

Some European companies and banks will continue to work with Iran: Nephew **7**

Iranian student startup develops carpool app **12**

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"Breath" producer pleased female filmmaker to represent Iran at Oscars **16**

Trump UN speech hateful, absurd

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Zarif : Trump's address 'belongs in medieval times'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that U.S. President Donald Trump's "hate speech" at the UN General Assembly "belongs in medieval times".
 "Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times-not the 21st Century UN -. Fake empathy for Iranians fools no one," he tweeted on Tuesday.

In his speech, Trump said that the 2015 nuclear deal signed by Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council was an embarrassment and hinted that he may not re-certify the agreement when it comes up for a mid-October deadline.
 "We cannot abide by an agreement if it provides cover for the eventual construction of a nuclear program."

UK company plans 600MW solar power farm in Iran

A UK company plans to build one of the world's largest solar power farms in Iran, highlighting European investor enthusiasm for the country despite its renewed diplomatic tensions with the US.

Quercus, a green investment company in London, said it had reached agreement with Iran's energy ministry on plans for a

600-megawatt plant in central Iran that would rival the largest solar projects so far built in China, India and the US.

Diego Biasi, Quercus chief executive, said the €500m deal showed Iran was "open for business" and represented a "huge opportunity" for investors in renewable energy. **->4**

U.S. defines Iran as key geopolitical enemy: Filip Kovacevic

By Payman Yazdani
TEHRAN — Referring to the recent Trump administration's hostile acts toward Iran and the JCPOA, professor of geopolitics, Filip Kovacevic, says all these means that Iran is defined as the key geopolitical enemy by the Trump administration.

While the IAEA has certified Iran's compliance with the Joint Compre-

hensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) 8 times and even Trump has certified Iran's compliance with JCPOA twice under a law that requires it to notify Congress of Iran's compliance every 90 days, there are some reports that President Trump's administration is planning to decertify Iran's compliance with the international nuclear agreement (JCPOA). **->7**

Trump UN speech was foundation for US de facto exit from the JCPOA: expert

By Javad Heirannia
TEHRAN — Professor Nader Entessar from South Alabama University says "What Trump said about the JCPOA during his UN speech had no new element in it."

"He simply repeated the same things he has been saying about the JCPOA ever since he became a presidential candidate in the United States," Entessar tells the Tehran Times.
 He also says that "But what Trump's latest UN speech conveys is that he is now moving fast towards decertifying Iran and laying the foundation for the US de facto exit from the JCPOA."

Following is the text of the interview:
■ In his address at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump talked about the domestic achievements of his own government in what is considered as an unusual move. What was the reason for his focus on internal issues during his speech?
 A: In almost every speech Trump delivers, he addresses what is commonly referred to as "his base." Trump's UN speech was given in the same vein. But, the UN was the wrong venue for Trump to display his belligerency. As many seasoned observers have already remarked, Trump displayed a remarkable lack of leadership quality when he confused his "support base" in the United States with that of a broader global community.

■ Donald Trump addressed Iran and the nuclear deal in his speech. Given the fact that he called the nuclear deal an 'embarrassment' for the US, how likely it is for Trump to back out of or refuse to confirm the deal in his future report to the Congress?
 A: What Trump said about the JCPOA during his UN speech had no new element in it. He simply repeated the same things he has been saying about the JCPOA ever since he became a presidential candidate in the United States. But what Trump's latest UN speech conveys is that he is now moving fast towards decertifying Iran and laying the foundation for the US de facto exit from the JCPOA. The details of Trump's latest plan will be revealed



when he submits his administration's report to the US Congress in mid-October.

■ Richard Haass, president of the US Council on Foreign Relations, has compared Trump with George W. Bush, saying the US president's UN speech resurrects Bush's "axis of evil" with only change that Iraq has fallen off and North Korea and Iran remain. What is your take on this?
 A: I agree with Richard Haass's assessment of Trump's speech. When I was listening to Trump's speech, the first thing that came to my mind was how similar Trump's tone was to George W. Bush's "axis of evil" speech. Even Trump's body language resembled that of George W. Bush's.

■ French President Emmanuel Macron has voiced support for the nuclear deal in reaction to Trump's remarks. In your opinion, if US withdrew from the deal, would EU be willing to continue backing the nuclear agreement even as its interests might come under threat by the US?
 A: As I have often repeated in my prior interviews, Europe is not in a position to oppose Washington's policies towards Iran. If given only the two choices of supporting Iran, or more specifically the JCPOA, or supporting US policies toward Tehran, Europe will choose Washington's sides. Notwithstanding what European leaders say in public, today's Europe is a secondary player in global affairs.

Zarif, Mogherini discuss JCPOA implementation

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Wednesday held a meeting on the process of the implementation of the JCPOA, the formal name for the nuclear agreement.

The meeting between Zarif and the European Union's chief diplomat was held talks on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Tasnim reported.

The two sides discussed the latest developments about the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.

During the meeting, Mogherini reiterated the EU's continued support for the international agreement.

It came after U.S. President Donald Trump told the UN that the nuclear agreement is an "embarrassment" to the United States.

Iran and the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) reached the 159-page nuclear agreement in July 2015 and implemented it in January 2016.

Since the historic deal was signed in Vienna, the IAEA has repeatedly confirmed the Islamic Republic's compliance with its commitments under the JCPOA, but some other parties, especially the U.S., have failed to live up to their undertakings in terminating economic and financial sanctions against Iran.



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

Trump himself, not nuclear agreement, is an 'embarrassment'

In his speech at the United Nations on Tuesday, Donald Trump left no doubt that as president he is unbelievably reckless, imprudent, irresponsible, impulsive and dangerous.

The countries' responsible leaders use the UN podium to present solutions to the pressing international problems but Trump made the world anxious with his extremely hostile remarks against Iran; Also, instead of using the largest international gathering to push for diplomacy to resolve the dispute with North Korea, he said the U.S. would "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend itself or its allies.

Of the 193 countries present at the annual UN conference it was only Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his team who were smiling when Trump made his debut speech at the UN. After Trump's rash remarks were over, Netanyahu made a tweet saying, "In over 30 years in my experience with the UN, I never heard a bolder or more courageous speech."

However, one should not be surprised by such reactions because Trump, Netanyahu and other extremists like John Bolton share many things in common. Netanyahu is a bloodthirsty. He has proven this in reality, killing children in the occupied Palestinian territories. The world may also see Trump would leave a legacy of war and destruction though his refusal to abide by the international climate accord is a kind of crime as some scientists believe the consequences of global warming are more dangerous than a nuclear war.

On the nuclear deal, which the United States is only one party among seven others, he again said it is "the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into". **->2**

ARTICLE
By Ebrahim Fallahi
 Tehran Times journalist

A scenario: Iran's economy in the absence of nuclear deal

In his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump called the nuclear deal with Iran "an embarrassment to the United States" that should be revisited.

The nuclear deal, officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA), has been subject to threat since Donald Trump became the U.S. president in January. He has stated repeatedly that the agreement should be renegotiated or even called off, however getting no support from other signatories -China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, and the European Union - he has not been able to act on his words so far.

Trump's recent remarks at the general assembly have raised new doubts about U.S. sticking to the accord more than ever. Now the question is what will happen if Trump blows the nuclear deal, and what will be the consequences for Iran's economy.

■ Effects on Iran's banking relations
 There are already some U.S. sanctions remained in place, most of which are affecting the country's open banking relations with foreign trade partners. Many international banks are already banned from or are cautious of direct involvement with Iran. By repeatedly disapproving the nuclear accord, Trump has already spread a sense of uncertainty about Iran's economy making it harder for international banks to have direct communication with Iranian banking system; so even if U.S. won't comply with the nuclear deal, Iran's banking situation will not change drastically.

However, regardless of all that has been said, a look at the changes in Iran's position among the world economies indicates that Iran's market with its great potentials has been too attractive to resist for many foreign investors. Despite U.S. sanctions, foreign companies and business delegations have been flocking to Iran seizing opportunities to clinch deals in different areas. **->4**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



'Trump displayed shallow understanding of international treaties'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Wednesday censure Donald Trump's speech at the UN General Assembly, describing it as an indication of his "shallow understanding of international treaties."

Ali Shamkhani said the international community deems Trump's comments on the nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as unimportant.

None of the signatories to the nuclear deal has the right to disregard the mechanisms agreed upon in this international agreement by using flimsy and unlawful excuses, the top security official warned.



Trump showed true face of U.S.: IRGC chief

POLITICS TEHRAN — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari on Wednesday dismissed President Trump's allegations against Iran, saying his warlike comments showed the true face of the United States.

Pointing to Trump's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, Jafari said: "Today, the world can see the same image of the United States that Iran has been trying to reveal it for many years."

He also asked the President Rouhani, who is in New York for the annual UN meeting, to "show strong, revolutionary and revealing stance" in his address to the meeting.



Top advisor warns of consequences of Kurdistan vote

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, a top advisor to the Supreme Leader, has warned of the consequences of the Iraqi Kurdistan's September 25 independence referendum, underlining the need for peace in Iraq to prevent conflicts.

In an interview with Tasnim news agency published on Wednesday, Velayati said the hegemonic countries have so far not succeeded to disintegrate Iraq and will not be able to do so in the future.

"The Iraqi government has shown itself to be strong and will not allow such thing to happen," he added.



Trump speech probably written by Netanyahu: Rezaee

POLITICS TEHRAN — Secretary of the Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaee on Wednesday hit back at U.S. President Donald Trump for his anti-Iran speech at the UN, saying it seemed like Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has written the speech for him.

"This would further discredit and isolate America," Rezaee wrote on his Twitter account.

It came after Trump, in his speech at the UN, used the harshest words against Iran. Trump also criticized the Iran nuclear deal, calling it an "embarrassment".



Iran condoles with Mexico over deadly quake

POLITICS TEHRAN — In a Wednesday statement, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi expressed sympathy with Mexico over a recent earthquake in the country which has killed more than 200 people.

Qassemi also offered his condolences to the bereaved families of the deadly earthquake victims.

The 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck southern Mexico on Tuesday, in Puebla State, 123km from Mexico City. It was the most powerful earthquake since one which hit Mexico City on the same day in 1985, killing thousands and destroying a large part of the city.



Daesh would've taken Baghdad in absence of Soleimani: Tunisian analyst

POLITICS TEHRAN — Mohammed Saleh al-Hanshir, a Tunisian author and analyst, have hailed Major General Qasem Soleimani's anti-terror fight, saying if he were not fighting Daesh (ISIS), the terrorist group would have captured Baghdad by now.

In an interview with Mehr news agency published on Wednesday, al-Hanshir praised the Islamic Republic for its role in fighting Daesh and other terrorist groups.

"Despite being surrounded by a great number of enemies in its east and west, what Iran has done [in fighting terrorism] is respectable," he said.

Rouhani calls Trump UN speech hateful, absurd

Trump's speech was below the dignity of the United Nations, Iranian president says



© File photo

The defense capabilities of Iran, including our missiles, are solely defensive deterrents for the maintenance of regional peace and stability and the prevention of adventurist tendencies of irrational aspirants.

Rouhani described U.S. President Donald Trump's harsh remarks against Iran at the United Nations' opening speech as "absurd" and "hateful" which were below the dignity of the international organization.

Below is a summary of his speech: Four months ago, over 41 million people—constituting 73% of Iran's total eligible voters—came to the polls in the country's 12th presidential election and once again expressed confidence in my platform, which calls for moderation and respect for human rights and prosperity and economic revitalization at home, and constructive engagement around the world. Their vote manifested the maturity of the electorate in a society that has experienced free and democratic governance for only four decades. This was not merely a vote for a president, but a huge political investment by our population; a resilient people who truly constitute our most reliable asset.

Human and citizens' rights, along with the quest for justice and Islamic values, have constituted the most pivotal demands of the Iranian people in over 150 years of struggle, and particularly in the Islamic Revolution of 1979. In its first term, while pursuing nuclear negotiations internationally, my government focused at home on the deliberation and articulation of citizens' rights leading to the promulgation of "The Charter of Citizens' Rights" and its issuance for implementation. Adoption of this Charter conformed to the demands of a people who rose against dictatorial regimes, aspiring to restore their rights and human dignity 111 years ago in the Constitutional Revolution, and again in the Islamic Revolution 39 years ago.

I declare before this august global assembly that moderation is the inclination as well as the chosen path of the great Iranian people. Moderation seeks neither isolation nor hegemony; it implies neither indifference, nor intransigence.

The path of moderation is the path of peace; but a just and inclusive peace: not peace for one nation, and war and turmoil for others;

Moderation is freedom and democracy; but in an inclusive and comprehensive manner: not purporting to promote freedom in one place while supporting dictators elsewhere;

Moderation is the synergy of ideas and not the dance of swords;

And finally, the path of moderation nurtures beauty. Deadly-weapons exports are not beautiful; rather, peace is.

We in Iran strive to build peace and promote the human rights of peoples and nations. We never condone tyranny and we always defend the voiceless. We never threaten anyone; but we do not tolerate threats from anyone. Our discourse is one of dignity and respect, and we are unmoved by threats and intimidation. We believe in dialogue and negotiation based on equal footing and mutual respect.

In today's globalized world, peace, security, stability and the progress of all nations are intertwined. It is not possible

that a rogue and racist regime trample upon the most basic rights of the Palestinians, and the usurpers of this land enjoy security. It is simply impossible for anybody to aspire to attain long-term stability, prosperity and development, while Muslims in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Myanmar and so many other places live in misery, war and poverty.

Throughout its history, Iran has been the bastion of tolerance for various religions and ethnicities. We are the same people who rescued the Jews from Babylonian servitude; opened our arms to welcome Armenian Christians in our midst, and created the "Iranian cultural continent" with a unique mix of diverse religions and ethnicities. I represent the same Iran that has historically assisted the oppressed: centuries ago, we supported the rights of the Jewish people and today we insist on the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. Iran is the still the same country: supporting justice and seeking tranquility.

Today, we are on the frontlines of fighting terror and religious extremism in the Middle east; not for sectarian or ethnic reasons, but for an ethical, humanitarian and strategic one.

Iran does not seek to restore its ancient empire, impose its official religion on others, or export its revolution through the force of arms. We are so confident in the depth of our culture, the truth of our faith and tenacity and longevity of our revolution that we will never seek to export any of them in the way neo-colonialists do, with the heavy boots of soldiers.

The call of moderation is from a nation that has been committed to it. We are not preaching moderation, but practicing it. The JCPOA is a case in point.

The deal is the outcome of two years of intensive multilateral negotiations, overwhelmingly applauded by the international community and endorsed by the Security Council as a part of Resolution 2231. As such, it belongs to the international community in its entirety, and not to only one or two countries.

The JCPOA can become a new model for global interactions; interactions based on mutual constructive engagement between all of us. We have opened our doors to engagement and cooperation. We have concluded scores of development agreements with advanced countries of both East and West. Unfortunately, some have deprived themselves of this unique opportunity. They have imposed sanctions really against themselves, and now they feel betrayed. We were not deceived, nor did we cheat or deceive anyone. We have ourselves determined the extent of our nuclear program. We never sought to achieve deterrence through nuclear weapons; we have immunized ourselves through our knowledge and – more importantly – the resilience of our people. This is our talent and our approach. Some have claimed to have wanted to deprive Iran of nuclear weapons; weapons that we have continuously and vociferously rejected. And, of course, we were not and are not distressed for forgoing an

option that we in fact never sought. It is reprehensible that the rogue Zionist regime that threatens regional and global security with its nuclear arsenal and is not committed to any international instrument or safeguard, has the audacity to preach peaceful nations.

I declare before you that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be the first country to violate the agreement; but it will respond decisively and resolutely to its violation by any party. It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by "rogue" newcomers to the world of politics: the world will have lost a great opportunity. But such unfortunate behavior will never impede Iran's course of progress and advancement. By violating its international commitments, the new U.S. administration only destroys its own credibility and undermines international confidence in negotiating with it, or accepting its word or promise.

The ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric, filled with ridiculously baseless allegations, that was uttered before this august body by the president of America yesterday (Tuesday), was not only unfit to be heard at the United Nations – which was established to promote peace and respect between nations – but indeed contradicted the demands of our nations from this world body to bring governments together to combat war and terror.

■ **We will never allow our people to become victims of catastrophic delusions again'**

I wish to underscore here that the defense capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including our missiles, are solely defensive deterrents for the maintenance of regional peace and stability and the prevention of adventurist tendencies of irrational aspirants. We cannot forget that civilians in many of our cities became the targets of long-range missile attacks by Saddam Hussein during his 8-year war of aggression against us. We will never allow our people to become victims of such catastrophic delusions again.

Instability and extremist violence have only been exacerbated in our region through the military interventions of extra-regional actors – the same powers that try to sell ever more of their deadly weapons to other states by accusing Iran of fomenting instability. I want to emphasize that foreign intervention and the imposition of alien wishes on the people of the region will only widen and deepen the crises in our region. The crises in Syria, Yemen and Bahrain do not have military solutions and can only be resolved through cessation of hostilities, and the acceptance of the will and wishes of the populaces.

The United States Government should explain to its own people why, after spending billions of dollars of the assets of the people of America and of our region, instead of contributing to peace and stability, it has only brought war, misery, poverty and the rise of terrorism and extremism to the region.

We cannot forget that civilians in many of our cities became the targets of long-range missile attacks by Saddam Hussein during his 8-year war of aggression against us.

Japan's Abe urges all nuclear deal signatories to respect their obligations

POLITICS TEHRAN — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has called on the signatories to the 2015 nuclear agreement to respect the international agreement and remain committed to their obligations.

Abe made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

For his part, Rouhani said, "We will not be the first to violate the JCPOA [the official name for the nuclear deal] and we hope that other countries remain committed to their legal and moral obligations."

Except the U.S. under the Trump administration, all signatories to the nuclear deal – the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and the European Union – have been insisting on the full implementation of the nuclear deal. On Tuesday U.S. President Donald Trump used his debut speech at the UN to make the harshest attack against the nuclear deal.

Rouhani said the nuclear deal was reached after long negotiations and seven countries' efforts and should not

be harmed just by one country.

The agreement went into effect in January 2016.

■ **Abe wishes to visit Iran soon**

During his talks with Rouhani, the Japanese leader also expressed hope that he would visit Iran in near future.

Abe also said that the Japanese government seeks to have cooperation with Iran in various areas.

Rouhani also said that Iran welcomes expansion of relations with Japan in various spheres.

The Iranian president also highlighted the necessity of expanding cooperation with Japan in the area of environment protection.

■ **Rouhani says Iran welcomes close ties with Norway**

While in New York Rouhani also meet the leaders of several other countries. In his meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Rouhani said that Tehran welcomes expansion of ties with Norway given the opportunities created by the nuclear deal.

"The JCPOA has provided good ground for expansion of Iran's relations with the European Union," he said.

Rouhani also said the nuclear agreement is beneficial to the entire world.

Trump himself, not nuclear agreement, is an 'embarrassment'

➔ As a real estate businessman who was miraculously catapulted to the post of president, he looks at international agreements such as the Paris climate agreement and the July 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA),

which has been endorsed by the UN Security Council, as commodities or better say residential buildings. He has been repeatedly saying that his country has no benefit in staying in these deals.

It is surprising how can a normal president rail against an international agreement at the United Nations which enjoys the backing of the entire world?

He called the nuclear agreement an

"embarrassment". Contrary to his remarks, it is Trump himself who is an embarrassment to the great majority of the American people and large world. It is he who is on the wrong side of history.

Cuba calls Trump's UN address 'unacceptable, meddling'

Venezuela FM reacts to Trump's anti-Caracas remarks

Cuba slammed the United States President Donald Trump's latest comments about the island as "disrespectful, unacceptable and meddling," while reiterating it was not involved in the alleged incidents that had harmed the U.S. diplomats in Havana.

The sharply worded Foreign Ministry statement came after the U.S. and Cuban delegations met in Washington to discuss bilateral relations, the first such high-level meeting between the Cold War foes since Trump took office in January.

Their meeting took place on the same day Trump addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York, calling Cuba "corrupt and destabilizing." He also said he would not lift the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba until it made "fundamental reforms."

Cuba said it had voiced "strong protest" against his comments, as well against his new policy toward the Communist-run nation. The Republican president announced in June a partial rollback of the U.S.-Cuban detente forged by his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama.

"In the wake of the disrespectful, unacceptable and meddling statements made by President Donald Trump in his address to the UN General Assembly at a time when the U.S.-Cuba Bilateral Commission was sitting in session, the Cuban delega-



tion voiced a strong protest," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

Venezuela FM reacts to Trump's anti-Caracas remarks in UN speech

Meantime, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza has reacted to Trump's UN speech, stressing that his country does not accept "threats from President Trump or whomever in this world."

While addressing the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump said that the

collapsing situation in Venezuela was "completely unacceptable," adding that the U.S. will not stand by and watch the country's failure. "We are a people of peace, a peaceful people. And what we want is relations of mutual respect not only with the United States but with all the countries all over the world," said Arreaza.

"We are quite surprised by the words of the president of the United States this morning. This is supposed to be the house

and the headquarters of peace and the international law. And what we heard was the opposite of that. It's a president who comes for the first time and speaks about war about destroying countries about blockades against countries. And of course the country that violates the human rights all over the world seems to have the moral authority to come and speak to the rest of the countries as they were his employees," he added.

The oil-rich but impoverished country has been convulsed by months of deadly protests against the government in Caracas. The unrest, which first broke out in April, has so far led to the death of at least 120 people from the two sides.

The United States imposed fresh sanctions against Caracas last month. Trump signed an executive order on August 25 that prohibits dealings with Venezuela, a measure taken to halt financing what the White House calls Maduro's "dictatorship."

Maduro described the move as illegal and designed to "asphyxiate" the Venezuelan economy and push the oil-rich nation into default. He also says the United States and its allies in the region are fomenting instability to bring down his government.

(Source: agencies)

Boris Johnson: I won't quit over Theresa May's Brexit speech



Boris Johnson has insisted he will not be resigning from the cabinet over Brexit but said he hoped the prime minister would avoid hitching Britain too closely to the European Union after its departure.

In an interview with the Guardian in New York, the man who last year fronted the Vote Leave campaign said it was about time people heard what he had to say on Brexit and played down reports that he might quit this weekend.

