

Tehran to host 1,278 companies in intl. building expo **4**

Clean air law ratified **12**

We are thirsty for success at FIBA Asia Cup: Hamed Haddadi **15**

Tehran museum to take "The Smell of Almond" to Hague **16**

Rouhani names cabinet



See page 2

Dairy exports up 70% on year in March-July

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Exports of dairy products from Iran increased 70 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22) compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Hassan Rokni put exports of dairy products at 404,000 tons during the four-month period, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

As Rokni announced previously, Iran's export of dairy products has also increased 70 percent in spring

2017, which corresponds to the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year compared to the same period last year. The country exported 300,000 tons of dairy products in spring.

Dairy products exports stood at 850,000 tons in the past Iranian calendar year (which ended on March 20), while the figure was 600,000 tons in its preceding year, Fars news agency reported in late March quoting Rokni as saying.

The official announced that Russia joined the importers of Iran's dairy products in the past year.

Jahangiri reinstated as first vice president

POLITICS TEHRAN — In an announcement released on Tuesday, Es'haq Jahangiri was officially reappointed as first vice president.

In his appointment President Rouhani praised Jahangiri for his services during his first four-year in the top post.

Jahangiri contested the May presidential election, but withdrew candidacy in favor of Rouhani.

As a pragmatic politician, Jahangiri is a member of the central council of the Servants of Construction Party. During the live televised debates his popularity rose greatly, even superseding Rouhani in some cases which also involved Ebrahim Raisi, director of the Imam Reza shrine, Tehran mayor

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and Mostafa Mirsalim from the rival camp.

Jahangiri was the minister of industries and mines from 1997 to 2005, under former President Mohammad Khatami. He had also served as the governor of Isfahan Province and a member of the parliament for two terms.

Jahangiri was born on January 21, 1958 in Sirjan County, Kerman Province. He graduated from the University of Kerman with a degree in physics. He later received a PhD from the Islamic Azad University in industrial management.

Analysts as well as the common people are of the view that Jahangiri will be the moderates' candidate in the 2021 presidential elections.

ARTICLE

By Kaveh Madani and Shirin Hakim

Trump's new world order inadvertently making our planet great again

Arguably one of the most unexpected events since the onset of the Trump administration's unconventional policy reform is the United States backing out of the Paris Climate Agreement, severing alliances with world leaders tackling climate change.

Meanwhile, a rescaling of governance regarding climate change has taken root, where various stakeholders ranging from long-standing autonomous nations to state leaders are emerging as key players in combatting climate change. Could we be transitioning into a new world order on the environmental front, where Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement is inadvertently inspiring increased environmental responsibility amongst global players?

Trump's reason for retracting from the Paris agreement is that the deal appeared unfair to American laborers, favoring instead the emerging economies of China and India. He expressed interest in a new accord that will be "more fairly constructed", meanwhile choosing to invest in coal and fossil fuel development, leaving climate scientists and world leaders alike in dismay.

Immediately following Trump's declaration of intent to pull out of the agreement in June 2017, various world leaders including Germany, France and Italy verbalized their disappointment with the move. Perhaps the most salient was a statement delivered by French President Emmanuel Macron, urging Americans, the French, and other global citizens to continue to work towards the commitments made in Paris to "make our planet great again." China and the EU also saw this as a call to strengthen their commitments to the accord, strengthening their alliance to ensure energy transitions towards a clean low-carbon economy that will benefit the international community. **->12**

Tehran says won't allow Trump violate nuclear deal at Iran's expense

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said late on Monday that Tehran will not allow the Trump administration violate the nuclear deal at the expense of Iran.

And the world supports Iran in this respect, he said in a televised interview.

At the G20 summit in Hamburg in July U.S. President Donald Trump asked fellow states not to invest in Iran, remarks which contravened the letter and the spirit of the nuclear deal.

By making such remarks, analysts say,

Trump wants to provoke Iran to withdraw the nuclear and then fault Iran for it.

Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, Chi-

na and Russia - finalized the text of the nuclear agreement in July 2015. The deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), went into effect in January 2016.

The UN Security Council turned the JCPOA into international law by endorsing a resolution in July 2015.

Qassemi said the JCPOA is an international agreement and the U.S. will be isolated if it breaches its commitments under the deal.

The world has changed and one country cannot violate international agreements, he noted.

"The JCPOA is an international agreement and the U.S. will be isolated if it breaches its commitments under the deal."

Rise of electric cars challenges the world's thirst for oil

Recent announcements by the UK and France of plans to ban sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040 have amplified two critical questions for the petroleum industry: will electric vehicles (EVs) cause oil demand to decline and, if so, when?

Executives at the world's biggest oil companies have offered some answers — sceptics would call them guesses — in recent days, after revealing generally strong second-quarter results which raised optimism about near-term prospects even as doubts grow about the long term.

Ben van Beurden, chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, made no attempt to disguise the challenge facing "Big Oil". Companies must become more discriminating about which oilfields

to develop, he said, with only the most low-cost and productive likely to remain competitive.

He said "peak demand" could come as soon as the late 2020s in the most bullish scenarios for EV uptake. But that would require "much more aggressive" policy action on climate change and faster innovation in battery technology than seen so far.

Many in the oil industry think the transition will take longer. ExxonMobil expects oil demand to keep growing into the 2040s, albeit at a slowing pace.

Which of these scenarios turns out to be correct will be determined by many factors but the future of the car is most important. Passenger vehicles accounted for 26 per cent of global oil demand in 2015, more than aviation, ship-

ping and petrochemicals combined, according to the International Energy Agency.

Volvo said last month that all new models would be electric or hybrid from 2019. Tesla, meanwhile, stepped up efforts to break into the mass market with the launch last month of its much-hyped Model 3, billed as the company's first affordable EV with prices starting at \$35,000.

Bob Dudley, chief executive of BP said that, while the rise of EVs was "inevitable", conventional cars would continue to dominate for decades. "We've forecast that 100m electric vehicles will be on the road by 2035. Even if you doubled that to 200m, there would still be 2bn conventional vehicles on the road," he said.

(Source: Financial Times)



© Jameelamy/ Noora Jaafari

Partial lunar eclipse seen in Iran

Photo shows a partial lunar eclipse which occurred Monday night. In Tehran it started at 23:52 local time and continued till 01:20 on Tuesday.

Partial lunar eclipse is when the Earth moves in between the Moon and the Sun but the three do not line up exactly. Only part of the Moon comes under the Earth's shadow, and looks darker.

Syrian army, allies make new advances against terrorists

Syrian government forces, backed by allied fighters from popular defense groups, have made fresh territorial gains against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists in the country's southernmost province of Suwayda.

Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Syria's official news agency SANA on Tuesday that Syrian troops and their allies had established full control over Tal Asadi, Tal Jarin, Tal al-Rayahin and al-Sabouni districts as well as an area expanding 100 square kilometers.

The sources added that Syrian army units and their allied forces, who launched a major clean-up operation in Suwayda last Friday, are now combing liberated areas for mines and hidden improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in addition to last remnants of ISIL Takfiris.

The developments came only a day after elite units of the army, positioned on the strategic Mount Qasioun that overlooks the capital Damascus, struck Jobar district, located some 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) east of the Old City walls, as well as Ain Terma suburb, located 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) east of Old Damascus.

Syrian army troops also struck militant outposts in Zamalka, located 3.5 kilometers (2.2 miles) northeast of Old Damascus, Harasta city and Kafr Batna town.

Meanwhile, Syrian Air Force jets bombarded ISIL positions in al-Bawlieh Mountain, Ma'adan subdistrict, al-Khamaiseh, al-Jaber and al-Numaisa districts south of the northern city of Raqqah.

Elsewhere in Salamiyah district of the central province of Hama, Syrian military aircraft pounded ISIL position, inflicting heavy losses on their ranks.

Syria has been fighting different foreign-sponsored militant and terrorist groups since March 2011. United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimated last August that more than 400,000 people had been killed until then.

(Source: SANA)

Rouhani names cabinet

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's **d e s k** recently sworn-in President Hassan Rouhani submitted a roster of his ministers to the parliament (the Majlis) for approval.

Rouhani, who was inaugurated as president for a second four-year term on Saturday, has introduced ministers for 17 ministerial seats, introducing no one for the Ministry Science, Research and Technology.

Statutorily, Rouhani has to announce all 18 ministerial picks in a fortnight from inauguration day. Parliamentary committees have one week to debate each of the nominees, having the right to summon them for possible disambiguation.

Eight members of the outgoing administration have been replaced, including incumbent Economy Minister Ali Tayebnia.

Below is a list of appointees for top posts in the new administration.

■ **Mohammad Javad Zarif**
Foreign Affairs Ministry



Former UN ambassador and the incumbent foreign minister, Zarif was Iran's chief negotiator on the nuclear deal reached in 2015.

In August 2013, the U.S.-educated Zarif was approved as foreign minister by a 232-36 vote. Zarif has heaped an equal share of praise and vitriol all along the way. While he was branded a "spy" during the nuclear negotiations by his dye-in-the-wool opponents, President Hassan Rouhani awarded the "Medal of Merit" to him for the signature achievement in 2016.

Also, in 2016, Zarif and his American counterpart John Kerry won the annual Chatham House Prize for making significant contributions to improving international relations.

Zarif has the full trust of Ayatollah Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution. In one of his speeches, the Leader hailed the top diplomat as "pious and brave."

Zarif's intuitive use of social media is unrivaled among ministers. He continues to post consequential tweets on sensitive foreign policy issues.

In reinstituting Zarif as foreign minister, Rouhani seeks to fix strained relations with regional Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, accelerate the Syrian peace efforts with the aid of Russia and Turkey, and finally shield the nu-

clear deal against the antagonistic Trump administration.

■ **Amir Hatami**
Defense Ministry



The fourteenth defense minister since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the incumbent Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami has been proposed to replace Hossein Dehghan in Rouhani's second administration.

The 51-year-old battle-hardened Hatami, if approved, will be the first defense pick from the Iranian army in twenty four years, with five of his predecessors from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Hatami will have the responsibility to orchestrate Iranian forces against any possible threats in the beleaguered Middle East, bring about structural changes in the military in line with asymmetric, guerrilla wars.

Also, the laconic commander has to oversee a major part of the country's missile program.

Following the recent test-launch of Iran's first satellite-carrier rocket, Simorgh (Phoenix), Hatami proudly said Iran can now run the entire "space cycle which includes station, satellite-carrier, satellite, designing, and navigation."

A key issue will be Iran's increasing military cooperation with Russia in the Syrian battleground and future arms deals with Moscow.

A major focus of Iran's Defense Ministry over the past years has been the development of unmanned aerial vehicles, a macro-policy Hatami has to continue.

■ **Mahmoud Alavi**
Intelligence Ministry



Rouhani has decided to keep the 63-year-old Alavi in the sensitive post. Alavi won a 227-38 confidence vote in 2013.

Prior to the ministerial position, Alavi had served as parliamentary representative for the southern city of Lamerd for 12 years.

His first tenure as intelligence minister coincided with the Islamic State ravaging through virtually the

entire Middle East, particularly Syria and Iraq.

While the self-styled terrorist extremist group struck many places in Europe and other Middle East countries, it failed to arrange such raids on Iranian soil until before June 7, 2017.

At least 16 people were killed when six attackers mounted simultaneous gun and suicide bomb assaults on Iran's Parliament building and the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's founder.

All ISIS-linked assailants were immediately killed, and a number of their sympathizers arrested in different hideouts across the country.

While Alavi came under indirect criticism for the events, he said upwards of a hundred terrorist efforts had been thwarted.

Just days after, Alavi said the mastermind behind the Tehran attacks had been killed by security forces.

A highlight in Alavi's performance is June 2016 when terrorists planning to blow up 50 locations were arrested before operations in Tehran and three other central provinces.

■ **Abbas Akhondi**
Transport Ministry



Rouhani has reintroduced Abbas Akhondi to lead the important Ministry of Transport and Housing.

The 60-year-old Akhondi has a PhD degree in political economy from the Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL).

He narrowly secured a vote of confidence from the parliament in 2013 in a 159-107 vote.

Akhondi, a technocrat, was the minister of housing and urban development from 1993 to 1997 under the Hashemi Rafsanjani administration.

He will face a tough job if approved as minister. At the wake of the international nuclear deal, he managed to forge two megadeals with Airbus and Boeing to renovate the country's aging air fleet.

Also, Akhondi has to handle the huge task of modernizing the country's rail network.

Nearly ten provinces out of 31 lack access to railway network though first railways were built nearly a century ago.

A difficult mission for Akhondi is to lure foreign investment into the rail industry, estimated to need approximately \$25 billion by the end of the six five-year development plan (2021).

In addition to stretching the do-

mestic rail network, other priority projects include railway electrifications and the planned international freight route, called the North-South International Transport Corridor.

■ **Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi**
Communications Ministry



He is the youngest proposed minister. Rouhani proposed him for the Ministry of ICT. Born in Jahrom, Kerman province in 1982, Jahromi is a graduate of electrical engineering from the University of Water and Electricity.

Jahromi occupied a managerial position in the Ministry of Intelligence in 2002. In 2009 he moved to the Ministry of ICT.

The young official has also worked six years as director general in the Radio Communications and Regulation Organization. He has been member to the board of directors of Rightel Telecommunication Company.

He has been the CEO of Telecommunication Infrastructure Company for over a year now.

■ **Bijan Namdar Zanganeh**
Oil Ministry



Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has been proposed as minister of petroleum. He held the same position in the first Rouhani administration. He headed the same ministry from 1997 to 2005 under Mohammad Khatami.

He was minister of energy from 1988 to 1997 under the Rafsanjani administration. Zanganeh was also agriculture jihad minister from 1983 to 1988.

Zanganeh was born in Kermanshah in 1953. He spent his early school years in his hometown before moving to Tehran where he received his high school diploma. He received his MSc in civil engineering from the University of Tehran in 1977 and then became a civil engineering professor at Khajeh Nasireddin Toosi University of Technology until his retirement in 2006.

Under his leadership Iran succeeded to regain its share of the oil market after sanctions against the country were lifted based on the landmark nuclear deal, which went into effect in January 2016. Also, under his management the Oil Ministry has struck contracts with the French Total and other contracts are on the way.

■ **Mohammad Shariatmadari**
Industries, Mine, and Trade Ministry



Holding a master's degree in commercial management, Shariatmadari has been proposed as minister of industries, mine, and trade. He served as vice president for executive affairs since Rouhani took office in 2013.

Shariatmadari served as acting minister of sports and youth from October to November 2013. He was the minister of commerce from 1997 to 2005 under Khatami.

He became a member of Central Revolution Committee following the 1979 revolution. He is among the founders of the Intelligence Ministry and served as its deputy chief.

■ **Habibollah Bitaraf**
Energy Ministry



Habibollah Bitaraf has been proposed as minister of energy. He was energy minister for 8 years during the Khatami presidency. He is remembered as a capable minister and honest person during his days in the ministry.

He is a University of Tehran alumnus. During his serving as minister, many huge national projects were launched such as numerous power plants and dam construction projects.

He served as governor of Yazd province from 1986 to 1989.

Bitaraf was among the students who stormed the United States embassy in Tehran in 1979.

■ **Masoud Karbasian**
Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry



Karbasian has been nominated as minister of finance and economic affairs.

He has been acting as deputy economy minister and head of the

Customs Organization under incumbent Economy Minister Ali Tayebnia. Karbasian has also served as deputy minister of trade.

Karbasian holds a PhD in commercial management. He has acted as top advisor to mayor of Tehran, head of domestic trade at ministry of trade, director of trade at Ministry of Petroleum, director of foreign trade at Ministry of Trade, director of planning at Ministry of Trade, and head of economic affairs and trade at Ministry of Heavy Industries.

■ **Mohammad Bathaei**
Education Ministry



Rouhani has nominated Mohammad Bathaei as the new head of the Education Ministry.

Bathaei is an educator and politician. He previously served as the deputy education minister.

He also served as the acting minister from October 19, 2016 after the resignation of Ali Asghar Fani until November 1.

Bathaei served as director of the National Strategic Monitoring Center of the Budget and Planning Organization.

He has a bachelor in educational planning and management, and a master's degree in state management.

■ **Abbas Salehi**
Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry



Abbas Salehi has been named as the new minister of culture and Islamic guidance.

Salehi is a scholar and journalist who is currently holding office as the deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance. He was acting culture minister from October 19 until November 1, 2016.

Salehi is a contributor author to the Tafsir Rahnama and has been a member of Qom Seminary's preaching affairs board of trustees.

He had received a PhD in philosophy from a university linked to Qom Seminary.

Salehi also served as deputy culture minister for cultural heritage and activities.

He is also a cleric, but doesn't wear the usual outfits Shia clerics do. → 3



ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to **purchase 30,000 M/Ts 10 PCT M/L CRUDE DEGUMMED SOYBEAN OIL**, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers that are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday 12/8/ 2017 until Monday 28/8/ 2017

from the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran), along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 15:00 (during working hours) to the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 15:30 with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).

Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 398,354** or its equivalent in IRR equal to 15,317,500,000

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no. **00982188957477** (foreign trade department) .



ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to **purchase 30,000 M/Ts 10 PCT M/L RBD OLEIN PALM OIL**, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers that are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday 12/8/ 2017 until Monday 28/8/ 2017

from the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran), along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 14:00 (during working hours) to the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 14:30 with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).

Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 379,302** or its equivalent in IRR equal to 14,584,900,000

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no. **00982188957477** (foreign trade department) .

Rouhani names cabinet

2 →
Rahmani Fazli
Interior Ministry



Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli has been kept as interior minister in Rouhani's new cabinet.

Rahmani Fazli was born in Shirvan in 1959. He is a graduate of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. He also received a PhD in geography from Tarbiat Modarres University.

He served as the president of Supreme Audit Court from 2008 to 2013.

Rahmani Fazli has also served parliament representative, deputy chairman of the national TV, deputy head of economic and international affairs at the Interior Ministry.

In 2013, when he was first named as interior minister, Rahmani Fazli was given 256 votes in favor and 19 against, while 9 MPs did not attend the session.

Masoud Soltanifar
Youth and Sports Ministry



Masoud Soltanifar retained his position as the minister of youth and sports. He was previously head of the Cultural

Heritage, Handcrafts and Tourism Organization.

Soltanifar was Rouhani's candidate for the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2013, a nomination that was rejected by the parliament. In October 2016, he was again nominated for the position and was approved by the new parliament.

He also served as a Tehran councilor and governor of Gilan Province. He was previously deputy head of the Physical Education Organization.

He has received his MA degree in political science from the University of Tehran.

Mahmoud Hojjati
Agriculture Ministry



Mahmoud Hojjati has again been nominated as agriculture minister. He held the same position in the first term of Rouhani.

Born in Isfahan in 1955, he studied civil engineering at Isfahan University of Technology. He was transport minister from 1997 to 2000 and agriculture minister from 2001 to 2005 under President Khatami.

He was also governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province from 1989 to 1994.

Ali Rabiei
Labor Ministry

Ali Rabiei is proposed as labor minister, a post he held in Rouhani's first administration.

He was born in Tehran in 1955. He studied state management at the Univer-



sity of Tehran. He holds a master's degree in sociology and PhD in strategic management.

He was advisor to President Mohammad Khatami for social affairs from 1997 to 2005. He was also head of the presidential secretariat for homeland security committee at the Supreme National Security Council from 2002 to 2005, at the time the body was headed by Hassan Rouhani.

Rabiei was also deputy intelligence minister for parliamentary and legal affairs from 1987 to 1993. He is also a professor sociology, politics and economy at Tehran University.

Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi
Health Ministry



Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, the incumbent minister of health and medical education, is proposed to hold the same position.

He is the architect of the "health evolution plan" also known as "Rouhani-Care", a plan worked out to reform Iran's health-care system.

Born in Fariman in northeastern Kho-

rasan Razavi Province in 1959, he studied general medicine and ophthalmology at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. He undertook ant segment and cornea fellowship at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

He had served as advisor to Science Minister Mohammad Farhadi from 1997 to 2001.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi is also head of Noor Ophthalmology Complex, which he founded in 1993 and a co-founder of "Nooravaran Salamati Charity Foundation".

Alireza Avaie
Justice Ministry



Alireza Avaie is being proposed as minister of justice in the new Rouhani cabinet.

A native of the southwestern city of Dezful, he received an MA degree in private law from the University of Tehran.

He was prosecutor general of Dezful in 1979 and held the same position in Ahwaz in 1988. He was also the head of the department of justice in provinces of Lorestan, Markazi and Isfahan in 1994, 1998 and 2002 respectively. He held the same position in Tehran from 2005 to 2014.

He was a judge of the Supreme Court and the deputy interior minister in 2014.

Writing by Ali Kushki, Mehdi Sepahvand, Negar Assadi, and Mohammad Homaefar; Editing by Mohammad Ali Saki

French President Macron wants to give a role to his wife

French President Emmanuel Macron wants to formalize the role of the president's wife amid controversy over the cost and status of the first lady.

The president's office is preparing a formal communication in coming days, Brigitte Macron's office said on Tuesday.

During his presidential campaign, the 39-year-old outspoken centrist promised more "transparency" on the issue. France's first lady doesn't have an official status.

