

Iran, Indonesia explore avenues of economic co-op **4**

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Hassan Rouhani sworn in as president

S. Korea to finance €1.6b Iranian refinery project



ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran signed a heads of agreement (HOA) based on which South Korean banks will finance a €1.6 billion project to upgrade Tabriz Oil Refinery in northwest of Iran, Shana reported.

The HOA was signed in Tehran on Saturday between Tabriz Refinery Company and a consortium consisting of Iran's Oil Design and Construction Company (ODCC) and South Korea's SK E&C (Engineering and Construction) Company.

South Korean banks including Korea Eximbank (Export-Import Bank of Korea) will finance the project which will be executed on an Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing (EPCF) basis.

Last year, Iran signed a deal with SK group to conduct feasibility study for the development of Tabriz Oil Refinery in order to increase the production capacity for gasoline and diesel fuel. It also envisages promotion of desulfurization facilities.

After the implementation of Iran's nuclear deal (known as JCPOA) South Korean companies have signed several deals in Iran for implementing energy projects as the two countries seek to expand cooperation in the areas of trade and technology.

World standing beside Iran in honoring nuclear deal

By staff writer

The participation of a large number of foreign dignitaries in President Hassan Rouhani's swearing-in ceremony signifies the paramount importance of Iran and indicates positive feedback on Iran's foreign policy tenets.

By participation in the ceremony, the international community is vocally declaring its support more than anything else for the July 2015 nuclear agreement which President Rouhani and his diplomatic team struck with the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The participation of Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in the ceremony is highly significant as this clearly sends this message to the extremist U.S. President Donald Trump that the 28-nation European bloc is adamant in backing the hard-won nuclear agreement which has also been endorsed by the UN Security Council.

The world is noticing that the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency is confirming one after another that Iran is abiding by its commitments under the nuclear agreement, meaning that any excuse by Trump to abrogate the deal is just nonsensical, irrational, and adventurous.

Trump, which according to Foreign Policy, has instructed a group of White House staffers to invent a pretext for withholding certification of Iran's compliance at the next 90-day review of the deal must now find himself more isolated than before.

This show of support for Iran is indicative of the fact that the world has woken up to the threats by Trump whom Germany's Martin Schulz has described as a "risk to the whole world".

Trump should bear in mind that any effort to put out of the multilateral deal have more immense consequences for the United Nations and its bodies.

The nuclear accord is endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution and any effort to question the deal is equal to questioning the international body.

Zarif meets top officials visiting Iran

FM expresses displeasure over Britain-France-Germany statement on Iran's rocket launch

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held talks with top officials from various countries who were in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony for President Hassan Rouhani.

During a meeting with European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Saturday, Zarif said that U.S. President Donald Trump's administration seeks to deprive Iran of the benefits of the nuclear deal.

He also criticized the act by Britain, France, and Germany in releasing a joint statement against the launch of the Simorgh satellite-carrying rocket by Iran on July 27, describing it as a "move on the wrong path".

Zarif noted that the launch of the rocket does

not run contrary to the UN Resolution 2231 which endorsed the July 2015 nuclear agreement.

Mogherini reiterated that the EU supports implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name for the nuclear pact.

Mogherini arrived in Tehran on Friday to take part in Rouhani's presidential swearing-in ceremony on Saturday.

Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - finalized the text of the JCPOA in July 2015. The deal went into effect in January 2016.

Zarif calls France an important partner
 In a meeting with Jean-Baptiste Lemoigne,

minister of state attached to the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Zarif said that France is an important partner of Iran in the European Union.

Lemoigne said that France is interested in expanding relations with Iran especially in economic area.

Zarif held separate meetings with Demetris Syllouris, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives; Stepan Kubiv, first vice prime minister of Ukraine; Robert Dussey, Togo's foreign minister; Istvan Jakab, the deputy speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary; Erlan Abdyldaev, the Kyrgyz foreign minister; and Karlheinz Kopf, Austria's deputy parliament speaker.

Iran's July LPG shipments surge to year-to-date high

Iran's LPG shipments jumped to a year-to-date high of 381,500 million tons (mt) in July, up 39 percent from around 274,000 mt in June and surpassing the previous high of 360,000 mt in January, shipping and trade sources said this week.

The country's LPG shipments over January-July totaled about 1.94 million mt, of which 968,000 mt was sent to China and a number of cargoes to Indonesia, shipping fixtures showed.

The shipments to Indonesia follow an agreement signed in May last year between Indonesian state-owned Pertamina and National Iranian Oil Co. for a total 600,000 mt of LPG to be delivered in 14 cargoes over 2016-17.

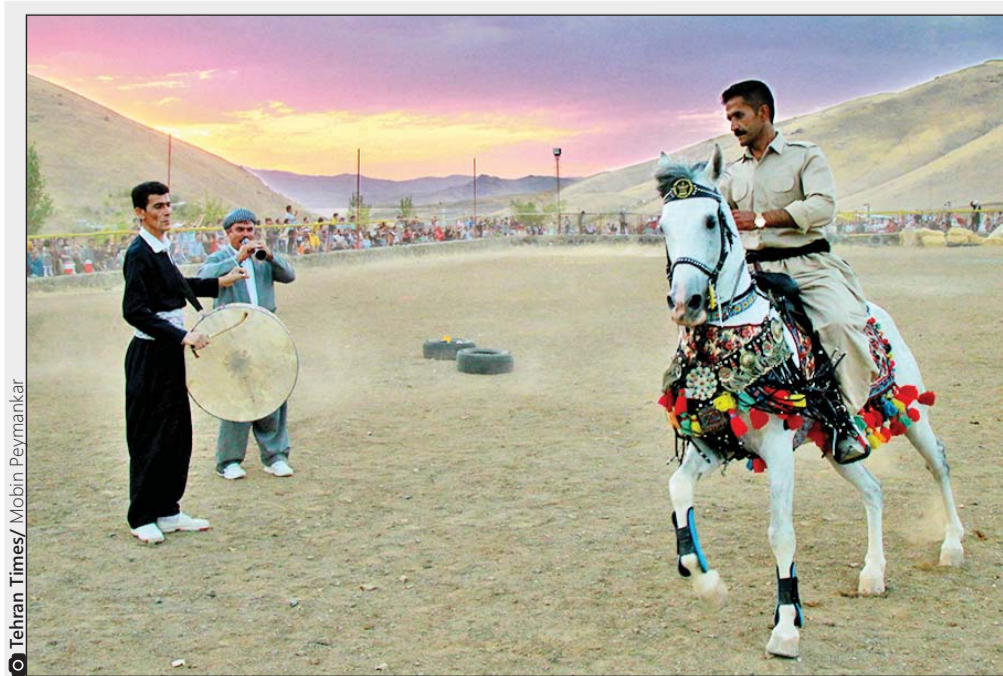
Under that contract, Pertamina received its first 44,000 mt evenly split LPG cargo from Iran aboard the Very Large Gas Carrier Pertamina Gas-2 last October.

After that, shipping fixtures show that Pertamina received a cargo in November on the

VLGC Pertamina Gas-1, in December on the VLGC Gas Courage, late-January/early February on the Pertamina Gas-1, March on the Pertamina Gas-2 and in May on the Sea Dolphin.

All the shipments were loaded from the Iranian port of Assaluyeh.

Pertamina received its latest cargoes in June and July. The VLGC Pertamina-Gas 1 carried a 44,000 mt cargo from NIOC in June, according to S&P Global Platts' vessel tracking tool, cFlow. **->4**



Sanandaj hosts horseback competition

A horseback rider shows off his equestrianism skills during a competition as musicians perform pieces of local music in Sanandaj, Kurdistan province, on August 4, 2017. Watched by hundreds of spectators, the competition was held in various sections for men and women.

Defiant Saudi Arabia defends planned execution of 14 Shias

The House of Saud regime has defended the death penalties it has handed down to 14 Shia nationals amid criticisms that the defendants were tortured into false confessions and convicted in sham trials.

In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on Friday, Mansour al-Qafari, a spokesman for the Saudi regime Ministry of Justice, claimed that all trials at the so-called Specialized Criminal Court — which sentenced the 14 to death — had met international standards and that the media and human rights observers had had access to the court sessions.

Qafari further claimed that death sentences were only given to those individuals who have committed the most serious crimes in the kingdom.

The 14 men are among a group of 24 people who were all convicted last year of carrying out attacks on police stations in the town of Awamiyah and the city of Sehhat, both situated in the Qatif region of the Shia-dominated Eastern Province.

Nine of the others were sentenced to prison terms and the remaining one was cleared of the charges.

Late last month, the "Specialized Criminal Court" upheld the death sentences of the 14 Shias, with reports saying that they had been transferred to the Saudi capital, Riyadh, for execution.

Appalling justifications

Meantime, a London-based human rights organization, Reprieve, denounced the Friday Saudi regime statement as a justification for the imminent execution of the Shias, saying that one of the individuals, 17-year-old Mujtaba al-Sweikat, had never seen a lawyer, and no evidence had been presented against another, disabled Munir al-Adamno, during his trial.

"Saudi Arabia's attempts to justify these 14 unlawful executions are appalling. This statement is a serious mischaracterization of the trial process against the 14 men," said Reprieve Director Maya Foa. **->13**

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Leaked Trump transcripts show his incoherent, ill-informed narcissism

By Julian Borger

One of the most significant aspects of the published transcripts of Donald Trump's conversations with his Mexican and Australian counterparts is the fact they were leaked.

Private discussions between world leaders are kept secret so they can speak their minds and establish trust. The leaks will make it harder for the U.S. to carry out high-level diplomacy and resolve serious crises, not just under Trump but potentially far beyond his presidency.

The publication of transcripts by the Washington Post is the latest of many signs that established norms are breaking down inside the administration, with far-reaching and unpredictable implications.



Trump told Malcolm Turnbull: 'I am the world's greatest person that does not want to let people into the country,' according to a newly leaked phone transcript.

Such documents should have been very closely held, accessible to only a few senior officials. Their publication reflects the intensity of the war inside the White House between rival factions — and a reminder that, for all his well-advertised toughness, the new chief of staff, John Kelly, is going to find it very hard to impose discipline on an institution that is dysfunctional from the top down.

It is quite possible that the leaker was motivated by anxiety about the national security implications of Trump's erratic leadership — that the leak is a cry for help from inside the administration.

The transcripts of his conversations with Enrique Peña Nieto and Malcolm Turnbull show the president to be no more coherent in private than he is public: ill-informed — even about a major attack on U.S. soil — and narcissistic to the point of absurdity.

"I am the world's greatest person," he tells Turnbull, and boasts to his fellow world leaders about the size of the crowds who turn out to hear him speak. Maintaining his image as a strong leader in the eyes of his supporters emerges, again and again in the course of the conversations, as an overarching priority — over and above the maintenance of strong relations with allied countries.

The transcripts serve as a reminder that being "nice" to Trump counts for more than long-term strategic alliances. At one point in his castigation of Turnbull, he compared him unfavorably with Vladimir Putin, with whom Trump had recently spoken.

"Putin was a pleasant call. This is ridiculous," Trump said shortly before ending the call abruptly. In private as in public, Trump's praise for the Russian president is an unshakable constant.

Perhaps the least surprising upshot of the release of the transcripts is the confirmation that the president and his administration deliberately misled the public about them. When the Washington Post published an account of the Turnbull conversation in early February, Trump tweeted that it had been a "very civil conversation that fake news media lied about".

■ The emergence of the facts

As has happened repeatedly over the course of the administration, the emergence of the facts has upheld the news reports, and shown the denials to be fake. Trump repeatedly tries to coach Peña Nieto on how to mislead the press, urging him to stop repeating Mexico's refusal to pay for Trump's proposed border wall.

The wall and its supposed Mexican funding was a mainstay of Trump campaign speeches. In private, Trump tells the Mexican leader to stop reminding voters of a promise the new president cannot fulfil. He argues the wall and its financing is "the least important thing that we are talking about" and says he is in a "political bind" because he had "been talking about it for a two-year period".

Similar themes recur in the Turnbull conversation. Here, the divisive issue is an agreement that the Obama administration struck with Australia to consider accepting 1,250 refugees, mostly from Muslim countries, being detained by Australia on Pacific islands after trying to enter the country by boat. In return, Australia would host Latin American migrants.

Trump is furious that abiding by the agreement could harm his image among his voters, just after he had signed his first abortive executive order cutting the acceptance of refugees from Syria and suspending travel from a list of seven mainly Muslim countries.

"This is going to kill me. I am the world's greatest person that does not want to let people into the country," Trump says. "It makes me look so bad, and I have only been here a week."

The fact that the refugees in question are from Muslim countries is the key for Trump. "I hate taking these people. I guarantee you they are bad," he said.

Turnbull pleads with him to stick to the agreement for the sake of the bilateral relationship and in the end, Trump agrees he does not have much choice, but does so with little grace, aiming a personal slight at the Australian, saying he had "brokered many a stupid deal in business".

