authorities until the end of the search.

"BeIN Media Group refutes all accusations made by OAG. The company will fully cooperate with the authorities and is confident as to the future developments of this investigation."

FIFA said in a statement that it "fully supports the investigation conducted by the Swiss Office of the Attorney General."

The world governing body added: "FIFA has constituted itself as a damaged party in this investigation, in line with the applicable provisions of Swiss procedural law."

PSG and Valcke were not immediately available for comment.

"No one has been on remand," added the OAG statement. "The presumption of innocence applies."

(Source: CNN)

Mascherano will assess his Barcelona future at the end of season



Javier Mascherano says he will make a decision on whether to remain at Barcelona at the end of the season after losing his place in the team.

Mascherano has been in-and-out of Barcelona's starting line-ups so far this campaign, featuring in four of their seven La Liga matches but failing to make an appearance in Europe.

Barcelona boss Ernesto Valverde has preferred a center back pairing of Samuel Umtiti and Gerard Pique in the Champions League, both of whom Mascherano graciously described as more accomplished players. Mascherano's Barcelona deal runs out in 2019 but the 33-year-old admitted to TyC Sports via FourFourTwo: 'I have my contract to honor with the club but, obviously, once the season is over, we'll see what needs to be done. 'At Barcelona, they've always said that they're happy with me and I have time to think about it. It's clear that I'm playing less for my club because we have two center backs who are better.

- or at least be ready when I am called on. When you have better players ahead of you in the pecking order, you accept it and try to turn the situation around. I'm not the kind of person to

get annoyed about it'. Mascherano announced on Tuesday that he would retire from international football with Argentina after the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

His club team-mate Lionel Messi scored a sensational hat-trick as Argentina beat Ecuador 3-1 with Mascherano winning his 139th cap, playing the full 90 minutes.



Pep Guardiola was 'disrespectful',

Mauricio Pochettino has claimed Pep Guardiola was "very disrespectful" to his Tottenham side by describing them as "the Harry Kane team".

The Manchester City manager made the comment in the aftermath of his side's 1-0 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge last month.

Pochettino admits that he did not "take it in a bad way" but acknowledged that those within the club may have been hurt by Guardiola's "unnecessary" words. defending Premier League champions and explained that he had never spoken in such terms about the importance of Barcelona player Lionel Messi.

He added: "I know Pep very well and when he is excited after an amazing victory against Chelsea sometimes he struggles to keep his position and be a gentleman.

"It is difficult to understand because he was part of the big success in Barcelona when it was Messi in his best. I never said it was a Messi team. I always said it was Barcelona, Pep Guardiola and I think everyone deserves to be recognized as part of this squad and the success of the team."

(Source: Planet F1)

Valcke denies receiving 'undue advantages' from Al-Khelaifi

Former FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke has denied receiving "undue advantages" from Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the chief executive of Qatar's beIN Media and president of Paris St Germain, after Swiss prosecutors opened a criminal investigation.

The Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) said on Thursday it suspected Valcke accepted "undue advantages" from Al-Khelaifi in connection with the award of media rights for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

"I just want to say that it's not true. I have never done that. I have never received anything in exchange for anything," Valcke told French sports daily L'Equipe on Friday.

"I refute the accusations against me or Nasser. I have received nothing from Nasser, I can assure you. There was never any exchange between Nasser and I. Never."

Valcke was Sepp Blatter's right-hand man when the latter ran FIFA, the Swiss-based world soccer body.

BeIN Media denied any wrongdoing on Thursday and said it was cooperating with officials.

(Source: Reuters)

'I am trying to battle to win my place

Earlier this month Mascherano became only the fourth non-Spanish player to reach 200 appearances for Barcelona when he started the 3-0 win over Las Palmas.

Barcelona travel to Atletico Madrid's new stadium the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium for the first time on Saturday evening in La Liga.

Valverde's men have a 100 per cent record from their first seven league matches of the season, scoring 23 times and conceding just twice.

(Source: Daily Mail)

"That comment does not affect me but in reality, it was very disrespectful for many people," said Pochettino.

"I think that many people took those words as very disrespectful for the club and many players that are here at the club.

