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Zarif: Nuclear renegotiation is a 'myth'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday essentially ruled out renegotiating or launching follow-up talks to a landmark nuclear accord that President Donald Trump is threatening to dismantle, saying rewriting the multilateral pact is a "myth".
The top diplomat also scolded Trump for a tweet about a nonexistent Iranian missile launch.

"We need to check our facts before we make statements," Zarif said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It worries me that people play with facts and produce alternative facts."
He also criticized a recent referendum on independence by Iraq's Kurdish minority as "dangerous" to stability in a Middle East already beset by efforts to defeat the Islamic State extremist group and civil wars in Syria and Yemen. **→2**

Iran, Iraq to hold joint border war games

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian and Iraqi forces will hold joint war games at several crossings on Iran's border with the autonomous Iraqi Kurdish region, according to officials.

posed by Iraq and its powerful neighbors Iran and Turkey.

The announcement on Saturday came in the wake of a controversial secession referendum in Iraq's Kurdish region. Monday's poll was strongly op-

"A joint military exercise between Iran's armed forces and units from the Iraqi army will be held in the coming days along the shared border," Masoud Jazayeri, spokesman for Iran's Joint Armed Forces Staff, said on Saturday after a high-level meeting of Iranian military commanders. **→2**

Israeli regime pushing region into new war: Nasrallah

The secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has warned that the Israeli regime under "idiotic" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pushing the region into war.
Netanyahu "is only planning for war," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a Sunday speech marking Ashura, the

martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein, the third Shia Imam.

The Israelis do not have "a correct assessment of where this war will lead if they ignite it," he said, adding they "do not have a correct picture about what is awaiting them if they go to the idiocy of this war." **→13**

ARTICLE

By Mahnaz Abdi
Head of the Economy Desk of the TehranTimes

Renewables spurring foreign investment

Clean energy is under the spotlight in Iran as the oil and gas rich country also enjoys some advantageous geographical and climate condition to benefit from renewable sources of energy.

Iran's power generation capacity is currently 77,000 megawatts (MW), of which renewables account for just 420 MW and according to the former Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian the figure is planned to reach 600 MW by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2018).

Also, Deputy Energy Minister Houshang Falahatian has announced in late September that the country plans to add 1,000 MW of new renewable power capacity every year over the next five years.

Based on the country's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), Iran is aiming to increase its capacity of power generation from renewable sources by 5,000 MW per annum to meet growing domestic demand and also increase its electricity exports.

To meet the set target, the Energy Ministry has taken a new approach toward development of renewable sector and has been offering incentives to both Iranian and foreign investors for cooperation in renewable projects inside the country.

It has led to more contribution of private sector to this industry, and also attraction of foreign investors appreciating Iran's noticeable resources of solar energy and wind power in addition to its special geopolitical location which makes it one of the best areas for investment in renewables.

Investing \$27 million, Switzerland's DURION AG Company was the main investor of the project to build Iran's largest solar farm. The 20-MW Mokran Solar Farm in Mahan County in the southeastern Kerman Province was inaugurated on July 27. **→4**

Iran's oil output up 20,000 bpd in September

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian crude oil production increased by 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) in September from its previous month.

According to the latest data released by Reuters, exempted from the OPEC, non-OPEC curbs, Iran has increased its crude output to 3.81 million bpd in September from 3.79 million bpd in August.

The country has increased its oil output by 103,000 bpd from the baseline determined at the time of OPEC, non-OPEC agreement in 2016.

The output from the 13 OPEC members originally part of the deal increased by 60,000 bpd in September from its preceding month. Supply from the 11 members with production targets under the original accord rose by 40,000 bpd.

The compliance with the pact was reported

to be 86 percent in the mentioned month, with the members achieving a 998,000 bpd cut out of the pledged 1,164,000 bpd.

In an effort to prop up prices, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries started reducing output by about 1.2 million bpd on January 1 in its first supply cut since 2008.

Nigeria and Libya were also exempted from the curbs.

No justification to shun international demands, Iran tells Myanmar

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Saturday that it is "unacceptable" that the Myanmar government ignore demands by the international community on the sufferings of the Rohingya.

The warning by Iran comes as the brutal purge of the Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim population that has been suppressed in Myanmar for decades, has intensified in recent days.

"Such a complicated situation can turn into one of the worst human crises. We are witnessing continuation of ignoring the international community's demands by the Myanmar government which is unacceptable," Qassemi said.

Thousands of people continue to trudge over the border to Bangladesh to escape the horrors in their own country. According to foreign media outlets, the total number of refugees leaving Myanmar has now been estimated at over 501,000.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official said Myanmar should not prevent sending of humanitarian aid to the Rohingya people.

Elsewhere, Qassemi called on the international community to stand beside Bangladesh to stop displacement of the Rohingya and send aid to them.

An official with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced that Myanmar's government has blocked Iran's aid shipment for Rohingya Muslims.

The Rohingya Muslims have long been subjected to discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which denies them citizenship.

Myanmar's government regards them as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, even if they have lived in the country for generations.

Refugee camps near Bangladesh's border with Myanmar already had about 300,000 Rohingya before the upsurge in violence last month and are now overwhelmed.

Tens of thousands of new arrivals have nowhere to shelter from monsoon rains.

Those flocking into Bangladesh have given harrowing accounts of killings, rape and arson by Myanmar's army. Myanmar authorities deny any wrongdoing.

The UN said on Thursday that about 60 people are believed to have died when a boat carrying the Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized off Bangladesh.

International Organisation for Migration spokesman Joel Millman said the boat capsized was carrying about 80 people, according to survivors.

"Survivors described being at sea all night, having no food," he said.

Several children were among the dead. One survivor told Reuters news agency that his wife, two daughters and a grandson had died. He said they had decided to leave Rakhine after armed Buddhists took their livestock and food.



© AFP

Muslims mark Ashura with mourning ceremonies

In their millions, Muslims have staged passionate mourning ceremonies in commemoration of the day in history that witnessed the martyrdom of the icon of sacrifice to the faithful.

The occasion, known as Ashura, marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussein and 72 of his companions in 680 AD in a land that is known today as Iraq, after they refused to pledge allegiance to the tyrant Yazid.

Ashura is the culmination of a 10-day annual mourning period in the Lunar month of Muharram for the third Imam of Shia Muslims, who was a grandson of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him). **→13**

Iraq's top Shia cleric opposes Kurdistan's secession

Iraq's top Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani has voiced opposition to the secession of the northern Kurdistan region from the mainland, warning of the negative repercussions of such "unilateral steps."

Grand Ayatollah Sistani's representative Ahmed al-Safi said in a Friday sermon on his behalf in the holy city of Karbala that the senior cleric wants the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) "to return to the constitutional path" pursuing self-determination for the Kurds.

The senior leader also warned against the unfavorable repercussions of separation and division in the Iraqi nation, stressing that this would pave the way for foreign interference in the affairs of the country.

The Kurdish vote "is an attempt to divide Iraq and take its northern part by setting up an independent state," said his message, adding that all parties should respect the Iraqi constitution.

The "unilateral steps" toward dividing Iraq will lead to internal and external reactions that will have consequences on our "dear Kurdish citizens and could have more dangerous repercussions," said Grand Ayatollah Sistani.

The cleric also called on the Iraqi government and parliament to preserve the rights of Kurds.

In defiance of Baghdad's stiff opposition, the KRG held a non-binding referendum on secession from the mainland. Kurdish officials said over 90 percent of the voters said 'Yes' to separation from Iraq.

With the exception of Israel, all major regional and international parties have voiced serious concerns over the secessionist move, saying it would compound the problems of the country, which is already busy with counterterrorism operations against Daesh.

Iraqi Kurdish officials have been harshly criticized for turning a deaf ear to Baghdad's objections and going ahead with the unconstitutional plebiscite before any negotiations and consultations with the central Iraqi government.

(Source: Press TV)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rouhani congratulates China's Xi on National Day

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has expressed hope that relations between Tehran and Beijing would expand in various spheres.

In a message to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Rouhani congratulated 68th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

"I hope we would witness expansion of relations between the two great and civilized Asian countries in various areas given the history of cooperation between the two countries," Rouhani said.

"I wish your Excellency health and success and the people of China prosperity and felicity."



Sunni cleric: Enemies seeking to break up Muslim states

POLITICS TEHRAN — Molavi Abdul Hamid, a high-ranking Iranian Sunni cleric, said on Friday that enemies are seeking to disintegrate Muslim countries.

"The territorial integrity and independence of Muslim countries are vital and important," he told worshippers in Zahedan, the capital of the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

The warning by the Sunni cleric comes as the Iraqi Kurdistan held an independence referendum last week, seeking secession from the mainland Iraq.



Russia rejects U.S. claim on Iran, IAEA

POLITICS A senior Russian official has dismissed a recent U.S. claim that Moscow is trying to "shield" Iran from inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which Washington has been pushing to widen to Iran's military sites.

According to Press TV, Mikhail Ulyanov, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Weapons Control Department, said on Friday that the IAEA has no reason to request access to military sites in Iran or any other country.

The IAEA, he said, is permitted to request access to Iran's non-nuclear sites, but it has to provide reasons for such requests.



'Iraqi Kurdistan referendum is tantamount to boosting Daesh, Israel'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Hossein Amir Abdollahian, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker, said on Saturday that the Iraqi Kurdistan's independence referendum is tantamount to strengthening Daesh, the Tel-Aviv regime, new regional anarchism, and instability.

"Strong support for Iraq's national unity is the real support for the Iraqi Kurds," he tweeted.

Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government held independence referendum last Monday. KRG President Masoud Barzani turned a cold shoulder to international calls against the referendum.



IRGC chief: Iran to use missiles whenever necessary

POLITICS TEHRAN — Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, has said Iran will fire its missiles at the enemy targets whenever necessary.

Pointing to the high precision power of Iranian missiles, the general added, "No one believed that the Islamic Republic's missiles and the Guards' missiles could strike with pinpoint precision."

"It is now several years since we announced that we have achieved this technology. Now, we promise to all Iranian people that almost all the Guards' missiles are equipped with this technology," Jafari said, Fars news agency reported on Saturday.



Iranian envoy holds talks on security of Arba'een pilgrims

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, Iraj Masjedi, on Sunday discussed the ways to boost the security of Arba'een pilgrims with Abu Hassan al-Baldawi, an official with the Nojaba Movement, a faction within the Popular Mobilization Forces in the city of Balad, IRNA reported.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims visit Karbala, where the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to mark Arba'een, 40 days after the Ashura rituals.

Ambassador Masjedi said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the resistance groups and would also support the Nojaba Movement."

Zarif: Nuclear renegotiation is a 'myth'

FM Zarif says Trump "would open a Pandora's box" by trying to re-litigate the 2015 accord's time limits on Iranian nuclear activities



"This is an open declaration that Iran is always on the side of those who fight extremism and terrorism," Foreign Minister Zarif asserts.

national obligations not to develop nuclear weapons afterward."

The Iranian minister also ruled out a new agreement, as some U.S. officials have called for.

"We need to be realistic in our expectations," Zarif said. "We dealt with all these issues. It took us many years. It took us 10 years of posturing on all sides and two years of serious negotiations to reach this deal. I don't expect that a new round will produce any better results. In fact, a new round will get us in a quagmire that nobody will be able to get out of."

Trump has to decide by Oct. 15 whether to certify Iranian compliance with the agreement.

Iran and the five other parties — Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — have been urging the United States not to pull out of the deal.

Zarif said that if the U.S. withdraws "then we're not bound by that agreement and we will then decide how we want to deal with it."

"It does not mean that Iran wants to pursue a nuclear weapons option," he said. "But what is important is if the deal is broken, then Iran has many options, one of which would be to have an unlimited yet peaceful nuclear energy program."

'Abrogation of nuclear deal would backfire on Washington'

Zarif said Iran would resume uranium enrichment and other elements of its nuclear

program at a more advanced level than before if the U.S. abrogates the deal.

"The deal allowed Iran to continue its research and development. So we have improved our technological base. If we decide to walk away from the deal we would be walking away with better technology. It will always be peaceful, because membership of the NPT is not dependent on this deal. But we will not observe the limitations that were agreed on as part of the bargain in this deal," Zarif told the Guardian and the Financial Times in an interview published on Friday.

He added that "walking away" from the deal was just one option under consideration in Tehran.

"There are other options and those options will depend on how the rest of the international community deal with the United States," he said. "If Europe and Japan and Russia and China decided to go along with the United States, then I think that will be the end of the deal."

Zarif also called on Europe to defy U.S. sanctions if the Trump administration torpedoes the international agreement.

He said the only way Iran would be persuaded to continue to observe the limits on its civil nuclear program would be if the other signatories — the UK, France, Germany, Russia, China — all remained committed to its terms and defy any subsequent U.S. sanctions.

The Iranian foreign minister said he expected Trump to carry through his threat not

to certify Iranian compliance in a State Department report to Congress on 15 October. Congress would then have 60 days to reimpose sanctions suspended under the deal.

"I think he has made a policy of being unpredictable, and now he's turning that into being unreliable as well," Zarif said.

"My assumption and guess is that he will not certify and then will allow Congress to take the decision."

On another persistent American demand, Zarif said there were no negotiations currently going on with the United States for the release of U.S. citizens being held in Iran.

"Unfortunately there are a large number of Iranians who have been detained by the United States, both in the United States as well as through the extradition request of the United States throughout the world," he said. "These people, including pregnant women, are in prison for technical violations of sanctions that no longer apply today."

Asked if he was suggesting a prisoner exchange such as the one that took place under former president Barack Obama in 2016, he said: "Well it happened once but what I'm implying here is the application of double standards."

Zarif was then asked whether the government would be open to a prisoner exchange. "Well, I cannot predict the outcome of a negotiation that is not taking place right now," he said.

Turning to the Kurdish independence referendum in Iraq on September 25, Zarif said that Iran was opposed to the vote "like every other nation in the world." According to official results of the non-binding referendum announced on September 27, 92 percent supported independence.

Zarif called the Kurds "our eternal friends," noting that Iran came to their assistance when they were fighting Islamic State extremists in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region.

But he said: "We believe that this referendum is dangerous for stability in the region and doesn't serve the interest of our Iraqi Kurdish friends."

Zarif also defended support for Syrian President Bashar Assad and suggested his country could intervene elsewhere in the Arab world to fight extremists.

Zarif said Iran has fought against "extremists and terrorists" starting in Afghanistan in the 1990s, in Iraq since 2003 and in Irbil. In Syria, he said, "the government and resistance forces have been able to achieve military victory over the terrorists ... to a really important extent."

"If we need to go to the assistance of any other government in the region in order for them to fight extremists and terrorists, we are ready," Zarif said. "This is an open declaration that Iran is always on the side of those who fight extremism and terrorism."

Zarif says "If Europe and Japan and Russia and China decided to go along with the United States, then I think that will be the end of the deal."

Iran marks Ashura

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranians marked Ashura rituals on Sunday to commemorate the slaying of Imam Hussein (AS) who was martyred in the battle of Karbala in Iraq in 680 AD.

Across Iran, millions of mourners started the processions shortly after the sunrise, lining up in coordinated and orderly bands of passion plays and recitations of elegies which continued until the afternoon.

At the time of battle of Kerbala, Muslim lands were governed from Damascus by a despot called Yazid. He sent an army against Imam Hussein to demand an oath of allegiance but Imam Hussein refused. In the battle, Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (S) and the third Shia Imam, was martyred along with 72 of his companions. The death of Imam Hussein symbolizes humanity's struggle against injustice, tyranny and oppression.

Professor Charles Taliaferro, a professor of philosophy at St. Olaf College, says "the life and sacrifice of Imam Hussein has been inspiring to both Muslims and non-Muslims."

On characteristics of Imam Hussein's movement, Taliaferro says, "I think it is a movement that prizes boldness, courage, faithfulness, integrity, being steadfast to the end."

KRG referendum is 'Barzani's coup against rivals': Mohsen Rezaei

MNA — Former IRGC General Mohsen Rezaei said the independence referendum held by the Iraqi Kurdistan region was KRG President Masoud Barzani's coup against his rivals to expunge them from the Kurdish region.

"Barzani sought to put either himself or his representative in the position of Iraq's Kurdish president," Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei said in a tweet on Friday.

"[The referendum] was not about the interest of the Kurdish people," Rezaei said. "It was only aimed at an internal clean-up and promoting the sentiments of heroism."

The controversial referendum was held on Monday in Iraq's Kurdistan despite widespread calls for its cancellation.



According to Kurdish officials, over 90 percent of the voters said 'Yes' to separation from Iraq, while the United Nations, the US, and all major regional and international parties, except for Israel, voiced strong opposition to the plan.

In a statement on Friday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Washington does not recognize the Kurdistan Regional Government's unilateral referendum held on Monday.

"The vote and the results lack legitimacy and we continue to support a united, federal, democratic and prosperous Iraq," Tillerson said, adding "the United States asks all parties, including Iraq's neighbors, to reject unilateral actions and the use of force. We urge calm and an end to vocal recriminations and threats of reciprocal actions."

Iran, Iraq to hold joint border war games

I → "In the meeting, the territorial integrity and unity of Iraq and the illegitimacy of the independence referendum in northern Iraq were stressed again and necessary decisions were taken to provide security at the borders and welcome Iraq's central government forces to take position at border crossings," Jazayeri stated.

Iranian soldiers on Tuesday also took

part in a Turkish military drill close to the Iraqi frontier.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has refused to hand over control of its border crossings to the Iraqi government, as demanded by Iraq, Iran and Turkey in retaliation for the referendum.

According to al-Jazeera, the Iraqi defense ministry has said it planned

to take control of the borders "in coordination" with Tehran and Ankara, without indicating whether Iraqi forces were to move towards the external border posts controlled by the KRG from the Iranian and Turkish side.

On Friday, Iraq also imposed a ban on international flights into its Kurdish region, ordering foreign airlines to suspend travel to the airports in the

cities of Erbil and Sulaimaniyah, the news network said on its website.

Tehran has been cooperating with Baghdad in building pressure on Iraqi Kurds, notably by cutting all flights to and from the region before the vote.

On Friday, it also banned the transportation of refined oil products by Iranian companies to and from Iraqi Kurdistan region.

Defiant Catalans vote on split from Spain despite crackdown

Spanish riot police burst into polling stations across Catalonia on Sunday, confiscating ballot boxes and voting papers to try to halt a banned referendum on a split from Spain as Madrid asserted its authority over the rebel region.

Police broke down doors to force entry into voting stations as defiant Catalans shouted "Out with the occupying forces!" and sang the anthem of the wealthy northeastern region. In one incident in Barcelona, police fired rubber bullets.

Officers in riot gear forcibly removed people from a polling station in Girona and Catalan firefighters protected voters by standing between them and national police.

The referendum, declared illegal by Spain's central government, has thrown the country into its worst constitutional crisis in decades and deepened a centuries-old rift between Madrid and Barcelona.

Despite the police action, hundreds-strong queues of people formed in cities and villages throughout the region to cast their votes. At one Barcelona polling station, elderly people and those with children entered first.

"I'm so pleased because despite all the hurdles they've put up, I've managed to vote," said Teresa, a 72-year-old pensioner in Barcelona who had stood in line for six hours.

The ballot will have no legal status as it has been blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court and Madrid for being at odds with the 1978 constitution.

A minority of around 40 percent of Catalans support independence, polls show, although a majority want to hold a referendum on the issue. The region of 7.5 million people has an economy larger than that of Portugal.

However much voting takes place, a "yes" result is likely, given that most of



those who support independence are expected to cast ballots while most of those against it are not.

Large crowds

Organizers had asked voters to turn out before dawn, hoping for large crowds to be the world's first image of voting day. "This is a great opportunity. I've waited 80 years for this," said 92-year-old Ramon Jordana, a former taxi driver waiting to vote in Sant Pere de Torello, a town in the foothills of the Pyrenees and a pro-independence bastion.

The Catalan government said voters could print out ballot papers at home and lodge them at any polling station not closed down by police.

Elsewhere, people were not able to access the ballot boxes. In a town in Girona province where Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont was due to vote, Civil Guard police smashed glass pan-

els to open the door and search for ballot boxes. Puigdemont voted in a different town in the province. He accused Spain of unjustified violence in stopping the vote and said it created a dreadful image of Spain. "The unjustified, disproportionate and irresponsible violence of the Spanish state today has not only failed to stop Catalans' desire to vote ... but has helped to clarify all the doubts we had to resolve today," he said.

The Catalan health service said 337 people had been injured as a result of police action. The government said 11 police officers were injured in clashes.

Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of Scotland, which voted to remain part of the United Kingdom in a 2014 referendum, said she was concerned by the images she was seeing from Catalonia. "Regardless of views on independence, we should all condemn

the scenes being witnessed and call on Spain to change course before someone is seriously hurt," she said on Twitter.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel tweeted: "Violence can never be the answer! We condemn all forms of violence and reaffirm our call for political dialogue."

Stations raided

Around 70 polling stations had been raided by police, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said.

The aim of the raids was to seize referendum material and not to target people wanting to vote, another senior government official said.

Spain's Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaría said police had acted in a proportionate manner.

"We have been made to do something we didn't want to do," said Eric Millo, the central government's representative in Catalonia, at a news conference.

One analyst said the scenes being played out across Catalonia on Sunday would make it harder for Madrid and Barcelona to find a way forward.

"I think it is going to make the clash more intense and make it more difficult to find a solution," said Antonio Barroso of Teneo Intelligence.

