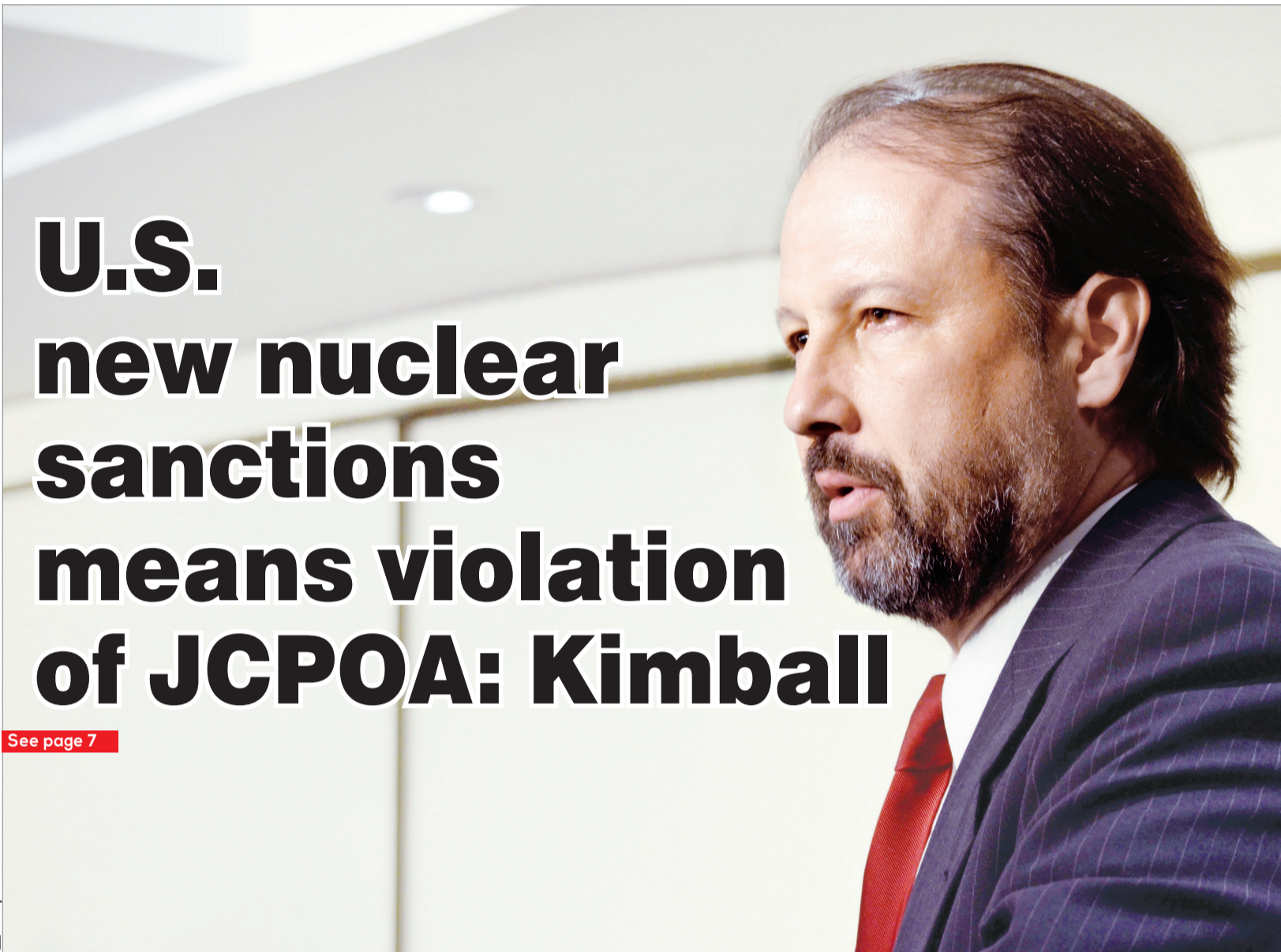


Trump living in the past, Iran's Larijani says **2**

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U.S. new nuclear sanctions means violation of JCPOA: Kimball

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File photo

Zarif warns Iran could walk away from nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that his country has a number of options if the U.S. quits the 2015 nuclear deal including walking away from the agreement. "Iran has a number of options which include walking away from the deal and going back with great speed with its nuclear program which will remain peaceful, but we will not accept the limitations that we voluntarily accepted on our nuclear program," Zarif said Sunday on CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS." He also said that the "only authority that has been recognized in the nuclear deal to verify the deal is the IAEA [the International Atomic Energy Agency]" **→2**

French bank to grant €500m annually to projects in Iran

Bpifrance, the country's state investment bank, will finance investment projects of French companies in Iran from 2018, granting up to 500 million euros (\$598 million) in annual credits, its CEO said in a newspaper interview on Sunday. "Excluding a force majeure case, we will be on their side in early 2018. We are the only French bank that can do it without risking U.S. sanctions for a possible breach of remaining embargo rules," Nicolas Du-fourcq told Le Journal du Dimanche. The deal Iran struck in 2015 with six major powers lifted many sanctions against the country in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear activities and paved the way for international business deals. **→4**

Storm clouds gather over Iraqi Kurdish referendum as tension rise

By staff and agencies
 There are conflicting reports as to whether a referendum on possible secession of the Iraqi Kurdistan on Monday will go ahead as planned after several regional officials warned the vote could have serious consequences. A delegation from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) traveled to Baghdad on Saturday for talks with the Iraqi government and unfirmed reports said Kurdish leaders had accepted to stay the plebiscite. Iraqi Kurdish Leader Massoud Barzani also delayed a scheduled news conference on the referendum as international pressure mounted for a postponement. However, the high council for referendum affairs which is supervised by Barzani, rejected reports of a postponement as rumors, the Kurdistan 24 broadcast news station said. **→3**

Another extremely dangerous crisis will emerge if Trump kills nuclear deal: Princeton researcher

Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a research scholar at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School and a former spokesman for Iran's nuclear negotiators, has said "another very extremely dangerous crisis would grow up again in the Middle East" if the Donald Trump administration violates the nuclear deal by punishing countries doing business with Iran. Mousavian made the remarks in an interview with The Real News published on Wednesday. The interview reads as follows: **■** Let's start with President Rouhani's speech. One day after Trump threatened Iran, threatened to undermine the nuclear deal, referred to Iran as a violent regime and a sponsor of terror, Rouhani has just taken the podium and defending the Iran nuclear deal, said that it would be a shame if the agreement is undermined by what he called "rogue newcomers to the world of politics." Your response to what we just heard from Rouhani. **A:** Actually, the international community now have a clear understanding about the language President Trump used in his speech at the United Nations Assembly Council. If you want to be sure he used the language of bullying, threatening, humiliating, inviting for confrontation and war. Rouhani's language and message to Trump, to the U.S., to the international community was cooperation and peace and negotiation. It was very clear. Rouhani invited for international regional cooperation to fight terrorism. Rouhani mentioned the U.S. has been involved, engaged and is responsible for some of the crises in the region, including Iraq, Afghanistan terrorism, and he said the crises in Yemen, Syria, Iraq do not have a solution through war and military use like what Saudi Arabia is doing in Yemen, or the U.S. under Trump administration is threatening the countries in the region to go ahead with new confrontations. He asked for a negotiation, diplomacy, peace, cooperation to settle the crisis. **→6**

We have a generational opportunity to trounce the traffickers and smugglers of human misery

By Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime
 "When I refused to sell my body they sold me to another brothel". This is the heart rending testimony of a 13 year-old Nepalese girl named Skye trafficked by relatives to India. Skye's story ends better than most. Together with her sister, Skye escaped the brothel, returned to school, and now works for the Nepalese organization who rescued her: the globally renowned Shakti Samuha. But for every survivor like Skye, thousands are suffering in silence, gagged by the threat of violence and blackmail. People are labouring in farms and factories, coerced into the sex trade and tricked onto fishing boats. The range of coerced activities is equal to the huge number of places where victims are found. Today, we all need to be vigilant for signs of the modern day slave trade: sexually exploited and brutalised women and girls; frightened children begging on street corners; and clusters of labourers squalidly living at their work place. This is the harsh evidence of a crime that haunts all our societies. In the early 21st Century, how did it come to this? Large number of victims are trapped in a hopeless circle of migrant smuggling and trafficking. The petrol fuelling these crimes is instability and insecurity. Conflicts in Iraq and Syria, and economic crisis elsewhere, have produced a tide of desperate humanity sweeping through the Middle East, North Africa and across the lethal Mediterranean. These individuals are falling in and out of the hands of traffickers and smugglers as they seek sanctuary. Thousands are dying. **→12**

ARTICLE
By Hanif Ghafari
 Political analyst

German government's hard path after the election

Germany's general election was held yesterday. According to polls, Angela Merkel and the coalition of Christian parties have won the election. However, the Social Democrats, as Merkel's main rivals, were eyeing the voices of German citizens at the last minute. The results of the German general election have not yet been officially announced, but it looks like victory is waiting for Angela Merkel. But this victory may not lead to a homogeneous government formed by the German Chancellor. Under such circumstances Merkel and the coalition of Christian parties must enter into negotiations to form a government with opposition parties. This means forming a coalition government in Germany. Many German citizens are not satisfied with the current coalition government in Germany. The main question here is whether the Social Democrats may once again impose themselves on Merkel's coalition government?

In recent months, there has been a great deal of disagreement between the coalition of Christian parties and the Social-Democratic Party. These differences also appeared within the coalition government. Merkel's positions on asylum seekers, on the one hand, and his reluctance against the trump presses, led to protest by the Social Democratic Party officials.

The centre-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) has been in coalition with centre-right CDU in this current government, as well as in Merkel's first term. These two parties are Germany's biggest, leading to a union dubbed the "Grand Coalition". Another option is a Black-Yellow coalition, consisting of Merkel's CDU party propped up by the smaller Free Democratic Party (FDP). This would take Merkel over the target needed for a majority, and was the option the party opted for in 2009-2013. **→11**

ARTICLE
By Yuram Abdullah Weiler
 Analyst and journalist

Trump's UN rant: A stain that must disappear from the page of time

"If you are without feeling for the suffering of others, It is not possible for you to be called 'Human'."
 Sadi

In his debut performance at the podium of the United Nations General Assembly before an audience of world leaders, U.S. president Donald J. Trump pontificated, "If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph." In less than an hour while speaking before the august assemblage, Trump managed to discredit himself, his advisers and his country by his juvenile theatrics, which included soporific rants, threats of war and name-calling. "In a sane world, someone should have slapped handcuffs on Trump and hauled him off to a criminal court," Finian Cunningham correctly observed.

Initiating his verbal assault on a nation that has seen U.S. nuclear forces on its borders for nearly 70 years, Trump asserted, "No one has shown more contempt for other nations and for the wellbeing of their own people than the depraved regime in North Korea." Of course, the former reality TV icon failed to mention that the U.S. has deployed its THAAD ("Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense") missile system in Seongju, South Korea over the past year, giving the Pentagon the potential for a first strike against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Also not mentioned was the North Korean offer in January to "sit with the U.S. anytime" to discuss provocative joint U.S.-South Korea war games, as well as U.S. nuclear weapons and ballistic missile deployments.

"The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea," Trump harangued, provoking a visual display of obvious embarrassment on the part of his White House chief of staff, John Kelly. **→13**



IRNA/Abdollah Heivdari

In symbolic move, people go to war fronts to counter invading Saddam army

On Sunday, in a symbolic move, groups of people wearing combat uniforms that bear camouflage pattern, started going to the war fronts to defend the country against the invading Saddam army. The symbolic move took place across the capital Tehran as Iran is marking the Sacred Defense Week which usually starts from Sept. 22. On such a day in 1980 Saddam Hussein launched a massive war against Iran from land, air and sea. The war lasted until the summer of 1988.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



VP says Iran prepared to counter any foreign threats

Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Sunday that Iran supports a world without violence, but is also prepared to counter any foreign threats, ISNA reported.

Pointing to the U.S. president's speech at the UN General Assembly, Jahangiri said the world has witnessed Trump's "warmongering" on the one hand, and President Rouhani's "wise" remarks on the other.

He also said Iran has chosen the path of active engagement with the world, adding that Tehran abides by international laws.



Iran, India, Oman, hold meeting in New York

The foreign ministers of Iran, Oman, and India on Sunday held a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, ISNA reported.

During the meeting, the three top diplomats conferred on ways to expand their cooperation, particularly in the field of energy.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues.

Since arriving in New York for the UNGA meeting, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has held talks with a number of world dignitaries to discuss regional and international subjects.



Kurds won't pursue independence if they're wise: ex-defense chief

Iran's former defense minister on Saturday said the Iraqi Kurds would not pursue independence if they have any "wisdom", Tasnim reported.

The former minister added, "Nobody would tolerate an independent Kurdistan." He said the president of the Iraqi Kurdish region Masoud Barzani is trying to gain concessions from Iraq's central government.

Reminding the Kurdish officials that their region is landlocked, the general said neighboring countries would never agree with such move.



Trump is mentally unfit: top adviser

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, a top military advisor to the Leader, said on Sunday that U.S. President Donald Trump is mentally unfit.

He predicted that the American people are unlikely to tolerate his presidency.

All those Americans who listened to their president as he spoke at the UN General Assembly were ashamed, Rahim safavi said, Fars news agency reported.

Referring to Trump's anti-Iran remarks, the general said only Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu applauded his words as "brave".



IRGC general highlights importance of border security

The second-in-command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Sunday highlighted the significance that Iran attaches to the security of its borders.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an ongoing military exercise in the northwestern border regions, Hossein Salami said border security is a top priority for IRGC forces, Tasnim reported.

In order to ensure full security along the borders, the IRGC both demonstrates its defensive readiness and chases the enemies in practice, the brigadier general added.



Iraq cannot defeat enemies without Iran: diplomat

The Iraqi ambassador to Tehran on Sunday praised the Islamic Republic for its continued support for the Arab country's campaign against terrorism, saying Baghdad cannot defeat enemies without Tehran.

Iraq is helping to resolve problems facing the Muslim world, including Iraq, through providing defense and scientific support, Rajeh Saber Abboud al-Mousavi said in a speech in the Iranian central city of Qom, Tasnim reported.

Iraq has been facing the growing threat of terrorism, mainly posed by the Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group.

Trump living in the past, Larijani says

TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday that U.S. President Donald Trump is not aware of the developments in the world, noting that it seems that Trump is lagging behind the time for "half a century".

"Mr. Trump has not understood and it seems that he will not understand the fact that the world has changed and the nations are awakened and have completely understood that Iran has reached all of its revolutionary objectives in spite of all the plots," Larijani told an open session of the parliament.

He added, "A kind of political awareness has taken place in Islamic countries which will not be changed by Trump's hollow bluff."

The comments by Larijani followed hostile remarks against Iran by Trump in his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly on September 18 in which he called Iran a "murderous regime".

Trump also said, "It is time for the entire world to join us in demanding that Iran's government end its pursuit of death and destruction." He also claimed that



Iran's "support for terror is in stark contrast to the recent commitments of many of its neighbors to fight terrorism and halt its financing."

This time Trump also made the harshest attack on the nuclear deal signed between Iran, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and the European Union.

"The Iran deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the US has ever entered into," Trump said. "Frankly, that deal is an embarrassment to the United States, and I don't think you've heard the last of it. Believe me."

Larijani described comments by the U.S. president as "delusional" and "empty".

The parliament speaker also praised President Hassan Rouhani's speech at the UN.

Rouhani, in his UN speech, described Trump's speech as "ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric, filled with ridiculously baseless allegations".

He added that Trump's comments "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."

Also on Thursday Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, censured Trump's hostile comments as "ugly", "foolish" and "sheer lies". The Leader also noted that "educated Americans are ashamed of having such a president."

Expediency Council Chairman Ayatollah Mahmod Hashemi Shahroudi also said on Saturday that the U.S. president's speech at the UN originated from his "weakness, frustration and anger".

"Unfortunately, the U.S. president has shown a paradoxical and unbalanced personality so far," Shahroudi pointed out.

Iran closes airspace to Iraqi Kurdistan

TEHRAN — Keyvan Khosravi, the spokesman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, announced on Sunday that Iran has closed its airspace to the Iraqi Kurdistan region upon a request by the Iraqi government.

"Given the fact that our country's political efforts have been ineffective and the officials in the Kurdistan region insist on holding referendum, Iran closes airspace with the Kurdistan region upon the central government of Iraq," he said.

Khosravi added, "Hasty decisions of some officials in the Kurdistan region will restrict the Kurds' power in the Iraqi government and undermine security of the Kurdish

people and create serious challenges in the region."

The independence referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (KRG) will be held on September 25.

Iraqi Kurds abroad began casting ballots on Saturday for independence referendum. The online vote for Kurdish expatriates is open for three days.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani has said that Tehran only recognizes an "integrated" and "federal" Iraq.

In a meeting last week with Austrian President Alexander Van de Bellen at the UN, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said disintegration of the countries in West Asia is a very "dangerous act".

During the annual coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi insisted on Tehran's strong opposition to independence referendum in the Kurdistan region.

While all countries are insisting on territorial integrity in Iraq, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed interest in partitioning Iraq and establishing an independent Kurdish state during a meeting with a delegation of 33 U.S. Republican congressmen.

After Trump speech, 134 countries voice support for Iran nuclear deal

One hundred and thirty four countries, under the banner of the Group of 77 at the United Nations, have voiced support for a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six other countries following a tirade by U.S. President Donald Trump against Iran and the deal at the UN.

Addressing the UN General Assembly (UNGA)'s 72nd session on Tuesday, Trump branded the agreement as "an embarrassment" for the U.S. He said the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into."

In a statement issued at the end of its ministerial meeting in New York on Friday, the G-77 "reaffirmed the importance of supporting and strengthening multilateralism, and in this regard recognized that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and

(P)5+1 is a concrete case of a successful multilateral action for resolving outstanding global issues."

Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, comprising the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — namely the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — and Germany, reached the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016. Under the agreement, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran.

The G-77 "stressed that such model sets a real example for further accelerating the achievement of sustainable development, including by strengthening international cooperation, through enhanced means of implementation."

The group was formed in 1964 within

the UN. Initially featuring 77 developing countries, it came about to promote its members' collective economic interests and to create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the world body.

Even though its membership has grown to 134, it has kept its original name.

All the signatories to the nuclear deal, except the United States under Trump, have hailed the agreement as a victory for diplomacy, and urged its continued implementation. So have the UN and the European Union (EU).

Since Trump's inauguration in January, his administration has been seeking to potentially withdraw. It has imposed certain unilateral sanctions on Iran, and most recently, it has been saying that the JCPOA should be renegotiated. Iran and the other parties to the deal have said that won't happen.

The G-77 ministers reaffirmed their

rejection of the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, saying the bans had a negative impact on the development and prosperity of the Iranian people and called for their immediate removal.

Addressing the General Assembly, however, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's stance on the deal and called for more sanctions against Tehran.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said he held around 30 meetings with various foreign officials on the UNGA meeting's sidelines and all the representatives he met stressed that the JCPOA was non-renegotiable.

"All these people placed emphasis on the need to honor the JCPOA and the agreement's being non-renegotiable," he said.