For all Turnbull's attempts to smooth over their differences, Trump is clearly in a foul temper by the end of the discussion, and broader bilateral issues are shelved. When Turnbull asks to discuss Syria and North Korea — two global crises in which their two countries are strategic partners — Trump is not interested and ends the call.

(Source: *The Guardian*)

Will Europe rebel against U.S. sanctions?

In comprehensively punishing Moscow, Washington risks further cleaving itself from senior European leadership

By Curt Mills

The United States finalized new sanctions against Moscow this week, roping it in with perennial bad actors Iran and North Korea. Despite complaints from Donald Trump and Rex Tillerson — the pair of ex-CEOs that now lead U.S. foreign policy — the administration assented to the "flawed" package on Wednesday. While Trump is sometimes accused of abandoning the trans-Atlantic alliance and scuttling the post-war order, the president now risks further damage to relations with many in Europe by targeting Russia with fresh sanctions.

Hawks in Washington are clearly taking notice of the European position. "Europe's opposition to the sanctions is troubling. You can't on one hand ask for a bigger U.S. military commitment to the continent while on the other hand oppose nonmilitary coercive measures," Boris Zilberman, a Russia analyst at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, told me. A central plank in Europe's concern is energy — the continent is quite reliant on Russian energy (something Ronald Reagan famously warned the Europeans against during the Cold War). "It is déjà vu all over again. Back in the 1980s the Reagan administration targeted Soviet energy exports, specifically pipeline projects. Europeans saw it as a double whammy for them, undercutting their energy security and — given potential secondary sanctions on many firms involved — penalizing their companies," says Clay Clemens, an expert on German politics at the College of William & Mary.

In particular, a project called Nord Stream 2 between Europe's central player, Germany, and Russia's controversial energy company Gazprom could be affected by the sanctions. In addition to Gazprom, the deal has investments from European companies; its signatories aim to carry natural gas under the Baltic Sea. "Some Germans quietly hope that [Nord Stream 2] could transform their country into a European energy hub," The Economist noted in June. The Ukrainian crisis is also at play here: the project would allow Russia "to bypass existing pipelines in Ukraine, depriving the Ukrainians of lucrative transit fees," the outlet noted.

But the United States and the EU are not united, and Europe is feuding internally over how to handle this, as well. In contrast to Germany, the Brits haven't



While Trump is sometimes accused of abandoning the trans-Atlantic alliance and scuttling the post-war order, the president now risks further damage to relations with many in Europe by targeting Russia with fresh sanctions.

stood in Washington's way. "We agree that it is important to send a message to Moscow that Russian actions in Ukraine and Syria, interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, and undermining of the rule of law, will be met with a strong response," a United Kingdom official told me, indicating London didn't find the legislation abrasive and praising the sanctions for emphasizing "the importance of transatlantic unity." The Baltic States and Poland, Russia-weary and opposed to Nord Stream 2, have gone along with the sanctions, and would potentially block more radical retaliation by the EU. European Council president Donald Tusk, the former Polish prime minister, has also criticized Nord Stream 2. Vice President Pence was in Estonia earlier this week, and Poland hosted Trump ahead of the G20 summit last month, where he seemingly received a hero's welcome in a country that has moved dramatically

rightward in recent years.

■ Great concern

But elsewhere in Europe, including in the EU leadership, there is great concern. In startling language Wednesday, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, of Luxembourg, appeared to treat the U.S.-Europe alliance as a potentially open question. "The U.S. Congress has now also committed to only apply sanctions after the country's allies are consulted. And I do believe we are still allies," he said in a statement, with his office noting that "if the U.S. sanctions specifically disadvantage EU companies trading with Russia in the energy sector the EU is prepared to take appropriate steps in response within days." "We are prepared," Juncker told a Brussels radio station Wednesday. "We must defend our economic interests vis-à-vis the United States. And we will do that."

The German establishment is apoplec-

tic, directly accusing the United States of trying to enrich itself economically — the sanctions are paired with provisions encouraging Europe to buy U.S. natural gas. In the era of President "take the oil" Trump and an Exxon Secretary of State, some are suspicious of American motives like never before. "One is left with the sense that the United States is looking to its own economic interests," Volker Trier, the head of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, said last week. In the 1980s, "there was also a sense that the U.S. sanctions were designed to reduce competition for American energy exports," Clemens noted to me.

Wary of bucking Germany, France has also expressed reservations about the sanctions. "Any conflict in the Paris-Berlin axis is potentially suicidal for Europe at this point," Vincent Michelot of Sciences Po Lyon tells me. The French foreign ministry said last month the language passed out of the House looked illegal. This Parisian dismissal comes at a time when Trump seems to be cultivating a relationship with the new French president, Emmanuel Macron, who Michelot says is trying to set himself up as an "indispensable mediator" in European and international affairs.

If Ukraine is one nonobvious tripwire in this dispute, Syria is another. Macron has tacitly backed a future for Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, in a major change in French policy. "It is a radical departure from Hollande's strong stance that there could not be any political resolution of the Syrian conflict with Assad around the negotiation table," Cecile Alduy of the France-Stanford Center told me. "More importantly, Macron is contradicting himself on this . . . In early April, he was in favor of a military intervention against Assad." Prolonged, public disputes between Berlin, Paris and Washington could imperil efforts at even unrelated negotiations, however.

In the end, Europe, especially with Germany in the lead, might take a pass on a full-scale feud. Europe "cannot allow the relationship with Russia to sink to the level of the U.S.-Russia confrontation," Michelot says. "The preference [in most of Europe] is still for some kind of constructive engagement policy, despite EU sanctions after Ukraine," Clemens says, but cautions: "Of course, overall, it is a tough balance for Merkel in particular to strike, since she has been the leader most skeptical of Putin."

(Source: *The National Interest*)

Germany's Martin Schulz says Trump 'far worse' than expected



Chancellor candidate Martin Schulz

Martin Schulz, the rival who wants to unseat Angela Merkel as chancellor in September, made headlines before the election with his criticism of Donald Trump. In an interview with DER SPIEGEL he now describes the U.S. president as a "risk to the whole world" and expresses shock over his "merciless nepotism."

The following passages have been published online on Thursday. The former president of the European Parliament is running against Angela Merkel as the center-left Social Democratic Party's chancellor candidate.

■ **Before the U.S. election, you told us that as president of the United States, Donald Trump would be "not only a problem for the EU, but also for the entire world." You were right.**

A: It has actually been far worse.

■ **What do you mean by that?**

A: It was clear to me that the White House's solemn atmosphere would not civilize Trump. But the merciless nepotism with which he conducts politics, in which he places himself and his family above the law, I wouldn't have consid-

ered that possible. And on top of that there is this reduction of complex political decisions to 140 characters. When it comes to a U.S. president, I consider the reduction of politics to a tweet to be truly dangerous. Trump is a risk to his country and the entire world.

■ **How would you deal with Trump if you became chancellor?**

A: Fifteen years ago to the day, Gerhard Schröder showed how it is done by giving an unequivocal 'no' to a U.S. president on his war of aggression against Iraq that violated international law. At the end of the day, men like Donald Trump need to be given that which they themselves dispense: clear messages. I would confront him as clearly and explicitly as possible. It is not only the right, but also the duty, of the leader of a German government to do that.

■ **That sounds a bit like a staged fight.**

A: Trump believes politics is a staged fight. But it is not. Still, clear words are sometimes needed in politics. In that sense, I believe I am better than Mrs. Merkel.

(Source: *Spiegel*)

An ally is set to execute critics



Mujtaba al-Sweikat was a bright 17-year-old student on his way to visit Western Michigan University when he was arrested at King Fahd Airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in 2012. Since then, Sweikat has been in Saudi custody, subjected to torture, including beatings so severe his shoulder was broken, in order to extract confessions that sealed his fate: condemned to death, likely by beheading. Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court has upheld Sweikat's June 2016 death sentence, as well as those of 13 other Saudi citizens tried with him — including a disabled man and two who were juveniles when sentenced — after a mass trial that made a mockery of international standards of due process. Now, the only person who can prevent these barbarous executions is King Salman, who must ratify the death sentences.

As was the case with many members of Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority condemned to death in recent years, Sweikat's crime was attending political protests in the heady months following the 2011 Arab Spring. The human

rights group Reprieve, 116 Western Michigan University faculty and staff members and the American Federation of Teachers are calling on President Trump to intervene with King Salman on behalf of Sweikat and the other condemned men.

Hope is slim, though. During his trip to Saudi Arabia in May, Trump basically told the Saudi regime that the United States would look the other way on human rights abuses, saying, "We are not here to lecture." Since then, Trump has sided with Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf Arab states in their dispute with Qatar, chiefly because of Qatar's relatively good relationship with Shiite Iran. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia has executed more and more members of its Shiite minority to demonize the group and to deliver a harsh message on dissent to Saudi citizens.

Trump could take advantage of his new friendship with the Saudis and make an immediate appeal to King Salman to halt these horrific executions.

(Source: *The NYT*)

Venezuela – National Constituent Assembly is in place – fight for sovereignty not over

By Peter Koenig

Venezuela has voted on 30 July for a National Constituent Assembly (ANC – Asamblea Nacional Constituyente) with a resounding close to 8.1 million votes, or over 41% of the total eligible electorate. The figure was confirmed by the president of the National Electoral Council, Tibisay Lucena. The Chavistas battle cry before the elections was *Venceremos!* – Ché Guevaras favored revolutionary slogan. And the day after, 31 July, the victorious *Ganamos!* – Accompanied by dancing in the streets.

To counter the mainstream pressite mass media slandering of Venezuela, calling the legitimate democratically elected President a dictator, and that the vote was illegitimate and against the present Venezuelan Constitution – lets explain upfront what the Constitution says:

Article 347 of Venezuela's constitution: "The original constituent power rests with the people of Venezuela. This power may be exercised by calling a National Constituent Assembly for the purpose of transforming the State, creating a new juridical order and drawing up a new Constitution."

Article 348 states:

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

Article 349 states:

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

The process to vote for the ANC is complex but highly democratic. The 30 July election chose 545 members to the National Constituent Assembly, of which two thirds (364) were elected on a regional or territorial basis, and one third (181) by sectors of professions or activities, i.e. students, farmers, unions of different labor forces, employees, business owners – and so on. This cross-section of people's representation is the most solid basis for democracy.

The 8.1million pro-ANC vote may, at first sight, with 41% of total eligible voters not constitute an absolute majority, but they are a legitimate majority analyzed from different perspectives. The only historic data we currently have on Venezuela is the one from the 1999 Constitution (still valid today), which President Hugo Chavez Frias, elected in 1998, initiated after asking the people whether they agreed to the drafting of a new Constitution. He received an overwhelming 80% support.

Assuming that on average about 20% to 25% of the electorate do not vote (based on the past 19 elections since the Bolivarian Revolutionary Government took over in 1998), of the 20 million eligible electorate, about 15 million could be expected to vote. With 8.1million ANC supporters, the National Constituent Assembly resulting from the 30 July elections is a clear majority, about 54%.

The election result is another resounding victory, when compared to the opposition's plebiscite, illegally held a week earlier. The opposition claims having received 7.2 million votes against the ANC. However, by all observers, including internationals, this is a highly questionable and probably vastly inflated figure, based on their election boots which were a fraction of those of the

ANC election process countrywide. Plus, the announced result cannot be checked, as the voter's bulletins were burned by the opposition, as soon as they informed the public of the plebiscite's result. However, even assuming this figure was correct – which it most likely isn't – the total alleged votes cast between the official ANC process and the illegitimate referendum would amount to 15.3 million, of which 8.1 million represents about 53%, or an absolute majority of the votes cast.

For analysis sake, let's just look at the curious composition of votes the oppositions claims having received. In their referendum people had to respond with yes, or no to three questions, with each one being a leading question against the ANC. Each one of the three answers counted for one vote, thus, there were up to three votes per person. The same people also were allowed to vote in several districts. During the press conference held by the opposition, a journalist asked whether it was correct that one voter could cast his / her vote 17 times. The answer of one of the directors was yes, but it may be discovered at the final count. There were also stories of 10-year old kids and other minors voting. Also, there are 101,000 eligible voters abroad – but according to the opposition, the votes received from Venezuelans living outside Venezuela were almost 700,000.

The illegitimate – yes, illegitimate – opposition vote is pure farce. Though it can never be checked, since the votes were burned and given the above details, the promulgated results of 7.2 million votes against the ANC would have to be discounted by at least 30% to 50%. Yes, illegitimate, as the Constitution does not allow interference from anybody, once the ANC process has been launched.

Curiously though, the opposition, having the majority in the National Assembly could have initiated themselves an National Constituent Assembly. They didn't. They could have actively participated in President Maduro's ANC vote and pre-

The Trump Administration also said it would not recognize the vote and slammed more heavy sanctions on Venezuela, among them, blocking President Maduro's alleged 'assets held in the US'.

resented their own candidates as they would have, had they respected the principles of democracy. They didn't do that either. It is clear, they are not interested in a democratic process. They are not interested even in dialogue, one of Mr. Maduro's priorities for conflict resolution. They want a violent 'regime change' – that's what their Washington masters want and pays them for.