Puigdemont originally said that if the "yes" vote won, the Catalan government would declare independence within 48 hours, but regional leaders have since acknowledged Madrid's crackdown has undermined the vote. Markets have reacted cautiously but calmly to the situation so far, though credit rating agency S&P said on Friday that protracted tensions in Catalonia could hurt Spain's economic outlook. The region accounts for about a fifth of the economy.

(Source: Reuters)

Netanyahu glosses over Israeli role in Kurdish secession bid

Iraq to defend Kurdish people against threats: Premier

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has denied Turkey's accusation that the regime was involved in a recent controversial secession referendum in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a televised speech in the eastern city of Erzurum on Saturday that Israel's Mossad spy agency had played a role in the Kurdish bid for secession. "This shows one thing, that this administration (in northern Iraq) has a history with Mossad, they are hand-in-hand together," the Turkish leader said.

Netanyahu said on Sunday, "Israel played no part in the Turkish referendum, aside from the natural, deep and long-standing sympathy the Jewish people have for the Kurdish people and their aspirations."

On September 13, the Israeli premier voiced support for what he called the "legitimate efforts of the Kurdish people to attain a state of its own."

The non-binding Kurdish plebiscite took place on September 25, sparking strong objections from the central government in Baghdad, which views it as unconstitutional.

Other countries, including Iraq's neighbors, as well as the international community have also voiced concerns over the repercussions of the vote during which some separatists carried Israeli flags.

Iraq to defend Kurdish people

Meanwhile, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

has reaffirmed the country's determination to protect its Kurdish population against any threats, amid soaring tensions over the recent Kurdish independence referendum in the northern region of the country. "To our people in the Kurdistan region: we defend our Kurdish citizens as we defend all Iraqis and will not allow any attack on them," Abadi tweeted in English on Saturday.

An Iraqi prime minister adviser, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Abadi was referring to either an internal or external attack.

"We will not allow any harm to you and we will share our loaf of bread together," Abadi wrote in another tweet. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) held a non-binding referendum on secession from Iraq in defiance of Baghdad's stiff opposition on September 25. Kurdish officials said over 90 percent of voters said "Yes" to separation from Iraq.

The voting stations were dotted across the three provinces of Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Dohuk that form the Iraqi Kurdistan Region as well as in the disputed bordering zones such as the oil-rich province of Kirkuk. While much of the international community, including the UN, the European Union and Iraq's neighbors, has opposed the referendum, Israel has been the only entity to openly support an independent Kurdish state, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backing "the legitimate efforts of the Kurdish

people to attain a state" of their own.

Political observers have warned that KRG President Massoud Barzani's referendum scenario is in line with Israel's policy of dividing the regional Muslim states.

In another tweet on Saturday, Abadi said Baghdad wants to have control over the country's oil revenues "in order to pay Kurdistan Region employee salaries in full and so that money will not go to the corrupt."

Following a 2014 dispute over oil revenues, Iraq suspended payment of 17 percent of Iraq's national budget to the Kurdish region. The transfers were worth nearly \$12 billion annually and made up 80 percent of the region's budget.

Following the move, wages, including those of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters were slashed.

After the Monday referendum, the Iraqi government ordered the KRG to hand over its international airports in Erbil, and the city of Sulaymaniyah, as well as its border crossings. It also asked the KRG to either cancel the result of the plebiscite or face potential sanctions, international isolation, and military intervention.

A ban on international flights into and out of the Iraqi Kurdish region also took effect on Friday.

The KRG has refused to either hand over the airports and land terminals or annul the outcome of the vote.

(Source: agencies)

Syrian forces make fresh gains on southern border with Jordan: report

Syrian army soldiers and allied fighters have reportedly managed to liberate nine positions from the grip of terrorists along the country's southern border with Jordan. A military news outlet run by the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement said on Saturday that the newly-recaptured positions were all situated to the southeast of the capital Damascus. The Syrian army's attack killed and wounded militants, the report added without elaborating on their number. Hezbollah has played a critical role in the Syrian military's counter-terrorism operations over the past few years.

The ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group has lately retreated from much of the territory under its control amid sweeping advances by Syrian forces on the battlefield.

On Friday, Syrian troops thwarted a Daesh attack and wrested control over a road connecting the cities of Palmyra and Dayr al-Zawr.

"The Syrian army and its allies completely secured the Dayr al-Zawr-Palmyra highway after foiling the intense attack. The highway has become passable for traffic in both directions to and from Dayr al-Zawr," a Hezbollah media unit said.



Dayr al-Zawr, which is located southeast of Daesh's former stronghold of Raqqa, was besieged by the terror outfit in 2014. Syrian government forces, backed by Russia's air cover, broke the siege on the city last month. Last week, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid

al-Muallem said Damascus was close to victory in its fight against foreign-sponsored terrorism in the Arab country. "My country, along with its steadfast people and its brave army and supported by our loyal allies, is marching steadily towards the goal of root-

ing out terrorism. The liberation of Aleppo and Palmyra, the lifting of the siege on the city of Dayr al-Zawr and the eradication of terrorism from many parts of Syria prove that victory is now within reach," he said.

China opposes Syria disintegration: Diplomat

Separately on Saturday, China's ambassador to Syria stressed that Beijing supports "Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity" and rejects "any attempt to divide it."

Syria's official SANA news agency quoted Qi Qianjin as saying that "only the Syrian people have the right to determine their future... not any other country."

He further expressed China's resolve to develop political, economic, educational and strategic relations with Syria.

3,000 killed in Syria in deadliest month of 2017

Syria's war killed at least 3,000 people including 955 civilians in September, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said Sunday, in the deadliest month of the conflict this year, the Britain-based monitor's head Rami Abdel Rahman said.

(Source: agencies)

U.S. directly communicating with North Korea, seeks dialogue

The United States said on Saturday it was directly communicating with North Korea on its nuclear and missile programs but Pyongyang had shown no interest in dialogue.

The disclosure by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson during a trip to China represented the first time he has spoken to such an extent about U.S. outreach to North Korea over its pursuit of a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile.

"We are probing so stay tuned," Tillerson told a group of reporters in Beijing.

"We ask: 'Would you like to talk?' We have lines of communications to Pyongyang. We're not in a dark situation, a blackout."

He said that communication was happening directly and cited two or three U.S. channels open to Pyongyang.

"We can talk to them. We do talk to them," he said, without elaborating about which Americans were involved in those contacts or how frequent or substantive they were.

The goal of any initial dialogue would be simple: finding out directly from North Korea what it wants to discuss.

"We haven't even gotten that far yet," he said.

Trying to tamp down expectations, the State Department said later there were no signs Pyongyang was interested in talks.

"North Korean officials have shown no indication that they are interested in or are ready for talks regarding denuclearization," department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

Tillerson previously had offered little detail about U.S. outreach. On Sept. 20, he acknowledged only "very, very limited" contact with Pyongyang's U.N. envoy.

When asked about Tillerson's assertion and what communication there might be between Pyongyang and Washington, a spokesman for the North Korean mission to the United Nations said he "can't go further into detail."

Overheated situation

Tillerson's remarks followed a day of meetings in Beijing, which has been alarmed by recent exchanges of war-like threats and personal insults between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump.

"I think the whole situation's a bit overheated right now," Tillerson said. "I think everyone would like for it to calm down. 'Obviously it would help if North Korea would stop firing off missiles. That'd calm things down a lot.'"

South Korean officials have voiced concerns that North Korea could conduct more provocative acts near the anniversary of the founding of its communist party on Oct. 10, or possibly when China holds its Communist Party Congress on Oct. 18.

North Korea is fast advancing toward its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the U.S. mainland. It conducted its sixth and largest nuclear test on Sept. 3 and has threatened to test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific.

U.S. officials including Tillerson say Beijing, after long accounting for some 90 percent of North Korea's foreign trade, appears increasingly willing to cut ties to its neighbor's economy by adopting U.N. sanctions.

Tillerson said China's more assertive posture was due to its realization that North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities had advanced too far.

"I think they also have a sense that we're beginning to run out of time and that we really have to change the dynamic," Tillerson said.

The goal of the sanctions would be getting North Korea's Kim to view nuclear weapons as a liability, not a strength.

Still, the U.S. intelligence community does not believe Kim is likely to give up his weapons program willingly, regardless of sanctions.

"(Tillerson's) working against the unified view of our intelligence agencies, which say there's no amount of pressure that can be put on them to stop," Senator Bob Corker told a hearing at the chamber on Thursday.

Kim sees nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles as "his ticket to survival," Corker said.

Tillerson agreed that Kim's nuclear and missile programs were aimed at ensuring his own security, and renewed assurances that the United States did not seek to topple Kim's government.

"Look, our objective is denuclearization (of North Korea)," he said. "Our objective is not to get rid of you. Our objective is not to collapse your regime."

Incremental steps

It is unclear how and when any actual negotiations with Pyongyang might be possible.

White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster said on Monday there were no set preconditions for talks. He added, however, that Pyongyang's capabilities were too far advanced to simply freeze its program in return for concessions.

He also dismissed the idea of negotiating with Pyongyang even as it continued to develop its nuclear weapons program.

Tillerson in March suggested the United States would only engage North Korea in negotiations once it gave up nuclear weapons.

But he acknowledged on Saturday that denuclearization would be an "incremental process."

"You'd be foolish to think you're going to sit down and say: OK, done. Nuclear weapons, gone. This is going to be a process of engagement with North Korea," he said.

Trump, who is due to visit China in November, has called for it to do more regarding North Korea and has promised to take steps to rebalance a trade relationship that his administration says puts U.S. businesses at a disadvantage.

Chinese President Xi Jinping did not mention North Korea in his opening remarks while meeting Tillerson on Saturday. He instead offered warm words about Trump, saying he expected the U.S. president's visit to be "wonderful."

"The two of us have also maintained a good working relationship and personal friendship," Xi said in comments in front of reporters.

(Source: Reuters)

South Korea's exports surge to record on steel, semiconductors

South Korean exports surged to a record last month in the latest sign that stronger global trade is helping to underpin growing momentum for the global economy.

The nation's shipments abroad rose for an 11th month in September, driven by overseas demand for steel, semiconductors and petrochemical products.

Exports jumped 35 percent from a year earlier, the trade ministry said on Sunday. The median estimate of economists was for a surge of 25 percent.

Imports gained 21.7 percent, versus expectations for them to advance 20.6 percent.

The trade surplus was \$13.8 billion, also a record.

Month-on-month growth in exports was the most since January 2011.

There were 2.5 more working days in September compared with a year earlier and some companies pushed out shipment of products before 10-day Chuseok holidays starting on Oct. 1, the trade ministry said.

The better-than-expected data came after China announced its factory gauge hit a five-year high. The results also show that South Korea's economy is demonstrating resilience even as the war-of-words between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un heightens tensions on the peninsula.

Exports surged across most of 13 major categories, the trade ministry said. South Korea's economy improved slightly in some regions in the third quarter, with domestic consumption driven by positive sentiment and the government's job-creation policy, the Bank of Korea said last week. Geopolitical concerns surrounding North Korea and household debt remain as risks to the outlook, the central bank said.

Export growth is projected to slow from October, the trade ministry said, as the U.S. Federal Reserve takes steps to reduce its balance sheet and other central banks are expected to reduce monetary stimulus. There will also be 6 1/2 fewer working days in South Korea in the fourth quarter of 2017 than there were in the year-earlier period, the ministry said.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Saudi GDP shrinks for second quarter in a row amid OPEC oil cuts

Saudi Arabia's economy contracted for the second quarter in a row as the kingdom grapples with low oil prices and its businesses struggle to cope with economic reforms.

The kingdom's gross domestic product shrank 1 percent from the same period a year earlier, when it expanded 0.9 percent, according to official data released on Saturday. The economy had contracted 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2017.

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman is leading the push to transform the biggest Arab economy at a time when crude prices are at about half their 2014 peak. The kingdom's oil GDP shrank 1.8 percent in the second quarter, weighing on overall activity.

The data also showed how non-oil industries are still struggling with efforts to overhaul the economy and shore up public finances. The non-oil GDP, the main engine of job creation, expanded below 1 percent, driven mainly by the government sector, the data show.

"What we're seeing is stagnation in non-oil activity," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank. "Second-quarter data show still very lackluster demand" even after the government reversed a decision to cut or freeze bonuses and allowances for state employees, she said.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Japan is fast becoming the powerhouse of the bitcoin market

A decision by Japanese authorities is helping the country cement its place as a driving force for bitcoin, at a time when China is turning its back on virtual currencies.

On Friday, Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) officially recognized 11 companies as registered cryptocurrency exchange operators. The registration places several requirements on the companies, such as building a strong computer system and checking the identity of users to prevent money laundering. These regulations are intended to protect investors from fraud and other abuse, while supporting financial technology innovation.

One of the registered companies is bitFlyer, which has more than 800,000 users, according to the firm. The company's CEO, Yuzo Kano, said the new rules cement Japan's position as the epicenter for bitcoin.

"Japan has been exploding with demand for both bitcoin trading as well as virtual currency services," Kano said in a press release Friday.

"The FSA's approval for bitFlyer to operate as a Registered Virtual Currency Exchange, and the agency's openness and forward thinking regulation could not come at a better time for the blockchain space."

Blockchain is a digital ledger that is dispersed across networks. It is used in the cryptocurrency space to securely record every transaction between users.

This is the latest decision in Japan to show support for digital currency. In April, it passed a law recognizing bitcoin as legal tender, with several retailers backing the law; this week it was reported that Japanese banks are considering setting up their own digital currency called the J-Coin.

Japan's stance is in stark contrast to China, where regulators have cracked down on the market. At the beginning of September, regulators banned initial coin offerings (ICOs), where companies raise funds by selling a new digital currency. Several bitcoin exchanges then announced they would end trading by the end of the month.

(Source: CNBC)

Iran to expand regional flights deploying new ATR planes

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The CEO of Iran's national flag-carrier Iran Air said Iran will utilize the newly received ATR passenger jets purchased from the European plane maker ATR to expand regional flights, IRIB news reported.

Farzaneh Sharafbafi made the remarks answering questions of the reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held for receiving two ATR planes at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport on Thursday.

According to the official, the new routes for the ATRs are being planned and the airplanes will start flying to the neighboring countries soon.

"With these two planes, the number of ATR aircrafts in the country's national airline fleet has reached six," she said.

Iran Air took delivery of the first four of the purchased ATR passenger jets on May 17. The 72-600 turboprop aircrafts landed in Mehrabad Airport.

The Iranian flag carrier finalized a deal on the purchase of 20 ATR 72-600 from the French-Italian aircraft manufacturer in mid-February. The 70-seat airplane is used for short-distance flights.

Iran has ordered more than 200 planes since international sanctions against the Islamic Repub-



lic were lifted last year in return for curbs on the country's nuclear program.

Iran Air has ordered 100 planes from Airbus, 80

from Boeing and 20 ATR turboprops but implementing the deals has been hampered by uncertainty over financing, Reuters reported.

Polish company distributes Iranian petrochemicals in Europe

ENERGY TEHRAN — Polish chemical Company Ciech Group has started importing and distributing Iranian polyolefin to the European markets.

According to the company, three Iranian petrochemical producers, namely Jam Petrochemical Company (JPC), Jam Polypropylene Company (JPPC), and Persian Gulf Petrochemical Indus-

try Commercial Company (PGPICC) will supply polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) to Ciech Group.

"We want the distribution of high-quality plastics on the European market to be a hallmark of Ciech Trading," said Artur Osuchowski, a management board member at Ciech.

Ciech Trading said it could now offer around 200 types of plastics, with prod-

ucts not only for the packaging industry but also for the automotive, agriculture, construction and electronics industries.

"We have the very first good references from European customers who bought our polyolefins from Iran," said Urszula Ros, sales director at Ciech Trading.

By moving into the distribution of polyolefins in Europe, Ciech Group

has become a competitor to state-controlled Polish oil, gas and petrochemicals group PKN Orlen and Orlen's Czech subsidiary, Unipetrol.

Since the signing of the 2015 nuclear deal with six major powers, and the consequent lifting of economic sanctions, Iran has regained access to international oil, gas and petrochemical markets.

Tehran, Jakarta to complete PTA negotiations soon

ECONOMY TEHRAN — In the fourth round of their negotiations on Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), Iran and Indonesia agreed to complete their negotiations in this due as soon as possible so that the agreement will be implemented soon, according to the director of bilateral talks of the Indonesian Ministry of Commerce.

Ni Made Ayu Marthini said one of the agenda discussed at the fourth negotiation was the reduction of export tariffs for Indonesian products to Iran.

"The discussion is a concrete step for Indonesia that is expected to bring advantages for business actors," Made said in a written statement received by Antara news on Saturday.

She explained that the high cost of exports to Iran is due to the high tariffs applied by the country for Indonesian products. Besides that, the payment transactions should be made through a third party. With the reduction in tariffs, the export cost of Indonesian products to Iran will be reduced.

In the previous talk, the two countries focused more



on connecting perceptions and discussing the PTA draft and have succeeded in agreeing on several articles.

"The last discussion was mostly about substantial issues, among others, capital and products that the export tariffs are expected to reduce, as well as rules of origin draft," Made noted.

In the fifth round, the negotiation chairpersons will be more flexible and pragmatic with the spirit of completing the agenda so as to produce quality and mutually beneficial documents of both countries.

Renewables spurring foreign investment

1 → In late August, Seyed Moslem Mousavi, the managing director of Iran Renewable Energy Association, announced that foreign companies have submitted proposals for a total of \$3.6 billion investment to implement renewable energy projects in Iran.

Companies from Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, South Korea, Japan, China and India have already visited the country to investigate the investment condition in renewable sector.

Raymond Carlsen, the chief executive of Norway's Scatec Solar, which builds and operates solar farms worldwide, told Reuters on September 15 that his company is in talks to build its first solar farm in Iran. He said that the initial project under discussion would cost \$120 million per 100 MW installed which would rise to 500



MW later.

Also on September 20, Financial Times reported that Quercus, a UK green investment company, said it had

reached agreement with Iran's Energy Ministry on plans for a 600 MW solar farm in central Iran that would rival the largest solar projects so far built in China, India and the U.S.

Diego Biasi, Quercus chief executive, said the €500-million deal showed Iran was "open for business" and represented a "huge opportunity" for investors in renewable energy.

All these opportunities to attract foreign investment, not only can help Iran, which is struggling with air pollution in its major cities especially the capital Tehran, reach sustainable clean energy, but can also save the fuels consumed domestically to boost the country's fuel exports in one way and with a long-term view to conserve fossil fuels for the future generation.

Kuwait as emerging market seen spurring \$700m stocks flow

Kuwait's graduation to emerging-markets classification by index compiler FTSE Russell could prompt inflows of as much as \$700 million from investors, according to the money manager run by the nation's largest lender.

The Persian Gulf country won inclusion in FTSE Russell's list during the weekend, rewarding efforts by local regulators and the stock exchange to modernize trading systems and attract local and foreign investors. Kuwait's main equity index has rallied 16 percent this year, the best performance among major Persian Gulf markets, boosted by speculation it would

gain promotion.

Financial stocks are best-placed to benefit from the decision, according to Husayn Shahrur, the managing director for Middle East North Africa at NBK Capital, the asset management division of National Bank of Kuwait. The firm had \$6.3 billion in assets under management as of Sept. 15.

How much in inflows is expected?

It is too early to provide an accurate figure or even a tight range, given that the actual weighting of the country and the stocks to be included will be deter-

mined primarily by the liquidity for the period preceding the actual inclusion, which can be very different from current levels. Also, the actual weight will depend on whether the implementation will be in one or two phases. Current estimates for passive inflows range from as low as \$100 million to as high as \$700 million. The size of active inflows will depend on the attractiveness of the market around the time of inclusion.

Which industries do you prefer?

The best way to play the inclusion is to hold fundamentally sound companies

with attractive valuations, and which are likely to be included. The banking sector is always at the core of any Kuwait exposure.

Is Kuwait now closer to potential MSCI Inc. inclusion?

In general, FTSE and MSCI have somewhat different criteria for upgrading a country to emerging-market status. Currently, Kuwait is not on the MSCI EM watchlist. Given the progress that the CMA and Boursa Kuwait have made, there is a good chance that the market will be added to the EM watchlist next June.

(Source: Bloomberg)

No sign of slump as UK economy holds steady

UK economic growth is bucking fears of an inflation-driven crunch on household spending, as global growth and the weak pound fuel a British export boom.

The proportion of companies reporting growth in the three months to September outweighed those reporting a fall in output by a margin of 11pc, a survey from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has shown.

Companies also expect to keep growing in the near future, as the net balance predicting growth in the coming three months edged up from 16pc to 18pc.

This too is better than the average score of 10pc. However, there are few signs of momentum improving and the CBI said it wants the Government to set out more plans to boost productivity and growth.

"Growth in the economy has held steady through the summer, although at a slightly slower pace than expected by many firms. While we saw growth in most sectors, consumer-facing businesses are having a tougher time of it as inflation tightens purse strings a little more," said the CBI's chief economist Rain Newton-Smith. "As we head to the Conservative Party con-

ference, businesses will want to know that the Government is not allowing the domestic agenda to be put on the back-burner. Firms want to see plans set out to raise productivity across the country, by delivering on a modern industrial strategy, raising spending on innovation and improving educational attainment."

