

Ukraine could facilitate Iran's petchem export to Europe: NPC head **4**

Women's parliament makes debut in Iran **12**

Zurkhaneh eyes Olympic inclusion, top official says **15**

Seifollah Samadian to make sequels to his film on Abbas Kiarostami **16**

Expediency Council gets new chairman



Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi (L) and the late Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

Rail freight transport in Iran up 55%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Transit of goods via railway network rose 55 percent in Iran since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) until August 8, compared to the same period last year. Some 1.2 million tons of cargo was transited via the national railway network in the past [Iranian calendar] year, while the figure is anticipated to reach 1.8 million tons this year, Tasnim quoted Ebrahim Mohammadi, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), as saying on Monday. He also said that some 27.5 billion ton-kilometers of cargo was transport-

ed via railway in the country during the past year, and the figure is planned to reach 43 billion ton-kilometers this year. "We have signed four memorandums of understandings with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for the promotion of railway transportation since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year," the official noted. RAI director Saeid Mohammadzadeh said in January that railway should account for 30 percent of freight transportation in Iran by the end of the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2021).

Kimball lauds Iran's role in adopting treaty to ban nuclear arms

By Javad Heirannia
TEHRAN — Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington, praises Iran for playing a major role in approving the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the United Nations. "The Islamic Republic of Iran was an active participant in the negotiations and was among the 122 states that voted to adopt the agreement on July 7," Kimball tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview. Following is the full text of the interview: **There is a strong emphasis on nuclear disarmament, but why the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear**

Weapons was adopted so late?
 A: Unfortunately progress toward the deligitimization, prohibition, and elimination of the world's most dangerous weapons is a decades-long process, but the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is an important step in the right direction. Until now, the international community has only concluded international treaties that seek to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and require nuclear-armed states to pursue negotiations to end the arms race and achieve disarmament" (the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) and that prohibit nuclear test explosions (the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty). **→3**

PERSPECTIVE
By M.A.Saki
 Deputy editor-in-chief

Erratic Trump may push Korean peninsula toward nuclear holocaust

It had been imagined that the world has taken a departure from the barbarity of the First and Second World Wars and that people assume senior posts who are pretty wise and think about the consequences of their words and actions; however the ascendance of Donald Trump to the White House proved that we were wrong and still vulnerable to man-made tragedies.

Donald Trump's rhetoric to unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea that "the world has never seen" may push the Korean peninsula toward another disaster: this time a nuclear holocaust.

Fueling the tension by making repeated incendiary remarks invokes the idea that the world may degenerate into another disaster that has not been seen since the Second World War.

In case of a war on the Korean peninsula great powers like China may intrinsically feel threatened and see the action as provocative and in that case the situation may get out of control.

Political leaders like Barack Obama and analysts were of the opinion that Trump would soften his approach when he faces the realities as president, but Trump is proving more dangerous and unpredictable than it had been imagined. He is becoming more extreme as the time passes by.

His extremism has gone to the extent that former defense secretary Leon Panetta told CNN on Friday that "we need a president to speak in a steady and calm and stable and responsible way."

Also, more than 60 House Democrats sent a letter on Thursday to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson asking him to restrain the president. They said, "These statements are irresponsible and dangerous." **→13**

New drug death penalty bill to save 5,300 inmates on death row

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The Iranian parliament has passed a bill to its drug trafficking law that could commute the sentences of up to 5,300 inmates currently on death row for drug trafficking. Passed on Sunday, the amendment will apply retroactively and will restrict the death penalty to criminals who lead drug-trafficking gangs, exploit minors in doing so, carry or draw firearms while committing drug-related crimes, or have a related previous conviction of the death penalty or a jail sentence of more than 15 years or life in prison. The long-awaited bill gained parliamentary approval after months of debate. However, it must be approved by the Guardian Council to become law. According to rights group Amnesty In-

ternational, the number of executions in Iran dropped 42 percent in 2016. In a recent statement, the watchdog urged Iranian lawmakers not to miss a historic opportunity to reject the use of the death penalty for drug-related offences. The new law raises the amounts that can trigger the death penalty from 30 grams to two kilos for the production and distribution of chemical substances such as heroin, cocaine and amphetamines. For natural substances such as opium and marijuana, the levels have been raised from five to 50 kilos. Under the new amendment, the punishment for those already sentenced to death or life imprisonment, except for those meeting the new execution requirements, will be commuted

to up to 30 years in jail and a cash fine. Hassan Norouzi, the spokesman of parliament's judicial and legal committee, defended the bill in a parliamentary debate last week, saying the costs for Iran's war on drugs have almost doubled since 2010. Norouzi said there are 7 million people involved in drugs in the country, including 5.2 million drug addicts and 1.8 million drug users. Iran's neighbor Afghanistan produces some 90 percent of the world's opium, most of which pour into Iran. The total annual opium intercepts by Iranian security forces are larger than in any other country. Opium production has soared in Afghanistan since the U.S. invaded the country to overthrow the Taliban in 2001.

FAO advocates on role of soils for offsetting aviation emissions

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently released a publication that highlights the importance of soil carbon sequestration as an option for offsetting international aviation CO2 emissions. According to a press release published by the FAO Representation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Organization estimates that domestic and international aviation together are responsible for approximately 2 per cent of global anthropogenic CO2 emissions. Even considering the technological and operational improvements planned by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a gap

of 523 megatonnes CO2 emissions remains to meet their set emission reduction targets. The informative note by FAO presents soil carbon sequestration as an option for offsetting this emissions through a market-based mechanism within the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation. The yearly amount of carbon released to the atmosphere from aviation represents 0.03% of the total carbon stored in soils. Soils represent the largest pool of carbon on land, with an estimated stock of 1,417,000 megatonnes in the first meter – more than the sum of the carbon contained in the at-

mosphere (840 000 megatonnes of carbon) and vegetation (450 000-650 000 megatonnes of carbon). In the first three meters of the soil, an even larger carbon mass of up to 2,344,000 megatonnes of carbon are estimated. Soils interact strongly with atmospheric composition, climate, and land cover change. Human capacity to predict and ameliorate the consequences of global change depends in part on a better understanding of the distributions and controls of soil organic carbon. (See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ARTICLE
By Hossein Askari
 George Washington University professor

America's foreign policy moral deficit and losing the Middle East

Politicians the world over claim to support human rights in the conduct of foreign policy. They do so to project "humanitarianism and rightfulness," but in practice they pay little or no attention to anything but narrow national and personal interests. While this may be the accepted modus operandi, it is an approach that invariably has dire consequences that may carry over for generations. The human mind cannot foresee the widespread fallout of an initiative, even if that initiative appears to be limited at the time, but initiatives that are supportive of basic human rights always propagate less resentment and lead to less vengeance and future conflict. If for this reason alone, human rights and morality should be inseparable from foreign policy formulation and practice. A good case in point is the U.S. support for Saddam Hussein in the 1980s—a support laced with human rights violations and disastrous repercussions that are likely to continue for many more generations. Unfortunately, not only has the U.S. learned little from this episode but is today making a similar mistake in support of the Al-Sauds of Saudi Arabia that could have even more dire consequences.

Let's go back to 1980. Iraq invaded Iran on Sept. 22. Iraq easily occupied a great deal of Iranian territory, because Iran was a country in disarray in the aftermath of a revolution. The United Nations did little to stop the conflict. The world supported Saddam Hussein and Iran was isolated with no ally except Syria. Within a short amount of time, the Iranians pushed the Iraqis out and were threatening Iraq's southern city of Basra. Fearing the consequences of an Iranian victory, the United States and its European allies (the UK, France and Germany) **→13**



Protests, vigils around U.S. decry white supremacist rally

Protesters decrying hatred and racism converged around the United States, saying they felt compelled to counteract the white supremacist rally that spiraled into deadly violence in Virginia. The gatherings spanned from anti-fascist protests in San Francisco to a march to President Donald Trump's home in New York. Some focused on showing support for the people whom white supremacists condemn. Other demonstrations were pushing for the removal of Confederate monuments. **→2**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Putin discussed energy projects with Rouhani - Kremlin

POLITICS Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed energy projects and the situation in Syria during a telephone call with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the Kremlin said in a statement on Monday. The Kremlin said the conversation was about "joint projects in the oil and gas, electricity and transport sectors", while some issues on the international agenda were also discussed.



Rouhani congratulates new Pakistan PM

POLITICS TEHRAN — In a message on Sunday Iranian President Hassan Rouhani congratulated Pakistan's new prime minister, hoping for the expansion of relations between the two neighboring countries.

Rouhani also expressed the hope that ties between Iran and Pakistan would grow in all fields during Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's tenure, the Iranian government's official website reported.

The new Pakistani premier formed his cabinet on August 4.



Flood in northeast Iran wrought \$45m damage

POLITICS TEHRAN — The head of the Management and Planning Organization has said a recent flood in northeastern Iran has caused \$45.36 million damage.

Speaking in a local meeting with Khorasan Razavi officials in Mashhad on Sunday, Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said a first installment of the damage will be paid by the government soon.

Heavy downpours caused flooding in northeastern and western Iran, killing 11 people and leaving two others missing, sources reported on Saturday.



House of Parties learns new chairman

POLITICS TEHRAN — The presiding board of Iran's House of Parties voted 19-0 to Hossein Kamali on Monday as its new chairman for a one-year term.

Kamali is currently secretary general of the Islamic Labour Party. He was minister of labour and social affairs from 1989 until 2001 under the Rafsanjani and Khatami administrations.

House of Parties is a non-governmental organization, consisting of legal and registered political parties.

The association was founded in 1997 and is backed by the government.



Daesh nearing its end: Rezaei

POLITICS TEHRAN — Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said on Monday that Daesh (Islamic State) is approaching its end, yet committing brutal acts to pretend the otherwise.

Liberation of Mosul and Aleppo indicates the imminent annihilation of Daesh, he said during a ceremony held to commemorate martyr Mohsen Hojaji.

Hojaji, a member of the Iranian advisory support team in Syria, was captured by Daesh terrorists on August 7 near the Tanf border crossing in southeast Syria, and was beheaded afterward.



U.S. attempts to implicate Iran in Venezuela push

POLITICS TEHRAN — The CIA director has claimed Venezuela is overrun with Iranians, Hezbollah, Cubans and Russians in response to questions about Donald Trump's statements about U.S. military intervention.

Mike Pompeo appeared on Fox News Sunday where he responded to comments made by Trump on Friday, in which he said there was "a possible military option" for Venezuela.

The CIA chief said he believes Trump's comments were an effort to "give the Venezuelan people hope and opportunity to create a situation where democracy can be restored."

Expediency Council gets new chairman

By Ali Kushki

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi was appointed on Monday by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to lead the Expediency Council, a powerful body constitutionally charged with finding the middle ground between the Parliament and the oversight Guardian Council.

Prior to the appointment for a five-year term, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi-Kermani was taking care of the body for nearly seven months since the passing of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who was in charge for nearly two decades.

Hashemi Shahroudi, 69, had served as Judiciary chief for ten years, six years of which coincided with the Khatami administration and four with the Ahmadinejad administration.

Born in the Iraqi city of Najaf, Hashemi Shahroudi has been the head of an arbitration body to resolve sticking points among three branches of the government since 2011. His five-year tenureship was renewed by Ayatollah Khamenei in 2016.

The senior ayatollah is a member of the Guardian Council, a panel of six senior clerics and six jurists, which vets aspiring candidates in all elections.

In February 2016, Hashemi Shahroudi won a provincial vote to represent the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi in the 88-strong Assembly of Experts that supervises and elects Leader of the



Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi (L)

Prior to the appointment for a five-year term, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi-Kermani was taking care of the body for nearly seven months since the passing of Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who was in charge for nearly two decades.

revolution.

Currently, he is the first deputy chairman of the assembly. In May, Hashemi Shahroudi was hospitalized for days.

Also, he is the founder of the Combatant Clergy Association. He also played a key role in establishing the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, according to the ayatollah's official website.

Hashemi Shahroudi is the third chairman of the council after Ayatollah Khamenei and Rafsanjani served the body once and four times each, respectively.

New faces in Expediency Council

The 44-member line-up includes seven new figures, including outgoing Tehran Mayor Mohammad Qalibaf, presidential candidate Ebrahim Raisi, Armed

Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Baqeri, and former lawmaker Ahmad Tavakoli. The high-profile secretary of the council, Mohsen Rezaei, was kept in the post.

Ex-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also features in the appointment decree.

The Expediency Council which has the responsibility to iron out differences between the Parliament and the GC was not originally enshrined in the Constitution until before a constitutional reform in 1989.

The body had been established two years before its constitutional inclusion after a verdict by Ayatollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Revolution.

The reshuffled assembly has a daunting task ahead. Commenting on the appointments, Mostafa Mirsalim, a previous member who appears on the new list, said leading the council won't be "easy." "After the presidency of the late Hashemi Rafsanjani, leading the Expediency Council won't be an easy task," he said, a reference to the high bar set by the veteran politician.

"Allocating time to the council is important, and I hope Ayatollah Shahroudi has recovered fully," added Mirsalim.

A key obligation of the council is to oversee the implementation of general policies of the country outlined by the Leader.

In his decree, Ayatollah Khamenei has commissioned the newly appointed members with streamlining supervision mechanisms to assess and assure an efficient policy implementation and a structurally coherent management system.

Senior U.S. senators meet terrorist MKO leader

POLITICS A senior delegation of the U.S. senators met on Saturday with Maryam Rajavi, leader of the terrorist Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization, in Albania.

According to The Huffington Post, Senators Roy Blunt, Vice President of the Republican Conference, and member of the Appropriation, Select Intelligence, Rules and Administration, and Commerce, Science, and Transportation committees; John Cornyn, the Majority Whip, and a member of the Judiciary, Select Intelligence,

and Finance committees; and Thom Tillis, a member of the Armed Services, Judiciary, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Veterans' Affairs committees, also visited members of the MKO.

During the meeting, Rajavi expressed her gratitude for the tireless efforts of the U.S. Senate, particularly Senator Blunt, regarding the protection of thousands of MKO members in Iraq, and their safe relocation to Albania.

The MKO fled Iran in 1986 for Iraq and was given a

camp by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. It fought on the side of Saddam in the Iraqi imposed war on Iran during which the former Iraqi dictator used chemical weapons against Iranian civilians and military on a massive scale. The notorious group is also responsible for killing more than 17,000 Iranians in different acts of terrorism, including bombings in public places and targeted killings.

Earlier in April, U.S. Senator John McCain met Rajavi in Albania.

Russia dismisses claims on transfer of Iran's hardware



POLITICS Russian Senator Frants Klintsevich has dismissed a media report claiming that Iranian military hardware had been allegedly sent to Russia.

Klintsevich, the first deputy chairman of the parliament's upper chamber's Defense and Security Committee, told RIA Novosti that there is no need to transfer any Iran's military equipment that needs repair to Russia because Moscow had earlier prepared Iranian specialists to do repairs at home, Sputnik reported.

Earlier, German newspaper Welt am Sonntag reported, citing an anonymous source in "Western intelligence services", that Tehran had secretly sent some components of heavy offensive weapons to Russia for maintenance in an alleged violation of the 2231 UNSC resolution via the Syrian territory.

Klintsevich said, "Russia supplied Iran with a large number of military equipment, which, of course, needs maintenance. At the same time Russia prepared Iranian specialists who can carry out these works themselves."

Military expert Igor Korotchenko also commented on the controversial report. He said that the information is "fake," adding that it is aimed to present Russia and Iran as the sides which violate UN resolutions.

"In military-technical contacts with Tehran, Moscow strictly adheres to the resolutions of the UN Security Council and does not violate them. The purpose of this provocation is to cast a shadow on Russia and try to discredit Moscow's efforts in the politico-diplomatic resolution of the Syrian crisis," he remarked.



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Protests, vigils around U.S. decry white supremacist rally

I → the issue that initially prompted white nationalists to gather in anger this weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia. Still other gatherings aimed to denounce fascism and a presidential administration that organizers feel has empowered white supremacists.

"People need to wake up, recognize that and resist it as fearlessly as it needs to be done," said Carl Dix, a leader of the Refuse Fascism group organizing demonstrations in New York, San Francisco and other cities. "This can't be allowed to fester and to grow because we've seen what happened in the past when that was allowed."

"It has to be confronted," said Dix, a New Yorker who spoke by phone from Charlottesville on Sunday afternoon. He had gone there to witness and deplore the white nationalist rally on Saturday that spiraled into bloodshed.

In Seattle, a rally previously planned for Sunday by the conservative pro-Trump group known as Patriot Prayer drew hundreds of counter protesters. Police arrested three men and confiscated weapons as Trump supporters and counter-protesters converged downtown.

A barricade separated the two groups as police officers stood by dressed in riot gear. Police said they used pepper spray and blast balls to disperse crowds after fireworks were thrown at officers. In a statement, police said they observed some people in the counter protest carrying axe handles and two-by-fours as they infiltrated the hundreds of peaceful demonstrators.

In Denver, several hundred demonstrators gathered beneath a statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in City Park and marched about 2 miles (3.22 kilometers) to the state Capitol. In Fort Collins, Colorado, marchers chanted "Everyone is welcome here. No hate, no fear." One demonstrator's sign said, "Make racists ashamed again."

In New York, protesters marched from several locations in Manhattan to Trump Tower, demanding the president denounce white nationalist groups involved in the violent confrontations in Charlottesville. One sign read: "Call out evil!"

Charlottesville descended into violence on Saturday after neo-Nazis, skinheads, Ku Klux Klan members and other white nationalists gathered to "take America back" and oppose plans to remove a Confederate statue



People fly into the air as a vehicle drives into a group of activists protesting against a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

in the Virginia college town, and hundreds of other people came to protest the rally. The groups clashed in street brawls, with hundreds of people throwing punches, hurling water bottles and beating each other with sticks and shields.

Eventually, a car rammed into a peaceful crowd of anti-white-nationalist protesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer. A Virginia State Police helicopter deployed in a large-scale response to the violence then crashed into the woods outside of town. Both troopers on board died.

A crowd gathered on the street where the crash happened for a vigil on Sunday evening. They sang "Amazing Grace" and prayed around piles of flowers that mark the spot where Heyer was killed.

Prominent white nationalist Richard Spencer, who

attended the rally, denied all responsibility for the violence. He blamed the counter-protesters and police.

Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides," a statement that Democrats and some of the president's fellow Republicans saw as equivocating about who was to blame. The White House later added that the condemnation "includes white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups."

Some of the white nationalists at Saturday's rally cited Trump's victory, after a campaign of racially charged rhetoric, as validation for their beliefs. Some of the people protesting Sunday also point to the president and his campaign, saying they gave license to racist hatred that built into what happened in Charlottesville. (Source: AP)

Iraqi cleric Sadr visits UAE after Saudi Arabia

Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has flown to the Persian Gulf state of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a charter flight sent from Abu Dhabi, just two weeks after visiting Saudi Arabia in a string of controversial trips.

The Sunday visit was the second by Sadr to the Emirates in as many months, Emirati paper The National reported. The aircraft was to fly Sadr back to Iraq upon the conclusion of the trip.

He talked with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Abu Dhabi's crown prince, at a meeting also joined by Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed and other ranking officials.

The cleric met with the House of Saud regime's Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman in the Saudi port city of Jeddah on July 30.

Sadr's office said in a statement later that the Riyadh regime had agreed to pay Baghdad \$10 million purportedly as aid to rebuild Iraq. According to London-based The New



Arab news website, the Saudis also awarded special visas to members of Sadr's office for this year's Hajj pilgrimage.

Sadr, who enjoys a sizable grassroots following in Iraq, has been avowing views which clash with those of the central administration and, at points, even opting for direct opposition to the ruling authorities.

Last March, he started a sit-in inside Baghdad's Green Zone to force the government to enact certain "reforms." His supporters have also been holding several rallies in the Iraqi capital.

In April, he called on Syria's President Bashar al-Assad to resign in the face of foreign-backed militancy, despite Baghdad's refusal to take position on the conflict.

Also, after visiting Saudi Arabia, the cleric said Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had to either "integrate into the army the disciplined members" of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU/Hashd al-Sha'abi) or put them under severe government control. Sadr had also called on Iraqi authorities to "seize the arsenal of all armed groups," without elaborating further.

PMU has been key to the country's recapture of cities and towns from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists in recent months.

(Source: Press TV)

Kimball lauds Iran's role in adopting treaty to ban nuclear arms

I → The indiscriminate and catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons, which if used would produce devastating effects far beyond the national borders of warring nuclear nations, make it clear that the use or threat of use of these weapons is immoral. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons means that they are not just immoral, but they are also illegal.

For the first time since the invention of the Bomb, nuclear weapons development, production, possession, use, threat of use, and "stationing" of another country's nuclear weapons on a state party's national territory are all expressly prohibited in a global treaty. The treaty also requires states to provide assistance to those affected by nuclear weapons use and testing.

The new treaty will be open for signature beginning September 20. When at least 50 states sign and ratify the agreement, it will formally enter into force.