"In my case, personally, I did not take it in a bad way. Wasn't disrespectful for myself but for a lot of people it was unnecessary to say that."

The Argentinian, a former manager at Espanyol, believes that his counterpart may have struggled to contain his emotions following the narrow victory over Antonio Conte's Pochettino believes the insinuation that his club are a one-man team is wide of the mark and that all sides have their own stand-out players.

Earlier in the day, while Guardiola was named the Premier League Manager of the Month after a flawless September with Manchester City, Kane was given the Player of the Month gong.

(Source: Sky Sports)

Arturo Vidal 'likes to drink and doesn't control himself' - Sampaoli

Former Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli said midfielder Arturo Vidal was "a case for a medical specialist" in comments made to journalists in 2015.

Las Ultimas Noticias published details of Sampaoli's remarks, made in the year that his Chile side won the Copa America on home soil.

Sampaoli, now the Argentina coach, said Bayern Munich midfielder Vidal "likes to drink and doesn't control himself," with his claims published in the aftermath of Chile's failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

He said: "When we were coming back on the plane from Lima, he asked me if he could open a beer he had bought at the airport.

"I told him no, that there would be directors and others on the plane. He ended up getting a bottle of whisky with some others anyway and I ended up having to fire the driver, even though I knew that it was Vidal's fault.

Chile captain Claudio Bravo said after the failure to reach the World Cup that he was considering interna-



tional retirement.

His wife, Carla Pardo, questioned some of the Chile players' professionalism, alleging that some could not take part in training because of "the drunkenness they had."

Bravo's mother-law, Pilar Lizana, defended her daughter's comments and told TV station Canal 13: "She must have been overwhelmed with rage knowing what was going on in the national team" and alleged that "Vidal would turn up drunk."

Two years ago, on a day off from international duty, Vidal lost his licence after crashing his car when driving back from the Monticello casino in Chile while under the influence of alcohol.

The midfielder has said he wants to continue playing for Chile after declaring last month that he would retire from international duty after the tournament.

He sat out the final qualifier, a defeat in Brazil, through suspension but wrote on Twitter: "A warrior can cry, feel fear, even disappointment but he never gives up.

"This is a difficult time and here is where you see the strong. Chile is a team of warriors. I'm proud to be part of this group. I'm not going to abandon it. Whenever I'm called upon, I will go to my national team.

"All together, we are going to come back stronger than ever."

U-17 World Cup: Iran rout Costa Rica

S P O R T S Iran defeated Costa Rica 3-0 in Group d e s k C of the FIFA U-17 World Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Goa, on Friday evening. Mohammad Ghobeishavi (25') and Taha Shariati (29')

Mohammad Ghobeishavi (25') and Taha Shariati (29') converted two first half penalties, while Mohammad Sardari's last minute striker ensured the Asian giants ended the first round with panache.

There were two changes for either teams' starting line-ups. Julen Cordero and Daniel Chacon replaced Jose Alfaro and Ronnier Bustamante while Ali Davaran and Sohhan Khaghani came in place of Mohammad Sharifi and Mohammad Ghaderi for Costa Rica and Iran respectively.

Iran had the first real chance in the 11th minute after Allahyar Sayyad moved on to the right flank from a goalmouth melee and cut the ball back in the box from where Sobhan Khaghani's shot went over the target.

Younes Delfi unnecessarily got himself booked for attempting a 'hand of God' from a cross in the box before Mohammad got close to getting a touch on the far side of Amir Esmaeil Zadeh's free-kick.

Sayyad missed out on nodding in Ahmad Jalali's cross from close range in the 20th minute as Costa Rica struggled to see the ball past their own half.

To make matters worse, Fernan Faerron's push in the back of Delfi prompted referee Hamada Napiandraza to point towards the spot. Ghobeishavi stepped up and converted the resultant penalty in the 25th minute.

Less than 10 minutes from the opening goal, Delfi earned his side another penalty on account of being fouled by Karin Arce and Shariati did the honours of scoring from the 12 yard mark.

The only notable chance Costa Rica produced, that too in the added time of the first half, was when Andres Gomez sidestepped both Ali Satavi and Shariati but saw his shot tipped away by Iran goalkeeper Ali Gholam Zadeh, though it was not quite destined for goal.