As the president's popularity drops in polls, more than 270,000 people have signed a petition in the past few weeks against the plan to grant a tax-funded budget to finance his wife's activities.

Brigitte Macron currently has an office at the Elysee palace and a staff composed of two advisers and two secretaries, as well as bodyguards. Publicly, she is mostly seen at her husband's side.

The status of the president's partner appears to be a sensitive issue in France following a series of scandals in the past few decades, including Macron predecessor Francois Hollande's complex private life. There hasn't been a presidential spouse in the Elysee Palace since 2012, when former President Nicolas Sarkozy and his supermodel wife Carla Bruni left.

Hollande entered office in 2012 with his girlfriend Valerie Trierweiler at his side, but she left him after a tabloid magazine exposed Hollande's secret affair with actress Julie Gayet in 2014.

Gayet has never publicly appeared by Hollande's side. Macron once said he wants to end "French hypocrisy" about the status of presidential spouses. The person living with the president "must be able to play a role and be recognized for that role" but wouldn't be paid for it, he said before his election.

Macron has created an inseparable team with his wife Brigitte during his presidential campaign, a move more often seen on American political stages than in France. Brigitte Macron, 64, a former teacher at Emmanuel Macron's high school, attended most of her husband's rallies. The president doesn't hide that she is also his close political adviser.

(Source: AP)

Amnesty: Israel's ban on Al Jazeera a 'brazen attack'

Israel's decision to shut down Al Jazeera's operations in al-Quds (Jerusalem) sends a "chilling message that Israeli authorities will not tolerate critical coverage", Amnesty International has said.

"This is a brazen attack on media freedom in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories," Magdalena Mughrabi, Amnesty's deputy Middle East and North Africa director, said in a statement on Monday.

The sharp criticism came a day after Ayoub Kara, Israel's communications minister, proposed closing Al Jazeera's office in al-Quds, revoking press credentials of the network's Arabic and English journalists there and shutting down Al Jazeera's cable and satellite transmissions.

"Al Jazeera denounces this decision made by a state that claims to be 'the only democratic state in the Middle East,'" the network said in a statement, adding that Kara's reasons used to justify such a move were "odd and biased".

Amnesty said Israel "joins a host of other countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, which have demanded the channel's closure in the wake of a dispute between Persian Gulf countries and Qatar".

The crisis in the Persian Gulf began on June 5 when the House of Saud regime, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Bahrain cut ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting "terrorism". Qatar has vehemently rejected the allegations as "baseless".

On June 22, the Saudi regime-led group issued a 13-point list of demands, including the shutdown of Al Jazeera. Qatar has dismissed the list and rights groups have called the demand to close Al Jazeera an "unacceptable attack".

Amnesty called on Israel to "halt any attempt to silence critical media".

"All journalists should be free to carry out their work without facing harassment or intimidation," the rights group said, adding that Israel's move was a "repressive clampdown on freedom of expression".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly called for Al Jazeera's closure.

Amnesty's criticism follows condemnation by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

"Censoring Al Jazeera or closing its offices will not bring stability to the region, but it would put Israel firmly in the camp of some of the region's worst enemies of press freedom," CPJ's Middle East and North Africa program coordinator, Sherif Mansour, said in a statement on Monday.

Following the Israeli minister's announcement on Sunday, it remains unclear what the next steps will entail.

The director of Israel's government press office, which issues press credentials to journalists, said it would not distribute press cards if it believed that would endanger state security.

The blocking of the Al Jazeera network from broadcasting through cable and satellite companies requires special legislation.

The closure of Al Jazeera's offices has recently been a contentious subject between Kara and Gilad Erdan, the Israeli public security minister, who deflected the issue to police. Police reportedly advised Erdan back to the communications ministry.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

North Korea vows to teach U.S. 'severe lesson'

Trump urges countries to be "tough and decisive" towards N. Korea

North Korea is ready to give the United States a "severe lesson" if Washington takes military action against Pyongyang, pledging it will "under no circumstances" put its nuclear weapons and ballistic programs on the negotiating table, the country's foreign minister has said.

"We will under no circumstances put the nukes and ballistics rockets on [the] negotiating table," Ri Yong-ho said in a statement released on Monday in the Philippine capital Manila, where he was attending a regional meeting of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Neither shall we flinch even an inch from the road to bolstering up the nuclear forces chosen by ourselves unless the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the U.S. against the DPRK [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] are fundamentally eliminated."

Ri said that the situation on the Korean Peninsula was becoming more extreme because of arbitrary actions by the United States.

"We have no intention to use nuclear weapons against or threaten with nuclear weapons any other country except the U.S. unless it joins military action of the U.S. against North Korea," he said.

The warning came two days after the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved new sanctions to punish North Korea, including a ban on coal and other exports worth over \$1bn, for its Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) test-launches last month.

The latest UN resolution bans North Korean exports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. It also prohibits countries from increasing the numbers of North Korean laborers currently working abroad, bans new joint ventures with North Korea and any new investment in current joint ventures.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who also held a meeting with Ri, called for a de-escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Pyongyang also hit out at Beijing and Moscow, which has also offered North Korea diplomatic cover in the past.

On Sunday, North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri rejected Seoul's offer of military talks saying it "lacked sincerity", South Korean Yonhap news agency reported.

Trump urges countries to be "tough and decisive" towards North Korea

Meantime, the United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday praised other nations for addressing North Korea's missile program, days after the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) imposed new sanctions on Pyongyang over two intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July.

"After many years of failure, countries are coming together to finally address the dangers posed by North Korea. We must be tough & decisive." Trump wrote in a post on Twitter. The council passed the U.S.-drafted resolution on North Korea on Saturday.

Tillerson's remarks

Elsewhere, the U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday pressed Thai leaders for more action on North Korea during the highest level visit to Thailand by a U.S. official since a military coup in 2014 soured relations with the United States.

Tillerson's top priority has been urging Southeast Asian countries to do more to cut funding streams for North Korea.

The United States believes North Korean front companies are active in Thailand and is trying to encourage the Thais to shut them down, Assistant Secretary for East Asian



and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton told reporters aboard Tillerson's plane.

The companies are using Bangkok as a regional hub and change their names frequently, she said.

Before meeting Tillerson, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Thailand would support a UN resolution on new sanctions on Pyongyang over its missile tests. But he made no mention of specific action.

The United States was encouraging Thailand to take as many North Korean refugees as it can handle, Thornton said. Reuters reported exclusively last week that the number of North Koreans slipping illegally into Thailand has surged in recent months.

Thailand's own politics and human rights record were also in focus, as Washington strengthens relations with its oldest ally in the region after they were downgraded following the coup.

North Korea was also under fire at the ASEAN forum in Manila, where Tillerson said Pyongyang should signal it was prepared to resume talks by stopping its missile tests.

"The best signal that North Korea could send that they're prepared to talk would be to stop these missile launches," said Tillerson.

However, he said it was not a matter of stopping the launches by "a specific number of days or weeks".

"This is really about the spirit of these talks," he said. "And they can demonstrate that they are ready to sit in the spirit of finding their way forward in these talks by no longer conducting these missile tests."

However, Tillerson said the United States does not seek regime change, the collapse of the regime, an accelerated reunification of the peninsula or an excuse to send the U.S. military into North Korea.

Tillerson, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono "condemned in the strongest terms North Korea's unlawful pursuit of a nuclear weapons program and unprecedented ballistic missile activity since last year".

They called on the 10-nation ASEAN bloc "to maximize pressure on North Korea".

In an earlier statement released via its official KCNA news

agency, North Korea threatened to make the U.S. "pay the price for its crime... thousands of times" for drafting the sanctions, which were supported by North Korea's ally, China.

China says willing to pay the price for new North Korea sanctions

In another event, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China will pay the biggest price for the new United Nations sanctions against North Korea because of its close economic relationship with the country, but will always enforce the resolutions.

Speaking at a regional security forum in Manila on Monday, Wang said the new resolution showed China and the international community's opposition to North Korea's continued missile tests, the foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Owing to China's traditional economic ties with North Korea, it will mainly be China paying the price for implementing the resolution," the statement cited Wang as saying.

"But in order to protect the international non-proliferation system and regional peace and stability, China will as before fully and strictly properly implement the entire contents of the relevant resolution."

China has repeatedly said it is committed to enforcing increasingly tough UN resolutions on North Korea, though it has also said what it terms "normal" trade and ordinary North Koreans should not be affected.

Wang said that apart from the new sanctions, the resolution also made clear that the six party talks process, a stalled dialogue mechanism with North Korea that also includes Russia and Japan, should be restarted.

China appreciated comments earlier this month by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that the United States does not seek to topple the North Korea government and would like dialogue with Pyongyang at some point, Wang added.

Wang said Tillerson's "Four Nos" promise was a positive signal.

China "hopes North Korea can echo this signal from the United States", Wang added. (Source: agencies)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Tehran to host 1,278 companies in intl. building expo

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Some 887 Iranian and 391 foreign companies are to take part in the 17th International Exhibition of Building & Construction Industry in Tehran, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The foreign companies will come from 31 countries, including Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Spain, Italy, England, Canada, Austria, Ukraine, Belgium, Portugal, Taiwan, Denmark, Russia and etc., to attend the event which is to be held on August 12-15 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.



Liquidity grows 24.1% yr/yr

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's liquidity in the second month of current Iranian calendar year, Ordibehesht (April 21- May 21, 2017), showed 24.1 percent rise compared to the same time in the previous year, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to a report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), liquidity stood at 12.89 quadrillion rials (about \$337.8 billion) in the said month.

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

Asian markets slip amid weakening dollar

The U.S. dollar weakened more in early Asian trading on Tuesday, pressuring equities after big gains a day earlier.

But trading volume remains thin as many market participants are away on vacation.



Fresh dollar selling began just as the bulk of Asia stocks markets opened, recently putting The Wall Street Journal Dollar Index down 0.2%. The Japanese yen and Australian dollar hit their strongest levels of the day versus the U.S. dollar, rising 0.1% and 0.3% respectively.

Australian stocks opened modestly higher but quickly slid; the S&P/ASX 200 XJO, -0.52% was recently down 0.8% after seeing early strength on gains in iron-ore prices. BHP Billiton BHP, -0.23% and Rio Tinto RIO, -0.45% opened higher, though gains have eased to 0.5%. Meanwhile, the country's major banks have fallen about 1%.

As the dollar moved back down toward ¥110.60, the Nikkei NIK, -0.30% slid as well — as it often does when the Japanese currency strengthens. It was recently down 0.3%, dropping below 20,000. Similar-sized declines were seen in Taiwan Y9999, -0.10% and South Korea SEU, -0.17%.

"You may have a bit of correction once in a while, but from a long-term perspective returns are expected to be positive from Asia," said Andrew Gillan of asset manager Janus Henderson. He added that continued double-digit earnings growth makes regional stocks attractive.

(Source: The Marketwatch)

Non-oil exports from Shahid Rajaei Port rise 11% in 4 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Exports of non-oil products from Shahid Rajaei Port in Iran's southern Hormozgan Province rose 11 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22) compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

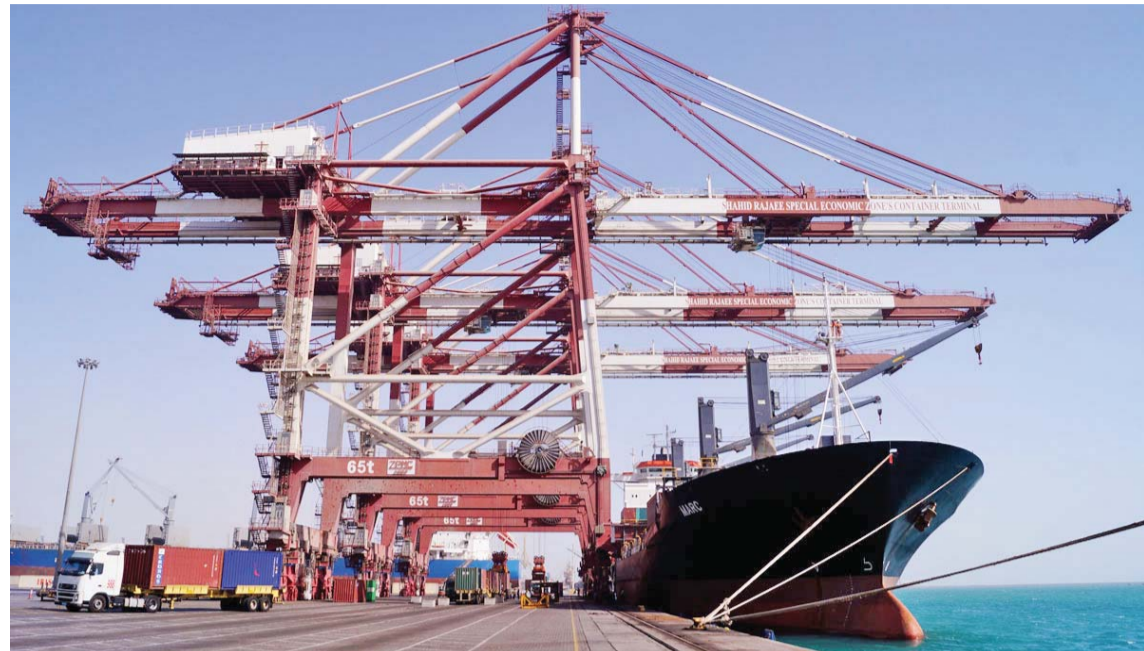
Allah-Morad Afifipour, the managing director of Hormozgan Province's Ports and Maritime Department, announced on Tuesday that 12 million tons of non-oil commodities mainly including minerals, metals, petrochemicals, and foodstuff have been exported from the port during the four-month period, Tasnim news agency reported.

The official said China, India, South Korea, Japan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and European countries have been the major export targets of the products.

Afifipour had previously said that loading and unloading of commodities at Shahid Rajaei Port increased five percent during the first four months of the current year compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Some 27.908 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded at Shahid Rajaei Port during the four-month period, he said.

The official said in late June that tens of projects worth 30 trillion rials (about \$799 million) are under-



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

Mitsubishi Motors to take plug-in-hybrid SUV to Iran

Mitsubishi Motors will introduce the plug-in-hybrid version of its Outlander sport utility vehicle to the Iranian market as early as fall, eager to capture burgeoning demand for environmentally friendly autos.

The lifting of Western sanctions over nuclear activities has spurred the Middle Eastern nation's auto production and imports. And severe air pollution there is fueling demand for green vehicles.

The redesigned Outlander, which curbs use of the conventional engine in favor of the twin electric motors, will be built in Japan and shipped to Iran.

Even with reduced import duties and other incentives for electric cars and hybrids, the lingering effects of the sanctions have held back imports of such vehicles. A network of rapid-charging stations has yet to be built.

Plug-in hybrids, which employ both conventional en-



gines and electric motors, can be charged at home. Mitsubishi Motors has sold plug-in hybrids in Japan and Western Europe, with plans to broaden into the U.S. and Eastern Europe this year.

Iran will be the first Middle Eastern market where it rolls them out. The country ranks around 20th among the world's auto markets, with annual sales of around 1 million units.

Demand there for new vehicles is seen rising as Iranians finally take the opportunity to change out the older imports they have long driven.

Mitsubishi Motors' Iranian sales volume grew 16-fold on the year to about 3,200 units in 2016. The company plans to increase Iran dealerships to about 50 from the current 41 this year and hopes to boost brand recognition and sales. (Source: Nikkei)

Balkan trade war brews over huge Croatian import fee rise

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The Balkans have become embroiled in a trade war over agricultural health checks after Croatia raised import fees on some farm products by around 220 percent, triggering countermeasures by Serbia and threats from others.

Last month European Union-member Croatia raised its fees for phytosanitary controls -- agricultural checks for pests and viruses -- on fruits and vegetables at its borders to 2,000 kuna (\$319) from 90 kuna.

It cited compliance with EU standards and protection of its consumers.

But ministers from EU candidates Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, as well as from fellow EU aspirant Bosnia, said the move violated their respective pre-accession agreements with the bloc under which they were guaranteed equal access to markets.

"These measures are absolutely pro-

tectionist in an economic sense. They are populist in political sense and cannot be justified. They are (not) in the spirit of good neighborly relations," Serbian Trade Minister Rasim Ljajic told reporters after meeting his Balkan counterparts in Sarajevo.

The ministers from the four countries called on Croatia to withdraw its decision and invited the European Commission to get involved to solve an issue they said violated the free trade principles.

They also asked for an urgent meeting with the Croatian agriculture minister. However, until the issue has been resolved, each country will take counter-measures it considered adequate to protect its own economic interests, they said.

Economic war in sight?

Ljajic said that Serbia has already stepped up phytosanitary controls on

all organic produce from Croatia and will increase them further. This means that goods, including meat and dairy products, could be held up at borders from 15-30 days.

"Our goal is not to wage any kind of economic war but to protect our economic interests and the free flow of goods," he said.

Macedonia and Montenegro said they would file complaints to the World Trade Organization, of which they are members, and seek mechanisms through the body for compensation from Croatia, which raised import fees at a peak of the high season for export of fruits and vegetables from their countries.

Besides discriminating against importers on its own market, Croatia is also making exports to the EU more difficult and expensive because it is vital entry point for imports to the EU from

the Balkans, the ministers said.

Commenting on the explanation from Croatia that their move was not aimed against the neighbors but against all non-EU members, Bosnia's Foreign Trade Minister Mirko Sarovic said:

"Croatia does not import raspberries from Trinidad and Tobago but from Serbia and Bosnia." He said that Bosnia was considering an "adequate response" but declined to elaborate.

Most countries in the region import more than they export to Croatia. Only Serbia operates a trade surplus with its neighbor, with exports in 2016 reaching 116 million euros (\$137 million) versus imports worth 79 million euros.

Relations remain strained between the two former Yugoslav countries and bitter foes during the Balkan wars of the 1990s, despite improvements in investments, the flow of people and capital.



**ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN**

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to **purchase 200 M/TS 10 PCT M/L UNSALTED LACTIC BUTTER**, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers that are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday 12/8/ 2017 until Monday 28/8/ 2017

from the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 13:00 (during working hours) to the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 13:30 with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).

Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 63,976** or its equivalent in IRR equal to 2,460,000,000

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no.**00982188957477**(foreign trade department) .



**ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER
GOVERNMENT TRADING CORPORATION OF IRAN**

The Government Trading Corporation of Iran (hereinafter referred to as GTC), affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, intends to **purchase 60,000 M/TS 10 PCT M/L ROW SUGAR**, through single stage international tender

All of qualified companies and suppliers that are interested to bid above tender are invited to receive tender documents from Saturday 12/8/ 2017 until Monday 28/8/ 2017

from the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).along with an official letter of introduction.

The bid participants are required to submit their stamped and sealed envelopes containing their offers latest on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 15:00 (during working hours) to the secretary of tenders committee located on the 4th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on Tuesday 3/10/2017 at 15:45 with the presence of bidder's representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, No 12, Jahad Square, Tehran, Iran).

Bid bond: the bid bond worth **EUR 481,490** or its equivalent in equal to IRR 18,514,253,000

For more information, you may refer to our website www.gtc-portal.com or contact us by phone no.**00982188957477**(foreign trade department) .

Oil prices fall as Libyan field resumes production

Oil prices slipped in Asian trading on Tuesday following a recovery in output at Libya's largest oil field and as doubts about OPEC-led production cuts continue to drag.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures were down 11 cents, or 0.2 percent, at \$52.26 a barrel at 0629 GMT, after dipping 0.1 percent in the previous session.

U.S. crude futures were down 7 cents, or 0.1 percent, at \$49.32 a barrel, having fallen 0.4 percent on Monday.

Production from Libya's 270,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) Sharara field was returning to normal after a brief disruption when armed protesters broke into a control room in the coastal city of Zawiya, the National Oil Corpora-



tion (NOC) said on Monday.

Libya was exempted from a push to

cut global production and bolster oil prices led by the Organization of the

Petroleum

Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other big producers like Russia.

The recovery of the North African country's output has complicated OPEC's efforts to curb supply, fuelling doubts over the effectiveness of the production cuts. Libya churned out 1.03 million bpd in July, according to the latest Reuters survey.

OPEC output hit a 2017-high in July and its exports marked an record.

Still, Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, plans to cut supplies to most buyers in Asia by as much as 10 percent in September, sources told Reuters on Tuesday. Asian buyers have been mostly shielded from the cuts until now.

(Source: Reuters)

Saudi Arabia to cut crude allocations in Sep. by at least 520,000 bpd

State oil company Saudi Aramco will cut crude oil allocations to its customers worldwide in September by at least 520,000 barrels per day, an industry source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Tuesday.

The cuts in allocations are in line with Saudi Arabia's commitments with the OPEC-led supply reduction pact, under which the top oil exporter is required to cut 486,000 bpd.

Saudi Arabia will cut supplies to most buyers in Asia by up to 10 percent in September, multiple sources with knowledge of the matter have said.

"The Saudi decision to take an ax to its Asian crude allocations shows it means business (and) gives credence to its pledge to do 'whatever it takes' to normalize bulging global oil inventories," PVM oil analyst, Stephen Brennock, told CNBC on Tuesday.