The negotiations on the new treaty were launched by a UN General Assembly resolution approved last year. The Islamic Republic of Iran was an active participant in the negotiations and was among the 122 states that voted to adopt the agreement on July 7.

By becoming one of the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear

"The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons means that they are not just immoral, but they are also illegal," executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington says.



Weapons, Iran would underscore its existing commitments never to acquire nuclear weapons, and would help strengthen the taboo against their use and highlight the need for the world's nuclear-armed states to meet their disarmament commitments.

Q: Can it lead to a disarmament of nuclear-armed states?

A: Unfortunately, without nuclear-armed states on board, the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will not immediately eliminate any nuclear weapons. However, the treaty can, over time, further delegitimize nuclear weapons and strength-

en the legal and political norm against their use. With tensions between nuclear-armed states increasing, steps aimed at reducing the risk of catastrophic nuclear weapons use are necessary and should be welcomed.

The world's nuclear-armed states — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea — all boycotted the negotiations but the world's nonnuclear weapon state majority are sending them a message that will be heard: that nuclear weapons use will not be tolerated and concrete action leading to nuclear disarmament is overdue.

Today, there are nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons most of which are in the hands of the United States and Russia, which deploy approximately 1,500 each at this moment. This is far lower than during the height of the Cold War, but it only takes a handful of these weapons to produce catastrophic results.

Q: Supporters believe the treaty will put pressure on nuclear powers to eliminate their nuclear arms. What is your comment?

A: Whether the new treaty prompts action on nuclear disarmament in the near term depends, in part, on whether states such as Iran and other states in the Non-Aligned Movement, along with other major non-nuclear powers in Europe, can work together on a focused and sustained diplomatic strategy to push the nuclear-armed states to renew talks on nuclear risk reduction and disarmament. To avoid a new global nuclear arms race and move closer to a world without nuclear weapons:

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

"Whether the new treaty prompts action on nuclear disarmament in the near term depends, in part, on whether states such as Iran and other states in the Non-Aligned Movement, along with other major non-nuclear powers in Europe, can work together on a focused and sustained diplomatic strategy to push the nuclear-armed states to renew talks on nuclear risk reduction and disarmament."

Korean peninsula tensions ease slightly as U.S. officials play down war risks

Tensions on the Korean peninsula eased slightly on Monday as South Korea's president said resolving Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions must be done peacefully and key United States officials played down the risk of an imminent war with North Korea.

Concern that North Korea is close to achieving its goal of putting the mainland United States within range of a nuclear weapon has underpinned a spike in tensions in recent months.

The U.S. President Donald Trump warned at the weekend that the U.S. military was "locked and loaded" if North Korea acted unwisely after threatening last week to land missiles near the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam.

"There must be no more war on the Korean peninsula. Whatever ups and downs we face, the North Korean nuclear situation must be resolved peacefully," South Korean President Moon Jae-in told a regular meeting with senior aides and advisers.

"I am certain the United States will respond to the current situation calmly and responsibly in a stance that is equal to ours," he said.

While backing Trump's tough talk, U.S. officials including National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster played down the risk on Sunday of the rhetoric escalating into conflict.

"I think we're not closer to war than a week ago, but we are closer to war than we were a decade ago," McMaster told ABC News' "This Week".

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Mike Pompeo said North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un might well conduct another missile test but talk of being on the cusp of a nuclear war was overstating the risk.

"I've seen no intelligence that would indicate that we're in that place today," Pompeo told "Fox News Sunday".

World stocks rallied on Monday as investors took heart from the less bellicose rhetoric.

However, North Korea reiterated its threats, with its official KCNA news agency saying "war cannot be blocked by any power if sparks fly due to a small, random incident that was unintentional".

"Any second Korean War would have no choice but to spread into a nuclear war," it said in a commentary on Monday.

Missile doubts

South Korean Vice Defense Minister Suh Choo-suk agreed North Korea was likely to continue provocations, including nuclear tests, but did not see a big risk of the North engaging in actual military conflict.

Suh again highlighted doubts about North Korea's claims about its military capability.

"Both the United States and South Korea do not believe North Korea has yet completely gained re-entry technology in material engineering terms," Suh said in remarks televised on Sunday for a Korea Broadcasting System show.

The United States and South Korea remain technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.

Tension in the region has risen since North Korea carried out two nuclear bomb tests last year and two intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July, tests that the North often conducts to coincide with important national dates.

Tuesday marks the anniversary of Japan's expulsion from the Korean peninsula, a rare holiday celebrated by both the North and the South. Moon and Kim, who has not been seen publicly for several days, are both expected to make addresses on their respective sides of the heavily militarized border.

Trump has urged China, the North's main ally and trading partner, to do more to rein in its neighbor, often linking Beijing's efforts to comments around U.S.-China trade. China strenuously rejects linking the two issues.

(Source: agencies)

IMIDRO
IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT
AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION

شرکت توسعه منابع انرژی بر پارسیان جنوب
S . P . E . I . D . C
South Parsian Energy Intensive
Industrial Development Company



Request for Proposal
Construction of Power Plant, Substations
and Transmission Lines in PEISEZ
Based on Build, Operate, Own (BOO)

South parsian Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company, intends to invite and pre-qualify investors and assess the qualifications of investors for financing, management, engineering design, construction operations, maintenance, commissioning, procurement, installation and operation of power plant and transmission facilities with the following specifications:

- o Installation and operation of power plant and transmission facilities in PEISEZ based on BOO
- o Tender authority: Parsian Jonoub Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company
- o Total installed capacity: 4300 MW
- o Commercial operation period: 30 years
- o Land allocation: annual lease
- o Price: maximum rates equal to Ministry of Power rates
- o Technology applied: Priority with combined cycle, co-generation of heat and power
- o Priority selection of bidders: Parties that do not seek guaranteed power, water and steam purchase
- o Project is based on BOO
- o Project location: Parsian Energy-intensive Industries Special Economic Zone in Hormozgan Province, City of Parsian
- o Capacity phases:

Planned Schedule	Total Installed Capacity (MW)
20/03/2020	500
20/03/2025	1000
20/03/2028	2000
20/03/2031	4300

Parsian Jonoub Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company hereby invites all investors with financial & technical resources and appropriate executive background to purchase the qualification document (RFQ) within a maximum of 30 days from the date of this advertisement from the address below:

Address:
Rah Shahr Consulting Engineers
No. 3, Hoshyar Alley, Dr. Shahidi St., Haghani Expressway, Vanak Sq., Tehran, Iran
Tel: +98 21 8217 2240 Fax: +98 21 8888 3868

NEWS IN BRIEF



TEDPIX lost 2 points in a day

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) slid two points to end Monday's trade at 81,659, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 468 million shares worth 1.15 trillion rials (about \$30.2 million) were traded through 38,000 deals in the stock market.

Also, IFX, the main index of Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), fell 2.1 points to 918 on Monday, as 186 million securities worth 760 billion rials (about \$20 million) were dealt.



Liquidity near \$345b in a month

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's liquidity stood at 13.14 quadrillion rials (about \$344.8 billion) during the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (May 22-June 22, 2017), according to a report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

The figure shows 24.1 percent rise compared to the same time in the previous year, the report said.

Liquidity in Iran witnessed a 2.5-fold rise during the past four years, IRIB news quoted Hamidreza Hajibabaie, the chairman of parliament (Majlis) ad hoc committee for reviewing the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021), as saying in February 1st.

Japan GDP blows past expectations

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's economy grew in the second quarter at the fastest pace in more than two years as consumer spending and capital expenditure both rose at the fastest in more than three years, highlighting stronger domestic demand.

Gross domestic product expanded an annualized 4.0 percent in April-June, government data showed, more than the median estimate for 2.5 percent annualized growth and the biggest increase since January-March 2015.

Compared to the previous quarter, the economy expanded 1.0 percent, versus the median estimate for 0.6 percent growth.

Ukraine could facilitate Iran's petchem export to Europe: NPC head

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Managing Director Marziyeh Shahdaie said Ukraine could pave the way for the export of Iranian petrochemical products to Europe, Shana news agency reported.

She made the remarks after a meeting with Ukraine's Ambassador to Iran Sergey Burdilyak in Tehran on Monday.

At the end of their Joint Economic Committee's sixth meeting in March, Iran and Ukraine inked a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in a wide range of areas including petrochemical industry and

as Shahdaie said her meeting with the Ukrainian ambassador was to follow up that agreement.

She mentioned the joint venture opportunities for Ukrainian investors in Iran, establishment of a hub in Ukraine for the export of Iran's petrochemicals to Europe, and exchanging technical knowledge between the two countries as some issues discussed in the meeting.

The official further said that Ukraine is a consumer of Iranian petrochemical products; and quoted Burdilyak as saying that Iran-Ukraine trade and also Ukraine's import of Iran's petrochemicals have risen noticeably after the lifting of sanctions against Iran.



Iran's National Petrochemical Company Managing Director Marziyeh Shahdaie (R) and Ukraine's Ambassador to Iran Sergey Burdilyak met in Tehran on Monday.

Eurasian Economic Union expects to sign free trade deal with Iran this year

ASTANA (Sputnik) — A temporary agreement on establishing a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran may be signed in 2017, Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) Board Tigran Sargsyan said Monday.

Negotiations between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Iran on a temporary free trade zone agreement are expected to be finished by the next EAEU summit, scheduled for October 11.

"The decision has been taken to speed up the

work to sign the agreement with Iran. We expect the document to be signed in 2017," Sargsyan told reporters following a meeting of the Eurasian Inter-governmental Council in Astana.

In June, the EEC, with is the bloc's main executive body, said that the EAEU and Iran had finished working on the text of the temporary free trade zone agreement and that the sides will continue talks on liberalizing mutual market access and coordinating tariff obligations in the near future.

Earlier, the Iranian ambassador to Russia said that

the country is interested in economic projects of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, the EAEU and the Chinese Silk Road.

In 2016, Russia and Iran agreed to pay for bilateral supplies of products in national currencies, stepping up economic cooperation.

The EAEU, comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is an international organization that encourages regional economic integration through the free movement of goods, services, and people within the union.

Iran restarts oil swaps with Caspian states after 7-year hiatus

TEHRAN (Platts) — Iran's oil swap in the Caspian Sea has resumed following a roughly seven-year suspension, National Iranian Oil Company reported.

Under the swap deals, Iran accepts oil from other Caspian littoral states to use at its Tabriz and Tehran refineries in the north of the country. In return, it delivers the same amount and quality of crude to its southern oil terminals in the Persian Gulf region for delivery to international customers of Caspian oil suppliers.

Several oil tankers have been offload-

ed at Neka port on Iran's shore of the Caspian Sea. The swap consignments will gradually increase in volume, the report said. However, it did not specify the origin of the crude.

Iran's primary swap partners in the past were Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported that the UAE's Dragon Oil -- a wholly owned international upstream subsidiary of Dubai state-owned Emirates National Oil Co. which produces oil

only from a concession in Turkmenistan's sector of the Caspian Sea -- has recently shipped 6,000 mt of Turkmen oil to Neka aboard a Russian-flagged oil tanker.

Iran has been expanding the port's infrastructure with the aim of surpassing the volume of Caspian oil trade previously handled. It is currently targeting swap contracts of a few hundred thousand barrels each.

Iran's previous Caspian oil swaps were suspended by former oil minister Masoud Mirkazemi, who held the post

from 2009-2011. Mirkazemi held that Iran was losing a few dollars on each barrel of Iranian crude swapped for Caspian oil. Iran also complained that the poor quality of the oil received under the swaps was damaging its northern refineries.

During the past four years, following a change of government and the appointment of Bijan Zanganeh as oil minister, Iran has been negotiating with Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan to restart the oil swaps.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-05/117

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Supply of diesel generator (prime) including six generators with the capacity of 2400 KV/ampere in LV level, appropriate to the climatic condition of Tehran city according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated **August 20, 2017.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of USD **113,059** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee (its equivalent of rials guarantee letter with the free rate of 1.2 coefficient)

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than 15 p.m. on **Wednesday Sept. 20, 2017** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Saturday Sept. 23, 2017** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: 0098-21-22166313
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.
E-mail Address: offer@irib.ir

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-05/118

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Supply of 10 Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) with the capacity of 500KV/ampere along with the related batteries (15 minutes) according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated **August 20, 2017.**

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

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of USD **64,962** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee (its equivalent of rials guarantee letter with the free rate of 1.2 coefficient)

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than 15 p.m. on **Wednesday Sept. 20, 2017** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

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Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Oil prices dip on weak Chinese refining activity

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — Oil prices dipped on Monday as a slowdown in Chinese refining activity growth cast doubts over its crude demand outlook, while rising U.S. shale output suggested supplies would likely remain high.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$51.92 per barrel at 0652 GMT, down 18 cents, or 0.4 percent, from their last close.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$48.70 a barrel, down 12 cents, or 0.3 percent.

Chinese refineries processed 0.4 percent more crude oil in July than a year earlier at 45.5 million tons, or about 10.71 million barrels per day (bpd), data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Monday.

This would be the lowest amount on a daily basis since September 2016, according to Reuters calculations based on official data.

"Runs were slightly below our expectations, as fuel demand growth remained tepid and stocks were brimming," said Harry Liu, a downstream consultant with



IHS Markit.

Despite the possible slowdown in China, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday that it expects 2017 oil demand growth of 1.5 million bpd, up from a previous expectation of 1.4 million bpd.

Overall, markets remain well supplied thanks to strong output.

"Demand is outperforming expectations amongst both developed and emerging markets... However, global crude inventories remain bloated and

there are considerable uncertainties heading into 2018," BMI Research said in a note, including the possibility of rising supplies.

Shale production in the largest U.S. oilfield should rise by as much as 300,000 bpd by December, according to industry forecasts.

Oil production from the Permian Basin of West Texas and New Mexico is closely watched because its low costs and rapid growth have pressured efforts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to drain a global crude supply glut.

U.S. energy companies added oil rigs for a second time in the last three weeks, extending a 15-month drilling recovery, but the pace of additions has slowed in recent months as firms cut spending plans in reaction to declining crude prices.

Drillers added 3 rigs looking for new oil in the week to Aug. 11 bringing the total count up to 768, the most since April 2015, General Electric Co's Baker Hughes energy services firm said in its closely followed report on Friday.

Chevron prepares to confirm commitments to North Sea fields

Chevron is preparing to reconfirm its commitment to the North Sea, restarting a bidding process to help unlock the region's single biggest undeveloped field and considering extending the life of one of its main assets in UK waters.

The U.S. oil major is looking again at developing the significant but undeveloped Rosebank oil and gasfield northwest of the Shetland Islands, in which it holds a majority stake. Although it was discovered in 2004, the higher costs owing to the deep water and often hostile local weather has deterred advancements.

Chevron has been working to reduce project costs since the oil price crash of mid-2014, but its cancellation of a \$1.8 billion order last year of a floating production and offloading vessel (FPSO) for the field

raised fears it would turn its back on the development.

However, Chevron said it would shortly relaunch the tender process for the production vessel. "We expect to issue invitations to bid for the Rosebank FPSO later this year," it said.

A final decision may be several years away, but the move is likely to be viewed as a positive sign that Chevron and its partners — Canada's Suncor, Blackstone-backed Siccar Point Energy and Ineos — are still committed to the development, which is estimated to hold more than 300m recoverable barrels of oil.

Greta Lydecker, president and managing director for Chevron Upstream Europe, told the Financial Times the company had cut the Rosebank pre-oil crash costs by 30

percent. Chevron has not previously published an estimate for Rosebank but costs were reported in 2013 in the region of \$10 billion.

The company will also shortly make a final investment decision on extending the life of its Captain field, 145km north-east of Aberdeen, which has been producing since 1997. The "enhanced oil recovery program" will involve injecting polymerised water into the reservoir and is likely to be pursued in two parts.

Theo Bull, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the oil consultancy, said although the Captain project was less important in terms of production than Rosebank, it would be "significant because of the technology they are using".

Ministers and regulators have been

urging companies in Aberdeen to pursue new technologies to access as many as possible of the estimated 20bn barrels of oil and gas, which it is believed still lie beneath the North Sea — particularly in a climate where crude prices are expected to remain weak for an extended period.

Both the investment decision for Captain and the relaunch of the tender process for the Rosebank vessel are due before the end of the year. A number of the oil majors and big utility companies have been selling assets in the North Sea this year, including BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Engie of France and Denmark's Dong Energy, driving concerns that large companies were retreating from the region.

(Source: Financial Times)

IKCO, Pioneer in Developing and Promoting Relationship with University

The link between industry and university is an undeniable necessity, so that strengthening the link will cause development and growth of the two sectors. Formation of this relationship juxtaposes the two powers of "science" and "industry" along with each other and can cause their synergy. The relationship between "industry" and "university" is of paramount importance across the world.

On the one hand, university is generator of sciences required by the industry and taking advantage of academic sciences in the industry will lead to the growth, excellence and promotion of scientific level in the country on the other hand.

Applied training in the universities of technology and training efficient and entrepreneurship workforce is of the salient objectives of the government which will be materialized under the auspices of relationship with the industry.

Given the above issue, the 11th government has paid special attention to the spread of relationship between industry and university.

Unsparring support of the government from intellectual and physical power between industry and university has led to the conclusion of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between automakers and academicians in the four-year term of the 11th government.

Signing and sealing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for generating hybrid and electric car between Iran Khodro Company and Amirkabir University of Technology is of the salient approaches executed by the government in line with boosting and strengthening relationship between industry and university.

As the largest automaker in the Middle East region, IKCO has been pioneer in taking advantage of scientific updates and has made all its utmost efforts to create a scientific space between this company, university and scientific centers.

In addition, IKCO is pioneer in attraction

of graduates and industrial and scientific elites. For this purpose, IKCO has launched a "call for notice" and invited elites and scientific figures to cooperate and collaborate with the company. In general, IKCO has taken giant strides in the field of broadening its ties with elites and also prestigious scientific centers.

Signing and sealing multilateral MOU for designing and manufacturing product is the other approaches of IKCO.

In this MOU, the two "Sharif" and "Amirkabir" universities of technology are considered as main pillar of the partnership with five reliable and famous foreign companies.

Full implementation of this contract is led to designing and producing exclusive platform of this industrial group. In the next stage, various products in different models including **sedan, hatchback, crossover, SUV, hybrid and electric cars** will be produced as well.

It should be noted that Sharif University of Technology will take part in this giant plan for designing and developing hybrid cars.

Partnership with University in IKCO

In advanced communities, establishing relationship between main providers of training and research services i.e. universities and industry is spontaneous, so that an industrialist without academic knowledge and degree will not promote and will have not any profit for the community as well.

Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) carried out processes of relationship with the university in an organized form. There are vast and diversified activities in IKCO, the most important of which is pointed here.

Benefited from high capabilities and potentials of the universities, IKCO has taken giant steps in this regard, so that the company uses capacities of the universities and scientific centers for training and promoting technical knowledge and knowhow of their staff and personnel.



Creation of innovation through supporting university ideas for the development of product and process, commercializing the research achievements of the academic centers with the aim of creation of value and helping shorten the cycle of innovation of IKCO are of the other subjects that IKCO follows it up in cooperation and collaboration with the university.

Fulfilling the role of social responsibilities of IKCO is of the other titles of IKCO in establishing relationship with the university. In the meantime, paving suitable ground for fulfilling academic researches with the aim of responding to the questions and research hypotheses, supporting top and elite students, presenting laboratory and industrial services to the academic researches as well as supporting publication of research achievements including book, article, patents, etc. are of the main approaches implemented by IKCO.

In this regard and within the framework of approaches such as conclusion of applied and research contracts, supporting

academic theses in BA and MA degrees (more than 400 titles up to the present time), implementation of research projects within the framework of internship plan (more than 500 titles up to the present time), admitting apprenticeships and trainees according to the requirement (more than 1,000 persons annually), issuance of certificate of cooperation for academic teams, paving suitable ground for the attendance of staff and personnel of the company in scientific seminars with the aim of offering knowledge-based products, taking membership in scientific associations, granting technical and specialized equipment to the scientific centers, etc. have been considered as salient measures taken by IKCO.

Internship Projects

Hosting internship projects is another part of the related issues of Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) with universities. These projects are the contract concluded with the universities which includes construction of some projects in the course of year with

three-month time interval and certain cost. The research projects of Internship Plan are defined and started according to the latest issues and problems of organization and in the presence of the most experienced professors in different fields. Continuous interaction over a period of 3 to 6 months between an academic team consisting of scientific supervisor and several university students in various educational levels and executive teams in different departments, moreover finding scientific strategies in order to solve prioritized problem of the relevant organization in the course of project, paves suitable ground for fulfilling research and educational activities as well.

Taking advantage of capabilities and potentials of the university to meet growing demand of automotive industry and solving problems of various departments of the company with the approach of developing research culture and teamwork in Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) are the main objectives of Internship Projects in line with promoting technical knowhow and knowledge of personnel, removing short-term labor shortages.

Benefitted from potentials and capabilities available in university, Internship Plan has been started since 2000.