(Source: Press TV)

Susan Rice: Quitting nuclear deal will be 'incredibly self-destructive'

Susan Rice, the former national security advisor to President Barack Obama, firmly defended the 2015 nuclear deal on Saturday, saying the U.S. will isolate itself if it pulls out of the deal.

During an appearance at the Texas Tribune Festival, she said quitting the nuclear deal would be "the height of folly — and incredibly self-destructive", The Texas Tribune reported.

"The deal is strong, it is working ... It makes no sense to cast it aside."

She noted that the U.S. would become more isolated by going against the wishes of its allies if it pull out of the deal.



In his speech at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, U.S. President Donald 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 recertify the agreement when it comes up for a mid-October deadline.

The nuclear deal was reached in July 2015 and went into effect in January 2016.

Except the U.S. under Trump, all other signatories to the nuclear deal - France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China have been insisting on the full implementation of the multilateral agreement endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Zarif warns Iran could walk away from nuclear deal

U.S. 'is proving that it is unreliable', chief diplomat says

In his first speech at the UN General Assembly last week Donald Trump as president made the harshest attack against the July 2015 nuclear deal, saying it was an "embarrassment" to the United States.

In the wake of a report saying the Trump administration is leaning toward decertifying the nuclear deal with Tehran, Foreign Minister Zarif said the U.S. is "unreliable".

"I think what the United States is doing in addition to being unpredictable, which might sometimes work, is proving that it is unreliable," Zarif noted.

"This deal is not a bilateral agreement. It's not even a multilateral treaty; it's a Security Council resolution. And the United States is a permanent member of the Security Council," he added.

"What is important for the international

community is to be able to rely on the words of the United States as a negotiation partner," he said, adding that Iran in the nuclear deal "accepted certain concessions and the United States accepted certain concessions."

It is in interests of U.S. to look at realities'

When asked what is his message to President Trump, Zarif said, "I think it is in

the interests of the U.S. to look at the realities. There are no alternative reality. The realities in our region are crystal clear. They have been for the last 40 years and the U.S. unfortunately decided to neglect those realities."

Iran needs to develop its own defense power'

Zarif also said defended Tehran's missile program saying "Iran has defensive

"We have said and we have proven that missiles are for defense. We go back to a history when our cities were showered with Saddam Hussein's missiles. But at that time Saddam Hussein was a sweetheart for the U.S. and some western countries and nobody raised eyebrows for Saddam Hussein's use of missiles."

needs and needs to develop its own defensive (capabilities)."

"Iran is not buying 400 billion dollars of so-called beautiful military equipment from the U.S.," he added.

He was referring to Trump's remarks before a meeting with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in May, when he said, "One of the things we will discuss is the purchase of lots of beautiful military equipment because nobody makes it like the United States."

Zarif said, "We have said and we have proven that missiles are for defense. We go back to a history when our cities were showered with Saddam Hussein's missiles. But at that time Saddam Hussein was a sweetheart for the U.S. and some western countries and nobody raised eyebrows for Saddam Hussein's use of missiles."

NEWS IN BRIEF



Passenger car imports to Iran rise 40% in 6 months yr/yr

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran imported 44,000 passenger cars, worth \$1.18 billion, in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2017), recording 40 percent rise in terms of value compared to the same period last year, Tasnim news agency quoted Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mojtaba Khosrotaji on Sunday. The imported amount of cars shows 38 percent growth in terms of number, compared to the same period in the preceding year, he added.

French bank to grant €500m annually to projects in Iran

But many banks have stayed away from fear of inadvertently breaking remaining U.S. sanctions, which could lead to huge fines. Because the BPI has no operations abroad, notably in the United States, it is not exposed to possible fines for U.S. sanctions breaches. U.S. President Donald Trump has created new uncertainties over the U.S. stance towards the Iran nuclear agreement. Trump told reporters this week that he had made a decision on what to do about the agreement but would not say what he had decided. Several Franco-Iranian deals were announced during Iran President Hassan Rouhani's official visit to Paris in January last year. These included a joint venture between carmakers PSA Peugeot Citroen and Iran Khodro as well as plans for Iran to buy Airbus aircraft to update its ageing fleet. There were also deals in the oil, shipping, health, agriculture and water sectors. (Source: Reuters)

Scrap plan for new banking tax, London financiers tells UK opposition party

LONDON (Reuters) — A financial transaction tax proposed by Britain's opposition Labour Party would risk the competitiveness of London's financial centre, the City of London Corporation said on Sunday, calling for the proposal to be scrapped. The leftist Labour Party, which is holding its annual conference in southern English town of Brighton, has advocated a so-called 'Robin Hood' tax to levy charges on bond and derivative trades. It says the tax could raise 4.7 billion pounds (\$6.34 billion) to fund higher public spending. But the City of London Corporation, the body which administers policy in the central London financial district, criticised the policy. "A financial transactions tax, however described, would be a unilateral policy which would weaken our hand and undermine our competitiveness," said the corporation's Policy Chairman, Catherine McGuinness. Labour lost a general election in 2017, and one is not scheduled until 2022, but Labour is banking on Prime Minister Theresa May's government falling sooner and has briefed financial institutions on its plan in recent months. On the first main day of his party's conference, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was asked about his approach to taxation said: "I don't think I'm worried about taxing the super rich and the super wealthy."

"The objective surely has to be stronger economic base for everybody in this country and dealing with the waste of poverty and inequality," he told the BBC.

Lufthansa seen offering to pay 200m euros for Air Berlin assets

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — A Lufthansa bid price of 200 million euros (\$239 million) to buy assets of insolvent Air Berlin plus 100 million euros to meet operating costs is roughly correct, a source familiar with the talks said on Sunday. The newspaper Bild am Sonntag earlier reported the figures, citing sources close to the proceedings.



The newspaper said that there could be three months between signing a purchasing contract and implementing the transaction because German and European competition authorities would need to vet any deal. After it filed for insolvency last month the Berlin government granted Air Berlin a 150-million-euro bridging loan to keep the airline flying for three months. On Thursday Air Berlin's creditor committee said it would talk to Lufthansa and Britain's easyJet (EZJL) as possible buyers for the carrier's assets, giving three weeks for negotiations. The source told Reuters that slots at Duesseldorf airport are among the assets that Lufthansa and easyJet both want. Sources familiar with the matter said last week that Lufthansa was bidding a three-digit-million sum with the offer covering parts of Air Berlin, its leisure subsidiary Niki and regional unit Luffahrt Gesellschaft Walter. Lufthansa itself has only said it has made an offer for parts of Air Berlin.

Iran Plast 2017 expo kicks off in Tehran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — As one of the biggest events in Iran's petrochemical industry, the 11th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (Iran Plast 2017) kicked off in Tehran on Saturday, Shana reported. Iranian Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Managing Director Marziyeh Shahdaie visited the exhibition after attending the opening ceremony.

'Petchem revenues set to rise to \$40b by 2021'

In the opening ceremony, Zanganeh mentioned the inauguration of some new petrochemical plants in the country saying: "Based on the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021) the value of the country's petrochemical output will increase to \$40 billion per annum." According to a report by Shana, Ali-Mohammad Bossaqzadeh, the production control director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) had announced in July that the country's petrochemical output rose five percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), compared to the same time span in the preceding year. Meanwhile, Iran exported over 9 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$4.593 billion during the first five months of this year. Over 1100 domestic and foreign exhibitors are participating in Iran Plast 2017 with the number of foreign participants increased by 21 percent compared to the last year's exhibition. During the four-day exhibit, Iranian exhibitors along



First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri (C), Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh (R) and National Petrochemical Company Managing Director Marziyeh Shahdaie (L) visited Iran Plast 2017 on Saturday.

with renowned companies and firms from countries like Germany, China, India, Cyprus, Taiwan, France, Italy, South Korea, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Luxembourg, Belgium, Thailand, Czech Republic, Greece, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Japan, Turkey and etc. are showcasing their latest products and achievements in plastics and rubber industry.

Russia's Lukoil eyes contributing to Iranian energy projects

ENERGY TEHRAN — Lukoil Chief Executive Vagit Alekperov said he would meet Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh in Moscow on October 3 to discuss cooperating with Iran in energy projects. Lukoil has been in talks with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) on taking part in development of the Ab-Teymur and Mansuri fields in central-western Iran, Reuters reported. "We are very close, we have some disagreements which are not crucial, regarding output volumes and the pace of coming to any given levels," Alekperov said at the launch of the firm's gas facilities in Uzbekistan. "I am confident that the differences could be resolved," he added. Tehran has said earlier it expected

to sign deals in the next five to six months with Russian firms, such as Lukoil, on developing of Iranian oil and gas resources. Lukoil plans to keep pumping 100 million tons of oil per year between 2018 and 2027 with projects outside Russia and will keep annual investment at \$8 billion-\$8.5 billion, the chief executive said on Saturday. Russia's No.2 oil producer which has suffered from sluggish output from its Western Siberia fields, has kept production steady by focusing on growth in new regions, such as the Caspian Sea and Iraq. It is also looking at Iran and Mexico. Alekperov announced details of company's 2018-2027 strategy to reporters. He said details would be discussed by the board in December.

Iranian crude oil price exceeds \$54 in a week

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran's light crude oil price rose \$1.6 in the week ended on September 15 to settle at \$54.01, Shana reported on Saturday. The country has sold light crude at \$49.31 on average since the beginning of 2017 up to the mentioned week. Also, Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$51.60 per barrel in the said week, up 91 cents compared to its preceding week. Meanwhile, with \$1.14 rise from its preceding week, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s

basket price stood at \$52.82 per barrel in the mentioned week. Oil prices settled up about two percent in the mentioned week despite a rise in U.S. crude inventories, after the Iraqi oil minister said OPEC and its partners were considering extending or deepening output cuts. After a meeting of oil ministers in Vienna, OPEC and non-OPEC ministers said they are clearing a glut that has weighed on crude prices for three years and may wait until January before deciding whether to extend their output curbs beyond the first quarter of 2018.

Inflation rate stands at 8% in Iran: statistical center

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The Statistical Center of Iran announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period ended on the last day of the sixth Iranian calendar month of Shahrivar (September 22) compared to the same period in the previous year hit eight percent. The center put the inflation rate at 7.8 percent in the urban areas and 8.9 percent in the rural areas in the said time span, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday. As reported, the point-to-point inflation rate stood at 8.1 percent in the country in the end of the 12-month period, with 0.1 percent drop compared to the same time in the past year. The figure was eight percent in the urban areas and 8.3 percent in the rural areas, showing 0.1 percent and 0.6 percent



fall, respectively. The center has put the country's inflation rate at 9.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20), showing 4.5 percent drop from its preceding year. It is while the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has put the country's inflation rate at nine percent during the past calendar year. Iran, accordingly, could manage to experience a single-digit inflation rate after 26 years in 1395.

\$14b of FDI absorbed after JCPOA implementation

ECONOMY TEHRAN — "Iran could attract \$14 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the implementation of its nuclear deal with the world powers known as Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA) - in January 2016," Iranian Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri announced at the 11th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment (Iran Plast 2017) on Sunday. Tasnim news agency quoted him as saying, "\$11.66 billion of investments have entered Iran and used

on establishing factories and implementing industrial projects." "Iran's economy is now on the right track, despite the existing predicaments and criticisms," Jahangiri said, "We can be converted into one of the economic poles in the globe." "By the time being, we have negotiated with European and Asian banks for attraction of \$60 billion, and have made agreements worth \$26 billion with foreign banks. The government has issued guarantees to utilize the opened credit lines," he added.

May makes commitment on cash in bid to break Brexit deadlock

U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May appeared to have broken the stalemate in Brexit negotiations after signaling for the first time a readiness to start discussing the bill the European Union wants to impose. In delivering her most detailed roadmap yet for the divorce, May gave the clearest indication yet that Britain will pay to smooth its departure from the bloc. Her words were immediately welcomed by the EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier. "The U.K. will honor commitments we have made during the period of our membership," May said in a much-anticipated speech in the Italian city of Florence. A government official later clarified that meant she was open to discussing financial commitments beyond the scope of the EU budget, and the U.K. would honor its dues more broadly. She made the promise while also proposing paying money and accepting the EU's rules for two years after Brexit takes effect in March 2019 in return for a transitional period which mirrors the status quo of tariff-free, regulation-light commerce -- and freedom of movement. Read more: The evolution of Theresa May's Brexit language. The cost of such an implementation phase could run to about 20 billion euros, but the so-called Brexit bill could stretch to five times that in gross terms. EU governments say while they don't need to see a final sum yet, Britain must help find a way to calculate it before they approve the start of talks on a long-term trade deal. Barnier said May had made a "step forward" and praised her "constructive spirit," but advised her to craft a "a precise negotiating position" for when talks resume in



Brussels on Monday. French President Emmanuel Macron said May had made "advances." Other key audiences also praised May's speech. Businesses welcomed her talk of a transition that would keep trading conditions unchanged, having previously warned of a rupture in 2019. May said businesses should only have to make one change, taking on board an idea first floated by Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond. She also won the endorsement of Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson seven days after he warned her against going soft on the EU and appeared to be on the brink of resigning. "PM speech was positive, optimistic & dynamic," he said on Twitter. Read more: Pound Declines as May's Brexit Speech Is Seen Short on Details. Pressing the reset button on Brexit, May also offered more legal protections than she has previously for EU nationals residing in the U.K. by saying British courts would take account of relevant European judgments. She also called for deeper cross-continent cooperation on security, and described the U.K.'s commitment as "unconditional,"

having once been accused of blackmailing the EU by using such help as a bartering tool. One of the most notable aspects of her speech was the change in tone eight months after she outlined plans for a "hard Brexit" in a speech at London's Lancaster House. In Florence she repeatedly discussed "shared" goals and also said the U.K. wanted to remain part of EU programs that promoted education, science and culture and that it would pay to do so. Read more: German Mittelstand Chief: May's Brexit Speech 'Disappointing'. In return for the change in tack and new willingness to discuss money, she wants the EU to soon start crafting a sweeping trade deal unlike any other. In a nod to the most ardent Brexit supporters, she ruled out joining Norway in the European Economic Area, which would make the U.K. a rule-taker and subject to freedom of labor movement. She also rejected xeroxing the EU's commercial pact with Canada, which she described as not ambitious enough. Instead she said a stronger accord should be easy to arrange given the U.K. and EU already enjoy four decades of legal links and compatible regulation and that it was in the interest of both their economies to maintain easy trade. She dropped earlier talk of being prepared to walk away without a deal, and indicated that the U.K. wouldn't resort to attempts to undercut the EU by slashing tax and regulation. "I look ahead with optimism," May said "We want to work hand in hand with the European Union rather than as part of the European Union." (Source: Bloomberg)

Heavy crude production hit hard by OPEC cuts

Crude oil is not all created equal, and many major producing locations have their own grades. One of the most important and commonly used attributes for comparing crude is its density. More dense oil generally requires more complex refineries to process and often trades at a discount to lighter grades.

Recent supply developments have begun to change this, though.

One of the most important oil supply developments at present is the OPEC production cut. While compliance is not total, it has been successful in bringing some production off the global oil market. Most of this production is heavy and medium crude, as Saudi Arabia and Iraq are among the largest medium oil producers and Venezuela is one of the foremost heavy oil producers. Developments in Canada and Mexico have compounded this trend.

The Canadian oil sands are one of the largest sources of heavy oil in the world, currently producing around 2 million barrels per day. However, production outages have temporarily shut down parts of this volume. The massive 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, which was only fully extinguished in early August 2017, forced many companies to temporarily suspend or curtail operations. More recently, a fire at the Syncrude mining and upgrading project in April forced several companies to reduce operations.

Continually declining production from Mexico, which typically produces heavy, sour crude, has also taken heavy crude off the market.

Light crude producers, on the other hand, have been growing quickly. U.S. unconventional shale operations produce exclusively light oil, and have already added significant production from the lows seen in 2016. The two OPEC countries excluded from the cut agreement,



Libya and Nigeria, also produce light oil. With both countries currently attempting to return production to normal levels, further light oil is coming on the market.

These trends have caused the light-heavy differential to fall in recent months. On the U.S. Gulf Coast, the premium for Louisiana Light Sweet (LLS) oil over heavy Maya oil from Mexico narrowed from \$9 per barrel (b) in March to \$5/b in August. In the Midwest, the premium for light West Texas Intermediate (WTI) over heavy Western Canada Select (WCS) also narrowed from \$13/b in

March to \$10/b in August.

U.S. Gulf Coast operations are mostly complex, expensive facilities set up to process heavy sour crude. A wider price differential between light and heavy crude benefits complex refiners, as they are able to secure cheaper product. The recent decline in differentials means simpler refineries, like those on the East Coast, are more competitive with Gulf operations than in previous years.

(Source: oilprice.com)

China curbs oil product exports to North Korea, bans condensate

China slapped fresh sanctions on North Korea, curbing some oil product exports to the country, after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered new sanctions this week.

China halted the outbound shipment of condensate and liquefied natural gas to North Korea from Saturday, and will limit exports of refined oil products from Oct. 1, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement published late Friday. The

world's second-largest economy, which is North Korea's largest trading partner and its main ally, also banned imports of textiles from the country, according to the statement.

The government acted after Trump ordered new sanctions on individuals, companies and banks doing business with North Korea, as he sought to further isolate the regime and increase econom-

ic pressure as a way to curb its weapons programs. The People's Bank of China in a statement on Sept. 11 said it had instructed lenders and other financial entities to suspend accounts subject to sanctions under a United Nations Security Council resolution.

Under the terms of the resolution, member countries should cap refined oil-product exports to North Korea at

500,000 barrels from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, and annual shipments should be limited to no more than 2 million barrels from Jan. 1, 2018, according to a Mofcom statement.

Trump has threatened to "totally destroy" North Korea if it provokes the U.S. or its allies and is continuing to use economic and diplomatic levers in his bid to curb the Pyongyang government's nuclear and missile programs. (Source: Bloomberg)

Oman crude oil price close to two-year high

Oman crude rose to nearly its highest price in two years due to the high compliance by exporting countries with the OPEC production agreement, and also because of an increase in demand from China.

Oman crude traded at \$55.60 at the Dubai Mercantile Exchange on Friday for November delivery, which was \$0.42 above the previous day's trading, and the highest in six months.

The latest spike in prices is likely due to the recent announcement by the Chinese government to allow three independent producers to further import 2.7 million tonnes of crude oil in 2017. These additional quotas come atop previous government grants of nearly 23 million tons issued in June. Oman crude is one of the popular grades among Chinese independent producers. China imported more than 132 million barrels of oil in the seven month period between January to July 2017.

After its fifth meeting in Vienna yesterday, OPEC and non-OPEC members said in a statement that the participating members in the agreement have reached a conformity level of 116 percent in August, the highest since the agreement was reached in November 2016.

The members are currently locked into an output cap deal that runs until March 2018 to curb the supply glut that drove prices down to nearly \$20 a barrel early last year. Under the agreement, Oman will cut nearly 5 percent of its production, a reduction of 45,000 barrels per day. (Source: Times of Oman)

Ghana keeps Tullow oil fields after maritime border ruling

A ruling by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will keep Tullow Oil Plc's offshore fields under Ghana's jurisdiction following the end of a boundary dispute with Ivory Coast.