"I am mystified by all this stuff," Johnson said. "Not me, gov. I don't know where it is coming from, honestly. It feels to me like an attempt to keep the great snore-athon story about my article running. I think that is what is going on."

The foreign secretary was speaking on Tuesday after a day of chaos and contradiction over his political ambitions, during which reports suggested he could resign shortly after Theresa May gives a highly anticipated Brexit update speech in Florence this Friday.

That was swiftly contradicted by friends of Johnson who instead said he "could not live with" a version of Brexit in which Britain paid to have access to the single market on a permanent basis.

Johnson, speaking in a wide-ranging interview that touched on Syria

and Britain's relationship with Donald Trump, stressed that Britain needed a future relationship with the EU that "allows the UK to take advantage of the economic opportunities of Brexit".

His remarks will be seen as a signal that he does not want May to commit to a close legal relationship with the EU similar to the arrangements adopted by Switzerland, which pays for access to the single market. Such an option would restrict Britain room for maneuver over migration, common regulatory standards or the right to strike trade deals.

Johnson is attending the United Nations general assembly in New York, where he was due to meet May late on Tuesday to discuss the contents of her Florence speech.

Expressing his belief that her remarks would unite the Conservative party, Johnson said: "I am confident she will set out an exciting and positive vision for Brexit and it will be a speech around which everyone can unite." His comments indicated that a possible clash over the future relationship had been averted for now.

On Saturday, Johnson published a 4,000-word article about Brexit in the Daily Telegraph that was widely interpreted as the first step in a pitch for the party leadership.

(Source: The Guardian)

Police arrest Catalan Minister Josep Maria Jove

Spanish police have arrested the Catalan region's junior economy minister as part of a morning raid on several government offices in the run-up to an independence referendum, according to sources within the regional government.

Besides arresting Josep Maria Jove, police on Wednesday entered the local governmental offices of the economy, interior, foreign affairs, welfare, telecommunications and tax, the sources said.

Spain's Guardia Civil police on Wednesday searched several headquarters in Barcelona of Catalonia's regional government, a Catalan government spokesman said.

The operation comes amid mounting tensions as Catalan leaders press ahead with preparations for the independence referendum on October 1 despite Madrid's ban and a court ruling deeming it illegal.

Police were searching the Catalan government's offices of economic affairs, foreign relations and the presidency, the spokesman said.

The operation comes a day after police seized a trove of documents related to the October 1 referendum from the offices of private delivery company Unipost in the Catalan city of Terrasa.

Pro-separatist parties captured 47.6 percent of the vote in a September 2015 regional election in Catalonia viewed as a proxy vote on independence, giving them a narrow majority of 72 seats in the 135-seat Catalan parliament.

Control of finances

Spanish authorities on Monday took control of Catalonia's finances to prevent funds being used for the independence referendum, a move that limits the region's autonomy and puts in doubt the payment of thousands of public workers' salaries.

Earlier, on Friday, the conserv-



ative government announced it would take over the payment of essential services and public workers' salaries in Catalonia to prevent it from spending money.

Catalonia's pro-separatist government challenged the measure in Spain's Supreme Court but a court spokeswoman told AFP it was "in force" and would not be suspended while judges rule on its legality.

Spain's regions pay taxes to the central government and are then given a quota to spend on health care, education and public infrastructure.

Catalonia, which is roughly the size of Belgium and home to around 7.5 million people, receives about 1.5bn euros (\$1.8bn) a month from Madrid to cover essential services.

About a quarter of Catalonia's revenues comes directly from certain taxes which it collects itself as well as from university tuition fees.

To prevent the Catalan government from using this money, the Spanish government has asked banks to control all movements in the accounts and credit cards managed by Catalan leaders.

Opinion polls show Catalonia's roughly 7.5 million residents are divided on independence.

A survey commissioned by the regional government in July showed 49.4 percent of Catalans were against independence while 41.1 percent were in favor.

Over 70 percent of Catalans want a legal referendum on independence to settle the issue.

(Source: agencies)

Croatian language school removes Melania Trump billboards following lawsuit threat

A Croatian language school has removed billboards featuring Melania Trump after her lawyer threatened legal action.

"Just imagine how far you can go with a little bit of English," said the Ameri?ki Institut's advert, which was launched in Zagreb last week in an effort to persuade Croats to learn English.

The first lady's Slovenian lawyer demanded that the billboards, showing her delivering a speech standing before a fluttering American flag, be immediately removed, the Associated Press reported.

"I'm satisfied with the fact that the school admitted that they violated the law and that they are ready to remove the billboards and (Facebook) ads," lawyer Natasa Pirc-Musar told the AP. "We are still analyzing possible further legal steps."

Melania Trump hired the law firm to protect her im-



age, which has appeared on various products in her native Slovenia, including cakes, underwear and tourism

advertisements. Pirc-Musar said that the Croatian school had apologized for the billboards, but that the statement also needs to be published by the Croatian and Slovenian state news agencies.

"We are very sorry that the billboards were misunderstood as something intended to mock the U.S. first lady," Ivis Buric, the woman behind the campaign, told the AP. "It was meant to be something positive, to show her as a role model."

Buric told the AP that the short advertising campaign turned out to be "very successful" and said that the school intends to put up new billboards, this time without Melania Trump's image.

Meanwhile the school posted a video of the song "I'm Sorry" by 1960s country star Brenda Lee on its Facebook page on Tuesday.

(Source: Telegraph)

7.1-magnitude quake kills at least 217 in Mexico



Desperate rescue workers scabbled through rubble in a floodlit search on Wednesday for dozens of children feared buried beneath a Mexico City school, one of hundreds of buildings wrecked by the country's most lethal earthquake in a generation.

The magnitude 7.1 shock killed at least 217 people, nearly half of them in the capital, 32 years to the day after a devastating 1985 quake. The disaster came as Mexico still reels from a powerful tremor that killed nearly 100 people in the south of the country less than two weeks ago.

Among the twisted concrete and steel ruin of the Enrique Rebsamen school, soldiers and firefighters found at least 22 dead children and two adults, while another 30 children and 12 adults were missing, President Enrique Pena Nieto said.

There were chaotic scenes at the school as bulldozers moved rubble under the buzz and glare of floodlights powered by generators, with parents clinging to hope their children had survived.

"They keep pulling kids out, but we know nothing of my daughter," said 32-year-old Adriana D'Fargo, her eyes red after hours waiting for news of her seven-year-old.

Three survivors were found at around midnight as volunteer rescue teams formed after the 1985 quake and known as "moles" crawled deep under the rubble.

TV network Televisa reported that 15 more bodies, mostly children, had been recovered, while 11 children were rescued. The school is for children aged 3 to 14.

The earthquake toppled dozens of buildings, broke gas mains and sparked fires across the city and other towns in central Mexico. Falling rubble and billboards crushed cars.

In a live broadcast, one newsreader had time to say "this is not a drill", before weaving his way out of the buckling studio.

Parts of colonial-era churches crumbled in the state of Puebla, where the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) located the quake's epicenter, some 100 miles (158 km) southwest of the capital, at a depth of 51 km (32 miles).

As the earth shook, Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano, visible from the capital on a clear day, had a small eruption. On its slopes, a church in Atzitzihuacan collapsed during mass, killing 15 people, Puebla Governor Jose Antonio Gali said.

U.S. President Donald Trump mentioned the earthquake in a tweet, saying: "God bless the people of Mexico City. We are with you and will be there for you."

In Rome, Pope Francis told pilgrims that he was praying for all the victims, the wounded, their families and the rescue workers in the majority Catholic country. "In this moment of pain, I want to express my closeness and prayers to all the beloved Mexican people," he said.

NIGHT SEARCHES

Residents of Mexico City, a metropolitan region of some 20 million people, slept in the streets while authorities and volunteers set up tented collection centers to distribute food and water. Volunteers, soldiers and firefighters formed human chains and dug with hammers and picks to find dust-covered survivors and dead bodies in the remains of apartment buildings, schools and a factory.

The middle-class neighborhood of Del Valle was hit hard, with several buildings toppling over on just one street. Reserve rescue workers arrived late at night and were still pulling survivors out in the small hours of Wednesday.

With power out in much of the city, the work was carried out in the dark or with flashlights and generators. Rescue workers requested silence as they listened for signs of life.

Some soldiers were armed with automatic weapons. Authorities said schools would be shut on Wednesday as damage was assessed.

Emergency personnel and equipment were being deployed across affected areas so that "throughout the night we can continue aiding the population and eventually find people beneath the rubble," Peña Nieto said in a video posted on Facebook earlier on Tuesday evening.

In Obrera, central Mexico City, people applauded when rescuers managed to retrieve four people alive, with cheers of "si se puede" -- "yes we can" -- ringing out.

Volunteers continued arriving throughout the night, following calls from the civil protection agency, the Red Cross and firefighters.

The quake had killed 86 people in the capital by early Wednesday morning, according to Civil Protection chief Luis Felipe Puente -- fewer than he had previously estimated. In Morelos State, just to the south, 71 people were killed, with hundreds of homes destroyed. In Puebla at least 43 died.

Another 17 people were reported killed in the states of Mexico, Guerrero and Oaxaca.

As many as 4.6 million homes, businesses and other facilities had lost electricity, according to national power company Comisión Federal de Electricidad, including 40 percent of homes in Mexico City.

Moises Amador Mejia, a 44-year-old employee of the civil protection agency, was working late into the night to rescue people trapped in a collapsed building in Mexico City's bohemian Condesa neighborhood.

"The idea is to stay here until we find who is inside. Day and night."

(Source: Reuters)

EU proposes to extend its grip on financial sector

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — The European Commission proposed on Wednesday transferring some powers to oversee the financial sector from national capitals in a move to extend the EU's grip on the industry as the bloc prepares for the departure of London, its main financial hub.

In a bid to strengthen the so-called Capital Market Union, a flagship project to make the EU financial sector more integrated, the Commission proposed to give direct supervision to EU regulators on critical financial benchmarks, such as Euribor, and on funds with EU labels, such as European venture capital funds.

IMF and World Bank members must stop rise of economic non-order

By Mohamed El-Erian

Next month, when finance ministers and central bank governors from more than 180 countries gather in Washington DC for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, they will confront a global economic order under increasing strain. Having failed to deliver the inclusive economic prosperity of which it is capable, that order is subject to growing doubts — and mounting challenges. Barring a course correction, the risks that today's order will yield to a world economic non-order will only intensify.

The current international economic order, spearheaded by the United States and its allies after the second world war, is underpinned by multilateral institutions, including the IMF and the World Bank. These institutions were designed to crystallise member countries' obligations, and they embodied a set of best economic-policy practices that evolved into what became known as the "Washington consensus."

That consensus was rooted in an economic paradigm that aimed to promote win-win interactions among countries, emphasising trade liberalisation, relatively unrestricted cross-border capital flows, free-market pricing and domestic deregulation. All of this stood in stark contrast to what developed behind the iron curtain and in China over the first half of the postwar period.

For several decades, the western-led international order functioned well, helping to deliver prosperity and relative financial stability. Then it was shaken by a series of financial shocks that culminated in the 2008 global financial crisis, which triggered cascading economic failures that pushed the world to the edge of a devastating multiyear depression. It was the most severe economic breakdown since the great depression of the 1930s.

But the crisis did not appear out of nowhere to challenge a healthy economic order. On the contrary, the evolution of the global order had long been outpaced by structural economic changes on the ground, with multilateral governance institutions taking too long to recognise fully the significance of financial-sector developments and their impact on the real economy, or to make adequate room for emerging economies.

For example, governance structures, including voting power, correspond better to the economic realities of yesterday than to those of today and tomorrow. And nationality, rather than merit, still is the dominant guide for the appointment of these institutions' leaders, with top positions still reserved for European and US citizens.

The destabilising consequences of this obstinate failure to reform sufficiently multilateral governance have been compounded by China's struggle to reconcile its domestic priorities with its global economic responsibilities as the world's second-largest economy. Several other countries, particularly among the advanced economies, have also failed to transform their domestic policies to account for changes to economic relationships resulting from globalisation, liberalisation and deregulation.

As a result of all of this, the balance of winners and losers has become increasingly extreme and more difficult to manage, not just economically, but also politically and socially. With too many people feeling marginalized, forgotten and dispossessed — and angry at the leaders and institutions that have allowed this to happen — domestic policy pressure has intensified, causing countries to turn inward.

This tendency is reflected in recent challenges to several features of the economic order, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, as well as the US's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the UK's renunciation of EU membership. All are casting a shadow on the future of the global economic system.

The US's inward turn, already under way for several years, has been particularly consequential, because it leaves the world order without a main conductor. With no other country or group of countries anywhere close to being in a position to carry the baton, the emergence of what the political scientist Ian Bremmer has called a "G-Zero era" becomes a lot more probable.

China is responding to the global system's weakening core by accelerating its efforts to build small networks, including around the traditional western-dominated power structures. This has included the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the proliferation of bilateral payments agreements, and the pursuit of the "belt and road initiative" to build infrastructure linking China with western Asia, Europe and Africa.

These dynamics are stoking trade tensions and raising the risk of economic fragmentation. If this trend continues, the global economic and financial configuration will become increasingly unstable, amplifying geopolitical and security threats at a time when better cross-border coordination is vital to address threats from non-state actors and disruptive regimes, such as North Korea. Over time, the risks associated with this shift toward a global economic non-order could have severe adverse effects on geopolitics and national security.

None of this is new. Yet year after year, top government officials at the IMF/World Bank annual meetings fail to address it. This year is likely to be no different. Instead of discussing concrete steps to slow and reverse the march toward a global economic non-order, officials will probably welcome the cyclical uptick in global growth and urge member countries to do more to remove structural impediments to faster, more durable, and more inclusive growth.

While understandable, that isn't good enough. The forthcoming meetings offer a critical opportunity to start a serious discussion of how to arrest the lose-lose dynamics that have been gaining traction in the global economy. The longer it takes for the seeds of reform to be sown, the less likely they will be to take root — and the higher the probability that a lose-lose world economic non-order will emerge.

(Source: The Guardian)

UK company plans 600MW solar power farm in Iran



I → Iran has set a target to install 5 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity — equivalent to about five nuclear reactors — by 2020 as part of efforts to meet rising demand for electricity while cutting air pollution and carbon emissions.

The country's sunny climate makes it especially suited to solar power generation. Hamid Baedinejad, Iran's ambassador to the UK, said the deal with Quercus would support Tehran's goal to become a "major hub of solar energy serving the region and beyond".

The falling cost of solar panels and wind turbines is making renewable power a more attractive option in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, accelerating the global shift away from fossil fuels.

The Quercus investment was welcomed by Lord Lamont, the former UK chancellor and now trade envoy to Iran, who said it underlined "the importance of developing improved trading relations between the UK and Iran".

International relations with Iran have

been thrown into uncertainty by the sceptical attitude of Donald Trump towards a historic nuclear deal in 2015 that led to the partial lifting of sanctions.

The US president told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday that the deal — designed to stop Iran developing nuclear

weapons — was the "worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into".

Despite the diplomatic risks, Mr Biasi said Quercus had been "inundated" with requests from private and institutional investors to look for opportunities in Iran.

"Since the lifting of international sanctions, Iran has made fast progress in creating a positive business and regulatory environment for global companies," he said.

The Quercus project would put Britain at the forefront of developing Iran's renewable energy industry, Mr Biasi said, but UK investors risked falling behind in other sectors.

"At Tehran's airport, you will see Italians, French, Germans, Swiss and Americans, all vying for a share of the Iranian pie," he said. "If anything, Britain has been slow off the mark, but there's still time to make up ground."

The Iranian project will be the first outside Europe for Quercus, which has invested more than €500m in about 40 renewable projects since its founding in 2010, many of them in the UK and Italy.

Quercus will be responsible for building and operating the Iranian solar farm, with construction expected to take three years to complete.

(Source: Financial Times)

Iran's oil revenue surpasses \$23b since March

ENERGY DESK TEHRAN — Iran's oil revenues from crude oil and gas condensate exports exceeded \$23 billion since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2017), IRIB news reported on Wednesday.

According to the report citing Shana, Iran has exported 2.6 million barrels of crude oil and gas condensate on average on a daily basis.

China, India, Japan and South Korea are among the country's main crude importers shipping in 60 percent of Iran's total oil exports. The other 40 percent of the country's crude exports heads to the



European buyers.

As the top Iranian crude buyer, China shipped in 700,000 barrels of crude oil from Iran in August.

Royal Dutch Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni, as well as Italian Saras, Hellenic Petroleum from Greece and Spain's Repsol are among European buyers of Iranian crude oil.

Since the beginning of 2017 up to the end of August, European buyers purchased 720,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude oil on average.

Iran has sold its crude oil at \$49 on average since the beginning of 2017 up to date.

Iranian, Croatian banks seek to ease transactions

ECONOMY DESK TEHRAN — An Iranian banking delegation visiting Croatia investigated removal of banking impediments between the two countries to ease mutual trade with their Croatian counterparts, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported on Wednesday.

The Iranian delegation including representatives from Iranian banks of Sepah, Pasargad, and Bank of Industry and Mine visited Božo Prka, the CEO of Privredna Banka Zagreb (PBZ), where the Croatian banking official referred



to the common banking ties between the two countries before the West-led sanctions were imposed on Iran, hoping that such relations would be resumed in post-sanction era.

Iranian bankers, for their parts, suggested establishment of banking relations in the first step to revive banking ties and assured the Croatian side that Iran sees no legal barrier on the way of boosting its banking bonds with Croatia, but the main obstacle is European banks' reliance on the American ones that avoids them from commencing ties with Iranian banks.

Here are the top 10 major worries for global business leaders right now

Cybersecurity, health of the global economy, energy price shock and terrorist attacks are some of the top risks that concern businesses and may threaten their ability to operate, according to results from a new survey by the World Economic Forum (WEF) published Wednesday.

The survey, conducted annually by the WEF's strategic partners Marsh & McLennan Companies and Zurich Insurance Group, highlighted the following ten risks that businesses are presently concerned about:

1. Unemployment and underemployment
2. Fiscal crises
3. Failure of national governance
4. Energy price shock

5. Profound social instability
6. Failure of financial mechanism or institution

7. Failure of critical infrastructure
8. Cyber attacks
9. Inter-state conflict
10. Terrorist attacks

While concerns about the overall health of the global economy continue to dominate the list, the report found concerns around cybersecurity risks rising in importance.

"Business leaders in many of world's largest economies now rank cyber as their top risk," John Drzik, president of Marsh Global Risk & Digital, said in a press statement. "Companies need to rigorously analyze how these threats could impact their

operations and take appropriate risk mitigation and resiliency measures."

Results from the survey found that respondents across North America, East Asia and Pacific regions were most concerned by cyber attacks and asset bubbles.

Meanwhile, unemployment, fiscal crises and the failure of a nation's government to provide stability are the top three risks facing businesses globally.

The data from the Executive Opinion Survey (EOS) survey, drawn from over 12,411 executives across 136 countries was conducted earlier this year between February and June. The survey asked respondents to identify the five biggest risks to doing business in their respective countries. The risks identified were spread across eco-

nomics, geopolitical, social and technological areas that could impact the functioning of corporates over the next 10 years.

Some of the other risks identified by the respondents included energy price shock, profound social instability, failure of financial mechanism or institution, failure of critical infrastructure, inter-state conflict and terrorist attacks.

"Whilst economic growth and technological developments create new opportunities for business and countries, geopolitical risks and events have led to uncertainties which raise questions about how to manage resilience in uncertain times," John Scott, chief risk officer of commercial insurance at Zurich, said in a press statement.

(Source: cnbc)

A scenario: Iran's economy in the absence of nuclear deal

I → Although banking relations and financial issues have posed barriers in the way of trade with Iran's economic partners, foreign companies are taking different measures to maintain trade with the Islamic Republic.

Earlier this month, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Valiollah Seif announced that Iran expects several credit lines to be opened for the country in near future.

The governor's remarks came after China Development Bank (CDB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with CBI for opening a €15-billion credit line to fund a wide range of infrastructure and production projects in the country. Iran has earlier secured a \$10-billion credit line from the Chinese state-owned CITIC investment company to be allocated to several banks in Iran.

The Chinese credit lines will use Euros and Yuan to bypass the U.S. sanctions.

Seif said in August that three European countries including Austria, Denmark and Italy are also set to open €22 billion credit lines for financing projects in Iran which should be added to the €8-billion credit line secured by South Korea's Eximbank.

Agreements and deals

The implementation of the nuclear deal in January 2016 led to the removal of sanctions against Iran, allowing the country to sign a large number of deals with foreign companies in many different areas.

Purchases of commercial aircrafts from Airbus, Boeing and a number of other companies are among the greatest deals inked post sanctions.

Iran's flag carrier, Iran Air, signed a contract with Boeing for purchasing 80 airplanes from the American manufacturer. The company also finalized an \$18 billion deal with France-based Airbus for 46 Airbus A320 planes, 38 A330 planes and 16 A350 XWB aircrafts. Also, Iran's Aseman Airlines sealed a deal with Boeing on purchasing 60 aircrafts.

When in November, U.S. Congress voted to block sales of commercial aircrafts to Iran, Head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran Ali Abedzadeh stated that all of Iran's deals including the one with Boeing have been signed at an international level in compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and approved by the United Nations so the companies will be committed to deals; It seems that it will be the case even if the

nuclear deal goes off

Iran has also signed a \$4.8-billion deal with the French energy major Total in July for developing phase 11 of Iran's supergiant South Pars gas field (shared with Qatar in the Persian Gulf).

This landmark deal was signed between National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and a consortium comprising France's Total, China's CNPC International and Petropars Company from Iran.

After signing the deal, Total Chief Executive Officer Patrick Pouyanne said, for Total, the risks are worth the potential rewards of signing a 20-year agreement.

"I will come back to Iran again because this contract is the first of many," he added. Iranian energy officials predict that another four or five energy companies will follow with investment agreements in the next year. Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Eni SpA are already in talks on developing local fields.

Regarding other areas, world renowned carmakers are also taking the risk of entering Iran's market, France's Peugeot SA was the first carmaker to re-enter the country in 2016, Volkswagen followed Peugeot after a 17-years absence, to offer Tiguan compact



SUVs and the Passat family car to the country.

