



Iran: Nuclear deal will either remain intact or drop altogether **2**



Korean company to invest in construction of 3 wind farms in Iran **4**



Zamani wins gold medal at World Shooting Para Sport World Cup **15**



Photo exhibit explores ordeal of Mosul civilians before liberation **16**

Iraq's Kurdistan controversial secession vote

Unconfirmed reports have surfaced of electoral fraud



Rouhani, Putin, Erdogan, al-Abadi insist on Iraqi integrity

POLITICS TEHRAN — As people in the Iraqi Kurdistan region went to polls on Monday to vote for independence referendum President Hassan Rouhani reiterated Tehran's insistence on the need to protect Iraq's territorial integrity in phone talks with leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iraq.

"Security of the [Middle East] region and Iraq's territorial integrity and national unity is very important and vital to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Cooperation and coordination among the regional countries are very important and effective in this respect," he said in his conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday. **->13**

Trump more likely withholds JCPOA next month: ex-CIA analyst

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Professor Paul Pillar, who was CIA intelligence analyst for 28 years, tells the Tehran Times that "President Trump clearly is searching for a way to get out of the agreement. His objective in this regard has to do with fulfilling his campaign rhetoric and trying to undo another of his predecessor's accomplishments."

Pillar also says states "The topic of inspections of Iranian military sites—a topic that was pushed especially by Trump's ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley--has been intended to give the impression that Iran somehow was violating its obligations regarding such inspections." **->7**

'Women's role not lesser than men's in Sacred Defense'

By Naghmeh Mizanian

TEHRAN — Women's role during the eight-year Sacred Defense, the resistance against Iraq's invasion (1980-88), was surely not lesser, if not further, than men, Shahnaz Ashkian, a female war veteran, said, quoting Imam Khomeini the late founder of the Islamic Revolution as saying.

"At the age of 15, I attended first aid courses and got my father's permission to join defendants of the country

and along with my father and three of my brothers, I headed toward battle fronts," Ashkian told in an interview with the Tehran Times on Sunday.

"I decided to join combatants like any other people of my society who made efforts for defending their country and religion," Ashkian, 51, who is the deputy director of the Foundation for Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values, said. **->12**



ARTICLE

By Abas Aslani
Political analyst

What U.S. really wants from Iraqi Kurdistan

The controversial independence referendum was held yesterday in the Iraqi Kurdistan despite the opposition from central government in Baghdad and international community including neighboring countries. In the absence of major external practical obstacles, rather than mere opposition, the de facto president of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Masoud Barzani, could proceed with his agenda of referendum. However, the transition from referendum to independence can be a complicated process even impossible without an international recognition.

The United States, at times and through statements or phone calls, has declared opposition against the referendum. U.S. presidential special anti-ISIS envoy Brett McGurk and the U.S. Ambassador to Baghdad Douglas Silliman, in meetings with delegations from Iraqi Kurdistan, have rejected the 'ill-timed' and 'ill-advised' referendum in the region.

This comes against the backdrop of some other facts where other American diplomats have been supporting the century-long aspiration of the separation in the region. Former American envoy to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad who has been involved with U.S. policy makers at the White House, State Department and Pentagon since the mid-1980s, has been advising Masoud Barzani on his separation ambitions.

Paul J. Manafort, the former campaign manager for the U.S. president Donald Trump, is another figure who traveled to Erbil to advise the Barzani's allies on the referendum, according to a report by New York Times. Manafort has also agreed to assist with a planned push for Western recognition, after he was approached several months ago by an intermediary for Mr. Barzani's son, Masrour Barzani. **->13**

P4+1, EU would try to do their best to keep JCPOA alive: CARPO chief

By Zahra Khezri

TEHRAN — Adnan Tabatabai, an analyst based in Germany who is the CEO of the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient, is of the opinion that even if the United States quits the nuclear deal with Iran, other signatories will "do their best" to keep the agreement "alive".

The nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was clinched between Iran, the P5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) and the European Union in July 2015. According to the JCPOA, which went into effect in January 2016, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial



sanctions. However, Donald Trump, who is bent to roll back Barack Obama's signature achievements, is inventing excuses to withdraw Washington from the international agreement backed by the UN Security Council.

"My sense now is that the P4+1 and the

EU would try to do their best to achieve that," CARPO chief tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

What follows is the text of the interview:

■ After the inflammatory speech of the U.S. president against Iran, including his attack on the nuclear deal, at the UN General Assembly, is there an expectation of rising tension between Tehran and Washington?

A: The rhetoric between Tehran and Washington DC has already reached a new peak. I do not think the UNGA speech by Donald Trump has raised the bar significantly higher. President Rouhani, while strongly dismissing the remarks made by Trump, did not choose similar rhetoric. **->6**

Iran missile reveal a slap in the face to Donald Trump: website

Just days after U.S. President Donald Trump made harsh statements against Iran at the United Nations, Iran fired off a strong message of its own.

Calling Iran a "reckless regime", Trump said the country "speaks openly of mass murder, vowing death to America, destruction to Israel and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room".

Iran didn't take the comments made during Trump's maiden speech to the UN General Assembly last Tuesday lying down, news.com.au said in a commentary.

On Saturday, defiant Iran said it had suc-

cessfully tested the new medium-range Khorramshahr missile, just one day after being on display at a high-profile military parade in Tehran.

State television carried footage of the launch and in-flight video from the nose cone of the missile, which has a range of 2000 kilometers and can carry multiple warheads.

Trump's UN speech earned a stinging rebuke from Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who tweeted that his remarks had no place in the 21st century.

Iran's missile launch in turn earned further anger from Trump who not only accused Teh-

ran of supporting North Korea but said who the missile could target.

"Iran just test-fired a Ballistic Missile capable of reaching Israel. They are also working with North Korea. Not much of an agreement we have!" Trump tweeted.

Zarif brushed off Trump's threat, saying Washington cannot act alone to end the agreement.

"This is not a bilateral agreement," he told CNN's Fareed Zakaria.

"It's not even a multilateral treaty. It's a Security Council agreement and the United States is a member of the Security Council." **->13**



Wrestler Hossein Elyasi wins silver at AIMAG

Iranian freestyle wrestler Hossein Elyasi challenges Bekzod Abdurakhmonov from Uzbekistan in the -74kg weight category of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games on Monday.

The Iranian freestyler lost to his Uzbek rival 12-6 and won a silver medal.

The competitions got underway in Ashgabat, capital of Turkmenistan last Saturday.

Iran currently sit third behind Turkmenistan and China in the medal table.

Violent crime in U.S. rises for second consecutive year

Violent crime, in the United States of America, including homicides, rose for the second consecutive year in 2016, driven by increases in a few urban centers including Baltimore, Chicago and Las Vegas, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data released on Monday.

Violent crimes increased nationally last year by 4.1 percent and homicides rose by 8.6 percent, one year after violence increased by 3.9 percent and homicides jumped by 10.8 percent. A total of 17,250 people were murdered in 2016, the FBI said.

While crime overall and violent crime remain well below their levels of the 1980s and 1990s, last year was the first time violent crime increased in consecutive years since 2005 and 2006, according to the FBI data, which is collected from local police departments around the nation and released annually.

Police officials and criminologists continue to express puzzlement about the upsurge. There is disagreement not only about the reasons for the increases, but also about how law enforcement should respond and whether the figures represent a blip or the start of a long-term trend. The figures come against a backdrop of steady crime reductions nationally during the last 25 years.

The U.S. President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions have said repeatedly that the nation is in the grip of a crime wave that requires more arrests and harsher penalties, including for nonviolent crimes like drug possession.

Trump, in his Inaugural Address in January, spoke of "American carnage" to describe the nation's rate of killings, and Sessions has directed prosecutors to more aggressively charge those arrested, while blaming illegal immigration for much of the rise in violence. Criminologists, police officials and others who study crime say that is untrue.

The Trump administration's tough-on-crime strategy comes after more than a decade of criminal justice reforms at the federal, state and local levels that have proved popular with both liberals and conservatives. **->13**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rouhani declares anti-U.S. bill

POLITICS TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Monday declared a parliament-proposed bill that necessitates measures against the U.S. government for its misadventures in the region and its support for terrorist groups.

In a letter to the Foreign Ministry, President Rouhani demanded that the ministry takes necessary measures to implement the new law.

The law criticizes the United States for violation of human rights, supporting terrorist groups including Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusra Front and Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK), and supporting Israel's terrorist activities against Palestinians.



Iranian, Russian, Azeri presidents to meet in Tehran

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have exchanged views regarding an "imminent" trilateral meeting between Russia, Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic in Tehran.

The discussion took place over phone, Hamid Aboutalebi, the presidential aide for political affairs, tweeted on Monday.

The official did not provide the exact date or topics of the upcoming meeting.

The presidents of Iran and Russia also discussed the latest regional developments during the phone conversation, Aboutalebi added.



Iran has sped up missile program after U.S. threats: commander

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran has expedited efforts to increase its missile power after threats by the United States, the commander of the IRGC Aerospace announced on Monday.

Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh also said the 13-meter-long ballistic missile, Khorramshahr, can carry a warhead weighing 1,800 kilograms, Tasnim reported.

He added the missile can be used for hitting multiple targets.

The homegrown missile was put on display in military parades in Tehran on Friday and successfully tested the same day.

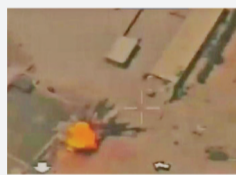


'U.S. created Daesh to impose 30 years of war on the region'

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Baghdad has said the United States created Daesh so that the region "would be at war for 30 years."

Iraj Masjedi said Washington is deeply concerned over the imminent collapse of Daesh, noting the terrorist group has been defeated in Iraq and Syria with the help of the Islamic Republic, the Hamshahri newspaper reported on Monday.

Iran only wants peace and prosperity for neighboring Iraq, he added.



Iran drones destroy several Daesh bases in Syria

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps drones have destroyed several Daesh bases on the Syrian border with Iraq.

According to an IRINN TV report on Sunday, during the IRGC operations carried out in Syria's eastern Dayr al-Zawr province, many terrorists were killed in the attacks.

Large amounts of Daesh weaponry were also destroyed, the report added.

It said the attacks were part of operations aimed at clearing the Syria-Iraq border of the remnants of the terrorist group.



IRGC dismisses rumors of attack on Iraq Kurdistan as mischievous lies

POLITICS TEHRAN — Mohammad Ali Asoudi, the adviser to the Leader's representative in the IRGC, on Monday rejected claims of attack on Iraq's Kurdistan by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Such mischievous lies, told by Western mainstream media, were aimed at marring the IRGC's military drills, Asoudi said, Kiosk Times reported.

Iran's fighter jets have carried out numerous sorties over the country's western borders as part of joint military drills by the Army and the IRGC which continued for the second day on Monday.

'Iran won't compromise on missile power in volatile Mideast'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, the director of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, on Monday insisted on Tehran's position that it "will take no backsteps" in boosting its deterrence in the volatile Middle East region.

"We will not take a single step back over security or defense... we will develop our defense and missile programs because we are located in a dangerous region and should be able to defend ourselves," Kharrazi said during a meeting in Tehran with Michel Duclos, the director general of France's Académie Diplomatique Internationale.

Kharrazi added that Iran's missile program has nothing to do with UN Resolution 2231.

The resolution endorses the July 2015 nuclear deal between Iran, the European Union, and 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security and Germany).

Kharrazi, who was Iran's foreign minister in the Khatami administration, dismissed commotion over Iran's missile program, especially the launch of the Simorgh satellite car-



rier and the recent unveiling of the Khorramshahr missile. "This missile has nothing to do with United Nations Resolution 2231 because it is not designed to carry a nuclear warhead."

He added that Khorramshahr "purely serves defending Iran's territory in the face of (a possible attack on the country)".

The veteran politician pointed out that the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is a document signed between Iran and the 5+1 group and endorsed by the UN Security Council.

He said if any country breaches the deal, it will have acted in contempt of the ratifications of the United Nations Security Council and an international treaty.

Kharrazi concluded by saying that Iran is nevertheless prepared to come up with any scenario if the nuclear agreement falls apart.

Zarif calls new U.S. travel ban 'offensive'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that new travel ban against Iranians is "offensive".

"Trump's fake empathy for Iranians rings ever more hollow, with his new and even more offensive travel ban against such outstanding citizens," he tweeted.

The Trump administration has unveiled new travel restrictions on certain foreigners from Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen as a replacement to a central portion of its controversial travel ban signed earlier this year, CNN reported.

For the last three months, the administration used an executive order to ban foreign nationals from six Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. unless they have a "bona fide" relationship with a person or entity in the country. Those nations included Iran, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and Sudan.

Individuals with that "bona fide" exception -- such as a foreign grandparent of a U.S. citizen -- can still apply for visas until October 18. After that date, the new restrictions on travel will begin.

Trump's former ban on travelers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen was enacted in March and expired on Sunday evening.

Jets fly over western borders as drills continue

Press TV — Iran's fighter jets have carried out numerous sorties over the country's western borders as part of joint military drills by the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps which continued for the second day on Monday.

Combat aircraft of the Army conducted surveillance and aerial maneuvers as they exercised providing cover for rapid reaction units on the ground, the Fars news agency reported.

The Army is holding its Heydar Karar drills simultaneously with IRGC's Moharram exercises, in which special forces of Iran's ground, airborne and air forces are assessing their capabilities to coordinate operations.

The exercises feature aerial and electronic warfare and testing of drone, armored, rapid reaction, infantry and artillery divisions. The drills are meant to evaluate these divisions' combat readiness, coordination and response to possible threats.

The IRGC's maneuvers, centered in the Oshnavieh border region, include artillery, armored and airborne units.

The country's northwest has repeatedly witnessed incursions by terrorist and anti-revolutionary elements and hence constitutes a focus of the IRGC's counter-terrorism operations. Clashes with PJAK militant groups based in Iraq are a frequent occurrence in the border area.

Iran urges France to join Astana talks on Syria

POLITICS TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said on Monday that Iran will be happy if France joins the Astana talks on settling the long-running Syrian conflict.

During a meeting with Michel Duclos, the director general of France's Académie Diplomatique Internationale, Kharrazi said France has been enjoying influence in the region and Iran welcomes use of such influence to

help bring the warring sides together in Syria.

Commenting on the U.S. position on the region, he said, "The U.S. position is contrary to the realities in the region."

He asked, "How is possible that Iran not play a role in settling regional crises while the country plays an important role in the region and fights against the terrorists?"

Kharrazi who was foreign minister from 1997 to 2005, said that the U.S. opposition to Iran's participation in the process of settling the Syrian crisis is a "dangerous" and

"conspiratorial" policy which proves the U.S. is not sincere in the war on terrorism.

For his part, Duclos said that France is well aware that no solution can be found to the regional crises without Iran's active involvement.

Iran, Turkey and Russia brokered the Astana dialogue on Syria and the first five rounds of the talks were held on January 23-24, February 15-16, March 14-15, May 3-4 and July 4-5.

Tehran: Nuclear deal will either remain intact or drop altogether



POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Monday rejected calls for a renegotiation of the July 2015 nuclear deal, saying the deal will either remain as it is or will cease to exist altogether.

At a press conference in Tehran, Qassemi said all the signatories except the U.S. have voiced support for the nuclear agreement — internationally known as the JCPOA or BARJAM in Persian.

In recent months, U.S. calls for renegotiation of the deal have escalated. President Donald Trump, in his UNGA speech, criticized the accord, calling it "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions" and "an embarrassment."

Qassemi denounced Washington's anti-JCPOA rhetoric, saying Iran has been following up on the U.S. government's lack of commitment to the agreement through the JCPOA joint commission that oversees its implementation.

"Other 5+1 countries have stated their fidelity to BARJAM and wish to see BARJAM moving on the right track," he added.

The spokesman also rejected recent remarks by UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan, who said Iran has violated both the "letter and spirit" of the 2015 nuclear deal.

"Two years have passed since Iran's nuclear agreement with no sign of change in its hostile behavior; it continues to develop its nuclear program and violates the letter and spirit of that agreement," Sheikh Abdullah claimed in his speech to the UN General Assembly.

Hitting back, Qassemi said, "I think some people should keep their noses out of such issues."

Those who speak about the nuclear deal while it does not concern them are probably suffering from certain problems, he added.



INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

Central Bank Of Iran

No. : 96 - K/166

■ **Tender Holder:** Security Paper Mill of Central Bank of I.R.Of Iran.

■ **Tender Subject:** Purchase of 42 Spare Parts for Vacuumatic Counter Machines.

■ **Tender Deposit:** an unconditional and extendable Bank guarantee from Iranian Bank for the amount of 3,200 Euro or 150,000,000 Iranian Rials.

■ **Deadline for receiving tender documents:**

Maximum ten days after second advertisement

■ **How to get document:** Bidder can receive the tender documents by sending their written inquiry to Fax: +981143132566 or sending letter to email address Info@takab-cbi.ir or refer to national_database portal of Iran Tenders Information [http:// lets.Mporg.ir](http://lets.Mporg.ir)

■ **Deadline for submitting offers:**

Maximum until dated 2017 October 06(96/08/15)

■ **Time period of financial offers:**

Maximum Three week after deadline submitting offer

■ **Validity period of financial offers:**

The offers must be valid for ninety days after 2017 October 06(96/08/15)

■ The offers no sign, conditional, altered and the offers that submit after the expiration of the period of bid submission will be considered as null and void.

■ Tender Holder reserves the rights to reject some or all of the offers.

The winner of tender must be submitting an unconditional and irrevocable performance bond guarantee equal to 10% of value of the contract.

■ All the cost of published advertisement must be paid by winner of tender

■ **Place for receiving and submitting tender documents:**

7th km Chamestan Road, Amol, Mazandaran, Iran, Security paper Mill-

Department of the commercial department building

■ **Delivery time:** 4 month after signing the contract for further information, prospective bidder may contact us via the following

Tel:+98 11 43 13 26 30 , 43 13 37 51 - Fax: +981143132588

Web site: [http:// www.takab-cbi.ir](http://www.takab-cbi.ir) - E-mail: info@takab-cbi.ir

Merkel tries to build coalition after vote that puts far right in parliament

Germany's Angela Merkel began the tough task of trying to build a government on Monday after securing a fourth term as chancellor, urging the center-left Social Democrats not the shut the door on a re-run of their "grand coalition."

Damaged by her decision two years ago to allow more than one million migrants into Germany, Merkel's conservative bloc secured 33 percent of the vote, losing 8.5 points -- its lowest level since 1949. Her coalition partners, the center-left Social Democrats, also slumped and said they would go into opposition.

Voters flocked to the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD), the first far-right party to enter the German parliament in more than half a century. However, the AfD hardly had time to savor its third-place showing before it fell into internal bickering.

Many Germans see the rise of the AfD as a similar rejection of the status quo as votes for Brexit and the United States Presidents Donald Trump last year. But Germany's political center held up better than in Britain and the U.S. as more voters have benefited from globalization and most shun the country's extremist past.

Merkel's party remained the biggest parliamentary bloc and Europe's most powerful leader sought to keep her coalition options open on Monday, saying she would start talks with the Free Democrats (FDP) and the Greens as well as the SPD. SPD Leader Martin Schulz said earlier his party had no choice but to go into opposition "to defend democracy against those who question it and attack it," after dropping to a post-war low of



20.5 percent. "I heard the SPD's words, nevertheless we should remain in contact," Merkel told a news conference. "I think all parties have a responsibility to ensure that there will be a stable government."

Merkel made clear she still intended to serve a full four years as chancellor. But her next coalition could be her toughest yet with her only remaining potential partners, the business-friendly FDP and the pro-regulation Greens, at odds on issues from migrants to tax, the environment and Europe.

The FDP's Leader Christian Lindner set the stage for tricky talks, saying his party would not agree to a coalition with the conservatives and the Greens,

dubbed "Jamaica" because the parties' colors mirror the country's flag, at any price.

He said changes were needed in Germany's energy policy and its stance on euro zone fiscal policy. But he struck a more conciliatory tone on Europe, saying Germany had an interest in a strong France.

The Greens set out climate change, Europe and social justice as their priorities in any coalition talks.