In this regard, cooperating with the university students to define and implement projects in MA and Ph.D. degrees required by Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) at a specified cost is one of the approaches. These subjects are determined and implemented in the light of the company's key business objectives such as improving and promoting quality, gaining customers' satisfaction, developing new products, future technologies and managing costs.

Meeting research needs of Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) by providing research and retrain opportunities in the industry for students in the form of defining theses in MA, Ph.D. and higher levels has been cited as the main objective behind supporting students.

Rise of electric car solves little if driven by fossil fuels

The rise of electric cars will be a pyrrhic victory for the environment if they are powered by fossil fuels instead of renewables, according to the UK boss of the world's biggest offshore wind farm developer.

Matthew Wright, the new managing director of Dong Energy UK, said the cost of wind farms at sea had fallen so much that the big issue facing the industry was no longer levels of subsidies but how they integrated with the National Grid and emerging technologies.

"The challenge is that having reached this tipping point in terms of its cost competitiveness, how do we integrate more offshore wind into the modern energy system?" he said. "How do we combine it with the rise of electric vehicles, the rise of storage and batteries, smart technology? It's becoming a different phase [for the sector]."

The cost of offshore wind power fell by nearly a third between 2012 and 2016 (pdf), and the wind farms now generate 5% of the UK's electricity (pdf), compared with 8% for onshore ones. It is the only large-scale form of renewable energy still supported by the government.

Wright, the former chief executive of Southern Water, took over the UK arm of the Danish state-owned Dong in June, shortly after the company sold off its remaining oil and gas business for £1bn to Ineos.

Dong announced last week that its operating profits were up by 74% in the second quarter of the year on the back of new windfarms. The company has invested £6bn in the UK, with a further £6bn planned by 2020.

Although Dong will not confirm so publicly, it may be among the offshore wind developers bidding for part of a £290m-a-year pot of government subsidies — known as contracts for difference — which are paid for through household energy bills.

The auction results are due in early September. Some in the industry have already predicted that wind farms, due to be built early next decade, will come in cheaper than the deal for the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station of £92.50 per Mwh, about twice the wholesale price of electricity.

The government's pledge to ban new petrol and diesel car sales from 2040 was welcome because it would create extra demand for power, he said, but it would be a "bit odd" if vehicles were powered by a fossil fuel such as coal.

"It would be somewhat of a pyrrhic victory at that point, reducing NOx emissions in cities [from diesel engines] for increasing CO2 elsewhere [from a conventional power station]. The fit between renewable energy and electric is a natural fit," he said.

More electric cars and large-scale storage facilities would help with the variable nature of wind power too, he said, though he said the importance of its intermittency was "overplayed".

(Source: The Guardian)

A moral failure that shames America

No previous U.S. president of modern times would have failed to condemn his country's white nationalists. This one did.

As George W Bush's speechwriter put it this weekend, it is one of the "difficult but primary duties" of a political leader to speak for a nation in traumatic times. A space shuttle explodes, a school student goes on a shooting spree, a terrorist flies a plane into a building, a hurricane floods a city. When such things happen, Michael Gerson wrote in the *Washington Post*, "It falls to the president to express something of the nation's soul." Yet if Donald Trump's words about the violent white extremist mobilization in Virginia on Saturday – which an under-pressure White House was desperately trying to clarify on Sunday – are an expression of its soul, America may be on the road to perdition.

The original United States of America was built on white supremacy. The U.S. constitution of 1787 treated black slaves as equivalent to three-fifths of a free white and gave no rights at all to Native Americans, who were regarded as belonging to their own nations. After the civil war, Jim Crow laws enforced segregation across the defeated south and comprehensively disfranchised African Americans for nearly a century. Writing *Mein Kampf* in the 1920s, Adolf Hitler praised America's institutional racism as a model from which Nazi Germany could learn. Only in the postwar period, and then slowly and incompletely, was meaningful racial equality pursued by the land of the free.

Yet, while American racism has extremely deep and tenacious historical roots, without which the events in Virginia on Saturday cannot be properly understood, some large things have changed for the better over the past 60 or so years. Equal rights have been enforced. Equality has been embraced. America has elected a black president. It would be difficult to imagine any U.S. president of this more recent period, of whatever party, who would not have responded to the neo-Nazis and white supremacists in Charlottesville with anything except explicit condemnation and disgust. Any president, that is, until this one.

There is absolutely no moral equivalence between the fanatical white supremacists who rallied in the Virginia city on Saturday and the equality defenders who demonstrated peacefully against them, one of whom was rammed and killed by a speeding car allegedly driven by a man who had attended the neo-Nazi rally. The supremacists hate black people and Jews, and regard white people as superior. They talk portentously about blood, soil and the right to bear arms. They admire Hitler and give Nazi salutes. They fly the flags of the pro-slavery Confederacy – the ostensible cause of their rallies this summer is Charlottesville's decision, more than 150 years after the south's surrender, to remove a statue of Robert E Lee from a park. And one of them committed the sort of act that was rightly called terrorism when it occurred in Nice, Berlin and London. →13

The real suspense in Kenya

Kenya's national elections last Tuesday were closely watched around the world, less for the results than for the threat of violence that has marred past elections. Barack Obama, whose father was a Kenyan, had been among those urging the country's leaders to "reject violence and incitement."

That has not happened. Raila Odinga, a perennial loser, began crying foul long before the election commission declared that President Uhuru Kenyatta was re-elected with 54 percent of the vote to Odinga's 45. Odinga's unsubstantiated claims have already touched off rioting in parts of the country, and the violence could spread.

The presidency was one of 1,880 positions Kenya's 19 million voters were to fill. It was the most closely and nervously monitored race because of the violence following past presidential elections, notably in 2007, when more than 1,300 people died and hundreds of thousands were displaced.

Since then the Kenyan government has made admirable changes to the Constitution, devolving considerable powers to 47 newly created counties so that the presidential race would not be a winner-take-all affair. But ethnic identity still plays a major role in Kenyan politics, with all but one president since independence, including Jomo Kenyatta, the first president and father of the current one, coming from the Kikuyu tribe, the country's largest.

Both President Kenyatta and Odinga, a Luo, come from families and networks that have dominated Kenyan politics since independence, and both represent coalitions of ethnic groups. Odinga has once again fanned the embers of ethnic strife.

That is disgraceful and unnecessary. International monitors from the African Union, the United States and Europe said they witnessed no foul play; former United States Secretary of State John Kerry, co-leader of the Carter Center's mission of election observers, praised Kenya's election commission for its transparency and diligence. All observers have urged Odinga and other losing candidates to refer any allegations of fraud to the commission and the courts.

Odinga's specific claim is that Kenyatta's Jubilee party hacked into the election commission's computers to manipulate results, using the identity of Christopher Chege Musando, the commission communications manager who was murdered a few days before the voting. His death remains unsolved. The commission said that there was an attempt to hack the computers but that it failed.

All that can and should be checked. But in the meantime it is imperative that Odinga strongly urge his followers to remain calm. At 72, he might mull the idea that a display of respect for the new Constitution would be a far better legacy than another bloody spasm of violence.

(Source: *The NYT*)

How the world is reacting to war of words between Trump and North Korea

By Amanda Erickson

Last week, tensions between the United States and North Korea hit a boiling point.

Things ratcheted up Tuesday when President Trump told reporters that the United States would respond with "fire and fury like the world has never seen" if Pyongyang continues its provocations. (He later suggested that his world-rattling words might not have been "tough enough.") Those comments came in response to U.S. intelligence reports suggesting that Pyongyang had the capacity to fit a nuclear weapon to a long-range ballistic missile.

On Wednesday, North Korea struck back, calling Trump's statement a "load of nonsense," and accusing the U.S. president of being senile and spending too much time on golf. The country also warned that it is working on a plan to deploy four missiles that would envelope Guam, a U.S. territory with several American bases, in a wall of fire.

Though senior U.S. officials rushed to calm Americans and allies, the president did little to cool tensions Thursday, announcing that his administration is reviewing its options and that the military is "locked and loaded," ready to #fighttonight.

President Trump said "it's pretty obvious" what his "locked and loaded" tweet about North Korea meant on Aug. 11. "We're either going to be very very successful quickly, or we're going to be successful in another way quickly," he said.

Here's a look at how other countries are responding to this tense situation:

■ China

In the past, China has tried to act as something of a mediator between the United States and North Korea, urging restraint and caution on both sides. As *The Washington Post's* China correspondent reported, "China has become deeply frustrated with the regime in Pyongyang, and genuinely wants to see a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. But it has always refused to do anything that might destabilize or topple a regime which has long been both ally and buffer state. ... That's because Beijing does not want to see a unified Korean state allied to the United States on its border: Indeed, hundreds of thousands of Chinese soldiers died during the 1950-53 Korean War to prevent that from happening."



But on Friday, Beijing said in no uncertain terms that it would not come to North Korea's defense if the Hermit Kingdom launched a preemptive strike against the United States. An editorial in the state-run *Global Times* reads, in part, "If North Korea launches missiles that threaten U.S. soil first and the U.S. retaliates, China will stay neutral. ... If the U.S. and South Korea carry out strikes and try to overthrow the North Korean regime and change the political pattern of the Korean Peninsula, China will prevent them from doing so."

■ Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has long argued for a tougher line on North Korea, pushing to strengthen Japan's military and antimissile defense. In recent days, Abe and other senior officials have reiterated their support of the U.S. president's strategy. Trump is "putting all options on the table," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said to the *New York Times*. "Our government approves of that stance. It's extremely important that the Japan-U.S. alliance further strengthens its ability to deter and respond."

That might not sit so well with Japan's electorate, which largely does not share Abe's bellicose position. "If it looks like the U.S. set off the chain of events that led to escalation, and Abe didn't use his relationship with Trump to moderate that, it's easy to imagine that there would be a domestic price to pay," Tobias Harris, a Japan analyst at Teneo Intelligence, told the *New York Times*.

■ South Korea

On Friday, South Korea said that the country's national security adviser had

been in touch with his American counterpart and had been assured that the White House will not do anything on the Korean Peninsula that would "catch the South off guard." "Both South Korea and the United States reaffirmed their promise that as they take step-by-step measures to ensure their security and the safety of their peoples, they will coordinate with each other closely and transparently," a statement from presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun said.

■ Russia

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated Friday that Russia will not accept a nuclear North Korea. But he blamed the current tensions on the United States and Kim Jong Un's regime, saying that there has been an "overwhelming amount" of "belligerent rhetoric" from Washington and Pyongyang. Lavrov also advocated for his country's preferred solution to the crisis — a "smart plan" developed by Russia and China that would have Kim freeze his country's nuclear tests in exchange for the United States and South Korea freezing their large-scale drills.

Live on state television, Lavrov said that "there are direct threats of deploying [military] power" and that "the side that is stronger and cleverer" will take the first step to defuse tensions.

■ Australia

In a statement to 3AW, an Australian radio station, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that if North Korea launches an attack on the United States, Australia will have our back. "America stands by its allies, including Australia of course, and

we stand by the United States," Turnbull said, according to ABC. "Be very, very clear on that. If there's an attack on the U.S., the ANZUS Treaty would be invoked and Australia would come to the aid of the United States, as America would come to our aid if we were attacked."

He also called on Kim's regime to stop its "illegal, reckless, provocative conduct."

■ Germany

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called the escalation of rhetoric "the wrong answer." She has pledged her country's support to "any nonmilitary solutions," telling reporters in Berlin: "I don't see a military solution to this conflict. ... I see the need for enduring work at the UN Security Council ... as well as tight cooperation between the countries involved, especially the U.S. and China."

■ United Kingdom

British officials have called on the United States to dial back the rhetoric. First Secretary of State Damian Green has said that it is "obviously" in Britain's interests for the two countries to avoid war; he also called on Trump to "be sensible" and go through the United Nations before undertaking military action. According to the *Sun*, an unnamed government source has said the UK won't support a U.S. military strike. "The Americans are more than capable of doing what they might want, or have to do, in the region without our help," the paper quoted the source as saying.

■ France

On Wednesday, government spokesman Christophe Castaner told reporters that his country was "preoccupied" by the situation and urged "all sides" to "act responsibly."

■ Guam

Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo has endeavored to calm nerves and reassure the island's 160,000 citizens that they're safe. In a video address, he said, "There is no change in the threat level resulting from North Korea events" and that "there are several levels of defense, all strategically placed to protect our island and our nation." But Guam also released a two-page pamphlet advising residents on how to react to a North Korean strike.

"Our island has been a target since 2013, and even before that," Dee Cruz, a senior watch officer with Guam Homeland Security, told *The Post*. "We're ready, and prepared, as much as possible."

(Source: *The Washington Post*)

Iraq's Turkmen areas become battlefield in Kurdish referendum debate

The Iraqi Turkmen Front, the largest political party representing the minority Turkmen ethnic group, has reiterated its objection to the Kurdistan referendum scheduled for Sept. 25. In a statement issued July 29, the front stressed that the fate of Kirkuk — a particularly disputed province that is set to be included in the referendum — "must be decided by the Iraqi parliament." In Kirkuk, Kurds account for 52% of the population, while Arabs, Turkmen and Christians combined account for 48%. The referendum also includes other areas of contention, including ones considered by the Turkmen as their own.

The Turkmen objection to the referendum goes in line with the position of the Iraqi government, which announced July 20 its rejection of the referendum. This raises the possibility of a war erupting in the region between the Iraqi security forces and the armed factions supporting them on the one hand and the peshmerga forces on the other. This would force Turkmen to take sides and would place their areas on the confrontation lines between the two parties.

Those areas, which have been disputed between Erbil and Baghdad since 2003, could be the spark that ignites a war between the Arabs and Kurds at any moment. On Nov. 16, 2016, Baghdad and Erbil mobilized their forces against the backdrop of a security dispute in those areas, namely in Kirkuk. This created the real possibility of armed conflict. The Turkmen, the third-largest ethnicity in Iraq after the Arabs and Kurds and whose presence in Iraq dates to the Ottoman occupation of the region, are well-aware of the repercussions of such a conflict and are concentrated in the provinces of Kirkuk, Salahuddin, Diyala and Ninevah, in Tal Afar and rural areas around Mosul, as well as in Erbil, Altun Kupri, Kifri, Qarah Tabbah, Khanaqin, Gazzrabbat (Saadia) and Mandali.

■ Disputed areas

Mehdi Saadoun, an activist in the Turkmen Rescue Foundation, told Al-Monitor, "Holding a referendum in these areas is to be expected following the defeat of the Islamic State [ISIS] in Iraq, as the Kurds seek to extend their control as much as possible in the disputed areas by definitively annexing them to Kurdistan while turning a blind eye to the fate of the Turkmen."

He said, "The peshmerga forces have further sought to dominate the areas under the pretext of preparing them and securing them for a successful ballot at a time when the Popular Mobilization Units threatened to intervene, thus throwing the Turkmen into a quagmire of a possible bloody war between the two sides."

Saadoun added, "Kurdish groups, backed by Kurdish parties and forces, are provoking the Turkmen by carrying out assassinations, killings and looting operations



Chairman of the Iraqi Turkmen Front Arshad al-Salih (2nd L) speaks during a press conference in Kirkuk, Iraq, June 28, 2014.

Article 143 of the Iraqi Constitution considers Kirkuk an area outside the borders of Kurdistan, meaning that Kurds are not entitled to include it in the referendum.

in broad daylight and with the knowledge of the local government. Since 2003, Kurdish forces have changed the demographics of the Turkmen regions and imposed a fait accompli."

Saadoun said he believes that "because of the repercussions of the referendum, a political conflict is rapidly developing into a military clash between the Kurdish political forces and parties on the one hand and the Arab parties on the other, as each party seeks to impose its presence in those areas."

Jassem Mohammed Jaafar, a Turkmen member of the Iraqi parliament, told Al-Monitor, "The persecutions and armed actions are affecting the feeling of coexistence with the Kurds in Kirkuk and other common areas."

He added, "We cannot see these operations unfold without doing anything to help our areas, which have become dependent on the relations between Baghdad and Erbil."

Asked about the reaction of the Turkmen, whose population is estimated at 3.5 million (there are no official statistics), Jaafar said, "The Turkmen will not be a difficult card in the conflict because of their limited number and practically nonexistent military potential — compared with the Arabs and Kurds. Add to this their displacement at the hands of the Kurds, which led to

their dispersion in areas inside and outside Iraq, in Turkey and Iran."

"Since 2003, Kurds have sought to displace Turkmen from Kirkuk and other areas and replace them with Kurds in a bid to bring about a demographic change," he added.

Jaafar threatened to "internationalize the issue of the Turkmen, should their demands continue to be ignored and should the government continue to remain silent about their persecution at the hands of the Kurds."

■ Turkmen's worries

However, despite this feeling of weakness, the Turkmen and their leaders are still hanging in there. On July 29, Hassan Tauran, the deputy head of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, told media outlets that the regional tours by the front aim to convey a message to the world that Turkmen's worries in the post-ISIS stage are caused by the Kurdish referendum and the inclusion of Turkmen areas within the territory Kurds seek to establish.

Meanwhile, Turkmen political forums have been addressing the many massacres the Turkmen have been subjected to, including one in Kirkuk in 1959 and one in Altun Kupri in 1991 by Saddam Hussein's regime. Turkmen were also subjected to an Arabization campaign during the Baath regime and a policy of "nationalism correction," which forced many of them to change their national affiliation and become Arabs. On May 9, Human Rights Watch accused the Kurdish security forces in the city of Kirkuk of forcing Turkmen out of the city.

Member of Parliament Mohamed Othman Khalidi told Al-Monitor, "The concerns of minorities and different communities are mainly driven by the injustice that has been inflicted upon them under Saddam's regime and the successive governments after 2003, which made them suspicious of the positions of the other party."

He added, "This led all the parties to take extreme positions out of fear of undergoing the same injustice," and pointed out that "dialogue, harmony and a proper and fair application of the constitution is the solution to guarantee the rights and demands of all communities."

Article 143 of the Iraqi Constitution considers Kirkuk an area outside the borders of Kurdistan, meaning that Kurds are not entitled to include it in the referendum.

Turkmen have been seeking to claim their right to government positions and to teach their children in their mother tongue. They also have been demanding their administrative rights and have been calling for an end to the Arabization campaign by the Arabs and Kurdization attempts by the Kurds. At the moment, their main concern is the Kurdistan referendum.

(Source: *Al Monitor*)

Whiting out Black Lives Matter

By Dr. Melina Abdullah

Until Nov. 9, 2016, the night of the presidential election, Black Lives Matter (BLM) was a force that not only demonstrated in the streets, disrupted business as usual and organized in black communities. It also was constantly on the air of virtually every media outlet in the nation. Brown faces, with the "Black Lives Matter activist" title chryoned beneath their names, regularly occupied at least one of the four quadrants filled by talking heads on MSNBC, CNN and local news shows, and any reference to policing or race in this nation was thought to be invalid without comment from Black Lives Matter.

The voices of BLM co-founders Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi were in high demand, and on-the-ground BLM organizers were regularly pulled into conversations about local efforts that had garnered national attention. We said the names of blacks killed by police and hashtagged them on social media so they reverberated through intense echo chambers, humanizing the victims and pushing back against police attempts to posthumously assassinate their characters.

Then, like the turning of a page, the changing of a channel, the dropping of a curtain, Black Lives Matter disappeared from the public sphere. The day after Donald Trump was named the newest occupant of the White House, Black Lives Matter no longer mattered to the mainstream press. And it must be framed that way: Black Lives Matter has been "whited out" of the national media, even as the work intensifies and the movement continues to grow. Media has either been duped by Trump's weapons of mass distraction or is actually complicit in shifting public attention away from what is arguably the most significant movement of this generation.

Of course, the initial singular focus was to be expected. There was the shock of it all. No one expected "President" Trump to be an actual title—maybe an interesting hypothetical laughter-filled conversation over cocktails, but not the current frightening reality. Many believed the nation had evolved further than it had and could not fathom that blatant racism—far beyond polite anti-blackness—could strike a chord with the majority of white voters.

Somehow, liberals and progressives missed, or chose to ignore, the suppressed yet seething vitriol of a huge swath of white Americans who traded their grandfathers' white sheets for their own red caps. For these white people, "Make America Great Again" was like holding up a noose, reminding black people of the targets seared onto their backs and affirming the disposability of indigenous people and brown folks. MAGA meant that (white) women knew to keep themselves "pretty" with blonde hair, red lipstick and closed mouths; that queer and trans folks were swept back into closets; and that the disabled were nuisances, not people. Under Trump's America, poor people are poor because they deserve to be, and religious freedom means the right to recite Christian prayers in the Oval Office and lock Muslims out of the country while



bombing their homelands. All this was jarring—especially to whites who see themselves as open and liberal.

For the Trump regime, the constant media attention is a second victory. Trump thrives off continual coverage of his agenda. The larger impact of this shift is the way power is being redirected away from the people and growing mass movements and monopolized by the white-supremacist-patriarchal-heteronormative capitalism as embodied by Trump and his regime. Trump's tweets, shake-ups and meltdowns are weapons of mass distraction meant to draw attention, diverting it from the resistance movements he loathes. They are an attempt to quash any viable alternatives to his intention to swiftly sweep virtually all resources and power into the hands of his own class. For Trump, Black Lives Matter must be brought down because it not only directly challenges his agenda but also calls for the end of a system of policing that protects his class interests.