On the other hand, Russian and Chinese companies have already cemented trade relations with Iran and as key Iranian allies they have proved themselves to stay in the country even during the sanctions era.

All and all, even if Trump wants to desert the deal, he would need to have the support of many key players like Russia, France, and China, something which appears to be too hard considering their positive attitude toward Iran's nuclear accord.

During his speech at the UN general assembly, French President Emmanuel Macron contradicted Trump's remarks saying that nations are not strong acting alone. He called the nuclear deal "robust" and said "to put it into question without proposing anything to replace it is a grave error".

OPEC has success at last, but oil revival may be short-lived

When OPEC and its allies gather this week, they'll have the best evidence yet that their efforts to clear a global oil glut are succeeding. It may prove short-lived.

Crude prices have rebounded to a three-month high and the world's bloated fuel inventories are shrinking, signaling that nine months of production cuts by the alliance of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and nations including Russia are at last paying off. Yet as U.S. shale oil continues to thrive and seasonal demand wanes, the surplus that has weighed on markets for three years looks set to come back.

"The strategy finally has a window of opportunity in which it can work," said Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citigroup Inc. in New York. Even so, "OPEC has clearly lost the long-term battle against shale."

OPEC and Russia have spearheaded an effort to rebalance world markets, seeking to end a price rout that has battered oil producers' economies since 2014. After production cuts as deep as 1.8 million barrels a day, a committee will review progress on Sept. 22, before ministers meet in November to decide if the strategy needs more time to achieve its goals.

As they discuss the market this week in Vienna, officials will be looking at much more favorable market indicators than at previous meetings. OPEC members are together making almost all the supply reductions they pledged, and for the first time since the agreement started in January their 10 outside partners have also delivered all of their promised cutbacks.

Positive signs

As a result, the surplus in oil stockpiles -- OPEC's main metric for assessing the deal -- has diminished. Excess inventories in developed economies, measured against their five-year average, have declined by about 74 million barrels, or 28 percent, since the start of the year, according to the International Energy Agency, which advises most major economies on energy policy.

Dwindling stockpiles are being reflected in prices. Brent crude, the international benchmark, has gained more than 20 percent since June 21 to \$55.34 a barrel as of 9:20 a.m. in London. The discount on immediate supplies of Brent compared with later months -- a sign of surplus that has prevailed for most of the past three years -- has turned into a premium. The price of cargoes of North Sea crude such as Forties and Ekofisk rose to multiyear highs this month.

"OPEC have done very, very well -- finally," said Amrita Sen, chief oil analyst at consultant Energy Aspects Ltd. "The price of oil has recovered quite a bit, but more im-



portantly I'd say the physical market has recovered quite substantially."

For OPEC, this could be as good as it gets. Fuel demand is about to taper off as summer consumption of gasoline fades. Bigger problems may lie ahead in 2018 when production growth outside OPEC -- led by U.S. shale -- outstrips the expansion in demand and puts the market back in surplus, according to the IEA.

U.S. drillers have restored most of the output they lost during the downturn, and are on track to produce record volumes next year, the Energy Information Administration predicts. Consequently, OPEC will need to prolong the cutbacks once they expire in April to avoid oversupplying the market again, IEA forecasts for 2018 indicate.

Extending again

The committee meeting this week won't make a recommendation on whether to change the deal, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Issam Almarzooq said on Sept. 13. There are signs, however, that OPEC and its allies are aware that further action may be necessary, with countries considering an extension of at least three months, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified.

India's oil majors to lift borrowing to cover dividends, capex

India's three major state-held oil refining and marketing firms—Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)—will increase borrowings to keep their large dividend payments and high capital spend, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday.

India's major oil refiners increased dividend payments in fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016. This, coupled with the high capital expenditure and acquisition of upstream assets, has "weakened their credit metrics in fiscal 2017 to below the rating tolerance levels for their standalone credit profiles," Moody's said.

In fiscal 2018, the cash flows from operations would not be enough to cover capital spending and dividend payments, so the companies will fund the shortfall with borrowings, the rating agency said. However, Moody's expects the credit metrics of the companies will improve in fiscal year 2018 due to higher sales, better margins, and reduced dividend payments.

"Even then, that level of dividends is more than double the total paid in fiscal 2016," Moody's Halan commented on the expected reduced dividend pays in fiscal year 2018.

In terms of capex, all three companies are expected to keep their high



spending levels over the next few years, with the 2018 combined spend up by some 15 percent annually, excluding acquisitions.

At the beginning of 2017, when it affirmed the three companies' ratings, Moody's said that the companies would continue to expand their capacities in line with the growth in demand for petroleum products in India.

"The continued need to expand capacity and investment in upstream assets could result in increased borrowings and weaker credit metrics, especially if refining or marketing margins decline," Moody's said on January 5.

India's government plans to sell by the end of this year its 51.1 percent stake in the third-largest local refiner HPCL to the country's biggest explorer, state-held Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), in a deal valued at around \$4.5 billion.

(Source: Bloomberg)

China's crackdown on excess may target oil refiners next

China's oil refining and chemical sector, including coal-to-gas plants, may be the next target of Beijing's campaign against overcapacity if it keeps expanding, said a government think-tank official on Wednesday.

China's government has for years pushed to streamline its bloated heavy industries, focusing on coal, steel, aluminum and construction materials such as cement and glass.

Intense competition between state-owned and independent refineries and bumper profit margins amid low crude oil prices have led to rapid expansion and overcapacity, said Zhou Dadi, a researcher at the Energy Research Institute of China's National Development and Reform Commission at a conference.

"China's energy market is already in oversupply," said Zhou. "(The authorities) should ... implement more rigorous control over energy supply."

Any move to curb excess refining capacity would be welcomed by rivals in Asia, which have struggled as China's refiners have sold more of their surplus diesel and gasoline abroad over the past year.

China holds the most refining capacity in the world after the United States and is expected to increase its refinery throughput by 3.3 percent to 557 million tonnes, or about 11 million barrels per day (bpd), in 2017.



The International Energy Agency (IEA) said earlier this year that competition among China's oil refineries will intensify this year with more than 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of new refinery capacity added to the overcrowded industry.

Beijing has granted an increasing number of crude oil import and export quotas to independent refiners in recent years.

Meanwhile, state-owned refiners are expanding.

China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) has started testing a new refinery with 200,000 bpd of capacity in southern China. PetroChina's 260,000 bpd plant in Yunnan province is also said to launch soon.

"Blind investment in the energy sector has pushed up the energy cost in China ... The government should strengthen the management to overcome shortcomings of the market," said Zhou.

(Source: Reuters)

Oil set for strongest third quarter since 2004, Iraq hints at OPEC extension

Oil rose on Wednesday, set for its largest third-quarter gain in 13 years, after the Iraqi oil minister said OPEC and its partners were considering extending or deepening supply cuts to erode an existing global surplus.

Brent crude futures rose 29 cents to \$55.43 a barrel by 0800 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were up 42 cents at \$49.90 a barrel.

The oil price is on course for a rise of 15.5 percent this quarter, which would make this year's performance the strongest for the third quarter since 2004.

"An improving macro-economic backdrop should spur oil demand growth over the next couple of quarters and if OPEC increases its adherence to production cuts, higher prices will come," ANZ Research said in a note. "All things being equal, we still expect oil prices to test new highs (for 2017) by the end of the year."

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers are mulling a range of options, including an extension of cuts, but it is premature to decide on what to do beyond March, when the agreement expires, Iraqi oil minister Jabar al-Luaibi told an energy



conference on Tuesday.

OPEC and producers including Russia have agreed to reduce output by about 1.8 million barrels per day until March 2018 to reduce global oil inventories and support prices.

Some producers think the pact should be extended for three or four months, others want it to run until the end of 2018, while some, including Ecuador and Iraq,

think there should be another round of supply cuts, al-Luaibi said.

But analysts doubt that such an extension would have much of an impact on the overall oil market.

"I can't see the market tightening unless OPEC cuts output further next year," Commerzbank strategist Carsten Fritsch said.

Georgi Slavov, head of research at commodities brokerage Marex Spectron said he did not expect demand for crude oil to rise significantly in the final quarter of this year, which meant supply would have to be restricted even more tightly.

U.S. crude stocks rose last week while gasoline and distillate stocks decreased, according to the American Petroleum Institute on Tuesday.

Crude inventories rose by 1.4 million barrels in the week to Sept. 15 to 470.3 million, compared with expectations for an increase of 3.5 million barrels.

The U.S. Department of Energy releases official data on inventories and refinery activity later on Wednesday.

(Source: Reuters)

Scots to get renewable energy from geothermal heating system

Scotland's first deep geothermal heating system -- which will use the warmth emanating from the Earth's magma-filled mantle -- is to go ahead after the Scottish Government awarded a £1.8m grant, the developers have announced.

A 2km deep well is to be drilled next year to enable water to be heated by the surrounding rocks, pumped back up again and then into properties in Kilmarnock.

Engineering firm Arup, which is involved in the project, said the renewable energy source would help reduce fuel poverty by providing heating at below market rates to homes being built at the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant, which is being redeveloped.

The site, called Halo Kilmarnock, will also include a new enterprise center, an urban park, social housing for rent and leisure facilities.

Matthew Free, of Arup, said: "It is fantastic that the Scottish Government is giving such strong support to the development of sustainable, low-carbon energy projects in Scotland."

"There is a substantial geothermal resource beneath our feet and we look forward to developing the first deep geothermal system in Scotland."

The geothermal project is being developed by Geon Energy, a joint venture between Geothermal Engineering and Arup, and is due to be installed in the first six months of next year.

In a statement, Arup said: "Water heated by the surrounding rock is drawn up from depth using a small pump. The heat is then transferred to water in the heating system."

"This deep geothermal district heating network will supply sustainable, renewable heat for the entire Halo development, including its key worker and social rental housing, addressing fuel poverty in the process by providing heat at below market price."



The £1.8m grant comes from the Scottish Government's Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Program. It is part of a £5.3m grant from the Holyrood administration to make the Halo project low-carbon.

Keith Brown, Scotland's Environment Secretary, said previously: "As a responsible, progressive nation, Scotland must also continue to demonstrate strong leadership on climate change."

"That is why I'm pleased that the Scottish Government will also be able to support our first new geothermal heating system in almost two decades, allowing local residents to access low carbon energy at an affordable price."

(Source: The Independent)

ADNOC to cut November crude oil exports to Asia

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company has informed buyers in Asia it will reduce supplies of its flagship Murban crude by 15 percent in November to comply with OPEC production cuts, trade sources said on Wednesday.

The cut for Murban supplies was slightly deeper than the 10 percent reduction in October because of oilfield maintenance, one of the sources said.

The producer will also cut November Das crude supplies by 10 percent and allocation of Upper Zakum crude by 5 percent, the sources said.

ADNOC could not be immediately reached for comment.

(Source: Reuters)

Lebanon passes oil tax law ahead of energy-rights auction

Lebanon's parliament approved a law to tax revenue from oil operations, weeks before its first sale of offshore energy exploration rights to interested companies like Total SA and Exxon Mobil Corp.

Lawmakers approved the petroleum tax law in a vote on Tuesday, the state-run National News Agency reported. Energy minister Cesar Abi Khalil called on qualified companies to take the new tax law into consideration when bidding for the upcoming energy auction, the agency said.

The draft law called for a 20 percent income tax on petroleum operations, along with a stamp-duty fee fixed at 5 million Lebanese pounds (\$3,311), Wissam Zahabi, a member of the Lebanese Petroleum Administration, said by phone. Authorities had extended the bidding deadline to Oct. 12 from Sept. 15 to give companies more time to understand the tax law and organize their bids, Zahabi said earlier this month.

Lebanon is seeking to develop its energy assets after lagging behind Cyprus, Egypt and Israel in exploring for oil and natural gas in the eastern Mediterranean. Exxon Mobil, Chevron Corp., Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Eni SpA are among 46 companies that qualified in 2013 to bid to operate blocks. Suncor Energy Inc., Rosneft PJSC and Qatar Petroleum are among others that qualified to bid as non-operators, according to the energy ministry's website.

Lebanon, which is struggling with power shortages and hosting more than a million refugees, needs revenue to reduce its public debt. The energy auctions have been delayed due to internal political disputes since 2013.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Redefining Europe, and Europeans



ARTICAL

By Carl Bildt

Sweden's former foreign minister

For Europe to find its place in a rapidly changing world, its citizens will have to look beyond the nation-state as their sole source of personal identity. There are few "first nations" left in the world today – and that is a welcome development.

Traveling through Germany in the run-up to its federal election on September 24, one cannot help but be struck by the lingering signs of profound trauma from the 2015 refugee crisis.

Suddenly and virtually without warning, nearly a million desperate people – mostly Syrians fleeing the carnage in their homeland – flocked to Germany. And while Germany may be Europe's most bureaucratically well-managed country, even it was overwhelmed.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's response to the crisis two years ago was to throw out the rulebook and open her country's borders. She famously told the German people, "Wir schaffen das" (We can do it).

But German public opinion today suggests that the country has become warier of such bold gestures. Yes, Germany did it, because there was no alternative; and many Germans are proud of their country for rising to the occasion. But most hope that such a crisis never happens again.

Although many Germans have come to terms with what happened two years ago, a small minority still feels betrayed. They have responded with anger and xenophobic nationalism, and these sentiments will undoubtedly be reflected in how they vote.

Germany's trauma

But Germany's trauma from the refugee crisis should be put in perspective. Far more refugees have sought and found protection in countries such as Lebanon and Turkey than in Germany. In relative terms, Germany would have had to take in 20 million refugees to match Lebanon in 2015. In Turkey, Istanbul alone is now hosting more refugees than all of Germany.

Of course, Germany is not the only European country that remains unsettled from the refugee crisis. In my own country, Sweden, a political party that wants to shut us off from the rest of the world will most likely make strong gains in next year's general election. And in many Central European countries that only recently regained their sense of sovereignty, refugees are widely viewed as posing a threat to national identity.

One way or another, these issues will dominate European politics in the years ahead. Europe is slowly trying to build up resilience to the kind of trauma it experienced in 2015. It is a continent that once exported war and turmoil, but that now wants to protect itself from its neighbors' problems.

One of the lessons from 2015 is that the European Union will need to develop a far stronger common foreign and security policy. The EU must replace lofty rhetoric with concrete action, while also accepting its regional and global responsibilities. Barbed wire fencing between Hungary and Serbia will not shield Europe from the effects of war in Ukraine, putsches and terrorism in Anatolia, or violent conflagrations in the Levant and Mesopotamia. And it will not help Europe manage the dramatic shift now underway in Africa, which will be home to 40% of the world's working-age population in a few decades.

Another lesson from 2015 is that European countries must learn to redefine their national identities. The United States, Australia, and Canada have all been built on immigration, and most of us are the progeny of people from somewhere else. Indeed, there is not much left of the "first nations" in these countries. It is now entirely possible for there to be more people of Swedish descent in Chicago than in Stockholm.

To be sure, Europe is different from its Western counterparts. Its tribes have been fighting one another for millennia. And for the past two centuries, Europeans have been building ever-stronger nation-states and national identities on the basis of long, complicated historical experiences.

The EU itself was of course built by nation-states. But their citizens wanted to overcome their long legacy of tribalism and war. Judged by that objective, the EU's first half-century has been a tremendous success. And yet the strains are there for anyone to see. Whether justified or not, when people perceive a threat to their national identity, their tribal instincts kick in. And for a truly frightened few, Brussels and Mecca have both come to be seen as mortal threats.

For Europe to find its place in a rapidly changing world, its citizens will have to learn to tap multiple identities. One can be a proud Swede and a proud European at the same time; one can also be both German and Turkish, and derive strength from that duality. It is not disloyal to see oneself as a citizen of the world. On the contrary, it is honorable.

Such a shift in attitudes would make for a very different Europe. We would have finally moved on from ancient tribal conflicts and fears, and embraced a networked, digital future. Merkel, who will likely be elected to another four-year term as chancellor on September 24, told Germans that they "can do it." But whether Germany and the rest of Europe will do it remains to be seen. We have our work cut out for us.

In many Central European countries that only recently regained their sense of sovereignty, refugees are widely viewed as posing a threat to national identity.

(Source: project-syndicate.org)

Trump at the UN: Bluster and belligerence

The U.S. president is wrong to think that nations acting in their own self-interest would on their own create a more stable world. Countries need to work together under rules to which they agree to adhere.

Whatever its difficulties, the United Nations must surely be cherished. Founded in 1945 under U.S. leadership after the defeat of Nazism and imperial Japan, the UN remains the central pillar of the global order. At its core has stood the ambition that peace, international security and human rights would be better protected than they were by the 1930s League of Nations (whose founding treaty the U.S. Senate refused to ratify). The UN is the only existing forum where the representatives of all nation states can be brought together to try to address crises and common challenges.

Donald Trump's first address to the organization's annual general assembly was anticipated with dread by many – and rightly so.

Crude hostility

This U.S. president is after all the first in history to have made heaping scorn on the UN something of a pastime. His views on the subject have ranged from crude hostility to abject ignorance. The speech he delivered was scripted – not the ramblings of a maverick whose taste for rash tweets and cheap provocations have become an almost daily routine. It was deeply worrying all the same. Unlike his eloquent predecessor, President Trump trades in crass belligerence. His speech will be remembered for its ominous language.

On North Korea he mocked its young leader Kim Jong-un, saying that "rocket man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime". He threatened that "if [the U.S.] is forced to defend itself and its allies, it will have no other choice but to destroy North Korea". Iran, he said, was "a corrupt dictatorship" whose "chief export is violence, bloodshed and chaos".



This U.S. president is after all the first in history to have made heaping scorn on the UN something of a pastime.

Trump called the 2015 nuclear deal "the worst transaction ever" – a sign perhaps he may be getting ready to pull out of it, or ensuring Iran is provoked enough to do so itself. What the White House could have done is appeal to the Iranian people directly, offering a "new beginning" in the relationship between the two nations. But the U.S. president has not displayed the slightest interest in fundamental democratic values. His speech carried enough of a whiff of "regime change" to make Tehran think hard over nuclear compliance.

Stark isolation

As last week's UN security council vote on sanctioning North Korea has shown, there is an international consensus on

the dangers presented by Pyongyang's behavior. But on Iran, President Trump risks finding himself in stark isolation, with European allies already making clear they want to preserve the 2015 agreement, not tear it up. The U.S. president no doubt speaks to his base as much as he does to an international audience. But the nationalist ideology he espouses was yet again made clear, not least with the emphasis he put on "strong, sovereign, independent nations", rather than on the body of universal values that the UN is meant to uphold.

President Trump wants the UN to put pressure on North Korea and Iran, but he's brought little clarity as to the wider strategy he contemplates. Threats and

grandstanding are just bluster, not policy. Crises require a deftness the Trump administration has failed to demonstrate. He wants allies to back him, but seems oblivious that his lack of personal credibility is an obstacle to international cooperation. An "America First" approach runs counter to the UN's multilateralism. His credo could be summed up by his claim that nations acting in their own self-interest create a more stable world. The question is what rules would states operate under? Not the UN's, Trump's response appeared to suggest. The president may want to speak of "principled realism", but he is a reckless and dangerous leader, sitting, alas, in a most powerful position.

(Source: The Guardian)

Why is Egypt's Sisi buying arms from Kim?

By Margaret Suter

On September 12, during a visit to Seoul, South Korea, Egypt's Defense Minister reportedly announced that Egypt would be severing military ties with the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea.

The alleged announcement and subsequent speculation, which was not immediately confirmed by the Egyptian government, comes as the United States and other members of the international community have repeatedly called on the Egyptian government to cut ties with the isolated hermit state.

The official South Korean news agency, Yonhap, reported that Egypt had already cut ties with the DPRK according to the Egyptian Defense Minister Sedki Sobhi. Confusion over the validity of the remarks arose when Egypt's government neither confirmed nor denied the report. According to Yonhap, Sobhi said, "Egypt will actively cooperate with South Korea against North Korea acts that threaten peace."

When reached for comment, the Egyptian Army's official spokesperson, Tamer El Refeai, told Egypt Independent that all the details pertaining to Sobhi's visit to South Korea were listed on the spokesperson's official Facebook page.

However, the Facebook statement did not include any information on the state of ties between Egypt and North Korea. Several Egyptian news outlets included Sobhi's comments in their write-ups about the trip, only to remove them later. The daily newspaper, El-Masry El-Youm, initially published his comments in its print edition, but removed them in later iterations.

U.S. pressure

The lack of clarity surrounding the veracity of the comments creates further pressure for the Egyptian government, which has faced increasing demands by one of its main allies and sources of foreign aid, the United States, to scale back its economic ties to North Korea.

On August 22, the Trump administration announced its intention to cut \$96 million in aid and delay \$195 million in military funding to Egypt, citing concerns over Egypt's human rights record.

However, other reports have speculated that the move was part of a broader administration strategy to pressure Egypt into severing ties with the DPRK, further isolating the state from one of its key trading partners.

When asked about the decision, a State Department official reportedly said that issues of concern were raised with Cairo, but refused to verify whether Egypt's relationship with North Korea had factored into the decision.

Historical ties

Egypt has long maintained a relationship with the isolated regime in Pyongyang, especially in the arms trade. Egyptian policymakers have viewed North Korea as a key source of military technology since the 1970s when, following North Korea's support for Egypt in the Yom Kippur War, then-President Anwar Al Sadat agreed to sell Soviet-produced Scud-B missiles to North Korea from 1976-1981. The DPRK returned the favor by supplying technological assistance to Egypt's missile production.

Despite changes in successive governments, Egypt



Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid told Al-Monitor "Egypt is managing its relations with foreign countries based on its own interests and priorities without taking into account any pressures that may hinder the independence of its national decision."

has sustained the arms trade with North Korea. As recently as 2015, the United Nations issued a report confirming that the North Korean Ocean Maritime Management Company (OMM) was a central player in arranging the illicit shipment of concealed arms via individuals and entities based in Egypt, as well as other countries.

The report stated that OMM representatives were stationed with a company called the Sunlight Agency in Port Said until at least 2011. In February 2017, UN investigators stated they had uncovered evidence of North Korean trade in "hitherto unreported items such as encrypted military communications, man-portable air defense systems, air defense systems and satellite-guided missiles" in the Middle East and Africa, among other regions.

