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Credit lines worth \$30b open next month

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Finance Minister Mohammad Khazaei said that Iran will ink deals for opening \$30 billion in credit lines with some Asian countries within the next month.

Making the remarks in the 28th Annual Islamic Banking Conference in Tehran on Tuesday, the official said that

discussions have been made for a long time in this regard and the Central Bank of Iran has studied the deals in detail, Tasnim news agency reported.

Referring to the contract Iran signed last week with South Korea's Eximbank to secure an €8-billion credit line, the biggest loan deal since its 2015 nuclear accord, **→4**

ISIL terrorists had no choice except submission: Nasrallah

Leader of Lebanese Hezbollah movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, says ISIL (Daesh) terrorists who left the border region between Lebanon and Syria had no choice, but to submit to resistance fighters.

"Daesh had no choice, but to submit to us, because they had collapsed from within and had to accept our conditions," the leader of Hezbollah said in a televised address on Monday explaining about evac-

uation of Daesh terrorists from Qalamoun region near the border with Syria.

Nasrallah pointed out that the battle against Daesh terrorists in Qalamoun has achieved all its objectives, describing the evacuation of the Takfiris from the rugged mountainous region as "the second victory" as Lebanon-Syria border region has been completely purged of their presence. **→3**

EU reiterates support for Iran nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — In their first meeting after the summer recess, the European Union defended the Iran nuclear agreement, aka the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a response to a new wave of pressure from the White House to undercut the international pact.

Addressing the opening session of the 2017 EU Ambassadors Confer-

ence in Brussels on Monday, Federica Mogherini spoke in favor of the deal and said it represents "the European way to foreign policy."

"This was not an agreement between two countries, I have repeated it time and again and I have the impression that we will need to repeat it time and again in the months to come," Mogherini added, **→2**



ARTICLE

By Setareh Behrooz
Tehran Times journalist

Whiteflies all around: Who is displaced?

Walking on Tehran's streets, you are getting surrounded by white mobile dots. At first, you may think that it is an illusion. But it is real; whiteflies, new inhabitants of the capital!

Media call them 'uninvited guests'. Tehran, once famous for its fine weather and vast gardens, has turned into a sprawling city with grey sky and citizens with a passion for healthy life and better future.

This is the fourth year that trees along passersby in the capital host whiteflies. These little sucking insects turn up during summer when temperature increases.

The flies come from southern Iran, where they have long been a problem but they have moved north as the climate warmed, Ali Naderi, entomologist who has been studying the fly problem said in an interview with the New York Times last year.

In his interview, he pointed to natural airflow blocked by rows of high-rises buildings in the city, as one of the factors which is great for existence whiteflies.

Whiteflies lay eggs in Tehran so each year emerge in warm season of the city and according to experts, a long cold winter can eradicate whiteflies in Tehran.

"The whiteflies find the environment pretty appealing now as their natural enemies which used to be highly effective as biological controls disappeared due to the use of pesticides in the city years ago," the chief of Tehran's Department of Environment said in May.

"The absence of their natural enemies that could keep the population under control, warm weather, and the availability of suitable host-plants in Tehran has soared these pests' population," Mohammad-Hossein Bazgir explained. **→12**

Italian expert says U.S. won't leave nuclear agreement

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN — An Italian university professor believes the U.S. will not leave the Iran nuclear deal because it meets Washington's interests in the region.

"I do not think that the U.S. will ever leave the deal... I believe that sticking to the JCPOA is the best way for the U.S. to pursue its regional interests," Pastori Gianluca, professor of political science from Milan Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, tells the Tehran Times.

Under the nuclear agreement signed between Iran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and the European Union in July 2015, Tehran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of financial and economic sanctions. The

pact, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, went into force in January 2016.

President Donald Trump has certified Iran's compliance with the JCPOA twice under a law that requires his administration to notify Congress of Iran's compliance every 90 days.

However, according to released reports, Trump has assigned a team of his close confidants to find pretexts to decertify Iran's compliance with the international nuclear agreement.

For example, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, who visited Vienna last week, said Washington wants to know if the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plans to inspect Iranian military sites to verify Tehran's compliance with the deal,

something which is fully in contrast to the letter of the JCPOA.

To shed light on the recent speculations, Tehran Times sought Gianluca's views.

Will this new policy lead the Trump administration to leave the nuclear deal?

A: I do not think that the U.S. will ever leave the deal. Breaking the agreement will put them in a difficult position. The European countries are increasingly active in Iran, while Iran and Russia share many common interests. China is keeping a lower profile, but its relations with Iran are traditionally good. Moreover, a U.S.-Iranian crisis could negatively affect U.S.-Russia relations: a centerpiece in Trump's political agenda. This is why I believe that sticking to the JCPOA is the best way — for the U.S. — to pursue their regional interests. **→2**

IEA says no need to release emergency oil supplies due to Harvey

The International Energy Agency said on Monday that there was no need for now to release fuel from emergency stockpiles to compensate for disruption caused by Hurricane Harvey because global oil markets were well supplied.

Several refineries in the U.S. state of Texas have shut because of the storm, halting fuel production and causing gasoline prices to rise. The shutdowns affect international as well as domestic fuel supplies because the United States ships exports from the region.

The IEA said it was closely monitoring the

storm and would be ready to respond to major oil supply disruptions through its emergency response system. The Paris-based intergovernmental agency coordinates emergency fuel releases when natural disasters or war interrupt global energy supplies.

"If there is a continued shortfall of fuels we will act," the IEA's Neil Atkinson told Reuters on Tuesday.

Record inventories, however, are expected to buffer any supply shortfalls.

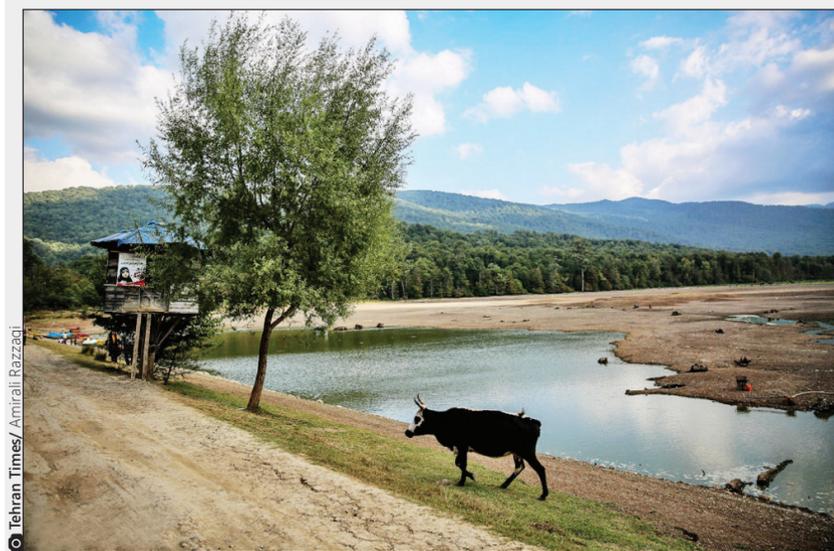
Current U.S. commercial stocks stand at about 1.3 billion barrels, including 450 million

barrels of crude, the IEA says. That excludes strategic petroleum reserves (SPR).

The United States consumes about 20 million barrels of oil per day, nearly half of which is for gasoline.

Refineries in the Gulf Coast area, which is also a major export hub to other U.S. regions as well as Latin America and Europe, took months to recover from previous hurricanes. It took 18 weeks to repair refineries and restore production fully after Katrina struck New Orleans in August 2005, Atkinson said.

(Source: Reuters)



Alendan Lake drying up

Located on the outskirts of Sari, northern Iran, Alendan Lake is on the verge of drying up and shrinking in the face of warming temperatures.

Situated 1,200 meters higher than sea level, the effect of drought is gradually turning the water body into dried crack mud.

The lake water source comes mainly from annual rainfalls. However, due to global warming not just the lake water but its nature and wildlife are in danger.

Iraq's Kirkuk votes to take part in Kurdish independence referendum

The council in Kirkuk, an ethnically mixed region of northern Iraq under Baghdad's control, voted Tuesday to take part in next month's Kurdish independence referendum, councilors said.

The central government in Baghdad is strongly opposed to Iraqi Kurdistan's planned September 25 referendum, which is non-binding but could lead to independence.

Kirkuk, an oil-rich province made up of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen, is under Baghdad's control but is claimed by the autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan region.

In Tuesday's vote, 22 of the 24 present councilors in the 41-member Kirkuk council voted in favor of holding the referendum, said councilor Hala Nur Eddine.

Speaking to journalists afterwards, Kirkuk governor Najm Eddine Karim described the vote as a "historic event."

But a spokesman for Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi denounced the vote as "illegal and unconstitutional."

"Provinces that don't belong to the autonomous region (of Kurdistan) can't impose decisions without the federal government's approval, and Kirkuk is one of these regions," said Saad al-Hadithi.

The plans to hold the referendum have been criticized by neighboring Turkey and Iran, which have large Kurdish minority populations.

The Turkish foreign ministry said in a statement that the Kirkuk's council decision was "another link in a chain of mistakes" and "once more a serious violation of the Iraqi constitution."

There are also doubts about the vote among the five million Iraqi Kurds, with some calling for it to be postponed.

The United States has made the same demand, saying the referendum could distract from the fight against Daesh (ISIL) by stoking tensions between the Kurds, and Arabs and Turkmen.

(Source: AFP)

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran to further boost deterrence power: minister

POLITICS TEHRAN — New Defense Minister Amir Hatami says the Islamic Republic will further boost its defensive power so that no one would dare attack the country.

Speaking on a live TV program on Monday, Hatami said Iran plans to further enhance its missile capabilities for defensive purposes.

Boasting the country's missile power, the brigadier general said all the S-300 surface-to-air missile defense systems that Iran has purchased from Russia has been deployed to protect sensitive sites.



Iran strongly rejects U.S. demands for access to military sites

POLITICS TEHRAN — Senior Iranian officials have strongly rejected recent demands by U.S. officials for inspection of Iran's military sites, saying Iran's military sites are no-go areas for foreigners.

Government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said on Tuesday that Iran's military sites are secret sites and not everyone can have access to them. He added the U.S. government is just expressing its dreams.

Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior foreign policy adviser to the Leader, also shrugged off U.S. demands, saying the Americans' dream will never come true.



Iran condemns ongoing violence against Myanmar Muslims

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassem on Monday expressed grave concerns over the continued violence against Muslims in Myanmar that has led to the displacement of thousands of Rohingya Muslims.

Iran condemns the miserable situation in which Myanmar Muslims are caught in, Qassem said, adding Tehran is unhappy over the "slaughter" and "displacement" of the minority group in the Buddhist country.

Over the past few days, intensifying clashes between security forces and insurgents in western Myanmar have pushed terrified civilians toward the Bangladesh border in a desperate search for refuge.



Iran voices optimism over ending house arrest against claimants of election fraud

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht on Tuesday voiced optimism about steps to resolve the issue of house arrest against opposition leaders who claimed vote rigging in the 2009 presidential election, saying the issue has been raised in meetings of the Supreme National Security Council.

Mehdi Karroubi, Mir Hossein Mousavi and his wife, Zahra Rahnavard, were placed under house arrest after they insisted on their claims of vote rigging and called for protests.

In a press conference on Tuesday, Nobakht confirmed reports that security forces have left Karroubi's house after he went on a hunger strike.



Russia says trying to convince U.S. to comply with nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — Russia is trying to convince the United States to stay committed to the Iran nuclear agreement, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Tuesday.

"Russia is currently working on persuading the U.S. leadership to keep on implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program," Sputnik quoted Ryabkov as saying.

"We are focusing our efforts ... on convincing our partners in the U.S. government that they need to fulfill their duties under Iran's nuclear deal," he added.



Hamas leader: Iran is our largest backer

POLITICS TEHRAN — The new Gaza leader of the Palestinian resistance group Hamas said on Monday Iran is now "the largest backer financially and militarily" of the group.

Yahya Sinwar, in his first meeting with journalists since taking up his post in February, told reporters that the resistance group has restored ties with Iran and is preparing for future wars with Israel.

Sinwar said with the help Hamas receives from Iran, it is accumulating military power in preparation for a battle for "the liberation of Palestine."

Iran remembers Rajaei and Bahonar

POLITICS TEHRAN — This time some 36 years ago, the lives of President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar were cut short in an explosion set by Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, also known as MKO.

The bomb went off at the office of Islamic Republican Party in Tehran where a meeting was held. It also claimed lives of other officials.

Survivors said the bomb was set off when one of the victims opened a briefcase which was carried inside by Massoud Keshmiri, a security official at the Islamic Republican Party, to the meeting. The blast killed Rajaei, Bahonar and three other members of the Islamic Republican Party.

Subsequent investigations revealed that Massoud Keshmiri, who had brought the briefcase into the conference room, was an operative of the MKO disguised as a state security official.



39 days earlier, Rajaei had gained the votes of the majority of Iranians in an early election and had become the second president of the Islamic Republic.

lic of Iran, after Abol-Hasan Bani-Sadr, who had fled to Europe after being removed from his post by the parliament. Rajaei served as the prime minister under Bani-Sadr.

"Rajaei's simple life-style, his popular policies, and his authority and effectiveness provoked the envy of the West-oriented President (Bani-Sadr) to the point where the latter would openly malign his prime minister on numerous occasions in an effort to drive him away from the government," according to Kevin Barrett, a Arabist-Islamologist.

Rajaei and Bahonar, who knew each other for 20 years and were very active in the anti-Shah campaign, stood shoulder to shoulder after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The assassination took place when the government of Rajaei was only in office for 29 days and ever since the Government Week is observed in memory of those men beginning on August 23.

EU reiterates support for Iran nuclear deal

I → apparently referring to the stepped-up American rhetoric and action against the deal.

Elsewhere, the French president became the latest world leader to come out in support of the JCPOA, saying France sees "no alternative" to the agreement.

Emmanuel Macron said the deal has facilitated a constructive relationship with Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump has called the JCPOA — which was negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama — "the worst deal ever" and repeatedly threatened to tear it up.

The deal was reached between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany, and the European Union in July 2015 and took effect in January 2016.

The Trump administration is actively seeking a pretext to potentially withdraw from the JCPOA. Among other things, the White House has reportedly been pressuring U.S. intelligence officials to invent a pretext that could be used to declare Iran in violation of the nuclear agreement.

This is while the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is tasked with monitoring Iranian compliance with the



Mogherini says JCPOA is 'not an agreement between two countries'

deal, has consistently verified the Islamic Republic's adherence to its obligations.

Last week, the Trump administration sent its Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley to Vienna to lobby with the IAEA to request access to Iranian military sites as part of the deal, a move generally considered an attempt at undermining the JCPOA.

Mogherini, the EU foreign policy chief, said in her Monday's comments that the JCPOA was "a commitment undertaken by the entire international community on one side and Iran on the other; supported by a resolution of the UN Security Council, and certified regularly by the International Atomic Energy Agency."

In a thinly-veiled rejection of U.S. attempts to claim an Iranian breach, she said, "Compliance with the deal is certified by the IAEA and by the Joint Commission I chair... not by one single individual country."

The EU's top diplomat further hailed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's "personal commitment to continue to implement their part of the deal. This is what is counting the most for us in this moment."

In a relevant development on Tuesday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov urged all parties to the JCPOA to refrain from any unilateral moves concerning the deal.

"We constantly encourage all partners to avoid unilateral actions within the framework of this agreement," Ryabkov told the 62nd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in the Kazakh capital, Astana.

He also voiced Moscow's opposition



French president says there is 'no alternative' to nuclear agreement

to "any interpretations, any toughening or amending the text" of the nuclear agreement.

Russia detects "misunderstanding and mistrust on the part of the United States [regarding the JCPOA implementation]," he said, adding Washington's actions "undermine not just the spirit, but [also] the letter of the agreement."

We are working hard to 'make a success of JCPOA': British ambassador

POLITICS TEHRAN — Nicolas Hopton, London's ambassador to Tehran, says Britain is "working hard with all" parties including Iran "to make a success of JCPOA", the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

The nuclear deal "was an important step in allowing us to make this renewed engagement with Iran," Hopton said in an interview with IRNA published on Tuesday.

Following is the transcript of the interview:

■ How do you assess the current ties between Iran and Britain?

A. We reopened the British Embassy in Tehran in August 2015, that's almost exactly two years ago, since then we've made a lot of progress. Clearly the agreement of JCPOA, was an important step in allowing us to make this renewed engagement with Iran and in that time we have been obviously re-establishing the embassy here with all its activities and working increasingly closely with the Iranian government and business sector to develop the relations between the two countries.

So far I would assess the progress as positive, we are moving in the right direction.

There are lots of issues we have to deal with together to move forward, it's always challenging when you are re-establishing a relationship after a gap of 4 years when the embassy was closed, but the direction of travel is going in the right direction.

■ So would you say that the trend is satisfactory?

A. Yes, I think the trend is satisfactory and I am hopeful that we will continue to see progress, right across the board and particularly in the business relations between our two countries.

■ How do you foresee the prospect of relations between the two countries during President Rouhani's second term?

A. The British government congratulated President Rouhani on his re-election and we sent a strong delegation

led by the minister for Middle East and North Africa Alistair Burt to represent the UK at those ceremonies.

I think that was indicative of the positive spirit of engagement that the British government intends to pursue with Iran and how things will now develop depends very much on variety of factors; But the political will is there from the UK based on the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] which we are fully committed to and we hope to build the relationship with the Iranian government over the coming months and years.

■ As the British ambassador in Tehran, how do you assess the role of Iran in fighting terrorism and establishing security in the region?

A. It is certainly true that Iran and the UK have a shared experience of terrorism and the need to combat it, particularly the IS (Daesh) and the British government sent a message of sympathy and solidarity to the Iranian people at the time of the terrorist attacks here a couple of months ago.

We also have had a very difficult summer in the United Kingdom with terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. So there is a shared understanding of the challenge and the need to do more to combat terrorism.

Elsewhere in regional policy, clearly in Syria we do not share the same assessment of the Syrian regime and what needs to be done.

We have observations by the role that Iran plays in other regional areas of tension such as in Yemen where I think a political settlement is essential in order for the humanitarian crisis to be improved for the good of the Yemeni people. But I hope that through increased dialogue and through increased engagement between the British and the Iranian authorities we can find more understanding and build progress towards peaceful settlement in all these areas.

■ Do you think Britain and Iran could cooperate in resolving regional crises?

I → ■ In view of the U.S. influence on the IAEA, how do you evaluate the visit of Nikki Haley to the IAEA headquarters in Vienna?

A: The UN system is neither under total U.S. control nor a mere tool of U.S. influence; the same is true for IAEA. The Agency has some 170 members from all around the world, and some of them sport positions quite different from the U.S. For many reasons, the U.S. is currently in favour of a tighter application of the deal, but we must not forget that their will is balanced by the will of the other Agency members.

■ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believes the Iran nuclear deal is "one of the most important

diplomatic achievements in our search for, for peace and stability and everyone involved needs to do its utmost to protect and support that agreement." So how can the U.S. violate it?

A: I do not think that President Trump really aims to disrupt the JCPOA. He is trying to portray its position as stronger than the position of President Obama but this is due in part to domestic needs. President Trump also needs to

■ If the U.S. withdraws the deal, will the other parties stop imple-

"I do not think that President Trump really aims to disrupt the JCPOA. He is trying to portray its position as stronger than the position of President Obama but this is due in part to domestic needs."

menting it, too? If no, what will be the consequences for the U.S.?"

A: Some key figures of the current administration have repeatedly affirmed that the current deal, despite its limits, is better than no deal at all. Thus – again – I think that they will stick to the JCPOA. In any case, we must remember the U.S. is the centre-piece of the 'nuclear deal'. If they withdraw, the JCPOA will probably survive, but its political relevance will be greatly reduced. I do not think that a U.S. withdrawal will really affect the system of the U.S.-Europe relations. The U.S. and the European countries have often had different positions on Iran but this fact has never really endangered their mutual relationship.

North Korea 'fires' missile over Japan

North Korea has fired a ballistic missile that flew over Japan before plunging into the northern Pacific Ocean, in a step termed by the Japanese prime minister as a "grave threat".

The launch appeared to be the first to cross over Japan since 2009, and comes amid ongoing annual military drill being carried out between the United States and its close ally in the region, South Korea.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile travelled about 2,700km and reached a maximum height of 550km as it flew over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido and landed in the sea.

The projectile was launched from the Sunan region near the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, just before 6am local time on Tuesday (21:00 GMT on Monday), the South Korean military said.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported that the missile flew over the northernmost main island of Hokkaido and broke into three pieces and fell into the waters 1,180km east of Cape Erimo.