Iran refused to take their foot off the gas in the second half as Ricardo Montenegro was lucky to see



Sayyad's follow through shot rise above his goal from around the six yards box after the Costa Rica goalkeeper had denied Ghobeishavi.

Breansse Camacho's side could have gotten themselves back in the game with a goal two minutes past the hour mark, but Cordero somehow squandered his shot wide when Iran goalkeeper Gholam Zadeh was just about recovering from blocking Yecsy Jarquin's attempt.

Iran scored their 10th goal of the tournament and the first one through open play in this match as substitute Sardari danced his way into the box and cut past Montenegro to score off Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh's through ball in the 89th minute which was Ithe final nail in the coffin for Costa Rica.

Esteghlal held by Foolad at Iran Professional League

S P O R T S d e s k Esteghial football team were held to a 0-0 draw by Foolad in Iran Professional League (IPL) on Friday.

It was the Blues' first match under the guidance of German coach Winfried Schaefer.

The Iranian popular team failed to create scoring chances as the team have won just two matches in their nine previous games.

Esteghlal are 12th in the table and Foolad sit fifth.

Furthermore, IPL pacesetters Pars Jonoubi Jam drew 1-1 with Tractor Sazi, Sepahan defeated Siahjamegan 2-0, Padideh drew 2-2 with Zob Ahan, Saipa was held to a 1-1 draw by Sepidrood Rasht and Sanat Naft Abadan edged past Naft Tehran 1-0.

On Thursday, Persepolis had defeated Esteghlal Khuzestan 3-1 and Paykan beat Gostaresh Foolad 1-0.

Future bright for five-star Iran

If you heard that only one nation had qualified for five men's FIFA tournaments in 2016 and 2017, chances are you would guess it was Brazil, Germany or another of the game's global superpowers.

In fact, Iran hold that unique and impressive distinction, having reached the senior World Cup as well as FIFA's U-20 and U-17 finals, and its futsal and beach soccer showpieces. Nor have the Asian giants been satisfied simply with taking part, as FIFA.com discovered.

2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Played 18, lost none.['] That was the remarkable record that propelled Carlos Queiroz's Team Melli to Russia 2018,



when they opened their campaign in Korea with an impressive 1-0 win over Costa Rica. And while they were ultimately edged out by Portugal and Zambia for a place in the last 16, midfielder Omid Norafkan vowed that the tournament would help prepare them for challenges in the senior ranks. "The level of the experience we've got here is not comparable to anything we've had," Norafkan said. "This event will greatly assist and help us."

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017

Having qualified for Bahamas 2017 by retaining the Asian title, Iran proceeded to make history by finishing third at the global finals. That represented the high-

Boateng wants video technology used to identify racism

Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng has called for video technology to be used in football to ban racist supporters from matches.

Video footage is now heavily used on the pitch in the Bundesliga, with goal-line technology this season joined by VAR.

But Boateng is frustrated that there has been no progress in identifying racism within the stands - something he believes could now be achieved easily.

"We are in the year 2017 and we have still not found a way to do it," he told Focus. "We have goal-line technology and video evidence that says [against Wolfsburg in August] that Boateng was offside and the penalty was not given.

"But why do we not use the technology so that every racist is identified, kicked out and never returned to the stadium?"

Boateng, who endured racist chanting in Serie A during his time with AC Milan, added: "There are incidents in every new season. It just cannot happen."

(Source: Goal)

Swiss club Sion's president to defy 14-month ban

The president of Swiss top flight club FC Sion has vowed to defy a 14-month ban imposed on him for attacking a television commentator following a league match last month. Christian Constantin was suspended by the Swiss Football League's disciplinary committee on Thursday and is banned from entering any part of a stadium that is hosting a domestic league, cup or national team match. In a statement, the committee describe Constantin's behavior as "a clear and serious violation" of its code of conduct and said he had "discredited the values of football".

"It makes me laugh," Constantin told Swiss newspaper Le Matin. "I was not even called or heard (by the disciplinary commission). If they want a war, they'll have a war. We'll see who is standing at the end."

