



Croatian locomotive manufacturers prepared for co-op with Iran **4**



Amirkabir University ranks 3rd at RoboCup 2017 **12**



Giti Pasand runners-up at AFC Futsal Club Championship **15**



Audio version of Shahriar's poems released in Armenia **16**

Riyadh responsible for Hajj security



See page 2

Araqchi: Iran won't play into Trump's hands

ECONOMY DESK **TEHRAN** — Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said late on Saturday that United States' new sanctions on Iran are a continuation of Washington's animosity towards Iran which will continue in the future.

However, the top diplomat said Iran will retaliate strongly against the sanctions.

"Our response to the new U.S. sanctions will be firm and timely," Araqchi said in a televised interview.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate approved a sanctions bill against Iran for its missile program, alleged human rights abuses and what Washington calls Tehran's

"destabilizing role" in the region.

Some analysts had expected the U.S. soften its rhetoric and policy toward Iran after the conclusion of the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement - officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - between Iran and great powers including the United States.

But Araqchi said, "No one should expect that the U.S. ease animosity towards Iran due to the JCPOA or anything else."

U.S. President Donald Trump seeks to prevent Iran's empowerment and create a negative atmosphere to impede the country's interaction with other countries, said Araqchi. **→2**

Iraq seeks enhanced energy ties with Iran

ECONOMY DESK **TEHRAN** — Iraq is seeking to enhance relations with Iran in oil and gas industries, Oil Minister Jabar al-Luaibi said on Sunday.

On Sunday, the Iraqi minister held a meeting in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, discussing several issues of common interest including oil and gas fields that border both countries and co-operation on gas, energy, investment, infrastructure, and training.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral ties, especially transfer of oil from Iraq's Kirkuk to Iranian refineries,

Shana reported.

Production oil from joint oilfields was also a topic of discussion, al-Luaibi said on the sidelines of the meeting.

As he said, Iran and Iraq will sign an agreement in the current year or the next year on producing oil from two joint fields.

The ministers also discussed latest developments in the global oil market with an emphasis on boosting cooperation in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Zanganeh, for his part, pointed out that gas exports from Iran to Iraq will be started over the next few months.

Judiciary demands U.S. release Iranian prisoners

POLITICS DESK **TEHRAN** — Judiciary spokesman Gholam-Hossein Eje'i said Sunday that Iran is demanding an immediate release of the unjustly detained Iranian nationals in the U.S.

"Unfortunately scores of Iranians are suffering from inhuman pressures from America," Eje'i said, referring to Iranian citizens detained by the United States. "We demand their immediate release."

He denounced the U.S. for speaking the language of threat to Iran, stressing that the Islamic Republic would not surrender to America's empty rhetoric.

"Today, the language of threat does not work," he said, adding that Tehran would not leave Washington's actions unanswered.

The spokesman further said Iran's judiciary is independent and does not allow the U.S. and the likes of it to intervene in its decisions.

Responding to a recent White House statement that claimed Iran has adopted a hostage-taking policy, Eje'i said anyone who commits a crime in Iran would be put on trial before a court of law regardless of their nationality.

"It's America which is looting our assets and takes hostages on the flimsiest of pretexts and keeps them in prison for a long time," he noted.

In its statement, the White House said there would be "serious consequences" if Tehran didn't release Americans held in Iranian prisons.

Iran's Foreign Ministry denounced the statement as "interfering and threatening", stressing that Iran's judiciary is an independent body dealing with the violations of national security.

"As usual, the White House's comments are an example of interference in the internal affairs of Iran and (are therefore) unacceptable and rejected," spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

King Salman may abdicate throne in favor of son: ex-CIA analyst

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Paul Pillar, who was CIA intelligence analyst for 28 years, says it is possible that King Salman abdicate the throne in favor of his 31-year old son Mohammed bin Salman (MbS).

"Now that MbS is crown prince, it is even possible that Salman, who is not in the best of health, will abdicate," Pillar says in an interview with the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Why did King Salman appoint his 31-year-old son Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) as the first-in-line to the throne?

A: King Salman has simply been more aggressive than previous Saudi kings--several of whom had been king longer than Salman has--in pushing to make his favorite son the first member of the next generation of Saudi princes to occupy the throne. Salman already had made earlier

moves to put MbS in position to succeed him. These moves had included removing Muqrin--a member of Salman's own generation--as crown prince and making MbS the second crown prince. In short, Salman wants his own son, not someone else's son, to succeed him as king. Now that MbS is crown prince, it is even possible that Salman, who is not in the best of health, will abdicate.

■ What might be the reaction of Mohammed bin Naif's supporters to this move?

A: It is not only supporters of MbN, but surely also many other members of the royal family, who are questioning why out of the long succession of Saudi kings who were the sons of the kingdom's founder, it is Salman who gets to install his son as the first king from the next generation. So far the regime has made a show of unity, and the royal family does share a strong interest in maintaining its collective power and privilege. Future reactions and responses from within the

royal family will depend on how well or how poorly MbS does in running the affairs of state.

■ What is the feeling in the White House toward this reshuffle?

A: Some in the Trump administration, including the president himself, seem to have taken a liking to MbS, partly because he expresses some policy preferences that accord with their own. But MbN had much respect within the U.S. government as a capable and experienced partner on security matters, especially counterterrorism. The U.S. position will remain one of neutrality when it comes to leadership succession within Saudi Arabia. MbS reportedly has a close relationship with Mohammed bin Zayed, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and probably the most important decision-maker in the UAE, and in that sense Salman's move could be said to have UAE support. But there probably are also differing views within governing circles in the Emirates. **→13**

Velayati: Washington main loser of sanctions on Iran, Russia

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to the Supreme Leader, said on Sunday that the United States will certainly be the main loser after imposing sanctions on Iran and Russia.

"The value of mutual relations between Iran and Russia will become more evident after the [imposition of] sanctions and these relations will become deeper and stronger," Velayati said in a meeting in Tehran with Vitaly Naumkin, director of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS).

On Thursday, the Senate voted nearly unanimously to impose new sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea. The Senate backed the measure by a margin of 98-2 with strong support from President Donald Trump's fellow Republicans as well as Democrats. The bill will now be sent to the White House for the president to sign into law or veto.

Velayati further said Tehran and Moscow have taken great steps during recent years to boost strategic relations and succeeded in in-

creasing ties, particularly in the field of trade, Press TV reported.

The two countries are currently strengthening cooperation in political, economic, security and defense sectors, he said

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Velayati said the United States had no right to unilaterally violate the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, including the U.S.



© IRNA/Taha Asgharkhani

Badarak Christian rite

The annual Christian rite called "The Holy Communion", The Eucharist or The Lord's Supper, translated in Armenian as "Badarak" was held on Saturday in the Monastery of Saint Thaddeus in the Chaldiran town of West Azarbaijan Province, attended by a huge number of Armenians from Iran and other countries, to mark the martyrdom anniversary of St. Thaddeus as one of the apostles of the Jesus Christ.

The Monastery of Saint Thaddeus is an ancient Armenian monastery in the mountainous area of West Azarbaijan Province, Iran. Also known as Kara Kilise, it is located about 20 kilometers from the town of Chaldiran.

Bibi 'ready to set Mideast on fire to save himself'

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak says the current premier Benjamin Netanyahu sparked recent tensions at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in a bid to distract public attention from the investigations into the corruption allegations against him.

In a video he posted on his Facebook page, Barak blasted Netanyahu for his handling of the situation at the highly-sensitive site and the West Bank.

Netanyahu "is ready to set... the region on fire in order to save himself from his fear of criminal investigations," Barak said.

"Over the last two weeks, we received a glimpse of the depths to which Netanyahu's behavior can fall. He is a man who panics, acts weak and gets dragged down due to his poor judgment; easily loses his cool-headedness; and surrenders time and time again," he added.

The former Israeli prime minister further reminded that the former Supreme Court president had asked Netanyahu to quit because of the "expensive gifts scandal."

In Case 1000, Netanyahu is suspected of having received gifts from businessmen overseas.

He is also being investigated in Case 2000 for an alleged media bribery scheme to help Yediot Aharonot newspaper against its competitor Yisrael Hayom in return for favorable coverage of the prime minister.

Tensions erupted in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) after a deadly shootout on July 14 outside the Noble Sanctuary (Haram al-Sharif), which Jews call Temple Mount.

Using the gunfight as a pretext, Israel set up metal detectors and surveillance cameras at entrances to the al-Aqsa compound.

The restrictive measures sparked criticism worldwide, with Palestinians saying that the bans were meant to expand the regime's control over the holy site and change its status quo.

On July 24, Tel Aviv backed down in the face of protests as well as violent clashes and removed all the restrictions at the al-Aqsa compound.

According to latest figures, 15 Palestinians were killed and about 1,400 others were injured in the al-Aqsa clashes over the past few days.

(Source: al Alam)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Top commander: Full security restored at Iran's southeastern borders

POLITICS TEHRAN — The chief of staff of Iran's **d e s k** armed forces has underlined that full security has been restored to the southeastern borders of the country.

"Satisfactory security has been restored to Sistan-Balouchestan due to the unsparing efforts of the security forces, border guards, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the law enforcement forces and intelligence forces," Fars quoted Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri as saying.

He added Pakistani guards have been stationed along the country's border with Iran to help boost security there.



Pro-Rouhani figure reportedly elected Tehran mayor

POLITICS TEHRAN — The new Tehran City **d e s k** Council has reportedly elected Mohammad Ali Najafi as the new mayor of the metropolis of Tehran.

Hossein Marashi, a member of the Construction Party, said on Sunday that Najafi "accepted" to fill the post and he currently is preparing his plan for the management of the city, ISNA reported.

During an unofficial session of the new members of the Tehran City Council on July 19, seven candidates succeeded to win the necessary votes to compete for the post of mayor. There Najafi secured the highest number of votes, 21.



Rezaee says Iran's response to U.S. sanctions will be tough

POLITICS TEHRAN — The secretary of Iran's **d e s k** Expediency Council has underlined that Tehran will give an integrated and crushing response to the new U.S. sanctions which violate the 2015 nuclear deal signed between Tehran, the European Union and world powers.

"The harshest sanctions in the past 100 years have been compiled against us. Our reaction to the U.S. will be decisive and cohesive," Mohsen Rezaei wrote on his Telegram page on Sunday.



Official warns of cyber threats to smart cities

POLITICS TEHRAN — The head of Iran's Civil **d e s k** Defense Organization has cautioned against threats from the cyberspace that urban structures, particularly in smart cities, could face, calling for joint action by different organizations to secure urban areas.

Speaking at a conference on smart cities held in Tehran on Sunday, Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali said the cities face "modern cyber-threats" despite all positive features and the advantages these services present to the urban population, Tasnim reported.



Iran flies first group of pilgrims to Hajj

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran on Sunday flew a **d e s k** first group of its pilgrims for Hajj in Saudi Arabia since a stampede in Mecca in September 2015 in which 464 Iranian pilgrims were crushed to death.

The Iranians departed from the southern port city of Bandar Abbas for the holy city of Medina early Sunday.

Two more groups were to depart for Saudi Arabia later in the day.



Veep says she may be given different post in next administration

POLITICS TEHRAN — Shahindokht Molaverdi, **d e s k** the incumbent vice president for family and women's affairs, has tacitly implied that she may be given a different position in the next Rouhani administration.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Molaverdi said, "They have talked to me about being in the cabinet, but not for the Women's Department," ISNA reported.

Rouhani will be sworn in as president for a second term on August 5. He will have two weeks since then to propose his cabinet.

U.S. will harm itself more, Rouhani says



President Hassan Rouhani (center), Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani (left) and Judiciary Chief Sadeq Larijani meet in Tehran on July 30, 2017.

Rouhani went on to say, "Today, investment. If investment is attracted well, we can attract domestic and foreign, the U.S. (sanctions) weapon will become

Leader: Riyadh responsible for Hajj security

POLITICS TEHRAN — In comments on Sunday, **d e s k** the Leader of the Islamic Revolution demanded Saudi Arabia provide a safe environment for Hajj pilgrims, particularly Iranians, reminding Riyadh of its "responsibility" for the annual ritual.

"The serious and constant demand of the Islamic Republic is the preservation of security, dignity, and comfort of all Hajj pilgrims, particularly Iranian ones," Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in a speech to Hajj officials in Tehran.

"To secure Hajj is the responsibility of that country which manages the holy shrines (the Holy Mosques)," the Leader added.

"The pain left in the hearts of Iranians from the 2015 Hajj tragic incidents is unforgettable."

The Leader was referring to a deadly stampede near the Islamic holy city of Mecca in September 2015 during which hundreds of pilgrims, including 464 Iranians, were killed and hundreds more injured.

While Saudis said at least 769 pilgrims had been killed in the crush, a Reuters count reported as many as 2,070 people had died, the highest loss of life at the annual pilgrimage since 1990 when 1,426 people were killed in a crush in an overcrowded pedestrian tunnel.

The same year just two weeks before the start of annual Hajj pilgrimage, more than a hundred were killed after a crawler crane toppled over at Mecca's Grand Mosque.

The stampede caused a war of words between Iranian and Saudi officials as bodies of Iranian victims were not repatriated swiftly.

Tehran castigated Riyadh for "incompetence" to manage

the ritual, Islam's holiest practice.

Though the bodies were transferred to Iran, the case is not resolved yet. After the incident, Iran decided to cancel its participation in the 2016 pilgrimage to Mecca, blaming "Saudi sabotage" for the cancellation.

"The evil family tree of the Saudi dynasty does not have the competence to manage the holy shrines," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with the families of Iranians killed in the 2015 disaster.

Iran last boycotted the pilgrimage for three years between 1988 and 1990 after Saudi security forces killed more than 400 Iranians during the 1987 Hajj.

The event also led Saudi Arabia to lower the maximum number of Iranians approved to take the Hajj to 45,000.

Finally, the two countries which have no diplomatic relations since the storming of the Saudi diplomatic posts in Tehran and Mashhad in January 2016, itself a result of Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric, could reach an agreement over this year's Hajj after months of negotiations.

This is while Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week that the Saudis haven't yet issued visas for a diplomatic team to handle consular affairs of its nationals during the Hajj period.

Ayatollah Khamenei says "The pain left in the hearts of Iranians from the 2015 Hajj tragic incidents is unforgettable."

Iran won't give Trump a gift by exiting nuclear deal: Zarif

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign **d e s k** Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that Iran will not give U.S. President Donald Trump a "gift" by exiting the nuclear agreement.

Exiting the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is always on the table, however Iran will not take such move when the "main and official parts of the JCPOA are still working", Zarif

said in an interview with the Iran newspaper published on Sunday.

The UN Security Council's resolution has recognized Iran's right to exit the JCPOA, because the deal was wrote based on "mutual distrust", he added.

However, the chief diplomat, said Iran should decide whether remaining in the deal is beneficial or not.

He noted that the European countries

seek to remain in the deal and gain its benefits and do not want the U.S. decide for them.

Europeans have adopted positive approach toward the pact during the past months and Iran's decision depends highly on the European countries' "behavior", Zarif remarked.

Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - finalized the text

of the JCPOA on July 14, 2015.

On July 20, 2015, the UN Security Council turned the JCPOA into international law by endorsing a resolution.

The deal took effect on January 16, 2016.

In a statement issued by Helga Schmid, the EU's deputy political director, on July 21 meeting of the JCPOA Joint Commission, all parties to the nuclear deal confirmed adherence to the JCPOA.

Encounter with Iranian ships 'safe and professional', U.S. navy claims

POLITICS TEHRAN — The U.S. navy's Bahrain- **d e s k** based fifth fleet has claimed its encounter with Iranian vessels in the Persian Gulf had been "safe and professional".

The IRGC said on Saturday that U.S. navy ships came close to its vessels in the Persian Gulf on Friday afternoon and shot flares.

A U.S. aircraft carrier sent a helicopter near the Resalat oil and gas platform and approached the IRGC's ships, IRGC Navy said in a statement.

"The Americans made a provocative and unprofessional move by issuing a warning and shooting flares at vessels," the statement said. "Islam's warriors, without paying attention to this unconventional and unusual behavior from the American vessels, continued

their mission in the area and the aircraft carrier and accompanying battleship left the area."

The statement added, "Days after an American ship fired two warning shots in front of a Guards Navy boat in the northern Persian Gulf, American ships committed a similar act in the Persian Gulf's middle zone."

A U.S. Navy spokesman, Lt Ian M McCounaughy, said after communications were established the U.S. saw the Iranians conduct a "gun exercise", adding that the move involved firing weapons into the water away from U.S. ships.

Last Tuesday, a U.S. ship fired warning shots when an Iranian vessel came within 150 yards, U.S. officials said. The encounter occurred in the Persian Gulf.

The IRGC said one of its patrol ships had

neutralized the act, noting its boat paid no attention and continued with its mission and after a while the U.S. vessel left the area.

Years of hostility between Tehran and Washington eased slightly near the end of the Obama administration, as sanctions imposed on Iran for its nuclear program were lifted under an international nuclear agreement.

However, Donald Trump's victory in 2016 U.S. presidential election, gave new fuel to the long-standing enmity due to his periodic anti-Iran rhetoric and actions.

During his presidential campaign, Trump vowed that any Iranian vessels that harass the U.S. navy in the Persian Gulf would be "shot out of the water".

Araqchi: Iran won't play into Trump's hands

Sanctions are continuation of U.S. animosity toward Iran, deputy foreign minister says

1 → an expert in legal and international affairs who played an important role in drafting the text of the JCPOA in negotiations with diplomats from Germany, France, Britain, the European Union, Russia, China and the U.S.

Araqchi said according to paragraphs 26, 28 and 29 of the JCPOA, the deal should be implemented "in good faith and in a constructive atmosphere", adding the other side is obliged not to impede normalization of Iran's relations with the outside world but the U.S. has "practically violated the JCPOA by imposing

these sanctions".

In an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria in New York on July 15, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said: "Trump used his presence in Hamburg during the G20 meeting in order to dissuade leaders of other countries from getting engaged in business with Iran."

Araqchi also said that Washington seeks to provoke Iran to exit the nuclear agreement but "Iran will not play into Trump's hands".

Elsewhere, he said, "Iran and the European countries have differences on issues

such as human rights and missile program. However, the Europeans support the JCPOA, so Trump has not been able to undermine the nuclear deal."

Irritated over Iran's scientific advances, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on six Iran-based satellite companies on Friday, immediate one day after Iran launched Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier into space.

The U.S. State Department released a media note on Friday claiming that Iran's act in launching the satellite carrier is inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The resolution - which endorsed the July 2015 nuclear deal between Iran, great powers and the European Union - "calls upon" Iran not to "undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology".

"Every word of JCPOA carefully negotiated. Iran does not develop missiles that are DESIGNED to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Friday.

Iraq foils ISIL terror attacks on Shia shrines, top cleric's residence

Iraqi intelligence officials say they have thwarted an attempt by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists to target two revered Shia shrines and the residence of the country's most prominent Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Two officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press on Sunday that ISIL's plan was to launch a series of bomb attacks in the holy city Karbala, which is home to the shrine of Imam Hussein Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) – the third Shia Imam and grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) – as well as Najaf that houses the shrine of Imam Ali (PBUH) – the first Imam of Shia Muslims – and the home of Grand Ayatollah Sistani.

The officers added that scores of ISIL bombers were killed two weeks ago, when Iraqi and Russian military aircraft carried out simultaneous airstrikes against militant gathering in the Iraqi town of al-Qa'im, located nearly 400 kilometers northwest of the capital Baghdad and near the Syrian border, as well as Syria's troubled eastern city of Mayadin.

On July 10, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi formally declared victory over ISIL terrorist outfit in Mosul, which served as the terrorists' main urban stronghold in the conflict-ridden country.

In the run-up to Mosul's liberation, Iraqi army soldiers and volunteer fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units (Hashd al-Sha'abi), had made sweeping gains against ISIL since launching the operation on October 17, 2016.

The Iraqi forces took control of eastern Mosul in January after 100 days of fighting, and launched the battle in the



west on February 19.

An estimated 862,000 people have been displaced from Mosul ever since the battle to retake the city began eight months ago. A total of 195,000 civilians have also returned, mainly to the liberated areas of eastern Mosul.

■ **Iraqi army kills 15 ISIL terrorists, destroys car bombs west of Anbar**

Separately, Iraqi government forces have killed more than 15 ISIL terrorists and destroyed a number of cars rigged with explosives in the conflict-ridden

western province of Anbar.

Commander of al-Jazeera Liberation Operations, Major General Qassim al-Mohamadi, said at least 15 terrorists have been killed and four car bombs destroyed during a string of counter-terrorism operations in Umm al-Wez desert region northwest of Haditha, located about 240 kilometers (150 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

■ **ISIL places families of leaders under house arrest**

Meanwhile, ISIL terrorist outfit has placed families of some of its senior mil-

itant commanders under house arrest in the town of Hawija, located 45 kilometers west of the northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

A local source, requesting anonymity, told Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network that around 40 families from ISIL's self-proclaimed Diyala governorate have been affected as a result of the restrictive measure.

The source added that the move points to the growing conflicts among top ISIL figures, and harbingers the imminent collapse of the terrorist outfit.

(Source: agencies)

U.S. flies bombers over Korean peninsula after North Korea missile test

Trump says "very disappointed in China"

The United States flew two supersonic B-1B bombers over the Korean peninsula in a show of force on Sunday after Pyongyang's recent tests of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), the U.S. and South Korean Air Forces said.

North Korea said it conducted another successful test of an ICBM on Friday that proved its ability to strike America's mainland, drawing a sharp warning from the U.S. President Donald Trump.

The B-1B flight was in direct response to the missile test and the previous July 3 launch of the "Hwasong-14" rocket, the U.S. statement said. The South Korean air force said the flight was conducted early on Sunday.

The bombers took off from a U.S. air base in Guam, and were joined by Japanese and South Korean fighter jets during the exercise, according to the statement.

"North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability," Pacific Air Forces commander General Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy said in the statement.

"If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing".

The U.S. has in the past used overflights of the supersonic B1-B "Lancer" bomber as a show of force in response to North Korean missile or nuclear tests.

North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un personally supervised the midnight test launch of the missile on Friday night and said it was a "stern warning" for the United



States that it would not be safe from destruction if it tries to attack, the North's official KCNA news agency said.

North Korea's state television broadcast pictures of the launch, showing the missile lifting off in a fiery blast in darkness and Kim cheering with military aides.

China, the North's main ally, said it opposed North Korea's missile launches, which it said violate United Nations Security Council resolutions designed to curb Pyongyang's banned nuclear and missile programs.