The test appeared to have been of a recently developed intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile, experts said. It is the same sort of missile that North Korea threatened to fire on the U.S. territory of Guam.

The Japanese government's J-Alert warning system advised people in northern Japan to take precautions, but NHK said there was no sign of damage.

Japan's military did not attempt to shoot down the missile, which passed over Japanese territory at about 6:06am local time (21:06 GMT).

There was no immediate comment from North Korea.

Shinzo Abe, Japan's prime minister, said the missile launch over its territory was an "unprecedented, serious and grave threat".

"Their outrageous act of firing a missile over our country is an unprecedented, serious and grave threat and greatly damages the regional peace and security," he said.

In a 40-minute telephone call with the U.S. President Donald Trump, he said, the two allies had agreed to "further strengthen pressure against North Korea".

Abe said he would also call for an urgent meeting in the United Nations to discuss further action, strongly demanding stepped up pressures against the reclusive neighbor.

North Korea typically reacts with anger to U.S.-South Korean military drills, which are happening now, often staging weapons tests and issuing threats to the two countries via its state-controlled media.

But animosity is higher than usual following threats by Trump to unleash "fire and fury" on the North, and North Korea's stated plan to consider firing some of its missiles toward Guam.

Japan, S Korea hold drills after North's missile launch

South Korea and Japan conduct separate military drills after the North launched a ballistic missile that traveled over northern Japan, sparking a fresh wave of global condemnations and warnings.

On Tuesday, four South Korean warplanes bombed a military firing range during the drill near the country's eastern coast, said presidential spokesman Park Su-hyun.

Park said the live-fire drill was conducted after South Korean President Moon Jae-in directed the



military to "display a strong capability to punish" the North.

Moon's national security director Chung Eui-yong and Seoul's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa called Trump's national security adviser H.R. McMaster and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, respectively, to discuss the launch.

"We will respond strongly based on our steadfast alliance with the United States if North Korea continues nuclear and missile provocations," the South's Foreign Ministry also declared in a Tuesday statement.

It also urged Pyongyang to accept talks over its nuclear program and acknowledge that abandoning its nuclear ambitions is the only way to guarantee its security and economic development.

South Korea's military also released footage of its own missile tests, which it said were carried out last week. The video clips showed two types of new missiles with ranges of 800 kilometers and 500 kilometers being fired from truck-mounted launchers during three tests performed on August 24.

In a similar move, the Japanese military deployed a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missile system at a U.S. military base in Tokyo as part of a pre-planned maneuver. During the drill, Japan's air force servicemen operated vehicles mounted with antennas, radars, and a launch pad for PAC-3.

Reacting to the new wave of tensions in the wake of the North's launch, Russia said it was "extremely worried" about the situation in North Korea and blasted a "tendency towards an escalation."

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti state news agency as saying that the huge Washington-Seoul war-games, which began on August 21, "had played their role in provoking Pyongyang into this new firing."

China also called for restraint from all sides. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying re-

iterated Beijing's call for peace talks, saying "pressure and sanctions" against North Korea "cannot fundamentally solve the issue."

North defends 'counter-measures'

Speaking at the UN Conference on Disarmament, North Korea's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Han Tae-song, slammed the United States for pushing the Korean peninsula towards "an extreme level of explosion," without making any direct reference to Pyongyang's latest launch.

"Now that the U.S. has openly declared its hostile intention towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, by waging aggressive joint military exercises despite repeated warnings... my country has every reason to respond with tough counter-measures as an exercise of its right to self-defense," he said.

"The U.S. should be wholly responsible for the catastrophic consequences it will entail," the official added.

Pentagon: North Koreans 'continue to learn' by each launch

Although the latest missile test by North Korea did not demonstrate any specific advancements in Pyongyang's technology, it still means the resolute country's scientists "continue to learn" more and more about military know-how.

Speaking among reporters, Pentagon spokesman Colonel Robert Manning called Pyongyang's latest launch a "threat."

"We have to make the assumption that they continue to learn throughout each one of these missile launches," Manning said. "You're still firing missiles, so that's a threat."

Three missiles were launched from Kittaeryong on North Korea's east coast over the weekend, according to U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). Two of the missiles reportedly flew some 155 miles in the northeastern direction while the third one exploded almost immediately. (Source: agencies)

Rights groups demand UN probe into Yemen abuses

Fifty-seven rights groups from around the world demanded a UN inquiry into abuses in Yemen on Tuesday, where a Saudi led war has killed thousands and fueled a humanitarian crisis.

Since March 2015, Yemen has been under military strikes by a Saudi Arabian-led coalition.

In a letter to members of the UN Human Rights Council, the 57 signatories called for the creation of an independent body to look into violations and abuses of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

"Serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of international human rights law by parties to the conflict have continued to be committed with impunity," said Human Rights Watch, one of the signatories.

HRW said in a statement that the Saudi-led coalition had conducted scores of "unlawful air strikes, some of which may amount to war crimes that have killed thousands of civilians and hit schools, hospitals, markets and homes".

Since 2015, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had been calling for investigations into alleged violations and abuses in Yemen, it noted.

"The victims of abuses in Yemen cannot afford to wait longer for credible investigations into ongoing grave violations and abuses to be undertaken," said the letter.

More than 10,000 people have been killed and 40,000 wounded since the Saudi-led coalition intervened to support the fugitive government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The UN has called Yemen the "largest humanitarian crisis in the world". (Source: agencies)

ISIL terrorists had no choice except submission: Nasrallah

Hezbollah to Receive Body of Iranian Martyr Hojaji from Terrorists

He went on to say that the fight against Daesh is a battle and not an act of personal vengeance, praising the Lebanese army soldiers for their successful operation against Daesh.

The Hezbollah chief also described Takfiri terrorism as part of a U.S.-Israeli plot in the region, stating that Washington and Tel Aviv sponsor terrorists in order to dictate their hegemony in the Middle East region.

On August 19, Hezbollah and the Syrian army launched an operation to purge Daesh from Qalamoun, located about 330 kilometers (205 miles) north of the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Hezbollah launched a major push on July 21 to clear both sides of Lebanon's border with Syria of "armed terrorists."

Earlier on Monday, Daesh terrorists and their families began evacuating Syria's strategic and mountainous Qalamoun region, heading towards eastern part of the country as part of a negotiated deal to end the extremists' presence near the Lebanese border.

Lebanese and Syrian media reported that an unidentified number of militants and their families headed in buses toward the Daesh-controlled city of al-Bukamal, which lies on the Euphrates River in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr and near the border with Iraq.

The media bureau of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement said ambulances ferried 25 wounded Daesh Takfiris from the area.

On Sunday, the Syrian government agreed to a deal between Hezbollah and Daesh, which allows the transfer of Takfiri militants from Qalamoun to eastern Syria.

Nasrallah stated that there were about 670 ordinary people along with 26 injured ones and 380 Daesh militants among those who left Qalamoun region on Monday.

Referring to recent discovery of the bodies of a number of Lebanese soldiers who had been in captivity of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group since 2014, Nasrallah said all parties involved in expelling terrorists were unanimous that without shedding light on the fate of Lebanese soldiers, any victory would be defective.

The Lebanese soldiers were among 30 troops and police kidnapped by Daesh and terrorists linked to al-Nusra Front, a former affiliate of al-Qaeda, in August 2014 when they briefly overran the Lebanese border town of Arsal.

Four were killed by their captors and a fifth died of his wounds while 16 were released in a prisoner swap in December 2015.

The Lebanese Hezbollah leader emphasized that negotiation was the best way to solve the problem of Daesh's presence along Syrian border with Lebanon, noting that if they had chosen a military solution, they would not be able to find the location of the Lebanese soldiers.

He added that defeating Daesh in various parts of Syria, including in Raqqah, Aleppo and Homs, was instrumental in convincing the terrorist group to leave the Lebanese border with Syria.

"We must not forget that this great victory was achieved through cooperation between Lebanon and Syria," Nasrallah said, adding that there was currently no terrorist on the Lebanese soil and Hezbollah's mission had been successfully accomplished.

Hezbollah to Receive Body of Martyr Hojaji

Also, the body of an Iranian military adviser, who was recently killed by the Daesh (ISIL) terrorist group in Syria, will be repatriated as part of a deal between the Lebanese Hezbollah Resistance Movement and the Daesh.

According to the agreement called "Jorud", the body of Martyr Mohsen Hojaji, who was recently decapitated by the Daesh terrorists in Syria, would be returned home, according to the Arabic-language Al Mayadeen TV.

The transfer of Lebanon's captured soldiers and two martyrs, as well as the body of Martyr Hojaji, will take place after the buses carrying Daesh militants and their families arrive in the ancient city of Palmyra in Homs Province, according to the report.

Martyr Hojaji, a holy shrine defender, was taken hostage by the Daesh Takfiri group near the Iraqi border on August 7 and was beheaded two days later. (Source: agencies)

Suicide bomber targets Kabul Bank branch

A suicide bomber has blown himself up at a bank in the Afghan capital, killing at least five people and wounding several others, officials say.

The bomber hit the entrance to a Kabul Bank branch close to the United States embassy and the city's main diplomatic quarter, Najib Danish, an interior ministry spokesman, said on Tuesday.

The front side of the Kabul Bank was completely shattered and there was much damage to the fronts of several adjacent businesses. A charred motorcycle with its parts mangled lay on the street.

Danish said at least five people were killed.

The attack also wounded nine, said Mohammad Salim Rasouli, chief of Kabul hospitals at the Health Ministry. He warned that the casualty toll could rise.

The blast occurred on a street lined with shops and banks at a time when many officials were collecting their salaries before the Muslim Eid holiday at the end of the week.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.



Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the group, said the bomber targeted a section of the bank where soldiers and police were waiting to receive their salaries.

In another development, at least 13 civilians, including women and children, were killed in an overnight airstrike by Afghan security forces that targeted the

Taliban in western Herat province, according to Gelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Farhad told The Associated Press news agency that the Monday night strike in Shindand district also wounded seven civilians. A Taliban base and a prison run by the insurgents were targeted, he said. (Source: agencies)

UN chief in Ramallah says two-state solution cannot be abandoned

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained the only viable option as he made his first visit to the West Bank since taking office.

Guterres spoke after meeting Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah in Ramallah following talks with Israeli leaders the previous day.

"I want to express very strongly the total commitment of the United Nations but my personal total commitment to do everything for a two-state solution to materialize," he said.

"I have said several times there is no Plan B to a two-state solution."

A two-state solution to the conflict has been the basis of international diplomacy since at least the early 1990s, but it has recently come under threat.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads what is seen as the most right-wing government in his country's history, and has signalled he has no intention of evacuating settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli settlements are built on land the Palestinians see as part of their future state.

Prominent members of Netanyahu's government advocate annexing most of the West Bank, which would make an independent Palestinian state impossible.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he wants to reach the "ultimate deal", but he himself has cast doubt on the two-state solution, saying he could support a single state if this meant peace.

Such statements deeply concern Palestinian leaders. Guterres spoke Tuesday of Israeli settlements as a "major obstacle" to peace, while also noting that they are "illegal under international law". (Source: AFP)

NEWS IN BRIEF



ICCIMA, TCCIMA to dispatch trade delegation to Belarus in mid Oct.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in collaboration with Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) is planning on sending a trade delegation to Belarus from October 10 to 13.

According to an announcement on the official website of TCCIMA, the delegation will be headed by TCCIMA's Chairman Masoud Khansari.

Credit lines worth \$30b open next month

→ Khazaei, who is also head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, said that credit line deals have been also signed with Austria's Oberbank and also an Italian bank and necessary guarantees have been secured.

Iran plans to attract \$65 billion of foreign investment during its Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-21), of which \$30 billion is about to come in finance, \$20 billion in joint venture and \$15 billion in direct investment.

German firms moving investments away from UK due to Brexit

Many German businesses are beginning to shift investments away from Britain in anticipation of increased trade barriers after Brexit, the chief of the DIHK Chambers of Industry and Commerce said on Monday. In a joint statement, the DIHK and the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) called for British and European Union negotiators to deliver clarity and certainty for trading businesses across Europe in their negotiations on Britain's exit from the bloc.

"Businesses are very concerned that Brexit will have a major negative impact," Martin Wansleben, chief executive of the DIHK said in the statement, adding that Brexit could lead to additional bureaucracy, increased waiting times and stricter border controls resulting in higher costs.



"The terms of exit are still completely unclear. Many of our members are reporting that they are already shifting investments away from the UK in anticipation of these barriers," he added. British officials arrive in Brussels on Monday to push the EU towards talks about their post-Brexit ties, which the bloc refuses to do without an agreement first on London's exit bill and other divorce issues. Prime Minister Theresa May has been under pressure to back away from her stance that «no (Brexit) deal is better than a bad deal» since losing her governing Conservative Party's parliamentary majority in an election in June.

(Source: Daily Sabah)

Euro rises to 18-month high against dollar

The euro has hit \$1.20 for the first time since January 2015 as the prospect of a U.S. interest rate rise recedes.

Hurricane Harvey's impact has led analysts to assume the U.S. central bank will not want to risk curbing economic growth and fears over North Korea's activities have unnerved investors.

A rise in interest rates tends to draw investors to a currency, taking advantage of the higher returns.

Meanwhile, the euro has itself been gaining against a range of currencies.

Against the dollar, it has risen by almost 15% so far this year.

The euro has strengthened in recent months, as the Eurozone's economy improves and markets predict the European Central Bank could start to cut back the money-printing program it has been running to repair the ravages of the Eurozone crisis and credit crunch of the late 2000s.

The dollar was also undermined by Friday's annual meeting of central bankers at the Jackson Hole resort in Wyoming at which U.S. central bank chief Janet Yellen's speech gave no hint that the Federal Reserve was planning any policy change that would support the dollar.

At the same event, European Central Bank boss, Mario Draghi, did nothing to talk down the euro.

Euro strength has left the pound at its weakest for almost a year. It buys 1.0755 euros in the wholesale currency markets, making a euro worth a much as 93p.

Sterling buys \$1.2965 currently.

Tourist rates tend to be below those of the markets, sometimes by quite a bit.

(Source: BBC)

Iran produces 3.8m bpd of oil, exports 2.6m barrels: Zanganeh

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh put the country's oil production at 3.8 million barrels per day (bpd) of which 2.6 million barrels is exported to world markets, IRNA reported on Monday.

According to the report, the figure for exports is regarding the last Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 23-August 22).

'Lack of investment, technology main challenges of oil industry'

The minister stressed lack of investment and technological weakness as the main challenges that Iran's oil industry is facing, saying, "We need to provide the grounds for production of science and technology inside the country and also receiving knowledge through cooperation with developed countries."

The official also mentioned the Western imposed sanctions as the main cause of low investment in the country's oil industry and noted that banking



issues must be resolved in order to attract investment for development of joint fields and to increase oil fields' recovery factor.

'Oil production not proportional to reserves'

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zanganeh asserted that the country's oil production

is not at an ideal level and Iran's oil reserves have the potential for a much greater level of production.

"We have targeted a daily production of 4.8 million barrels in Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021)," he added.

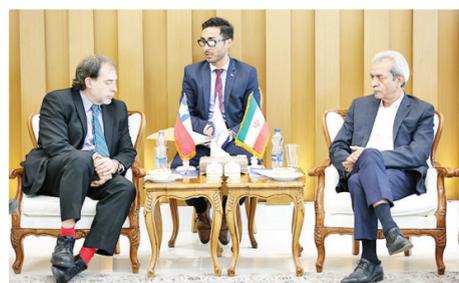
Expansion of economic ties discussed by Iran, Chile

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Chairman Gholam-Hossein Shafe'i and Chilean Senate Vice-President Guido Girardi discussed broadening economic relations between the two countries in a Monday meeting in Tehran, ICCIMA portal reported.

In the meeting, Shafe'i referred to the high potentials of Chile in the mineral sector and said: "We had some good trade ties with Chile in the past especially in terms of copper and other minerals and now we want strengthening of bilateral relations in post-sanctions time."

He mentioned agriculture and energy two sectors apt for bilateral trade ties between the two countries.

ICCIMA's chairman lamented low information of the Iranian and Chilean traders and businessmen about



Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture Chairman Gholam-Hossein Shafe'i (R) and Chilean Senate Vice-President Guido Girardi met in Tehran on Monday.

each others' activities, condition and potentials and commented that exchange of trade and economic delegations between the two sides and holding business forums could help them getting familiar with each other.

Girardi, for his part, emphasized existence of high cooperation potentials in social, economic, political and cultural fields between Iran and his country and said apart from the sanctions; potentials for the expansion of bilateral ties have not been used properly. "We should start from the beginning and establish our economic relations," he asserted.

Referring to the low trade between Iran and Chile the official said: "We should deepen economic ties and find practical ways in this due."

He also welcomed the idea of ICCIMA's chairman for exchange of trade delegations between the two countries.

Gazprom Neft presents 2 oilfields study results to NIOC

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Russia's Gazprom Neft PJSC presented the results of its studies on development of Iran's Cheshmeh-Khosh and Changouleh oilfields to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on Tuesday, Shana reported.

The study results of the two mentioned oilfields in western Iran were presented in a meeting attended by NIOC Deputy Managing Director for Engineering and Development Gholamreza Manouchehri, some officials from Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) and Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) as well as representatives of the Russian company.

Gazprom Neft PJSC, which is a subsidiary of Russian oil giant Gazprom, signed an MOU with NIOC in December 2016 to conduct development studies on the mentioned fields.

The MOU was signed in Tehran at the presence of Iranian Oil Minister



Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and Russian Minister of Energy Alexander Novak.

The company also joined Iran's Oil Industries Engineering & Construction Group (OIEC) as a consortium in July 2017 to facilitate their activities in Iran.

Earlier on Monday, Gazprom Neft's Deputy CEO for International Business Development Vladislav Barshnikov had a meeting with Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs and Trading Amir-Hossein Zamaninia during it the two sides stressed expansion of cooperation in oil and gas industry.

Romanian government says it will adopt the euro in 2022

Romania is aiming to adopt the European single currency in 2022, the country's government has said.

The country's Foreign Minister said Romania's economy had already met the requirements to join the currency, but it was waiting five years to protect the incomes of pensioners.

Romania would be the first country to join the euro since Lithuania adopted the currency in 2015.

Nineteen of the EU's 28 members currently use the currency, though Montenegro, which is not currently a member state, has also unilaterally adopted it.

"Already today we meet all the formal requirements, we could join the currency union even tomorrow," Teodor Melescanu told the Polish publication Rzeczpospolita.

"But we're afraid that it will have a negative effect on the poorest, pensioners' incomes."

He added: "I think that we will adopt the euro in five years, in 2022."

Melescanu's comments come after a run of good economic data from the Eurozone, suggesting that the currency area is completing its recovery from the crisis that has dogged it since 2008.

The European Commission and European Central Bank's latest assessment of the Romanian economy, published in June 2016, however, said that the country did not meet the criteria for joining the euro.

If Britain were to leave the bloc and Romania were to adopt the euro, 20 of 27 countries in the EU would be using the euro, shifting the balance of power within the bloc significantly towards countries that use it.

Protections within the single market for countries that are not members of the Eurozone are a significant matter of debate within the EU.

(Source: The Independent)

Asian markets jolted by North Korean missile test over Japan

Investors sought out havens, boosting assets such as the Japanese yen, gold and U.S. Treasuries, after North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan for the first time since 2009.

The launch represented an "unprecedented, grave and serious threat" to Japan, said chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga.

Asian stocks were lower across the board in early trading, led by declines in South Korea and Australia.

The launch jolted a market that was largely listless around the world on Monday, aside from energy-related futures, as Tropical Storm Harvey battered oil-hub Texas.

The yen rose nearly 1% versus the dollar in the first several hours after the launch, with the greenback briefly falling to around ¥108.35. It was recently around ¥108.70.

Meanwhile, gold futures gained 0.5% in Asian trading on Tuesday after having jumped more than 1% Monday to an 11-month settlement high.

And 10-year Treasury yields were recently down to 2.13% from 2.16% late Monday in New York. If main-



tained through Tuesday's global trading day, the bond issue would log its lowest yield of 2017.

While "North Korea continues to test the resolve of the U.S. and...the relationship between China and the U.S.," markets won't react much unless the U.S. reacts with more than words, said Bryan Goh, chief investment officer for Swiss private bank Bordier & Cie in Singapore.

Most of North Korea's missile launches this year

have generated muted market reactions. "Once the market gets used to a course of action, it tends to get desensitized," Goh said.

But Tuesday saw noticeable investor moves, in part because of the latest missile launch.

Japan's Nikkei Stock Average NIK, -0.45% was recently off 0.7% after index futures earlier this morning indicated a possible drop triple that, as the yen reversed some of its initial gains. The benchmark had fallen 13 of the past 17 trading days, hitting a series of four-month lows.