Asked if he would go to Sunday's match at home to St Gallen, Constantin said: "Why should not go? I pay the rent at Tourbillon (stadium)." Constantin attacked Rolf Fringer following a match at Lugano in September. Part of the attack was caught on camera and showed Fringer, already on the ground, being slapped on the head by Constantin. Minutes later, Constantin said in a television interview that Fringer had treated him badly and that the matter had been "sorted out". Fringer described the incident as unbelievable.

(Source: Reuters)

PL: More than half of fans pay £30 or less per match

More than half of Premier League fans are paying £30 or less per match to watch English top-flight games this season, according to new research.

The average price for a ticket is ± 32 , the study by the Premier League and Ernst and Young found.

The average price for an away ticket is £26, with 33% sold below the £30 cap agreed by clubs in March 2016.

Concessions and offers - including early-bird and loyalty - make up 34% of all season tickets sold.

"This research shows the excellent value clubs are offering and the impressive commitment of their fans," Richard Scudamore, Premier League executive chairman, said.

"I hope it will challenge commonly held perceptions about the cost of attending Premier League football, and encourage even more people to consider going to a match."

Last season the same study found the average price of a ticket was £31. The research has been compiled using data provided directly by the clubs, including the cost of every ticket already sold or available this season.

It includes all parts of Premier League stadiums, except hospitality areas, and includes all ticket types sold or available. All match day tickets include booking fees or admin charges. (Source: BBC)

and ensured that they became the first Asian side to qualify. Iran sealed their place with two games to spare and are now looking forward to a fifth World Cup, having previously participated in the 1978, 1998, 2006 and 2014 editions. Queiroz is not content simply to be joining the party though. "My goal and dream is to get to the knockout stage," he said. "We should not be satisfied with the first round. We need to be ambitious. We need to think big. We will not go to Russia as tourists."

FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017

Although Iran qualified for India 2017 by reach-

ing the final AFC U-16 Championship, few would have expected the impact they have made thus far. With two games gone, they are already assured of a place in the knockout stages, having beaten Guinea 3-1 and inflicted a stunning 4-0 defeat on Germany. The Germans' coach, Christian Wuck, praised his side's conquerors afterwards, saying: "Iran played a great match. They are mentally a very good team."

FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017 Iran's U-20 campaign looked set for success too est-ever finish by an Asian side at the Beach Soccer World Cup, with Mexico, Switzerland and Italy all beaten en route to the podium.

FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016

Another tournament, another bronze medal and another best-ever finish for Iran. Mohammad Nazemalsharie's side qualified as Asian champions and emerged as one of the tournament's major success stories, stunning record champions Brazil in the Round of 16 on the way to finishing third.

(Source: FIFA)

Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Championship to be held in Nepal

First Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Championship of South Asian countries will be held in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal

The First Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Championship of South Asian countries will be held in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal with the presence of 8 countries.

Countries taking part in this championship consists of India , Nepal , Sri Lanka , Maldives, Bhutan , Afghanistan , Pakistan & Bangladesh that started training and exercising a few days ago in Kathmandu with the attendance of International Coaches and Morsheds .

Bahram Afsharzadeh, IZSF Senior Advisor in Executive Affairs, considered the trend of training and exercise of the participating teams positive and the qualitative level of education as favorable and mentioned that this Championship is going to be held in Nepal for the first time. Athletes will compete in this Championship in two disciplines and sections of Zurkhaneh Sports (Individual & Miyandari) and Koshti Pahlevani.

It is worth pointing out that Zurkhaneh Sport discipline was well welcomed and received during 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games held in Baku with the presence of 10 participating teams which was one of the 22 official sports of the mentioned games .Establishment of Zurkhaneh & Koshti Pahlevani hall in Nepal was taken into consideration in the joint meeting between IZSF & Kathmandu Civil Engineering Faculty

Afsharzadeh, Ebrahim Seighalani, Senior Advisor of IZSF, Head of Kathmandu Civil Engineering Faculty and President of Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Federation of Nepal discussed and negotiated with each other in order to establish a Zurkhaneh & Koshti Pahlevani hall in Nepal.