The most vociferous critics of the process came from the usual villains, CNN, BBC, Washington Post, NYT, even The Guardian, but so far relatively few from the EU and her members. One of the countries that sticks out most with her unsolicited comment is "neutral" Switzerland, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on President Maduro, to cancel the elections for the new National Constitutional Assembly in 'respect of democracy'. It further declared through the Swiss state-run radio-TV station, SRG, that the elections were illegal, as they are against the Constitution – which is a blatant lie, the Swiss Executive is aware of, but it pleases for sure Washington.

The Trump Administration also said it would not recognize the vote and slammed more heavy sanctions on Venezuela, among them, blocking President Maduro's alleged 'assets held in the US'. This in itself is



The election result is another resounding victory, when compared to the opposition's plebiscite, illegally held a week earlier.

a massive and ridiculous propaganda falsehood. It must be clear to any dimwit, that President Maduro does not have assets in the US. Washington forced 'sanctions' will probably also follow from its European vassals.

The right-wing puppet leaders (sic) in Latin America have of course also immediately played to the tune of their northern masters. The first one to do so was Peru's President Pablo Kuczynski, saying that his government would not recognize the result of the elections. But who cares what Peru thinks about sovereign democratic Venezuela? – His arrogance went as far as calling upon the Peruvian Prime Minister to form a committee that should look into possible actions Peru could and should take against Venezuela. If one knows the level of corruption that literally runs Peru – one of the worst, if not the worst of all Latin America – and the way Kuczynski was 'elected', or rather shoed in by his Washing-

programs, as well as to 'selectively curtail foreign influence'.

President Maduro, instead, follows democratic principles to the core. The purpose of a new or reality adjusted Constitution has precisely to do with foreign interference to the detriment of Venezuela's economy. They include outside orchestrated food and medical supply shortages; from Miami manipulated black-market vs. official exchange rates, ruining local purchasing power, thereby causing inflation and a sagging economy; foreign news networks deadly propaganda; and infiltration of foreign trained, armed and funded violent terror groups to help organizing the relatively small Venezuelan elitist opposition to cause havoc and civil unrest – as we have seen over the last several months in the runup to these ANC elections. The US State Department funded NED – National Endowment for Democracy – is a key sponsor of violent opposition in Venezuela, as well as elsewhere in the world. The new or adjusted Constitution is expected to allow the government to sovereignly control its borders and its economy with whatever means it has to take to keep the criminals out and regain full sovereignty.

These vicious foreign supported groups have cost the life of some 110 people during the last few months leading up to the ANC vote, through the most horrendous acts of terror, including lynching, burning alive, shooting, looting of shops, attacking and destroying schools, public infrastructure, police headquarters and more. There is no end to the list of heinous crimes committed by the so-called opposition – which is nothing else as a tool for the Washington tyrant-in-chief, who will not let go until he has achieved 'regime change'.

The pressite doesn't present this real picture of things. They portray the violence and dead toll as the government's responsibility. In fact, thanks to the diligence of national police and the 200,000 military forces deployed throughout the country in the last couple of weeks to protect the population, the voters, in the leadup to the elections, violence and dead tolls were kept in check. Violent outbreak would have most likely been even more atrocious without the military deployment.

A new puppet government would return Venezuela to the pre-Chavez years – or most likely much worse – giving away Venezuelans world's largest hydrocarbon deposit is to US petrol giants and torturing Chavistas and anybody who had in the past opposed and still opposes the violent undemocratic, oppressive servile-to-Washington elite.

What's next for Venezuela? – Well, it's not over. The National Constituent Assembly is just the first step. The rabid bulldog will not let go. He keeps attacking and biting relentlessly and without merci sovereign democratic and un-obedient Venezuela. The steady internal foreign instigated economic and social decay, the build-up to what prompted President Maduro to initiate the ANC vote, was very reminiscent of the fascist 9/11/1973 CIA instigated military coup in Chile.

The Chile coup was also preceded by artificially and outside instrumented shortages of food and medical supplies – paying people to protest in the streets. The only difference there is that the Chilean army was split and high ranks defected President Allende. This doesn't seem to be the case in Venezuela. – The overwhelming people's support for the ANC has further cemented the solidarity within the Bolivarian Republic – and given the revolution new energy. Venezuela will prevail. *Venceremos!*

(Source: Global Research)

Make it a felony to boycott Israel

By Aniqo Raihan

In 1966, the NAACP of Claiborne County, Mississippi launched a boycott of several white-owned local businesses on the basis of racial discrimination.

It was so impactful that the local hardware store filed a lawsuit against the individuals and organizations who coordinated the boycott. After 10 long years of litigation, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in favor of the white businesses and ordered the NAACP to pay for all their lost earnings.

Years later, in 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-0 to overturn the lower court's decision on the basis that nonviolent boycotts are a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. In announcing the unanimous decision, Justice John Paul Stevens said, "One of the foundations of our society is the right of individuals to combine with other persons in pursuit of a common goal by lawful means."

That should have been the end of it. But now, Americans' right to boycott is under attack once again – thanks to a vicious anti-boycott bill making its way through the Senate.

In particular, it appears to target the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. BDS is an international movement calling on individuals, institutions, and governments to boycott Israeli products until it ends its occupation of Palestinian lands. The boycott is explicitly nonviolent and is supported by activists, celebrities, faith-based groups, and political and social justice organizations around the world.

The proposed Israel Anti-Boycott Act would make it a felony for Americans to support BDS, with a penalty of up to \$1 million and 20 years in prison.

Unfortunately, the bill enjoys bipartisan support: 32 Republicans and 15 Democrats are currently signed on as cosponsors, including party leaders like Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), and Ted Cruz (R-TX). In response, the ACLU issued a letter urging members of the Senate to oppose the bill based on its "direct violation of the First Amendment." (Following the publication of the ACLU's letter, several members of Congress agreed to review their sponsorship, and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) became the first Senator to officially withdraw sponsorship.)

The Israel Anti-Boycott Act would function by amending an earlier law from 1979, which prohibits American citizens and corporations from complying with boycotts called for by foreign nations against U.S. allies. The new law would include boycotts "fostered and imposed by international governmental organizations" like the United Nations. In this, it's a direct response to the 2016 UN Human Rights Council resolution discouraging businesses from operating in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In one way, it's genius. By claiming a connection between BDS and the UN – a connection the UN has never embraced, in that resolution or any other – the bill attempts to work around NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.

The goal is to frighten people from engaging in the completely legal act of living out their values.

But the BDS movement is not a product of the UN – it has nothing to do with it at all, except to the degree that it's based on international law. The BDS call to action was issued in 2005 by a coalition of 170 Palestinian political parties, professional associations, refugee networks, and civil society organizations. BDS is a tactic, not an organization, and the boycott has always been grassroots and decentralized, meaning anyone anywhere can partake in BDS by making the simple decision to do so.

Whether the congressional supporters of the Israel Anti-Boycott Act misunderstand or are intentionally misrepresenting BDS is uncertain, but the Supreme Court decision of 1982 is clear as crystal: Americans' right to peaceful boycott with the aim to "bring about political, social, and economic change" is protected by the First Amendment. That means this bill is more than egregiously immoral – it's unconstitutional.

The bill's language also lumps Israel's settlements in with the country's internationally recognized borders.

Significantly, it declares the UN Human Rights Council's 2016 position on Israeli settlements an "action to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel." Yet that resolution took no position on the boycotting of goods produced in Israel proper – it only took aim at Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory, which are illegal under international law.

U.S. policy since 1979 has recognized that the Israeli settlements are "inconsistent with international law." By contrast, the new bill effectively erases any distinction between Israel and its settlements in the West Bank. If it's passed, anyone who chooses not to do business with or buy items manufactured in illegal Israeli settlements can be convicted, fined, and even jailed.

Efforts to curb this kind of activism are often touted as efforts to combat anti-Semitism. Yet polls show that only 17 percent of American Jews support the continued construction of settlements. The bill is so controversial, in fact, that the liberal pro-Israel organization J Street, which has long opposed BDS, recently announced its opposition to the proposed law on the basis that it "divides [opponents of the global BDS movement] by making the issue about the settlements."

It's difficult to know exactly how broadly the law, if passed, will be enforced. Its intentionally vague language leaves a lot to the imagination, and perhaps that's exactly what's intended. The real goal may be to frighten people from engaging in the completely legal act of living out their values in their economic choices.

But we can't let fear prevent us from exercising our rights and fulfilling our moral obligations. The silver lining is that every effort to quell the BDS movement has served to strengthen it. Each attempt at criminalizing the boycott, whether on the state or federal level, has been met with a spike in Google searches for BDS and related terms.

And with the uproar caused by this new bill, the right-wing pro-Israel lobby just may prove to be the BDS movement's best ally.

(Source: The Nation)



On a recent visit to Mexico, the ultra-right-wing (Tea Party) CIA chief, Mr. Pompeo, pledged for both Mexico and Colombia to help assure that the situation in Venezuela is being corrected.

Kenya's election: What is at stake for the region?

By Yasin Ahmed Ismail

On August 8, two political heavyweights will compete for power in a tightly fought presidential election in Kenya. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who came to power in 2013, is seeking a second and final term in office. Raila Odinga, who lost to Kenyatta in the last election, is his main challenger. The results of the election, the sixth since the end of the

one-party state in 1991, are significant not just for Kenya, but also for the wider region. Kenya is a political and economic powerhouse, and a relative bastion of peace in East Africa. Regional leaders will be anxious about the outcome of the election and - in the case of an Odinga administration - about the priorities of the new government.

Over the years, Kenyatta and Odinga have differed widely on important policy issues that affect security and

cooperation in the region.

Odinga has taken issue with Kenya's involvement in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), a major regional peacekeeping operation in which Kenya plays a central role. He has often called for the withdrawal of Kenya's Defense Forces (KDF), despite being the prime minister of the government that sent Kenyan soldiers to Somalia for the first time. Numbering more than 3,600 and mainly re-

sponsible for Sector 2 - a large swath that encompasses the western and southwestern border of Somalia with Kenya - the KDF deployment plays a significant role in the regional effort to dismantle and defeat al-Shabab.

Even though territorially weakened, al-Shabab remains a potent threat for the region; controlling territories in southern and central parts of Somalia that act as a haven for the group to plot attacks. For example, →13

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Will stem cells replace dental implants?

Dental anxiety? Stem cells may eventually be the answer

By Steven Lin

For many, a toothache may bring up their deepest and darkest fears. The reality for many is that the dentist can send you through a wave of emotions, to the point that you may end up trying to avoid your appointment entirely.

Problems with your teeth only get worse if left unattended. That's why the large proportion of people who suffer dental anxiety end up leaving a problem unchecked until it's too late.

In such cases, you may eventually face the need to replace a lost tooth.

Common diseases like tooth decay and gum disease can lead to tooth loss. Traditionally, dentists have used dental bridges and dentures to replace diseased teeth. Dental implants were one of the late 20th century's largest innovations in dental treatment. The replacement of teeth with space-age metal seems like we've reached an incredible level of technology.

But recent advances in stem cell research have revealed a future where dental implants could become old technology.

Are stem cells the natural tooth replacement?

You might say that being a human makes us unlucky regarding how many teeth we get in our life. Over your lifetime, you have just two sets of teeth. Deciduous or baby teeth are lost by the time you're 12 or 13 years old. That means your adult teeth have to last you for the rest of your life.

Some other species, meanwhile, have unlimited teeth during their lifetimes.

A shark is so fantastically unique at this they can replace teeth in just a few weeks. The idea of a shark's mouth probably leaves you cringing about the one thing more terrifying than the dentist. But sharks are proof of nature's ability to grow new teeth into adulthood.

Scientists have taken this lead and looked into the way that stem cells can be used to grow new teeth in an adult human.

Nature may have significant advantages over dental implants. Dental implants, due to cost and complexity, are not a common dental procedure. A procedure involving stem cells may provide a far more accessible and affordable tooth replacement option.

Dental implants, for instance, can't be placed in people with certain conditions. Additionally, many people are fearful of the dental implant process. It requires oral surgery, which has advanced remarkably recently, but despite the rise in technology, dental implants aren't without their pitfalls. Some of the potential drawbacks include the following:

- Healing time
- Lengthy procedure



Stem cells can be found in most tissues of the body and help to create and replenish your body.

- Difficult failure scenarios
- Lack of long-term research on implant longevity

So, with sharks in mind, are stem cells the future of replacing teeth?

What are dental stem cells?

The body contains many different types of cells. From birth, as a tiny speck, you aren't equipped with all the different types of cells required in the body. Stem cells are what help you to create all the different organs and systems that make you, you. They are an undifferentiated cell capable of changing to every cell in your body.

Stem cells can be found in most tissues of the body and help to create and replenish your body.

They are usually buried deep, in difficult to find places. They are often sparse and hidden amongst cells with a similar appearance.

Scientists have found that even teeth hold a reservoir of stem cells, which are found in baby teeth and also adult teeth. These cells have the full ability to replicate themselves.