South Korea's KospiSEU, -0.23% and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 XJO, -0.72% both fell 1%. Index heavyweights were hitting both, with Samsung 005930, -0.04% down 2% and more selling in Australia's big banks weighing on the index there.

Meanwhile, both countries' currencies were lower versus the dollar, 0.9% for the Korean won and 0.5% for the Australian dollar. The Wall Street Journal Dollar Index was recently steady overall, with Monday's U.S. finish, in which it logged a fresh one-year low.

(Source: Market Watch)

Greek PM says 2017 growth close to 2%, jobless rate to ease

ATHENS (Reuters) — Greece's economic growth rate will be close to 2 percent this year, slightly above the government's revised projection, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Tuesday.

The crisis-hit country concluded a crucial bailout review in June and returned to bond markets for the first time in three years in July. How its economy fares is crucial as its third, 86-billion euro bailout expires in 2018.

Athens had projected that the

economy would expand by 1.8 percent this year, revising downwards a previous 2.7 percent forecast.

"The projections that 2017 will end with growth rates close to 2 percent will be confirmed," Tsipras said, adding that unemployment, which now stands at 21.7 percent, was set to fall below 20 percent next year.

A new state development bank aimed at funding small and medium-sized businesses will be operational in the first quarter of 2018, Tsipras said.

Turkish economic confidence hits 5-year high

Economic confidence in Turkey rose to its highest level in more than five years this month, as a calmer political situation helps the economy to recover after a series of crises hit growth last year.

The Turkish Statistical Institute's official economic confidence index rose to 106 in August, up from 103.4 the previous month. The rise was driven by a brighter tone in the private sector — sub-indices for the real estate, services, retail and construction industries all improved.

However, consumers are yet to be

convinced of the improvements, with the consumer confidence index lagging behind at 71.1, down from 71.3 in July. Still, the overall increase represents the latest in a series of encouraging recent economic data.

Figures released on Friday showed tourism arrivals increased a massive 46.4 per cent in the year to July, as the industry — a vital source of foreign exchange and jobs in Turkey — bounces back after terror attacks and an attempted coup discouraged visitors last year.

(Source: Financial Times)

Goldman: U.S. oil sector could take months to heal from Harvey

Oil markets were roiled, sending gasoline prices surging on Monday after Tropical Storm Harvey wreaked havoc along the Gulf Coast over the weekend, crippling Houston and its port, and knocking out numerous refineries as well as some crude production. As noted on Sunday, gasoline prices hit two-year highs as massive floods caused by the storm forced refineries in the area to close. Meanwhile crude futures fell as the refinery shutdowns could reduce demand for U.S. crude production. As a reminder, Texas is home to 5.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of refining capacity, and Louisiana has 3.3 million bpd. Over 2 million bpd of refining capacity was estimated to be offline as a result of the storm.

While the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Harvey was moving away from the coast, it was expected to linger close to the shore through Tuesday, and that floods would spread from Texas eastward to Louisiana.

As Reuters reports, U.S. traders were seeking oil product cargoes from North Asia with transatlantic exports of motor fuel out of Europe expected to surge. "Global refining margins are going to stay very strong," said Olivier Jakob, managing director of Petromatrix. "If (U.S.) refineries shut down for more than a week, Asia will need to run at a higher level, because there's no spare capacity in Europe."

At the same time, about 22 percent, or 379,000 bpd, of Gulf production was idled due to the storm as of Sunday afternoon, the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said. There may also be around 300,000 bpd of onshore U.S. production shut in, trading sources said.

In a note released on Tuesday, Goldman's Damien Courvalin calculated the estimate near-term impact from the "devastating" fallout from Harvey. As Courvalin writes, data available so far point to sizably larger refining than production disruptions: as of Sunday, August 27, nearly 3 mb/d of refinery capacity was offline (16.5 percent of the 18.2 mb/d US capacity) vs. c.1 mb/d of crude production (11 percent of 9.3 mb/d current production) and 2 Bcf/d of gas production (3 percent of 72 Bcf/d current production).

Should these levels of outages remain in place, and using past hurricanes as proxies for the impact on oil demand, Goldman estimates that the impact of Harvey on the U.S. oil market would be to increase domestic crude availability by 1.4 mb/d while removing 615-785 kb/d of gasoline and 700 kb/d of distillate supplies. Larger refinery outages would increase these long crude and short product impacts.

Should the storm continue to head East towards Houston, as forecasts project, it risks creating further refinery



outages with 850 kb/d of capacity in Houston not yet reported offline.

The hurricane is therefore likely to lead to further strengthening in product cracks given the loss in domestic refined product supply. The loss of USGC refining capacity will further support refinery margins for non-affected refineries to incentivize them to operate at higher utilization. The hurricane will however lead to a weakness in domestic crude prices given the lack of refining outlet. From a global oil supply-demand perspective, the storm is likely to lead to higher crude and product inventories over the next couple of months given the likely larger hit on US demand than supply.

The impact on production is far smaller, with 1 mb/d of crude production offline (11 percent of 9.3 mb/d current production) and 2 Bcf/d of gas production (3 percent of 72 Bcf/d current production). The flooding currently taking place is however leading to a greater loss of onshore supply (from the Eagle Ford) than historically has been the case. Gulf of Mexico production was instead spared by the path of the hurricane. Historically, onshore production has rebounded faster than offshore production and this would be consistent with producer commentary that loss of production is due to preventive shut-ins for now.

Finally, the ports of Corpus Christi, Galveston, Houston (inc. East), Texas City, Freeport and Galena Park remain

closed. According to Reuters data, these ports averaged so far this year: 600 kb/d of crude net imports, 250 kb/d of gasoline net exports and 250 kb/d of distillate net exports.

These impacts will likely lead to crude accumulating in the U.S., and more specifically in Cushing as pipe flows to the USGC are set to decline. This could weigh further on the WTI-Brent differential by weakening the U.S. leg (long oil now) and strengthening the offshore market (with stronger refinery runs there). Gasoline and distillate cracks are likely to strengthen.

Overall, the impact of hurricane Harvey on the oil market (total demand vs. total supply) is likely to be of higher oil inventories over the next couple of months. First, onshore U.S. production typically normalizes in the month after a hurricane (as most wells are preventatively shut-in) while historically the impact on demand lasts several months. Second, the historical declines in demand observed during strong hurricanes Rita-Katrina (-1.0 mb/d the first month) and Ike-Gustav (-1.4 mb/d) are larger than the onshore (and currently observed) declines in oil production. Two caveats to this historical template: the proximity of these pairs of hurricanes overstates the demand impact while the magnitude of the onshore production impact of Harvey is unprecedented.

(Source: oilprice.com)

World's biggest wind turbine maker waves oil industry goodbye

In another sign that the petroleum era is drawing to a close, Denmark is selling off its last oil company with barely a peep.

Once considered a strategic assets, on a par with national carriers or shipyards, the oil and gas division of A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S is being bought by French giant Total SA. The \$7.45 billion deal is expected to be completed by 2018, pending regulatory approval.

Coming just three months after the sale of Dong Energy's North Sea oil and gas production to German-based Ineos AG, Maersk's move to offload its oil division has been welcomed by the government and trade unions alike. Even the nationalist Danish People's Party, which supports the government in parliament, didn't object.

The irony is that Denmark will need the income from oil and gas to finance its green transition and meet a pledge to stop using fossil fuels by 2050. That will mean keeping up production from the North Sea fields, which Total has promised to do.

"The more money they make on the North Sea, the more money there will be for us to spend on the green transition," Energy Minister Lars Christian Lilleholt said in an interview in Copenhagen.

According to calculations by the Finance and Economy ministries, tax revenue from North Sea oil and gas has now fallen to a tenth of what it was at its height, only a decade ago.

The receipts from North Sea oil used to average about 8 billion kroner (\$1.3 billion) per year. That would pay for about 1 gigawatt of new onshore wind capacity, which is sufficient to supply power to some 170,000 homes, based on a recent deal by Vestas in Norway, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst James Evans.

Dong, a former state utility whose name is an acronym for Danish Oil and Natural Gas, is using at least some of the money it made from its divestment to build more offshore wind parks, expanding its dominance as the world's biggest operator of sea-based wind turbines.

Denmark now gets more than 40 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources, according to 2015 data, and aims to reach more than 50 percent by 2020. The country's green sector already employs about 67,000 people, double the number of workers in its North Sea industry.

According to Peter Kurrild Klitgaard, a professor of political science at the University of Copenhagen, the reason behind the muted political response to Maersk's sale is due to the fact that "there's no energy crisis. We have more sources of energy than ever before."

(Source: Bloomberg)



RAYMOND WEIL

GENEVE

freelancer

SARMAN Co.

No. 1832, Dr. Shariati St., Next to Pol-E-Roomi, Tehran - Iran

What does it mean for North Korea to fly a missile over Japan?

By Kathy Gilsinan & Yasmeen Serhan

This latest strike may be Pyongyang's most provocative test this year.

North Korea staged its 18th, and perhaps most provocative, missile test of the year Monday night Eastern Time over Japan's northernmost main island, following a month in which North Korean and American leaders have traded threats.

The missile, whose launch was confirmed by the Pentagon and South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, flew 1,678 miles over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido for approximately 14 minutes before breaking into three pieces and crashing into the Pacific Ocean. The Japanese military did not attempt to shoot down the missile, though it did alert those within its range to take necessary precautions. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking to reporters early Tuesday morning local time, said the government is doing its utmost to protect Japanese citizens from what he called an "unprecedented, grave, and serious threat."

The flight path was alarming, though not unprecedented. As The Diplomat's Ankit Panda reported earlier this month, a North Korean missile (nominally a satellite launch vehicle) flew over Japan in 1998. Per Panda, "That test generated immense controversy and precipitated its self-imposed testing moratorium. While the moratorium spectacularly collapsed in 2006, North Korea has never since overflowed Japan with any missiles with the exception of its failed 2009 launch of the Taepodong-2 SLV, which landed in the Pacific." More recently, North Korean missiles have landed in Japanese waters, prompting condemnation from Japan but little change in posture, Panda notes.

Still, North Korea's decision to launch a missile directly over Japan — for the first time in eight years — is significant. "If North Korea is reckless enough to launch these over populated areas, and then the missile breaks up, what happens of course if it falls onto a populated area and causes casualties?" Michael Auslin, the Williams-Griffis Fellow in Contemporary Asia at the Hoover Institution, said. "At some point there could be an accident or a mistake, and you're plunged into a crisis."

Though Auslin said Japan could shoot down a missile if it were deemed a threat to its collective self-defense (including that of a key ally), he noted that such an action has not been taken before — in part because it's not easy. "The risks of trying to intercept one of these missiles and failing is extremely high," he said. "Unless you knew for certain that either because it was an intentional launch towards a population center or an accident, these decisions have to be made in an extremely short period of time. ... Japan at least has the ability to attempt to act — whether it is actually prepared to do so is entirely different."

Regardless, it was known before Monday that North Korea had the ability to fly missiles over or near Japan. In May, for instance, North Korea test-fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile that reached an altitude of 1,300 miles but landed within a few hundred miles of North Korea's own coast — the idea being to demonstrate the missile's possible range without directly threatening neighbors. Had it flown normally, according to experts who spoke to Reuters, that missile would have had a range of some 2,500 miles, putting Japan easily within range. In July, North Korea demonstrated a further technological advance when it tested missiles that experts believe could put the continental United States within range, with the estimated ability to fly some 6,500 miles.

Message of Monday's test

As a result, the message of Monday's test is less technical than political, said James Acton, the co-director of the nuclear policy program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "I think you have to look at this test more than anything else as a signal to the United States," he said. Having warned North Korea in unusually bellicose terms not to threaten America earlier this month, President Donald Trump at a recent rally noted that he thought Kim Jong Un was beginning to respect the United States, given what seemed to be a pause in North Korea's missile testing. That apparent pause ended last

Friday as the United States and South Korea engaged in annual joint military exercises that the North has long viewed as a provocation. (North Korea has tested missiles during such exercises in the past.)

Friday's test involved short-range missiles that flew about 155 miles before crashing into the sea. The missiles launched Monday flew much further. "I would interpret this as a political signal by the North Koreans that they are not cowed," Acton said.

Still, he noted, the fact that the missile went nowhere near Guam — the American territory in the Pacific that Kim threatened to target in unusually specific terms earlier in August — might also signal that the North is calibrating its provocations to avoid outright confrontation with the United States. When a mid-August statement in North Korean state media spelled out the path a missile would travel to reach Guam, the trajectory specified traversed southwestern Japan — just about the opposite end of the country from the path taken by the missile launched on Monday.

Though as of this writing the White House had yet to formally comment on the strike, Auslin said both the U.S. and Japanese response will require more than a war of words. "We watched the development of this North Korean capability for decades," Auslin said. "This is a different world now and sadly our political and military responses are lagging behind the threat."

(Source: The Atlantic)

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking to reporters early Tuesday morning local time, said the government is doing its utmost to protect Japanese citizens from what he called an "unprecedented, grave, and serious threat."

The EU isn't getting weaker – in fact, it's planning to have its own army

By Andrew Hammond

Emmanuel Macron hosts his German, Spanish and Italian counterparts in Paris on Monday after a morale-boosting few weeks for the EU. Both the political and economic news for the continent has improved driving up the Euro this week to eight year highs against the pound.

Following the failure of far-right populists to win key electoral contests in France and the Netherlands, leaders sense that the current Eurosceptic wave may have reached its peak. This political fillip has been reinforced by stronger economic data too. After several years of slow growth, the Eurozone economies are performing better.

While only time will reveal if the tide is truly turning beyond the immediate-term, the victories of liberal, centrists Emmanuel Macron in France, and Mark Rutte in the Netherlands, is a significant change in fortunes for those forces championing European unity and integration across the continent. It was Macron's victory that proved most decisive here given the potentially existential threat to the EU project that the election of anti-Brussels National Front leader Marine Le Pen would have signaled.

That these political and economic developments have, collectively, changed sentiment is shown by Italy's Europe Minister Sandro Gozi. She remarked recently that we "now have a possibility of launching a new phase...we have to make the best of Brexit negotiations, we have to limit the damage...on the other hand it is essential that there will be a parallel process of relaunch and deepening of European integration".

Key European leaders

The contrast here with the mood music of key European leaders from only a few months ago is striking. For instance, European Council President Donald Tusk said in February that the threats facing the EU were then "more dangerous than ever". He identified three key challenges "which have previously not occurred, at least not on such a scale" that the EU must tackle.

The first two dangers related to the rise of anti-EU, nationalist sentiment across the continent, plus the "state of mind of pro-European elites" which Tusk then feared was too subservient to "populist arguments as well as doubting in the fundamental values of liberal democracy". At that stage, it was feared by some not only that Le Pen could pull off an upset victory, but also that the anti-establishment conservative Freedom Party, led by so-called "Dutch Trump" Geert Wilders, could top the poll in the Netherlands.



While such a force is at best a longer-term aspiration, the European Defense Action Plan has a goal of reversing around a decade of defense spending cuts by EU states.

While the salience of these two issues has subsided, perhaps only temporarily, the third threat cited by Tusk remains. That is what he called the new geopolitical reality that has witnessed an increasing assertive Russia and China, and instability in the Middle East and Africa which has driven the migration crisis impacting Europe. And intensifying this is uncertainty from Washington with Donald Trump openly calling for more Brexits across the continent.

Nevertheless, numerous European leaders believe recent economic and political news has brought in at least a temporary respite and potentially a 'window of opportunity' to move forward with a new agenda. And leaders from Macron to Angela Merkel believe that a key item is how best to improve the internal and external security of Europe, while enhancing the socio-economic welfare of citizens through a jobs, growth and competitiveness agenda.

The EU project

Here there is growing consensus around what several European leaders have called a new, Twenty First Century European security pact comprising measures to enhance security and border protection; and greater EU intelligence cooperation to emphasize the resilience of the EU project. Indeed, given current disagreements within Europe on the

widom of wider integration initiatives, including in the economics area, security issues are one of the few areas where there is significant consensus across the member states and Brussels on the continent's best way forward.

Impetus for movement forward on this security agenda has been provided by recent terrorist attacks, the ongoing migration crisis, and the launch last year by High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, of a new global strategy on foreign and security policy, the first such European document since 2003. Reflecting this, Tusk has asserted that "people expect that the EU...will again be a guarantor of stability, security and protection".

Moreover, on a related theme, Brussels also now senses a potential window of opportunity to push forward a proposed European Defense Action Plan that advocates greater military cooperation between the EU member states. This is being driven, in part, by the new geopolitical reality cited by Tusk that includes Russian assertiveness post-Crimea; plus the threat of Trump to scale down the U.S. security commitment to NATO, and his campaign rhetoric that Washington should not defend European allies that are perceived not to be paying

their fair share of contributions to the military alliance. And Brexit too could now also eliminate a longstanding obstacle to greater European cooperation in this area given that successive UK governments have been opposed to deeper defense integration at the EU level.

One signal of potential direction of travel came last year when European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker asserted the EU needs its own army, a proposal welcomed by German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, so Europe can "react more credibly to the threat to peace in a member state or in a neighboring state". While such a force is at best a longer-term aspiration, however, the European Defense Action Plan has a goal of reversing around a decade of defense spending cuts by EU states, totaling more than 10 per cent in real terms.

Taken overall, a growing number of European leaders sense that the Eurosceptic wave may now have passed its peak and that at least a temporary window of opportunity may now exist to move forward with a new integration agenda. Decisions taken in coming months will help define the longer-term political and economic character of the EU in the face of the continuing threats still facing the continent.

(Source: Independent)

Merkel's commitment to refugees is admirable. But it may backfire

'If we need new Germans, we can make them ourselves,' say the far right. Immigration is now key to an election in which many are undecided

By Mary Dejevsky

There is something hugely admirable in Angela Merkel's determination to stick to her refugee policy. She has defended it for two years straight in the German political arena and is beating no retreat as she campaigns for a fourth term in next month's general election. Through a punishing program of election rallies and interviews, she has insisted that the stand she took in 2015 was the right one for Germany, and she has no regrets. Faced with a similar crisis, she would take the same decisions again.

Her stand draws anger and cries of "traitor" from some of the crowds she addresses — though she points out, rightly, only from a very small minority. And it is also true that while she takes the moral high ground and German national interest in all her public statements, her government has quietly limited some of this generosity. There are moves to make the whole process more efficient and speed up the return of failed asylum seekers.

Distribution of asylum seekers

The terms — including length of stay and family reunion — are more restricted than they once were. Merkel is also calling for the distribution of asylum seekers among Germany's individual states to be fairer, and there is official acknowledgement that integration and getting the many new arrivals into employment will not be easy.

But the German chancellor is not, as any electoral candidate might be tempted to do, stressing the restrictions over the ethics. Still the parson's daughter, perhaps, Merkel is accentuating the positive and campaigning on the moral high ground. Then again, what choice does she really have? Any admission of regret or misjudgment would be seized upon by her opponents, chief among them the Social Democrat candidate, Martin Schulz, as evidence of her fallibility and unfitness to remain in office.

With less than four weeks until the election, Merkel and her center-right CDU-CSU alliance look unbeatable.



Through a punishing program of election rallies and interviews, Merkel has insisted that the stand she took in 2015 was the right one for Germany, and she has no regrets.

Opinion polls give them 38%, compared with 22% (and declining) for Schulz's SPD, with the free-market FDP, the Greens, the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), and the far left Die Linke a long way behind. The question, though, is not whether there is a silent constituency waiting to punish Merkel for her asylum policy — there clearly is — but how big it is, and whether it could spring a surprise at the ballot box.

Germans cannot complain about having no choice: the messages of each party are sharply differentiated. Die Linke wants more social security; the CDU-CSU boasts of the strong economy and wants stronger German defense. The SPD wants to address Germany's largely hidden inequality.

In a television interview at the weekend, however, Schulz also took a conspicuously more aggressive and personal approach, accusing Merkel of losing touch with ordinary people, cozying up to the unsavory regime in

Turkey and not doing enough to ensure other EU countries share the asylum burden.

The only party focusing directly on migration issues is the AfD, which has some hard-hitting adverts, including one showing a heavily pregnant blonde woman, with the caption: "If we need new Germans, we can make them ourselves." Their candidates are also articulate and effective in their media appearances, without coming across as extreme.

No one is suggesting that the AfD could decide this election. The German public is well-inoculated against extremes, especially from the right. But with 46% of voters still said to be making up their minds, concern about asylum, migration, integration and related issues is bubbling away mostly beneath the surface, and it is not certain that Angela Merkel's personal "values agenda" will necessarily win the day.