"At the same time, China hopes all parties act with caution, to prevent tensions from continuing to escalate," China's foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

However, Trump said he was "very disappointed in China".

In a message on Twitter, he said: "Our foolish past leaders have allowed them to make hundreds of billions of dollars a year in trade, yet..."

"...they do NOTHING for us with North Korea, just talk. We will no longer allow this to continue. China could easily solve this problem!" he said in a subsequent tweet.

The Hwasong-14, named after the Korean word for Mars, reached an altitude of 3,724.9 km (2,314.6 miles) and flew 998 km (620 miles) for 47 minutes and 12 seconds before landing in the waters off

the Korean peninsula's east coast, KCNA said.

Western experts said calculations based on that flight data and estimates from the U.S., Japanese and South Korean militaries showed the missile could have been capable of going as far into the United States as Denver and Chicago.

David Wright of the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists wrote in a blog post that if it had flown on a standard trajectory, the missile would have had a range of 10,400 km (6,500 miles).

North Korea said on Sunday it had been forced to develop long-range missiles and nuclear weapons because of hostile intent by "American imperialist beasts" looking for another chance to invade the country.

"In case the U.S. fails to come to its own senses and continues to resort to military adventure and 'tough sanctions', the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) will respond with its resolute act of justice as already declared," its foreign ministry said in a statement.

It did not specify what action it would take.

The missile test came a day after the U.S. Senate approved a package of sanctions on North Korea, Russia and Iran.

The foreign ministers of South Korea, Japan and the United States agreed to step up pressure on Pyongyang and to push for a stronger United Nations Security Council sanctions resolution.

(Source: Reuters)

Police disrupt plot in Australia to 'bring down plane'

Police disrupted a "terrorist plot" to bring down a plane and arrested four men in raids on homes in several Sydney suburbs, the prime minister said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said security had been increased at Sydney Airport since Thursday because of the plot. The increased security measures had been extended to all major international and domestic terminals around Australia overnight.

"I can report last night that there has been a major joint counterterrorism operation to disrupt a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane," Turnbull told reporters. "The operation is continuing."

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin said details were scant on the specifics of the attack, the location and timing.

"In recent days, law enforcement has been become aware of information that suggested some people in Sydney were planning to commit a terrorist attack using an improvised device," Colvin said.

"We are investigating information indicating the aviation industry was potentially a target of that attack," he added.

Colvin declined to say whether the suspects were known to police before the raids, or whether they



were part of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), terrorist outfit or any other group.

Officials did not specify if the alleged plot targeted a domestic or international flight, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported that a local route had been the objective.

Turnbull advised travelers in Australia to arrive at Australian airports earlier than usual - two hours before departure - to allow for extra security screening and to minimize carry-on baggage.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said the plot was the 13th significant threat disrupted by police since

Australia's threat level was elevated in 2014.

Several attacks have been carried out, including a cafe siege in 2014 where two hostages were killed and the murder of a Sydney police employee in 2015 by a 15-year-old boy.

"The primary threat to Australia still remains lone actors, but the events overnight remind us that there is still the ability for people to have sophisticated plots and sophisticated attacks still remain a real threat," Keenan said. "In light of this information, it's very important that everyone in Australia remains vigilant."

The operation was carried out by the Australian Federal Police, the New South Wales state police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, the country's main domestic spy agency. The investigation could continue for days, Colvin said.

Seven Network television channel reported that 40 riot squad officers wearing gas masks stormed a central-Sydney house before an explosives team found a suspicious device.

A woman led from a raid by police with her head covered told Nine Network Television: "I love Australia."

None of the four suspects arrested in five raids had been charged, police said.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Trudeau stresses probe into reports of Saudi abuse

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his government is taking "very seriously" reports that the House of Saud regime is using Canadian-made armored vehicles in a crackdown on Shias in the Middle Eastern country.

"We are looking at these claims very seriously... and have immediately launched a review," Trudeau said during a visit in central Canada.

The investigation was prompted after Canadian daily The Globe and Mail on Friday reported the apparent use of Canadian combat vehicles in the Saudi Arabia's mainly Shia-populated Qatif region, which has been the scene of protests since 2011 against the regime's repressive policies and human rights abuses against the Shia population.

The daily cited military experts as identifying the vehicles appearing in photos and videos of the Saudi regime operations as Gurkha RPVs, manufactured by Terradyne Armored Vehicles in Newmarket, Ontario.

A statement released by the Canadian government after the report said Canada's Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland was "deeply concerned about this situation and has asked officials to review it immediately."

"If it is found that Canadian exports have been used to commit serious violations of human rights, the minister (Freeland) will take action," the statement said.



"The end use and end user of exports, as well as regional stability and human rights, are essential considerations in the authorization of permits for the export of military goods from Canada," it added.

But it was not clear what action would be taken.

This comes as export control rules in Canada bar arms exports to countries that have poor human rights records and a record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens.

Additionally, human rights groups have called on the federal government to cancel permits for the export of Canadian military and defense equipment to Saudi Arabia.

In recent months, Qatif has seen a hike in tensions. Saudi regime forces, equipped with artillery and heavy weapons, have been launching frequent attacks against the besieged town of Awamiyah in Qatif to quell protests under the pretext of clashing with "militants" there.

The protesters in Awamiyah are angry at a plan by the regime to destroy the al-Mosara neighborhood, the old quarter of the town, and turn it into a commercial zone in defiance of warnings both by locals and the United Nations.

Some seven people have been killed by the House of Saud regime's military in the town over the past days.

(Source: agencies)

Hezbollah, al-Nusra exchange bodies of slain fighters

Hezbollah: Mission accomplished in Aarsal

The first step in a cease-fire agreement between the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah and Jabhat Fatah al-Sham – formerly known as the al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra) – took place Sunday, as the two groups exchange the corpses of fighters, according to Hezbollah-affiliated media.

Hezbollah says it has concluded a military offensive against Takfiri terrorists on the outskirts of Aarsal after dislodging the militants from the northeastern Lebanese town on the Syrian border.

Commanders of the resistance movement on Saturday led a media tour of areas captured from Jabhat Fatah al-Sham.

Hezbollah launched a week-long assault on the outskirts of both Aarsal and the adjacent town of Flita in Syria on July 21, seizing land in the rugged, mountainous area and killing about 150 terrorists.

"We accomplished the main target of the operations by expelling the al-Nusra Front from the Qalamoun mountains and the outskirts of Aarsal," a commander was quoted as saying.

Aarsal's countryside and Qalamoun had turned into havens for the al-Qaeda offshoot. The offensive was part of a series of battles Hezbollah has fought, starting in Homs' Qusair and continuing into Qalamoun in 2014, before heading to the Anti-Lebanon Mountains and the Qalamoun mountains in 2015.

"We detonated more than one car bomb and we found numerous metal workshops manufacturing bombs and mortars, with tons of explosive material in the workshops," the Hezbollah commander noted.

The group said its fighters managed to infiltrate behind enemy frontiers and attack militants from unexpected positions. "We fought the enemy face to face, from close range," the commander said.

Meanwhile, al-Manar television reported that Hezbollah and the al-Nusra Front will exchange a number of corpses on Sunday. The swap will reportedly include the bodies of nine militants and five resistance fighters who lost their lives in the recent escalation in the Lebanon-Syria border area.

The resistance movement has been fighting alongside Syrian government forces since 2013.

On Saturday, Hezbollah's Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem reiterated the movement's assertion that its contribution to the Syrian operations was meant to deter the terror threat facing Lebanon.

"If we did not fight in Syria, we would have had to fight in every house we have and in every village and city in Lebanon," Qassem said.

"We went to Syria to fight in the backyard before [the militant threat] reached the house, and to stop its advance," he said, adding that the Lebanese resistance movement and its allies had managed to defeat extremists and their supporters.

(Source: agencies)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Croatian locomotive manufacturers prepared for co-op with Iran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Croatian locomotive and wagon manufacturers have announced their readiness to cooperate with Iranian railway industries, an Iranian railway official announced.

Mohammad Rajabi, the managing director of Raja Passenger Trains Company (an associate of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways), said many negotiations have been conducted with the Croatian locomotive and wagon manufacturers on making investment and contribution to manufacturing and equipping passenger wagons in Iran, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

He said that in a trip to Croatia, an Iranian delegation has visited a number of Croatian companies active in railway sector including the state-owned rolling stock company, TŽV Gredelj, to discuss cooperation in financing and also manufacturing of wagons and railway equipment in Iran.

Daimler finance arm expects record year after first-half gains

BERLIN (Reuters) — Daimler's finance arm said it was heading for another record year after signing nearly one million new leasing and finance contracts between January and June.

Daimler Financial Services, which handles customer financing and leasing for the German carmaker, expects a significant increase in new business this year and further growth in leasing and finance contracts, backed by expanding sales of Mercedes-Benz luxury cars, it said on Sunday.

New business at the division jumped 19 percent in the first six months to 34.7 billion euros (\$40.77 billion), with earnings before interest and tax up 15 percent to 1.05 billion, the company said.

The portfolio of globally financed and leased vehicles increased 17 percent to 4.6 million vehicles with a total sales value of 134 billion euros, the Stuttgart-based company said.

The company more than doubled the number of customers worldwide using its mobility services, including Car2Go car sharing to 14.5 million people, it said.

Global banks are said to shift Qatar business from Dubai hub

Some international banks are serving Qatar from London and New York instead of Dubai's financial center as a regional dispute makes it harder to do business with clients in the gas-rich Persian Gulf state, according to people familiar with the matter.

Lenders that handled clients such as the Qatar Investment Authority and wealthy family offices out of the Dubai International Financial Centre are shifting coverage to other global financial hubs to avoid damaging relations with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, said the people, asking not to be identified because the matter is private.

Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E., Bahrain and Egypt severed diplomatic and transport links with Qatar in June, accusing it of supporting extremist groups. Qatar denies the charges. As part of the restrictions, Emirates, Etihad Airways PJSC and FlyDubai suspended flights to and from Qatar, meaning that Dubai-based bankers have to fly via Oman or Kuwait, adding hours to a flight that used to take less than 60 minutes.

Dubai became the Persian Gulf region's main banking hub after opening the DIFC in 2004 to attract international banks, asset managers and insurers with promises of zero taxes for 50 years. Many bankers commute daily or weekly between the emirate and neighboring Persian Gulf states such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia to do business with local clients.

Qatari clients

A number of Qatari clients are also saying they would prefer to work with bankers outside of the Persian Gulf region rather than with bankers based in the DIFC, the people said.

Regional banking operations are also being impacted amid the crisis. Some lenders in the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are said to have cut their exposure to Qatar amid concern of a widening of the blockade, while Qatari lenders are boosting interest rates on dollar deposits to shore up liquidity.

South Korea names new trade minister amid U.S. push to amend FTA

SEOUL (Reuters) — South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday appointed a former top envoy who had negotiated a free trade agreement with the United States as his new minister for trade, at a time when Washington is seeking to amend the deal.

Kim Hyun-chong, a U.S.-trained lawyer, was instrumental in framing South Korea's negotiating position on the deal for then president Roh Moo-hyun, who surprised the country by choosing to initiate talks for the trade agreement.

U.S. President Donald Trump has called the free trade agreement (FTA) «a horrible deal», saying he might even scrap it.

Kim, who also served in the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s legal division, has been an advocate of an open trade policy and free trade deals for South Korea.

He will be Moon's first trade minister after the liberal leader took office in May.

The United States notified South Korea earlier this month that it plans to start negotiating amendments to the deal and called a joint committee meeting under the agreement to kick off the talks next month.

South Korea has said it is willing to sit down for talks once a trade minister was appointed.

South Korea has said the meeting does not necessarily mean renegotiation of the deal, stressing the pact was mutually beneficial. It has also said it first needs to be established whether the U.S. trade deficit with South Korea is not the result of other structural causes in the makeup of U.S. industries.

IMIDRO introduces newly discovered mineral reserves

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) introduced some mineral reserves discovered recently in the country during a conference held on Sunday, IRIB new reported.

Addressing the conference, IMIDRO Managing Director Mehdi Karbasian said that over the past four years his organization has embarked on discovering new mineral reserves in the country through private sector's cooperation and has followed up this issue seriously since then.

He said: "We have discovered 400 million tons of iron ore reserves, 400 million tons of coal reserves and 50 million tons of gold reserves in addition to other minerals over the past four years."

This trend will continue and two or three large reserves of zinc, iron ore, gold and other minerals will be discovered by the next Iranian calendar year (to start on March 21, 2018), the official announced.

"Our policy is that high-risk part of the job, which is discovery, is done by the government and when the project is ready to launch it will be handed over to the private sector", Karbasian further stated.

"We are ready to transfer the small mines completely to the private sector and make joint venture with the private sector in the big mines", he added.

The share of mining sector in Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) will be increased to 1.5 percent in the Sixth National Development Plan from the current figure of 1.1 percent, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini told IRNA in late March.

Mining and minerals sector has all necessary qualities specified by "Resistance Economy" and is of high value added, the official highlighted.

Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has adopted the

Iranian light crude's weekly price up \$1.12

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — The price of Iran's light crude oil in the week ended on July 21 rose \$1.12 to stand at \$46.90 per barrel, IRNA reported.

The country's light oil price was reported \$48.77 on average since the beginning of 2017 until July 21.

According to the report, Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$46.12 per barrel in the mentioned week, up \$1.56 from its preceding week.

Meanwhile, with \$1.38 rise from its preceding week, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s basket price stood at \$46.91 per barrel in the mentioned week.

Oil prices surged in the mentioned week as Saudi exports fell and solid demand soaked up some of what seen as an oversupplied market.

The prices continued their upward



trend into the July's last week on bigger-than-expected inventory drawdowns and signals from Saudi Arabia that the world's biggest oil producer would further reduce output in August.

As Reuters reported, Oil ended its strongest week this year with a surge on July 28, built on receding fears of oversupply, as U.S. crude came within striking distance of \$50 a barrel for the first time since the end of May.

Italy sets price for its share of Monte Paschi capital raise

Italy took the final steps to revive Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena SpA, setting the price for its portion of the aid package needed to keep the world's oldest bank in business.

The government will pay 6.49 euros per share as part of the bank's capital raising, according to a statement from the lender.

Italy earlier this week published two decrees, setting terms for a so-called precautionary recapitalization of the bank, according to the statement. The Siena-based lender needs state support to survive, even though regulators have declared it solvent. Monte Paschi turned to Italy for help after it failed to raise funding from investors in December. The package to recapitalize the bank is worth 8.3 billion euros (\$9.8 billion).

Italy is struggling to fix a crisis-era legacy of soured

Real estate booms in China's small cities, but construction outpaces demand

BENGBU, China (Reuters) — Luxury lakeside homes and high-rise condominiums are coming up fast in China's sleepy inland town of Bengbu, a clear sign that a home-buying frenzy sweeping across the country's major metropolises and provincial capitals has reached even its smaller cities.

The increase in demand is welcome news for smaller cities that have a massive

overhang of unsold houses left from the last real estate downturn three years ago. However, the surge in construction threatens to outpace or match the increased demand for housing, leaving housing inventories untouched.

That will be a worry for China's policymakers, who want to keep the real estate market stable ahead of a once-every-five-

years Communist Party congress in the autumn that will see a reshuffle of senior leaders.

The property market in Bengbu, once a fishing village on the banks of the Huai River and Lake Longzi, has been among the top three fastest-growing in China's 70 main cities in recent months although the local economy is soft - the region's main

glass-making industry has been hit by the general growth slowdown.

Property analysts say property demand in such smaller cities has surged because local governments offer cheap credit and impose next to no restrictions, unlike in the bigger cities, where defenses are in place to fend off speculation and prevent formation of property bubbles.

Brexit border chaos will cause huge delays and cost £1bn a year, says report

Britain will be hit by huge border delays, require vast lorry parks in the south-east, and suffer more than £1bn a year in economic damage, according to a stark economic analysis of the likely impact of customs checks after Brexit.

Additional costs associated with potential motorway queues, extra customs staff and jobs lost as a result of companies relocating mean even that assessment is "extremely conservative", a study by a leading economic consultancy warns.

The alarming assessment, by the Europe-wide Oxera consultancy, sets out what it describes as the most likely impact of the new border checks imposed after Brexit. The warning comes after Michel Barnier, the European Union's chief Brexit negotiator, ruled that the government's hopes of securing "frictionless" trade outside the EU was not possible. It also follows a week in which cabinet Brexiters signalled they were ready to adopt a comprehensive transitional deal for up to three years, as ministers attempt to buy time to tackle a series of unresolved policy challenges raised by Brexit.

The complexities of creating a new customs regime as



IMIDRO Managing Director Mehdi Karbasian speaking in a Sunday conference on Iran's newly discovered mineral reserves

policy of reducing risks for the private sector regarding investment making in the mining industry and it has thriving this sector on its agenda, the deputy minister

further stated.

Last May, Karbasian announced that Iran had offered \$40 billion in mining projects to foreign investors.

Loading, unloading at Shahid Rajaei Port up 5% in 4 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Loading and unloading of commodities at Shahid Rajaei Port in Iran's southern Hormozgan Province rose five percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21) compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Some 27.908 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded at Shahid Rajaei Port during the four-month period, IRNA reported on Sunday quoting Allah-Morad Afifipour, the managing director of Hormozgan Province's Ports and Maritime Department.

The official said the commodities include 18.694 million tons of non-oil products and 9.213 million tons of oil products.

Last month, Afifipour had said

that tens of projects worth 30 trillion rials (about \$799 million) are underway at Shahid Rajaei Port.

Among these projects, he referred to establishment of three oil terminals as well as access roads at the value of 600 billion rials (about \$15.9 million).

Having the docks constructed within the next two years, Shahid Rajaei's capacity of oil products exports will increase up to 34 million tons.

Iran plans to increase the capacity of its ports to reach 250 million tons by four years, IRNA reported in late June quoting the Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Mohammad Saeidnejad as saying.

The official said that the country's ports are currently operating at a capacity of 210 million tons.



loans weighing on its weak recovery, and is plowing money into troubled lenders in an effort to revamp its banking



The impact of post-Brexit delays and checks at Dover risk tailbacks on Kent motorways. Photograph: Daniel Leal-Olivas/AFP/Getty Images

close as possible to the current arrangements is one of the major concerns for the Treasury, as it seeks to avoid serious disruption. Tory MPs are already sounding the alarm over potential gridlock at the border.

The Oxera analysis paper, written by its head of transport Andrew Meaney and seen by the Observer, finds that the most likely outcome would be a scenario it describes as "slow trade: low regulation, high enforcement".

"Enforcement is either undertaken at the ports, or on a random checks basis," it states. "However, the number of staff involved increases substantially, and many consignments are subject to lengthy checks.

"We estimate the impact of such a scenario to be at least £1bn per year. This is an extremely conservative estimate – it does not account for the economic costs of the uncertainty involved, the extra staff needed (for hauliers, ports and customs officials), the congestion associated with calling Operation Stack [which sees the M20 used as a makeshift lorry park], the land required for the additional customs checks [in the form of lorry parks], or of the wider economic impacts of jobs moving overseas due to uncertainty over the operation of just-in-time logistics. The full cost is likely to be much higher"

(Source: The Guardian)

Physical oil market tightens as refiners scramble for crude

Physical crude markets are at last showing signs of tightening as record refinery consumption in the United States coincides with a slowdown in oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

U.S. refineries processed an average of almost 17.3 million barrels of crude per day last week, an increase of 620,000 barrels per day (bpd) compared with the same week in 2016.

Fuel consumption by U.S. motorists remains largely flat but U.S. refineries are seeing higher demand for gasoline and diesel from Latin America where supplies have been hit by local refinery problems.

Refinery crude consumption remains high in most other geographical markets in an indication fuel demand is growing strongly, especially in emerging economies.

OPEC exports have been rising as a result of increasing output from Libya and Nigeria, which are not capped under the organization's production deal, and poor compliance from some members.

But Saudi Arabia has been restricting exports in recent weeks and has stated exports will be below 6.6 million bpd in August, compared with 7.3 million bpd in August 2016, and the lowest for the month since 2010.

Saudi Arabia and Iraq both tend to export less during the summer because they use more crude domestically to burn in power plants to meet airconditioning demand.

So some of the slowdown in Saudi exports may be seasonal, but officials are keen to frame it as a deliberate policy to accelerate the reduction of global oil stocks. Saudi sources have said export allocations to the United States, Europe and Asia will all be cut sharply in August ("Saudis to cut Aug oil exports to lowest level this year", Reuters, July 12).

The prospective reductions have left refiners scrambling to find replacement crude which is tightening the physical market for all grades.

Demand for medium and heavy crudes, with a high



yield of middle distillates, has been strong since the start of the year, helping narrow the light-heavy differential.

But intensive refinery runs during the second and third quarters have seen strong demand for light crudes as well, tightening the market for light oils, even as supplies from North America and Africa have increased.

One consequence is that commercial crude stocks in the United States have fallen more rapidly than normal at this time of year and are now below year-ago levels.

The tightening supply-demand balance has been reflected in a sharp improvement in the calendar spreads for Brent crude for the remainder of 2017 and through 2018.

The Brent spread between September and October 2017 has tightened to just 3 cents per barrel contango on Thursday, from 32 cents per barrel in the middle of June.

Other inter-month spreads have also tightened significantly with a tighter contango indicating traders now expect a lower level of inventories throughout the period.

The physical crude market now looks significantly tighter than it did in the first half of June, which has coincided with a renewed rise in bullish hedge fund positions and a modest rise in spot prices.

The critical question is how much of this improvement is seasonal and how much will be sustained once summer is over.

(Source: Reuters)

China produces gas from "flammable ice" under South China Sea



China has successfully produced natural gas from methane hydrate, also known as "flammable ice", in an experimental project in the South China Sea, the land and resources ministry said on Saturday. A drilling platform deployed off the coast of the southeastern Chinese city of Zhuhai for 60 days produced a total of 309,000 cubic meters of natural gas, a record extraction volume from gas hydrate, the Ministry of Land and Resources said in a notice on its website.

"After nearly 20 years of unremitting efforts, China has achieved theoretical, technological, engineering and equipment innovations and has made a 'historical breakthrough,' the ministry said. Flammable ice consists of methane trapped within water crystals, and has

been identified as a potential new gas source for China, with the South China Sea thought to contain some of the world's most promising deposits. The government has promised to "actively develop" natural gas hydrate over the 2016-2020 five-year plan period.

The land and resources ministry said earlier this year that two gas hydrate deposits with about 100 billion cubic meters of reserves have been discovered following seismic surveys and drilling programs in the northern section of the South China Sea.