Dental stem cells may have applications in many fields of medical science due to the compatibility with the body's immune system. One problem with inserting stem cells is the body may reject them through an immune response. But apart from having potential roles in other medical procedures, the obvious application is

actually to replace teeth.

Studies are beginning to show tangible pathways to tooth implantation with dental stem cells.

Scientists Can Grow Teeth in Animal Models

There has been significant progress in the use of stem cells in animal studies. Teeth have successfully grown at King's College in London. Their research team combined human gum tissue and stem cells from mice teeth that undergo tooth formation. The cells themselves can seek out a blood supply from surrounding tissue to make a live tooth.

Other studies have had teeth successfully implanted into rats. At Harvard's Whys Institute, a research team has found success in re-growing rat teeth. They used a technique using a low-power laser to activate stem cells to regrow tooth structure.

Over at Columbia University, one study has taken it to the next step. Here, researchers were able to guide stem cells to create a three-dimensional scaffold. The results showed that an anatomically complete tooth could grow in about 9 weeks.

The big question with all of these studies is to reproduce the results in humans. Of course, performing dentistry on rats was not without its challenges. While the dentin was incredibly similar to that which grows naturally, it isn't exactly the same as humans.

Baby (stem cell) steps

The biggest challenges facing dental stem cells are reproducing reliable human clinical outcomes. Instead of replacing entire teeth, stem cells may help to heal teeth as an interim step in the dental chair.

For example, teeth are known to contain cells that can heal the dentin layers themselves. There could be some intermediate steps for stem cells to heal teeth. In tooth decay, stem cells may be able to heal a cavity before a tooth requires root canal therapy. Stem cells may be able to repair dental pulp and direct the immune system to remove tooth decay-causing bacteria.

A word from verywell

One thing for certain is that we all contain stem cells in our teeth. Instead of simply throwing a tooth in the bin after an extraction, we may be able to use to replenish a tooth.

With many people moving to cryopreserve their own cells, it may become standard to store the stem cells held in our teeth. At the moment, baby teeth and wisdom teeth are the best candidates, and these are often the ones that we are losing the most. Healthy teeth contain these fascinating cells and may perform miracles in the dental chair in the future.

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

Stem cells may be able to repair dental pulp and direct the immune system to remove tooth decay-causing bacteria.

When's the best time to work out?

By Claudine Morgan

While some people are up at the crack of dawn to lace up their running shoes, others can't fathom a workout before noon. Finding the perfect time to exercise is as much about personal preference as it is physiology. Exercise is supposed to feel good—but if muscles are tight in the morning or working out too late disrupts sleep, it can feel counterproductive.

Afternoon advantages

Plenty of people tout the benefits of early morning sweat sessions, but if you can't fit in a workout before noon, don't sweat it. Research suggests the body could adapt to regular gym dates, so if we hit the weight room every day at 4 p.m., eventually we might perform better at that time than at any other time of day. These findings are similar to earlier research, which suggests that sticking to a specific workout time can result in better performance, higher oxygen consumption, and lower perceived exhaustion. But scheduling a workout is more complicated than choosing a number on the clock.

Your body's core temperature is an important factor in determining the quality of exercise. A cold body leaves muscles stiff, inefficient, and susceptible to sprains, whereas higher body temperatures leave muscles more flexible. Body temperature typically increases throughout the day, so muscle strength and endurance may peak in the late afternoon, when body temperature is highest. The afternoon is also when reaction time is quickest and heart rate and blood pressure are lowest, all of which combine to improve performance and reduce the overall likelihood of injury.

Hormone levels are also important in determining



Research shows that people can burn up to 20 percent more body fat exercising on an empty stomach—much easier to do first thing in the a.m. than at night.

optimal workout time. Testosterone is important for muscle growth and strength, in ladies and gents. And the body produces more testosterone during late afternoon resistance training than it does during morning workouts. Plus, the stress hormone cortisol, which aids in the storage of fat and reduction of muscle tissue, peaks in the morning and decreases throughout

the day and during exercise. But early birds, take heart: Morning workouts can be successful too.

Morning perks

It's sometimes easier to keep a morning workout routine consistent. Afternoon and evening workouts are more likely to conflict with other responsibilities as the day progresses. Plus a full day's work can take a serious toll on willpower—which can overcome any gym-goer's best intentions.

Morning workouts might also be a good option for stress-free snoozing. Since exercise increases heart rate and body temperature, working out too late in the evening (generally after 8 p.m.) may disrupt sleep, while one study showed that working out at 7 a.m. (compared to 1 p.m. or 7 p.m.) may help people sleep more soundly at night.

Finally, one study found that 45 minutes of moderate morning exercise (like walking briskly on the treadmill) helped curb appetite directly after working out. Research also shows that people can burn up to 20 percent more body fat exercising on an empty stomach—much easier to do first thing in the a.m. than at night.

The bottom line

In the end, it's most important to find a realistic, consistent workout schedule, no matter what the time. If working out in the morning is best for your schedule, just make sure to warm up muscles that might be cold and tight from sleep. And to keep afternoon workouts consistent, treat them as unbreakable appointments, find a workout buddy, and keep a gym bag in the car or office to minimize excuses.

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

4 ways your diet should change during perimenopause

By Sarah Watts

Being in perimenopause—which can start as early as 10 years before menopause—means that certain aspects of your health are about to change. Right now your estrogen levels may be slowly dropping, but it's only a matter of time before they reach an all-time low... and stay there for the rest of your life. As a result, your risk for health conditions like osteoporosis and heart disease are about to go way up.

That might sound scary, but by making some changes to your eating habits you might be able to ease a lot of the discomfort and keep your body healthier as you age, says Sherry Ross, MD, an ob-gyn at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California. Here are five dietary moves worth making when menopause is on the horizon.

Get more calcium.

The official word from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is that your calcium needs increase to 1,200 mg per day (from 1,000 mg) starting at age 50. But don't wait until 50 to focus on this important mineral: As soon as you enter perimenopause your estrogen levels start declining, and as that happens your bones have a harder time retaining calcium. That puts you at risk for thinning bones, AKA osteopenia or osteoporosis, which can later lead to debilitating fractures.

Fortunately, calcium is pretty easy to consume. "One glass of milk or one cup of yogurt has about 300 mg," says Ross. Some leafy greens (like kale and bok choy), canned fish containing bones (like sardines and canned salmon), and fortified juices, breads, and cereals also contain calcium.

If you suspect you won't get enough through diet alone, talk to your doctor. Calcium supplements carry an increased risk of kidney stones and heart attacks, and research has shown that they might not even prevent fractures or broken bones.

Track your triggers.

About 75% of women struggle with sudden hot flashes and night sweats, according to the North American Menopause Society. While no one knows exactly what causes them, it likely has to do with the drop in estrogen and a super-sensitive hypothalamus—the portion of the brain that controls body temperature.

Although hot flashes can seemingly come out of nowhere, some women notice that certain foods up their chances of overheating. Be on the lookout for spicy foods and those with caffeine so you can cut back if necessary.

Meanwhile, adding more oats and fatty fish like salmon to your diet might help. These foods may lower your cholesterol, and studies have found that women with high cholesterol levels more frequently suffer from hot flashes.

Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate.

"Drink as much water as possible," says Ross. The reason? Hormonal changes during perimenopause can result in water retention and increased gas, both of which lead to bloating. The perfect antidote to water retention and bloat, strangely enough, is to drink even more water. Ross recommends sipping two to three liters every day, or eating ample water-based foods like berries, celery, cucumber, lettuce, and watermelon. Drinking green tea—a natural diuretic—may also help banish bloat.

Conversely, it's important to watch your intake of salty foods, as well as gas-producing ones like beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and cauliflower.

Eat less junk.

As you age, your muscle mass naturally decreases while your fat stores increase. Not surprisingly, many perimenopausal women have trouble losing or even maintaining their current weight. If the scale starts creeping up on you, Ross recommends cutting back by 200-300 calories per day to maintain your size—but not at the expense of good nutrition.

"If you have to cut calories, choose to nix foods with less nutritional value, like fats," she says. Cutting the junk and adding in lean proteins and water-based foods will also reduce your risk of heart disease and improve cognitive function as you age.

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

6 ways you can prepare to "age well"

You're probably already doing a lot to ensure that you stay in good health and are able to enjoy your later years: eating right, exercising, getting checkups and screenings as recommended by your doctor. But it also makes sense to have some contingency plans for the bumps in the road that might occur.

1. Adapt your home. Stairs, baths, and kitchens can present hazards for older people. Even if you don't need to make changes now, do an annual safety review so you can make necessary updates if your needs change.

2. Prevent falls. Falls are a big deal for older people—they often result in fractures that can lead to disability, further health problems, or even death. Safety precautions are important, but so are exercises that can improve balance and strength.

3. Consider your housing options. You might consider investigating naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs). These neighborhoods and housing complexes aren't developed specifically to serve seniors—and, in fact, tend to host a mix of ages—but because they have plenty of coordinated care and support available, they are senior-friendly.

4. Think ahead about how to get the help you may need. Meal preparation, transportation, home repair, housecleaning, and help with financial tasks such as paying bills might be hired out if you can afford it, or shared among friends and family. Elder services offered in your community might be another option.

5. Plan for emergencies. Who would you call in an emergency? Is there someone who can check in on you regularly? What would you do if you fell and couldn't reach the phone? Keep emergency numbers near each phone or on speed dial. Carry a cellphone (preferably with large buttons and a bright screen), or consider investing in some type of personal alarm system.

6. Write advance care directives. Advance care directives, such as a living will, durable power of attorney for health care, and health care proxy, allow you to explain the type of medical care you want if you're too sick, confused, or injured to voice your wishes. Every adult should have these documents.

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

EU sends charge sheet to Visa over inter-regional fee

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Commission said on Thursday it had sent a charge sheet to credit card group Visa (VN) over the fees merchants have to pay when customers from outside the bloc make purchases in the European Union.

In 2014, the Commission ended another investigation into the company's fee structure when Visa Europe agreed to cap the transaction fees it charged.

The Commission said it was now looking at so-called inter-regional interchange fees, those charged to merchants when accepting Visa cards issued outside the European Economic Area (EEA), for example when tourists make purchases in the EU.

"Inter-regional fees represent an important part of the total fees within the Visa scheme," the Commission said.

The Commission, which has the power to fine Visa up to 10 percent of its global turnover if it is found breaching the bloc's antitrust rules, said it was waiting for the company's response before deciding on further action.

After Visa is given access to the Commission's file on the issue, it has two months to reply.

Cash versus culture: tourism projects hit trouble in Greece

ATHENS (Reuters) — New York property developer Mike Angelides has wanted to create a golf resort in his native Greece for quarter of a century. But just when the plan seemed within reach, the past caught up with him.

Three years ago Angelides won a state-sanctioned competition to develop a beachfront property on Rhodes, the Aegean island he left as a teenager. Then last year the authorities dropped a bombshell.

"The then culture minister ... declared the whole area an archaeological site," he told Reuters. Now the project to invest up to 400 million euros (\$470 million) is stalled. "We are still waiting for an answer from the ministry on what they plan to do."



Scrapped aircrafts are seen at the tarmac of the former international Hellenikon airport in Athens, Greece, July 16, 2017.

Angelides, who emigrated to the United States in 1960, is among a number of foreign investors ready to plow large sums into a country just emerging from economic depression, only to wonder if they're really welcome.

Conflicts between development and conservation affect many countries. But in Greece concerns for the environment and antiquities are combining with labyrinthine laws, zealous officialdom and hostile political ideology to create hurdles that even investors familiar with the country cannot understand.

Greece's recovery depends largely on foreign investment. Seven years ago it embarked on a privatization program to raise 50 billion euros for the near-bankrupt state. To date it has brought in just 4.4 billion, and government critics say excessive red-tape is a major reason for the dismal performance.

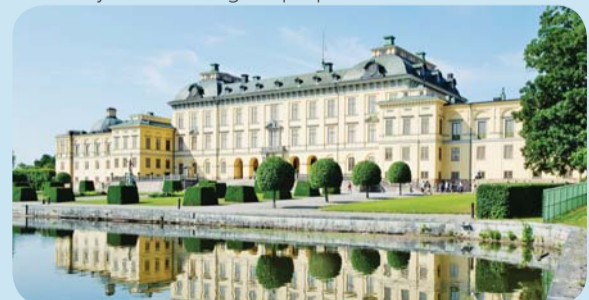


ROUND THE GLOBE

Royal Domain of Drottningholm

The Royal Domain of Drottningholm, situated on the island of Lovon close to Stockholm, is an exceptionally well-preserved ensemble of gardens and buildings with original interior furnishings.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, it includes Drottningholm Palace, the Palace Theatre, the Chinese Pavilion, Canton Village, the gardens and part of Malmen, and has been used for pleasure and summer recreation from the Baroque era until today. As the current home of the Swedish Royal Family, Drottningholm upholds a cultural continuity with the original purpose of the site.