(Source: The Guardian)

6 months after Munich conference

Disagreements between America and Europe remain

By Hanif Ghaffari

Six months later, the Munich Security Conference is scheduled to be held again in Germany. Six months ago, during the last conference, we saw major disputes between the United States and its allies. Will these disagreements remain at the next conference?

In March of 2017, while the Munich Security Conference was held, the presence of Donald Trump in the White House has dominated the relations between Washington and its European allies. On the other hand, the regional allies of the US like Turkey and Saudi Arabia had not rational and normal behavior on the Munich Security Conference. These cases indicate that there was some kind of chronic anarchy in the West and their regional agents. This anarchy will be strengthened in the future.

There is a crisis between relations US and its European allies. This was the first message that had been transmitted to people of the world on the Munich Security Conference. Chairman of the Munich Security Conference told that Trump's remarks on the subjects of Brexit and encouraging the other European countries to exit the European Union, is a formal declaration of war between US and Europe. Also, European officials could not succeed in concealing their concerns about the presence of Trump in the White House and the negative approach of Washington on the united Europe, Euro-zone and NATO. Therefore, the most important message of the last Munich Security Conference was the gap between US and EU and



there is no evidence of healing for this gap at the current time. There is security, economic and political opposition between US and European countries. Trump also will continue to support radical right and national groups in Europe. This subject will intensify challenges between US and EU.

The regional weak-kneed agents of US and Europe were in the condition of confusion and wandering. This was the second message that had been transmitted to people of the world on the Munich Security Conference. Negative statements of Saudi Arabia and its foreign ministers' angry speech toward Iran, reflected that it has paid the heavy costs for defeat

in the region. Saudi Arabia must pay these costs at the next decades. The fact of the matter is that West and the Zionist regime agents are in a very complicated and tough condition in the region. Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain and Palestine, have been fiasco symbols and places of Saudi Arabia's dictatorship. In such circumstances, madness in Riyadh is completely obvious on the regional topics. Remarks by Adel al-Jubeir indicated that he is not able to control his remarks and behavior. The political and psychological imbalance of Riyadh is a reflection of the heavy defeats of great supporters of ISIL and Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist groups.

The third and final message that had been transmitted to people of the world on the Munich Security Conference, related to the current situation of the United States. For certainly, after the presence of Donald Trump in power, the intensity and coefficient vulnerability of Washington has increased domestically. US Republican Senator, John McCain during the Munich Security Conference revealed that there is a crisis in the current administration of the US. John McCain emphasized at the conference that the resignation of Trump's national security adviser reflects deep problems in the new US government. John McCain has stressed that:

"I think that the Flynn issue obviously is something that shows that in many respects this administration is in disarray and they've got a lot of work to do, the president, I think, makes statements that on other occasions he contradicts himself. So we've learned to watch what the president does as opposed to what he says"

Ultimately, the internal turmoil in America, the crisis in relations between Washington and Europe and wandering of the regional weak-kneed agents of US and Europe were the three important messages of the last Munich Security Conference. This conference revealed the weakness of the western country. These concerns have remained strong over the past six months. In the same vein, it appears that there will be more differences between the United States and its European and regional allies in the upcoming security conference in Munich.

Why Trump supports Le Pen?

By Saeed Sobhani

During the French presidential election (2017), Trump called for Marine Le Pen and her victory. During the 2016 presidential election in the US, Le Pen was one of the few European politicians who declared her support for Trump. Many experts and political analysts in Europe believe that Le Pen is the French version of Trump.

Trump expected French citizens after the last terrorist attack pay more attention to Le Pen's anti-immigration slogans. But eventually Emmanuel Macron won the French presidential election.

In general, Trump wants the collapse of the European Union and the euro zone and the only one that can

path the way and gain this goal for Trump, is Marine Le Pen and the National Front of France. Therefore, Trump not only noticed Marine Le Pen as a political ally in Europe but also noticed her as an accelerating factor of EU collapse.

Since the formation of the European Union and the euro-zone, the withdrawal of European countries from this set (and the return to the era before the formation) was the red line for Europe. However, Trump practically encourages European countries to leave Europe alone. The support of the controversial and new president of the United States from the radical right and nationalist groups in the European Union expresses this point. It is not unreasonable that politicians such as Marine Le Pen, the French



National Front leader, Marine Le Pen, has opened a special account on the support of Donald Trump.

Anthropologist says humanities are exploration of a civilization

By Jalal Heirannia

TEHRAN — Prof. William O. Beeman, head of the anthropology department at the State University of Minnesota, tells the Tehran Times that "the humanities are an exploration of the culture of a civilization, its values and its aspirations".

Following is the text of the interview:

What is the relationship between the prosperity of the humanities and political development in a country?

A: The humanities (and the arts) are the means by which a civilization knows itself and knows its place among other civilizations. In the broadest sense, the humanities are an exploration of the culture of a civilization, its values and its aspirations. Literature, philosophy, language and history are all ways that any civilization examines its past, present and future. Plato (Aflatoon) correctly said "The unexamined life is not worth living." In order for political development in a country to proceed, there must be reflection on the events of the past, the ways those events accord with the values of the people and their aspirations for the future, and this reflection must be free. The citizens of a country must be free to share their ideas about their past, present and future in an open forum to make progress toward having a better life for people and their descendants.

Dictatorships do not allow this free inquiry, and indeed, humanities scholars have been suppressed many times by authoritarian governments. This almost always results in a lack of progress in political and social development because people do not have a plurality of ideas from which to select those that may be the best for the country as a whole.

In which societies will the humanities flourish better?

A: In societies where free scholarship and inquiry is encouraged, even when there is a dominant political or religious ideology for the society. In the United States, we have one great freedom—freedom of speech. This is protected even when we have authoritarian governments who try to suppress it. This freedom of speech is very precious and has to be defended at all times, because there are definitely people who want to repress it. For example, some people want to ban certain books "on religious grounds." These efforts to prevent publication and circulation of books in the United States have been challenged in courts. When we get to areas like "pornography," the line between free speech and socially disapproved speech is very fuzzy and shifting. Socially disapproved speech might be forbidden or censored, but then the question is: "Where do you draw the line?" In Iran, the poetry of Obeyd al-Zakani is great literature, but some of it might be considered to be obscene. So these questions must be debated, and not left to arbitrary



judgment of one person or a small group of people. In the United States, we debate and fight these questions literally every day. But the struggle to define and protect free speech is itself part of the humanities. When these issues are resolved, the country is stronger for it.

Why are some countries developed in sciences but weak in the humanities?

A: It is very interesting. Some countries think that the sciences are "neutral" with regard to social values and controversy, and so think that encouraging science and discouraging humanities will assure that authoritarian values are able to be asserted while progress in technology and material culture improves.

But the sciences are definitely not neutral with regard to history, social values or national aspirations—the kinds of questions humanists pursue. Think of medical advances in genetic engineering. Should people be allowed to genetically engineer their unborn children? Maybe genetic engineering should be allowed to eliminate genetic diseases, but should it be allowed to make sure that children will be smarter or more athletic? "Designer babies" constitute a serious moral dilemma that needs to be debated through the humanities. How about nuclear power. Is nuclear power good for a country or bad? This is again a humanistic question. Again, what about weapons? Should nations continue to develop bigger and better weapons? Does that improve life and accord with social values?

People who believe that emphasizing science avoids controversial social questions are truly deluding themselves. The sciences exist within a cultural framework that requires them to be considered by humanistic study—otherwise a country will completely lose its perspective and not be able to improve life for its citizens.

London's weapons protection from Riyadh

By Ali Alemi

In a situation where Saudi Arabia's crimes continue in the Middle East, we see an increase in arms backed by the British government in Riyadh. The support has increased since the Theresa May's trip to Riyadh.



British Prime Minister's last visit to Riyadh from various aspects is remarkable. Theresa May reaffirmed allegations against Iran in her visit. She had said that Iranian actions and policies destabilized the Middle East. "We have no doubts regarding Iran's role in destabilizing the region," she said in an interview with al-Riyadh newspaper. "Iran threatens the stability in Lebanon and Iraq, supports Houthis, and works against efforts by the international community to ensure peace and stability in the region," she added. "We continue our support for the Gulf countries against Iranian overreaches in the region"

There are some points about her allegations and remarks in May's visit to Riyadh that we must consider.

First, Riyadh and London are the main losers of region conditions. Security and martial investment on terrorist groups like Al-Nusra Front and ISIL is the mutual aspect between Riyadh and London. Therefore, the defeat of terrorist groups imposed on them heavy cost. Hence, one of the hotspots of London and Riyadh in the current period is Takfirist, terrorist groups like ISIL and al-Nusra and their difficult situation in Syria and Iraq. Theresa May and King Salman's anger toward Iran is also rooted in this problem.

Second, Theresa May's visit to Riyadh refers to military exchanges and arms sales. UK was the main weapon partner of Riyadh in recent years. UK has applied its full power to strengthen military power's Al Saud dynasty and Al Saud Dynasty have applied its full power to kill innocent people's Yemen. Also, one of the main concerns of Theresa May and Saudi officials is to find ways for transporting of English weapons to Takfirist, terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq. Hence, Theresa May has tried to increase sales and export of deadly English weapons to Saudi Arabia. Not only UK has gained business interests in arms sales but also UK has strengthened security crisis in the Western Asia and Islam world.

Finally, there will be difficult costs and consequences for Saudi Arabia with the attendance of Al Saud Dynasty in the London Games. Saddam Hussein also has played in the ground of UK and US but the result of the game led to his destruction and abasement. Result of confidence in the English game will be defeat and destruction in the Western Asia. But Saudi leaders will be aware of the fact that it will be very late.

Second Announcement

N.I.O.C
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Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender(First Publish/Second Publish)

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Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and receive tender documents from foreign procurement department in due date and participate in tender will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

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Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

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This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum for one time in initial credit amount.
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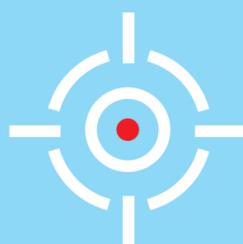
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New wonder drug hailed as biggest breakthrough in fight against heart attacks and cancer

A new class of drugs which could prevent thousands of heart attacks and deaths from cancer has been hailed as the biggest breakthrough since statins.

Scientists last night said the discovery ushered in "a new era of therapeutics" which work in an entirely different way to conventional treatment.

As well as cutting the risk of a heart attack by one quarter, the drugs halved the chances of dying from cancer and protected against gout and arthritis.

Cholesterol-busting statins are given to millions of adults deemed to be at risk of heart disease.

But half of heart attacks occur in people who do not have high cholesterol at all.

Now scientists have found that reducing inflammation in the body can protect against a host of conditions - with a "really dramatic effect" on cancer deaths.

The drug canakinumab, given by injection every three months - cut repeat heart attacks by one quarter. Statins cut the risk by around 15 per cent.

Experts said the findings have "far-reaching" implications for the 200,000 people a year in Britain who suffer a heart attack.

And they called for urgent trials to further examine the impact of the medication on cancer.

Professor Paul Ridker of Harvard Medical School, presenting his findings at the European Society of Cardiology congress in Barcelona yesterday, said it opens up a "third front" in the war on heart disease.

The landmark study tracked 10,000 heart attack victims who were given canakinumab, a drug which targets inflammation.

Typically, around a quarter of survivors will go on to have another event within five years, despite taking statins.

The four-year study found those given the new treatment saw a 24 per cent reduction in heart attacks and 17 per cent fall in angina, while those on the highest dose saw cancer deaths fall by 51 per cent.

Speaking at the world's biggest gathering of heart experts, Harvard scientists said the approach promises to "usher in a new era" of treatment.

Dr Ridker, from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, said: "These findings represent the end game of more than two decades of research, stemming from a critical observation: Half of heart attacks occur in people who do not have high cholesterol."

"For the first time, we've been able to definitively show that lowering inflammation independent of cholesterol reduces cardiovascular risk," he said.



Experts said high levels of inflammation were associated with a variety of conditions linked to ageing, including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout - all of which reduced among patients put on the treatment.

He said the findings had "far-reaching implications," opening up a new generation of treatment. "In my lifetime, I've gotten to see three broad eras of preventative cardiology," the heart expert said.

"In the first, we recognized the importance of diet, exercise and smoking cessation. In the second, we saw the tremendous value of lipid-lowering drugs such as statins. Now, we're cracking the door open on the third era."

The findings were presented at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in Barcelona and published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Inflammation is one of the body's natural responses to infection or injury. But it also plays a major role in causing heart attacks and strokes.

Experts said high levels of inflammation were associated with a variety of conditions linked to ageing, including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout - all of which reduced among patients put on the treatment.

The new treatment - which works by blocking part of the immune system called interleukin-1 - currently costs around £40,000 annually to treat a patient with the drug, compared to just £20 for statins.

But experts say the price would come down if widely adopted. And they said the cost would be offset by the millions of pounds saved from not having to perform heart bypasses and other major forms of surgery. Leading British medics last night hailed the findings as "exciting" and "incredibly important."

Dr Derek Connolly, consultant interventional cardiologist at Birmingham City Hospital, said: "The drug is likely to be given to patients alongside statins - in a 'twin attack' against cholesterol and inflammation. "You need lots of bricks to build a wall - this is another brick in the wall."

Professor Jeremy Pearson, Associate Medical Director at the British Heart Foundation, said: "Nearly 200,000 people

are hospitalised due to heart attacks every year in the UK.

"Cholesterol-lowering drugs like statins are given to these people to reduce their risk of another heart attack and this undoubtedly saves lives. But we know that lowering cholesterol alone is not always enough. "These exciting and long-awaited trial results finally confirm that ongoing inflammation contributes to risk of heart disease, and could help save lives."

"The findings suggest that existing anti-inflammatory drugs, such as canakinumab, could be given along with cholesterol-lowering drugs to treat survivors and further reduce their risk of another heart attack."

Novartis, the company which produces the drug, said they now intend to apply for a licence for the treatment for heart attack victims, and to embark on a new phase III trial about the use of the drugs to protect against cancer.

(Source: The Telegraph)

The four-year study found those given the new treatment saw a 24 per cent reduction in heart attacks and 17 per cent fall in angina, while those on the highest dose saw cancer deaths fall by 51 per cent.

The second round of Noor Student Competition Winners announced

At a press conference held on August 28, 2017 in Tehran, the second round of Noor Student Competition winners were announced. Over 5,000 students had participated in this competition by producing and sending about 2,000 short films in all fields of science including physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and astronomy.

Prof. Jackie Ying - the laureate of the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize 2015 was among the attendees - along with Mustafa (pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) officials and the reporters of several domestic and international media outlets.

"One of the distinctive features of the second round of Noor Student Competition compared with previous one is participating other regional countries." Said Mahdi Saffarinia, Secretary of the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize's Policy Making Council, in his speech in this conference.

Saffarinia added: "In order to introduce one of the eminent scholars of the Muslim world in science and technology as a role model, the second round of Noor Student Competition has been named after Prof. Jackie Ying, the Executive Director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) in Singapore and internationally known for her research in field of Nanotechnology. She was also the laureate of the Mustafa (pbuh) Prize 2015 in Bio Nanotechnology." Prof. Ying, 51, is not only recognized in the field of science, but she is also introduced as



one of "One Hundred Engineers of the Modern Era".

Addressing Prof. Yings outstanding achievements, especially in inspiring the young generations, Saffarinia added: "it is important for students to have deeper awareness about influential scientists in Islam world".

Last year, due to the 1000th anniversary of authoring 'The Book of Optics' by 'Ibn al-Haytham' the first round of this competition was held in commemoration of this eminent Muslim scholar.

5109 students in form of 2194 groups took part in second round by sending a sum of 1194 60-second films of their scientific experiments in all fields of science, including physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and astronomy, to

the MSTF.

"Based on the most important selection criteria which were the creativity and attractiveness of the received works, a total of 231 students in form of 105 groups were eventually selected, while one group of the winners are from Pakistan and another group is from Afghanistan." Saffarinia further added.

Also the winners will be honored for their achievements in the closing ceremony which will be held in "Hozehe Honari - Andisheh Hall" on September the first, 2017, coinciding with the anniversary of Eid al-Adha. Broadcasting selected scientific videos on a weekly TV program, as well as granting laboratory and science equipment to the selected schools and

research centers are among the prizes awarded to the winners.

Mustafa (pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation lunched annual "Noor Student Competition" in early December last year, in order to identify students' strengths and talents, fostering and encouraging them and developing new perspectives in student communities, as well as promoting scientific cooperation among educational centers.

Saffarinia as the president of MSTF in his address noted that KANS (Knowledge Application and Notion for Society) is another scientific competition which similarly has been designated to run at university level. This competition as a second layer of Mustafa (pbuh) Prize is supposed to be lunched in all Islamic universities and colleges in October 2017.

Meanwhile, in order to enhance cooperation among the Muslim scientists in Islamic countries around the world, MSTF has made a plan called Science and Technology Exchange Program (STEP), which will be held annually in one of the Islamic countries.

While the third round of this program will be held in December, coinciding with reward giving ceremony of Mustafa (pbuh) Prize, Two rounds of this plan were held in Tehran (2015) and Kuala Lumpur (2016), respectively.

It is worth mentioning that the third round of Noor Student Competition will be held commemorating "Ismail al-Jazari" prominent Muslim scientist, in the field of robotics in 2018.

(Source: mustafaprize.org)

Flame retardants linked to lower fertility rates in women

New research examining the link between common flame retardant chemicals and fertility rates finds that women with higher levels of the chemicals in their bodies have lower chances of fertilization, pregnancy and live birth compared with women who have low levels of the chemicals in their bodies.

If this finding is confirmed in a larger number of study participants, couples struggling to get pregnant may want to take a second look at their furniture and carpet, experts say, as some of these items tend to have flame retardant components. However, because this is the first study of its kind to find a link between organophosphate flame retardants and fertility outcomes, couples struggling to get pregnant should not worry about getting a new couch or mattress pad to aid conception just yet.

Researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health recruited 211 women undergoing in vitro fertilization treatments to participate in the study. For each IVF cycle they went through, the women contributed one or two urine samples, and the scientists, led by environmental epidemiologist Courtney Carignan (now of Michigan State University), analyzed the urine for the byproducts of five flame retardant chemicals to estimate how much flame retardant they were exposed to in their everyday life.

The scientists then compared the levels of chemical byproducts to the women's outcomes during IVF and found that the women with the highest levels of three of the chemicals showed a 10 percent decrease in the rate of fertilization, a 31 percent decreased rate of embryo implantation, a 41 percent decreased rate of a clinical pregnancy (when a heartbeat is detected via sonogram) and a 38 percent decreased rate of live birth compared with the women who had the lowest amounts of byproduct in their urine.



Carignan chose to examine women undergoing the IVF process because it was the best way to observe every step of conception and early pregnancy, as opposed to women who conceive naturally and may not know they are pregnant until they are six to eight weeks along. Because of this, Carignan writes in the study, the results are at least generalizable to the population of women seeking treatment at an infertility clinic, and perhaps among all women in general, presuming that their bodies would have the same biological response to these chemicals as the women in the study.

Animal studies suggest that these flame retardant chemicals disrupt the thyroid and hormones in animals, as well as harm embryo development. If people want to limit their exposure to these chemicals and they're due to replace a couch, Carignan suggested looking for furniture that doesn't have flame retardant chemicals, such as furniture with barrier technology or a naturally flame retardant fabric, like leather or wool that meets flammability standards. She added that while mattresses do not typically contain flame retardants, polyurethane foam mattress pads can.

Other options are carpet-free floors or carpet with padding that isn't made from foam treated with these chemicals. Still, she said she understands these are big purchases that people make only a few times in their life, and many people don't have much choice about the furniture they have. In that case, they should wash their hands often, especially before meals, as Carignan's past research has found that people who do this have lower levels of these chemicals in their body.

"There are a lot of contributors to infertility," Carignan said. "This is just one factor, and people need to be careful not to beat themselves up over these types of exposures."

Still, Carignan takes her research to heart. She waited nine years to upgrade from a futon to a couch because she was waiting for a policy change that allowed furniture without chemical flame retardants to hit the market. She also recently purchased a home, and one of her major concerns was that it be carpet-free, since padding under carpets is often made with recycled foam that is treated with flame retardant chemicals.

"I do what I can with the time and the resources that I have, but there are so many things I certainly can't avoid," she said. "That's why we have chemical policies — so people don't have to have a Ph.D. in environmental health to be a conscientious consumer."

(Source: The Huffington Post)

Mind & mood

Your mood and your mental health affect every aspect of your life, from how you feel about yourself to your relationships with others and your physical health. There's a strong link between good mental health and good physical health, and vice versa. In the other direction, depression and other mental health issues can contribute to digestive disorders, trouble sleeping, lack of energy, heart disease, and other health issues.