Media is not without agency in this. If media is truly free (and that is questionable given the corporate ownership of mainstream media), it must challenge the Trump agenda in two important ways. First, those who would be most impacted by the new regime's agenda must be asked for perspective on what all this means to them. Next, at some point (like now), the shock of the Trump presidency must subside and we must engage in real discussions about the future of this nation, with movement organizers talking about agendas and positions those agendas define. The media is vital to resistance movements—and to black resistance movements in particular. Media has been a tool since the antislavery movement. "David Walker's Appeal," published in 1829, was distributed to black

free and enslaved people. It encouraged them to rise up against chattel slavery, possibly serving as an impetus for the 1831 Nat Turner rebellion. During the first anti-lynching era in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, black independent papers—best represented by Ida B. Wells' Memphis Free Speech and Headlight—called for black outmigration, armament and economic independence.

As television news entered the homes of 90 percent of Americans by 1960, so, too, did the civil rights movement. The rise of television and coverage by print news and radio were a constant consideration for strategists like Martin Luther King Jr. who used images of black "pure nonviolence" to elicit emotion, grow the movement and appeal to the morality of the masses. Images of strong young black people wearing black berets and leather jackets and carrying guns into the California State Capitol helped push the Black Power movement into full swing. And the haunting image of 12-year-old Hector Pieteron's lifeless body being frantically carried away from a South African police force that had opened fire on schoolchildren took the anti-apartheid movement global.

Most recently, we saw the innocence that danced out of the eyes of Tamir Rice; the sobs of Lezley McSpadden crying out for her murdered son, Mike Brown; the attempt of Diamond Reynolds' 4-year-old to soothe her as they both witnessed the murder of Philando Castille; and the way Korryn Gaines attempted to mother and comfort her 5-year-old son—even as she died from bullets fired by Baltimore police. And there were so many more heartbreaking, enraging images, words and phrases—like Eric Garner's "I can't breathe"—that poured life into the Black Lives Matter movement.

The day after Donald Trump was named the newest occupant of the White House, Black Lives Matter no longer mattered to the mainstream press.

Media, when done responsibly, amplifies voices and perspectives that might not otherwise be heard. It is a check on power, a balancing of moneyed interests with those who have fewer resources. For resistance and other transformative movements, demonstration and mass action are meant to disrupt systems of oppression and raise public awareness. Resistance has a theatrical component that meets its fullest potential when there is an audience. When organized actions are not covered by media, when voices are muted and perspectives are drowned out, it severely limits the reach of movements. Demonstrations might disrupt the status quo and get messages out to immediate circles, but the ability to elicit mass support is significantly thwarted.

In the little more than six months since Trump has taken office, 594 people have been killed by police, 22 percent of those people black (double the proportion of the black population) and an additional 19 percent of "unknown" race. These are almost identical numbers to those of 2016, when news coverage of these killings was at a high.

Black Lives Matter has responded to new killings and continuing cases through mass demonstrations and constant pressure at public meetings. It bird-dogs elected and appointed officials, calls for the firing of police chiefs (like LAPD's Charlie Beck, who leads the most murderous department in the nation), demands the prosecution of officers who kill and brutalize our people and provides support to families most impacted by state violence. BLM also engages in acts of nonviolent direct action, doing policy work, conducting community canvasses, making budget demands, proposing community-based solutions, making independent media (like the "clapback" against the National Rifle Association), engaging in spiritual work (like the national #SacredResistance effort launched in April), participating in political artistry and much more. Since its founding just four years ago, the ranks of Black Lives Matter has swelled globally to 40 chapters and upward of 10,000 members.

Black Lives Matter is moving from its infancy to its institution-building stage, with a sophisticated platform and abolitionist agenda that calls for the dismantling of prisons and policing as we know them and intense investment in the resources that make communities safe, peaceful and healthy—like permanent housing, mental health services, quality education, youth programs, good jobs with good wages, and arts and culture programs. The method is called "disrupt and build": At the same time hundreds of folks pour into the streets and successfully demand the firing of the officers who killed Kisha Michael and Marquintan Sandlin in Inglewood, Calif., BLM is also preparing the next generation for leadership with Youth Activist Camps and Freedom Schools offered worldwide this summer. There is plenty for mainstream media to cover. Instead, though, the faces that occupy television screens have faded back to pre-Obama-era monochrome, with the occasional media person of color incestuously plucked from other network news programs and one or two network "contributors" peppered in. The talking heads now speak exclusively to the latest Trump antics—with no mention of Char-



leena Lyles who was killed by Seattle police in front of three of her children after she called for help with a suspected burglary, or of the "in policy" rulings in the separate deaths of 14-year-old Jesse Romero and 18-year-old scholar-athlete Kenny Watkins, both killed by Los Angeles police. Networks say news-show ratings are at an all-time high, but public opinion surveys show there is a public desire to shift away from the singular focus on Donald Trump.

Public Black Lives Matter forums continue to draw capacity crowds, like the recent standing-room-only crowd at Politicon. There is no shortage of items that require a Black Lives Matter perspective—even within the Trump agenda: the recent call for increased police brutality by Donald Trump (and the giddy laughter and applause of police receiving the message); the deploying of federal troops to Chicago, making black communities literally occupied territories; calls for an end to affirmative action and the erosion of public education; and the contrast between the swift action taken against Minneapolis police officers when they killed Justine Damond—a white bride-to-be—and the closing of ranks when members of the same department killed Jamar Clark and Philando Castille. If media is to be a check on institutional power, then mainstream media must be challenged to not become the public relations arm of the Trump regime, either intentionally or tacitly.

While coverage by mainstream media has been a useful tool, mainstream media is also corporate media and essentially shares the class interests of the regime we seek to topple. As movements grow and evolve, it is imperative that we recognize, support, utilize and invest in independent media that is more willing to offer alternative perspectives that challenge the existing hegemony.

Black Lives Matter must refuse to give power to Trump or complicit media to whiten out our movement. We cannot become demoralized and actually believe the "movement is dead" stories in the media. We must commit ourselves more fully to the movement and on-the-ground efforts, and we must apply the disrupt-and-build model to our media strategy—building alternative outlets and disrupting media that advances oppressive propaganda and attempts to mute our voices. Black Lives still Matter, whether it makes news headlines or not.

(Source: Truthdig)

Defense Secretary "Mad Dog" Mattis visits Google and Amazon

By Andre Damon

U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said in a statement Wednesday that North Korea would face the "destruction of its people" if it did not comply with the demands of the United States.

The retired Marine Corps general, given the name "Mad Dog" for his bloody conquest of the Iraqi city of Fallujah in 2004, issued this genocidal proclamation as he was departing for a trip not to a forward operating base, but to the headquarters of Amazon in Seattle and a Defense Department agency in Silicon Valley that works closely with tech firms such as Google.

With the United States closer to nuclear conflict than at any point since the end of the Cold War, Mattis' visit was an indication of the increasingly vital role played by the U.S. tech giants not just in the conduct of wars abroad, but in the censorship and suppression of political opposition at home.

In the preparation for war against North Korea, and very possibly its ally China, Mattis and the U.S. military are well aware that they face their greatest potential adversary at home, in the form of mass working class opposition to war. The growth of militarism and war are always accompanied by expanding attacks on democratic rights and the development of authoritarian forms of rule.

In the U.S. today, the military, the intelligence agencies and major media outlets are working with technology companies, in the first instance, Google, to institute systematic censorship aimed at silencing left-wing, antiwar web sites. The chief target of this operation is the World Socialist Web Site.

Over the past three months, in the name of combating "fake news" and promoting "authoritative" content on the Internet, Google has implemented a change to its search algorithm that has slashed the search traffic of leading left-wing web sites by 45 percent. This political censorship operation has reduced traffic to the World Socialist Web Site from Google searches by more than two thirds.

The censorship algorithms rolled out by Google no doubt figured prominently in Mattis' discussions with tech executives. The nominal purpose of his visit, however, was to integrate Silicon Valley firms even more closely into the booming and lucrative business of waging war.

On Thursday, Mattis met with Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos at the tech giant's headquarters in Seattle.

On Friday, he spoke at the headquarters of Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DUIX), a Defense Department unit located two miles from the Google campus in Mountain View, California. Among the unit's advisors is Eric Schmidt, the chairman of Google's parent company, Alphabet.


Mattis said the Pentagon's partnership with Silicon Valley via DUIX would make the U.S. military "more lethal and more effective" than ever before. DUIX awards military technology contracts to U.S. hi-tech firms.

The operation has already awarded more than \$100 million in contracts for 45 pilot projects in areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomous machines and outer space. Its web page encourages technology firms to "tap into a \$100+ billion market."


During his visit, Mattis proclaimed, "We'll get better at integrating AI advances out here into the U.S. military" as a result of the unit, which he said would "grow in influence and impact" on the military. Among the projects rolled out by DUIX, according to Bloomberg News, is a system to coordinate air strikes against targets "such as fleeing vehicles."

→ 13

Second Announcement



N.I.O.C
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National Iranian Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender (First Publish/Seconded Publish)

One-Stage (compressed)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
6, 429	225,000,000	4,500,000,000	HIGH PRESSURE Flexible HOSE 3"LD.2"LD. 1000 PSI	1/496/041	Tender No.: FP/17-96/029 Indent No.: 48-22-9622003	1

Brief description of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through two-stage public tender (semi-pressd) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.
Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and receive tender documents from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tender will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit the completed documents including qualification worksheets in form of software in cd and documentary within 14 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1th floor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.

D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A) Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activities licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
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This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on WWW.NIDC.IR
Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۱۵/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۱۵/۲۴

Black Lives Matter is moving from its infancy to its institution-building stage, with a sophisticated platform and abolitionist agenda that calls for the dismantling of prisons and policing as we know them and intense investment in the resources that make communities safe, peaceful and healthy.

When the president is un-American

By Paul Krugman

Remember back in 2008, when Sarah Palin used to talk about the "real America"? She meant rural and small-town residents — white residents, it went without saying — who supposedly embodied the nation's true essence.

She was harshly condemned for those remarks, and rightly so — and not just because the real, real America is a multiracial, multicultural land of great metropolitan areas as well as small towns. More fundamentally, what makes America America is that it is built around an idea: the idea that all men are created equal, and are entitled to basic human rights. Take away that idea and we're just a giant version of a two-bit autocracy.

And maybe that is what we have, in fact, become. For Donald Trump's refusal to condemn the murderous white supremacists in Charlottesville finally confirms what has become increasingly obvious: The current president of the United States isn't a real American. Real Americans understand that our nation is built around values, not the "blood and soil" of the marchers' chants; what makes you an American is your attempt to live up to those values, not the place or race your ancestors came from. And when we fall short

in our effort to live up to our ideals, as we all too often do, at least we realize and acknowledge our failure.

Questioning Obama's place of birth

But the man who began his political ascent by falsely questioning Barack Obama's place of birth — a blood-and-soil argument if ever there was one — clearly cares nothing about the openness and inclusiveness that have always been essential parts of who we are as a nation.

Real Americans understand that our nation was born in a rebellion against tyranny. They feel an instinctive aversion to tyrants everywhere, and an underlying sympathy for democratic regimes, even those with whom we may currently have disputes.

But the present occupant of the White House has made no secret of preferring the company, not of democratic leaders, but of authoritarian rulers — not just Vladimir Putin, but people like Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Rodrigo Duterte, the leader of the Philippines. When Trump visited Saudi Arabia, his commerce secretary exulted in the absence of hostile demonstrations, an absence ensured by the repressiveness of the regime.

Real Americans expect public officials to be humbled by the responsibility that comes with the job. They're not supposed to be boastful blowhards, constantly claiming credit

for things they haven't done — like Trump bragging about job creation that has continued at more or less the same pace as under his predecessor — or which never even happened, like his mythical victory in the popular vote.

Real Americans understand that being a powerful public figure means facing criticism. That comes with the job, and you're supposed to tolerate that criticism even if you feel it's unfair. Foreign autocrats may rage against unflattering news reports, threaten to inflict financial harm on publications they dislike, talk about imprisoning journalists; American leaders aren't supposed to sound like that.

Trump exploiting his office

Finally, real Americans who manage to achieve high office realize that they are servants of the people, meant to use their position for the public good. In practice, human nature being what it is, many officials have in fact taken financial advantage of their office. But we've always understood that this was wrong — and presidents, in particular, are supposed to be above such things. Now we have a leader who is transparently exploiting his office for personal enrichment, in ways that all too obviously amount in practice to influence-buying by domestic malefactors and foreign governments alike.

In short, these days we have a president who is really, truly, deeply un-American, someone who doesn't share the values and ideals that made this country special.

In fact, he's so deeply alienated from the American idea that he can't even bring himself to fake it. We all know that Trump feels comfortable with white supremacists, but it's amazing that he won't even give them a light tap on the wrist. We all know that Putin is Trump's kind of guy, but it's remarkable that Trump won't even pretend to be outraged at Putin's meddling with our election.

Speaking of which: I have no more idea than anyone else what Robert Mueller's probe into potential collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign, questionable financial ties, possible obstruction of justice and more will find. Trump is acting very much like someone with something big to hide, but we don't yet know exactly what that something is.

Whatever role foreign influence may have played and may still be playing, however, we don't need to wonder whether an anti-American cabal, hostile to everything we stand for, determined to undermine everything that truly makes this country great, has seized power in Washington. It has: it's called the Trump administration.

(Source: The NYT)

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Things to do to get yourself out of a social anxiety rut

How to break free from a pattern of socially anxious behavior



By Arlin Cuncic

Social anxiety disorder (SAD) affects up to 13% of the population. People with SAD suffer in all areas of their lives; they have trouble making friends and maintaining friendships, finding life partners, finding work and building a career, and even getting through the mundane aspects of daily life.

Although SAD can be seriously debilitating, and the best treatment approach involves combining cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and/or medication (such as SSRIs), there is much that can be done through self-help to overcome social anxiety.

Self-help strategies often draw on the effective components of other more traditional treatment approaches. For example, self-help might incorporate aspects of relaxation, thought reprogramming, and exposure to feared situations.

If you suffer from mild to moderate social anxiety, you might just feel like you are in a rut most of the time. What is the best way to get out of a rut? Do something.

1. Start an exercise program

If you do not already exercise regularly, start planning a program for yourself today. Exercise not only increases feelings of well-being and reduces anxiety, but if done in the company of others it offers the chance to build up your social skills in a relatively non-threatening environment.

If you don't have the resources or the time to join a gym or participate in regular exercise classes, there is still lots that you can do. Consider taking up walking or running or practice yoga at home.

2. Set some goals

Part of goal setting involves deciding where you want to end up, but it also involves learning and setting a benchmark of where you are now. One way to do this is by taking some self-assessment quizzes to see how you score in terms of social anxiety.

Then down the road, after you have started to get yourself out of the rut, you can take the quiz again and see if your scores have improved. Remember not to compare yourself to others in terms of social success; compare yourself to how you were doing one week, one month, or one year ago.

3. Start saying "Yes"

Perhaps you have gotten into a rut of saying "No" to everything. Instead, why not start saying "Yes?" If you are invited to do something social, try to make a habit out of accepting the invitation.

Although you might feel anxious at first, over time the more you do, the less fearful you will become. The next time an invitation crosses your desk or someone at work asks you to join the group for a coffee break, make an effort to go.

4. Start saying "No"

Are you a pushover? Do others make unrealistic demands on your time or treat you poorly, but you feel powerless to stand up for yourself? This is a time to learn how better to say "No" and how to be more assertive.

You don't have to go along with everything that everyone wants, and if you don't clearly communicate what you

SAD (Social Anxiety Disorder) can be seriously debilitating and the best treatment approach involves combining cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and/or medication (such as SSRIs).

want and need, others are left guessing what you are thinking or how you feel.

5. Join a support group

Whether you join a brick-and-mortar support group or an online group, you will find the company of others who understand what you are going through comforting.

Make the most of your time with the group; be encouraging and look for ways to help others. Your acts of kindness will be paid back to you.

6. Say "I am nervous"

Everyone who speaks in public gets a little nervous. One of the best antidotes for anxiety about public speaking is to simply acknowledge how you are feeling before you begin.

In many settings it is completely acceptable to start off your speech with a laugh and a comment such as "Forgive me if I stumble over my words, you see I just get a little nervous speaking in public." Immediately you are helping yourself out of the rut of slipping into a panic attack while speaking. Others will also be more forgiving than you might think.

7. Buy yourself a new outfit

Retail therapy is obviously no cure for social anxiety, but sometimes clothing really can make you feel like a new person with a new attitude. Try to get yourself out of a rut by purchasing something outside your comfort zone. Choose a unique accent piece both to try something new and to give others a conversation starter when they first meet you.

8. Cherish being alone

Some people with SAD are also natural introverts; this means that they recharge their emotional batteries by spending time alone instead of in the company of others.

You don't have to become a social butterfly to overcome social anxiety; be comfortable being who you are. If that involves choosing to time alone to gather your thoughts (rather than because of fear), there is nothing wrong with making that choice.

9. Go somewhere new

Do you follow the same routine every week? Visit the same grocery store, same gas station, eat at the same restaurant, or walk the same block?

Try breaking out of your routine by going somewhere new. Not only will you challenge your social anxiety about new surroundings, but you might discover you have been missing out on some great aspect of your neighborhood.

10. Join toastmasters

If you have a significant fear of public speaking, make a point of joining Toastmasters International... today! This group has helped people around the globe improve public speaking skills and overcome speech anxiety. Best of all, the group provides feedback for each other, so it is a great chance to meet people and make new friends.

11. Stop trying to be perfect

Perfectionism and social anxiety often go hand in hand. Everything that you say and everything you do doesn't have to be perfect. Make a point of being imperfect and taking chances for a day.

12. Take a vacation

As simple as it sounds, sometimes we all just need a change of scenery. If you are really stuck in a socially anxious mindset, try taking off for a weekend to a new locale, even if it is a solo trip. Soak up some of the local cultures, and immerse yourself in a different pace.

At the same time, try on a different way of looking at yourself. You are more than your social anxiety, and it doesn't define who you are.

13. Read a book

We are not talking about romance novels here. Choose either a motivational story or a self-help book and set about a course of change based on what you read.

If you really want to break out of your rut while making your way through the book, join an online SAD support forum and post about what you are doing to make changes in your life, according to the book. You may find others join in your quest.

14. Do something exciting

Try something totally off-the-wall like a hot air balloon ride or a zip-line adventure. Lose yourself in an exciting adventure and forget about your social anxiety. Best of all, the next time someone asks you what you do for fun, you will have a great story to tell.

15. Replace negativity with positivity

Being positive is contagious. If you have a habit of seeing the world through a negative lens (which most people with SAD tend to do), try becoming an optimist, if only for a day at first.

Replace any negative thoughts with more positive alternatives. See if that doesn't help you start to climb out of your rut.

16. Surround yourself with positive people

If at all possible, try to spend more time with positive people; people who love you, believe in you, and see the beauty in who you are despite your social anxiety.

Spending time with these people will make you feel good and help you to weather any rough times as you try to make changes in your life.

DID YOU KNOW?

Social Anxiety is the third largest mental health problem in the world today.

17. Sign up for a cause

Join a cause that you believe in and that will get you out into the community and meet new people. Help animals find adoptive homes, walk for charity or fight third world hunger. Find a purpose beyond yourself and your space in the world, and some of the mundane problems of the day might seem just that.

18. Strike up a conversation

Do you shy away from talking to strangers? Do you avoid eye contact at the grocery store? Do you look at your feet in the elevator? Today, instead of doing what you normally do in those situations, try doing the opposite. Engage the other person in a bit of small talk, just for the sake of getting the practice and learning not to be.

(Source: verywell.com)

Skin cancer symptoms you can't see

By Markham Heid

Most of the time—99 out of 100 cases—skin cancer is clearly visible on the outside of the body (though realizing that a funky mole, rash, blemish or lesion is malignant isn't always so easy). Yet there are exceptions to every rule, and this one is no different.

Of course, an advanced melanoma could—depending on its location—cause pain, headaches, or other non-skin symptoms. But by that point you would likely have "a pretty large, ulcerated tumor or wound on the skin," says Zaineb Makhzoumi, MD, a surgeon and assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "It's not something you wouldn't notice."

What we're talking about here are the rare exceptions in which non-skin symptoms are your very first clue that you have skin cancer. Here are seven signs you should know about, just in case you happen to fall into that unlucky 1%.

Lumps beneath your skin

You can't see them. But if you feel lumps beneath your skin—especially in areas like your groin, armpit, or neck—those may be an indication of skin cancer that has spread to your lymph nodes, says Jeremy Davis, MD, a clinical instructor and surgeon at UCLA Health.