A view of the Drottningholm Palace in Sweden

Drottningholm Palace is representative of 17th and 18th century western and northern European architecture, and the palace grounds were also created during that period. The palace was created with strong references to 17th century Italian and French architecture.

The Palace Theatre is the only surviving 18th century theatre where the original machinery is still regularly used and the original stage sets are preserved.

The surrounding area has been part of the Crown Estate since the 16th century. The character of the landscape is a result of the way it has been used and farmed to support the Crown's need of supplies and to uphold the King's household. This continuous use and the way it is and has been managed over the years is still visible in the landscape. (Source: UNESCO)

Regional countries to help Iran reshape medical tourism

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran has signed agreements with 13 neighboring countries with the aim of developing and reorganizing its medical tourism sector.

The state-run Tourism Holding Company, affiliated with the Social Security Organization, is to unveil this week a comprehensive plan, which will be implemented with the participation of 22 hospitals and over 200 physicians, specialists, and surgeons.

"We have already signed agreements with 13 regional countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Bahrain and Oman to facilitate travels to Iran for people who are in need of medical services," ISNA quoted Gholamhossein Ebrahimbay-Salami, managing director of the Tourism Holding Company as saying.

"The scheme will involve 17 hospitals run by the Social Security Organization and five privately-owned ones. It will also hire some 40 renowned medical doctors as well," the official added.

"The hospitals have already worked in the field of medical tourism and we are consulting with a number of others that are located in major cities of Tehran, Isfahan, Mashhad, Shiraz and Rasht, as well as some border cities like Kermanshah, Zabul, and Zahedan," Ebrahimbay-Salami said.

Elsewhere in his Remarks, the official referred to 'weaknesses' that has hampered the health tourism in the country.

So far, the health tourism sector [in its literal meaning] has suffered from its theoretical weakness and its public discourse, as sometimes medical tourism is mistaken for health tourism or other asso-



ciated aspects of tourism that are utilized for curative and wellness, and rehabilitation purposes, the official pointed out.

"In medical tourism, which is a subset of health tourism, the prescriptions, surgery operations and medical care are of high priority. While health tourism utilizes features such as hot springs, aroma therapeutics and salt caves, and the medical profession is not induced," he clarified.

Due to the lack of such rankings in the country, the Tourism Holding Company is set to redefine medical tourism in the first step and track the other associated aspects later, Ebrahimbay-Salami added.

Patients from Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Persian Gulf littoral states constitute the largest number of travelers who visit Iran annually for medical services.

The Ministry of Health registered some

105,000 inbound patients over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2016-March 2017), ISNA quoted a tourism official as saying back in July.

Iran has launched extensive plans to bolster its tourism sector. Under its 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country is expecting to increase the number of tourism arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

A walk through Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Sacred Defense Museum on a landscaped site of 21 hectares in north-central Tehran is a gigantic war memorial with its collections concentrated heavily on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

A total of seven halls lead y through the history of the sacred defense in forensic detail. The Hall of Butterflies greets visitors on arrival, the place is dedicated to martyrs and victims of the war filled with personal belongings found on the various battlefields.

Outside, a patchwork of domestically-manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces are on show. The complex has vast garden areas, water features and children's play areas as well.

Sacred Defense Museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contributes to its charm.

Re-creation of liberation of the city of Khorramshahr by the means of virtual exhibits and video projections is amongst main features of the museum where stands a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque adorned with creamy



Rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces are on show at the Sacred Defense Museum in Tehran

and turquoise patterned tiles.

A strategic port city in western Iran, Khorramshahr fell into Iraqi hands on October 26, 1980. It recaptured by Iranian forces on May 24, 1982.

Under tourists' eyes

The epic-scale museum may not be top on the list for travelers to Iran but according to some of its visitors it does offer something different in modern Iranian history.

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

'Totally under-rated and should be on your must do'

I can't believe this War Museum is buried at page two of 'Things To Do In Tehran'... It's on par with Imperial War Museum in London. (PaulNZ from New Zealand; visited April 2017)

'A must visit'

I coincidentally came across this museum and complex after walking out of the Shahid Haqqani subway station on my way to see the Tabiat Bridge. I was stunned by how big the complex was and the various different halls and attractions including the museum, garden, library and mosque.

The museum was one of the best I have seen across the world. It was modern, diverse and extremely informative... (Zamy2016 from the UK; visited May 2017)

'Insight into the Iran-Iraq war from Iranian point of view'

Very interesting museum about Islamic Revolution and following Iraq-Iran war. Completely modern full of current technology to give you insight in to the war and feelings of common people of Iran during that time. (Jindrich A. from Czech Republic; visited January 2017)

'A brand new park and a high tech museum'

Accessible via Hemat and Haqqani metro stations. A great opportunity to see 21th century Iranian architecture and learn about 1980s Iran-Iraq war. (Ar-salan A. from the New Zealand; visited October 2016)

Teahouse in Iran's Grand Bazaar may be world's smallest

TEHRAN (CNN) — Among the thousands of shops that line the labyrinthine alleyways of Tehran's Grand Bazaar sits the Haj Ali Darvish teahouse.

It's not the only teahouse in the bazaar, but having first opened in 1918, it's definitely one of the oldest. And according to some, it's also the smallest -- not just in the bazaar but in the whole world.

For those who find their way to this closet-sized, two-meter-wide cafe, owner Kazem Mabhtuyan is on hand to serve up a wide range of teas and advice about their healing properties.

"I've traveled abroad and tested different styles such as English, Turkish and Arabic, but nothing matches Persian-style tea," he tells CNN.

Coffee and hot chocolate are on the menu, too. Mabhtuyan took over the business from his father, Haj Ali Mabhtuyan, who bought the teahouse in 1962

from its original owner Haj Mohammad Hasan Shamshiri.

Before the 1979 Iranian revolution, the teahouse provided tea for many of the shops at the bazaar, Mabhtuyan says. Since then, however, people working at the bazaar began to prepare tea themselves. But that hasn't stopped the shop from thriving.

Mabhtuyan serves an increasing number of tourists. The number of foreign visitors traveling to Iran has boomed in recent years, rising from 2.2 million in 2009 to 5.2 million in 2016.

"I ask all my customers to leave a message in the visitors' book, and everybody who drinks tea here for the first time is presented with a souvenir coin."

Mabhtuyan is also a big believer in the marketing power of social media. He launched the Haj Ali Darvish Instagram account a couple of years ago.



Haj Ali Darvish tea house, Grand Bazaar, Tehran, Iran

He loves to post photos of everyone who visits. He says it's helped make his tiny teahouse into one of the most popular pit stops in the bazaar.

Summer lovin'? Not in angry Europe's tourist hotspots

BARCELONA/ROME/SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Chronic overcrowding in some of Europe's beloved tourism hotspots is fueling an angry backlash, from polite protest to "Go Home" graffiti and even physical intimidation.

Across southern Europe, from the choked boulevards of Gaudi's Barcelona to the swarms of cruise liners disgorging passengers into Croatia's mediaeval Dubrovnik, residents are complaining that a sharp rise in tourism is making life intolerable.

The backlash has sparked concerns for one of the re-

gion's biggest economic drivers and prompted authorities to act.

Rome is considering limiting visitor numbers to parts of the eternal city, such as the Trevi fountain. Dubrovnik plans to limit cruise ships. Barcelona is planning a new tourism tax.

In Venice last month, residents marched through a throng of visitor to protest against uncontrolled tourism. They did so behind a banner: "My future is Venice".

Youth activists plan a similar protest in San Sebastián, northern Spain, later this month.

In Barcelona, where anger has been brewing for some time, some graffiti has turned menacing. One slogan, featuring a black silhouette with a red target on its head, reads: "Why call it tourist season if we can't shoot them?"

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy intervened this week after some anti-tourist anger turned physical. A video emerged of masked activists setting off flares outside a restaurant full of tourists on the island of Palma de Majorca. They then entered the restaurant and threw confetti at frightened diners.

Extreme weather could kill over 150,000 people each year in Europe, say scientists

More than 150,000 people could die as a result of climate change each year in Europe by the end of the century, shocking new research has found.

The number of deaths caused by extreme weather events will increase 50-fold and two in three people on the continent will be affected by disasters, the study – that serves as a stark warning of the deadly impact of global warming – found.

The research by European Commission scientists lays out a future where hundreds of thousands of people die from heatstroke, heart and breathing problems, and flash flooding. It describes a world where droughts bring food shortages, people are at an increased risk of being killed by disease and infection, and the countryside is ravaged by wildfires.

Extreme weather events

It used historical records of extreme weather events and combined them with projections of the damage of climate change and changes in the population to project how, where and who will die from the effects of global warming.

In what they say is a “much needed wake-up call” to governments across the continent, campaign groups insisted that action is needed now to avoid being responsible for deaths across the world.

“This is a stark warning showing



why we need greater action on climate change fast,” said Friends of the Earth campaigner Donna Hume. “People across the globe are already dying due to extreme weather events and without concerted action this will get worse, including right here in Europe.

“This fate can be avoided but only if governments get serious about making the switch away from dirty fossil fuels.

“This is a stark warning showing why we need greater action on climate change fast,” said Friends of the Earth campaigner Donna Hume.

Three quarters of existing coal, oil and gas has to remain unused if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change – so why is the UK government intent on digging and drilling for more across the British countryside?

Renewable energy revolution

“It’s time to ditch plans for fracking and new coal mines and instead invest in the renewable energy revolution.”

The “evidence keeps on stacking up – climate change should be one of our top public policy concerns,” said Gareth Redmond-King, head of climate and energy at WWF. “This report reinforces what we know about the impacts and unless we tackle the problem, that will put strain on our health and welfare systems, and ultimately cost lives.

“However this future is not inevitable. We know the causes of climate change, and we understand the solutions to climate change. It is in our power to keep the global rise in temperature to 1.5 degrees – but only if we act now and embrace a low carbon future. That means governments, including the UK, being bold – taking action to grow low-carbon industries, to support technological solutions, and to cut our greenhouse gas emissions.

“Our planet is being destroyed and this report lays bare the devastating impact of climate change,” said deputy leader Amelia Womack. “There are people alive today who will witness thousands of deaths every year due to extreme weather events. Every second we waste denying climate change exists and ignoring its deadly impact is time we steal from the next generation who will suffer the terrible consequences.

(Source: *The Independent*)

Solar sunglasses generate electricity while you wear them

Solar cell sunglasses will let you look cool, and keep your gadgets charged at the same time.

Ever wanted to act like an aging rock star and wear your sunglasses wherever you go, but feared that you didn’t have a good enough reason to do so? The folks at Germany’s Karlsruhe Institute of Technology are here to help! What they’ve developed are a pair of so-called “solar glasses,” which generate electricity by way of solar cells that also double as the glasses’ lenses.

This electricity can be used to power smaller devices like pedometers or hearing aids — or could possibly even give your smartphone or smartwatch some added juice as and when required.

The “solar glasses demonstrate integration of organic solar cells in smart devices,” researcher Daniel Bahro, a PhD student specializing in the development and optimization of organic tandem-solar cells, told Digital Trends.

Photovoltaic technology

“This emerging photovoltaic technology offer some unique properties like transparency, tunability in color and shape, and its low weight makes it perfectly adaptable to any application design.

The energy yield is used to drive an electronic circuit including sensors, a microprocessor and two displays attached to the temples.

This very basic configuration of a smart device — even under indoor lighting conditions — continuously records the ambient temperature and the current output of the solar cells, without any additional power source like a battery.”

Understandably, the glasses work best in full sunlight, but each lens can still generate 200 microwatts even under 500 lux direct indoor illumination. No, that’s not going to power your MacBook any time soon, but it could — as Bahro notes — be enough to charge smaller devices like step counters. Plus, with solar cells making advances all the time, this could just serve as a proof of concept to be further developed.

Fabrication techniques

“Since we are a university-based research group, we are personally more focused on issues like advancing fabrication techniques and device architecture of the solar cells itself,” Bahro said, concerning possible commercialization.

The “solar glasses were made to demonstrate what



possible future applications and markets are in range, and should not be seen as a product ready for the market.”

If you are in the market for a portable solar cell, there are options like this new solar charging backpack which can provide a similar application — albeit with larger solar cells. Still, now we’ve heard about this project, our hearts are kind of set on solar-charging shades.

(Source: *Digital Trends*)

Alaska at risk of a massive earthquake and tsunami, scientists find

In 2011, a megathrust earthquake off the coast of Japan produced a huge tsunami that killed over 15,000 people. The 9.0 magnitude quake was so big it shifted the Earth’s axis and moved the coast of Honshu, Japan’s main island, by 8 feet.

Scientists now say a similar earthquake could take place off the coast of Alaska, resulting in a dangerous tsunami that could devastate parts of the state and reach southerly parts of North America, Hawaii and beyond.

In a study published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, researchers at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory created new, detailed maps of an area of the seafloor off Alaska called the Shumagin Gap. This is a creeping subduction zone at the end of the Alaska

Peninsula, 600 miles from Anchorage.