There are many ways to keep your mind and mood in optimal shape. Exercise, healthy eating, and stress reduction techniques like meditation or mindfulness can keep your brain — and your body — in tip-top shape.

When mood and mental health slip, doing something about it as early as possible can keep the change from getting worse or becoming permanent. Treating conditions like depression and anxiety improve quality of life. Learning to manage stress makes for more satisfying and productive days.

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

1 Wearable device maker Fitbit Inc on Monday launched its newest device, the Ionic smartwatch, with features ranging from fitness tracking to contactless payment, as it gears up to compete with rivals such as Apple.

2 Comcast builds out 'smart home' strategy as cable shrinks. Comcast Corp may be best known as a cable company, but it is banking on remote-controlled door locks and cameras as well as other "smart-home" offerings to accelerate its growing home security business.

3 On its first day as part of Amazon.com, organic grocery chain Whole Foods Market Inc slashed prices on popular items like avocados and apples on Monday by a third as it bid to shake off its "Whole Paycheck" reputation for high prices.

4 Nissan Motor and its partner Renault will build electric cars in China in a new venture with Dongfeng Motor, as global automakers scramble to get ready for stringent electric vehicle quotas being introduced by the nation.

5 General Electric Co wants its industrial software business to cut costs and lift profits next year under new chief executive John Flannery, and is considering expanded partnerships and the possible sale of some equity in the unit, according to people familiar with the business.

6 Amazon Music Unlimited is now cheaper for students. The online retail giant is offering up its relatively new music streaming service to all the young folk for just \$4.99 per month.

7 Nintendo has just announced a special FE Warriors edition for the Switch and a Veteran Trainer's dual pack that includes both new Pokémon games. The special edition FE Warriors comes with a copy of the game for Nintendo's hybrid console, three CDs' worth of music from the game, character art cards and a dual-sided poster. It'll set you back \$80, or \$20 more than just the game itself, but if you get weak in the knees for special edition collectibles, then that doesn't sound so bad.

8 DJI pulls drone app plugins that swiped too much user data. DJI's efforts to improve drone security go well beyond offering bug bounties and requiring updates. The company has rolled out updates to its Go and Go 4 mobile apps in order to pull add-ons that collect too much of your data.

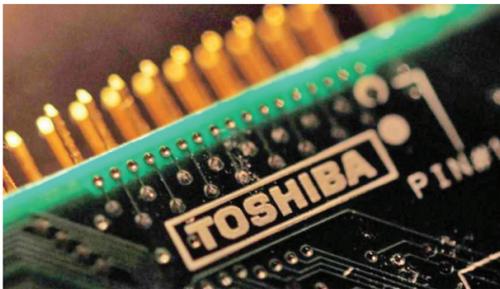
9 LG's V30 offers customizable high-quality audio. The V30 will have LG's Hi-Fi Quad DAC, but this time around, it comes with digital filters and users will have more options when it comes to customizing the phone's sound.

10 The New York Post understands that the police force is replacing all 36,000 of its officers' Windows phones with iPhones just two years after the rollout began. It's not exactly clear as to why, but Microsoft recently ended support for Windows Phone 8.1 -- the standard-issue Lumia 830 and 640 XL devices won't get any help if something goes wrong.

Western Digital group finalizing \$17 billion deal for Toshiba chip unit

A consortium led by Western Digital Corp is close to an agreement to buy Toshiba Corp's \$17.4 billion chip business, with the U.S. firm's CEO in Tokyo to finalize the long and contentious talks, a person familiar with the matter said.

The consortium and Toshiba aim to announce a deal when the board of the embattled Japanese conglomerate is due to meet, separate people familiar with the matter also said.



A deal would mark an end to months of uncertainty for Toshiba, which is scrambling to sell its flash memory unit - the world's No. 2 producer of NAND chips - to cover billions in losses at its bankrupt U.S. nuclear business Westinghouse.

It would also be a remarkable victory for Western Digital, Toshiba's joint venture partner for its chip business, after relations with the Japanese firm frayed to point where other bidders were chosen first and the U.S. firm initiated legal action that threatened to derail any deal.

Western Digital, Toshiba and a state-backed fund, the Innovation Network of Japan, which is a member of the consortium declined to comment. Representatives for U.S. private equity firm KKR & Co (KKR.N) and the Development Bank of Japan, also members, were not immediately available for comment.

The U.S. firm will also not seek a management role, they said.

(Source: Reuters)

Why Uber's new CEO is the perfect antidote to Travis Kalanick

By Anita Balakrishnan

While Uber's choice for CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi, may seem less familiar than choices like Meg Whitman or Jeff Immelt, Khosrowshahi knows who matters.

Sources told CNBC he's seen as a very qualified and respected choice for Uber's CEO.

"He's got an extraordinarily deep network," said Brad Gerstner, founder and CEO of investment firm Altimeter Capital, which owns shares of both Expedia and Uber. Gerstner spent five years on the board of Orbitz, through 2015.

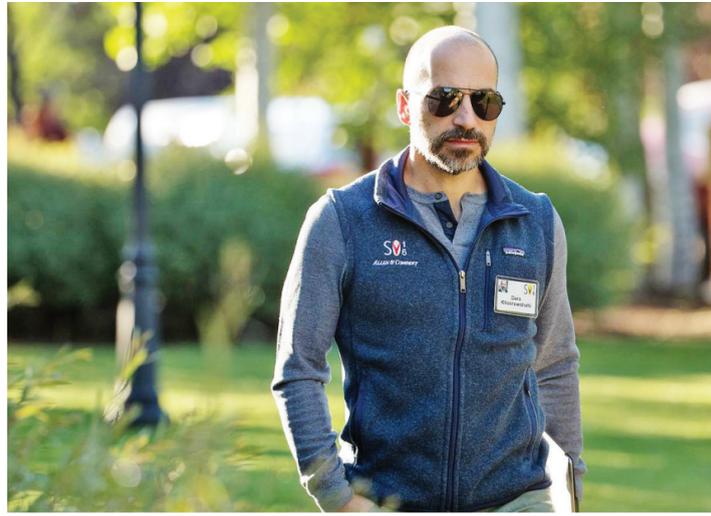
Khosrowshahi's impressive Rolodex make sense given his start at Allen & Co — the "person-to-person" banking firm that hosts a posh networking event at Sun Valley, where CEOs are known to seal deals. His brother works there now, and he has many other influential family members in the business community, The Washington Post reported.

Khosrowshahi is also no stranger to some of the other important people behind Uber. Expedia founder Richard Barton is a partner at Benchmark, one of Uber's top shareholders.

Khosrowshahi is also on the board of Fanatics, a company that recently snagged a \$1 billion deal from SoftBank — a free-spending Japanese company that's also said to be eyeing a stake in Uber.

Why it matters

All those connections make Brian Neider, Lead Edge Capital Partner, "super comfortable" and "pumped" with the choice, he told CNBC's "Squawk Box" on Monday, adding that it would be great for Uber to get the



stamp of approval from funds like SoftBank.

While Kalanick has come under scrutiny for his lack of soft skills, Khosrowshahi has spent years honing them, according to a deeply reported profile in the Puget Sound Business Journal last year.

"This is a guy who could spend a decade working side-by-side, very successfully, with [IAC's] Barry Diller, who is no shrinking violet," Jeff Sonnenfeld, senior associate dean for leadership studies at Yale, told CNBC's "Squawk on the Street" on Monday. "I think that speaks legions for him."

And that's helped him restructure Expedia many times over, making deal after deal. That's something something Uber's

been trying to do, selling off its Russian and Chinese businesses into new joint ventures and examining options for its leasing division.

Khosrowshahi was the head of corporate development, mergers and acquisitions for the companies that became media conglomerate IAC.

"When Expedia was struggling, he went in and became the lead operating executive. He uniquely possesses both operating capabilities as well as capital markets capabilities, which not a lot of global executives have. It's a nuance that Wall Street appreciates, but it's hard to understand," Gerstner said. "That's really pertinent to a company like Uber that's

strategically competing on a global basis. They have to figure out how to compete in all those different markets -- and to partner, sell, or operate on a stand-alone basis."

Plus, Uber has a slew of vacancies to fill: President Jeff Jones left the company. The search for a chief operating officer is still underway, and the executives in charge of business, finance, communications, engineering and self-driving cars are all out the door.

"He knows how to identify talent," Gerstner told CNBC. "He knows what a world-class executive looks like. He has the frame of reference to evaluate candidates who exist within Uber and also has the network to attract the talent needed to take the business to next level."

Then there's hard-charging former CEO Travis Kalanick, who is still on the board of the company and poses "personality" issues, one investor said.

"It seems to me, from what I've read and what I've seen from other people covering this, that Dara is the type of person that's going to come in and institute a culture that's going to take away some of those distractions and probably put them on a more professional business path," Paul Holland, an Uber investor and general partner at Foundation Capital, told CNBC's "Squawk Alley" on Monday.

"And I think to that extent, as a major shareholder, whether it's Travis or anybody else, they should all be pretty excited about this. And I suspect folks will get behind him to drive the company, ultimately towards an IPO"

(Source: CNBC)

Ford teams with Domino's on self-driving pizza delivery test

Ford Motor Co and Domino's Pizza Inc in September will begin testing Michigan consumers' reactions to having their pies delivered by self-driving vehicles, the companies said on Tuesday.

It will not be the first experiment with advanced pizza delivery technology. Australia-based Domino's Pizza Enterprises, the Ann Arbor-based company's largest independent franchisee, has tested delivery to customers in New Zealand via drone and self-driving robot.

In a blog post last week, Sherif Marakby, head of Ford's autonomous and electric vehicles, signaled the automaker's broader ambitions, saying Ford planned to cooperate "with multiple partners" in deploying self-driving vehicles "designed to improve the movement of people and goods."

Previously, Ford executives had said the company expected to launch a self-driving shuttle for commercial ride-sharing fleets in 2021.

Domino's and Ford will deliver pizzas to randomly selected customers in the Ann Arbor area in a Ford Fusion Hybrid equipped with self-driving technology. The delivery vehicles initially will be piloted by human drivers.

Customers will be able to track the delivery process via GPS and will receive text messages on how to retrieve their pizzas once the delivery vehicle has arrived.

A number of start-up delivery services, many of them funded by venture capital, have been experimenting with on-demand delivery of different packages, includ-

ing groceries, prepared food and beverages. So have larger companies, from Uber Technologies to Amazon.

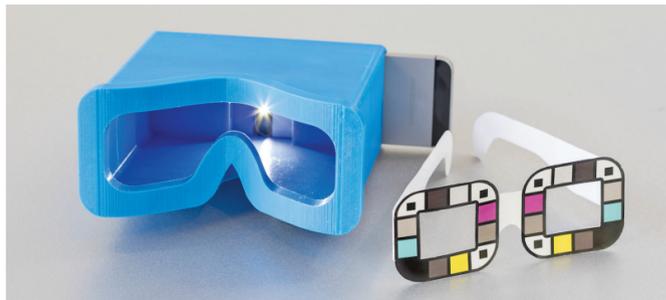
Opinion is still divided, however, on whether automation can help solve some vexing delivery problems, such as how to deliver pizzas economically to the fifth floor of a college dorm.

The Ford-Domino's test vehicle will not attempt to resolve that conundrum. It will stop outside the customer's house, so it will not provide true door-to-door delivery service.

"We're still focused on the last 50 feet," said Domino's spokeswoman Jenny Fouracre. "That's a big challenge - getting (the pizza) from the curb to the door"

(Source: Reuters)

App detects pancreatic cancer from the whites of your eyes



Pancreatic cancer has a very low survival rate, with just nine percent of patients surviving past five years. A major contributor to this rate is the fact that once those with pancreatic cancer start to show symptoms, the disease is usually already quite advanced. But researchers at the University of Washington have come up with a simple and incredibly accurate way to test for the cancer that people can administer themselves.

The team developed an app called BiliScreen and with a smartphone's camera, it uses computer vision algorithms to detect levels of the chemical bilirubin in the whites of a person's eyes. With pancreatic cancer, bilirubin levels start to increase and eventually, it turns the whites of the eye yellow, which is also the case for

hepatitis. However, when that yellowing becomes noticeable, the cancer is already very developed. BiliScreen is able to detect very low levels of bilirubin and provide users with an assessment of whether their levels are high enough to indicate possible disease. This is easier and cheaper than a blood test, which is the traditional test for the cancer, and can be done before any symptoms start to show.

"Pancreatic cancer is a terrible disease with no effective screening right now," Jim Taylor, a researcher on the project, said in a statement. "Our goal is to have more people who are unfortunate enough to get pancreatic cancer to be fortunate enough to catch it in time to have surgery that gives them a better chance of survival."

(Source: engadget)

Google accidentally broke the internet throughout Japan



Last week, nearly half of Japan briefly lost access to the internet because of an error made by Google. The mistake was noticed and corrected within just a few minutes, but its effects led to hours of slowed internet connections. The impact was so large that Japan's Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry initiated an investigation into the issue.

The problem occurred around noon on Friday. A mistake on Google's end made it appear as if a large chunk of IP addresses were available for internet traffic to be routed through Google. However, those IP addresses actually belonged to Japanese internet service providers. So a large amount of traffic that was meant for Japan was suddenly sent towards Google by major internet service providers like Verizon. But Google isn't a service provider and isn't meant to route

traffic, so all of that traffic destined for Japan was basically just sent nowhere.

Connectivity was restored within the hour, but persistently slow connection speeds resulting from the mistake affected industries like finance, where online trading was halted, and transportation -- East Japan Railway Co. riders weren't able to buy tickets or board trains. The internet service providers impacted the most were KDDI Corp. and NTT Communications, the latter of which provides service to well over seven million people.

A Google spokesperson told Asahi Shimbun, "We set wrong information for the network and, as a result, problems occurred. We modified the information to the correct one within eight minutes. We apologize for causing inconvenience and anxieties (among Internet users)."

(Source: thenextweb)

Skydio is raising \$40 million to make drones that fly themselves

A three-year-old startup created by ex-Google engineers is raising approximately \$40 million in venture funding to make the world's most advanced consumer drone, Business Insider has learned.

Skydio is looking to raise roughly \$40 million for its Series B round at a pre-money valuation of around \$180 million, according to people familiar with the matter. The drone maker has already raised \$28 million to date and is backed by Andreessen Horowitz, Accel, and others.

Skydio CEO Adam Bry confirmed that the company is raising money in an email to Business Insider on Monday but declined to comment further.

Skydio was Founded by three MIT graduates who set

out in 2014 to create an AI-powered drone capable of flying itself without the complexity of current drone controls. CEO Bry and CTO Abraham Bachrach were also early engineers at Project Wing, Google's drone delivery effort.

Skydio has yet to publicly debut its drone, but people who have seen prototypes say that it uses an array of cameras and proprietary computer vision technology to recognize and avoid objects in real time. While Skydio's near-term goal is to sell its own drone, it could potentially license its underlying technology to other drone makers as well.

"Current drones are cool gadgets for enthusiasts but still a curiosity to mainstream consumers," the company

wrote in a November 2016 blog post. "Our belief is that advanced onboard computer vision and artificial intelligence, combined with world class hardware product design, will yield a breakthrough that makes drones a trusted part of our daily lives."

Early 2015 demos of Skydio included a "Magic Wand" feature that let people control a drone by waving a paired iPhone around with their hands. Skydio has since published a couple of teaser videos that show its technology in action. One video from last year shows a drone seamlessly avoiding trees it encounters while following bikers through a park trail.

(Source: Businessinsider)

NASA's InSight mission to probe Red Planet's deep interior

NASA's next mission to Mars, scheduled to launch next year, will focus on examining the deep interior of the Red Planet, according to the U.S. space agency. Information gathered by the InSight mission will boost understanding of how all rocky planets formed, including Earth, NASA said.

"Because the interior of Mars has churned much less than Earth's in the past three billion years, Mars likely preserves evidence about rocky planets' infancy better than our home planet does," said InSight Principal Investigator Bruce Banerdt of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California.

The mission will place a stationary lander near Mars' equator. With two solar panels that unfold like paper fans, the lander spans about six meters.

■ Martian ground

Within weeks after the landing, InSight will use a robotic arm to place its two main instruments directly and permanently onto the Martian ground, an unprecedented set of activities on Mars, according to NASA.

One of the two instruments is a seismometer, which is shielded from wind, and has sensitivity fine enough to detect ground movements half the diameter of a hydrogen atom.

It will record seismic waves from "marsquakes" or meteor impacts that reveal



information about the planet's interior layers. The other instrument is a heat probe, designed to hammer itself to a depth of three meters or more and measure the amount of energy coming from the plan-

et's deep interior.

A third experiment will use radio transmissions between Mars and Earth to assess perturbations in how Mars rotates on its axis, which are clues about the size of

Within weeks after the landing, InSight will use a robotic arm to place its two main instruments directly and permanently onto the Martian ground, an unprecedented set of activities on Mars, according to NASA.

the planet's core. Preparation ramped up this summer for the InSight mission which is on course for launch next May from Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California, NASA said.

■ System-level integration

Our team resumed system-level integration and test activities last month," said Stu Spath, spacecraft program manager at Lockheed Martin.

The "lander is completed and instruments have been integrated onto it so that we can complete the final spacecraft testing including acoustics, instrument deployments and thermal balance tests," Spath said.

The spacecraft's science payload also is on track for next year's launch, NASA said. The mission's launch was originally planned for March 2016, but was called off due to a leak into a metal container designed to maintain near-vacuum conditions around the seismometer's main sensors.

A redesigned vacuum vessel for the instrument has been built and tested, then combined with the instrument's other components and tested again. "We have fixed the problem we had two years ago, and we are eagerly preparing for launch," said InSight Project Manager Tom Hoffman, of JPL.

(Source: indianexpress.com)

Ultra-thin carbon nanotubes could be the answer to global water crisis

Scientists have developed carbon nanotubes over 50,000 times thinner than a human hair which can separate salt from seawater, an advance that may help solve the global water crisis.

Environmental scientists have been concerned with regard to drying water bodies as a result of severe climate change. Many areas around the world are slowly falling short of drinking water, leaving scientists in a tizzy.

Of course, oceans are full of it and they soon might be the only respite, going by the rate at which climate change is working. But drinking saltwater has never been even a remote consideration. How do we separate the salt from the water? Looks like scientists have a solution!

■ Global threat

Increasing demands for fresh water pose a global threat to sustainable development, resulting in water scarcity for four billion people, researchers said.

Current water purification technologies can benefit from the development of membranes with specialized pores that mimic highly efficient and water selective biological proteins.

Scientists, including those from Northeastern University in the U.S.,

developed carbon nanotube pores that can exclude salt from seawater.

The team found that water permeability in carbon nanotubes (CNTs) with diameters of 0.8 nanometer significantly exceeds that of wider carbon nanotubes.

The nanotubes, hollow structures made of carbon atoms in a unique arrangement, are more than 50,000 times thinner than a human hair.

The super smooth inner surface of the nanotube is responsible for their remarkably high water permeability, while the tiny pore size blocks larger salt ions.

"We found that carbon nanotubes with diameters smaller than a nanometer bear a key structural feature that enables enhanced transport," said Ramya Tunuguntla, a postdoctoral researcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in the U.S.

The "narrow hydrophobic channel forces water to translocate in a single-file arrangement, a phenomenon similar to that found in the most efficient biological water transporters," said Tunuguntla.

■ Computer simulations

Computer simulations and exper-



imental studies of water transport through CNTs with diameters larger than one nanometer showed enhanced water flow, but did not match the transport efficiency of biological proteins and did not separate salt efficiently, especially at higher salinities.

The key breakthrough achieved by the LLNL team was to use smaller-diameter nanotubes that delivered the required boost in performance.

"Carbon nanotubes are a unique

platform for studying molecular transport and nanofluidics," said Alex Noy principal investigator at LLNL.

"Their sub-nanometer size, atomically smooth surfaces and similarity to cellular water transport channels make them exceptionally suited for this purpose, and it is very exciting to make a synthetic water channel that performs better than nature's own," said Noy.

(Source: Zee News)

How horses got their hooves

All four-limbed, land-based vertebrates came from a common ancestor with legs that ended in five toes. Over time, many animals lost some of their digits: Horses, rhinos and camels have four, three and two toes on each leg. But only one living group of animals ended up with a single toe per foot: the group containing modern horses.

A comprehensive new study, published last week in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, lends support to existing hypotheses about the dramatic transformation in horses' hooves through history. Namely, as horses evolved and got larger from their ancestral, dog-sized form, it was better to have one very robust toe than several smaller ones to support their increased body mass. Furthermore, having just one toe reduced the weight horses had to carry at the end of each leg, making it easier for them to run and maneuver.