The emergence of the Greens as powerbrokers in any coalition weighed on markets. Shares in carmaker BMW were down 0.2 percent, while those in automotive supplier Continental dropped 0.4 percent. RWE -- which op-

erates 15.25 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired plants in Germany, 38 percent of its total European capacity -- fell 4.6 percent to a six-week low.

The party campaigned to ban the sale of new combustion-engine cars from 2030 and are calling for a quick phase-out of coal power plants.

Many Germans were alarmed by the rise of AfD who the foreign minister likened to Nazis. Protesters threw stones and bottles at police outside its campaign party in Berlin on Sunday.

But just a day after the election, the AfD showed signs of fracturing as co-leader Frauke Petry, one of its most prominent faces, said she would not sit in parliament with AfD members. It was not immediately clear why she was making such a move.

The election also exposed rifts in Merkel's conservatives, with her allies the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), who face a regional election next year, demanding a shift to the right to win back voters lost to the AfD.

Investors were unsettled by the prospect of a weaker Merkel at the head of a potentially unstable "Jamaica" coalition and also worried that months of coalition talks could distract from talks with Britain over its divorce from the European Union.

The euro and European stocks slipped, while concerns about the emergence of a more hardline stance toward the euro zone in the bloc's largest economy weighed on Southern European government bonds. German business also expressed concern.

(Source: Reuters)

Israel to construct 2,000 new settler units in occupied West Bank

Israeli officials are expected to advance plans for the construction of 2,000 new settler units in the occupied West Bank irrespective of the international outcry against the Israeli regime's land expropriation and settlement expansion policies in Palestinian territories.

An unnamed Israeli official told Israel's Hebrew-language Haaretz newspaper that the plans could be approved within the next week.

The official added that the plans would be advanced right after the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which ends on October 11, in case they failed to proceed next week.

Haaretz noted that one of the few plans expected to obtain the final approval was a plan for the construction of an additional 300 settler units in the Beit El settlement adjacent to the central West Bank city of Ramallah.

Since the inauguration of the United States President Donald Trump in January, the regime in Tel Aviv has stepped up its construction of settler units on occupied Palestinian land in a blatant violation of international law.

Less than a month before Trump took office, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2334, calling on Israel to "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem" al-Quds.

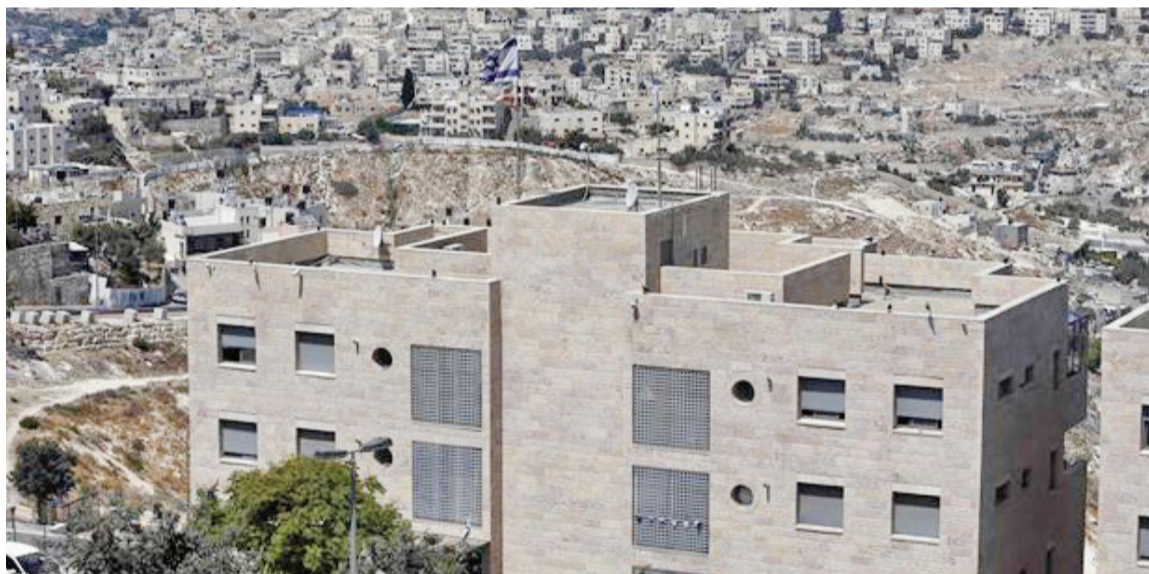
About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Palestinians want the West Bank as part of a future independent Palestinian state, with East al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

The last round of Israeli-Palestinian talks collapsed in 2014. Among the major sticking points in those negotiations was Israel's continued settlement expansion on Palestinian territories.

Trump backtracked on Washington's support for a "two-state solution" earlier this year, saying he would support any solution favored by both sides.

"Looking at two-state or one-state, I like the one that



both parties like. I'm very happy with the one both parties like. I can live with either one," Trump said during a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington on February 15.

■ Palestinian Authority PM to visit Gaza for first time in years

Meantime, Palestinian Authority's Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah will head to the Gaza Strip on October 2 as part of renewed reconciliation efforts with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, which runs the coastal enclave, the Ramallah-based Authority says.

"Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah has decided after consulting with President Mahmoud Abbas that the government will hold its weekly meeting in Gaza next week," government spokesman Yusuf al-Mahmoud said in a statement on Monday.

Hamas said recently it had accepted "key" reconciliation conditions offered by Abbas to solve a 10-year

rift that has left Palestinians divided between two governments.

Hamas has been running the Gaza Strip since 2006 when it scored a landslide victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections, leaving Abbas in control of the autonomous areas of the West Bank.

On September 17, Hamas said it had agreed to dissolve an administrative committee that runs Gaza, invite the Palestinian Authority led by Abbas to return to Gaza and hold new elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The statement followed negotiations held earlier this month in Cairo between the movement's leaders and Egyptian officials.

Hamas has fought off three Israeli wars on Gaza and been managing the coastal enclave's affairs in the face of a crippling Israeli siege.

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. air strikes kill 17 ISIL fighters in Libya

Six U.S. air strikes on an Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group's desert camp in Libya killed 17 terrorists and destroyed three vehicles, the first American attack in Libya since President Donald Trump took office in January.

The United States Africa Command said in a statement on Sunday that strikes on Friday targeted a camp 240km southeast of Sirte, a city that was once the ISIL stronghold in Libya.

The camp was used to move fighters in and out of Libya, plot attacks and store weapons, the statement said. The strikes were carried out in coordination with Libya's Government of National Accord, it added.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the air raids were carried out by armed drones.

The last-known U.S. strike in Libya was on January 19, a day before Trump's inauguration, when more than 80 ISIL terrorists, some believed to be plotting attacks



in Europe, died in the U.S. air strikes on camps outside Sirte.

That attack was led by two B-2 bombers, which dropped about 100 precision-guided munitions on the camps.

ISIL took over Sirte in early 2015, turning it into its most important base outside the Middle East and attracting large numbers of foreign fighters to the city. The group imposed its hardline rule on

residents and extended its control along about 250km of Libya's Mediterranean coastline.

But it struggled to keep a footing elsewhere in Libya and was forced out of Sirte by last December after a six-month campaign led by brigades from the western city of Misrata and backed by the U.S. air strikes. ISIL has shifted to desert valleys and inland hills southeast of Tripoli as it seeks to exploit Libya's political divisions after their defeat in Sirte.

The United Nations launched a road map on Wednesday for a renewed international effort to break a political stalemate in Libya and end the turmoil that followed the country's 2011 uprising.

The United Nations-backed Government of National Accord established under a December 2015 deal never fully materialized in Tripoli, leaving Libya with three competing governments aligned with rival armed alliances.

(Source: agencies)

Trump slaps travel ban on Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela

The United States President Donald Trump slapped new travel restrictions on citizens from North Korea, Venezuela and Chad, expanding the list of countries covered by his original travel bans that have been derided by critics as targeting Muslims.

Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Somalia were left on the list of affected countries in a new proclamation issued by the president on Sunday. Restrictions on citizens from Sudan were lifted.

"We cannot afford to continue the failed policies of the past, which present an unacceptable danger to our country," Trump said in statement. "My highest obligation is to ensure the safety and security of the American people, and in issuing this new travel order, I am fulfilling that sacred obligation."

Iraqi citizens will not be subject to travel prohibitions but will face enhanced scrutiny or vetting.

The current ban, enacted in March, was set to expire on Sunday evening.

The new restrictions, slated to take effect on October 18, resulted from a review after Trump's original travel bans sparked international outrage and legal challenges.

Unlike the first ban - which sparked chaos at airports across the country - officials said they had been working for months on the new rules, in collaboration with various agencies and in conversation with foreign governments.

The addition of North Korea and Venezuela broadens the restrictions from the original, mostly Muslim-majority list.

Critics have accused the president of discriminating against Muslims in violation of constitutional guarantees of religious liberty and equal protection under the law, breaking existing U.S. immigration law and stoking religious hatred.

Trump had called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" during his election campaign.

Speaking on background, government officials said the addition of North Korea and Venezuela demonstrated the measure was set on the basis of security and was not a "Muslim ban", as detractors have argued.

Rights group Amnesty International USA condemned the new measures.

The American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement the addition of North Korea and Venezuela "doesn't obfuscate the real fact that the administration's order is still a Muslim ban".

The National Iranian American Council (NIAC) denounced the new proclamation as "nothing but an extension of the same discriminatory policy first rolled out in January."

"The Trump administration has now taken steps to make its Muslim ban targeting Iranians and other nationals permanent," NIAC said in statement.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments on October 10 on whether the current ban discriminates against Muslims in violation of the U.S. Constitution, as lower courts previously ruled.

Now the nine-justice court could skip deciding the case altogether, legal experts said.

With the travel restrictions expiring, the court has an easy way out because it could simply say the case is no longer a live issue and therefore, in legal parlance, moot.

(Source: agencies)

Jared Kushner used personal email for WH business

The United States President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, used his personal email account on dozens of occasions in his capacity as a senior adviser to the U.S. president to communicate with colleagues in the White House, his lawyer said.

Between January and August, Kushner either received or responded to fewer than 100 emails from White House officials from his private account, attorney Abbe Lowell said in a statement on Sunday.

The use of a private email account to discuss government matters is a politically contentious issue that factored prominently in last year's U.S. presidential election.

As a candidate, Trump repeatedly attacked his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton for setting up a private email server as secretary of state - a decision that prompted an FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) investigation that shadowed her for much of the campaign.

The FBI recommended that no charges be brought against her, but noted she had been "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

In Kushner's case, Lowell said, the emails to and from his private account usually involved "forwarded news articles or political commentary and most often occurred when someone initiated the exchange by sending an email to his personal, rather than his White House, address."

The attorney said Kushner, husband of Ivanka Trump, uses his White House address to discuss White House business and that any non-personal emails were forwarded to his official account and "all have been preserved in any event."

Politico first reported Kushner's use of a personal email account. Citing four officials, Politico said Kushner used a personal server to send messages to senior White House officials and outside advisers about media coverage, planning events, and other issues.

There is no suggestion the emails contained highly sensitive information or were classified, it added, but they could fall foul of the Presidential Records Act, which requires all documents related to the president's personal and political activities to be archived.

Kushner's numerous responsibilities within the Trump administration include brokering peace in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

In addition to the email controversy, Kushner is facing scrutiny over the Trump campaign's alleged collusion with Russia to interfere in the 2016 election, which is the subject of multiple ongoing probes including by independent prosecutor Robert Mueller.

(Source: agencies)

NEWS IN BRIEF



NITC receives 2 certificates from DNV GL

ENERGY TEHRAN — National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) received two certificates from Norway's DNV GL, an international accredited registrar and classification society, NITC's Public Relations Department announced.

The international body, which has 350 offices operating in more than 100 countries, granted NITC ISO 9001:2015 quality management system standard and ISO 14001:2015 environmental management system standard.

NITC, which operates the largest tanker fleet in the Middle East and is ranked the first globally in terms of shipment tonnage, transports Iranian crude and also acts as an independent entity in contracts with foreign concerns for crude oil transportation based on prevailing international freight rates.



Tehran to host paint, resin expo in early Oct.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 17th International Paint, Resin, Coating, Composite and Plating Industries Fair (IPCC 2017) is due to be held on October 6-9 at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRIB news Reported.

Some 260 domestic exhibitors along with 140 foreign companies from different countries including France, China, India, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Taiwan, South Korea, Denmark, The United States as well as Italy, Australia, Sweden, Malaysia, The UAE, Japan, Turkey, Switzerland, Belgium and Belarus are going to participate in this year's event.

Pleased to see high profile projects with Iran: UK envoy

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The ambassador of the UK to Tehran has expressed his satisfaction over signing economic deals with Iran.

"Pleased to see high profile projects between Iran and UK-based companies generating so much interest and supporting," Nicholas Hopton wrote in his twitter account on Monday.

UK renewables investor Quercus has signed a deal worth 800 million euros to build and operate a 600-megawatt (MW) solar farm in Iran, the company said on September 20.

The work located in central Iran is expected to take three years, with the project coming online in 100 MW phases every six months, Quercus said of its first project outside Europe, according to the portal of the Iranian Embassy in London.

The company will be responsible for the construction, development and operation of the plant, for which it will set up a specialist team based in Tehran to help deliver the project, including a head of engineering, financial controller, project coordinator, planning manager and procurement staff.

The project by Iran's Ministry of Energy has attracted enough interest from private and institutional investors, including sovereign funds.

Hamid Baeidnejad, Iran's ambassador to the UK, said the deal with Quercus would support Tehran's goal to become a "major hub of solar energy serving the region and beyond," Daily Telegraph reported.

Hopton said in August that the international nuclear deal between Iran and world powers has paved the way for ties between Britain and Iran to flourish.

Bank of France raises 2017 French economic growth forecast to 1.7%

The head of the Bank of France said on Monday that the country's economic growth could reach 1.7 percent for 2017, up from its previous estimate for growth of 1.4 percent. Bank of France governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau made the forecast in an interview published on Monday in regional newspaper Midi Libre, in which he highlighted the importance of economic reforms for the country. "The economic recovery cannot be doubted.



It is happening throughout Europe, including France. However, in our country, growth is not yet strong enough," said Villeroy de Galhau. "This year, it could reach 1.7 percent. That would still put it below the average for the euro zone, which stands at over 2 percent. This underperformance highlights one imperative – we must take advantage of the recovery to step up reforms in France, so that we can bring up our growth level to that of our European neighbours, who have succeeded in this area," he added.

The updated forecast from the head of the Bank of France brings it into line with similar estimates on French economic growth for 2017 from the government, while the OECD this month also moved up its forecast for France's 2017 economic growth to 1.7 percent from 1.3 percent previously. (Source: Reuters)

Iranian condensate exports to Asia set to remain strong in Q4

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iranian gas condensate exports to Asia are expected to remain strong for the rest of the year as South Korea eyes 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) of South Pars condensate in Q4, Platts quoted two sources with close knowledge of Iran-South Korea term deals.

According to the report, Hanwha Total Petrochemicals has been consistently receiving 100,000-120,000 b/d of South Pars condensate to date this year, and the growing popularity of U.S. Eagle Ford condensate is unlikely to alter South Korea's preference for Iranian supply.

"U.S. condensate is hot property this year but, so what? South Pars is still cheaper delivered and the sheer volume can never be matched," the Seoul-based source said.

Iran has shipped more than 500,000 bpd of ultra-light crude to Asia in 2017.

Most of Asian end-users eye naphtha-rich Iranian condensate for its competitive price since South Pars condensate still seen cheaper than rival Qatari grades.

Regional condensate traders said other major North Asian end-users with term purchase agreements, including South Korea's SK Innovation and Hyundai Chemical and Japan's JXTC, may continue to take at least one VLCC each of South Pars every month until the expiry of their 2017 supply contracts.

Iran's return to the international market after the lifting of economic sanctions in early 2016 was welcomed



by various North Asian end-users, and condensate trade flows between Tehran and the Far East will likely remain robust, setting aside any potential supply disruption risks stemming from the recent U.S.-Iran diplomatic tension for now, regional condensate traders said.

Iran plans to keep oil exports at around 2.6m bpd in 2017

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran will maintain its crude oil and condensate exports at around 2.6 million barrels per day for the rest of 2017, Reuters reported on Monday quoting a senior official in National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

"Iran's crude exports won't be affected by Donald Trump's intensifying offensive against the country," Saied Khoshrou, director of international affairs at NIOC said.

According to the official, Iran is currently shipping a combined 2.6 million barrels a day of crude and condensate, and expects to export more at the end of 2017.

The country is "not worried" about its ability to send cargoes overseas to Asia and Europe despite rising tensions with the U.S., he said in an interview in Singapore.



Tehran, Baghdad to ink deal on joint oilfields' development soon: Luaibi

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iraq will soon sign a deal with Iran to jointly invest in two oil fields, Bloomberg quoted Iraqi Oil Minister Jabbar al-Luaibi as saying on Sunday at a news conference in Baghdad.

Earlier in July, the Iraqi minister held a meeting in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, to discuss several issues of common interest including oil and gas fields that border both countries and cooperation on gas, energy, investment, infrastructure, and training.

In the meeting al-Luaibi had



said that Iran and Iraq will sign an agreement in the current year or the next year on producing oil from two joint fields.

Nigeria, Libya should be included in cuts pact: Zanganeh

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said although OPEC's compliance with the deal to reduce output has been acceptable some changes are needed if participants seek to balance the market.

"Firstly, all members should commit 100 percent to the production cut agreement and secondly, the production level of Nigeria and Libya should be brought into consideration," Shana quoted the minister as saying.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-

OPEC producers have cut production by about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) since the beginning of 2017.

Oil prices have risen by 15 percent in the past three months.

Participants have been considering extending the deal beyond the end of March 2018 when it is due to expire.

OPEC members Libya and Nigeria have been exempted from supply curbs as their oil industries recover from years of unrest.

OPEC also let Iran have a small output increase so it could recover market share lost while under Western sanctions.

Korean company to invest in construction of 3 wind farms in Iran

ENERGY TEHRAN — A South Korean company is to invest in construction of three wind farms in the south-eastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, IRIB news reported on Sunday.

As the report said, with the capacity of generating 150 megawatts of power each, the three wind farms are to become the largest ones in Iran.

The project will cost \$330 million and will be completed within the next two years, the report added.

"Implementing this project, South Korea seeks expansion of economic ties with Iran in the field of renewable energies," CEO of the South Korean company was quoted as saying in the same report.

In late July, the former Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian said the country's power generation capacity from renewable sources is planned to increase by 600 MW

by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2018).

Chitchian put Iran's current renewable capacity at 420 MW.

He said since 20 years ago Iran has been planning to increase renewable energy share in the country's basket of energy and renewables account for 12,000 MW out of the 76,000 MW electricity generation capacity of Iran.

Euro, stocks slip after Germany's Merkel hangs on to power

The single currency and European stocks slipped on Monday after the bloc's most powerful leader German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term but faced a fractured parliament as support for the far-right surged.

Investors were unnerved by the prospect of months of coalition talks which could distract from negotiations with Britain over its divorce from the European Union and efforts to integrate the bloc's remaining members.

Political uncertainty also weakened the New Zealand dollar as the ruling National Party won the largest number votes in a weekend election but failed to secure a ruling majority, with a protracted period of coalition building now a possibility.

"Merkel's most pressing task now is not to knit Europe closer together. It's to form a coalition which will prove to be extremely difficult and time-consuming," said Oliver Rakau, chief German economist at Oxford Economics.

The euro slid 0.3 percent to \$1.1918, putting more distance between a 2-1/2-year high of \$1.2092 reached on Sept. 8, when a European Central Bank policy meeting left currency bulls optimistic the ECB would begin tapering its big stimulus



program.

Euro zone stock markets were down 0.3 percent, although falls were more pronounced in Asia where equity markets were hit by concerns over the economic health of the world's second biggest economy China.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was last down 0.8 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 1.3 percent and Shanghai slipped 0.4 percent after a number of Chinese cities rolled out new measures to cool housing prices.

Investor sentiment was also undermined by concerns that China's beefed-up environmental protection could reduce demand, and consequently economic growth. (Source: Reuters)

Japan government keeps moderately upbeat view on economy in Sept.