Brennock argued Asian buyers would soon be forced to become in-



creasingly reliant on producers in the Atlantic Basin in order to meet their crude oil requirements.

He also suggested that Russia would most likely gain further market share from Saudi Arabia as a result of the Middle Eastern country's self-imposed cut to crude oil allocations.

"(While) it helps to lift sentiment in the short term, there's no guarantee of long-term price support as other oil exporters including Russia, the U.S. and Iran rush to fill the shortfall," Brennock said.

(Source: CNBC)

Uniper says Europe needs to find new gas sources, fend off U.S.

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — European gas suppliers will have to take a more proactive role in tapping into diverse supply sources in view of United States attempts to push its liquefied natural gas (LNG) into Europe, the CEO of German utility Uniper said on Tuesday.

Uniper is one of five western firms that have invested in Nord Stream 2, a Russian gas export pipeline to Europe, which latest U.S. sanctions related to Russia's activities in Crimea will make harder to realize.

"The core reason (for the sanctions) are strategic economic interests, meaning the targeted dominance of the U.S. in energy markets," Klaus Schaefer said in a speech prepared for a call with reporters on first-half earnings.

He said that European buyers needed to compete with those in Asia for LNG if they wanted to secure supply from the world market, where U.S. cargoes were some 50 percent more



expensive compared with European references prices.

"Nobody wants to pay such a premium," he said.

He also said that European gas suppliers may look at new ways to produce synthetic gas from surplus renewable power.

Uniper is among companies experimenting with so-called wind gas, which could find its way into gas distribution networks via electrolysis and help make up for future natural gas shortfalls.

Ukraine starts buying oil from Iran

Ukraine from June started buying crude oil from Iranian contractors, according to the State Fiscal Service.

Thus, if in June Ukraine received crude oil from this country for \$236,000, supplies in July amounted to \$5.442 million.

In general, in January-July Ukraine imported 508,105 tons of crude oil worth \$213.001 million, in particular from Azerbaijan for \$183.858 million, Kazakhstan for \$17.504 million, Iran for \$5.678 million, and from other countries for \$5.961 million.

In particular, in July the country imported 152,655 tons of oil for \$30.224 million. (Source: kyivpost.com)

Chevron, Total pull all foreign staff in Venezuela

Repsol SA pulled all foreign workers from its oil fields in Venezuela amid a deepening political crisis, while Chevron Corp. and Total SA have removed a small number of employees, said people with knowledge of the companies. Norway's Statoil ASA has withdrawn its expatriate staff.

Repsol field workers left the country in the past few weeks, two people said, asking not to be identified discussing a confidential matter. A skeleton staff remains in Caracas, one of the people said. Chevron has removed fewer than 10 foreign employees and retains a substantial expatriate workforce there, said people with knowledge who weren't authorized to discuss the operations. Statoil withdrew its last three foreign workers before the July 30 election, Erik Haaland, a company spokesman said.

The departure of workers will be a concern to the government because oil output, which has tumbled over the past two years, accounts for 95 percent of Venezuela's foreign-currency earnings. Repsol gets about 10 percent of its production from the country, where it owns a stake in the Carabobo heavy-oil field. The Spanish company also is a partner in the Perla project, Latin America's largest offshore gas deposit, together with Eni SpA.

A spokesman for Rome-based Eni said the company is keeping only essential expatriate personnel in the country. It isn't currently considering an evacuation but continues to monitor the situation, he said.

Several Chevron expatriates who were traveling outside of Venezuela have been told not to immediately return, according to one of the people. Employees whose assignments were scheduled to end within the next six months had their contracts cut short, and some were asked to do Venezuela-related work remotely from the U.S. or other countries, the person said.

Chevron, in an emailed statement, said it doesn't comment on "security or personnel issues." (Source: Bloomberg)



LONGINES

SARMAN CO.

1832 Dr. Shariati Ave. Next to Pol-E-Roomi Tehran IRAN
Tel.: +98 21 226.137.52



The Longines Master Collection

Why Trump will fire John Kelly too

By Dustin McKissen

By all accounts, retired Marine General and new White House chief of staff John Kelly is honorable, intelligent, capable of managing complex organizations, and fears no man.

His title may be chief of staff, but Kelly is really more like the perfect chief operating officer for an organization with a CEO who has a constant need for the spotlight.



And though the White House is likely to be far more productive and functional with an empowered COO, President Donald Trump's inability to share the spotlight means John Kelly will ultimately be pushed out the door.

Failed presidency

Right now, Trump seems to understand that he's on the brink of a failed presidency, and he has brought in a COO to

create a functioning team. That's not playing armchair psychologist: Scaramucci's firing is proof that Trump has given Kelly more authority than Reince Priebus (or any other Trump administration official, including Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump) has had.

What if John Kelly is as good at being the White House chief of staff as he was at being a Marine? What if he gets credit for keeping the president from tweeting the country's way into a war or recession? Will there suddenly be an issue of TIME magazine with "President Kelly" on the cover? If that happens, we're likely to relive a familiar chain of events:

A CEO with a vision and a COO who relishes the role of making the trains run on time can do big things. One need only look at Steve Jobs, Tim Cook, and the nation-sized pile of cash they built at Apple to see an example of how the two roles should function together.

Jobs was a CEO with a vision, but (and it's not a word typically associated with the Apple founder) he had the humility to realize he needed an empowered COO to make his vision a reality.

Donald Trump's management style more closely resembles Dwight Schrute's of The Office, who, once promoted to Regional Manager, made himself his own assistant — because in his megalomaniacal view no one else had the skill or ability to do the job.

Kelly won't last

That's why John Kelly won't last. He will be pushed out because Trump, like his friend and advisor Rudy Giuliani, cannot tolerate anyone else getting the credit.

In fact, if you want to get a preview of the ultimate outcome of the Trump/Kelly relationship, revisit the way Giuliani fired NYPD Chief Bill Bratton after Bratton started getting credit for the drastic decrease in crime during Giuliani's tenure as mayor.

Ultimately John Kelly will be fired because he will do a good job at bringing order and stability to the White House and his integrity will make the entire country — Republican and Democrat — look to him as a source of stability and sanity.

No matter how much he discourages it or avoids it, the spotlight will shine brightly on John Kelly specifically because he is an actual leader.

And Donald Trump is a CEO who never shares the spotlight.

(Source: CNBC)

Will Trump's hardball tactics work on China and North Korea?

By Jennifer Lind

As North Korea develops an intercontinental nuclear capability, President Donald Trump has veered from forbearance to frustration regarding China's role. Earlier this summer Trump told Chinese President Xi Jinping, "I appreciate the things that you have done" on North Korea; more recently, however, his tweets have been laced with irritation. "They do nothing for us with North Korea, just talk," Trump declared. "We will no longer allow this to continue. China could easily solve this problem!"

Beijing may have temporarily mollified the Trump administration, which was pleased by Chinese support for tighter UN sanctions against North Korea. But despite Washington's hopes, China won't solve the North Korea problem, regardless of how often the Trump administration insists that it can or must.

To be sure, Beijing has leverage over Pyongyang; trade with China comprises 90% of North Korea's trade, including vital imports such as food and oil. Furthermore, North Korean businesses have set up joint ventures with Chinese firms, which allow Pyongyang access to the global economy. Beijing could crack down on these relationships.

While China has leverage, it won't use it to pressure North Korea. As I found in recent conversations with scholars and government officials in Beijing, the Chinese diagnose the problem and its solution very differently, and have very different interests at stake.

The Americans see North Korea as a dangerous rogue state that broke international law to acquire nuclear weapons. But China sees North Korea as motivated by insecurity. The Chinese say that because the United States and South Korea are so much more powerful, and because the United States goes around the world toppling governments, it's no wonder that Pyongyang wants nuclear weapons. In their view, North Korea is not the menacing rogue state; America is. "You need to understand," several people in Beijing told me, "the Americans are the source of their fear."

How to solve the problem?

The Chinese feel "unfairly burdened" (as a recent China Daily op-ed said) at being seen as the key to a solution. In their view, Washington, not Beijing, is the key; only the Americans (by reducing North Korea's fear) can influence Pyongyang.

The Chinese urge the United States to stop the military exercises with South Korea that frighten the North, give security assurances to Pyongyang, and withdraw military forces from South Korea. (Washington does not see these



Despite Washington's hopes, China won't solve the North Korea problem, regardless of how often the Trump administration insists that it can or must.

as bargaining chips but as essential for maintaining readiness and deterrence on the peninsula.)

China also has very different interests at stake. While North Korea's intercontinental nuclear capability is a game-changer for the Americans, it isn't for the Chinese, who have already been living with North Korean nuclear weapons.

China worries most about political stability on the Korean peninsula. The Chinese fear that serious economic pressure would risk causing Kim Jong Un's regime to collapse, which could unleash chaos on the peninsula, and usher in a variety of long-term problems.

The Chinese worry that North Korean regime collapse would send refugees flooding across their border, and are alarmed by the prospect of military intervention by South Korea and the United States. Bruce W. Bennett of RAND and I modeled the requirements for military missions in a post-collapse North Korea: for example, humanitarian relief, border control operations, and missions to find

"loose nukes." Performing these missions would require hundreds of thousands of troops.

Imagine this scenario from China's perspective: the prospect of serious instability, and massive military intervention by two powerful armies, right on its border. Because China intends to intervene as well, this scenario has the potential for dangerous escalation. This -- not a North Korean intercontinental strike capability -- is Beijing's nightmare.

Demographic problem

Then there are the longer-term concerns. The Chinese face a potential demographic problem in Jilin province, in Yanbian autonomous prefecture, where a substantial amount of the population is ethnically Korean. (Many North Koreans fled there during the years of famine.) Beijing worries that the area's demographics will become too Korean, encouraging secessionist feeling. The Chinese Communist Party already has enough of this on its hands in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Taiwan.

North Korean collapse, and Korean

unification, also have implications for the broader military competition between China and the United States. North Korea currently provides a buffer between China and American troops in South Korea.

The Chinese fear that if Korea unifies, American troops would remain, and China would lose this buffer. The Chinese also say that they like that North Korea preoccupies U.S. diplomacy, military planning, and force structure: that without the North Korean thorn in the American side, Washington might turn its gaze toward Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Thus while the Chinese certainly would prefer that North Korea not have nuclear weapons, their greatest fear is regime collapse. "At times China will probably put more pressure on North Korea," one Chinese scholar told me, "but we will not fundamentally change our position."

Getting Beijing to act against its own interests will be hard, if not impossible, and will require more than frustrated tweets (dismissed by China's state media as "emotional venting"). To get China to act against its own interests, the Trump administration would have to make a deal. What does China want that Washington could give it?

But a deal acceptable to both sides probably doesn't exist. The sorts of carrots, capitulations, or concessions that Washington would have to dangle at Beijing would have to be big -- really big (perhaps related to the U.S.-Japan alliance, South China Sea, or Taiwan). But, with its many treaty allies and interests in East Asia, Washington would be unwilling to offer that kind of carrot.

Which brings us to sticks. The Trump administration could try to convince Beijing that Washington simply will not live in a world with a North Korean intercontinental strike capability: that if Beijing won't help try economic coercion, the administration will use force against North Korea.

This is probably what the Trump administration is doing. Sen. Lindsey Graham called war "inevitable": "There will be a war with North Korea over the missile program if they continue to try to hit America with an ICBM. (Trump has) told me that. I believe him." Similarly, Nikki Haley, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said "The time for talk is over." Haley declared that "The U.S. is prepared to use the full range of our capabilities to defend ourselves and our allies," and that "One of our capabilities lies with our considerable military forces." While such rhetoric is ostensibly a warning to Pyongyang, it may be a warning to China as well: that unless Beijing uses its leverage, the chaos it is so desperate to avoid is coming.

(Source: CNN)

Will ISIS and Taliban unite to conquer Afghanistan?

By Ludovica Iaccino

Afghan officials say ISIS and Taliban joined forces in latest attacks that claimed at least 50 lives.

The ISIS and Taliban terror groups have reportedly joined forces to carry out an attack in Afghanistan, killing dozens of civilians, according to officials.

In a rare case of cooperation, militants from both groups are believed to have united and killed more than 50 men, women and children in the Sayad district, in the northern Sar-e Pul province, on Saturday 5 August.

The attack took place when the militants managed to overrun the police following a 48-hour-long battle. The majority of the victims were Shia Muslims, some of whom were beheaded. Officials expect the death toll to rise.

"It was a joint operation by Daesh [ISIS] and Taliban fighters. They had recruited forces from other provinces of the country and attacked Mirzawalang village," Zabihullah Amani, a spokesman for the provincial governor, told AFP. "The fighters overran the area and it led to the massacre of innocent and defenseless civilians."

It is believed the joint attack took place after members of both groups united under the command of Sher Mohammad Ghazanfar, a local Taliban commander who pledged allegiance to ISIS.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, however, denied the allegations. He told AFP: "It was an independent operation by our mujahideen forces. There is no cooperation with the [Daesh] on the operation." He also denied that civilians were killed.

Saturday massacre was the latest of a series of attacks that have rocked Afghanistan in recent months. Attacks have been claimed by both the Taliban and ISIS.

Is an alliance likely?

The Taliban, a Sunni fundamentalist political movement, took control of Afghanistan in 1996, imposing a strict version of Islam and persecuting



anyone who would not abide by their laws. Although Taliban rule ended following the U.S. invasion in 2001, its insurgents still control some areas of the country.

ISIS controls swathes of territories in Iraq and Syria and, through local alliances, in parts of Africa and Asia.

The two groups have competed for supremacy in Afghanistan since ISIS established a foothold in the country in 2015.

In June, ISIS reportedly seized from the Taliban a mountain redoubt, known as Tora Bora, in the Nangarhar Province, following week-long fighting. The Taliban, however, has denied the claims.

David Otto, a UK-based counterterrorism expert, believes that the claims by the officials, if substantiated, could signal a shift in the insurgencies in the country, where the two groups could ally to fight against their common enemy: The Kabul government. "It is also an indication that when jihadist

groups face pressure, they are forced to collaborate with each other," he told IBTimes UK.

ISIS progressively losing territories in Iraq and Syria, where coalition forces have recaptured most territories in Mosul and Raqqa respectively, ISIS strongholds in the Middle East.

"This is a worrying concern to not only the local government but regional and international coalitions against the 'war or terror'. It shows that these non-state groups continue to evolve into different forms as conditions on ground alter their status," Otto said.

"The more these jihadist groups collaborate, the more difficult it becomes to counter them, especially when the coalition is not united in their short and long term outcome. The thought of the Taliban and by default al-Qaeda and ISIS sitting on the same table to plan and prepare against their perceived and real enemy is simply a disaster."

(Source: ibtimes.co.uk)

In the Name of God



Shahid Tondgooyan Petrochemical Company

Call for Identify Resources

Shahid Tondgooyan Petrochemical Company (STPC) intends to identify the following chemical suppliers which are qualified.

Subject:

ROW	CHEMICAL NAME	CONSUMPTION RATE (TON/YEAR)
1	ISOPHTHALIC ACID	5000
2	TITANIUM DIOXIDE	600
3	ANTIMONY (III) OXIDE	110
4	ANTIMONY (III) ACETATE	150
5	HYDROBROMIC ACID	250
6	Cobalt Acetate	60
7	CMB	600
8	Therminol 66	Up to process condition
9	SHELL OIL	Up to process condition

General Conditions of Suppliers & Specialized Degree Necessary:

1. Have at least 2 years relevant experience to chemical
2. License agency or distribution agency
3. Business cards
4. Submit the bid bond for tenders

Place & Deadline of Receive Evaluation Forms:

Legal & Contracts Affairs, Phase # 1, (STPC), Site # 4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone

(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan Province, Iran, 06152172045

It shall be given latest by 16:00 pm on 16/Aug./17

Place & Deadline of Submission Evaluation Forms Document:

Legal & Contracts Affairs, Phase # 1, (STPC), Site # 4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone

(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan Province, Iran.

It should be submitted latest by 16:00 pm on 26/Aug./17

Contacts: You can contact any of the addresses below:

Email: Moradpour.a@stpc.ir

Tel: 061521 - 72045 Fax: 061521 - 72043

In Presence of Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade:

Country's 1st and Largest Pelletizing Plant Goes on Stream in Sangan

The first and largest pelletizing plant became operational in Sangan, eastern part of the country in the presence of Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Eng. Mohammad-Reza Ne'matzadeh, Chief Executive of Mobarakeh Steel Group, representative of people of Khaf and Rashtkhah in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament also called Majlis), chief executives of Khorasan Province's steel companies, managing director of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO), head of Khorasan Razavi Province Industry, Mine and Trade Organization and also councilors of Khaf City Council.

It should be noted that the first and largest pelletizing plant based in east part of the country, Khorasan Razavi Province, benefitted from technical knowhow and knowledge of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO) and was put into operation by the most experienced domestic engineers.

In the inaugural ceremony of 5 million-ton steel pelletizing plant in Sangan, Khorasan Province, which was put into operation on August 1, 2017, the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Eng. Ne'matzadeh was the first speaker who expressed his satisfaction on completing steel chain in the country and said: "Mine and mineral capacities of the country should be increased suitably in the country in order to stop export of raw iron ore and graded iron ore."

Effective steps should be taken in order to export steel products to the target markets across the world with the highest quality, he maintained.

Completion of Minerals Production Chain, Main Objectives of Ministry of Industry

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister of industry termed the completion of mineral production chain as one of the main goals of the ministry of industry and added: "Preventing export of raw materials and converting it to the value-added products is considered as the first priorities of the ministry."

Turning to the development of mineral discoveries, he said: "Currently, Sangan mine deposit in Khaf is one of the largest regions with rich iron ore reserves in the country, adding: "Complementary discoveries have been made with regard to the iron ore on a land area as large as 12,000 square kilometers, the results of which show that effective steps should be taken in order to increase concentrate production capacity in this region as much as 22.5 million tons."



Moreover, conglomerate and pelletizing capacity in the country should be increased as much as 17.5 million tons, he stressed.

At least 40 million tons of iron ore should be provided from Sangan Mine Deposit in order to produce the aforementioned capacity of concentrate and conglomerate, he observed.

He also referred to the water restrictions in Sangan region and said: "Effective steps have been taken with the Ministry of Energy with regard to supply required water in this region."

Prediction of Exporting 8m Tons of Steel in Current Year

It is estimated that eight million tons of steel will be exported in the current Iranian calendar year in 1396 (started March 21, 2017), the minister of industry opined. Islamic Republic of Iran has been a major steel importer for several years, he said, adding: "Fortunately, effective steps were taken in this regard, so that that country exported five million tons of steel to the target markets in last year."

Based on the planning made in this regard, it is hoped that eight million tons of steel will be exported to the target markets by the yearend, he stated.

He put the annual iron ore production capacity in the country during the beginning of 11th government at approx. 63 million tons, the rate of which has currently hit 75 million tons.

With the coordination made in this regard, annual iron ore production capacity in the country will hit 100 million tons before termination of the current year (to end March 20, 2018), he observed.

In addition, it was envisioned that the concentrate production capacity will hit 55 million tons by the yearend, he added.



He also put the previous conglomerate production capacity in previous years at 21.5 million tons, the rate of which has currently hit 39.5 million tons.

He also put the steel ingot production capacity in the previous years at 23.5 million tons, the rate of which has hit 31 million tons at the present condition.

All Development Projects of Mobarakeh Steel Company Become Operational

The Chief Executive of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company Bahram Sobhani was the next speaker in the inaugural ceremony who pointed to the 5,500 billion tomans worth of investment of this company for the implementation of expansion projects of Mobarakeh Steel Group in the 11th government dubbed "hope and prudence" and said: "This giant project was executed successfully in the vicinity of Sangan Iron Ore Mines, based in Khorasan Province, in order to provide sustainability of conglomerate and creation of balance in

volume of product"

He put the capital registered in this industrial and production unit at 7,500 billion tomans and added: "Approx. 2,800 and 1,000 companies are busy active in the upstream and downstream sectors which provide raw materials ranging from iron ore mines to the provision of spare parts, car and home appliances manufacturing companies."

In the end, Chief Executive of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company Bahram Sobhani said: "Mobarakeh Steel Company is the largest producer of flat steel sheets in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)." Benefited from 12 Direct Reduction units with the production capacity of 12 million tons, this company is one of the largest sponge iron production plant in the world and also one of the most successful steel production companies in the country.

Majlis Deputy Calls for Allocation of Credit for Completion of Infrastructures of Mineral Industries

Representative of people of Khaf in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament also called Majlis) Mahmoud Negahban Salami was the next speaker in the inaugural ceremony of this giant project and pointed to the significance of provision of infrastructure in the development of mineral projects and emphasized: "Provision of infrastructure is one of the major concerns in the field of mine."

Since supply of water required for mineral industries is considered as one of infrastructures of this sector, effective steps should be taken in this regard in order to solve existing problem, he opined.

Lack of necessary infrastructures in the field of road and rail transport in the mineral industries is one of the other problems facing mining and mineral sector of the country, he maintained.

He called on responsible officials to allocate sufficient credit for the completion of infrastructure of minerals in the region.