The study is a careful examination of a "story everyone had taken for granted and hadn't really tested thoroughly," said Christine Janis, a professor emerita of evolutionary biology at Brown University who was not involved in the research.

■ The earliest horses

As told in textbooks and evolutionary biology classes, the earliest horses were small, dwelled in forests and had four toes on their front legs and three on their



back legs. Then, more than 20 million years ago, their habitat in North America started to shift from forest to grassland. In these new grasslands, ancient horses needed to move at faster speeds to evade predators and cover more ground for grazing. It made sense that a larger body and longer, more slender legs with fewer toes would help horses achieve that.

Brianna McHorse, a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, wanted to see if this narrative checked out.

In the new study, she and colleagues scanned leg fossils from 12 kinds of horses, ranging from the oldest ones that lived 55 million years ago to species in the same group as modern-day horses.

■ Carrying body weight

Early on, when horses were smaller and had more evenly-sized toes, their side digits were essential for carrying some body weight, the scientists showed. However, over time, as horses evolved larger bodies and their side toes started to shrink, their center toes became larger and more robust, compensating for the extra load, until they were the only digits left.

Ms. McHorse emphasized that the study does not definitively answer why horses' side toes started to vanish. She suspected that transitioning to a single toe would have made it easier for horses to swing their legs back and forth at more impressive speeds (think of how it's harder to run with weights around your ankles).

In fact, the athletic prowess of horses struck her as the most fascinating aspect of this story. Horses are an exception to the general rule that smaller animals are more maneuverable.

(Source: The NYT)

Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Meets with BIM Chief Executive

Brazil's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos met and held talks with Ali Ashraf-Afkhami Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM), the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

In his meeting held at the venue of the bank, chief executive of the bank expounded on the salient achievements of the bank in the field of financing infrastructure projects such

as steel, cement, railway, power plant and petrochemical.

He pointed to inaugurating Kavian, Lorestan and Mahabad petrochemical companies, financing for the construction of high-speed Tehran-Qom-Isfahan High-Speed Railway and also electrifying Tehran-Mashhad Railway project as three important projects done by the bank and said: "The bank took giant strides in post-sanctions period, the most important of which are

as follows: opening the first Letter of Credit (L/C) for the private sector through SWIFT, establishing brokerage relationship with a number of 82 active banks in 33 countries worldwide, signing and sealing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Korea's Exim Bank, inking a deal, amounting to \$120 million, with Exim Bank of India, etc."

For his part, Brazil's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos termed the coop-

eration and interaction between development banks of the two countries "positive and constructive" and said: "Brazilian government has expressed its readiness to finance projects in Iran in the fields of transport, vehicle, oil, gas and medical equipment."

In the end, he promised to invite executives of Brazilian banks to cooperate and interact with Iranian banks, industrial and production units in order to promote exports and export activities.

Iranian scientist says stem cell research advancing rapidly

Iranian post-doctorate researcher of Harvard Medical College and the faculty member of Royan Institute asserted that researchers urged measured optimism about new studies on stem cells and regenerative medicine for cancer, skin diseases and Alzheimer.

"Royan institute is a very well recognized research center globally and in the region mainly in the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine," Dr. Kourosh Shahpasand who won the research grant of the U.S. Alzheimer's association said in an exclusive interview with ISNA.

"We have collaboration with Harvard medical school and I

honored to have several projects with this center as well as my college in Royan institute. We have several collaborations with other universities in Europe, Japan and Australia and other countries as well," he added.

"Our top goal is to reach therapeutics strategy for several disorders including Neurodegenerative like Alzheimer or cancer. We generate stem cells to replace cancer cells in order to cure cancer itself," He noted.



Dr. Kourosh Shahpasand



"In Royan institute, we are working mainly on curing cancer by stem cells which have been conducting through different ways. We are also adding some other field of researches like cognitive neuroscience because Royan is growing fast by stringent management," he said.

The most considerable achievement of Royan institute in recent years is finding the new medical treatment for skin diseases by focusing on stem cells and regenerative medicine.

"This is my first presence here and the invitation of top scientists showed that although we are not a developed country but we are taking big steps in the field of stem cells," Dr. Shahpasand went on to say.

(Source: ISNA)

Oil and gas wells as a strong source of greenhouse gases

The pictures went around the world. In April 2010, huge amounts of methane gas escaped from a well below the Deepwater Horizon platform in the Gulf of Mexico. This "blow-out" caused an explosion, in which eleven people died. For several weeks, oil spilled from the damaged well into the ocean. Fortunately, such catastrophic "blow-outs" are rather rare.

Scientists from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and the University of Basel now published new data in the international journal Environmental Science & Technology, indicating that gas migration along the outside of wells could be a much bigger problem than previously assumed.

This type of leakage is currently neither considered by operators nor regulators, but could be just as important as fugitive emissions through damaged wells, which are usually recognized and quickly repaired. "We estimate that gas leakage around boreholes could constitute one of the main sources of methane in the North Sea", says Dr. Lisa Vielstädte from GEOMAR, the first author of the study.

During expeditions to oil and gas fields in the central North Sea in 2012 and 2013, the scientists discovered a number of methane seeps around abandoned wells. Interestingly, the gas originates from shallow gas pockets buried less than 1,000 meters below the seabed. They are simply penetrated when drilling into the underlying, economically interesting hydrocarbon reservoirs.

"These gas pockets usually do not pose a risk to the drilling operation itself. But apparently disturbing the sediment around the well enables the gas to rise to the seafloor", explains Dr. Matthias Haeckel from GEOMAR, who initiated the study.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Mutant apes missing nostrils and fingers discovered in Uganda

Scientists reportedly discovered a group of mutant apes in Uganda with abnormally shaped noses, missing fingers and in some cases, no nostrils at all.

The scientists concluded that a hazardous cocktail of insecticides used by local farmers caused the apes' deformities, though the farmers reportedly claimed that the pesticides were not a threat to the endangered apes. Researchers aimed to look into the potentially dangerous effects chemicals could have on humans.

The apes, discovered in Kibale National Park in Uganda, seemed to have different issues due to the chemicals. Most of the female apes appeared to have little to no sex drive, concave faces and missing fingers, according to a recent study published in Science of the Total Environment.

Kibale National Park, located in southern Uganda, is one of the most species-diverse regions in Africa. These deformities — especially facial deformities — weren't found in apes until 2014, and there were only two instances before 2014, according to the Verge.

Twenty-five percent of chimps and 17 percent of baboons in the area were born with noticeable physical deformities by 2016, while other populations born just nine miles away were healthy.

(Source: IBT)

What are the causes of mal-temperament?



ARTICLE

By Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, PhD

Part 2

Based on Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine, temperament - or to use the Persian term Mizaj - is regarded as the excess or lack of warmth and humidity in one's body and is categorized into four qualities of warmth, coldness, dryness and wetness.

Accordingly, depending on qualities which are dominant in the body they are classified into nine categories: warm, cold, wet, dry, warm and dry, warm and wet, cold and dry, cold and wet, and moderate (when none of the qualities are dominant).

As mentioned in the previous article (<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/416182/What-are-the-causes-of-mal-temperament>) each individual is born with a main or inherent Mizaj, and keeping the main Mizaj within its normal range of the warmth and humidity one is born with is of the essence to remain healthy.

Spoiling one's inherent or main Mizaj and moving towards excessive warmth, coldness, wetness or dryness, would undermine the persons' health. So one must take immediate action by recognizing the factors causing such symptoms and prevent them from developing.

In case one fails to keep his/her Mizaj within its normal range for a long time, mal-temperament will strike the body and diseases will progress. Reasons as to why one might experience excessive coldness or warmth were outlined in previous article (<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/416182/What-are-the-causes-of-mal-temperament>). The causes of excessive dryness and wetness are listed below.

Excessive dryness

Below is the list of reasons one might suffer conditions sparked by excessive dryness:

- Factors contributing to increased warmth, such as being adjacent to fire, intense activities and heavy exercise which raise the warmth and correspondingly deplete the body of its natural humidity
- Being stressed out, overexcited, and feeling ecstasy as well as being preoccupied and sleep deprived
- Dry climate and seasons such as summer and autumn and residing in dry areas such as mountains and deserts
- Construction jobs and pottery and being in close contact with soil, stone and building materials
- Being in close contact with paint and solvents especially painters and those working in labs
- Consuming food stuff with dry Mizaj such as vinegar or salt, or applying volatile substances such as oil, gasoline, alcohol, ether, acetone, hair color and nail polish topically
- Not eating much (fasting for long time) as the body is unable to gain and maintain normal level of humidity

It is worth mentioning that thin people with dry and cold and dry and warm Mizaj are more likely to suffer from excessive dryness.

Excessive wetness

- On the other hand some actions and eating some foods and drinks can lead to excessive wetness in the body.
- Lack of movement and not taking exercise which would cause excessive wetness built up in the body, getting swollen and puffy and not being able to rid of it
- Staying long in wet places such as bath or swimming pool
- Wet climate or seasons such as spring and winter or residing in coastal areas
- Being in close contact with water, for instance by working in paddy fields, teaching swimming, or being a lifeguard
- Consuming too much food and drinks with wet Mizaj such water, dairy products, vinegar, sour food, lettuce, peach, and nectarine as well as rubbing oils with wet Mizaj such as violet oil
- Overeating as the digestive system is not capable of converting the food into energy properly and that unwanted materials and humidity will build up in the body
- Decrease in the amount of body waste (sweat, menstrual fluid, urine, feces) discharged from the body which causes excessive wetness in the body

Again, overweight people with wet Mizaj are more prone to suffer excessive wetness.

Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, holds a PhD degree in medical physiology and is an Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine researcher. He is also an assistant professor in AJA University of Medical Sciences, Tehran.

LEARN ENGLISH

Daily Life - I'm sorry

A: Whoa, whoa, what's going on? Watch out!
 B: Hey, watch where you're going!
 A: Oh, no! I'm so sorry! Are you all right?
 B: Oh...I don't know.
 A: I feel terrible, I really didn't mean to knock you over. My tire, just exploded, and I lost control of my bike. Really, it was an accident. Please accept my apologies.
 B: Just let me try to stand up.
 SONG: Why do birds suddenly appear, every time you are near?
 A: Are you okay?
 B: Oh, wait a second, you seem really familiar, I think I know you from somewhere.

A: Yeah, I think we have met somewhere before. That's right! We met at Aaron's place last weekend! What a coincidence! But anyway, I'm glad to see that you're not too badly hurt, and I should probably get going. I have a nine o'clock meeting.
 B: Ouch! My ankle! I think it's broken! You can't just leave me like this! Are you calling an ambulance?
 A: Nope, I'm canceling my appointment so that I can stay here with you.

- **Key Vocabulary**
mean: intend, plan
explode: suddenly break apart
accident: an event that is not planned or intended
coincidence: situation when two or more things happen at the same time in an unplanned way
knock over: make something fall over
- **Supplementary Vocabulary**
regret: feel sad or sorry about something
apologetic: feeling or showing regret, showing an apology
feel guilty: feel responsible for doing something bad
unfamiliar: not familiar (Source: [irlanguage.com](http://www.irlanguage.com))

Whiteflies all around: Who is displaced?



1 → According to the Health Ministry and the Universities of Medical Sciences, the whiteflies do not cause any serious problems to human health, however they could cause some level of discomfort as they might trigger allergic reactions, Bazgir added.

He went on to say that washing up host-plants, altering pruning techniques and collecting and burning up tree leaves have worked to some extent but they did not solve the problem thoroughly.

However, Tehran Municipality cope with this problem with yellow sticky traps on trees in central and southern Tehran are helpful for temporarily reduce whitefly populations.

Who is displaced?

Ladybugs, spiders, lacewing larvae, and dragonflies are a few of many beneficial insects that can control a whitefly population.

However such a natural lifecycle is not expected in a city like Tehran.

The Global Liveability Report 2017: Tehran tops biggest improvers

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The city of Tehran is ranked first among the biggest improvers over the past years in terms of liveability, according to the Global Liveability Report 2017 published by the Intelligence Unit of The Economist.

The concept of liveability is simple: it assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions. Assessing liveability has a broad range of uses, from benchmarking perceptions of development levels to assigning a hardship allowance as part of expatriate relocation packages.

Every city is assigned a rating of relative comfort for over 30 qualitative and quantitative factors across five broad categories: stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education; and infrastructure. Each factor in a city is rated as acceptable, tolerable, uncomfortable, undesirable or intolerable.



For qualitative indicators, a rating is awarded based on the judgment of in-house analysts and in-city contributors. For quantitative indicators, a rating is calculated based on the relative performance of a number of external data points.

The scores are then compiled and weighted to provide a score of 1-100, where 1 is considered intolerable and 100 is considered ideal. The liveability rating is provided both as an overall score and as a score for each category. To provide points of reference, the score is also given for each category relative to New York and an overall position in the ranking of 140 cities is provided.

With 5 percent improvement in the past five years Tehran ranks 127 with overall rating of 50.8. Cities of Dubai, Abidjan, Harare, and Colombo are the four other biggest improvers respectively.

Five cities of Kiev, Damascus, Tripoli, Detroit, and Moscow are the five biggest decliners. The ten most liveable cities are Melbourne, Vienna, Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, Adelaide, Perth, Auckland, Helsinki, and Hamburg with very close scores standing at 97.5 to 95.

On the other hand cities of Kiev, Douala, Harare, Karachi, Algiers, Port Moresby, Dhaka, Tripoli, Lagos and Damascus with an overall rating of 47.8 to 30.2 are the ten least liveable cities.

Colorful Iran: grape harvest festival in Qazvin

LIFESTYLE The northwestern province of Qazvin is one of the cultivated regions of Iran. Grape is one of the main agricultural products of the region.

Over 40 different types of grapes are harvested across 35,000 hectares of land in Qazvin, ranking first in grape production in Iran.

Each September, Qazvin and its neighboring city, Takestan, host grape festivals which include folk music performances.

Prominent grape farmers are appreciated and different products including raisin, verjuice and grape syrup are offered to visitors during the event.



The participants also can visit grape farms during the event.

Various tribes and ethnic groups who live in different parts of Iran are just like colors, which make a great painting. Iran is home to about 20 ethnic groups who live in different regions of the country.

S.Korea embassy holds 'socially responsible investing' conference in Tehran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Embassy of South Korea in Tehran held a conference with the theme of "Socially Responsible Investing and Social Entrepreneurship" at the Iran chamber of commerce's headquarters on Sunday.

Ambassadors to Iran from South Korea, Georgia and Bulgaria as well as representatives from Austria, Ukraine, the Netherlands and France attended the event.

Executive Director of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Europe Stefan Crets was also the special guest to the conference.

During the event, the South Korean ambassador Kim Seung-Ho made a short speech about friendly relations between the two countries and the importance of social responsibility in marketing.

Observing social responsibility by foreign companies in their target countries strengthens friendship between nations, he said.

For his part, Mohammad Reza Ansari, member of the board of directors of the Iran chamber of commerce, said that a company can increase its profit via paying attention to human feelings.

"Iranian companies should consider social responsibility worldwide so they can improve their marketing," he said.

Kenya brings in world's toughest plastic bag ban

Kenyan producers, selling or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000 (£31,000) from Monday, as the world's toughest law aimed at reducing plastic pollution came into effect.

The east African nation joins more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda, and Italy.

Many bags drift into the ocean, strangling turtles, suffocating seabirds and filling the stomachs of dolphins and whales with waste until they die of starvation.

"If we continue like this, by 2050, we will have more plastic in the ocean than fish," said Habib El-Habr, an expert on marine litter working with the UN environment programme in Kenya.

Plastic bags, which El-Habr says take between 500 to 1,000 years to break down, also enter the human food chain through fish and other animals. In Nairobi's slaughterhouses, some cows destined for human consumption had 20 bags removed from their stomachs.

"This is something we didn't get 10 years ago but now it's almost on a daily basis," said county vet Muthi Kinyanjui as he watched men in bloodied white uniforms scoop sodden plastic bags from the stomachs of cow carcasses.

Kenya's law allows police to go after anyone even carrying a plastic bag. But Judy Wakhungu, Kenya's environment minister, said enforcement would initially be directed at manufacturers and suppliers.

It took Kenya three attempts over 10 years to finally pass the ban, and not everyone is a fan.

Samuel Matonda, spokesman for the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, said it would cost 60,000 jobs and force 176 manufacturers to close. Kenya is a major exporter of plastic bags to the region.

"The knock-on effects will be very severe," Matonda said. "It will even affect the women who sell vegetables in the market - how will their customers carry their shopping home?"

(Source: [The Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com))

N.I.O.C
1396.2397

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					
3, 429	120,000,000	2,229,945,600	P/F "MALBRANQUE" SAFETY GATE VALVE	1/497/689	Tender No.: FP/20-96/039 Indent No.: 08-22-9645019	1

Brief discription of subject:
 National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahwaz, 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.
 Reciving 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, Ahwaz, IRAN
 Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments 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 qualifaicion worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document recived deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
 Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

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 Iranain 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 ۹۶/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۶/۱۸

Nobel Peace Prize's shame: Myanmar's great hope Suu Kyi fails on human rights

HRW: Satellite data show fires burning in Rakhine state

INTERNATIONAL Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Prize winner, raised to power in Myanmar eagerly showing that she intends to bring peace and prosperity. It was a tremendous task for a nation with a dark record of Junta.

Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, one of the world's most famous prisoners of conscience came to power and instead of following her mottoes she proved otherwise and ashamed herself Myanmar and its nation, the Nobel Prize committee and in total all humanity particularly freedom seeking people of the world.

Suu Kyi witnesses all the maladies of the Rohingya Muslims and still decides to remain silent and dodge reporters and media. Suu Kyi neglected what she pretended to fight for.

What happened to all the freedom speech talks that Suu Kyi made?

Many who led the campaign to free her now believe Aung San Suu Kyi's questionable leadership style, her inability or unwillingness to communicate and defend a vision, and her reluctance to speak out against the persecution of minorities have left them in a dilemma whether they did the right thing.

What happened to Aung San Suu Kyi who, during 15 years of house arrest at her lakeside villa on University Avenue in Yangon, delivered speeches about human rights?

At least she was at her villa with enough to eat and drink, enjoying the privilege of a sleep without fear, not just like her compatriot Rohingya Muslims.

Peace was Aung San Suu Kyi's priority that was what she said before taking office when she took trips to the border regions, often wearing local dress. Now, ethnic leaders have recently questioned the extent of her sympathies with minorities.

Aung San Suu Kyi's image had already begun to blur in 2012, when she did not speak out after a surge in sectarian violence that led to the deaths of hundreds of people, mostly Rohingya Muslims, in Rakhine state. In an apparent concession to domestic racist factions, her party blocked Muslims from running for parliament in 2015.

Many people put her ruthlessness down to political expedience and fear of an unpredictable military.

HRW: Satellite data show fires burning in Rakhine state

Satellite data accessed by a rights body shows widespread fires burning in at least 10 areas in Myanmar's Rakhine state, following a military crackdown on



the country's Muslim Rohingya population.

Arakan Times, an online news website serving the Rohingya community, said Myanmar border guard police and soldiers burned down 1,000 homes in actions beginning on Saturday and continuing on Monday.

A group of journalists who tried to drive to Maungdaw on Monday were turned back by police and soldiers.

Residents and activists have accused soldiers of shooting indiscriminately at unarmed Rohingya men, women and children and carrying out arson attacks.

However, authorities in Myanmar say close to 100 people have been killed since Friday when armed men, reportedly from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), launched a pre-dawn raid on police outposts in the restive region.

Myanmar authorities say Rohingya "extremist terrorists" have been setting the fires during fighting with government troops, while Rohingya have blamed soldiers, who have been accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings.

A government spokesperson could not be immediately reached for comment.

"The Burmese government should grant access to independent monitors to determine the sources of fires and assess allegations of human rights violations," the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement on Tuesday.

HRW said fires have razed 100km of land - an area larger than that burned during a crackdown by the Myanmar military following attacks by Rohingya fight-

civilians who have tried to enter.

On Monday, Bangladesh detained and forcibly returned at least 90 Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar.

About 87,000 refugees entered Bangladesh in 2016 following the military crackdown.

■ Ethnic cleansing

The UN believes the army's response may amount to ethnic cleansing, allegations denied by the government of Aung San Suu Kyi and the army.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has proposed joint military operations with Myanmar against Rohingya fighters in Rakhine state.

At the weekend, as violence in Rakhine worsened, Bangladesh's foreign minister summoned Myanmar's chargé d'affaires in Dhaka to express "serious concern" at the possibility of a fresh refugee influx.

There are already almost 400,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in squalid camps near its border with Myanmar.

■ Rohingya Muslims flee to Bangladesh after violent clashes

Elsewhere, About 1,000 persecuted Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar's western Rakhine state have fled to neighboring Bangladesh after coming under fire from military soldiers.