Japan reported a similar successful production test in May. India, Canada and the United States are also believed to be looking at hydrates as an alternative energy source. (Source: Indian Express)

Italy's Eni confident of dividend even with lower oil prices



Italian oil major Eni said its dividend was safe even at lower oil prices thanks to a string of major discoveries underpinning output growth and cash generation for the years to come.

Eni, the most active of the foreign oil majors in Africa, has one of the best discovery records in the industry, with large gas fields in Mozambique and Egypt. More recently it also made an oil find in Mexico.

Under its so-called "dual exploration" strategy, the company aims to sell down stakes in fields it operates to raise cash to fund future development and support dividends.

"We have all the tools to cope with oil at \$45 a barrel," CEO Claudio Descalzi told analysts on a second-quarter

results call when asked about dividend sustainability.

"We are able to tackle this situation, and we won't be using scrip dividends," he said, referring to a practice where investors are offered shares in place of cash.

Eni, whose cash flow jumped 56 percent to 2.7 billion euros in the second quarter, has committed to paying a dividend in 2017 of 0.80 euros per share.

Investors in oil firms have been unnerved by weak oil prices, which have struggled to hold gains that followed a deal between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and some other producers to cut crude production from January.

(Source: Reuters)

Electric cars run over OPEC in new existential crisis

By Julian Lee

You wait decades for an existential crisis, then two come along at once. At least that's how it must feel for OPEC's beleaguered ministers. In the short term the market for their oil is being eroded by rising production outside their control. Looking further ahead, oil demand itself is under threat from the electrification of road transport. OPEC may not yet be dead, but its days are surely numbered. The most obvious short-term threat to the group comes from the rapid rise in U.S. shale oil, but the risks have expanded to include other areas like Brazil's prolific sub-salt discoveries and more recent finds further north along the east coast of South America.



Asian appetite

An increasing volume of U.S. crude is finding its way to markets in Asia that used to be the preserve of the group's Middle Eastern powerhouses. China was the biggest foreign buyer of U.S. crude in April -- the most recent month for which EIA data are available -- overtaking Canada for the second time this year. And Indian refiners are finding an appetite for heavier U.S. grades that compete directly with Middle Eastern crudes. This is a particular worry for OPEC producers whose initial output cuts were said to target buyers in Europe and the Americas while sales to key customers in Asia were to remain untouched. Add to this that there's been little letup in U.S. oil production. The American surge began late last year, just as OPEC ministers were edging toward a deal to cut output after a two-year production free-for-all that saw WTI crude fall to little more than \$26 a barrel. This shows little sign of running out of steam -- output from the Lower 48 states, which includes offshore activity in the Gulf of Mexico, edged above 9 million barrels a day in the third week of July, its highest level for almost two years, according to weekly data from the Energy Information Administration.

Recovery

The group's short-term worry is that any rise in crude prices above \$50 a barrel will simply allow competing shale companies to hedge more of their future production and unleash another surge in output. This makes it almost impossible for them to engineer the price recovery they desire.

Hedged in

Outside the shale patch, big oil is learning to live with lower prices again. Royal Dutch Shell Plc "is getting fit for the \$40s," Chief Executive Officer Ben van Beurden said on Thursday's second-quarter earnings call, after the company released results showing that it generated almost as much cash from its operations last quarter with crude around \$50 a barrel as it did when it was above \$100. These companies may be getting fit, but the budgets of the OPEC countries certainly aren't. They haven't made the cuts they need to survive if prices persist at that level. Van Beurden also articulated the second existential threat, when he said in an interview with Bloomberg TV not only that his next car would be electric, but that he could see demand for liquid fuels peaking in the 2030s. A political trend towards growing electrification of transport poses a real, long-term problem. Nobody in their right mind is suggesting that oil is suddenly going to stop being the world's transport fuel of choice, but its market share will come under increasing pressure. Four countries in Europe have now proposed bans on the sale of gasoline and diesel-fueled cars by 2040 at the latest. Between them they account for around a third of all the passenger vehicles in use in Europe. But the market may do as much as regulators to tip the balance. Rapidly falling battery costs will make electric vehicles as affordable as their gasoline or diesel rivals over the next 10 years, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Oil lost its place in power generation after the price rises of the 1970s, and has seen its share of the global energy market slowly decline ever since. The one area where it had seemed virtually unassailable -- the transport sector -- now looks to be slipping from its grasp, too. Former Saudi oil minister Sheikh Yamani's warning to his OPEC fellows that the oil age wouldn't end because the world ran out of oil has never seemed more prescient.

(Source: Bloomberg)

U.S. new anti-Russian law poses threat to energy projects: expert

The U.S. new law imposing anti-Russian sanctions does not carry "anything lethal," but it may pose a threat to the implementation of the Nord Stream-2 and Turkish Stream energy projects, which primarily worries Moscow, according to a source that was interviewed by TASS.

"There is nothing lethal there [in the law], in fact, to our regret, that implies codification of what has already been authorized," the source said.

The source clarified that "codification means granting the status of law to sanctions, so as the U.S. President will no longer be authorized to abolish them.

The source drew attention to the fact that the text of the law contains the phrase that the U.S. administration should oppose the Nord Stream-2 project, should promote U.S. energy producers on European and world markets, and should contribute to ensuring the energy security of Ukraine and the EU countries.

"Such provisions, of course, pose a threat to the implementation of such (pipeline) projects as the Nord Stream-2 and the Turkish Stream, the Russian party is really worried," the expert noted.

"Moreover, this is done under the pretense of improving energy security

and energy supply in Europe, but in fact it is vice versa," the source said.

According to him, "the construction of a new gas infrastructure significantly reduces the risks associated with the transit of gas through Ukraine."

"Meanwhile, according to available information, there are U.S. companies that want to enter the gas transportation system of Ukraine and actually stand between the supplier, which is Russia, and the consumer - the countries of Western Europe. In this case in addition to economic benefits, the U.S. would get additional levers of influence," the expert said. (Source: oilprice.com)

Nigeria to play a major role in Turkey's energy sector

Nigeria is one of Turkey's largest trading partners in Africa, and trade remains an integral component of Nigeria - Turkey bilateral relations. In 2014, trade between the two countries reached approximately U.S.\$2.5 billion. However, this figure fell to U.S.\$1.5 billion in 2015 and approximately U.S.\$1 billion in 2016, largely due to a drop in global oil and gas prices.

Over the past several decades, Nigeria has become one of Turkey's most important providers of liquid natural gas (LNG), currently accounting for more than 20 percent of LNG imports.

However, this trade relationship has the potential to develop and expand as the global LNG market flourishes, and both the Turkish and Nigerian governments invest in furthering their domestic LNG sectors.

Nigeria's oil and gas industry is the largest on the continent, with attention traditionally focused on oil production. However, with global oil prices having remained lower than expected for longer than expected, attention has increasingly shifted to Nigeria's natural gas sector. (Source: oilprice.com)

Vacancy Announcement # IOM/IRN/2017/02

An international organization is seeking for a
National Resource Management Officer

Qualifications/ Required Skills:

- Minimum 2 years of relevant professional experience with Master's degree in Accounting and business administration or Bachelor's degree with in the above fields with at least four years of relevant professional experience.
- Strong knowledge of financial oversight, budgeting and public administration
- Excellent command of English and Computer

Interested applicants should send their CVs to: IOMTEHRAN@iom.int by COB 14 Aug 2017 mentioning their "Name" and "Vacancy #IOM/IRN/2017/02" in the subject line of their e-mail

Vacancy Announcement # IOM/IRN/2017/03

An international organization is seeking for a
National Program Officer (Project Development/AVRR)

Qualifications/ Required Skills:

- Master's degree in Social Sciences, Law and/or International Relations or Bachelor's degree with in the above fields with at least two years of relevant professional experience.
- knowledge of project design, management, implementation, administration of migration issues;
- Excellent command of English and Computer

Interested applicants should send their CVs to: IOMTEHRAN@iom.int by COB 14 Aug 2017 mentioning their "Name" and "Vacancy #IOM/IRN/2017/03" in the subject line of their e-mail

A China card for the Middle East

By Dominique Moisi

The list of crises plaguing the Middle East is growing. In Yemen, a civil war rages amid an uncontrollable cholera epidemic. In Jerusalem, religious violence is intensifying, while in parts of Iraq and Syria, sectarian warfare shows no signs of abating. Most ominously, a new level of antagonism between Saudi Arabia and Iran suggests that a direct confrontation between the leading powers of Sunni and Shia Islam is no longer out of the question.



Just when the region needs the steady hand of international leadership most, none of the usual actors is strong enough, or committed enough, to engage effectively. What the region requires is a new framework for diplomacy – one with the strong backing of a new mediator: China.

By exporting terrorism and religiously inspired extremism, the Middle East has become “global” in the most negative sense. But while much attention has been focused on addressing what France’s former finance minister, Michel Sapin, once called the “unhappy” side of globalization – such as unemployment and income inequality – too little has been done to contain the spread of extremist violence or address its causes. Many diplomatic formulas have been tried, but progress remains elusive.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Europe endured horrific religious wars, but Christendom was mostly united when it began to confront the threat posed by an expanding Ottoman Empire. In the nineteenth century, the delicate balance of power between European powers and the crumbling Ottoman fringe gave rise to the “Eastern Question.” Ultimately, the Ottoman Empire’s demise fueled conflict in the Balkans and sowed rivalries that led to World War I.

Today, too, mainly European, or Western, approaches to ensuring stability in the Middle East no longer work. As a top European diplomat told me recently, the Middle East crisis is in desperate need of fresh thinking and new leadership. One idea he offered was a “Helsinki”-inspired solution, drawing on a diverse collection of countries to address a common, if regionally focused, problem.

My interlocutor’s suggestion was original, and potentially game-changing. In 1975, in Helsinki, Finland, a mechanism was created to reduce tensions and enable dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union, the two Cold War superpowers. The resulting Helsinki Accords, which placed an emphasis on sovereignty and territorial integrity, represented a significant step toward strategic de-escalation. For some analysts, the accords, which received broad European and Western support, initiated the end of the Cold War (which the Soviet Union, of course, survived with neither its sovereignty nor its territorial integrity).

■ The geopolitical map

The geopolitical map has changed significantly since 1975, but the underlying premise of the Helsinki process – mutual respect built on global consensus – is no less relevant today. Unfortunately, neither the U.S. nor Europe appears to be in a position to implement such an approach for the Middle East. That, in my view, leaves an opening for China, the world’s most important rising power, to engage in a formal and meaningful way.

China’s engagement would be a significant departure from its past policy. During much of China’s reform period, the country’s leadership emphasized domestic priorities and kept a low profile internationally. But in recent years, China has been more willing to play a larger global role, reflected in its leadership on climate change and its efforts to mediate between Sudan and South Sudan. In 2015, when France launched an ultimately unsuccessful bid to restart the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, China was among the initiative’s most enthusiastic supporters.

Involving China in Middle East diplomacy makes sense politically, but it could also make sense culturally and historically. China faces fewer security vulnerabilities from the Middle East (except on matters of energy) than Europe does, and it has no imperial legacy in the region – and thus none of the emotional baggage of the colonial past. Moreover, the Chinese have not sided with Saudi Arabia, like the United States has under President Donald Trump, or with the Iranians, like Russia has under President Vladimir Putin. And China has none of the guilt that Europeans have over their historic mistreatment of both Arabs and Jews.

Of course, China may resist exposing itself to the pitfalls of Middle East diplomacy. China remains committed, at least rhetorically, to a policy of non-interference, and its citizens may be unenthusiastic. In Beijing last year, I was told by a Chinese foreign-policy expert that the country’s reluctance to interfere in other countries’ internal affairs partly reflects the legacy of the one-child policy that was enforced for more than three decades. Why would Chinese parents risk the life of their only child for the sake of faraway countries that pose no threat to China?

Yet, within the context of more broad-based international engagement, akin to the Helsinki process, China might actually be in the best position to help bring about long-term stability the Middle East. Given the collective failures of the usual actors, a new cast could surely do no worse.

(Source: project-syndicate.org)

The GOP steps up to check an out-of-control president



Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.)

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) announced a joint effort with Democrats to legislate a bar to firing Mueller, an eventuality which, he said, would mark “the beginning of the end of the Trump presidency.”

implicitly attacks on independent counsel Robert S. Mueller III. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) made it clear that his committee would give the president no opportunity to appoint a replacement to Sessions if he tried to fire him. Meanwhile, Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) announced a joint effort with Democrats to legislate a bar to fir-

ing Mueller, an eventuality which, he said, would mark “the beginning of the end of the Trump presidency.”

To be sure, Graham’s attempt to impose judicial review on a president’s firing of a special counsel might fail in practice, for any number of technical legal and constitutional reasons. In the minds of many of Trump’s harshest critics, especial-

ly Democrats, anything short of impeachment constitutes Republican submission to an unfit and illegitimate president. What GOP lawmakers’ first serious steps toward checking and balancing Trump showed this week, however, is that there is a middle ground, which members of his own party are no longer afraid to explore.

(Source: The Washington Post)

A threat to nuclear arms control



President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev sign the INF Treaty, December 8, 1987.

A decision by the United States to abandon the treaty would destroy a pillar of arms control, erode support for other treaties and raise further doubts about Washington’s commitments, already damaged by Trump’s repudiation of the Paris climate accord.

longer be bound by the treaty. The Senate has yet to act on its version of the bill.

The I.N.F. Treaty violation is complicated by the 2016 election hacking and other tensions. But America and its NATO allies can respond to it without a costly and unnecessary new missile that allies are likely to oppose.

Further, a decision by the United States to abandon the treaty would destroy a pillar of arms control, erode support for other treaties and raise further

A quarter-century after the end of the Cold War, the United States and Russia still possess thousands of nuclear weapons. Even so, some administration officials and members of Congress are pushing wasteful and dangerous plans to expand the numbers and capabilities of those weapons, threatening a web of arms control agreements that have ensured the stability of Russian and American arsenals that contain fully 90 percent of the world’s 15,000 nuclear weapons.

Congress is considering whether the United States should develop a new ground-launched cruise missile and withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty banning missiles with a range of up to about 3,000 miles, which give leaders little time to react. Signed by President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the treaty ended a major threat to Europe.

The treaty worked well until Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin, angry at America’s deployment of missile defenses in Europe, declared in 2007 that it no longer served Russia’s interests and proceeded over the next decade to develop a new cruise missile. In 2014, the Obama administration said such a missile was tested in violation of the treaty, but failed to persuade Moscow to come back into compliance. Earlier this year, the Pentagon said Russia secretly deployed the missile, an even more serious violation.

To match Russia, some lawmakers have added funding for such missiles to the defense bills now working their way through Congress, even though Gen. Paul Selva, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress recently that missiles on American aircraft and ships can counter the new Russian weapons if needed. The House bill, approved 344 to 81 on July 14, also states that if the president finds Russia in violation of the treaty 15 months after the defense bill becomes law, the United States will not

The UK must do more to tackle the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean

The Independent makes no apology for continuing to report the terrible drownings on Europe’s southern coasts and our demand for more effective action to avoid them.

We report the words of Axel Grafmanns of the German charity Sea-Watch: “The EU is wilfully letting people drown in the Mediterranean by refusing to create a legal means of safe passage and failing to even provide adequate resources for maritime rescue.”

So far this year, 2,400 men, women and children have lost their lives in the central Mediterranean, including 13 people found dead at the bottom of an overcrowded dinghy this week.

This ought to be intolerable, and yet the governments of Europe tolerate it, because they appear to lack the political will to deal with it. Grafmanns was speaking about a disagreement over new rules

to be presented by the Italian government on Monday that charities say will restrict their capacity to rescue refugees during the peak crossing season.

But this is only the latest instance of a policy of reaction, containment and buck-passing that characterizes the approach of all European Union nations including the UK. Grafmanns makes explicit what many suspect, that the EU believes that, if the rescue effort in the Mediterranean is too effective, it would encourage even more people to attempt the crossing.

Of course, there is an element of truth in this, but nothing could justify a policy of allowing people to drown to discourage the others. The death toll in the central Mediterranean ought, instead, to act as a spur to a bigger and more effective effort at all levels to deal with the refugee crisis.

That ought to mean a policy focused

on aid and education at source, to try to discourage people in Nigeria and other sub-Saharan African nations from heading towards Libya in the first place. Then there is our collective responsibility to the people of Libya themselves: having helped turn Libya into a failed state by the NATO intervention in 2011, we ought to do more to help fix it.

The UK’s assistance to the Libyan coastguard must be part of this, but so far it has not done enough to stop human rights abuses, as a House of Lords report found this month.

Ultimately, the objective of policy ought to be something similar to the deal that the EU has with Turkey: in effect a large amount of money for Turkey to deal with Syrian refugees close to source. It may seem crude and even cynical, but it is better than a policy that countenances thousands of people drowning each year.



The refugee crisis on Europe’s southern borders is one of the great humanitarian challenges of the age, and The Independent believes that the UK shares a moral responsibility to help solve it. Whether we are a member of the EU or not, we are members of the human race and part of the wider community of nations. We cannot be part of “wilfully letting people drown”.

(Source: Independent)

The Persian Gulf crisis: A lesson in reputation management

By James M. Dorsey

Lurking below the surface of the Persian Gulf crisis, are rival, yet troubled, attempts by Qatar and its detractors to use sports to boost soft power and/or launder tarnished images of their autocracies.

Ironically, the crisis threatens to have levelled the playing field in a bitter media and public diplomacy war that was covert prior to the seven-week-old Saudi-UAE-Bahraini-led diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar. If anything, the Persian Gulf crisis has emerged as a case study of the pitfalls of reputation management in which sports is an important tool. On balance, it so far has had different effects on the reputations of three of the key protagonists.

It has also served to highlight the pot-blames-the-kettle-character of the Persian Gulf crisis, most recently with the disclosure that North Koreans were employed not only in Qatar on World Cup-related projects, but also on a UAE military base that hosts US forces. The disclosure of relations with North Korea is awkward at a time of increased tension between North Korea and the United States over the pariah state's ballistic missile and nuclear program.

A Washington-based Saudi dissident group, the Institute for Persian Gulf Affairs, recently published a memo reportedly from the State Department as well as emails from the hacked account of Yousef al-Otaiba, the high-profile UAE ambassador to the United States, that asserted that a UAE company, Al-Mutlaq Technologies, had bought \$100 million worth of weapons from North Korea for use in the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen.

Qatar, plagued by allegations that its successful bid for the 2022 World Cup



Qatar and the UAE's North Korean links could put the two Persian Gulf states in the Trump administration's firing line as it considers how to respond the Pyongyang's most recent ballistic missile test

hosting rights lacked integrity and that its migrant labor regime amounted to slavery, has scored reputational gains in the Persian Gulf crisis despite the recent revelations related to North Korea. While the revelations reinforced concerns about Qatar's policies and labor regime, they also suggested that issues at stake in the Persian Gulf crisis constituted regional problems rather than exclusive concern about just one of the Persian Gulf states.

The UAE, a driving force in the anti-Qatar campaign that uses the hosting of international sporting events to boost its image, has suffered because of its failure and that of its alliance partners to garner widespread international support for its tactics and demands that

were perceived as unreasonable, unactionable, and designed to undermine Qatari sovereignty and independence. The UAE's North Korea link as well as allegations by human rights groups, denied by the government in Abu Dhabi, that the UAE was backing the abuse of prisoners in Yemen has done little to enhance the Persian Gulf state's reputation.

Qatar and the UAE's North Korean links could put the two Persian Gulf states in the Trump administration's firing line as it considers how to respond the Pyongyang's most recent ballistic missile test that the pariah state claims would allow it to target any US city. Pressuring countries to back away from economic relations with North Korea, the Trump administration recently extended sanctioning of Sudan for among other things not being fully committed to implementing United Nations sanctions on the country.

Saudi Arabia promised Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, during a visit earlier this month to the kingdom as well as the UAE, that it would continue to see improvement of relations between Sudan and the United States despite the African country's refusal to join the Saudi-UAE-led boycott of Qatar.

Neither the Persian Gulf crisis nor sports has done much for Bahrain, its image tarnished by its brutal suppression in 2011 of a popular revolt with the help of Saudi and UAE forces, and its subsequent repression of opposition forces and continuous violations of basic human rights. Worse even, the Persian Gulf crisis has focused attention on Bahrain's failed effort to use sports to polish its tarnished image and put it in the spotlight as an example of the degree to which smaller Persian Gulf states risk losing their ability to chart an independent course.

As the quarrelling Persian Gulf states

pour millions of dollars into hiring public relations and lobbying firms in Washington and elsewhere with the UAE as the largest spender, Qatar can shrug off in both reputational and financial terms a \$51,000 fine by world soccer body FIFA. Qatar was fined because its national team wore jerseys in a World Cup qualifier against South Korea that featured a drawing of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. The drawing has come to symbolize a wave of Qatari nationalism sparked by the Persian Gulf crisis.

The public diplomacy war has expanded beyond a constant diet of allegations against one another in state-controlled media of the Persian Gulf protagonists into Saudi-sponsored TV spots on U.S. television and rival advertisements on London's famous black cabs, alternatively featuring a pro-Qatari message, a Saudi soccer match, and the UAE's Emirates and Etihad airlines.

Qatar, in the latest move in the public diplomacy war, hired a Washington lobby firm originally established by former Trump election campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Mr. Lewandowski has since left the firm over a dispute with his partners, who include Barry Bennett, a Trump campaign adviser and others with ties to the president as well as George Birnbaum, an American-born former chief of staff to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has close relations with the Republican Party establishment.

Qatar separately contracted the services of a company, Information Management Services, that specializes in digging up dirt on U.S. politicians.

For its part, the UAE in the years running up to the Persian Gulf crisis hired a U.S. firm established by former Treasury Department officials to influence US media reporting on Qatar.

The media war potentially could enter a new phase with the acquisition by a relatively unknown Saudi businessman, Sultan Muhammad Abuljadayel, of an up to 50 percent stake in Independent Digital News and Media, the holding company that publishes Britain's left-wing The Independent daily. The Independent has consistently been critical of the kingdom. Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian owner of the Independent's parent company, ESI Media, recently saw his shareholding fall below 50 percent.

At the bottom line, the escalating media and public diplomacy war between Qatar and its Persian Gulf detractors is as likely, as is evident with the revelations about North Korea, to put on public display the protagonists' hidden skeletons, as it is likely to contribute to attempts to polish tarnished reputations and influence attitudes and policies in Western capitals.

A key tool in the protagonists' quivers, sports is proving to be a double-edged sword as it too has the potential of shining the light on practices and policies Persian Gulf states would prefer to keep out of the public domain.



The media war potentially could enter a new phase with the acquisition by a relatively unknown Saudi businessman, Sultan Muhammad Abuljadayel, of an up to 50 percent stake in Independent Digital News and Media, the holding company that publishes Britain's left-wing The Independent daily.