The Tweneboa, Eryenra and Ntomme fields, which hold an estimated 2 billion barrels of oil and 1.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, will remain with the West African nation after a decision by the Hamburg-based tribunal on Saturday, Tullow said in an emailed statement. The new boundary deviates little from Ghana's claim for its border with Ivory Coast, according to three people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because they're not authorized to speak in public.

The ruling will remove "doubt anyone had about the boundary, because that is clear now," Tullow Oil Ghana Managing Director Charles Darku told reporters in the capital, Accra. "Anyone that wants to work around investing in that area should see their way clear." (Source: Bloomberg)

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US vs. North Korea: World must take Trump and Kim at their word

FNA — Now all we hear is this: North Korean and American leaders spar, concerns increase, and calls for peaceful negotiations grow louder. While the majority of world community — and Americans — disapprove of Trump's handling of current tensions between the U.S. and North Korea, he has so far refused to engage in diplomacy with Kim Jong-un. Far from it, President Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un have traded insults, continuing a war of words that's gone on for months, causing widespread anxiety over the possibility of a nuclear attack as North Korea conducts missile tests and Trump administration officials attempt to do damage control regarding the president's threats of retaliation.



The two leaders' statements have grown increasingly antagonistic, with Trump giving Kim the nickname "Rocket Man" and Kim introducing the arcane term "dotard" into the discourse. After Trump's speech at the United Nations General Assembly in which he threatened to "totally destroy North Korea" if the Kim regime continues to test its nuclear capability, as it's done five times since July, Kim issued a lengthy statement comparing Trump's threats to the barks of "a frightened dog."

Kim added that Trump "surely is a rogue and a gangster fond of playing with fire, rather than a politician," and called him a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard," using a relatively obscure word that Merriam-Webster defines as "a state or period of senile decay marked by decline of mental poise and alertness."

But what next? Certainly a nuclear war can and should always stay off the table. The world has had enough of U.S. warmongering in the Middle East and North Africa. Last thing it wants to see is nuclear Armageddon on the Korean Peninsula. The same argument could be made about imposing economic and financial sanctions. But the Trump White House has gone and done just that.

■ The brewing tension

The U.S. has already announced its latest round of sanctions on North Korea, penalizing foreign companies from doing business with the country and adding to the impact of its food shortage. This is while a large number of diplomatic officials and prominent activists have called for peaceful negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea. U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis has even warned against military action on North Korea, and on Friday nearly 300 female leaders from 45 countries called on the UN secretary-general to appoint a special envoy to de-escalate the brewing tension. Last but not the least, in a new poll conducted by Ipsos, 51 percent of Americans said they didn't approve of how Trump has been handling North Korea's nuclear threats.

Indeed, a necessary step at this point is for UN Secretary-General António Guterres to appoint a special envoy to spearhead diplomacy and work towards an official end to the Korean War with a peace treaty. Not many at the UN support warmongering by Trump, who is using the North Korean nuclear threat to justify more militarization, such as revoking Article 9, which threatens the security of the entire region. That's completely unnecessary.

The special envoy should at the same time support a so-called freeze-freeze proposal that entails North Korea halting its missile tests in exchange for the U.S. to halt its military threats and exercises with South Korea. Strange enough, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has dismissed this proposal as "insulting" which is not surprising at all.

At any rate, the world wants "diplomacy, not war with North Korea," and on the heels of the first legally-binding treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons opening for signature, with more than 50 UN member states signing on. Sad to say, the U.S. and other nuclear-armed regimes boycotted the signing ceremony.

Still, there is no other way to stop President Trump and the neo-conservatives from moving the world closer to a nuclear war.

The biggest mistake is to take Trump's chilling speech at the UN lightly, or worse, view the speech as a television spectacle to be rated rather than a threat to world peace. U.S. neo-conservatives who had led the U.S. into the disastrous wars on Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, such as former Ambassador John Bolton, cheered. So too did Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who recklessly and relentlessly itches for the U.S. to destroy Iran.

As is, the War Party in Washington has done it before and it can do it again by launching a new war against nuclear-armed North Korea. Even if such conclusion is bluster and bluff, the consequences can be the same. The game of chicken often ends in disaster. It is time for the international civil society to take Trump and Kim at their word and call for peaceful negotiations. They mean what they say. Now just one nuclear warhead can do the job.

The world has had enough of U.S. warmongering in the Middle East and North Africa.

Another extremely dangerous crisis will emerge if Trump kills nuclear deal: Princeton researcher

➔ However, his policy since 2013 has remained stable. He is for lessening the tension with the U.S., definitely is not going to balk the U.S. He is ready to negotiate, to cooperate, to manage either the disputes with Iran or the regional crisis. On the nuclear issue, it is again clear that the world has negotiated for 12 years with Iran. After 12 years, a nuclear crisis which could lead to a war has been managed through diplomacy. All world powers, they have signed to agreement. We have a UN resolution supporting the agreement, and the International Atomic Energy Organization since 2015 at least seven times has repeatedly reiterated, confirmed that Iran is in full compliance with all its commitment within the nuclear deal.

Therefore, other than the U.S., I mean the Trump administration, all other countries in the world, when I say other than U.S., definitely Israel is with the U.S., Saudi Arabia is with the U.S., otherwise the other countries including Europe, West, China, Russia, all other countries they want everybody to be fully committed with the nuclear deal because this is the only crisis after 12 years has been managed through diplomacy and Trump should not go for undermining the deal.

■ Dr. Mousavian, let's contrast Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal to the U.S. record, which no one seems to talk about. The question on everyone's mind, if it's a question, is whether Iran is compliant even though it's been certified multiple times that they are. But what about the...29 of the nuclear deal says that states cannot, including the U.S., cannot hurt Iran's trade and economic relations with other countries but the U.S. has been openly lobbying other countries to cut back their trade with Iran, which seems to be an obvious violation of the deal.

A: That's why Iran has repeatedly condemned the U.S. for a clear violation of the letter and the spirit of the nuclear deal. That's why Europe is not really happy with the U.S. policy and U.S. attitude. That's why the other countries, China, Russia, Eastern, Western powers, they are not happy with Trump administration. Look, this deal is the first time after almost 40 years of animosity between Iran and the U.S., is the first time the U.S. and Iran has directly at the high level, at the level of foreign ministers negotiated at least for two years day and night, and now they are agreed. It has the signature of all international powers. It has the signature of United Nations Security Council and the judge is not Trump, is not the U.S. administration. The judge is the United Nations Atomic Energy Organization.

The fact the U.S. is undermining the conclusions, the inspections, the statements of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency, which reiterates each season Iran is in full compliance, this fact shows the U.S. really is violating the international rules, norms and regulations. The U.S. is going to block the economic relation of the world with Iran, which is definitely a clear violation of the nuclear deal because the nuclear deal insists Iran should



It has the signature of United Nations Security Council and the judge is not Trump, is not the U.S. administration. The judge is the United Nations Atomic Energy Organization.

be able to benefit the economic relations, trade relations with other countries. If the U.S. does not want, this is another issue, but the U.S. cannot disturb Iran international community business.

■ So listen, let's talk about the implications of the U.S. undermining its commitment to the agreement. President Trump was asked by reporters today if he's made a decision on what he's going to do with the Iran deal. He said multiple times that he has made a decision but that he's not ready to disclose it yet. But if his turns out that he does want to walk away from it, I want to first ask about what that means for the U.S. and its relations with other countries, aside from Iran because as I understand it, if it returns to the previous U.S. framework of law, that the laws that were lifted under the nuclear deal in the U.S. include measures that would target countries that do business with Iran. So if all of a sudden the U.S. is walking away from that, does that mean that the U.S. is going to be targeting the countries that are now doing business with Iran as a result of a nuclear deal?

A: We really don't know what Trump is going to do, but if Trump withdraw from the nuclear deal, the next question is whether the other parties of the international community, the other member of United Nations Security Council, Europe, China, India, Russia, the other countries, Japan, they would stick, they would strongly support the nuclear deal. They would implement the deal precisely, completely, and comprehensively or not. If yes, then we can have hope that the nuclear deal

would not die, would be alive in spite of U.S. withdrawal. But if the U.S. withdrawal is going to be followed by U.S. punishing the other countries making business with Iran and is going to cut economic relations of international community with Iran, normal trade, economic, industrial relationships, then I believe the deal would be killed, and the only crisis managed through diplomacy by Obama administration and other world powers would be practically killed by Trump and then another very extremely dangerous crisis would grow up again in the Middle East, aside to the other crises which we have not been to resolve yet.

■ I just want to make this clear. Do I have that right when I say that if Trump walks back the US commitment to the deal, is then the U.S. bound by its own laws to target not just Iran but countries that also do business with Iran, business that has increased massively because of the nuclear deal that the U.S. itself signed initially?

A: I really don't know whether the U.S. referring to its own domestic law can violate international law or not. This is a legal question. U.S. has its own domestic law, but at the same time, U.S. is permanent member of United Nations Security Council and should abide, should comply with its commitment with international rules, regulations. The United Nations Security Council is the highest body internationally on security, peace and the US is member, and if a resolution of the United Nations Security Council is violated by the U.S., that would be a clear violation of international rules and regulations. Here, the use would be between violating its own law

If the U.S. violates the deal, there would be domestically consensus inside Iran that you can neither trust the U.S., nor negotiate, nor agree with the U.S. on any other issues.

Aung San Suu Kyi's fall from the pedestal is an old story

By Anne Applebaum

Few countries have ever been so closely associated with a single politician as Burma, whose public "face," for many decades, was the brave and brilliant dissident Aung San Suu Kyi. I remember her appearance — via a prerecorded videocassette, smuggled out of the country — at the international women's conference in Beijing in 1995. Aung San Suu Kyi had just been released from house arrest, but her speech was not about Burma, also known as Myanmar. Instead she used language designed to appeal to a surreally diverse audience, ranging from Indian activists and German feminists to Saudi women in abayas.

Even today, that speech is inspirational. Aung San Suu Kyi declared that "genuine tolerance requires an active effort to try to understand the point of view of others; it implies broad-mindedness and vision, as well as confidence in one's own ability to meet new challenges without resorting to intransigence or violence." In later years, she stuck to that nonviolent message, even when she was placed back under house arrest, and even when her political party was banned and persecuted.

But Aung San Suu Kyi is not a dissident anymore. In late 2010, the Burmese military junta (known by the enigmatic acronym SLORC) launched a democratic transition that eventually gave a victory to her party. She is no longer an activist but the de facto leader. She no longer speaks in generalities to an international audience, but in specifics to the Burmese.

■ The most visible politician

She is also the most visible politician in a state whose public institutions and popular mentality were formed by many years of autocracy and dictatorship — a state where the military and police, though now further back in the shadows, still hold an enormous amount of economic and political power, controlling companies and land as



well as ministries and armies. In this sense, she has much in common with other politicians and activists who led authoritarian or totalitarian countries during a transition to democracy: Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Lech Walesa in Poland, Boris Yeltsin in Russia, Patricio Aylwin in Chile, Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia, Corazon Aquino in the Philippines, just to name a few.

Though very different, all of them faced the same structural problem: how to instill tolerance for democratic debate, freedom of speech and the press, respect for judicial independence and the rule of law in countries that were unused to these things or had never had them. All of them had rocky moments or faced coup attempts or corruption scandals. Some of them had some success. Others failed, and no wonder: Democratic values can take generations to instill — or can, as we have seen in the United States, grow rapidly weaker even in countries that have had them for generations.

All of those democratic heroes — with the possible exception of Mandela, who retired early — wound up with vastly diminished reputations. Aung San Suu Kyi now joins their number. For several years, as violence increased between the Burmese Buddhist majority and

and regulations or international law and regulations. This is something legally should be discussed between the people who really know domestic American legal status.

■ It's a crazy scenario because then it means all these countries who signed on to the Iran deal with the U.S. could then be forced to choose between appeasing U.S. laws now targeting them with punishment for dealing with Iran or respecting the deal that they agreed to initially, which was to do business with Iran in exchange for Iran curbing its nuclear program. Let me ask you also then about what Iran does. Rouhani made very clear today that Iran would respond if the U.S. undermines the agreement. What will be Iran's options and likely course do you think?

A: I really still don't know what Trump would do because Iran's consequences would come after Trump decision. How far Trump is going to violate the deal, this would practically determine the Iranian decision. This is something we really don't know neither on the U.S. side nor on the Iranian side. But what I can say, if the other international members, other countries like Europe, China, Russia, if they fully support the deal, they insist and they resist and they implement, therefore the deal I believe would not die, although if Iran is harmed with U.S. unilateral withdrawal or imposing sanctions impacting the other countries' economic relation with Iran, Iran may show some reactions on the nuclear issue. Those reactions would not be violating the deal. Iran has a lot of opportunities, without violating the deal can expand its nuclear program in response to U.S. hostile reactions.

■ Right. I'm also wondering, though, what this means for Hassan Rouhani and his camp because they expended a lot of political capital to push this deal through. It was not easy for them to convince the Iranian political establishment to accept this, if I have that correct. So, I'm wondering what happens to the camp inside Iran that wants engagement with the West, that said we should negotiate with the U.S., if the U.S. all of a sudden undermines the very deal that Rouhani and others worked so hard to convince their colleagues was worth doing?

A: Since the revolution in 1979, we have had two schools of thoughts in Iran: one saying negotiation with the U.S. is useless, you cannot trust the U.S., U.S. would never be committed to its promises. Therefore, forget it, don't trust the U.S., do not negotiate, only confront the U.S. The other school of thought says negotiation does not mean you can trust, but you can try to negotiate and you can negotiate with the U.S. If a deal reached, then you will see whether the U.S. would comply or would violate. If violates, then we would stop continuing further negotiation with the U.S. Therefore, here is clear: there is no differences now between the two big camps. If the U.S. violates the deal, there would be domestically consensus inside Iran that you can neither trust the U.S., nor negotiate, nor agree with the U.S. on any other issues. That would be clear.

the Rohingya, a Muslim minority ethnic group whom many don't consider to be citizens, she kept silent. In August, a Rohingya insurgent group attacked Burmese police posts; the Burmese army responded by burning villages and chasing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya civilians over the border into Bangladesh. In response, Aung San Suu Kyi condemned "all human rights violations and unlawful violence" but refused to criticize her own generals or admit any errors — a response that seems to have been popular among her constituents in Burma but has produced enormous disappointment among her former admirers around the world.

What happened to "broad-mindedness and vision," or the refusal to bend to "intransigence or violence"? Perhaps Aung San Suu Kyi sympathizes with the popular view of the Rohingya as unwanted foreigners; more likely, she doesn't control the army, she knows it could still overthrow her government and she doesn't want to risk a breach with the generals. In truth, the real difference between Aung San Suu Kyi in 1995 and 2017 is the difference between theory and practice, opposition and power, the language of an international conference and the language of a country with an autocratic past. The story of her fall from the pedestal is an old story, it repeats itself regularly, and yet every time we are surprised.

In any case, it is pointless to call for her Nobel Prize to be withdrawn: This isn't a game of symbols anymore. Those worried by the violence and the strange echo it is having in Muslim countries around the world should use real political tools to affect the situation. Governments with influence in Burma should seek contact with the army — bypassing Aung San Suu Kyi if necessary — offer to mediate, organize aid for the refugees and document the tragedy. Above all, they should try to reach Aung San Suu Kyi with political arguments, not pleas from old friends. This isn't a debate about ideals or symbols; it's a power struggle.

(Source: *The Washington Post*)

U.S. new nuclear sanctions means violation of the JCPOA: Daryl Kimball

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington, says that to date, the U.S. intelligence community and other EU3+3 partners agree that Iran is complying with the nuclear agreement.

"Nevertheless, Mr. Trump is clearly pushing his advisers to find a reason to deny certification that Iran is in compliance with the agreement under the terms of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which is the U.S. law enacted in 2015 after the conclusion of the JCPOA," Kimball tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Kimball says, "Trump and some of his advisers, and some members of Congress, also believe that the reimposition of these sanctions or just the threat of these sanctions will provide leverage to convince the European parties to the JCPOA to help pressure Iran to make new concessions relating to inspections of sites and on issues outside the scope of the nuclear agreement, including Iran's ballistic missile program."

Following is the full text of the interview:

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

A: What the United States wants and what Mr. Trump wants are not necessarily the same thing. In general, most American policy makers want Iran to continue to comply with the JCPOA. The IAEA reports on Iran's nuclear program

It is clear to the EU3+3 and the vast majority of the world's nuclear nonproliferation experts that under present conditions there is no reason to renegotiate or change the very carefully negotiated terms of the JCPOA.

indicate that the various limits on Iran's nuclear program are being met. To date, the U.S. intelligence community and other EU3+3 partners agree that Iran is complying with the nuclear agreement.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump is clearly pushing his advisers to find a reason to deny certification that Iran is in compliance with the agreement under the terms of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act, which is the U.S. law enacted in 2015 after the conclusion of the JCPOA. Under that law, the administration must certify every 90 days that Iran is fully implementing the nuclear deal and that suspension of sanctions is "appropriate and proportionate" to the measures taken by Iran. Failure to issue the certification would open the door for Congress, under expedited procedures, to introduce legislation to reim-



pose nuclear sanctions on Iran.

The legislation was originally written in this way so as to give the President some discretion about whether or not to push for the reimposition of sanctions in the event there is a minor, rather than a major violation of the JCPOA by Iran.

Unfortunately, this means that the certification involves subjective judgments outside the four corners of the nuclear deal. It is my assessment that appears likely that Trump, who incorrectly believes the JCPOA as a "bad deal" for the United States, will choose, for political reasons, not to make the certification.

In Trump's mind, this will allow him to wash his hands of the matter and it will be up to Congress to decide whether or not to preserve the agreement by refraining from re-imposing the nuclear-related sanctions that are being waived under the terms of the JCPOA.

Trump and some of his advisers, and some members of Congress, also believe that the reimposition of these sanctions or just the threat of these sanctions will provide leverage to convince the European parties to the JCPOA to help pressure Iran to make new concessions relating to inspections of sites and on issues outside the scope of the nuclear agreement, including Iran's ballistic missile program.

This thinking, of course, is deeply flawed. It is clear to the EU3+3 and the vast majority of the world's nuclear nonproliferation experts that under present conditions there is no reason to renegotiate or change the very carefully negotiated terms of the JCPOA. If the United States pulls out of the JCPOA without credible evidence of a breach of the JCPOA by Iran, the United States would be isolated, its leverage reduced, and the future of the agreement would be thrown into doubt.

■ 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: The Trump administration has already issued two certifications under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act and

issued numerous sanctions waivers. The upcoming Oct. 15 certification deadline is pivotal because it will follow a months-long administration review of its policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

■ 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: Under the JCPOA (Section Q), the IAEA can request access to any site if there is a specific concern about illicit or undeclared materials and activities. There is no distinction between military and nonmilitary facilities. This process protects information related to Iran's military activities but also allows the IAEA to do its job to verify compliance with the JCPOA.

If the IAEA requests information or access and remains unsatisfied with Iran's response, it can report this to the Joint Commission established by the JCPOA to monitor implementation and to resolve disputes. It takes five of the eight members of the Joint Commission to decide on specific actions to resolve a concern, including authorizing access to a suspect site. In such a case, Iran would be required to provide the IAEA the requested access.