Indigenizing Mineral Industries of Sangan Steel Using Technical Knowhow and Capital of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company

Seyyed Mohsen Mir-Mohammadi Chief Executive of Sangan Steel Mineral Industries Company was the last speaker who revealed the generation of employment for more than 1,300 job-seeking people as crew and contract basis in the first and largest pelletizing production plant in eastern part of the country in Sangan, Khorasan Razavi Province and said: "Relying upon the technical knowhow and investment of Mobarakeh Steel Company and benefitted from the most experienced domestic contractor are of the salient features of this giant project."

Indigenizing Sangan Steel Mineral Industries using technical knowhow and knowledge of expert engineers is of main feature of this giant project.



From a Sunday to a Monday in August, the Sixth Day

By T.P. Wilkinson

The genesis of the world, the myth of creation speaks of seven days. Six days of divine labour whereon the seventh lord of the universe rested. No one, not even the angelic general staff of the combined heavenly hosts, could fathom what led the Creator to engage in this feat. But tradition has established that man — here the gendered reference is intended — as being created in the image of the Creator — aka "God" — should also rest on the seventh day. Depending on the sect into which one was born and bred, this may be called Saturday or Sunday (in English).

In any event this Sunday in 2017, the day of rest, is the 6th of August. So in anticipation of these hours of restfulness — perhaps I will drive to the beach — I wondered what other things had happened on 6th August, it was certainly not always a Sunday given the way calendars work. My research produced the following results, by no means all-inclusive:

In 1777, a band of white terrorists in Britain's North American colony of New York was suppressed in what was later called the Battle of Oriskany. These terrorists called themselves an army and claimed the right to overthrow the duly constituted government of the territories they inhabited. These terrorists were eventually able to obtain assistance from governments hostile to Great Britain, allowing them to impose their rule on the rest of the population, a vast number (in some parts the majority) of whom were held by them as slaves.

In 1813, Simón Bolívar, considered to be the great liberator of the South America from Spanish rule, a close friend of Haitian independence, and the inspiration of the popular Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, took Caracas from the Spanish and proclaimed the Second Venezuelan Republic.

In 1824, Bolívar and de Sucre defeat the Spanish forces at Junín in central Peru.

In 1825, Bolívar becomes President of the independent state of Bolivia.

In 1901, the U.S. regime robs the Kiowa tribe of indigenous Americans of their land — which had been reduced to a reservation — so that whites could found the state of Oklahoma and continue their campaign of genocide against the indigenous into the 20th century.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war against Russia and Serbia declared war against Germany.



And in 1945, the United States of America became the first (and to date only) country in the world to commit mass murder with atomic bombs: proudly obliterating the Japanese (non-white) city of Hiroshima and murdering thereby up to 200,000 people instantaneously. (Since all traces of life were vaporised in the immediate range of the blast it is impossible to say how many people actually died then. Deaths due to radiation poisoning since are not counted here.) The U.S. regime would annihilate the population of a second city, Nagasaki, shortly thereafter, on August 9th.

The atomic murder technology, developed by a corps of scientists and soldiers, several of whom were immigrant fascists from Europe, predating the recruitment for the U.S. missile delivery program, satisfied a principal, unstated policy objective of the emerging global empire. This policy was later formally articulated in a series of U.S. National Security Council documents promulgated secretly between 1947 and the second campaign of mass murder by the regime in June 1950. Namely, how does a tiny minority of rich white folks, ruling a continent of immigrants, Latin Americans and ex-slaves keep control over more than 60% of the world's resources — without having to rely on poorly educated, badly trained and equipped soldiers of questionable reliability.

If there should be any doubt as to the underlying facts, it should be recalled that U.S. military forces were scarcely able to defeat an exhausted German Wehrmacht as late as 1944. Had the Soviet Union not destroyed most of the Nazi fighting capacity in Eastern Europe, it is very doubtful that the famous "D-Day" would have been more than a disaster.

U.S. Forces were defeated in Korea but only after their non-stop aerial bombardment had levelled everything north of the 38th parallel and killed at least 3 million Koreans by the time of the ceasefire in July 1953.

U.S. Forces were defeated in Vietnam but also only after aerial bombing, Phoenix assassinations, and other terror measures killed some 3 million Vietnamese.

If one is to believe that U.S. Forces are deployed to fight a war in Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention the unannounced combat theatres, then there is no indication to date that "mission accomplished" means more than public manipulation of the executive genitals by the serving POTUS.

Hence the standing policy of the U.S. regime since 1945, since that 6th of August when the Enola Gay — an aircraft so beloved that it has a special exhibition space in the country's premier historical museum — dropped its lethal load, has been to prepare for the great hordes of non-whites at the gates, with fast, fantastic fatality.

This 6th of August is Sunday, a day of rest. But in 1945, 6th of August was a Monday — the first working day for the harvesters of death watching with cocktails from their plantation houses on the Potomac and the Hudson.

(Source: Dissident Voice)

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Luxury Apt near to French School
Apts between 150 sq.m to 250 sq.m, 2 or 3 Bdrs., excellent view, the best quality, lobby, garden, furn & unfurn, parking, spj, & gym saloon
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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

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

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

Villa

Villa in Zafaranih
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn, renovated, outdoor pool, \$8000
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Luxury Villa in the North duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 2000 sq.m land, 5 Bdrs., big saloon, servant, indoor pool, Spj, renovated, beautiful and green garden, semi furn, renting also for Iranian, \$18000
Suitable for Embassies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Darous duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 1800 land, 5 Bdrs., renovated, big saloon, semi furn, beautiful garden, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi
\$20000 Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super Luxury Villa in Elahieh
1500 sq.m, 900 sq.m built up, duplex, green garden, outdoor pool, renovated, furn & unfurn
\$15000 Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



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

From Oxford Cert Universal

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

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

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

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

Building in Fereshteh ready to rent separately or whole building, 3 Apt, 3 & 5 Bdrs. furn & unfurn., SPJ & Pkg, good access,
\$2900
Ms.Sara 09128103207

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

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

Ideal Offers

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

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

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

Very Nice Office in Jordan
88 sq.m, furn/unfurn,
Only \$1200
Available for Rent
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Limited Offer in Aqdasieh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., fully furn, very clean & nice Only \$4200
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Amazing spring offer in Jordan available from 21th April, 100 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., full furn, peaceful Residency \$1000
Ms.Sara 09128103207

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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

FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE



Mr. Ghazizadeh
Nobody does it better

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

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME

Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

jodan: 150sq.m, 2 beds, renovated, nice view, furn. 2200\$
zafranieh: 250sq.m, brand new, 3 beds, nice view, large balcony, f.furn. 3500\$
villa in Farmanieh: 1000 sq.m land, 850 sq.m built up, duplex, 5 beds, all renovated, s/p, nice garden, semi furn. 10000\$
villa in velenjak: 1800 sq.m land, 1000 sq.m built up, 7 beds, nice garden, s/p, semi furn. 12000\$

Full time adviser needed

Mr. Arvin Add: No833, Palladium mall
09121434592 Tel & fax: 021-22656523
PALLADIUM MALL E-Mail: Topplan.palladium@gmail.com



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

PARSIAN realEstate

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel: 88510081

Apt Darrous 3bdrs, S/p 200sq.m (\$2800)
Zaferanieh (\$4000) 300sq.m, 3bdrs S/p, S, J, F.F
Elahieh (\$3000) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p S, J, yard FF
Farmanieh Apts (\$2500) 2bdrs, F.F (\$3500) 3bdrs, F.F
Jordan bldg 2000sq.m 5storey, S/p (\$6000)
Available Villa Velenjak (\$8000) 1000sq.m, 5bdrs, & S/p

TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept

Tel: **021-430 51 450**

times1979@gmail.com

maharaja
Indian Restaurant

FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT IN IRAN

PRIVATE PARKING LOT
Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani
Crossroads - Valiasr St. Tel: 66476855

ADVERTISEMENTS
TEHRAN TIMES
Dept.
E-mail:
times1979@gmail.com

IRANIAHOME

Real Estate

SH.LAVASANI

09123103526

Tel: 88888007

Fax: 88675936

Specialise dans la location de villas, appartements, ou bureaux pour une clientele essentiellement etrangere. Fichier tres riche a votre disposition.

Mr. Ahrabi (franco phone)
0919 2571076



TEHRAN TIMES

Iran's Leading International Daily

www.tehrantimes.com

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com
430 51 450
430 51 405

10 reasons you always have to pee in the middle of the night

By Markham Heid

The first question a doctor will ask you if you complain about having to pee in the middle of the night is, "Did the need to urinate wake you up, or did you wake up and notice you had to urinate?"

"How you answer makes a difference," says Randy Wexler, MD, an associate professor of family medicine and vice chair of clinical affairs at the Ohio State University Medical Center.

Wexler explains that, when you sleep, increased blood flow to your kidneys can accelerate urine production. So if you wake up because of a snoring bedmate or insomnia or some other reason that has nothing to do with your bladder, you'll still have no problem producing urine if you decide to head to the bathroom.

But if having to pee is the reason you're waking up, that's not something to ignore, he says. (Even the color of your pee can give you insight to your health.)

Here, he and other experts explain some of the most common causes of having to pee at night—and what to do about them.

■ You're drinking too much water before bed.

Yes, this is super obvious. But Wexler says some people don't realize just how much H₂O they're swallowing in the hours before bed—and how that fluid can disrupt their sleep. "I tell patients to stop drinking water two hours before bed," he says. Also, hit the bathroom before you hop in the sack. If you follow these instructions and you're still waking up to pee, it's time to see a doctor.

■ You're drinking caffeine too close to bedtime.

Both alcohol and caffeine can increase your urine output, Wexler says. If you're the type who enjoys a cup of joe after dinner, or if you drink booze before bedtime, you're asking for trouble. Wexler recommends cutting off all caffeine—that includes tea—at 6 PM. Again, if you try these changes and your problem persists, see your doc.

■ You're low on this hormone.

"With aging comes a natural loss of antidiuretic hormone," says Tobias Kohler, MD, chair of urology at Illinois Memorial Hospital. This hormone helps your kidneys control their fluid levels. The less of the hormone you have, the more you pee. Kohler says this natural hormone loss usually starts around age 40, but often becomes noticeable much later—during your 60s or 70s. "There are some drug therapies, but a lot of people just deal with it," he says.

■ You have an infection.

If you're a woman and you've eliminated the "self-inflicted" pee triggers mentioned above, the most-likely culprit is a urinary tract infection, Wexler says. "If it's a urinary tract infection, urination may be accompanied by burning or dribbling or discomfort," he explains. Also, these sensations are going to persist during the day. (Watch for these other UTI symptoms all women should know.)

While far less common in men, a urinary tract infection



If you're suffering from diabetes or prediabetes, your body may ramp up your urine production in order to clear away excess blood sugar.

can also cause guys to feel like they have to pee all the time, including at night, Wexler adds. Again, a burning sensation while peeing is something to watch for.

■ Your legs are swollen.

If you have swollen feet or legs—a condition known as edema—that fluid retention in your lower body can cause you to pee a lot when you lie down. "All that fluid in your legs has to go somewhere, and that increases your urine production," Kohler explains. The solution: Elevate your legs a couple hours before bed. That will help the fluid in your lower half flow upward, and so will allow you to get your peeing done before climbing in bed, he says.

■ You're dealing with diabetes or prediabetes.

If you're suffering from diabetes or prediabetes, your body may ramp up your urine production in order to clear away excess blood sugar. That could explain why you're waking up to pee at night, Wexler says. As with a UTI, frequent peeing caused by diabetes or prediabetes will persist during the day. Especially if you tend to feel thirsty all the time—even when you drink a lot of water—that's a sign blood-sugar issues are to blame, he adds.

■ You have an STD.

"Some sexually transmitted diseases can cause frequent urination, such as gonorrhea and chlamydia," Wexler says. A burning sensation while you pee is also a sign your problem could be an STD—though for middle-aged or older adults, a UTI is a lot more likely, he adds.

■ Your uterus or ovaries are enlarged.

A wide range of conditions—including uterine pol-

yps, ovarian cysts, or uterine and ovarian cancers—can cause an enlargement of these organs. If they're oversized, they can press on your bladder and make you feel like you have to pee all the time, Wexler says. "There's really no way to know if one of these is the cause unless you see a doctor," he adds.

■ Your bladder is slipping.

The muscle, ligaments, and connective tissue that help make up a woman's pelvic floor also support her bladder and other organs. As a result of age or, more commonly, vaginal child birth, that pelvic floor can weaken and a woman's bladder can slide or "prolapse" into a position that puts pressure on it, Wexler says. If that happens, you may feel like you need to pee all the time. "Women can do Kegel exercises for bladder prolapse, but they'd need to be diagnosed first," he says.

■ You have prostate problems.

A man's prostate doesn't stop growing until the day he dies. "If you live long enough, you will have prostate issues," Wexler says. An enlarged prostate can pinch a man's urethra closed, making it difficult for him to fully empty his bladder. That can make him feel like he has to urinate all the time, Wexler says. The good news: Prostate-related peeing problems usually have nothing to do with prostate cancer, he says. There are also drug or surgery treatments available if your enlarged prostate is causing urinary issues that are too annoying to ignore.

(Source: prevention.com)

5 ways to trick yourself into eating less

It's time to curb your appetite for good

Self-control is essential when you are trying to watch your diet and cut down on your food intake. It may sound challenging, but eating less is actually easier than it seems.

One of the first steps to take when you are beginning a new diet program is portion control. I know it sounds crazy, but preparing your meals and learning your correct food portions are extremely important. Restaurants will serve you enormous sizes, and as difficult as it may seem to stop eating their delicious foods, it's important to know when to put your fork down.

For some of us, we know what we need to do but we just don't follow through. Our mind tell us one thing but we do another. So, if you really want to learn how to eat less, just trick yourself. For instance, upgrade your dishware and purchase all white plates. Why? Healthy foods look more appetizing on white. Change up your glassware and purchase tall glasses. It's actually proven you consume less of your beverage when drinking out of a tall skinny glass compared to a short wide glass.

That being said, for the most part, eating less is all in your mind. Get ready to curb your appetite for good, and trick your mind using these 5 ways to trick yourself into eating less.



1. Eat on small plates and bowls

When we see our food on bigger plates our mind is telling us that we are eating a smaller portion. We finish our meal thinking we have not eaten enough, so we get up and make another plate. This often leads to overeating. Eat on small plates and bowls to trick your mind into thinking you ate

more food.

2. Choose 100-calorie snack packs

Instead of indulging in that big bag of chips, eat 100-calorie snack packs. When snacks are served in a bigger bowl or right out of the bag we tend to eat more. 100-calorie snack packs help control your food portion and satisfy

100-calorie snack packs help control your food portion and satisfy your hunger.

Keeping your smartphone nearby may not be so smart

By Robert H. Shmerling

Imagine you were asked to complete a series of math problems, ones just hard enough to require your attention and focus, but nothing you couldn't handle. Now, imagine you were intermittently interrupted from these math problems and asked to remember a random list of letters. This might be even tougher.

It's reasonable to assume your performance on these tasks might be impaired by distractions such as loud noise or nearby conversation. But what about the smartphone in your pocket or purse? According to a new study, the mere presence of your smartphone, even if it isn't ringing and even if you aren't looking at it, can hurt your performance on certain

cognitive tasks.

■ What's the evidence?

Researchers publishing in the April 2017 edition of the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research describe a series of experiments in which 520 college students performed tasks requiring focus, attention, and novel problem-solving skills. Some were asked to leave their smartphones in another room. Others were allowed to keep them where they usually do (such as in their pocket or purse). A third group was asked to set their phones on the desk next to them.

Remarkably, performance on the tasks of attention and problem-solving varied depending on the location of the smartphone:

- Scores were highest when the smartphone was in the next room.

- Scores were lowest when the phone was on the desk.

- The impact of the smartphone's location was most dramatic among those who reported being most reliant on their phones.

- The effect of the smartphone was not altered by having the phone powered off (vs. set to silent mode) or placed face down (vs. face up).

These findings suggest that having a smartphone nearby can be distracting even when it's not in use. It may be that the power, convenience, and connectivity provided by smartphones come at a "cognitive cost." The authors of this new study call it

your hunger.

3. Don't eat in front of the TV

Eating in front of the TV is detrimental to your fitness goals. We start with one chip, then another and all of a sudden the bag is empty. It has been proven that while watching TV you are blocking the feeling of fulfillment because your brain is focused on something else. This being said, avoid overeating and refrain from having snacks in front of your TV.

4. Cut your food into small pieces

Yes, cutting your food into smaller pieces can actually help you eat less. It creates the illusion that you are consuming more food which in turn causes a greater feeling of fullness. Cutting your food into pieces also tricks you into eating slower which allows you time to actually feel when you are full.

5. Eat breakfast

We have all heard it before... breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But, it really is. Skipping breakfast causes your blood sugar drop, making you even hungrier for your next meal. By the time lunch comes around, you end up eating way more than you normally would. So, trick your mind into eating less all day by just having breakfast in the morning.

(Source: theactivetimes.com)

"brain drain." And it may be more common—and more profound—than we realize.

■ Now what?

While this new study suggests an unexpected downside to smartphones, it also suggests a potential solution. We might use our intellectual firepower more effectively if we spent some time with our phones well away from us. If it's always on your person or quickly within reach, you may be distracted by its presence without even realizing it. And that's in addition to the more obvious distraction of a phone ringing or alerting us to emails or text messages.

It's possible we'd all be smarter taking a break from our smartphones. This new study suggests it's worth a try.

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

Is healthy chocolate really good for you?

Despite the backlash against the "clean eating" movement, Britain's passion for fitness and healthy eating shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

And this is reflected by what's appearing on our supermarket shelves - every day, more and more "healthy" products are launching, with all sorts of tenuous claims designed to hook us in and make us part with our cash.

High-protein, gluten-free, low-fat, sugar-free, vegan, all-natural... these labels are blasted across products with the intention of making us feel like we're making healthier choices. And one area where this is particularly evident is chocolate.

The latest findings from Mintel reveal that 37 per cent of people are interested in chocolate made with all-natural ingredients, 35 per cent in low-sugar chocolate and 27 per cent in refined sugar-free chocolate.

This still makes up a small part of the market compared to standard chocolate, but it's a market that's growing.

Many chocolate brands proudly proclaim they're all-natural, vegan, dairy-free, soy-free, gluten-free and refined sugar-free.

And to make up for their lack of classic chocolate ingredients - namely milk, sugar, cocoa butter, cocoa mass and vegetable fats - new so-called "healthy" chocolate bars are made from cacao powder, cacao butter and raw cocoa mass, and sweetened with dates, coconut blossom nectar and agave nectar amongst other ingredients.

Many healthy food bloggers proclaim the health benefits of raw chocolate: It's supposedly high in vitamins and minerals (including magnesium, iron, flavonoids, phosphorus and calcium), full of antioxidants and is even an aphrodisiac.



Raw chocolate has been heralded for reducing the risk of heart disease, boosting energy and even protecting your skin from sun damage.

However, it's also addictive, high in caffeine (the unroasted cocoa beans used in raw chocolate contains almost the same level of caffeine as coffee beans) and some even claim it could be toxic.

■ So what's the truth?

At the end of the day, sugar is sugar, regardless of whether it's coconut sugar or white sugar, and nutritionist Nichola Whitehead believes we shouldn't be fooled by healthy-sounding ingredients like organic cane syrup and agave nectar.

Many studies have pointed out health benefits of dark chocolate, largely those with a cocoa content above 75 per cent, unlike milk chocolate which is laden with sugar.

"The higher the cocoa percentage, the more antioxidants and in general the less added sugar that there will be," Whitehead explained to The Independent.

And nutritionist Rhiannon Lambert agrees: "I don't believe chocolate can be divided into healthy or unhealthy it is more of a case of quality, lower sugar and higher cocoa."

According to fellow nutritionist Amanda Hamilton, this discussion about whether "healthy" chocolate is good for us or not is a bit of a red herring:

"Yes, raw and high cocoa content chocolate is more nutrient rich, and is good source of magnesium," she explained to The Independent. "But, it is still a food to eat in moderation. Let's not pretend it is a bag of spinach and enjoy it for what it is - a delicious treat."

Ah. So it appears we can't demolish a sharing bar of supposedly healthy chocolate and feel virtuous.

That said, all the nutritionists we spoke to confess to a love of chocolate - they're only human after all.

■ But do the healthier bars actually taste any good?

In the name of research, the Indy Lifestyle team ate an awful lot of "healthy" chocolate, and it's safe to say we were divided.

"Every single one of those was the worst thing I've eaten," said one team member who will be sticking to the Dairy Milk. And another agreed, claiming one bar "desecrates the good name of chocolate."

However, some of the team found new favourites:

Ombar was one of the most popular brands, with the blueberry acai going down particularly well.

Doisy and Dam's date and Himalayan pink sea salt was also deemed a resounding success, with one team member claiming: "I hope it really is healthy because it could be a game-changer." It was the most like "regular" chocolate.

We thought Cocoa Libre was "crazy good," Pana was "rich and truffly," and Raw Halo Pure Mylk chocolate was "creamy, rich and tasty."

But of course, they all tasted healthier than normal chocolate to us, whether that's because they really are or because of what we've been led to believe.

We were also left feeling somewhat jittery thanks to the caffeine in the raw chocolate.