Geological structure

Previously, scientists thought this area was fairly benign, steadily releasing tension as the plates moved slowly past one another. But this is not the case. Instead, the researchers found a geological structure similar to that seen at the site of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, suggesting this site could also slip suddenly and produce a huge tsunami.

The Tohoku earthquake took place at a creeping segment of the seafloor. It was thought that the frequent, small earthquakes at the site meant it could never build up enough tension to produce one large quake.

What scientists failed to realize was that part of the edge of the continental plate had become detached — and that

this posed a major risk. A smaller earthquake dislodged the detached section, creating the huge earthquake and tsunami that followed. While scientists knew this fault existed, they did not understand the devastation it could cause.

In their study, researchers found a region of the Shumagin Gap that is detached in the same way. The fault they identified stretches about 90 miles roughly parallel to the land and extends over 20 miles down.

Cluster of seismic activity

The maps suggest the seafloor has dropped to one side and risen on the other. Researchers also found a cluster of seismic activity near where the new fault meets the plate boundary, indicating it is active.

While the newly identified fault could be the remains of a previous earthquake rather than one to come, the findings show this part of Alaska is “particularly prone to tsunami generation,” lead author Anne Bécel said in a statement.

With the potential for a huge tsunami to be unleashed, the team says, it is imperative to gain a better understanding of this structure. “The importance of recognizing the hazard posed by the weakly coupled Shumagin Gap was emphasized by a recent tsunami scenario for the Alaska subduction zone showing that a large tsunami in this segment could have devastation consequences to coastal communities locally in Alaska and around the Pacific Ocean,” the researchers wrote.

(Source: *Newsweek*)

Describing smile types by muscle movement

The smile may be the most common and flexible expression, used to reveal some emotions, cover others and manage social interactions that have kept communities secure and organized for millennia.

“When distinguishing among smiles, both scientists and laypeople have tended to focus on true and false smiles. The belief is that if you smile when you’re not happy, the smile is false,” says Paula Niedenthal, a psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “But people smile in many different circumstances and during many emotional states. So asserting that only smiles that result from states of happiness are ‘true’ smiles limits our understanding of this important facial expression.”

Niedenthal and colleagues from Cardiff University and

the University of Glasgow published a set of experiments that seek to expand our understanding of the human smile this week in the journal *Psychological Science*, showing three distinct, reliably recognized expressions — smiles of reward, affiliation and dominance — and describing the facial muscle combinations that make them.

Anatomical feature

Each smile hinges on an anatomical feature known as the zygomatic major, straps of facial muscle below the cheekbones that pull up the corners of the mouth. But it’s not the only muscle at work.

Participants in the study looked at thousands of computer-generated expressions with random combinations of facial muscles activated — with one exception.

“We varied everything that could be varied in an

expression, but our stimuli included some action from the smile muscle, the zygomaticus,” says Magdalena Rychlowska, a postdoctoral researcher at Cardiff. “We asked participants to tell us when they see a reward or affiliative or a dominance smile, and when the expression is not a smile.”

The researchers turned their participant-sorted smiles back on two more sets of observers, checking recognition and social messages until they had recipes for each smile.

For example, a reward smile — “probably the most intuitive,” Niedenthal says, the “kind of smile you would use with a baby, so he will smile back or do things you like” — is a symmetrical hoist of zygomaticus muscles plus a dash of eyebrow lift and some sharp lip pulling.

(Source: *neurosciencenews.com*)

BANK SHAHR Backs 1st International Festival of New Urban Technologies

Chief Executive of BANK SHAHR Dr. Hossein Mohammad-Pourzarandi revealed the support of his bank from the First International Festival of New Urban Technologies, Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Given the importance of social responsibility and special attention of BANK SHAHR to this subject, the 1st Intl. Festival of New Modern Technologies was sup-

ported and backed by this bank wholeheartedly.

The senior official of the bank pointed to identifying, analyzing, evaluating and assessing the current and future situation of cities in taking advantage of modern technologies as well as paving suitable ways for the transfer of technical knowhow among domestic knowledge-based companies are the main objective behind organizing this prestigious festival.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the presence of several European companies in this Festival and said: “Certainly, Iranian elites and talents can showcase their latest scientific achievements to the world.”

In the end, Chief Executive of BANK SHAHR Dr. Hossein Mohammad-Pourzarandi said: “The First Intl. Festival of New Urban Technologies will be held in Isfahan on August 4-6.”

Daimler funds Volocopter’s autonomous flying taxi dreams

Volocopter just got a \$30 million cash injection, thanks to a few investors, including fellow German firm Daimler. The automaker’s contribution can help the company stick to its timeline and its plans to release its first autonomous electric air taxi next year.



Volocopter has been working on the creation of a personalized air transport system for years and completed the first manned test flight of its multicopter in 2016.

In April, the company introduced its newest model, an electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft called Volocopter 2X that can be piloted by anyone with a Sport Pilot License during its test flights. It also teamed up with Dubai to conduct the first demonstrations of the autonomous version of its air taxi in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Dubai is probably the best place for Volocopter to conduct its pilot trials, considering the city is planning to carry out 25 percent of passenger transport through autonomous vehicles by 2030.

That’s also why Daimler is the perfect financier. In its funding announcement, Volocopter said automakers are “intensely interested in the mobility of the future,” such as autonomous driving or electrical mobility. “Daimler is therefore a very valuable strategic partner,” the company added.

(Source: *Engadget*)

Astronomers unveil most accurate map of dark matter in the universe

The Dark Energy Survey (DES), a collaboration of over 400 scientists from seven countries, unveiled the largest map of dark matter and energy in the universe resulting from the first year of the project’s five-year observation.

DES scientists expressed that the new map is not only more accurate with its less than 5 percent error bar, but it is also consistent with the early measurements and models derived from the European Space Agency’s Planck satellite.

To gather the data that led to the amazing map, DES scientists mounted a 570-megapixel camera called DECam on the 4-meter Victor M. Blanco Telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile.

DES scientists developed and carried out precision tests with the help of the weak gravitational lensing phenomenon, and analysis of the data led to the creation of a map containing the distribution of mass of dark matter.

“While Planck looked at the structure of the very early universe, DES has measured structures that evolved much later. The growth of these structures from the early ages of the universe until today agrees with what our models predict, showing that we can describe cosmic evolution very well,” Daniel Gruen explained. Gruen is a NASA Einstein postdoctoral fellow at the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (KIPAC).

For a better visual, consider the CMB model as a photo of a toddler and the DES model as a picture of the same child at 8 years old. Since the DES model is consistent with the CMB model, scientists will be able to determine not only the rate and precise measurement of the toddler as they reach 8 years of age, but they will also be able to predict how much the child will have grown at 13 years old and beyond.

(Source: *Tech Times*)

Humans have destroyed forests for 45,000 years: study

Humans have been burning and cutting down forests for thousands of years longer than is commonly thought, part of a long-running tradition of changing Earth’s natural environments.

Deforestation is not a new invention, according to a study in the journal *Nature Plants*, which went back in human history to explore how people have encroached upon tropical forests. The study says that although many consider this encroachment to be the hallmark of modern civilizations, archaeological evidence shows that we have “actively manipulated tropical forest ecologies for at least 45,000 years.”

More recent societies have infringed on tropical forests as they pursued widespread agriculture, mined for resources, raised livestock and made way to build urban communities. But prehistoric humans like hunter-gatherers had needs too. Around the globe, they started controlled burns in these environments to make land more usable for themselves.

“By clearing parts of the forest, humans were able to create more of the ‘forest-edge’ environments that encouraged the presence of animals and plants that they liked to eat,” according to the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, which had researchers involved in the study.

Then in the early farming days, perhaps starting 10,000 years ago, humans used tropical forests to grow crops like yams and bananas. Both the extinctions of the hunter-gatherer era and the ecological changes that resulted from early forest farming had lasting impacts on the environment that persist today.

(Source: *IBT*)

LEARN ENGLISH
Opening a Bank Account

A: Next, please. May I help you, sir?
B: Hello, yes, I'd like to open a bank account.
A: Certainly, I can help you with that. What type of account would you like to open? A **chequing** or a **savings account**?
B: What **features** do they offer?
A: Well, if you just take a look here, see, with our chequing account, you can have unlimited daily **transactions** for a small monthly **fee**, and our savings account has a higher interest rate, but you must carry a minimum **balance** of \$ 10,000 dollars.
B: I see, well, I think I'm more interested in a chequing account; I like to have easy **access** to my money.
A: Alright, then, with this chequing account you'll be issued a **debit card** and a **cheque book**. Will you require **overdraft** protection? There is an extra fee for that.
B: No, that won't be necessary.
A: In that case, **I'll get you** to fill out this **paperwork**; I'll need your social insurance number, and two pieces of government ID. **If you could just** sign here, and here, and here; we'll be all set. Would you like to make a **deposit** today?
B: Yes, I'd like to deposit one billion dollars.

Key vocabulary
chequing account: a regular account for daily transactions
savings account: an account for people to keep their money, usually offers a higher interest rate
feature: interesting or important quality
transaction: an occurrence in which money is transferred from one person, or one account, to another
fee: an amount of money that you pay to do something or that you pay to a professional person for their work
balance: the amount of money in a bank account
access: a way to get to something
debit card: a card for you to take money out of your bank account
cheque book: a book of cheques for use with a chequing account
overdraft: taking out more money than what is available in the account
I'll get you: a way to ask people to do things
paperwork: the documents that you need for a business deal, a journey etc.
I'll need you: a way to request people to provide something
if you could just: a polite way of asking people to do things
deposit: an amount of money that is put in a bank account

Supplementary vocabulary
credit card: a card to buy things and pay for them later
online banking: a service that allows people to do transactions online
telephone banking: a service that allows people to do transactions by phone
terms and conditions: an outline of the rules and company policies of a particular product or service
high interest account: a savings account that offers higher than usual interest rate
teller: a person working in a bank, who helps customers with daily transactions
(Source: irlanguage.com)

Iran ranks 4th at IOI 2017

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran came **d e s k** in fourth at the 29th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI 2017) which was held in Tehran from July 28 to August 4.

Iran's team finished in fourth place after Japan, China, and Russia with one gold medal and three silver medals, Mehr news agency reported.

Seyed Mohammad Hossein Nematollahi, Arash Mahmoudian Bidgoli, Mohammad Saneian, and Hamidreza Hedayati were the four Iranian students taking the fourth place at the competition.

Each participating country was represented by a team of up to four contestants. However, as Iran was acting as the host to the event it took part in the Olympiad with two teams the second of which took the 11th place.



The Japanese team members, with three gold medals, received the most points in this contest. Yuta Takaya, from Japan, was placed first in IOI 2017. He is a four time champion of the IOI. He has also recently placed first at the International Mathematics Olympiad.

The IOI is an annual international competition for high school students from various invited countries, accompanied by social and cultural programmers. This year some 300 students from 84 countries from around the world participated in the event.

As IOI 2017 came to an official close on Friday, Iran passed the IOI flag to Japan, the new host for IOI 2018.

Professor Krassimir Manev, President of the IOI, thanked Iran for its excellent hosting and wished Japan success in hosting the next year's contest.

Global blindness set to 'triple by 2050'

The number of blind people across the world is set to triple within the next four decades, researchers suggest.

Writing in Lancet Global Health, they predict cases will rise from 36 million to 115 million by 2050, if treatment is not improved by better funding.

A growing ageing population is behind the rising numbers.

Some of the highest rates of blindness and vision impairment are in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The percentage of the world's population with visual impairments is actually falling, according to the study.

But because the global population is growing and more people are living well into old age, researchers predict the number of people with sight problems will soar in the coming decades.

Analysis of data from 188 countries suggests there are more than 200 million people with moderate to severe vision impairment.

That figure is expected to rise to more than 550 million by 2050.

"Even mild visual impairment can significantly impact a person's life," said lead author Prof Rupert Bourne, from Anglia Ruskin University.

"For example, reducing their independence... as it



often means people are barred from driving."

He said it also limited people's educational and economic opportunities.

The worst affected areas for visual impairment are in South and East Asia. Parts of sub-Saharan Africa also have particularly high rates.

The study calls for better investment in treatments, such as cataract surgery, and ensuring people have access to appropriate vision-correcting glasses.

Prof Rupert Bourne said: "Interventions provide some of the largest returns on investment.

"They are some of the most easily implemented

interventions in developing regions."

"They are cheap, require little infrastructure and countries recover their costs as people enter back into the workforce," he said.

The charity Sightsavers, which works in more than thirty countries to try to eliminate avoidable blindness, says it is seeing a rise in conditions such as cataracts, where the eye's lens clouds over.

"Due to an ageing population and a rise in chronic disease, we expect the burden of blindness to only grow within the world's poorest countries" said Imran Khan from the charity.

He said health systems in developing countries need to be improved, and more surgeons and nurses need to be trained to deliver sustainable eye health care.