Investigators added that in August 2016, Egypt intercepted a North Korean vessel laden with thirty thousand PG-7 rocket-propelled grenades hidden in wooden crates.

In addition to its ongoing military ties, Egypt has maintained a strong economic relationship with the DPRK, as demonstrated by the approximately twenty economic, security, media, technology and cultural agreements established and ongoing with the regime.

In 2008, Egyptian telecommunications firm Orascom helped set up the DPRK's first and only 3G mobile phone network, a deal which Orascom's billionaire business tycoon Naguib Sawiris oversaw. While critics have questioned whether the arrangement violated UN sanctions and embargos, Sawiris maintains that he has obeyed all UN resolutions and is not in violation of sanctions. The

deal reportedly supplied Orascom with 300,000 new North Korean customers and spurred further Egyptian investments in North Korea's economy.

The Egyptian State Information Service, the government's official channel, states "the volume of the Egyptian Orascom Group's direct investments in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has exceeded half a billion dollars, which puts Egyptian investments at the top of the pyramid of foreign investments in Korea." For its part, North Korea exports various goods to Egypt including cars, plastics, and rubbers among others.

Cairo has also maintained close diplomatic ties with the DPRK, one of three Arab countries (including Syria and Palestine) that operates an embassy in Pyongyang. In addition, Egypt is "one of only five Arab countries to host a North Korean Embassy on its territory, the other countries being Syria, Algeria, Kuwait and Libya."

In 2015, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi invited North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to attend the grand opening of the re-designed Suez Canal, who dispatched the president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, Kim Yong-nam to attend in his absence.

While Egypt's government has condemned several of the North Korean regime's recent nuclear tests, in a 2016 television interview, a military spokesman attributed the condemnations to Egypt's role on the UN Security Council and the need to take a principled stance against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

When questioned about continued U.S. demands for Egypt to shutter its ties with the DPRK, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid told Al-Monitor, "Egypt is managing its relations with foreign countries based on its own interests and priorities without taking into account any pressures that may hinder the independence of its national decision."

Yet recently, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2371 with a "yes" vote from Egypt, a signal that Egypt supports much tougher sanctions against North Korea despite the two countries' long-standing economic and military ties.

At the same time, Defense Minister Sobhi's recent trip to South Korea was meant to show Egypt's commitment to South Korea, with the aim of boosting military ties between the two countries.

With no confirmation as of yet regarding a possible severing of relations with the DPRK, Egypt may be attempting to have its cake and eat it too; however, the recent decision by the Trump Administration to withhold and delay critical aid may be more than Egypt's fragile economy can endure.

Given its relatively weak bargaining power and its substantial and longstanding dependence on its alliance with the U.S., Egypt may soon succumb to U.S. pressure by officially confirming the severing of ties with North Korea.

While the stakes of cutting these ties remain high, the risk of losing a stable and secure partnership with its closest western ally may just be enough to prod Egypt's reluctance.

(Source: Newsweek)

Kovacevic: U.S. defines Iran key geopolitical enemy

By Payman Yazdani

I → Many analysts believe recent actions taken by the US administration demonstrate that President Donald Trump plans to renege on the Iran nuclear agreement, actions like insisting on inspection of Iran's military sites and imposing new round of sanctions against Iran under different baseless accusations. Despite the US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley's insistence on inspecting Iran's military sites during her visit with IAEA officials in Vienna, the agency not only confirmed Iran's compliance to JPCOA once again but also emphasized that there is no need to give up the US request to signal a political message.

In an interview with professor of geopolitics, University of San Francisco (California) and University of Montenegro, Dr Filip Kovacevic, the issue was discussed by Payman Yazdani from Mehr News agency.

Following is the full text of the interview:

Q While recent IAEA report confirms that Iran has met its obligations under JCPOA, the US seeks to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran and says the IAEA inspection mechanisms are not efficient and asks for inspection of Iran military sites. What is the US in fact after?

A: I think that the most revealing in this respect is the interview that the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Mike Pompeo gave to the Fox News Network on September 11, 2017. Pompeo connected Iran not only to Al-Qaida, but also to North Korea, and, in this way, placed Iran firmly in the 'axis of evil' as perceived by the US military and intelligence establishment. This means that Iran is defined as the key geopolitical enemy by the Trump administration, no matter what Iran really does. Just as in the case of Russia and Turkey, the unchanging US policy toward Iran is one and only one who will open up the country's resources for the exploitation of transnational oligarchies.



Filip Kovacevic is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Politics, specializing in geopolitics, U.S. foreign policy, and East-Central European / Eurasian affairs. He is on leave from the University of Montenegro where he has taught since 2005 and has been appointed to the position of Associate Professor.

Q Recently Trump has extended Iran sanctions relief for another 120 days and at the same time his treasury state imposed new sanctions on some Iranian companies and individuals. Some say Trump has chosen diplomatic approach and just not to reduce his political pressure and attack on Iran, he imposes new sanctions besides extending sanction relief. What do you think of this?

A: I think that the top priority of the Trump administration at this time is the rapid preparation for the coming military intervention in North Korea and so it was decided to push back for some time in the future putting additional harsh pressure on Iran. However, this is not to say that the days of the nuclear agreement with Iran are not numbered. I think that with this presidential administration, they are. The agreement will be terminated in one way or another, but this will be disclosed publicly sometime in the future. And it will be sooner rather than later, if the North Korean operation is successful. But, what if it is not successful? The new Korean War could easily become much

worse than Vietnam for the US

Q Iranian FM has said inspections must not lead to leak of Iran's military secret information and because of this Iran won't allow its military sites be inspected. Is it possible to see that the US creating fake documents against Iran as it did in Iraq in 1990s (some experts like Tariq Rauf, ex-IAEA official believes in it)?

A: The US intelligence community has long-time expertise in subversive and disinformation activities. It has also frequently been politicized by wanting to please the commander-in-chief and his military team. Just think back to the issue of Iraqi WMDs. As in that case, the US intelligence may choose to rely on unreliable defectors who intentionally fabricate information damaging to Iran. This was the case in Iraq with the defector under the code-name Curveball.

Q If the US withdraws from the Nuclear Deal, obviously the European companies and banks won't work with Iran even if their governments remain committed to the JCPOA. This won't be pleasing for Iran. Shouldn't European countries pro-

vide their companies and banks with necessary guarantees?

The present European Union leaders are under the firm control of the US establishment. They do not have much room (or political courage) for any independent policies. However, the majority of the people in Europe want changes. They want to be friendly with the East (Russia, Iran and China) and not see the East through the framework of the dominating Anglo-American geopolitics. What is needed is the change of leadership direction in Europe. At this time, the EU is simply "washing the dirty dishes" of NATO military-intelligence complex. I do not believe that the present leaders, especially the German chancellor Angela Merkel, will risk another confrontation with the U.S. over Iran. So, while the Europeans may use more diplomatic rhetoric, the final result will be in the interest of the US and not Iran.

Q Trump administration specifically Nikki Haley accuse Iran of destabilizing the region and relates the issue to the Nuclear Deal, while these issues has nothing to do with the Nuclear Deal. Why does the US bring up such issues?

A: Once again, the ultimate goal is the regime change in Iran. All statements of the US officials, whether they seem friendly or unfriendly, must be interpreted in the light of that goal. The Trump administration is bent on making Iran into a fragmented state like Syria or Ukraine. The battle for the destruction of Russian and Chinese integrative projects in Eurasia is going at full speed.

Causing political chaos and economic crisis in Iran is a crucial piece in that long-term strategy. Remember that the policies of Nikita Khrushchev in the mid and late 1950s laid the foundation for the collapse of the Soviet Union 35 years later. We need to remember that we are dealing with the transnational oligarchy's strategic plans that span decades and therefore look much deeper than daily political rhetoric.

Some European companies and banks will continue to work with Iran: Nephew

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Richard Nephew, who served as the lead sanctions expert for the U.S. team negotiating with Iran, is of the opinion that "It is possible, certainly, that some in the United States will exaggerate the nature of any intelligence information that we have about the nuclear program of Iran and its military connections."

Nephew, now a fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, says "I strongly suspect that some companies and banks (with minimal connection to the United States) will continue to work with Iran. Others may not."

Following is the text of the interview with Nephew:
Q While recent IAEA report confirms that Iran has met its obligations under JCPOA, the US seeks to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran and says the IAEA inspection mechanisms are not efficient and asks for inspection



of Iran military sites. What is the US in fact after?

A: Defining "the United States" in this is hard, as there are many different objectives. Some people -- myself included -- want to ensure that Iran is fulfilling its obligations under the JCPOA. This includes permitting access for inspectors, including at military sites.

Others plainly do not like the JCPOA, accept that Iran has changed its nuclear program or its ambitions, and want to see the deal fall apart because they don't think it will ever work.

The Trump Administration is itself split among these two camps. The decision pending for October will be over which camp is in charge of decision-making.

Q Recently Trump has extended Iran sanctions relief for another 120 days and at the same time his treasury state imposed new sanctions on some Iranian companies and individuals. Some say Trump has chosen diplomatic approach and just not to reduce his political pressure and attack on Iran he imposes new sanctions besides extending sanction relief. What do you think of this?

A: I think that the Trump Administration is papering over its disagreements and its political problems by ensuring that when it extends sanctions waivers, it also extends the sanctions in place for non-nuclear reasons.

I do not think a decision has been made about the larger questions of the JCPOA and U.S. implementation of it.

Q Iranian FM has said inspections must not lead to leak of Iran's military secret information and because of this Iran won't allow its military sites be inspected. How possible is it to see that the US starts to create fake documents against Iran as it did in Iraq in 1990s (some experts like Tariq Rauf, ex-IAEA official believes in it)?

A: It is possible, certainly, that some in the United States will exaggerate the nature of any intelligence information that we have about the nuclear program of Iran and its military connections.

That said, Iran's persistent statements that military sites are off limits are not consistent with the JCPOA nor with giving confidence that Iran has no military intent.

The IAEA has determined fairly conclusively that Iran was pursuing nuclear weapons for an extended period of time and capabilities that could facilitate nuclear weapons possession even after that.

It is Iran's responsibility, having generated this uncertainty, to provide confidence as to its nuclear intent and capabilities. That includes the option of military site access for the IAEA.

By denying any possibility of access, Iran's leaders are helping those in the United States who want to see the agreement fail.

Q If the US withdraws from the Nuclear Deal, obviously the European companies and banks won't work with Iran even if their governments remain committed to JCPOA. This won't be pleasing for Iran. Shouldn't European countries provide their companies and banks with necessary guarantees?

A: European governments have limited ability to provide companies and banks with necessary guarantees, as there would be a conflict of law. If these companies wish to operate in the United States, then they have to respect U.S. law.

That said, I strongly suspect that some companies and banks (with minimal connection to the United States) will continue to work with Iran. Others may not.

The result will be that neither Iran nor the United States will get what they want.

Q Trump administration specifically Nikki Haley accuse Iran of destabilizing the region and relates the issue to the Nuclear Deal, while these issues has nothing to do with the Nuclear Deal. Why does the US bring up such issues?

A: Well, these are legitimate concerns of the United States. Iranian government activities in Syria, Lebanon and Yemen are destabilizing from the perspective of the United States and our partners in the region. Iran of course disagrees, but Nikki Haley is not speaking merely for herself or the Trump Administration.

Ideally, we would bring up such issues because there are problems in the region that the United States and Iran should discuss and address, along with others in the region. Unfortunately, I believe that Amb. Haley and others in the region bring up these issues because they wish to undermine U.S. support for the deal.

World reacts to Trump's hostile remarks against Iran

By Hanif Ghaffari

In his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly, Donald Trump expressed his anger over the failure of his policy towards Iran. The general reaction to the words of Trump reveals that America has been isolated in the world.

As Independent reported, Donald Trump gave his first address to the United Nations General Assembly, pushing for "sovereignty" in what has been called both "terrifying" and "delusional" by experts. The President, sticking to prepared remarks as he spoke in front of the signature green marble of the UN Headquarters in New York, spoke primarily on his "America First" doctrine, North Korea, and Iran. His main message to member countries gathered also addressed his core base: "I will always put America first, just like you as the leaders of your countries will always - and should always - put your countries first."

Q How do experts look at Trump's Speech?

A: Most experts have described the words of Trump at the UN General Assembly as illogical and irrational, and on the other hand, it reflects the dangerous foreign policy of the US government.

As Independent reported, The words "sovereign" or "sovereignty" were mentioned at least 18 times in the nearly 40 minute speech as delivered. Although all the experts The Independent spoke with agreed that it was a consistently Trump-esque speech - "it was more rhetorically repetitious than intellectually coherent" according to UN expert at the European Council of Foreign Relations Richard Gowan.

Mr Gowan said the speech was more catered toward appeasing the President's base of supporters who have stuck to Mr Trump's repeated campaign and early term remarks that the UN is full of elitists and "just a good time" "just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time". TJ Pempel, a political science professor at the University of California-Berkeley, echoed that statement, adding that the speech was "good for headlines" but not much else in terms of reducing global threats.

Daniel Larison in The American Conservative said: "U.S. foreign policy already suffers from far too much self-congratulation and excessive confidence in our own righteousness, so it was alarming to hear Trump speak in such stark, fanatical terms about international affairs."

Articulating the views of the isolationist wing of conservatives, Mr. Larison criticizes Mr. Trump's belligerent tone. He compares the president's confrontational talk with President George W. Bush's "axis of evil" remarks, and worries that Mr. Trump's speech will commit the United States to more "avoidable wars." This, according to Mr. Larison, has nothing to do with "putting American interests first."

Q Netanyahu and John Bolton welcomed Trump's remarks

Netanyahu and John Bolton's remarks from Trump's speech show how dangerous his words were! Netanyahu and Bolton are two Israeli and American politicians



who are both symbols of extremism in the international system.

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton praised President Trump's U.N. speech today as the "best speech of the Trump presidency."

On Fox News, Bolton said, "I think he was as clear and direct as it's possible to be."

"In the entire history of the United Nations," he continued, "there has never been a more straightforward criticism of the behavior — the unacceptable behavior — of other neighbor states." Bolton invoked Trump's tough talk on North Korea and Iran in particular.

He added, "For Americans, plain speaking is still a virtue."

In other hand, Benjamin Netanyahu gave President Trump high marks Tuesday afternoon for his speech before the United National General Assembly earlier in the day.

"In over 30 years in my experience with the UN, I never heard a bolder or more courageous speech," Netanyahu tweeted. President Trump spoke the truth about the great dangers facing our world ... and issued a powerful call to confront them in order to ensure the future of humanity!"

Q Zarif criticized trump's speech

The words of Trump at the United Nations General Assembly have led to the reaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran's top diplomat criticized President Donald Trump's "ignorant" first-ever speech at the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Tuesday. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif took to local and social media to counter Trump's attack on Tehran and the 2015 nuclear treaty negotiated by President Barack Obama, Iran and other leading powers. Zarif, who was deeply involved in negotiations to establish the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal, defended Iran against Trump's accusations that it funds terrorism and destabilizes

Trump's UN speech "was more rhetorically repetitious than intellectually coherent", says UN expert at the European Council of Foreign Relations Richard Gowan.

the Gulf region—where it supports various groups opposed to the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) as well as the U.S. presence.

"Trump's shameless and ignorant remarks, in which he ignored Iran's fight against terrorism, displays his lack of knowledge and unawareness," according to Reuters.

An invaluable analysis of Trump's words

Some media also preferred to look at Trump's remarks at the UN General Assembly from another angle.

"Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times-not the 21st Century UN-unworthy of a reply. Fake empathy for Iranians fools no one," he added on his official Twitter account.

In his maiden speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, President Donald Trump painted a dark vision of a world where every nation stands alone and cooperation is transactional and motivated by self-interest rather than shared values.

Standing before the representatives of the 193 member states of the United Nations, Trump delivered a perfect distillation of his hyper-nationalist America First worldview adapted for the world stage.

"As president of the United States, I will always put America first. Just like you, as the leaders of your countries, will always and should always put your countries first," Trump said to a round of muted applause.

The centerpiece of Trump's speech was the idea that every nation is best served by embracing its own independence. "Strong sovereign nations let their people take ownership of the future and control their own destiny," he said.

He defended the US's right to push back against the norms of international trade, lamented the costs of immigration on countries, and said that the US has no interest in dictating how other countries should conduct their own affairs.

Q International reactions to the words of Trump

Trump's remarks at the United Nations General Assembly have led to reactions among the leaders of other countries in the world.

"This was a bombastic, nationalist speech. It must have been decades since one last heard a speech like that in the U.N. General Assembly. ... This was a speech at the wrong time to the wrong audience." Margot Wallstrom, foreign minister of Sweden.

Also, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said: "No leader can come and question our democracy, can come and question our sovereignty. We do not accept threats from President Trump or whoever in this world."

Furthermore, Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of the Russian parliament said:

"Syria, Cuba and Venezuela are (painted as) almost the worst dictatorships in the history of the mankind." He said the speech was "contradictory," mixing expressions of respect for nations' sovereign rights with a "barefaced U.S. pretense to determine who has such rights and who does not."

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furn, spj, lobby \$7000
Suitable for Diplomats
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Villa

Duplex Villa in Niavaran
1000 sq.m built up, 2000 sq.m
land, semi furn, outdoor pool
green garden, renovated servant
quarter, extra suit with 2 Bdrs.,
\$13000
Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Darous
duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 2000
sq.m land, 5 Bdrs., renovated big
saloon, semi furn, beautiful
garden, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi
\$20000 **Suitable for**
Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Mahmoodieh
550 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., parking &
sauna, with convenient access to
Valiasr and Palladium
\$7000
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Luxury Villa in the North
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10 uses that prove aspirin's amazing

Take two and call it a day -- aspirin makes car, home, beauty, and clothing care a cinch

By Trish Barber

Revive dead car batteries

If you get behind the wheel only to discover that your car's battery has given up the ghost — and there's no one around to give you a jump — you may be able to get your vehicle started by dropping two aspirin tablets into the battery itself. The aspirin's acetylsalicylic acid will combine with the battery's sulfuric acid to produce one last charge. Just be sure to drive to your nearest service station.

Remove perspiration stains

Before you give up all hope of ever getting that sweat stain out of your good white dress shirt, try this: Crush two aspirins and mix the powder in 1/2 cup warm water. Soak the stained part of the garment in the solution for two to three hours.

Restore hair color

Swimming in a chlorinated pool can have a noticeable, and often unpleasing, effect on your hair coloring if you have light-colored hair. But you can usually return your hair to its former shade by dissolving six to eight aspirins in a glass of warm water. Rub the solution thoroughly into your hair, and let it set for 10-15 minutes.

Dry up pimples

Even those of us who are well past adolescence can get the occasional pimple. Put the kibosh on those annoying blemishes by crushing one aspirin and moistening it with a bit of water. Apply the paste to the pimple, and let it sit for a couple of minutes before washing off with soap and water. It will reduce the redness and soothe the sting. If the pimple persists, repeat the procedure as needed until it's gone.

Treat hard calluses

Soften hard calluses on your feet by grinding five or six aspirins into a powder. Make a paste by adding 1/2 teaspoon each of lemon juice and water. Apply the mixture to the affected areas, then wrap your foot in a warm towel and cover it with a plastic bag. After



staying off your feet for at least ten minutes, remove the bag and towel, and file down the softened callus with a pumice stone.

Control dandruff

Is your dandruff problem getting you down? Keep it in check by crushing two aspirins to a fine powder and adding it to the normal amount of shampoo you use each time you wash your hair. Leave the mixture on your hair for 1-2 minutes, then rinse well and wash again with plain shampoo.

Apply to insect bites and stings

Control the inflammation caused by mosquito bites or bee stings by wetting your skin and rubbing an aspirin over the spot. Of course, if you are allergic to bee stings — and have difficulty breathing, develop abdominal pains, or feel nauseated following a bee sting — get medical attention at once.

Help cut flowers last longer

It's a tried-and-true way to keep roses and other cut flowers fresh longer: Put a crushed aspirin in the water before adding your flowers. Other household items that you can put in the water to extend the life of your flower arrangements include: a multivitamin, a teaspoon of sugar, a pinch of salt and baking soda, and even a copper penny. Also, don't forget to change the vase water every few days.

Use as garden aid

Aspirin is not only a first-aid essential for you, but for your garden as well. Some gardeners grind it up for use as a rooting agent, or mix it with water to treat fungus conditions in the soil. But be careful when using aspirin around plants; too much of it can cause burns or other damage to your greenery. When treating soil, the typical dosage should be a half or a full aspirin tablet in 1 quart (1 liter) water.

Remove egg stains from clothes

Did you drop some raw egg on your clothing while cooking or eating? First, scrape off as much of the egg as you can, and then try to sponge out the rest with lukewarm water. Don't use hot water — it will set the egg. If that doesn't completely remove the stain, mix water and cream of tartar into a paste and add a crushed aspirin. Spread the paste on the stain and leave it for 30 minutes. Rinse well in warm water and the egg will be gone.

Take care

About 10 percent of people with severe asthma are also allergic to aspirin — and, in fact, to all products containing salicylic acid, aspirin's key ingredient, including some cold medications, fruits, and food seasonings and additives. That percentage skyrockets to 30 to 40 percent for older asthmatics who also suffer from sinusitis or nasal polyps. Acute sensitivity to aspirin is also seen in a small percentage of the general population without asthma — particularly people with ulcers and other bleeding conditions. Always consult your doctor before using any medication, and do not apply aspirin externally if you are allergic to taking it internally.

(Source: rd.com)

Control the inflammation caused by mosquito bites or bee stings by wetting your skin and rubbing an aspirin over the spot.

Say goodbye to gray hair! Here is a powerful remedy

Gray hair is no more occur only because of aging, a lot of people suffer from it in young age. It is quite embarrassing to have a gray hair when you are very young. It has become the common problem for young as well as people going through aging process.

The only popular solution to hide gray hair is conventional hair dyes. The harmful chemicals in dyes might cover your gray hair temporary but definitely damage your hair permanently!

Don't want to go for hair dyes? Then you must look forward to a natural solution on gray hair. Find out what latest research provide us in terms of best natural remedy to banish gray hair.