Afsharzadeh, who had entered Kathmandu ,capital of Nepal a few days ago as the Head of Executive committee to organize Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani championship of South Asian countries, said to the President of Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Federation of Nepal that fortunately Nepal has the talent and potential to develop of Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani and IZSF is ready to cooperate with this country to establish Zurkhaneh hall so that this sport will proceed and carry on forward strongly.

Likewise , Seighalani mentioned that culture, literature , temperament , character of Nepalese people is very close to the teachings and principles of Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti and added that since IZSF is going to provide coordination and convergence tools among nations through Zurkhaneh Sport; definitely Nepal would be able to pave and smooth the path of reaching these



goals by developing this sport as colleague and one of the 85 members of IZSF and be recognized as the base and headquarter of this sport in South Asia .

Accordingly President of Zurkhaneh Sports & Koshti Pahlevani Federation of Nepal and Head of Kathmandu Civil Engineering Faculty and development of Nepal University expressed his satisfaction with developing and expanding this sport in their country and announced that they will allocate a piece of land to establish the required building and hall.

Messi seriously considering fresh start at Manchester City

Barcelona star Lionel Messi is seriously considering a fresh start at Manchester City.

His contract expires next summer and he is in two minds about where he sees his future, according to The Sun.

Messi confided in his Argentina team-mates during the international break over what he should do.

He has been negotiating a new contract with Barcelona for 18 months and the new deal is worth £500,000-a-week and comes with a record-breaking £80m signing bonus.

But Manchester City are willing to pay him a \pm 90m bonus to go to the Etihad and could offer a world-record transfer fee of \pm 357m. City officials have met with his representatives on a number of occasions and could look to sign him for a fee in January, or wait until he is a free agent in June.

Messi is not convinced about Barca's ambition following the sale of Neymar to PSG and the appointment of Ernesto Valverde as manager.

He has also become disillusioned by the political unrest surrounding the Catalonian independence referendum.

Barca chiefs hope he will put pen to paper on the new deal now that Argentina's World Cup place is confirmed.

Messi scored a stunning hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Ecuador earlier this week to send them to Russia.

If City do sign Barca's record goal scorer then he'll be reunited with Pep Guardiola who managed him for four years at the Nou Camp, where they won three league titles and two Champions Leagues together.

Earlier this week City striker Sergio Aguero said that he would love to join forces with his international team-mate in the Premier League. *(Source: Daily Star)*

TEHRANTIMES

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NEWS IN BRIEF



IRIB CEO visiting Syria

TEHRAN — An Iranian delegation headed d e s k by Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) director Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari arrived in Damascus, Syria on Friday to hold meetings with a number of cultural officials of the country.

He visited Syria's General Organization of Radio and TV on the first day of his trip and met with a number of Syrian cineastes.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting



The exhibit named "Myth and Color" runs until October 18 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St., in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

A collection of paintings by Azar Sharifi is on display in an exhibition at Hepta Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Inversion" will be running until October 18 at the gallery located at 3 Nikushahr Dead End, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

An exhibition of paintings by Marjan Nemati is currently MEMORABILIA underway at Golestan Gallery. The exhibition named



can be found at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood. Sohrab Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Reza Samiei.

Entitled "The Unpleasant Distance", the exhibit runs until October 24 at the gallery located at 142 Somayyeh St.

An exhibition of paintings by Hunaz Afaqi, Pegah Pirhadi, Shideh Zarrabi, Azita Qesmati and Maryam Teimuri is underway

at Aliha Gallery. The exhibit entitled "Parallel Worlds" will be running until October 22 at the gallery located at No. 31 Ramezanian Alley,

Sunrise: 6:11 (tomorrow)

OCTOBER 14, 2017 ART&CULTURE

Iranian cinema receives three nominations at APSA

TEHRAN — The Iranian d e s k cinema received three nominations as the organizers announced the nominees on Friday for the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the region's highest accolade in film.

"A Man of Integrity", a drama directed and produced by Mohammad Rasulof about a goldfish farmer who is battling corporate oppression in northern Iran, was nominated for Best Feature Film award.

"The Skater", also known as "The Skier" that portrays childish persistence, received a nomination in the Best Youth Feature Film category.