Japan's government maintained its moderately optimistic view on the economy, signaling that a recovery is broadening and gathering strength even as inflation remains anemic.

In its monthly economic report for September released on Monday, the government also maintained its optimism on consumer spending and exports as domestic and external demand drive growth in the world's third-largest economy.

"Japan's economy continues to recover moderately as a trend," the Cabinet Office said in the report, maintaining the assessment for the fourth straight month.

The government kept intact its view that capital expenditure, exports and output were "picking up," as well as its assessment that consumption was "picking up moderately."

The Cabinet Office report comes after Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda last week expressed confidence in the economy following the central bank's decision to keep monetary policy unchanged.

Recent data on exports, consumer spending, and the labor market have



pointed to an economy growing at a healthy clip.

Analysts expect growth to continue in coming quarters, although inflation has remained stubbornly low, causing some economists to lose faith in the central bank's monetary policy.

Consumer inflation has remained well below the BOJ's 2 percent target despite over four years of massive stimulus. The course of economic policy has also been thrown into doubt as sources tell Reuters Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will soon dissolve the lower house and call a snap election.

Abe's ruling coalition is expected to maintain its majority, but a poor showing at the polls could deplete the government's political capital needed to push through structural reforms.

(Source: Reuters)

Oil hits 7-month high as producers say market rebalancing

Oil prices rose on Monday to their highest in seven months after major producers said at a meeting in Vienna the global market was well on its way toward rebalancing.

The November Brent crude futures contract was up 35 cents at \$57.21 a barrel by 0927 GMT (5.27 a.m. ET), its highest since February 23.

U.S. crude for November delivery was down 8 cents at \$50.58, but not far off recent four-month highs.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, Russia and several other producers have cut production by about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) since the start of 2017, helping lift oil prices by about 15 percent in the past three months.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Essam al-Marzouq, who chaired Friday's meeting in Vienna of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, said output curbs were helping cut global crude inventories to their five-year average, OPEC's stated target.

Russia's energy minister said no decision on extending output curbs beyond the end of March was expected before January, although other ministers suggested such a decision could be taken before the end of this year.

Iran expects to maintain overall crude and condensate exports at around 2.6 million bpd for the rest of 2017, a senior official in the nation's state oil company said, while the UAE's energy minister said its compliance to supply cuts was 100 percent.

Nigeria is pumping below its agreed output cap, its oil minister said.

"On the basis of the current IEA estimates, the oil market is more or less balanced in the second half of the year," said Commerzbank in a note. "For stocks to be



reduced any further, however, the oil market would have to show a deficit, so the optimism appears exaggerated."

OPEC's production cuts have been met with rising U.S. shale oil output, which has tempered the rise in U.S. oil prices relative to the increase in Brent futures.

The discount of the benchmark WTI crude contract to Brent futures rose to \$6.65, the widest since August 2015. This gap has doubled in the last six weeks, as U.S.

crude demand has been undermined by hurricane damage to U.S. refineries.

U.S. energy firms cut the number of oil rigs operating for a third week as a 14-month drilling recovery stalled.

Investors were also eyeing developments in North Korea. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin on Sunday said President Donald Trump wants to avoid nuclear war with North Korea. (Source: Reuters)

Statoil vies for a stake in Abu Dhabi's offshore oil



Statoil ASA is among producers involved in discussions with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. about joining offshore production in the emirate, according to a Norwegian diplomatic dispatch.

"All the major oil companies, including Statoil, are positioning themselves for a cooperation with Adnoc in the offshore segment," Norway's embassy in Abu Dhabi wrote in a message to the Foreign Ministry in Oslo dated Aug. 17, which was obtained by Bloomberg through a freedom-of-information request.

The diplomatic wire made direct reference to an Aug. 7 statement from Adnoc in which Abu Dhabi's state oil company said it was in "advanced discussions with potential partners" for an offshore oil concession that expires in March and will be split into several parts under new terms. Adnoc said at the time that more than a dozen companies were involved in talks, in-

cluding existing concessionaires and new participants, without mentioning names. Existing international partners include Exxon Mobil Corp., BP Plc and Total SA.

Statoil, which has had an office in Abu Dhabi since 2010 to look for business opportunities in the region, has an "ongoing dialog" with Adnoc, spokesman Erik Haaland said by phone. He declined to comment on whether Statoil was involved in discussions over the offshore concessions.

"The Middle-East is a very interesting area for our industry, and one of the most resource-rich areas in the world," Haaland said. "We're looking at a broad range of opportunities."

BP and Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Europe's biggest oil company, declined to comment. Total and Exxon couldn't immediately comment. Adnoc responded to a request for comment by referring to its Aug. 7 statement.

(Source: Bloomberg)

U.S. oil exports to meet 5 percent of non-U.S. global demand by 2022



Crude oil exports from the United States will increase to meet 5 percent of global demand by 2022, as refiners seek more low-sulfur crude to meet stricter rules for cleaner fuels, an executive from Enterprise Partners LP said on Monday.

U.S. oil exports may rise to about 4 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2022, a four-fold jump from this year, said Brent Secrest, a senior vice president at Enterprise Products. During that same period, global oil demand, excluding the U.S., may rise to as much as 73 million bpd, up from 65 million bpd currently, he said.

Demand for light, low-sulfur, or sweet, crude is set to rise as countries push refiners to produce cleaner fuels, as highlighted by the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) new rules to cut the sulfur content in the fuel used in large container ships, or bunker fuel, by 2020.

"The (crude oil) barrels have to clear

across the water ... To the demand in Asia, to the demand in Europe," he told an industry event in Singapore.

U.S. crude oil production has spiked following the higher output of low-sulfur crude from shale formations since the late-2000s, causing a glut in domestic crude supplies. U.S. refiners, however, are geared toward processing denser oil with a higher sulfur content.

Enterprise currently exports around 100,000 bpd of crude oil from the U.S. Gulf Coast, Secrest said.

To ramp up exports, the company plans to increase the loading rates at the Enterprise Houston Midland terminal by the first quarter of 2018 and is looking at stabilizing the quality of Domestic Sweet crude (DSW) exports from its Seaway terminal, he said.

More U.S. oil exports are also expected as U.S. refiners will not change their configurations to accommodate domestic light, sweet crude oil, Secrest added. (Source: Reuters)

Top BP executive warns OPEC needs to prolong oil output curbs

OPEC and its allies need to extend their crude production cuts beyond March 2018 to rebalance the global oil market, a top executive at BP Plc's trading arm said.

"Rebalancing is already on the way," Janet Kong, Eastern Hemisphere Chief Executive Officer of integrated supply and trading at BP, said in an interview in Singapore. But OPEC needs "definitely to cut beyond the first quarter" to bring inventories down and back to historically normal levels, she said.

The view from BP follows a gathering in Vienna by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its partners that concluded with no decision on an extension or deepening of supply cuts. Oil has struggled to hold above \$50 a barrel in 2017 as investors weighed signs of a whittling worldwide crude glut against concerns the U.S. will boost oil production.

Although better known for their oil fields, refineries, and service stations, BP, Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Total SA are also among the world's biggest energy traders. From dealing floors that resemble the operations of major Wall Street banks in cities including London, Houston, Chicago and Singapore, BP has a privileged watchtower over the global oil market.

"If they extend the cuts, yes it's possible" to achieve \$60 a barrel next year, she said. "But it's hard for me to see that prices will be sustainably higher," she added.

'Sell that'

Asked whether she will buy or sell Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, at an average of \$60 a barrel in 2018, Kong said "I will sell



that."

Kong was speaking as the who's who of the oil trading industry gathers in Singapore for the annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (APPEC), a collection of public events, client meetings and evening cocktail parties that serve as a good barometer of the health of the global oil market.

Kong, who became the head of BP's trading arm for a region that stretches from Iraq to Japan in January after a career at China International Capital Corp. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc., painted a nuanced view of the oil market for the rest of the year and into 2018.

On the one hand, strong economic growth is boosting oil consumption well above historical lev-

els, helping to draw down stocks, she said. Demand growth this year will be about 1.7-1.8 million barrels a day, well above the 10-year average of about 1.2 million barrels a day, thanks to growth in both industrialized and emerging countries, Kong said.

The world economy is "almost as good as it gets," with one of the best performances since the global financial crisis of 2008-09. With industrial demand rising, diesel is benefiting the most, she said.

Swimming in oil

For next year, she again anticipated higher-than-normal demand growth of about 1.4-1.5 million barrels a day. OPEC, Russia and other big producers are also delivering on their promises to cut output at a higher compliance rate than expected, she said. Without the production cuts "the world will be awash -- we will be swimming in oil, so to speak," she said.

On the other hand, Nigeria and Libya, both OPEC members, are boosting oil production after output was disrupted earlier this year by sabotage and civil war. "I wouldn't say 100 percent, but they are largely offsetting a lot of the cuts," she said.

Also, U.S. shale producers can boost output quickly next year if oil prices rise above \$60 a barrel, complicating the rebalancing. "That's the interesting thing about shale presence in the world. They are so short-term focused and very responsive," Kong said.

"I don't think you can afford to be super bullish anymore," she said.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Plentiful oil will sustain the age of hydrocarbons

By Nick Butler

Last week, I wrote about the likelihood of a long plateau of oil demand at something around 100 million barrels a day for the next two to three decades. That figure reflects a balance between falling consumption of petrol as electric vehicle numbers grow and continuing increases in demand for diesel for the freight business, aviation fuel and oil for the petrochemicals industry.

The question is whether that demand can be sustained without a damaging increase in price. The answer is yes. There will be spikes and volatility. But even on very cautious assumptions about the availability of new oil supplies there is no reason to fear a sustained upward shift in prices. And if some new research turns out to be true, the recent band of prices between \$45 and \$60 a barrel could represent a ceiling rather than a floor.

Starting with geology, there is simply no shortage of oil. According to the BP Statistical Review, global reserves at the end of 2016 were 1.7tn barrels — double the record in 1980. One can dispute the data from some countries, such as Saudi Arabia, but most of the reserves numbers are genuine, and in many cases understated.

"Reserves" means oil that has been identified and is judged capable of commercial development. Beyond that are resources — oil believed to be in place but not fully appraised or judged capable of development now. For many countries and companies the resource base is significant and will add to availability as technology advances.

The next question is whether the oil can be developed without a sharp increase in costs. The answer here is more nuanced. The majority of reserves are in areas where costs are already low, such as most of the onshore fields across the Middle East. Those areas have infrastructure in place, requiring only limited investment to add in new producing fields.

In addition, significant volumes of reserves and potential resources sit in fields that are already producing. At the moment the average recovery factor across the industry is between 35 and 45 percent. As reservoir management technology advances that will rise, with each percentage gain adding billions of barrels. Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, for instance — which began producing in 1977 and was originally supposed to close down within 30 years — is still producing 280,000 b/d thanks to technical advances that have slowed the decline rate to a minimum.

Optimism on costs is reinforced by the evidence of the last three years. Across the world the industry has responded to a fall in prices of more than 60 percent by reducing costs and applying new technology. Most companies are now viable if prices stay at \$50. The process has been painful but the result is remarkable. A new cost base is enabling a wave of projects to be launched.

One problem remains, however. Much of the reserve base needed to supply a long plateau of demand is located in areas beset by conflict or closed to investment for political reasons. Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela and other significant producing and exporting countries carry a high level of political risk. That is why so many commentators and some in the industry still expect prices to rise as supply comes to depend on high cost areas such as the Arctic.

But that expectation may soon be overtaken by reality. A new study published by the investment research and execution firm Redburn suggests that the U.S. shale business is only in its infancy. Technology continues to advance in drilling, mechanical learning from each frac, the process of recycling water and the improved efficiency of fluid use. These are reducing costs and Redburn boldly suggests these could fall from around \$50 a barrel to around \$25 to \$30. Given the volumes involved, this would set a new cost base for the whole industry.

As Redburn notes, the traditional industry has focused on oil accumulated in reservoirs. The bulk of it continues to sit within the rocks and the shale business is tapping that potential. The Redburn study focuses on the U.S. but technology soon moves globally and if it is right, the potential for shale production from Argentina to China is very high.

The aggregate message is that there is no shortage. Sporadic spikes and volatility will be driven by political instability but demand can be supplied at a relatively high level for many years to come. Oil is not going away any time soon. That will comfort those companies that are unprepared for the energy transition but is more disturbing in terms of emissions and climate change.

David Howell, the UK's former energy secretary, writes in the new edition of his fascinating book on energy policy that there is a fundamental conflict between different views of the energy future — what he describes as the Black and the Green. That conflict will shape the public debate on energy for a long time to come. The age of hydrocarbons is far from over. (Source: Financial Times)

Argus plans to publish Iraq crude prices for destination-free cargoes

Oil pricing agency Argus Media said on Monday it is seeking market feedback to publish prices for Iraq's Basra Light and Basra Heavy crude oil grades for cargoes that do not have restrictions on the destinations to which they can be sold.

Argus currently publishes prices for Basra Light and Heavy for cargoes that are restriction to destinations in Asia.

"While the focus of our quote has from the beginning in 2012 been on Eastern destinations, there is also an interest to learn more about the relative value of the free-destination cargoes relative to those Eastern-destination cargoes only," Alejandro Barbajosa, vice president at Argus Media said on Monday at an industry conference in Singapore.

Argus is also seeking feedback on publishing two sets of Basra crude prices, one for cargoes loading one month ahead and one for cargoes two months ahead, Barbajosa said.

Iraqi Basra crude trades one month later than other Middle East grades, thereby creating a gap in the trading cycles. (Source: Reuters)

Ending violence in Mali starts with building communities

Since 2012, Mali has earned the unfortunate distinction of being the deadliest country for UN peacekeepers and a hub for violent extremists fanning across North Africa. Local groups have joined forces with international terrorist organizations, including a branch of Al-Qaeda, and have seemingly gained strength in a complex conflict that also features dozens of secular anti- and pro-government armed groups.

Mali's current troubles are rooted in a conflict that began in 2012, when long-time separatists led by a subset of the ethnic Tuareg seized control of large swaths of northern Mali, thanks in part to a partnership with terrorist groups and an influx of weapons from Libya. A faction of the military then waged a coup in the capital of Bamako, citing frustration with the government's inability to control its territory, plunging Mali further into crisis. In 2013, multinational and French forces ousted the separatists and terrorists and restored northern cities to the Malian government in 2013, but long-term stability remains elusive.

Despite a peace agreement signed in 2015 by the government and various anti-government armed groups involved in the 2012 uprising, violence persists, as evidenced by the UN Security Council's recent decision to pursue sanctions against those who obstruct the peace deal.

The crisis has not only led to the displacement and suffering of hundreds of thousands of Malian civilians, but it also threatens security both regionally — where violent extremist groups are already waging attacks — and globally. The crisis has created a humanitarian disaster and threatens to destabilize the region, with militant groups taking advantage of the chaos to grow their ambitions beyond Mali's borders, as exemplified in an attack in neighboring Burkina Faso in August that saw suspected terrorists kill 19 people.

While the crisis is a security challenge, its solutions do not lie exclusively in security responses. They are rooted in development. Mercy Corps recently worked with the Malian group Think Peace to conduct research on why youth — who make up a large share of armed group members — engage in violence in Mali and what can be done to improve the chances that peace finally takes hold. Conversations between Mercy Corps researchers and young people, including 71 members of diverse armed groups, revealed that violence persists largely because too many communities feel unsafe, neglected by their government, or mistreated by authorities — or all three.

The majority of fighters we spoke with — from pro-government, anti-government, and violent extremist groups — shared reasons for joining armed groups that were rooted in community concerns, rather than individual motivations like personal ideology, religious beliefs or household poverty.

Communities have often encouraged and supported youth participation in these armed groups because they feel the government is leaving their communities behind, such as those in northern Mali, an arid region long blighted by security problems. One young man from an opposition group in the Timbuktu region said: "The government does not exist in the far north. Simply go to the desert to see this absence." Others describe abuse at the hands of the military or experiences on the wrong end of corruption.

■ Conflict zone

These dynamics are clear in the central region of Mopti, an increasingly troubled conflict zone. This is in no small part due to frustration among the Peul ethnic group, who have long complained of extortion by the authorities and discrimination from other ethnic groups. A violent extremist group, the Macina Liberation Front — which has become an attractive alternative to the government for some Peul tired of the government's rules changing on them — has turned parts of Mopti into no-go areas, both for other Malians and internationals. The group recently merged with Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) and other terrorist groups to form an umbrella militant organization that has already launched deadly attacks.

While much global media attention on Mali is devoted to violent extremist groups like AQIM and others, these organizations make up a fraction of the dozens of armed groups in the country. Our researchers couldn't reach youth from all types of violent extremist groups, but for those we did, we did not find any substantial differences in why youth are drawn to violent extremist organizations versus other, secular armed opposition groups.

Young people we interviewed from violent extremist groups are not drawn to violence because of religious conviction — at most a secondary or tertiary factor inducing their participation — but because they are angry about the longstanding neglect of their communities and seek the security that armed groups can offer to their communities.

Reducing the threat of violent extremism in Mali is important — not only for the good of the country, but for global security — but pretending this threat is unique and isolated from the other conflicts driving much of the violence in Mali will keep those responsible for peace from doing the hard work required to make that possible.

To reduce the ranks of armed groups and help Mali achieve lasting peace, solutions must go beyond military action; they must address those root causes of participation in violence — all violence. Any approach that prioritizes plucking out the most dangerous youth will miss the broader grievances facing communities. And as long as communities encourage and support these groups, whether in the name of security or justice, then new fighters will always be ready to fill the ranks.

First, the government must change the conditions in which these groups gain community support. This means improving local decision-making processes and building the trust of community leaders, including youth. Communities in the northern and central regions have perceived, respectively, intentional neglect and injustice, and so the government must increase the transparency and inclusivity of its decision-making. Implementing provisions from the peace accord is the first opportunity for the government to practice this inclusivity, but it must go beyond those armed groups and regions included in the 2015 agreement, as the conflict has sadly engulfed more people and places since that time.

(Source: Newsweek)

P4+1, EU would try to do their best to keep JCPOA alive: CARPO chief

Approving Iran as being non-compliant is U.S. difficult task

1 → When looking at international reactions to both speeches we can certainly see Rouhani as being the one speaker who certainly was more convincing to the global audience. This does not necessarily mean the international community agrees with everything Rouhani said. But at least he appeared to be the more reasonable leader.

■ The UN's nuclear watchdog has been repeatedly confirming that Iran is loyal to its commitments under the nuclear deal, however the Trump administration is creating commotions about Iran. What are the motives behind such moves?

A: The roots of the hostility towards Iran brought forward by the White House and other members of this U.S. administration are threefold. First, they do all remember the humiliation of U.S. diplomats right after the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran for 444 days. Secondly, they blame the death of colleagues and comrades at the Beirut bombing in the early 1980s. Thirdly, they accuse Iranian backed forces to be responsible for the death of hundreds of U.S. troops in the aftermath of the Iraq invasion 2003. We may challenge these viewpoints, but it is apparent that these viewpoints are the drivers of anti-Iran sentiments in strategists of the U.S. policy towards Iran. This is the very reason why Iran's compliance with the nuclear agreement is not appreciated in Washington. They do not want to see Iran doing anything right.

■ Doesn't this show that the U.S. is intentionally undermining the UN body as the only organization technically authorized to make comments on a country's nuclear program?

A: The U.S. is indeed putting the authority of the IAEA in question - at least when we listen to the rhetoric of the White House or the U.S. ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley. At the same time, not serious action has been taken yet. Even during her visit to the IAEA, Nikki Haley didn't go beyond statements and remarks. She did reportedly not hand in any form of evidence to challenge

"It appears very difficult for the U.S. administration to politicize intelligence (on Iran's nuclear program) to an extent that they can present Iran as being non-compliant."



the IAEA's reports. Hence, there is no substantial undermining happening - it's so far only rhetoric.

■ In your opinion, what will happen if Trump withdraws the U.S. from the nuclear deal?