It is essential that the IAEA continue to be vigilant and it's vital that Iran cooperate fully with all IAEA requests for information and access in a timely manner. But given Trump's stated opposition to the JCPOA, any new push by Washington for the agency to push the IAEA to seek wider access to undeclared sites simply for the purpose of "testing" Iran's compliance should be treated with special caution and would very likely be rejected by the IAEA.

■ If the U.S. 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: If Trump decides on Oct. 15 not to issue the certification required under U.S. law, Congress does not have to reimpose sanctions. If Trump cannot

produce solid evidence of an Iranian violation of the nuclear agreement, Congress does not have to and should not vote to reimpose nuclear sanctions. I am optimistic that enough Republicans and Democrats in Congress can be persuaded to refrain from taking such a radical step because it would mean that the United States is in flagrant violation of the JCPOA.

Even if Congress takes the bait, the other parties should continue to abide by their commitments under the agreement. European entities, which would be subject to secondary U.S. sanctions, can and should take precautions to insulate their commercial and financial dealings from such U.S. penalties, including by approving legislation that bars them from complying with U.S. nuclear-related secondary sanctions against Iran.

■ 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: The Iranian government authorities and the United States government have policy disagreements on several issues outside of the JCPOA. The adult approach to solving such problems would be to engage in regional diplomacy to seek a series of win-win solutions to these issues. For instance, there can and should be a new Middle East, region-wide dialogue on arms control, involving Iran, Israel and Gulf Cooperation Council States on potential confidence building measures regarding military deployments and weapons programs.

This would not be an easy conversation, and the Trump administration, and some states in the region may not have the political will for such a dialogue, but

It is essential that the IAEA continue to be vigilant and it's vital that Iran cooperate fully with all IAEA requests for information and access in a timely manner.

it is overdue. Each party would have to go into the process with a willingness to recognize one another and acknowledge respective security concerns. As U.S. president John F. Kennedy once said: do not negotiate out of fear, but do not fear to negotiate.

Finally, in order to avoid miscommunication that can lead to disagreements, it is important for the Iranian government and the IRGC to be more transparent about some issues, including Iran's ballistic missile program. It would be helpful for Iran to reiterate that Iran does not seek a long-range ballistic missile capability — a capability that is only useful for delivering nuclear weapons. Since Iran has not interest and no military need to develop, build or test long-range ballistic missiles, Iran could formally state that it will voluntarily refrain from developing or testing long-range ballistic missiles.

Where Is the Nuclear heading to?

By Hanif Ghaffari

Existing evidence suggests that the United States has been withdrawing from JCPOA claiming that Islamic Republic of Iran has not committed to the nuclear deal.

The recent trip by Nikki Haley to Vienna, representing Trump government in the United Nations, and her visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Director-General Yukio Amano, have also taken place in the same direction.

After winning the U.S. presidential election in 2016, Trump has formed a team which aims at leaving the nuclear deal. Even recently, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has been ousted from the committee after protesting Trump's extremism. Even some U.S. media outlets are reporting the resignation of Rex Tillerson until the end of December 2017.

Another point to be taken into consideration is the failure of the European side to comply with the contents of the Nuclear Deal. In recent weeks, the EU leaders have not only failed to take action in the face of repeated US breach actions, but have actually brought about this process.

European officials seem to support a nuclear deal and emphasize the need to protect it, but they are virtually acting the same as ever in completing Washington puzzle. Recent statements by German and French officials corroborates this allegation.

The spokesman for the French government raised the issue of "Completion of JCPOA", while German



Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, during a meeting with his American counterpart announced his country's willingness to put pressure on Iran to comply with its commitments to the Nuclear Deal!

What exactly should be done in such a situation? What is certain is that the unlimited investment of the executive branch of our country over this nuclear deal was a big mistake from the beginning. At the time of

Another point to be taken into consideration is the failure of the European side to comply with the contents of the Nuclear Deal.

the conclusion of the Nuclear Deal, it has been repeatedly stated that mentioning JCPOA as an endless capacity in the field of foreign economic and foreign policy is considered a strategic mistake.

In any case, now the diplomatic and foreign policy of our country should be able to observe, in a completely realistic way, the current issues in relation to the Nuclear Deal. Accordingly, there is the probability that the United States will withdraw from the unilateral sanctions imposed by the Treasury and Congress.

However, over the past two years, Washington has practically failed to fulfill its obligations and has prevented the normalization of banking and business relations with our country.

The introduction of new sanctions and the insistence on previous sanctions against Iran are considered to be a breach of contract by the United States. On the other hand, the positions of the three European countries, Britain, France and Germany, also show that we can't rely on their cooperation in safeguarding the Nuclear Deal.

The only issue that needs to be addressed at this crucial time is to deal decisively with the tensions provoked by the United States and its allies. In this regard, it is possible to use the capacities of the two countries of China and Russia.

The diplomatic appetites with the United States and its allies have not been the result of the hostility of Washington and its entourage. Therefore, the approach of the Iranian diplomacy and foreign policy system needs to be changed.

Unsuccessful operation Amano's career in the third round of the IAEA

By Saeed Sobhani

Amano's staying at the International Atomic Energy Agency Director General's Office, for the third consecutive term, has been generating concerns and questions about his performance over the past eight years. Yukio Amano has been elected Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the third consecutive term. On this basis Amano will remain in this position until 2021. He, now 71, was first appointed Director General succeeding Mohamed ElBaradei in 2009. He was previously the representative of Japan at the IAEA. Amano, while taking the oath, said that he won't take any orders from any government or authority outside the IAEA! Of course, if such a claim was true, it would have been a pleasure for IAEA members and independent countries in the world. But unlike what he claims, Amano's per-



formance over the course of his eight-year presence at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Directorate General's office shows something else!

The impact of Amano from the hidden and open lobby of the United States in confronting Iran's nuclear program is not something that can be concealed. In the most recent cases, Amano, in the aftermath of Nikki Haley's visit to Vienna and the meeting between the two, insisted on a controversial stance that, according to the Additional Protocol, any access to the Iranian base, whether military or civilian is legal and should be allowed. This position of Amano was met by the reaction of our officials. Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, the adviser to the Supreme Leader in International Affairs, emphasized that the inspection of the Iranian military sites is considered "the invention of Amano", and the agency does not actually allow such a permission.

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in response to Nikki Haley and other American politicians' extreme avidity, has not done anything regarding JCPOA. Recent comments by Amano regarding access to military sites in Iran are a clear indication of the continued cooperation of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency with the United States of America. This approach by Amano has a clear message for those who have monitored his approach at the IAEA

If Amano succumb to the pressures of the United States and Trump's government, it will become one of the main contributors to the collapse of the Nuclear Deal.

headquarters in recent years! The fact is that Amano's approach to the IAEA has been a function of pressures and political games, rather than a variable dependent on the IAEA's legal principles and duty to defend its members' rights. However, Amano and his entourage are facing a tough test. If Amano succumb to the pressures of the United States and Trump's government, it will become one of the main contributors to the collapse of the Nuclear Deal. In this case, Amano should be responsible for his partial behavior towards one of the most important international agreements. What is certain is that the performance of Amano and other Agency officials are monitored by the public in Iran and the world. One must know well that the time for playing in the United States ground is over, especially when someone like Donald Trump stands at the head of political equations and the executive branch of this country. In any case, the experience of the last eight years has shown that Amano can't be a reliable person at the head of the IAEA executive's equations.

It should be noted that in the course of nuclear negotiations between Iran and the members of the 1 + 5, the issue of inspection of Iranian military places became one of the key issues in the talks. Even the controversy over the issue between the parties led to a prolonged process of reaching a nuclear deal and a signing. However, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution at the time insisted that the inspection of military places in our country is considered as the red line of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The previous history of officials and inspectors at the IAEA was a determining factor in taking such a decision.

On the other hand, the principles of protection and security required that no foreign country or entity should have access to information and military places in our country. This general principle is accepted by all countries of the world. At the moment, this rule remains in place. Accordingly, neither the Agency, nor any other organization has the right to access military places in our country.

However, one of the main concerns and challenges of Amano over the next four years is the issue of JCPOA. The pressure from the United States government and some other members of the governing council to Amano has increased. In fact, Amano has shown that he easily surrenders to the pressure of members of the Board of Governors.

Another point to be addressed in this regard is Amano's compromise with the Zionist leaders on the nuclear program of Tel Aviv. Everyone knows that the Zionist regime has a variety of prohibited nuclear weapons and is moving away from any monitoring (even minimalist controls). → 11

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The world's healthiest spices & herbs you should be eating

While science has yet to show that any spice cures disease, there's compelling evidence that several may help manage some chronic conditions (though it's always smart to talk with your doctor). What's not to love? Here we've gathered eight of the healthiest spices and herbs enjoyed around the world.

■ Chile peppers

May help: Boost metabolism.
Chile peppers add a much-appreciated heat to chilly-weather dishes, and they can also give a boost to your metabolism. Thank capsaicin, the compound that gives fresh chiles, and spices including cayenne and chipotle, their kick. Studies show that capsaicin can increase the body's metabolic rate (causing one to burn more calories) and may stimulate brain chemicals that help us feel less hungry. In fact, one study found that people ate 16 percent fewer calories at a meal if they'd sipped a hot-pepper-spiked tomato juice (vs. plain tomato juice) half an hour earlier. Recent research found that capsinoids, similar but gentler chemicals found in milder chile hybrids, have the same effects—so even tamer sweet paprika packs a healthy punch. Capsaicin may also lower risk of ulcers by boosting the ability of stomach cells to resist infection by ulcer-causing bacteria and help the heart by keeping "bad" LDL cholesterol from turning into a more lethal, artery-clogging form.

■ Ginger

May help: Soothe an upset stomach, fight arthritis pain.
Ginger has a well-deserved reputation for relieving an unsettled stomach. Studies show ginger extracts can help reduce nausea caused by morning sickness or following surgery or chemotherapy, though it's less effective for motion sickness. But ginger is also packed with inflammation-fighting compounds, such as gingerols, which some experts believe may hold promise in fighting some cancers and may reduce the aches of osteoarthritis and soothe sore muscles. In a recent study, people who took ginger capsules daily for 11 days reported 25 percent



less muscle pain when they performed exercises designed to strain their muscles (compared with a similar group taking placebo capsules). Another study found that ginger-extract injections helped relieve osteoarthritis pain of the knee.

■ Cinnamon

May help: Stabilize blood sugar.
A few studies suggest that adding cinnamon to food—up to a teaspoon a day, usually given in capsule form—might help people with type 2 diabetes better control their blood sugar, by lowering post-meal blood-sugar spikes. Other studies suggest the effects are limited at best.

■ Turmeric

May help: Quell inflammation, inhibit tumors.
Turmeric, the goldenrod-colored spice, is used in India to help wounds heal (it's applied as a paste); it's also made into a tea to relieve colds and respiratory problems. Modern medicine confirms some solid-gold health benefits as well; most are associated with curcumin, a compound in turmeric that has potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Curcumin

has been shown to help relieve pain of arthritis, injuries and dental procedures; it's also being studied for its potential in managing heart disease, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease. Researcher Bharat Aggarwal is bullish on curcumin's potential as a cancer treatment, particularly in colon, prostate and breast cancers; preliminary studies have found that curcumin can inhibit tumor cell growth and suppress enzymes that activate carcinogens.

■ Saffron

May help: Lift your mood.
Saffron has long been used in traditional Persian medicine as a mood lifter, usually steeped into a medicinal tea or used to prepare rice. Research from Iran's Roozbeh Psychiatric Hospital at Tehran University of Medical Sciences has found that saffron may help to relieve symptoms of premenstrual syndrome (PMS) and depression. In one study, 75% of women with PMS who were given saffron capsules daily reported that their PMS symptoms (such as mood swings and depression) declined by at least half, compared with only 8 percent of women who didn't take saffron.

■ Parsley

May help: Inhibit breast cancer-cell growth.

University of Missouri scientists found that this herb can actually inhibit breast cancer-cell growth, reported Holly Pevzner in the September/October 2011 issue of EatingWell Magazine. In the study, animals that were given apigenin, a compound abundant in parsley (and in celery), boosted their resistance to developing cancerous tumors. Experts recommend adding a couple pinches of minced fresh parsley to your dishes daily.

■ Sage

May help: Preserve memory, soothe sore throats.

Herbalists recommend sipping sage tea for upset stomachs and sore throats, a remedy supported by one study that found spraying sore throats with a sage solution gave effective pain relief. And preliminary research suggests the herb may improve some symptoms of early Alzheimer's disease by preventing a key enzyme from destroying acetylcholine, a brain chemical involved in memory and learning. In another study, college students who took sage extracts in capsule form performed significantly better on memory tests, and their moods improved.

■ Rosemary

May help: Enhance mental focus, fight foodborne bacteria.

One recent study found that people performed better on memory and alertness tests when mists of aromatic rosemary oil were piped into their study cubicles. Rosemary is often used in marinades for meats and poultry, and there's scientific wisdom behind that tradition: rosmarinic acid and other antioxidant compounds in the herb fight bacteria and prevent meat from spoiling, and may even make cooked meats healthier. In March 2010, Kansas State University researchers reported that adding rosemary extracts to ground beef helped prevent the formation of heterocyclic amines (HCAs)—cancer-causing compounds produced when meats are grilled, broiled or fried.

(Source: eatingwell.com)

One recent study found that people performed better on memory and alertness tests when mists of aromatic rosemary oil were piped into their study cubicles.

What is a superset in bodybuilding?

Bodybuilders use a number of specialized training systems to make their workouts as productive as possible. A training system is a specific arrangement of sets, reps and exercise performance designed to make exercises sufficiently challenging so they trigger muscle growth — a process called hypertrophy. One such training system is supersets. There are a number of variations of this training system, but the common feature in all superset variations is that exercises are paired and performed back-to-back with no rest in between.

■ Regular supersets

A regular superset involves performing two similar exercises back-to-back with no rest in between. This extends the duration of the set and ensures that the target muscles work harder than normal. Examples of regular supersets include squats followed by lunges, bench press followed by pushups and situps followed by planks. As muscles are fatigued by the first exercise, the second exercise will normally require less resistance or be performed for fewer repetitions than if it was performed first.

■ Opposing supersets

In this superset variation, also called antagonistic supersets, exercises are performed for opposing muscle groups -- for example, shoulder presses followed by lat pulldowns or leg extensions followed by leg curls. This type of superset allows for a lot of work to be done in a short

time as each exercise provides an active rest from the other one within the pair. Because of something called reciprocal



inhibition, opposing supersets allow for enhanced muscle recovery between exercises. When one muscle contracts, the other must relax -- this is the essence of reciprocal inhibition. By performing exercises in opposing pairs, each muscle will recover more quickly.

■ Pre-exhaust supersets

In most exercises, there is generally a weak link muscle that will fail before the target muscle. In pressing exercises,

this is usually the triceps, and in pulling exercises, this is the biceps. Pre-exhaust gets around this problem by keeping the weaker muscles that would normally fail first in reserve and only using them in the second exercise. The main muscle is therefore pre-exhausted by the first exercise. Examples of pre-exhaust supersets include dumbbell flies performed before bench presses, dumbbell pullovers performed before lat pulldowns and dumbbell front raises performed before shoulder presses.

■ Lower-body/upper-body supersets

Weight training is not normally associated with cardiovascular fitness, but by utilizing lower-body/upper-body supersets you can get an effective cardio workout despite not performing any specific cardiovascular exercise. Simply perform a compound lower-body exercise and follow it immediately with an upper-body exercise. The initial lower body exercise will drive your heart rate up, and the exercise immediately following will keep it up. This type of superset works like interval training -- an effective type of cardio training system. Examples of this type of superset include squats followed by dumbbell bench presses, lunges followed by lat pulldowns or deadlifts followed by shoulder presses. Lower-body/upper-body supersets are most effective when performed using moderate to high repetitions -- between 12 and 20.

(Source: livestrong.com)

Factors that increase your risk for a secondary cancer

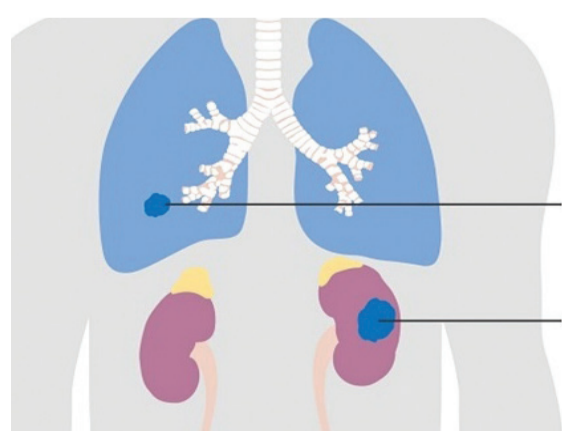
Several factors can make you more likely to develop a secondary cancer. Some are under your control. Others aren't. It's important for you to discuss your risks with your doctor and find out what you can do to lower your odds of developing cancer again. Equally important, discuss how often you need to get screened, so you can catch any new cancers early.

■ Childhood cancer

If you developed cancer before age 15, you'll need to stay on top of your health in the years to come. Some childhood tumors are caused by inherited syndromes that contribute to a lifelong increased risk for cancer. For example, Li-Fraumeni syndrome can lead to sarcoma, leukemia, and brain and breast cancers. The treatments you received to combat childhood cancer can also make you more vulnerable to future malignancies.

■ Family history

When you have multiple close relatives who all developed a particular cancer, that's a very strong indication that your family carries a genetic susceptibility. Though you can't change your genes, you can get tested for genetic changes that are associated with increased



cancer risk and — if you are at higher risk — be screened for those cancers and take other preventive measures.

■ Age. The older you are, the higher your cancer risk. Each passing year brings more chronic conditions, more exposure

to environmental factors that increase your risk, and a lower ability of cells to repair damage.

■ Lifestyle. Lifestyle is one cancer risk you can control. Many of the choices you make each day can influence — sometimes

significantly — your chances of getting a future cancer. Here are a few things you can do to reduce your risks:

- Eat a nutritious diet that's heavy in cancer-fighting foods, like broccoli and other cruciferous vegetables, dark leafy greens, beans and peas, berries, cherries, tomatoes, and nuts.
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week.
- Keep your body mass index (BMI) within a healthy range.
- If you smoke, ask your doctor for help quitting. Also avoid secondhand smoke.
- Wear UVA/UVB-protective sunscreen whenever you go outside.

■ Cancer treatment. Radiation, chemotherapy, and other cancer therapies, while necessary to cure your disease, can also trigger cellular changes that make you more vulnerable to a secondary cancer. Your doctor will make every possible effort to structure your initial treatment — for example, fine-tuning the drug and dose — to destroy the cancer, while minimizing your future cancer risks.

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

The treatments you received to combat childhood cancer can also make you more vulnerable to future malignancies.

Essential items every athlete should own

Coaches, athletes, and parents need to know which athletic items are essential to consistent training and performance. While sport-specific equipment can get expensive, these essentials will help athletes succeed without breaking the bank.

1. The perfect water bottle

Staying hydrated has everything to do with whether you carry a water bottle around all day or not. Athletes should choose a water bottle that fits their needs: a) easy to drink quickly from during workout, b) won't spill on electronics if carrying it throughout the day, and c) durable if it gets tossed around everywhere.