U.S. interfered in elections of at least 85 countries worldwide since 1945

By Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

The simmering tit-for-tat has kept the issue of election meddling burning bright in the national spotlight, fueled even further by the belief among U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia wanted to help Donald Trump capture the presidency. Yet neither country is a stranger when it comes to directly trying to sway the election of other nations. In fact, the U.S. has a long and stunning history of attempting to influence foreign presidential elections, recent research by political scientist Dov Levin shows.

Levin, a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Politics and Strategy at Carnegie-Mellon University, found that the U.S. attempted to influence the elections of foreign countries as many as 81 times between 1946 and 2000.

Comment: That's just till 2000! The U.S. has gone nuts since then.

Often covert in their execution, these efforts included everything from CIA operatives running successful presidential campaigns in the Philippines during the 1950s to leaking damaging information on Marxist Sandanistas in order to sway Nicaraguan voters in 1990. All told, the U.S. allegedly targeted the elections of 45 nations across the globe during this period, Levin's research shows. In the case of some countries, such as Italy and Japan, the U.S. attempted to intervene in four or more separate elections.

Levin's figures do not include military coups or regime change attempts following the election of a candidate the U.S. opposed, such as when the CIA helped overthrow Mohammad Mosaddeq, Iran's democratically elected prime minister, in 1953.

Comment: If we add those in, we're looking at the entire Earth having suffered from U.S. meddling.

He defines an electoral intervention as "a costly act which is designed to determine the election results [in favor of] one of the two sides." According to Levin's research, that includes: peddling misinformation or propaganda; creating campaign material for preferred candidates or parties; providing or withdrawing foreign aid, and; making public announcements that threaten or favor certain candidates. Often, it also includes the U.S. covertly delivering large sums of cash, as was the case in elections in Japan, Lebanon, Italy, and other countries.

To build his database, Levin says he relied on declassified U.S. intelligence as well as a number of Congressional reports on CIA activity. He also combed through what he considered reliable histories of the CIA and covert American activity, as well as academic research on U.S. intelligence, diplomatic histories of the Cold War, and memoirs of former CIA officials. Much of America's meddling in foreign elections has been well-documented – Chile in the 1960s, Haiti in the 1990s. But Malta in 1971? According to Levin's study, the U.S. attempted to "goose" the tiny Mediterranean island's economy in the months leading up to its election that year.

Much of the America's electoral meddling occurred throughout the Cold War as a response to containing Soviet influence through the spread of supposed leftist proxies, the findings suggest. And to be clear, the U.S. wasn't the only one trying to sway foreign elections. By Levin's count, Russia attempted to interfere in other countries' elections 36 times between the end of World War II and the end of the 20th century, bringing the total number of electoral interventions by the two countries to 117 during that period.

Comment: That's why it was cunningly smart of the



America has a long history of meddling in the elections of foreign countries, new research shows

U.S. deep state to take this tack when it became apparent to them this time last year that Trump was going to win and their globalist agenda was going to take a hit. Russia (the USSR) has a track record of doing this, so it's sort of plausible-ish that Putin has revived the practice (he hasn't – he doesn't need to).

Yet even after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the U.S. continued its interventions abroad, including elections in former Czechoslovakia, and even Russia in 1996, Levin found. Since 2000, the U.S. has attempted to sway elections in Ukraine, Kenya, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, among others.

(Source: Sott)

U.S. plotting to topple Venezuela's government

By Stephen Lendman

Since Hugo Chavez's February 1999 ascension to power, Washington wanted Bolivarian democracy replaced by a U.S. sponsored regime.

Earlier coup attempts failed, another likely planned, months of U.S.-orchestrated violence a convenient pretext to act, along with imposing illegal sanctions on Venezuelan officials.

On Wednesday, the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned 13 current and former Venezuelan officials, along with others, wrongfully accusing them of "undermining democracy" – a U.S. specialty at home and abroad.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin represents U.S. imperial lawlessness. Claiming the Trump administration "will not ignore the Maduro regime's ongoing efforts to undermine democracy, freedom, and the rule of law" turned truth on its head.

Saying America "stand(s) by the Venezuelan people" is polar opposite US aims, wanting regime change, the country transformed into a vassal state, its resources plundered, its people exploited.

Mnuchin promised tougher actions if legitimate end of July constituent assembly voting takes place as planned. Article 347 of Venezuela's constitution states:



"The original constituent power rests with the people of Venezuela. This power may be exercised by calling a National Constituent Assembly for the purpose of transforming the State, creating a new juridical order and drawing up a new Constitution."

In 1999, Chavez let voters decide whether to convene a National Constituent Assembly – to draft a new Bolivarian Constitution.

They overwhelmingly approved. Three months later, National Assembly elections were held. Chavistas won 95% of the seats.

They drafted a Bolivarian constitution. A second referendum followed. Venezuelans again overwhelmingly approved it. Historic provisions became law.

Article 348 states:
"(t)he initiative for calling a National Constituent Assembly may emanate from the President of the Republic sitting with the Cabinet of Ministers; from the National Assembly by a two-thirds vote of its members; from the Municipal Councils in open session, by a two-thirds vote of their members; and from 15% of the voters registered with the Civil and Electoral Registry."

Article 349 states:
"(t)he President of the Republic shall not have the power to object to the new Constitution. The existing constituted authorities shall not be permitted to obstruct the Constituent Assembly in any way."

"For purposes of the promulgation of the new Constitution, the same shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Venezuela or in the Gazette of the Constituent Assembly."

Maduro called for a Constituent Assembly because of anti-democratic foreign and internally orchestrated violence against the nation and its people.

Dark forces allied with Washington want his government toppled. Constituent Assembly elections were scheduled for July 30. Anyone could be nominated as a candidate to participate:

by their own initiative;
by other registered voters or groups; or
by sectoral groups comprising 173 seats of the 545-seat Constituent Assembly.

Over 6,000 candidates are competing for Constituent Assembly seats. Right-wing extremists comprising the disloyal opposition oppose the constitutionally-permitted process, fearing voters may choose a majority of Bolivarian advocates, diluting their power.

Trump administration officials oppose the Constituent Assembly for this reason. Mnuchin threatened "(a)nyone elected to the National Constituent Assembly (with possible) U.S. sanctions" or harsher measures.

Bolivarian democratic forces in Venezuela support Maduro's initiative. Dark forces internally and in Washington oppose what conflicts with their diabolical interests.

A Final Comment

On Thursday, the Trump administration ordered family members of its embassy personnel to return to America. It authorized the voluntary departure of embassy staff.

Colombia's Avianca airlines halted operations. Fascist opposition elements vowed to keep fighting on the streets, blocking roads in what they call "The Takeover of Venezuela" on Friday.

Is another U.S. coup attempt imminent? Things are especially tense ahead of July 30 Constituent Assembly elections.

The day Nixon began his comeback

By Robert Rakove

Richard Nixon's triumphant march to the presidency began on July 29, 1967, along the shores of a small, wooded lake an hour's drive north of San Francisco.

The former California legislator and vice president of the United States had been invited to give the Lakeside Address to the Bohemian Club, a selective, somewhat secretive all-male society, which meets annually amid the redwood trees of Northern California. For Nixon, the invitation represented both a great honor and a priceless moment for personal reinvention. His political career had been seemingly derailed by two shattering electoral losses: in the 1960 presidential campaign, and the 1962 California gubernatorial election.

Former president Herbert Hoover had, for many years, given the Lakeside Address. Stepping into Hoover's shoes was, Nixon later reflected, both an "emotional assignment for me" and an "unparalleled opportunity to reach some of the most important and influential men" in America.

Nixon didn't say much about the Vietnam War; he promised his audience that he would "take the long view," rather than dwelling "on current issues like Vietnam." But the war hovered at the periphery of his remarks. It had to: Hours

before, a freak accident aboard the aircraft carrier Forrestal, on station in the Tonkin Gulf, culminated in a horrific fire that claimed the lives of 134 sailors. The pilot and future senator John McCain was among the survivors.

Nixon's speech offered only partial hints of the course he would adopt as president. It suggested the possibility of negotiations with the Soviet Union, but not with the People's Republic of China. It offered no real clues of the course Nixon would adopt toward the Vietnam War, although his established reputation as a stalwart anti-Communist would have probably sufficed for much of the audience.

Nixon's speech painted a dismal picture of American prestige in the world. "Twenty years ago, after our great World War II victory," he intoned, "we were respected throughout the world. Today, hardly a day goes by when our flag is not spit upon, a library burned, an embassy stoned some place in the world." The global backlash against the Vietnam War was the preponderant, although not the sole, cause of this anti-American wave. True to form, Nixon advised a tough, straightforward response: punishing America's foes and rewarding its friends, and dividing the world starkly into opposing camps.

■ Beginning of Cold War

Of course, many Americans had been doing so since the beginning of the Cold War, but the strains of warfare and the growing torrent of criticism pushed this tendency toward its outermost extreme. This, in turn, greatly complicated America's relations with the leaders of the non-aligned states. India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser, Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito and Indonesia's Sukarno had rejected Cold War alignment. To this rising caucus of national leaders, the greatest problem confronting the world was not the East-West contest, but the international struggle against colonialism in all its forms.

Successive presidents had used varying combinations of carrots and sticks toward uncommitted states. Dwight D. Eisenhower began his presidency confronting them, but shifted toward a more conciliatory approach over time, recognizing that strong nonaligned governments could be preferable to shakily governed allies. John F. Kennedy made a sustained effort to engage the leading nonaligned states, forging interpersonal ties with their leaders, offering them substantial economic aid and sometimes even taking anti-colonial positions.

Kennedy's policy began to fray after his assassination, how-

ever. Outreach toward the likes of nonaligned India risked the antagonism of allies like Pakistan. His successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, exhibited a deeply felt preference for allies, but shared the anti-poverty passions held by many leaders in Africa and Asia. Nonaligned leaders often baffled and frustrated Johnson, but some potential for concord still existed.

Vietnam shattered that possibility. Few Asian or African leaders shared the Communist beliefs of Ho Chi Minh, but most looked to North Vietnam as a fellow anticolonial state, recalling the long Vietnamese struggle against France after the Second World War. North Vietnam had far outpaced its southern rival in its quest for international legitimacy — to the great frustration of the American government. As Johnson Americanized the war in South Vietnam, he faced an uphill struggle to explain the conflict to uncommitted states.

The Vietnam War put the nonaligned states in a bind. North Vietnam's close solidarity with the People's Republic of China alarmed them. Yugoslavia and India were particularly opposed to Mao Zedong, viewing his revolutionary agenda as a fundamental threat. Neither could they, however, countenance the American bombing of North Vietnam, even as they valued decent relations with Washington. ➔13

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Amazing Apt in Elahieh
300 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., fully furn,
peaceful area and amazing view,
perfect location, **\$6500**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Amazing Luxury Apartment
in Fereshteh
200 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., 2 parkings, fully
furn, large and beautiful, lobby,
sauna, pool, Jacuzzi, gym saloon,
\$4200 per month
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Mahmoodieh
5th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., lobby,
spj, big balcony, fully furn,
diplomatic, **\$6000**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
90 sq.m, 1 Bdrs., fully furn, lobby,
parking, diplomatic,
nice & cozy, **\$1800**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Several Apts in Garden
Tower in Elahieh
New, from 150 sq.m to 250
sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden, spj,
equipped kitchen, could be fully
furn and new brand, lobby,
opposite to French school, good
access to Sadr highway,
Reasonable Price
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Villa in Darous
duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 1800
land, 5 Bdrs., renovated,
big saloon, semi furn, beautiful
garden, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi
\$20000

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Amazing Villa in Kamranieh
duplex ,750 sq.m, 8 Bdrs. ,
renovated , full furn, ceramic floor,
driver room, balcony, 4Parking
places, **\$15000**
Suitable for foreign Embassies
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Villa apartment in Mahmoodieh
good location, 120 sq.m with
separate entrance, very close to the
public transport, double gals
windows, peaceful area, large
garden, swimming pool, secured,
servant and maid service available
upon request
Only **\$1900 suitable for**
foreigners and diplomats
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Palace in Tajrish/ Elahieh
duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m
built up, 8 Bdrs., renovated, green
& unbelievable garden, water fall,
Spj. parking, completely renovated,
big saloon, **\$30000**
Suitable for
Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation,
Best Services, Best Result**

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"
Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in Farmanieh
20 units, 60 Bdrs., several parking,
semi furn, suitable for residency of
big companies, renovated
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Commercial Villa in Jordan
duplex villa, 1000 sq.m, flat,
completely renovated, green garden,
outdoor pool, parking, good access
to highway, **\$50000**
Suitable for foreign Companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Whole Building in Elahieh
3 Apts with one duplex villa, 1200
sq.m total, parking, luxury & modern
\$15000
Suitable for Residency and Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Legal registered Offices in North &
North-West
available from 1400 sq.m each
floor up to 800 sq.m, flat, open space
Suitable for
International Companies
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Whole Building in Aqdasieh
6th floor, 12 units, Apts between 170
sq.m to 250 sq.m with 3 Bdrs., Spj,
parking, 2500 sq.m built up, 700
sq.m land
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Apt in Zafaranieh
220 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn, lobby,
Spj, diplomatic tower
\$2800
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Office in Jordan
110 sq.m to 240 sq.m, full of
foreign companies , could be flat,
parking lot with extra visitors
parking, lobby, security, renovated,
almost new
Price per each sq \$40
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Gheytharieh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., view of park,
parking, full furn, diplomatic
building **\$1200**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Office in Valiasr
from 250 sq.m up to 7000 sq.m
commercial office, ready for
renting to foreign companies,
lobby, parking lot, good access
to highway
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Luxury Apt in Jordan
70 sq.m, 1 Bdr., good access,
top floors, **\$1500**
Suitable for foreign Companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیر مبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.

PARSIAN Real Estate

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Elahieh Apts
(\$4000) 4bdrs, F.F
(\$3000) 3bdrs, F.F
with All facilities

Niavaran Apts
(\$2400) 2bdrs, F.F
(\$3200) 3bdrs, F.F

Farmanieh
3bdrs (\$2800) F.F
Velenjak (\$4000)
3bdrs, S/p, & F.F

Pasdaran
3bdrs (\$3000) F.F

Zafaranieh (\$8000)
1000sq.m, 5bdrs, S/p
S, J, green yard
pkg lots, & F.F

Vali-e-Asr office
200sq.m, 3bdrs, pkgs
(\$45 per sq.m)

**FIRST
CHOICE
REAL
ESTATE**



Mr. Ghazizadeh
Nobody does
it better

آژانس املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست
TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

Jordan:220 sq.m,3 bedrs,marble floor,f.furn.2600\$
Elahieh:300sq.m,4 bedrs,nice view,marble floor,large balcony,f.furn.3500\$
villa in Velenjak:2000 sq.m land,800 sq.m built up,5 bedrs,duplex,nice
garden,all renovated,semi furn.10000\$
Zafaranieh:400 sq.m,4 bedrs,all brand new,indoor s/p,nice view,f.furn.5000\$
Full time adviser needed

Mr. Arvin
09121434592
PALLADIUM MALL

Add: No833, Palladium mall
Tel & fax: **021-22656523**
E-Mail: **Topplan.palladium@gmail.com**



ملک شما را با شرایط ایده آل
جهت اجاره به خارجی نیازمندیم

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865



TEHRANTIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

www.tehrantimes.com

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com



+9821 430 51 450

Dowager’s Hump

It is one of the problems facing today by our elders. A condition often appears to have humped upper backs in our body. It affects both to men and women. This problem can be caused by various conditions and can be treated in several ways dependent on those factors.

■ What is Dowager’s Hump?

The term Dowager’s Hump originated from the Greek word “kyphosis” which means a hump, and dowager for its technical term meaning “dignified elderly woman”. A physical deformity resulting in a condition of over-curvature of the thoracic spine (upper back) of our body.

It commonly occurs specifically on the spinal column in the chest. It usually present in older females (especially post-menopausal period) than the male. This abnormality can bend more than 40-45 degrees off of the normal axis.

These kinds of Dowager’s hump are significantly affects both the old and the young. Almost three-fourths of the patients of this condition are not aware of it.

Generally, spinal fractures may be separated into three (3) categories based on the severity of the fracture. It needs to be managed in order to address the condition. It may normally need surgical treatment in some cases.

■ Symptoms

Kyphosis or also known as dowager’s hump often present in females. It has some common symptoms. The following signs and symptoms of kyphosis are as follows:

- Muscle fatigue
- Difficulty in breathing
- Restriction of lung movement and balance problems
- Changed in posture
- Chronic pain in the back and shoulders

signals

- Thoracic kyphosis (hunched back)
- Loss of appetite
- Difficulty in sleeping (Insomnia)
- Successive crush fractures
- Multiple vertebral compression fractures

- Bulging abdomen
- Falls
- Hip pain
- Stiffness in the back
- Loss of sensation
- Loss of bowel and bladder control

Factors that put a person at risk for a dowager’s hump can include activities that:

- Any movement that requires bending of the waist example toe touching
- High impact aerobics
- Jogging
- Bent over row when weightlifting
- Yoga (with few exceptions to some positions)
- Running
- Injuries or complications that relate to

■ Stay in motion

It’s the golden rule of joint health: The more you move, the less stiffness you’ll have. Whether you’re reading, working, or watching TV, change positions often. Take breaks from your desk or your chair and get active.

■ Safety first

Padding is your pal. So suit up when you do things like in-line skating or play contact sports. If your joints already ache, it might help to wear braces when you do activities like tennis or golf.

■ Lean in to your weight

Your size affects some of the strain on your hips, knees, and back. Even a little weight loss can help. Every pound you lose takes 4 pounds of pressure off the knees. Ask your doctor what’s the best way for you to get started.

■ Don’t stretch before exercise

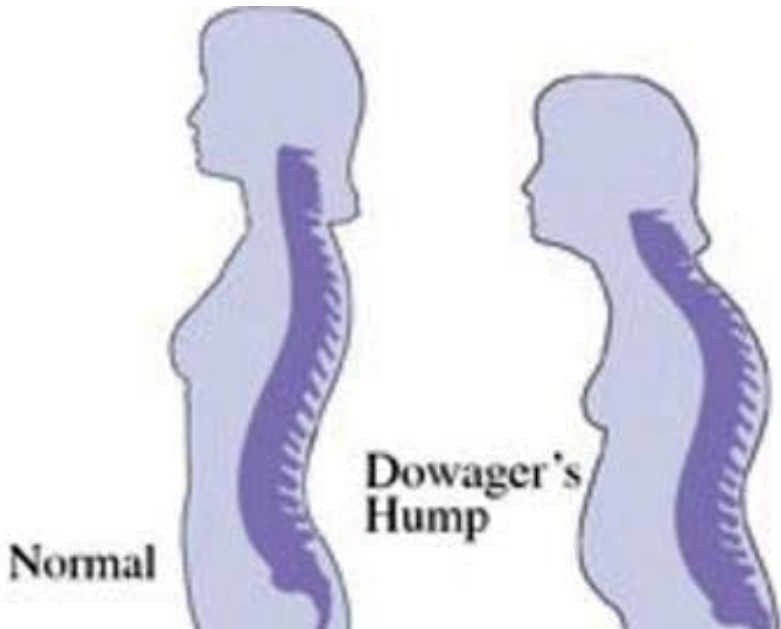
Flexibility helps you move better. Try to stretch daily or at least three times a week. But don’t do it when your muscles are cold. Do a light warm-up first, like walking for 10 minutes, to loosen up the joints, ligaments, and tendons around them.

■ Go low-impact

Which exercise is good? The best choices are activities that don’t pound your joints, like walking, bicycling, swimming, and strength training.

■ Flex some muscle

Get stronger to give your joints better support. Even a little more strength makes a difference. A physical therapist or certified trainer can show you what moves to do and how to do them. If you have joint problems, avoid quick, repetitive



Dowager’s Hump is a physical deformity resulting in a condition of over-curvature of the thoracic spine (upper back) of our body.

a dowager’s hump can include:

- Nerve damage or a spinal cord injury during operation
- Nerve damage or a spinal cord from the cement leaking
- Hip fracture
- Breathing impairments
- Inflammation of the soft tissue
- Allergic reaction to the solution

■ Causes

The dowager’s hump condition sometimes referred to as a question mark posture.

It is often a silent disease until a break or fracture occurs.

There are numerous common causes for a dowager’s hump including:

- Arthritis – The discs lose fluid and the spine collapses on itself can lead the development of a hump.
- Poor posture – The muscles of the chest become tight due to constant forward rounding.
- Congenital defects and other medical conditions
- Compression fractures – Excess pressure on the bones
- Genetic causes – Malformation of the genes of the parents
- Muscular Imbalance – The chest muscles become tight and weak and upper back muscles become overstretched.

- Wedge Fractures – The front of the vertebra collapses and becomes slightly misaligned making the back curve slightly.
- Result from Injury
- Health Condition – May caused hormonal imbalance may increase the risk of getting this condition.
- Marfan Syndrome – A specific congenital defect of the connective tissues that support the spine.
- Osteoporosis – Abnormal loss of

bony tissue resulting in fragile porous bones

■ Prevention

To avoid this condition, take these preventive measures. Here are some tips you need to consider. Let’s mention a few:

- Regular intake of vitamins C and D are helpful
- Engage in a specific kyphosis exercises
- Chest stretch
- Hamstrings
- Lateral row
- Flexibility exercises
- Behind the back
- Work on your balance and coordination – A work out which helps in preventing falls that may lead to such spine fractures.

- Develop good posture with body alignment exercises
- Sleeping practices
- Weight and strength training
- Eat well-balanced diet
- Patients should speak with their health care provider or physician for he / she knows your condition and would be able to see what remedy or treatment might be most effective for the severity of your condition.

■ Treatment

There are many things you can do in order to solve certain condition like dowager’s hump. The following treatment/ prevention is needed that may help to improve and to relieve the pain significantly. The following are as follows:

- Exercises – The first option in treating the dowager’s hump is through exercise for at least 2-3 sessions per week to minimize and prevent more spinal fractures.
- Orthosis (Brace) – It is typical

in the treatment of dowager’s hump in children and the major goal of this treatment is to restore the lumbar lordosis. The type of brace and time spent wearing it will vary.

- Physical therapy – A treatment focus on strengthening and supporting muscles in the back. It often combines with other treatment such as bracing. Schroth method, a specialized kind of physical treatment for scoliosis and related spinal deformities.

- Bed bugs treatment
- Laser therapy treatment
- Surgery – Another option in treating kyphosis is through surgery. Vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty are the two (2) types of surgeries that that can restore the height to the vertebra and eliminate the pain. The main goal of this procedures is to return the damaged vertebra as close as possible to its original height.