A: Let me first say, that I still believe he won't walk away from the deal. Despite his rhetoric he has once again signed waivers for nuclear-related sanctions, as the U.S. is obliged to do under the agreement. I believe, if he was to leave the deal, he wouldn't talk about it so much. Should Trump leave, however, I believe the other parties of the agreement will have a more difficult task in keeping the JCPOA alive in a P4+1 setting with Iran. But given all the remarks from European countries to the EU, to Russia and China and Iran, I believe the deal will be safeguarded ultimately. What needs to be assured is that Tehran feels it is benefiting economically and politically from the agreement. My sense now is that the P4+1 and the EU would try to do their best to achieve that.

■ Do you think some signatories to the deal will follow suit if the U.S. quits the deal?

A: At this point, I do not see any country following the path potentially laid out by the White House. Iran would probably quit at some point if its benefits of the deal are significantly undermined through a U.S.

withdrawal. This will depend on the willingness of all parties to make

sure this deal remains beneficial for all sides - even minus the United States.

■ Given the fast approaching Oct. 15 deadline, the date that Trump has vowed to decertify Iran's compliance with the JCPOA, don't you think Trump's advisors are resorting to bogus intelligence to justify withdrawal from the deal?

A: It appears very difficult for the U.S. administration to politicize intelligence to an extent that they can present Iran as being non-compliant. Apart from all parties of the agreement and the IAEA, even U.S. security agencies - or the so-called deep state - are saying Iran is in compliance. The White House therefore appears to be quite isolated on this issue which makes it difficult to come up with a scenario in which Iran is not in compliance.

■ Why do Trump and his inner circle are ignoring insistence by United States' European allies that Washington should stay in the deal? Does this show that Trump is intransigent and alien to the modern world?

A: The U.S. has shifted to a unilateral approach in foreign policy. "America first" does not allow U.S. policy to be shaped by Europeans or other allies. When listening carefully, one can furthermore detect an explicit disregard for the European Union in the inner circles of the White House. We should therefore be not surprised if not much value is granted to viewpoints from Europe.

■ Will the U.S. achieve anything if it leaves the deal?

A: The U.S. administration may achieve to save its face. Trump has promised to radically change and reverse Obama policies. Leaving the JCPOA, leaving the Paris accord, ending DACA, and challenging Obamacare are all measures against a certain policy conduct in the United States. So, Trump may benefit domestically by showing his voter base he is a man of action. Strategically, I do not really see a benefit for the United States other than having undertaken a policy decision that may end up being to the detriment of Iran - at least in their view.

"Given all the remarks from European countries to the EU, to Russia and China and Iran, I believe the deal will be safeguarded ultimately."

In Germany, a victory for Angela Merkel and populism

As anticipated, Angela Merkel's party came in first in the German national election on Sunday, assuring her of a fourth term as chancellor. That much was foreordained, even if Ms. Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies came in slightly below expectations, with roughly a third of the vote.

Ms. Merkel's bland slogan — "For a Germany where life is good and we enjoy it" — summed up a campaign that promised to continue the reassuring blend of moderation, stability, dignity and determined centrism that "Mutti" (mommy) has steadfastly pursued in an era of extremist politics. It was reassuring, too, for the outside world, in which the chancellor has provided consistent leadership in European integration, compassion toward refugees, liberal democracy and Western values. But in a country where coalition governments are the norm, voting is only the start of a process that can take months before a government emerges. Here Ms. Merkel faces a



formidable challenge.

For starters, for the first time in German post-World War II history, a far-right, anti-Muslim, anti-European Union party — the Alternative for Germany — garnered

enough votes, more than 13 percent, to enter Parliament. That in itself is not surprising at a time when populist parties have made gains across Europe and in the United States. But the emergence of a nationalist party, one of whose leaders thinks Germans should be proud of their soldiers in both world wars, has been a source of distress.

In her victory statement, Ms. Merkel spoke of bringing back the discontented voters who cast their ballots for Alternative for Germany.

Hopefully, that goal — and negotiations with potential coalition partners — will not entail erosion of the values the chancellor has defended in the past. Since accepting more than a million refugees in 2015, Ms. Merkel's government sharply reduced the flow, partly through a deal with Turkey that has been criticized by human rights groups.

(Source: The NYT)

As EU ties chill, UK-Turkey defense cooperation thrives

by Metin Gurcan

At a London seminar at the end of June, a senior British diplomat responded to Al-Monitor's questions about the implications of Prime Minister Theresa May's unexpected visit to Ankara in January 2017 and other overt signs of rapprochement between Britain and Turkey. He started off by saying, "History repeats itself," and continued, "Just as in 1580s, when England and the Ottoman Empire entered into economic and security cooperation against the Catholic bloc in continental Europe, today the same dynamics stimulated the cooperation between Turkey and England."

Defense, the aerospace industry and security are the most visible fields of cooperation between the two countries. May, who on Jan. 28 became the first high-level European leader to visit Turkey after the July 2016 coup attempt, witnessed the signing of a critical 100 million-pound (\$135 million) contract between the British defense and aerospace company BAE Systems and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAS). The two companies will cooperate in developing the engine, avionics, radar and software for the fifth generation TF-X Turkish stealth warplane project.

Turkey has never before developed and manufactured a warplane. Lacking the experience and human resources for such a monumental project, Turkey needs an experienced partner.

With a budget of \$7 billion, Ankara will develop the TF-X at the TAI-TUSAS plant near Ankara that previously worked on F-16s. Planning for the TF-X will be completed

by 2019. The first prototype will be available in 2023 and the planes will start flying for the Turkish air force after 2030. In the long term, the plan calls for production of 250 planes for Turkey and then marketing them to third countries, primarily in Europe.

Defense analyst Arda Mevlutoglu said defense and security cooperation between Turkey and Britain has advanced substantially without much publicity over the past few years. "The most critical element of the TF-X project is its engine. We know that British Rolls Royce has entered into partnership with Turkey's Kale Company for joint engine production," he said.

Defense analyst Hakan Kilic told Al-Monitor that Turkey had first thought of developing Swedish Saab's JS 39 Gripen 5 model as its fifth-generation warplane but had turned to Britain instead. He said, "Today, apart from China's J-20 and J-31, the U.S. F-22 and F-35 and Russia's T-50 and Japan's X-2, there are no other fifth-generation plane projects on the drawing board. When Turkey realized that it couldn't cope with production of a fifth generation by itself, it started looking for partners and Britain emerged as the most acceptable candidate. I think Britain feels that if the TF-X succeeds, then it could be promoted as the European fighter and draw in France and Italy to jointly produce an EF-2000 Typhoon that excludes Germany."

In reality, Turkish-British defense and security cooperation has thrived because of deteriorating relations between Germany and Turkey in these fields.

Representatives of British and Turkish defense industry and aerospace firms

gathered at a reception held by Turkey's EU Minister Omer Celik at Turkey's London embassy on Sept. 11. Both the minister and Britain's Ankara ambassador Richard Moore, who has a significant number of Twitter followers in Turkey, tweeted about the developing ties between two countries.

■ **Aftermath of the July 15 coup attempt**

London has been closely monitoring the aftermath of the July 15 coup attempt and expressing solidarity with Turkey while other European countries remained aloof. Most of the success of this public diplomacy is attributable to the personal efforts of Moore, who is popular in Turkey with his active use of traditional and social media and his witty messages in Turkish, and his staff. Currently the British Embassy's staff in Ankara is the only European diplomatic staff that can appear in pro-government publications and give interviews, while diplomatic envoys of other European countries refrain from such public statements.

The presence of Vice Chief of Defense Staff Lt. Gen. Gordon Messenger at the Turkish Embassy reception also attracted notice. London wants to assist in developing Turkey's newly established National Defense University, such as helping in the curriculum design and starting undergraduate and graduate student exchanges between the two countries. Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of Turkish generals visiting the UK, while British generals have frequently visited Ankara seeking solutions for the Turkish military education system.

The trade fair Defense and Security Equipment International 2017, held in London Sept. 12-15, was another milestone. More than 30 Turkish companies participated in the fair, the highest-ever participation by Turkish companies in a defense industry fair abroad. An address by Turkey's Deputy Defense Minister Suay Alpay on the opening day emphasized the developing cooperation between the two countries and Britain's support for Turkey's efforts against terror and the Fethullah Gulen movement.

Talk of Turkish-British cooperation on the Altay tank engine is also circulating in Ankara. Turkey's 2016 decision to buy the engine from Austria's AVL was scrapped because of political impediments. The next effort to jointly develop the engine with Ukraine's official defense corporation UkrOboronProm also fell through. According to reports in Ankara corridors, with Britain's encouragement, Caterpillar-Europe's Perkins Engines, which manufactures Britain's Challenger 2 tank's engine and transmission, made a presentation to Turkish companies about potential cooperation in Altay tanks.

In a nutshell, despite the conspiracy theories that generally place Britain as Turkey's most sinister enemy, defense-aerospace projects and military/security cooperation are burgeoning by the day. The progress must be attributed to London's skillful analysis of the political and diplomatic realities in Ankara, as well as the political rupture between Turkey and continental Europe, and London's adeptly filling the vacuum, just as it did more than 430 years ago.

(Source: Al Monitor)

More likely Trump withhold JCPOA next month: ex-CIA analyst

By Javad Heirannia

1 → "The Trump administration's rhetoric has not made any reference to the procedures created by the JCPOA for inspections of non-declared sites," Pillar tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview.

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

A: President Trump clearly is searching for a way to get out of the agreement. His objective in this regard has to do with fulfilling his campaign rhetoric and trying to undo another of his predecessor's accomplishments. He would like to be able to say that Iran is not living up to its commitments under the JCPOA, regardless of what the IAEA certifies on this subject. The topic of inspections of Iranian military sites—a topic that was pushed especially by Trump's ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley—has been intended to give the impression that Iran somehow was violating its obligations regarding such inspections. The Trump administration's rhetoric has not made any reference to the procedures created by the JCPOA for inspections of non-declared sites.

■ 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: While Trump would like to get out from the agreement, he is hesitant to abrogate it directly. He is still searching for a way to forward, while continuing in his rhetoric to denounce the agreement. Meanwhile, it suits his purposes to let the controversy string out, which is why he issued the necessary sanctions waiver recently. A more likely way in which he will take a specific step against the JCPOA is to refuse to issue the required certification in October. This would essentially shift the action to Congress and invite Congress to enact new sanctions.

■ 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: I don't believe the Trump administration's strategy will ultimately involve fake documents. A more likely approach is to withhold certification next month, relying on a clause in the governing law that says the president can refuse to certify just because he believes the agreement is not in U.S. national interests, even if Iran is complying with its obligations.

■ If the US withdraws from the Nuclear Deal, obviously the European compa-

nies 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: It is currently uncertain just how hard European governments will push back if Congress and the Trump administration re-impose nuclear-related sanctions and attempt to enforce them against foreign companies. The European governments will be in a difficult situation. They clearly support upholding the JCPOA and have never accepted the extra-territorial reach of U.S. sanctions and how those sanctions affect companies in their own nations, but they also do not want to make their own relations with Washington any worse.

■ 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: As far as the JCPOA is concerned, bringing this topic up is mainly a way of trying to make sure Americans dislike Iran intently and do not support doing any kind of business with Iran. There are genuine issues involving Iranian policies in the region and differences with U.S. interests, but most of the Trump administration's rhetoric does not attempt to make a specific argument that withdrawing from the JCPOA would be of any help in changing those policies.

Instead it is more a matter of sustaining general dislike for Iran at an emotional level.

Far-right maneuvering in Germany

The German parliamentary elections were held and Angela Merkel was able to win the election again. However, Merkel needs to negotiate with opposition parties to form a government. An issue that will once again lead to a coalition government in Berlin. The Social Democrats, Merkel's main contender for the election, said he would not be in a new coalition government. Therefore, Merkel has to negotiate with the Green Party to form a coalition government. However, the main message of the recent election in Germany was the victory of the extreme Right and its passage to Parliament.

An overview of the results of the German parliamentary election reflects the decline in the popularity of the two Christian and Social Democratic parties over the past period. Chancellor Angela Merkel clinched an historic fourth term in Germany's election on Sunday, but her victory was clouded by the hard-Right AfD party winning its first

seats in parliament.

Merkel, who after 12 years in power held a double-digit lead for most of the campaign, scored around 32.9 per cent of the vote with her conservative Christian Union (CDU/CSU) bloc. Its nearest rivals, the Social Democrats (SPD) and their candidate Martin Schulz, came in a distant second, with a post-war record low 20.8 per cent.

Merkel now needs to start talks with other parties to form a coalition government. As noted above, the Social-Democratic Party does not participate in the coalition government this time. The same thing forces Merkel to talk to the Green Party about being in the coalition government.

An alternative coalition for Merkel would be a three-way tie-up with the FDP and the Greens. That is a combination as yet untested at national level. Both the FDP and the Greens have played down the prospect of a 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.

"It will now be much more challenging for her to build a coalition in the first place because she will have to deal with two different parties, with different cultures," Olaf Boehnke, senior adviser at Rasmussen Global, told Al Jazeera. "There is very leftist wing in the Greens party, and there is a very conservative, even close to nationalism, wing in the FDP," he added.

Pointing to the big drop in support for Merkel's Christian Democrats, Boehnke argued that the chancellor was both the "winner and the loser" of the election. "And this also makes here as a coalition partner quite unattractive to her new potential coalition partners because she always manages to ruin them, in a way, as we are now seeing with the SPD," he said.

Merkel campaigned on her record as chancellor for 12 years, emphasizing the country's record-low unemployment, strong economic growth, balanced budget and growing international importance. The election victory sets the 63-year-old on course to match Helmut Kohl's record as the longest serving leader in German's post war history.

What is important today in Germany is the passage of a far-right to parliament. Right now, extreme right has become the third strong political power in Germany. An issue that will be dangerous not only for Germany, but also for Europe. The extreme right-wing movement, with its recent victory, will gather around 90 parliamentary seats to attract more fans. The emergence of security and social crises in Germany and Europe will strengthen this trend.

The party, in response to the European debt crisis that marked the years preceding its launch, challenged German-backed bailouts of Europe's struggling southern economies such as Greece.

The AfD had proved effective in occupying the space left behind by Chancellor Angela Merkel's gradual shifting of her conservative CDU party closer to the political centre ground.

"Merkel has been changing the CDU since 2005, moving it more to the centre. In the years 2005-12, you had people inside the party that were dissatisfied with where she was leading it," Julian Gopffarth, a researcher at the London School of Economics' European Institute, tells Al Jazeera.

The newly established AfD, to the right of Merkel's party, offered an outlet for former CDU members who felt her changes had taken the party too far from its conservative political roots. "When it formed in 2013, offering a potential alternative, a lot of ex-CDU individuals moved over," Gopffarth says.

The move was fueled by the onset of Europe's refugee crisis which, having reached its peak by 2015, provided fertile ground for the AfD to sow their scepticism of multiculturalism. "The refugee crisis has definitely given the AfD a new raison d'être," says Gopffarth.

"The party became big during the euro crisis, but when the media hype around that issue subsided they weakened. They have now gained strength again, campaigning on a fear of Germany's culture being changed [by immigrants]."

Under Merkel's leadership, Germany has opened its doors to hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants, prompting fierce criticism from the AfD leadership, who say her stance has had an unacceptably high fiscal, social and administrative cost.

Debates in the Zionist nest

By Hamed Rashidi

The opposition between the prime minister of the Zionist regime and the security institutions of the regime on the nuclear deal with Iran is still ongoing. In recent days, Western sources have been reporting that these disputes have increased. Netanyahu recently met with United States President Donald Trump in a trip to New York, and has agreed to review joint solutions to nuclear disengagement with Iran. However, a few days before Netanyahu's trip to New York, he stated that Tel Aviv's policy regarding JCPOA was to change the nuclear agreement or to cancel it.



Netanyahu was the main opponent of JCPOA at the time of the conclusion of the nuclear deal with Iran. However, with the arrival of Trump at the White House, the alliance between the United States and the Zionist regime entered a new phase in confrontation with the nuclear deal. Has been, as mentioned, Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu met in New York. The main topic of the visit was to examine legal solutions on how to deal with Iran's nuclear deal. Netanyahu, like Trump, is calling for a change in the content of the nuclear deal and further restrictions on our peaceful nuclear program. In recent weeks, Trump has also welcomed the idea of "discarding or changing the nuclear deal." News sources have said that the Zionist prime minister, in a meeting with President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, has offered a special offer to quit or make basic changes to Iran's nuclear deal.

It should be noted that during the 2012 presidential race, Trump repeatedly called JCPOA a bad deal. He even promised to break the nuclear deal on his first day at the White House! However, the president of the United States, after taking office, found that unilateral breach would be at the expense of Washington and its benefits. As a result, Trump has been in talks with the European Troika (the three countries of Germany, France and Britain) to change the nuclear deal. The recent softness of the authorities of the three European countries over the resumption of talks on JCPOA shows that these consultations are continuing in full swing. Netanyahu is trying to play the role of a catalyst and accelerator in this equation.

Another point in this regard is the confrontation of security devices with Netanyahu in the face of the incident. On this basis, Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and war secretary Avigdor Lieberman believe the United States discarding the Deal would be to the benefit of Israel, but intelligence agencies' experts do not believe in this approach. The differences between the Zionist regime's security and government institutions over cancellation of JCPOA have also been highlighted by the regime's media. According to senior government officials and the Israeli military, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and war minister Avigdor Lieberman disagree with other Israeli military officials on whether they should ask the US to push for the cancellation of the nuclear deal with Iran or not. Netanyahu and Lieberman believe that if the US abandons the nuclear deal, it would be in the interest of Israel, but senior Israeli military officials have a different theoretical viewpoint.


The conflict comes as US President Donald Trump should declare, on October 15, whether Iran is committed to the nuclear deal or not, and should also inform the Congress on this issue. If the United States concludes that is violating the nuclear deal, it would not actually endorse Iran's commitment to this agreement, which most probably results in discarding the deal and subsequently once again, there would be unilateral sanctions on Iran. But it would not be easy to put multilateral sanctions against Iran! In this regard, it is necessary for the United States to gain the agreement of the European Troika (Germany, France and Britain) and, more importantly, China and Russia. In these circumstances, Zionist authorities have announced that Netanyahu and Ron Dermer, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, are urging Donald Trump and his close advisers to confirm Iran's lack of commitment to the nuclear deal.

However, the warnings sent by the Zionist regime's security agencies regarding Netanyahu and Lieberman's counter-JCPOA approach are very serious. Zionist officials in a conversation with Haaretz have stated that domestic discussions in Israel over the fate of a nuclear deal are the same as the discussions within the US government: while Trump has repeatedly said he wants to withdraw from the nuclear deal, some of his senior advisers and cabinet ministers, including Secretary of Defense James Mattis, H. R. McMaster, National Security Adviser and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have been arguing that they are worried that abandonment of the nuclear deal might be to Iran's benefit. Haaretz wrote: They would prefer to focus on measures to confront Iranian aggressive behaviors throughout the West Asia region. One of the Zionist officials says:


"We have disagreements like the US officials. If you ask Netanyahu and Lieberman, they are in agreement with each other, but the security apparatus does not necessarily agree on their views."

Ultimately, Netanyahu, like Donald Trump, hastens to cancel the nuclear agreement or turn it into a very dangerous deal for Iran, but he himself does not know how to proceed on this path! An issue that led to his, and also Avigdor Lieberman' anger and confusion.

First Announcement



N.I.O.C
1396.2939



National Iranian Drilling Company

PUBLIC CALL FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS

TWO PHASES TENDER NO : 5042- 33/6 – P/96 IN SEMI-COMPRESSED METHOD

SUBJECT: PROVISION OF H2S GAZ MONITORING SERVICES

National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) a wholly subsidiary of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) intends to grant the provision of above – mentioned services to a well known and qualified contractor through the public call for Tenderers' pre-qualification & signing the related contract.