Navid Mohammadzadeh was nominated for the best actor award for his role in the acclaimed drama "No Date, No Signature" by Vahid Jalilvand.

Other contenders for the best feature award are Vivian Qu's "Angels Wear White", co-produced between China and France, Samuel Maoz's "Foxtrot", a coproduction from Israel, Germany, France and Switzerland, Sergei Loznitsa's "A Gentle Creature" from France, Germany, Lithuania and the Netherlands, and Warwick Thornton's "Sweet Country" from Australia. "Big Big World" by Turkish director

Reha Erdem, "Jasper Jones" by Australian director Rachel Perkins, "The Seen and Unseen" by Kamila Andini from Indonesia, the Netherlands, Australia and Qatar, and "The Summer Is Gone" by Chinese director Zhang Dalei are also competing for the award for Best Youth Feature Film award.

Mohammadzadeh competes with Paolo Ballesteros in "Die Beautiful" from the Philippines, Koji Yakusho in "The Third

Malaysian expo showcases artworks from Iran

A R T TEHRAN

d e s ^k Artworks from Iranian artists are on display at the 11th edition of the Art Expo Malaysia Plus, which is underway at Matrade Exhibition and Convention Centre (MECC) in Kuala Lumpur.

Iranian artists, including Morteza Gudarzi-Dibaj, are showcasing their latest works at the expo, which will run until Sunday.

Speaking to the Persian service of IRNA on Thursday, Gudarzi Dibaj said, "Art is a common language among all people," and added that organizing such an exhibition can help the two nations expand their cultural relationships.

A total of 2000 artworks, including paintings, sculptures, installation and photography, are on display this year at the Art Expo Malaysia Plus, which is a major international art fair in Southeast Asia.

Artists from over 20 countries,



"Newton" from India, and Mohammad Bakri

A painting by Iranian artist Morteza Gudarzi Dibai



This combination photo shows scenes from the Iranian movies "A Man of Integrity" (L), "The Skater" (C) and "No Date, No Signature" nominated for the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Murder" from Japan, Rajkummar Rao in and the United Arab Emirates. Winners will be announced at the 11th and Saleh Bakri in "Duty" from Palestine, Colombia, France, Germany, Norway, Qatar November 23.

The Asia Pacific Screen Awards is supported by the Brisbane City Council and APSA ceremony in Brisbane, Australia on managed by its economic development board, Brisbane Marketing.

"The Munekata Sisters" coming to Tehran museum



TEHRAN _ e s k Prominent Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu's 1950 drama "The Munekata Sisters" will go on screen at the cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art at 5 p.m. on Sunday. The film is about Setsuko, who

is unhappily married to Mimura, an engineer with no job and a bad drinking habit, but she is still in love with Hiroshi, who has left Japan a few years ago.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian film critic Majid Eslami.



including Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia and Romania, are participating in the expo.

Mahurzadeh St., Shariati St. Multimedia



Shokuh Gallery is showcasing a collection of paintings and sculptures by Bita Mohabbati in an exhibition.

> The exhibit named "Reflection" runs until October 18 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. near Andarzgu Blvd.

Steven Seagal meets "The Punisher" Duterte, talks drug war

MANILA (Reuters) — U.S. actor Steven Seagal, famous for plaving action roles like a vice squad detective in "Above the Law", met Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte while on a location scouting trip in Manila.

Video footage released by government channel RTVM showed Seagal animatedly talking to Duterte.

Seagal, 65, was in the Philippines to look for a location for his upcoming movie which will be "about illegal drugs and other crimes", a presidential palace statement said.

The statement said that Duterte told Seagal that "movies are a reflection of life" and "reiterated his strong stance against illegal drugs because it enslaves people to a form of synthetic chemical."

Duterte has been involved in a deadly drug war since taking office last June, and on Wednesday ordered all drug operations be left to the drug enforcement agency, amid unprecedented scrutiny of police conduct in the brutal crackdown that has left thousands of Filipinos dead.

Earlier this week, Seagal said at a news conference in Manila that he didn't think the Philippines was "a dangerous place".

"It's a place that's up and coming with the new leadership," the Philippine Star reported him as saying.