Jahangir Aziz, a Bangladeshi local government representative, said that when Myanmar troops fired their guns, the crowd ran back and broke through a Bangladesh barricade and cordon of 300-400 guards.

They then scattered, with at least some making it to unofficial camps for unregistered refugees, the official added.

The Muslims, who were seeking refuge from the ongoing violence in Myanmar, had been in a border no man's land for two days.

Renewed violence erupted on August 25 after dozens of police and border outposts in Rakhine allegedly came under attack by a group claiming to be advocating the Muslim Rohingyas against the government crackdown in Rakhine. A total of 89 people, including 12 security personnel, were killed during the violence.

Myanmar's government brands the 1.1 million-strong Rohingya population in the country as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh. Rohingya Muslims, however, have had roots in the country that go back centuries. They are considered by the UN the "most persecuted minority group in the world."

The government used a militant attack on border guards back in October 2016 as a pretext to enforce the blockade on Rakhine.

Russia says massive Zapad-2017 drills 'purely defensive'

Russia Tuesday dismissed Western concerns over its upcoming military exercises with Belarus, calling them "purely defensive" and not directed against any specific enemy.



"The Zapad-2017 exercises have an anti-terrorism focus as well as a purely defensive character," Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said at a media briefing.

He slammed international media for "disseminating myths about the so-called 'Russian threat'" in coverage of the planned drills along NATO's eastern flank.

"Some even say that the Zapad 2017 exercises are a launching point for 'invasion or occupation' of Lithuania, Poland, or Ukraine," Fomin added.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in July said that he had "every reason to believe" the drills will have "substantially more troops participating than the officially reported numbers."

On Friday, Stoltenberg urged the Kremlin to ensure transparency and predictability during the exercises, warning that NATO "would be watching very closely."

The exercises next month in western Russia, Belarus, and the western Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, have deeply worried neighboring NATO allies, with Lithuania claiming that as many as 100,000 troops could attend.

Fomin said that "about 12,700" troops will be participating in the exercises, including 7,200 from Belarus and 5,500 from Russia. About 3,000 will be in Belarus during the exercises, he said.

"Despite the fact that the main part [of the drills] are to be held on Belarusian territory, the scenario assumes an artificial enemy, which has nothing to do with any specific region," he added.

In the two-stage event from Sep. 14 to 20, the armed forces of Russia and Belarus will first "isolate areas where illegal armed groups and the enemy's sabotage-reconnaissance groups are active," he said.

In the second stage they will practice "military action while repelling aggression against the union state [Russia and Belarus]."

The war games' scenario is that "extremist groups" have infiltrated Russia and Belarus and are planning "acts of terrorism" while receiving "outside support" from the air and sea.

"We believe that the situation in the drills' scenario could come up in any part of the world," Fomin said.

(Source: AFP)

Turkey says Israel must end occupation of Palestine

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Israel must stop its occupation of Palestinian territories, which he says undermines the so-called two-state solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Erdogan made the remarks during a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ankara.

The Turkish president described the two-state solution as the "historical responsibility of the international community to the Palestinian people."

He further expressed Ankara's readiness to support the efforts aimed at reviving the so-called peace process, stressing, "The key to success here is protecting the rights of the Palestinians."

The last round of Israeli-Palestinian talks collapsed in 2014. Among the major sticking points in those negotiations was Israel's continued settlement expansion on Palestinian territories. More recently, Israel has further compounded the situation by building settlements deeper in territory that the Palestinians want as a future state.

Erdogan said Turkey believed that the path to permanent peace was the realization of a sovereign Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.

Touching on the tensions between Israelis and Palestinians at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in July, he said that "there is no benefit to anyone in increasing tension."

Abbas, for his part, reiterated the Palestinians' right to "live with dignity and sovereignty in an independent state with East Jerusalem [al-Quds] as its capital."

He also thanked Erdogan and the Turkish nation for their firm "stance against the Israeli measures in the Al-Aqsa Mosque and their provocations of Muslims."

■ 'Israel won't retreat on settlements'

Meanwhile, on Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that none of the settlements built in the occupied West Bank would be evacuated.

"We are here to stay forever. There

will be no more uprooting of settlements," he said in the West Bank settlement of Barkan while addressing an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory.

The development came a few days after a U.S. delegation visited the occupied lands in a bid to get the Israelis and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Nabil Shaath, Abbas' foreign affairs advisor, said the Americans had asked for a three-to-four-month "grace period" in order to prepare and present a so-called peace plan.

About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built illegally since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories.

In recent months, Tel Aviv has stepped up its settlement construction activities in the occupied Palestinian territories in a blatant violation of international law and in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334.

(Source: Press TV)

Afghan officials investigate civilian deaths in air strike

Afghan officials are investigating reports of an air force strike in Herat province late on Monday that authorities said killed at least 13 civilians as well as some Taliban fighters.

Civilian casualties caused by U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan have long been a source of friction between the U.S.-backed government and international forces, but over the past two years, the reformed Afghan air force has been conducting more of its own strikes.

Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said Afghan aircraft had conducted a strike on a Taliban target in the western province and had killed 18 insurgents and said officials were investigating reports civilians had also been killed.

"There are reports of civilian casualties, so the minister has appointed a team to investigate," he said.

A spokesman for the NATO-led international support mission in Kabul referred questions to the defense ministry.

"Our understanding that this was an Afghan Air Force strike," he said in an emailed statement.

Farhad Jilani, a spokesman for the Herat provincial governor, said 13 civilians had been killed and seven wounded in the air strike in Shindand district.

"There was a command and control center of the Taliban where some Taliban had gathered," he said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ah-

madi said a U.S. air strike had killed 35 women, children and elders.

Both the U.S. and Afghan air forces conduct strikes against the Taliban and other insurgent targets and the incident underlined the risks posed as they have stepped up the pace of strikes in recent months.

The government of President Ashraf Ghani and its Western backers have announced a drive to boost the power of the fledgling Afghan air force as part of a four-year strategic plan to strengthen security forces.

The United Nations said in a report last month civilian deaths and injuries from air strikes had spiked 43 percent in the first half of the year, with 95 people killed and 137 wounded.

Second Announcement



N.I.O.C
1396.2396



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					
7, 861	305,000,000	6,100,000,000	"CAMESA" LOGGING CABLE	1/497/614	Tender No.:FP/09-96/036 Indent No.: 01-23-9646000	1

Brief discription of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) addresspasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers throughone-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementingregulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender doucments.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 commercialcommittee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.

Reciving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documentsalong with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: HallNo.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company,Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchaseand recieve tender ducments from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tenderwill be known as tendererfrom tender committee.

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bidsincluding bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualiaicaon worksheetsin form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: HallNo.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participationin the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

D) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bankinstitutions that have activites licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National IranainDrilling Company.
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendablemaximum 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

اول ۹۶/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۶/۱۸ تهران تایمز : نوبت

Borussia Dortmund bomb suspect charged with attempted murder

German prosecutors are charging a man suspected of detonating three bombs targeting the Borussia Dortmund soccer team bus in April with 28 counts of attempted murder, the Dortmund prosecutor's office said on Tuesday.

The team was heading to the club's stadium for a Champions League match against AS Monaco on April 11 when the explosions went off, wounding Spanish defender Marc Bartra and delaying the match by a day.

The 28-year old suspect, a dual German and Russian national identified as Sergei V., had bought options on the day of the attack entitling him to sell shares in Borussia Dortmund at a pre-determined price.

He had hoped the attack would force down the club's share price, reaping him a profit on his investment.

The prosecutor's office said in its statement on Tuesday it was also charging him with inflicting grievous bodily harm and with causing an explosion.

It said it could not provide further details on the charges until the charge sheet had been delivered to the suspect and his defense lawyers.

(Source: Reuters)

Rio Olympian Torrence, 31, found dead in pool

American middle-distance runner David Torrence has been found dead in a swimming pool in Arizona at the age of 31.

Torrence won silver for the USA at the World Relay Championships in 2014 and claimed another second-placed finish at the Pan American Games in 2015.

He switched allegiances to represent Peru at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"Detectives learned that there were no obvious signs of foul play," a police statement said.

American runner Leo Manzano, who won silver in the 1500m at the 2012 London Olympics, said: "It saddens me to hear about my former team-mate David Torrence. My heart goes out to him and his family."

Canadian track and field Olympian Nate Brannen said: "In complete shock to hear of the passing of David Torrence. Great guy and friend. He will be deeply missed."

(Source: BBC)

Conor McGregor set to overtake Cristiano Ronaldo on Forbes rich list

Conor McGregor is set to overtake Cristiano Ronaldo in the Forbes athlete rich list following his super-fight with Floyd Mayweather.

The Dubliner's inexorable rise reached stratospheric heights in the cross-over clash which is expected to earn him in the region of £77m — and that's before endorsement deals are considered.

Ronaldo topped the list this year with earnings of £71m and has been eclipsed in 10 rounds of boxing, in which Mayweather forced a stoppage in Las Vegas.

The 'Notorious' is renowned for his predictions and remarkably foresaw overtaking the Real Madrid star when the two athletes met last year.

Ronaldo visited the UFC lightweight champion in training and the Irishman quipped: 'You were number one on the Forbes list, I was like number 35 or something. I'll get up. Maybe next year I'll get you.' Ronaldo replied: 'I don't think so.'

McGregor will still not be on top of the athlete rankings, with Mayweather's purse superseding his earnings. Some reports claim that 'Money' is in line for £233m from the lucrative Las Vegas clash.

But both men can expect to overtake some huge names in the world of sport such as LeBron James, Roger Federer and Lewis Hamilton.

And now that 'Money' has retired, appropriately on top of the financial rankings, McGregor will fancy taking top spot in the coming years.

The Irishman is an active champion in the UFC and is even open to the possibility of another contest before the end of the year.

As the organisation's premium pay-per-view lure, McGregor's fights continue to break records for Dana White both in terms of gate and broadcasting revenue.

And at only 28-years-old, the 'Notorious' has plenty of pay days left in him.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Skater - Winter Olympic gold medalist at 15 - retires at 19

Russian figure skater Yulia Lipnitskaya - who won gold as a 15-year-old at the 2014 Winter Olympics - has retired from the sport at the age of 19.

Lipnitskaya helped Russia win gold in the team event in Sochi in 2014.

That made her the youngest Winter Olympic gold medalist in figure skating for 78 years, and Russia's youngest gold medalist at a Games.

Her mother told TASS news agency Lipnitskaya had retired after having treatment for anorexia.

The news comes a day after the coach of Olympic champion Adelina Sotnikova said the 21-year-old would not defend her title at the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea because of an unspecified injury.

Yevgeny Plushenko told R-Sport news agency Sotnikova's absence should not be viewed as her retirement.

(Source: BBC)

Maria Sharapova wows US Open crowd in first major match since doping ban

Maria Sharapova proved she will be someone to contend with for the U.S. Open crown after the Russian wild card outlasted second seed Simona Halep 6-4 4-6 6-3 on Monday to get the year's final grand slam off to an electrifying start.

Still shaking off the rust from a 15-month doping ban and a string of nagging injuries, the 30-year-old Sharapova needed all her skill, determination and two hours and 44 minutes to snatch victory in front of a packed Arthur Ashe stadium.

The victory becomes the highlight of what has been a torturous comeback for the former world number one, who returned to tennis in April after being banned for testing positive for metabolic modulator meldonium at last year's Australian Open.

Her progress has been slowed by a thigh injury that forced her out of the Italian Open in May and more recently left arm issues that took her out of the second round at Stanford earlier this month.

However, there was no hint of distress against an in-form Halep as she improved her record to 7-0 against the feisty Romanian in an opening round clash that was played with the intensity more befitting of a final.

"You sometimes wonder why you put in all the work and this is exactly why," said Sharapova after playing in her first grand slam match in nearly two years.

"No matter my record against her it's always been tough, no matter what tournament, no matter where we played I knew I had to work for it."

Rarely do grand slams serve up such a mouth-watering treat in the opening round.

With the U.S. Open draws ravaged by injuries and withdrawals, Sharapova provided a splash of glitz and glamor to the tournament strolling onto the floodlit court like it was catwalk in a jet black tennis dress that sparkled with Swarovski crystals.

"Behind all these crystals and little black dresses this girl has a lot of grit and she's not going anywhere," Sharapova told the crowd.



A wild card entry and ranked outside the top 100, Sharapova could have found herself up against anyone but the draw gave her no favors by slotting her in against Halep.

"Prime time baby," screamed Sharapova, now 18-0 in night time matches on Arthur Ashe.

"These are the opportunities that you play for. When I was young and I was coming to New York it was everything, the rush, the people, the crowd, the noise and now I embrace every moment of it and I love it."

"Now I can't wait for more."

Adding some heat to contest, Halep was one of several players to express their displeasure over the five-time

grand slam winner being granted wild card entries into tournaments instead of having to wade into qualifiers.

Sharapova's game is not yet firing on all cylinders but the Russian's competitive fires still burn bright and she broke Halep to open the third set then grimly hung on for the win, dropping to her knees and bursting into tears as the Romanian's return sailed long.

"You never know what you are going to feel until you win that match point," said Sharapova. "To come out in the third set and have that chance again and winning it, those are the moments I can be proud of."

(Source: CNN)

Tomic admits he's 'not the smartest' after U.S. Open flop

Australian Bernard Tomic admitted he is "not the smartest person in the world" after exiting the U.S. Open in the first round on Monday with a 3-6 6-3 6-4 6-4 defeat to Gilles Muller that could send him tumbling out of the top 150.

Tomic was returning to tournament play for the first time since his first round loss at Wimbledon in July, after which he said he was bored with tennis and had played at 50 percent for much of his career.

The 24-year-old started brightly by taking the first set off the 19th seed on Monday but his lack of match fitness told as, despite frequent treatment from the trainer, he lost the next three to bow out at the first hurdle in a third straight grand slam.

Having already plummeted from 39 to 146 in the rankings since Wimbledon, Tomic now faces the very real prospect of being forced to request a wild card from Tennis Australia for his home grand slam in Melbourne in January.

In typically candid comments afterwards, Tomic said he had his motivation

back after his break but still felt "trapped" in the sport he has played fulltime since he was a child, given his lack of other options to fund his lifestyle.

"I mean, it's tough. Everyone has their own work, their own job and it's not like I can go and start real estate or something, restaurants. I've got no idea about that," he told the Australian Associated Press.

"Yes, I can afford to do those things, but I've got no idea. My job's only to play tennis and it's all I know. I'm not going to finish a doctor's degree. I'm not the smartest person in the world."

Tomic's failure to fulfill his huge potential has been a matter of great frustration to his compatriots, and his U.S. Open appearances have featured almost as many controversies as memorable victories.

He bowed out in first round last year after a foul-mouthed rant at a heckler in the crowd, and was given the unflattering nickname of "Tomic the Tank Engine" after his second round capitulation against Andy Roddick in 2012.

(Source: Reuters)



Report reveals high level of drug use in athletics

Over 30 percent of athletes who competed at the 2011 world championships admitted to having used banned substances in the past, according to a World Anti-Doping Agency-commissioned study released on Tuesday.

The study, conducted by researchers from Germany's University of Tuebingen and Harvard Medical School in 2011, found that more than 30 percent of world championship participants and over 45 percent of athletes at the 2011 Pan-Arab Games said they had taken banned drugs.

The researchers asked a total of 2,167 athletes whether they had used banned substances. A combined total of 5,187 athletes competed at those two events.

The 2011 world athletics championships were held in Daegu, South Korea while Qatar hosted the Pan-Arab Games that year.

A process of indirect questioning was used for the study titled "Doping in Two Elite Athletics Competitions Assessed by Randomized-Response Surveys" in order to guard the athletes' anonymity.

More than 90 percent of athletes

asked to take part agreed to do so.

Only 0.5 percent of drugs tests in Daegu were positive, while the figure was 3.6 percent at the Pan-Arab Games.

"The study shows that biological tests of blood and urine reveal only a fraction of doping cases," said Harrison Pope, Harvard Medical School professor.

"As described in the publication this is likely due to the fact that athletes have found numerous ways so as not to be caught during tests."

The study's release had been delayed for years as the researchers wrangled with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the international association of athletics federations (IAAF) over how it was to be published, researchers said.

It has now been published in Sports Medicine magazine. WADA could not be immediately reached for comment.

Athletics is desperate to improve its tarnished image after a doping scandal led to the banning of Russia's track and field team from the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

(Source: Guardian)



Arsenal ask for Aguero in Sanchez deal after Sterling offer

Manchester City have made Arsenal a bid of Raheem Sterling plus cash in exchange for Alexis Sanchez in an extraordinary offer - with Arsene Wenger's men also asking about the availability of Sergio Aguero.

It comes as Sanchez asks to leave the Chile national team camp in order to sort out his club future, according to reports in the South American country.

City are determined to sign Sanchez before Thursday's transfer deadline and have been linked with the Chilean forward all summer, while Sterling is said to be keen on the move.

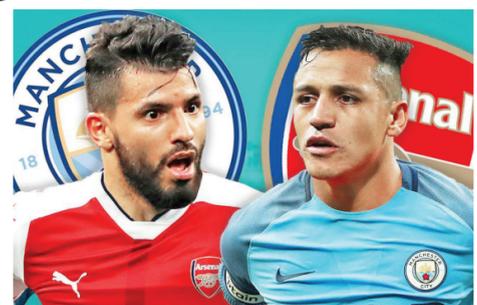
Arsenal are desperate to keep Sanchez, who has one year left on his contract, leading City to make this unexpected and unprecedented offer.

The Gunners will not let their star man go without a player in exchange so close to Thursday's transfer deadline and have asked City about a move for Aguero.

The Argentine hitman is disillusioned under Pep Guardiola but a move for Sterling is more likely at this point.

Sanchez meanwhile has formally told national team coach Juan Antonio Pizzi he would like to skip training on Wednesday in the build up to their 2018 World Cup qualifier against Paraguay, according to Chilean broadcaster T13.

Chile play on Thursday - transfer deadline day - but



Sanchez has reportedly told Pizzi he does not want to be selected in order to sort out his club football future.

City would prefer a straight cash deal as they pursue Sanchez, but are willing to compromise and would fly to Chile to sort out personal terms and the medical, if Pizzi does not allow his star player to leave the camp.

It shows City's determination to sign Sanchez that they have raised their offer to this level and including Sterling, who has begun the season in good form.

The England international - currently with Gareth

Southgate's squad for qualifiers against Malta and Slovakia - has scored two crucial goals already in the Premier League - the late equaliser at home to Everton and an even later winner at Bournemouth.

However City's surplus of attacking players, including Sergio Aguero, Gabriel Jesus and new signing Bernardo Silva, mean Sterling's playing time could be limited in a World Cup year, and he may feel he would get more chances in London, where he grew up, with Arsenal.

Sanchez meanwhile played for the first time for Arsenal this season on Sunday following an extended summer break. Arsenal lost 4-0 at Liverpool, with Sanchez being subbed off midway through the second half and appearing to smirk as he sat on the bench.

Sanchez has declined to enter contract talks at Arsenal, despite being offered deals of up to £300,000 per week.

However Wenger has been confident of keeping Sanchez all summer and has refused to entertain any bids or talk of him leaving. The pair were seen deep in conversation during a walk through Liverpool before the game.

He already looks set to lose another first team player, with a £35m bid from Chelsea accepted for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

(Source: Daily Star)

Former Manchester United assistant Carlos Queiroz works wonders in Iran

Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho has made the recently released 12-name shortlist for FIFA coach of the Year. But there is a former No. 2 at Old Trafford who is arguably more deserving of inclusion.

The likes of Mourinho, as well as Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola, have spent hundreds of millions of pounds for uncertain league performances. However, Carlos Queiroz's achievements with Iran have been truly impressive.

The Mozambique-born manager has been quietly turning Team Melli into a side who are not only the best in Asia, but have a real chance of making it to the knockout stage of the 2018 World Cup.

Iran were the second team after Brazil to secure a place in Russia next summer. They can seal a truly memorable campaign by winning their final two games against South Korea and Syria to maintain their unbeaten run.

Queiroz takes his team to Seoul on Aug. 31. Under the former Portugal boss, Iran have won their last four games against the Koreans. No mean feat considering that the Taeguk Warriors are Asia's most successful World Cup nation, who are looking to appear in a ninth successive tournament.

In this third round of qualification, Iran have collected 20 points from eight games, and sit seven points clear at the top above the Koreans. Not only are the four-time participants unbeaten, they have yet to concede a single goal in 720 minutes of football.

The performances and results on the pitch reflect what has happened in the FIFA rankings off it. Iran have been the top Asian team for over four years, and have steadily climbed up to the present position of 24 -- 20 spots ahead of the continent's next highest, Japan.