"It's not common, but there are situations where your immune system takes care of the primary mole or skin lesion even though the cancer itself has metastasized," he explains. "So the cancer started on your skin, but you never saw it."

A good rule of thumb: If you find a lump anywhere, see your doctor.

Abdominal pain

Along with your lymph nodes, melanoma can spread to your liver. If that happens, you may experience pain in the "upper right quadrant" of your abdomen, Davis says. He's quick to add that this sort of pain is related to many health conditions, some of which aren't too scary (like gallstones). So don't freak out—but do see a doctor.

Breathing problems

Once a melanoma has metastasized, it could also spread to your lungs, Davis says. "If it goes to the lungs, it could present as shortness of breath or a persistent cough," he explains. If you're experiencing those symptoms, "the odds are against it being melanoma," he says. "But you still want to get checked out."

Achy joints

Along with your lymph nodes, lungs, and liver, your bones are one of the places a melanoma may spread—even if your skin symptoms have resolved themselves, Davis says. If that's the case, you may experience arthritis-like symptoms like joint pain. If you can't figure out why your knees or hips are aching, see your doctor to sort it out.

(Source: prevention.com)

"SHAHR" Welfare Complex, a Gem in Northern Iran

Special Offer for Travelers Who Want to Enjoy a Trip in Northern Iran

In hot days of summer, travelers, who choose the coastal towns of Mazandaran Province for recreations alongside of the sea with breathtaking views, will experience a memorable days with their families in "SHAHR" Welfare Complex. Travelling to the northern cities of the country and visiting must-see sites and sceneries of the Caspian Sea is one of the first decisions taken by families for summer trips and holidays.

Meanwhile, most travelers prefer to use the coastal waters of Mazandaran Province to make unforgettable memories along with family or friends.

Among coastal cities of Mazandaran Province, Izadshahr is an ideal place for summer trips due to its favorable climatic condition. This city is located at 8 km West of Mahmoudabad and 7 km east of the Noor city in Mazandaran Province.

"SHAHR" Welfare Complex is one of the best welfare and recreational hubs in Izadshahr which is offered to the northern travelers. It has a beautiful residential and tourist area along with all amenities and facilities and can be considered as the most suitable option for staying a few days along the Caspian Sea.

This modern and newly-built complex is equipped with 188 seafront apartment units, constructed in seven floors with a unique view, located in a dreamy town for passengers and travelers special of ESKANO.

All units of this residential and welfare complex are equipped with two- and three-bedrooms, duplex, fully furnished (with stylish and classy furniture). It should be noted that the beachfront terrace has increased the attractions of the surrounding environment to a great extent.

Of the other amenities of this Complex, it should be referred to the private beach, a children's park, a football field, beach volleyball, basketball, Ping-Pong, a gym, a bike ride, a swimming pool, sauna and Jacuzzi as free of charge, etc.

On the other hand, senior managers of "SHAHR" Welfare Complex have considered special offer for government departments and organizations and can benefit from special discount within the framework of conclusion of a yearlong and/or long-term contract.



For more information about the facilities of this Complex and other units, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the following number: **01144536231, 01144536250 and/or 02144536093.**

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Tehran event to spotlight Tabriz as capital of Islamic tourism

TOURISM TEHRAN — The 28th National Crafts Exhibition which is to be held in Tehran is set to dedicate a special section to the city of Tabriz which will be the capital of Islamic tourism in 2018.



A view of the Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site

"Tabriz 2018" is amongst the side section programs for the 28th National Crafts Exhibition and the ancient city will be introduced distinctly in terms of its rich travel potentials, handicrafts, and culture," Mehr quoted Pouya Mahmoudian, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization's director for exports as saying on Monday.

Back in December 2015, Tabriz was named as the capital of Islamic tourism for 2018 by the inter-governmental Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The ancient city was also declared a World Craft City by the World Craft Council in 2015.

Craftspeople native to 31 provinces are scheduled to showcase their skills at the halls no. 14, 15, and 25 of the Tehran Permanent International Fairground from August 23 to 29.

The event will touch upon woodwork, illuminated manuscript, miniature, textile printing, enamel, leatherwork, hand-woven products, calligraphy, traditional musical instruments, metalwork, and marquetry, amongst a lavish patchwork of other works.

Hilton plans to open 30 more hotels in the UK

American hotel giant Hilton is planning on increasing the size of its UK estate by almost 25pc in a vote of confidence in the British economy as it moves to leave the European Union.

Hilton, which is majority owned by U.S. private equity giant Blackstone, is due to open 30 hotels over the next two years as it moves to cement the nation's place as its second largest market outside the U.S.

The new openings will include sites in London, as well as regional cities like York and Leeds, with a particular focus on its Hampton and Hilton Garden Inn brands. The company only opened six UK hotels in 2016 so the growth rate is a step up.

The plans will include the Lincoln Plaza London in Canary Wharf, the second UK hotel in its Curio division, a collection of independent hotels that retain their identity but are run by Hilton or under a franchise agreement. The latest set of growth plans follow the company opening the largest Hampton by Hilton hotel in the world at Stansted, meaning it now has sites at 18 UK airports.

ROUND THE GLOBE

Changdeokgung Palace Complex

Constructed in the 15th century during the Joseon Dynasty, the Changdeokgung Palace Complex occupies a 57.9 ha site in Jongno-gu, in northern Seoul, South Korea at the foot of Ungbong Peak of Mount Baegaksan, the main geomantic guardian mountain.

Changdeokgung is an exceptional example of official and residential buildings that were integrated into and harmonized with their natural setting. The complex was originally built as a secondary palace to the main palace of Gyeongbokgung, differentiated from it in its purpose and spatial layout within the capital.

Situated at the foot of a mountain range, it was designed to embrace the topography in accordance with pungsu principles, by placing the palace structures to the south and incorporating an extensive rear garden to the north called Biwon, the Secret Garden.



The official and residential buildings that make up the complex were designed in accordance with traditional palace layout principles.

Changdeokgung was used as the secondary palace to Gyeongbokgung for 200 years, but after the palaces were burnt down during the Japanese invasion in the late 16th century, it was the first to be reconstructed and since then served as the main seat of the dynasty for 250 years.

The property had a great influence on the development of Korean architecture, garden and landscape planning, and related arts, for many centuries. It reflects sophisticated architectural values, harmonized with beautiful surroundings. (Source: UNESCO)

Amir Chakhmaq Complex: A photogenic destination



A file photo shows people visiting the three-story Amir Chakhmaq Complex in Yazd, central Iran.

TOURISM TEHRAN The 19th-century Amir Chakhmaq Complex with its imposing three-story facade is one of the abundant tourist hotspots of Yazd, an oasis city in central Iran.

Located on a square of the same name, the prominent complex is noted for its eye-catching rows of symmetrical sunken alcoves, which are perfectly lit up following the sunset.

The structures that make up the complex include a mosque, a caravanserai, a bathhouse, a cold-water well and a tekyeh where Shiite Muslims come together for observing special religious ceremonies, all of which have been designed in accordance with traditional layout principles.

The perfectly proportioned niches on the facade may seem at their best and most photogenic late in afternoon, when towering exterior appears to glow

against the darkening sky and copper-colored sunlight is captured within each alcove.

A pedestrianized square overlooking the complex is usually full of visitors. It is landscaped with a vast pool, illuminated fountains, well-manicured trees and shrubs that lend an attractive foreground to the splendid vista at night.

Underneath the complex is a small bazaar with rows of two-story arcades.

Once an important station on the Silk Road, the historical structure of the Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage site back in July. It is home to plentiful historic mosques, minarets, and public-religious buildings.

Most buildings boast the presence of gorgeous wind-catchers (badgirs) atop their rooftops. The walls of the ancient city are adobe and mud brick, which seem glittering under the sunlight and blending naturally into the adjacent de-

sert landscape. The city has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Yazd is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

Under tourists' eyes:

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the complex have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

'Worth a quick trip'

This building is a facade, although there is a shopping arcade through the facade in the middle. We paid a quick visit during the daytime, and passed by at night. I recommend dropping by at night as it is beautifully lit. It is very popular with locals and it is only a short walk from the old town and the Jameh Mosque. (J0anned568 from Australia; visited May 2017)

'Visit view at night'

Some places really come alive at night when lit up and this is one of them. The fountains in the foreground change colors as does the facade. Great atmosphere with lots of people around. (Rdella from the UK, visited April 2017)

'Looks good in the dark'

An impressive front looks cool at dusk or in the night. During the day the square in front of it is full of people. Around it are many small shops and restaurant. (Graido from Switzerland; visited May 2017)

Worth a visit but nothing special

This is a nice place. It might look like a mosque in some pictures but it is not. It has a nice architecture. There is a square in front of it and a few shops around it. Some locals advised us to buy sweets from the shops there as they considered them some of the best in the city. (George X. from Greece; visited April 2017)

22 properties added to Iran's natural heritage list

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization has recently inscribed 22 natural spots and landscapes on the national heritage list, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The properties are located in the provinces of South Khorasan, Mazandaran, and Qazvin in eastern, northern, and west central parts of the country respectively and some of which are associated with the Cretaceous and Quaternary geological eras, said Ali Qomi, an official with the CHTHO.

Amongst the most prominent ones on the shortlist are the Lake of Ghosts and the Danial Cave both in Mazandaran and the Black Land of Tabas in South Khorasan, he added.

The Black Land is situated some 120 kilometers south of Tabas and in the northernmost point in the Naiband



A view of the Lake of Ghosts in Mazandaran province, northern Iran. The small lake is peppered with some dead trees that add to its charm.

Wildlife Refuge. This geological phenomenon dates from the last glacial period, which started about two million years ago, the official explained.

Brits accused of terrorism in Spain as hotel bed numbers slashed and tourists intimidated

Spanish activists have accused Brits of terrorism in Spain as the Balearic government brings in plans to curb the thousands of UK citizens spending millions in the region.

Holiday hotspots like Mallorca and Ibiza are set to limit the number of holidaymakers to the islands as locals clash with visitors.

The number of beds sold to tourists will now be capped at a combined 623,624 on the popular islands of Mal-

lorca and Ibiza as boozy British groups are accused of causing mayhem around coastal towns.

New plans will cut that number to 120,000 over the next few years and 70% of the beds assigned will be in Mallorca.

Anyone breaking the laws will be fined up to €400,000.

Tourism minister Alvaro Nadal has said he is urging lawmakers to protect visitors from "those who perpetrate and instigate acts against tourism".

Balearic Island tourist minister, Biel Barcelo, accused foreigners of lawless behavior, saying measures could "bring order" to the booming industry.

Aggressive protests have broken out in Spain as protesters screamed at holidaymakers to "go home".

Flares were set off in Palma, Mallorca, as hardliners accused holidaymakers of causing chaos on in their towns.

A tourism boom has allegedly seen locals "priced out" of popular areas as

Spaniard landlords make millions from renting rooms to revelers.

Street protests by anarchist groups in Barcelona, Mallorca and the Basque Country called for tourism to be banned while graffiti in the streets labelled holidaymakers "terrorists".

New rules will ban flat owners from renting their apartments via websites such as Airbnb and Homeaway unless they obtain a special license to do so. (Source: express.co.uk)

How to navigate art galleries in any city

By Shivani Vora

Whether you're vacationing in a big city or a small town, checking out the local art galleries makes for an enjoyable day out, said Natasha Schlesinger, an art historian who created ArtMuse Discover Galleries, an app that guides users through New York City's more than 1,000 art galleries.

"So many places around the world have a gallery scene that's either burgeoning or established, and visiting these galleries is a chance to see some high-quality art and get a pulse on local art trends," she said.

But how should you pick the galleries to check out and best appreciate the art they display? Here, Ms. Schlesinger shares her advice on gallery hopping with success.

Have a list

Some cities around the world like London and Hong Kong are home to several hundred art galleries, so having an edited list of the ones you want to visit is essential. Once you research the galleries in your destination

(a web search, your hotel concierge or a local newspaper are good resources for this), choose those with the newest shows. Also, pick a diverse mix so that you see a range of art styles and media — some galleries show only paintings while others focus on photography, sculpture or installations. Try to visit a gallery on the day a show opens because the artist whose works are on display is often on hand. "You'll see the art but also get to meet the artist, which is always fun," Ms. Schlesinger said.

Hit different neighborhoods

In large cities, art galleries are often concentrated in different neighborhoods according to the style of art they exhibit, and Ms. Schlesinger suggested hitting a few areas so that you get a broad perspective of that city's gallery scene.

In New York City, for example, the Upper East Side of Manhattan has galleries showing works by 19th-century artists like Claude Monet — Acquavella Galleries is an example. Chelsea has contemporary art galleries like Lehmann Maupin, which displays works by established artists, while Bushwick, in Brooklyn, also has contemporary

art galleries such as Koenig & Clinton but with works by up-and-coming artists.

Ten galleries is the limit

A day of gallery hopping should include visits to no more than that. "Even though many art galleries don't exhibit more than a few dozen works at a time, the art you see will be a blur if you go to too many," Ms. Schlesinger said. "In my experience, I've found that 10 or fewer is the ideal number."

Have a viewing strategy

When you arrive at a gallery, take a news release and a checklist of the exhibited works; Ms. Schlesinger said that both are generally available at the front desk. The news release will have a biography of the artist, and the list will have the relevant information about the works you're seeing — art galleries usually have no labels for the pieces on display. If you have questions about the art, feel free to ask for a gallery sales associate, even if you're not looking to buy — sharing their knowledge with visitors is part of their job. (Source: The New York Times)

CRISPR-modified ants go “space cadet” without a sense of smell

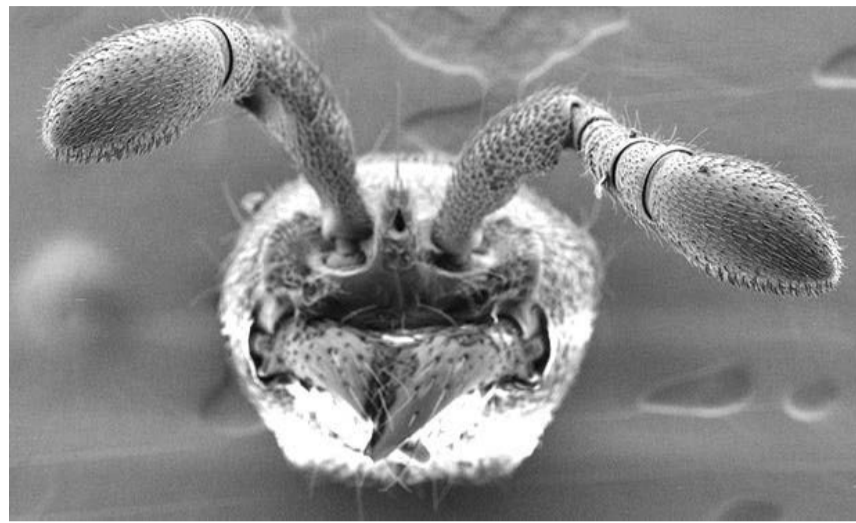
If a human being loses the sense of smell, it's a massive inconvenience. But in ants, it's a crippling handicap that prevents them from participating in ant society. A pair of independent studies from two teams used CRISPR technology to genetically alter ants to remove their ability to “smell,” which resulted in their inability to interact with normal ants and produced changes in their brains.

Ants live in societies that are so organized that they are the go-to metaphor for political regimentation. This organization is so strong that ant colonies are often described as a superorganism, with individual ants being little more than subunits of a much larger, more complex organism.

This not only makes ants a fascinating topic of study in themselves, but also provides a way of learning more about genetics. This is because altering the genes of ants can result in changes in complex behavior inside the colony. This is especially true if those genes affect the ability of ants to detect pheromones through their antennae – what in mammals would be called a sense of smell.

Recognizing one another

Pheromones are the glue that hold ant society together. These chemicals allow ants to recognize one another, to detect



intruders, mark out trails, determine one another's status, and send instructions to tell ants where to go and what to do. This means that if you alter the genes affecting pheromone receptors, the effects will

be very obvious.

Another advantage of working with ants is that all the ants in a colony are very closely related and some species of ants can actually be induced to reproduce

Another advantage of working with ants is that all the ants in a colony are very closely related and some species of ants can actually be induced to reproduce by parthenogenesis to create a colony of clones.

by parthenogenesis to create a colony of clones. This was the case in the study by a team from The Rockefeller University that used clonal raider ants (*Ooceraea biroi*) that don't have queens in their colonies and single, unfertilized eggs develop as clones.

Odorant receptors

Previous research had discovered that even though ants have 350 genes for odorant receptors, all of these are associated with a single co-receptor. This means that to eliminate an ant's sense of smell, it isn't necessary to eliminate the 350 receptors, but just the single Orco co-receptor. This was done using CRISPR technology, which is a recent genetic engineering technique based on a defense mechanism used by bacteria to sample the DNA of attacking viruses so they can identify future attacks and fend them off.

By cutting out a group of odorant receptor genes called 9-exon-alpha OR that produces a protein called Orco, the Rockefeller team was able to prevent a powerful set of pheromones called hydrocarbons from being detected. The altered larvae were carefully grown, then introduced into the colony to prevent the other worker ants from rejecting them.

(Source: newatlas.com)

New ultrathin semiconductor materials exceed some of silicon's capabilities

Electrical engineers at Stanford have identified two semiconductors – hafnium diselenide and zirconium diselenide – that share or even exceed some of silicon's desirable traits, starting with the fact that all three materials can “rust.”

In this greatly enlarged cross-section of an experimental chip, the bands of black and white reveal alternating layers of hafnium diselenide – an ultrathin semiconductor material – and the hafnium dioxide insulator.

The new materials can also be shrunk to functional circuits just three atoms thick and they require less energy than silicon circuits. Although still experimental, the researchers said the materials could be a step toward the kinds of thinner, more energy-efficient chips demanded by devices of the future.

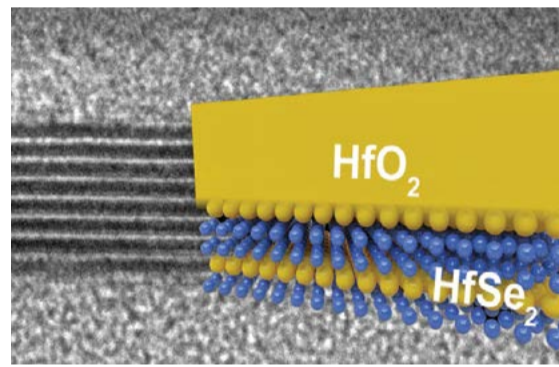
One is that it is blessed with a very good “native” insulator, silicon dioxide or, in plain English, silicon rust.

Exposing silicon to oxygen during manufacturing gives chip-makers an easy way to isolate their circuitry. Other semiconductors do not “rust” into good insulators when exposed to oxygen, so they must be layered with additional insulators, a step that introduces engineering challenges.

Not only do both ultrathin semiconductors rust, they do so in a way that is even more desirable than silicon. They form what are called “high-K” insulators, which enable lower power operation than is possible with silicon and its silicon oxide insulator.

As the Stanford researchers started shrinking the diselenides to atomic thinness, they realized that these ultrathin semiconductors share another of silicon's secret advantages.

The energy needed to switch transistors on – a critical step



in computing, called the band gap – is in a just-right range.

(Source: nextbigfuture.com)

In the future humans will use brain to brain communication

Elon Musk wants to get inside your head. In April, the Silicon Valley billionaire announced plans to launch Neuralink – a company dedicated to developing a brain-to-machine interface to cure brain ailments like paralysis and memory problems and help people compete with robots when the artificial intelligence revolution makes human brains obsolete. Musk says this will be accomplished by implanting tiny electrodes into the brain – allowing for things like downloading and uploading memory and casual brain-to-brain communication.

Leaders in the neurotechnology field welcome Musk's arrival, while neuroethicists and others urge caution. The endeavor may sound like science fiction, but it's feasible, says Timothy Deer, president of the International Neuromodulation Society, a nonprofit group of researchers and developers dedicated to using spi-

nal cord stimulation to treat neurological pain.

Frequencies targeting brain

The “cochlear implant was invented 20 years ago, and with electricity and the right frequencies targeting the brain, it allows people to hear,” he says. “That sounded impossible back then.” And great gains require great brains, Deer says. “Ben Franklin didn't know how to harness electricity, but he and others knew it was the key to something. Now, we know how to use electricity in very specific ways. It's exciting to see how Mr. Musk might change how we think.”

Humans have been trying to mess with their brain waves to solve diseases since ancient times: The Romans and Greeks used to put electric fish on top of their heads to relieve pain, says Ana Maiques, CEO of Neuroelectrics, a company that develops noninvasive wireless brain

monitoring and stimulation technologies. Maiques is happy Musk has entered the neurotech field.

With new technologies, including artificial intelligence, “there is a lot of room for startups and new companies,” she says.

Brain's mysteries

Jennifer French, co-founder and executive director of Neurotech Network, a nonprofit that advocates for and educates the public about implantable technology, says investments in neuroscience and neurotechnology from the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative started by the Obama administration have been critical in exploring the brain's mysteries.