What leads to gray hair?

Many of us always wonder what causes gray hair. We always get an answer that gray hair is a part of aging process, but then how a young kid can suffer from it? Let's look in detail.

- Genetical Reasons— Sometimes the gray hair issue get pass on from parents to their children through genes.

- Stress— The high-stress life can lead to gray hair. Although it does not have a direct relation as such but stress does has serious negative impact on your hair.

- Lifestyle and diet— The 'high-time' lifestyle leads to restlessness which has affected the hair adversely. The more proper diet is required to maintain good health of your hair. Low vitamin B12 can lead to gray hair.

- Aging— Last but not least aging



is one of the prime reasons behind the gray hair. The older cells grow out the gray or white hair.

Many of the cause of gray hair are hard to control. Thus, here is a natural method which will help you to reverse the gray hair.

The best way to reverse gray hair

It is not at all surprising to use coconut oil for treatment of gray hair. Coconut oil is mother nature's most precious gift for

us. It is used to treat many skin and hair related illness which affects the human population.

The use of coconut oil for hair is quite popular since ancient time. It is claimed that the cultures from the Caribbean to Sri Lanka where using coconut oil to keep the hair beautiful from hundreds of years.

The high content of carbohydrates, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals in coconut oil makes it suitable for

Proper diet is required to maintain good health of your hair. Low vitamin B12 can lead to gray hair.

treatment of gray hair.

Once you will start using coconut oil for gray hair, the regular use to change the color of your hair. Also, you will get thicker and healthier hair as coconut oil will cure the hair issues like dandruff, hair fall and stunted hair growth in no time.

How to use coconut oil for gray hair?

So, if you want to prevent your hair going gray, then the first step is to use coconut oil for shampooing your hair.

Here is how it actually works and the process which you have to follow—

- Take 2-3 tbsps of coconut oil and heat it in the microwave for 20 seconds to make it warm.

- Take the warm coconut oil in your hand and massage it on your hair using your fingertips. Make sure you cover all the root of all your hair.

- Let the oil remain for 10 minutes so that it will get soak into the hair follicle.

- Later, rinse the oil with warm water.
- Replace the coconut oil with your regular shampoo and repeat this process every day.

- You can use a conditioner to clean your hair if it feels too oily due to coconut oil treatment.

Finally, are you happy to get a simple and reliable remedy to treat gray hair problem. Just get some coconut oil and kick gray hair to the curb. Enjoy the results and your beautiful hair as well.

(Source: letsgohealthy.net)

Can gold be harmful to the human body?

By Stephen Christensen

Gold is more than just an expensive yellow metal. It has been exploited by physicians for decades to treat rheumatoid arthritis, asthma and a variety of other disorders. However, gold's usefulness for many of these conditions has been limited by its toxicity, and — until recently — gold has been largely replaced by more effective and less toxic drugs. According to the July 2011 issue of "Metalomics," gold is enjoying a renaissance as research unveils new potential uses, including treatment of some cancers.

Mechanism

In order to identify patients who are at increased risk for side effects, scientists have labored for years to determine exactly how gold works in your cells. On the one hand, gold helps to suppress your immune system when it is overactive; on the other, gold can trigger an allergic reaction, which is an inappropriate immune response. The December 2008 issue of "The Journal of Immunology" suggests that these two activities overlap. While gold inhibits some immune cells that create inflammation, it simultaneously stimulates others.

Allergy

One of the most common side effects of gold therapy is an allergic reaction. Gold alleviates arthritis and other inflammatory conditions by binding to specific proteins in your immune cells and interfering with the production of



inflammatory chemicals. However, when gold attaches to these proteins, it alters their shape. This can prompt your immune system to recognize the proteins as "foreigners,"

On the one hand, gold helps to suppress your immune system when it is overactive; on the other, gold can trigger an allergic reaction, which is an inappropriate immune response.

thus triggering an allergic response. In some cases, an allergic reaction to gold may not occur until you have taken it for a long time — sometimes many months.

Manifestations

Toxicity to gold compounds can develop in several of your organ systems. Oral gold preparations can cause diarrhea. Gold allergy can be manifested by rashes, itching and reddened skin. Bone marrow suppression — a side effect that can lead to anemia, bleeding problems or infections — is relatively common during gold therapy. Kidney and liver damage are also relatively common, so these organs' functions must be monitored when you are taking gold. Any toxic reaction to gold mandates discontinuation of therapy and may require medical treatment.

Considerations

Gold has been used as an immune-suppressing drug for many years. Although it is now employed less frequently than in the past, new formulations — gold nanoparticles, for example — are being investigated for their utility in treating a number of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis and cancer. If you already have liver or kidney disease, you should not take gold as it can further damage these organs. Your doctor is the best source of information regarding the uses and dangers of gold therapy.

(Source: livestrong.com)

6 things you should not do when drinking tea

Do you love tea? Here are some surprising don't we have picked up over the years.

- Do not drink yesterday's tea. Tea, standing for several hours, quickly loses vitamins and other nutrients. The Chinese consider old tea poison. But leftover tea is fine used as an external agent for therapeutic purposes. It can also be used as a mouth rinse, to soothe a sore tongue, treat inflammation of the mouth or bleeding gums. It can be applied to damaged or inflamed skin.



- Do not drink scalding hot tea. If the tea is too hot it can irritate the throat, esophagus, and stomach. According to doctors, who studied this problem in different countries, the constant use of tea at a temperature above 160 degrees increases the sensitivity of the stomach wall. This is one reason we like Green and White teas as they are brewed at ~180 degrees. Here is how you can optimize your water temperature for those teas: Adjusting Water Temperature

- Do not drink very strong tea. High concentrations of tannin and caffeine can cause insomnia and headache.

- Do not drink tea to help swallow medications. Tannins in tea can reduce absorption of the medication and destroy some of its properties.

- Do not drink tea immediately before a meal. Tea taken before a meal leads to dilution of the saliva. Flavors will be subdued. If you really want to take tea before meals finish your cup at least a half hour or more before eating.

- Do not drink tea immediately after a meal. As you might know, any drink, including tea, consumed immediately after eating reduces the concentration of gastric juice, slowing digestion and disrupting the entire digestive system. If you want to enjoy your tea, wait an hour or so. At that point, we recommend a ginger-based tea to aid digestion.

Fortunately, there are so many other reasons and times to drink tea for the health, relaxation, and social benefits!

(Source: culinaryteas.com)

Reflexology

Reflexology is the application of appropriate pressure to specific points and areas on the feet, hands, or ears. Reflexologists believe that these reflex points correspond to different body organs and systems, and that pressing them has a beneficial effect on the person's health.

For example, reflexology holds that a specific spot in the arch of the foot corresponds to the bladder. When a reflexology practitioner uses thumbs or fingers to apply appropriate pressure to this area, it may affect bladder functioning.

Although reflexology is not used to diagnose or cure health disorders, millions of people around the world use it to complement other treatments when addressing conditions like anxiety, asthma, cancer treatment, cardiovascular issues, diabetes, headaches, kidney function, PMS, and sinusitis.

Are there times when i shouldn't have reflexology?

While reflexology is an extremely safe healing practice, it is important to be aware of a few contraindications or times when reflexology might not be a wise choice. These contraindications include:

Foot injuries

Patients with foot fractures, unhealed wounds, or active gout in the foot should avoid reflexology. Patients with osteoarthritis that impacts the foot or ankle, or those with vascular disease of the legs or feet, should consult with their primary provider prior to beginning reflexology on the feet. You can, however, still get reflexology treatment on your hands and ears.

Pregnancy

Pregnant woman with white shirt sitting on couch in early pregnancy (the first 6 weeks), the reflexology session is altered by treating the uterine and ovarian reflex points more gently or by avoiding them altogether. In general, caution should be exercised during pregnancy because of reports that stimulation may cause contractions.

Blood clotting issues

Clients who report current thrombosis or embolism (which is an obstruction of the pulmonary artery or a branch of it by a free-floating blood clot or embolus) should not receive reflexology therapy. Since reflexology improves circulation, it could potentially cause a clot to move towards the heart or brain.

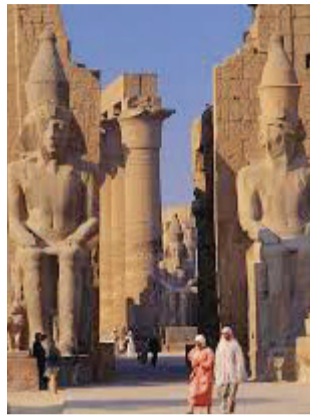
Open wounds

In general, practitioners will stay away from open wounds, and may choose to wear plastic gloves or not to treat areas that are compromised.

(Source: takingcharge.csh.umn.edu)

Recovery of Egyptian tourism still a mirage in Luxor

In Luxor, a jewel in the archeological tourism of southern Egypt, Abu Aya spent most of his idle time sitting in front of his souvenir shop in the souk of the city.



The temple of Karnak in Luxor

Despite a resumption of tourist bookings resulting in a slight quiver in attendance, he has not yet found a smile. "This improvement is not yet beneficial to traders and families in the region," he says.

With the owners of the neighboring shops, this 47-year-old salesman dressed in an ample galabeya gray (traditional dress of Upper Egypt) recalls these beautiful days when foreign visitors flocked by thousands.

Previously, tourists walked around the monuments, wandering around in carriages, buying souvenirs, gold jewelry and various craft items. Everyone was a winner.

"Before, my galabeya was full of dollars and euros," he recalls. Like him, nearly 4 million Egyptians worked directly or indirectly in this sector before the 2011 revolt, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

Twenty years ago, an extremist group killed 58 foreign tourists in Luxor in front of Hatshepsut temple, but visitors returned there afterwards.

This is not the case since the popular uprising of January 2011, which caused the fall of the dictator Hosni Mubarak: the ancient temples are deserted and Egypt remains plunged in the economic crisis.

Tourism, one of the main resources of the country, is the cost of a chronic instability.

Since the fall of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in the summer of 2013, security forces are confronting extremist groups targeting the police, the army and the Coptic Christian community.

In October 2015, 217 passengers and seven crew members of a Russian MetroJet flight from Sharm el-Sheikh (Sinai) were killed in an action claimed by the Islamic State (EI) group.

Several European countries then dissuaded their nationals from visiting certain parts of Egypt.

Result: the collapse of the sector is spectacular. In 2010, Egypt had a record of 15 million visitors. They were only 5.3 million in 2016, according to the Ministry of Tourism, nearly three times less.

Maher Abdel Hakim, hotel expert and coordinator of the tourism committee in Luxor and Aswan, another mythical city in southern Egypt, confirms that traders in Upper Egypt have been greatly affected.

"Previously, tourists walked around the monuments, wandering around in carriages, buying souvenirs, gold jewelry and various craft items. Everyone was a winner," he recalls.

In the courtyard of the temple of Luxor, built more than 3,400 years ago, only a small number of Egyptian tourists walk between the gigantic columns engraved with Pharaonic inscriptions.

Persevering, the drivers of carriages follow them and negotiate the price of the ride. "I will accept any price you offer, I just want to feed my horse," one of them said to potential customers. (Source: AFP)

Qatar to offer electronic travel authorization to travelers

Qatar's ministry of interior and Qatar Tourism Authority have announced that Qatar will now make electronic travel authorization available to visitors from a host of new countries.

Travelers who hold valid residence permits or visas from either the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Schengen countries, or the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are welcome to use the new service.

This new system, which will take effect on September 27th, will allow eligible visitors to obtain an ETA by completing a simple online application prior to travel.

As part of the application, applicants will be required to provide proof of accommodation (e.g. hotel booking), details of their return (or onward) travel, a copy of their passport with a minimum validity of six months, and a copy of their residence permit or visa to the aforementioned countries, with a minimum validity of 30 days.

Once the applicant's request has been approved they will receive an ETA that is valid for use within 30 days.

The ETA allows travelers to obtain a visa-on-arrival to Qatar, which will permit them to stay in the country for up to 30 days during a single visit.

The visa may be extended online for 30 additional days to be used during the same visit.

If the visitor leaves the country and wishes to return, they will need to apply for a new ETA before travelling back to Qatar.

Brigadier Mohammed Al Ateeq, director general of the department of passport and expatriates affairs at Qatar's ministry of interior, commented: "We are continuously reviewing Qatar's visa policies and seek to update them in line with Qatar's economic and social aspirations.

"We look forward to hosting visitors from around the world through this system, which will further streamline the visa application process.

"Visitors who are not eligible for an ETA are also welcome to apply for a regular tourist visa through the same e-visa platform."

This development comes as part of a series of measures that Qatar has taken to facilitate visitor access to the country.

Last month, Qatar waived visa requirements for nationals of 80 countries around the world.

(Source: breakingtravelnews.com)

Iran becomes member of UNESCO geoparks committee

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Iran bedesk came one of the 14 members of the UNESCO's Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Advisory Committee.

Iranian geologist and scholar Alireza Amrikazemi was named as the representative of Iran to the committee during the 5th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium, which is currently underway in the Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China.

"One of the main aims of geoparks is to preserve geological heritage, boost economic development of local communities, as well as attract more tourists," Amrikazemi told ISNA on Wednesday.

"I negotiated with representatives of some countries during the symposium who were eager to have mutual cooperation with Iran," he said.

The Advisory Committee comprises representatives of the founding members of the APGN in recognition of their particular experience and knowledge on geoparks together with other nominated individuals with a particular skill or knowledge in the field of geological heritage and sustainable development.

Regional Geopark Networks serve for the coordination of Global Geoparks



A view from Stars Valley on the Qeshm Island, southern Iran. Qeshm Island has been granted the designation of UNESCO Global Geopark for a four-year period from May 5, 2017.

Network activities at a regional or continental level and as fora for the exchange of information and co-operation between Global Geoparks and Global Geopark professionals in the region.

The APGN symposium, which runs until September 22, provides participants with the opportunity to actively share ideas while deepening under-

standing among APGN.

Iran's global geopark: Qeshm Island

The Qeshm Island has been granted the designation of UNESCO Global Geopark for a four-year period from May 5, 2017 to May 4, 2021.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council made an initially decision for the inscription last September. The ver-

dict was finalized by an executive board of the UN agency during its 201st session in Paris on May 5.

Qeshm Island embraces wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins and turtles as well.

Tehran expo to showcase Iran, Armenia common history, heritage

HERITAGE TEHRAN — The National Museum of Iran will host an exhibition to display a collection of 103 artifacts dated from Iron Age kingdom of Urartu which is believed to be part of common history and heritage of the two neighboring nations.

With the theme of "Armenia and Iran: Memory of The Land", the exhibition will open on October 17 at the museum in Tehran and will run through January 17, 2018, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The historical objects have been borrowed from the Museum of Armenia according to a previous agreement between the two countries to expand ties in the realm of cultural heritage.

Most of the artifacts, which will go on display during the showcase, belong to 1st millennium BC when the Iranian Plateau was part of the Urartu kingdom, centered on Lake Van in the Armenian highlands.

The art of Urartu is especially notable for fine lost-wax bronze objects: weapons, figurines, vessels including grand cauldrons that were used for sacrifices,



fittings for furniture, and helmets. There are also remains of ivory and bone carvings, frescos, cylinder seals and of course pottery.

Exhibition commemorating 80th anniversary of Tehran museums

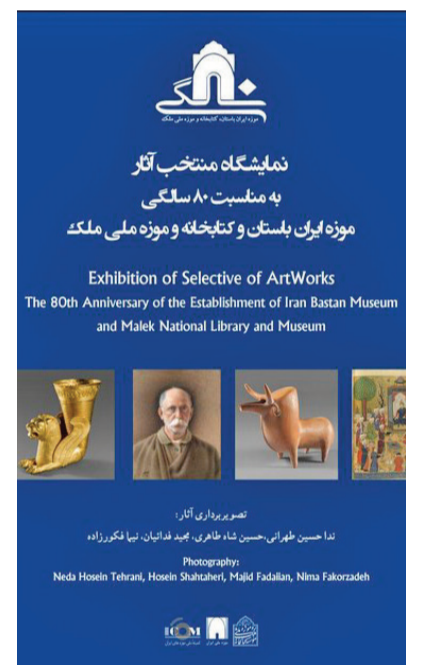
HERITAGE TEHRAN — Pictures from exquisite artworks dating back to Qajar era (1796-1925) are currently on display at the Tehran National Garden, a historical compound in central Tehran.

The exhibition of selective artworks is being held on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Iran Bastan Museum and Malek National Library and Museum, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

Photos taken from clay, stone and glass artworks as well as calligraphy, Persian painting as well as coins are on display during the showcase.

The brick building of Iran Bastan Museum was designed by French architect André Godard in the early 20th century, and was influenced by Sassanian (224-651 A.D.) vaults, particularly the Taq Kasra at Ctesiphon.

Malek National Library and Museum is the first private museum of



Iran and one of the six large libraries holding exquisite manuscripts.

The best travel advice we've ever heard

From booking flights to packing light, these experts' advice will make traveling a whole lot easier.

Stay at hotels in business districts

In many cities, business travel drives hotel prices on certain days of the week. In New York City's Financial District, hotel occupancy and rates are high from Monday through Thursday nights. But once the business travelers leave, hotels in the Financial District have increased availability, making a Friday through Sunday getaway much more affordable.

Carry dried gingerroot

To combat seasickness on a cruise, try popping 1,000 milligrams of dried gin-

gerroot (available in health food stores) before setting sail and, if necessary, again four hours later", says Robert Stern, PhD, who has studied the physiological bases for motion sickness.

Update your packing list

Organizing expert Julie Morgenstern suggests storing lists of essentials for each type of trip (e.g. business overnight, one-week island vacation) in your suitcase so they're easy to find. Edit each time you travel, deleting things you didn't need, and adding what you wished you had.

Look for midweek flight deals

Tuesday afternoon is the best time to look for airfare sales, says Suzanne

Rowan Kelleher, editor of Minitime.com. Often, an airline will put up a sale on Monday, and by Tuesday afternoon, most other airlines will bring their prices down to match that sale.

Dress smartly

When catching a flight, O's creative director Adam Glassman wears an easy-fitting sweater and pants, plus slip-on shoes, which save time at security checkpoints. And dodge scary airline blankets by wrapping yourself in a scarf.

Eat like a local

Avoid pricey tourist traps by eating at neighborhood restaurants where the locals eat, says Pauline Frommer of the Frommer's travel guides. Go up to

someone on the street and ask where they would eat. If you're in a country that speaks another language, avoid places with menus in English. And never ask a hotel for recommendations: They're often paid to drive customers to certain restaurants.

Get cultured

Eat plenty of yogurt while on vacation to ensure you have a healthy balance of intestinal flora to help fend off invading bacteria from the food or environment in a new place. Also, yogurt is a great source of protein and, with a little bit of fat, it will help you stave off hunger pangs as a midmorning or afternoon snack. (Source: oprah.com)

Kalat, a city amongst mountains

TOURISM Located in northeastern Iran, Hezar Masjed Ranges are a group of mountains located about 40 kilometers east of Quchan and 70 kilometers north of Mashhad in Khorasan Razavi province and stretched in a northwest-southeast direction.

The continuation of Hezar Masjed Ranges in the east terminates to Qarah Dagh and Mozduran Mountains. The altitude of these mountains does not exceed 1,650 meters.

With an elevation of 3,040 meters, Mount Hezar Masjed is the highest peak of the group and is located almost in central section of the mountains.

The city of Kalat, the capital of Kalat County, is located among these mountains. The city is home to the Khorshid Palace, built by the Afsharid dynasty (1736-1796).



Fuel from waste and electricity?

Technologies that allow the preservation of scarce fossil resources will pave the way towards resource security. The two main factors that contribute to a sustainable future industry are the source of electric energy and the carbon feedstock. First, the electrical power production based on renewable resources, such as wind and solar energy, is promoted. Second, renewable feedstocks and waste streams are considered as valuable precursors for the production of commodities and fuels.

Building a bridge between both factors means linking the conversion of electric energy - especially from local peak productions - to chemical energy carriers and commodities. Researchers in a consortium led by Dr. Falk Harnisch from the UFZ show that this bridge can be build.

Thereby, bioelectrorefineries integrate biomass conversion processes and equipment to produce fuels, power, and chemicals from biomass, and are based on the combination of microbial and electrochemical conversions", Harnisch says.

Fuel-like properties

In a research paper a proof of concept is given that biomass can be converted into chemicals with fuel-like properties.

The study already reached a 50% yield when considering the full process line and using corn beer as feedstock. "Corn beer was used in this study, a valuable biomass



"Using combined microbial and electrochemical conversions can lead to facilities that we can denominate as a bioelectrorefinery," says the researcher.

stream" Prof. Dr. Lars Angenent from the University of Tübingen that co-authored this study adds and further emphasizes that "in other studies we have already replaced corn beer with true waste streams for production of the intermediate carbonylate to push carbon recovery from wastes forward".

Falk Harnisch stressed that this study will be only a first step "We have now shown the feasibility of such a process line at lab scale. The challenge is to improve every single process step and to perform scale-up in order to allow realization at technical scale.

Specific process

Whether or not this specific process can be economically viable at the end will be also a question of the political framing.

In any case I see large potential for process lines to gain other products, use different feedstock etc. when seizing the power of combined microbial and electrochemical conversions." Lars Angenent, in turn, summaries that there is maybe an even more important aspect of this study.

The products from the continuous microbial conversion can be quickly converted to a real fuel with the intermittent and much faster electrochemical conversion. In times of surplus electricity this fuel then acts as electricity storage.

(Source: eurekalert.com)

5,000 'dieselgate' deaths in Europe per year: study

Emissions from diesel cars rigged to appear eco-friendly may be responsible for 5,000 air pollution deaths per year in Europe alone, according to a study published on Monday.

The numbers are in line with previous assessments of deaths due to the so-called "Dieselgate" scandal, which erupted when carmaker Volkswagen admitted in 2015 to cheating on vehicle emissions tests.

In May this year, a study in the journal Nature said "excess" emissions from diesel vehicles exceeding certification limits were associated with about 38,000 "premature" deaths globally in 2015.

The perils for Europe

The new study, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, focuses on the perils for Europe.