A: Brief of the Scope of required Services.
PROVISION OF H2S GAZ MONITORING SERVICES ON BOARD OF THREE JACK UP DRILLING UNITS.
B: Quality evaluation criteria of Tenderers
 1- The Natural / Legal entities
 2- Financial ability for the above- mentioned services and Bank Tender Guarantee in the amount of Iranian Rials Two Billion One Hundred Sixty Three million (2,163,000,000) for Iranian Companies and Euro Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four (54,764) for foreign companies
 3- Planning and technical ability.
 4- Ability for providing the Equipment and Machinery
 5- Necessary experience and knowledge in the respective field.
 6- Company good reputation
 7- Appropriate standby capacity for work
 C: The minimum acceptable quality score is 60.
 D: Tenderers may visit this Pre-qualification advertisement by referring to the National Information Center of the Iranian Tenders (<http://iets.mporg.ir>) with Call code number 1/501/596.
 E: Tenderers may obtain pre-qualification and Tender Draft documents by sending their formal application to the NIDC's Contracts Department
 Fax: +98-61-34148320-1
 Or
 Email: ahkarimi@nidc.ir
 F: All competent tenderers may complete and deliver the prequalification documents to NIDC by handing over them to room 107- Tender Committee – Part B- First Floor- Operational building - Koyee Mellat- Ahvaz - Iran within 14 days from the date of the second issuance of this advertisement
 G: Final Tender documents will be sent to the Emails of the competent and qualified contractors approved by NIDC.
 H. The Tenderers which have more than four active contracts with NIDC, have no right to participate in the present Tender or any other Tenders and submitted pre-Qualification documents and envelopes of the companies which may not have this essential and indispensable condition, will not be reviewed and evaluated and these companies have no right for objection.

Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۷/۴ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۷/۵

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Limited Offer in Aghdasieh
165 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., very nice flat
with good light and perfect
furniture, full fitness equipment, spj
\$2300

*Suitable for Embassy Residents and
Internationals*
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
15th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., excel
lent view, spj, lobby, nice balcony,
gym saloon diplomatic building,
good access to highway
furn & unfurn, **\$7000**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Velenjak
7th floor, 350 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., furn,
lobby, meeting room Tehran view,
big balcony
\$7500 Suitable for Diplomats
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Apt in Farmanieh
210 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn
modern, outdoor pool, garden
\$4500 Suitable for Diplomats
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Limited summer Offer in Jordan
140 sq.m flat Apt, 3 Bdrs., 4th floor
peaceful residency **\$1400**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Villa

Villa in Zafaranieh
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn
renovated, outdoor pool
\$8000

Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Niavaran
1000 sq.m built up, 2000 sq.m
land, semi furn, outdoor pool
green garden, renovated servant
quarter, extra suit with 2 Bdrs.,
\$13000

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Darous
duplex, 1200 sq.m built up, 2000
sq.m land, 5 Bdrs., renovated big
saloon, semi furn, beautiful gar
den, pool, sauna, Jacuzzi
\$17000

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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

Superlux villa in Zafaranieh
2 Bdrs., fully furn, green garden,
outdoor pool, parking
\$4500 Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



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

From Oxford Cert Universal

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

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

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

New Commercial Building
in Saadat Abad
totally around 10000 sq.m built up,
unbelievable building, each floor
1500 sq.m, flat, 180 parking
Suitable for foreign companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Fereshteh
brand-new residential building
with high quality standards, 6th
floor, each floor has 1 unit of 208
sq.m, 3 Bdrs., 3 Bdrs., 3 parking
for each flat, spj, roof garden, furn
& unfurn upon request, whole
building or separate flat
ready to rent
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Whole building in Jordan
each floor 126 sq.m, duplex store
open space, full glass, smart AC
furn/unfurn, storage, 900 sq.m
pkg, suitable for companies
to use as Office
*Each floor available for
Sale & Rent*
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Whole Building in Aqdasieh
6th floor, 12 units, Apts between 170
sq.m to 250 sq.m with 3 Bdrs., spj,
parking, 2500 sq.m built up 700
sq.m land
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Apt in Velenjak
brand-new flat in a garden
85 sq.m, tower, 1 Bdr.
fully furn with sauna, pool &
Jacuzzi, parking & storage
\$3000
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Commercial Building in
Valiasr _ Park Melat
130 sq.m, 3 rooms, almost new
lobby, security, guest parking good
access to highway
full of foreign companies
Price reasonable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
1st floor, 170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., almost
new, fully furn, full of foreigners
Spj, lobby, nice garden **\$2500**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Office in Valiasr
from 250 sq.m up to 7000 sq.m
commercial office, ready for
renting to foreign companies
lobby, parking lot
good access to highway
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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

مالکین محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

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

مالکین محترم

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



TEHRANTIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily
www.tehrantimes.com

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

**FIRST
CHOICE
REAL
ESTATE**



Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does
it better

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

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

ISF-EHSANI Real Estate
IRAN-SARAYE-FERESHTEH

1- 450 sq.m villa, green yard, open pool, fully furnished, duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3
parking lots, located in Elahieh
2- 280 sq.m, modern apartment, in 5th floor, 3 bedrooms, full of light, 2 parking lots,
with full facilities, located in Shemiranat-Elahieh **Ehsan 0912 4388634**

Tel: (021) 22022920 Fax: (021) 26201855
www.maskanfereshteh.com maskanfereshteh@gmail.com
Add.: No. 18, Hojjat Bldg., Sharifimanesh Intersection, Fereshteh, Elahieh



PARSIAN Real Estate

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel: 88510081

Apt Velenjak
240sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, & FF (\$3000)
Kamranieh (\$4000) 3bdrs, S/p, FF
Mahmoodieh (\$5000) 4bdrs, S/p, FF
Cheitarieh (\$2500) 3bdrs, balcony, FF
Farmanieh (\$2800) 3bdrs, balcony, FF
Jordan (\$3000) 3bdrs, balcony
Farmanieh bldg (\$10000)
3storey, 10bdrs
S/p, yard
F.F

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept

Tel:
021 - 430 51 450
times1979@gmail.com

IraniaHOME
Real Estate

SH.LAVASANI
09123103526
Tel: 88888007
Fax: 88675936
www.iraniahome.com
Email: info@iraniahome.com

مالکین محترم: ویلا و آپارتمان مبیل شما
را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها نیازمندیم
AP: 1 to 4 rs, fom1500S
Villa :3 to 7 rs, from 5500S
Building and offices are available

Servcorp Workspace Solutions
© +98 21 7598 1700

- Fully furnished office suites
- Prestigious business address
- Coworking spaces
- Trilingual support team
- Receptionist to manage calls
- 5 star meeting rooms

First Month Virtual Office
FREE!
No further obligations

Levels 7, 8 & 9 Park Building, Kaj Abadi ValiAsr Street, Tehran
Australia Dubai Doha London Tokyo Hong Kong Singapore Paris
30 locations across the MiddleEast, 155+ locations worldwide

7 best foods to nourish dry skin



Dry skin is uncomfortable, especially when braving the cooler months which can be incredibly harsh on our skin. While adapting your skincare routine is important, treating dry skin starts on your plate.

Many of us overlook the role diet plays in keeping our skin hydrated and radiant. There are a wide variety of foods you can easily add to your diet to help with treating dry skin.

The following list includes foods to help dry skin and relieve the discomfort of inflammation.

1. Water

The most obvious place to start is addressing your water intake. Keeping water intake high can prevent your skin from drying out.

Are you drinking 2-3 litres a day? Remember to also replace the fluid lost from exercise during the day. Along with drinking up, you can help your skin by consuming high water content foods like apples, oranges, and cucumbers. You will notice a significant improvement in your skin's appearance through adequate hydration.

2. Fish

Salmon, mackerel, anchovies, and sardines contain good-for-you omega-3 fatty acids, helping your skin hold moisture for a more youthful appearance. They are

also known to prevent inflammation and cancer.

Signs of omega-3 deficiencies include dry skin, so keep your skin hydrated by eating fish throughout the week.

3. Fruit - mangos/papaya/berries

Fruit is amazing for keeping your skin hydrated and youthful. Antioxidant-rich fruits like berries fight free radicals, while mango and papaya are rich in vitamins to keep your

Selenium is not only great for the immune system but it's also crucial in keeping your skin protected against the elements.

skin nourished.

They are also incredibly hydrating as they are high in water content. Citrus fruits are especially beneficial as they help the skin produce collagen.



4. Flaxseed

Flax seeds contain essential fatty acids to keep your skin moisturized and smooth. For the skin moisturizing benefits consume a tablespoon of ground seeds every day, or opt for flaxseed oil if this is easier for you.

5. Avocado

Avocado is rich in vitamin E, antioxidants, and healthy fats that reduce inflammation. This fruit (yes, it's a fruit!) also keeps the skin



An omega-9 fatty acid, oleic acid assists in regenerating damaged skin cells and improves irritation and redness. You can count on this beautiful food to naturally improve dry skin!

6. Orange and yellow vegetables

Orange and yellow vegetables are rich in Beta-carotene, which converts to vitamin A in our bodies. Vitamin A is beneficial for repairing skin damage, and also helps the skin heal quickly. Next time you're at the supermarket pick up some sweet potatoes, carrots, pumpkin and squash, for a skin soothing meal! It's so easy to prepare a soup, or even something delicious like sweet potato fries (go easy on the oil, though).

7. Nuts

Nuts are also rich in vitamin E, and are a healthy addition to your diet to protect your skin from harsh UV rays that can cause dry skin. In particular, brazil nuts contain selenium, a powerful antioxidant.

Selenium is not only great for the immune system but it's also crucial in keeping your skin protected against the elements. An easy way to get your daily intake of selenium is through eating just one brazil nut per day!

Introduce the above foods into your daily diet and you're sure to see an improvement in your skin's health.

(Source: bioeffect.co.uk)

What is strawberry tongue?

If your tongue is swollen and bumpy, you may have a case of strawberry tongue. It's not a condition -- it's a symptom of different conditions or disorders. Your tongue usually appears red, but it can be white. It's also called raspberry tongue.

Causes

Many conditions can make your tongue swollen and bumpy. Your doctor will need to know about any other symptoms you may have.

Strawberry tongue can be a symptom of the following:

- Kawasaki disease: This causes inflammation in some of the arteries in your body. Other symptoms include high fever, peeling skin, rash, and red, goopy eyes. You typically get this during childhood.
- Scarlet fever: When you have strep throat, it can sometimes turn into this bacterial illness. It causes a red rash over most of your body. Other symptoms include red lines in the folds of your skin, a flushed face, high fever, sore throat, and headache. It happens most often to children between the ages of 5 and 15.

- Food or drug allergies: In some cases, strawberry tongue may be a sign that you're allergic to a medicine you've taken or something you've eaten. Fruits and vegetables are the most common culprits. Your doctor can give you antihistamines to help with the swelling and redness.
- Toxic shock syndrome (TSS): It's rare, but this can sometimes cause strawberry tongue. TSS is a life-threatening side effect of certain bacterial infections.

(Source: webmd.com)

The truth about colonic irrigation: It doesn't work



By Paul Cahalan

It had been a steady passage from alternative to mainstream for colonic irrigation -- but that could change after researchers have rubbished the treatment's benefits, and cautioned about its side effects -- including cramps, nausea, vomiting and renal failure.

The process, rebranded from the agricultural sounding colonic irrigation to less intrusive "colonic hydrotherapy", has become less taboo over the last two decades, having become popular with celebrities desperate to lose weight.

During a normal 45-minute session, which currently costs between £60-£90, about 60 litres of filtered water is used to flush the colon, after which users supposedly benefit from increased wellbeing, better skin, smoother bowel movements, and feeling lighter. But a new, comprehensive review of research has chronicled the side effects suffered by some users of "the internal bath", from cramping to renal failure -- when the kidneys fail to adequately filter toxins and waste products from the blood.

Medics at Georgetown University School of Medicine, who examined 20 studies published in medical literature during the last decade, expressed concerns over the treatment's regulation. They concluded, in a paper published in the Journal of Family Practice, that while there was little evidence of the much-vaunted benefits from the treatment, there were "an abundance of studies noting side effects of using cleansing products including cramp, bloating, nausea, vomiting, electrolyte imbalance and renal failure".

The same was true of other less intrusive colon treatments which can be widely purchased on the internet, they said.

The paper's lead author Ranit Mishori, a specialist in family medicine at Georgetown, said: "There can be serious consequences for those who engage in colon cleansing whether they have the procedure done at a spa or perform it at home.

"Colon cleansing products in the form of laxatives, teas, powders and capsules... tout benefits that don't exist."

She added that some treatments had also been associated with aplastic anaemia (where bone marrow does not produce sufficient new cells to replenish blood cells) and liver toxicity.

The doctors also expressed concerns colon cleansing services were being offered at some spas and clinics by operators claiming they are "colon hygienists" but who had little or no medical training.

In the UK, the lead body for colonic treatment is the Association of Registered Colon Hydrotherapists (ARCH), which maintains a register of therapists who have qualified at a recognised training course.

NHS advice states colonic irrigation is still a complementary therapy, and "there is currently no medical or scientific evidence to prove its effectiveness". However, it says, the procedure is usually safe. As colonic treatments are mostly undertaken in private, statistics on the number of users are hard to establish.

Anecdotally, doctors have said patients admitted to hospital following colonic irrigation have been diagnosed with a perforated colon -- obtained during the procedure caused the tip that injects the water or from overpressure causing failure of a weak spot in the colon wall.

Scottish surgeon Sir William Arbuthnot-Lane, who worked at Guy's hospital in London, is credited with pioneering treatment for constipation in the early 1900s.

His work led him to advocate eating fruit, vegetables and bran cereals as a way to control bowel problems. His views were dismissed by doctors and medical authorities at the time, leading him to ask to have his name removed from the medical register in order to promote the New Health Society, the first organised body to deal with social medicine, in 1925 to publicise his views on healthy diet and life.

Dr Mishori added there were other ways to increase wellbeing. She said: "Eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, get six to eight hours sleep and see a doctor."

(Source: independent.co.uk)

"SHAHR" Welfare Complex, a Gem in Northern Iran Special Offer for Travelers Who Want to Enjoy a Trip in Northern Iran

In hot days of summer, travelers, who choose the coastal towns of Mazandaran Province for recreations alongside of the sea with breathtaking views, will experience a memorable days with their families in "SHAHR" Welfare Complex. Travelling to the northern cities of the country and visiting must-see sites and sceneries of the Caspian Sea is one of the first decisions taken by families for summer trips and holidays.

Meanwhile, most travelers prefer to use the coastal waters of Mazandaran Province to make unforgettable memories along with family or friends.

Among coastal cities of Mazandaran Province, Izadshahr is an ideal place for summer trips due to its favorable climatic condition. This city is located at 8 km West of Mahmoudabad and 7 km east of the Noor city in Mazandaran Province.

"SHAHR" Welfare Complex is one of the best welfare and recreational hubs in Izadshahr which is offered to the northern travelers. It has a beautiful residential and tourist area along with all amenities and facilities and can be considered as the most suitable option for staying a few days along the Caspian Sea.

This modern and newly-built complex is equipped with 188 seafront apartment units, constructed in seven floors with a unique view, located in a dreamy town for passengers and travelers special of ESKANO.

All units of this residential and welfare complex are equipped with two- and three-bedrooms, duplex, fully furnished (with stylish and classy furniture). It should be noted that the beachfront terrace has increased the attractions of the surrounding environment to a great extent.

Of the other amenities of this Complex, it should be referred to the private beach, a children's park, a football field, beach volleyball, basketball, Ping-Pong, a gym, a bike ride, a swimming pool, sauna and Jacuzzi as free of charge, etc.

On the other hand, senior managers of "SHAHR" Welfare Complex have considered special offer for government departments and organizations and can benefit from special discount within the framework of conclusion of a yearlong and/or long-term contract.



For more information about the facilities of this Complex and other units, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the following number: 01144536231, 01144536250 and/or 02144536093 @shahr_66

"SHAHR" Welfare Complex's Address:
Golsar No. 3, Izadshahr, Noor, Mazandaran Province

Do we really need therapy?

Research suggests self-help exercises could be better for you than cognitive behavioral therapy

Researchers say you might as well be your own therapist," the website Quartz proclaimed recently, in light of a new study that found a vanishingly small difference between seeing a cognitive behavioral therapist and just doing various self-help exercises on your own. Naturally, this sort of thing is liable to make therapists angry. (The correct response is to nod compassionately and ask: "Now, why do you think that makes you so angry?") As Mark Brown noted in this paper, we should be wary of any finding that seems to suggest governments could save money by telling people to sort themselves out. But the self-help route has another limitation worth bearing in mind: what makes you so confident you even know what your problems really are?

Typically, self-help works like this: you're troubled by some issue -- procrastination, commitment-phobia, depression -- so you seek a book to fix it, just as you'd seek a spanner or screwdriver if the legs on your kitchen table started wobbling. But minds aren't like wobbly tables. There's no reason to assume -- actually, there's much reason to doubt -- that we're in touch with our deepest anxieties and hang-ups. Rather than productivity techniques, maybe you need to face the fact that your job provides no meaning. Maybe accusing yourself of "commitment-phobia" is how you rationalise the subconscious awareness that your partner doesn't love you. Maybe your depression is best understood not as the result of "automatic thoughts", but as a sign that you're living life to serve your parents' agenda, instead of your own.

Or maybe not: probably, some problems are exactly what they seem. But the question is so personal that the best book in the world can't help but miss the mark, whereas another human at least stands a chance of hitting it. And if CBT is truly no better than self-help, maybe the right conclusion isn't that therapists don't matter, but that CBT isn't necessarily the apogee of therapy?

Crucially, the point isn't that therapists are wiser, thus better placed to tell you what your problems are. Rather, a good therapist will throw up roadblocks to your attempts to swiftly define the problem before hurrying on to fix it. This is the kernel of good sense in the cliché of the Freudian shrink who does nothing but rephrase his patient's comments as questions: he's refusing them the comfortable option of a one-size-fits-all solution, stubbornly forcing them toward self-understanding. Therapy isn't the only way to do this: journaling, meditation, even some books are among the others. What they all share is that they throw you back on yourself, blocking the easy but inauthentic alternative of using someone else's secondhand answer. As Albert Einstein is often quoted as saying, though he didn't really say it: "If I had only one hour to save the world, I would spend 55 minutes defining the problem."

Plus, when it comes to psychology, there's a bonus: half the time, a problem truly understood stops being a problem at all.

(Source: The Guardian)

Iranian museums, historical sites to offer free entry on Sept. 27

HERITAGE TEHRAN — Entry will be free to all historical sites and museums affiliated with Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization on September 27 to mark the World Tourism Day.



A rare manuscript on display at the Malek National Library and Museum Institution

This year's World Tourism Day, will be focused on Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development. Celebrated in line with the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, the Day will be dedicated to exploring the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNWTO reported.

World Tourism Day has been celebrated since 1980. Peace and dialogue, energy, accessibility, world heritage and water and tourism have been some of the topics tackled on the 37 previous editions of World Tourism Day.

Emirates to increase flights to Tunis as tourism recovers

Emirates is increasing flights between Dubai and Tunis from six to seven a week starting from the end of next month.

The additional Dubai to Tunis flight will be operated every Monday with an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER aircraft offering eight private suites in First Class, 42 lie-flat seats in Business Class and 310 Economy Class 310 seats.

The added flight will give passengers in Tunis greater access to Emirates' global route network, particularly destinations in the Middle East, GCC, West Asia, Asia Pacific region and the U.S., with just one stop in Dubai, the carrier said.

The added frequency will also offer importers and exporters an additional 23 tones of cargo capacity in each direction. Popular goods carried between Tunis and Dubai include fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen seafood, electronic equipment, truffles and dates, Emirates added.

Travelers have been returning to Tunisia after terrorist atrocities knocked the tourism sector.

Situated on a large Mediterranean Sea gulf, behind the Lake of Tunis and the port of La Goulette, Tunis is a popular destination for international travelers with its heritage sites and coastal lifestyle.

(Source: The National)



ROUND THE GLOBE

Historic center of Salzburg

Salzburg in Austria is an outstanding example of an ecclesiastical city-state, peculiar to the Holy Roman Empire, from Prussia to Italy. Most disappeared as political and administrative units in the early 19th century and adopted alternative trajectories of development. No other example of this type of political organism has survived so completely, preserving its urban fabric and individual buildings to such a remarkable degree as Salzburg.



A view of the historic center of Salzburg, Austria

Salzburg is the point where the Italian and German cultures met and which played a crucial role in the exchanges between these two cultures. The result is a Baroque town that has emerged intact from history, and exceptional material testimony of a particular culture and period. The center of Salzburg owes much of its Baroque appearance to the Italian architects Vincenzo Scamozzi and Santino Solari.