- Vertebroplasty – a non-surgical technique which uses a needle into the affected area.

- Kyphoplasty – the opposite technique of Vertebroplasty which inserts a balloon through a tube into the affected vertebra.

■ Exercises

The following exercises are recommended for dowager’s hump. There are numerous exercises including:

- Moderate stretching and other forms of yoga (few exceptions to some positions) applied to the affected area. Holds this position for about ten (10) to fifteen (15) seconds, and then repeat again the procedure.

This simple procedure strengthens the shoulder and also the back part of your body.

- Progressive weight lifting exercises including walking, etc. (few exceptions to some positions)

This low force kind of exercise places a smaller amount of pressure on your joints that greatly aids in the protection of your bones.

- Place your both arms and hands palm side and slowly raise it and lower them. Hold this position several times.

This form of exercise helps in diminishing the spinal fractures of the affected area of the patient.

- Exercises using a rope. Bind the rope into the ends with your hands, exhale deeply and elevate your legs vertically. Go on with this routine for a couple of seconds.

Helps in strengthening of the legs, which enable you to maintain better posture.

- Keep you back in a straight line and expand you both legs to the front. Covering around your feet. Pull your hands towards your waist and then exhale. Prolong doing this regular routine for about five (5) times per week.

An exercise that is good specifically at the back of our body.

(Source: [healthosphere.com](#))

Can a flabby body get ripped?

By Van Thompson

You might not be able to change your height or your complexion, but you have a lot of control over your body. It’s possible to go from flabby to toned with regular exercise, a healthy diet and lots of hard work. Genetic factors can play a role, and not all people can develop the definition of a body builder. However, everyone can increase their muscle mass and shed fat.

■ Eliminating flab

Most flab is caused by fat, so getting rid of excess fat is the first step toward a ripped body. Any exercise will burn some calories, and simply getting more active -- by sitting less, parking farther away from stores or playing with your dog -- can help you burn more calories, and therefore more fat, throughout the day. However, to fully blast fat you’ll need a regular cardiovascular exercise routine. Good cardiovascular exercise includes routines such as cycling, swimming and running. You’ll need to burn 3,500 calories for every pound you want to lose, and cutting excess calories from your diet can help you speed up your flab-burning routine.

■ Building definition

To create a ripped look, you’ll need to build muscle. While weightlifting and exercise routines can help you create definition, body-weight exercises such as squats, pullups and lunges can also help. If you’re new to strength-training, a routine such as yoga can help you slowly develop strength and gently stretch your muscles and improve flexibility.

How much exercise?

The amount of exercise you’ll need depends on how much weight you need to lose, how much muscle you want to gain and your current weight. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a minimum of two days of strength training and 75 minutes of intense cardio or 150 minutes of moderate cardio per week to maintain physical fitness and health. You’ll likely have to do even more than this for noticeable weight loss, and the Mayo Clinic points out that 300 minutes of cardio per week is a more realistic goal for weight loss.

■ Other factors

It’s not just your exercise routine that affects your ability to get ripped. Smaller people burn fewer calories than larger people, and muscle burns more calories than fat, so as you build muscle, you’ll lose weight more quickly. Because men are often larger and more muscular than women, they also tend to lose weight and build muscle more quickly. While a healthy diet can help you lose weight, depriving yourself of basic nutrients -- particularly protein -- can make it nearly impossible to gain muscle. Some health conditions can also affect body shape, so if you find you’re not losing weight or gaining muscle, talk with your doctor.

(Source: [livestrong.com](#))

Perfecting your walking technique

People are often surprised to learn that there’s more to walking than simply putting one foot in front of the other. In fact, a little technique goes a long way to making your walks more enjoyable and more effective. Technique is especially important if you are hoping to become fitter and lose weight, because it will enable you to walk faster and longer. When you’re standing tall, your muscles will move through a greater range of motion for a more powerful stride. Improving your walking posture will help you to look and feel more confident, too—and you’ll look slimmer before losing a single pound. It will also help alleviate aches and pains and allow you to take deep breaths for more energy.



■ For any type of walking

The following rules will help you maintain good form. **Stand tall.** Many people bring that hunched-over-the-computer posture to their walks. This position makes it harder for you to breathe and may contribute to backaches. Other people lean backward. Instead, extend your spine as if you were being lifted from the crown of your head. Place your thumbs on your lower ribs and your fingertips on your hips. As you stand up tall, notice how the distance in between increases. Try to maintain this elongation as you walk.

Eyes up. If you’re looking down at your feet, you’re putting unnecessary stress on your upper back and neck. Bring your gaze out about 10 to 20 feet in front of you. You’ll still be able to spy obstacles ahead and prevent upper-body tension.

–Shoulders back, down, and relaxed. Roll your shoulders up, back, and then down. This is where your shoulders should be as you walk—not pulled up toward your ears. Think about keeping your shoulders away from your ears to reduce upper-body tension and allow for a freer arm swing.

Swing from your shoulders. Let your arms swing freely from your shoulders, not your elbows. Swing your arms forward and back, like a pendulum. Don’t bring them across your body or let them go higher than your chest.

Maintain a neutral pelvis. Keep your abs tight, but don’t tuck your tailbone under or stick your belly out and overarch your back.

Step lightly. You should be rolling from heel to toe as you stride, not landing flat-footed with a thud. And don’t reach your leg far out in front of you. That increases impact on your joints and actually slows you down. You want a smooth, quiet stride—no bouncing or plodding along—to reduce your risk of injury.

(Source: [health.harvard.edu](#))

Tips to keep joints healthy



movements.

■ Work on your range

Are your joints too stiff and inflexible? You’ll want to get back as much as you can of your “range of motion.” That’s the normal amount joints can move in certain directions. Your doctor or physical therapist can recommend exercises to improve this.

■ Power up your core

Stronger abs and back muscles help your balance, so you’re less likely to fall or get injured. Add core (abdominal, back, and hip) strengthening exercises to your routine. Pilates and yoga are great workouts to try.

■ Know your limits

It’s normal to have some aching muscles after you exercise. But if you hurt for more

than 48 hours, you may have overstressed your joints. Don’t push so hard next time. Working through the pain may lead to an injury or damage.

■ Eat fish to reduce inflammation

If you have joint pain from rheumatoid arthritis, eat more fish. Fatty cold-water types like salmon and mackerel are good sources of omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3s may help keep joints healthy as well as lower inflammation, a cause of joint pain and tenderness in people with RA. Don’t like fish? Try fish oil capsules instead.

■ Keep your bones strong

Calcium and vitamin D can help you do that. Dairy products are the best sources of calcium, but other options are green, leafy vegetables like broccoli and kale. If

Stronger abs and back muscles help your balance, so you’re less likely to fall or get injured.

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 Alibaba dominates B2B in India.
Indian businesses need to remain competitive which means they will need suppliers who can provide the same goods cheaper and customers who may be willing to pay higher prices/ offer better terms etc. Alibaba's global reach gives them these things.
- 2 LG V30 to go on sale on September 15 in Korea, US gets it on the 28th.
The LG V30 is the second most highly anticipated phablet to be announced this fall (it's safe to say that the Note8 wins that title), and it's set for an August 31 unveiling at IFA in Berlin - 8 days after its Samsung archrival has gone official.
- 3 Samsung Galaxy Note8 receives FCC certification.
The Samsung Galaxy Note8 is to be unveiled on August 23 in New York City , and should hopefully help us finally put the whole Note7 behind us once and for all.
- 4 Nokia receives \$2B from Apple over patent settlement.
A major part played a cash infusion of \$2 billion by Apple over the patent license deal that the companies signed earlier in the quarter.
- 5 According to a new report out of South Korea today, Apple is investing KRW 3 trillion (about \$2.7 billion) in LG Display. The point of this is to ensure a stable supply of OLED panels for future iPhones, the ones coming in 2018 and beyond.
- 6 A federal court in Virginia just handed down a verdict that could affect a lawsuit against the president for blocking users on Twitter. US District Judge James Cacheris has ruled that Phyllis Randall, chairwoman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, violated the right to free speech of a constituent she blocked on Facebook. Brian Davison said he was blocked after accusing the Loudoun School Board of corruption in his reply to the chairwoman's post on her Facebook page asking local citizens for their thoughts and feedback.
- 7 iTunes hides clues that Apple is preparing to go 4K.
The 4K movies should go hand-in-hand with the next-gen Apple TV.
- 8 Congress looks into government agencies' deals with Kaspersky.
A congressional panel is worried that Kaspersky's products could be used against the US government.
- 9 WSJ: Sprint has proposed a merger with Charter.
But according to Bloomberg, Charter has no interest in that deal.
- 10 Fitbit is clearly readying its own smartwatch for the end of the year, but the wearable is said to have missed quite a few deadlines. The good news is as time goes by we're learning more about Fitbit's smartwatch and some of the information comes through official channels, probably in order to keep up the hype.

Apple removes all VPN apps from China App Store

In a move sure to put Apple's ongoing activities in China under a more intense international microscope, a number of foreign-made VPN software apps have been removed from China's app store, according to a report from The New York Times.



The report cites several VPN makers, including ExpressVPN and Star VPN, after the two companies posted public messages revealing that Apple sent them letters notifying them of their removal from the China app store.

"We received notification from Apple today, July 29, 2017, at roughly 04:00 GMT, that the ExpressVPN iOS app was removed from the China App Store," stated ExpressVPN on its website. "Our preliminary research indicates that all major VPN apps for iOS have been removed."

When contacted by The New York Times, the paper reports, "An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment about the removals."

But in a statement later provided to Mashable, an Apple spokesperson offered further clarification. "Earlier this year China's MIIT [Ministry of Industry and Information Technology] announced that all developers offering VPNs must obtain a license from the government," said the spokesperson. "We have been required to remove some VPN apps in China that do not meet the new regulations. These apps remain available in all other markets where they do business."

(Source: mashable)

These were the best hacks at Black Hat and Def Con this year

By Zack Whittaker

Black Hat Briefings and Def Con, the two annual security conferences you shouldn't miss, are drawing to a close.

Each year, security researchers and hackers bring their exploits and discoveries to share with the common aim of making the world more secure. But if you weren't in Las Vegas for the heat and hacking, we've got you covered.

From ZDNet, sister-site CNET, and around the web, here's the best of Black Hat and Def Con.

3G, 4G lte Networks just as prone to stingray phone tracking

ZDNet: A flaw in modern 3G and 4G LTE cell networks could be used to pave the way for a next-generation of stingray devices, otherwise known as cell site (or IMSI) simulators. These highly controversial surveillance devices are shrouded in secrecy, but are almost exclusively used by police and law enforcement, often without warrants, in order to carry out indiscriminate cellular surveillance.

Icloud security flaw put iphone, MAC Passwords at risk

ZDNet: A security researcher found a bug, later patched by Apple, which could've let an attacker or insider gain access to an entire account's iCloud Key-chain. The vulnerability was found by targeting a weak point in the end-to-end encryption, which let the researcher steal passwords and other secret data, like the Wi-Fi network names and visited websites and their passwords.

Car wash hank can attack vehicles and trap Passengers

Motherboard: Hackers have shown



how to remotely hijack an internet-connected car wash, which they say could be used to hurt someone -- the first cyber-attack turned physical attack of its kind. "An attacker can send an instantaneous command to close one or both doors to trap the vehicle inside, or open and close one door repeatedly to strike the vehicle a number of times as a driver tries to flee," wrote Motherboard.

Fruitfly, a near-nudetectable bank-door, can take over your MAC

CBS News: Fruitfly is the name of a stealthy but highly-invasive malware for Macs that went undetected for years. An attacker can remotely take complete control of an infected computer, including accessing user files, and the computer's webcam, screen, keyboard and mouse.

Hacker warns radioactivity sensors can be spoofed or disabled

Wired: A series of vulnerabilities in the software and hardware of radiation detection systems can be exploited to, in its worst case scenario, "confuse nuclear engineers, or prevent them from responding to an ongoing radioactive leak." A hacker could disable radiation monitors to allow dangerous nuclear materials to bypass checkpoints.

Security researchers hack ATM to make it spew cash

CNET: A security flaw in the embedded system of a Diebold Nixdorf cash dispenser let hackers raid the cash stored inside. A vulnerability near the ATM's speakers in the upper section provided an opening for potential hackers to loosen and expose a USB port. "We're pretty

sure we can just ask it to give us the money," said one of the hackers.

A flaw in cell networks lets hackers pretend to be you

CNET: A flaw in how phones switch from modern LTE cell networks to the older, fallback 2G network can let an attacker send text messages and make phone calls from a victim's phone number. The hack works because of the way your phone rushes to keep a connection running when it switches between network technologies, according to the security researchers who found the flaw.

How the FBI took down the notorious avalanche botnet

Dark Reading: A senior FBI agent described how the agency took down one of the largest, most damaging international botnets in living memory. Avalanche, the command and control network behind several ransomware and trojans, was a "network of servers used to spread malware campaigns" that facilitated so-called money mule laundering schemes. More than 800,000 domains associated with the complex network.

How secure - really - are U.S. electionsystems?

USA Today, Reuters: US officials say that no votes were affected in the recent US presidential election. Hackers in Las Vegas have been challenged to "prove it." The hackers have been given rare access to try to break into dozens of pieces of election equipment, including voting machines that are currently in use. The security researchers will spend the weekend trying to hack the machines and trying to alter the voting machines' results.

(Source: ZDNet)

Hacking the firmware, the next frontier



With the onslaught of embedded devices hitting the streets, we see such devices with the operating system, hardware interfaces, and user-facing applications baked into a single blob called firmware. Trick the firmware and you have access to the whole system. Here at Black Hat, there are a lot of people doing just that.

Lately, these entire systems are being compromised for use in all kinds of attacks, like botnets, redirection or amplification attacks, and rogue beachheads from which to pivot to new attacks.

But with the fire-and-forget approach to hardware from many vendors, especially IoT vendors, the patch cycle is unpredictable at best, and possibly non-existent.

That gives rise to rogue actors packaging firmware "upgrades" for your device that may have nasty code wrapped in them, but otherwise perform as you would expect, so you'd be upgrading your way to getting hacked.

There are tools to verify the firmware you download is legitimate, but often this is the realm of the professional IT person, not the millions of people who just rely on search results to pick their download site, and get more than they bargained for in the process.

No? Ask your friends how they would validate firmware for a router using a checksum provided by a vendor. If you're here at Black Hat, maybe, but the other 99% of the users would be in the dark.

But firmware is starting to run everything, as we relegate the myriad of daily duties like house security, alarms, security cameras and the like to these firmware-toting devices. So not only would we need to verify the legitimacy of firmware, but we'd also need to do it for each of the new gadgets we use. That just won't happen in a practical way.

And your friends probably won't, but if they do ask for advice, the best you can offer is to keep up with firmware updates in the first place, and help them figure out how to update their devices.

The next is to convince them to only download

firmware from the manufacturer's website. There are many fake download sites that bundle your download with junkware by optimizing search terms so they pop up high in the rankings above the manufacturer's website, bundling things like download management software along with the files you really need.

While your friends may never learn to code assembly or dig into the bits and bytes, they will need to start putting firmware security in the forefront as the new platforms that need to be maintained.

Meanwhile, here at Black Hat there are new tools released attempting to break firmware. As the tools become more widely available, and trained on new devices, they will become more effective.

Also, since many examples of firmware use a relatively stable operating system as the foundation, if any exploits are released against the underlying operating system itself, the whole firmware stack becomes unstable.

Luckily, there are hardware vendors who are busy baking in security checks to attest to the authenticity of any firmware to be loaded on the device, embedding a sort of "signature" for acceptable firmware releases that are authorized to run. It's a positive step, and one that will continue to increase in popularity as firmware blankets the globe on new tiny devices. Meanwhile, you need to have a firmware plan.

(Source: welivesecurity)

Google and Apple patch Wi-Fi vulnerability that could have affected 1 billion phones



At the recent Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas, Exodus Intelligence's Nitay Artenstein wanted to prove that some Wi-Fi chips produced by Broadcom could negatively affect 1 billion handsets, both iOS and Android flavored. The attack code sent out by Artenstein asks to make a connection with computing devices that are nearby. When these requests are received by devices running the BCM43xx model of Wi-Fi chips found inside certain smartphones, the firmware controlling the chip is revised by the attack.

The affected chip sends out malicious packets to other devices creating a domino effect. All together, roughly one billion handsets were

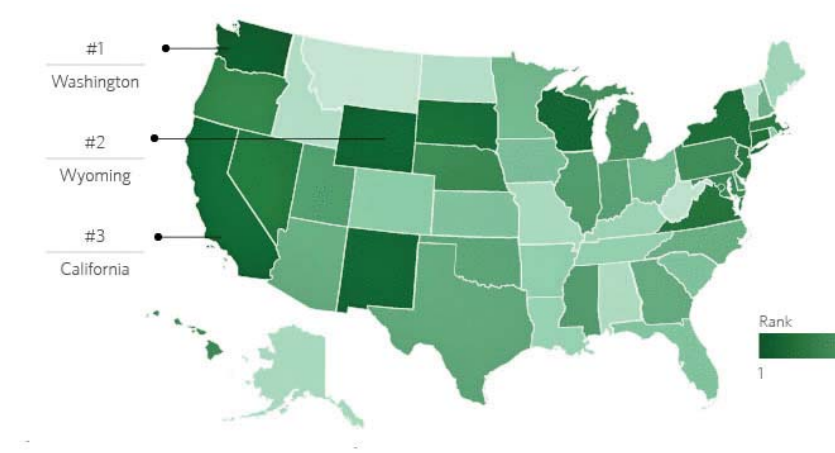
vulnerable to this attack until Google sent out an update that included a patch earlier this month. Apple sent out its patch last week.

Artenstein, who named the worm "Broadpwn," says that the attack worked on the Apple iPhone 5 and later, and the Nexus 5, Nexus 5X, Nexus 6, and Nexus 6P. Also affected were the Samsung Galaxy S3 through the current Galaxy S8.

With the flaw now closed by Apple and Google, this is one vulnerability that you need not worry about anymore. However, for every flaw that is plugged, another one seems to pop up. That means companies like Google and Apple can never let their guard down.

(Source: arstechnica)

Washington, not California, has the most highly skilled developers



Silicon Valley has long been the center of technology in the U.S., not just by largest share of venture capital but also highest growth in tech jobs. But as companies across all industries increasingly transform into tech companies, the demand for software developers all across the country has skyrocketed. In fact, a recent study found that 89% of software developers today work and live outside of Silicon Valley.

At HackerRank, we've built a community of millions of software developers who come to our platform to practice coding, improve their skills and help hiring managers assess technical skills. Over the past few years, we've seen our community grow organically, particularly in the U.S.

In an effort to understand the state of software developers in the U.S., we dug into our data of about 450,000 unique

U.S. developers to uncover which states are home to the best software engineers, and which pockets of the country have the highest rate of developer growth.

Our data revealed: Washington, not California, ranked number one in most skilled developers on HackerRank, and the smaller concentration of talented coders in Wyoming is right on its heels. Developers in Washington and Wyoming dominated in Algorithms, which is the domain with the largest share of challenges solved on the platform.

California came in third overall and placed in the top 10 across multiple domains. Hawaii, Colorado and Virginia have seen the highest percentage of developer growth on HackerRank over the past couple years, emerging as the next generation of tech hubs.

(Source: venturebeat)

NASA has been testing Martian soil for decades to no avail, but keeps trying

In the 1890s, American astronomer Percival Lowell astonished the world with his assertion that the planet Mars was inhabited by intelligent beings who had constructed a vast system of canals in a desperate effort to irrigate their dry, dying world.

No serious scientists believe in intelligent Martians or the canals today, but many experts think, on the basis of evidence from a variety of spacecraft that have orbited or flown past the red planet, that its environment just might be hospitable enough to support some rudimentary forms of life.

Last week, a miniature biological laboratory will lift off from Cape Canaveral on an ambitious \$1 billion venture that will directly test that possibility by sampling soil from the Martian surface. The unmanned spacecraft, named Viking, is due to go into orbit around Mars on June 18 of next year for two weeks' observation of the planet's desertlike surface and wispy atmosphere.

■ Bug-shaped capsule

Then on July 4, if all goes well, a small, bug-shaped capsule will descend to an area named Chryse, at the end of a 3,000 mile long canyon, about 20 degrees north of the Martian equator. Its descent will be slowed first by a parachute and then by retro-rockets aimed at an angle



to prevent damage to the landing site.

Ten days later, a 10 foot mechanical arm will reach out of the craft to scoop up soil samples, which it will deposit in

three separate containers.

Automatically, special equipment on board the spacecraft will conduct experiments designed to detect any signs of life.

No serious scientists believe in intelligent Martians or the canals today, but many experts think, on the basis of evidence from a variety of spacecraft that have orbited or flown past the red planet

One will monitor carbon dioxide, which would be produced if any microbes in the soil grow in a special nutrient solution; another will measure the presence, if any, of radioactive carbon; a third will seek evidence of photosynthesis—the absorption of sunlight by living things. “These three experiments will detect virtually any form of microbial life,” says space-agency scientist Gerald A. Soffen, “although there may be exceptions.”

■ Moon-like planet

What are the chances that either Viking A or its backup mission, Viking B, which is due to lift off next week, will find life on Mars? Quite low, according to the experts, although better than they seemed 10 years ago.

At that time, the fly-by of Mariner 4 had revealed Mars as a crater-pocked, moonlike planet.

Even if neither Viking detects life, the project's scientists will be consoled by the trove of other data the spacecraft are likely to acquire on the seismology, structure, meteorology and magnetism of the planet.

And the possibility of life on Mars would still not finally be ruled out, because the planet could of course harbor living things in other locations, or in forms that are totally unlike those we know on Earth.

(Source: Newsweek)

Finnish breakthrough: Making protein out of thin air and electricity

Researchers in Finland have successfully created a batch of single-cell protein by combining electricity and carbon dioxide, a revolutionary new development that can be used in food and animal feed applications.

A new protein production technique developed by Finnish scientists makes it possible to generate the essential nutrient anywhere renewable energy is available. The ground-breaking method could revolutionize the food and feed industries, significantly changing their effect on the planet's environment. The work is a joint project of the Lappeenranta University of Technology and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

■ Source of energy

“Some organisms have the ability to utilize hydrogen as a source of energy. Electricity from, for example, solar power, can enable this,” says VTT's principal researcher Juha-Pekka Pitkänen.

The team estimates that energy from the sun can be used up to ten times more efficiently than it is at present. Today's protein-producing processes rely primarily on photosynthesis in plants, for example, tons of soybeans growing in fields that go on and on for kilometers.