The researchers from Norway, Austria, Sweden and the Netherlands calculated that about 10,000 deaths in Europe per year can be attributed to small particle pollution from light duty diesel vehicles (LDDVs).

Almost half of these would have been



avoided if emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from diesel cars on the road had matched levels measured in the lab.

Volkswagen admitted installing illegal software devices in cars that reduced emissions only for the duration of tests.

If diesel cars emitted as little NOx as petrol ones, almost 4,000 of the 5,000 premature deaths would have been avoided, said the authors.

The countries with the heaviest burden are Italy, Germany, and France, the team added, "resulting from their large populations and high share of diesel cars in their national fleets."

Touted as less polluting, the share of diesel cars in Europe rose fast compared to petrol since the 1990s, and now comprise about half the fleet.

There are more than 100 million diesel

cars in Europe today, twice as many as in the rest of the world together, said the study authors.

Diesel engines emit less planet-warming carbon dioxide than petrol ones, but significantly more NOx.

Road transport

Road transport, said the study authors, contributed about 40 percent of NOx emissions in the countries of the European Union plus Norway and Switzerland.

Composed of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide, NOx gases contribute to acid rain and suffocating smog.

Through long-term exposure, they can cause breathing problems, eye irritation, loss of appetite, corroded teeth, headaches, and chronically reduced lung function.

"Excessive premature deaths will continue into the future until LDDVs with high on-road NOx emissions have been replaced," said the study authors.

Earlier this month, tougher emissions tests came into force in Europe.

(Source: AFP)

AIC to Compensate Martyrs and Injured People in Nasiriyah of Iraq

A couple of days ago, a number of Iranian nationals were martyred or injured in a terrorist attack in Nasiriyah of Iraq, so that these martyrs had been covered under the insurance services of Asia Insurance Company, Public Re-

lations Dept. of the company reported.

It should be noted that the insured had left Fars Province for Nasiriyah of Iraq in order to visit the holy sites, the report added.

After the damage has been de-

clared by the stakeholders and expert review of the relevant documents, the damages incurred to the insured pilgrims will be paid in the shortest time possible, Public Relations Dept. of the company ended.



1st Power Plant for Simultaneous Generation of Power and Steam Goes on Stream

Two engines of 8MW-power plant for the simultaneous generation of power and steam became operational in ITCO (Iranian Power Development Turbine Company (PJS), Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

For this purpose, ITCO (Iranian Power Development Turbine Company (PJS) embarked on constructing small-scale power plants across the

country and designed these power plants with the specific characteristics for generating power and steam.

Technicians and experts at Isfahan Province Regional Power Company confirmed the authenticity of performance of two engines of the power plants.

For his part, Managing Director of ITCO (Iranian Power Development Turbine Company (PJS) Ahmad

Khadem al-Melleh said: "In simultaneous production of power and steam called "CCHP", generators of reciprocating engines (gas-powered) and gas turbines enjoys high efficiency and output due to the easy accessibility to the natural gas in Iran."

It should be noted that this power plant has been constructed with the investment made by ITCO Company, he observed.

Its two other units in the second phase will be commissioned in the coming years, he said, adding: "The power plant will be fully put into operation in before termination of the next year."

CCHP is of the power plants which is completely economical with low repair and maintenance cost than other power plants, the managing director of the company ended.

Esfordi's Phosphate Production Rise 23%

Esfordi Phosphate Industrial & Mineral Complex's production rise 23% during the first five months of the current Iranian year (March 21-August 22).

According to the report of Public Relations Dept. of IMIDRO, Iran's major phosphate producer, Esfordi Phosphate

Industrial & Mineral Complex, Generated 28,262 tons of phosphate during the first five months of the current fiscal year (March 21-August 22), indicating a 23% increase compared to last year's corresponding period

The company's phosphate extraction

during the period was up 87% to 204,834 tons.

Esfordi phosphate plant is a subsidiary of Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company and located in Bafq County in Yazd Province, the report ended.



A Get-Together Meeting between "MA" Insurance Co. and Brokers of Insurance Industry

A get-together meeting was held between senior managers of MA Insurance Company and brokers of insurance industry, the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

The aforesaid get-together meeting was held in the presence of Eng. Safdari Chief Executive of MA Insurance Company, Hojjat Baharifar Member of Board of Directors, some deputies, advisors and also a number of chief executives of the company.

Abbas Eslami Life and Investment Manager of MA Insurance Company was the first speaker who said: "As a leading insurance company in the life insurance disciplines, the company has always tried, moreover maintaining inalienable rights of the insured, to bring about high efficiency and output for investors of this



insurance discipline." Presently, MA Insurance Company has earmarked

approx. 38 percent (385) of portfolio to itself, he said, adding: "31 percent of this share belongs to the life and investment insurance policies which are presented in this company."

Under the statistics of the Central Insurance of Iran (CII), more than 30 percent of objectives of the company has been materialized, he opined.

"Civil Liability" insurance policy for Iranian cheetah caused the company to be a leader insurance company as founder of "CSR".

In the same direction, MA Insurance Company managed to receive ISO certificate, so that all the processes and performances have the vivid and clear mechanism, the Public Relations Dept. of the company ended.

Barn owls don't lose their hearing with age, scientists find

Testing revealed no statistical difference between the hearing ability of young and very elderly captive barn owls.

If aging humans had ears like those of barn owls they would never need hearing aids, scientists have shown.

The birds, whose sensitivity to sound helps them locate prey, suffer no hearing loss as they get older. Like other birds - but unlike mammals, including humans - they are able to regenerate cells in their inner ears.

Aged birds experience minimal hearing loss, but the new research shows that the barn owl suffers no meaningful loss at all. In contrast, a human will have lost more than 30 decibels of sensitivity to high-sound frequencies by the age of 65.

Testing showed no statistical difference between the hearing ability of young and very elderly captive barn owls up to 23 years old.

The team, led by Dr. Ulrike Langemann from the University of Oldenburg in Germany, wrote in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: "Overall, our data ... indicate that barn owl ears do not deteriorate with age.

The "lack of hearing loss in our old barn owls is remarkable, given that the average life expectancy of barn owls is rather low."

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(Source: The Guardian)

Scientists want to explore asteroids with a fleet of nanoprobes

Researchers at the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) presented a mission plan today at the European Planetary Science Congress that would allow scientists to observe hundreds of asteroids over the course of just a few years. Their plan is to send 50 nanoprobes -- small space instruments -- into the asteroid belt that lies between Mars and Jupiter to take images and chemical measurements of around 300 large asteroids.

"Asteroids are very diverse and, to date, we've only seen a small number at close range. To understand them better, we need to study a large number in situ.

The five kilogram probes would be affixed with a tiny telescope and a spectrometer that would analyze chemical samples from the asteroids.



The nanoprobes would be propelled through space with electric solar wind sails, or E-sails. The E-sail would be composed of the main spacecraft, a smaller remote unit and a 20-kilometer-long tether that connects the two. That tether would be kept at a positive charge so that when positive ions emitted by the sun and traveling through space come in contact with it, they'll repel each other, giving the probe a nice boost.

Each probe would analyze six or seven asteroids and then swing back towards Earth to unload their data, which would negate the need for the large antennas that distant data transmission requires. The whole mission could take just over three years to complete and the researchers estimate it would cost around \$72 million -- a bargain for space missions.

The mission hasn't been approved or picked up by a space agency yet, but the information they could gather would be incredibly useful.

(Source: Engadget)

The real difference between warm and cool colors

The internet abounds with techniques for teaching elementary schoolers the difference between warm and cool colors -- an often-invisible, somewhat flexible line down the middle of the color wheel to separate warm reds, oranges, yellows, and browns from cool blues, greens, purples, and grays. The balance between them is said to enhance the beauty of Baroque landscapes and the Mona Lisa. Interior designers claim that cool colors recede and make rooms expand, while warm colors make rooms cozier.

Still, the basis for the warm-cool divide has remained murky, largely resting on the sometimes ambiguous and overlapping feelings different colors give people, as opposed to any clear scientific distinction. But a new study might change that: Across languages, it suggests, warm and cool colors can be distinguished by how easy they are to communicate.

When you're trying to describe a color to someone else, that person will identify the correct one faster if it's warm rather than cool. This result has implications for the evolution of color vision in humans and other primates, and even the reason language developed to begin with.

The study, which was published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, asked people who speak three different languages -- American English, Bolivian Spanish, and an Amazonian language called Tsimane -- to play a guessing game.

(Source: The Atlantic)

Campaigners keep environmental pledges

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — Eco-conscious groups and **d e s k** campaigners gathered together once again over the last week of summer to help increase environmental awareness and protect the earth.



A gathering revolving around fighting wildfire and their detrimental effects with environmentalist, artists, and locals in attendance was held in Gilan-e Gharb, western Kermanshah province.

A group of environmentalist succeeded in extinguishing wildfire in forest in southern Fars province.



A workshop, aiming at informing the children ageing 8 to 15 about waste management, recycling, protected areas, and introducing some animal species was held in northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

An environmental group cleaned up the Ab-e Garm road in Dehloran, western Ilam province.

An animal support group in Khorram Abad, southwestern Lorestan province, treated a stray dog with a broken leg.

In support for Zagros Mountains, Camo Kalhor, an environmentalist, cycled Croatia from September 2 to 12 and finished in Dubrovnik.

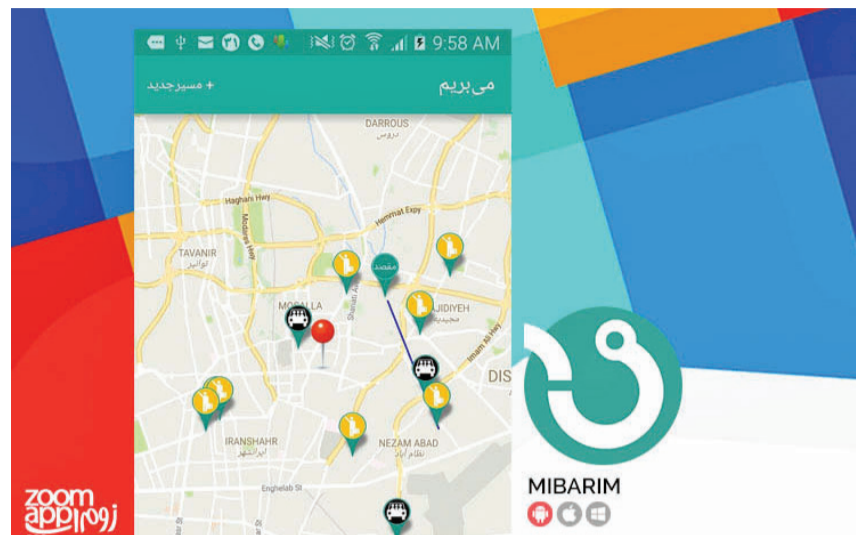
Iranian student startup develops carpool app

SOCIETY TEHRAN — 'Mibarim' **d e s k** (literally meaning we take you) is a student startup promoting carpooling application designed by Iranian students to reduce air pollution.

Carpooling (also car-sharing, ride-sharing and lift-sharing) is the sharing of car journeys so that more than one person travels in cars.

Today, with persistent air pollution in mega cities many are starting to think that sharing the same car would be beneficial both to them and the environment.

By having more people using one vehicle, carpooling reduces each person's travel costs such as fuel costs, tolls, and the stress of driving. Carpooling is also a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way to travel as sharing journeys reduces air pollution, carbon



emissions, traffic congestion on the roads, and the need for parking spaces.

However, carpooling is not very popular in Iran yet. Startups such as 'Mibarim' are now trying to gain more attention to this efficient method of commuting.

On the occasion of the World Car Free Day, September 22, the developers of the app have decided to call on those who are interested to reserve a car to Nature Bridge (Tabiat Bridge), a pedestrian overpass in Tehran, or Tehran Book garden for free to encourage people to use the app in the future.

By visiting the website <http://mibarim.com/> you can either download the app as the passenger or become a driver and share your car with others to have cleaner air and shinier sun.

International Day of Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All

UNESCO in cooperation with the Roudaki Foundation, the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, and Day Sun Cultural Institute celebrated the International Peace Day with a public event at Azadi Tower on Wednesday.

Tehran's iconic landmark was lit up by video images related to the theme of peace. Day Sun Cultural Institute produced the video mapping, which is an interdisciplinary and new form of art, using architecture, graphic design, cinema and music.

The video mapping performance called "Thirty Birds of Peace" is directed by Mr. Amir Reza Salari and based on Persian literature and history.

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world, each year on September 21 and provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences, and to contribute to building a culture of peace.

These are turbulent times, for humanity, and for our

planet. Poverty remains enduring, just as inequalities are deepening. Conflicts continue to tear societies apart, exposing millions of women and men to immense suffering. The world is facing the most important refugee and displacement crisis of our time, and humanity's cultural heritage and diversity are under attack.

Therefore, this year's Peace Day theme is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All".

(Press release)

International Week of the Deaf 2017

International Week of the Deaf, September 18-24, is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and it was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy. Since then, it is celebrated annually by the global deaf community. The International Week of the Deaf is held on the last week of September, the same month first World Congress of the WFD was held.

International Week of the Deaf is commemorated through various activities (marches, debates, campaigns, exhibitions and meetings), and call for the participation and involvement of stakehold-

ers (families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, Disabled People's Organizations).

Why is International Week of the Deaf important?

International Week of the Deaf is the only week in a year that sees highly concerted global advocacy to raise awareness about the deaf community at individual, community and governmental level. It is about gathering together, becoming united, and showing that unity to the rest of the world.

International Week of the Deaf strives

to promote the rights of deaf people and highlight specific human rights topics that merit attention.

International Week of the Deaf is aimed to spread message as widely as possible by ensuring that the campaign(s) will be noticed and the message will also pass to wider society through sufficient media coverage.

History

A person named, Granville Richard Seymour Redmond (born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA in the year 1871) got deafness because of the scarlet fever in his early child-

hood. He was supported by his family to a lot and given higher education in a special school. He was the owner of the natural artistic talents which was getting spread all over the world. He also learned the painting, drawing and pantomime from the famous California School of Design in San Francisco. He was very talented as same as a normal person. Because of this reason, the World Deaf Day is commemorated all over the world for the deaf and by the deaf for their healthier conditions, better life, self-esteem, nationality, schooling and work.

(Source: wfdeaf.org)



Children make 2-km painting at Tehran's Razi Park

SOCIETY TEHRAN — On the **d e s k** occasion of the new school year (starting on September 23) some 3,000 children participated in completing a 2-kilometer painting at Tehran's Razi Park on Monday.

According to ISNA news agency, children, mostly aged 5 to 9 and accompanied by their families, came to the park from morning and took part in finishing the painting which is said to be the longest-ever in the country.

As explained by socio-cultural deputy of Tehran Municipality, Abbas Tabatabaei, the paintings will be collected and published in a book.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Shoobox' to cheer deprived schoolchildren

The air of back-to-school season is in the air and fundraising campaigns across Iran are collecting money and stationary products for schoolchildren of low-income families. Shoobox, a movement established by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, calls Tehran citizens to fill 15,000 shoeboxes with their donations for deprived schoolchildren all over the country. "We provide 15,000 shoeboxes at Tehran cultural centers for 15,000 students, which are supported by the foundation," the head of Tehran Municipality Artistic Cultural Organization Mahmoud Salahi announced. The scheme is co-organized by the Tehran Municipality and the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, said an official with the municipality. The parents can ask their children to fill the boxes with everything they think their underprivileged friends need including stationary products or even money, he said. The children can cover shoeboxes with a gift-wrap and put a letter for their friend, he said. The stations of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation will collect the shoeboxes on September 14 and 15, he said. Last year, a total of 3 billion rials (about 75,000 dollars) was collected through shoeboxes, he said.

اجرای طرح «جعبه کفش» در راستای کمک به دانش آموزان بی بضاعت

رئیس سازمان فرهنگی هنری شهرداری تهران با بیان جزئیات طرح جعبه کفش، این طرح را به منظور کمک به دانش آموزان نیازمند کشور در آغاز سال تحصیلی جدید دانست. محمود صلاحی رئیس سازمان فرهنگی هنری شهرداری تهران در نشست خبری جشنواره جعبه کفش که به منظور کمک به دانش آموزان نیازمند تحت پوشش کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) که صبح امروز در سازمان فرهنگی هنری شهرداری تهران برگزار شد، اظهار کرد: طرح جعبه کفش سال ۹۴ با ابتکار سازمان فرهنگی هنری شهرداری تهران و در سال ۹۵ نیز با کمک مدیرکل کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) استان تهران انجام شد و امسال نیز در به منظور آغاز سال تحصیلی جدید و بازگشایی مدارس در آستانه اجرای این طرح هستیم. وی در ادامه به طرح جمع آوری سرسیدها و طرح جعبه کفش اشاره کرد و گفت: علت نام گذاری طرح با نام «جعبه کفش» این بود که کفش یک ملاک است، ضمن اینکه چون داخل جعبه کفش پیدا نیست هر کسی می تواند بر اساس توانش کمک‌هایی را انجام دهد. همچنین می‌خواستیم جعبه به گونه‌ای باشد که کودکان روی آن شعر نوشته ویا نقاشی بکشند و خودشان به صورت هدیه این جعبه‌ها را در اختیار کودکان بی بضاعت قرار دهند.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Time is money

■ **Explanation:** time is valuable, so don't waste it
 ■ **For example:** I can't afford to spend a lot of time standing here talking. Time is money, you know!

PHRASAL VERB

Wipe out

■ **Meaning:** make someone very tired
 ■ **For example:** Revising for the exam last night wiped me out.

ENGLISH IDIOM

Wave a dead chicken

■ **Explanation:** when faced with a serious problem and you take steps that you know in advance will be futile
 ■ **For example:** The TV set was permanently damaged, but the technician decided to wave a dead chicken to satisfy the old lady before announcing the bad news.

LEARN ENGLISH

The Weekend - Movie Trailer

A: In a digital world, even the strongest must fight for survival. Two people, possess a secret so valuable, so powerful, they have to defend it at all costs.

B: I don't care where they are, I don't care what it takes... you find them and bring them to me!

A: They only had one chance! And their chance was to fight back!

D: You wanna play rough? Okay, say hello to my little friend!

A: With a little help from a Governor...

C: Listen to me! We have to get them outta there! No matter what!

A: Nothing will prevent them from doing their job! Double the action.

D: Get down!

A: Triple the excitement.

D: Get down again!

A: This summer... nothing will stand in their way.

B: I'm going to make him an offer he can't refuse.

A: Two hosts, one podcast, coming to a theater near you.

Key Vocabulary

survival: the state of living and being alive

possess: have or own

defend: fight in order to keep something or someone safe

at all costs: regardless of the cost involved, even if it's difficult

rough: be tough, difficult, violent

no matter what: even if it's difficult

get down: lower your body, not standing

stand in someone's way: prevent a person from doing something

Supplementary Vocabulary

comedy: a funny movie

romantic comedy: a funny movie where two people fall in love

animated film: a movie made with a series of drawings; not with live people

thriller: a very exciting film

drama: a movie about a serious subject

(Source: irlanguage.com)



Have an idea?
Be in touch!

lifestyle.tehrantimes@gmail.com

Trump's UN speech: John Kelly looks 'embarrassed', Netanyahu 'happy'

The United States President Donald Trump's debut speech at the United Nations has been called a "42-minute tweet storm" and "axis of evil" speech on steroids. One man seemed worried though: White House chief of staff John Kelly was photographed sitting with his hand on his forehead, looking down, as Trump spoke.

The Week ran a story headlined: "John Kelly was pretty upset during Trump's UN speech, guessing if Kelly had a bad headache or Trump's debut speech was giving him one."

Social media users joked that it appeared Kelly, who was sitting next to First Lady Melania Trump at the UN General Assembly, was going through an "existential crisis" as Trump "rambled" on about "totally destroying" North Korea.

Vice News noted that this wasn't the only time Kelly was photographed looking distraught during Trump's speeches. Sample this: Kelly standing with his arms crossed in a corner of the room as the U.S. President spoke about "very fine people" who attended the Charlottesville "Unite the Right" rally.

Trump's speech -- dubbing Kim Jong-un a "rocket man" on a "suicide mission" -- was lapped up by supporters at home, but left allies around the world bewildered at the change that has gripped the United States.



Trump's remarks used the words "sovereign" or "sovereignty" 21 times, rhetoric more often deployed in modern times by China to deflect criticism of a domestic crackdown or by Russia to deride the U.S. interference in domestic affairs. Allies were left with a renewed sense that "America First" will mean America alone. "In America, we do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to watch," Trump said. Trump called the UN-backed Iran

nuclear deal "an embarrassment" to the United States and suggested it was one of the worst international pacts ever struck. And he hinted that his administration, which has accused Tehran of aiding terrorism in the Middle East, could soon declare Iran out of compliance with the deal, which could unravel it.

He also decried the "disastrous rule" of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro and urged the UN to step in.

The speech drew varying reactions from leaders on the two sides of Trump's black-and-white ledger. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a Trump ally, wrote on Twitter, "In over 30 years in my experience with the UN, I never heard a bolder or more courageous speech." Javad Zarif, the foreign minister of Iran, wrote that "Trump's ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times-not the 21st Century UN-unworthy of a reply."

Kelly, 67, started his job at the White House early in August. Within a month, however, reports came out that tensions had increased between him and President Trump.

Kelly told colleagues that nobody had ever spoken to him like Trump did during his 35 years in the military, The New York Times reported.

(Source: agencies)

St. Louis mayor slams 'institutional racism' in U.S.

The legacies of racism, not only the violent protests that gripped St. Louis after a white former police officer was acquitted of murdering a black man, must be addressed, the city's mayor said on Tuesday.

Mayor Lyda Krewson said she had listened and read the reaction of residents since the controversial verdict on Friday and was ready to find ways to move the city forward.

"What we are seeing and feeling is not only about this case," Krewson told reporters.

"What we have is a legacy of policies that have disproportionately impacted people along racial and economic lines," she added. "This is institutional racism."

The city has been working to expedite existing plans to increase equity as well as develop new approaches, including changing how police shootings are investigated and granting subpoena powers to a police civilian oversight board, and expanding jobs programs, Krewson said.