The Salzburg skyline, against a backdrop of mountains, is characterized by its profusion of spires and domes, dominated by the fortress of HohenSalzburg. It contains a number of buildings, both secular and ecclesiastical, of very high quality from periods ranging from the late Middle Ages to the 20th Century.

Inscribed on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage list, Historic center of Salzburg is rich in buildings from the Gothic period onwards, which combine to create a townscape and urban fabric of great individuality and beauty.

Salzburg is also intimately associated with many important artists and musicians, preeminent among them Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. (Source: UNESCO)

Tehran-Islamabad direct flights projected to widen travel, business ties

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran's Kish Airlines carried out the maiden direct flight between Tehran and Islamabad last Tuesday, which is expected to open up a new chapter in bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan in terms of easing travels and business ties.

"An Airbus 321 of Kish Airlines landed in Islamabad on Tuesday with 46 passengers on board and returned to Tehran after a while taking passengers from Pakistan to Iran," IRNA reported.

The airline has pledged to operate weekly flights from Tehran to Islamabad every Tuesday, with return flights on the same day.

A great deal of effort has also been devoted for establishing the service by the Iranian Embassy in Islamabad with the aim of broadening travels and trade between the two neighboring countries.

On this occasion a special ceremony was held at Islamabad airport in the presence of a representative from the embassy, the report said, adding the initiative aims to provide an alternative to the existing indirect services that are rather expensive, time-consuming and tiring.

Three other Iranian airlines, namely Iran Air, Taban Air and Mahan Air, have already launched non-stop flights to Karachi and other cities in Pakistan. The new Kish Airlines service increases the number of direct flights between Iran and Pakistan to four.



A view of the Islamabad International Airport

Iran to host 23rd UNWTO General Assembly

TOURISM TEHRAN — The Iranian city of Hamedan will play host to the 23rd general assembly meeting of the United Nations World Tourism Organization in 2018, IRNA reported.

The selection of Hamedan for hosting the event was discussed during UNWTO's 22nd General Assembly in Chengdu, China, which was held from September 11 to 16.

It is the first time that Iran will host a UNWTO.

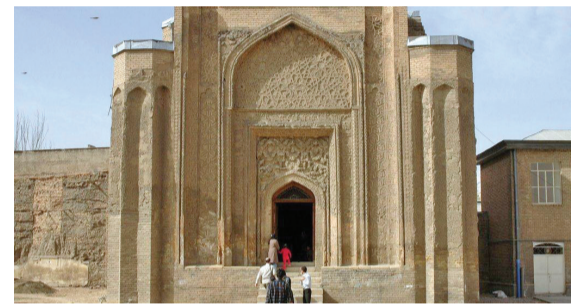
It will be a great opportunity for Hamadan province

as a way to promote its attractions worldwide and tap on its tourism potentials.

"Hamedan province will be broadly highlighted as its name will appear on worldwide websites," said Hamidreza Yari, the director of Alisadr Tourism Company.

The tree-day assembly meeting has been sandwiched with variety of sightseeing tours.

Alisadr Co. was established in 1991 and started to develop infrastructures for expansion of services and attracting domestic and international tourists.



Travelers visit the historical Alavian Dome in Hamedan

Bali's rumbling volcano spurs travel warnings from Australia, Singapore

Karangasem, INDONESIA (Reuters) — Fears that a volcano could erupt imminently on the holiday island of Bali prompted several countries to issue travel warnings, while Indonesian authorities raced to evacuate tens of thousands of people living in the "danger zone".

Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States and the U.K. issued advisories on Monday and at the weekend warning that increased volcanic activity at Mount Agung in eastern Bali could disrupt flights at one of the world's most popular tourist destinations.

"Given the possible eruption of Mount Agung, Singaporeans should defer non-essential travel to the affected areas at this juncture," the foreign ministry said in an online statement.

Bali's international airport was operating normally on Monday, as were tourist spots across the island.

Indonesian authorities have imposed a 12-km (7.5 miles) exclusion zone around the crater.

The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said on Monday that around 62,000 people lived within the "danger zone" around the volcano



The sun sets behind Mount Agung, a volcano on the highest alert level, from Amed on the resort island of Bali, Indonesia September 25, 2017. REUTERS/Darren Whiteside

and that they all needed to evacuate, though so far only 50,00 had moved to the temporary shelters provided in neighboring villages.

"There are some who are staying behind because the volcano hasn't erupted yet or because of religious beliefs," said BNPB spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

"Our staff are combing the area and urging everyone to evacuate," he said, speaking at a news conference in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Nugroho said Mount Agung has entered a "critical phase", meaning magma has risen closer to the surface, as indicated by hundreds of shallow volcanic tremors that have rattled the area in recent days.

Evacuees are being housed in makeshift shelters like town halls and school gyms. Host communities were providing food and water, while the central and local governments were providing tents, blankets and other relief.

Officials have urged the public to remain calm amid false reports and videos circulating online of an eruption.

Indonesia, which sits on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country. Many Indonesians live near volcanoes because lava flows can make the surrounding soil and land fertile for farming.

Thailand's tourism numbers continue to soar

The tourists keep arriving, the numbers keep soaring. Assuming the numbers have to plateau at some stage, when will that be?

For the past 20 years, through floods, bombings, coups, political upheavals and a few unsolved, mystery murders, Thailand's tourist arrival numbers just keep rising and rising, heading into unfamiliar territory. So many people have predicted doom and gloom – "the good days are over" – but still the tourists continue to flock to the Land of Smiles.

Once known to the world as the Land of a Thousand Smiles Thailand's probably more accurately known these days as the Land of a Thousand 7/11s. If you were going to start a successful business in Phuket in 2017 you'd either open a convenience store or a rubber shop and do a deal with the tour buses. A story in ttweekly.com has all the numbers.

China continues to dominate Thailand's inbound tourist arrivals with August ending up with 3,133,411 visits, up 8.6% year-on-year. August was the

fourth month, this year, that saw arrivals exceed 3 million, the second highest after January when visits reached 3,197,053.

Most Asian nations have seen their currencies strengthen against the US dollar and they are the main source for Thailand's tourist arrivals. January to August revenue reached an estimated 1.19 trillion THB, an increase of 7.47% over the same period last year. Tourism earnings represent 12% of Thailand's total GDP.

August figures, and those for the eight months so far, show China dominates Thailand's travel supply chain. If there was ever a blip in that pattern it would drive the tourism industry to hit the panic button, as it did during last year's crackdown on zero-dollar tours.

In 2016 Thailand registered 32.6 million visits. Based on the current performance tourism officials are confident visits will exceed 35 million by the end of the 2017.

(Source: phuketgazette.net)

How to make the most of a layover

Many fliers view layovers as an inconvenience, but for Jaclyn Sienna India, the owner of the New York City travel company Sienna Charles, they're an opportunity to explore the destination her flight stops in.

"I try to make the place where I have to change planes a part of my vacation," she said. "Often, these side trips end up being as exciting as my final destination."

Here, Ms. India's advice on how to have a memorable layover:

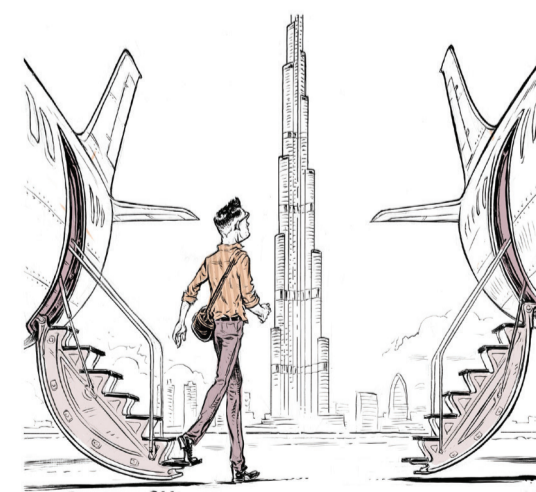
Plan layovers strategically

Have a more diverse vacation by choosing a stop that is in contrast to the locale you're headed to. If you're en route to a beach getaway in the Maldives, for example, consider a stop in Dubai to fit in an urban escape, or stop in either Dallas or Chicago for a ski or hiking trip in Jackson Hole or Aspen.

You can also plan for a layover on your return journey, and time permitting, you can do a layover each way in different locales. Ms. India often builds in two separate layovers when planning itineraries for her clients and said that she may have to play around with flight combinations to make them happen, but they can be done.

Return to your favorite destinations

Ms. India suggested that travelers arrange layovers in destinations they enjoy visiting and give their



trip that special touch by participating in a specific experience there.

It could be a meal at a favorite restaurant in Paris or an art show in London. Personally, Ms. India said she loves stopping in Reykjavik on her way to other cities in Europe for some relaxation at the Blue Lagoon, a popular geothermal spa. "Going to the Blue Lagoon is one of my all-time favorite things to do,

and fitting a short visit in makes my overall trip really pop," she said.

A daylong layover works, too

If you have between eight hours and less than a day to kill between flights, you can still have a fantastic layover, Ms. India said.

On a recent 10-hour layover in Helsinki, for example, she took a privately guided tour of the city, which she had booked in advance.

"I was able to get a feel of Helsinki in a few hours and also had a delicious meal at one of the popular restaurants there," she said. Other possibilities for activities on short layovers include an art tour of a well-known museum, a shopping excursion in a specific neighborhood and even a jog, walk or bike ride in a scenic park.

Make your stop an affordable one

Your layover doesn't have to be costly. Some airlines, said Ms. India, allow free layovers — sometimes with a time restriction — so a stop won't cost you more money beyond your ticket price (British Airways, for example, allows free layovers for fliers who purchase a fully flexible ticket).

A handful of airlines, including Singapore Airlines and Emirates, have occasional layover promotions in the spirit of promoting the cities where they are based.

(Source: The New York Times)

New technique spots warning signs of extreme events, says Iranian scientist



Many extreme events — from a rogue wave that rises up from calm waters, to an instability inside a gas turbine, to the sudden extinction of a previously hardy wildlife species — seem to occur without warning. It's often impossible to predict when such bursts of instability will strike, particularly in systems with a complex and ever-changing mix of players and pieces.

Now engineers at MIT have devised a framework for identifying key patterns that precede an extreme event. The framework can be applied to a wide range of complicated, multidimensional systems to pick out the warning signs that

are most likely to occur in the real world.

"Currently there is no method to explain when these extreme events occur," says Themistoklis Sapsis, associate professor of mechanical and ocean engineering at MIT. "We have applied this framework to turbulent fluid flows, which are the Holy Grail of extreme events. They're encountered in climate dynamics in the form of extreme rainfall, in engineering fluid flows such as stresses around an airfoil, and acoustic instabilities inside gas turbines.

In predicting extreme events in complex systems, scientists have typically attempted to solve sets of dynamical equa-

tions—incidentally complex mathematical formulas that, once solved, can predict the state of a complex system over time.

Researchers can plug into such equations a set of initial conditions, or values for certain variables, and solve the equations under those conditions.

Iranian scientist Mohammad Farzmand and his colleague Themistoklis Sapsis tested their new approach on a model of turbulent fluid flow—a prototype system of fluid dynamics that describes a chaotic fluid, such as a plume of cigarette smoke, the airflow around a jet engine, ocean and atmospheric circulation, and even the flow of blood through heart valves and arteries.

Dynamical equations are formulated based on a system's underlying physics. But Sapsis says that the physics governing many complex systems are often not well-understood and they contain important model errors. Relying on these equations to predict the state of such systems would therefore be unrealistic.

Even in systems where the physics are well-characterized, he says there is a huge number of initial conditions one could plug into associated equations, to yield an equally huge number of possible outcomes. What's more, the equations, based on theory, might successfully iden-



Mohammad Farzmand

tify an enormous number of precursors for extreme events, but those precursors, or initial states, might not all occur in the real world.

"If we just blindly take the equations and start looking for initial states that evolve to extreme events, there is a high probability we will end up with initial states that are very exotic, meaning they will never ever occur for any practical situation," Sapsis says. "So equations contain more information than we really need."

(Source: phys.org)

UNSW's sleek new solar car takes on the world

Sunswift Violet, a sleek four-seat sedan designed and built by engineering students at UNSW, left Sydney on Wednesday on a 4,300 km drive to Darwin, where it will compete in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge.

It is the sixth-generation solar car created by the UNSW Solar Racing Team Sunswift, built for practicality, speed and endurance, combining cutting-edge technology with modern comfort.

Sunswift Violet will be battling 47 teams from 21 nations in the 3,021 km race from Darwin to Adelaide, which begins on Sunday 8 October 2017.

"Violet looks like a family sedan, but uses as much power as a four-slice toaster," said Sunswift team leader Simba Kuestler. "She's got entertainment and air-conditioning systems, including navigation, reverse camera parking sensors, and there's even wi-fi aboard. And she's got plenty of front and rear boot space."

■ Rooftop solar panels

It has a top speed of 130 km/h and a range of 800 km running just on its rooftop solar panels. It also sports modular lithium-ion batteries which store power from the sun; running just on its batteries, it has a range of 400 km. The vehicle relies on around 7kW of horsepower at

110km/h, and two 1.5kW motors that run at 98% efficiency.

With a twill carbon-fiber monocoque chassis, Sunswift Violet weighs less than 400kg. And because good aerodynamics are vital in the quest for energy efficiency — the more slippery the car, the better — Sunswift Violet has a drag coefficient below 0.2, better than the best wind-cheating cars on the market.

While undergoing race testing at the Sydney Motorsport speedway in Eastern Creek late last week, the car experienced a mishap: a bolt on the left-hand front suspension fractured during intense speed braking tests, causing the car to drop onto the roadway and skid for some 30 meters. There were four students aboard at the time, but no-one was hurt.

■ Real-world challenges

The "car is operating at the cutting-edge of what's possible, and the students are putting it through strenuous testing ahead of a race where they will face intense conditions, so it's no surprise they will face setbacks," he said. "That's what an engineering degree should be about, learning about demanding, real-world challenges."

Despite the setback, the team of un-



dergraduate students worked late nights and over the weekend to repair the damage and reinforce all the dynamic systems of the car, in order meet their original schedule.

The Sunswift team holds the world land-speed record for an electric vehicle, recognized in 2014 by the Fédéra-

tion Internationale de l'Automobile, when their previous vehicle — Sunswift eVe — travelled at an average 100 km/h over a distance of 500 km on a single charge. This broke a record that had stood for 26 years, and was recognized with a world record trophy.

(Source: UNSW Newsroom)

A new type of camera can actually see through the human body

Medical techniques for looking inside our bodies have come a long way, but in the future it looks like doctors may be able to see absolutely everything going on under our skin.

Researchers have invented a new kind of camera that can actually see through structures inside the human body, detecting light sources behind as much as 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) of bodily tissue.

The current prototype, developed by researchers from the University of Edinburgh in the UK, is designed to work in conjunction with endoscopes — long, slender instruments that are often equipped with cameras, sensors and lights to peer inside hollow cavities inside the human body.

■ Valuable tools

Endoscopes are valuable tools for all sorts of medical procedures, but up until now it's been difficult to externally confirm exactly where in the body the instrument is looking, without resorting to things like X-ray scans.

Now that's no longer a problem, due to the new camera's capability to detect sources of light inside the body, such as the illuminated tip of the endoscope's long flexible tube.



Thanks to thousands of integrated photon detectors inside the camera, the device can detect individual particles of light being beamed through human tissue.

When photons come into contact with bodily structures, light usually scatters or bounces off the tissue, but the camera's sensitivity enables it to pick up any tiny traces of light that make it through.

By reconciling light signals that come directly to the camera with scattered photons — which travel longer distances and so take longer to reach it — the device is able to determine where the light-emitting endoscope is placed inside the body.

This technique, which differentiates between scattered and ballistic (direct) photons is called ballistic im-

aging, and it could help physicians to understand the exact location of the bodily interior they're looking at with the endoscope — which may be hugely valuable in terms of determining treatments.

■ Optical endomicroscope

In the image above, you can see an example of the light the camera detects from an optical endomicroscope in use in sheep lungs.

The image on the left is what the prototype sees, with the ballistic imaging revealing the precise location of the instrument in the lungs.

On the right, the shot reveals what the scene looks like to a conventional camera, with the sensor picking up lots of noise in terms of scattered light, but unable to determine where the photons are originating, as the light particles bounce around the lung structures.

"This is an enabling technology that allows us to see through the human body," says senior researcher Kev Dhaliwal.

The "ability to see a device's location is crucial for many applications in healthcare, as we move forwards with minimally invasive approaches to treating disease."

(Source: sciencealert.com)

National Award for Organizational Excellence, an Important Mechanism for Realizing Country's Economic Growth

National Award for Organizational Excellence was introduced in 2003 within the framework of country's development programs and with the aim of promoting productivity and development of management systems in companies and organizations, Public Relations Dept. of the Organization reported.

The Center for Organizational Excellence at the Industrial Management Institute (IMI) in its 15th edition embarked on granting National Award for Organizational Excellence to the top and exemplary companies and organizations in the country.

Economists agree on this issue that gross domestic product (GDP) in national level and/or added value in each of economic sectors is obtained either through increasing raw materials (including capital and manpower) and also improvement of operations

and structures (including optimal management, promotion of production technologies, skill and quality of manpower).

In the current situation that injection of capital and manpower is not possible easily, it is tried to move towards improvement of operations and structures, that is to say that productivity of production factors should be increased instead of making new investment and/or increasing the number of manpower.

It should be noted that approx. 70 large and reliable organizations and companies attended the ceremony of National Award for the Organizational Excellence in 2017.

In the 15th edition of the Award, which will be held in March 2018, moreover introducing and appreciating top and exemplary organizations in the



country, successful management experiences of these companies will be presented and senior managers of these international firms will deliver speeches separately, the report ended.

Researchers confirm discovery of floating aluminum

Like most common metals, aluminum lacks natural buoyancy. However, with a little rearranging of the metal's natural molecular structure, one can produce an ultra-light crystalline form of the metal that is actually less dense than water and, as a result, floats upon it.

Research conducted by Utah State University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry professor Alexander Boldyrev and published in the latest issue of The Journal of Physical Chemistry C has yielded just such a crystalline form using computational modeling.

"My colleagues' approach to this challenge was very innovative," explained Boldyrev. "They started with a known crystal lattice, in this case, a diamond, and substituted every carbon atom with an aluminum tetrahedron."

Boldyrev's colleagues, namely Iliya Getmanski, Vitaliy Koval, Ruslan Minyaev, and Vladimir Minkin of Southern Federal University in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, confirmed the structure which is metastable and has a density of 0.61 grams per cubic centimeter. By comparison, conventional aluminum possesses a density of 2.7 grams per cubic centimeter.

"That means the new crystallized form will float on water, which has a density of one gram per cubic centimeter," says Boldyrev.

According to the research team, the potential for the new aluminum structure is vast, as the metal already features such useful traits as being non-magnetic, resistant to corrosion, easily available, and generally inexpensive to produce.

"Spaceflight, medicine, wiring and more lightweight, more fuel-efficient automotive parts are some applications that come to mind. Of course, it's very early to speculate about how this material could be used. There are many unknowns. For one thing, we don't know anything about its strength."

(Source: aluminuminsider.com)

Scientists prove that even brainless jellyfish need to sleep

Three CalTech graduate students proved through research that even brainless jellyfish also need to sleep. They discovered that a genus of jellyfish known as the Cassiopea displayed sleep-like behavior similar to humans at night.

For those people who like to stay up late every night, here's a thought: If brainless jellyfish need to sleep, then you probably need it too.

Three graduate students from the California Institute of Technology have proven that at least one group of jellyfish do need to sleep, which is the first time that it has been confirmed for animals without a brain.



Jellyfish are creatures with a diffuse nerve net, which is a system of neurons that are distributed throughout organisms instead of being organized within a brain. However, even without a brain, a primitive upside-down genus of jellyfish known as Cassiopea were found to exhibit sleep-like behavior similar to what can be seen in humans at night.

The quest to determine whether jellyfish sleep started when Claire Bedbrook overheard fellow PhD students Michael Abrams and Ravi Nath arguing whether the creatures need to sleep. Bedbrook said that jellyfish do not, as sleep has been associated with memory consolidation and REM cycles within the brain.