“There's nothing wrong with photosynthesis, but this method benefits from a more direct path to the sun's power,” Pitkänen says. “In practice, all the raw materials are available from the air. In the future, the technology

can be transported to, for instance, deserts and other areas facing famine. One possible alternative is a home reactor, a type of domestic appliance that the consumer can use to produce the needed protein.”

■ Traditional agriculture

Lappeenranta Technology University professor Jero Ahola says that compared to traditional agriculture, this new production method does not require a location with the right temperature, humidity or soil type. It would be completely automatised and closed, for example, in a shipping container facility built on the farm.

“It requires no pest-control substance, and it allows us to avoid any environmental impacts, such as runoffs into water systems or the formation of powerful greenhouse gases,” he says.

In order for the product to be competitive, however, the production process must become more efficient. Production of one gram of protein now takes around two weeks.

The “idea is to develop the concept into a mass product, with a price that drops as the technology becomes more common,” says Ahola.

Pitkänen says the goal is a container-sized facility than can produce five kilos of single-celled protein in a day. He estimates that it will be another 2 to 3 years before the new unit would be up and running.



“In principle, we could then scale up by just constructing more containers and increasing the size of the reactors. Maybe ten years is a realistic time-frame for reaching commercial capacity, in terms of the necessary legislation and process technology,” he says.

The study is part of the wide-ranging Neo-Carbon Energy research project in Finland that aims to develop a completely renewable and emission-free energy system.

(Source: YLE News)

Regret helps children to make better decisions, researchers find

Regret gets a bad press. It is a painful emotion experienced upon realizing that a different decision would have led to a better outcome. And it is something that we strive to avoid. In sharp contrast, our recent research on children's decision making emphasizes that the ability to experience regret is a developmental achievement associated with learning to make better choices. The results of this research suggest a different, more functional relationship between regret and decision making.

How does one go about studying regret in children, given that they may not have the term “regret” in their vocabularies? Developmental psychologists ask children to make simple choices between two options. Outcomes are engineered so that once they have received a small prize associated with their choice, they see that they could have obtained a bet-

ter prize had they chosen the other option.

Using this task, the ability to experience regret can be tested for by asking children to express how they feel about the outcome of their decision on a child-friendly rating scale before and then after they see what they could have won instead. Feeling worse in the light of information about what they would have won had they decided differently is interpreted as evidence of regret. This goes beyond the child merely feeling sad or frustrated that they haven't won the best prize.

■ Experiencing regret

Studies using this method show that regret doesn't emerge until about six years of age and most samples of six-year-olds will contain children who are able to experience regret and children who are not yet able to experience the



emotion. This means that we can examine the consequences of experiencing regret for decision making in a sample of these children. If regret is involved with learning how to make better decisions then we should see more adaptive decision making in children who experience regret than in those who do not. Adaptive decision making requires decisions that are sensible in the light of the child's

earlier experience.

To test this hypothesis, we ran a two-day procedure. On the first day, children completed the regret task described above. On the second day, we presented children with exactly the same decision that they made the day before. We found that those children who experienced regret over their decision the previous day were significantly more likely to make a different choice on day two.

Interestingly, the association between experiencing regret and switching choices doesn't seem to be a consequence of whether children can remember the contents of the boxes: we found that almost every child, when prompted, could tell us what was in the boxes at the start of the day two procedure and having remembered, most of them decided to switch the choice they made on day one.

(Source: The Conversation)

Over 75b Rials Paid to Families of Victims in Azadshahr Mine Accident

More than 75 billion rials worth of compensation were paid to the families of victims of Azadshahr mince accident, Public Relations Dept. of ASIA Insurance Company reported.

For his part, Hamid-Reza Sari Aslan Asia Insurance Company's Manager for Liability Insurance Affairs pointed to the details of payment and said: “The com-

pensation, worth 76.6 billion rials, was paid to the 36 families of victims of Azadshahr Mine at three stages.”

At the third stage of compensation, a number of 15 families of victims in Azadshahr's Zemeshtanyurt Mine incident attended a branch of the company in Gonbad-e Kavous and received 31.5 billion rials totally.

He put the compensation rate paid to each bereaved family at 2.1 billion rials.

In the end, Hamid-Reza Sari Aslan Asia Insurance Company's Manager for Liability Insurance Affairs said: “Earlier, Asia Insurance Company had paid the amount of 44.1 billion rials to the 21 families of the victims at two stages.”

Compliance of 80% of BMI's Financial Statements with IFRS Standards

Approx. 80 percent (80%) of financial statements of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) is in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) standards, Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Disclosure of 80 percent (80%) information based on IFRS standards, which its operation has been emphasized by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), has been

implemented in financial statements of the bank.

For his part, Chief Executive of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) Dr. Mohammad-Reza Hosseinzadeh said: “In this regard, Bank Melli Iran has witnessed a significant and eye-catching progress in adaptation of its financial statements with IFRS standards.”

Effective steps have been taken in order to materialize 100% objectives of

IFRS in the bank, he observed.

It is hoped that financial statements of the bank will adapt with IFRS standards in coming year, he said, adding: “Bank Melli Iran provided two series of pertinent financial statements in the past and current years.”

He, who is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, said: “Despite the problems and time constraints, the

bank provided the mentioned financial statements according to the available capacity, details of which were submitted to the CBI and shareholders before the General Assembly.”

It should be noted that financial statements of the bank are published every year after being approved by the Assembly, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank ended.

Platio integrates solar panels in pedestrian walkways and street furniture

Our roads, pedestrian pathways and street furniture can spend much of their days just sitting there doing nothing. Budapest startup Platio has spent the last couple of years developing a modular, self-contained paving panel that harvests the sun's energy to produce electricity.



The panels have recently been rolled out in front of a shopping mall, at a harbor and integrated into outdoor seating.

The Platio panel joins a number of projects looking at tapping into the renewable energy potential of open spaces, including Solar Roadways, Wattway by Colas and Pavegen.

Its PV-packed paving units are covered with high strength, anti-slip glass, are manufactured using recycled plastic waste and house all the necessary wiring and cables for quick install.

The startup's first permanent installation is made up of two pedestrian-friendly banks of paving panels at either side of the entrance to the Green Quarter shopping mall in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The paving units cover a total of 80 square meters and are rated for 11.7 kW peak output. The electricity produced helps towards reducing the shopping mall's need for grid power.

And most recently, a collaboration with Hello Wood has resulted in panels installed in curvy public benching at a pop-up park in the startup's home city of Budapest in Hungary.

(Source: New Atlas)

‘Omnipresent’ effects of human impact on England’s landscape revealed

‘Omnipresent’ signs demonstrating the effects of human impact on England's landscape have been revealed by researchers from the University of Leicester.

Concrete structures forming a new, human-made rock type; ash particles in the landscape; and plastic debris are just a few of the new materials irreversibly changing England's landscape and providing evidence of the effects of the Anthropocene, the research suggests.

The research, which is published in the journal Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, has been conducted by geologists Jan Zalasiewicz, Colin Waters, Mark Williams and Ian Wilkinson at the University of Leicester, working together with zoologist David Aldridge at Cambridge University, as part of a major review of the geological history of England organized by the Geologists' Association.

Professor Jan Zalasiewicz, from the University of Leicester's Department of Geology, said: “We are realizing that the Anthropocene is a phenomenon on a massive scale -- it is the transformation of our planet by human impact, in ways that have no precedent in the 4.54 billion years of Earth history. Our paper explores how these changes appear when seen locally, on a more modest scale, amid the familiar landscapes of England.”

Professor Mark Williams, from the University of Leicester's Department of Geology, said: “These changes taken together are now virtually omnipresent as the mark of the English Anthropocene. They are only a small part of the Anthropocene changes that have taken place globally. But, to see them on one's own doorstep brings home the sheer scale of these planetary changes -- and the realization that geological change does not recognize national boundaries.”

(Source: EurekAlert)

First ‘exomoon’ may have just been spotted by the Kepler Space Telescope

Astronomers around the world continue to spot new planets outside of our Solar System on a regular basis, and some of those worlds look like they just might be good candidates for life, but spotting moons that aren't in our immediate neighborhood is a far more difficult challenge. Now, researchers led by David Kipping of Columbia University think they might be the first to actually confirm the presence of a moon in a distant planetary system — an “exomoon” — and it's an extremely exciting discovery.

The team made its find using data from the Kepler Space Telescope, and used a familiar technique to spot the mythical moon. Observing the star called Kepler-1625, researchers have spotted regular dips in the brightness of the light it emits, proving the presence of a planet, and a similar strategy was used to detect the faint hint of a moon.

As the planet passed in front of the star, the brightness of the light from behind it repeatedly dipped even further, suggesting a moon orbiting the planet was blocking out additional light at regular intervals.

The data suggests that if the moon does exist — and the chances of the readings being erroneous are somewhere in the neighborhood of 1 in 16,000, so it seems incredibly likely — it's actually quite large. The planet it orbits is thought to be roughly the size of Jupiter, and the moon itself is as large as Neptune, making it nearly four times larger than Earth.

(Source: BGR)

Amirkabir University ranks 3rd at RoboCup 2017

SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Amirkabir University of Technology ranked third at the RoboCup 2017 competitions in Nagoya, Japan.

The event was held from July 27 to 30, Tasnim reported.

Iran's team, AUTMan, competed at Humanoid Teen-Size League with Germany for the third place.

China, India, Taiwan, Japan, and Germany were present in this section of the competition, the head of AUTMan Soroush Sadeqnejad told Tasnim.

AUTMan Humanoid team is one of the active research groups which are working on Human-Like robots at Humanoid Robotic Laboratory in Mechanical Engineering Department and Amirkabir Robotic Institute of Amirkabir University of Technology.



Tehran subway opens new mother-baby room

SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Tehran subway inaugurated the tenth mother-baby room on Saturday.

Mother-baby rooms are designated for breastfeeding and changing babies' diapers.

The new room was set up at the Vali-e Asr metro station, central Tehran. It is located at Eyyan-e Entezar entrance, an underground city plaza.

"We plan to set up mother-baby rooms in other crowded stations as well," said Mohammad Ahmadi-Bafandeh, the managing director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company.

Mothers can wash the babies and heat their foods, he said, adding that the rooms provide resting facilities for mothers and babies as well.

Imam Khomeini, Tehranpars, Theater-e Shahr, Payaneh-Jonoob, Sadeqieh, Abdolabad, Baharestan, Tajrish and Shahr-e Aftab are already equipped with mother-baby rooms.

Carrying hundreds of thousands of passengers per day, the Tehran metro has currently five operational lines to the total length of 200 kilometers and 107 stations.

LEARN ENGLISH Out of Control Spending

A: OK, so now the last point on our agenda. Jill, let's **go over** the profit and loss **statement**.

B: Great. Well, the main issue here, as you can see, is that our expenses are **through the roof**.

A: Let's see... These numbers are **off the charts**! What's going on here!

B: Well, um, sir, the company **expenditures** on entertainment and travel are **out of control**. Look at these bills for example. Just this month we've paid over twenty thousand dollars for hotel charges!

A: OK, thank you. I'll look into it.

B: The list **goes on and on**. Here, this is a bill for five thousand dollars for **spa treatments**!

A: Thank you; that will be all. I'll **take care of it**.

B: Look at this one sir, eight thousand dollars were spent in one night.

A: OK, I get it!! Thank you for your very thorough analysis!

■ Key vocabulary

go over: revise, check

statement: a record showing amounts of money paid, received, owed etc.

through the roof: suddenly very high

off the charts: very high

expenditures: amount of money spent on something

out of control: not in control

look into: investigate, try to get information about something

go on and on: continues

spa treatment: a non-medical procedure to help the health of the body, such as a massage

take care of: do something about

■ Supplementary vocabulary

revenue: amount of money paid to a business

cash flow: the movement of money into and out of a business

the bottom line: the net profit; the amount of money a business makes after expenses

finances: the amount of money you have and how well it is organized

income: the amount of money a person or a company makes

assets: things of value that are owned by a company

(Source: irlanguage.com)



Safer traffic rules, easier public transit for persons with disability

SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Safer traffic rules to ensure protection for people with disabilities and providing more accessible public transport for them are on agenda.

According to Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Ali Rabiei wheelchair users will be considered as pedestrian in the coming weeks.

"So far wheelchair was considered as a vehicle but within two or three weeks the cabinet will adopt a new law which recognize the wheelchair users as pedestrians," Rabiei explained.

As per the law in case of an accident the wheelchair users who used to be treated as an operator will be provided with insurance coverage for pedestrian accidents.

As the director for legal department of traffic police Mohammad Tarrahomi said, in addition to the aforesaid law police is planning on introducing new traffic rules and regulations which would protect persons with disabilities in cities. Tarrahommi didn't go into the details of



the proposed traffic rules.

Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has underlined the importance of developing disability-friendly

transportation saying that a budget line is allocated to the matter.

"Some 60 wheelchair-accessible SUVs will joint public transport in Tehran over

What makes a person boring?

By Brian Lee

I have interviewed over 100 people for a number of positions. It's always exciting to talk with driven candidates, but sometimes I will admit that I have to fight the urge to yawn during an interview.

The last thing that you want to do at an interview or at a social event is lull your audience to sleep.

■ **The five yawn-inducing people you don't want to be**

If you want to be a memorable person there are a few things that you should avoid at all costs. Based on my life experience and time as an interviewer, I am not likely to see out additional interactions with them.

■ 1. The individual who can't take social cues

Unless you have a disorder that affects your ability to interact with others socially, you should have a basic grasp of social cues. People who can't read a crowd are boring, and they don't even notice it. They see their audience yawning, shifting in their seats, and glancing at their watches, and it doesn't register that those people want to leave.

Even the most interesting people slip into a tedious tale once in a while, but if they're paying attention to others' reactions, they'll adjust what they are saying, shorten their story, or rekindle interest.

■ **2. Someone too worried about what other people think**

It's natural to want to project a positive image that showcases your confidence and competence, but someone who cares too much about how other people view him

or her is bound to be a people-pleaser. People-pleasers come off as boring because their fear of offending others prevents them from expressing themselves.

Having no strong opinion about anything is downright dull, and in a work setting, it can lead teams into disastrous situations. If you ask for an opinion and the answer you always get is, "I think that's great," "Whatever you think," or, "That seems okay," then you can't grow your idea. The people-pleaser's input is useless.

The most interesting people are willing to put forth their opinions—even if their ideas are different from the people around them. Being your authentic self requires vulnerability. You can easily spot the person who wants to avoid making waves because they'll always defer to your opinion or refuse to state their own.

■ **3. The person with the persistently negative attitude**

This may be my pet peeve. While it is acceptable to complain when something isn't going well, grumbling should not be a person's default setting. Constant complaining without working to find a solution is tiresome. Individuals who do this are more invested in expressing their feelings than they are in fixing the problem.

Whining about problems is easy, but taking action requires effort and change. People who aren't willing to work to improve their situation are scared to move forward. Complaining allows them to vent, but it keeps them well within their comfort zone. There's nothing less interesting than watching someone remain trapped by their own negativity.

■ 4. Everyone is boring other than himself

This is a subtle form of narcissism that I've seen a

number of times during interviews. A whopping 55% of hiring managers agree that seeming disinterested during an interview is grounds for rejection. People who can't take an interest in others often don't like new experiences, and they aren't willing to make connections.

You may have met this person before. This is the person at the party who doesn't mind holding court and telling their own stories, but their eyes glaze over whenever anyone else starts to talk. They get bored quickly if the conversation isn't aimed toward something they like.

Memorable people work to connect with others, and connecting involves being willing to speak and listen.

■ **5. Someone who put stability as their first priority**

Some people are happy to stay in their bubble and stagnate. They don't desire change, and they fear new things.

You'll catch these people avoid meeting new people or breaking from their routine. They tend to make excuses and say things like, "This is too much for me," "I don't think I will like it," and "I'm good at what I'm doing." Knowing when to say no is an important part of living a balanced life, but people who refuse every opportunity may be more interested in avoiding fear than leading an exciting existence.

People who won't try anything new have created a prison for themselves. Their unwillingness to be exposed to novel situations leads them to a comfortable but mediocre existence. They talk about a few topics all the time, or repeat a handful of stories because there simply isn't much going on with them.

(Source: Lifehack)

Iran: Telegram transfers its servers but CEO denies it

Iran's communications and information technology minister was quoted Sunday as saying the widely used Telegram messenger service has transferred some of its servers into the country, but the encrypted application's founder swiftly denied the claim.

The report from Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency quoted Mahmoud Vaezi as saying: "As a result of meetings with Telegram managers, some of its servers have been moved to the country."

But Telegram CEO Pavel Durov said that's not so, reiterating the company's previous position in a Twitter message to AP on Sunday.

"No Telegram servers will be moved to Iran," he wrote, while providing a link to an earlier post.

Vaezi said Telegram planned to use third-party caching nodes, called CDNs, in Iran in the near future.

But Durov said CDNs, which internet-based services like Telegram use to

make data available faster, "have nothing to do with relocating Telegram servers or complying with unreasonable local laws." Those nodes are not able to decipher encrypted messages sent by Telegram, he said.

Telegram allows users to send text messages, pictures and video over the internet. The service touts itself as being highly encrypted and allows users to set their messages to "self-destruct" after a certain period, making it a favorite among activists and others concerned

about their privacy.

Iran has informed foreign-based social networks that they must move their servers into the country if they want to continue operations in the country.

Iran blocks social media websites like Facebook and Twitter and censors other websites. While top officials have unfettered access to social media, Iran's youth and tech-savvy citizens use proxy servers or other workarounds to bypass the controls.

(Source: ABC News)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ E

Plasma gasification plant operational by mid-March

The first plasma gasification plant in Iran aiming to convert waste materials to gas will come on stream by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017).

Utilizing three plasma torches the plant will be converting one ton of waste materials (household, hospital, etc.) to gas on a daily basis, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Researchers at the Institute of Petroleum Industry has succeeded in developing the plasma gasification plant which will be of great help in waste disposal.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Rolling stone gathers no moss

■ **Explanation:** a person who does not settle down is not attached to anything or anyone
For examI worry about Tom. He's never lived in the same place for two years in a row, and he keeps changing jobs. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

PHRASAL VERB

Dig something out

■ **Meaning:** to find something you have not seen for a long time, or that is not easy to find
■ **For example:** I must remember to dig out that book for you.

ENGLISH IDIOM

Under one's belt

■ **Explanation:**if you have something under your belt ,you have acquired experience or have satisfactorily achieved something
■ **For example:**You've got to have some work experience under your belt before you can hope to get a permanent job.

بهره‌برداری از طرح تبدیل زباله‌های شهری به انرژی با پلاسما تا پایان سال

اولین طرح تبدیل زباله‌های شهری به انرژی با استفاده از فناوری پلاسما در ایران تا پایان سال به بهره‌برداری می‌رسد.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا این نیروگاه با استفاده از سه مشعل پلاسمایی با ظرفیت هزار کیلوگرم در روز قادر به تبدیل زباله های شهری، بیمارستانی، ... به گاز می باشد.

پروژه ی پلاسما برای امحاء، بی‌خطر سازی و تبدیل زباله به انرژی به همت پژوهشگران

پژوهشگاه صنعت نفت اجرا شده است

Saudi Arabia ‘politicizing’ Hajj pilgrimage: Qatari group

As a diplomatic crisis drags on in the Persian Gulf region, a Doha-appointed human rights commission says the House of Saud regime has been “politicizing” the annual hajj pilgrimage through imposing restrictions on Qatari pilgrims travelling to the kingdom.

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) said in a statement that under the Saudi regime restrictive measures, the Qataris were required to enter the kingdom only through two Qatari airports and via the capital, Doha.

The NHRC said it was “extremely concerned over [Riyadh] politicizing religious rituals and using [Hajj] to achieve political gains,” adding that “any Qatari citizen located outside Qatar must first return to Qatar then travel to Saudi Arabia” due to the new measures.

The committee also noted that it had filed a complaint with the United Nations special rapporteur on freedom of belief and religion over the Saudi regime restrictions, which were in “stark violation of international laws and agreements that guarantee the right to worship.”

A second complaint would be lodged with the United Nations Educational, Sci-



entific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) against the Riyadh regime for subjecting the Qatari nationals to harassment and threats, the NHRC said.

The complaints are meant to draw international attention to the House of Saud regime's violations of religious freedom and the right to worship, it pointed out.

The House of Saud regime organizes

the Hajj pilgrimage as the custodian of Islam's holiest sites in the cities of Mecca and Medina.

However, serious questions were raised about the competence of Saudi regime authorities to manage the Hajj rituals following two deadly incidents in September 2015.

More than 100 pilgrims lost their lives

after the collapse of a massive construction crane into Mecca's Grand Mosque.

About 4,700 people also died in a human crush, according to the figures provided by Iran.

The fresh Saudi regime restrictions on Qatari pilgrims are seen as part of attempts by the House of Saud regime, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to isolate Doha.

Last month, the Saudi regime-led quartet imposed a trade and diplomatic embargo on Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism.

They presented Qatar with a list of 13 wide-ranging demands and gave it an ultimatum to comply with them or face unspecified consequences.

The demands included shutting down the broadcaster Al Jazeera, removing Turkish troops from Qatar's soil, scaling back cooperation with Iran and ending ties with Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Doha, however, denounced the demands as unreasonable, refused to meet them, and said that they were meant to force the country to surrender its sovereignty.

(Source: agencies)

Pakistan parliament to elect new PM after Sharif ouster

Pakistan's parliament will meet on Tuesday to elect a new prime minister after the disqualification of three-time leader Nawaz Sharif.

Mamnoon Hussain, Pakistan's president, called the special parliamentary session late on Saturday after Sharif put forward Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as the interim leader and his brother, Shahbaz Sharif, as the long-term successor.

Shahbaz, currently the chief minister of Punjab province - Pakistan's most populous region and the Sharifs' political heartland - will have to resign from his post and run for a by-election to join parliament before he is elected as prime minister.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party has a strong majority in parliament and is expected to succeed in installing Abbasi for the interim 45-day period.

The opposition is expected to name a candidate to challenge Abbasi in the parliament vote, but the former petroleum minister looks set to win.

Sharif's party holds 188 of 342 seats in parliament's lower house and, with additional votes from its allies, is expected to obtain 214 votes. To win the top slot, Abbasi needs 172 votes.

The ruling PML-N party has vowed a smooth transfer of power after Sharif's removal.

The quick handover looks to ease political upheaval sparked by the Supreme Court's decision on Friday to

disqualify Sharif for concealing his assets.

Sharif has lashed out against the court's decision and his opponents who used the Supreme Court to topple him.