2. Foam roller

Self-myofascial release is the process of applying pressure using your own bodyweight against the roller to release tight spots and lengthen muscle tissue. Foam rolling aids in injury prevention and is a key precursor to a dynamic warm up.

3. Tennis ball

The more intense counterpart to the foam roller, the tennis ball, is a simple hack for rolling out tight areas of the body. All athletes develop tightness under the shoulder blade, in the lats, or along other hard-to-reach places at some point in their training. Tennis balls are even more portable for travel purposes.

4. Compression gear

While some athletes wear compression gear during competition, such as football and basketball players, or even swimmers in compression race suits, compression garments are primarily useful in the post-workout or post-competition recovery phase. Compression in the limbs boosts blood circulation back to the heart and prompts the exchange of oxygen and nutrients for waste products in the bloodstream. Voila! You can accelerate your recovery just by putting on some (really tight) pants.

5. Earplugs

Every athlete needs to tune out the noise once in a while. Case in point: your roommate at a travel competition snores or talks in their sleep at night. Spend a few dollars on a pack of earplugs for any unexpected noise that could disrupt your sleep at night or during daytime naps.

6. Headphones

When you can't get yourself psyched up for a competition, or you need to tune-out that airplane noise, music is your best friend. All athletes need a pair of solid headphones (noise cancelling ear buds are great and easily portable) to plug into whatever they listen to for relaxation, inspiration, or motivation.

7. Yoga mat

Yoga mats will incentivize athletes to stretch more frequently, which often falls low on the priority list for athletes but plays a large role in their recovery and injury prevention. Coaches can quickly lay down mats on the ground outside for a group stretching session at the end of a workout. Yoga mats also make it easier to run a core circuit outdoors as athletes can better execute planks or abdominal repetitions with the added cushion of the mat.

8. High-quality shoes

Regardless of the sport, athletes all need a comfortable pair of high-quality shoes for multipurpose wear. These will serve athletes going to and from workouts, while traveling, and at indoor or outdoor competitions. Coaches may encourage their athletes to purchase identical shoes to look more professional at competitions.

9. Warm-up jacket

Like a good pair of shoes, a warm-up jacket should be a staple of every athlete's closet. This should be a relatively thin jacket that zips on and off easily for use immediately before and after athletic events. A warm-up jacket keeps the athlete loose in the moments prior to a performance, and serves as a uniform for the podium during awards ceremonies.

10. Medicine travel-kit

It's important to carry a travel-sized pouch of the essential medicines you might need should sickness or injury arise on the road. Items like Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen, as well as over the counter allergy medicine if you have allergies, can alleviate symptoms and keep you focused on your performance. A small bottle of hand sanitizer in that travel pouch isn't a bad idea either.

(Source: bridgeathletic.com)

UNAIDS calls to quicken the pace of action to end AIDS

The President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, in collaboration with UNAIDS, brought together six heads of state or government to accelerate action and get countries on the Fast-Track to end AIDS. World leaders joined around 500 partners from government, the private sector and civil society on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York last Thursday to reinvigorate political leadership around HIV.

The Fast-Track approach is saving more and more lives. In 2016, 19.5 million people—more than half the 36.7 million people living with HIV—were accessing life-saving treatment. The number of people who died from AIDS-related illnesses has been reduced by nearly half since 2005, and the global number of new HIV infections has been reduced by 11% since 2010.

However, the pace of action is still not enough to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. In order to step up progress and achieve the global targets adopted in the 2016 United Nations Political Declaration on Ending AIDS, all partners need to fully implement their country Fast-Track strategy. Ending AIDS requires steadfast political leadership, commitment to action and accountability towards shared responsibility and reaffirmed global solidarity. Increased effective and efficient investments are, and will continue to be, an essential prerequisite for success. Elimination of stigma and dis

“Leadership, partnership and innovation will transform the epidemic,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé.

President Museveni was the first head of state in Africa to launch a presidential Fast-Track initiative on ending AIDS as a public health threat, known as “Kisanja Hakuna Mchezo”, or “no time for playing games”. “I am confident that working together with you all, we shall attain an AIDS-free Africa. It is possible to end AIDS in our generation!” said President Museveni.

“We must build on the Fast-Track commitments. We cannot stop before we have reached the finish line,” said Jacquelyne Alesi, a civil society representative from Uganda.

(Source: UNIC)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

1 An affiliate of Amazon.com Inc has agreed to buy a 1.79 billion-rupee (\$27.6 million) stake in Indian retailer Shoppers Stop Ltd, the Indian company said in a filing. Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC, a foreign portfolio investor, will subscribe to about 4.4 million shares, equivalent to an about 5 percent stake, in the Indian retailer at 407.78 rupees apiece on a preferential basis, Shoppers Stop told the stock exchanges late on Saturday.

2 T-Mobile US Inc is close to agreeing tentative terms on a deal to merge with Sprint Corp (S.N), people familiar with the matter said on Friday, a major breakthrough in efforts to merge the third and fourth largest U.S. wireless carriers. The transaction would significantly consolidate the U.S. telecommunications market and represent the first transformative U.S. merger with significant antitrust risk to be agreed since the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump in January.

3 Apple Inc's launch of the iPhone 8 kicked off with less fanfare on Friday than new models in previous years in the United States, Asia, Australia and Britain, as fans held out for the premium iPhone X, due out in early November. In San Francisco's Union Square, 50 miles from Apple's Cupertino headquarters, just 80 people were lined up at the company's flagship store, a sharp contrast to years past when lines stretched for blocks when new products were released.

4 Microsoft's latest Windows Store strategy involves a rebrand plus Progressive Web Apps. Microsoft is continuing to try to improve the app store built into Windows 10 and to give users more reasons to use it.

5 Intel is canceling its plans to release its Project Alloy reference design, Road to VR first reported. Project Alloy was an x86-based standalone "merged reality" headset that Intel unveiled in 2016, with plans to launch it as an open reference design this year. However, the company told Road to VR that there was a lack of partner interest.

6 Apple has a new way for users to do a force reset or a hard reset for the latest versions of the iPhone. On the Apple iPhone 7 and Apple iPhone 7 Plus, rebooting either model requires the user to press and hold both the Sleep/Wake and Volume Down buttons for at least 10 seconds.

7 Samsung foldable phone unveiling closer after Galaxy X receives another certification. The phone seen by the National Radio Agency sports the model number of SM-G888N0; that is the same model that received its Bluetooth certification back in July. Now that it has received its NRA certification, we could see the Samsung Galaxy X make its long awaited introduction in the not too distant future, possibly before the end of this year.

8 It looks like the Nokia 2 might not be the only smartphone HMD plans to launch in the coming months. Press renders of what appears to be HMD's cheapest Android smartphone leaked online last week, but we still don't know when exactly the Nokia 2 will be officially unveiled.

9 Walmart opens 'in-fridge delivery' trial in Silicon Valley. The program is in partnership with August Home, makers of IoT tech like smart locks and smart home accessories, as well as delivery startup Deliv.

10 Samsung's Bixby digital assistant now available in India. Samsung's Bixby digital assistant - dubbed Bixby Voice - debuted shortly after the arrival of the company's Galaxy S8 series smartphones. It was first launched in the company's home country of South Korea, following which it arrived in the US.

Twitter tests lightweight mobile app for countries with slow data

It's not just Facebook and Google who are slimming down their mobile apps for the sake of regions where data is slow or spotty. Twitter has confirmed to TechCrunch that it's testing a native Android equivalent to its Lite website in the Philippines, where slower phone networks and limited phone storage make the standard app less practical. While many of the core Twitter functions are still there, the focus is on cutting out all the media that chews up valuable bandwidth. There's a "Data Saver" mode that avoids displaying pictures and videos unless you opt to see them, and Twitter says it can use up to 70 percent less data overall. Even the app itself occupies just 3MB of space.

This is an "experiment," Twitter says, and it's not clear if or when the Lite app will be available in other countries.

It won't be surprising if Twitter Lite spreads to many areas, though. Twitter is struggling to add new users, and a lightweight app would help it reach audiences that can't even consider using the regular app.

(Source: TechCrunch)

10 cool robots at RoboBusiness Conference

This year's conference in Santa Clara is all about empowering businesses to develop a better robotics strategy. More than 2000 attendees will mingle with industry experts. But the real draw, of course, will be the bots.

■ Cassie by Agility Robotics



Among the coolest bots at this year's RoboBusiness Conference, which takes place September 27 & 28 in Santa Clara, is Cassie by Agility Robotics.

Launched commercially in February 2017, Cassie, by Agility Robotics, is a bipedal robot designed as a robust R&D tool for ground mobility applications. The bio-inspired design builds on lessons from ATRIAS, which was the first robot to reproduce human-like walking dynamics. Providing the general mobility capabilities of a human is important because Cassie takes a "platform-first" approach. The vision is for Cassie and her successors to address a broad market of human-scale ground mobility. Future versions of Cassie will be the base platform for diverse fields of use such as curb-to-doorstep delivery, security, and inspection.

■ iPal by AvatarMind



AvatarMind's iPal Companion Robot is designed as an educational and entertaining friend for children, a companion for the elderly, and as a concierge/greeter for retail and hospitality. This follows the task-agnostic trend we're seeing in service robotics. For children, iPal provides interactive language learning and educational programs. For elders, iPal is a constant companion that supplements personal care services and has the potential to provide security with alerts for many medical emergencies. In retail stores, iPal can greet guests, entertain them and tell them about products, while at hotels, iPal can provide guests with personal service.

■ Freight by Fetch Robotics



Freight by Fetch Robotics is an autonomous mobile robot used in warehouses and logistics facilities to

convey items from one part of the facility to another. Use of these robots allow companies to process orders faster, increase efficiency, and lower costs. In addition, incorporating Freight robots into warehouse workflows allows associates to focus on higher value tasks.

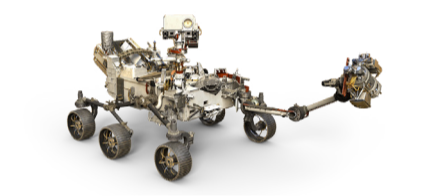
■ Swift by IAM Robotics



Warehousing employers are facing increasing pressures on cost and delivery time from the exploding e-commerce industry (ahem ... Amazon). For employees, these changes are demanding increased pick rates and hours. According to IAM, many in the warehouse workforce still spend up to 90 percent of their time just walking from one item to the next. The result is unhappy employees with turnover rates harmful to business.

IAM's Swift Product Suite addresses these concerns by letting robots do both the walking and picking, freeing workers to focus on more value-added activities. IAM's intelligent autonomous material handling technology enables its robots to navigate through human-friendly environments, identify the location of objects, and pick individual items or bins at human-level speeds and accuracy. With Swift, companies can outperform their competition by providing a faster order fulfillment for their customers.

■ Mars Rover with Harmonic Drive technology

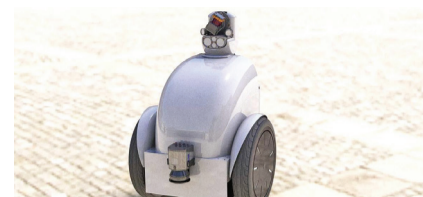


Harmonic Drive designs and manufactures high-precision servo actuators and gear components. How high-precision? Well, it's good enough for NASA. Currently, Harmonic Drive is working with Motiv Space Systems to develop the Primary Robotic Arm for NASA JPL's Mars 2020 Mission.

This five degree of freedom robotic arm has a reach of more than two meters and a payload capacity of 45 kilograms. The arm will deploy multiple science instruments for surface exploration. Additionally, it will retrieve core samples from the surface and place them in the rovers caching system.

The bot will be on display at RoboBusiness. In a room full of robot-loving nerds (I count myself one!) the out-of-this-world platform is sure to draw crowds.

■ Jackrabbot (JR) by Stanford University



Jackrabbot (JR), developed by engineers at Stanford, is a multi-sensory platform mounted on a Segway system and powered by GPUs. JR is one of a new breed of visually intelligent, socially amicable and interactive robots. It doesn't run on highways -- its natural habitat are places filled with humans and it is designed to roam on the sidewalks of campuses, shopping malls, airports, train stations, and other general public spaces.

Impressively, JR is designed to understand humans and predict human intentions accurately as well as to learn human social conventions and basic social etiquette. For example, it has learned how to keep an appropriate distance from others, how to share resources like sidewalks, and how to take turns. It understands the ways people signal each other to coordinate movements and negotiate other spontaneous activities, like forming a line.

■ CIRRIIS by ULC Robotics



The CIRRIIS XITM and the CIRRIIS XRTM robots by ULC Robotics were developed to allow gas utilities to extend the life of large diameter cast iron pipeline infrastructure. Specific? Absolutely. But those pipelines are expensive to replace and difficult to manually repair, making them prime territory for robots.

The systems, which are taking on one of the most challenging and sensitive pipeline environments - live gas pipelines - represent the next evolution of robotics in the gas industry. The CIRRIIS XI Inspection Robot internally assesses the condition of cast iron pipelines and collects critical pipeline integrity data that, before now, network operators were previously unable to obtain. The second robotic system, the CIRRIIS XR Repair Robot, repairs leaks and prevents future leaks from occurring through the injection of sealant into the joints of the cast iron gas main. To minimize disruption to the public, both of these robots can carry out their work in live gas mains.

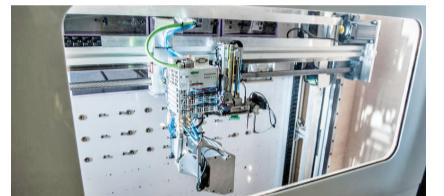
■ VTOL UAV by ULC Robotics



Also by ULC is this commercial-grade fixed-wing UAV. Like the company's other bots, this drone was developed to meet the inspection needs of electric and gas utilities. Designed and built from the ground up by ULC's Aerial Services and engineering teams, the VTOL UAV is a powerful and versatile platform with a 10-foot wingspan and a sensor payload capacity of 10 pounds for conducting fully-autonomous aerial inspections and assessments of a variety of utility structures and properties, including electrical transmission lines, gas transmission pipelines, and right of ways.

One trend in bots these days is versatility, and that extends even to bots that are task-specific. In order to collect specialized data, a variety of sensor and monitoring payloads can be integrated into the VTOL platform, including radiometric thermal cameras, high-resolution DSLR imaging systems, LiDAR, gas leak detection sensors, and other advanced systems.

■ SmartBox by UnitDoseOne



UnitDoseOne is a modular and scalable robotic hospital pharmacy that prepares doses of drugs in individual sets for hospital patients. It's essentially a set of robots that fully automate pharmacy and drug dispensing operations. The idea is that the current system is inefficient, insecure and error-prone, putting patients at risk. UnitDoseOne introduces revolutionary solutions to pharmacy automation, like advanced image recognition for the drugs introduced to the system.

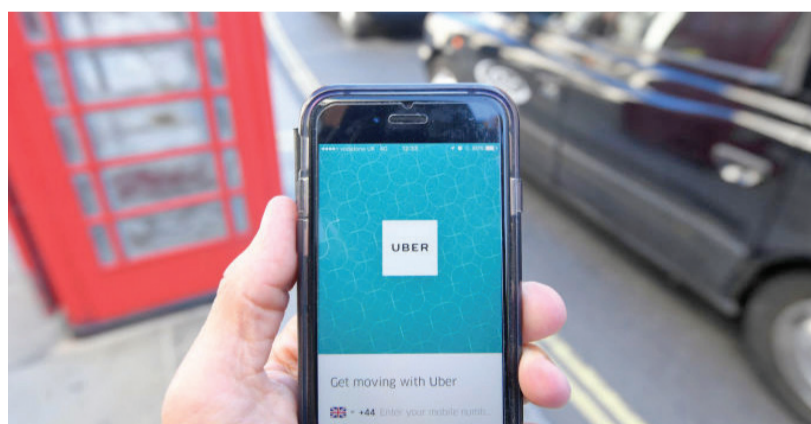
■ UR5 by Universal Robots



Universal Robots' UR5 robot arm is a lightweight, flexible, and collaborative industrial robot that lets customers automate repetitive and dangerous tasks with payloads of up to 5kg. The UR5 is ideal for picking, placing, and testing, tasks that are common in biotech and electronics manufacturing, for example. With a wide working radius, the collaborative robot is supposed to put everything within reach, freeing up employees' time so they can focus on other stages of production. The latest development with the UR5 allows it to avoid collisions while continuing to perform the task it was set out to do, an important consideration for any robot that works around humans.

(Source: Zdnet)

Uber Regroups After London Taxi Setback as Lyft Signals Interest



Uber Technologies Inc. is prepared to make concessions to restore its revoked London taxi license, the Sunday Times reported, two days after the ride service said it would fight the suspension in court.

Tom Elvidge, general manager of Uber in London, told the newspaper his company would like to meet to resolve the situation. Rival Lyft Inc., a start-up also based in San Francisco, may be positioning to benefit from Uber's demise in the capital after holding meetings with London transport officials in the past year, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

Transit agency Transport for London decided Friday to revoke Uber's license due to failures to do proper background checks on drivers, report crimes and a program called "Greyball" used to avoid regulators. London is one of Uber's largest and most lucra-

tive markets, with 40,000 drivers and 3.5 million people who use the app once every 90 days.

Uber has 21 days after the Sept. 30 revocation to file an appeal. It can continue the service until the end of the appeals process. The company is reeling from the ouster of former chief executive officer Travis Kalanick and grappling with allegations of sexual harassment, labor-rights abuses, skirting regulation, bribery of government officials and a lawsuit accusing it of stealing self-driving car technology.

Uber has collected more than 600,000 signatures on a petition to protest the decision and is targeting 1 million supporters. The campaign on the website Change.org asks London Mayor Sadiq Khan to reverse TfL's decision and is being promoted on the company's app in London.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Bill Gates Says His One Regret Is the Ctrl+Alt+Delete Command



Anyone with a PC is well versed in the Ctrl+Alt+Delete process to access the task manager when something goes awry; it's usually not a problem for Windows users despite having to use both hands. However, the founder of the said computer company, Bill Gates has one regret, and that's the Ctrl+Alt+Delete command. He would have preferred it as a single button.

Gates mentioned his remorse at a Bloomberg business forum in response to a question posed by The Carlyle Group's David Rubenstein, who asked why exactly Gates chose that particular command for the task manager.

"I'm not sure you can go back and change small things in your life without putting the other things at risk. Sure, if I can make one small edit, I'd make that a single key operation," Gates explained to the audience at the Bloomberg event.

Clearly, to Gates, the "mistake" was due to the IBM developers he worked with at the time, something he repeated at another event at Harvard in 2013.

"The IBM hardware PC keyboard only had one way it could get a guaranteed interrupt generated," Mr. Gates replied.

He also blamed IBM engineer and inventor of the command, David Bradley who has heard his share of opinions on the subject. Bradley's consistent response to the issue was that the keyboard was the least of their worries when it came to developing the overall system. The command was initially supposed to be something they used during development and not meant for public use. It started as a BIOS feature, then became a software feature with Windows 3.0's Enhanced Mode.