"We, here in St. Louis, are once again ground zero for the frustration and anger at our shared legacy of these disproportional outcomes," she said. "The only option is to move forward."



Krewson said town halls scheduled for Tuesday night and later were canceled. As she spoke, dozens of protesters chanted outside her office.

Some activists had planned to voice complaints about police tactics used during protests after a judge found former officer Jason Stockley, 36, not guilty of first-degree murder in the killing of Anthony Lamar Smith, 24.

Largely peaceful protests during the day have turned violent at night with some demonstrators carrying guns, bats and hammers, smashing windows and clashing

with police. Police arrested 123 people on Sunday, when officers in riot gear used pepper spray on activists.

The clashes have evoked memories of riots following the 2014 shooting of a black teenager by a white officer in nearby Ferguson.

Protesters have cited anger over a police tactic known as "kettling," in which officers form a square surrounding protesters to make arrests. Some caught inside police lines on Sunday said officers used excessive force, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

St. Louis police are also investigating whether some of its officers chanted "Whose streets? Our streets," appropriating a refrain used by the protesters that one civilian oversight official said could inflame tensions.

"I wish that wouldn't have been said," Krewson said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri asked the city in a Tuesday letter to preserve video evidence ahead of what it said was a likely lawsuit challenging police tactics.

Complaints of police misconduct were being reviewed, but intimidation tactics would not be tolerated, Krewson said. Police had generally shown "great restraint," she said.

(Source: Reuters)

Riek Machar's men blamed for deadly South Sudan raid

Fighters loyal to an exiled former deputy president in South Sudan have attacked government forces in Unity state, leading to the deaths of 25 people including civilians, according to officials.

Unity is home to oil fields that have been abandoned due to fighting.

The clash between Riek Machar's loyalists and government forces occurred early on Monday in Nhialdiu, a village close to the town of Bentiu which has changed hands repeatedly since civil war began nearly four years ago.

"The number of the bodies that were

found on the ground were 25," said Lam Tungwar, information minister for Northern Liech state, adding that the attack was "repulsed".

Those killed during fighting included women, elderly people and local police officers, Lam Tungwar, state minister of information for Northern Liech, told Reuters news agency.

Lam Paul Gabriel, a spokesman for the SPLA-IO fighters, confirmed the clash, claiming "a successful operation" in which "the gallant SPLA-IO forces took control of Nhialdiu", killed 19 government soldiers and seized dozens of weapons.

Tungwar said most of the dead were civilians.

Dickson Gatluak Jock, military spokesman for South Sudanese Vice President Taban Deng Gai, said the attack coincided with dialogue in Nhialdiu between rival clans aimed at securing peace in the region.

After gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, South Sudan descended into war in December 2013, pitting President Salva Kiir's troops against fighters loyal to Machar.

A peace accord was signed in August

2015 and Machar returned to the capital in April last year to share power with Kiir.

However, the deal fell apart less than three months later and Machar and his supporters fled the capital, Juba.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed and more than 3.5 million have been displaced since the conflict began.

The war has created what has been called one of the world's fastest-growing refugee crises and both sides of the conflict have been accused of abuses.

(Source: agencies)

Qatari emir slams 'unjust' Saudi-led siege in UN speech

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has sharply denounced the House of Saud regime-led bloc of countries for imposing an "unjust" blockade against his nation, saying such pressure tactics amount to "terrorism."

"I stand before you while my country and my people are subjected to an ongoing and unjust blockade imposed since June 5 by neighboring countries," Sheikh Tamim said in an address to the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday.

In one of the worst diplomatic dispute to hit the Persian Gulf region in decades, the House of Saud regime, Egypt, Bahrain and the UAE cut diplomatic ties with Qatar and slapped an economic embargo on the country, accusing it of supporting terrorism.

Doha rejects the allegation and suggests it is being targeted because it has been following foreign policies that are more independent of the Riyadh regime.

The boycotting states have issued a list of demands for Qatar to meet in order for the dispute to be resolved, but Doha has refused to comply with them,



slamming the demands as an attack on its sovereignty.

"The countries who imposed the blockade on the State of Qatar interfere in the internal affairs of many countries, and accuse all those who oppose them domestically and abroad with terrorism. By doing they are inflicting damage on the war on

terror," the Qatari emir said.

Sheikh Tamim highlighted Qatar's resistance in the face of the Saudi regime-led bloc's excessive demands and said Doha has "refused to yield to dictations by pressure and siege."

The blockade was meant to put pressure on Qataris via "foodstuffs, medicine and ripping off consanguineous relations

to force them change their political affiliation to destabilize a sovereign country," he said in a 22-minute address. "Isn't this one of the definitions of terrorism?" Sheikh Tamim asked.

The emir further called for "an unconditional dialogue based on mutual respect for sovereignty" to end the diplomatic crisis gripping the Persian Gulf region.

Earlier this month, the House of Saud regime suspended any dialogue with Qatar, accusing it of "distorting facts," shortly after a report of a phone conversation between the Qatari emir and Saudi regime Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman suggested a breakthrough in the Persian Gulf dispute.

Following his Tuesday speech, Sheikh Tamim held a meeting with the United States President Donald Trump, where the latter said he had a "very strong feeling" the Qatar row would be solved "pretty quickly."

With no end in sight for the crisis, a furious war of words erupted between diplomats from Qatar and its boycotters at an Arab League meeting in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, last week.

(Source: Press TV)

Dozens of states sign nuclear weapons ban treaty at United Nations

Dozens of countries signed a treaty to ban nuclear weapons Wednesday amid tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, although the United States, Britain, France and others boycotted the event at the annual United Nations gathering of world leaders.

The treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons will enter into force 90 days after 50 countries have ratified it. Only a few states were due to deposit their ratification Wednesday.

"There remain some fifteen thousand nuclear weapons in existence. We cannot allow these doomsday weapons to endanger our world and our children's future," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said as he opened the treaty for signing.

Earlier this month North Korea conducted its sixth and largest nuclear weapons test. U.S. President Donald Trump told the 193-member UN General Assembly on Tuesday that if threatened, the United States would "totally destroy" the country of 26 million people and mocked its leader, Kim Jong Un, as a "rocket man."

The treaty was adopted in July by two-thirds of the 193 UN member states after months of talks, which the United States, Britain, France and others skipped. They instead pledged commitment to a decades-old Non-Proliferation Treaty, which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.

The United States, Britain and France are among nine countries believed to have nuclear weapons.

(Source: Reuters)

Lebanese MPs reject Trump's calls for refugee resettlement

Lebanese members of Parliament united Wednesday to reject any possibility of naturalizing Syrian refugees inside Lebanon, Speaker Nabih Berri said.

"In the name of the MPs, we stand by the Lebanese constitution to reject any form of naturalization," the state-run National News Agency quoted Berri as saying.

"Parliament discussed this issue and cited Chapter T of the constitution, which confirms that Lebanon is a final state," Berri said, referring to Lebanon as a country intended for its citizens rather than one in which refugees could be naturalized.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly Tuesday, U.S. President Trump thanked Lebanon and other countries in the region for providing humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees.

"We seek an approach to refugee resettlement that is designed to help these horribly treated people and which enables their eventual return to their home countries to be part of the rebuilding process," Trump said during his speech.

He added: "Out of the goodness of our hearts, we offer financial assistance to hosting countries in the region and we support recent agreements of the G20 nations that will seek to host refugees as close to their home countries as possible. This is the safe, responsible, and humanitarian approach."

Separately, Prime Minister Saad Hariri also expressed opposition to refugee resettlement in Lebanon. Speaking to reporters after a parliamentary session Wednesday morning, Hariri said, "Resettling refugees in Lebanon is not an option and the United States knows this."

He added that Trump's comments reflected only a political view. "No one has proposed the issue of resettlement in Lebanon and everyone knows our refusal to resettle Palestinian refugees and those of any other nationality," Hariri said.

He added: "The speeches we heard at the UN are political stances and not obligatory for us, and no international decision was made in this regards."

Trump's comments quickly drew the ire of Lebanese officials, who immediately rejected any calls for Lebanon to host refugees permanently -- despite the fact that Trump had not specifically referred to naturalization or permanent resettlement.

(Source: Daily Star)

Study shows lengthy waits for asylum applicants in Europe

Researchers say about half of the migrants who entered Europe during the mass influx in 2015 and 2016 are still awaiting decisions on asylum by the end of that period, and only a small percent had been sent home with their applications rejected.



The Pew Research Center said in a study Wednesday that of the 2.2 million asylum-seekers entering Europe in 2015-16, 52 percent were still awaiting decisions on their applications by the end of 2016, 40 percent had their applications approved, while 3 percent had been sent home.

Germany received most asylum-seekers with 1,090,000 applicants, but was among the most efficient at processing them with 49 percent waiting for decisions by the end of 2016. Hungary, by contrast, had 70,000 applicants and 94 percent were still waiting.

(Source: AP)

Russia's Sorokin elected to FIFA Council

Russia, host of the 2018 World Cup, regained its place on the FIFA Council when Alexei Sorokin was elected as one of the decision-making panel's European members on Wednesday.

Sorokin, the chief executive of the organizing committee for next year's tournament, was elected by acclamation at an extraordinary UEFA Congress on Wednesday. He was the only candidate. Russia had been without a representative on the global governing body's FIFA Council since May when Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko was barred from standing for re-election.

FIFA said that Mutko had failed an eligibility test by its review committee because his ministerial role contravened the organization's statutes over political neutrality.

Mutko dismissed the decision at the time, saying FIFA had changed its criteria.

(Source: Reuters)

Swimming legend Michael Phelps has 'no desire' to make another comeback

Michael Phelps has insisted that he has 'no desire' to return to competitive swimming.

The American, who won 23 golds and 28 medals in total in an astonishing Olympic career, wants to stay in the sport and help out those coming through, but his desire to return to action was not increased by watching the World Championships in Budapest in April.

Phelps, who came out of retirement to snare five golds and a silver medal at the Rio Olympics last year before stepping aside again, is expecting his second child with wife Nicole. They already have a 16-month-old son called Boomer.

And the 32-year-old insisted family is now his focus during an interview with AP. "For me, it's about being happy where I am and happy where my family is," Phelps said. "We have more goals we want to accomplish outside the sport."

Phelps added that 'it's time to kind of move on and watch other people come into their own' - something he saw with Caeleb Dressel's run of form in Budapest as the 21-year-old American won seven golds to become the sport's newest star.

"I'm happy Caeleb decided to go off this year instead of last year," joked Phelps. "I'm kind of happy to see him swimming so well when I'm not there."

Phelps also revealed that his son could have a future in the pool as well. "He skipped the walking part and went right to running," he added of Boomer.

"He just scoots around the house. It's funny when we get him in the pool. He basically just splashes around the whole time."

"He's literally nonstop. As soon as he wakes up from a nap or his night's sleep, he's just go, go, go. There's no time for slow moving in our family. He likes to go fast. I guess that's a good thing."

(Source: Eurosport)

Benzema seals Real Madrid stay until 2021

Karim Benzema has agreed a four-year contract extension at Real Madrid that will keep him with the Spanish and European champions until 2021.

The 29-year-old striker is suffering with a hamstring injury and is not included in Madrid's squad to face Real Betis on Wednesday.

He will sign his new deal in a ceremony at the Santiago Bernabeu on Thursday.

Benzema joins team-mates Isco, Marcelo and Dani Carvajal in sealing fresh terms with Madrid over recent weeks, while head coach Zinedine Zidane told reporters on Tuesday that his own renewal was "already done".

After joining from Lyon in 2009, Benzema has scored 182 goals across 371 appearances for Madrid but has not featured for France since being implicated in a blackmail scandal involving international team-mate Mathieu Valbuena in November 2015. In July, the highest appeals court in France annulled the validity of the investigation into Benzema's alleged involvement in the case.

(Source: Goal)

Chelsea deny wrongdoing as FIFA confirms transfer investigation

FIFA has opened an investigation into Chelsea's transfer dealings amid suggestions that the Premier League leaders have breached regulations concerning the recruitment of youth players. The Daily Mail reported on Tuesday that FIFA had launched an inquiry into Chelsea's conduct when recruiting foreign players under the age of 18.

Contacted by ESPN FC, FIFA said: "We can confirm that an investigation is ongoing, but we cannot provide any details concerning the matters under investigation."

Chelsea were hit with a transfer ban in 2009 - lifted after a successful appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) - relating to the 2007 signing of Gael Kakuta from Lens, while FIFA last year also investigated Bertrand Traore's move to Stamford Bridge, though no action was taken.

Responding to the news of the FIFA probe, a Chelsea spokesman said: "Chelsea FC complies with all FIFA Statutes and Regulations when recruiting players."

Barcelona and Real Madrid have both received transfer bans after being found guilty of violating FIFA rules on signing foreign minors, while Atletico Madrid are unable to register new players until January 2018 after their appeal against a similar charge was dismissed by CAS.

Chelsea's case is not reported to be as serious as any of the Spanish giants, though FIFA reserves the right to hand down sanctions ranging from a fine to a transfer ban if the Blues are found to have acted improperly.

(Source: ESPN)

Paralympic officials assess Mexico City after earthquake

The International Paralympic Committee has postponed its World Championships in powerlifting and swimming following the earthquake in Mexico City.

Tuesday's earthquake killed more than 200 people and toppled many buildings.

The 2017 Para Sport Festival, incorporating both championships, was scheduled to run from 30 September to 6 October in the Mexican capital.

Both events were postponed after the IPC consulted with local government and the organizing committee.

"The immediate focus of the Mexican authorities should be on prioritizing recovery and rebuilding for the Mexican people and not organizing two major international sport events," said IPC president Andrew Parsons.

It is the first time the IPC has had to postpone a major championship.

"I know the postponement of both championships will be disappointing news to all the athletes who were set to take part, however these are unique cir-



cumstances and quite simply this is the right thing to do at the moment," added Parsons.

Parsons said the body will now work to ensure the safe departure of team delegations already in the country, before

assessing whether it can reschedule the championships in Mexico City or must seek alternatives.

The 7.1 magnitude quake caused major damage in the capital and in neighboring states.

The IPC says the two venues poised to host the championships - the Francisco Marquez Olympic Swimming Pool and the adjacent Juan de la Barrera Olympic Gymnasium - had sustained minor damage.

A full structural assessment has yet to be carried out but hotels set to accommodate the 1,400 athletes, officials and staff that were due to arrive for the events have been badly damaged.

"Following the terrible earthquake our thoughts, prayers and condolences are with the people of Mexico at this time," said Parsons.

"The tragic loss of life and devastation caused is heart breaking to see and our deepest sympathies are with all those involved."

It is the first time two of the biggest Para sport competitions have been held together and it had been expected to feature 550 swimmers from more than 60 countries and 360 powerlifters from 65 countries.

(Source: BBC)

UK Government hits out at Premier League clubs over disabled facilities

The Premier League has been reprimanded by the government and is facing calls from fans for clubs to play games behind closed doors or be deducted points if they do not meet minimum standards for disabled facilities.

A Daily Telegraph investigation revealed on Tuesday that only nine of the 20 Premier League clubs meet guidelines in the Accessible Stadia Guide for the provision of disabled facilities. A collective pledge was made in 2015 to reach that standard by August 2017, with the league subsequently giving all promoted clubs an extra two years from when they came up.

Penny Mordaunt, the minister for disabled people, work and health, described the results as "unacceptable", with disabled fans now demanding to know what action will be taken against failing clubs. Manchester United and Chelsea are currently under threat of legal action from the Equality and Human Rights Commission but Crystal Palace, Everton, Newcastle United and Watford were part of the pledge in 2015 and remain below the recommendations for wheelchair space.

The clubs have made various improvements and all have plans in place for further change. They are adamant that cost is not the determining factor and issues ranging from the age and design of the stadiums to demand, the need for safety tests and plans to move stadium have also been highlighted. The judgment for the EHRC is whether "reasonable adjustments" are being made to ensure that discriminatory practices do not occur.

The issue has been raised in Parliament and was already the subject of attempted legislation in 2015, with the Culture, Media and Sport select committee also expressing doubt earlier this year at the Premier League's likely willingness to discipline any of its own clubs. The league could theoretically fine any club it deems to have failed but the government is clearly now losing patience. "No more excuses, the Premier League should set the standard for the game, and it is unacceptable



that almost half of the clubs are still not catering for their disabled fans," Mordaunt told The Telegraph.

Anthony Joy, who is the chairman of the Arsenal Disabled Supporters' Association, said: "No more warnings. We have been hearing words like 'could' and 'should' for years. The clubs have had time and a fine is not going to have any impact. Points deductions or playing matches behind closed doors is what would concentrate minds."

Martin Emery, whose son Jordan is disabled, has grown increasingly skeptical. "A fine will not do anything," he said. "The only thing is playing a game behind closed doors or a points deduction."

Tony Taylor, the chairman of the charity Level Playing Field,

added that it should be made "clear that these minimum standards have been in place for years and that there is no excuse as to why any club should fail to meet these basic criteria". Lord Holmes, the winner of nine Paralympic gold medals, is also adamant that it is a question of will. "This is entirely possible," he said. "It would seem bizarre not to measure them against the pledge they made in 2015."

The Premier League has pointed to "a substantial programme of work" and will publish a report in the "coming weeks". About 1,000 wheelchair bays have been added across the league in the past two years - but the overall picture - remains mixed.

(Source: Telegraph)

South Korea's Moon says pushing to guarantee safety at Pyeongchang Olympics

South Korea's President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday the country is pushing to ensure security at next year's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics amid rising tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

In a meeting with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, Moon said South Korea has always hosted global sports events successfully despite being technically at war with the North, according to a South Korean presidential official.

"We are well aware of the concerns the IOC and the whole world have regarding the Korean peninsula," Moon was quoted as saying to Bach at the New York meeting by the official.

"A successful hosting of the Pyeongchang games would erase worries over security and show the world regional peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

Pyeongchang, the first Asian host of the Winter Olympics outside Japan, will stage the event on Feb 9-25.

Bach, meanwhile, said North Korean athletes were so far competing in preliminary events, and would be able to compete in the Winter Games if they reached qualifying standards, the official said.

Regional tensions have risen since the reclusive North conducted its sixth, and by far its most powerful, nuclear test on Sept. 3, along with a series of missile launches, including two that flew over Japan.

Further sanctions have been imposed on North Korea by the United Nations Security Council after the nuclear test, which in turn, has angered the North and prompted threats on the United States and Japan.

However, athletes bound for the Games so far have expressed little concern over safety, according to international federation chiefs.

Last week, the IOC said the escalating North Korean crisis had so far raised "no hint" of a security threat for the Pyeongchang Games.

As has become the tradition at the Olympics, South Korea has submitted a draft resolution for an Olympic Truce to start just before the Games, the official said. The resolution will be put to a vote at the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 13.

Seoul was the venue for the 1988 Summer Olympics and South Korea co-hosted the 2002 soccer World Cup with Japan.

(Source: Reuters)

PSG 'destroyed the market' with Neymar and Mbappe - Elber

Former Bayern Munich striker Giovane Elber says Paris Saint-Germain "destroyed the whole market" with their €222million signing of Neymar.

PSG stunned the footballing world in activating the buy-out clause in Neymar's contract to more than double the world record for a transfer fee.

The Parisians are also set to shell out for Kylian Mbappe when a loan move from Monaco becomes permanent next season, with eyebrows raised over PSG's cooperation with Financial Fair Play regulations, while UEFA have also confirmed they are looking into the deals.

Elber, who also played for Ligue 1 side Lyon in his career, believes that clubs in the Bundesliga now cannot keep up with the likes of PSG, who he accuses of distorting the market.

"There is no [Bundesliga] club that would say 'Yes, we pay 100 or 200 million euros'. I don't think any player is worth such a large amount," Elber told DAZN.

"Neymar is a superb player but I think PSG has destroyed the whole market right now by paying these amounts."

"Not only for Neymar but also

Mbappe. 200 million euros if they buy him that is unhealthy for football."

The Bundesliga was not without its own transfer controversy in recent months, with Ousmane Dembele leaving Borussia Dortmund to join Barcelona in a club-record deal worth more than €100m.

France attacker Dembele went on strike at Dortmund to force through the move, a dangerous precedent in the eyes of Elber.

"If a player wants to leave his club, a contract has no worth anymore," the former Brazil striker said.

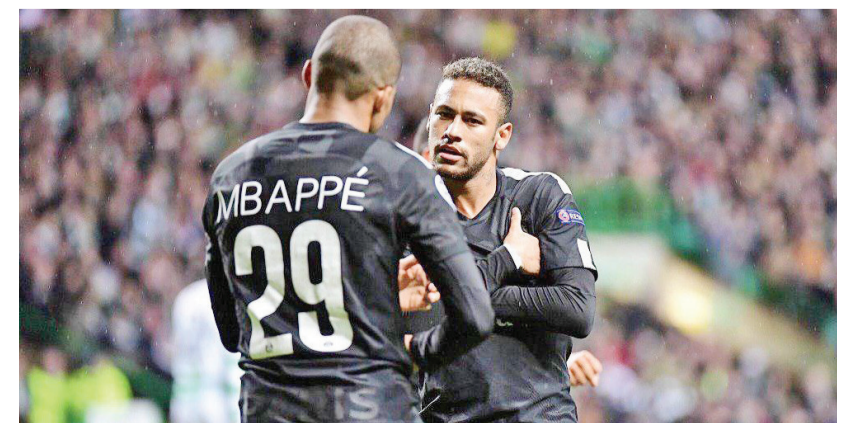
"He just rips the contract up and leaves."

"Dembele has shown that at Dortmund. No training, I want to leave. That's not good. Towards the fans that's not okay, too."

"Players lose the love they normally should show on the pitch. For me, football has never been a job. I had fun playing and it was even better to earn money doing that."

"Today that has changed. Of course, players are having fun too and they want to win titles and matches but it's different and that's a pity."

(Source: Four Four Two)



Polo to become Iran's UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

S P O R T S Polo that originated in ancient Iran, will be part of UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the end of the current Iranian year, an official said.

"Chogan is our national sport and has its roots in ancient Iranian traditions. The sport will add to Iran's UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the end of the Iranian year," Hossein Jafari, head of Isfahan's Chogan Office, said.