But he has vowed his party would continue to focus on economic development, touting a faster-growing economy as proof of his success.

“The wheel of development is moving and may God keep it rolling, and may it never stop,” he told members of PML-N on Saturday night.

Opposition leader Imran Khan, who pushed for Sharif's investigation, called Shahbaz's selection “a form of monarchy”.

“They are family parties,” he said. “They are basically - families run the parties ... In monarchy, it's hereditary, it's through blood. We are still stuck into it.”

■ Panama papers

The probe against Sharif began after his children were named in the so-called Panama Papers leak for owning off-shore accounts and properties.

Sharif's party has resolved to file a review petition in the Supreme Court to reverse the judges' decision.

The court also ordered criminal investigations for him and his family.

The three-term prime minister has a history of rocky relations with Pakistan's powerful military and has been removed from office three times.



Al Jazeera's Kamal Hyder, reporting from Islamabad, said: “What the people don't want is selective accountability.”

“Most of the reaction coming out of the country has been positive. The Pakistani people want all the politicians, bureaucrats, judges, generals and everybody across the board to be accountable, so there has been no violent reaction on the streets.”

No civilian government has ever completed its term in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been ruled by military generals for more than half of its 70-year history.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Trump threatens to end insurance payments if no healthcare bill

The United States President Donald Trump threatened to end government payments to health insurers if Congress does not pass a new healthcare bill and goaded them to not abandon their seven-year quest to replace the Obamacare law.

In a Twitter message on Saturday, Trump said “if a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!”

The tweet came a day after Senate Republicans failed to muster enough votes to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's signature healthcare bill commonly known as Obamacare.

The first part of Trump's tweet appeared to be referring to the approximately \$8 billion in cost-sharing reduction subsidies the federal government pays to insurers to lower the price of health coverage for low-income Americans.

The second part appeared to be a threat to end the employer contribution for Congress members and their staffs, who were moved from the normal federal employee healthcare benefits program onto the Obamacare insurance exchanges as part of the 2010 healthcare law.

Trump has previously threatened to suspend the payments to insurers, which are determined by the Department of Health and Human Services. In April, he threatened to end the payments if Democrats refused to negotiate over the healthcare bill.

Responding to Saturday's tweet, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said that if the president carried out that threat, “every expert agrees that (insurance) premiums will go up and health care will be more expensive for millions of Americans.”

“The president ought to stop playing politics with people's lives and health care, start leading and finally begin acting presidential,” Schumer said in a statement.

Trump later urged Senate Republicans to try again on a healthcare vote. The Senate is in session for another week before it is scheduled to begin an August recess.

“Unless the Republican Senators are total quitters, Repeal & Replace is not dead! Demand another vote before voting on any other bill!” Trump said in a subsequent tweet.

Many insurers have been waiting for an answer from Trump or lawmakers on whether they will continue to fund the

national government subsidies. Without assurances, many plan to raise rates an additional 20 percent by an Aug. 16 deadline for premium prices.

With Republican efforts to dismantle Obamacare in disarray, hundreds of U.S. counties are at risk of losing access to private health coverage in 2018 as insurers consider pulling out of those markets.

In response, Trump on Friday again suggested his administration would let the Obamacare program “implode.” He has weakened enforcement of the law's requirement for individuals to buy insurance, threatened to cut off funding and sought to change plan benefits through regulations.

Meanwhile, some congressional Republicans were still trying to find a way forward on healthcare.

Senator Lindsey Graham said in a statement issued late on Friday that he and two other Republican senators, Dean Heller and Bill Cassidy, had met with Trump after the defeat to discuss Graham's proposal to take tax money raised by Obamacare and send it back to the states in the form of healthcare block grants.

Graham said the move would end Democrats' drive for a national sin-

gle-payer healthcare system by putting states in charge.

“President Trump was optimistic about the Graham-Cassidy-Heller proposal,” Graham added. “I will continue to work with President Trump and his team to move the idea forward.”

However, a majority of Americans are ready to move on from healthcare at this point. According to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Saturday, 64 percent of 1,136 people surveyed on Friday and Saturday said they wanted to keep Obamacare, either “entirely as is” or after fixing “problem areas.”

When asked what they think Congress should do next, most picked other priorities such as tax reform, foreign relations and infrastructure. Only 29 percent said they wanted Republicans in Congress to “continue working on a new healthcare bill.”

Asked what they think Congress should do next, most respondents picked other priorities such as tax reform, foreign relations and infrastructure. Only 29 percent said they wanted Republicans in Congress to “continue working on a new healthcare bill.”

(Source: Reuters)

King Salman may abdicate throne in favor of son: ex-CIA analyst

1→

■ Did the reshuffle have anything to do with Donald Trump's trip to Riyadh in May?

A: The unqualified support that Trump expressed for Saudi leadership during his visit may have made Salman somewhat more comfortable in doing something as audacious as this reshuffle. But he was going to do it at some point anyway.

■ Can the promotion of MbS affect Saudi foreign policy?

A: Because MbS already appeared to have been controlling

Saudi policy more than

his aged father was, this

reshuffle will not neces-

sarily make any imme-

diately difference in Saudi

foreign policy. One can

expect that the harder

line aspects of current

Saudi policy, such as to-

ward Yemen and toward

Qatar, will continue and that other as-

pects of Saudi regional policy will be similarly hard line.

MbS already appeared to have been controlling Saudi policy more than his aged father.

The day Nixon began his comeback

8→

■ Immediate negotiations

And so they attempted to coax the combatants toward the negotiating table. In April 1965, shortly after the commencement of the Rolling Thunder bombing campaign, a group of 17 nonaligned states released a cautiously worded appeal, calling for immediate negotiations and an immediate halt to the fighting. India even suggested deploying an Afro-Asian peacekeeping force between the two Vietnams, in advance of negotiations.

To Johnson, these calls represented both a challenge and an opportunity. He was eager to put his Communist foes on the defensive diplomatically, to depict them as aggressive and intransigent. Doing so entailed taking nonaligned appeals and offers to mediate the conflict seriously, even if this meant halting the bombing of North Vietnam. Johnson declared a weeklong bombing pause in the spring of 1965. This was insufficient — either to advance negotiations, or to placate his critics.

Months later, at the end of 1965, Johnson announced a second bombing pause, linking it to his “peace offensive.” He dispatched special envoys around the world, to nonaligned and Communist capitals, seeking a diplomatic opening that might enable direct negotiations with North Vietnam. Non-aligned states responded promptly, offering to convey messages to Hanoi — or perhaps to act in a mediating capacity. Algeria, which enjoyed deep ties to the ruling party in Vietnam, offered to help. Yugoslavia's Tito — who knew far more about the schisms within the Hanoi government than Johnson did — advised playing on those divisions. Nonaligned states could not influence the battlefield, but their own diplomatic networks and revolutionary experiences gave them perspective sorely absent in Washington.

The halt could not last. Unimpressed by the results, unpersuaded by nonaligned appeals for more time, Johnson announced the resumption of bombing on Jan. 31, 1966. Would-be mediators lost no time proclaiming their outrage, suspecting that Johnson had cynically used them. In the following months, relations between the United States and the nonaligned world worsened dramatically.

■ Regional conflicts

To be sure, other factors were in play. Regional conflicts, such as deepening Arab-Israeli tensions and the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, had their own fallout. Yet Vietnam became a universal source of acrimony. An embattled Johnson lashed out when nonaligned governments criticized his war, suspending or reducing foreign assistance to states that had offended him.

If he thought these acts of retaliation would end the criticism, he was sorely mistaken. Recipient governments tended to value their own domestic stability and standing within the nonaligned group over their aid relationships. In a worsening spiral, punitive aid policies only intensified the growing sense of isolation felt by Americans. The mutual discord had reached unprecedented heights by the time Nixon stepped up to the lakeshore podium.

Nixon offered a fundamentally reassuring prescription to his audience, one that would resonate long after the defeat of South Vietnam and the sudden end to his own stormy presidency. Black and white were the only colors; there was no longer room for the gray hues of the nonaligned states. He spoke strictly of “friends” and “enemies.” He lauded stalwart allies like Iran, Thailand and Taiwan. He spoke of strengthening regional allies as anti-Communist bulwarks.

This entailed less concern for how they were governed — he had told the Bohemian Club that American-style democracy was “not necessarily the best form of government” for peoples in Asia, Africa or Latin America. Yet he bet heavily on anti-Communist autocrats like the shah of Iran or Pakistan's Yahya Khan, equating ruthlessness with reliability.

The Bohemian Club speech became a blueprint for how Nixon would govern. The rhetoric and policies of the Nixon years bifurcated the world into friendly and hostile camps, as did the growing identification of African and Asian peoples with North Vietnam and its southern allies.

Emerging from the bitterness of the Vietnam years was a deep and sustained mutual antipathy between the United States and the nonaligned world, which continued long after troops departed South Vietnam. Previous Cold War presidents had paid what Thomas Jefferson described as a “decent respect to the opinions of mankind.” Nixon's manichean worldview framed the incessant criticism of the period as a justification for a wholesale rejection of global opinion and a defiant unilateralism that endures today — reminding us of the myriad, unforeseen ways by which war alters our relationships with the world around us.

(Source: The New York Times)

Chinese army must be further strengthened: President Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for a further modernization and strengthening of China's army, as the country marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China on Sunday held a massive parade, involving 12,000 service personnel and about 700 aircraft and pieces of ground equipment, at the expansive Zhurihe training base in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous region.

President Xi, who presided over the military procession, stressed the need to build a “world-class” army capable of “defeating all invading enemies.”

“The world is not all at peace, and peace must be safeguarded,” said Xi, wearing a camouflage military suit, during a speech.

“Today, we are closer than ever before to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and — more than any other time in history — we need to build



a strong people's military,” he said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for a further modernization and strengthening of China's army, as the

country marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China on Sunday held a massive parade, involving 12,000 service personnel and about 700 aircraft and pieces of ground equipment, at the expansive Zhurihe training base in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous region.

President Xi, who presided over the military procession, stressed the need to build a “world-class” army capable of “defeating all invading enemies.”

“The world is not all at peace, and peace must be safeguarded,” said Xi, wearing a camouflage military suit, during a speech.

“Today, we are closer than ever before to the goal of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and — more than any other time in history — we need to build a strong people's military,” he said.

(Source: Xinhua)

Dressel makes history with three world golds in one night

Caeleb Dressel of the United States became the first swimmer to win three gold medals in a single evening at the world championships after producing a trio of storming performances on Saturday.

Dressel's sprint heroics were compiled in just under two hours, interspersed by Sarah Sjöström's world record in the women's 50 metres freestyle on another stunning night's racing at the Duna Arena.

With the men's 4x100m medley to come, he needs one more title to draw level with Michael Phelps's record of seven golds at the 2007 championships.

"It was physically challenging, mentally straining with lots of emotional energy," Dressel said of his night's work. "You have to enjoy the moment and refocus very quickly."

Dressel began his historic evening in the men's 50m freestyle, posting a world textile best time of 21.15 seconds. Brazil's Bruno Fratus took silver, 0.12 seconds back, with Ben Proud of Britain snatching bronze.

"I don't consider myself a talented guy, but I'm sure a hard worker," said Fratus.

The 20-year-old Dressel then had 33 minutes to ready himself for the men's 100m butterfly.

He never trailed and delivered two lengths of sizzling pace in 49.86 seconds. Edging ever closer to Phelps's 2009 world record, he finished 0.04 seconds shy of the eight-year-old mark.

"I honestly didn't expect to be that close," Dressel told reporters.

Dressel's speed, coupled with the sheer noise inside the arena, clearly lifted Kristof Milak of Hungary who posted a world junior record time for silver.

Milak touched 0.76 seconds behind Dressel, while Singapore's Olympic champion Joseph Schooling shared bronze with James Guy of Britain.

(Source: Reuters)

Ronaldo tax trial today

Cristiano Ronaldo has returned to Madrid, where his trial for alleged tax fraud will begin on Monday.

Ronaldo stands accused of evading €14.7m in tax on his image rights between 2011 and 2015, and the Real Madrid superstar has been summoned to a court in the capital municipality of Pozuelo de Alarcón at 11:30 CET.

Mundo Deportivo reports the 32-year-old will be represented by lawyers from Baker & McKenzie.

Furthermore, the hearing will be behind closed doors, despite the Superior Court of Justice in Spain receiving over 150 applications for coverage from almost 50 media outlets in 16 countries.

Ronaldo's legal troubles were understood to have prompted his 'irreversible decision' to leave Los Blancos.

However, he remains a Madrid player and the trial is not expected to hinder his return to training on August 5, three days before facing former club Manchester United in the European Super Cup.

(Source: Football Espana)

Emery lauds PSG after Trophée des Champions triumph

Paris Saint-Germain head coach Unai Emery praised the composure of his team after the French giants came from behind to beat Monaco 2-1 in the Trophée des Champions.

PSG trailed Ligue 1 titleholders Monaco 1-0 at half-time but came storming back to claim a fifth successive Trophée des Champions thanks to Dani Alves and Adrien Rabiot on Saturday.

Speaking post-match, Emery said: "We saw two good teams - very different from each other but both with a lot of talent out on the pitch.

"We controlled the match and we were good in the attacking phases even though they were dangerous on the counter. But we created a lot of dangerous situations.

"We wanted to continue playing our game and the team showed they know how to remain calm. That's very important."

PSG star Marco Verratti added: "I think that we had a rough start to the match. We were caught on the counter but after that, we kept on playing our game.

"Dani Alves' goal gave us a lot of confidence, and that allowed us to take the upper hand. We created a lot of chances and we deserved to win."

(Source: Sky Sports)

LA Galaxy president: Zlatan prefers to stay in Europe

LA Galaxy president Chris Klein hopes to sign Zlatan Ibrahimovic one day, but said that the striker would prefer to stay in Europe this season.

The Galaxy signed Jonathan dos Santos this week. Dos Santos becomes the club's third designated player, meaning they cannot break the wage barrier to sign Ibrahimovic while Dos Santos, his brother Giovanni, and Roman Alessandrini remain with the Galaxy.

However, Klein did not rule out a move for the 35-year-old Swede later in his career:

"We have an incredible relationship with Zlatan and his agent. He loves our club, and he loves L.A.

"We have an interest in him. I think, for now, he wants to stay in Europe.

"Our doors are open for a player like that. We have rights to him in our league. We'll see where that goes."

There have been rumours that Ibrahimovic will sign on for another season at Manchester United when he fully recovers from his knee surgery, though United have bought Romelu Lukaku from Everton for £70m to lead the line for them.

(Source: Eurosport)

Was 2012 in fact the dirtiest Olympics ever?

They promised to be the cleanest Olympic Games — but are, in fact, contenders to be the dirtiest. It was hailed the greatest track and field programme in history — yet an investigation by The Mail on Sunday can now reveal that almost one in seven of the finalists had been sanctioned for doping offences.

And while capacity crowds at London roared on track and field stars at the 2012 Olympics, few of those in the £430million stadium, which their taxes had paid for, would have imagined that more than one third of those competing in finals had some kind of connection to doping.

And yet, as the stars descend on London once again for this week's World Athletics Championships, which was a promised legacy from those tainted Games, the full truth of the London 2012 track and field programme is only now emerging.

The Mail on Sunday has analysed the London 2012 athletics results over the past month in the light of the Russian drugs scandal and the ongoing revelations of doping around the world, and the shocking results, which have been hailed as ground-breaking by senior Olympic officials, athletes and coaches, show:

Out of 656 track and field finalists at the London 2012 Olympics, 87 finalists or 13 per cent had previously committed a doping violation or have since done so; that's almost one in seven.

A further 138 finalists or 21 per cent fall into a category which suggests they have an association with doping, in that their coach, agent or doctor is associated with doping or has been investigated; or they have failed or missed a drug test but evaded a ban; or leaks from the Fancy Bears hacking website have revealed suspicions around their blood profiles.

That means more than one third of the stars of the London 2012 athletics programme — 34 per cent — were either dopers or have support staff or profiles which suggest some kind of connection to doping.

The worst country was unsurprisingly Russia, whose systematic doping has since been exposed.

Of their 53 finalists, 29 have committed doping violations, with gold medalists Sergey Kirdyapkin (50km walk), Tatyana Lysenko (hammer) Mariya Savinova (800m) and Yuliya Zaripova (3,000m steeplechase) all since stripped of their medals after re-testing of their samples.

Zidane not bothered by Madrid's loss to Barca

Real Madrid head coach Zinedine Zidane said he is not worried about the International Champions Cup loss to Barcelona as he looks ahead to the UEFA Super Cup against Manchester United.

Madrid were beaten 3-2 by bitter Spanish rivals Barca in their pre-season Clásico clash in Miami on Saturday.

Gerard Piqué's 50th-minute volley settled the ICC contest as Barcelona won the first Clásico in 2017-18 and left Madrid winless after three matches at the tournament.

However, Zidane was not bothered post-match, with the August 8 showdown against United in Skopje at the top of his agenda.

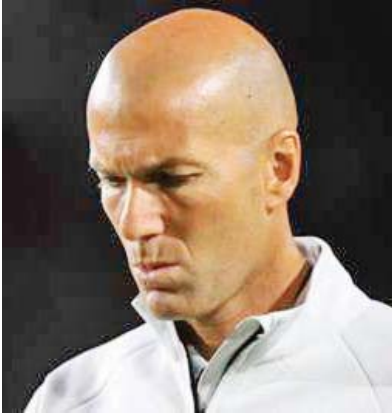
"This is pre-season and I'm sure that the results we've achieved weren't what we were expecting, but this doesn't alter anything," said Zidane, whose Madrid face the MLS All-Stars in Chicago on Wednesday before returning to Europe.

"The important thing is to be ready for 8 August. I saw some good things out there, but also some things I didn't like. We've got to be patient, work hard and be ready for the UEFA Super Cup.

"I'm not bothered by the defeat. It always hurts, we don't like to lose but that's not the most important thing. We need to improve and change a few things."

It was an absorbing encounter at Hard Rock Stadium as Barca stormed out of the blocks, taking a 2-0 lead inside seven minutes thanks to Lionel Messi and Ivan Rakitić.

Madrid recovered before half-time,



with Mateo Kovacic and Marco Asensio ensuring the scores were level at the interval.

But Barca retook the lead via defender Piqué five minutes into the second half to clinch the ICC trophy.

"We made a very poor start," Zidane said. "They went 2-0 up within the first six or seven minutes and that was all down to a lack of concentration, we can't go thinking that it was down to anything else. We then started to gain a foothold and played our game, we had some good spells but overall you couldn't say that this was a good performance from us.

"We didn't look to hide. We came out looking to perform well and do a good job. We face Barcelona again in a few days but this was a game of contrasts: we started poorly, we then got into the game and then we gave the ball away too easily on a number of occasions, which isn't like us."

(Source: Soccerway)

Dani Alves tells Neymar to 'be brave'

Paris Saint-Germain full-back Dani Alves has urged his fellow Brazilian Neymar to "be brave" when it comes to considering a potential world-record transfer to the Ligue 1 giants.

Barcelona striker Neymar has been linked with a €222 million move to PSG, a deal which would see him become the most expensive player in the world, but neither club has spoken on the matter.

Former Barca man Alves, who moved to Paris from Juventus earlier this month, scored in PSG's Trophée des Champions victory over Monaco on Saturday and afterwards he discussed Neymar's situation.

Quoted in Marca, he said: "It's an important decision for him and it's the kind of decision men have to make. He's one of my best friends and I'll always want him by my side, but I can not interfere.

"I helped him come to Barcelona, I did not make the decision for him, but I told him what Barcelona was like and he decided to move there. Decisions are for the brave and I am the bravest of all.

"I just want my friend to be happy wherever he is, although obviously if he were here that would be much better.

"It's a decision you have to make carefully but you have to be selfish. If I could advise one thing it would be: be brave, the world belongs to the brave."

Neymar, 25, was heavily involved in Barca's 3-2 friendly victory over La Liga arch-rivals Real Madrid in Miami on Saturday but speculation over his future has continued to intensify in recent days.

He was pictured storming out of training following an angry confronta-



tion with new team-mate Nelson Semedo while another Brazilian playing for PSG, Thiago Silva, said details of a switch might emerge "soon".

Barca defender Gerard Piqué, who last week posted a picture of himself with Neymar on Instagram with the caption "se queda", meaning "he stays" has admitted he is unsure whether the forward will remain at Nou Camp heading into the 2017-18 season, claiming his online post was a "gut thing".

Following the Miami friendly at the Hard Rock Stadium new Barca boss Ernesto Valverde expressed his desire to keep Neymar on board as the Catalans look to reclaim their Spanish title from Real.

"I try to talk about what is happening right now," he said in quotes carried by Marca. "Neymar is here with us, we count on him and we think that he should help us out this year."

(Source: PA)

Two die in South Africa football stadium crush

Two people were killed in a crush of football fans on Saturday at the South African stadium that hosted the 2010 World Cup final, police and officials said.

The incident occurred at a pre-season local derby between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates, the country's most popular teams, both from Soweto.

"I can confirm the death of two people," police spokeswoman Lorraine van Emmerik, told AFP news agency.

She said several other people had also been injured when "a rolling mass of people were trying to get into the stadium" south of Johannesburg.

Police have launched an investigation into the fatal incident. In a statement cited by an online football website KickOff, the match sponsors Carling Black Label also confirmed "two fatalities caused by blunt force trauma".

They said one fan was critically injured and 16 other spectators suffered minor injuries.

The brewer said it was "saddened by the fatalities" from the crush caused by "a number of people who attempted to push through the stadium gates".

Match tickets were sold out two weeks before the game. Local media reports suggested fake tickets had gone



on sale, while some analysts said fans have a tendency to enter stadiums late.

Public and private broadcasters cited officials saying the crush happened outside a gate at the FNB stadium which hosted the final of the World Cup seven years ago which was won by Spain.

■ 'Deeply saddened'

Hlomla Hlangani, an intern video journalist with public

broadcaster SABC who was at the stadium, said the trouble occurred shortly after the match had started.

He said stadium security had to call in for police reinforcements after they were overpowered by a crowd of fans trying to rush through the gates.

Michael Sun, a Johannesburg municipal councilor responsible for public safety, spoke of a "stampede".

"Situation report from FNB Soweto Derby? Stampede reported with multiple injuries, 2 confirmed fatal," Sun wrote on Twitter.

The match carried on despite the tragedy at the stadium, which has an official capacity of 94,000, and was won 1-0 by the Kaizer Chiefs.

South African Football Association (SAFA) said it was "deeply saddened by the tragedy".

"A football match is supposed to be a place of entertainment. What happened at FNB Stadium is very unfortunate," SAFA president Danny Jordaan, said in a statement.