(Source: interestingengineering)

ELN Expert: Withdrawing from JCPOA would put Europe-U.S. relations in crisis

By Payman Yazdani

Commenting on the possible Trump administration's withdrawal from the JCPOA, Research Director of the European Leadership Network, Lukasz Kulesa says this would put Europe-US relations in crisis.

While the IAEA has certified Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) several times and even Trump administration 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).

Recent actions taken by the US administration demonstrate that President Donald Trump plans to renege on the Iran nuclear agreement which Iran unlikely to accept.

76 senior political, diplomatic and military figures from across Europe on Sep. 18 in a statement organized by the European Leadership Network (ELN), arguing that any unilateral US action that jeopardizes the Iran nuclear deal would trigger a crisis in U.S.-Europe relations, damaging the U.S.'s international standing and credibility in Europe.

To shed more light on the issue Tehran Times reached out to the Research Director of the European Leadership Network, Lukasz Kulesa.

Following is the text of his interview:

■ What concerns made the prominent European figures issue the statement on the JCPOA?

There is one immediate and one broader concern behind the statement from the ELN's members. The immediate concern is that the Trump Administration is about to conclude its review of policy towards Iran. Then, in mid-October, it will decide whether or not to certify to the U.S. Congress that Iran is complying with the JCPOA and that the deal is beneficial for the U.S.

The statement's signatories are worried about reports from the US that President Trump will not certify Iran's compliance,



which would open the way for Congress to re-introduce sanctions and put the JCPOA under threat. The statement is aimed at influencing the U.S. decisions by clearly demonstrating European support for the JCPOA.

The broader concern is about the future of Europe-US relations. Europeans see the JCPOA as a positive achievement of multilateral diplomacy that is good for Europe's security. It's worrisome that Trump sees it as a major defeat. The statement's signatories are not critics of the U.S. On the contrary, they would like to stop Washington from making a grave mistake that would put Europe-US relations in crisis.

■ Despite the fact that the JCPOA has nothing to do with regional issues, Trump administration tries to tie many ongoing issues in the Middle East to the Nuclear Deal with Iran. Why?

Only the Trump Administration can really answer this. But even at the time the deal was signed, its critics argued that it did not address other issues, such as Iran's ballistic missile program and Iran's regional policy. So the idea that Iran can be forced to change its wider policy if it is pushed harder on the JCPOA, is not new. The basic problem with this approach is that it threatens the existing deal, which limits Iran's nuclear program, and offers nothing but a very vague promise of a 'better deal'. At the same time, past experience shows that Iran is unlikely to give way under pressure from the US.

However, please remember that many signatories of the ELN statement are critical of Iran's missile program and aspects of its internal and external policies, such as support for Syria and Hizbullah. But they believe these matters should be addressed through more diplomacy, not through more threats, and outside the framework of the JCPOA.

■ While the recent IAEA report and trump he himself has confirmed that Iran has met its obligations under the JCPOA, the white House 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. And also 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 is Trump Administration after, in fact?

President Trump clearly thinks that the JCPOA was a one-sided deal, in which only Iran benefited and the U.S. got little in return. This mis-represents the JCPOA, in which all sides - including Iran - made concessions and offered compromises. The basic question in Europe is currently not whether a "better" deal is possible, but rather whether all sides comply with the deal as it is. At this point, it seems there are

no compliance issues which cannot be addressed through JCPOA mechanisms.

But the deeper issue is the profound lack of trust between the United States and Iran. It is hard for some Americans to believe that the deal is not an Iranian "trick". For many Americans the problem is not the JCPOA as such, or access to particular sites, but rather the Iranian external policy or even the existence of the Islamic Republic as such. I assume the Trump Administration's ultimate aim is to pressure Iran into changing its overall policy, and criticism of JCPOA is just one element of this approach. That policy has support from the Israeli government and some Arab states, but there is little willingness in Europe and Russia to play along.

■ If the US withdraws from the Nuclear Deal, obviously the European companies and banks won't work with Iran under U.S. pressure even if their governments remain committed to the JCPOA. This won't be pleasing for Iran. Shouldn't European countries provide their companies and banks with necessary guarantees? How can Europeans do this?

This is the situation we also want to avoid, as it would hurt Europe-Iran relations at a moment when they have started slowly to recover. If the U.S. quits the deal unilaterally and in bad faith, it seems likely that European governments and the EU would want to defend European companies and individuals from any re-introduced US sanctions, by providing additional financial guarantees and supporting European companies in any legal actions against them by the U.S. courts. This is a point the ELN statement is making strongly: it is unlikely that the other governments supporting the JCPOA would just accept US actions and comply with new sanctions. We hope we never get to that point.

At the same time, it will be very important that Iran shows restraint in responding to any U.S. actions and coordinates its responses with other JCPOA countries. Any move, for example, to expand nuclear enrichment or limit IAEA access would cause alarm in Europe.

BMI Board Member Expounds on Details of Inking Two Financing Deals with European Countries

Member of the Board of Directors of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) Gholam-Reza Panahi elaborated on the signing and sealing two important contracts in the field of financing banks of the country with the European banks, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Given the above issue, two midterm and long-term contacts were inked with two major European banks of Austria's

Oberbank and Danish Danske Bank, Foreign Exchange and International Affairs Manager of the bank maintained.

It should be noted that the two contracts were negotiated between BMI and two European banks in cooperation with the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran under the strict supervision of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and also un-

folding interaction of the international division of Bank Melli Iran.

These contracts indicate the certainty of foreign financial institutes and banks to the stability, peace and security of economic conditions of the country in the long term, he observed.

Bank Melli Iran has already started its brokerage relationship with Austria's Oberbank and Denmark's Danske Bank

in euro currency, he said, adding: "With its long years of experience, Bank Melli Iran has expressed its readiness to carry out various development, environmental, water management and new energy services wholeheartedly."

In the end, he said: "Relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God, the bank will take more giant strides in materializing most of its objectives."

Hungarian Government Backs Joint Production of Intercity Buses "IKARUS" in Iran Wholeheartedly

In a meeting held with the chief executive of Shahr Industries and Mines Development Group, Hungarian Ambassador to Iran Janusz Kovac said: "Hungary is ready to manufacture intercity buses with IKARUS brand in the Islamic Republic of Iran as joint venture (JV), Public Relations Dept. of Bank Shahr reported.

The Hungarian government backs programs and measures taken in line with expanding and increasing mutual cooperation between Iran and Hungary such as signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Shahr

Industries and Mines Development Group and Hungarian IKARUS Intercity Bus Mfg. Company strongly, the ambassador maintained.

Kovac pointed to the high quality of Hungary's IKARUS brand and also capability of its competition with the world's famous and known bus manufacturing companies and added: "We studied that IKARUS Company's productions are fully adaptable with the climatic and geographical situation of Iran."

He termed trade exchanges between Iran and Hungary as "important

and significant" and pointed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) inked between Iran and Hungary in manufacturing IKARUS intercity buses as joint venture and said: "Hungarian Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran will make all its utmost efforts in line with supporting productions of this European company in Iran."

In the end, he added: "Considering the positive cooperation between the two countries in recent years and export of approx. 2,000 buses by IKARUS Company, this industrial and production company is considered as one of



the top four bus manufacturing companies in the world."

Ikarus is a bus manufacturer based in Budapest, Hungary.

Official Reveals Zinc Ingot Production Record in Iran Zinc Mines Development Holding Co.

Managing Director of Iran Zinc Mines Development Holding Company Ardeshir Sa'd Mohammadi revealed the registration of zinc ingot production record in the company and said: "At the unflinching effort of functionaries and managers of Iran Zinc Mines Development Holding including laborers, technicians and different man-

agers in subsidiaries of the Holding, the company is honored to register zinc ingot production record exceeding 8,198 tons in the Iranian month of Shahrivar (Sept. 22), the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

He termed zinc ingot production volume as "unprecedented and unique of its kind" and added: "Ex-

traction of over 8,000 tons of zinc ingot at the unprecedented condition of purity of domestic minerals adds significance of attaining the mentioned record."

In the end, Managing Director of Iran Zinc Mines Development Holding Company Ardeshir Sa'd Mohammadi pointed to the salient achievements

of the companies [such as Bandar Abbas Zinc Production Company with the production capacity of 1,250 tons, Calcimin Company with the production capacity of 3,591 tons and Bafq Zinc Smelting Company with the production capacity of 1,374 tons] in breaking the record of production of zinc in the country.

SAMSUNG Latest TVs "QLED" Unveiled in Iran

With the full transfer of production technology obtained by expert Iranian engineers, the latest version of SAMSUNG's TVs were unveiled in Iran, Public Relations Dept. of SAM Service reported.

With its equipped 900 sales and after-sales services in the nationwide and in continuation of offering special packages to its VIP customers, SAM Service Company will offer special packages to "QLED" customers.

In a special ceremony held at Parsian AZADI Hotel on Thursday Sept. 21,

SAMSUNG Electronics introduced latest TV series of the company especially "QLED" TV.

Given the above issue, SAMSUNG's "Premium UHD" TVs and other models of TVS (UHD) hit the Iranian consumer market.

It should be noted that "QLED" TVs of SAMSUNG have been produced in two models of "Q77F" with Flat Screen and "Q78C" with Curve Display Screen.

For his part, Arian Seif Hashemi Senior Manager of Audiovisual Division of SAMSUNG in Iran pointed to

the unique specifications of "QLED" TVs and said: "In the global market, SAMSUNG has allocated the world's most valuable brand to itself."

Qanadan Marketing Manager of SAM Electronics Company was the next speaker who revealed the full transfer of production technology of TVs to Iran and said: "QLED TVs were produced in industrial and production units of SAM Electronics by expert Iranian engineers."

It should be noted that QLED TVs are produced in SAM Electronics currently with the advanced countries



in the world, he said, adding: "QLED TVs are one of the latest products of the company which will be introduced by the industrious and experienced domestic engineers as guaranteed by SAM Service Company."

German government's hard path after the election

1 → However, there is the possibility of a coalition of Christian parties with the Social Democrats in Germany. In such a situation, we will again see disagreements among German officials over domestic politics, foreign policy, and even economic and social issues. Some critics and analysts believe that the different views of the Social Democratic Party and Christian Democrats will prevent a strong government in Germany. One of the issues that the two main German parties are disagreeing with is the increase in the German military budget.

U.S. President Donald Trump has pushed NATO members to do so. Accordingly, NATO members are required to spend their military budget at a rate of 2% of their gross domestic product. The Social Democrats have a tough position in this regard. During the campaign, Martin Schultz strongly criticized Merkel for silence against the trump pressures.

Thus Merkel's main goal is to form a government in which the Social Democrats are not present. However, it must wait until the official announcement of the results of the election yesterday. Will the election results allow Merkel to do so?

Parties that participated in the election

A look at the parties participating in the election yesterday showed that there is a tough competition between the main parties, even smaller ones, for power. as Telegraph reported, The main parties standing in the election are as follows:

- Christian Democrats (CDU): The leading party in Germany, headed by Angela Merkel. The centre-right group - made up of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) and the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) - they have employment, tax cuts and ongoing public investment at the forefront of their manifesto.

- Social Democrats (SPD): Led by Martin Schulz, the centre-left are vying to make another Grand Coalition to remain in government. The party polled well following the election of their new leader, but then suffered once again in regional polls. The SPD is a traditionally working class party, pledging investment in education and infrastructure, funded by higher taxes for the rich.

- Left (Linke): Led by Sahra Wagenknecht and loosely descended from the East German communists. This small party, often used as a protest vote, is campaigning for a rise in national minimum wage, a rejection of military missions abroad and the dissolution of NATO.

- Green (Grüne): Led by co-chairs Katrin Göring-Eckardt and Cem Özdemir, this party could be the coalition kingmakers. They rely on educated, urban citizens, focusing on the environment, taxes and social policies.

- Free Democratic Party (FDP): Led by Christian Lindner, the party was Merkel's junior coalition party in her second term. It failed to reach five per cent of the vote to allow another coalition in 2013. The party campaigns for tax cuts and to remain in financial markets - particularly within the EU.

- Alternative for Germany (AfD): A right-wing populist party led by Alice Weidel and Alexander Gauland. The party's hardline anti-EU, anti-immigration views have attracted voters from almost all of the other parties, especially among lower income households.

Is the far right flow?

The growth of extreme right-wing votes in electoral polls is another issue to be considered. Extreme right-wing extremists in Germany are growing like other European countries. Germany's right-wing extremist right to parliament will probably come to power after announcing yesterday's general election results. A look at the surveys conducted in this regard suggests that extreme right-wing power has increased sharply.

As Telegraph reported recently, A late surge in support has propelled the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party into third place in the opinion polls with just days to go before the ballot. Last time around the party, fighting in its first federal election, failed to win a constituency outright and fell just short of the five per cent required in order to secure MPs via the secondary proportional representation stage of the election.

This time however they seem guaranteed to win representation in the Bundestag with the latest polling average putting them at slightly over 10 per cent. YouGov's Multi-level Regression with Poststratification model puts them on 12 per cent. Were the AfD to secure a third place finish they could find themselves becoming the main opposition party in Germany if Merkel's CDU/CSU party decide to extend their Grand Coalition with the SPD.

Undoubtedly, neither of Germany's main parties, Social Democrats or Christian Democrats, will be coalitions with the right-wing extremist. However, the overall turnaround of this party to the German parliament reflects the threat that threatens the future of this country. From now on, the German parties will have a difficult way to control the extreme right in Germany. With rising refugee crises in Europe, it is expected to increase the power of the right-wing extremism in Germany again. Facing the party in such a situation seems tough.

→ 13

Unsuccessful operation Amano's career in the third round of the IAEA

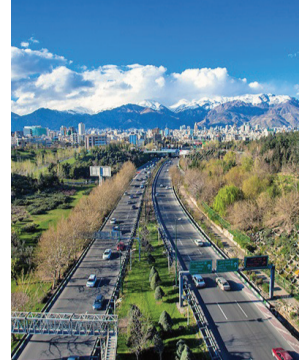
7 → Indeed, why doesn't the IAEA director general seriously challenge the issue of the nuclear activities of the Zionist regime? Even in meetings between Amano and Netanyahu, the prime minister of the Zionist regime has witnessed the soft positions of the Director General of the Agency in this regard. Does Amano want to continue this way? Will he, as in the past eight years, threaten the security of the international community with his political dealings with the United States and the Zionist regime? Undoubtedly, this issue is not acceptable to any of the independent players in the international system, including Islamic Republic of Iran.

Finally, keeping Amano as the head of the IAEA has again taken place with the lobby of the United States and the European members of the Board of Governors. Obviously, the Director General of the IAEA does not have a good record in defending the legal rights of the members of the Agency, and this we will see in the next four years

Tehran air quality best in 3 years

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — Air quality in Tehran was the best in summer 2017 compared to the past two years.

With 81 days of good air quality and only 12 days of light pollution causing discomfort to sensitive groups this summer beats the past two summers in terms of air quality, Mehr quoted Tehran Air Quality Control Company spokeswoman Leila Nazari as saying.



Criteria pollutants didn't emitted into the atmosphere as much this year, Nazari highlighted.

She went on to say that 79 days of good air quality and 14 days of light pollution in the last summer and 73 days of good air quality, 18 days of light pollution and 2 days of heavy pollution affecting all in summer 2015 were reported.

Relatively speaking, this summer holds the record for best air quality so far, she stated.

Never-ending air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises of Iran is nothing new. Although everyone seems to know the causes of the predicament more or less no responsible organization has ever managed to address the issue and mitigating it.

The great number of cars and motorcycles, old clunkers, heavy vehicles of poor standards which mostly operate on diesel engines on one hand and pollutant industries located on the outskirts of the capital on the other hand coupled with poor infrastructure for development of public transport are among the main causes of severe and choking air pollution of Tehran.

Tehraners who may experience better air quality during spring and summer face their worst nightmare during cold, dry, and rainless days of autumn and winter.

Temperature inversion when air pollutants such as smog being trapped close to the ground and form a brownish haze that can cause respiratory problems is now pretty normal during cold seasons in Tehran and the only short term remedial measure the officials have come up with so far is shutting down schools.

With new city council winning the control of the capital and the new Mayor Mohammad Ali Najafi taking office some hope that sensible policies regarding air pollution shake things up.

Iranian kindergartens start 'book reading Mondays'

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Preschoolers at kindergartens across Iran enjoy book reading sessions each Monday during the current Iranian academic year, which began on Saturday.

The program was announced during a ceremony on the occasion of the first day of school year at the Iran Mehr Kindergarten in western Tehran.

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the State Welfare Organization signed an agreement, according to which kindergartens nationwide are to allocate a session to book reading each Monday.

The agreement was signed by the deputy culture minister

Mohammad Solgi and the head of the State Welfare Organization, Anoushiravan Mohseni-Bandpei.

Kindergartens in Iran are under supervision of the State Welfare Organization, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare.

"Today, book reading is one of the main concerns for the Iranian society. We should be aware that book reading help us to teach social skills to children," the culture minister Abbas Salehi said during the ceremony.

He expressed his hope over the effect of regular book reading at kindergartens to make children professional book readers.



Culture minister Abbas Salehi (R) and labor minister Ali Rabiee holding a number of children's books at a kindergarten in Tehran

We have a generational opportunity to trounce the traffickers and smugglers of human misery

I → Last year, the New York Declaration delivered a compelling statement from the United Nations that refugees and migrants need protection and assistance. Nations agreed to return to New York in 2018 to adopt a Global Compact on migration. The Compact will be the first negotiated agreement by governments to cover every aspect of international migration.

Migration is an issue for our times, and there is a real need to go after root causes such as conflict, but we can all agree that refugees and migrants should not be treated like criminals. This is why the Compact can take the lead, and nations can assist by adopting and implementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its relevant protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant

smuggling.

We have the tools to disrupt organized crime networks through intelligence sharing, joint operations, financial investigations and coordination across local and regional borders. But it takes resources and an unyielding commitment.

Criminals are exploiting gaps in our international system that leave people defenceless and vulnerable to violence and enslavement. Our response must be founded on the rule of law; and we need to work together, share responsibility and acknowledge that we can and must do more to stop human suffering.

UNODC promotes a Trust Fund for trafficking victims that has helped thousands of victims become survivors

around the world. Our unique Blue Heart Campaign supports the fund, and is a powerful advocacy tool to shout out the message that we all have to act if the criminals are to be defeated.

Such efforts are vital. In Mexico, UNODC's #AQUIESTOY campaign ("Here I am"), supported by the government, gives voice to victims and shows that trafficking is not happening on some far, distant shore, but all around us.

If adopted in 2018, the Global Compact has tremendous potential to enhance safe, orderly and regular migration and deal a concerted blow against the smugglers and traffickers. This is a generational opportunity to help every human being to live in dignity. Let's dare to seize the moment.

LEARN ENGLISH

Daily Life - Applying for a Visa

A: So, you're applying for a B2 visa, where is your final destination and what's the purpose of your trip to the United States?

B: I'm going to visit my brother; he's just had a baby. He lives in Minneapolis.

A: And how long do you plan to remain in the United States?

B: I'll be here for approximately three weeks. See, here's my return ticket for the twenty-sixth of March.

A: And, who is sponsoring your trip?

B: My brother, here, this is an invitation letter from him. I will stay with him and his family in their home.