Zack Lynch, founder of Neurotechnology Industry Organization, a global trade association representing compa-

nies involved in neuroscience and brain research, says, the “(human) brain is the most complicated organ on the planet.” The neurotechnology industry produces \$165 billion in yearly revenue, he says, but 90 percent of that revenue comes from pharmaceuticals for neurological disorders like Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Annual revenue from neurological devices is about \$10 billion.

If Musk is successful, he will run into a swamp of ethical issues. “Neuroscience raises questions about technology, art, entertainment, warfare, religion and what it means to be human,” Lynch says. And these considerations will be difficult to address in the short term, says Peter Reiner, professor and co-founder of the National Core for Neuroethics.

(Source: Newsweek)

Cognitive abilities seem to reinforce each other in adolescence

One of the most striking findings in psychology is that almost all cognitive abilities are positively related – on average, people who are better at a skill like reasoning are generally also better at a skill like vocabulary.

This fact allows scientists and educational practitioners to summarize people's skills on a wide range of domains as one factor – often called ‘g,’ for ‘general intelligence.’ Despite this, the mechanisms underlying ‘g’ and its development remain somewhat mysterious.

“What this so-called ‘g-factor’ means is still very much up for debate,” explains researcher Rogier Kievit of the Cognition and Brain Science Unit at the University of Cambridge.

“Is it a causal factor, an artefact of the way we create cognitive tests, the result of our educational environ-

ment, a consequence of genetics, an emergent phenomenon of a dynamic system or perhaps all of these things to varying degrees?”

Solving abstract puzzles

In a new study, scientists from Cambridge, London, and Berlin led by Kievit directly compared different proposed explanations for the phenomenon of ‘g’ and how it develops over time. Data was used from a Wellcome-funded longitudinal cohort (NSPN), where 785 late adolescents, ages 14 to 24, were tested on two occasions approximately 1.5 years apart. They focused two subtests reflecting key domains of ‘g,’ namely fluid reasoning (solving abstract puzzles) and vocabulary (knowing the definitions of words). Their findings are published

in Psychological Science, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.

The team observed that the best explanation for the improvement in skills over time was the so-called ‘mutualism’ model. This model proposes that cognitive abilities help each other during development: In other words, better reasoning skills allow individuals to improve their vocabulary more quickly, and better vocabularies are associated with faster improvement in reasoning ability.

These findings are crucial to our understanding of cognitive abilities, as they suggest that small differences early on in childhood may lead to larger differences later on, and help partially explain how ‘g’ arises.

(Source: EurekAlert)

1st Intl. Oceanographic Conference in West Asia to Be Held on Oct. 30-31

The First International Oceanographic Conference in West Asia will be held at International Conferences of Olympic Hotel on Oct. 30-31, 2017, the Public Relations Dept. of National Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences Research Center reported.

For his part, Dr. Naser Hajizadeh Zaker Head of the Research Center said: “This prestigious Conference will be held in the presence of scientists, thinkers and researchers of member states dubbed “Oceanography Regional Center in West Asia” such as Iraq, Oman, Pakistan, India, Turkey and some western countries.”

The main topics of the Conference will be as follows: Marine Meteorology, Climate Change, Physical Oceanography, Biological Oceanography, Oceanographic Biochemistry, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Marine Geology, Marine Pollution, Law and Policy of Sea, Ma-



rine Hazards, Technology and Marine Engineering, etc.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the most important objectives of this Conference as follows: 1- Exchanging views, transferring experiences and new achievements in various marine

fields, promoting scientific level of thinkers, researchers and students through familiarizing them with the latest updates and achievements in the world, 2- Establishing the relationship between the needs of various marine industries with the findings of researchers in various marine areas, 3- Promoting the status of the status of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of marine exploration in the region by providing appropriate facilities for the transfer of knowledge and experiences of different countries, etc.

In the end, he said: “The Plan to set up “Regional Oceanography Center in West Asia” was submitted by National Atmospheric Sciences and Oceanography Research Center and to Iran National UNESCO Commission in 2010 with the aim of promoting oceanography sciences in the country and region.”

A recent study uncovered 91 previously unknown volcanoes hidden under the ice

Antarctica's ice sheet hides a massive system of volcanoes, one that is comparable to volcanic regions in East Africa and western North America, according to a new study, which found 91 previously undiscovered volcanoes, some over 12,600 feet tall.

Volcanoes aren't completely unknown in Antarctica: some poke up through the existing ice sheet, while other studies have examined exposed outcrops. However, ice blankets the surface of the continent, making it impossible to directly study the underlying geology.

A team of researchers from the University of Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences examined a digital elevation model called Bedmap 2 DEM. That survey created a surface elevation model using radar imaging, which the team examined, looking for volcanic structures.

Series of criteria

The team created a series of criteria for identifying probable volcano cones: a mound that has a certain length vs. width ratio and which has an elevations of more than 328 feet (100 meters), which were then examined from multiple angles to discern its shape. From that data, the team put together a five-point criteria to gauge how confident they were that each structure was a volcano.

The study resulted in the discovery of 178 cone-shaped structures in a region that researchers named the West Antarctic Rift System. Of those structures, researchers found that 138 are likely volcanoes, based on their confidence criteria.

The identified volcanoes range from 328 feet (100 meters) to just over 12,600 feet (3,850 meters) in height, with cones that range from about two miles to just under 40 miles in diameter. Of those volcanoes, 91 had not been previously identified, and the study's authors explain that the density of the volcanoes in the WARS is approximately one volcano per 4,800 square miles. This puts the region in the company of other massive volcanic regions around the world, such as the East African Rift, which has around one volcano per 4,500 square miles.

The massive ice sheet

The results could have major implications for our understanding of the region and the massive ice sheet that covers it. The study's authors explain that they aren't able to determine if any of the newly-discovered volcanoes are active, but note that their survey should be able to help fuel future studies to help determine that. They also don't believe that volcanic activity has played a role in the present retreat of the ice sheet.

However, they do believe that the presence of volcanoes in the area will play a role in how quickly the sheet retreats in the future. They cite studies of glaciers in Iceland, which were helped along by the heat by underlying volcanic activity. There's other implications as well: the team says that there's evidence that the removal of a kilometers-thick ice sheet can lead to an increase in volcanism, something that's also been seen in Iceland.

(Source: The Verge)

The bees are better, but they're not all right

Remember when all the bees were dying? When we were headed for, as Time magazine put it in a cover story in 2013, “A World Without Bees”?



I do remember that, so I was pleasantly surprised to see this headline earlier this month: “Bees Are Bouncing Back From Colony Collapse Disorder.”

The bees got better! Great! Now we can all find some other looming environmental disaster to freak out about.

The rest of the article by Bloomberg's Alan Bjerga didn't entirely support that assessment, though. Yes, a U.S. Department of Agriculture survey had found that the number of commercial honeybee colonies was up over last year and that the percentage of colonies lost was down. But then there was a beekeeper telling Bjerga that his bee colonies were a lot weaker than they used to be, and an entomologist saying that while colony collapse disorder was a “blip in the history of beekeeping,” that's because it's been “vastly overshadowed by diseases, recognizable parasites and diagnosable physiological problems.”

Colony collapse disorder entered the lexicon in the winter of 2006-2007, when beekeepers began finding hives abandoned by their apian inhabitants but showing no other signs of distress.

The bees had just disappeared. In the UK, they called it Mary Celeste syndrome, after the merchant ship discovered off the Azores in 1872 with not a single passenger aboard.

The mysterious and apocalyptic nature of these disappearances caught the attention of the news media, environmental groups and some politicians.

Losses in beekeeping, though, don't mean exactly the same thing as losses in other agricultural endeavors. The number of commercial bee colonies did dip a bit around the time of the initial colony collapse scare, but it has actually grown since then.

(Source: The Bloomberg)

Muslim woman wins \$85,000 lawsuit after police forcibly remove her hijab

The city of Long Beach, California, will pay \$85,000 to settle a 2016 lawsuit filed by a Muslim woman after an officer forcibly removed her hijab, or headscarf, when she was in police custody.

The incident started when Kirsty Powell and her husband were pulled over by police for driving a "low rider" car, according to the lawsuit.

Powell was the passenger, but was arrested after police found a warrant under her name for a shoplifting incident.

Powell's husband requested a female officer handle the arrest, according to the suit, but the arresting officers denied the request and told Powell she had to remove her hijab.

Powell spent the night in prison without her headscarf. It was returned when her husband posted her bond.

The lawsuit states Powell was "forced to appear in a publicly available booking photo without her religious headwear."

Adding, "As a result of the foregoing deprivations of the free exercise of her religion, Kirsty Powell suffered severe discomfort, humiliation, and emotional distress."

Powell filed the lawsuit in April 2016, alleging the police department had violated her First Amendment rights.

"She cried throughout the ordeal and experienced humiliation when both her religious beliefs and personal integrity were violated," the lawsuit said.

CNN's calls to the Long Beach City Attorney's Office were not returned.

CNN affiliate KABC-TV reported the Long Beach Police Department changed its policy in November 2016 to allow an arrested person to wear religious headgear unless there is a safety concern.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations announced the settlement in a press release praising Powell.

"We commend Kirsty Powell for choosing to defend her right to religious freedom and taking action."

Powell told the Council on American-Islamic Relations when she filed the suit she wanted to be the last Muslim woman who has this experience.

"I want my Muslim sisters to always feel comfortable and safe wearing a hijab and to stand up for what's right," she said.

(Source: CNN)

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Watermelon-mint paletas

"These Mexican frozen pops are just what you need on a hot summer day."

Ingredients:

1/2 cup water
1/2 cup white sugar, or to taste
4 cups cubed, seeded watermelon
1 teaspoon chopped fresh mint
1/2 lime, juiced
1/2 teaspoon grated lime zest

Directions:

Mix water and sugar in a small saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar, about 5 minutes.

Remove from heat and let cool.

Blend sugar syrup, watermelon, mint, lime juice, lime zest, and salt in a blender until liquefied, 1 to 2 minutes. Pour the mixture into 10 ice pop molds.

Freeze paletas for 2 hours and insert wooden sticks or handles into the molds; return to freezer and freeze until solid, 12 to 24 hours.

LEARN ENGLISH

Daddy Please!

A: Hey daddy! You look great today; I like your tie! **By the way**, I was **wondering** can I...?

B: NO!

A: I haven't even told you what it is yet!

B: Okay, okay, what do you want?

A: Do you think I could borrow the car? I'm going to a **concert** tonight.

B: Um... I don't think so. I need the car tonight to **pick up** your mother.

A: Ugg! I told you about it last week! Smelly Toes is playing, and Eric asked if I would go with him!

B: Who's this Eric guy?

A: Duh! He's like the most **popular** guy at school! Come on, dad! Please!

B: No can do... sorry.

A: Fine then! Would you mind giving me 100 **bucks**?

B: No way!

A: That's so **unfair**!

Key vocabulary

by the way: used to change the topic of a conversation

wonder: think about if something is possible

concert: a public performance of music

pick up: go and get

popular: very well-known and well liked

bucks: informal word for dollars

unfair: not fair, not just

Supplementary vocabulary

suit: a set of clothes that usually consists of a jacket and a skirt or pair of pants that are made out of the same material

play: a piece of writing that tells a story through the actions and words of characters and that is performed on a stage

drop off: to go and leave someone at a certain place

no way: I cannot do it, it is not possible

lend: to give (something) to (someone) to be used for a period of time and then returned

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Women's parliament makes debut in Iran

WOMEN TEHRAN — The first **d e s k** assembly of female experts in Iran, dubbed "women's parliament" opened in the city of Torbat-e Heydariyeh, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province, on Sunday.

The Parliament aims at boosting women's role in social decision-making and will provide consultation services to the provincial council of planning and development, IRNA reported.

Similar assemblies are to be formed in all cities of Khorasan Razavi by the end of this summer.

The number of members of the women's parliament depends on the population of the city and it will vary from 35 to 45 members. Only in the capital city of Mashhad the number of members will be 65.



The representatives of different groups of people including teachers, academics, governmental or non-governmental managers, traders, councilors, farmers, and religious figures will be present at the women's parliament.

The creation of women's parliament is in line with the 20-Year Outlook Plan and the Constitution and it makes efforts to make the process of decision making for women-related affairs more logical.

For the first time in Iran's history six women joined the city council of Tehran in a situation that the total number of members of the council has decreased from 31 in the 4th council to 21 in the 5th.

Women made up one tenth of the members of the 4th council, while currently they make up about one third of the members.

ISIS just started using female suicide bombers, but Boko Haram has been doing it for years

In a desperate bid to cling to the Iraqi city of Mosul, the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) has recently started deploying dozens of female suicide bombers. The development marks a shift in ISIS ideology, which had previously proscribed women from taking front-line roles in battle.

But in Nigeria, Boko Haram has for years been weaponizing women and young girls, sending them into the middle of crowded marketplaces to blow themselves up. In fact, since the Nigerian militants carried out their first recorded suicide operation, in April 2011, more women have been sent on the deadly missions than men—and the number is only likely to continue rising.

Of the 434 suicide bombers Boko Haram has deployed since April 2011, 244—or 56 percent—were identified as female, according to a comprehensive study of the phenomenon by experts at the Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) at the U.S. military academy West Point. Eighty-one of the bombers were identified as children and teenagers; four times as many were girls, the study reported.

The trend for women to be deployed is increasing, too: Since the start of 2017, nearly two-thirds of Boko Haram's suicide attackers were female.

During its eight-year insurgency in northeast Nigeria and its surrounds, Boko Haram was perhaps never at the center of international attention as much as when it abducted close to 300 schoolgirls from their dormitories in Chibok in April 2014. The kidnapping caused global figures—such as then U.S. first lady Michelle Obama—to decry the group's brutality and call for the girls to be returned.

Boko Haram and its then leader, Abubakar Shekau, realized at that point the impact of women and girls being caught up in its insurgency and started to capitalize, says Jason Warner, one of the lead authors of the report and director of the CTC's Africa profile.

"The international outcry over the kidnapping of the Chibok girls demonstrated to Boko Haram the profound potency of gender and youth, underlining that involving the most vulnerable demographics both as victims and perpetrators of violence could demonstrate its resolve to its cause and ruthlessness of intent," Warner tells Newsweek via email.

Less than two months after the Chibok abduction, Boko Haram demonstrated its new strategy when a middle-aged woman on a motorcycle blew herself up near a military barracks in Gombe in the northeast, killing a police officer.

Women have increasingly become Boko Haram's trademark weapon of war. Since President



A woman campaigns for the release of the Chibok girls abducted by Boko Haram in a demonstration in Lagos, Nigeria, on May 29, 2014. One of the Chibok girls has reportedly been rescued alive.

Muhammadu Buhari came to power in Nigeria in 2015, the insurgents have hemorrhaged territory to Nigerian forces and reverted to guerrilla warfare. Cheap, low-spec attacks—deploying a suicide bomber costs an estimated \$150—are perfect for that cause.

There are practical reasons as to why Boko Haram has turned to women—many of whom were coerced, but some of whom volunteered—to carry out its suicide attacks, according to the CTC study.

Women and girls are generally thought to be nonthreatening and are less likely to be searched by male security forces, particularly in an area as socially conservative as northern Nigeria. Women can hide suicide devices more easily, either underneath billowy clothing or even under infants carried on their backs. Women are more easily coerced into such missions than men, and when they do strike, the insecurity that's generated is palpable. "No one, even women and children, can be trusted," says Warner.

Women are also used to hit different targets, according to the report. While male suicide bombers are likely to be sent to attack a government institution or Christian church, women and children are sent to civilian locations, such as markets and camps for those displaced by the insurgency.

■ Suicide bomb aftermath Maiduguri Nigeria

The scale of its use of women as suicide bombers sets Boko Haram apart from other militant groups. The Tamil Tigers deployed 44 female suicide bombers over 10 years in its war in Sri Lanka, a figure that pales in comparison to the Nigerian group's frequent use of women over the past three years.

But the tactic represents a rupture with the ideology of other Islamist groups, such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, according to Elizabeth Pearson, an associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. "ISIS and Al-Qaeda, like other Salafi jihadi movements, operate according to clearly demarcated roles for men and for women," says Pearson, who has written a piece on the topic for a forthcoming CTC volume on Boko Haram. "Men are really admired as warriors—male violence is revered—[while] female violence is not permitted and is mostly transgressive."

Pearson points to Shekau as the driving force behind Boko Haram's adoption of female bombers. Shekau, who has led Boko Haram since 2009, pledged the group's allegiance to ISIS in 2015; a year later, Boko Haram split into two factions after ISIS attempted to replace Shekau as its leader.

"For Shekau, publicity was crucial," says Pearson. "[The] Chibok [abduction] permitted him the chance to really cause hysteria and fear with a wave of young female bombers...Although females as combatants are not condoned by a majority of Islamist scholars, he was willing to ignore this to make headlines and to terrify communities."

Outside of the recent deployment of women in ISIS's battle for Mosul, there have also been instances of attempted or successful female suicide bombers used by Islamist movements in Bangladesh and Indonesia. Pearson says the mushrooming of women as bombers in Nigeria is partly a function of the local context, but the concept has the potential to spread. "We can't rule it out—and it's possible that in the many ISIS wilayat [provinces, such as the ISIS branch in Egypt's Sinai region], female violence may be more tolerated than in Iraq and Syria, where it's largely been absent."

Warner agrees. Boko Haram has proven women to be a cheap and effective means of spreading terror in northeast Nigeria.

"My prediction is that, increasingly, terrorist groups around the world will learn the lesson that Boko Haram seems to have learnt quickly: that unexpected bombers in the form of women and children offer distinct advantages—physically and operationally—that men cannot," he says.

(Source: Newsweek)

Gum infections linked to several cancers in women

Older women with gum infections are more likely to get many common cancers than their peers who have perfect oral health, a recent study suggests.

Researchers focused on what's known as periodontal disease, serious infections in the mouth that are caused by bacteria in dental plaque. Daily brushing and flossing can prevent gingivitis, the milder form of periodontal disease, but untreated cases can lead to permanent damage to the gums and bone.

Compared to women without oral health problems, women with periodontal disease were 14 percent more likely to develop cancer, the study found.

The biggest risk was for cancer of the esophagus, which was three times more likely in women with periodontal disease. Women with periodontal disease were also 31 percent more likely to be diagnosed with lung tumors, 73 percent more likely to get gallbladder cancers, 13 percent more likely to have breast tumors and 23 percent more likely to have melanoma.

"We know that periodontal disease can lead to tooth loss if not treated, and it is also associated with diabetes and other chronic diseases," said senior study author Jean Wactawski-Wende, dean of



the School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University at Buffalo in New York.

"Here we found an association with cancer," Wactawski-Wende said by email. "Although not certain, maintaining optimal oral hygiene may help to reduce the risk of developing cancer."

Periodontal disease was associated with increased risks of several types of cancer in postmenopausal women, even in women who had never smoked, researchers note in the journal Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention.

Compared to women without periodontal disease, current and former smokers with these oral infections were roughly 20 percent

more likely to develop cancer.

Certain cancers, such as breast cancer, lung cancer, and gallbladder cancer, were associated with higher risk in smokers with periodontal disease. Others, such as melanoma, were associated with higher risk in women who had never smoked but did have periodontal disease.

The data are from 65,869 women aged 54 to 86 who answered surveys between 1999 and 2003. By 2013 - after an average follow-up of more than eight years - researchers had identified 7,149 cases of cancer.

While the exact causes for the connection between periodontal disease and cancer aren't clear, it's possible that bacteria travels from the mouth to other

parts of the body, Wactawski-Wende said.

Bacteria destroy connective tissue between the teeth and gums, forming pockets where the infection can persist and eventually be ingested or inhaled from saliva or enter the bloodstream through inflamed gums, Wactawski-Wende said. Then, bacteria may lodge in other body sites causing inflammation that may increase the risk of cancer.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to prove how or if poor oral health causes cancer.

Another limitation is that the study relied on women to accurately recall and report their periodontal disease, the authors note.

Even so, the findings build on earlier research linking periodontal disease to an increased risk of cancer, said Jiyoung Ahn, a population health and environmental medicine researcher at New York University Perlmutter Cancer Center in New York City, who wasn't involved in the study.

"It is clear that good oral hygiene and regular dental visits are basic components of maintaining good oral health," Ahn said by email. "This study provides a rationale for having good oral health for cancer prevention."

(Source: Reuters Health)

Netanyahu backs partitioning Iraq for Kurdish state

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed interest in partitioning Iraq and establishing an independent Kurdish state in the country during a meeting with a delegation of 33 United States Republican congressmen.

The Israeli premier expressed his "positive attitude" toward a Kurdish state in the northern areas of Iraq, saying the Kurds are a "brave, pro-Western people who share our values," a source who participated in the meeting held on Thursday said, the Jerusalem Post reported on Sunday.

Netanyahu does not frequently speak publicly about the politically highly sensitive issue which also worries Turkey.

The last time Netanyahu addressed the issue publicly was in 2014 when he said in a speech that Israel should "support the Kurdish aspiration for independence."