It took months of work, but the trio has finally published a paper on the matter in the Current Biology. The study changed Bedbrook's mind: jellyfish apparently do sleep, or at least the Cassiopea does.

The Cassiopea, which live in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, do not swim around much and are content with staying on the ocean floor where they pulsate.

(Source: Tech Times)

Study suggests Neanderthals enjoyed long childhoods

Until about the last decade or so, that is how many of us were accustomed to thinking about Neanderthal life.

But a lot has changed since then, not least of which is the emergence of smoking gun DNA evidence that Neanderthals are, in fact, family.

Now a new study runs counter to earlier thinking by suggesting that Neanderthals reached maturity at about the same rate as modern humans.

"Neanderthals have long been seen as the James Deans of human evolution — they grew up fast, died young, and became legends," Ann Gibbons writes in Science. "But now, a rare skeleton of a Neanderthal child suggests that our closest cousins didn't all lead such fast lives — and that our own long childhoods aren't unique. The find may reveal how Neanderthals, like humans, had enough energy to grow bigger brains."

A leading theory says that big brains take longer to develop, so in humans, childhood lasts longer to allow our brains time to grow. Chimpanzees, with much smaller brains than modern humans, mature much faster.

Back in 2010, NPR's Christopher Joyce reported on this "live fast, die young" hypothesis, which was bolstered by studies of Neanderthal skulls.

That hypothesis was based largely on the study of Neanderthal's teeth. Hominid teeth have telltale lines, similar to tree rings that show their development from birth until the end of childhood.

(Source: WBUR)

Halimah Yacob, world's only president in hijab

An establishment figure has been named Singapore's first female president after a "walkover" election that saw no vote after no other contenders ran for the position.

Halimah Yacob, a former speaker of parliament from the Muslim Malay minority, did not have to face an election for the largely ceremonial post originally due this month after authorities decided her rivals did not meet strict eligibility criteria.



Yacob, 63, is expected to be sworn into office on Thursday.

Yacob is Singapore's first ethnic Malay president in 47 years since the late Yusof Ishak, who governed in the mid-1960s.

Authorities had decided to allow only candidates from the Malay community to put themselves forward for the presidency, a bid to foster harmony in the city-state of 5.5 million people which is dominated by ethnic Chinese.

The other two contenders, Salleh Marican and Farid Khan, were both denied eligibility, having fallen short of a constitutional rule that required any candidate from the private sector to have led a company with shareholder equity of at least 500 million Singapore dollars (\$372m).

Following the announcement, Yacob thanked her supporters in a speech, calling it "a proud moment for Singapore, for multiculturalism and multi-racialism."

Yacob, who wears a headscarf, addressed these concerns, saying: "I am a president for everyone, regardless of race, language, religion or creed."

(Source: aljazeera.com)

RECIPE OF THE WEEK Cheddar pear pie

"Without a doubt, this is the best pie in my arsenal of recipes. It is a pear-filled pie topped with a crumble of brown sugar and Cheddar cheese."

Ingredients:



- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup butter
- 6 cups peeled and sliced pears
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Unbaked pie crust

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Combine the flour, 1/2 cup brown sugar, and Cheddar cheese. Cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Toss the sliced pears with the lemon juice. Combine the 1/2 cup brown sugar, cornstarch, and cinnamon in a separate bowl. Add the sugar mixture to the pears and toss to coat.

Transfer the pears to the pie crust and top with the crumble mixture. Bake in the preheated oven until the top is golden brown, about 45 minutes.

LEARN ENGLISH Job Well Done

A: And so, that concludes my outline for our marketing strategy next year. Thank you very much for your time.

B: Hey, that was **quite the presentation!** Honestly, I was completely **blown away** by your strategy outline. I've gotta say, Alex, you really **wowed** me today.

A: Aw, come on; **it was nothing.** I'm just doing my job.

B: No, I think you **deserve** some **recognition** here; I mean, if I **look back on** your previous presentations, this is a huge **improvement.**

A: Well, Kristin did **give me a hand** with the slides. She's a real **wiz** on PowerPoint.

B: And I saw that you **took on board** my **feedback** about pricing strategies. I really appreciate you taking the time to **think through** my suggestions.

A: Yeah, well, that was some good advice. You made some really good points.

B: Well, I just wanted to say **well done.** Really you did a great job.

Key vocabulary

quite the: used to say it was good
presentation: speech, demo, a meeting where you present something

honestly: to tell the truth, frankly speaking

blow (someone) away: impressed by

wow (someone): amaze, impress

it was nothing: use to show humbleness

deserve: are entitled to

recognition: praises, credit

look back on: recall the past

improvement: advance, progress

give someone a hand: help someone

wiz: genius

take on board: adopt

feedback: other people's opinions

think through: to carefully consider and think about it

well done: good job

Supplementary vocabulary

constructive criticism: suggestions for improvement

recognize: to publicly give special attention to someone for doing a good job

praise: the action of saying a person did a good job

encourage: make someone confident; help them do better

give credit: praise given to someone for doing a good job

(Source: irlanguage.com)

'Women's role not lesser than men's in Sacred Defense'

1 -> The Islamic Revolution of Iran made her prepared for joining the Sacred Defense. She was a revolutionary and after the victory of the revolution she continued her cultural activities.

Ashkian began to study about the biography of world's heroes and it made her character heroic.

Since the beginning of the Iraqi-imposed war she joined the first aid and military classes and joined the medics in war fronts of Marivan, western Kordestan Province, for three months where none of family members were with her.

Then she was transferred to a hospital in Susa, southwestern Khuzestan Province, to join Fath-ul Mobin operation. She has joined three other big operations of Ramadan, Moharram and Kheybar.

Her lungs were infected due to many contacts she had with chemically injured soldiers who were being transferred to Ahwaz hospital. After Susa she was transferred to Abadan and Mahshahr, wherever there was a need for medics.

She was married to a commander Morteza Ghorbani, now university professor at Imam Hussain University, after the liberation of Khorramshahr (1982) and she kept on her activities in war zone by the end of the war, 1988. But when their children were born her activities



changed and she became busy with raising the children and supporting them at the absence of their father.

When there was no operation, Ashkian was active in training students in war-torn areas, and villages.

"Women were the most important element in the Sacred Defense, she believes. They supported the male members of their families. They worked instead of their husbands, from earning livelihood for the family to supporting children. Girls

were supporting their brothers and fathers. Mothers encouraged their sons to join other soldiers", she said.

Women made special attempts during the Sacred Defense; whatever they were able to do. They prepared foods, packed nuts, even washed the soldiers' cloths and bedsheets with their own hands. Some old women were busy with needle threading; some others who were unable to do anything donated their gold and jewelries.

About her eight-year presence in borderline fronts she has bitter and sweet memories. The capture of Khorramshahr (1980) was her saddest memory and birth of a baby boy among many war injured in Ahwaz hospital was one of her sweetest memories of war.

Hearing the sound of war operations march and visiting the old friend of war, takes us to the very very close, sad and sweet times. The time that was very difficult but we experienced the supreme feeling of closeness and sacrifice which is not felt at any time, she stated.

Although it was very sad that I lost a brother, one of my brothers lost one of his hands and my other brother, father and me became chemically injured, and every moment we were hearing the news of martyrdom of one of our close friends, it gave us the feeling of great honor that is not describable.

Ashkian is now the mother of three educated children, two daughters and a son and the grandmother of four. Two of them are memorizers of the whole Holy Quran, she said proudly.

Many books are written about women's heroic activities during the Sacred Defense but still there exists many unspoken and unwritten words about their generosity, she concluded.

The critical role of women in Karbala

Regarding the tragedy of Ashura, one of the questions that arises is why Imam Hussain (AS), knowing that he would have become martyr along with his companions, brought his family with him and what the role of the women in Karbala was.

We must add that two fundamental elements have given rise to the story of Ashura: one is martyrdom and self-sacrifice, and the other to spread the message of Imam Hussain (AS), spread by those who in this event were innocently abused and tortured, suffering great pain.

The role of the women and the family of Imam Hussain (AS) is more relevant with respect to the second element, even if they, as mothers, had a clear role in educating these brave soldiers, who stayed on the side of their imam to the last.

As sisters and wives, they have played an important role in supporting and encouraging their brothers and husbands by accepting their martyrdom as divine will. For example Ummulbanin, the mother of the noble Abolfazl, which remained in Medina, when the caravan of the family of Imam Hussain (AS) returned, immediately asked what happened to her imam, when she was told that her four children became martyrs, said: "May my family be sacrificed for him!"

Imam Hussain (AS) never acted randomly

Before discussing the role of women in Karbala, it is necessary to make two points: the first is that Imam Hussain (AS) did not behave randomly, but his actions were based on precise reasons. In fact, he knew that bringing his family to Karbala would make them the spreader of the message of Ashura.

In addition, the Prophet (SA) in a dream told him that it was God's will that his family was taken prisoner.

The second point to make is that women have always played an important role in the history of humanity, even if sometimes in an indirect way. Regarding the role of women in the history of mankind, we can do three subdivisions:

1 - Those who were treated as precious objects to be protected, but they really did not hold any important role, such as women in ancient civilizations.

2 - Those who have influence on the society in which they live, but at the expense of their own value as a woman, like many women in today's society.

3 - Those who, like the Muslim woman, protect their own value, while maintaining their influence on society and this is possible only by implementing the Islamic rules.

Exploring the role of women: Eloquence of Zaynab (SA)

The best example of this kind of woman is the noble Fatima Zahra (SA) who defended the rights of Imam Ali (AS) by giving a speech in the mosque, but from behind a curtain, thereby protecting her value as a woman.

Or as the noble Zaynab (SA), whose role in the tragedy of Ashura gains importance from the moment in which his brother and other male members of his family became martyrs. Being similar in eloquence to her father Imam Ali (AS), she made discourses in Kufa and Damascus that made the enemies shudder in fear and turn in repentance to the Ahlulbayt.

For example, when Ibn Ziyad asked: "How have you seen what Allah has done to your brother and his Ahlulbayt?" she replies:

"I did not see anything but beauty, they were people for whom Allah had written martyrdom and have reached their bliss". She also said: "Soon, God will gather you together: then you will see who will be in trouble."

Once they arrived in Damascus, the daughter of the prince of believers, no longer able to bear the nonsense of Yazid, said: "... Yazid! Do you think of having narrowed the earth and the heavens, leaving us with no alternatives?! Do you think that by dragging us as slaves from one place to another, we are humiliated before God and you honored?! Do you think your victory has increased your nobility with God?"

Then she said: "Yazid! I swear by God that you have done nothing more than tearing yourself into pieces and it will definitely be with these vile actions, shedding the blood of the family of the Messenger of God (SA) and violating the respect due to them, that you will present yourself in front of your Prophet Muhammad (SA) on the Day of Judgment, when God will gather all and give everyone what he deserves. In fact, God says in the Quran: 'Do not think that those who have become martyrs in the way of God are dead, they are alive and enjoy the blessings of God'."

...Very soon the one who deceived you and other people (Muawiyah) will realize what terrible punishment is up to oppressors and who will be in the worst place and will have the weaker army. Although because of the events I was forced to talk to you, you must know that you have no value for me".

Lady Zaynab with her words humiliated Yazid and his followers in front of the friends and enemies of the Ahlulbayt.

Islamic model of women


This is the woman Islam wants: a socially active woman and at the same time the guardian of her own value and

her own modesty.


So the presence of the family of Imam Hussain (AS) in Karbala was crucial, in fact its members have not only spread the message of Ashura, but they made the enemies helpless in front of them, as the soldiers of Yazid were rebuked by everyone, even by their families, because of the mistreatment of women and children.

In Islam is not just the men who have to participate in social activities, but also the women have to take part in the defense of truth and oppose tyrants; lady Zaynab (SA) and the other women of the family of Imam Hussain (AS) by spreading the message of Ashura fulfilled their duty. If they had not done so, this message would not have come to us, especially considering the power of Omayyids in spreading news in their favor.

(Source: al-islam.org)



N.I.O.C
1396.2918



National Iranian Drilling Company

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

One-Stage(compressed)

TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial	(Rial)				
14,170	566,000,000	11,306,071,897	PARTS FOR NATIONAL SWIVEL MODEL P-500	1,501,530	Tender No.: FP/17-96/047 Indent No.: 48-22-9622030	1
8,240	329,000,000	6,565,914,981	Parts for weatherford kelly spinner model ks2400HB	1,501,531	Tender No.: FP/17-96/048 Indent No.: 48-22-9622035	2
57,580	2,300,000,000	46,171,901,934	PARTS FOR INGERSOLL RAND AIR HOST	1,501,533	Tender No.: FP/17-96/049 Indent No.: 48-22-9622036	3
56,350	2,251,000,000	46,542,154,440	PARTS FOR INGERSOLL RAND AIR HOIST	1,501,534	Tender No.: FP/17-96/050 Indent No.: 48-22-9622037	4
23,530	940,000,000	18,787,952,250	PARTS FOR VARCO KEYLLY SPINNER MODEL 6800	1,501,536	Tender No.: FP/17-96/051 Indent No.: 48-22-9622038	5
23,360	933,000,000	18,656,564,337	PARTS FOR NATIONAL HOOK MODEL HA-500	1,501,538	Tender No.: FP/17-96/052 Indent No.: 48-22-9622039	6

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

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

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

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

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

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۷/۴ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۷/۵

Iraq's Kurdistan controversial secession vote

Unconfirmed reports have surfaced of electoral fraud

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region on Monday held a secession referendum in the face of strong objections from the central government in Baghdad and in defiance of urgent calls from the international community to scrap the vote.

A total of 12,072 polling stations have opened at 8:00 local time (0500 GMT) on Monday where more than 5.3 million are eligible to vote. Polls will remain open for 12 hours.

The stations are dotted across the three provinces of Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Dohuk that form the Iraqi Kurdistan Region as well as in disputed bordering zones such as the oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

Initial results are expected to be announced 24 hours after the vote.

However, after a while that the voting process kick started there were reports of electoral fraud and vote rigging. There are unconfirmed reports that suggest there were ballot boxes that were already full when they reached Kirkuk city. Some witnesses said the secession referendum was set and there is a vast vote design.

The non-binding vote on the secession of the semi-autonomous region has irked the central government in Baghdad.

International condemnation

The semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region's separation referendum plan has also drawn large-scale criticism internationally.

Along with Baghdad, the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, Arab League, and Turkey, Syria, and Iran to some extent have all spoken out against the divisive poll, saying it will only undermine the ongoing battle against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist outfit and further destabilize the region.

Earlier this month, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged Iraqi Kurdish leaders to scrap the vote which he said would undermine the ongoing battle against ISIL.

On September 13, the Arab League rejected the plebiscite as an illegal measure that would pose further threats to security in the already volatile Middle East.

The European Union also cautioned political parties in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region against holding the independence referendum.

The United States, which has deployed a contingent of military forces to a base in the Kurdistan Region, has also opposed the referendum. Condemning the vote as "provocative and destabilizing", the U.S. has urged renewed negotiations.

However, many observers view the vote in line with a long-pursued Israeli-U.S. agenda to partition regional states.

The Israeli regime has openly come out in support of the referendum, saying it endorses an independent Kurdish state. Tel Aviv has explicitly urged the vote to take place.

Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki has reacted by saying that Baghdad will not tolerate the establishment of "a second Israel."



Major protests against Kurdistan separation

As the voting got underway in Kurdish-populated regions, Iraqis elsewhere took to the streets in protest, saying the referendum aimed to divide their country.

Hundreds of people protested in Al Khalis city of Diyala province, urging Baghdad to immediately intervene to stop the controversial referendum.

According to Iraq's al-Sumaria news website, two towns in Diyala have not participated in the referendum.

A local source said Sadiyah, a disputed territory claimed by both Baghdad and the Kurdistan region, had announced that it would not hold the vote. The town of Mandali, 90 km east of Baqubah, also refused to organize the plebiscite after a ruling by its city council.

Iraqis also demonstrated against the referendum in Alqosh, stressing that it will remain an Iraqi town.

Masoud Barzani's behind the curtain deal

The leader of semi-autonomous Kurdistan region Masoud Barzani is considered as a seasoned politician, however analysts say if the Kurdish leader war truly worried about the future, prosperity and well-being of the Iraqi Kurds then why he did not consider the real situation on the ground namely the strong condemnation of its neighboring countries, International community, the war against ISIL, and the volatile situation of the region.

Barzani only pinned his hopes on Tel Aviv regime's green light.

The issue has even divided the Kurds,

with two main Kurdish parties, Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP/Partiya Demokrat a Kurdistanê) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK/Yekîtiya Nîzîmîyanîy Kurdistan) of Jalal Talabani differing on the referendum.

The division between the Kurds themselves indicated that Barzani is more after his own political gains rather paying attention to the well-being of the Kurdish people.

Many observers question that how it is Barzani ignores international call to cancel the vote at current juncture. Some believe the oil rich region is the answer.

Analysts say Barzani is jeopardizing the Kurdish population, Iraq, the region and some even go further and say maybe he is after creating a new version of ISIL, now that he has received the U.S. support. Maybe he has an eye on the strong population of Kurds in Turkey.

President of Iraq's Kurdish regional government, Masoud Barzani, has defended the decision to hold the referendum.

Ankara not recognizing Kurdistan referendum

As voting started, Turkey said it does not recognize the referendum and will view its results as null and void.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it would take "all measures" if the plebiscite generated threats to Turkey's national security.

The ministry also advised Turkish citizens in the three Iraqi Kurdish provinces to leave as soon as possible if they are not obliged to stay.

Turkey's Customs Minister Bulent Tufenkci said tight controls have been

imposed on traffic at Habur border gate with northern Iraq.

Earlier, the NTV broadcaster said Turkey had blocked access into the country's southeast from northern Iraq at the Habur border gate.

The statement stressed that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) was threatening peace and stability in Iraq and the whole region.

President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey could cut off the pipeline that carries oil from northern Iraq to the outside world, piling more pressure on the Kurds.

Erdogan accused Kurdistan leadership of being opportunistic, saying what Iraq needed was unity and all options including the use of military was on the table to crush Kurdish aspirations.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said his government was evaluating possible punitive steps regarding its border with northern Iraq and air space in response to the vote.

Turkey is home to the largest Kurdish population at an estimated 14 million.

Iraq's central government has called on the world countries not to purchase oil from the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in response to a highly controversial referendum on independence, which the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is set to hold on Monday in clear defiance of Baghdad.

According to a statement released by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's office on Sunday, the government also asked the Kurdish region to hand over control of international border posts and its international airports.

The statement also called on foreign countries to "exclusively" deal with Baghdad with regards to airports and borders.

Iraq does not allow creation of ethnic govt. in country: Abadi

Meantime, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi says Baghdad will not allow the creation of an "ethnic government" in the country as the Iraqi Kurdish region prepares for a highly controversial planned referendum on its independence on Monday.

The Iraqi premier made the remarks in a televised address on Sunday.

Abadi also vowed that the Iraqi leaders would not allow the country to return to "dark times" of the past, promising that he would also take the "necessary measures" to protect the unity of Iraq.

Abadi also stated that Baghdad would not "abandon" the Kurdish citizens, saying, "Iraq will remain for all Iraqis. We will not allow it to become a possession of one or the other, and we will not permit anyone to play with Iraq and not pay the consequences."

PMU not waiting for Peshmerga's permission to free ISIL-held areas

Elsewhere, a high-ranking commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU/ Hashd al-Sha'abi) says the pro-government fighters will not wait for the permission of Kurdish Peshmerga forces to liberate areas still under control of ISIL, including the town of Hawijah in the country's oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

Iran missile reveal a slap in the face to Donald Trump: website

He added that Trump's certification of whether Iran is abiding by the deal — due mid-October — is an "internal procedure" that in itself does not endanger the agreement.

Under the nuclear deal signed in 2015, Iran surrendered much of its enriched uranium, redesigned its heavy water reactor, and accepted more intrusive inspections of nuclear sites by the UN's nuclear watchdog in exchange for termination of U.S.-led sanctions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran has lived up to the terms of the nuclear agreement.

Since arriving in the White House, Trump has attacked

the deal on numerous occasions, vowing to tear it up.