Theresa May spoke last week to set out a defense of capitalism, in the face of a socialist onslaught from Jeremy Corbyn at the Labor Party's annual conference.

(Source: The Telegraph)

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A different approach to curbing atrocities

We have seen this in too many places – from Rwanda to Bosnia to Syria – over recent decades. A country erupts in extreme violence between different groups. The rest of the world condemns the human rights violations and either intervenes with force, imposes sanctions, or does nothing. Afterward, lessons are drawn on how to fix the international moral order.



Now it is Myanmar's turn. The majority Buddhist country, also known as Burma and still largely under the thumb of the military and not Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, is being condemned for recent attacks on the minority Muslims known as Rohingya. More than 480,000 Rohingya have fled into Bangladesh. At least 1,000 have been killed.

On Sept. 28, the United Nations Security Council held its first open session to discuss the crisis. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called it a "humanitarian catastrophe." Another UN official said Myanmar's military operation is a "textbook example" of ethnic cleansing. France went further and called it "genocide."

Such responses by those upholding the universality of human rights presume that exposing such evil is good enough. That it will somehow shame the Myanmar government into submission. Or that extolling universal values such as tolerance will somehow persuade the Buddhist nationalists to view their country's Muslims not as "the other" but as individuals in a shared society.

Yet, as in other crises with similar atrocities, this kind of condemnation or the assertion of rights does not always work.

Why is this too often the case?

A new book by a leading human rights advocate, Michael Ignatieff, a Canadian scholar and rector of the Central European University in Hungary, offers a compelling case for a different approach. The book, "The Ordinary Virtues: Moral Order in a Divided World," took him on a three-year, eight-nation journey to listen to vulnerable communities under stress. He talked to slum dwellers in Brazil, people in an isolated village in South Africa, those in a Japanese town devastated by a tsunami, former enemies in Bosnia, and people in the diverse neighborhoods of New York's borough of Queens. He even talked to militant, anti-Muslim monks in Myanmar.

Dr. Ignatieff discovered that societies living under harsh social, economic, or physical conditions do indeed have their own inherent values, or "ordinary virtues," such as compassion and mercy. But they may not regard this "moral operating system" as universal. They frame it as local. Such virtues – including equality – are seen not as an obligation but as a "gift," negotiated between individuals, one at a time within society and in the spirit of reciprocity and solidarity. Whatever values are held in common are a result of transactions and are not a right. And gratitude is a necessary part of those transactions.

When outsiders such as the UN try to impose ideals and rights as universal, such communities often reject it. In the current case of Myanmar, the UN's voice is not persuading the country's majority. "At the moment, international human rights is a bystander on this story," says Ignatieff. "It is not where we are right now."

The real issue, he says, is how to change the political discourse in a country to focus more on its "ordinary virtues," such as hospitality, in ways that will allow people to accept "the stranger" and break down stereotypes.

In Bosnia, for example, Ignatieff found victims of a 1995 genocide were able to resume living side by side with perpetrators after dealing with them as individuals and not as people with a collective identity, such as "Serb."

Too often a society with different types of groups is co-opted by leaders who exploit the ordinary virtues and create fear. They might claim one group has betrayed the other's generosity. Or that a group's current suffering is a result of those different from them. Or they use false categorization, such as the way Myanmar's military and some monks claim all Muslims are terrorists.

To save the Rohingya, the UN and others may need to speak not to Myanmar's military but directly to the people. They could try to use the language of "ordinary virtues," and not the language of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They could listen carefully to fears of "the stranger" in Myanmar.

If such compassion can beget compassion in that country, ordinary virtues might someday become more universal. The world's moral order might then become strong enough to prevent another mass evil.

(Source: The CSM)

The UN focus on Myanmar's atrocities toward the Rohingya may need a new approach, one that speaks to the 'ordinary virtues' of the country's majority.

Saudis using petrodollars to buy support at UN: Canadian lawyer

Tehran (Tasnim) – A senior Canadian human rights attorney slammed continued atrocities committed by the Saudi regime in Yemen and said the election of the oil-rich kingdom to head the United Nations Human Rights Committee is nothing but "a sick joke."

"The Saudis also use their money to buy allies and support in the United Nations. An example of this bribery was the election of Saudi Arabia to head the United Nations Human Rights Committee," Edward Corrigan from Ontario said in an exclusive interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

"This election is a sick joke because Saudi Arabia has one of the worst human rights records of all of the countries on the planet," he added.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ As you know, the Saudi blockades on Yemen's ports and airspace has caused a human tragedy. The World Health Organization has recently reported that some 700,000 suspected cases of cholera have hit Yemen, with the outbreak showing no signs of receding. The Red Cross has also warned that the cholera epidemic could impact 850,000 Yemeni people by the end of the year. The outbreak "has reached colossal proportions," said Robert Mardini, the International Committee of the Red Cross's Near and Middle East director. As an international lawyer, what do you think about the human tragedy? Why have the international organizations, particularly the UN, remained passive in the face of the ongoing Saudi atrocities?

A: The situation in Yemen is one of the worst humanitarian crisis in the World today. Humanitarian agencies are raising their voices and now the politicians are



Humanitarian agencies are raising their voices and now the politicians are condemning Saudi Arabia for its embargo on Yemen.

condemning Saudi Arabia for its embargo on Yemen. The pressure to intervene in Yemen is starting to build but has not yet hit the threshold for concrete action. Unfortunately, Saudi Arabia spends a great deal of money buying arms from the United States and Britain. As a result, the U.S. and British governments protect Saudi Arabia from serious criticism and any meaningful action by the United Nations and especially the Security Council. The Saudis also use their money to buy allies and support in the United Nations. An example of this bribery was the election of Saudi Arabia to head the United Nations Human Rights Committee. This election is a sick joke because Saudi Arabia has one of the worst human rights records of all of the countries on the planet.

■ Recent airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition have killed dozens of civilians, including a large number of women and children, near Yemen's capital and the central province of Ma'rib. A recent report authored by several international aid agencies said Yemen suffered more airstrikes in the first half of this year than in the whole of 2016, increasing the number of civilian deaths and forcing more people to flee their homes. In your opinion, why has the Saudi regime decided to increase the airstrikes, hitting civilian targets?

A: Saudi Arabia and their allies in the Persian Gulf Co-operation Council are unable to defeat the Houthis and the supporters of former Yemen President Saleh on the ground. They have a huge military advantage in air power and are

using it to attack their enemies in Yemen and to punish the civilian population in Yemen in the hope that they put pressure on the opponents of former Yemen President Hadi and the opponents of Saudi domination of Yemen.

■ Newly-leaked emails written by two former top U.S. officials have shown that Saudi Arabia's crown prince and defense minister Mohammed bin Salman "wants out" of the war he started in Yemen. The Saudi regime has reached none of its objectives in Yemen. In 2015, the kingdom had a record budget deficit of almost \$100 billion, prompting it to rein in public spending in a bid to save money. Why is the regime continuing its attacks on the Arabian Peninsula country despite its failures and cash-strapped economy? What do you think about the future of the war?

A: Saudi Arabia has been unable to defeat the Houthis. In effect, there is a draw and neither side is able to defeat the other. The Saudis have an advantage in terms of air power and maritime power and have been able to enforce a blockade on Yemen, which punishes the civil population by denying them food and medicine which has threatened much of the population of Yemen with starvation and cholera and other treatable diseases. Yet despite these military advantages they have been unable to defeat the Houthis and their allies. This failure demonstrates the weakness of air power and the weakness of Saudis Arabia and their allies. The Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman want to cut his losses and end the financial drain this war has caused the Saudis and come up with a face-saving measure that will allow the Saudis to withdraw from the quagmire in Yemen.

Trump's measured response to Cuba

U.S.-Cuba relations are once more in turmoil

By Curt Mills

As the State Department announced Friday it was cutting its embassy staff in Cuba down to emergency levels -- following the recent, mysterious sonic wave attacks on U.S. personnel -- a budding consensus of sorts seems to be developing: the reaction out of Washington could have been worse. As it is, it's also fully unclear if Havana had a hand in the recent events. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated, "We maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba, and our work in Cuba continues to be guided by the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States. Cuba has told us it will continue to investigate these attacks and we will continue to cooperate with them in this effort."

Senator Marco Rubio, a longtime foe of warming relations with the Castros, is chastising the Trump administration for not taking a harder line, calling it "shameful," on Twitter, that American embassy personnel are being withdrawn but "Castro gets to keep as many as he wants."

But many experts on the region disagree. Tillerson's cautious response is meeting with plaudits.

"Very measured, yes," Eric Farnsworth, a former State Department official in the Clinton administration and Washington director of the Council of the Americas, tells me. "U.S. diplomats have been recently attacked in country so it's only prudent to reduce their number until the source and severity of the attacks can be fully determined. Meanwhile the embassy remains open. So, a balanced approach I'd say."

"I am hopeful this won't affect bilateral relations too much," says another former official in both the State



Trump has called Barack Obama's opening to Cuba a "terrible and misguided" deal.

Department and the Department of Defense (and worked on Latin America) in the Trump and Obama administrations. He supports the detente initiated under Obama, but agrees that Friday's move by Tillerson is appropriate.

Cuba "doesn't seem to be a priority, which again, is probably good all things considered," the former official tells me. Senior figures in Washington will likely "be too distracted by North Korea and the salacious prospect of war with Iran to use this as an opportunity to reverse Obama's opening."

An ongoing danger

"There's clearly an ongoing danger to U.S. diplo-

matic personnel. ... The administration has reacted in a measured way to this," says Daniel McCarthy, editor at large of The American Conservative. In general, in contrast to the emollient Obama, "President Trump put the Cubans on notice. The point of that should be to make sure the opening to Cuba continues on America's terms, rather than pulling back to the Cold War status quo."

Friday's move also come on the heels of the administration rolling out more Cuba restrictions in June. As president, Trump has called Barack Obama's opening to Cuba a "terrible and misguided" deal, but he was also once among the candidates in the Republican primary most open to it.

Another facet of Friday's moves by the U.S. government is the State Department's warning to U.S. citizens to stay away from Cuba for the time being. But that is not the same as a travel prohibition, which is what the administration recently issued against North Korea, following the death of Otto Warmbier.

Indeed, who is even behind the attacks is an open mystery, and it isn't entirely clear if the Cuban regime is responsible. "I have a hard time believing Havana is behind it," says the former State and Defense official. Eric Garris, director of Antiwar.com, explains, "It is interesting that only two days ago, U.S. Intel sources said that they were convinced that the Cuban government was not responsible for the attacks." But who else had incentive?

For now, it's clear that another volatile storm has emerged in the "big water" the president likes to talk about.

(Source: The National Interest)

The road to diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula

By Ernest J. Moniz & Sam Nunn

The United States and North Korea are increasingly at risk of military conflict -- most probably through an accident or miscalculation, but possibly a deliberate decision.

Opportunities for diplomacy are narrowing. Leaders from the United States, South Korea and Japan have recently stated now is not the time for dialogue with Pyongyang -- even though any strategy other than war for halting and reversing North Korea's nuclear and missile programs must, at some point, include talks.

So, when is the time for dialogue with North Korea to avoid a war no one wants and end a nuclear program that endangers the world? How does the Trump administration's threat to pull out of the agreement with Iran to end its nuclear program impact North Korea diplomacy?

Catastrophic conflict

Today's growing dangers require a policy response that minimizes the risk of a catastrophic conflict, both directly from North Korea's nuclear and missile program and from our attempts to halt its progress.

It is imperative that we focus now on steps to reduce these risks, including first and foremost the risk of use of nuclear

weapons, but also of devastating conventional forces on both sides of the 38th parallel. Unlike with Iran, where it made sense to keep the talks confined to the nuclear program in order to prevent nuclear weapons development, North Korea negotiations must address broader issues.

Henry Kissinger argued recently that diplomacy must begin with a common understanding between Washington and Beijing on goals and strategy for negotiations with North Korea. Work on this common understanding should be our focus. The beginning goal: China's full implementation of the sanctions it has already agreed to and the United States entering a parallel track of talks with Pyongyang, which President Trump should make clear he is ready to do as a key element of a coordinated approach.

To reduce the risk of blundering into a war that could badly damage South Korea and devastate North Korea, U.S. leadership is essential. The Trump administration should agree to enter informal initial discussions with North Korea, without preconditions.

Ultimate goal

Washington should also make it clear that our ultimate goal of a nuclear-weap-

ons free Korean Peninsula, agreed to and verified by the international community, remains constant -- and use these talks to explore how we can reduce interim risks and move forward with six-party negotiations.

While DPRK nuclear weapons and delivery systems must be a primary focus of six-party diplomacy, addressing conventional military threats, including addressing the artillery tubes trained on Seoul, is also core to any successful negotiation. The near-term goal therefore should be an agreement that halts advances in North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs and provides the foundation for a more comprehensive rollback.

Such an agreement could include the basic parameters of a nuclear and missile freeze to halt any further significant development of the North's nuclear and missile capabilities, including provisions for robust monitoring and verification. Achieving a verifiable freeze will of course require calibrated movement on political, economic or security issues of interest to North Korea. Ultimately, the goal is to establish a step-by-step process that addresses the security needs of all parties.

The United States' credibility for diplomacy with China, our allies and our adver-

saries will be crippled if the United States unilaterally pulls out of the Iran agreement without clear and compelling evidence of Iranian noncompliance. Why would North Korea engage in new talks, or reach any new agreement, with the Trump administration? Even before then, why would our negotiating partners, in particular China and Russia, line up shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. government to pressure North Korea, when the United States walks away from its commitments?

North Korea has gotten this far with its nuclear and missile programs in part because of the unique geopolitical circumstances of the Korean Peninsula, where there remains the very real danger of a conventional war with millions of casualties on both sides of the 38th parallel. North Korea, South Korea, or the United States -- knowingly or unknowingly -- could cross an ill-defined tripwire with horrific consequences. Fully enforcing sanctions while actively pursuing diplomacy with China, our allies and Russia -- and then with Pyongyang -- is urgent and essential for global security. Only the United States can realistically catalyze a success-oriented strategy for all parties.

(Source: CNN)

The definitive decision of the Social Democrats in Germany

By Hanif Ghaffari

TEHRAN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel is now thinking of forming a coalition government in her country. It seems difficult to deal with the situation. On the other side, the Social-Democrats are deliberately watching the political situation in Germany. The Social Democrats in the recent general election in Germany accepted a tough defeat. They were able to make only about 20% of the public vote. Under such circumstances, the Social Democratic Party has two ways ahead: one in the coalition government with Merkel and the other being the main opposition party.

The German chancellor's centre-right Christian Democrat-led alliance took 33% of the vote in recent election — its worst result since 1949 but enough to remain the largest force in parliament. The centre-left Social Democrats — Merkel's government partners since 2013 in a "grand coalition" — also suffered their worst post-war result, taking 21%. Alternative für Deutschland secured 13%, marking the first time in almost six decades that an openly nationalist party will enter the Bundestag. The elections have left an unprecedented number of parties jostling for influence in the next parliament. The pro-business FDP, leftwing Die Linke and the Green party will also crowd into the Bundestag's plenary chamber — a first since the introduction of a 5% hurdle for parliamentary seats in 1953.

Social Democratic Party MP Martin Schulz announced after the election that the Social Democratic Party would not be a coalition with the Christian Democrats. However, some German political analysts believe that Social Democrats are still the best option to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats. If this happens, the Social Democrats will repeat the 2013 experience again.

At that time, the Social Democrats also failed in the election. However, Merkel eventually had to ask them to form a coalition government.

The Social-Democratic Party must now make a tough decision. If the Social-Democratic Party joins the coalition government, then Far-right in Germany will become the main opposition party in the country. An issue that could lead to an increase in the far right's votes in next elections.

Merkel will soon begin negotiations with the Social Democratic Party to form a coalition government. This is despite the fact that the Social Democratic Party officials have not yet reached a conclusion about the participation or lack of participation in the coalition government.

After Merkel's relative victory in the German general election, many analysts of the country's political affairs announced the possibility of forming a Jamaica coalition (the coalition of Christian parties, Liberal Democrats and the Greens). However, the leaders of the Green Party, the Liberal Demo-



crats and even the Christian Socialists, have put harsh conditions to participate in coalition government.

The Christian Socialist Party has officially urged the German Chancellor to restrict the admission of asylum seekers in the country. However, the Green Party has warned that if such a thing is realized, they will not participate in negotiations on the formation of a coalition government! The head of the Greens Party, Simon Peter, has virtually warned that if the Socialist Party wants to initiate preliminary talks on the formation of a coalition government, it should forget about the issue of limiting the admission of asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, any election that Merkel will make is the absence of one of the two social-Christian or green parties in forming a coalition government. However, the story does not end there! The Liberal Democrats have also indirectly challenged Merkel's policies in the field of education and economics and called for their revision.

The Liberal Democrat Party's Christian Lindner, in addition to the following, says: "We want a rational energy policy and we reject automatic financial transfers in Europe. We are committed to these goals. If this was not possible with the Alliance of Christian and Green Allies, we would send our proposals to the opposition!"

In other words, the Liberal Democrats have not rejected their coalition with the opposition parties in confronting Merkel's government. This is the worst possible news for Angela Merkel. In order to form the Jamaica coalition, the German Chancellor must give concessions to three Liberal Democrats, Christian Socialists and Green parties. Each of these concessions will mean reducing Merkel's power on the German political and social scene. Merkel will also be condemned by many of his party's supporters for a retreat from the principles of the Christian Democrats.

However, there are differences between members of the Jamaican coalition. In this regard, Global.Handelsblatt reported that despite this tactical banter, the Jamaica parties do overlap on some policies, and they've shown

they can work together at the regional level. Since June, a Jamaica coalition led by the Christian Democrats (CDU) has ruled the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein. In another state, wealthy Baden-Württemberg in the south-west, the Greens are the senior partner in a harmonious coalition with the Christian Democrats.

But there's no denying the differences. Even the chancellor's conservatives within their own bloc are expected to squabble, especially over refugee policy. Horst Seehofer, the CSU party chairman, warned that his support of the "sister party" could no longer be taken for granted, unless Ms. Merkel agreed to specific limits on immigration and the number of future refugees. "There is an open flank on our right and we have to close this flank with a clear position and clear limits," he said.

For months, Mr. Seehofer, who is also the premier of Bavaria, has been demanding an explicit commitment to a cap of no more than 200,000 refugees per year — a limit that Ms. Merkel has rejected as unconstitutional. After the CSU's worst showing since 1949, the Bavarian leader is under pressure. His response will be to harden his stance.

Guardian also reported that The chancellor's biggest challenge is to sweet-talk two parties into allying with her — the FDP and the Green party — who not only intensely dislike one another but are both cautious of losing credibility with their voters. Talks between the parties, which will also include the CDU's Bavarian sister party the CSU, could potentially last until after Christmas and risk triggering fresh elections if they collapse.

In such a situation, the Social Democrats are deciding whether or not to be in a coalition government. If Merkel is unable to complete the complex puzzle of the Jamaica coalition, it will have to re-enter the Social-Democratic Party to form a coalition government. In this case, we will again see the formation of a "big coalition" in Germany. Without a doubt, the Social Democrats will not be willing to attend the coalition without gaining the necessary privileges. On the other hand,

some senior Social Democrats still oppose the coalition government. An issue that limits Merkel's power to form a coalition government.

However, although after the announcement of the results of the national elections in Germany, most of the country's media reported the possibility of forming a coalition called Jamaica (among the coalition of Christian parties, Liberal Democrats and the Greens), but the coalition seems to have formed Not easy! German Chancellor Angela Merkel has started informal talks with other parties to form a coalition government. However, even Merkel's traditional partners also want concessions in the coalition government.

In such circumstances, Merkel may again ask the most important party of her rival, Social Democrats, to join Christian Democrats in forming a coalition government. However, Martin Schultz, a failed Social Democrats candidate in the general election this year, has announced that the Social Democratic Party plans to be the main opposition party in parliament and will no longer be present in a coalition government with Christian Democrats. Indeed, will Merkel solve the constitution of a coalition government in Germany? Will the Jamaica Alliance be formed in the end? While such an arrangement would be a first in German history and require the Greens to bridge many differences on policy matters ranging from immigration to the car industry, many see it as a logical result of the party's ideological transformations.

In any case, Merkel's statements about negotiating with the Social Democratic Party to form a coalition government indicate that the German Chancellor is concerned about the presence of the Green Party in the government coalition. On the other hand, Merkel knows well that if she does not form a coalition government with the Social Democrats, she will have to give concessions to the three constituencies of the Jamaica coalition.

Ultimately, the Social Democrats are very dissatisfied with their heavy defeat in the German general election. In such circumstances, Merkel awaits the withdrawal of the rival party from the shock of the election failure. German Chancellor hopes the Social-Democrat leaders will once again agree on a coalition government with the Christian Democrats. Something that looks hard and difficult. Many SPD members believe that the party can only recuperate its former energy in opposition. If the SPD stayed outside the cabinet it would also stop AfD from assuming the role of leader of the opposition and gaining associated parliamentary privileges.

If the leaders of the Social Democratic Party choose to opt for a coalition government, then they will face opposition from many of their supporters. This dissatisfaction could lead to a further decline in the popularity of the Social-Democratic Party.