Even if these new brands aren't actually much healthier than their classic alternatives, Lambert points out that they have fewer ingredients than your typical chocolate bar, which has to be a good thing.

But at the end of the day, it's probably worth remembering Whitehead's wise words: "Moderation not deprivation is my motto... even for chocolate that seems to have a health halo around it!"

(Source: The Independent)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

- 1** Samsung Galaxy Note8 with 256GB storage tipped again. A tweet from tipster Roland Quandt includes an image showing Note8 model numbers appended with the storage figure.
- 2** LG sends out official invitations for V30's August 31 unveiling. The invite image clearly mentions the date and time of the event as well as the phone's name.
- 3** Sony Xperia XZ1 spotted on GFX Bench: Android 8.0 and a 19MP camera. In addition, the XZ1 carries two model numbers. G8341 and G8342, the latter of which likely indicates a dualSIM capable variant. According to these benchmark results, the Sony Xperia XZ1 will feature a 5.1-inch 1080p display with a resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels
- 4** Xiaomi Mi Note 3 may arrive as soon as this month. According to a new rumor out of China, the company is looking to launch the device sooner than the Mi Note 2 came out last year - which was in November.
- 5** OnePlus announces limited edition OnePlus 5 Soft Gold. The Soft Gold finish is similar to the one on the OnePlus 3, with a matte finish gold back and white front. The fingerprint sensor has a matching gold accent.
- 6** The Windows 10-powered alcatel Idol 4 Pro smartphone was scheduled to launch in Europe last month, but it got delayed. However, the device is now available for purchase in the region. As for pricing, the phone carries a tag of £419.99 and €479.99.
- 7** HTC has hit a lull in its 20 year history. It posted a 9% decline in revenue in April and July wasn't any better - revenue for the month was \$205 million (NTD 6.2 billion), down 10.16% compared to the previous month. Still, the yearly decline is a comparatively small 2.06%.
- 8** Samsung announced new Bluetooth headphones on its website. They are called U Flex and can bend by 100 degrees. They come with a dedicated Bixby button. If your phone supports S Voice, it will work perfectly fine too.
- 9** iOS 11 beta 5 is out: Tons of bug fixes, 32-bit apps officially get phased out. iOS Developer Preview beta 5 is now out, bringing a host of small incremental changes to the current state of the operating system that will most likely make it to the final release of iOS 11
- 10** Google has just announced YouTube now features a new messaging feature that enables users to chat and share videos within the app. The new feature will be available starting today for all YouTube users on mobile devices.

South Korea seeks 12-year jail term for Samsung's Lee

South Korean prosecutors have demanded a 12-year jail term for Samsung Group heir Lee Jae-yong over his role in the corruption scandal that brought down former President Park Geun-hye.

Lee, the vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, has been in detention since February over charges that include allegedly bribing Park's long-time friend Choi Soon-sil for government support to help him cement control of the group.



At the final hearing of his trial on Monday, prosecutors called Lee the "ultimate beneficiary" of crimes committed in the scandal, which sparked massive protests in the country and ultimately led to the impeachment of Park.

Lee and four other executives are accused of paying or promising Choi, who was handed a three-year jail term in June, more than \$38m to win presidential favours and ease a controversial 2015 merger deal.

Lee, 49, has effectively been at the helm of the vast Samsung Group, the world's biggest smartphone maker and a sprawling business empire, since his father suffered a heart attack in 2014.

The court ruling is expected before August 27, when Lee's current period of detention ends.

(Source: aljazeera)

Google fires employee behind anti-diversity memo

Internet giant Google has fired the male engineer at the center of an uproar in Silicon Valley over the past week after he authored an internal memo asserting there are biological causes behind gender inequality in the tech industry.

James Damore, the engineer who wrote the memo, confirmed his dismissal, saying in an email to Reuters on Monday that he had been fired for "perpetuating gender stereotypes".

Damore said he was exploring all possible legal remedies, and that before being fired, he had submitted a charge to the U.S. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) accusing Google upper management of trying to shame him into silence.

"It's illegal to retaliate against an NLRB charge," he wrote in the email.

Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc based in Mountain View, Calif., said it could not talk about individual employee cases.

Google Chief Executive Sundar Pichai told employees in a note on Monday that portions of the anti-diversity memo "violate our Code of Conduct and cross the line by advancing harmful gender stereotypes in our workplace," according to a copy of the note seen by Reuters.

It was not immediately clear what legal authority Damore could try to invoke. Non-union or "at will" employees, such as most tech workers, can be fired



in the United States for a wide array of reasons that have nothing to do with performance.

The U.S. National Labor Relations Act guarantees workers, whether they are in a union or not, the right to engage in "concerted activities" for their "mutual aid

or protection".

Damore, though, would likely face an uphill fight to seek that protection based on his memo, said Alison Morantz, a Stanford University law professor with expertise in labor law.

"It's going to be a hard sell that this

activity was either concerted or for mutual aid or protection, rather than simply venting or pitting one group of workers against the others, which does not sound very mutual," Morantz said.

Debate over the treatment of women in the male-dominated tech industry has raged for months. Claims of persistent sexual harassment in the ranks of Uber Technologies Inc and of several venture capital firms led to management shake-ups.

Management at the largest tech firms, including Google, have publicly committed to diversifying their workforces, although the percentage of women in engineering and management roles remains low at many companies.

Damore's memo attacked the idea that gender diversity should be a goal.

"The distribution of preferences and abilities of men and women differ in part due to biological causes and ... these differences may explain why we don't see equal representation of women in tech and leadership," Damore wrote in the internal company memo last week.

Google's vice president of diversity, Danielle Brown, sent a memo in response to the furor over the weekend, saying the engineer's essay "advanced incorrect assumptions about gender".

(Source: Reuters)

Xbox One is getting a completely new customizable interface



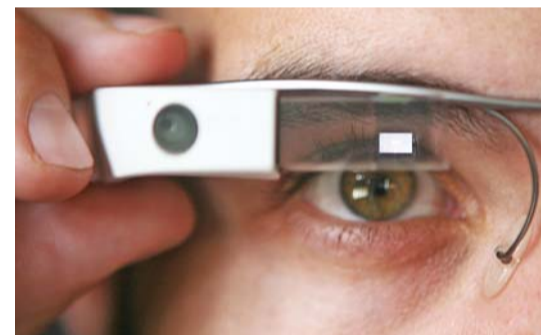
Microsoft just updated its suite of products for online gamers, adding a few quality-of-life features to Xbox Live and its streaming service Mixer.

The Home screen has been restructured, adding suggestions for new friends (and maybe an ad or two), but the big change is the new hot bar at the bottom.

Microsoft also added a feature Xbox One fans have long desired: The freedom to customize their Home screens. Users can manually add games, and the system will automatically drop in related content like developer news releases or show when your friends start playing that title.

(Source: Microsoft)

The new Google Glass is on sale



Glass for Work partner Streye is now selling the follow-up Glass Enterprise Edition starting at €1,550 (about \$1,829).

This is clearly intended for business (you get access to Streye's enterprise streaming services with your purchase), so you really, really won't want to buy it if you're just trying to impress your friends. However, this is still the most accessible Glass has been in years -- if you do need a wearable eyepiece, it's theoretically within easy reach.

The biggest difference is the much larger 780mAh battery, which should keep it running for more of the workday.

(Source: 9to5Google)

France and Germany want Apple and Google to pay their taxes



France and Germany are looking to make major tech companies like Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon begin paying their fair share of taxes.

The move comes as many European leaders have expressed frustration at how these companies focus their profits and costs in countries that tax them at the lowest rates. "Europe must learn to defend its economic interest much more firmly -- China does it, the U.S. does it," French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told Bloomberg. "You cannot take the benefit of doing business in France or in Europe without paying the taxes that other companies -- French or European companies -- are paying."

(Source: Bloomberg)

Brain-controlled VR game hints at a hands-free future

We may be a long way off from a Holodeck-like virtual reality where your body is the controller, but Neurable might have the next closest thing. It recently

unveiled a prototype peripheral that adds brain control to VR experiences.

The device replaces the regular strap on an HTC Vive and uses specific brain signals

(event-related potentials, not the EEG patterns you usually see) to trigger actions.

In a showcase game, Awakening, you use your mind to escape a lab as if you

had telekinetic powers -- you don't have to hold plastic wands as you battle robots and grab objects.

(Source: IEEE Spectrum)

The military can shoot down drones that fly over bases



The Pentagon has approved a new policy that gives military bases the right to shoot down or seize both private and commercial UAVs that encroach upon their airspace and are deemed a threat. While details about the policy remain classified, Pentagon spokesperson Navy Capt.

Jeff Davis says the new guidance gives bases "the ability to take action to stop these threats (i.e. UAVs or drones) and that includes disabling, destroying and tracking [them]."

(Source: gizmodo)

The Oculus launcher now works with Steam games



Oculus' launcher software is, unsurprisingly, focused on running VR apps from the Oculus Store. But that's probably not how you get all your apps -- you may have Rift-ready games in Steam, for instance. That won't be a problem from now on.

Oculus has updated its portal to offer fast access to any Rift-compatible app on your PC, whether it comes from Steam or anywhere else.

You won't have to think about removing your Rift headset just to see the full extent of your app library.

(Source: Gamasutra)

Uber co-founder says Kalanick will not return as CEO



An email sent Monday morning by co-founder Garrett Camp promises unequivocally that Uber will not hire Kalanick back.

As reported by ReCode, Camp wrote, "Our CEO search is the board's top priority. It's time for a new chapter, and the right leader for our next phase growth.

Despite rumors I'm sure you've seen in the news, Travis is not returning as CEO. We are committed to hiring a new world-class CEO to lead Uber"

(Source: ReCode)

HBO hackers return with exec emails and a ransom demand

After hitting the headlines last week, the hackers responsible for the HBO data breach are back. And, this time they're demanding a ransom.

On Monday, the group leaked internal emails, and multiple documents relating to Game of Thrones -- including a detailed summary of the upcoming episode,

due to air this Sunday.

In a video letter, the hackers urge the broadcaster to cough up money . They claim HBO is their 17th target

in the clip, and only three have failed to pay, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

(Source: HollywoodReporter)

Shocking rise in temperature over past century

Dramatic increases in global temperatures over the past 100 years can be seen in a shocking new animation, reminiscent of the pulses of a heartbeat.

More than a century's worth of data has been condensed into a 35 second clip by a Finnish physicist, using information made publicly available by Nasa.

It reveals a massive rise in measurements taken across 191 countries between 1900 and the present day.

Softly pulsing blue and yellow lines give way to darker hues as the twentieth century progresses, culminating in an aura of harsh reds and a huge spike in heat levels.

Antti Lipponen, a researcher at the Finnish Meteorological Institute, created the video.

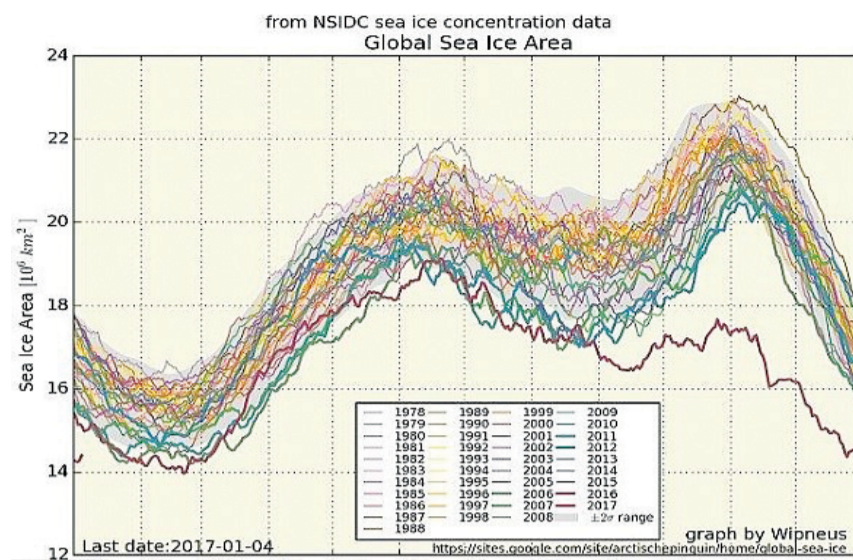
It depicts the rhythm of global warming in each of the countries recorded, from Algeria to Zambia.

Each bar shows that nation's average temperature each year, with colour and length representing spikes and dips.

The darker the colour and the longer the line, the higher the temperature.

But unlike a heartbeat the rate of the pulses does not remain constant, building as the years roll by.

Countries are grouped together into



A graph posted in November 2016 (pictured) shows the area of sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctic lost each year, from 1978-2017

It reveals a massive rise in measurements taken across 191 countries between 1900 and the present day. It seems clear from the footage that no region has been immune to the ongoing effects of climbing temperatures.

continents, allowing viewers to easily locate their home state.

It seems clear from the footage that no region has been immune to the ongoing effects of climbing temperatures.

Speaking to LiveScience, Dr Lipponen said: 'There are no single countries that clearly stand out from the graph.'

'The warming really is global, not local.'

The visualisation also makes it starkly clear that there has been an acceleration in this process in recent decades.

For much of the twentieth century temperature levels build slowly, with cooler colours visible until the 1980s.

From this point onwards, the bars rapidly begin to build and become angrier shades before reaching the present day.

World temperatures hit a record high for the third year in a row in 2016.

And this is not the first time that experts have turned to graphical representations to convey the situation facing the planet.

In January, Kevin Pluck from Manchester posted his alarming 'doom spiral' animation which shows just how large the drop in global sea ice levels were in 2016.

(Source: Daily Mail)

NASA to launch maiden Falcon Heavy rocket in November

Before the year is out, the long awaited debut launch of the triple barreled Falcon Heavy rocket may at last be in sight says SpaceX CEO and founder Elon Musk, as he forthrightly acknowledges it comes with high risk and released a stunning launch and landing animation earlier on Aug. 4.

After years of painstaking development and delays, the inaugural blastoff of the SpaceX Falcon Heavy is currently slated for November 2017 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, according to Musk.

And to whet the appetites of space enthusiasts worldwide, on August Musk also published a one minute long draft animation illustrating the Falcon Heavy triple booster launch and how the individual landings of the trio of first stage booster cores will take place – nearly simultaneously.

Guided soft landings

The two side boosters will be recycled from prior Falcon 9 launches and make precision guided propulsive, upright ground soft landings back at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. Each booster is outfitted with a quartet of grid fins and landing legs. The center core is newly built and heavily modified.

"Sides run high thrust, center is lower thrust un-

til sides separate & fly back. Center then throttles up, keeps burning & lands on droneship. If we're lucky!" Musk elaborated.

The center booster will touch down on an ocean going droneship prepositioned in the Atlantic Ocean some 400 miles (600 km) off of Florida's east coast.

The launch of the extremely complicated Falcon Heavy booster with 27 first stage Merlin 1D engines also comes associated with a huge risk – and he hopes that it at least rises far enough off the ground to minimize the chances of damage to the historic pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center.

"There's a lot of risk associated with Falcon Heavy, a real good chance that that vehicle does not make it to orbit," Musk said recently while speaking at the International Space Station Research and Development Conference in Washington, D.C. on July 19.

Simultaneous ignition

"Falcon Heavy requires the simultaneous ignition of 27 orbit-class engines. There's a lot that can go wrong there."

Designing and building Falcon Heavy has proven to be far more difficult than Musk ever imagined, and the center booster had to be significantly redesigned.



"It actually ended up being way harder to do Falcon Heavy than we thought," Musk explained.

"At first it sounds real easy! You just stick two first stages on as strap-on boosters. How hard can that be?" But then everything changes. All the loads change, aerodynamics totally change. You've tripled the vibration and acoustics. You sort of break the qualification levels on so much of the hardware."

(Source: phys.org)

Scientists use Google Earth and crowdsourcing to map uncharted forests

No single person could ever hope to count the world's trees. But a crowd of them just counted the world's drylands forests — and, in the process, charted forests never before mapped, cumulatively adding up to an area equivalent in size to the Amazon rainforest.

Current technology enables computers to automatically detect forest area through satellite data in order to adequately map most of the world's forests. But drylands, where trees are fewer and farther apart, stymied these modern methods. To measure the extent of forests in drylands, which make up more than 40 percent of land surface on Earth, researchers from UN Food and Agriculture Organization, World Resources Institute and several universities and organizations had to come up with unconventional techniques.

Foremost among these was turning to residents, who contributed their expertise through local map-a-thons.

Traditional remote sensing algorithms detect tree cover in a pixel rather than capturing individual trees in a landscape. That means the method can miss trees

in less-dense forests or individual trees in farm fields or grasslands, which is most often the nature of dryland areas.

Satellite data

Google Earth collects satellite data from several satellites with a variety of resolutions and technical capacities. The dryland satellite imagery collection compiled by Google from various providers, including Digital Globe, is of particularly high quality, as desert areas have little cloud cover to obstruct the views. So while difficult for algorithms to detect non-dominant land cover, the human eye has no problem distinguishing trees in the landscapes. Using this advantage, the scientists decided to visually count trees in hundreds of thousands of high-resolution images to determine overall dryland tree cover.

Armed with the quality images from Google that allowed researchers to see objects as small as half a meter (about 20 inches) across, the team divided the global dryland images into 12 regions, each with a regional partner to lead the counting assessment. The regional partners in turn recruited local residents with



practical knowledge of the landscape to identify content in the sample imagery. These volunteers would come together in participatory mapping workshops, known colloquially as "map-a-thons."

Identifying plots

To lay the groundwork for the local map-a-thon events the team identified both an entry point, usually a university that could help recruit participants, as well as a facility with the capacity and internet to host the map-a-thon. Once trained, any given analyst could identify 80 to 100 plots per day.

Quality control was carried out afterwards by comparing the identified land cover with the number of trees counted. For example, if a local participant identified an image as having just three trees but later identified the same image as forest, the researchers knew there was human error and further review was required.

The Collect Earth tool allows users to navigate between multiple windows and select the best imagery for each particular data point.

(Source: EcoWatch)

U.S. scientists able to alter genes of human embryos

U.S. scientists have succeeded in altering the genes of a human embryo to correct a disease-causing mutation, making it possible to prevent the defect from being passed on to future generations.

The milestone, reported in a paper released online August 2 in Nature, was confirmed last week by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), which collaborated with the Salk Institute and Korea's Institute for Basic Science to use a technique known as CRISPR-Cas9 to correct a genetic mutation for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

CRISPR-Cas9 works as a type of molecular scissors that can selectively trim away unwanted parts of the genome, and replace it with new stretches of DNA.

"We have demonstrated the possibility to correct mutations in a human embryo in a safe way and with a certain degree of efficiency," said Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, a professor in Salk's Gene Expression Laboratory and a co-author of the study.

Gene-editing components

To increase the success rate, his team introduced the

genome editing components along with sperm from a male with the targeted gene defect during the in vitro fertilization process. They found that the embryo used the available healthy copy of the gene to repair the mutated part.

The Salk/OHSU team also found that its gene correction did not cause any detectable mutations in other parts of the genome – a major concern for gene editing.

Still, the technology was not 100 percent successful. It increased the number of repaired embryos from 50%, which would have occurred naturally, to 74%.

The embryos, tested in the laboratory, were allowed to develop for only a few days.

Safety of methods

"There is still much to be done to establish the safety of the methods, therefore they should not be adopted clinically," Robin Lovell-Badge, a professor at London's Francis Crick Institute who was not involved in the study, said in a statement.

Washington's National Academy of Sciences (NAS) earlier this year softened its previous opposition to the

use of gene editing technology in human embryos, which has raised concerns it could be used to create so-called designer babies. There is also a fear of introducing unintended mutations into germline cells.

"No one is thinking about this because it is practically impossible at this point," Izpisua Belmonte said.

"This is still very basic research ... let alone something as complex as what nature has done for millions and millions of years of evolution."

An international group of 11 organizations, including the American Society of Human Genetics and Britain's Wellcome Trust, on Wednesday issued a policy statement recommending against genome editing that culminates in human implantation and pregnancy, while supporting publicly funded research into its potential clinical applications.

Salk's Izpisua Belmonte, emphasizing that much more study is needed, said the most important practical application for the new technology could be in correcting genetic mutations in babies either in utero or right after they are born.

(Source: Reuters)

Afforestation with non-native trees alters island soils

A healthy global debate has occurred concerning the benefits of using non-native trees for restoring some aspects of ecosystem function in degraded habitats. In many cases, the stresses associated with establishing seedlings disallow most native tree species from becoming successfully established in harsh planting sites. The tolerant non-native trees enable successes that would otherwise be unachievable.

A recent study from the Micronesian island of Guam has added to this global debate, and the results appear in the current issue of the Journal of Coastal Zone Management. The University of Guam research focused on the established use of non-native Acacia trees to re-vegetate barren scars in savanna grasslands.

"Most of these sorts of government-sponsored projects that use non-native trees are very mindful of the issue of invasiveness," said author Thomas Marler. "Non-native species that have proven restoration attributes are only used in restoration projects if they exhibit no signs of invasiveness."