Blindness affects:

- 11.7 million people in South Asia
- 6.2 million people in East Asia
- 3.5 million people in South East Asia
- more than 4% of the population in parts of sub-Saharan Africa
- less than 0.5% of the population of Western Europe

(Source: BBC)



Khorasan razavi
Water and Wastewater company

Call for identification of investors for

Completion of a section of wastewater system in Ghuchan through Buyback contract (Auction)
According to Article 214 of the fifth development plan, Article 2 of the law on establishment of water and wastewater companies approved in 1990 and article 27 of the Law for annexation of some articles to the law on drafting part of the government's financial regulations (2), the Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater company intends to concede the completion of a section of the wastewater collection and treatment system in Ghuchan against the allocation of the determined volume of treated effluent for specific use for a limited and predetermined period through Buyback contract according to the following conditions to a qualified investor.

A-Brief description of the project:

- Subject: completion of a section of the wastewater system in Ghuchan, including: WWTP and sewer
- Concessioner: The Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater Company
- consultant: mahab samen
- Construction period: 4 years
- Commercial operation period: Financial model to be submitted
- Treatment efficiency: Surface water discharge
- Population coverage: 194000 person
- Project site: City Ghuchan Province Khorasan razavi

B- General conditions for investment:

- The investor must be a real or legal entity in possession of acceptable management experience to ensure and allocate the required investment.
- Date, deadline and address to collect the qualification documents: Qualified investors may submit their letter of intent for investment in the plan and collect the qualification documents from 06/ Aug/2017 until the end of office hours on 16/Aug/2017 from: mashhad-sadaf-vakil abad blvd- The Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater Company- the technical support unit (TSU)
- Address and deadline for submission of the required documents: The completed evaluation forms should be submitted at 15.00 on tuesday dated 30/Aug/2017 to: The Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater Company Secretariat
- Following the review of the evaluation documents submitted by the interested parties, the qualified investors shall be invited for contract negotiations.
- The concessioner has the right to accept or reject the technical or financial proposals of the investors at any stage of the proceedings.

www.abfakhorasan.ir e-mail: info@abfakhorasan.ir

Shahrak-e Sadaf, Vakilabad Blvd., Mashhad

P.O. Box: 1517- 91895

Tel: 00985138678821-5 Fax: 00985138676026



Khorasan razavi
Water and Wastewater company

Call for identification of investors for

Completion of a section of wastewater system in Neyshabur through Buyback contract (Auction)
According to Article 214 of the fifth development plan, Article 2 of the law on establishment of water and wastewater companies approved in 1990 and article 27 of the Law for annexation of some articles to the law on drafting part of the government's financial regulations (2), the Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater company intends to concede the completion of a section of the wastewater collection and treatment system in Neyshabur against the allocation of the determined volume of treated effluent for specific use for a limited and predetermined period through Buyback contract according to the following conditions to a qualified investor.

A-Brief description of the project:

- Subject: completion of a section of the wastewater system in Neyshabur, including: WWTP and sewer
- Concessioner: The Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater Company
- consultant: mahab samen
- Construction period: 4 years
- Commercial operation period: Financial model to be submitted
- Treatment efficiency: Surface water discharge
- Population coverage: 410728 person
- Project site: City Neyshabur Province Khorasan razavi

B- General conditions for investment:

- The investor must be a real or legal entity in possession of acceptable management experience to ensure and allocate the required investment.
- Date, deadline and address to collect the qualification documents: Qualified investors may submit their letter of intent for investment in the plan and collect the qualification documents from 06/ Aug/2017 until the end of office hours on 16/Aug/2017 from: mashhad-sadaf-vakil abad blvd- The Khorasan razavi Water and Wastewater Company- the technical support unit (TSU)
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Tel: 00985138678821-5 Fax: 00985138676026

Iran favorites to top their group at FIBA Asian Cup

International Basketball Federation says that Iran remain very strong favorites to top their group at the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup.

The competition will be held in Beirut, Lebanon from August 8 to 20. The Iranian national team have been drawn along with India, Syria and Jordan in Group A.

Team Melli will bring an imposing, experienced and highly skilled frontline to Beirut that's led by maybe the most intimidating player in the tournament, Hamed Haddadi. The one-time CBA champion center may not be 100% when he plays at the Asia Cup, but playing alongside him are veterans Arsalan Kazemi, Oshin Sahakian and Rouzbeh Arghavan.

All three are strong and relentless inside operators, and they give coach Mehran Hatami a terrific rotation at the 4 and 5 positions, FIBA.org reported.

Iran finished a "disappointing" third place in 2015 - disappointing because they have been so synonymous and used to success at the continental level. For the first time in a decade, though, Team Melli will be without icons Samad Nikkhab Bahrami and Mahdi Kamrani, and this is a sign of the new generation beginning to take over for the national team.

This entire competition is going to be a big test for Iran, but at least for the first round, they remain very strong favorites to top their group.

(Source: FIBA)



West Bromwich Albion should consider a move for Ghoochannejhad



West Bromwich Albion squad should consider a move for Heerenveen hitman Reza Ghoochannejhad.

The Iranian international striker enjoyed a wonderfully successful campaign in the Eredivisie last season.

The 29-year-old striker banged in 22 goals in 37 outings for the Dutch side last term, showcasing his clinical nature on a consistent basis, HITC wrote.

Ghoochannejhad already has experience of playing in England too, after spending a two year spell with Charlton earlier on in his career, so he will be well used to the robust nature of the game.

Standing at 5ft 10in, and quick along the ground, the Iranian would be ideal for the Baggies. He possesses all of the attributes which would make him the ideal strike partner for Jay Rodriguez, and his presence at the Hawthorns would provide Tony Pulis (West Brom coach) with the opportunity to play with two up front, which would in turn make them less predictable to play against.

The 37-capped Iran international forward could be the perfect man for the job.

(Source: HITC)

Korea will defeat Iran in World Cup Qualifier: Park Ji-sung



Former South Korea striker Park Ji-sung believes that they will qualify for the 2018 World Cup after defeating Iran and collecting a draw against Uzbekistan.

South Korea will play already-qualified Iran at home, Aug. 31, and an away match against Uzbekistan, Sept. 5.

The team currently rank second with 13 points in Group A. For automatic qualification for next year's World Cup, the team needs to have at least one win and one draw in its remaining matches.

"I think the fact that the Korean national football team have to play against

strong teams is more positive for Korea. Players will have extra motivation and this will have a positive effect on them," the former Manchester United forward told Korea Times.

"It is fortunate that the team play Iran at home but we are not good against Uzbekistan in an away match. (Korea's last win against Uzbekistan in an away match was in October, 1997.) I think Korea can make World Cup after defeating Iran at home and collecting a draw against Uzbekistan," Park Ji-sung concluded.

(Source: Korea Times)

Give Brazil more time to secure Rio legacy: IOC head

LONDON (Reuters) — Brazil should be given more time to deliver infrastructure promised as its Rio Olympics legacy, the head of the International Olympic Committee said on Friday.

Thomas Bach said Brazil's economic crisis was one factor weighing on progress and avoided criticizing the situation in Rio where many venues sit idle and a new metro line does not extend to the main Olympic Park.

"You have to take into account the extremely difficult situation in Brazil which is the worst crisis this country has ever gone through," Bach told reporters.

"In such a situation, not all the legacy plans are coming to fruition ... in the time they were planned for."

Speaking in London, Bach pointed out that the British



capital's Olympic park was closed for a year after the 2012 Games.

"We have to be fair there with the Brazilians," he said. "After the games here in London the park was closed ... to do the refurbishments and to make the adaptations."

"You have to give this opportunity to Rio 2016 and, given the very difficult circumstances, give them an extension of this time because, maybe in this emergency situation, they have other priorities," he said.

A report published by Brazil's federal agency for Olympic legacy (AGLO) in June said the cost of the Games had risen to 43.3 billion reais (\$13.86 billion), around 14.5 billion reais more than originally planned.

Leicester's Riyad Mahrez 'would like to talk to' Roma about transfer

Riyad Mahrez has told Sky Sports he wants to open discussions with Roma but he is unable to do so until Leicester accept an offer for him.

Reports suggest Leicester value the 26-year-old winger at £50 million, but as yet nobody has met that price.

Mahrez asked for a transfer at the end of last season, and with the transfer window closing at the end of the month time is running out for him to secure a move.

"I know Roma came in, but nothing was accepted so there is little I can do.

They are a great club who I would like to talk to but I can't until Leicester accept a deal," he said.

"Leicester know my thoughts, but I will continue to give my best for the club as I always have.

"Clearly, it is flattering whenever

you get linked with any big clubs, but as it stands, I have not talked to anyone as nobody has had a bid accepted but we nearly have a month left of the transfer window so we will see what happens."

(Source: Soccernet)

Persepolis beat Tractor Sazi in IPL Week 2

Persepolis football team defeated Tractor Sazi 2-1 in Week 2 of Iran Professional League on Thursday evening.

In a match held at Tabriz's Yadegar-e Emam Stadium, Godwin Mensha scored for Persepolis from a set piece in the 15th minute. With three minutes left in the first half, Farzad Hatami equalized the match.

Substitute Kamal Kamyabinia scored the winner in the 68th minute.

In Tehran, Saipa defeated Sanat Naft 3-2, Foolad was held to a 1-1 draw by Naft Tehran and newly-promoted Sepidrood Rasht lost to Siah Jamegan 2-1.

On Friday, Zob Ahan will host Gostaresh Foolad, Esteghlal meet Esteghlal Khuzestan, Pars Jonoubi Jam face Paykan and Padideh play Sepahan.

On Friday, Esteghlal were held to a goalless draw by Esteghlal Khuzestan in Tehran.

Esteghlal, who had lost to Sanat Naft Abadan 1-0 in their IPL opening match, created several chances at the Azadi Stadium but the team's strikers lacked the cutting edge.

In Mashhad, Padideh defeated Sepahan 4-0, Zob Ahan beat Gostaresh Foolad 3-0 and newly-promoted Pars Jonoubi defeated Paykan 3-2.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran condemns soccer players for match with Israeli team

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's soccer federation condemned two Iranians who play for a Greek team on Friday for participating in a match against an Israeli team, Iranian media reported.

The federation "strongly condemns" the participation of Masoud Shojaei and Ehsan Hajsafi in a match for Greece's Panionios against Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv in Greece.

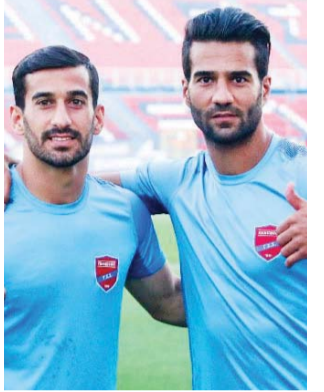
Maccabi won the UEFA Europa League match 1-0.

The federation said it is reviewing the case and will make a final decision after speaking with both players who in the past have also played for the national soccer team. Fars reported that the two may now be banned from playing on that team again.

At a previous match against Maccabi in Tel Aviv, both refused to play.

The last competition between Iranian and Israeli sportsmen on the international level dates back to a wrestling match in 1983 in Kiev, Ukraine.

Iran does not recognize Israel.



World Junior Water Polo Championships: Iran suffer heavy defeat against Russia

SPORTS Iran lost to Russia 19-2 in Group A of the 19th edition of the FINA World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships on Saturday.

Greece opened the championship with a 26-1 margin over Puerto Rico in the group.

Aleksandar Ciric's boys will face powerhouse Greece on Sunday.

The 19th edition of the Fina World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships is taking place in Belgrade, Serbia, from August 5-20, 2017, gathering 20 teams from the five continents, an increase of two teams since the previous edition two years ago in Almaty (KAZ), where 18 teams battled it out for the crown.

Iran wins three medals at World Para Athletics Junior Championships

Iranian representatives claimed three medals in the Notwil 2017 World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland.

Mohammadhassan Mirzaei won the gold medal in discus F57 with a throw of 25.97m.

Baharvand won a silver medal in F36 Shot Put, throwing 11.01m.

Shimbo Yamato from Japan won the gold medal with a throw of 11.98m.

Lukasz Czamecki from Poland won the bronze medal.

Iran's Ashkan Cheraghi won the bronze medal with 8.65m in the men's shot put F35-38.

Rio 2016 silver medalist Lucumi from Colombia won the gold medal thanks to an 11.59 throw, finishing ahead of Mexico's Rodrigo de la Torre Huerta (9.68).

The first World Para Athletics Junior Championships got underway on Thursday (3 August), with 275 athletes and 11 guide runners from 41 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) competing on one of the world's best tracks in Notwil, Switzerland.

Iran participated in the event with 24 athletes.

(Source: Tasnim)



Iranian climber dies in Kyrgyzstan

One of the Islamic Republic of Iran's most adventurous climbers, Alireza Boroujerdi Karimi, has succumbed to altitude sickness during a climb on Lenin Peak, or Ibn Sina (Avicenna) Peak, on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Boroujerdi Karimi, who was a member of the five-strong Varamin mountaineering team, suffered the condition due to a lack of supplementary oxygen, and eventually lost his life, the Islamic Republic of Iran Mountaineering & Sport Climbing Federation reported.