Duterte was nicknamed "The Punisher" due to his zero-tolerance of crime and drugs during the 22 years he was mayor of southern Davao City.

Philippines Asian Center displays traditional Iranian costumes

TEHRAN — A collection of Iranian said during an opening ceremony for the women's traditional attire was put on display at the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines Diliman in a three-day exhibition that opened on Wednesday.

The collection has been made by Shahin Ebrahimzadeh-Pezeshki, famous Iranian artist and expert in traditional Iranian dressmaking, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Thursday.

"Iranian women's attire feature forms of art, and the women draw inspiration from the regions in which they live to represent the culture of the regions through the art," Ebrahimzadeh-Pezeshki

exhibit.

The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with the Pinay-Irano Family Community (PIFC), the Philippine-Iran Cultural and Scientific Society, and the Embassy of Iran.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, PIFC director Henelito Sevilla said that Iran enjoys a rich culture and an amazing ancient civilization that cause a wide diversity of attire in the country.

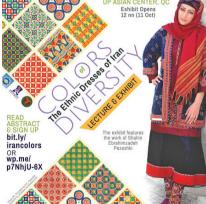
He expressed his thanks to the Iranian organizers of the exhibition and added that the PIFC is ready to support other cultural exhibitions from Iran.

Jafari-Malek also expressed his gratitude for the contribution the Asian Center and the PIFC made to the showcase and said, "Color and art in Iran are rooted in the colorful nature and geography of our country, and Iranian women take the art from nature to their homes."

The dean of the Asian Center, Joefe B. Santarita, also spoke at the ceremony.

"Organizing such an exhibition can help the students at the Asian Center and Filipino people become familiar with aspects of Iranian culture," he stated.

The collection was previously showcased in an exhibition at Rizal Park in Manila by the University of Santo Tomas from October 5 to 7.



A poster Shahin Ebrahimzadeh-Pezeshki's exhibition at the Asian Center at the University of the Philippines Diliman

Iranian cultural attaché Mohammad

Bruno Mars leads music's AMA nominations as female artists edged out

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - The men of pop and hip hop led the nominations for the American Music Awards (AMA) on Thursday, while female artists were left out of most categories.

Bruno Mars led with eight nominations, including Artist of the Year, the top accolade of the night. He will face hip hop stars Drake and Kendrick Lamar, British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and electro-pop DJ duo The Chainsmokers - each of whom landed five nominations - for the coveted award.

The women of pop music failed to land nominations in categories such as Artist of the Year, Video of the Year and Tour of the Year.

Pop star Halsey, one of the few female artists to land nominations for her collaboration with The Chainsmokers on the



Bruno Mars performs "Let's Go Crazy" during a tribute to the late singer Prince at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, U.S., February 12, 2017. (Reuters/Lucy Nicholson)

hit song "Closer," tweeted on Thursday that she was "really disappointed" at the maledominated nominees list.

"so many incredible female artists have released this year. hoping the coming award shows give them the credit that is due to them," she said.

Halsey landed two nominations, in the favorite pop/rock song and collaboration of the year categories for "Closer," but did not land any solo nominations despite having had a chart-topping album earlier this year.

Notable omissions include Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Lorde, Demi Lovato, Lana Del Rey and Kesha, all of whom released new songs and albums this year, as well as Taylor Swift, who released a high-concept video in August for her single "Look What You Made Me Do."

The AMA nominees are selected through measurements on fan interactions across Billboard Magazine and Billboard.com,

which include figures from music sales, touring, streaming and radio airplay and social activity from Sept. 9, 2016 to Sept. 14, 2017, organizers said.

The winners of the American Music Awards are voted for by fans and will be announced at a live ceremony televised on ABC on Nov. 19.

Rihanna was the only other female artist to land two nods. She will compete with Lady Gaga and newcomer Alessia Cara for favorite female pop/rock artist, and she will face Beyonce and Kehlani in the favorite female soul/R&B category.

Newcomer Julia Michaels is up against singer James Arthur, former One Direction star Niall Horan, rapper Post Malone and hip hop duo Rae Sremmurd for the New Artist of the Year accolade.