A: Alright, tell me about the ties you have to your home country.

B: Well, I own a house; actually, I'm leaving my dog there with my neighbors. I have a car at home, and oh, my job! I'm employed by Tornel as an engineer. Actually, I only have three weeks' vacation, so I have to go back to work at the end of March.

A: And what evidence do you have that you are financially independent?

B: Well, I do have assets in my country; like I said, I own a house, and see, here's a bank statement showing my investments, and my bank balance.

A: I'm sorry, sir, we cannot grant you a B2 visa at this time, instead, you are granted a resident visa! Congratulations, you are the millionth person to apply for a visa! You win! Congratulations!

Key Vocabulary

remain: stay

approximately: an amount that is almost, but not exact

sponsor: someone who takes the responsibility for a person applying for a visa

invitation letter: a formal letter asking a person to come to a place

tie: responsibility that links a person to a place or a thing

evidence: something that shows the thing is true

financially independent: have enough money to live alone; do not need help with money

assets: things that are worth money that you own

grant: let you have something

Supplementary Vocabulary

visa officer: a person who's job is to interview people for visas

resident permit: an official document that allows you to live in a country

embassy: the group of people who represent your country in another country, located in the capital city

application form: a piece of paper you have to put information on to make a formal request

consulate: government building representing your country in another country; not located in a capital city

(Source: irlanguage.com)



New school year cherishes working children

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Sobh-e Rooyesh, a school for working children in Tehran, welcomed students on the first day of the school year on Saturday.

The school, which is the first of its kind in Iran, has been established for school-aged children who have to work to earn money for their families.

Sobh-e Rooyesh started activity in 2014 at Harandi neighborhood, downtown Tehran, and now over 450 boys and girls are studying at the school in different grades.

The school holds some workshops to teach different social skills to the students on the sidelines of its educational program.

According to a study conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), children from poor households and from households without a formally educated household head are more likely to be engaged in child labor and less likely to attend school than members of rich households and children living with an educated household head.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$6m allocated to improve life for people with disabilities

TEHRAN — The Welfare Organization of Iran has allocated 230 billion rials (about \$6 million) to improve facilities for people with disabilities in the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, 2017, the organization's deputy director Hossein Nahvinejad announced.

"We are planning to make houses and cars of 11500 people with disabilities more appropriate," he explained.

Making cities more accessible for people with limited mobility to have more social activities will inspire them and help them have a stronger presence in the society, he added.

The budget allotted to guarantee enhanced accessibility for people with disability living in urban areas was some 118 billion rials (nearly \$3.4m) for the past Iranian calendar year (March 2015-March 2016).

"We provided facility for houses and cars of 8000 people with disabilities during the past year," he said.

He also said a comprehensive plan on protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is being implemented by the organization.

According to the plan, organizations and municipalities shall find solutions to mobility and accessibility challenges in order to create more facilities for the physically challenged.

The law enforces accessibility improvements for handicapped and wheelchair-bound citizens navigating sidewalks with providing sidewalk installations, repairs and curb cut-ins and handicapped parking availability for proximity to a building's entrance, space for loading and unloading wheelchair equipment.

اختصاص اعتبار ۲۳ میلیارد تومانی برای مناسب سازی مسکن و خودروی معلولان

معاون امور توانبخشی سازمان بهزیستی کشور از اجرای طرح «مناسب سازی خانه و خودرو معلولان» در سال ۹۶ با اعتبار ۲۳ میلیارد تومانی خبر داد و گفت: در سال جاری طی اجرای این طرح مناسب سازی خانه و خودروی ۱۱ هزار و ۵۰۰ نفر از معلولین را در دستور کار خود قرار داده‌ایم که البته در صورت افزایش اعتبار این طرح از سوی سازمان برنامه و بودجه امکان توسعه بیشتر آن را نیز داریم.

حسین نحوی نژاد در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، در خصوص وضعیت عبور و مرور معلولان در جامعه و وضعیت مناسب‌سازی کشور گفت: عبور و مرور آزاد معلولان و حضور آنان در جامعه از انزوای آنان جلوگیری می‌کند و باعث ورود این افراد به عرصه‌های مختلف اجتماعی، فرهنگی، ورزشی و ... و در واقع حضور مولد و پویای آنان در جامعه می‌شود.

نحوی نژاد در ادامه به «طرح مناسب‌سازی خانه‌ها و خودروهای معلولان» اشاره کرد و گفت: در سال ۹۵ با بودجه ۸ میلیارد تومانی این طرح توانستیم خانه و خودروی ۴۰۰۰ نفر از معلولان را مناسب‌سازی کنیم.

وی در ادامه به افزایش ۲۸۰ درصدی اعتبارات طرح مناسب‌سازی خانه‌ها و خودروهای معلولان اشاره کرد و گفت: در سال ۹۶ با ۲۳ میلیارد تومان بودجه در نظر داریم که مناسب‌سازی خانه و خودروی ۱۱ هزار و ۵۰۰ نفر از معلولان را به انجام برسانیم.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Time and tide wait for no man

Explanation: things will not wait for you when you are late.
For example: Hurry up or we'll miss the bus! Time and tide wait for no man.

PHRASAL VERB

Winnow out

Explanation: remove the bad or less satisfactory people or things from a group to leave the best
For example: We've winnowed out the weaker candidates.

ENGLISH IDIOM

Water under the bridge

Explanation: something difficult or unpleasant took place in the past but is no longer important
For example: They had a serious disagreement in the past, but that's water under the bridge today.

Have an idea?
Be in touch!
lifestyle.tehrantimes@gmail.com

Victory against U.S.-Israeli backed terrorists at hand: Syrian FM

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said Damascus is close to victory in its fight against foreign-sponsored terrorism which has wreaked havoc on the nation over the past six years.

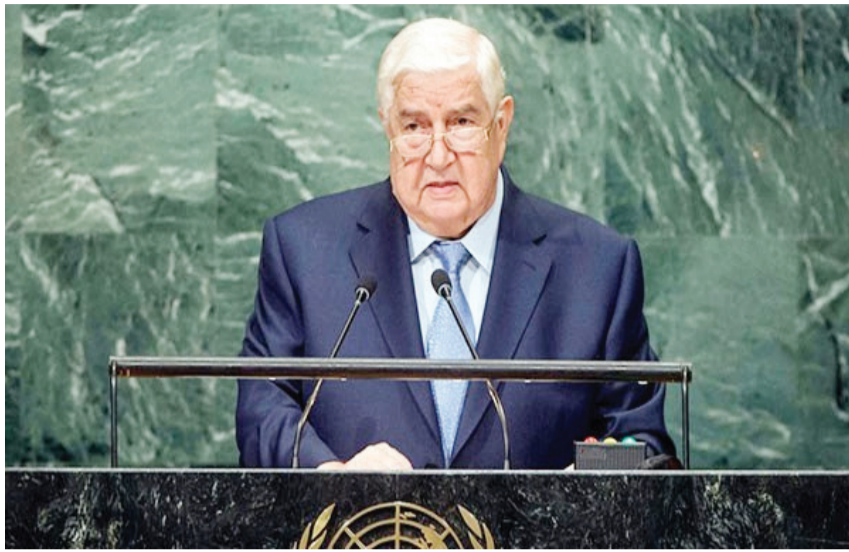
"My country, along with its steadfast people and its brave army and supported by our loyal allies, is marching steadily towards the goal of rooting out terrorism. The liberation of Aleppo and Palmyra, the lifting of the siege on the city of Dayr al-Zawr and the eradication of terrorism from many parts of Syria prove that victory is now within reach," Muallem said in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday.

The Syrian diplomat warned about the spillover of Takfiri terrorism to other parts of the world, calling for concerted effort by the international community to eradicate the phenomenon.

"We must all understand that terrorism and the underlying Takfiri extremist ideology will continue to spread like a tumor throughout the world and wound our own people, unless every one of us demonstrates a genuine will to cooperate to confront it together," he said.

"Every such measure must respect the sovereignty of states and the interests of the people. We must let go of the illusion that terrorism can be used as a tool for political gains and narrow interests," the top Syrian diplomat added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Muallem



slammed Turkey's "aggressive policies" under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan against Syria, noting, "Turkey's positions stand in stark contrast to the positive and constructive role played by Russia and Iran."

He also lashed out at Israel for continuing its "unscrupulous thuggish actions with full impunity" against civilian population in Syria and Palestine.

"Israel did not stop there. It has interfered in the Syrian crisis since its early days. Israel has provided all forms of support for Takfiri terrorist gangs, including funds, weapons, material and communication equipment. Israel has also bombed Syrian army positions to serve terrorist agendas," the Syrian foreign minister said.

"The unlimited Israeli support to ter-

Syrian FM: The unlimited Israeli support to terrorists in Syria did not come as a surprise. After all, the two share the same interests and goals.

(Source: Press TV)

Merkel clinches fourth term

Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives beat their rivals on Sunday to win her a fourth term in an election that will also bring a far-right party into Germany's parliament for the first time in more than half a century, exit polls showed.

After shock election results last year, from Britain's vote to leave the European Union to the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, many look to Merkel to rally a bruised liberal Western order, tasking her with leading a post-Brexit Europe.

She must now form a coalition government - an arduous process that could take months as all potential partners are unsure whether they really want to share power with her.

Merkel's conservative bloc won 32.5 percent of the vote, making them the largest parliamentary group, an exit poll for broadcaster ARD indicated. However, that was down from 41.5 percent in the last election, in 2013.

Support for their closest rivals, the center-left Social Democrats (SPD) which are currently junior partners in a



so-called "grand coalition" with Merkel, slumped to 20.0 percent - a new post-war low. The SPD ruled out a return of that tie-up.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) stunned the establishment by finishing third and entering parliament for the first time with 13.5 percent of the vote.

Merkel, Europe's longest serving leader, joins the late Helmut Kohl, her mentor who reunified Germany, and Konrad Adenauer, who led Germany's rebirth after World War Two, as the only post-war chancellors to win four national elections.

SPD deputy leader Manuela Schwesig said her party would now go into opposition. That would rule out a return of Merkel's existing alliance with the SPD.

An alternative coalition for Merkel would be a three-way tie-up with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the ecologist Greens. That is a combination as yet untested at national level and known as the "Jamaica" option because the three parties' colors are those of the black-gold-green Jamaica national flag.

Both the FDP and the environmentalist Greens have played down the prospect of a Jamaica coalition, but as they have been out of government for four and 12 years respectively, they may be lured into an alliance by the prospect of power.

(Source: Reuters)

Trump's UN rant: A stain that must disappear from the page of time

After all, how could Trump speak convincingly about the U.S. being "forced to defend itself" with some 200,000 troops deployed in 177 countries around the world, and over 60,000 U.S. troops stationed within a 1300 kilometer radius of Pyongyang alone. Not until Washington calls back all its armed forces and dismantles its worldwide chain of imperial bases could a U.S. politician talk about the need for a defense of the U.S. homeland and be believable.

"Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime." Trump is not referring to himself of course. This insult was directed towards the leader of DPRK, Kim Jong-un, who undoubtedly is well aware of the inevitable result of provoking a war with South Korea or the U.S., which has massively superior military capabilities. Apparently, Trump is oblivious to the fact that such demeaning rhetoric does not help to diffuse tensions. Or perhaps inflaming the crisis is his true intention, or his backers' intention. In either case, the foreign minister of the DPRK, Ri Yong-ho, referred to Trump's threats as "the sound of a dog barking," and said he even "felt sorry" for Trump's mortified advisers.

Then the current occupant of the Oval Office moved on to blaspheme the Islamic Republic of Iran, which, unlike the DPRK, doesn't have a solitary nuclear weapon. In fact, Iran has not launched a war of aggression since Nader Shah invaded India in 1738. Furthermore, Iran has been a continuous victim of U.S. aggression beginning with the CIA-orchestrated d'état in 1953, through the U.S.-backed, 8-year-long war imposed by Saddam from 1980 to 1988 and the downing of Iran Air Flight 655 by an American warship, not to mention all the years of U.S. economic sanctions and efforts at destabilizing the sovereign government since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, with Washington's ultimate goal being regime change in Tehran.

Overlooking these facts or being

unaware of them, Trump proceeded to sound the klaxon to call the world's leaders to their battle stations in preparation for the coming Iranian assault. "It is far past time for the nations of the world to confront another reckless regime -- one that speaks openly of mass murder, vowing death to America, destruction to Israel, and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room," warned Trump, without providing one iota of evidence to justify his lengthy diatribe against Iran.

In rebutting Trump's vomit of vile verbiage before the UN General Assembly, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Hassan Rouhani emphasized, "We in Iran strive to build peace and promote the human rights of peoples and nations." In a clear reference to the repugnant rhetoric employed by the former real estate tycoon turned U.S. president during his rant before the world's leaders, Dr. Rouhani said, "Our discourse is one of dignity and respect, and we are unmoved by threats and intimidation."

Pointing to the foundational flaw of Trump's hyper-nationalistic "America First" policy, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated, "In today's globalized world, peace, security, stability and the progress of all nations are intertwined." Reminding the assembly of global elites of Iran's venerable record of religious tolerance, the President of Iran said, "Throughout its history, Iran has been the bastion of tolerance for various religions and ethnicities."

In direct contrast to the U.S., which exports its cultural tradition of neoliberal economics and cutthroat capitalism at gunpoint, "Iran does not seek to restore its ancient empire, impose its official religion on others, or export its revolution through the force of arms," Dr. Rouhani averred. "We have reached the shores of this side of the Atlantic through Rumi and spread our influence throughout Asia with Sadi."

Interesting that Dr. Rouhani mentioned Sadi, the 13th century Iranian

poet best known for his works "Gulistan" and "Bustan", for one of his poems, *Bani Adam*, stands near the gate of the United Nations building entrance. Particularly in view of Trump's threatening tirade, it is worth repeating the classic lines written so long ago by Sadi of Shiraz in Iran, the land that invented tolerance and moderation:

Human beings are related to each other, Who, in creation, are of one essence. When, as time passes, one member is afflicted with pain

The other members should not remain unmoved.

If you are without feeling for the suffering of others,

It is not possible for you to be called "Human."

Most likely, Trump was oblivious to the presence of the poem by Sadi at the United Nations. Certainly, he was completely unaware that the Persian word, *ruzgaar*, is found in verses of the Sadi poem in the line, "*cho ozvi be dard aavard ruzgaar*," "When, as time passes, one member is afflicted with pain."

With equal certainty, when Trump spoke of a "reckless regime" that vows "destruction to Israel," he was, or more likely, his speechwriter was, alluding to former President of Iran Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's oft mistranslated and misunderstood statement, "*een rezhim-e eshghaalgar-e qods baayad as safhe-ye ruzgaar mahv shavad*" meaning "This regime occupying Quds (Jerusalem) must disappear from the page of time (*ruzgaar*)."

Here is the same Persian word that

rorists in Syria did not come as a surprise. After all, the two share the same interests and goals," he added.

Muallem criticized the massive human rights violations and destruction of Syria's infrastructure by the US-led coalition claiming to be fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) Takfiri terrorist group.

"It is quite ironic that those are the same countries which are shedding the blood of thousands of Syrians by supporting terrorists, bombing innocent civilians and destroying their livelihoods," he said.

"The so-called international coalition led by the U.S., which was created three years ago to allegedly fight terrorist groups such as ISIL, has killed much more innocent Syrians, mostly women and children, that terrorists [did] and destroyed the vital infrastructure that Syrians have worked for years to build. It has also used phosphorous bombs and other internationally-prohibited weapons before the eyes of the whole world," he said.

Muallem also slammed the "international community's silence" over the crimes committed by the United States-led coalition in Syria and argued that any foreign presence in Syria without the approval of the government in Damascus constitutes an act of "occupation, flagrant violation of ... international law and the UN Charter."

Ansarullah movement mocks Saudi FM's display of pity for Rohingya

Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement has mocked the House of Saud regime's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir's recent condemnation of Myanmar's deadly crackdown on Rohingya Muslims while the Riyadh regime is itself killing Yemenis.

Jubeir voiced alarm over the Myanmar crisis during his address to the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

"My country is gravely concerned and condemns the policy of repression and forced displacement carried out by the government of Myanmar against the Rohingya minority," he said.

Ansarullah spokesman Mohammad Abdulsalam reacted to Jubeir's remarks, saying the top Saudi regime diplomat disregarded his own country's crackdown, Arabic-language al-Masirah television network reported on Sunday.

The Saudi regime-led coalition deserves the Nobel Peace Prize due to its crimes in Yemen, Abdulsalam added, in an apparent dig at Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate whose silence on the ongoing atrocities has drawn international outcry.

On Sunday, five civilians were killed when Saudi warplanes bombed Shada'a District of Yemen's northwestern province of Sa'ada, reports said.

The Yemeni army fired a medium-range Qaher M-2 ballistic missile at a Saudi airbase in the kingdom's southwestern Asir Region on Saturday.

Reports said that the missile had precisely hit the target but Saudi regime media quoted Colonel Turki al-Malki, the Saudi regime-led coalition spokesman, as saying that the Saudi regime forces had intercepted the missile.

Additionally, the Yemeni army destroyed two military vehicles used by mercenaries supporting former Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the northern and southwestern provinces of Jawf and Lahij.

The Yemeni army also launched a mortar attack against a gathering place for pro-Hadi forces in Lahij Province, inflicting heavy losses on the militants.

An armored vehicle, which belonged to pro-Hadi mercenaries, was destroyed in the Sirwah District of Yemen's central Ma'rib Province.

Yemen has witnessed a deadly Saudi regime-led war since March 2015 to reinstall a Riyadh-friendly Hadi and eliminate the Ansarullah.

The House of Saud regime has achieved neither of the objectives despite spending billions of dollars on the war and enlisting the cooperation of dozens of its allies as well as Western countries.

The protracted Saudi regime offensive, which has been accompanied by a naval and aerial blockade on Yemen, has so far killed over 12,000 people and led to a humanitarian crisis and a cholera outbreak.

(Source: Press TV)

German government's hard path after the election

11 →

German-American relations after the election

in recent days, some American media have been analyzing the relationship between Washington and Berlin after Merkel's possible victory, for example, USA today reported:

German media have dubbed the gains by Merkel's Christian Democrats and leading opposition Social Democrats the "Trump Effekt" — broad voter rejection of President Trump and his anti-immigration, anti-European Union and anti-internationalist views. Only 11% of Germans consider the American president trustworthy, according to a recent Pew Research Center survey. Merkel has rebuked Trump's policies on several occasions and called on Europeans to "take our fate into our own hands" because they no longer have a reliable American partner.

Merkel — Europe's longest serving leader — has taken steps in the past year to blunt any anti-immigration backlash by slowing the influx of refugees to appease conservative voters. But she also has strongly condemned right-wing extremism that embraces nativist policies. In the U.S., her victory will disappoint Trump supporters and delight his detractors.

But here's another point: Merkel still has a cautious approach to the trump. This is while the members of the Social Democratic Party have a more determined stance against the United States. Martin Schulz emphasized in the electoral debate that the condition for the participation of Social Democrats in a coalition government with Merkel was a lack of increased German military funding. The Social Democrats intend to resist the pressure of the Trump. This approach is not followed by Merkel. Consequently, Trump does not want the Social Democrats to be in the coalition government of Germany. If the Social Democrats are in power, they will prevent some Merkel's actions in the direction of close relations with the United States. That's what Donald Trump will not want.