Trump thinks about the 2020 Election

By Anna Sadat Hosseini Fard

TEHRAN — Surveys released in the United States indicate a decrease in the popularity of this country's president. Since the presidential election in 2016, the popularity of Donald Trump at the White House has dropped dramatically. The Poll conducted in the University of Quinipiac suggests that only 36 percent of Americans are satisfied with Trump's performance as President, and most of them believe that Trump does not qualify for the presidency. Undoubtedly, such a low level of general satisfaction can't guarantee Trump's reelection.



Hence, Democrats are trying to participate in the 2020 presidential election more vigorously this time. On the other hand, many Republicans are worried that public discontent with the political approach of Trump will also be reflected in the mid-term or congressional elections scheduled next year. The product of this process would be the loss of the majority of the Senate and the House of Representatives for the Republican Party.

At this time, Trump attempts to deny surveys conducted in the media and even in research centers in the United States and call their results as lies made up by his political opponents. This is due to the fact that many American analysts believe the decrease of Trump's popularity trend has been tangible in recent months.

Beyond that, it should not be forgotten that Trump could win the rival candidate Hillary Clinton in the United States last year only through the electoral system. This was while the general votes casted for Trump was about 3 million less than that for Hillary Clinton. Therefore, the negative attitude of U.S. citizens towards the presence of Trump at the White House is not an intangible issue.

Democrat Hillary Clinton has recently called for reform of the Electoral Structure in the United States. If this reform is to take place, in 2020 we will see US presidential elections based on citizens' votes, and then Trump will not have the power to win the election again. However, the drop in the popularity of Trump shows that even if the election is again held based on the Electoral system, this time he will have less chance of winning compared with 2016. The survey results show that Trump's popularity in those pendulum states, which do not traditionally belong to either Democratic or Republican Party, has declined consistently along with other U.S. states.

In such a situation, Trump will do anything he can to be in power again! One of these efforts is to infuse threat and insecurity to U.S. foreign policy environment, just as Bush Jr did in years between 2001– 2004, and thus became able to secure his victory in the 2004 presidential election. At that time, John Kerry, as Democratic Party candidate, could not take action against Bush, because the media, political space formed in the United States, on the basis of false ideas and components, caused the re-election to the Republicans benefit.

Many analysts believe that one of the main reasons for recent tensions made by Trump in U.S. foreign policy, especially on North Korea, is the same. Trump knows well that if Republicans are to miss Congressional mid-term elections in the coming year and lose the majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate, he will face the common tensions of the two main US parties. In this case, the probability of Trump's defeat in the presidential election of 2020 will also increase.

Trump's intense approach in foreign policy, the incapacity of the U.S. president to abolish Obama Care project, increasing dissatisfaction of Washington's European partners with the White House, dissatisfaction of American exporters and importers with Trump and confrontation with U.S. security agencies over Russia's involvement in presidential elections has made many Trump's supporters regret their decision to support him.

During the U.S. presidential campaign last year, many U.S. citizens did not have a positive attitude towards the former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Also, many Democrats nominees Barney Sanders supporters preferred to cast their votes for Donald Trump. It should be noted that after the disclosure of controversial emails among Democrat leaders (which marked their illegal support from Hillary Clinton), many Sanders supporters were outraged by Clinton. This issue also showed itself at the final Democratic congress. Ultimately, many Sanders fans, casted their votes for Trump, and provided his victory in some states. Even Sanders' recommendations to his fans to support Clinton in the U.S. presidential election could not have any effect.

Trump is now worried about the loss of his popularity with American voters. This has actually happened, and it is obvious that under such circumstances, if Trump is questioned by Congress or resigns, he will not see support from public opinion. This is the worst possible news for Trump and his entourage at the White House.

On the other hand, the path taken by Trump's U.S. foreign policy is not such as to increase his popularity in public opinion. Hence, the downward trend in the popularity of the controversial U.S. president seems to continue. However, Trump is worried about the failure of the presidential election in 2020. A plausible point is that some U.S. media have also called for Trump to resign from power before the next presidential election.

Western civilization will decline: analyst

By: Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Political analyst Yuram Abdullah Weiler says "According to the historian Arnold Toynbee, civilizations decline because of their inability to cope with important challenges."

Weiler is also of the opinion that we see this now in the inability of western civilization to cope with the environmental consequences of their growth-dependent economies.

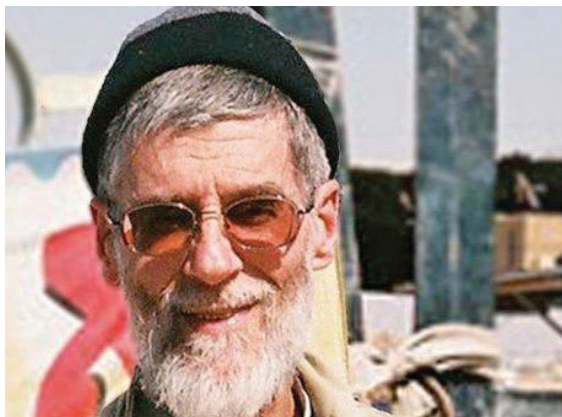
"Likewise, we see the stratification of society in the U.S. manifest itself as racism," Weiler tells the Tehran Times.

This is the text of the interview:

■ What are the key factors to making a civilization?

A: According to the dictionary, civilization means social organization of a high order, marked by the development and use of a written language and by advances in the arts and sciences, technology, government and other areas. More simply, a civilization is an "advanced culture," as opposed to a "primitive culture," where "culture" refers to the ideas, customs, manufactured goods and arts that make it uniquely identifiable. Characteristics of "civilization" include urbanization, the development of an urban elite and the stratification of society into classes. Mesopotamia is often referred to as the cradle of civilization due to the development of the wheel, cursive script, mathematics, astronomy and agriculture.

According to the historian Arnold Toynbee, civili-



zations decline because of their inability to cope with important challenges. We see this now in the inability of western civilization to cope with the environmental consequences of their growth-dependent economies. Likewise, we see the stratification of society in the U.S. manifest itself as racism. Cultural historian Morris Berman suggests in his Dark Ages America that the same factors that made the United States into a great civilization—rugged individualism, territorial expansion, economic imperialism and unhindered greed—have set the U.S. on a path of decline leading to its inevitable collapse.

■ What is the status of humanities to making a civilization?

A: Humanities refers to those branches of learning associated with human thought and relations, such as history, literature and philosophy, while excepting the sciences. Since these areas depend upon the development of a written language, the humanities reflect the relative status of the civilization. Without highly developed writing, there can be no written records by which government can oversee an expanding and increasingly complex civilization. This can be seen in the last great civilization of the Near East, the Persian Empire, which governed nations from the Mediterranean to the Indus Valley, all of which had diverse traditions, and organized them under a single administrative system.

■ What is the status of philosophy in to making a civilization?

A: Philosophy deals with the theory or analysis of the principles underlying human behavior, thought, knowledge and the nature of the universe. Simply put, philosophy guides the members of a civilization by giving principles on how to think and acquire knowledge. Without philosophy, advance past the unique culture status of a culture to the level of civilization cannot be achieved. For example, the Persian Empire, with its monotheistic Zoroastrian religion, influenced philosophy by promulgating the world view that people could choose between good and evil. Moreover, ancient Iran may have been the source of the later Greek philosophy of Heraclitus. At a minimum, Zoroaster had an influence on Greek thought.

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5 benefits of evening primrose oil

By Josh Axe

It wasn't until recently that evening primrose oil was used for its amazing health benefits, so you may be surprised to learn about the impact it can have on your hormone health, skin, hair, and bones. The oil is high in essential fatty acids—which provide the building blocks for cell membranes and a variety of hormones and hormone-like substances.

Essential fatty acids are necessary for human health, but the body can't make them—you have to get them through food. Along with omega-3 fatty acids, omega-6 fatty acids play a crucial role in brain function, as well as normal growth and development.

Your body needs a healthy balance of essential fatty acids, such as the omega-6, found in evening primrose, and omega-3, found in fish oil. Consuming fats slows down absorption so we can go longer without feeling hungry; they also act as carriers for important fat-soluble vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E and vitamin K.

1. Hormones

Women can take primrose oil to naturally treat PMS symptoms because of its essential fatty acid content.

Consuming essential fatty acids creates a healthy environment for conception; they help you lose weight and produce balanced hormones. I recommend that you take 1,500 milligrams, beginning on the first day of your menstrual cycle, until ovulation.

2. Acne

A hormonal imbalance can lead to acne in teens and adults alike, and many people don't realize that acne can be treated naturally.

In order to treat hormonal acne, you need to tackle the root of the problem—the hormonal imbalance. No topical treatment does that for you; it only treats the already existing pimples or scars. The omega-6 fatty acids present in evening primrose oil can help you to regulate your hormone levels and cure your hormonal acne issues. These fatty acids also play a role in cell structure, improving nerve function and promoting skin elasticity.

To take advantage of this evening primrose oil health benefit regarding hormonal acne, you can take an evening primrose oil capsule daily. You can also put the oil on your face directly. This is known to help with the healing process and improve the overall appearance of your skin.

3. Hair loss

Men and women struggle with



hair loss, and sometimes the best way to prevent this issue is with diet or supplements. When it comes to hair, hormones play a significant role—including in the hair pattern found on your head, as well as the rest of your body.

Essential omega-6 fatty acid, GLA, which comes from consuming capsules of evening primrose oil, can be highly effective in the fight against hair loss. Try taking 500 milligrams twice a day—you will begin to see results in six to eight weeks.

You can also rub evening primrose oil into your hair or add it to your shampoo. In a study done at the University of Maryland, 86 people who were experiencing hair loss massaged their scalps with essential oils. They did this daily for seven months; at the end, those who used essential oils daily noticed significant hair regrowth. Besides using evening primrose oil for this remedy, try lavender, cypress, and lemongrass essential oils too.

4. Skin health

Evening primrose oil has proven to be a valuable treatment choice for people suffering from skin conditions, such as eczema, psoriasis, and atopic dermatitis. Studies published in the International Journal of Cosmetic

Science have even shown that evening primrose oil can help with age-related structural and functional changes in skin tissues, such as redness, firmness, roughness, and fatigue resistance.

Research shows that people with eczema don't have the normal ability to process fatty acids; this results in a deficiency of gamma-linolenic acid, or GLA. GLA is an omega-6 fatty acid that the body can convert to substances that reduce inflammation and cell growth. Studies prove that evening primrose oil is remarkably effective in relieving many symptoms of eczema, including itching, redness, and edema.

Psoriasis occurs when skin cells replicate too quickly, which results in swollen patches under the skin covered with whitish scales on top. The cause of psoriasis includes hormonal changes, poor diet, and difficulty digesting protein. An evening primrose oil benefit is its ability to help naturally cure psoriasis—because the essential fatty acids help with hormone balance and digestion.

5. Rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is a type of chronic arthritis that occurs in joints on both sides of the body—such as both hands, both wrists, and both knees. It's an autoimmune disease,

which means that the body's immune system attacks its own healthy tissues. The cause of rheumatoid arthritis is a combination of genetic, environmental, and hormonal factors.

Some studies show that primrose oil may be a suitable natural remedy for rheumatoid arthritis. One study done by Arthritis Research UK measured the effects of evening primrose oil on 49 people. The data found that 94 percent of participants who got evening primrose oil reported a significant improvement of disease-related symptoms, including pain and morning stiffness. When using evening primrose oil for symptoms of arthritis, it may take one to three months for benefits to appear.

Evening primrose oil side effects

The dosage for primrose oil varies depending on the particular ailment. We suggest consulting your doctor before taking any new supplements. Reported side effects are rare and mild, and include nausea, stomach pain, and headaches. Stomach pain and loose stools may mean that the dose is too high. If you take medication for blood thinning or blood pressure medication, speak to your health care provider before consuming evening primrose oil. If you're prone to seizures and take a class of medications called phenothiazines, which is used to treat schizophrenia, you shouldn't take evening primrose oil because it may increase your risk of seizures.

(Source: aloha.com)

The omega-6 fatty acids present in evening primrose oil can help you to regulate your hormone levels and cure your hormonal acne issues.

Everything you need to know about monk fruit sweeteners

By Gina Shaw

You may have noticed monk fruit sweeteners popping up in conversation or on your favorite food blogs. Following decades of use in areas where monk fruit grows, this natural no-calorie sweetener is now more widely available. Check out these science-based answers to some of the most common questions about monk fruit sweeteners.

What is monk fruit?

Monk fruit, also known as lo han guo, is a small round fruit grown in Southeast Asia. It has been safely used for centuries in Eastern medicine as a cold and digestive aid, and now it is also being used to sweeten foods and beverages. Monk fruit sweetener is created by removing the seeds and skin of the fruit, crushing the fruit, and collecting the juice. The fruit extract, or juice, is around 150-200 times sweeter than sugar and contains zero calories per serving – meaning a very small amount provides a lot of sweetness.

How many calories are in monk fruit sweeteners?

Monk fruit sweeteners contain zero calories per serving. However, some foods and beverages containing monk fruit sweeteners may contain other ingredients that add calories. Foods and beverages using monk fruit sweeteners in place of regular sweeteners generally contain fewer calories and are often labeled as "light" or "reduced calorie."

Is monk fruit safe to use as a sweetener?

Yes. Scientific research and a long history of safe use show that monk fruit sweeteners can be safely consumed. Governments in the U.S., Canada, China, Japan, and Singapore have concluded that monk fruit sweeteners are safe for the general population, including children, people with diabetes, and women who are pregnant or nursing. In the U.S., monk fruit sweeteners are Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reviewed the published research, listened to expert opinions and, based on the evidence, has no objections to ingredient maker determinations that monk fruit sweeteners are safe for use in foods and beverages.

Do monk fruit sweeteners cause weight gain?

No. Monk fruit sweeteners contain zero calories per serving and do not cause weight gain. In fact, research



has shown that using low- or no- calorie sweeteners such as monk fruit sweeteners in place of regular sweeteners can help you lower your total daily calorie intake, keeping you within your calorie budget. Remember that foods and beverages usually contain other ingredients that contribute to calorie intake. To lose weight, the calories you eat and drink must be less than the calories you burn during the day.

How do monk fruit sweeteners fit into a healthful diet?

Monk fruit and other no- and low-calorie sweeteners can help with calorie and carbohydrate management when used in place of sugar or other full-calorie sweeteners (like honey or agave syrup). Foods and beverages containing monk fruit sweeteners can expand lower calorie and carbohydrate options for those trying to manage weight by consuming fewer calories, as well

Using no-calorie sweeteners such as monk fruit in place of regular sweeteners can help you reduce your total daily calorie intake, keeping you within your calorie budget.

as people with diabetes who are trying to consume fewer carbohydrates and sugars.

Are monk fruit sweeteners safe for children?

Yes. FDA-permitted monk fruit sweeteners are safe and useful options for children and teens and can be included as part of a well-balanced diet. Incorporating some low-calorie, sugar-free foods and beverages into meals and snacks is one way to avoid consuming excess calories.

Health professionals, including Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), can help parents and their children make the best choices based on a child's individual calorie and nutrition needs.

Can people with diabetes consume monk fruit sweeteners?

Yes. Since monk fruit is a no-calorie sweetener, it will not affect blood sugar levels and may be a good option for people with diabetes for reducing their total carbohydrate and sugar intake. Remember, a food or beverage containing monk fruit sweeteners may still have calories and carbohydrates, so always check the food label. If you're unsure how foods and beverages with monk fruit sweeteners fit into your diabetes care plan, consult a health professional such as an RDN, certified diabetes educator (CDE), and/or your health care provider.

Can pregnant and breastfeeding women consume monk fruit?

Yes. Research has shown that consuming monk fruit sweeteners is safe for expecting or nursing mothers when consumed as part of a healthful diet. Pregnant and nursing women should talk to their health care provider or RDN about consuming the necessary calories and nutrients for their baby's growth.

Monk fruit sweeteners at a glance:

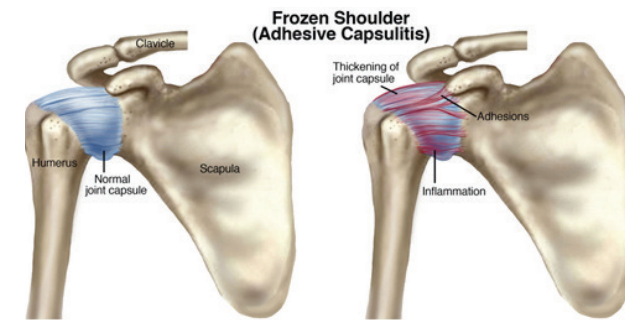
Common names seen on food labels: Monk fruit extract, lo han guo

Brand names: Nectresse™, Purefruit™, Fruit-Sweetness™, Monk Fruit in the Raw, and other store brands

- Number of times sweeter than sugar: 150-200x
- Safe for children? Yes
- Safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women? Yes
- Safe for people with diabetes? Yes
- Use in cooking and baking? Yes

(Source: foodinsight.org)

What is a frozen shoulder?



By Sarah Jarvis

Your shoulders can move more, in more directions, than any other joint in your body – hardly surprising, then, that occasionally something goes wrong. And when it does, not only can they seize up, but they can be extremely painful.

Like your hip, your shoulder is a 'ball and socket' joint. The ball is at the head of your humerus (the bone in your upper arm) and it sits in a cup formed from bone at the end of your shoulderblade. The end of your collarbone also forms part of the joint, and a 'cuff' of muscles called the rotator cuff pull it in all directions. To stabilise the joint, there's a capsule of tough connective tissue all around it.

This arrangement allows maximum range of movement with minimum risk of the shoulder dislocating – although shoulder dislocate more often than other joints because the 'cup' is very shallow, to allow more movement.

Who is affected by frozen shoulder?

Frozen shoulder is most common in your 40s-mid 60s, and affects up to one in 20 people at some point. You're more likely to suffer with it if you're a woman or if you have other medical conditions like diabetes, heart disease, stroke or overactive thyroid.

It's not the same as arthritis, and although it can happen after a shoulder injury, it usually starts for no apparent reason.

Frozen shoulder is sometimes called 'adhesive capsulitis' – in other words, the shoulder capsule gets inflamed (the medical term for any inflammation is '-itis') and scar tissue forms that sticks the shoulder together, reducing movement. Most often, it affects the shoulder you don't write with.

this happens, you'll find your shoulder is stiff and you can't move it as far as you could. It's often very painful, especially when you move it but also when you lie on it at night or even when you're resting.

What are the symptoms of frozen shoulder?

The symptoms of frozen shoulder tend to go through phases. The first 'freezing' phase is usually most painful, and typically lasts from two to nine months. During this time, stiffness and reduced movement gradually get worse until they reach a peak as the pain wears off.

This next 'frozen' phase typically lasts four to 12 months, during which you may find that rotating your shoulder is a particular problem.

Finally comes the 'thawing' phase, when your shoulder gradually returns to normal over the course of one to three years. It's highly unlikely that you'll ever get frozen shoulder again in the same shoulder if you've had it once.

How can I alleviate symptoms?

Almost every arm movement we take for granted involves the shoulder, so frozen shoulder can interfere with everything from driving to brushing your hair to putting your clothes on.

Because the first phase of a frozen shoulder is usually the most painful, pain relief is particularly important in the first few months.

Your doctor may offer paracetamol, anti-inflammatory tablets like naproxen or ibuprofen and codeine-containing tablets (or patches that release a steady dose of strong pain relief). Steroid injections into the joint are also an option if the pain is severe, although you'll need to wait several weeks between injections and can only have up to three because of the risk of damaging your joint.

Physiotherapy can make a huge difference to pain as well as stiffness and range of movement. Your physiotherapist may use a combination of stretching exercises, massage and hot/cold packs. They'll also advise you on exercises to do at home.

While other treatments like TENS machines (which deliver tiny electrical impulses) and acupuncture have been used, they're not recommended in guidelines because there's little or no evidence they help.

When is surgery an option?

If you're still suffering severely, there are several surgical options, all done by an orthopaedic surgeon under anaesthetic.

These include manipulating your shoulder to stretch and break down the scar tissue in the capsule, or inserting a tiny telescope into the joint and using radio-waves to break down the scar tissue. You'll be able to go home the same day although you'll need physiotherapy afterwards.

(Source: patient.info)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

1 Japan's Financial Services Agency said that it has approved 11 companies as operators of cryptocurrency exchanges, in a move that sets the country apart from its neighbors which are tightening their grip on virtual money.

2 An initial public offering by Lyft Inc will give investors a way to jump into self-driving cars, although the ride services company and rival Uber Technologies Inc may have to wait years before sending a driverless robotaxi to a customer. Lyft was valued at \$7.5 billion in its latest fundraising, while larger rival Uber is valued at \$68 billion.

3 A Greek government plan to regulate taxi-hailing apps, such as Taxibeat and Uber, has angered many consumers who are worried it could disrupt a popular service for their daily commute. Greece is shaping up as the latest battlefield over fast-growing taxi apps such as Uber, which has faced regulatory and legal setbacks around the world amid opposition from traditional taxi services and disputes over labor rights.

4 Nearly two million people watched NFL livestream on Amazon.com. Some 1.9 million people tuned in to Amazon's kickoff show and game between the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers, according to the NFL. That compares to 2.3 million for the first digitally streamed game last year on Twitter Inc, which had the online rights at the time. But viewers watched the broadcast for longer on average on Amazon. Its average worldwide audience for at least 30 seconds was 372,000 people, compared with 243,000 on Twitter for the first game last year, the NFL said.

5 Turn on iPhone FM radio chips, urges FCC. But iPhone 7, 8 don't have any, says Apple. Apple is under pressure to "light up" the FM radio alleged to be present in the iPhone.