Chogan is a sporting team game with horses and a version of the modern polo game. From time immemorial it was considered an aristocratic game and held in a separate field, on specially trained horses. Nowadays, chogan is played in Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

Polo was invented and first played in Iran (or ancient Persia) thousands of years ago. The original name of polo is "Chogan" and in Iran the game is still referred to as "Chogan".

From its Iranian origins in Persia it spread to Constantinople, and eastward through Bactria and Afghanistan to Tibet, China, and Japan, and from Tibet to India, where it flourished throughout the Mughal (Mogul) dynasty. The word "polo" comes from the Tibetan word for the willow root from which polo balls were made of, which is "Pulu".

Polo was the world's first team sport, the world's first ball game, and today is recognized as the world's fastest team sport and ball game. The first recorded game took place in 600 BC, in Ancient Persia.

Throughout history, the game has been popular among generals, warriors, princes, and kings as a means of training cavalry for warfare.



© Tehran Times/ Mohammad Moheymy

Azmoun's Rubin Kazan form justifies Celtic not pushing club-record deal



Celtic were reportedly considering making an approach for Sardar Azmoun - who would have cost them £10m.

Celtic were reportedly considering making an approach for Sardar Azmoun - who would have cost them £10m.

Lucky escape?

Because Azmoun, who returned to former club Rubin Kazan in June after they triggered his buyout clause following two impressive seasons with Rostov, has hardly looked like a £10 million striker in the early weeks of the new season.

Azmoun, likened in some quarters to a certain Zlatan Ibrahimovic, has failed to score in nine league appearances in 2017/18 and has been trusted to play from the start on just two

occasions. In his most recent outing, he failed to inspire a turnaround when brought off the bench with half an hour remaining in Rubin's 1-0 home defeat to Ural on Sunday.

Therefore, his barren displays will not have Celtic wondering what might have been. In truth, Azmoun, who was linked with Liverpool and Everton last year (Liverpool Echo), has never been the most prolific of strikers having scored just 12 goals in 35 games for Rostov in two years.

Yet, goals in last season's Champions League group stage against Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid ensured that Azmoun's rather middling domestic form had been overlooked in the transfer market.

(Source: HITC)

Bank Sarmayeh learn fate in Men's Club World Championship draw



Bank Sarmayeh of Iran learned their fate as the draw for the pool stage of the 2017 edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship was held at the Polsat television studios in Warsaw on Tuesday.

In Pool A, Polish league champions ZAKSA Kedzierzyn-Kozle will be joined by Lube Civitanova from Italy, title-holders Sada Cruzeiro Volei from Brazil and Asian champions Sarmayeh Bank Teheran VC from Iran. The four teams will play in Opole.

In Pool B, wild cards and PlusLiga runners-up PGE Skra Belchatow will take on European champions Zenit Kazan from Russia, Club Ciudad de Bolivar from Argentina and Shanghai Volleyball Club from China. The four teams will play in Lodz.

(Source: FIVB)

The Men's Club World Championship from December 11-17 will feature title-holders and South American champions Sada Cruzeiro from Brazil, European champions Sarmayeh Bank Teheran VC from Iran, host league champions ZAKSA Kedzierzyn-Kozle from Poland, Lube Civitanova from Italy and Club Ciudad de Bolivar from Argentina, both league champions from the top countries in the FIVB ranking not yet qualified for the event, and wild cards PGE Skra Belchatow from Poland and Shanghai Volleyball Club from China.

Thailand overpower Iran at FIVB Women's World Championship Asian qualifier

S P O R T S Thailand overpowered Iran in straight sets (25-14, 25-15, 25-13) in Pool B of the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Japan 2018 Asian Qualifiers on Wednesday.

World No.10 South Korea, Asian silver medalists Thailand, DPR Korea, Vietnam and Iran take part in the single round-robin competition, with only the two best-ranked teams making the cut for the next year's World Championship Finals in Japan.

"I have just taken over the position as the head coach for the Iran women's national team for three months. After taking part in the Asian Senior Women's Championship in the Philippines, we decided to renew the composition of the young players and youth team from age



groups with 60% of them to play here. We are working with young generation," Iran coach Mostafa Shojaei said.

"This is the tournament that Iran would focus on the young players. So, the standard of Thailand and Korea is much higher than us, but we just want to gain much more experience and prove ourselves in Asia," he added.

A total of 24 teams will contest the next year's FIVB Women's World Championship Finals in Japan from September 30 to October 21, 2018.

The teams which have already qualified for the top-flight championship included host Japan, defending world champions the U.S., Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Italy, Azerbaijan, Germany, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and Brazil.

(Source: ESPN)

Iran's medal haul at Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games reaches 26

Iranian sportsmen and women have continued to put in outstanding performances at the 5th edition of Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games, and grabbed fourteen more medals to lift the country's medal count to 26 in the multinational and multi-sport event.

On Tuesday, Iranian belt wrestlers Zahra Yazdanicherati recorded satisfactory displays of grappling skills in the women's freestyle minus 55-kilogram competitions, and scooped a silver medal.

Zahra Majidi and Saeideh Rahimi got two bronze medals in the women's freestyle minus 70-kilogram and over 70-kilogram divisions.

Yaser Mohammadirostam and Davood Avazzadeh also pocketed two bronze medals in the Men's Freestyle minus 80-kilogram and minus 90-kilogram sections.

Iranian jujitsu practitioner Soudeh Kamandani also prevailed over her Pakistani opponent Iram Kanwal 2-0 in the Women's Ne-waza over 70-kilogram, and earned the bronze medal.

In the men's 3,000-meter race contests, Iranian sprinter Hossein Keyhani earned a bronze medal for the Islamic Republic by registering 8:07.09 minutes.

Saudi athlete Tariq Ahmed al-Amri set the time of 8:03.98 minutes and earned a silver medal in the final contest.

Lakshman Govindan from India snatched the gold medal of the heat with 8:02.30 minutes.

Furthermore, Iranian taekwondo practitioners Soroush Ahmadi and Saeid Rajabi struck two gold medals in the men's minus 63-kilogram and minus 87-kilogram classes.

Mahdi Eshaghi and Mahdi Jalali also claimed the top spots in the men's minus 54-kilogram and minus 74-kilogram categories respectively, and were awarded two gold medals.

Additionally, Hassan Taftian won the title in the men's 60-meter running contests. The 24-year-old Iranian sprinter clocked 6.55 seconds at the men's final and stood on top of the podium.

Philippine sprint athlete Eric Shawn Cray and Reza Ghasemi from the Islamic Republic of Iran registered 6.63 and 6.64 seconds respectively to land in the second and third places.

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which is the 5th edition of the continental tournament, opened in the Turkmen capital city of Ashgabat on September 17, and will finish on September 27.



Turkmenistan is on the top of the medal count table with 91 medals (43 gold, 28 silvers and 20 bronzes).

The Islamic Republic of Iran has claimed the second spot with 26 medals (seven gold, four silvers, 15 bronzes), while Kazakhstan is on the third with a total of 22 medals (six gold, six silvers and 10 bronzes).

The United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Mongolia have earned the 4th to 7th places respectively.

(Source: Press TV)

Alipour wins gold at Asian Rock Climbing Competition

S P O R T S Reza Alipour of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 25th edition of the Asian Rock Climbing Competition on Tuesday.

He defeated QiXinin Zhong from China in the Men's Speed final with a time of 5.62.

Alipour, nicknamed the 'Persian Cheetah' scaled a 15-metre wall in just 5.62 seconds, finished in first place in the competition held in Tehran's Mega Pars Complex.

Bronze medal went to Indonesian Aspar Jaelolo.

Sport climbing, also known as lead climbing, requires participants to quickly determine the best route up a course. The competitor to make it the highest in the time allotted is declared the winner.

Alipour defines himself as the Usain Bolt of speed climbing.

The 25th edition of the Asian Rock Climbing Competition kicked off on September 18 and will run through September 21.



Women's futsal team advance to semifinals at AIMAG

Iran's women's futsal team qualified for the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

Iran lost to Thailand 2-0 in Group B on Wednesday but advanced to final four as the group's second team.

A Sawtree Mamyalee double in the third minute and 29th gave the 2013 bronze medalist victory.

Iran started the competition with a 16-0 victory over Palestine.

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games kicked off in Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat, on Saturday.

More than 6,000 athletes and team officials will be representing 65 countries.

(Source: the-AFC)

Messi creates something from nothing for Barcelona - Valverde

Ernesto Valverde was almost at a loss for words after another astonishing Lionel Messi performance helped Barcelona beat Eibar 6-1 and extend their winning start to the season in La Liga to five games.

Four of Barca's goals in the win at Camp Nou came from the boots of Messi, with Paulinho and Denis Suarez also on target for the second game running.

Messi, who has now scored 39 hat tricks for his club, has already scored 12 times in just eight games in all competitions this season and has nine in five league outings.

"I don't know what to say about Messi," Valverde said in his postgame news conference. "He is one of the most intelligent players I've seen on a football pitch. He's extraordinary. Today we played in a different way, without Luis [Suarez], but Messi is the same wherever you put him."

"From a play where it looks like nothing's going to happen, he can create something good for us... and bad for the opposition."

"That he scores four goals isn't news anymore. He's done this time and again, on many nights and in many games. He repeats it, he repeats it and he repeats it. He loves football, he enjoys it and he never tires of winning."

(Source: ESPN)

World Cup venue Estadio Azteca damaged in Mexico City earthquake

An enormous crack appears to have been left in the iconic Estadio Azteca after the devastating earthquake in Mexico City.

One of world football's iconic venues, and the host of two World Cup finals, the stadium is reported to have suffered severe damage after a 7.4 magnitude quake.

The scheduled Copa Mexico match between Club America and Cruz Azul, set for 2am on Wednesday morning, has been suspended.

Fox Sports Mexico journalist Emilio Leon posted an image of the stadium on Twitter showing the giant break in the back of the grandstand that could compromise the structure.

"Due to the... quake minutes ago in Mexico City, the Estadio Azteca has fractured," he tweeted.

However, others say the crack seen in an images and video widely circulated on social media is in fact part of the stadium's design to avoid damage.

The Azteca hosted the 1970 and 1986 World Cup Finals. It was also the scene of Diego Maradona's infamous hand of god and incredible goal of the century against England in the '86 quarter-finals.

"The Azteca stadium suffered considerable structural damage after the earthquake that affected Mexico City," said the Noticiero Hechos.

The stadium is also the venue which brought the NFL to Mexico when the Houston Texans took on the LA Raiders last year, and is due to host the New England Patriots and Oakland Raiders in November.

(Source: Mirror)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

“Friday Evening” director makes doc on Iranian immigrants in Germany

A R T TEHRAN — Mona Zandi-Haqiqi, the director of the acclaimed drama “Friday Evening”, has completed a documentary about Iranian immigrants in Germany.

Producer Alireza Shojanuri has submitted the 52-minute documentary “A Nibble of Sleep” to the 11th edition of the Cinema Verite, Iran’s major international festival for documentary cinema, the Documentary and Experimental Film Center announced on Wednesday.

The film provides deep insights into how the newly-arrived Iranian immigrants in Germany connect with the generations of Iranians who have chosen to live in Germany, and those children born in an Iranian family in the country over the past 25 years.

Zandi-Haqiqi has made “A Nibble of Sleep” after a long hiatus. She made her debut film “Friday Evening”, about a woman called Sogand and her son Omid, who are shunned by her family and consequently experience hard times, in 2006.

The film brought her several awards in Iranian and international events, including the Silver Alexander Special Jury Award as well its 22,000-euro cash prize at the 47th Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece.

“The Simpsons” actress finds her own voice “In Search for Fellini”

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — For most fans of “The Simpsons”, the name Nancy Cartwright may ring a bell as the voice of 10-year-old troublemaker Bart Simpson over 28 seasons of the Fox animated show.

Now, the actress is hoping to establish her own voice by documenting a surreal adventure, “In Search of Fellini”.



Actor Nancy Cartwright poses for a portrait in Los Angeles, California, U.S., September 11, 2017. (Reuters/Mario Anzuoni)

Cartwright, 59, co-wrote the new film, out in U.S. theaters this weekend, a mostly autobiographical tale of how her obsession with filmmaker Federico Fellini led to her own impromptu solo Italian adventure to find the elusive director.

“All the writers on ‘The Simpsons’, they’ve created this legacy... and to be a part of that has been such a privilege,” Cartwright told Reuters.

“For me personally, I would like to be able to, as an artist, establish my own voice.”

“In Search of Fellini” follows Lucy, a young, naive girl living a sheltered life with her mother in a small Midwestern American town until she undergoes a spiritual awakening watching Fellini’s 1954’s “La Strada” and goes to Italy.

The film traces Lucy’s journey through idyllic highs, such as falling in love, and crippling lows, such as an encounter with an older, male stranger that quickly goes wrong quickly - a scenario that Cartwright said she lifted directly from her own experiences.

“As a writer, I thought it absolutely had to be in there. I couldn’t hold onto something that had happened to me because I’m embarrassed to share that I was so naive or stupid,” she said.

Bringing the story to screen was a nearly 30-year effort, Cartwright said.

“I certainly didn’t have the power back then that I have now, I didn’t speak Italian, I didn’t have connections that I have now worldwide, so it took a little bit of time for the physical world to catch up with Nancy’s dream,” she said.

Cartwright said she hopes to write and produce more projects after her experience on “In Search of Fellini”. Meanwhile, she will return in the 29th season of “The Simpsons” in October, continuing her tenure as Bart and characters such as Ralph Wiggum and Nelson Muntz.

Fox Broadcasting has confirmed “The Simpsons” will continue to its 30th season and Cartwright said she does not foresee an end.

“As long as the actors are alive, I think we’ll do the show... I don’t see any of us being replaced,” she said.

“We could be around for another 30 years,” she added with a laugh.

“Breath” producer pleased female filmmaker to represent Iran at Oscars

A R T TEHRAN — Mohammad-Hossein d e s k Qasemi, the producer of Iran’s submission to the 2018 Oscars “Breath”, who is also the husband of the film’s director Narges Abyar, said on Wednesday that he was pleased Iran has sent a movie by a female filmmaker to the 90th Academy Awards.

“Women have a greater potential for making a film and competing at international events,” Qasemi told the Persian service of Tasnim.

A committee of nine cineastes selected as Iran’s submission to the 90th Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category on Tuesday.

In her interview with the Persian service of MNA on Wednesday, Abyar called the choice of her film as Iran’s submission to the Oscars a big event and added, “I suppose that women have been given more confidence.”

“Being a good film is not the sole criterion for winning an Oscar,” she said and added, “More measures such as arranging international screenings and having a contract with a reputable company for international distribution of the film are also requirements.”

Iranian Independents, a company marketing Iranian independent feature and documentary films, is the international distributor of “Breath”.

“I have complete confidence in the cinematic charter, aesthetics, theme and the high standards of ‘Breath’,” Mohammad Atebbai, the director of the company, wrote in a press release published on Wednesday.

However, he asked the Cinema Organization of Iran to help the company in the promotion of the film in the international arena.

Abyar has said that she made “Breath” in praise of peace. The film shows how wars crush children’s dreams and hopes for a bright future.

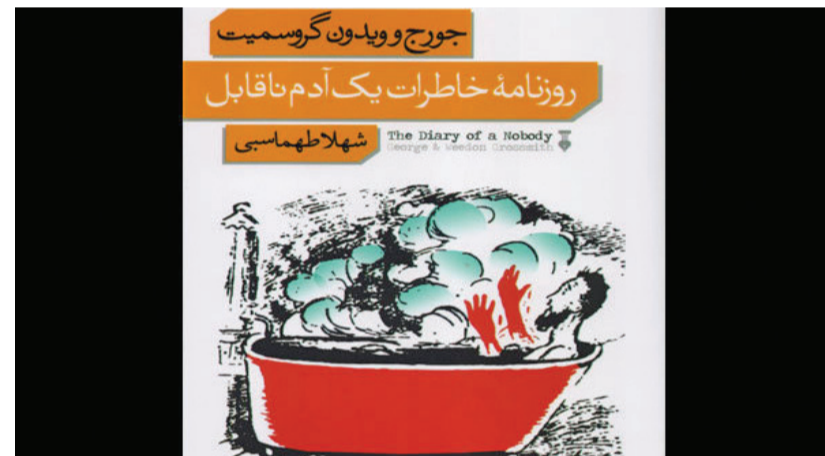


Narges Abyar (L) and her colleague (C) direct Sareh Nur-Musavi in a scene from “Breath”.

Abyar won the Golden Wolf for best director for “Breath” at the 20th Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn, Estonia in November 2016.

She also was picked as best director for the film at the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival in the Canadian city in March 2017.

“The Diary of a Nobody” published in Persian



Front cover of the Persian version of “The Diary of a Nobody”

A R T TEHRAN — “The d e s k Diary of a Nobody”, an English comic novel written by the brothers George and Weedon Grossmith, has recently been published in Persian.

Shahla Tahmasbi is the translator of the book, which has been released by No Publications in Tehran.

“The Diary of a Nobody” records

the daily events in the lives of a London clerk, Charles Pooter, his wife Carrie, his son Lupin, and numerous friends and acquaintances over a period of 15 months.

The novel was originally published in serial form in “Punch” magazine in 1888-89, and in 1892 it appeared in book form with expanded text and illustrations added by Weedon Grossmith.

“Pet Man” named best animation at Indian NEZ festival



A poster for Iranian director Marzieh Abrarpaidar’s animated movie “Pet Man”

A R T TEHRAN — “Pet d e s k Man” by Iranian director Marzieh Abrarpaidar won the best animation award at the NEZ International Film Festival in Kolkata, Iran’s Documentary and Experimental Film Center announced on Wednesday.

The DEFC is the producer of the 2D animation that is a story about an animal dealer who falls asleep in his

shop and has a nightmare in which he finds himself caught in an animal cage. He manages to escape and seeks to rescue other animals, but every time he is faced with an obstacle... He finally awakes from his nightmare but still feels surrounded with uncertainty and fear of the animals.

The festival was held in the Indian city from September 15 to 17.

Fashion doesn’t need to kill animals: British designer MacDonald

LONDON (Reuters) — British fashion designer Julien MacDonald has apologized for using fur in his past collections - raising a hot topic that returned to rock London Fashion Week.

He spoke to Reuters days after dozens of anti-fur activists disrupted British fashion house Burberry’s show at the event and heckled celebrities including rapper Stormzy and model Naomi Campbell as they arrived.

“As a young designer I did use a lot of fur and do you know what, I think you should perhaps try not to,” MacDonald said late on Monday.

“You know what? It was my mistake. I was young. I am sorry. I apologize.”

Earlier in the day, he showcased his own collection -



British fashion designer Julien MacDonald

a mix of glamorous and revealing gowns displayed by some big names, including former Victoria’s Secret model Alessandra Ambrosio.

There was no fur in sight. “You do not need to kill animals to wear nice clothes,” he said.

There was also no fur on show at Burberry’s London event, but the label does sell items made from fox and raccoon fur.

In 2001, MacDonald was appointed as chief designer at French fashion house Givenchy, succeeding Alexander McQueen, but he departed in 2004 amid accusations that his sequin-heavy style was ill-suited for a brand that treasured its association with style icons such as Audrey Hepburn.

Avril Lavigne, Bruno Mars named ‘most dangerous’ in online searches

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Pop singers Avril Lavigne and Bruno Mars topped a list of celebrities on Tuesday ranked the most dangerous to search for online because of results that could expose fans to malicious websites.

Cyber security company McAfee said singers Carly Rae Jepsen, Zayn Malik and Celine Dion were also in the top five of their annual list because searches for their names can lead fans to click on suspicious links that expose them to malware.

It said that searching for “Avril Lavigne free mp3” results in a 22 percent chance of landing on a malicious website.

Lavigne, 32, who found fame in 2002 with the hit single “Complicated”, has been off the celebrity scene for a number of years because of Lyme disease which she has said left her bedridden.

However, she said in 2016 that

she is planning to release a new album in 2017 - her first in four years - apparently leading to increased searches for news about her music.

The 2017 McAfee study was dominated by musicians but actors who made the top 25 list included “Pitch Perfect” star Anna Kendrick, Jennifer Lopez and rising star Hailee Steinfeld.

“In today’s digital world, we want the latest hit albums, videos, movies and more immediately available on our devices,” Gary Davis, McAfee’s vice president of global consumer marketing, said in a statement.

He said consumers should slow down and consider the risks.

“Thinking before clicking goes a long way to stay safe online,” he said.

Photo: Musician Bruno Mars performs during the 2016 Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, November 30, 2016. (Reuters/Charles Platiau)

Taylor Swift shakes off copyright lawsuit as ‘ridiculous’

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Representatives for Taylor Swift on Tuesday rejected a copyright infringement lawsuit filed on Monday by two songwriters over Swift’s hit song “Shake It Off” as a “ridiculous claim.”

Songwriters Sean Hall and Nathan Butler said in a lawsuit filed in U.S. federal court in Los Angeles that Swift’s song used the phrase “players, they gonna play, and haters, they gonna hate,” that they had coined for a 2001 song “Playas Gon’ Play” by R&B girl group 3LW.

Swift’s lyric from her 2014 hit “Shake It Off” is: “the players gonna play, play, play, play, and the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate.”

“This is a ridiculous claim and nothing more than a money grab,” Swift’s representatives said in a statement. “The law is simple and clear. They do not have a case.”

Hall and Butler are seeking unspecified damages and a jury trial. Hall, a songwriter and producer

for artists such as Justin Bieber and Maroon 5, and Butler, who has worked with artists such as Backstreet Boys and Luther Vandross, claimed that the combination of playas or players with hatas or haters was unique to its use in 3LW’s “Playas Gon’ Play.”

“In 2001 it was completely original and unique. Indeed, the combination had not been used in popular culture prior,” the lawsuit said.

Hall and Butler said the phrase accounts for about 20 percent of the lyrics of “Shake It Off.” They claimed that Swift and her team “undoubtedly had access to ‘Playas Gon’ Play” before writing and releasing her song.

“Defendant Swift has admitted that she watched MTV’s TRL which promoted ‘Playas Gon’ Play,” the lawsuit said.

It said “Playas Gon’ Play” debuted at No. 7 on MTV’s Total Request Live in March 2001 and that 3LW’s debut album sold more than 1 million copies.