The two worst football tragedies in South Africa involved matches between the same clubs - in 2001 when 43 people were killed, and in 1991, when the death toll was 42.

(Source: Aljazeera)

Giti Pasand runners-up at AFC Futsal Club Championship

A magical hat-trick by Suphawut Thueanklang helped Bluewave Chonburi clinch the coveted AFC Futsal Club Championship Vietnam 2017 title after narrowly defeating Giti Pasand 3-2 in an enthralling final on Sunday.

It was no ordinary Sunday in Ho Chi Minh. At stake was the opportunity to solidify continental supremacy as the Championship prepared to crown new two-time champions.

With so much on the line, it was the Thais who threw down the gauntlet, carving out the first chance when Jirawat Sornwichian lofted a sublime cross for Suphawut Thueanklang who took the ball down with his left, before unleashing with his right.

In a scintillating contest between two equally matched teams, Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh then came close to snatching the opener, watching his right-foot shot go centimetres wide after Ahmad Esmaeilpour threaded a lovely weighted pass to slice open the Thai defence.

Giti Pasand threatened again two minutes later, Esmaeilpour recovering well from almost losing possession, to drive through the middle before dispatching a low drive matched only by the agility of custodian Katawut Hankampa.

Suphawut, who spent most of the competition in the shadows of teammate Jirawat, sent a timely reminder of his ability to rise onto big stage, testing Sepehr Mohammadi after connecting masterfully to Kritsada Wongkaeo's kick-in in the eighth minute.

Eager to clinch his place in the record books, Suphawut then gave Chonburi the lead - capitalising from a woeful mix up by the Iranian defence in the penalty area to pounce home from close range in the 13th minute.

Seconds later, Chonburi extended their lead. Suphawut, the man of the hour



once again through a unobstructed free-kick, after Giti Pasand were penalised for their sixth accumulated infringement.

Giti Pasand then staked their claim to a comeback, roaring to grab their opener after Ahmad snatched the ball from Hankampa who made a mess of a seemingly harmless back-pass in the first eight seconds of the second-half.

Hassanzadeh then sent the Iranian bench into celebrations a minute later - the diminutive forward dispossessing

Jirawat of the ball before putting his full weight behind his right-foot to complete the Iranians remarkable comeback.

But Giti Pasand's celebration lasted mere seconds, after Apiwat Chaemcharoen did well to draw the Iranian defence with his individual trickery before teeing-off for Suphawut to unleash a right-footed cracker for his hat-trick.

Hassanzadeh then came close to the equaliser, driving the ball from his own penalty area to the opposition's, power-

ing past the entire Chonburi defence before letting fly a low drive, but Hankampa came to his rescue.

With three minutes on the clock, the Iranian resorted to the power play, setting the stage for a nail-biting finale. Between pilling on the offensive to capitalising on the counter, the match saw a series of near misses, but somehow managed remain in favour of the Thai for a famous second title.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran fail to advance to Asian Volleyball Championship semis

S P O R T S Iran lost to host Indonesia 3-2 (25-18, 25-18, 23-25, 24-26, 11-15) in the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship quarter-final on Sunday.

Iran, who have fielded a U-23 squad in their final preparation for the next month's FIVB Volleyball Men's U-23

World Championship in Cairo, Egypt, have been scheduled to face Australia on Monday in a 5th-8th classification.

The 2017 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship is the 19th edition of the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship, the biennial international men's volleyball championship of Asia organized by

the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC).

It is being held in Gresik, Indonesia from 24 July to 1 August 2017. It is the second time that the Indonesia hosts the tournament after the 2007 Asian Championship.

The tournament featured 16 teams to determine the Asian champions in men's volleyball.



Never bet against Bolt, says Bailey

KINGSTON (Reuters) — Former 100 metres world record holder Donovan Bailey has backed Usain Bolt to bow out in triumph at the world championships next month despite his slow buildup to the athletics showpiece.

Bolt logged his season best of 9.95 seconds just over a week ago in Monaco, a time beaten by a raft of sprinters this year.

But the 30-year-old Jamaican is still raging favourite to win his fourth 100m world title, and with good reason, according to former world and Olympic champion Bailey.

"Anyone that bets against Bolt at a major championship isn't smart," the Jamaica-born Canadian told Reuters on Saturday.

"Those athletes have to have a mistake-free race to make (the 100m final) interesting," he said of Bolt's rivals.

Bolt is currently ranked joint seventh with arch rival Justin Gatlin on the year's top timesheet which is headed by world leader and American NCAA champion Christian Coleman.

Coleman ran 9.82 seconds in Eugene, Oregon



last month.

Bolt's Jamaican training partner Yohan Blake is second on the list with 9.90, ahead of South African Akaani Simbine (9.92) and Americans Cameron Burrell and

Christopher Belcher.

Former Trinidad and Tobago sprinter Ato Boldon, who won the 200m world championship in 1997, thinks only Blake has a chance to spoil world record holder Bolt's party in London.

"If Blake is healthy, he can be a real threat to Bolt. I don't know that anyone else this year has shown me that they can be better than Bolt in the last 50m," Boldon told Reuters.

Bolt, who has won eight Olympic and 11 world championship gold medals, is planning to quit the track after competing in the 100m and 4x100m relay in London.

Boldon, a four-times Olympic medallist, said there could be no debate about the world's greatest ever sprinter.

"There isn't anyone who can say that he (Bolt) has not been the best ever," he said.

"Jesse Owens was the most important, Carl Lewis made sprinting profitable, but Bolt is the GOAT (greatest of all time)."

Vettel wins while sporting Hamilton keeps his word



BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Sebastian Vettel won a tense Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday in a Ferrari one-two that stretched his championship lead to 14 points after Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton sportingly surrendered third place to his team mate.

The German, savoring his fourth win of the season and 46th of his Formula One career, took the chequered flag 0.9 seconds ahead of team mate Kimi Raikkonen.

The Finn had looked faster than Vettel for most of the afternoon.

"I'm over the moon, that was a really difficult race,"

said the winner, who had to wrestle with a skewed steering wheel on a sweltering afternoon at the Hungaroring and had no room for error.

Hamilton finished fourth after slowing down on the last lap and allowing Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas to go past, despite the loss of vital points to the Briton's championship challenge.

Bottas had let Hamilton through on the 45th of the 70 laps, on the assurance that his team mate would hand back the place if he could not overtake the Ferraris, and the triple champion duly kept his word.

"Really thanks to Lewis for keeping the promise in the end and letting me by," said Bottas.

"I don't think every team mate would have swapped back."

Hamilton, whose radio was malfunctioning for some of the race and would have had more of a chance had he got past Bottas earlier, said he had done what he had to do.

"It's tough in the championship but I'm a man of my word," he said. "I did say that if I can't overtake them I would let him back through."

On a circuit where overtaking is notoriously hard, the top five all finished in their starting order with Max Verstappen fifth for Red Bull.

The Dutch teenager was handed a 10 second stop and go penalty for colliding with his Australian team mate Daniel Ricciardo on the opening lap.

The impact ended Ricciardo's race, with the car stranded on the track and fluid leaking from the broken radiator, and brought out the safety car.

"It's not on. It was amateur to say the least. It's not like he was trying to pass -- there was no room to pass," said an angry Ricciardo.

"I don't think he likes it when a team mate gets in front. You've got the whole race to try and repair the mistake but the pass was never on. It wasn't even a pass, it was a very poor mistake."

Fernando Alonso, who celebrated his 36th birthday on Saturday, gave struggling McLaren their best finish of the season so far by taking sixth place and also setting the fastest lap of the race.

Belgian team mate Stoffel Vandoorne was 10th in a double points finish for the former champions, who moved off the bottom of the table and ahead of Sauber. Spaniard Carlos Sainz was seventh for Toro Rosso with Mexican Sergio Perez eighth and Force India team mate Esteban Ocon ninth.

Britain's Paul di Resta, replacing unwell Brazilian Felipe Massa at Williams, retired.

The last Ferrari driver to win from pole position in Hungary was Vettel's compatriot Michael Schumacher, who was dominant in 2004 and went on to win his seventh and last championship that season.

Hungary was the last race before the August break, with nine of the 21 rounds remaining.

Iranian triathlon athlete bags bronze medal in Kazakhstan

Iranian female triathlon athlete Shokouh Tayareh Khajavi received bronze medal in 2017 Astana ASTC Sprint Triathlon Asian Cup and Central Asian Championships.

According to triathlon federation, the event was held today with the attendance of male and female athletes from Asian and European countries in Astana, Kazakhstan.

After International Triathlon Union (ITU) approved Iranian athletes' dress code, Iranian athletes received historic titles.

It was the first time that the Iranian female athletes participated in triathlon championships.

A triathlon is a multi-stage competition involving the completion of three continuous and sequential endurance disciplines.

The International Triathlon Union (ITU) is the international governing body for the multi-sport disciplines of triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and other nonstandard variations.

ITU, which is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, sanctions the ITU World Triathlon Series and the ITU Triathlon World Cup.

(Source: Irna)



Tehran chosen to host Greco-Roman World Cup, official says

The executive committee of United World Wrestling has awarded Iran the right to host the 2018 Greco-Roman World Cup, a top Iranian official said.

The competition will take place in December.

The vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Wrestling Federation, Hamid Banitamim, said that UWW has accepted to award Tehran the right to host the competition.

Wrestling world cups have been held every year since the 1973 tournament. They began as dual-meet competitions for the top teams on each continent, but now feature the top teams in the rankings of the previous year's world championships.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iranian female taekwondoka wins gold medal in Turkish champs

Iranian female athlete Nasibeh Shahbazi received a gold medal in 2017 Summer Deaflympics underway in Samsun, Turkey.

In the final match, Shahbazi hit her rival from Croatia 10-6 and bagged a gold medal.

She advanced to final stage after defeating Chinese and Turkish rivals in the first and second matches.

The 2017 Summer Deaflympics, officially known as the 23rd edition of Summer Deaflympics, opened in Samsun, Turkey, on July 18 and finished on July 30, 2017.

A total of 3,148 athletes from 97 countries competed in 21 sports at the international multi-sport event.

(Source: Irna)

Snooker Vahedi wins bronze at World Games

Iranian snooker Soheil Vahedi claimed a bronze medal at the 2017 World Games on Saturday.

The Iranian athlete went on the podium after defeating China's Xu Si 3-2.

The gold medal went to Englishman Kyren Wilson who defeated his countryman Ali Carter in the final match.

Iran has already won two gold medals and five silvers in the competition underway in Wroclaw, Poland.

The World Games, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event, meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport, that are not contested in the Olympic Games.

(Source: Tasnim)

Manchester United on verge of deal for Chelsea's Nemanja Matic - sources

Manchester United are on the verge of completing a deal for Chelsea midfielder Nemanja Matic, sources have told ESPN FC.

The club are hoping to announce a deal for the Serbia midfielder in the coming days and he could make his debut against Sampdoria in Dublin on Wednesday or in the UEFA Super Cup against Real Madrid next week.

A leaked picture on Twitter allegedly shows Matic already wearing a United training top.

Manager Jose Mourinho knows Matic well from their time together at Stamford Bridge. The 28-year-old was in Chelsea's title-winning team in 2015 and he won another title under Antonio Conte last term.

(Source: Soccernet)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari

■ Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi

» 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: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.o. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713

Folk singer Mahmud Jahan dies at 66

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Folk singer Mahmud Jahan, famous for his Bandari music, which is played in southern Iranian cities, died of heart failure at a hospital in Mahshahr on Sunday. He was 66.



Jahan was suffering from heart disease for many years, Mohsen Aqai, the leader of Avay-e Moj Band, told the Persian service of ILNA on Sunday.

"Jahan was the singer for the band; he was in Mahshahr for his Saturday concert," he added.

Avay-e Moj was also scheduled to perform a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on August 10, he said.

"The Tehran concert will be cancelled and a commemoration ceremony will be held instead," Aqai noted.

Born in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan, Jahan learned to sing from him father during childhood.

Jahan's debut album was released in Tehran in 1976. He produced 32 albums since then.

Iran's cultural package destroyed in Israeli missile attack on Damascus Airport

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Owj Arts and Media Organization, an Iranian institution producing revolutionary works in art and cinema, announced on Sunday that a cultural package belonging to the organization was destroyed in a missile attack by Israel on the Damascus Airport in the early morning hours on Saturday.

The cultural package included equipment that was intended to be used for some projection mapping performances at the Citadel of Aleppo, Owj said in a press release published by some Persian news agencies.

The organization has previously performed similar programs in Iraq and Syria.

Works by op artist Victor Vasarely displayed at Kish exhibit

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Persian Gulf Art Museum on Kish Island is hosting an exhibition of serigraphs created by Hungarian-French op artist Victor Vasarely.

The exhibition, which was previously held at Tehran's Saless Gallery during March, will run until August 27.



Most of his works are on display at the Vasarely Museum in Château de Gourdes in southern France, and at the Vasarely Museum in Budapest.

NEWS IN BRIEF

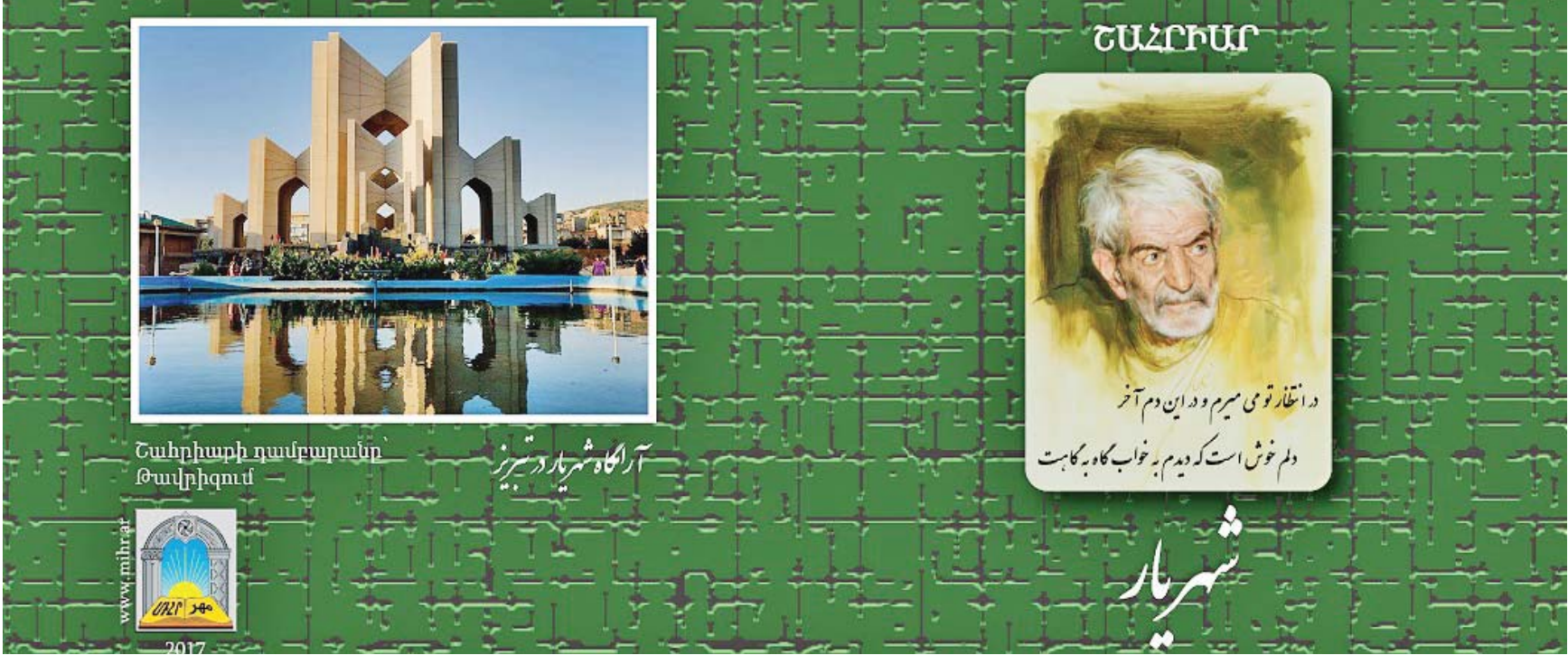
"Hercules in the Augean Stables" to go on stage in Tehran

C U L T U R E d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iranian theater troupe Tadjrobeh led by director Hamed Aqili will perform Swiss author Friedrich Durrenmatt's "Hercules in the Augean Stables" in Tehran during autumn.

The director and translators Kambiz Rahimian and Atefeh Yazdanpanah have renamed the play "A Mission for Hercules" for its performance in Iran.

Based on Hercules story, which takes place in the heroic age of ancient Greece, the play talks about contemporary issues in societies.

Audio version of Shahriar's poems released in Armenia



The cover of an audiobook of Armenian translation of poems by Iranian poet Mohammad-Hossein Shahriar

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — An audiobook featuring a selection of poems by contemporary Iranian poet Mohammad-Hossein Shahriar (1906-1988) has recently been released in Yerevan, Armenia.

Translated by Varand Sukiasian, the audiobook is narrated by Aida Asaturyan, Iran's Cultural Office in Yerevan announced in a press release on Sunday.

The MIHR Literary Center in Yerevan has published the audiobook in collaboration with the Cultural Office.

The office has previously published selections of poems by Hafez, Sadi, Rumi and several other Persian poets in Armenia.

Mohammad-Hossein Behjat Tabrizi, known as Shahriar, published his first book of poems in 1929, with prefaces by Persian literature scholars Mohammad-Taqi Bahar, Saeid Nafisi

Majlis to investigate forced cancellation of provincial concerts

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Majlis Cultural Committee is scheduled to investigate the cancellation of concerts forced by provincial judicial authorities, committee member Parvaneh Salahshuri said on Saturday.

The decision was made after the public prosecutor of Quchan ordered the cancellation of a concert by top Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri in the town in Razavi Khorasan Province.

"This issue will be discussed in the committee and it will investigate why unrelated authorities intervene in cultural issues," Salahshuri told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News.

The legal authorizations for a musical performance are issued by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, she said and added that the public prosecutor's ruling to cancel the perfor-

mance should be considered as breach of separation of powers act.

Salahshuri said that the provincial judicial authorities order the cancellation of concerts under pressure from certain political groups, which are opposed to music.

"The political groups should clearly express their views on music once and for all," she noted.

Quchan Public Prosecutor Ramezan-Ali Azari attended a press conference on Saturday and said that there is no objection to performing concerts in the town and added the concert was cancelled due to the fact that Quchan Workers' Arena was unsafe to host concertgoers for the performance.

Last week, pop singers Hamd Homayun and Fereidun Aserai were forced to cancel their concerts in Yazd and Karaj by orders from provincial authorities.

Naqareh player Ahmad Aqvam-Shokuhi honored

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Ahmad Aqvam-Shokuhi who has performed naqareh during religious rituals at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad for 72 years was honored for his lifetime achievements during the closing ceremony of the Razavi Sounds and Melodies Festival on Saturday.

Naqareh is a long wind instrument that is played from minarets or cities' towers.

The ceremony took place at Tehran's Vahdat Hall, Persian media reported on Sunday.

The 90-year old Aqvam-Shokuhi has been playing the naqareh in the holy shrine for the past 72 years.

"I have been playing the instrument for many years. I have never had a day off. Every day, 20 minutes before sunrise, 20 minutes before eight in the morn-



Naqareh player Ahmad Aqvam-Shokuhi attends the closing ceremony of the Razavi Sounds and Melodies Festival at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on July 29, 2017. (ISNA/Borna Qasemi)

ing, 20 minutes before sunset and after evening prayers we play the naqareh," he said in his short speech at the ceremony.

The event was part of the 15th edition of the Imam Reza (AS) International Festival underway in 31 Iranian provinces and 70 countries around the world.

The world has lost a great artist in mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani

By Howard Jacobson

LONDON (The Guardian) — The mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani died two weeks ago. She was 40. I had never heard of her before reading about her death in the papers. It's a piercingly sad story: Iranian-born, and latterly a professor at Stanford University, Mirzakhani was the only woman to have won the Fields medal, the equivalent for a mathematician of the Nobel prize, and is survived, in newspaper-speak, by a husband and a daughter.

I always find the locution "survived by" too cruel to bear. So final the rupture, no room for error: she's gone, they're left. And, in this case, how young the mother and the wife.

It is a sad story for other reasons, too, not least the intensity of Mirzakhani's expression in the photograph most of the papers used. There is a beauty that can only be described as that of the mind's migration to the face, the transfiguring beauty of exceptional intelligence. So it's a double loss: the premature loss of a person and the premature loss of her genius.

I remember there being an unspoken



'Maryam Mirzakhani's death will be felt by poets as well as mathematicians.' (Photograph: AP)

Qualitative distinction at school between those who were good at maths and science — the priests of numbers and symbols — and the more poetical of us, whose medium, as Wordsworth had it, was the language of men talking to men. The assumption, at least on the part of us

Wordsworthians, was that creativity was all on our side. I have since come to think the word "creative" has much to answer for. Among the freedoms it sometimes gave us was the freedom from structure, knowledge and the obligation to convince. Mirzakhani, it is said, considered being

Polish street artists out to revive sleepy Bulgarian village

STARO ZHELEZARE, Bulgaria (Reuters) — A group of young Polish artists are bringing a splash of colorful street art to a sleepy village in southern Bulgaria with large outdoor murals, featuring locals alongside some of the world's famous politicians and celebrities.

Eye-catching works, including portraits of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, the Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher and Barack Obama, have been produced as part of an event called "Open village/village avant-garde".

"The idea is to show that every individual has their own style and it is not important if you are famous or not," said Katarzyna Piriankov, who began painting in Staro Zhelezare with her Bulgarian-born husband Ventzislav a few years ago in the hope of breathing new life into the village.

"An old lady from Staro Zhelezare could say some-

thing important, just like Barack Obama or Donald Trump."

Locals, who happily posed for murals, hope the paintings may lure tourists as well as trigger a much-needed economic revival in the village, where the population shrank five fold to less than 500 following the fall of communism in Bulgaria in 1989.

Staro Zhelezare is just a stone's throw from the largest Thracian temple unearthed to date in the Balkans.

It is one of many villages in the European Union's poorest member, which is withering in the face of low birth rates and the exodus of young adults to the more prosperous West.

"I came ... to give some color and beauty to the place and to the people," street artist Kinga Matuszewska, who studies architecture in Poznan, said on Friday as she finished her piece. "People here are so nice and friendly."



Local villager Lazar, walks past murals on the wall of his house, depicting him and Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May, in the village of Staro Zhelezare, Bulgaria, July 28, 2017. (Reuters/Stoyan Nenov)