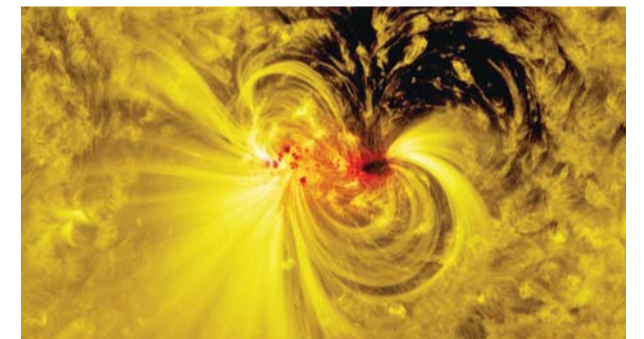
In the Guam case, the Acacia trees are pursued to restore barren scars because these degraded soil surfaces do not become re-vegetated by the grass species that comprise the savanna vegetation. The barren areas are prone to increased erosion and sedimentation over time and often have the surface soil horizons completely removed. The chemistry of Guam's volcanic subsoil is inhospitable for root growth of most plants. When these subsoils become the surface soils after erosion in the barren scars, very few plants can become established.

According to Marler, the use of Acacia trees has been enticing because the species that have been used are adept at becoming established in the inhospitable sites. And their positive influence on erosion control has been proven throughout decades of projects.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Sunspot observed for two weeks ahead of August 21 solar eclipse

Sunspots are regular phenomena on the sun, but their frequency decreases when the sun moves into a period of lower activity during solar cycles that are about 11 years long. NASA announced Friday it observed a sunspot — an active area on the face of the sun which has "intense and complex



magnetic fields" — for 13 days in July, weeks ahead of the upcoming total solar eclipse on Aug. 21.

Called AR12665, the sunspot was first seen July 5 as it rotated into view of NASA's Solar Dynamic Observatory, and SDO continued observing it as it passed across the face of our star, finally going out of view July 17. And despite the sun moving toward the period of low activity in its cycle (called the solar minimum), the sunspot gave astronomers plenty to see.

Solar flares are a type of explosion on the sun's surface, and they send out large amounts of light, energy and high-speed particles into space. Another type of solar explosion is called coronal mass ejection, and a CME was also seen with the July 14 flare (solar flares and CME are often associated).

A CME sends giant clouds of solar material and energy from the sun's corona into space at high speeds. The one accompanying the July 14 flare was seen leaving the sun at 09:36 A.M. EDT, moving at speeds of about 620 miles a second before eventually slowing down to about 465 miles per second. The sunspot also emitted a stream of high-speed protons in a phenomenon called solar energetic particle event, which was seen at 12:45 P.M. EDT the same day.

(Source: IBT)

Scientists ID tiny prehistoric sea worm with 50 head spines

Long before dinosaurs roamed the Earth, a bizarre creature with a Venus flytrap-like head swam the seas.

Scientists have uncovered fossils of a tiny faceless prehistoric sea worm with 50 spines jutting out of its head. When some unsuspecting critter came too close, its jaw-like spines snapped together and dinner was served.

The discovery reported in Thursday's journal Current Biology offers a glimpse into the Cambrian explosion of life on Earth about 541 million years ago.

The new creature dubbed Capinator praetermissus is so different that scientists said the fossils represent not only a new species, but a new genus — a larger grouping of life — as well.

It was only 4 inches long and its spines were about one-third of an inch long. It feasted on smaller plankton and shrimp-like creatures.

It is an ancestor of a group of marine arrow worms called chaetognaths that are abundant in the world's oceans. The prehistoric version was larger and with far more spines in its facial armory but without the specialized teeth of its descendants, said Derek Briggs of Yale University who led a team that discovered the trove of fossils in two national parks in British Columbia, Canada.

(Source: NBC2 News)

Trump's new world order inadvertently making our planet great again

1 → Even on a domestic front, governors representing Trump's "United" States of America from California, Washington, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island came together to compensate for the noncompliance of their nation's president. California's Governor Jerry Brown's commitment to the climate accord is particularly noteworthy. Under his direction, the state of California and the Chinese government have discussed prospects of integrating California's carbon trade market with China's advanced market to bolster opportunities of knowledge exchange between their Ministries of Science and Technology. This is just one



Kaveh Madani



Shirin Hakim

example of increased rescaling of governance on the climate front, where various stakeholders ranging from government groups at the state level to private and public firms at the local level are leading engagement efforts towards a sustainable and safer tomorrow.

Movements led by members of civil society are also on the rise, as in the case of the G20 protests in Hamburg held in early July. Protesters demonstrated against President Trump's environmental policies and fellow G20 leaders who conduct important political dealings behind closed doors. The G20 consists of 19 nations and the European Union and control roughly 80% of the global gross domestic product, but there is growing frustration surrounding the distribution of power amongst select governments that is fueling a new voice in the field of governance.

These sentiments are even being captured in the film industry, as we see seeds of activism take root. The sequel to Vice president Al Gore's monumental documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* was released last month. The new film, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, examines the progression of the climate movement including the Paris Accord and the election of Donald Trump. The film is both relatable and complete with humor in order to engage with wide audiences around the world, irrespective of age or culture, serving as a mode of inspiration amongst diverse factions of civil society.

As the U.S. pulls out of the Paris agreement, environmental governance might transform to deliver commitments

Transboundary alliances to combat climate change are also on the rise, even in light of Trump's attempt to further depolarize international collaborations. North of the U.S., Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada has already engaged in outreach with U.S. governors to combat climate change following Trump's decision to pull out of the accord. →13

LEARN ENGLISH The Office - Driving Sales

A: All right, people. We're holding this meeting today because we've got to do something about our sales, and we need to do it NOW! I want **concrete solutions**. How do you intend to **drive sales**... Roger?

B: Well, in fact, we're the most expensive **in the market**, so maybe we need to lower our prices **to match the competitors**?

A: Lower our prices? Not very creative. It'll never **fly with Swan**. What kind of thinking is that? Geez. Anybody else have a better plan? Natalie?

C: Um, perhaps, um, a sales **promotion**. Maybe a two-for-one offer, or something like that!

A: What? That's the same thing. Bad idea. Really bad idea. Dammit people come on! Think! The CEO will **be here any minute**.

D: Do we have any ideas yet?

C: Yes Mr. Swan, we were kind of **considering** a two for-one offer to get more competitive.

D: A two-for-one promotion? Hmm. I kind of like the sound of that. It sounds like something we should consider.

A: Yeah, exactly. Just what I was thinking! In fact, that's a **brilliant** idea! I'm glad we thought of that. Very creative.

Key Vocabulary

concrete solutions: a real or specific solution to a problem

drive sales: increase sales

in the market: in the industry

to match the competitors: be the as good as or better than others companies in the same industry

will never fly: will not work, will not be approved

promotion: something done to make people aware of a product

be here any minute: will arrive very soon

to consider: thinking about

brilliant: excellent

Supplementary Vocabulary

competitive: as good as or better than others of the same type

win sales: make sales successfully

sales strategy: plans for a company's sales activities

sales cycle: the process a customer goes through when deciding to buy a product

to outsell: to sell more than others

customer loyalty: when a customer buys the same brand over and over

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Clean air law ratified

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — The **d e s k** clean air law aiming to combat air pollution all over Iran has been ratified by the Guardian Council - a supervisory body who vets legislations to determine their constitutionality.

Given the persistent and choking air pollution causing great discomfort to city dwellers, the Department of Environment put forward the clean air bill to the parliament (Majlis).

General outlines of the bill were approved on October 23, 2016 by Majlis.

However, the council found some ambiguities about it. So, the bill was returned to Majlis to be reconsidered and finally it was approved on August 1, said Mohammad Mojabi, a top official at the Department of Environment.

Eventually, Majlis will circulate the law to the administration to be officially come into force, he noted.

The clean air law covers all regions



across the country including free zones, special economic energy and industrial zones as well, he announced.

Providing water right of the wetlands,

supplying high quality fuel, developing renewable resources, setting up early warning systems for dust storms, fighting desertification by land-use planning,

seeking and fostering regional and international cooperation, and developing monitoring equipment and to fight air pollution are some of the articles of the clean air law.

As per one of the articles, units of Health, Safety, and the Environment (HSE), with regard to health and safety of the employees, customers, and contractors as well as the protection of the environment are bound to be established in all industrial and manufacturing enterprises.

Additionally, pollution monitoring companies, firms developing pollution monitoring equipment, maintenance facilities, research centers developing pollution monitoring equipment, etc., should be set up and employ educated workforce.

The Environment Department announced that according to initial estimates, some 10,000 green jobs are believed to be created in pollution monitoring sector alone.

Phlegmatic temperament: Specifications and lifestyle



ARTICLE

By Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, PhD

TEHRAN — Iranian traditional medicine encompasses a diversity of knowledge about preventive medicine, remedies, and the preservation and promotion of good health.

It focuses on six key factors: food and drinks, climatic conditions and environment, physical activities and rest, psychiatric conditions including that of sadness, happiness, depression, and stress, sleep and wakefulness, absorbing key nutrients and ridding body from waste materials (sweat, urine, or feces).

It comprises orally transmitted knowledge and practices as well as thousands of written texts. The philosophy and traditional knowledge are highly respected and Iranians regard their traditional medicine as a defining part of their communal identity.

In the Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine the excess or lack of warmth and humidity define four essential temperaments of "Warm and Wet (sanguine or *Damawiyi*)", "Warm and Dry (choleric or *Safrawiyi*)", "Cold and Dry (melancholic or *Saudawiyi*)" and "Cold and Wet (phlegmatic or *Balghamiy*)" respectively. The terms in the parentheses refer to four groups of material in the body (called "humors" or 'Akhlat') including blood which is hot and moist, phlegm which is cold and moist, bilious or yellow bile which is hot and dry and atrabillious or black bile which is cold and dry. Words written in italic show original Persian terms in the ancient literature.

Phlegmatic: Cold and Wet

People with phlegmatic temperament usually feel cold and run colder than other people.

They are light, fair and smoothed-complexioned and relatively speaking they have fine, glowing, radiant, and flawless skin. They have silky, straight, smooth and thin



People with phlegmatic temperament are sensitive to dairy products, sour foods, large amounts of water, and high-water-content foods.

hair. They don't have much unwanted hair.

Their body parts are big. They are normally bulky and quickly gain weight with a body composition of larger proportion of fat rather than muscle tissue and they usually seem swollen. They take their time thinking, speaking and acting.

They oversleep and as they get up they feel they haven't got enough sleep. They usually have trouble waking up and they wake up tired.

These people are prone to wake up with swollen feet, hands and puffy face specially after sleeping in the evening.

They feel dizzy and tired early morning particularly when it's cold or they have consumed food or drinks with wet Mizaj such as yoghurt, sour food stuff or Doogh (a savory yogurt-based beverage popular in Iran).

Due to the wetness of their bodies and brains, they tend to have a poorer and shorter memory compared to people of other temperaments, as wetness and coldness

would result in decrease in transferring and storing data.

People with cold and wet Mizaj are endlessly patient and calm and can put up with people with all sorts of belief.

They expel fairly large amount of waste matter (urine, sweat, and feces) but the waste matter don't have strong color or odor unless waste materials have built up in their bodies.

They usually are more sensitive to cold and humid weather. They are sensitive to dairy products, sour foods, large amounts of water, and high-water-content foods and should cut back on them.

They don't have much strong pulse, neither do they have prominent veins. They also tend to suffer low blood pressure.

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

How to stay healthy on holiday

One of the best things about travelling is undoubtedly the food - from fresh burrata to Belgian waffles, most of us want to try the local delicacies when on holiday. And rightly so.

But then coming home to find none of your clothes fit anymore, especially if you'd been working hard on your fitness previously, is less than ideal.

Navigate the hotel breakfast

Is there anything better than coming down from a night sleeping in a fluffy cloud of a bed to an epic breakfast spread, with everything you could ever want to eat on offer? Who can be blamed for scoffing everything in sight?

Pre-empt your choices the night before - pick an egg morning, the next day have a fruit salad morning, the day after try the traditional local breakfast and before you know it you will have worked your way around the buffet table over the course of the week without overindulging.

Stay active

When you think about how expensive gym memberships are, you may as well make the most of a hotel gym if one is available. If you get in even a 20 minute session before breakfast, you'll enjoy the rest of your day so much more and be able to relax to your heart's content.

Another great way to keep active is to walk, which Lambert thinks is an underrated form of exercise.

Eat mindfully

In our normal lives, we often wolf down our food because we don't have much time. This isn't usually the case on holiday, but it's still easy to be distracted by everything going on.

But research has shown that people who eat while distracted are more prone to overeating because they're less likely to notice when they feel full.

Sleep

Whilst some people take their holidays as a chance to catch up on sleep, others stay out late enjoying the nightlife but also get up early to fit in a full day of sightseeing, activities and sunbathing. However this can lead to you coming home more exhausted than when you left.

(Source: The Gaurdian)



N.I.O.C
1396.2013



National Iranian Drilling Company

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

One-Stage(compressed)						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
159, 400	5,579,000,000	212,960,000,000	P/F "CAMERON" B.O.P " TYPE"U	1/494/159	Tender No.:FP/20-96/028 Indent No.: 08-22-9645004	1

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

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

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

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualification worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

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

تہران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۷/۵/۹۶ نوبت دوم ۱۸/۵/۹۶

Iraqi court sentences 27 men to death for involvement in Speicher massacre

An Iraqi criminal court has sentenced over two dozen men to death for their alleged involvement in the 2014 Speicher massacre by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) Takfiri terrorist group in the north-central province of Salahuddin (Saladin Governorate).

The Central Criminal Court of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council on Tuesday handed down death penalty to 27 suspects who aided ISIL Takfiris to carry out the horrific carnage, the Arabic-language al-Sumeria television news agency quoted Abdul-Sattar Bairaqdar, the council's spokesperson, as saying.

He also said that 25 other suspects in the case were released due to the lack of evidence against them, adding that the rulings could be appealed at the Court of Cassation.

On June 12, 2014, ISIL terrorists abducted about 1,700 Iraqi air force cadets from the Camp Speicher, a former United States base, situated on the outskirts of the provincial capital Tikrit, the home-



town of Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein. There were reportedly about 4,000 unarmed cadets in the camp when it came under attack by the militants.

Shortly afterward, terrorists took the

victims to the complex of presidential palaces and executed them. They also threw some of the bodies into the river. The massacre was filmed by ISIL and broadcast on social media, showing the

hostages as they were mostly lined up in various locations and slaughtered.

The horrendous mass killing incident sparked outrage across the country and partially fueled the creation of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units, also known as Hashd al-Sha'abi in Arabic, with the aim of eliminating ISIL terrorists across Iraq.

Tikrit was recaptured from ISIL in March 2015. During clean-up operations in the northern part of the city, Iraqi forces found the location of the 2014 carnage. Since then, hundreds of bodies have been exhumed from multiple mass graves around the city.

An investigation committee initially revealed that 57 members of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party had aided the ISIL terrorists in the massacre. On August 21, 2016, Iraqi judiciary officials hanged 36 men convicted of involvement in the carnage. On January 23 this year, 31 other convicts, linked to the massacre, were also executed.

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. forces kill 30 Iraqi Hashd al-Sha'abi troops

The United States forces have reportedly attacked an Iraqi military base affiliated to the country's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU/Hashd al-Sha'abi), killing over 30 troops and injuring many more.

According to a statement released by the Sayer al-Shuhada brigades on their website on Monday, their base was targeted by the U.S. artillery fire and smart bombs.

In the statement, the brigades called on the Iraqi government to launch an extensive investigation into the incident, while noting that the U.S. actions will not remain unanswered.

The PMUs, aka Hashd al-Sha'abi, is a group of Shia and Sunni fighters that was formed after the emergence of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in Iraq in 2014. In the early days of ISIL's terror campaign, the then-volunteer fighters played a major role in reinforcing the Iraqi army, which had suffered heavy setbacks in the face of lightning advances by the terrorists.

(Source: Press TV)

Germany, abetting terrorists: Erdogan

Turkey has accused Germany of assisting terrorism over claims that officials in the European country declined to respond to thousands of files sent to Berlin and refused to hand over suspects wanted by Turkish authorities.

"Germany is abetting terrorists," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at a conference held by the members of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP/Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi).

"We gave them the dossiers. We gave [German Chancellor Angela] Merkel 4,500 dossiers, but have not received an answer on a single one of them," he noted. "But when there is a terrorist arrested or detained here, they tell us to give that person back. You won't send the terrorists you have to us but can ask us for yours. So you have judiciary, but we don't in Turkey?"

Ankara has previously leveled accusations against Berlin over giving sanctuary to outlawed Kurdish militants and allowing their sympathizers to stage anti-Turkey rallies across Germany.

German-Turkish relations have been getting worse over the past year since the coup attempt of July 2016 in Turkey and Ankara's crackdown on opposition since then.

(Source: TRT)

Trump's new world order inadvertently making our planet great again

12 → Likewise, nearly 7,000 miles away in a nation that is often at odds with the U.S. on foreign policy, the head of Iran's Department of Environment (DoE), Masoumeh Ebtekar echoed sentiments by leaders from Europe and China. She sees Trump's move as illogical, particularly in backing out of an agreement between diverse nations that often have differing political agendas. While Iran's Guardian Council still has not approved Iran's commitment to the Paris deal, the nation was one of 195 nations that signed onto the monumental Paris Agreement during COP21 in December of 2015. Trump's decision to pull out of the accord makes the United States one of three nations, including Nicaragua and Syria, opting out of the agreement.

As Iran awaits approval to follow through on its commitments, a new opposition group is forming in the nation, pushing for a similar withdrawal from the accord as in the case of the United States. The group recently released a propaganda film entitled, *Ladder of Deception*, which claims that climate change is largely concerned with unmanageable rising temperatures and has little to do with the anthropogenic factors humans have induced on our planet. Seeing as the U.S. has transformed from a leader in drafting the accord to now pulling out of the deal, those involved with the opposition movement are convinced that the agreement was a designed hoax by the U.S. to limit the economic growth of developing nations including Iran. This newfound anti-Paris deal rhetoric interestingly aligns with anti-Iran deal sentiments that are slowly emerging in state television, categorizing both as bad negotiations.

Despite the development of this opposition campaign, it has only strengthened the efforts of those committed to delivering Iran's promises at COP21. In fact, last week Iran's energy minister, Hamid Chitchian, affirmed his commitments to upholding the deal, stating that his nation should not leave the agreement as it is in accordance with the supreme leader's environmental orders.

The emerging world order induced by the controversial policies of the Trump administration may worry many about the future fate of our environment. Notwithstanding, it has unexpectedly served as a call to action to international players, supporting the rise of new actors in the environmental front, and forged collaborations between experts from nations that are otherwise at odds in foreign policy. Furthermore, it is empowering different factions of society to both voice their concerns about environmental matters and take interest in environmental management in a manner unlike ever before.

While it is not apparent what the future of environmental management will hold, one thing that is for sure is that power dynamics in combating climate change are transforming into a more inclusive and holistic system. Perhaps Trump's actions are, albeit unintentionally, inspiring a movement in making the environment great again.

Shirin Hakim is a doctoral researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College, London, working on environmental issues in Iran.

Netanyahu says 'attempts to topple' him will fail as he suspected of fraud & bribery

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is a suspect in two corruption cases, has hit out at his critics in the opposition as well as his own party for conspiring to topple him "for many years," local media reports.

"They are trying to get me, attempting to topple the Right," Netanyahu, the second-longest serving leader in Israeli history, told senior members of his coalition in private conversations, as cited by Kan, the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation.

"I have nothing to fear. I don't think I have a problem," he said.

The 67-year-old chairman of the right-wing Likud party is a suspect in two corruption investigations. The first one refers to allegations the politician received bribes from an Israeli-American businessman. In another case, Netanyahu is suspected of holding talks with an Israeli newspaper publisher about limiting competition in the news business in return for more positive coverage.

On Thursday, Israeli police for the first time publicly acknowledged that corruption investigations involving Netanyahu revolve around "bribery, fraud and breach of trust," The Times of Israel reported.

On Friday, Netanyahu's former chief of staff, Ari Harow, made headlines when he signed a state witness

settlement agreeing to testify against his former boss, sparking speculation that Netanyahu could be indicted shortly.

Several opposition members have called on the Israeli PM to step down.

Labor party chief Avi Gabbay said "the citizens of Israel deserve a different leadership."

"We no longer have any expectations of Netanyahu," Channel 10 quoted Gabbay as saying, according to the Times of Israel. "This is no longer a matter of right or left but leaders that look out for the citizens," he added.

Meretz party leader Zehava Galon called on coalition lawmakers to stop serving as Netanyahu's "protective armor."

"MKs [Members of Knesset] who continue to support the prime minister are serving as his protective armor and who are trying to convince us that there is campaign against him, bear heavy responsibility for the corruption of the state and democracy," she said speaking at a cultural event.

Former Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon lashed out at Netanyahu on Twitter, saying there was a "war" going on over the image of leadership of the Right. "The Likud is a party, not one man who heads it," he said.

The prime minister appears to be rather unmoved by his critics. "It's not like I am going tomorrow and they are going to replace me," he said, as quoted by Kan.

Netanyahu has repeatedly denied corruption allegations and any wrongdoing, calling the claims a "witch hunt" initiated by the media.

"There will be nothing because there was nothing," Netanyahu's office stated on Thursday, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) reported.