6 Samsung is the latest tech titan to open an AI lab in Canada. Its Montreal office will tackle self-driving cars and image recognition.

7 Amazon's new Fire TV supports picture-in-picture and recording. Don't expect your older devices to get these upgrades, though.

8 A thin, edible sensor that can attach to food and wirelessly report on its temperature. Now our fruits and vegetables can be part of the Internet of Things. The research team, led by post-doc Giovanni Salvatore, reported its findings in the Advanced Functional Materials journal. These super-thin microsensors are made with a polymer created with corn and potato starch, magnesium (which humans can digest) and water-soluble silicon dioxide and nitride.

9 Apple acquires AI tech that seeks to understand your photos. Regaind can tell good pics from bad ones, and interpret what's going on.

10 IBM now employs 130,000 people in India - about a third of its total work force - and "well under 100,000 people at its American offices," according to the New York Times.

A mini version of the Commodore 64 is coming in 2018

It's hard to deny the popularity of Nintendo's retro mini systems. After all, demand far outstripped supply for the mini version of the original console, and the same is expected to happen for today's SNES release. It's not a surprise, then, that other companies are getting in on the action. Retro Games is launching a mini version of the 1982 computer Commodore 64 called the C64 Mini. It will be available in early 2018, with a price point of \$70.



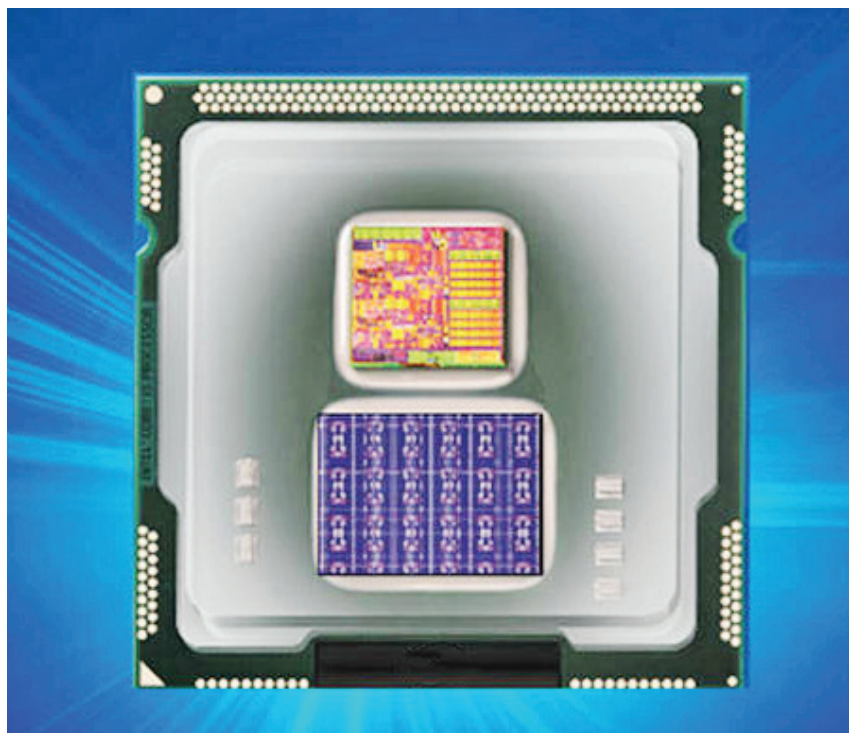
The C64 Mini, which is half the size of the original version, will come with 64 preinstalled licensed games, including California Games, Speedball 2: Brutal Deluxe and Parodroid. You can find a more complete list of games on their website. It comes with a wired joystick, a charging cable and will connect to your TV via an HDMI port, but you can also use any standard PC USB keyboard to interface with it. The C64 Mini will have a save game capability and filtering options such as CRT, pixel perfect and scanline emulation. You can upgrade your console's firmware via a USB flash drive. Retro Games is also planning a full-sized version of the C64 for late 2018.

(Source: Eurogamer)

Intel is building a neuromorphic chip that works like human brain

Chip giant Intel is in the middle of an experiment with a neuromorphic chip that attempts to resemble the way the human brain work. Imagine a situation where you are asked to guess the emotion of someone in a video clip. It will lead to neurons in your brain exchanging information in a flurry of electronic spikes. In a similar manner, researchers at Intel recently put a challenge to the prototype of their new chip. The chip, called Loihi, tried to solve the problem with thousands of spiking silicon neurons of its own. Like our brain's neurons, they can adjust the connections between themselves to adapt to new tasks. The new chip consists of 128 computing cores and each core has 1,024 artificial neurons, giving the chip a total of more than 1,30,000 neurons and 130 million synaptic connections. The new design, which is named after a submarine volcano in Hawaii, still is far away from a human brain. The human brain is made up of more than 80 billion neurons. But it's very different from a conventional processor. Based on the number of neurons, the Loihi chip is a little more complex than the simple lobster brain.

The company predicts that this approach could one day make cars, cameras and robots smarter without having to rely on an Internet connection to the cloud. The spiking nature of the simulated neurons will make the chip run more efficiently than a traditional chip design, Intel said. It will be able to interpret video using as little as one-thousandth of the energy of a conventional chip. Intel's new AI processors learn locally inside of the machine they're installed. Also, cutting



the cord removes the need to wait for data to traverse the Internet and it also has some privacy benefits.

Intel has made two smaller prototypes and is now testing the full design. Loihi is still a research project and it will not be until November that the first full version of the chip will be fabricated. Some academic and research institutions will get to try it in 2018.

Loihi is Intel's latest effort to turn the current vogue for AI into a new growth

engine for the company. Last year, Intel acquired two start-ups working on chips to power machine learning in the cloud and for computer vision. Two years ago, it spent \$16.7 billion, its largest acquisition ever, to acquire Altera, which builds the programmable chips that Microsoft uses. Last year, the company paid a reported \$408 million buying Nervana, a company that was exploring a chip just for executing neural networks. Now, led by the Nervana team, Intel is developing

a dedicated chip for training and executing neural networks. Rival chipmaker Nvidia currently dominates the AI market with its graphics processors. Officially, the company's position is that improvements in traditional chips will continue well into the next decade.

But Intel is not the first company to design a chip using pointers from neuroscience. Tech giant IBM built two generations of its own neuromorphic processor. But that chip, unlike Intel's, can't learn from incoming data. The company has struck deals with two labs to build research systems with its chip, but not announced broad commercial availability. Whether or not Intel's neuromorphic chip experiment ever becomes successful, it's worthy to note that the unveiling highlights Intel's interest in moving beyond the traditional central processing unit (or CPU) market, where the company is a market leader. Intel controls more than 90% of the data-centre market, making it by far the largest seller of traditional chips.

Intel is competing not only with chip-makers like Nvidia and Qualcomm, but also with companies like Google and Microsoft. Google is designing the second generation of its chips. Later this year, the company said, any business or developer that is a customer of its Cloud-computing service will be able to use the new chips to run its software. With this new chip, the hope is that there will be devices that will handle more complex tasks without having the need to call back to distant data centres.

(Source: financialexpress)

What is Microsoft's AndromedaOS?

By Mary Jo Foley

Some of us Microsoft watchers have heard and blogged about a rumored Microsoft mobile device known as "Andromeda."

But Andromeda isn't just hardware. It's also the codename for the software that will power not just Microsoft's Andromeda device, but Windows 10 itself, going forward, I believe.

Windows Central and MSPoweruser.com have both done good posts earlier this year outlining AndromedaOS, which Windows Central says may be officially known as Windows Core OS. Over the past few months, I've also been hearing bits and pieces about AndromedaOS from my own sources.

It's worth noting AndromedaOS is not a Microsoft Research project. It isn't Microsoft's attempt to create a new operating system without any roots in Windows, as was "Midori" -- an operating system that Microsoft worked on for years as a skunkworks project and then dropped.

AndromedaOS, instead, is going to be the guts of Windows 10 as it moves ahead, according to my sources. Even though Microsoft officials have continued to



claim publicly that Windows 10 is the same across different device types, it isn't. Microsoft was able to build a common Windows 10 Core, known internally as OneCore, that works across phones, tablets, laptops and PCs, IoT devices and the HoloLens. But, as Windows Central notes, the rest of the Windows 10 operating system that sits on each of these platforms isn't the same; it includes pieces that are specific to the device types.

AndromedaOS is a new implementation of Windows 10 that sits on top of OneCore, my contacts say. This OS is both a reference OS for Microsoft OEM partners' Windows 10 devices in the future, as well as the codename for the OS inside Microsoft's Andromeda mobile device.

Uber's ex-CEO surprisingly appoints two new board members



When Uber founder and CEO Travis Kalanick stepped down in June, he retained his ownership stake in the company and seat on its board of directors. That made things awkward throughout the company's search for a new CEO, and has initiated a lawsuit from Uber's largest shareholder, Benchmark Capital. Now, the ex-CEO has suddenly appointed two new board members, apparently without notifying the rest of the company. The 10th and 11th board members are former Xerox CEO Ursula Burns and former Merrill Lynch head John Thain.

According to the Wall Street Journal, a \$3.5 billion investment from Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund in 2016 gave Kalanick control of three board seats. Those two extra seats are at issue in Benchmark's lawsuit, presumably for this exact reason. Bloomberg reports that new CEO Dara Khosrowshahi called the appointments a "complete surprise." The move is apparently occurring in order to head off a planned Tuesday vote that would rework the company's corporate governance, giving Kalanick two votes on his side.

In response, Uber provided the following statement: "The appointments of Ms. Burns and Mr. Thain to Uber's Board of Directors came as a complete surprise to Uber and its Board. That is precisely why we are working to put in place world-class governance to ensure that we are building a company every employee and shareholder can be proud of"

(Source: engadget)

Equifax breach shows signs of a possible state-sponsored hack



Ever since word of the Equifax hack got out, there's been one lingering question: was it a state-sponsored attack, or just criminals who took advantage of a security hole? At the moment, it looks like it might be the former. Bloomberg sources have shed light on the ongoing investigations into the breach, and they claim there are signs of a government's involvement. The initial group of hackers weren't particularly experienced, according to the tipsters, but they handed things over to a more "sophisticated" team. There are even hints that this might be the work of Chinese intelligence agents, although it's not yet clear who's responsible.

The insiders say that "many" of the tools used in the hack were Chinese in origin, and that there are similarities to China-backed breaches targeting the health insurance firm Anthem and the US government's Office of Personnel Management. Also, none of the stolen data has surfaced online -- whoever took it wasn't in a rush to profit. This was a "get as much data as you can on every American" play, one of Bloomberg's contacts said.

However, sources aware of federal investigations say only that there's evidence of a state-sponsored attack, not that it points to any one country.

(Source: Bloomberg)

South Korea bans raising money through ICOs



South Korea's financial regulator on Friday said it will ban raising money through all forms of virtual currencies, a move that follows similar restrictions in China on initial coin offerings.

The Financial Services Commission said all kinds of initial coin offerings (ICO) will be banned as trading of virtual currencies needs to be tightly controlled and monitored.

"Raising funds through ICOs seem to be on the rise globally, and our assessment is that ICOs are increasing in South Korea as well," the regulator said in a statement after a meeting with the finance ministry, the Bank of Korea and the National Tax Service.

"Stern penalties" will be issued on financial institutions and any parties involved in issuing ICOs, the statement added, without elaborating further on the details of those penalties.

The decision to ban ICOs as a fundraising tool was made as the government sees such issues as increasing the risk of financial scams. The decision tracks similar announcements in the U.S. and China where increasing trading volumes of cryptocurrencies are sparking concerns.

It added Friday's announcement doesn't mean the government has implicitly accepted trading of virtual currencies as part of its financial system, and will continue to monitor markets to see if additional regulations are needed.

(Source: venturebeat)

Merkel's obstacles to the formation of a coalition government

By Ana Sadat Hosseini Fard

TEHRAN — While Merkel's and her entourage's formal talks have not yet begun to form a coalition government with parties which won the seats in German parliament, the German Chancellor has faced many obstacles to the formation of a coalition government. The situation is now in a way that even the Social-Christian Party, which is the traditional Merkel ally, and the Christian Democrat Party, have mentioned special terms and conditions for the formation of the coalition government. A condition that Merkel could not easily fulfill!

The leaders of the Social Christian Party have stated that limiting and putting a number for admitting refugees is a key condition for the party to sign a coalition government deal with Merkel.

Marcus Zuder, who is one of the senior officials of the Social-Christian Party and is considered to be the next head of the party, has emphasized that his party refuses to abandon this request since the admission of asylum seekers and not determining a number has led to an increase in the power of maneuvering Right-Wing extremists and the formation of the Alternative for Germany.

It should be noted that the AFD won more than 12% of the vote in the recent election, as the third most powerful party in Germany (after the two Christian and Social Democratic parties) to the German parliament. This has hit the German society. Another notable point is that the leaders of the Christian-Democratic Party have expressed doubts about the formation of a Jamaican coalition of the Green Party, Liberal Democrats, and the League of Christian Unions. This is despite the fact that the Social-Democratic Party has said it will not be willing to form a coalition government with Merkel! Under such circumstances, it is unclear what the German Chancellor wants, how and with which parties to form a coalition government.

Many German analysts believe that, given the possible absence of Social-Democrats in the coalition govern-



ment, the formation of a Jamaican coalition of Christian unions, the Greens, and the Liberal Democrats is Merkel's only path. But the Christian Socialist party's pivotal condition for Merkel, made the situation difficult for the German Chancellor. If Merkel agrees to the request of the Social-Democratic Party and sets a ceiling for the asylum seekers in Germany, she will face the Green Party's opposition and can't use this party's capacity to form a coalition government.

As is clear, the equations for the formation of a coalition government in Germany are complex. Six Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Christian Socialists, Liberal Democrats, the Left Party and the Alternative for Germany have now been able to come to the parliament and create a six-party space in Germany. Meanwhile, the Christian Democrat Party will not basically form a coalition with the Left Party and the Alternative for Germany (AFD). Meanwhile, three remaining options are for Merkel are the Social-Christian Party, the Greens and the Social Democrats. Many political analysts in Germany believe that the best choice for Merkel is to satisfy Social Democratic Party to form a coalition government. After winning the German general election, Merkel announced that she would enter into negotiations with her rival party to form the government, despite Martin Schultz's comments on the impossibility of a coalition of Social-Democrats and the Christian Democrats.

If the German coalition government is once again formed by Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, we will be witnessing the continuation of the previous four-year process in the field of domestic and foreign policy of Germany. Over the past years, there has been a great deal of disagreement between the two big parties over issues such as how to deal with the asylum seekers crisis and the increased military spending of Germany. During the electoral campaign, Mathieu Schulz had stated that the Social Democrats would only form a coalition with Christian Democrats on one condition.

This condition was Merkel's withdrawal from allocating Germany's 2 percent GDP to military issues. It should be noted that the United States President Donald Trump has pressured NATO members since his presence at the White House on the allocation of 2 percent of their gross domestic product to military issues. This issue is accompanied by Merkel's and her entourage's relative agreement. However, the Social Democrats believe that Merkel should not retreat to the Trump's pressures. Merkel is now well aware that, in order to satisfy the Social Democrats for the coalition, she must abandon her decision to increase the military budget of Germany.

But the formation of a coalition government consisting of Christian parties and Social Democrats will also be followed by another austerity, and that is

when the far-right Alternative for Germany becomes the main opposition party. It should not be forgotten that AFD won more than 12% of the vote and became the third strongest party in Germany. Obviously, if the coalition government of the Social Democrats and the coalition of Christian parties does not work in this regard, the number of supporters of AFD will be expanded exponentially.

In this case, we will witness a sharp jump in this party's vote in the next German election. It is not unreasonable that many supporters of the Social-Democratic Party are against the coalition with the Christian Democrats just to be in power once again. In the absence of a coalition between the two main and traditional German parties, the Social Democrats will retain their position as the most powerful opposition party in Germany.

It should be noted that the main message of the recent election campaign in Germany was the decline in the popularity of traditional parties and the increase in the popularity of the far-right extremists in this country. Over the past five decades, there has been no record that the right-wing extremist could get to the German parliament. Now the "Alternative for Germany" which is anti-Islamic, anti-immigration, anti-euro and anti-European Union, has managed to reach parliament with a nationalist approach and won about 90 parliamentary seats.

This issue has come about with the domination of the prominent right-wing extremists in Europe. Leader of the French National Front, Marine Le Pen, congratulated this victory to AFD. It should be noted that none of the German parties want a coalition with the "Alternative for Germany" party. On the other hand, the leaders of the AFD are trying to increase their popularity in the next election cycle by adopting opposing stances against the coalition government (regardless of which parties form a coalition government). In the coming years, the Alternative for Germany will take a sharp turning point on issues such as the immigration crisis in Germany as well as against the European Union and the Eurozone.

Barezani cannot separate Kurdistan without civil conflict: American expert

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Prof. William O. Beeman, head of the anthropology department at the State University of Minnesota, is of the view that "Barezani can continue to hold power based on the nationalist sentiment raised by the referendum, but he cannot force a separation of Kurdistan from Iraq without a civil conflict."

"The Baghdad government will never give up the oil resources in the Arbil/Irbil region without a fight," Beeman tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ The Kurdish Referendum held on September 25. How will this referendum influence Kurdish movements within the region?

A: The Kurds were promised their own independent nation at the end of World War I, but they were cheated by the British, who wanted access to oil in the Kurdistan region. They are the largest ethnic group



in the world without their own nation, so they are still dreaming of this. The referendum fuels their dreams and raises their hopes that some day they may have their own nation.

■ What is the reaction of the regional powers to the separation of Kurdish Regional from Iraq?

A: Kurds live in five nations--Iran, Iraq,

Turkey, Syria and the former Soviet Union. If the Kurds were to achieve a separate nation or independent region in Iraq, the other nations are afraid that their own Kurdish population would like to join them and separate from their current nations. Iraq is afraid of losing the oil in Kurdistan and is also worried about a possible civil war.

Trump calls Merkel on a nuclear deal

Gabriel has long argued that his country is prepared to push together with the United States, Britain and France to push Iran to comply with all its commitments in the nuclear deal! These statements come as the IAEA endorsed Iran's commitment to a nuclear deal in its eight frequent reports.

Currently, Trump intends to intensify his moves against a nuclear deal with Iran. Another thing is that, along with Lamborghini Trump and Angela Merkel, Nicky Haley's renewed efforts have begun. Nicky Haley has once again stated that Iran's nuclear inspections are not enough, and the International Atomic Energy Agency should check the military places in Iran.

The issue of negotiation between Trump and Angela Merkel seems to have been the same. In his October report to Congress, Trump seems to have referred to the issue of inspecting Iran's military sites and insists on negotiating with European leaders on this issue.

Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that inspection of our country's military sites and access to the country's military secrets is not possible by the IAEA inspectors and under the pretext of verification of nuclear activities. The issue that Yukio Amano is aware of. So far, the Islamic Republic of Iran's official position on this matter has



been announced to the international community and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Trump knows that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept any inspection of military sites under any circumstances. This logical position of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been repeatedly emphasized by Tehran. However, the Nuclear Consensus Review Committee in the United States has decided to insist on this. Obviously, after the release of Trump's new report on a nuclear deal with Iran, Washington's opposition to the nuclear deal will be a new phase.

It should be noted that since the beginning of Trump's presence at the White House,

■ What is the reaction of the international powers to the separation of Kurdish Regional from Iraq?

A: The international community generally believes that Kurdish separation from Iraq will create instability in the region. There is an additional factor in that Israel has tried to court the Kurds in Iraq and elsewhere. The idea of an independent Kurdistan allied with Israel is viewed with great alarm by the nations of the region.

■ After referendum, we saw intense sanctions on Arbil. According to this sanctions, do you think that Barezani will back from his decision on separation from Baghdad?

A: Barezani can continue to hold power based on the nationalist sentiment raised by the referendum, but he cannot force a separation of Kurdistan from Iraq without a civil conflict. The Baghdad government will never give up the oil resources in the Arbil/Irbil region without a fight.

Haley's Eagerly Waiting for Tillerson's Resignation

By Anna Sadat Hosseini Fard

TEHRAN — Nikki Haley, the United States representative at the United Nations, is eagerly waiting for Rex Tillerson, the country's current Secretary of State to leave the State Department building. Many analysts and news sources believe that Tillerson will soon leave, and Nikki Haley will be replaced at top of U.S. foreign policy equations. Of course, this change has been long made in the US foreign policy! Now Nikki Haley has virtually become a spokeswoman for Trump in the field of American foreign policy, and Tillerson has been marginalized, on the other hand.



U.S. sources have previously announced that Rex Tillerson, the current Secretary of State of Trump government, is set to resign from his post by the end of 2017 (by the end of December this year). The differences between Tillerson and Trump are on various issues including JCPOA, which is the main reason for his forced resignation. In this regard, Politico's website has reported that if Rex Tillerson is to be taken out of government, United States ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, is widely regarded as the most important candidate for Tillerson's replacement. The controversy between Trump's government officials and Washington's foreign policy intellectuals is not about whether Haley replaces Tillerson or not, but the question is about the time it's going to happen.

Trump has tried to highlight Nikki Haley's role in U.S. foreign policy over the past two months. Nikki Haley's trip to Vienna and her visit to Yuko Amano, Director General of the IAEA, took place in the same direction. Moreover, Nikki Haley has taken positions against North Korea not only as the United States Representative at the United Nations, but also as the closest person to Trump in the field of US Foreign Policy. However, many American politicians and media now accept the strong presence of Nikki Haley in American foreign policy.