The news comes about two months after Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani warned about bids to break up Iraq, saying Iraq's partitioning serves the interests of Israel.

"The Zionist regime seeks Iraq's disintegration," Larijani said during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Tehran on June 21.

Israel has a longstanding relationship with the Kurds, whom it regards as one of the few non-Arab allies in the area.

A report published in the New Yorker magazine in 2004 said Israeli military and intelligence operatives were active in Kurdish areas and providing training for commando units.

According to the report, Israel has been expanding its presence in Kurdistan and encouraging Kurds, its allies in the region, to create an independent state.

(Source: Press TV)

Restaurant attack by gunmen in Burkina Faso leaves people killed, injured

An attack by gunmen on a Turkish restaurant that began late on Sunday left at least 18 people dead and eight wounded in the capital of Burkina Faso, a West African country that has seen a surge in violence by armed groups over the past few years.

The figure was released early on Monday by Burkina Faso's communications minister Remi Dandjinou.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the violence, which continued into early Monday.

Earlier, authorities and witnesses suggested that three assailants had been killed by security forces, but Dandjinou revised the figure down to two, and said the security operation "has ended".

Security forces were at the scene with armored vehicles, as reports of shots fired near an upscale restaurant

in Ouagadougou.

Police spokesman Guy Ye told AP that the target of the attack was a Turkish restaurant known as Aziz Istanbul.

Witnesses told AFP news agency that three armed men arrived in a 4x4 at around 9:30 pm (21:00 GMT) and opened fire on customers seated outside the restaurant.

At least one of those killed was a Turkish national, according to Turkey's foreign ministry, and another person killed was French.

The French President Emmanuel Macron condemned what he described as a "terrorist" attack.

Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation in West Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. It shares a northern border with Mali, which has long battled

armed groups.

A January 2016 attack at a cafe left 30 people dead.

The three attackers in the 2016 massacre were of foreign origin, according to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which claimed responsibility in the aftermath along with the armed group known as Al Mourabitoun (The Sentinels).

But the terror threat in Burkina Faso is increasingly homegrown, experts say.

The northern border region is now the home of a local preacher, Ibrahim Malam Dicko, who radicalized and has claimed recent deadly attacks against troops and civilians. His association, Ansarul Islam, is now considered a "terrorist group" by Burkina Faso's government.

(Source: agencies)

Yemen cholera cases soar past half-million: WHO

Cholera is believed to have affected more than 500,000 people in Yemen and killed nearly 2,000 since late April, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

A full 503,484 suspected cases and 1,975 deaths are attributable to the outbreak that erupted last than four months ago in the war-ravaged country, a WHO overview showed.

The United Nations health agency said the speed at which the deadly waterborne disease was spreading had slowed significantly since early July, but warned that it was still affecting an estimated 5,000 people each day.

WHO warned that the disease had spread rapidly due to deteriorating hygiene and sanitation conditions, with millions of people cut off from clean water across the country.

"Yemen's health workers are operating in impossible conditions," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

"Thousands of people are sick, but there are not enough hospitals, not enough medicines, not enough clean water," he said, also lamenting that many of the doctors and nurses needed to rein in the outbreak had not been paid for nearly a year.



"They must be paid their wages so that they can continue to save lives," he said.

WHO said that it and its partners were "working around the clock" to support the national efforts to halt the outbreak, adding that more than 99 percent of people who contract cholera in Yemen can survive if they can access health services.

More than 15 million people in the country have no access to basic healthcare.

Tedros called on all sides in Yemen's conflict, to ur-

gently seek a political solution.

Meanwhile, nearly 3.3 million Yemeni people, including 2.1 million children, are currently suffering from acute malnutrition.

"The situation remains dire. Thousands are falling sick every day. Sustained efforts are required to stop the spread of disease. Nearly 80 percent of Yemen's children need immediate humanitarian assistance," the UN statement noted.

The UN officials urged Yemeni leaders to find "a peaceful political solution to the conflict" and called on the international community to "redouble its support for the people of Yemen."

Since March 2015, Yemen has been under relentless airstrikes by the House of Saud regime fighter jets as part of a brutal campaign against the country in an attempt to reinstall the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh.

The campaign has seriously damaged the country's infrastructure. Local Yemeni sources have put the death toll from the Saudi regime war at over 12,000, including many women and children.

(Source: agencies)

America's foreign policy moral deficit and losing the Middle East

Facilitated the transfer of internationally banned WMD and their means of production to Iraq. Using these chemical weapons on Iranians, Saddam Hussein was successful in holding Iraq at bay, resulting in tens of thousands of Iranian fatalities and huge numbers of permanently disabled. Later and most duplicitous, the U.S. and its Western Allies invaded Iraq on the pretext that Saddam Hussein had WMD and was dangerous; ironically, if weapons had been found they would have had their origin in the West!

But Saddam Hussein's use of WMD with Western complicity and support has had other unimaginable consequences. Iran's theocratic system's successful defense of its people, facing unprecedented isolation, has afforded it with its principal source of legitimacy and has kept it in power. The system, with the support of its citizens, recognized that it could not rely on the international order for security.

Iran was delighted at the U.S. invasion of Iraq and grabbed the opportunity to engineer the installation of a Tehran-friendly regime in Baghdad (Shia-dominated

government reflecting Iraq's Shia majority). Similarly, Iran supported the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, and again when its enemies were somewhat neutralized, Iran saw this as an opportunity to influence a friendlier regime to moderate the threat of U.S. forces from the East. Moreover, given its experience since 1980, Iran, as is its right, has been committed to building its defenses against outside aggression. Surely, Iran's need to take these measures is understandable after it was invaded, isolated and subjected to the only intrastate WMD attack on record since WWII!

Iraq's use of WMD on Iran, and the thousands of casualties in the war have been acknowledged by no other than former Prime Minister Tony Blair in a BBC Radio 4 interview on Aug. 10, 2017. As to be expected, Mr. Blair opportunistically forgot to mention the source of the WMD!

Yet today the U.S. is again embarked on a path that is likely to result in even more negative fallout and conflict in the future.

The Trump administration has open-

ly set aside all consideration of human rights in its carte blanche support of the regime in Saudi Arabia, one of the most repressive regimes on earth—no religious or political rights (all churches, synagogues and religions besides the Wahhabi version of Islam are banned and with no election of rulers or tolerance of their criticism). As the U.S. affords the Al-Sauds unprecedented political and military support, sells them all manner of arms and gives them the cover of the "war on terror" to do as they wish, America is complicit in the crimes and abuses that the Al-Sauds are committing and will continue to commit. A partial list of Saudi human rights abuses, some of which have been referred to as crimes against humanity by independent observers include: the military crackdown and human rights abuses in Bahrain during the Arab Spring that continue even today, the beheading of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr and other peaceful protesters in 2016, the imprisonment, torture and beheading of countless protesters since the Arab Spring, the siege and shelling of the Shia village of

al-Awamiyah in Eastern Saudi Arabia since May 2017, and the indiscriminate bombing of civilians in Yemen; and in addition to these, the embargo of Qatar, an act of war, has caused undue hardships on tens of thousands of Qatari and foreign civilians.

These and other human rights abuses will have fallout that no one can even begin to predict today. America's complicity in these crimes, all in the name of national interest and the war on terror, will bring America much shame. America will lose the moral high ground that had taken decades to nurture, affording it unprecedented global soft power. America will find itself on the wrong side of history. The turmoil that is likely to erupt in the Middle East will hasten America's exit from the region. America will have lost the Middle East by setting aside its support of human and political rights for short-term commercial and personal gains.

Hossein Askari is professor of business and international affairs at George Washington University.

(Source: Huffington Post)

A moral failure that shames America

6 → The racist violence

Yet, in his first response on Saturday, Trump utterly failed in his primary duty to uphold equality and speak the truth about the racist violence that had taken place. Instead of placing the blame where it belonged, on the supremacists and Klansmen who triggered these events, and rather than stand up for the indivisibility of equality and tolerance before the law, Trump's words were by turns slippery, banal and morally compromised. It was not true that the violence in Charlottesville came from "many sides", as Trump evasively said, before repeating his evasion. It

is the head of state's duty to stand up, explicitly and unequivocally, against racists and those who promote racial violence. Trump was found wanting.

That would not have happened under Bush, for all his faults. Nor is it true of top Republicans like Cory Gardner, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Orrin Hatch, none of them social liberals, who were all quick to call the supremacists out. Even the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, who is few people's idea of an ideological exemplar, condemned the racists. But Trump did not.

It is hard to believe that the omission was an oversight and hard to treat it merely as a reminder

of Trump's inadequacy for the presidency. The concern is that Trump's blathering was wholly deliberate until the White House got worried by the reaction. The worry is that he recognizes that his election has empowered angry white people, including those who describe themselves as "alt-right" but who should be called what they are – white supremacists. The hope is that this dishonest and morally shaming moment will define Trump for sufficient decent Americans that he will not be trusted again. Sadly, the evidence of modern America gives too few grounds for optimism.

(Source: The Guardian)

Erratic Trump may push Korean peninsula toward nuclear holocaust

1 → Trump's order to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement, which is intended to save the warming planet Earth, sounded the alarm that he is reckless, careless, ignorant and unbelievably erratic.



While the world was expecting a German-like reunification of the two Koreas, the U.S. and North Korea, through their war rhetoric, are reviving the ghosts of the 1950-53 Korean War in which about 3 million were killed.

In case of a war either first started by the U.S. or North Korea it is the Korean people, both in the South and the North, who will be the chief victims. It has been estimated that tens of thousands of people would be killed in the first hours of the war.

The Korean peninsula is like a divided family which its people's heart beat for each other and those in South Korea hate inflammatory remarks by Trump.

Defense Secretary "Mad Dog" Mattis visits Google and Amazon

7 → Following his prepared remarks, Mattis added that the U.S. military was "ready" with "military options" against North Korea.

Even more important to the Pentagon than the utility of the tech giants in waging war abroad is the use of their communication infrastructure to shape public opinion and block the expression of antiwar and oppositional sentiment. A major player in this sphere is a think tank called Jigsaw, a subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet. Jigsaw is headed by Jared Cohen, a former State Department advisor to both Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton.

Jigsaw's most prominent project is a web commenting censorship system called "Perspective API," which it calls "a new tool for web publishers to identify toxic comments that can undermine a civil exchange of ideas."

Developed in cooperation with major U.S. newspapers, Jigsaw has already been implemented to flag comments for deletion in the New York Times comments section. This week, WikiLeaks noted that a comment containing the language "The CIA armed Islamists in Syria, killing thousands" would be flagged as 66 percent "toxic" by Perspective API. A comment declaring that "the U.S. government is wonderful" is labeled zero percent "toxic," while "the U.S. government is corrupt" is flagged as 71 percent "toxic."

In the second quarter of this year, Google spent more than it had ever previously spent, nearly \$6 million, to lobby the U.S. government. This was more than was spent by any other U.S. company.

Google had the closest of relations with the previous White House. The Intercept reports that "Google representatives attended White House meetings more than once a week, on average, from the beginning of Obama's presidency through October 2015."

The Intercept report added, "Nearly 250 people have shuttled from government service to Google employment or vice versa over the course of [the Obama] administration," and concluded, "No other public company approaches this degree of intimacy with government."

The growing partnership between the tech giants and the military is in line with the findings of the U.S. Army War College, which, in a series of recent reports, declared that controlling the growth of political opposition was a major element of contemporary military strategy, and that control over Internet communications was "vital" to military operations.

In a study titled "Social media, the vital ground: Can we hold it?" published in April, the Army War College noted,

"The impact of social media on the media environment has been widely recognized, as has the ability of extremist and adversarial organizations to exploit the media to publicize their cause, spread their propaganda, and recruit vulnerable individuals."

It went on to conclude that "Social media will increasingly have a direct impact on virtually all aspects of military operations in the 21st century," and that the military had to expand its control over social media, "in particular, its use in deception and Psychological Operations (PSYOPS)."

Control over online communication will become increasingly significant amid what one Defense Department report published last month warned was an "increasing chasm between governments and their governed over the basic right to rule."

That report concluded, "Today, all states are experiencing a precipitous decline in their authority, influence, reach and common attraction," as populations are presented with "myriad alternative sources of political alignment or allegiance."

Yet another report, published last year, warned that growing international antagonisms were leading to an intensifying crisis of "social order."

It concluded that states "now all wrestle with one another over competing interests while standing on quicksand—threatened" not only by national rivals, but by "the fragile and restive social order they themselves rest on."

(Source: WSWS)

Coutinho left out of Liverpool's Champions League play-off squad

Barcelona target Philippe Coutinho has been left out of Liverpool's squad for the first leg of their Champions League play-off away to Hoffenheim.

The 25-year-old attacking midfielder was not involved as Liverpool drew 3-3 away to Watford in the opening round of the Premier League season on Saturday, with manager Jurgen Klopp claiming prior to the game at Vicarage Road that a back problem was the reason for Coutinho's exclusion.

However, speaking after the match, the German suggested apparent fitness concerns were not the only factor at play, after rumours emerged indicating Coutinho submitted a transfer request on Friday.

Klopp said: "I have to accept decisions from the owners, that's how it is, and sometimes from players, but for this moment I just have to concentrate on my team."

Liverpool's owner Fenway Sports Group last week released a statement insisting they would not consider any offers for Coutinho, with Barca reportedly having had a bid of €100million turned down as they seek to replace Brazil forward Neymar, who moved to Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record fee of €222m.

It remains to be seen if Coutinho will leave Anfield for Camp Nou before the transfer window shuts on August 31.

But the former Inter star was not named among the 22-man squad picked to travel to Germany for Tuesday's showdown at Rhein-Neckar-Arena.

(Source: BBC Sport)

Thomas wins PGA Championship for first major title

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (Reuters) — Justin Thomas capped off a major season that belonged to an aggressive new breed of fearless young Americans when he stormed to a two-stroke victory at the PGA Championship on Sunday.

At 24, he followed in the footsteps of then-23-year-old Jordan Spieth's British Open triumph and the U.S. Open victory by 27-year-old Brooks Koepka, suggesting a bright future for American golf.

Thomas, one of the longest drivers on tour, started the final major of the year ranked 14th in the world, not one of the favorites after recent poor form, but came through by executing under pressure as many of his rivals withered.

"I just had an unbelievable calmness throughout the week, throughout the day," Thomas said after lifting the Wanamaker Trophy. "I really truly felt I was going to win. I was just very confident. I didn't get flustered."

"I was a lot more calm than I thought I would be. I thought I would be very shaky. At one point I looked at my hand it was a little shaky but that's why you play."

The serenity served Thomas well after a slow start, as he bided his time before vaulting to the front with four birdies in a sizzling seven-hole stretch mid-round.

He then held firm over the dangerous final water-lined three holes, known as the 'Green Mile', hoisting a seven-iron to 15-foot at the par-three 17th before sinking the putt to all but secure victory, a bogey at the last academic as he carded 68 to finish at eight-under 276.

Six things we learned from Real Madrid Vs Barcelona



It was a case of 'do not adjust your sets' on Sunday night. Real Madrid really were playing in aqua-marine and they really were comfortably superior to Barcelona at the Camp Nou in the first Clásico of the season.

Barca's spirit kept them in the game but if referee Ricardo De Burgos had spotted Luis Suarez's dive then the score would have been even more emphatic.

The Camp Nou was heavily populated with tourists – one spectator even wore a half-and-half Barça-Madrid shirt with 'Meraldó' on the back, presumably a combination of Messi and Ronaldo.

It was the first Clásico of the season and it did not go well for the home side but how much did it teach us about what's coming this season?

■ **Los Blancos are by far the world's best**

They currently have the best squad in world football by some margin. We expect there to be a gap between them and La Liga's minnows but this was Barcelona and they could not compete.

The gulf in overall quality was never more plain than when on the hour both sides made their first substitutions. Barcelona brought on Denis Suarez and Real Madrid brought on Cristiano Ronaldo.

■ **Marco Asensio is destined for greatness**

Marco Asensio is going to become Spain's best player over the next ten years.

They have mourned the loss of Xavi and Xabi Alonso and David Villa.

This 21-year-old from Mallorca is not a replacement for any of those players but he does have the look of world class about him.

Zidane doesn't like picking out individuals but it was hard not to on Sunday night after that stunning late goal.

■ **Mbappe wouldn't be guaranteed a place in Madrid's XI**

No one is an automatic selection any more. Not Gareth Bale, not Karim Benzema, not even Ronaldo. Isco is just as worthy of a starting berth.

And so is Mateo Kovacic who was out-

standing in midfield. There will be rotation this year and no one will be able to complain because there is so much quality throughout the squad....

Oh and one more thing: if they are going to miss out on Kylian Mbappe they really shouldn't shed too many tears. He was to be first choice wherever he goes. Madrid could not guarantee him that.

■ **Barca are crying out for Neymar's replacement**

The new signings cannot come soon enough. Ousmane Dembele and Philippe Coutinho are both over-priced in this crazy market – made even crazier by Paris Saint

Germain's spending – but Barca are just going to have to accept that, close their eyes and write the checks.

Gerard Deulofeu looked impressive in last week's friendly against Chapecoense but he was exposed against tougher competition. Both Coutinho and Dembele will add attacking threat to a team now lacking it after Neymar's departure.

■ **Ernesto Valverde's squad selection speaks volumes**

It was clear from Valverde's squad and team selection who he does and doesn't fancy. He wants Arda Turan out of the club. He wants Thomas Vermaelen moved on. He wants Munir El Haddadi loaned or sold.

He wants Sergi Samper loaned out. And it also seems he would not mind losing Sergio Roberto and Andre Gomes if the money was right. He also doesn't seem to fancy Javier Mascherano.

■ **Paulinho can be Barcelona's muscle man**

The new coach does seem to want Paulinho, however. The world may be scratching its head as to why a player Tottenham sold for €13m is now Barca-bound for €36m but Valverde made much of the fact that his team were overpowered in midfield, when speaking in his post-match press conference. The Brazilian midfielder will press high and stop Barcelona getting muscled out of things.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Bolt vows 'never again' after emotional London farewell

Usain Bolt took an emotional final bow on the track at the end of the World Championships in London on Sunday before declaring that, definitely and definitively, there was no way he would ever return to sprinting.

After embarking on a special lap of honor so slow that you could not believe that we were saying farewell to the world's fastest man, Bolt was asked by reporters already missing him whether he might ever change his mind.

"No, I've seen too many people come back and make things worse and shame themselves. I won't be one of those people who come back," Bolt said firmly.

Twenty four hours earlier, the 30-year-old Jamaican's matchless sprint career had ended painfully on the last leg of the 4 x 100 meters relay final as he crumpled to the ground in the London Stadium with a hamstring injury.

Bolt, who admitted that it had been a terrible end of a "stressful" championship for him after also losing his 100 meters crown, said he had felt consoled on Sunday when someone told him "Muhammad Ali lost his last fight too — so don't be too stressed about it."

Already he was looking forward to an exciting future, he said, with his management camp talking to IAAF President Sebastian Coe, about what he might be able to do for the sport in an ambassadorial capacity.

He also revealed that his coach Glen Mills, the sage of Ja-



maican athletics, wanted him to become his coaching assistant.

"So we'll see how that goes," Bolt smiled about the man who has put him through a lifetime of pain.

And the great man even had reporters laughing when he gave them a vision of what a 50-year-old Usain Bolt might end up doing.

"I've no idea. Hopefully, with three kids, married, still in track and field, trying to help the sport, watching it grow," he said.

■ **WONDERFUL NIGHT**

It was a wonderful night of celebration for athletics' greatest entertainer with Bolt honored one last time at the stadium where he achieved the second of his three Olympic sprint doubles.

Coe and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, presented him

with a piece of the 2012 track as a memento before he embarked on his celebration lap, slowly soaking up all the non-stop cheers from the 56,000 full house – all to a Bob Marley soundtrack. He went over to the 200 meters and 100 meters start lines, knelt down and crossed himself.

"I was saying goodbye to my fans but to my events also," he said, admitting he had been close to tears.

And after taking rather longer than the 9.63 seconds it took him to win the 100 meters crown here in 2012, he eventually stopped at the finish line and gave everyone his trademark lightning bolt impression.

Before he had set off on the lap, he had told the crowd he just wanted to entertain and put on a show.

He did just that before also getting a rare round of applause in the press room from "some of you guys who wrote bad things about me". Asked what he hoped his legacy would be, he paused for a moment before saying: "I've proved with hard work anything is possible. I personally think this is a good message to the kids. 'Push on, be strong, be as good as you can be' – that's a good legacy to leave."

He was also adamant that he would "preach" to youngsters about avoiding the evil of performance-enhancing drugs.

"The sport hit rock bottom last year and the year before and now we're on the way back up," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

Federer stunned by Zverev in Montreal final

German fourth seed Alexander Zverev upset Roger Federer 6-3 6-4 in the Rogers Cup final in Montreal on Sunday to join the Swiss right-hander as the most trophy-laden player on the ATP Tour this year with five titles.