The German government's hard path after the election Ultimately, the German government will face a difficult path in foreign and domestic politics after announcing the election results. On the one hand, the German government will face the pressure of Donald Trump in the White House. There are also disagreements among German officials over how to communicate with Russia. On the other hand, the economic crisis in Europe still remains. Germany, as the country that has a major responsibility to tackle the financial crisis in Europe, must continue to insist on austerity policies. An issue that will be contested by the citizens of most European countries. In the social sphere, we will also see an escalation of the asylum seekers' crisis on the one hand and the growth of radical currents on the other. Can the next government of Germany be able to cope with these issues?

Will Germany's position in Europe and the international system grow or weaken over the coming years? This is a question that will be answered in the near future.

Sohrab Moradi breaks 18-year weightlifting world record

S P O R T S Iranian Olympic champion weightlifter **d e s k** Sohrab Moradi broke the longest standing world record in the sport to win gold at the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games on Saturday.

Moradi, who returned from a two-year doping ban to win gold in the 94 kilogram division at last year's Rio Olympics, set a new world record of 413 kilograms for the combined total.

"I have worked very hard and devoted my life to weightlifting, training non-stop three times a day. I allocate my time only to weightlifting, nothing else. This is the secret of my success," he told reporters.

"The world record is the result of these efforts. One of my goals in life was to win Olympic gold because this is very important for every athlete. Another goal was to break the world record and I have done that... it was one of my wishes this year," Moradi told AFP.

The 29-year-old successfully lifted 185kg in the snatch then summoned up all his remaining strength to hoist 228kg in the clean and jerk after failing with his first attempt at 220kg.

His combined lift broke the previous record of 412kg, set by Akakios Kakiavasilis of Greece at the 1999 world championships, held in Athens.

It was the longest surviving world record in the sport after the International Weightlifting Federation twice reset its weight classes in the 1990s in an effort to wipe the slate clean after a spate of positive drug tests in the sport.



German Turkish coach Firat rules out move to Esteghlal hot-seat



S P O R T S German Turkish coach Engin Firat says no Esteghlal official has contacted him so far.

The Iranian Blues are searching new head coach after parting company with Alireza Mansourian last Wednesday.

Mansourian quit as Esteghlal coach after a string of dire results this season in Iran Professional League.

Under guidance of Mansourian, Esteghlal sit rock bottom of the table with five points from seven matches.

"Only some agents called me but

Esteghlal officials have not contacted me," Firat told Tehran Times.

The Tehran based football club have also negotiated with Fatih Terim in the last few days but the former Turkey national football team coach has not answered yet.

Former Bayer Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum, Brazilian coach Sergio Ricardo de Paiva Farias and Italian Walter Zenga are on the list.

Firat has worked in three Iranian clubs, namely Sepahan, Saipa and Gostareh.

Snooker team win gold at Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games



S P O R T S Iran men's snooker **d e s k** team claimed the title of the Ashgabat 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games on Sunday.

The Iranian team consists of Hossein Vafaei, Soheil Vahedi and Amir Sarkhosh defeated their Qatari opponents (Ahmed Saif, Ali Nasser al-Obaidli and Khamis Nasser al-Obaidli) 3-0 in the final match and won the gold medal.

Iran had already defeated South Korea, India, and Afghanistan.

Snooker includes games played on

a table with six pockets. The objective is to score more points than your opponent by potting balls in the correct order from lowest value to highest.

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) kicked off in Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat, on Sept. 16.

The fifth edition of the AIMAG will see a total of 21 sports contested across 15 venues over 12 days of competition.

More than 6,000 athletes and team officials are representing 65 countries.

Iran 7-a-side football team runner-up at IFCPF World Championships

S P O R T S Iran 7-a-side football team won the **d e s k** silver medal at the 2017 IFCPF World Championships on Saturday.

The Iranian team lost to Ukraine 1-0 in the final match at the Stadium Juan Gilberto Funes.

Iran started much better but as always the Ukrainian goalie performed a gorgeous first half that saved his team.

Dmytro Molodstov scored the unique goal that gives the Championship to the Ukrainians.

Iran lost to Russia 6-2 in Group B but defeated Argentina 8-3 and Portugal 3-0 and qualified for the quarterfinals as the second team behind Russia.

The Iranian team beat Brazil 1-0 and advanced to the semifinals. In the stage, Iran defeated England 3-1.



The 2017 IFCPF CP Football World Championships is the world championship for men's national 7-a-side association football teams.

IFCPF stands for International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football. Athletes compete with a physical disability. The Championship took place in San Luis, Argentina from 4 to 24 September 2017.

Football CP Football is played with modified FIFA rules. Among the modifications there are seven players, no offside, a smaller playing field, and permission for one-handed throw-ins. Matches consisted of two thirty-minute halves, with a fifteen-minute half-time break. The Championships were a qualifying event for the 2019 IFCPF CP Football World Championships.

How sport changed Mehrzadselakjani's life

Morteza Mehrzadselakjani had an unusual introduction to sitting volleyball, the sport he helped Iran capture gold in at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games 12 months ago.

"I was sitting at home isolated for five years due to my height until I was invited onto a TV show, and then I was invited to try sitting volleyball," said Mehrzadselakjani, who at 2.46m was the tallest Paralympian at Rio 2016.

He tried out, and the rest is history. He led Iran's tally in the Paralympic final with 28 points.

It has not been smooth sailing as the

outside hitter said he struggled to come to terms with his condition and found living with his impairment tough. However he has now learned to "live together" with it.

Mehrzadselakjani, like many others before him, found sport to be his way of dealing with whatever life threw at him. Before he was diagnosed, he loved playing football and participating in karate.

It is his passion for physical activity that continues to drive the 29-year-old who now calls sport his profession.

Rio 2016 was his Paralympic debut, and Mehrzadselakjani was part of a con-

tinued success for the Iranian men's national team (six gold and two silver medals in eight Paralympic appearances).

"Before I started playing sitting volleyball, people would look at me with open mouths but after joining the sport, and winning a gold medal at the Paralympics, people are now happy to meet me and take selfies!"

Asked on what he wanted to achieve with his new found fame, Mehrzadselakjani was quick to encourage others to get out of their comfort zones and take up sport: "Sport is vital for people with impairments. I was shy and not so talk-

ative, I was afraid to talk at first but my teammates treated me well and supported me. It helps people with disabilities to lift their spirits and also helps develop self-confidence.

"Those who are afraid to try something new shouldn't fear sport, human beings can only continue to progress by adapting to changes."

Mehrzadselakjani assured he is not done competing.

"My main dream is to stand once more on the Paralympic podium," he said.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Greco-Roman wrestling team claims bronze in World Military Championships

PressTV — The national Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team has finished in third place at the conclusion of the 32nd edition of the World Military Wrestling Championship in Lithuania.

On Saturday evening, the Iranian squad stood on the third podium, having garnered one gold and four bronze medals in addition to 54 points.

The Russian Greco-Roman wrestling team finished first with 59 points. The Russian team was followed by the Ukrainian outfit, which accumulated 56 points to be

named the vice champion.

Iran's Mohammad Nourbakhsh overwhelmed his Polish opponent in the final bout of men's 59-kilogram weight class on Friday, and snatched the gold medal.

In the 66-kilogram category, Majid Khalili clinched a bronze medal.

Later on, Afshin Biabangard and Vahid Babaei Jafari added two more bronze medals in the 71-kilogram and 75-kilogram weight divisions.

Mehdi Fallah also clinched a bronze in the

85-kilogram weight category.

The 32nd edition of the World Military Wrestling Championship kicked off in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on September 18, and will finish on September 25, 2017.

The tournament has reportedly brought together 241 athletes from 22 countries, including Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine and the United States.

Ashourzadeh claims bronze at World Taekwondo Grand Prix

Farzan Ashourzadeh of Iran claimed a bronze medal at the 2017 World Taekwondo (WT) Grand Prix in Rabat, Capital of Morocco on Saturday.

In the men's under 58kg competition, Ashourzadeh and Spaniard Jesus Tortosa Cabrera rounded out the podium by sharing the bronze medals.

South Korean Tae-Hun Kim sealed his country's second title by overcoming Carlos Navarro of Mexico in the gold medal encounter.

The WTF World Taekwondo Grand Prix was introduced by the World Taekwondo Federation in 2013 to provide a homogeneous system for qualification to the Olympic taekwondo competitions with four competitions per year in each event.



(Source: Insidethegames)

Women's futsal team loses to Japan in Asian Indoor Games

Iran was defeated against Japan 2-0 in the Ashgabat 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games women's futsal semi-final on Sunday.

Sakata scored both goals for the Japanese team. The defending champion Japan, will face Thailand in the final and Shahrzad Mozafar's girls meet China in the bronze medal match.

Iran, who had more shots on goal with 16 compared to Japan's eight, could not find a way past its opponents, especially goalkeeper Ayaka Yamamoto as Japan held on for victory.

"We really had bad luck. The performance of my players was perfect. We created a lot of opportunities but we didn't score (39 attempts, 16 on target)," said a disappointed Iran coach Shahrzad Mozafar.

"Japan goalkeeper (Ayaka Yamamoto) had a very good day today. Just lack of luck on our side," he added.

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games kicked off in Turkmenistan's capital last Saturday.

More than 6,000 athletes and team officials are representing 65 countries in the games.

(Source: the-AFC)

Iran cruise into final in Ashgabat

Islamic Republic of Iran showed their attacking prowess as they beat Afghanistan 8-2 in the Ashgabat 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games men's futsal semi-final on Sunday.

The defending champions are on course for a fifth consecutive futsal crown after outplaying Abdul Razaq Momrak's men early on, firing six goals in the first half.

Intensity was high from the start as IR Iran got their goals from Abolghasem Orojui in the third, Ahmad Esmaeilpour (fourth), Hossein Tayebidgolgi (eighth), Saeid Abbasi (11th), Mahdi Javid (13th) and Hamid Ahmadidazaj (14th).

Afghanistan responded with two of their own through Akbar Kazemi in the 17th – his 10th goal of the tournament – and Ali Jafari in the 25th to put the score at 6-2 at halftime.

There was no respite for Afghanistan as Shahrzad Mozafar's men piled on more pressure after the break.

Javid completed his hat-trick with goals in the 36th and 37th – to lead the scoring charts with 11 goals.

IR Iran will face the winners of the other semi-final between Japan and Uzbekistan being played later on Sunday.

(Source: the-AFC)

Soccer manager Queiroz loves books and reading

IBNA — Persian interpreter of Carlos Queiroz says Iran's national soccer team manager loves books and reading to the extent that even he motivates others to read.

In an interview with IBNA, Persian interpreter of the manager of Iran's national soccer team Ariyan Qassemi said: "Working with Carlos Queiroz is nothing but pleasure, because he is like a perfect university and I am glad to be with him at different times in a day and have a share of his unique knowledge, by which I do not just mean football and sports – he is interestingly knowledgeable in all walks of life."

"Carlos Queiroz pays great attention to details, and working with him needs extra care. However, learning from him changes the hardships into pleasure. I'm glad to have the honor of working with him," he added.

"Queiroz reads three hours per day and it is not limited to a special area only, but embraces all subjects. It is interesting to note that he is very much interested in Persian literature and occasionally reads the Iranian works which are translated into English. All these features encourage me to say that I have never seen anyone like him who so much loves books and reading," he said.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

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Tehran short film festival unveils official lineup

Films from Iran line up for Vancouver festival

A R T TEHRAN — Five Iranian films will go on screen at the Vancouver International Film Festival running from September 28 to October 13, 2017.



Niki Karimi acts in a scene from "Azar" by Mohammad Hamzei.

"Azar", a debut film by Mohammad Hamzei, "No Date, No Signature" by Vahid Jalilvand, and Abbas Kiarostami's last experimental work "24 Frames" will go on screen in the panorama section of the festival.

"100-Second Red Light" by Navid Zare' and "Life Is Lifeless" by Hawar Rahimi will be screened in the Reel Youth Film Festival section.

Assistant director Kaveh Moinfar makes his own film with "Life without Life"

A R T TEHRAN — Kaveh Moinfar who has collaborated as assistant director in several acclaimed movies such as "Blackboards" and "Journey to Kandahar" has recently made his own film "Life without Life".



Jafar Mohammadi is the producer of the film which is about Satiar, a music teacher whose father is fighting cancer, but amid music and death, life goes on.

Moinfar also worked as an assistant director in "A Time for Drunken Horses", director Bahman Ghobadi's movie that won the Caméra d'Or at Cannes in 2000 and several other awards at international events.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Stand-up comedian Hassan Reyvandi to perform in England

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian stand-up comedian Hassan Reyvandi will give performances in England during December.

Reyvandi will go on stage at the Gracepoint Venue in London on December 17 and then he will perform at the Forum Theater in Manchester on December 18.

British actor Colin Firth gets dual Italian citizenship after Brexit vote

ROME (Reuters) — British actor Colin Firth, who has often played the role of a quintessential Englishman in his many films, has become an Italian citizen, Italy's Interior Ministry said.

"The very famous actor, who won an Oscar for the film 'The King's Speech', is married to a citizen from our country and has often declared his love for our land," the ministry said in a statement.

Firth said he would remain a dual national, adding that his Italian-born wife would also be seeking British nationality.

"We never really thought much about our different passports," the actor said in a statement.

"But now, with some of the uncertainty around, we thought it sensible that we should all get the same," he added, in an apparent reference to last year's British vote to leave the European Union.

Firth has been married to Italian film producer Livia Giuggioli since 1997 and the couple live with their two sons in Britain. Unlike some other EU countries, Italy and Britain both allow dual nationality.

A R T TEHRAN — Twenty-nine movies by filmmakers from 21 countries will be screened in the official competition of the 34th Tehran International Short Film Festival, the organizers announced on Sunday.

"Advertisement" by Timur Ismailov from the Netherlands, "Limbo" by Konstantina

Kotzamani from Greece, "Adaptation" by Bartosz Kruhlik and "Demon" by Piotr Domalewski, both from Poland, are among the films.

The lineup also includes "Andrew" by Tornike Gogrichiani from Georgia, "All That Remains" by Anne-Lise Morin from Belgium, "Bus Story" by Jorge Yudice from

Spain and "Clothes" by Veselin Boidev from Bulgaria.

The 34th Tehran International Short Film Festival will be running from October 17 to 22.

Earlier last week, the organizers announced the lineup for the experimental section of the event. Twelve movies by

foreign filmmakers have been selected for this category.

The festival will also screen 12 short documentaries from international filmmakers. Among the documentary films are "Last Letters" by Nils Claus from South Korea and "Donbass Underground" by Valery Melnikov from Russia.

"Violinist" honored at Japanese festival



Iranian director Mohammad-Ali Talebi (R) and a festival organizer, Masato Nakamoto, pose during the closing ceremony of the Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival in Japan on September 24, 2017.

A R T TEHRAN — "Violinist" by Iranian director Mohammad-Ali Talebi has won the Kumamoto City Prize at the Focus on Asia Fukuoka International Film Festival in Japan.

The film is about Kianush, a teenager who has to make a living as a street

musician. The prize is presented to the second winner of the audience award at the festival, which came to an end on Sunday.

"Bad Genius" by Nattawut Poonpiriya from Thailand won the Fukuoka Audience Award of the event.

"The Lonely Road" named best doc at Jahorina Film Festival



Aziz Mohammadi is seen teaching nomad schoolchildren in a scene from "The Lonely Road".

A R T TEHRAN — "The Lonely Road" by Iranian filmmaker Mohammadreza Hafezi has picked as the best documentary at the 11th Jahorina Film Festival in Pale, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The documentary is about Aziz Mohammadi, a nomadic teacher who tries to help people and students who live in the mountains of the Lorestan

region. "The Lonely Road" won the award for best mid-length documentary at the 10th Cinema Verite, Iran's major international festival for documentary cinema in December 2016.

The 11th edition of the Jahorina Film Festival, which focuses on documentary films on tourism and ecology, was held from September 20 to 24.

Posters highlight eight years of Iranian resistance against Iraqi invasion

A R T TEHRAN — A collection of posters featuring the resistance of Iranians against the Iraqi invasion from 1980 to 1988 is on display in an exhibition at the Art Bureau in Tehran.

Titled "Those Blue Moments", the showcase of the posters has been organized to commemorate the anniversary of the war.

The posters reproduced from the photos of the war also bear poetry of old and contemporary poets selected by Zahir Tavakkoli and Hossein Qarai.

Several cineastes who have collaborated in projects with the central theme of war and resistance were honored on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the exhibition on Saturday evening.

Among the honorees were veteran



Visitors are seen at a poster exhibition titled "Those Blue Moments" at the Art Bureau in Tehran on September 23, 2017. (Mehr/Mohammad Mohsenifar)

actor Ali Nasirian, director Parviz Sheikh-Tadi and producer Mohammad Khazaei, who were presented with awards for their collaboration in "The Emperor of Hell" about Daesh terrorists.

Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian, the director of "The Middy Event", a political drama that features the terrorist atrocity of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization in Iran of the 1980s, as well as Ebrahim Hatamikia, the director of the political drama "Bodyguard", were also honored.

The organizers also unveiled a book of the exhibition under the same title "Those Blue Moments" at the ceremony.

The exhibit will be running for two weeks in Abolfazl Aali Gallery of the bureau.

Russian suspect detained after arson attacks against last tsar film

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A Russian court ordered the detention of a man on Saturday on suspicion of trying to intimidate cinemas into not showing a new film about the country's last tsar, Russia's news agencies said.

Police said earlier they had opened a criminal case following a series of arson attacks in protest over the film "Matilda" by award-winning director Alexei Uchitel.

The film tells the story of a love affair between the tsar, Nicholas II, and half-Polish ballerina Matilda Kshesinskaya, who described the relationship in her memoirs.

Interfax cited the court's spokeswoman as saying the man detained was Alexander Kalinin, leader of a radical religious group called "Christian State - Holy Rus", on suspicion of pressuring the cinemas not to screen the movie. The court ordered that he be held in custody until Nov. 22, without charge.

Christian State vowed to set cinemas on fire if they screened "Matilda" and a series of arson attacks connected with the film have been reported across

the country. "Matilda" is to be released internationally in late October despite protests from religious conservatives who are offended by what they regard as a disrespectful depiction of a man the Russian Orthodox Church regards as a martyr.

Some cinemas have said they will not be showing the film because of threats that they had received.

"A criminal case has been opened in connection with the fact (the cinemas) were forced not to show the film under the threat of violence against the spectators and causing harm and damage to the cinemas' owners", the police said in statement, not naming the film or those detained or charged.

The police opened the case in connection with the arson attacks related to "Matilda", TASS news agency reported, citing a police source.

On Thursday police said they had detained four men, including Kalinin, in connection with an arson attack related to the film. Three of the men had been charged with arson, including their alleged role in setting fire to two cars parked outside the office of



Russian film director Alexei Uchitel looks on during an interview at a studio in Moscow, Russia August 16, 2017. (Reuters/Maxim Shemetov)

Uchitel's lawyer. Other violent acts of protest against the film have included an arson attack on Uchitel's studio and a man driving a car into the facade of a cinema.