Haley is one of the most ambitious people working with Trump in his government and is competing to win over Tillerson, a competition which has reduced the influence and budget of the U.S. Department of State. Nikki Haley is expected to be present at nearly all bilateral meetings between Trump and Tillerson, and her role to be raised as the U.S. representative at the United Nations. Haley also plays a role in reviewing the words that Trump is expected to address at the UN General Assembly.

Even some U.S. sources believe that Tillerson's resignation from the U.S. Department of State will take place sooner than expected, and probably about two months later, Nikki Haley will be introduced as the secretary of state for Trump government. Nikki Haley also has U.S. Senate support. The majority of Democrat and Republican senators are also supporting Nikki Haley! It seems that many of the traditional Republicans, because of the close similarity of Tillerson and Russian President Vladimir Putin, welcome his departure from the State Department. When Rex Tillerson was introduced as the U.S. Secretary of State's by Trump government, some Democrat and Republican senators accused him of excessive attachment to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his government. In spite of it Tillerson finally managed to win the Senate vote to be at the top US foreign policy equations.

However, the main question is whether Nikki Haley will have a successful show in U.S. foreign policy ground? The answer to this question is negative! Undoubtedly, Nikki Haley will soon become a messenger for the failure of Trump government in US foreign policy. She plans to attend the U.S. State Department in a time when America is struggling with various crises in the international system. It should not be forgotten that, in addition to most American citizens, many European governments are instantaneously pushing for the removal of Trump from the White House. In this equation, it's obvious that there won't be a happy ending for the Secretary of State of such a government!

On the other hand, after the resignation of Tillerson, he will say a lot about the hard times in the US State Department! These stances and statements can also affect the work of Nikki Haley in as the U.S. Secretary of State. It is worth mentioning that Rex Tillerson is opposed to the irrational actions of Trump for the nuclear deal with Iran. This opposition is not to be taken as Tillerson's defense of JCPOA, but rather taken for his awareness of the inability of the U.S. Department of State in the face of the aftermath of counter-JCPOA efforts. However, Nikki Haley has promised Trump that, in line with what he wants, she will do her best to break the nuclear deal between Iran and the members of the 1 + 5.

The final point is that Nicky Haley's ambitions are not just about her presence at the U.S. Department of State. For example, a senior European diplomat who didn't want his name to be mentioned, told Reuters:

"Nikki Haley is remarkable and extraordinary for America. She is one who is very accessible and politically highly acclaimed." I find it probable that she would take the place of Tillerson (at the State Department). It is clear that her long-term goal (Nikki Haley) is to become the president of the U.S."

Hence, you can compare Nikki Haley with people like Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin. The two female American politicians have made their best efforts to preside over the United States, but failed to do so. However, some also believe that the presence of Nikki Haley in the shadow of Trump government and in the State Department, in a situation where Trump is becoming more unpopular with American citizens day by day, reflects an unsuccessful political future for Nikki Haley and other officials of Trump government.

Iran, Belarus to bolster medical co-op

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran and Belarus discussed **d e s k** ways of enhancing cooperation in the healthcare sector.

The Iranian ambassador to Belarus, Mustafa Oveysi, and the Belarusian minister of health, Valery Malashko, negotiated different approaches that can be adopted to improve research, teaching, medical, health, and pharmaceutical cooperation, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Mentioning the two countries' accomplishments and capabilities in the health sector, Malashko underlined the importance of expanding ties and exchange of experiences.

On the sidelines of the visit, Iranian deputy health minister Gholamreza Asghari and his Belarusian counterpart Vyacheslav Shylo signed a memorandum of understanding aiming at promoting pharmaceutical cooperation between the two sides.

In his future trip to Iran, Malashko and Iranian Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi are to ink a comprehensive memorandum of understanding covering many areas of healthcare.

World Habitat Day: Affordable Homes

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

History

World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 with the theme "Shelter is My Right". Nairobi was the host city for the observance that year. Other previous themes have included: "Shelter for the Homeless" (1987, New York); "Shelter and Urbanization" (1990, London); "Future Cities" (1997, Bonn); "Safer Cities" (1998, Dubai); "Women in Urban Governance" (2000, Jamaica); "Cities without Slums" (2001, Fukuoka); "Water and Sanitation for Cities" (2003, Rio de Janeiro); "Planning our Urban Future" (2009, Washington, D.C.); "Better City, Better Life" (2010, Shanghai, China) and Cities and Climate Change (2011, Aguascalientes, Mexico).

2017 theme: Housing Policies: Affordable Homes

Each year, World Habitat Day takes on a new theme to promote sustainable development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. These themes often promote one of UN-Habitat's focal areas such as:

- Inclusive housing and social services
- A safe and healthy living environment for all — with particular consideration for children, youth, women, elderly and disabled
- Affordable and sustainable transport and energy
- Promotion, protection, and restoration of green urban spaces
- Safe and clean drinking water and sanitation
- Healthy air quality
- Job creation
- Improved urban planning and slum upgrading
- Better waste management

(Source: un.org)

LEARN ENGLISH

Daily Life - Dr. Plumber

A: Good afternoon! Did you call for a plumber?
 B: Yes, yes I did. Please come in! I'm so glad you came! This old house is **falling apart**! Come on into the bathroom. See, here, there's water leaking everywhere!
 A: I see. Let me have a look. It seems that your toilet is **clogged**, and that's why it won't **flush**. Let me just get my **plunger**. No, that's not working either. I suspect that there's some sort of **foreign** object in the pipes that's causing a blockage. That's what's making your toilet **overflow**.
 B: Oh, that must be because of my four-year-old daughter. She is always flushing things down the toilet. You know how kids are.
 A: Yeah, I have a little one myself. Anyway, these water pipes are really **rusty**, so they also should be changed. That could be causing water to not **drain** completely; that might lead to more problems in the future. I would also suggest fixing this **faucet** that isn't **shutting off** properly. I could have it all finished by today if it's urgent.
 B: That would be great! Is it expensive?
 A: Let's see... I would say about eight hundred dollars.
 B: What? That's more than I make in a day and I'm a heart surgeon!

Key Vocabulary
clog: slowly forming a block in something
blockage: something that stops another thing from passing through
falling apart: slowly break
leak: liquid or gas escaping from its container through
flush: to cause water to clean a toilet
plunger: a tool for unclogging toilets
foreign: something that doesn't belong
overflow: to flow over the edge of something
rusty: covered with a reddish brown color
drain: to remove liquid from something by letting it flow
faucet: a device that controls the flow that comes out of
shut off: to cause a machine to stop operating

Supplementary Vocabulary
pump: a machine that moves liquid from one place to another
burst: break apart suddenly
tap: the part of the sink that water comes out of
appliance: an electric machine with a special purpose
flood: water coming into a place where it shouldn't
 (Source: irlanguage.com)

Older persons in Iran grow 1.5-fold in a decade

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Census **d e s k** reports indicate that the number of persons, aged 60 years or older, has increased by 1.5-fold over the past decade (2006-2016) in Iran.

In 2006, some 5.1 million people were 60 or older, but the number rose to 6.1 million in 2011 and to 7.4 million in 2016, ISNA reported. Currently, the country's total population stands at about 80 million, of which some 9.3 percent is 60 or older.

According to the United Nations, for the first time in human history, in 2050, there will be more persons over 60 than children in the world.

Almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 per cent of the world's population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth.

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Unfortunately ageism is synonymous with being excluded and devalued and undermining older persons' rights and blocking their contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life.

Being retired older persons are usually excluded from social life, and the desperate loneliness they may experience would trigger many mental disorders. Moreover older persons need more medical care



considering the age and the limited retirement pension won't usually do.

As older persons become an ever greater proportion of the total population, they will become an ever greater force to be reckoned with in society — politically, economically and socially.

This sentiment is clearly in line with the objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which is to ensure that people can age with security and dignity and that they may continue to participate fully in their societies as citizens with full rights. Older persons should be afforded the possibility to become actively engaged in the development process and in society so that their skills, experiences, wisdom and knowledge can be put to use for the

benefit of all.

The active participation of older persons in society and development is based on providing older persons with the opportunity to continue contributing to society. The contributions of older persons reach beyond their economic activities and extend into their roles in families and in the community.

Often these contributions cannot be readily measured in economic terms: care for family members, productive subsistence work, household maintenance and voluntary activities in the community. Participation in social, economic, cultural, sporting, recreational and volunteer activities also contributes to the growth and maintenance of the personal well-being of older persons and the population at large.

The active participation of older persons in society and development in Iran is about 16.2 percent. The participation of older persons in rural areas is twice the participation rate of the older persons in urban areas.

Females outnumber males

Worldwide, among those aged 80 years or over, women are nearly twice as numerous as men, and among centenarians women are between four and five times as numerous as men.

In Iran the ratio of male to female ageing 60 or over is 97 to 100. Regarding the higher death rates for men and lower life expectancy among them the number is not very far fetched.

"Stepping into the future"

As published in United Nations' official website the theme of the 2017 International Day of Older Persons, October 1, is "Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society." It is about enabling and expanding the contributions of older people in their families, communities and societies at large. It focuses on the pathways that support full and effective participation in old age, in accordance with old persons' basic rights, needs and preferences.

This year's theme underscores the link between tapping the talents and contributions of older persons and achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which is currently undergoing its third review and appraisal process.

'It will take a lifetime of dedication to save Asiatic Cheetah'

By Farnaz Heidari

The Asiatic cheetah also known as Iranian cheetah is a Critically Endangered cheetah subspecies surviving today only in Iran. It once occurred from the Arabian Peninsula and the Near East to the Kyzylkum Desert, Caspian region, Pakistan and India, but has been extirpated there during the 20th century.

The Asiatic cheetah survives in protected areas in the eastern-central arid region of Iran, where the human population density is very low.

The cheetah/livestock interactions and the presence of human beings and guard dogs in cheetah's habitats, road accidents and habitat fragmentation due to human encroachment are of the threats making the cheetah's future uncertain.

Tim O'Brien is a Senior Scientist of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Conservation Fellow of Zoological Society of London. He has received MSc. Wildlife Biology, Masters of Statistics, and PhD Wildlife Ecology.

He has been working for the Wildlife Conservation Society since 1990 and his primary areas of expertise include large mammals, bird communities, wildlife monitoring and statistics. He has worked on large carnivores in Sumatra, Indonesia, Iran, and Kenya, as well as assisted in analysis of carnivore data in Bolivia and Lao PDR. He has also worked on primates in Venezuela, Kenya, Indonesia and Lao PDR, studied large frugivores birds and bird communities in Indonesia, Kenya and Rwanda and worked on design, execution and analysis of monitoring program for many species and communities in more than a dozen countries.

Additionally he has developed new applications for camera trapping and analytical methods for camera



Tim O'Brien

trap data. These include applications for the study of birds, wildlife communities and carnivores. He is skilled at the design, implementation and interpretation of camera trap studies for species richness, occupancy, abundance and density estimation and has extensive experience in line transect and point abundance surveys for birds and primates. He has authored and co-authored more than 100 scientific papers, two books and numerous technical reports.

Tehran Times conducted an interview with Dr. Tim O'Brien as a professional person in the field of Asiatic Cheetah's monitoring.

You and Dr. George Schaller conducted preliminary surveys in the Kavir National park, the Khar-Touran Biosphere Reserve, and the Dar Anjir Hunting Prohibited Area, would you please tell me more about those surveys and also the results?

A: It was a very great pleasure to be able to work in with the Department of Environment (DOE) in the Kavir

Desert. We visited most of the protected areas, spent time counting gazelle and orial sheep and wild goat, spent time training DOE staff on sampling methods. We also trained students. When the survey was conducted DOE staff drove 4,260 kilometers of line transects to count gazelle, spent 1,320 hours watching for orial sheep and wild goat, and deployed camera traps at 270 locations for 8,100 days — more than 22 years of effort — to try to count cheetahs and prey. Based on that survey, we found populations of gazelle are very low in the reserves; goitered gazelle were found only in one reserve and jebber gazelle populations were under 250 in all but one reserve. Lack of gazelle has forced cheetahs to shift to Orial sheep and goats as primary prey. Sheep populations were distributed unevenly throughout the mountains of reserves; density ranged from 0.21 — 10.8/km². Wild goat distributions also were clumped and density ranged from 0.06 — 5.5/km². Cheetahs are rare everywhere we looked, with estimated minimum densities of one cheetah/2000 km². Wolf, leopard, and caracal were as uncommon as cheetah, and we suspect persecution of carnivores is widespread.

How large was the cheetah population when you visited Iran?

A: At the time I worked in Iran (2001-2004) the cheetah estimate was approximately 120 individuals.

What is your opinion about surveys of IUCN assessors? (Jowkar, H., Hunter, L., Ziaie, H., Marker, L., Breitenmoser-Wursten, C. and Durant, S.)

A: I respect these colleagues and have worked closely with Luke Hunter and Sarah Durant in the past. The population has been close to extermination in Iran for a long time and stabilization is good news. →13

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Tehran welcomes autumn with rangers at schools

Tehran's Department of Environment has two programs for this autumn, one of which is the presence of rangers on the first day of academic year at schools and the other is the monitoring of pollutant sources.

"The Department of Environment plans to introduce students with their environmental and ecological problems through the presence of rangers at schools," the chief of Tehran's Department of Environment Mohammad-Hossein Bazgir said.

"Having knowledge about environment, students can help us to solve ecological problems," he explained.

He said that the department has several meetings with schoolmasters as well as officials of the Ministry of Education to increase knowledge of students about environment in Tehran in the current academic year.

ENGLISH PROVERB

There's many a slip between the cup and the lip

Explanation: We do not own something until we actually get it
For example: Don't worry about the result, there's many a slip between the cup and the lip.

PHRASAL VERB

Winkle out

Meaning: Find or get something that takes a great deal of effort
For example: It took me a while to winkle the truth out of him.

ENGLISH IDIOM

Water down

Meaning: To make a report, declaration or proposal weaker or less likely to cause anger
For example: When announcing the rejection of the proposal, he tried to water down the committee's negative comments.

حضور محیط‌بانان از اول مهر در مدارس

رییس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران محمدحسین بازگیر با بیان اینکه دانش‌آموزان حق دارند اطلاعات مفیدی از زیست بوم و محیط زیست اطراف خود داشته باشند، اظهار کرد: جلساتی با مدیران اداره کل آموزش و پرورش شهر تهران در مورد آموزش‌های محیط زیستی به دانش‌آموزان و معلمان برگزار شده است. هدف ما از حضور در مدارس این است که دانش‌آموزان با مسائل و مشکلات زیست محیطی شهر و کشور خود آشنا شوند و به اندازه خود قدمی برای رفع این مشکلات بردارند.

وی افزود: امیدواریم امسال با همکاری آموزش و پرورش طرح ساعتی با محیط بانان و آموزش‌های زیست محیطی به دانش‌آموزان منظم‌تر و جامع‌تر از گذشته انجام شود تا دانش‌آموزان دغدغه‌ی محیط زیست داشته باشند.

UK will need changes if it can't reach deal with EU over Brexit: May

British Prime Minister Theresa May says that the government will need some changes if it cannot reach a deal with the European Union over Brexit.

May made the remarks on Sunday in an interview with BBC Television in Manchester where the Conservatives have gathered for their annual conference.

"Government is working on what would need to be put in place if there is no deal, what we are also working on is ensuring we get a deal, get the right deal for the United Kingdom," May said.

"Government departments are looking to see what changes are needed, what we need to put in place."

May also said that her cabinet, including Foreign Minister Boris Johnson, is supporting her strategy to leave the bloc.

"What I have is a cabinet that is united in the mission of the government," she said.

"Boris is absolutely behind the Florence speech and the line that we have taken," she said in reference to a speech she delivered in Italy in September about her approach to Brexit.



In her speech, she stressed that the UK would leave the European Single Market, but noted that London still wanted economic relations with the bloc and it will not turn its back on Europe.

May also said that the British people

never felt comfortable as a member of the EU, emphasizing that Britons want to make their own laws independently.

A week before May's address in Florence, Johnson (pictured below) had laid out his vision for Brexit in what analysts

saw as a challenge to May's authority.

Johnson offered his 10-point plan for Britain's successful exit from the block in Daily Telegraph. In the 4,000 word article, Johnson outlined a cost-benefit analysis on how leaving the bloc will bring Brits the most benefits for the smallest cost.

He revived the contested claim Brexit could free up £350m a week for the NHS, saying Brexit would put the Britons' destiny back into their own hands, allowing them to make the UK the most "glorious" country on in the world.

Analysts said Johnson made the move in a bid to confirm himself as the no.1 candidate for the top post upon May's likely demise.

May, in her interview with BBC, refused to deny that Johnson has become "unsackable."

EU officials have been complaining that the British side has been weaseling out of its obligations and failing to address the three key points raised in previous Brexit talks: EU citizen rights, Northern Ireland's border and a divorce bill.

(Source: agencies)

Trump lays blame on Puerto Ricans for slow hurricane response

U.S. President Donald Trump placed blame squarely on Puerto Ricans for the slow recovery from Hurricane Maria after critics and the mayor of San Juan complained his administration's response to the U.S. territory's plight was insufficient.

Eleven days after the devastating storm wiped out power, water and communications systems, about half of the 3.4 million people on the island do not have access to drinking water, and 95 percent remain without power, according to the U.S. Defense Department.

"I'm a ticking time bomb on the verge of exploding," said Adeline Vazquez, 53, who needs a ventilator for respiratory problems and whose building in the western city of Mayaguez does not have enough fuel to run a generator 24 hours a day.

Maria, the most powerful storm to strike Puerto Rico in nearly 90 years, has destroyed roads, making it difficult to deliver aid and move the heavy equipment needed to fix damaged infrastructure across the island. The hurricane has killed at least 16 people, according to the official death toll.

Trump, who plans to visit the island on Tuesday, fired off a series of angry tweets from his private golf club in New Jersey, taking aim at the mayor of San Juan, the island's capital and largest city.

On Friday, Carmen Yulin Cruz criticized Trump's administration and begged for more help, a plea that received widespread television coverage in the mainland United States.

"Such poor leadership by the Mayor of San Juan and others in Puerto Rico who are not able to get their workers to help," said Trump, a Republican. "They want

everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort."

Trump - who often turns to Twitter to strike out when his government is under pressure - accused Cruz of being "told by the Democrats that you must be nasty to Trump" and blamed the media for not showing the "amazing job" of responders.

Cruz, who has been living in a shelter after her home was destroyed in the hurricane, said municipal employees were working as hard as they could. She also said her complaints had resulted in more food and water being provided.

Cruz responded to Trump's attack by saying she had no time for petty politics when lives were at stake.

"Sometimes you have to shake the tree in order to make things happen," she told the New York Times. "And if that has a political cost, I will take it, as long as it saves lives."

The heated rhetoric took the political tensions around the disaster to new heights, but Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello tried to distance himself from the battle ahead of Trump's visit.

In an interview with Reuters on Saturday, Rossello said: "I'm not paying attention to social media," adding "my only focus right now is to make sure the people of Puerto Rico are well."

When pressed, Rossello said he did not interpret Trump's tweets as a slight to Puerto Rico's people.

"When I read that tweet, it was in reference to the mayor of San Juan, not to the people of Puerto Rico," said Rossello, who has made a point of working cooperatively with Trump's administration on aid for the island.

"I saw it as a personal difference with the mayor of San Juan," he said.

Rossello and Cruz are members of rival political parties.

But Trump's comments drew swift condemnation elsewhere, particularly from U.S. Democrats.

"The definition of 'poor leadership' is sitting at your golf club while millions of U.S. citizens beg for your help," U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat from Massachusetts, said on Twitter.

Later in the day, Trump tempered his tweeted barbs. "We must all be united in offering assistance to everyone suffering in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the wake of this terrible disaster," he said.

Long lines, waning patience

The U.S. military is moving in more equipment and personnel to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state officials respond to the destruction from the storm, which landed just as the island was recovering from Hurricane Irma.

While FEMA has said it has delivered millions of meals and liters of water, many Puerto Ricans have said the aid has been too little and has not made it way to large parts of the island.

Many said they are losing patience and wondering why, as American citizens, they are not getting the same relief as residents of Florida and Texas after storms Irma and Harvey.

San Juan resident Judith Berkan said power shortages and long lines for cash, food, gasoline and medical attention were wearing people down.

(Source: Reuters)

Israeli regime pushing region into new war: Nasrallah

The Hezbollah chief also called on Israeli settlers to leave the occupied Palestinian territories and return to their countries of origin as they would have neither time nor place to escape after the beginning of an Israeli war on Lebanon and other regional countries.

"If this war happens, the Zionist settlers will pay a heavy price, and the entity will reach its demise," he noted.

Israel launched two wars on Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, in both of which Hezbollah fighters inflicted heavy losses on the regime's military. Over the past few months, Israeli officials have threatened another war on

Lebanon.

"Daesh sponsors should be held to account"

Elsewhere in his speech, Nasrallah said the ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group is one of the most dangerous threats to the region, which has defamed the image of the holy religion of Islam.

Consequently, he said, those who created Daesh and provided it with financial and weaponry support should be held to account.

He further stressed that anti-Daesh battles should continue until the eradication of the terror outfit, urging the Islamic Ummah to adopt a tough stance against

the Wahhabi-Takfiri ideology.