The 20-year-old German, who arrived in Montreal fresh from his triumph in Washington, proved up for the task right out of the gate as he had the Swiss second seed on his heels from the start on a sunny afternoon.

Zverev was poised and aggressive off the ground to create space for his power game and displayed some short-angled winners off thumping forehands and backhands to grab an early break for a 3-1 lead. He consolidated for a 4-1 cushion and ultimately closed out the opening set after a mere 30 minutes.

Federer, who entered the match 5-0 in finals this year, started to find his groove early in the second set but suddenly appeared out of sorts while Zverev broke in the seventh game to pull ahead 4-3 and held on for a surprise win that took 68 minutes.

The victory over the 19-times grand slam champion was the second ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title of the season for Zverev, who also beat Novak Djokovic in Rome.

«This one against Roger is something so special for me because



he was always a great idol growing up for me," Zverev said during his trophy presentation. «The greatest player of all time, beating him in a final, not just any final but in the final of a Masters 1000, is amazing.»

Federer spent six months on the sidelines in the second half of last season but has returned to his very best this year by winning five titles, including a pair of grand slams at the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

(Source: Reuters)

Ronaldo hit with five-match ban for red card, pushing referee



Cristiano Ronaldo has been banned for five matches after pushing referee Ricardo De Burgos Bengoetxea during Real Madrid's 3-1 Spanish Super Cup first-leg win at Barcelona on Sunday.

Ronaldo's 24 minutes as a substitute at the Camp Nou saw him score a superb goal, pick up a booking for

removing his shirt during the celebration, and then quickly receive a second yellow after De Burgos Bengoetxea ruled the Portugal captain had dived to try to win a penalty.

Ronaldo reacted to being sent off by pushing De Burgos Bengoetxea. The Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) banned Ronaldo for one match for drawing the red card, and the other four for pushing the official.

That was just one major talking point on a night which also saw Gerard Pique's own goal put Madrid ahead, Lionel Messi equalise with a controversial penalty won by Luis Suarez and Marco Asensio score a screamer to put his side fully in control ahead of Wednesday's second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ronaldo has also been fined €3,805 for his actions, while Madrid was fined €1,750.

Ronaldo is set to miss the second leg of the Spanish Super Cup against Barcelona as well as Madrid's four opening La Liga games against Deportivo La Coruna, Valencia, Levante and Real Sociedad.

(Source: ESPN)

N.I.O.C
1396.2083

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender (First Publish/Seconded Publish)

One-Stage (compressed)

TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
17, 857	625,000,000	12,500,000,000	HIGH PRESSURE HOSE FOR MUD DRILLING 5000 PSI 2 ID/ 30FEET	1/495/578	Tender No.: FP/11-96/026 Indent No.: 01-22-9545308	1

Brief description of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through two-stage public tender (semi-pressd) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, **510,000 Rials** should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.
Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1th floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and receive tender documents from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tender will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit the completed documents including qualification worksheets in form of software in cd and documentary within 14 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1th floor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN.

D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A) Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activities licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranian Drilling Company.
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. WWW.NIDC.IR
Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۵/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۵/۲۴

Zurkhaneh eyes Olympic inclusion, top official says

S P O R T S President of International Zurkhaneh d e s k Sports and Koshti Pahlavani Federation (IZSF), Mohsen Mehralizadeh, says that they hope to add the Iranian sport to the Olympic Games.

Zurkhaneh ritual is a traditional heroic sport in Iran. It combines martial arts, calisthenics, strength training and music.

"IZSF has been founded in 2004 and we a long way to go. At the moment, we are proud to say that Zurkhaneh sports have been recognized by 85 countries and some of the countries have founded Zurkhaneh federation," Mehralizadeh said in the press conference held in IZSF's headquarters in Tehran on Monday.

"Zurkhaneh is set to make its first appearance at the Asian Games. We keep in touch with Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to add the sport to the Asian Games but we need at least 20 Asian members for participating in the games," he added.

"Japanese and Korean countries introduced their traditional sports, namely judo and taekwondo to the world and the sports are parts of Olympic Games at the moment, but they worked so hard for many years to do that. We have to be patient since it will take time to introduce the sport to the world," Mehralizadeh stated.

"Zurkhaneh is not only a sport, it belongs also to our culture and our religion. The origins of some sports including wrestling in Iran have come from Zurkhaneh," the IZSF president said.

"Zurkhaneh sports were included in the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Azerbaijan and has been added to the Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA) for some years," Mehralizadeh concluded.



Ex-Iranian weightlifter Falahatinejad passes away



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Former d e s k Iranian weightlifter Mohammad Ali Falahatinejad passed away at the age of 41 on Monday.

Falahatinejad was hospitalized in Tehran's Omid Hospital last week after he was diagnosed with a bad kidney infection.

The former weightlifter of Iran national team finally lost his battle with the disease.

Falahatinejad won a gold medal in

the men's 77 kg weight class at the 2003 World Weightlifting Championships in Vancouver, Canada, for a total of 357.5kg.

Falahatinejad also won a bronze medal at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan and claimed a silver at the 2003 Asian Championship in Qinhuangdao.

He will be laid to rest on Tuesday in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

The Tehran Times staff also offers its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

Iran advance to FIBA Asia Cup quarter-final



S P O R T S Iran beat Jordan 83-71 in the battle of the two undefeated teams in Group A of the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup on Sunday.

Another near triple-double from Hamed Hadadi (17 points, 7 rebounds and 9 assists), and Behnam Yakhchali's 20-point, 10-rebound double-double proved to be enough for Iran, who finish atop of Group A at 3-0.

Iran took a 43-26 lead into the

break, pestering Jordan into 25% shooting, and led by as many as 22, as Jordan were chasing from the early stages.

Mah'd Abdeen had 22 points and 9 assists to lead Jordan in the loss.

Iran basketball team will play host Lebanon on Wednesday.

The top five teams in the 2016 FIBA Asia Challenge will earn an extra berth in the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup for their respective sub-zones.

Ganjzadeh, Mehdizadeh top of Karate World Ranking

Iranian karatekas Sajad Ganjzadeh and Amir Mehdizadeh head the rankings of their categories in the World Ranking, released by World Karate Federation.

Defending world champion and one of the most successful karatekas in the category Ganjzadeh is the leader of the Male Kumite +84kg.

The 25 year-old competitor has earned gold in the Karate 1-Premier League Paris and Dubai and claimed silver at The World Games so to confirm his status of ruling force of the category.

European Championships runner-up Enes Erkan of Turkey keeps the second place while promising Achraf Ouchen of Morocco takes the fourth place thus showing the remarkable momentum of younger generations in high-level Karate.

Presenting an impressive track in international competitions, Mehdizadeh heads the ranking of Male Kumite -60kg.

The defending world champion added the gold medal at the Asian Championships and the silver at The World Games to his impressive tally of awards so to climb to the top of the qualification of the category.

(Source: wknfnet)



Asian Women's Volleyball Championship: Iran beaten by Australia

Iran lost to Australia at the 19th Asian Senior Women's Volleyball Championship on Monday.

The Iranian team lost to their opponent 3-1 (23-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-22) in Pool H.

Iran will face Hong Kong on Tuesday in the 9th-12th classification.

The Persians have already lost to Chinese Taipei (3-1) and Thailand (3-0) and defeated the Maldives (3-0) in the competition.

The 2017 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship is being held from 9 to 17 August 2017 in the Philippines.

The matches are being held in two cities, namely Binan and Manila.

(Source: Tasnim)



Iran earn fourth successive win at Volleyball World Championship Asian Qualifier

S P O R T S Iran earned their fourth successive win d e s k at the 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Asian Qualifier.

Igor Kolakovic's men defeated Qatar in straight sets (25-22, 25-19, 25-18) at the 6,000-seater Rezazadeh Stadium in Ardabil, northwest of Iran.

Iran national volleyball team defeated South Korea, China, Kazakhstan and Qatar in the five-day tournament.

Iran and China qualified for the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship as the Pool A's top finishers.

Japan and Australia have previously qualified for the prestigious competition as Pool B's top finishers.

The 2018 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship will be jointly hosted by Italy and Bulgaria.

Hosts Italy and Bulgaria and defending champions Poland have automatically qualified for the next year's World Championship. France, the Netherlands, Slovenia,



Russia, Serbia, Finland, and Belgium from Europe plus Japan, Australia, Iran and China from Asia have also booked their tickets through continental qualifiers.

Iran top-ranked in 1st WTF President's Cup - Asian region G-2



The Iranian men's national taekwondo team has clinched the title at the first edition of World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) President's Cup - Asian region G-2 in Uzbekistan, thanks to its admirable displays of spinning kicks and fast kicking techniques at the tournament.

The Iranian team claimed the top position of the chart, having won four gold medals through Ebrahim Safari, Soroush Ahmadi, Mehdi Jalali and Ahamad Mohammadi

in the minus 54-kilogram, 63-kilogram, minus 74-kilogram and minus 87-kilogram weight categories respectively.

Mohammad Salar Vahidi also received a silver medal in the minus 68-kilogram section.

Mehdi Eshaqi, Hamidreza Hadiyan, Alireza Aliyari and Sajjad Mardani earned four bronze medals in the minus 54-kilogram, minus 58-kilogram, minus 68-kilogram and over 87-kilogram classes respectively.

South Korea sat in the second place with four gold and one silver medals. Uzbekistan rounded off the podium, having pocketed three silver and three bronze medals.

Meanwhile, Iran women's national taekwondo team stood on the third podium, having garnered two silver and two bronze medals.

The South Korean women's national taekwondo team finished first, having snatched six gold and three bronze medals.

The South Korean squad was followed by the Chinese outfit, which bagged one gold, two silvers and two bronze medals.

The first edition of World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) President's Cup - Asian region G-2 started in the Uzbek capital city of Tashkent on August 11 and finished on August 13, 2017.

(Source: PressTV)

Second Announcement

N.I.O.C
1396.2154

National Iranian Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender(First Publish/Seconed Publish)

One-Stage(compressed)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
8, 100	2,803,000,000	74,118,476,858	PARTS FOR HOOK VARCO BJ-5500	1/496/227	Tender No.:FP/17-96/031 Indent No.: 48-22-9622040	1
5, 390	188,700,000	3,773,957,969	PARTS FOR KELLY SPINER FOSTER77	1/496/229	Tender No.:FP/17-96/032 Indent No.: 48-22-9622042	2

Brief discription of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.
Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and receive tender documents from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tenderwill be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees (a)financial offer (c) and stamped and signed of tender documents (b) along with qualification worksheets in form of software in cd and documentary within 40 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN.

D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activities licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranian Drilling Company.
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on: WWW.NIDC.IR
Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۵/۲۳ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۵/۲۴

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Kiumars Purahmad donates his own scripts to Film Museum of Iran

A R T TEHRAN — Filmmaker Kiumars Purahmad has donated a collection of his own screenplays to the Film Museum of Iran.



Objects from Kiumars Purahmad are on display in a section dedicated to the veteran filmmaker at the Film Museum of Iran in Tehran.

The scripts will be sent to a section displaying a collection of other objects from the veteran director, the museum announced on Monday.

The donated screenplays include "The Night Bus", "The Last 50 Steps", "Where Are My Shoes" and "Open Parentheses".

Purahmad's has previously donated 29 awards and four honorary diplomas that he received at various events to the museum. Several other screenplays, letters and film props are also on display in the section.

The jury grand prize that Purahmad won for "The Night Bus" at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in 2007 is also among the donated items.

Iranian directors, including Asghar Farhadi, Ebrahim Hatamikia, Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Yadollah Samadi, and Rasul Sadr-Ameli, have also donated collections to the museum.

Oscar-nominated writer Joe Bologna dies at 82

PHOENIX (AP) — Oscar-nominated writer Joe Bologna died Sunday. He was 82.

Bologna died in the Los Angeles area after a three-year battle against pancreatic cancer, his manager Matt Sherman told The Associated Press.

The actor and director was married to actress Renee Taylor, who credited his doctors for prolonging his life so he could receive a lifetime achievement award at the Night of 100 Stars for the Actors' Fund of America on Feb. 26.

"He had a beautiful life," Taylor said in a statement.

Born Dec. 30, 1934, Bologna was a native to Brooklyn, New York. After he graduated from Brown University with a degree in art history, Bologna served in the Marines.

Bologna and Taylor married in 1965. "Joe was a loveable man, a kind soul, a good friend and always a pleasure to be with," Sherman said.

Bologna was nominated for an Oscar in 1971 for best adapted screenplay for "Lovers and Other Strangers." He won an Emmy in 1973.

He had a string of television appearances, but he was best known for the 1982 comedy "My Favorite Year."

Bologna was a voice actor for the 2006 animated film "Ice Age: The Meltdown" and had a role in the 1999 Adam Sandler comedy "Big Daddy."

Egyptian artist creates portraits out of burnt tobacco

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (Reuters) — In a small studio littered with empty cigarette packets in Egypt's second city, Alexandria, Abdelrahman al-Habrouk sits hunched over a sheet of paper making portraits with tobacco.

The cigarettes fuel his art; he breaks them in half, painstakingly traces out monochrome images of celebrities or animals with the fine flakes of tobacco, then sprinkles his creations with gunpowder and sets them on fire.

The resulting scorch-marks on the white paper form the portrait.

Habrouk, now 23, started using unusual materials to make images a couple of years ago, experimenting with coffee, salt and sand before settling on the tobacco technique because it is more durable.

"The idea is that I'm trying to make the art live longer," he told Reuters.

"I wanted to make something good out of something that is considered harmful," he added.

Seifollah Samadian to make sequels to his film on Abbas Kiarostami

A R T TEHRAN — Seifollah Samadian has announced his plan to make sequels to "76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami".

Speaking during a session that the Iranian Artists Forum organized on Sunday to review the montage film about Abbas Kiarostami, he said, "Kiarostami was one the best people came in front of my camera."

"I hope to make two or three sequels to '76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami,'" he added.

The film is currently on screen at Tehran's Art and Experience Cinemas dedicated to screening art films.

Samadian who accompanied Kiarostami in most of his projects made the film based on an idea from Kiarostami's son, Ahmad, and it had its premiere at the 73rd Venice Film Festival few months after Kiarostami's death in 2016.

He used the pictures and films that took from Kiarostami backstage during the projects.

In an interview conducted before the premiere of the film, Samadian said, "In the film, we face a picture of Kiarostami as a filmmaker, photographer, poet, graphic designer, video artist and even a carpenter, and above all, a natural born lover of work and life who never can be described by words."

During a memorial service held for Kiarostami earlier last year, Ahmad said



Director Seifollah Samadian (R) and critic Shahin Amin attend a review session for "76 Minutes and 15 Seconds with Abbas Kiarostami" at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on August 13, 2017. (ISNA)

that his father "had his most comfortable and safest moments of his life in front of this man's camera for 30 years."

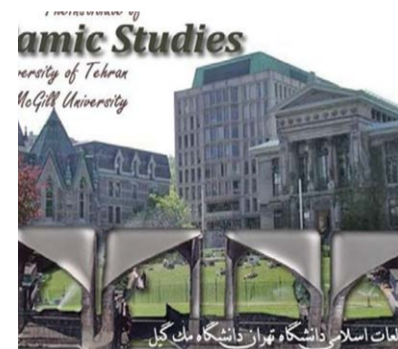
This film, which its title refers to the duration of Kiarostami's life, 76 years and 15 days, was screened at tributes paid to the great artist at many international events after his death on July 4, 2016.

McGill Institute of Islamic Studies digitizing books by Iranian scholars

A R T TEHRAN — The Institute of Islamic Studies of Canada's McGill University is digitizing books by Iranian Islamic scholars in a project to provide an easy access to the major sources of information about Islamic sciences, the McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies has announced.

The books are kept at the library of the Tehran branch of the McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies, which is implementing the project with the help of the University of Tehran.

So far, over 100 book titles have been digitized in this project, which gives an easy access to some of the most important manuscripts and reference materials of different Islamic Sciences, many of which are accompanied by introductions or translations into foreign languages.



The Tehran branch of the McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies was established at the Ferdowsi Auditorium of the Faculty of Literature at the University of Tehran in 1969. Since then, several academic projects have jointly been carried out by the universities.

Tehran museum to review movies by Theo Angelopoulos

A R T TEHRAN — Eleven movies by prominent Greek film director Theo Angelopoulos will be reviewed at the cinemathèque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

The movies will be screened before the review sessions, first of which will be held on Wednesday, the museum announced on Monday.

"Reconstruction" (1970), "The Travelling Players" (1975), "The Hunters" (1977), "Alexander the Great" (1980), "Voyage to Cythera" (1984) and "Landscape in the Mist" (1988) are among the films.

"The Suspended Step of the Stork" (1991), "Ulysses' Gaze" (1995), "Eternity and a Day" (1998), "Trilogy: The Weeping Meadow" (2004) and



"The Dust of Time" (2008) will also go on screen.

The sessions are scheduled to be held every Sunday and Wednesday until September 20.

"Annabelle: Creation" levitates to no. 1 with \$35 million

LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) — "Annabelle: Creation" may not be able to save the summer -- which, after this weekend, will only fall farther behind last year's pace -- but it is doing its part to frighten audiences into theaters.

The latest from New Line and Warner Bros, which serves as the fourth installment in what has become the "Conjuring" extended universe, is casting its evil eye on \$35 million from 3,502 locations. That's a strong start for the horror flick, which was made for about \$15 million.

The track record for the franchise is strong -- "Annabelle" (\$37.1 million); "The Conjuring" (\$41.9 million); and "The Conjuring 2" (\$40.4 million). David F. Sandberg directed the sequel about a dollmaker whose creation terrorizes a group of orphan girls. For those invested in the "Conjuring" canon, it serves as a prequel to the first "Annabelle." Stephanie Sigman, Taliitha Bateman, Anthony LaPaglia, and Miranda Otto star in the pic that critics have generally given a thumbs up to (it currently has a 68% on Rotten Tomatoes).

"Annabelle is scary as hell," said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief at Warner Bros. "And it's exciting to see how broadly audiences enjoyed it," he said, adding, "I think our marketing team did a fabulous job."

The same studio's "Dunkirk" continues to show strong during its fourth weekend, as it holds onto second place. One of the lone bright spots in a generally dismal summer for the box office, Christopher Nolan's World War II epic should make an additional \$11.4 million this weekend, pushing its domestic total past the \$150 million mark.

While it should land in the top three, Open Road's se-



Director David F. Sandberg poses at the LA Film Festival gala screening of "Annabelle: Creation" in Los Angeles, California, U.S., June 19, 2017. (Reuters/Mario Anzuoni)

quel "Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature" appears to be a miss. From 4,003 locations, the animated adventure should earn \$8.9 million. That's less than half of the first "Nut Job" movie, which opened to \$19.4 million before going on to take in \$120.9 million worldwide during its run. The sequel's story centers around a group of animals who attempt to save their home from being bulldozed and turned into an amusement park.

After "Nut Job 2" is Sony's "Dark Tower" which underperformed during its opening weekend, and continues to slide. With \$7.9 million from 3,451 locations, the movie looks to slip 59% from its first frame. The same studio's "Emoji Movie" is rounding out the top five with \$6.6 million from 3,219 theaters, just ahead of Universal's "Girls Trip" which is closing in on the \$100 million milestone. That landmark was just met

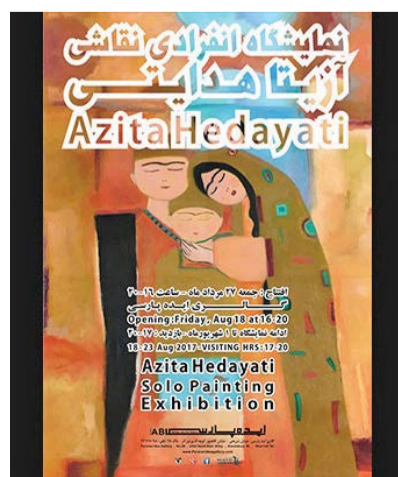
Tehran gallery to hang works by Slovenia-based Iranian artist

A R T TEHRAN — An exhibition of paintings by the Slovenia-based Iranian artist Azita Hedayati will open at the Persian Idea Gallery on Friday.

A collection of 12 paintings will be on show in the exhibition until August 23 at the gallery located at 28 Azar Alley, Kolahdüz St., Shariati Ave.

This is the first solo exhibit of the artist. She had showcased her works at several group exhibits before 2008 when she organized her first solo exhibition in Slovenia. Since then, she has held four exhibitions in the southeastern European country.

In 2015, she displayed her works along with a group of Iranian and German artists in Germany.



National Toy Festival to open in Tehran today

A R T TEHRAN — The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) will host the Third National Toy Festival opening today.

Over 90 organizations and toy companies will be displaying their latest productions during the event, the IIDCYA reported on Monday.

A number of meetings and workshops are scheduled to be organized on the sidelines of the festival.

Visitors can also donate their used dolls to the charity organizations established at the venue to be later handed to the children's hospitals in Tehran.

The festival will be running until August 19 at the institute located on Hejab St.



A poster for third National Toy Festival