Sports and Culture Minister Miri Regev rushed to Netanyahu's defense. "Part of the media and the opposition are doing everything they can to topple the right and topple Netanyahu. It won't help them," he added, AP reported.

Meanwhile, some unnamed Likud ministers told The Jerusalem Post they felt uncomfortable defending Netanyahu, because, as the newspaper reports, "they believed he made mistakes he should not have made and they did not want to be associated with those mistakes."

On Monday, Netanyahu posted on his Facebook page an article citing Palestinian sources as saying they expect the probes to topple him. "It won't happen," he concluded.

(Source: RT)

Kenya goes to the polls in closely contested election

Kenyans are casting their votes to elect a president and a new parliament following weeks of campaigning and claims of a plot to rig the results.

Polling began at 6:00am (3:00 GMT) and is expected to end at 5:00pm (14:00 GMT) local time with results to be announced within seven days.

More than 19 million voters have registered to cast their vote in Tuesday's election in 40,883 polling stations across the country.

Polling stations were crowded from the early hours of the day, with some voters queuing from 1am despite chilly weather of 15 Celsius degrees.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, 55, is seeking a second and final five-year term in office and faces stiff competition from an opposition coalition led by veteran politician Raila Odinga.

Odinga, 72, is running for the presidency for the fourth time.

Tight race expected

Polls have shown the two candidates enjoy similar levels of popularity.

Kenyatta is the son of the country's founding father.

Odinga is a former prime minister whose father was vice president.

No sitting president has ever lost an election in the East African country of 48

million people.

Five years ago, Kenyatta defeated Odinga, who disputed the results before they were confirmed by the country's Supreme Court.

To win the election outright, either presidential candidate must garner at least 50 percent of the votes, plus one.

The winning candidate must also receive at least 25 percent of the votes in half of Kenya's 47 counties to prevent a second round of voting.

If no candidate receives that, the election will go to a runoff, which would be a first in Kenya's history.

The election is largely being fought over the economy and the courting of the youth vote. More than half of the registered voters are under the age of 35.

Kenyatta is promising to create more than one million new jobs in the country, which has the second biggest economy in the region.

He also said he will reduce the cost of living in a country where 47 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

Odinga, on the other hand, is promising to fight corruption. Transparency International - the global anti-corruption group ranks Kenya 145 out of 176 in its



2016 corruption index.

Odinga has also said he will create jobs for young people and make the country - which in recent years has experienced droughts - food secure.

In an interview with Al Jazeera earlier this week, Odinga said his party has put in place efforts to stop an alleged plot to tamper with results.

The country descended into violence in 2007 after the opposition, led by

Odinga, claimed the election results were rigged in favor of the then incumbent Mwai Kibaki.

More than 1,000 people were killed in post-election violence and some 600,000 were displaced.

Kenyatta, while addressing a campaign rally last week, denied attempts to rig the elections and said the allegations by opposition leaders were a ploy to form a coalition government.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Canada opposition demands end to Saudi Arabia arms sales

Rights groups and opposition figures have called on Canada to suspend weapons sales to the House of Saud regime, following the regime's alleged use of Canadian-made arms in a crackdown against Shia Muslim civilians in an eastern province.

Images on social media showed armored vehicles, which military experts say are almost certainly Canadian-made, being used by Saudi regime forces in Qatif.

If confirmed, such sales could be in violation of Canada's defense export policies which say Canadian military equipment cannot be sold to countries where there is a risk it may be used in human rights abuses.

The House of Saud regime, which is often criticized



by rights groups, is now the second largest buyer of Canadian arms, behind the United States.

The Canadian wing of the U.S.-based General Dynamics Company has a 10-year, \$11bn contract that guarantees thousands of well-paid jobs in a city near Toronto which has lost much of its manufacturing base.

Rights activists and opposition parties have called for the deal to be cancelled.

According to Amnesty International, at least 66 people have been executed in Saudi Arabia since the start of 2017, including 26 over the past three weeks alone - more than one execution per day.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Higher Defense Council: Lebanon commits to defeat Daesh

Lebanon's Higher Council of Defense committed Tuesday to a successful military operation in the forthcoming battle against Daesh [the Arabic acronym for the Takfiri 'ISIS/ISIL' terrorist group], the council's Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Saadallah Hamid said.

"The government is committed to liberating the entire land of Lebanon," Hamid said

after the meeting, held at Baabda Palace.

Hamid told reporters that discussion focused on the security situation in Al-Qaa, Ras Baalbeck and the outskirts of Aarsal.

"We also discussed maintaining and securing the safety of Lebanese residents and international tourists throughout this summer season," he added.

President Michel Aoun chaired the meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Saad Hariri, military personnel and concerned ministers including Yaacoub Sarraf and Nouhad Machnouk the Ministers of Defense and Interior respectively.

"The upcoming battle against Daesh will be among the topics to be discussed,"

a source from Baabda Palace told media Tuesday morning.

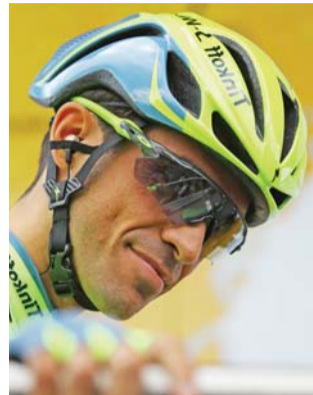
The source added that the meeting was going to address the readiness of the concerned administrations to act if "a war with Daesh took place," as well as the logistical arrangements for such a battle.

(Source: Daily Star)

Contador honored with number one jersey at Vuelta

Triple winner Alberto Contador will wear bib number one in his farewell Vuelta a Espana later this month as the Spaniard prepares to bring his career to an end.

Contador, who announced on Monday this year's Vuelta would be his last professional race, will be bidding for a fourth title after his triumphs in 2008, 2012 and 2014.



The number one bib is usually reserved for the defending champion, but organizers have broken with tradition and handed it to the Trek-Segafredo rider.

"That Alberto chooses Spain and La Vuelta to call it a career is a great honor for the whole organization," Javier Guillen, general director of the Vuelta, said in a statement.

"We are wholeheartedly grateful to the generosity he always demonstrated as a rider and that he shows once again with this decision. Alberto is — and will forever be — part of the history of cycling in our country and elsewhere."

Contador is one of only six riders to have won all three Grand Tours, although two of his nine titles (the 2010 Tour de France and 2011 Giro d'Italia) were expunged from the record books because of a doping ban.

This year's three-week race features a strong lineup including Tour de France champion Chris Froome and multiple Grand Tour winner Vincenzo Nibali.

It begins in the French city of Nimes on Aug. 19.

(Source: Reuters)

British athletes told to stay away from guests of London hotel

British athletes have been told by team bosses to stay away from friends or rivals staying in a hotel struck down by an outbreak of gastroenteritis.

They were handed the directive after an estimated 30 athletes or support staff staying at the Tower Hotel fell ill.

The most notable casualty to date is Botswana sprinter Isaac Makwala, who pulled out of the 200m heats on Monday night after throwing up in the call room.

Ireland 400m hurdler Thomas Barr has also been forced to withdraw, with the German and Canadian teams also reporting issues.

The British contingent have been advised to avoid contact with anyone staying at the affected hotel, either at the stadium or at the adjacent warm-up track.

The Tower Hotel, near Tower Bridge, say that investigations in conjunction with health officers and the IAAF established 'they are not the source of the illness'.

The hotel said: 'We have followed strict hygiene protocol, ensuring that those affected are not in contact with other guests and all public areas have been thoroughly sanitised.'

An organisers' statement read: 'Those affected have been supported by both team and local organising committee medical staff. In addition we have been working with Public Health England to ensure the situation is managed and contained.'

'As a result, further advice and guidelines have been issued to team doctors and support staff — standard procedure for such an occurrence where a number of teams are occupying championship accommodation.'

(Source: Daily Mail)

Valverde evasive on Neymar replacement

Following Barcelona's victory in the Joan Gamper Trophy, coach Ernesto Valverde has not ruled out the prospect of activity in the transfer window.

Valverde's side comfortably defeated Chapecoense 5-0 on Monday, and after Neymar's world-record move to Paris Saint-Germain, moves to supplement the void are possible.

The newly arrived coach wanted to end discussion on the Brazilian's transfer, but was vague with respect to a replacement.

"He has been a great player for Barca, but he is no longer here and we have to look forward," Valverde said.

"I am not interested in looking back. We have to look at the players we have and solve problems that can arise to win matches.

"At the moment, I have some players in the team who are performing well for me. We will see if anything develops. We know that this club, like every other club, moves accordingly to the market. I am focusing mainly on what I have, the rest is up in the air."

One of those players currently available is Gerard Deulofeu.

The 23-year-old attacker, who returned from Everton this off-season via the club's buy-back clause, scored and provided two assists in his 45 minutes on the pitch against Chapecoense.

Valverde believes Deulofeu, despite not being fully fit currently, can prove to be a valued member of his squad.

"In Tarragona, he played 20 minutes and in the Gamper, he played in the first half. He has flow, speed and an attitude we can make use of," Valverde said.

"He left the field early, but I did not want to play him more than 45 minutes because he has not trained a lot, due to injuries."

Barcelona open their season proper on Sunday, when they face Real Madrid in Sunday's first leg of the Supercopa de Espana.

(Source: Goal)

Barcelona ramp up Philippe Coutinho pursuit as Catalan chiefs arrive in England

Barcelona's pursuit of Philippe Coutinho was stepped up on Tuesday morning when club directors arrived in England in an attempt to close the deal so the player can make his debut against Real Madrid on Sunday.

Oscar Grau, Raul Sanllehi and Javier Bordas hope to return to Barcelona on Tuesday night with the deal done and believe they are now pushing against an open door with Liverpool having accepted that Coutinho wants to leave.

Barcelona had an opening offer for £72m turned down two weeks ago by Liverpool and a second offer closer to £80m also failed to convince.

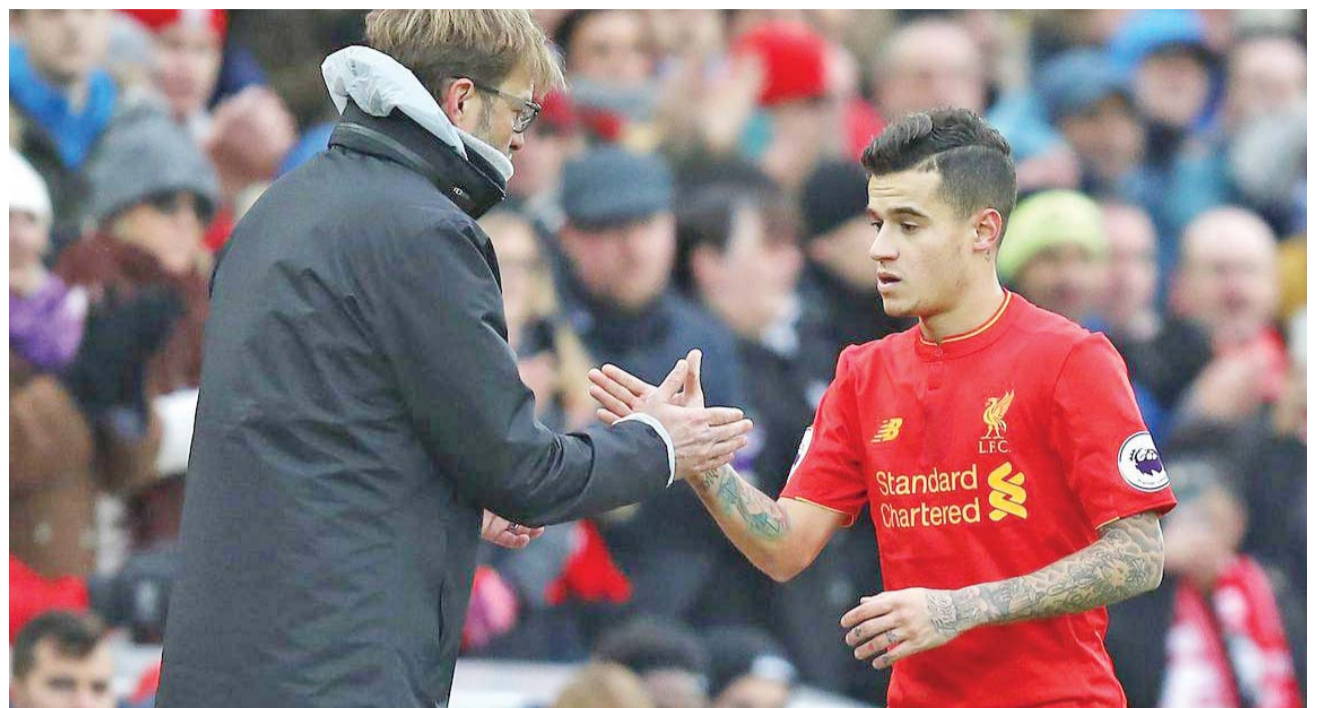
But they believe a third bid — along with the player having already communicated to Jurgen Klopp that he would like to be given the chance to make the move — will make the transfer happen.

The Catalan giants sold Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain for a world record £198m fee last week and have discussed upping their offer for Coutinho to £100m.

Coutinho is attracted by a move to Barcelona but will not force through a transfer because he would prefer an amicable exit from Liverpool.

Liverpool manager Klopp is adamant that Coutinho will not be sold this summer and has become irritated by continued questions surrounding the midfielder's future.

Earlier this month, Klopp hit out at the suggestion that Barcelona officials would come and discuss a move for



Coutinho telling a reporter: 'Don't waste your energy.'

"In this moment it's about transfers and I've nothing to say. I cannot talk about this just because a Barcelona guy starts talking."

"Did he say they come to Liverpool and do business? Something like this? They want to come over? They are funny. I don't want things like this."

If the move is completed he will be-

come Liverpool's new record sale, breaking the £75m mark they paid for Luis Suarez. The Brazilian will join Suarez if he moves to the Camp Nou.

Coutinho has scored 34 goals and provided 29 assists for Liverpool since joining in 2013 but former Barcelona coach Cesar Luis Menotti has warned the club's supporters against believing he will be the new Neymar.

Menotti wrote in his column for Dia-

rio Sport: 'It's good that Barcelona fans realise he is not the new Neymar, just a good player who has proved his worth at Liverpool.'

Barcelona have been quiet in the transfer window this summer with the £30million purchase of defender Nelson Semedo from Benfica and the deal to buy back Gerard Deulofeu the only major arrivals at the Nou Camp so far.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Ancelotti could be gone by next season - former Bayern captain Effenberg

Carlo Ancelotti could be entering his final season as Bayern Munich head coach according to former captain Stefan Effenberg, who also implored the club to retain the services of Thomas Muller.

The Italian led Bayern to a fifth successive Bundesliga crown in his first season at the Allianz Arena but also oversaw the club's earliest Champions League exit since 2010-11, losing to Real Madrid in the quarter-finals.

Bayern have suffered defeats at the hands of Arsenal, AC Milan, Inter, Liverpool and Napoli over the course of their pre-season schedule, and Effenberg believes Ancelotti may not be around much longer if he cannot improve on last term.

"If the season unfolds like the last one or perhaps even worse, it's possible," he told T-Online. "Players are exchanged at Bayern and maybe the coach also sometimes."

Effenberg also criticised the players' performances, adding: "I have missed players who play for and with each other so far in the pre-season."

"For me, desire is the most important thing in football. If some players lack the will, then I have to worry."

"But we also know that, when Bayern are hit and wounded, they can always fight back against any opponent."

Bayern have bolstered their squad with the arrival of the likes of James Rodriguez and Corentin Tolisso during the close-season, prompting some debate over how much first-team action Ancelotti will afford club great Muller this campaign.

"So many things can happen in a season - injuries, suspensions," Effen-



berg commented. 'A lot of things sort themselves out.'

"If, however, Ancelotti is drawing on a full squad, there are decisions that may hurt one or the other."

"It is to be assumed that it could be Franck Ribery or Thomas Muller at times, because Ancelotti has brought in his own players and they will surely be given the chance first."

"For great coaches - and Ottmar Hitzfeld perfected this - you have to keep the balance and to keep the players on the bench content."

"If that happens, Bayern will march on. If not, it will be a restless season."

Asked whether Muller should leave the club, Effenberg said: "No, why? He is the face of Bayern Munich, after the departures of [Bastian] Schweinsteiger and [Philipp] Lahm."

"Bayern would be making a huge mistake in letting him go. He has played for many years at an incredible level."

(Source: FourFourTwo)

Chelsea owner Abramovich splits from wife

Russian billionaire and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich and his wife, gallerist Darya or "Dasha" Zhukova, have separated, a spokesman for Abramovich confirmed to AFP.

"After 10 years together, the two of us have made the difficult decision to separate, but we remain close friends, parents, and partners in the projects we developed together," the two said in a statement sent to AFP Monday by Abramovich's spokesman John Mann.

Abramovich, 50, is Russia's 12th richest businessman, according to Forbes magazine, with a fortune of US\$9.1 billion made from steel, mining, real estate and telecommunications. The oligarch has owned Chelsea football club since 2003.

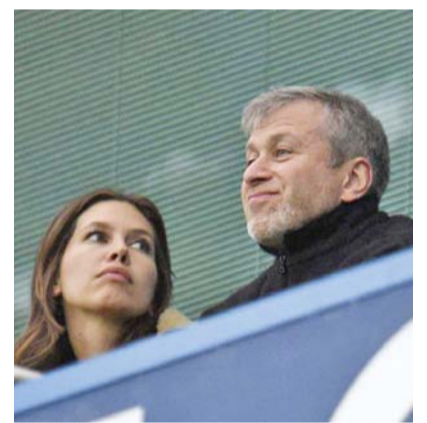
Abramovich and Zhukova have two children together, a son Aaron and a daughter Leah Lou. In the couple's joint statement, they said they are "committed to jointly raising our two children."

Abramovich divorced his second wife Irina Malandina, a former stewardess, in 2007 after a marriage lasting 16 years. They had five children together and ended their marriage in Russia with no details of the divorce made public. But according to Russian media the settlement was reported to be just US\$300 million plus covering the children's expenses.

Abramovich's first marriage was brief, from 1987 to 1991 with Olga Lysova.

Abramovich served as governor for Russia's deprived far-northern region of Chukotka from 2000, the year Vladimir Putin became president, before quitting of his own accord in 2008.

He has since largely fallen out of the public eye in Russia although he is pictured attending events including con-



certs and film premieres.

Zhukova founded a popular contemporary arts Centre and gallery in Moscow, Garage, which is located in the city's Gorky Park, also collaborating with Abramovich on the New Holland arts Centre in Saint Petersburg.

The couple said that "we will also continue to work together as co-founders of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow and the New Holland Island cultural center in Saint Petersburg."

The daughter of a wealthy businessman, Zhukova moved to the United States as a child with her mother and speaks fluent English. She studied Slavic literature at university.

Her interest in art initially provoked ridicule in the media due to her lack of education and expertise in the field but the Financial Times wrote that she has turned Garage into "a world-class art destination."

She regularly appears at social events including the Cannes Film Festival in May. She reportedly attended Donald Trump's inauguration as a guest of his daughter Ivanka.

(Source: AFP)

Can Neymar provide a financial return on PSG's investment?

Neymar insists his record-breaking \$261 million move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain "isn't about the money," but the subject won't go away.

The Brazilian forward's five-year contract is reportedly worth approximately \$45 million a year before tax, making him the highest-paid player in the history of his sport.

Combined with his record transfer fee, it would mean PSG's total outlay, including wages and agent fees, is likely to exceed half a billion dollars over the five-year contract.

So how can the French club afford it and satisfy the UEFA's mandatory Financial Fair Play regulations? And can Neymar provide a financial return on the club's investment?

"When you consider Neymar as a brand, maybe it won't seem so expensive. I'm sure we'll make more money than we've paid," Qatari billionaire Nasser Al-Khelaifi, PSG club president, said at the press conference Friday when Neymar was unveiled.

"Before Neymar signed the club was worth €1 billion (\$1.17 billion). Now it is worth €1.5 billion (\$1.76 billion). The best player in the world is here. With him our project will grow even stronger and the league will become more interesting to everyone."

Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho, who signed Paul Pogba for more than \$100 million last summer, believes the deal represents good value.

"For £200m, I don't think [Neymar] is expensive," Mourinho told reporters earlier this week.



"Neymar is one of the best players in the world, commercially he is very strong and for sure PSG thought about it."

Under the terms of Financial Fair Play, introduced by UEFA seven years ago to slow the game's spending, players wages can't constitute more than 70% of a club's income and losses can't exceed €30 million (\$35 million) over a three-year period.

PSG brought in an estimated \$618m in 2016/17 — of which over \$350m was from commercial sources — according to KPMG's Football Benchmark.

The Neymar fee alone comes to over 42% of the club's entire income last season — leaving aside his wages of more than half-a-million dollars per week.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has criticized the deal,

calling it "beyond calculation and beyond rationality" and telling reporters on Thursday that new ownership structures have "completely changed the whole landscape of football in the last 15 years."

But Al-Khelaifi believes there will be "no problem" meeting UEFA's regulations.

"We've been very transparent from day one about Financial Fair Play," said Al-Khelaifi, countering La Liga's initial stance that the deal had contravened laws. "There's no problem with that; we have a team working day and night."