Takfirim which is a trademark of Daesh is largely influenced by Wahhabism, the radical ideology dominating Saudi Arabia and freely preached by Saudi clerics.

"Cost of war less than Yemeni surrender to Saudis" Additionally, Nasrallah condemned the deadly Saudi aggression on Yemen, which began in March 2015.

He stressed that the Yemeni people consider resistance as their only option against the invasion and believe that the cost of the war, though high, is less than their surrender to the Saudis.

(Source: Daily Star)

Canadian police investigate Edmonton van and knife attack as terrorism

Canadian police said early on Sunday that an attack on an officer outside a football game with a car and knife and a high-speed chase of a U-Haul van that left four people injured are being investigated as acts of terrorism.

Edmonton police chief Rod Knecht said officers took a suspect into custody and they think he acted alone. Knecht said an ISIL flag was found in the car that hit the officer. They later described the suspect as a 30-year-old Edmonton man.

The attack began outside a Canadian Football League game at Commonwealth Stadium on Saturday night. Police said a white Chevrolet Malibu rammed a traffic control barricade and sent an officer flying into the air 15ft.

Knecht said the driver then got out and attacked the officer with a knife before fleeing on foot. The officer was taken to a hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries while a manhunt was launched. "It's not critical," Knecht said of the injuries.

A few hours later, a U-Haul van was stopped at an impaired driving check stop north of downtown on Wayne Gretzky Drive. Knecht said the name of the driver was close to the name of the registered owner of the car that hit the officer. He said the U-Haul sped off toward downtown with police in pursuit.

Police say the U-Haul intentionally swerved at pedestrians at crosswalks throughout the chase. Four people were injured - the extent of their injuries was not immediately known. The van eventually flipped near a downtown hotel and a suspect was arrested. Knecht said the man was known to police, but did not release his name.

"It is believed at this time that these two incidents are related," Knecht said. "It was determined that these incidents are being investigated as acts of terrorism."

Knecht said Edmonton police were working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's National Security Enforcement Team and other Canadian security agencies. Knecht told the public to remain vigilant and observant of their surroundings.

Knecht said police did not call off the chase of the U-Haul due to the seriousness of the crime. A witness Pat Hannigan told reporters he saw police pull the man from the windshield of the toppled U-Haul. He estimated 30 police cars were chasing the U-Haul.

Austin Elgie, manager of the Pint bar just west of the downtown core, also saw the van zoom by with police giving chase. The van "peeled" into an alley where people were smoking, he said.

"There were like 10 cop cars following him ... It was crazy," he said. "It just came



around the corner, ripping. I thought at first he was pulling over for the cops coming by, but he was clearly the one they were chasing."

Elgie said the van hit a man who was a bar customer.

"I have a registered nurse on my bar team and I grabbed her and had her look after the guy until the ambulance came," he said. "He was breathing and we got him in the ambulance and he was still breathing."

Alberta premier Rachel Notley said on Twitter her thoughts were with the

injured officer and she was hoping for a speedy recovery.

It was military appreciation night at the football game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Canada's chief of defense staff, Gen Jonathan Vance, conducted the pre-game coin flip at Commonwealth Stadium and two CF-18 fighter jets did a fly-past before kickoff. More than 800 Boy Scouts were expected at the game and many were planning to camp out on the field afterward.

(Source: Guardian)

Muslims mark Ashura with mourning ceremonies

The rituals are observed in ultimate magnificence in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, the latter of which hosts Imam Hussein's holy shrine.

On Sunday, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, traveling from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Lebanon and many other countries, descended on Karbala, with officials putting their numbers at 3 million.

An Iraqi TV channel said authorities had created a security belt around the holy city to protect it from possible terrorist attacks. In the past, Daesh and other Takfiri groups have targeted the pilgrims on their way to Karbala or carried out bombings inside the city.

Across Iran, millions of mourners started the processions shortly after the sunrise, lining up in coordinated and orderly bands of passion plays and recitations of elegies which continued until the afternoon.

Sunni Muslims in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Sistan and Baluchistan as well as devotees of other faiths such as Armenians joined Shia mourners, distributing free food in a show of solidarity.

Ashura is also an occasion for unity when Iranians of all ethnic backgrounds, including Azerbaijanis, Arabs, Kurds, Lors, Baluchis and Turkmens, commemorate it in their local languages and dialects.

On Saturday, huge masses in Iran and other countries such as Pakistan and Yemen held mourning rituals on the ninth day of Muharram to mark Tasu'a, the ninth day of lunar month.

In Iran, devotees in cities, towns and villages across the country listened to elegies recounting the indescribably tragic events in the Battle of Karbala during which Imam Hussein and some members of his family and his companions were brutally massacred.

More than 5,000 people marched through the center of Sydney, slapping their chests in a sign of grief. A procession of mourners marched down Wilmslow road in Rusholme, south Manchester, joining other devotees across the world to mark the occasion.

The Battle of Karbala between a small group of supporters and relatives of Imam Hussein and a larger military detachment from the forces of the Umayyad caliph represents the war as one between good and evil.

(Source: agencies)

'It will take a lifetime of dedication to save Asiatic Cheetah'

Would you please elaborate why calculating the number of cheetahs in Iran is difficult?

A: The rarer a species or population becomes, the more difficult it is to accurately estimate the population size. Cheetahs roam over an enormous area in the mountains and plains surrounding the Kavir Desert. We require camera traps set up to represent the area in order to make accurate estimates.

How reliable are camera traps for calculating the population size? Dr. Durant pointed to some setbacks of camera traps, what is your opinion?

A: No sampling method is perfect - even though many claim we can count animals with 100% accuracy, there are many reasons that we fail to detect animals that might be present. This is why we rely on good sampling designs and follow directions so that we can estimate the proportion of animals that we did not directly observe. Sarah is correct that camera trapping is not perfect, but if the project is carefully carried out, we can get an unbiased (accurate) estimate of population size, as well as an estimate of the uncertainty around our estimate. In Central America, female jaguars may use different trail systems than males, so if you do not account for that, you may miss females and underestimate population size. In Iran, at that time we photographed females, kittens and males.

At the time (2001-2004) what was the main threats for Asiatic Cheetah?

A: Illegal killing, killing of prey species and roadkill's.

Asiatic cheetah has direct competition with domestic livestock and also dogs (guarding or even ferals) in most of remaining range lands, how much this threat is important for critically endangered Asiatic Cheetah?

A: Cheetahs are killed in retaliation for killing livestock and are also killed by dogs and vehicles. When a species or population is critically endangered, every threat needs to be addressed. Equally important is the killing of cheetah prey. Without adequate prey populations, cheetahs are forced to eat livestock.

What was your suggestions for critically endangered Asiatic Cheetah?

A: The protected areas need to be managed primarily for cheetah and their prey. Protection of gazelle, sheep, goats, and cheetahs must be top priority.

How much time and work can save Asiatic cheetah from extinction?

A: It will take a lifetime of dedication to save the Asiatic Cheetah.

Currently, a public-led campaign is trying to collect money to displace livestock from Touran National Park. As someone who has visited Touran National Park, what is your idea? How much these activities may help cheetahs?

A: I am not familiar with this campaign, but it sounds like they are trying to remove some of the threats. Livestock in a national park pose two threats: they compete directly with the cheetahs, natural prey by eating the grass and monopolizing water sources, and when a cheetah kills a sheep or goat, the chances that the herders will kill the cheetah increase. Predators and livestock co-exist best when there is adequate natural prey that the cheetah are not forced to rely on livestock as prey.

Mourinho fears international break could halt momentum

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho fears that his side could struggle for momentum after a majority of his players left for international duty following their crushing 4-0 Premier League win over Crystal Palace on Saturday.

United handed Palace their seventh straight loss of the season with Marouane Fellaini's brace sandwiched between Juan Mata's opener and Romelu Lukaku's late tap in.

Mourinho, who saw his side pick up a fourth league win of the season by a 4-0 margin, suggested the international break could upset the team's rhythm with the potential for injuries an additional concern.

"I don't welcome the break, it's bad," Mourinho, whose side were held 2-2 at Stoke City after the last break in August, told British media on Saturday.

"We had the first break and two days after the players came back we had to play another game. It's not a good situation for us but moaning doesn't help. We have to wait for them and hope there are not many problems," the Portuguese said.

United, without long-term absentees Paul Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Marcos Rojo, face a tricky trip to Liverpool when Premier League action resumes on Oct. 14, with games against Huddersfield, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea to follow.

After picking up 19 points from seven league games, United are second in the standings below neighbors Manchester City on goal difference.

(Source: Mirror)

Sharapova takes revenge on Sevastova in Beijing

Former world number one Maria Sharapova avenged her U.S. Open loss to Anastasija Sevastova with a 7-6(3) 5-7 7-6(7) victory over the Latvian in the China Open first round on Saturday.

The 30-year-old Russian, returning to court for the first time since her fourth-round exit at Flushing Meadows, came back from a break down three times before clinching the first set 7-3 in the tiebreak.

Despite dropping her serve in the opening game of the second, Sevastova, seeded 16th, rallied back to force a decider.

Sharapova, who had never lost a third-set tiebreak, needed a brave forehand winner at 6-5 before sealing a second-round spot in just over three hours.

She will take on the winner between American qualifier Jennifer Brady and Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the second round.

Earlier in the day, second seed Simona Halep snapped her three-match losing streak with a hardfought 6-3 3-6 6-2 win over American Alison Riske.

The Romanian, who had not won a match since her defeat in the Cincinnati final to Garbine Muguruza, overcame a sloppy start before claiming 12 of the final 14 points to set up a second round clash against Magdalena Rybarikova or Eugenie Bouchard.

Germany's Angelique Kerber began her campaign with a 6-2 7-5 win over Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka.

Kerber, the former world number one, came back from a break down to win five consecutive games in the second set to seal a second-round spot.

Twice Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, seeded 12th, produced an impressive array of powerful groundstrokes to beat fellow Czech left-hander Kristyna Pliskova 6-3 7-5 in the opening round.

(Source: Reuters)

Cavani-Neymar feud talk at PSG overblown, says Neymar Sr

Neymar's father insists the purported feud between his son and Paris Saint-Germain colleague Edinson Cavani has been blown out of proportion.

Brazil superstar Neymar and Cavani had an on-field disagreement during PSG's 2-0 win over Lyon two weeks ago, with the Uruguay striker insisting he should take a penalty that was subsequently saved.

There were no qualms from either man and a congratulatory hug afterwards when the world's most expensive player converted from the spot during a 6-2 romp over Bordeaux.

Neymar Sr told Telefoot any notion of a rift should be left aside and believes Neymar's alliance with Cavani and Kylian Mbappe in the PSG attack can match his exploits alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez at Barcelona.

"The proportions taken by the Neymar-Cavani story have been amplified," he said. "Everything is fine between them."

"The NCM [Neymar-Cavani-Mbappe] will make football fans dream. The Barca trio inspired many people; that of PSG will inspire many others."

"For us, it is a gift that Mbappe is here. He plays like a veteran of 30 years old."

Neymar Sr refuted the widely made suggestion that his son left Barcelona in order to improve his chances of winning the Ballon d'Or away from direct comparisons with Messi, insisting leading PSG to a first Champions League title is his motivation.

"His goal is to help Paris to win the Champions League," he added.

"If Neymar should win the Ballon d'Or, he will, but I don't think that he really wants it. If he had wanted it, he would have remained in Barcelona."

"We signed a five-year contract, so we have five years to win the Champions League with Paris."

(Source: Soccerway)

Fans injured as barrier collapses at Ligue 1 match

Five fans were seriously injured when a barrier collapsed at the front of a stand during a French top-flight match.

At least 29 people were hurt in the incident, which occurred in the 16th minute of Amiens' Ligue 1 match with Lille at the Stade de la Licorne.

A barrier in front of the away section buckled as fans celebrated Fode Ballo-Toure's goal, and dozens fell about one and a half meters onto the pitch.

The match was abandoned and the stadium evacuated after a security meeting.

The local prosecutor said he had opened an investigation into the incident.

An update from Lille's official Twitter account on Sunday said: "Six people are still hospitalized this Sunday morning, but the news is reassuring. Come back to us soon in good health."

Amiens v Lille is seen a derby, with about 98km (61 miles) separating the two sides.

Amiens are competing in the French top flight for the first time in their 116-year history. Their 12,000-capacity Sta-



de de la Licorne is the smallest of the 20 Ligue 1 clubs.

L'Equipe reported that club president Bernard Joannin had blamed Lille's supporters for the incident and said: "Police had warned us that 200 highly agitated ultras were in the section of the stadium allocated to Lille supporters."

Lille chief executive Marc Ingla responded on Twitter saying: "The statement from Amiens' president is irresponsible and inflammatory in the context of this situation."

"We hope the LFP (Ligue de Football Professionnel) identifies those responsible. Our supporters are impeccable and

professional football needs to be better organized.

"The club has the right to ask questions about the security arrangements and conditions imposed on our supporters at Amiens' stadium."

The LFP, which runs the top two divisions in France, said the decision to stop the match was taken after an emergency meeting involving the league's match delegate, the presidents of the two clubs and the chief of police.

The league also "expressed solidarity" with the victims and their families.

In a statement, the French Football Federation's president, Noel Le Graet, said it would wait for a final report from authorities on the incident and that "caring for the victims is the absolute priority before attempting to shed light on the circumstances of this accident."

Amiens said in a statement: "Amiens and its leadership wants to express its solidarity with the injured Lille supporters and their family and assure that their health is more important than anything else."

(Source: BBC)

Hamilton says Mercedes have 'real big problems' to resolve



Formula One world champions Mercedes have some "real big problems" to fix with their car, title favorite Lewis Hamilton said on Sunday after finishing second in the Malaysian Grand Prix.

The Briton, now 34 points clear of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and well on his way to a fourth title, started in pole position but lost out to Red Bull's 20-year-old Dutch driver Max Verstappen.

Hamilton was helped by an engine problem sidelining Vettel in qualifying and another issue preventing the German's team mate Kimi Raikkonen from taking his place on the front row of the starting grid.

But Verstappen was significantly faster once the race started while Vettel showed the Ferrari's potential by going from last to fourth and beating Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas.

"There is (a fair amount of work still to do) but there's nothing we can do," Hamilton, who was also gifted a win in Singapore two weeks ago when both Ferraris collided at the start, told Sky Sports television.

"It's the way the car is. I think globally we have not got the best car and we've done an exceptional

job with what we have. There are some real big problems that I can't really explain to you...

"But we really need make sure we rectify them for next year's car if we're going to have any chance of fighting both these teams next year when they step up their game," added the Briton.

Hamilton said the car was good at some races, and not at others, but Mercedes would do everything they could to stay ahead.

Team boss Toto Wolff also sounded far from celebratory, despite Hamilton stretching his lead by six points with a hefty dose of luck.

"I am just very down, I must say," declared the Austrian.

"We have lost so much pace this weekend...how can a car that is so fast on many circuits lose so much with a tire that is overheating?"

"Probably if you look at the real pace today it would have been P5 (fifth). And that is worrisome. Now let's see what happens in Suzuka. We have a couple of days to try and understand."

The Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka follows on immediately from Malaysia, with four races remaining after that.

(Source: Reuters)

Wenger says 'nobody can manage for 21 years and only fly'



21 years on from his appointment as Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was characteristically evasive when asked to reflect on his legacy in north London.

Wenger celebrated his anniversary at the Arsenal helm with a routine 2-0 win over Brighton at the Emirates, the stadium that stands as perhaps the most enduring mark of the 67-year-old's legacy.

Recent years have seen a section of Arsenal fans turn against their manager but there remains a goodwill for Wenger, who has three Premier League titles and a record seven FA Cups, among the majority of supporters.

The Frenchman as ever professed indifference over his landmarks but, with discontent having largely been quelled over the past month, did offer a reminder that he can't keep the "bad moments" away forever.

"I didn't know about it but I just have been told by the press," Wenger said of his anniversary. "I wouldn't like too much to reflect on that. I kept my focus on my job always under good and bad circumstances."

"When you're 21 years somewhere you know that you have good and bad moments. Nobody can make 21 years and only fly."

"What I love in the game is as well to deal with bad moments and find the response."

Arsenal did not quite soar to the heights they have reached over Wenger's two decades on Sunday but they did ease to an important win over Brighton. The newly-promoted Seagulls challenged their hosts to break them down, something which the Gunners at times laboured to achieve before Nacho Monreal scrambled in the opener following a Granit Xhaka free-kick.

Alex Iwobi doubled the Gunners' advantage just before the hour mark, allowing Wenger's side a relatively serene, if uninspired, passage to three points that draw them level with Chelsea.

"We kept a clean sheet. We got the points. Offensively we certainly weren't ruthless enough."

"Our focus and the pace in the game was a bit in and out. We had good moments and as well moments where we lost our concentration a bit and [lost] balls we usually don't lose."

"But we got what we wanted and just before the international break. Our last break was a nightmare, this one is a bit better."

(Source: Evening Standard)

Bayern Munich after Carlo Ancelotti: Is a change of philosophy required?

Paris Saint-Germain's night didn't just spell the end of the road for coach Carlo Ancelotti; it has also thrown up more existential questions over the future direction of Bayern Munich and German football as a whole.

What went wrong tactically under Ancelotti? Is Bayern's transfer policy to blame? How can Bayern compete with Qatari-owned PSG? Indeed, how can any German clubs match the financial might of a sovereign state while the 50+1 rule continues to discourage outside investment?

■ Innovation needed

By most clubs' standards, 13 points from six league games is a more than respectable balance but, for Bayern Munich, it represents the worst Bundesliga start in seven years. Furthermore, the quality of the team's performances has decreased noticeably from the three years under Pep Guardiola.

If the Catalan was the progressive thinker whose revolutionary ideas fired Bayern to three straight Bundesliga titles, Ancelotti was seen as the consolidator, the calm after the storm, a man whose immense experience would help Bayern scale the one height that Guardiola couldn't – the Champions League. It was a tactic Bayern had employed before when the composed, collected Jupp Heynckes replaced the abrasive Louis van Gaal.

But while Heynckes led Bayern to the treble, Ancelotti's stabilizing influence also stripped Bayern of the



intensity which had pushed them to such extremes under Guardiola, Arjen Robben complaining in kicker in September about the quality and intensity of training sessions under the Italian.

So is it time for another innovator in Munich? Hoffenheim's Julian Nagelsmann has long been on Bayern's radar but, at just 30-years-old, lacks experience and has lost all four of his European matches so far. Thomas Tuchel is the more likely option but is just as intense, controlling and tactically demanding as Guardiola. He would not tolerate interference from CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge or president Uli Hoeness – not that those two see eye-to-eye either, as exemplified by disagree-

ments over the club's transfer policy.

■ Transfer policy

While superstars Kylian Mbappé and Neymar, signed by PSG for a combined fee of close to €400 million, ruthlessly exposed Ancelotti's passive tactics, recent Bayern arrivals such as Sebastian Rudy, Niklas Süle, Corentin Tolisso and Renato Sanches are clearly not considered to be of sufficient caliber to compete at the very top. The fact that European champions Real Madrid were willing to allow James Rodriguez to join Bayern suggests that they no longer consider the Bavarians direct rivals.

"Bayern Munich have never spent more than around €40 million for a player," Robert Lewandowski complained in a recent interview with Spiegel. "Bayern will have to come up with something if they want to keep bringing world-class players to Munich."

Yet while Rummenigge believes that Bayern will one day conduct a 100-million-euro transfer themselves ("Only the ten commandments are set in stone," he told kicker), Hoeness has insisted that Bayern are neither able nor willing to spend such sums, preferring instead to invest in infrastructure, including a 70-million-euro youth academy. It's an admirable but brave position to take in a game increasingly dominated by nouveau-riche clubs with sovereign and industrial backers.

(Source: Deutsche Welle)

Winfried Schafer linked with Esteghlal

S P O R T S German football coach Winfried d e s k Schafer has been linked with a move to Iran's Esteghlal.

Schafer is without a team after parting company with Jamaica in last September.

A source close to the club said Esteghlal General Manager Reza Eftekhari is now in Dubai to negotiate with the 67-year-old coach.

Winfried Schafer started his coaching career at Borussia Mönchengladbach II in 1982. He also worked at VfB Stuttgart, Tennis Borussia Berlin, Cameroon, Thailand and Emirati football clubs Al Ain and Al Ahli.

Esteghlal sacked Alireza Mansourian in mid-September after a string of dire results this season in Iran Professional League.

Esteghlal, now, are heading by Mick McDermott.

Media reports suggested that the Iranian popular football team negotiated with Fatih Trim but the former Turkey coach didn't reach an agreement with them over financial issue.

Former Real Madrid coach Bernd Schuster and ex-Al Hilal coach Zlatko Dalic are also among the candidates to be appointed as Esteghlal coach.

German Turkish head coach Engin Firat is also reportedly a nominee to take charge of the team. Firat has worked in three Iranian clubs, namely Sepahan, Saipa and Gostaresh.

Local media had suggested that Italian Walter Zenga was on the list but Esteghlal ruled out the possibility of hiring him.



Carlos Queiroz names 27-man provisional squad for matches against Togo, Russia

S P O R T S Iran coach Carlos Queiroz has named a 27-man provisional squad for the upcoming friendlies against Togo and Russia.

Team Mellis will face Togo in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on October 5th and Russia in Kazan Arena in Kazan five days later.