All this is despite the fact that Queiroz faces challenges that counterparts at other continental powerhouses do not. Politics play a part in Iranian football. Preparations for big games have suffered in the past. Iran's relative international isolation has made fairly routine tasks, such as finding friendly opposition, and receiving money owed from overseas, much trickier than in other AFC nations.

Queiroz has produced a team who consistently perform and relish pressure situations. It is something that the Koreans envy. In this round of qualification, the 2002 World Cup semifinalists have been quick to flee the kitchen when the heat has hit.



"In this situation, the players will feel heavy pressure," former captain and Manchester United legend Park Ji-Sung said earlier this month. "But if they're national team players, they need to overcome the pressure and show their abilities."

Under Queiroz, Iran are starting to deliver when the expectations are high. Ahead of the Uzbekistan game in Tehran with the hosts needing to win to seal a place in Russia, all knew that it would happen and it did.

The team have become a machine, but one with some excitement going forward. With 19 goals in 26 international appearances and some fine performances in the UEFA Champions League, it was no surprise that Sardar Azmoun, just 22, almost moved to Lazio in the summer.

Karim Ansarifard has been impressing with Olympi-

cos, Reza Ghoochannejhad finished the Netherlands as the league's third highest scorer and local striker Mehdi Taremi has been proving the doubters wrong and contributing important goals. And then, in midfield, there is emerging talent Saeid Ezatollahi, just 20, but already becoming a star. All that is on top of the tightest backline this side of Istanbul.

Under the guidance of the boss, there is not only a squad that looks set to have the best World Cup that the country has ever had, but also one that is set to be at the top of Asian football for years to come.

And all that adds up to an impressive coaching achievement. That it did not happen in Europe is not important. Queiroz deserves to be on the FIFA coach of the year list.

(Source: ESPN)

Iran volleyball team win title at 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei



S P O R T S The Iranian volleyball team defeated Russia 3-2 (25-17, 15-25, 23-25, 25-23, 15-13) at the 2017 Summer Universiade in Taipei, Taiwan.

Iran had already defeated Cyprus, the UAE, Argentina, Switzerland, and Canada in this competition.

Japan also defeated Ukraine 3-1 in the bronze medal match.

The Summer Universiade are Olympic-style games made up of the world's

best university-level athletes, some of whom will be our next Olympians for 2018.

With more than 10,245 athletes from 132 countries competing in 22 sports, the World University Games are held every other year and are organized by the International University Sports Federation. The event is a multi-sport competition open to men and women between the ages of 17 and 27 who have been a student at a college or university within the past year.

Iran freestyle coach Mohammad Talaei apologizes for poor results



S P O R T S Freestyle team coach Mohammad Talaei apologized to Iranian people after his team showed poor performance in the 2017 World Wrestling Championships.

In an unprecedented result, Iran Freestyle Team finished in ninth place in the world championships.

Hassan Yazdani was Iran's sole medal winner who won a gold

medal in the 86kg weight category.

"I am sad because of our results in Paris and I apologize to Iranian people. I believe that, despite so many problems, we could have ended in a better way," Talaei said.

"We participated in the competition with a team with young and experienced wrestlers. These wrestlers have learned important lessons in the competition," he concluded.

Korea Republic must forget Iran jinx, says legend Ahn Jung-hwan

Seoul: Ahn Jung-hwan insists Korea Republic must forget about their "jinx" against the Islamic Republic of Iran ahead of the East Asians' crucial FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifier with their longtime nemesis at Seoul World Cup Stadium on Thursday.

The Taeguk Warriors have endured an inconsistent campaign to date and currently occupy second position in Group A, a point ahead of third-placed Uzbekistan, and seven adrift of already-qualified Iran, who they last beat in 2011 and have since lost four in a row to.

And Ahn, who most memorably starred in the Koreans' run to the 2002 FIFA World Cup semi-finals on home soil, is under no illusions as to the size of the challenge the current generation face with just two games remaining.

"When we must win it becomes a really tough game because there is the extra pressure," said Ahn, who netted a dramatic extra-time winner against Italy in the last 16 in 2002.

"The Korean national team is now backed into a corner so the first thing we should do is try and feel relaxed. We shouldn't think about the jinx - we can break it.

"If we win the match it will be the opportunity for us to get rid of this mindset about Iran."

Korea Republic began Group A strongly, taking seven points from their first three games, but since losing 1-0 in Iran in October last year, have won two and lost two, while the unbeaten Iranians have gone from strength to strength.



The East Asians do, though, have a perfect home record and will look to maintain that run ahead of what could prove a winner-takes-all encounter with Uzbekistan in Tashkent on Matchday 10.

"We should play our own game," added Ahn. "Iran have already qualified so they are not going to push and won't be in a hurry, so we must play with intensity."

"Iran have nothing to lose and we have to win so the match will be really difficult, and we need to remain calm or we could lose the game."

"But I think at the moment we're not much of a team. Every side has some problems, and we are having a hard time just now, but we are in transition and we can overcome the issues."

(Source: AFC)

Naft-O-Gas-Gachsaran come 7th at IHF Super Globe

Naft-O-Gas-Gachsaran handball team from Iran finished in seventh place at the 2017 IHF Super Globe.

The final day of competition at the 2017 IHF Super Globe began with the first victory for debutant Naft-O-Gas-Gachsaran, who defeated Sydney Uni Handball Club 27-24 to rank seventh.

The nine-time EHF Champions League winner FC Barcelona Lassa defeated Fuchse Berlin from Germany 29-25 in the final match and won the title for the third time.

The tournament brought eight teams together at the Duhail Handball Sports Hall in Doha, Qatar from 25 to 28 August.

The 2017 IHF Super Globe was the eleventh edition of the tournament.

(Source: Tasnim)

My goal is to adapt and help Team Melli: Rouzbeh Cheshmi

Rouzbeh Cheshmi joined Team Melli for operation South Korea and Syria, having for the first time the opportunity to work with Carlos Queiroz in a World Cup qualifier.

The 24 year-old defender from Esteghlal talks about this experience and also his dreams.

"This is my first camp with Team Melli preparing a World Cup Qualification match.

Arriving here I have the opportunity to join very experienced players, who made a fantastic job in the previous matches, putting Iran National Team in the World Cup. My goal is to adapt and help the most, so we can achieve our goals in these matches with South Korea and Syria, Cheshmi told Iran Football Federation's website.

"We have no doubts about Carlos Queiroz impact in Iranian football, mainly after the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, bringing a new generation of players to Team Melli. I believe there was no other coach capable of doing this, working a great future for Iran National Team. Now, at the same time, we are already qualified for the World Cup, but we are going to do our best in the next matches," he added.

"There is no doubt that one of the major goals is to be and play with Team Melli in the World. And then, if possible, to have the opportunity to play and growing, continuing to develop my game, because the other goal is to play in Europe," Cheshmi concluded.

(Source: FFIRI)

54,000 tickets sold for S. Korea, Iran clash at World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — South Korea's football governing body said Tuesday more than 50,000 tickets have been sold for the national team's World Cup qualifier against Iran.

The Korea Football Association (KFA) said some 54,000 tickets were sold for Thursday's match.

South Korea will host Iran at Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul. This is the second-fastest pace for a national team match since October 2013, when 58,000 tickets were sold two days before South Korea's clash against Brazil in a friendly match. The South Korea-Brazil match eventually drew more than 65,000.

Tickets for this World Cup qualifying match began on Aug. 10. The KFA previously said it aimed to draw more than 60,000 fans to the 66,704-capacity Seoul World Cup Stadium, so that South Korean players can feed off the energy from fans.

Both teams are in Group A in the final Asian qualifying round for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Yonhapnews reported.

Ramos: Spain fans shouldn't whistle Barcelona's Gerard Pique

Spain captain Sergio Ramos says he hopes that international teammate Gerard Pique is not whistled by Real Madrid supporters during Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Italy at the Bernabeu.

Barcelona defender Pique has been regularly barracked for more than two years while playing for Spain, due to comments about Madrid made in June 2015.

Since then the World Cup and European Championship winner has had to deal with negative attention at all home games, with the issue also reportedly linked to his perceived support for Catalan independence from Spain.

Speaking as he joined up with the national squad ahead of Saturday's game against Italy, and Tuesday's trip to Liechtenstein, Ramos said all players who represent Spain deserved to be respected for their efforts.

"I don't want them to whistle Pique, or anyone else," he said. "You must always respect the players who defend our badge and our country, and Pique is one of them."

"We want the fans' support, it will be a difficult and tense game. We want to do well, it is a perfect stage for this game."

(Source: ESPN)

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Intl. experts to attend seminar on traditional, ritual theater in Tehran

A R T TEHRAN — Experts from around the world will take part in the 5th edition of a seminar, which is annually held on the sidelines of the International Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival in Tehran.



About 30 papers from Iran and different countries including Netherlands, Canada, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Armenia and Portugal will be presented at the two-day seminar.

Among the scholars who will attend the colloquium are Neil van der Linden from the Netherlands, Sabri Zekri from Portugal, Hristo Stoychev from Bulgaria and Tarlan Rasulov from Azerbaijan.

Prominent Iranian theater experts and scholars, including Qotbeddin Sadeqi, Shahram Zargar, Shokufeh Mansuri and Farhad Mohandespur, will also deliver lectures at the seminar.

The 18th International Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival will be held at Tehran's City Theater Complex from August 30 to September 6.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iran donates books to Thai library

A R T TEHRAN — Iran has donated a collection of 200 book titles to the National Library of Thailand.

The officials of the library received the books from the Iranian ambassador to Bangkok, Mohsen Mohammadi, during a special ceremony on Tuesday, the Persian service of IRNA reported.

In his meeting with the library's executives, Mohammadi announced Iran's readiness to expand cultural relations with the Southeast Asian state.

Mohammadi and his colleagues also paid a visit to various sections of the library.

U.S. judge blocks new movie about Lynyrd Skynyrd

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Surviving members of Lynyrd Skynyrd won a permanent injunction blocking the production and distribution of a movie depicting the 1977 plane crash that killed the rock band's lead singer, Ronnie Van Zant.

In a decision made public on Monday, U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet in Manhattan said "Street Survivors: The True Story of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Plane Crash," based on recollections of former drummer Artimus Pyle, violated a 1988 consent order governing the use of the Lynyrd Skynyrd name.

The lawsuit had been brought against Pyle and co-defendant Cleopatra Records Inc by lead guitarist Gary Rossington, lead singer and Van Zant's brother, Johnny Van Zant, and heirs of Ronnie Van Zant and the late guitarists Steve Gaines and Allen Collins.

Sweet issued his 64-page decision after a non-jury trial on July 11-12.

Lawyers for Cleopatra and the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Pyle could not be reached for comment, and, according to court records, did not hire a lawyer.

Lynyrd Skynyrd is known for such songs as "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird," which were recorded before its touring plane crashed in Mississippi on Oct. 20, 1977.

The crash killed Ronnie Van Zant, Gaines and four others. Twenty 20 people, including Pyle, survived.

According to the lawsuit, surviving band members agreed that Pyle, who left the band in 1991, could tell his own life story, but that the movie would cause irreparable harm by destroying their right to use the Lynyrd Skynyrd name and history.

Sweet, who oversaw the 1988 consent order, said Pyle and Cleopatra were bound by it, and that there was "no doubt" the proposed movie was about the entire band.

"None of the defendants received the requisite authorization under the terms of the consent order in depiction of (Ronnie) Van Zant or Gaines or in the use of the Lynyrd Skynyrd name, and therefore all have violated the consent order," the judge wrote.

He also said the plaintiffs showed irreparable harm, and that the consent order reflected «a desire to preserve and protect the memory of deceased husbands and friends.»

Tehran green film festival announces intl. lineups

A R T TEHRAN — The 6th edition of the International Green Film Festival in Tehran announced the foreign films for various categories on Tuesday.

Nineteen animated films, including "00-Baby Boom Child" by Swedish director Maja Lindström, "Me + Her" by U.S. director Joseph Oxford, and "South Forest" by Japanese animator Wenrui Huang, have been selected for the festival, which will take place in Tehran and several other Iranian cities from September 9 to 15.

Animations from Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Spain, Mexico, France and several other countries will also be screened.

The festival, which is organized by Iran's Department of Environment every year, will also screen 17 feature documentary films, among which are "Banking Nature" by Denis Delestrac and Sandrine Feydel from France, and "Riverblue" by David McIlvride and Roger Williams from Canada.

"Pangolin" by Katie Schuler and Nick Rogacki from the U.S., "The Art of

Flying" by Jan van IJken from the Netherlands, "The Island of the Black Sun" by Andrea Arena from Italy along with 13 other entries will be competing in the short documentary section.

Five short fiction films will also be screened at the festival. Among the films are "Antolina" by Miguel Agüero from Uruguay and "Apara - The Boy That Comes and Goes" by Ricardo Reis from Portugal.

"Into Blue" by Ackroyd & Harvey from England, "Arabidopsis Thaliana" by Toma Peiu and Nicholas DelRose from the U.S., and "A Perfect Day" by Oguzhan Kaya from Turkey will be screened in a section for experimental films.

The festival plans to highlight sustainable tourism this year in line with the UN World Tourism Organization's decision to name 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The organizers are also scheduled to organize an exhibition, which will showcase artworks from international artists.

"Breath" to compete in Sao Paulo festival



Sareh Nur-Musavi acts in a scene from "Breath".

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Narges Abayr's acclaimed anti-war drama "Breath" will be screened in the official competition of the Sao Paulo International Film Festival, the publicist of the movie announced on Tuesday.

"Breath" is about four children whose mother had died a few years earlier and their father decides to join the Iranian volunteers on the warfront following Iraq's attack in September 1980.

The festival will be held in the Brazilian city from October 19 to November 1.

Zombies, romance and revenge drive record 'Game of Thrones' ratings

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — A zombie dragon, an illicit romance and satisfying revenge helped drive the season finale of "Game of Thrones" to a viewership high, HBO said Monday, as the seventh season drew record ratings.

A total of 12.1 million viewers watched Sunday's seventh season finale, titled "The Dragon and the Wolf," up 36 percent from the 8.9 million viewers who watched the season six finale. Viewership from replays and streams on HBO's on-demand apps boosted the overall Sunday ratings to 16.5 million viewers.

The seventh and penultimate season of Emmy-winning "Game of Thrones" drew an overall 30.8 million viewers, up nearly 8 million viewers from last season and cementing it as the most-watched show on Time Warner Inc's premium cable network HBO.

The record ratings came after hackers stole data and content from HBO and leaked it online, including scripts and un-



A scene from the latest season of "Game of Thrones". (Macall B. Polay/Courtesy HBO)

aired episodes of "Game of Thrones."

The seventh season saw the show's lead characters head towards a great bat-

tle over the Iron Throne reigning over the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, while a zombie army of White Walkers, led by the un-

dead Night King, march south and threaten mankind's destruction. Characters Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen finally came together to join forces against the White Walkers, the remaining Stark children reunite at their home in Winterfell and enact a satisfying revenge against master manipulator Petyr Baelish.

The Lannister siblings also reunite in King's Landing in a tense meeting that puts their family ties to the test.

Medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones," based on George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" books, has won numerous Emmy awards including best drama series last year. It is not eligible for this year's Emmy awards due to its summer premiere after production was pushed back to capture more winter landscapes for the storyline, but it will be back on the roster for next year's Emmy awards.

Ahead of the show's final eighth season next year, a series of spin-offs is being developed.

Film on Marathon bombing survivor to premiere at hospital

BOSTON (AP) — A new film chronicling the story of Boston Marathon bombing survivor Jeff Bauman will premiere at the hospital where he and others who were injured in the 2013 deadly attack were treated.

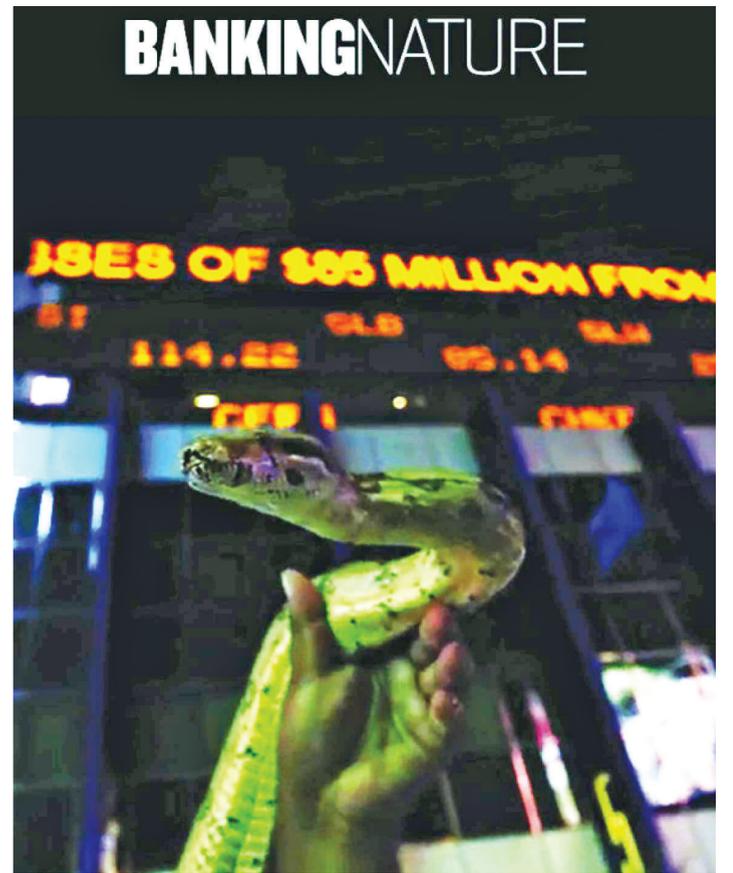
Director David Gordon Green tells The Boston Globe the movie "Stronger" will screen at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown on Sept. 12.

The movie stars Jake Gyllenhaal

as Bauman and "Orphan Black" actress Tatiana Maslany as Bauman's then-girlfriend Erin Hurley. It arrives in theaters Sept. 22.

Hurley was running the marathon and Bauman was there to cheer her on when the bombs went off. He lost both legs. The movie is based on his memoir of the same name.

Green says many of the people who treated Bauman play themselves in the movie.



A scene from "Banking Nature", a documentary by Denis Delestrac and Sandrine Feydel from France about the growing movement to turn endangered species and threatened natural areas into instruments of profit, which will be screened at the 6th International Green Film Festival in Tehran

Filicide story from Shahnameh modernized for Tehran performance

A R T TEHRAN — The Iranian theater troupe Shaya will perform a modern filicide drama based on a story from the Shahnameh, the epic masterpiece of Persian poet Ferdowsi.

Shahram Karami will direct "Who Killed Sohrab?", which he wrote based on the story of Rostam and Sohrab, at Tehran's City Theater Complex in late September.

In the Shahnameh story, Rostam kills Sohrab without knowing that he is his son.

Bahram Shahmohammadlu, Roya Afshar, Farid Qobadi, Soroush Taheri and Aban Hosseinpur are the main members of the cast for the play.



A poster for "Who Killed Sohrab?"

Venice Film Festival offers grit, glamour and George Clooney

VENICE, Italy (AP) — The Venice Film Festival is kicking off the fall cinema season with searing drama, serious glamour and a crop of new movies vying for attention, awards and acclaim.

The world's oldest cinema festival is a key showcase for films hoping to dominate Hollywood's awards season. In recent years, Venice has been a launch-pad for Oscar winners including "Birdman," "Spotlight" and "La La Land."

This year's edition opens with Alex-

ander Payne's "Downsizing," a science fiction-tinged drama starring Matt Damon as a man who hopes to minimize his problems by shrinking himself.

Other films competing for the festival's Golden Lion prize include George Clooney-directed heist movie "Suburbicon"; Guillermo del Toro's fantastical "The Shape of Water" and Darren Aronofsky's secrecy-shrouded thriller "Mother!"

The 74th Venice Film Festival runs Wednesday to Sept. 9.

U.S. indie band Brand New tops Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Indie rock band Brand New took the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart with "Science Fiction," according to data on Monday from Nielsen SoundScan.

The New York-based band sold some 57,000 units of "Science Fiction," its first studio album since 2009, while rapper Kodak Black

took second place with new release "Project Baby Two" and sales of 49,000 units.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

The new releases pushed last week's chart-topper Kesha into fifth place with her

"Rainbow" album.

On the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's global sensation "Despacito," featuring Justin Bieber, showed no signs of moving from No. 1, with another 80,000 copies sold.

That is likely to change next week when

weekly figures for Taylor Swift's hard-edged new single "Look What You Made Me Do" are released.

The song, released last Thursday and featured on Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards show, set a first day global record on Spotify of more than eight million streams, the music platform said at the weekend.