His teammates and Russian mountain guides could recover his body after a while. The corpse has reportedly been transported to the Kyrgyz capital city of Bishkek to be flown back to Tehran.

Altitude sickness, also known as acute mountain sickness (AMS), is caused by acute exposure to low partial pressure of oxygen at high altitude.

Minor AMS symptoms such as breathlessness may occur at altitudes of 1,500 meters (5,000 feet), but it commonly happens above 2,400 meters (8,000 feet).

Lenin Peak rises to 7,134 meters (23,406 feet). Hundreds of climbers make their way to the summit every year.

(Source: Press TV)

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“A Tale of Love” wins award at Asia-Pacific Film Festival

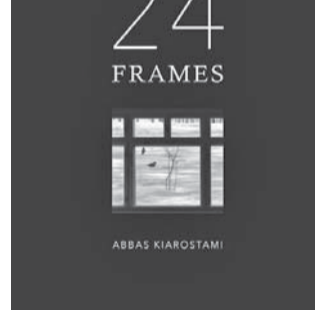
A R T TEHRAN — Mohammad Aladpush has won the award for best cinematographer at the 57th edition of the Asia-Pacific Film Festival (APFF) for his collaboration in Iranian director Ahmad Ramezanzadeh's debut film “A Tale of Love”, Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation announced on Saturday.



Starring Bahram Radan and Shilan Rahmani, the story of the movie is set in the aftermath of the Iraqi chemical weapons attack on Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan in 1988. It is based on a real-life story about an Iranian photographer who meets a woman while he was trying to help victims. “The Unnamed” by Tauqir Ahmed from Bangladesh won the best film award at the festival, which was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from July 28 to 30.

Hong Kong festival to wrap up with “24 Frames”

A R T TEHRAN — The Hong Kong 2017 Summer International Film Festival will come to an end by a screening of Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami's last experimental movie “24 Frames” on August 29.



Kiarostami completed “24 Frames” months before his death in July 2016. “It began with musings on epochal paintings and evolved with the photographs I had taken over the years,” Kiarostami once said about his film. The festival is scheduled to open with “Paradox” by Hong Kong's prominent director Wilson Yip on August 15.

About forty new and classic films from several countries are scheduled to go on screen at the festival.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

A collection of paintings by Ferial Taqaddos is on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.



The exhibit entitled “Nature, Human, History” will be running until August 9 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

An exhibition of paintings by Saman Farhangi is underway at Did Gallery.



The exhibit named “Variance” will run until August 13 at the gallery located at No. 18 West 19 St. off Etehad St. in the Tehran Pars neighborhood.

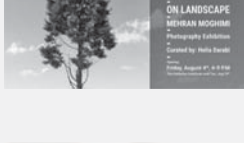
Paintings by Samaneh Qasemi, Hana Shahravan, Nastaran Amini and Maryam Mohsenian are on display in an exhibition at Jinus Gallery.



The exhibit will be running until August 8 at the gallery that can be found at 21 Fatemei St., off Vali-e Asr Ave.

Photo

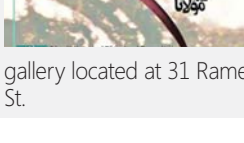
Photos by Mehran Moqimi are on display in an exhibition at Iran-shahr Gallery.



The exhibit entitled “On Landscape” runs until August 15 at the gallery located at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

Calligraphy

Alina Gallery is hosting an exhibition of calligraphy works by Azam Hobbi, Sanaz Taqipur, Fahimeh Ariadust, Asra Yazdani and Zahra Hosseinzadeh.



The exhibition titled “My Being” will be running until August 11 at the gallery located at 31 Ramezani Alley, Mahurzadeh St., Shariati St.

Writer Najaf Daryabandari honored as Living Human Treasure

A R T TEHRAN — Veteran translator Najaf Daryabandari who is also the writer of a bestselling cookbook has been honored as a Living Human Treasure in the category of cuisine.

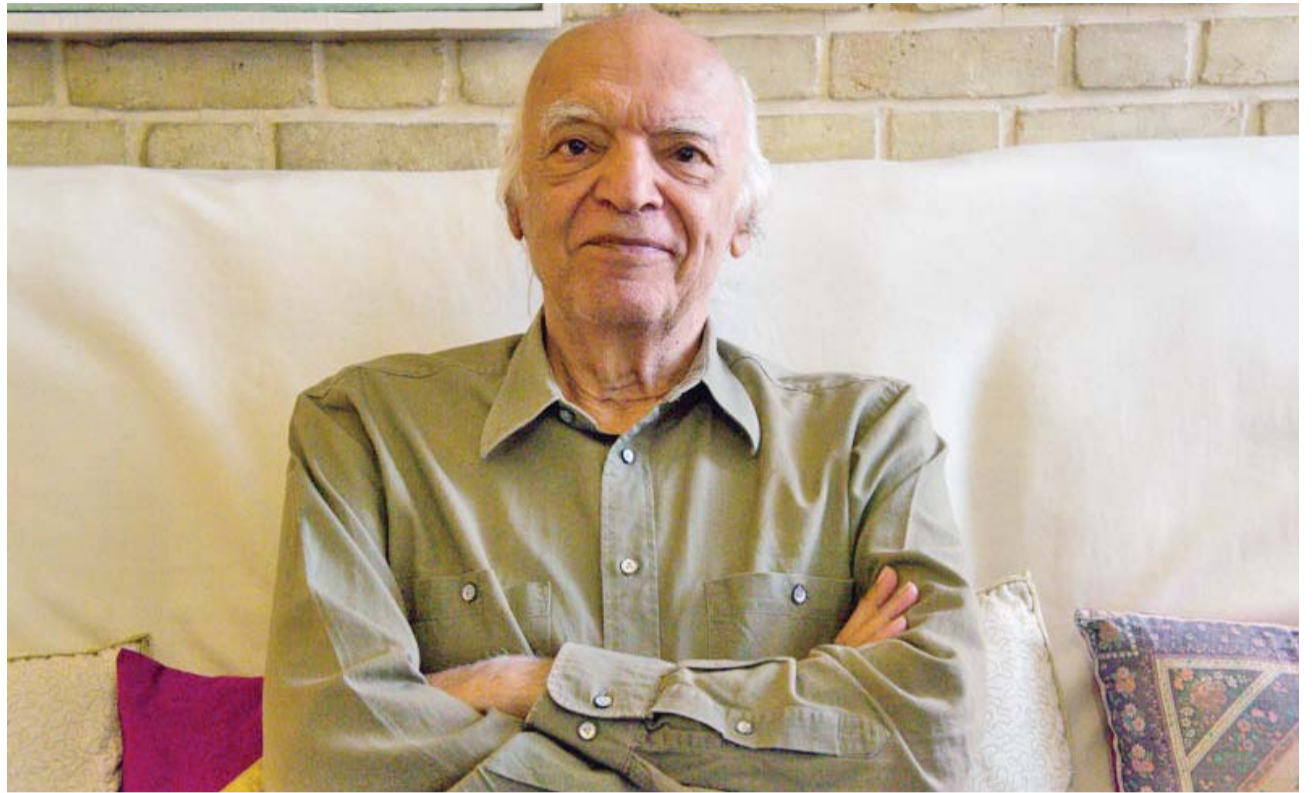
His name was listed among Iran's Bearers of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Farhad Nazari, an official of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) announced in a press release on Wednesday.

“Daryabandari is among the writers and translators, which have their own special styles and their works appeal to all people,” Nazari said.

Daryabandari, 88, won the honor for “From Garlic to Onion”, a cookbook that he authored with the help of his wife Fahimeh Rastkar, an actress and dubber who died in November 2012.

He also is the translator of Ernst Hemingway's “A Farewell to Arms” and “The Old Man and the Sea”, William Faulkner's “A Rose for Emily” and “As I Lay Dying”.

He has also rendered Bertrand Russell's “A History of Western Philosophy” and “Power” into Persian.



Writer Najaf Daryabandari in an undated photo (ISNA/Mehdi Qasemi)

Tehran museum opens story section



This photo shows a rare manuscript on display in Hezardastan Hall of the Malek National Library and Museum Institution.

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Malek National Library and Museum Institution has opened a new section dedicated to showcasing documents about the history of story writing in Iran and a large number manuscripts of Persian stories.

The section named “Hezardastan” was inaugurated on Thursday during a ceremony attended by large number of academics and cultural figures, including children's writer Hushang Moradi Kermani, the museum announced.

This is Iran's first museum dedicates

a hall for the history of story writing in the country.

Rare copies of “Khamseh” composed by Nezami Ganjavi (c. 1141-1209 CE), animal fable “Kalila and Dimna”, Persian poet Sadi's Bustan (The Orchard) and Gulistan (The Rose Garden) are on show at the section.

In addition, the museum also opened a new hall for displaying a collection of 500 rare stamps from Iran and other countries.

Located in the vicinity of Bagh-e Melli, the Malek Museum is affiliated with the Astan-e Qods Razavi Museum and Library in Mashhad.

Iranian cultural delegation to attend Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony



A delegation of Iranian cultural figures and some organizers of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony pose for a photo.

A R T TEHRAN — A delegation of Iranian cultural figures has arrived in Hiroshima to attend the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony.

The ceremony is held annually on August 6 to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the U.S. atomic attack on the Japanese city.

Filmmakers Kamal Tabrizi and Mohammadreza Kheradmandan, actresses Fatemeh Motamed-Arya and Merila Zarei, documentarian Siavash Sarmadi, writer Habib Ahmadzadeh, and the head of the board of directors at the Tehran Peace Museum, Mohammadreza Soroush, are among the Iranian participants, the Persian service of FNA reported on Saturday.

The Iranian delegation along with thousands of Japanese citizens and foreign diplomats will commemorate the victims of the tragedy.

The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war is scheduled to be discussed at meetings with the survivors of the attack.

The cineastes will attend the screenings of some Iranian movies in Hiroshima and Tokyo on the sidelines of their visit to Japan.

The films will first be screened in Hiroshima on August 6 and 7. The movies will then be shown in Tokyo on August 8 and 9.

“Mazar-i-Sharif” by Abdolhassan Barzideh, “Muhammad (S), the Messenger of God” by Majid Majidi, “Taj Mahal” by Danesh Egbashavi and “Lizard” by Kamal Tabrizi are among the movies.

Apple Music banks on ‘Carpool Karaoke’ fans paying for star pairings

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Will Smith gate-crashing a wedding party or John Legend and Alicia Keys serenading a woman at a laundrette are just some of the reasons Apple Inc hopes viewers will pay for Apple Music as it launches new show “Carpool Karaoke: The Series.”

Following the June launch of “Planet of the Apps”, Apple's second premium video series will debut on Aug. 8, with hopes that a recognizable show and slew of A-list celebrities will help the world's largest technology company stand out in a saturated television market.

“It's about the artist and the songs that are being sung, just to get a little behind-the-scenes of their personalities and some of their thoughts,” Eddy Cue, Apple's senior vice president of internet software and services, told Reuters.

“It fits very, very nicely within Apple Music,” he added. Apple's “Carpool Karaoke” is based on the popular segment from CBS' “The Late, Late Show with James Corden”, in which Corden joins guests such as Adele in sing-a-longs while driving.

Apple Music, which costs \$9.99 a month for an individual membership and has 27 million subscribers, will release two “Carpool” episodes weekly except for the premiere and finale, released as standalone episodes, of the 20-part series.

Apple's deep pockets piqued Hollywood's attention as it entered the original programming race and poached two Sony Pictures Television executives.



Talk show host James Corden (L) and LeBron James are shown during the taping of a new episode of “Carpool Karaoke: The Series”, available on Apple Music beginning August 2017, 8, in this undated handout photo provided August 2017, 3. (Courtesy Apple Music/Handout via Reuters)

Cue said “Planet of the Apps”, where app developers pitch to celebrity mentors, had led to new customers signing up for free three-month Apple Music trials, and he hoped “Carpool Karaoke” will continue to draw subscribers.

“With ‘Planet of the Apps’, we had to educate people about what it was ... with ‘Carpool’, most people know what it is,” Cue said.

New “Game of Thrones” episode leaks online through HBO partner

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The unaired fourth episode of the new season of HBO's hit series “Game of Thrones” has been leaked online, the premium channel's distribution partner Star India said on Friday.

“We take this breach very seriously and have immediately initiated forensic investigations at our and the technology partner's end to swiftly determine the cause.

This is a grave issue and we are taking appropriate legal remedial action” a Star India spokesperson said in a statement.

Star India is a subsidiary of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.

The leak of the episode, titled “The

Spoils of War”, was separate from a hack on HBO that was disclosed earlier this week, HBO said in a statement. In that incident, the company's chairman, Richard Plepler, told employees in a Monday email seen by Reuters that the hackers had stolen “proprietary information,” including some programming.

Entertainment Weekly reported on Monday that hackers stole 1.5 terabytes of data, including two unaired episodes of the “Game of Thrones” series.

HBO is owned by Time Warner Inc, which is waiting for regulatory approval to sell itself to AT&T Inc in a \$85.4 billion deal.