"For anyone worrying about FFP, I say: go and have a coffee."

How PSG can afford the deal is the "billion-dollar question," says sports lawyer Daniel Geey.

"It could come within stadium and ticket revenues, mainly broadcasting monies, winning competitions and the commercial revenues — the boot deals and the brands that want to be associated with the player and the club," Geey told CNN, Thursday.

The club is unlikely to recoup its transfer outlay through extra season tickets and shirt sales alone.

PSG's average attendance in Ligue 1 last season was 45,317, just 2,612 shy of the Parc des Prince stadium's capacity. Neymar's allure might well fill the remaining seats but — based on season ticket prices ranging from around \$450 to \$2,750 — match day income won't come close to covering the costs.

(Source: CNN)

We are thirsty for success at FIBA Asia Cup: Hamed Haddadi

S P O R T S Iranian legendary center Hamed Haddadi says that they are thirsty for winning the FIBA Asia Cup 2017.

Iran made waves in 2007 when they won their first ever FIBA Asia crown. They repeated in 2009 and then annexed their third title in 2013 before finishing at third place in Changsha-Hunan two years ago.

Team Melli, who have been drawn in Group A along with India, Syria and Jordan, aim at fourth title.

Mehran Hatami's men will kick off the competition with a match against India on Wednesday.

"We are well-prepared for the competition because we've trained well for the event for three past months. I think we will be in our best form after first two matches," Haddadi said.

"I am not 100% but I want to help my team in some matches. I have to be careful not to worsen my injury," the former Grizzlies center added.

"Our players are always thirsty to win trophy and are highly motivated for the success. I hope that we perform well in the tournament," Haddadi stated.

"Most of the teams including China are here with their main teams, however I have not seen Australia, New Zealand and South Korea so far but I know that they have come here with their best players," the Iranian center added.

"We want to win the title, that's why we are here. Iranian players will do their best in the competition," Haddadi concluded.

FIBA Asia Cup 2017 is being held in Beirut, Lebanon from Aug. 8 to 20.



Walcott hails 'absolute tank' Kolasinac



Arsenal forward Theo Walcott labeled new team mate Sead Kolasinac an "absolute tank", saying the defender is well equipped to become an instant success in the Premier League.

The 24-year-old Kolasinac, who joined Arsenal on a free transfer from Schalke 04, came on as a substitute for the injured Per Mertesacker and scored his first goal for the club as they beat Chelsea in the Community Shield on Sunday.

Walcott said he was impressed by the Bosnian international's physical attributes and work-ethic during the pre-season preparations.

"Sead looks an absolute tank," Walcott told the British media. "He's one tough unit to get past and I'm sure his physical attributes are going to be key to us this season."

"You can see the power he's got when he's got the ball, his pace and everything. It's beautiful to watch and he's a great addition to the squad."

"Trust me he's not easy to get around (in training) -- he's quite wide

as well. He fits perfectly for the Premier League, he's absolutely perfect."

Former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry has backed another new signing, Alexandre Lacazette, to shine.

Lacazette, the club's record signing from Olympique Lyonnais, will face competition for the attacking spots from fellow Frenchman Olivier Giroud, Danny Welbeck, Theo Walcott and Alexis Sanchez.

"(Lacazette) has a different game to Giroud, which I think is good because you need different types of strikers," Henry, Arsenal's record goalscorer, told Sky Sports.

"He did it in the French league and people might say it's a different league but, with due respect to Lyon, he'll also be with better players. I'm backing him to have a good season."

"But that rotation will be key. Sometimes you'll need Giroud or even (Alexis) Sanchez in the middle and sometimes you'll need (Danny) Welbeck or Walcott, whoever will have an impact"

(Source: Reuters)

Nadal has eyes on world number one ranking in Montreal



Rafael Nadal will return to the top of the ATP world rankings for the first time in three years if he reaches the semi-finals at this week's Rogers Cup in Montreal.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, top seed in Canada in the absence of current world number one Andy Murray, ended last year ranked nine after taking time off to recover from a wrist injury.

While the return of the Mallorcan to the summit would be an incredible turnaround, the French Open champion is refusing to get carried away as he seeks a fourth Rogers Cup title.

"I don't even think about that now. I'm trying to have the right preparation now and that's it," Nadal told the ATP's website.

"I'm going to keep trying to play the way I did in the first part of the season, so if I'm able to make that happen, I hope to have a chance to do well," said Nadal, who is preparing

for his first action since losing an epic contest to Gilles Muller in the fourth round of Wimbledon.

Fifteen-times grand slam champion Nadal has spent a career total of 141 weeks as world number one -- seventh on the list.

Murray, who is missing from Montreal as he treats a hip problem, has been ranked number one since last November having claimed five successive titles.

Nadal opens in Montreal against either Croatia's Borna Coric or Russian Mikhail Youzhny.

Second seed Roger Federer also returns to action in Montreal having won his eighth Wimbledon title last month.

The 35-year-old Swiss is also challenging to return to the world number one spot he has occupied for a record total of 302 weeks during his career.

(Source: Reuters)

Mourinho confirms Gareth Bale a target for Man United

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has confirmed he will pursue Gareth Bale in the remaining weeks of the transfer window if the Welshman is not Zinedine Zidane's plans at Real Madrid next season.

Bale has travelled to Skopje with the European champions ahead of the UEFA Super Cup against United on Tuesday.

He has been linked with a move to Old Trafford, with Real Madrid reportedly keen to sign Monaco teenager Kylian Mbappe to fill his role.

And Mourinho, who has targeted another attacking player this summer, said Zidane's teamsheet for the game at the Philip II Arena on Tuesday night will hint at his plans for Bale next season, and whether the 28-year-old could become available.

Mourinho told a news conference: "Well if [Bale is] playing tomorrow, no I wouldn't think of that, it's because he's in the coach's plans and the club's plans, because he also has that motivation to continue at Real Madrid. So I haven't even thought about the possibility."

"If he is not in the club's plans, that -- with the arrival of another player -- would mean he was on his way out. I will try to be waiting for him on the other side and fight with other coaches that would want him on their team."

"But if he plays, that is the best confirmation that he is wanted by the team."

Earlier on Monday, Bale was named in Madrid's 24-man squad for the game alongside Cristiano Ronaldo, newly returned to training after missing the club's pre-season tour.

Zidane confirmed Bale was fit, but declined to hint at his plans, saying: "I think what's important is that the player is feeling well. On top of that, he's had a lot of



continuous training sessions with us and that's what is the most important.

"At the end of last season it wasn't easy for him, he was almost out for four months through injury but now he is very well, very concentrated, he trains with the team."

"What interests me and what is important for us is not what the coach [Mourinho] said, it's what we are going to do tomorrow. That is all ..."

"It's the same thing with Ronaldo, we've also had stories there. People seem to want to blow a story up beyond proportion. We're concentrated in what we're doing."

Asked if it would be crazy to think that the Welshman would not be in the Spanish capital come Sept. 1, Zidane said: "Well, Bale is a Real Madrid player. That is all I can say."

"What I want to talk to you about now is tomorrow's match because tomorrow we have a really important match. We are here: him, me and all the other players, and

all the fans are here for tomorrow's match only. That's it."

"So, really, that stuff doesn't interest me very much." However, Madrid defender Sergio Ramos said the door remained open for transfers before the end of the month.

"We respect the opinion of any other coach," Ramos said. "At the moment, Gareth Bale is a player of Real Madrid and we are delighted to have him on board. The future of any player is decided by that player. We as teammates have no opinion."

"The month of August is very long and anything can happen. Gareth Bale is a fantastic player and we are delighted to have him on our side."

United have also been linked with Croatian winger Ivan Perisic but the speculation has cooled with Inter Milan holding firm in their £48.5 million valuation.

Mourinho also confirmed he will be without Phil Jones in Skopje after UEFA upheld the defender's two-match ban for verbally abusing a doping control officer following the Europa League final. Eric Bailly is also suspended.

Timothy Fosu-Mensah has not travelled with sources saying the Dutchman is on the verge of joining Crystal Palace on loan for a season.

Mourinho added: "With Phil Jones I was expecting that the appeal would be negative. The only thing I hope is that, the team that wins, if some player wants to celebrate, I hope the doping committee sends somebody with him and doesn't close him in a room."

"No Phil Jones, no Eric Bailly. No Timo Fosu-Mensah because in this moment he is probably going on loan to another club so we make a decision that he doesn't travel."

(Source: Soccernet)

Shooters claim 4th place in Asian Shotgun Championship

Iranian female sports shooters have put an acceptable end to their campaign at the 7th edition of Asian Shotgun Championship in Kazakhstan, and finished fourth at the conclusion of the continental sporting event.

On Tuesday, the Iranian squad, comprised of Marziyeh Parvareshnia, Fatemeh Amiri Behzadi and Ghazaleh Jahandar, took part in women's trap team competitions in the Kazakh capital city of Astana, and placed fourth in the overall standings with 177 points.

Parvareshnia shot 63 out of 75 to land in the eighth place, while Amiri Behzadi shot 57 to be placed 19th. Jahandar shot 57 to sit in the 27th position. Shooters from China headed the standings, while North Korean and Kazakh teams finished in the second and third places respectively.

The 7th edition of Asian Shotgun Championship started in Astana, Kazakhstan, on August 3 and will finish on August 14, 2017. (Source: Press TV)

Former AL MVP Don Baylor dies of cancer at age 68

Former major league slugger and manager Don Baylor died Monday of cancer. He was 68.

"Don passed from this earth with the same fierce dignity with which he played the game and lived his life," his wife, Rebecca, said in a statement.

Baylor, who played 19 seasons in his major league career and was the 1979 American League MVP, died at a hospital in his native Austin, Texas, after a 14-year struggle with multiple myeloma. Baylor played for the Baltimore Orioles, Oakland Athletics, California Angels, New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins. He was an All-Star and the MVP winner with the Angels in 1979 when he led the majors in RBIs (139) and runs (120).

Baylor reached the World Series three straight years at the end of his career from 1986 to 1988 and won the title with the Twins in 1987. In his career, Baylor batted .260 with 338 home runs and 1,276 RBIs. He was known for crowding the plate and led the majors seven times in being hit by pitches during a season, drawing 267 in his career.

Following his playing career, Baylor became manager for the expansion Colorado Rockies for their inaugural season in 1993. During his six-year stint, he took the Rockies to their first postseason appearance in 1995 and later managed the Chicago Cubs for three seasons (2000-2002). He had a 627-689 overall record.

(Source: Reuters)

Badstuber: I did not feel Carlo Ancelotti's trust at Bayern

Holger Badstuber said he "did not feel the trust" of Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti after completing a move to boyhood club Stuttgart.

Badstuber, 28, was at Stuttgart from 2000 until 2002 before joining Bayern as a 13-year-old and going on to make his senior debut in 2009. The German international won five Bundesliga titles and lifted the Champions League trophy in 2013.

But he has been badly affected by injuries since late 2012 and, despite returning to full fitness last season, was loaned to Schalke before Bayern announced that he would leave the Allianz Arena when his contract expired in the summer.

He made just one Bundesliga substitute appearance under Ancelotti last season and said: "Of course I could have stayed at Bayern, but I didn't feel the trust under this coach."

"I play football simply because I enjoy it, and if that's taken away from me I will take a different route."

He said he had the feeling "the whole club" wanted him at Stuttgart and added: "I have been fit for a year and that's a long time."

"I'm now having fun at a new club with a new challenge."

Badstuber said he believed his experience could help the younger Stuttgart players and hoped to emulate the influence of those who helped him at Bayern.

He added: "Mark van Bommel was my mentor at Bayern. With Bastian Schweinsteiger I had a teammate and friend, and we went through a lot together. Arjen Robben as well."

"These three players are the ones that gave me the most." (Source: Soccernet)

Mercedes begins Bottas talks

Mercedes have opened initial contract talks with Valtteri Bottas about an extension for 2018 and hope to have his future resolved by the Singapore GP team boss Toto Wolff has said.

Bottas joined the Silver Arrows from Williams in January on a one-year deal as a last-minute replacement for Nico Rosberg, who had retired five days after winning the 2016 Drivers' Championship.

The Finn has been a revelation in his debut campaign with the team, claiming two race wins and he sits third in the championship standings after 11 races, 33 points behind leader Sebastian Vettel.

Wolff had previously been non-committal on whether Bottas would be retained as Lewis Hamilton's team-mate in 2018 but he admitted at the Hungarian GP that he hoped for progress over the summer break.

"It's a good time to talk and to think things through," Wolff said.

"We had some good discussions with Valtteri before Hungary and I'd certainly like to dash over to Asia for the final races with a decision."

Bottas claimed his first F1 victory at April's Russian GP, two weeks after breaking his pole duck in Bahrain, and was also victorious at last month's Austrian GP.

(Source: Sky Sports)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Ali Asgari
Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051450
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.O. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



Movies from Iran to compete in Split Film Festival

A R T TEHRAN — Three movies from Iran will be competing in the 22nd Split Film Festival, which will be held in the Croatian city from September 9 to 16.



Levon Haftvan acts in a scene from "Kupal".

"Kupal" directed by Kazem Mollai will go on screen in the main competition.

"Kupal" tells the story of a hunter and a taxidermist, called "Dr. Ahmad Kupal". On the last day of the year, moments before the turn of the year, he faces an unexpected challenge.

"Limit" by Javad Darai and "Genesis" by Abtin Mozaffari will screen in the short film section.

Iranian movies to go on screen at Bristol festival

A R T TEHRAN — Two films from Iran will be screened at the 23rd Encounters Film Festival, an event for short and animated films that is annually organized in Bristol, England.



"Pink" by Mahbubeh Mohammadzaki will compete in the animation category and "Retouch" by Kaveh Mazaheri will be screened in the short film section of the festival, which will be held from September 19 to 24.



"Pink" depicts the daily routine of a woman with breast cancer.

"Retouch" tells the story of a young woman whose husband is trapped under a barbell during a workout, but she declines to save him and, consequently, he dies.

Istanbul exhibit displaying works by Iranian artists

A R T TEHRAN — Idil Gallery in Istanbul is currently showcasing works by 40 Iranian artists in an exhibition, which opened on Thursday.



Turkish art enthusiasts visit an exhibition by Iranian artists at Idil Gallery in Istanbul.

The exhibit entitled "Mehr" has been organized in collaboration with Tehran's Yasamin Gallery and the Nidra Art Group, an organization established by some Iranian artists in Turkey.

Among the artists are Amir Shamsinia, Hadi Karimi, Mina Azarmand, Shahrzad Mehrabi, Zahra Vafai and Mohammad Golrokh.

The exhibition will be running until August 13.

Sleeping in a dog cage, Pattinson pares down for "Good Time" thriller

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Actor Robert Pattinson, accustomed to luxury trailers and gourmet food, was reduced to taking a catnap in a dog cage on the set of his latest movie "Good Time," a fast-paced nocturnal crime thriller set in New York City.

"We were setting up lights and I was like, 'Where's Rob?' I look over and there is a dog cage, a huge dog cage and (Pattinson) is in there sleeping," the film's co-director Josh Safdie said in an interview.

"The dog was pissed," an amused Pattinson added. "Just shooting at the pace we were shooting at, you're kind of all ways on. We didn't even have trailers."

Tehran museum to take "The Smell of Almond" to Hague

A R T TEHRAN — The desk Tehran Peace Museum plans to organize an art exhibition titled "The Smell of Almond" in The Hague to remember the tragedy of chemical weapons attack.

In a call issued on Tuesday, the museum has asked artists to send their works online through <http://festival.onlineartgallery.ir> until August 26, 2017.

A selection of the artworks, which will be announced on September 2, will be showcased in an exhibition on the sidelines of the 22nd Conference of the States Parties in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, the Netherlands from November 27 to December 1.

The exhibition will be organized in collaboration with the Online Art Gallery and the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support in Iran.

During the 1980-1988 war, Iraq used hydrogen cyanide as chemical weapons in attacks on Iranian soldiers and civilians. The gas is colorless and has a bitter almond smell.

A form of hydrogen cyanide was used in the Nazi gas chambers during World War II.



An effigy of Saddam Hussein is on display at the Tehran Peace Museum. The Iraqi dictator got the help of numerous European companies to construct an arsenal of modern chemical weapons, which were used in attacks on Iranian soldiers and civilians as well as Iraqi Kurds during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Yunus Emre Institute to award best Persian translations of Turkish books



A R T TEHRAN — Turkey's desk Yunus Emre Institute in Tehran has announced its plan to award best Persian translations of Turkish writers' books.

Only the works published by the permission of Iran's Ministry Culture and Islamic Guidance between January 1, 2015 and July 20, 2017 are eligible to participate in the competition.

Original books along with their translations should be sent to the Tehran branch of the institutes until August 31, 2017.

The Yunus Emre Institute has organized several major exhibitions and

meetings in Tehran over the past few years.

Earlier in April, the institute organized an exhibition of works by Turkish calligrapher Ali Riza Özcan and his fellow miniaturist and illuminator Sehnaz Biçer Özcan at the Iranian Book Design Institute in Tehran.

In 2015, the institute and Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism jointly held a series of sessions to discuss works of designers who created architectural masterpieces in both countries during the Ottoman Empire (c. 1300-1918) and the Safavid dynasty (1501-1736).

"Kelileh & Demneh" honored at Eurasia Intl. Film Festival



Directors Zahra Hashemi (L) and Alireza Tavakkoli-Bina pose backstage after accepting their award during the 13th Eurasia International Film Festival in Astana, Kazakhstan at the Kazakhstan Central Concert Hall on July 28, 2017.

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian animation "Kelileh & Demneh" has won the special prize of the jury in its premiere at the 13th Eurasia International Film Festival in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Directed by Alireza Tavakkoli-Bina and Zahra Hashemi, the film received the award in the Children's Fest Competition during the closing ceremony of the event at in the Kazakhstan Central Concert Hall on July 28, Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation that is the producer of the movie announced on Tuesday.

The film is about Kelileh and

Demneh, two young jackals. The story starts in the middle of a rainy night when a horrified owl pays a visit to the king of the jungle to report on the excessive hunting he has witnessed.

The grand prix in the main competition was presented to "Returnee" from Kazakhstan, while Aktan Arym Kubat from Kyrgyzstan won the best director award for his "Centaur".

The best actress award went to Iya Shugliashvili from Georgia for her role in "My Happy Family" and Gurban Ismailov from Azerbaijan was picked as best actor for his role in "The Pomegranate Orchard".

'Chickens vs. Aliens' and other modern myths by Syrian refugee children

LONDON (Thomson Reuters Foundation) — In the fairy tale of "The Travelling Princess", the heroine is granted one wish: to travel through foreign lands, meet new friends and share her riches with the people she meets.

At the end of her journey, Princess Amira gives up her crown, and makes her home in Greece among the families of refugees who have fled Syria's war, helping children to find lost parents and one day return to the lives they have left behind.

The story is one of eight tales in a collection of modern myths and fables invented by Syrian and Kurdish children living in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Brazilian journalist Debora de Pina Castiglione and her sister, illustrator Beatriz, recorded the stories and worked with designers and translators to create a book now sold in 11 languages throughout Europe.

"Travelling Tales" aims to encourage communication between young refugees and others children, through the universal language of myth and wild imagination, Beatriz said.

"The stories created by the children are super happy, and full of creativity and adventure, and really funny."

Beatriz, one of five illustrators to contribute to the book, said the sisters wanted to give children and their parents a chance to talk about the war and refugee crises.

But the book is above all an expression of childhood fun



Illustrations from the book 'Travelling Tales', a collection of eight modern myths and fables invented by Syrian and Kurdish children living in Thessaloniki, Greece. (Reuters/Courtesy Beatriz de Pina Castiglione)

that should allow readers in communities hosting refugees to see the authors not as victims but as children, who share their excitement and fantastical imagination, she added.

Among the stories, readers find a plucky duck who lives in a chocolate house, a king who gets lessons in kindness from his children, and a battle between aliens and chickens for earth's last remaining eggs.

Actor who wore monster suit to play first Godzilla dies aged 88

TOKYO (Reuters) — The man who dressed in a rubber suit to play the original Godzilla, crashing through Japanese cities and destroying them with swipes of his massive tail, has died at the age of 88, film company Toho said on Tuesday.

Haruo Nakajima, who donned the cumbersome suit to play the monster who rose from the depths after a hydrogen bomb test in the original 1954 "Godzilla", died on Monday of pneumonia, a Toho spokesman said.

The first suit weighed 100 kg (220 lb) and was so hard to breathe in that an oxygen tube was attached, Nakajima reminisced in later years. He played the

monster in a dozen films in total, running through to 1972.

The first "Godzilla" - his name a combination of "gorilla" and the Japanese word for whale - crashed ashore as a symbol of atomic weapons less than a decade after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, as well as of frustrations with the United States, which had just held a hydrogen bomb test at Bikini atoll that irradiated a boat full of Japanese fishermen.

The most recent film in the franchise, which has included both Japanese and U.S.-made films, came out from Toho in 2016.



Haruo Nakajima, who dressed in a rubber suit to play the original Godzilla, is seen in Tokyo, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo May 12, 1966. Picture taken May 12, 1966. (Mandatory credit/Kyodo)