Queiroz has said Iran national football team will play two more friendlies by the end of the next month.

"We are going to arrange two more friendly matches with a European team and a team from South America. After the World Cup finals draw ceremony (on December 1) we can arrange our friendlies according to our rivals," the Portuguese coach added.

Iran squad

Goalkeepers: Alireza Beiranvand (Persepolis), Hamed Lak (Foolad), Rashid Mazaheri (Zob Ahan), Alireza



Haghighi (AFC Eskilstuna)

Defenders: Jalal Hosseini (Persepolis), Hossein Kanaanizadegan (Saipa), Vouria Ghafouri (Esteghlal), Saeid Aghaei (Sepahan), Ehsan Haji Safi (Panionios), Milad Mohammadi (Akhat Grozny), Morteza Pouraliganji (Al Sadd), Ramin Rezaeian (K.V. Oostende), Rouzbeh Cheshmi (Esteghlal)

Midfielders: Omid Ebrahimi (Esteghlal), Vahid Amiri (Persepolis), Mehdi Torabi (Saipa), Akbar Imani (Padideh Mashhad), Ahmad Abdollahzadeh (Foolad Khuzestan), Saeid Ezatollahi (Amkar Perm), Ashkan Dejagah (without team)

Forwards: Mehdi Taremi (Persepolis), Alireza Jahanbakhsh (AZ Alkmaar), Sardar Azmoun (Rubin Kazan), Karim Ansarifard (Olympiacos), Kaveh Rezaei (Charleroi S.C.), Reza Ghoochannejhad (Heerenveen), Saman Ghoddos (Östersunds FK)

FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 play-off: Syria's remarkable journey

Kuala Lumpur: Syria's run in the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifiers has been one of the stories of the campaign, with the Qasbioun Eagles' third-place finish in Group A setting up a play-off date against Australia.

With the first leg of the eagerly awaited encounter to take place in Melaka, Malaysia on Thursday, the AFC.com looks back on how the West Asians defied the odds to maintain a fighting chance of progressing to a first-ever FIFA World Cup.

A losing start; a temporary home

Syria's qualifying campaign got off to an underwhelming start 13 months ago as Alexander Geynrikh's second-half goal handed Uzbekistan a 1-0 victory in Tashkent.

Five days later, the side would take to Malaysia for the first time after the Southeast Asian nation was chosen to host Syria's home games due to the ongoing security situation in their homeland.

And a commendable result ensued as Ayman Al Hakeem's team held continental powerhouses and nine times FIFA World Cup qualifiers Korea Republic to a scoreless draw to pick up their first point in Group A.

That game

But it was on Matchday Three that Syria really shot to attention when they travelled to Xian to take on China, who were themselves making global headlines as a result of the lavish spending by sides from the Chinese Super League and were expected to pick up their first win of the campaign.

The teams went into the interval

goalless but 10 minutes after the restart Mahmoud Al Mawas raced on to Omar Khribin's dink over the top, nudged the ball past goalkeeper Gu Chao and finished well under pressure to seal a memorable 1-0 win.

Goals hard to come by

However, just a few days later the West Asians were brought back down to earth as Hasan Al Haydos netted a first-half penalty to give Qatar a 1-0 victory in Doha, before Syria returned to Malaysia to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran to a 0-0 draw.

By the halfway point in Group A, Syria sat fourth in the standings on five points although, having scored just once, there was a clear lack of firepower and few would have anticipated a push towards the top three.

Unlikely contenders?

A huge turning point came in the dying moments of Matchday Six in the return meeting with the Uzbeks, who, after three wins from five, occupied third place in the table and knew a win would give Syria an almost impossible task to overhaul them.

Still goalless as the game moved into stoppage time, substitute Firas Mohamad was upended in the box and Khribin coolly chipped the ensuing penalty home to claim an invaluable three points.

A 1-0 defeat in Korea Republic followed five days later, while Uzbekistan regained their four-point lead over Syria by seeing off Qatar by the same scoreline, but there was now belief within the Syrian ranks that they could achieve the impossible.

The countdown begins

Syria had scored just twice in seven games – one of which was a penalty – but went into their final three matches still in the hunt for at least a play-off berth.

Another penalty, this time from Al Mawas, put them a goal to the good 12 minutes in against China in Melaka, but Gao Lin and Wu Xi saw Marcello Lippi's team go 2-1 up with 15 minutes to play.

But Syria's never-say-die attitude was again evident and captain Ahmad Al Saleh curled in a fabulous free-kick deep into added on time to secure a share of the spoils in a 2-2 draw. Uzbekistan, meanwhile, would lose 2-0 in Iran to mean the gap was down to three.

A pivotal day

Unbeaten at their temporary home in Malaysia, Syria went into the penultimate Matchday with Qatar looking for the three points that would keep them in contention, and with the added boost of seeing striker Omar Al Soma return to the national team after almost five years in the wilderness.

Khribin struck early to ease any nerves and, although Qatar leveled before half-time, the striker netted again nine minutes after the restart, before Al Mawas rounded off a 3-1 win in the 95th minute.

Another defeat for Uzbekistan, to China, saw Syria move level with the Central Asians on 12 points, while second-placed Korea Republic were now only two points ahead of the Qasbioun Eagles after their scoreless draw with group winners Iran.

The permutations

A trip to Tehran was hardly the ideal setting for what was arguably the most im-

portant match in Syria's history, particularly considering Iran remained unbeaten and had yet to concede a single goal.

Now above Uzbekistan – who were playing simultaneously against the Koreans in Tashkent – Syria knew if they could better the result of the Uzbeks then third place would be assured.

A Korea Republic defeat, meanwhile, could even have seen Al Hakeem's team take second place and automatic qualification should they manage an unlikely victory at Azadi Stadium.

A magical moment

Suddenly a side that was finding the back of the net with regularity, Syria went in front on 13 minutes through Tamer Haj Mohamad, before a Sardar Azmoun double saw the hosts go 2-1 up by 64 minutes.

With the game in Tashkent goalless as full-time approached, Syria were heading for a brave exit until Al Soma ran on to a Mardik Mardikian ball in the 93rd minute and slotted through goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand's legs to seal a 2-2 draw and spark joyous scenes as a play-off date with Australia was confirmed.

What next?

Syria now face a double header with Australia, with the first leg in Melaka on Thursday and the return fixture in Sydney five days later.

Should the West Asians overcome the Soccerroos, who have appeared at every FIFA World Cup since 2006, they will face the fourth-placed team from CONCACAF over two legs for the right to qualify for next summer's tournament in Russia. (Source: the-AFC)

Ghoddos chooses to play for Iran despite Sweden invitation

Östersund's Iranian-Swedish midfielder Saman Ghoddos has finally decided to wear the jersey of Iran's national football team despite being invited to play for Sweden, the Swedish TV announced.

The 24-year-old midfielder, whose side Östersund FK tops the Group J of Europa League, was recently called on by Carlos Queiroz to play for Iran while he had played in two friendly matches for Sweden and scored a goal.

On 25 August 2017, Ghoddos revealed in an interview that he acquired his Iranian passport from the embassy. The following day, 26 August, he announced on his Instagram page that he would be joining Iran for their 2018 World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Syria.

Ghoddos was called up for the first time for the Iran senior team training camps on 27 August 2017 by coach Queiroz for Iran's 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying



matches against South Korea and Syria.

After Ghoddos couldn't make his debut for Iran due to administrative issues with FIFA, he was called into Sweden's World Cup qualification squad on 27 September for matches against Luxembourg and Netherlands.

He told the Swedish side that he will make his decision by Thursday, September 28. Now, Sweden's Fotbollskanalen says Ghoddos has finally decided to play for Iran.

He later told a Swedish website about his decision that he is grateful to Andersson, the head coach of Sweden, for giving him the extraordinary option, but he has made his final decision and he will play for Iran.

He also wished success for Sweden in the road to FIFA World Cup 2018.

Andersson also noted that he is very upset about Ghoddos' decision, but he respects that.

Ghoddos had earlier said in an interview with SportExpressen, "I will always love Sweden. I've grown up here. It is an honor to live here and to represent Sweden. At the same time, my parents are Iranian. I have Persian blood in my body. I love Iran too." (Source: IFF)

Zahra Nemati proves she is the best: IPC

The International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) website wrote that Iranian recurve archer Zahra Nemati is still the best in the world.

She won the gold medal in women's individual recurve open at the 2017 World Archery Para Championships in Beijing, China in mid-September.

Nemati is still the best in the world as the current Paralympic and World Championships gold medalist.

"It proves that with hope and determination I can get whatever I wish," Nemati told Paralympic.org.

Furthermore, several world records were broken throughout qualification and final competition in Beijing. The Iranian compound women broke the team record in qualifications with a score of 228.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Firouz Karimi appointed Gostaresh Foolad coach

Tasnim — Firouz Karimi was named the new head coach of Gostaresh Foolad football team on Friday.

Karimi was appointed the Tabriz-based team's coach just one day after they sacked Luka Bonacic.

Bonacic was sacked after Gostaresh's 2-1 defeat by Tractor Sazi in Tabriz's derby in Iran Professional League.

Gostaresh Foolad sits bottom of the IPL table with seven points from eight matches.

Karimi, 61, started his coaching career in Pas Tehran in 1989 and has also coached Sepahan, Bahman, Tractor Sazi, Esteghlal Ahvaz, Aboomoslem, Esteghlal, Damash, Paykan, Zob Ahan, Shahin Bushehr and Sanat Naft.

Firouz Karimi has joined Gostaresh until the end of the season for an undisclosed fee.

Petrochimi come 4th at FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2017

Petrochimi of Iran lost to Kazakhstan's BC Astana 81-78 at the FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2017 third-placed match on Saturday.

The Iranians were looking for payback against the Kazakhs, who handed them their only loss in the group phase, but Astana proved to be the steadier team in crunch time.

Anthony Clemmons took it upon himself to step up and lead Astana in scoring. Clemmons tossed in 22 points to go along with 5 assists for Astana, while Carter finished with 19 points on 5-of-11 field goal shooting. Veteran national team guard Rostam Yargaliev also did well with 11 points off the bench.

Behnam Yakhchali, who had struggled to find his rhythm all tournament long, finally found his range, netting 18 points to lead five Iranians in scoring. Meisam Mirzaei and Arsalan Kazemi both recorded double-doubles and combined for 28 points and 21 boards.

Al Riyadi of Lebanon won the title after beating China's Kashgar in the final match.

The 2017 FIBA Asia Champions Cup is the 26th staging of the FIBA Asia Champions Cup, the international basketball club tournament of FIBA Asia.

The tournament took place in Chenzhou, China from September 22 to 30. (Source: FIBA)

Freestylers win two medals at Dmitry Korkin

IRNA — Younes Emami and Kamran Ghasempour claimed a gold and a bronze medal respectively at the Dmitry Korkin 2017 wrestling tournament.

Emami won the gold medal in the 65kg weight category at the Sports Training Center in the Russian city of Yakutsk after beating his Russian opponent 5-1 in the final match on Saturday.

Ghasempour claimed the bronze medal in the 85kg weight category.

The Dmitry Korkin Cup 2017 kicked off in Yakutsk, Russia, on September 30 and will finish on October 1.

The international tournament brought together athletes from 19 countries, including Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Iran, Japan, Romania, South Korea and Turkey.

The tournament is conducted under United World Wrestling (UWW) freestyle rules in 57, 61, 65, 70, 74, 86, 97 and 125 weight categories.

Iran U-20 draw with Armenia

PressTV — Iran national Under-20 football team, also known as Iran Youth Team, drew 2-2 with Armenia in a warm-up match for the 2018 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Championship qualification.

Iran national U-20 football team had defeated the Armenian squad 1-0 in their first exhibition game.

Iran Youth Team are preparing for the 2018 AFC U-19 Championship qualification. They are pitted against Jordan, Palestine and Syria in Group E of the tournament.

Bahrain are drawn in Group A and have been joined by Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are in Group B.

Group C consists of Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon and Qatar. India, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Yemen form Group D.

While Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Timor-Leste shape Group F, Cambodia, China, Myanmar and the Philippines are in Group G.

Chinese Taipei, Laos, Macau and Vietnam are drawn in Group H. Group I consists of Japan, Mongolia, Singapore and Thailand.

Group J has Australia, Hong Kong, North Korea and Northern Mariana Islands.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Ali Asgari
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

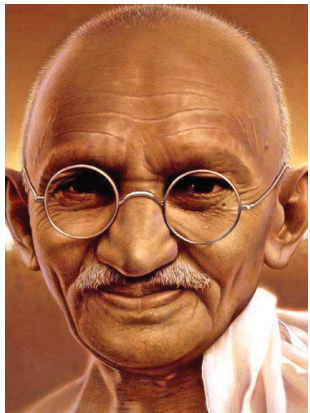
Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



Tehran Islamic encyclopedia center to commemorate Gandhi

A R T TEHRAN — The Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia in Tehran is scheduled to commemorate Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the leader of the Indian independence movement against British rule, in a meeting this evening.



A portrait of Mahatma Gandhi

Indian Ambassador Saurabh Kumar and Iranian scholars, including Dariush Shayegan and Mostafa Mohaqqueq-Damad, will deliver speeches on Gandhi's genuine belief in pacifism at the session that will begin at 5 p.m.

A number of Gandhi's books will also be exhibited on the sidelines of the meeting, which has been organized with support from the Persian literary monthly Bokhara and the Embassy of India.

Armenia sends "Yeva" to Oscar race

A R T TEHRAN — "Yeva", a co-production between Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and the National Cinema Center of Armenia, has been selected as Armenia's submission to the 90th Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category.



A scene from "Yeva"

Directed by Iranian-Armenian filmmaker Anahid Abad, the film tells the story of Yeva, a young woman who escapes her influential in-laws with her daughter Nareh after her husband's tragic death, and takes refuge in one of the villages of Karabakh, Armenia.

The film is currently on screen in several Armenian cities.

The 90th Academy Awards ceremony will take place in Los Angeles, California on March 4, 2018.

"The Iron Dream" to compete in Travel FilmFest

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Yaser Talebi's documentary "The Iron Dream" will go on screen at the Travel FilmFest, which will be held in Larnaca, Cyprus from October 19 to 22.

This documentary is the story of the travels of Masud Jamali, an Iranian-German researcher, who lives in Nuremberg and decides to visit Iran to narrate the story of an event which was a determinant at that time on the fate of Iran, Germany and many European countries.

In this railway trip, he studies the reasons for the construction of the countrywide railway of Iran by the elite European engineers. He also seeks an answer to the question of how did the countrywide railway of Iran play a key role in World War II. And why did Churchill call Iran the "bridge of victory".

Turkish artist Hale Tenger to lecture at Tehran seminar

A R T TEHRAN — Hale Tenger, an established multimedia artist from Turkey, will deliver a speech at an international seminar, which will be organized by the 7th Tehran National Sculpture Biennial.

The two-day seminar will open on October 9 on the sidelines of the biennial, which is currently underway at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA), the secretary of the seminar, Helia Darabi, said in a press release on Sunday.

Born in Izmir in 1960, Tenger is primarily known for her large-scale installations based on an elaborate combination of unconventional usage of materials, audio and video.

About 80 works have been put on display at the biennial, which opened on September 5 and will be running until October 14.

Khoy to host Third Intl. Conference on Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi

A R T TEHRAN — Scholars from around the world will come together in Khoy, which is home to the tomb of Shams-i Tabrizi, on October 7 and 8 to attend the third International Conference on Rumi and Shams-i Tabrizi.

Latest studies on Rumi and mentor Shams-i Tabrizi will be discussed at the conference, the secretary of the conference, Yusef Mohammadnejad, said in a press release on Sunday.

The experts will also hold talks about the cultural and political situations in the formation of the character of Shams, his education, his thoughts and behaviors. Co-organized by the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Khoy and the custodians of the Mausoleum of Shams, top three articles will be awarded at the end of the conference.

Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1207-1273) Rumi undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish Shams.

However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit in Konya on November 30, 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.



A bust of Shams-i Tabrizi near his tomb in Khoy

Iran, Bulgaria sign cultural MOU



The director of Iran's National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Ashraf Borujerdi (L), and Krasimira Aleksandrova, the director of the SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library sign an MOU at the National Library of Bulgaria.

CULTURE TEHRAN — A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between Iran and Bulgaria to expand cultural relations.

The MOU was signed by the director of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Ashraf Borujerdi, and Krasimira Aleksandrova, the director of the SS. Cyril and Methodius National

Library, the National Library of Bulgaria, the NLAI reported last week.

Based on the MOU, the two libraries will collaborate on bilateral projects such as exchanging books and experts as well as working on academic research.

The officials also agreed to work on preservation and restoration of rare manuscripts kept at the two libraries.

Tehran architecture under spotlight at University of Melbourne



A poster for the GAP exhibition of Tehran contemporary architecture

A R T TEHRAN — from Tehran.

The organizers call Tehran an "ancient city, which has remained largely uninfluenced by Western culture." "It places value on its roots, and the architecture celebrates the city's unique brand of Persian culture."

The GAP exhibition series aims to broaden design discourse by showcasing the work of emerging and contemporary designers in an urban center often overlooked by major publications.

"Malaria" named best at San Francisco Iranian filmfest

A R T TEHRAN — Director Parviz Shahbazi's "Malaria" has been crowned best at the 10th Annual Iranian Film Festival in San Francisco.

The film also brought Shahbazi the awards for best director and best screenwriter.

"Malaria" tells the story of a young woman who elopes with her boyfriend to spend her time in the company of a band of street musicians in Tehran. Afterwards, she plans to hoodwink her father and brothers by claiming that she has been kidnapped and wants them to promptly send the ransom money.



Saed Soheili (L) and Saghar Qana'at act in a scene from "Malaria".

Ali Mosaffa was picked as best actor for his role in "Duet" by Navid Danesh, while Mitra Hajjar was named best actress for her role in Ali Atshani's "Wishbone".

Roberto Cimatti from Italy received the award for best cinematographer for his collaboration in the U.S.-based Iranian filmmaker Amir Naderi's 2016 movie "Monte".

The 10th Annual Iranian Film Festival was held on September 23 and 24. Established in 2008, the event aims to support the Iranian films and culture in the Iranian-American community of the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

"Let's Make a Deal" host Monty Hall dead at 96

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Monty Hall, one of the most popular game show hosts in American television history as he presided over a throng of outrageously costumed and nearly delirious contestants on "Let's Make a Deal" for almost three decades, died on Saturday at age 96, his son said.

Richard Hall said his father died at home in Beverly Hills, California, likely of heart failure.

Members of his audiences, dressed as clowns, playing cards or giant tomatoes, would shriek "Monty, Monty, Monty!" as they tried to convince Hall to give them a chance to win a washing machine or a new Cadillac. Sometimes the prizes were a "zonk" - a gag gift such as a live donkey or a wrecked car.

Hall was the co-creator of "Let's Make a Deal" and hosted more than 4,000 episodes from 1963 to 1986 (with occasional hiatuses) and then again in 1990 and 1991. The show drew good ratings even as it jumped from network to network and into syndication.

"Let's Make a Deal" became a part of American pop culture, with Hall one of the

most recognizable stars on TV.

Hall also produced other game shows, hosted variety shows and appeared as a guest star on television series. He was known for charity work for organizations including Variety Clubs International, which raised money for disadvantaged children.

"Many people know my father as an icon on TV but he was also a tireless supporter of charities that meant as much to him as his TV work," Richard Hall said by telephone from California.

He was born Monte Halperin on Aug. 25, 1921, in Winnipeg, the son of a slaughterhouse owner father and an actress mother. After working in radio in Canada, he came to the United States in 1955.

In the early 1960s, he was developing game shows and joined forces with TV veteran Stefan Hatots. They devised "Let's Make a Deal" in which Hall picked people from the audience to become contestants in sort of a trading game. Initially, audience members wore normal clothing but started wearing costumes and carrying funny signs to get Hall's attention.

Yves Saint Laurent designs get new airing at Paris museum

PARIS (Reuters) — A new museum showcasing the creations of late French couturier Yves Saint Laurent opens in Paris next week, offering visitors an intimate glimpse into his studio and how he pulled together his collections.

Housed in the elegant Parisian building that was the seat of Saint Laurent's eponymous label for 28 years, the museum includes displays of some of his most striking bejeweled dresses and the designs that defined his style.

It recreates the workspace where Saint Laurent labored at his collections, an atelier filled with his sketches, rolls of fabrics and drawers full of beads and lace and which includes his original desk, complete with pin cushion.

"This is more than a fashion museum, we're opening up the house of an artist," said Olivier Flaviano, the museum director.

"You can find the spirit of Saint Laurent in the clothes, but also in the surroundings."

The building includes the fitting room

where clients once came to be measured. The museum had its official inauguration on Thursday and will open its doors to the public on Oct. 3, weeks after the death of Pierre Berge, Saint Laurent's business associate.

Another museum dedicated to the designer is due to open on Oct. 19 in Marrakech, Morocco. Saint Laurent often traveled there and drew inspiration from his visits.

The designer was considered one of the 20th century's most influential. He popularized tuxedo-style suits for women, known as "Le Smoking", for instance, and made a transition from the world of haute couture to ready-to-wear clothes. He retired in 2002 and died six years later.

The Saint Laurent label's current creative director, Anthony Vaccarello, unveiled his latest spring-summer 2018 collection at Paris Fashion Week on Tuesday evening, in a spectacular outdoor display with a lit-up Eiffel Tower as its backdrop.