Zarif said Iran will "consider its options" if Trump tells Congress on October 15 he believes it is not complying with the deal and it is not in U.S. interests to stick by it.

"Iran has a number of options, which include walking away from the deal and going back with greater speed with its nuclear program, which will remain peaceful — but which will not address and accept the limitations that we voluntarily accepted over our nuclear program," he said.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said his country

had always pursued peace and sought "no one's permission to defend our land."

Robert Einhorn, a former nuclear and policy adviser of Barack Obama told Newsweek? the message in Saturday's launch was loud and clear.

"Iran's public display of the missile and Rouhani's comments were largely a response to the Trump administration's declared intention to pressure Tehran to accept limitations on its ballistic missile programs," he said.

"Rouhani is putting down a strong marker that Iran's missile programs are not on the negotiating table."

Suspect charged with murder in mass shooting at church outside Nashville

A Tennessee man was charged with first-degree murder on Sunday night after a gunman opened fire at a church outside Nashville, killing one person and injuring six other people, authorities said.

Police identified the suspect as Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, and said in a statement that more charges were expected.

Police found four guns believed to be Samson's, the statement said — a rifle and a pistol in the suspect's SUV (sport utility vehicle), along with two other pistols — in Burnette Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, where Melanie Smith, 39, was killed as she walked to her car shortly after 11 a.m. (12:15 p.m.) ET.

Nashville police spokesman Don Aaron said that after fatally shooting Smith, the gunman entered the main sanctuary door, at the rear of the church, and "began indiscriminately shooting."

The church's minister, Joey Spann, and his wife, Peggy, were among the injured, Nashville Christian School said in a post on Facebook. Joey Spann was a Bible teacher and coach at the school, according to the statement.

The Memphis office of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and the U.S. attorney's office for middle Tennessee have opened a civil rights investigation. They declined to comment further.

Samson is believed to have come to the United States from Sudan in 1996 and was a legal U.S. resident but not necessarily a citizen, Aaron said at a news conference on Sunday evening.

(Source: NBC News)

What U.S. really wants from Iraqi Kurdistan

One day ahead of the referendum, the U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called Barzani and demanded him to avoid tensions with Iraqi central government in the aftermath of the referendum, a Kurdish official told me on the condition of anonymity. The phone call and the conversation indicates the lack of a serious opposition from American side.

Although some argue that the U.S. believes now is not the right time to hold the referendum, there is no doubt that Americans do sympathize with the Kurdish aspiration. Americans might distinguish between their public and behind-the-scenes positions and agenda. This can be part of a strategic temporary silence in order to control the oppositions and sensitivity in the region. At the end of the day, the United States, even if it does not fight on behalf of the Kurds against the threats on the path of separation from Iraq, they can go hand in hand with the Kurds in making their dream come true.

Rouhani, Putin, Erdogan, al-Abadi insist on Iraqi integrity

Iran attaches great importance to protecting territorial integrity of the countries in the region, Rouhani added.

Putin also said that the Russian government supports Iraq's government and the country's territorial integrity.

In his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday, Rouhani said that the regional countries will not let exacerbation of instability.

Erdogan said that Turkey's parliament has held an emergency meeting to take necessary decision about the independence referendum in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

Rouhani, also in a telephone conversation with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, said that Iran is against any move that undermines Iraq's national unity and territorial integrity.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Iraqi central government," he insisted. "From our viewpoint, all should respect Iraq's constitution and violation of it means taking illegal actions."

Masoud Barzani, the KRG president, refused requests by the UN chief and all countries around the world to either cancel or postpone the independence vote.

"Barzani's move in the Kurdistan region will cause a new confrontation in Iraq," the Iraqi prime minister said in his talks with the Iranian president on Sunday.

Abadi described the independence referendum in the Kurdistan region as an act contrary to the Iraqi constitution and against the country's territorial integrity.

This is "not acceptable at all", the prime minister asserted.

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, President 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 members, 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.

Violent crime in U.S. rises for second consecutive year

Critics of the administration's criminal justice policies point out that despite the recent increases in violent crime, since 1971 there have been only five years with lower violent crime rates than 2016.

Among the reasons cited for the increase are a profusion of handguns, poverty and social isolation, warring gangs involved in the drug trade, and police officers who are questioning fewer people and making fewer arrests for fear of being criticized by superiors and civil rights groups.

Each hypothesis has its detractors. But one theory that has gained traction of late is that violence has increased as police legitimacy has been questioned after the fatal coupled

shootings of unarmed African-Americans. The shootings, many of which have been captured on video over the last three years, have been widely disseminated via the news media and on the internet.

Proponents of the theory maintain that in cities where police departments treat citizens with disrespect and engage in brutality, residents will eventually stop cooperating with the police, which will diminish officers' ability to solve crimes. The result, according to the argument, is that the most violence-prone people in a particular area will be free to continue committing crimes with little fear of arrest.

Among the cities that have experienced recent upticks in murder coupled

with questionable police shootings that prompted rioting or other civil disturbances are Chicago, Baltimore, Charlotte, St. Louis and Milwaukee. But other cities where there have been significant increases in homicides in recent years, including Las Vegas and Memphis, have been largely free of public anger in response to fatal police shootings.

In 2016, Chicago again led the nation in murders with 765 — more than double the 335 people killed in New York, which has more than 5.8 million more people than Chicago.

In Chicago and elsewhere, murder victims, as well as those arrested on murder charges, were disproportionately

atly young, African-American and male, according to the FBI records and data from local law enforcement agencies. The overwhelming weapon of choice was a firearm, responsible for four of five killings in 2016.

And although large cities — those with populations of more than a million people — saw homicides rise by 20.3 percent, and all violent crime increase by 7.2 percent in 2016, the trend toward greater violence was felt in cities and towns of all sizes. In towns with populations of fewer than 10,000 people, for instance, murders rose by 8.4 percent, according to the FBI data.

(Source: The New York Times)

WADA to begin audit of Russian anti-doping agency

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will begin an audit of Russia's anti-doping program this week as it prepares to make a recommendation on whether to reinstate the Russian agency, the organization said on Sunday.

RUSADA has been suspended by WADA since a report published in November 2015, led by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren, found evidence of state-sponsored doping and accused it of systematically violating anti-doping regulations. Russian authorities deny there was a state-backed doping program, but have pledged to follow international recommendations to get the suspension lifted.

WADA's compliance review committee will hold a special meeting on Oct. 24 to hear a report on the audit, the anti-doping agency said in a statement after its executive board met in Paris. The review committee will then make a recommendation to WADA's board meeting in November on whether to reinstate RUSADA.

The Russian agency last month appointed a new director general as part of Moscow's push to rehabilitate its tarnished sporting image and overturn a ban on most of its track-and-field athletes competing internationally.

The executive committee, which heard a report on Russia's progress, again emphasized RUSADA must fulfil a roadmap it developed with WADA and Russian officials before any recommendation on reinstatement can be made.

More than a dozen national anti-doping agencies have called for Russia to be banned from the 2018 winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, but WADA President Craig Reedie has criticized the agencies, saying the request was not helpful.

(Source: Reuters)

Antonio Conte: I want to return to Italy 'before long'

Antonio Conte has raised the prospect of leaving Chelsea to return to Italy in the not too distant future, telling a radio station there is "not a doubt in my mind that I will be home before long".

Conte won the Premier League in his first season as Chelsea manager but there was some delay before he signed a new contract in July, with reports at the time suggesting he was unhappy. His new contract also only increased his salary, rather than extending the length of the agreement which still runs until the summer of 2019.

And now Conte has spoken of his wish to return to Italy, where he previously managed the national team and led Juventus to three successive league titles between 2012-14.

"I miss it, that's beyond doubt," he told Radio Rai. "Italy is my homeland, so once I have had some good experiences, formative experiences, important and life-changing experiences, I'll be back. I don't know when but that's the aim."

"It's always difficult to predict the future. Us managers have the most precarious job of all. Today you're working, tomorrow you're out. I want to succeed, to finish one project and make the right decision about the next."

"This experience has given me so much, has improved me so much, but perhaps in the future I won't be a manager. Perhaps I'll work as a director of football. I don't know."

(Source: Goal)

Mourinho won't face further punishment after being sent to stands at Southampton

Jose Mourinho will not face any further action from the FA after he was sent to the stands against Southampton on Saturday. The Manchester United boss was given his marching orders just before the final whistle of the 1-0 win at St Mary's when he began to creep on to the pitch to shout at his players to get back into position.

The Portuguese boss was asked why he was sent off after the game, and replied: "I don't know. I don't know. [referee] Craig [Pawson] told me to leave and I left. I don't know. He told me to leave, I left."

It appears that fourth official Mike Jones passed on Mourinho's encroachment to the referee, who then promptly sent the Portuguese to the stands.

But football chiefs have now decided not to punish Mourinho after his side's hard-fought 1-0 victory.

(Source: Mirror)

Cristiano Ronaldo sends tribute to family of boy killed in Mexico earthquake

Cristiano Ronaldo has sent a heartfelt message to the grieving family of a young supporter killed in the Mexico City earthquake. The Real Madrid forward tweeted a picture of himself holding a Los Blancos shirt on which he had written: "To my No 1 fan, Santiago".

It was reported by media outlets in Spain that the Santiago Flores - who was killed while at a school that was destroyed by the earthquake - is the boy mentioned on the shirt. His family reportedly wrote to Ronaldo to tell him what a huge fan he was. Ronaldo wrote on his post: "In this moment of pain, I send a huge hug to Santiago's family and to all the families who have lost their loved ones."

More than 200 people have died after the 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico City on Tuesday.

Other sports stars and clubs have shown their solidarity by tweeting the hashtag #FuerzaMexico (strength to Mexico).

(Source: Eurosport)

Roger Federer beats Nick Kyrgios in dramatic finale as Team Europe win Laver Cup

Roger Federer won the inaugural Laver Cup for Team Europe on Sunday, beating back a fierce challenge from players from the rest of the world to claim the trophy in a dramatic final match of the weekend.

Despite cruising through the first two days, the Europeans needed the last match to finalise the victory and show the dominance expected from a team featuring five of the world's top seven players.

Federer delivered in a tight 4-6 7-6(6) 11-9 win over world number 20 Nick Kyrgios, with the Australian pushing to the final point as he sought a win that would have forced an overtime doubles match to decide the tournament.

But Kyrgios squandered a chance at match point and then smashed the ball into the net to end the battle, spurring Federer's European team mates, led by top-ranked Rafael Nadal, to leap off the bench and embrace the Swiss at the net.

"I was ready to go. I had to be. That is what a team member does. The boys played fantastic all weekend but we knew it could change very quickly on Sunday," Federer said.

"I was looking at getting ready maybe for doubles at the end... But I got it



done."

An earlier victory from big-hitting German Alexander Zverev also helped fight off the last-day comeback from Team World, which entered the day 9-3 down after dropping six of the first eight matches.

With matches worth three points on Sunday - versus two on Saturday and one on Friday - the group battled back with Americans John Isner and Jack Sock downing Croatian Marin Cilic and Czech Tomas Berdych, who was playing in front

of the hometown crowd at Prague's O2 Arena.

The American duo limited the hard-serving Europeans to three aces in a 7-6(5) 7-6(6) victory.

Zverev, the youngest player in the top 10 at age 20, then faced Team World's highest ranked player at number 16, Sam Querrey. He broke the American's serve midway through the first set and never looked back en route to a 6-4 6-4 win.

GIANT KILLER

That left Nadal to face Isner, winless in

six career meetings with the Spaniard. But the world number 17 rattled Nadal from the beginning and delivered a barrage of 23 aces and several forceful winners and drop shots.

"I walked to the court like I had absolutely nothing to lose and I just went for it," Isner said.

Federer then played hero, battling back after dropping the first set to Kyrgios who had looked to keep Isner's giant-killing momentum going.

The Laver Cup, named after Australian tennis hero Rod Laver, has won plaudits from the players. Matches were close despite fears they would be little more than an exhibition.

Federer and Nadal, the game's top two players who split this season's four grand slams, teamed up on Saturday, putting aside a long-running rivalry to play doubles competitively for the first time, giving fans an eagerly anticipated treat.

With next year's play moving to Chicago, a John McEnroe-captained Team World will look to bounce back against Bjorn Borg's Team Europe.

"We were so, so close to pulling this off," McEnroe said.

(Source: Eurosport)

FIFA to relax rules against commemorating non-sporting events



FIFA has relaxed the rules that ban teams from commemorating non-sporting events at football matches in response to high-profile disputes with British associations over honoring war dead. England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were fined by FIFA last year for displaying poppies at World Cup qualifying matches. World football's governing body ruled that poppies flouted regulations banning political, religious or personal symbols on kit and in stadiums, leading to the British nations to push for a change. Months of talks led to FIFA distributing a circular to member associations on Friday presenting draft proposals that tighten the definition of political symbols and allow commemorations by teams to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

"When commemorating a significant national or international event, the sensibilities of the opposing team [including its supporters] and the general public should be carefully considered," FIFA wrote to members.

It was initially reported that the new wording would have to be approved

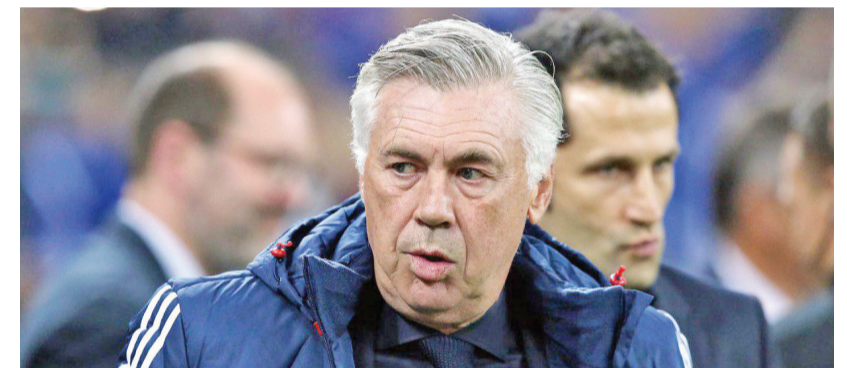
by a meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) next month. However, when contacted by ESPN FC on Monday, IFAB released a circular of clarifications to Laws of the Game that would take immediate effect. This is possible because it is only a clarification, which can be approved by IFAB's board of directors, rather than an outright change to the Laws.

England and Scotland last year wore poppies on their kits for a Wembley Stadium friendly on Nov. 11 - Armistice Day - to commemorate British Commonwealth forces who have died on duty since World War I.

The change to the FIFA regulations should allow England to wear poppies without fear of being sanctioned this November. England is planning to play Germany in a friendly at Wembley around Armistice Day, assuming Gareth Southgate's side doesn't have to contest a playoff to qualify for the World Cup. Only opposition from Germany, which is unlikely, would prevent the poppies being displayed at English football's national stadium.

(Source: ESPN)

Neymar and Mbappe need time to settle at PSG, says Ancelotti



Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti believes Paris Saint-Germain are still searching for an identity after signing Neymar and Kylian Mbappe. PSG spent a world-record fee of €222 million on Brazil star Neymar and then brought in Mbappe - the star of Monaco's Ligue 1 title triumph last term - on a season-long loan, with an expensive permanent transfer to follow next year.

But former PSG coach Ancelotti, who returns to Parc des Princes in the Champions League on Wednesday, believes the French club need to give the new signings time to settle, despite their quality.

"With Neymar and Mbappe, Paris are looking for an identity," he told Le Figaro. "At Bayern, it's clear. For years, the line has been drawn, the identity is clear, which is not yet the case at PSG."

"But Paris are already at the level of the best. When you buy players at this price and this level, you have to have time and they have to enter the mindset of the team. That is their challenge."

Ancelotti is excited to return to PSG, who he believes have developed into a "big club" since his 2013 departure.

"[The feeling is one of] excitement - I will find a Paris Saint-Germain which has changed a lot since I left in 2013," he said. "The club has improved and has more experience after a lot of investment. Now it's a big club."

"I am happy to see the Parc des Princes, the supporters and players like Thiago Silva, [Adrien] Rabiot, [Thiago] Motta, [Marco] Verratti, [Javier] Pastore."

"We had a good relationship, they missed me. I also keep in touch with the president [Nasser Al-Khelaifi]."

He added: "I have good memories of my time there. I helped the club to change mentality and PSG managed to grow a little more afterwards."

"Even if we had problems following my departure for Real Madrid, when I think of Paris, I am happy."

(Source: Four Four Two)

NFL rallies around protesting players denounced by Trump

NFL teams staged a show of solidarity with protesting players before Sunday's games by kneeling, linking arms or staying off the field during the U.S. national anthem, defying President Donald Trump's call for owners to fire those who refuse to stand.

Along the sidelines of National Football League games across the country and in London, coaches, support staff and even some owners joined team members in a silent response to Trump's weekend denunciation of players who kneel during the anthem as unpatriotic.

In a gesture initiated last season by then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, several NFL players have routinely "taken one knee" during the playing of the anthem. It is intended to call attention to what the protesting players see as a pattern of racism in the treatment of African-Americans by U.S. police.

In Detroit, several members of the Lions knelt while singer Rico Lavelle dropped to one knee and pumped a fist in the air at the end of his performance of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

In Philadelphia, city police officers joined with Eagles and New York Giants players and Eagles team owner Jeffrey Lurie to link arms during the anthem in a sign of solidarity.

While some Americans are sympathetic to the protesters, others see the refusal to stand as a sign of disrespect for the flag and for members of the military who have sacrificed or died in defending the country.



Trump rekindled the controversy on Friday at an Alabama political rally in which he suggested any protesting player was a "son of a..." and urged owners to dismiss them on the spot, reprising his reality-show catch phrase: "You're fired."

The theme could play well with Trump's conservative base at a time when the Republican president is grappling with North Korea's nuclear threats, an investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and a healthcare struggle in Congress.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS

But Trump's stance appeared to galvanize players, teams and the league to assert what they see as a right to express their political convictions freely. It also highlighted the deep political rift that Trump's election has exposed across many segments of American society.

New England Patriots Chairman and Chief Executive Robert Kraft, who has dined with Trump and

whom the president considers a friend, criticized Trump on Sunday and defended players' right to protest.

"I am deeply disappointed by the tone of the comments made by the president on Friday," Kraft said in a statement. He said players had a "right to peacefully affect social change and raise awareness in a manner they feel is most impactful."

Despite a strong rebuke of his remarks by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and the players' union on Saturday, the president did not back down on Sunday, calling on fans to boycott the league if it would not discipline protesting players.

"If NFL fans refuse to go to games until players stop disrespecting our Flag & Country, you will see change take place fast," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Fire or suspend!"

In another tweet, Trump, who spent the weekend at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, said that the "league should back" fans who are upset about the protests.

In Chicago, Trump's feud was the main topic of conversation at the South Loop Club sports bar.

"This is a First Amendment issue and the president is supposed to uphold that right," said Sam Cunningham, 55, who was watching the Pittsburgh-Chicago game with his wife. "He should know better than anyone that to fire someone because of their opinion is not right."

(Source: Reuters)

AFC Champions League Semi-finals 1st Leg: Al Hilal v Persepolis preview

Abu Dhabi: Al Hilal host Persepolis in a much-awaited clash in the first leg of their 2017 AFC Champions League semi-final on Tuesday, with both sides looking to seize the initiative as they aim to win their first Asian title since the tournament revamp in 2002.

The teams met twice in Muscat during the group stage this year; the first match ended in a 1-1 draw while the return fixture brought about a goalless stalemate.

Al Hilal

Since topping Group D back in May, Al Hilal have kept up their unbeaten run in this year's competition to reach this stage. The Saudi giants defeated Esteghlal Khuzestan 4-2 on aggregate in the Round of 16 before seeing off 2003 champions Al Ain 3-0 in the quarter-finals.

Tuesday's game will see Al Hilal make their third semi-final appearance in four years and their fans will be hoping for a positive outcome, especially after the impressive victory over Al Ain in the last round.

Carlos Eduardo netted all three goals in that win and his hat-trick heroics increased his personal tally to seven for the tournament.

Al Hilal's attack also features the Syrian forward Omar Khribin, who has scored four times so far. Despite missing the injured Nawaf Al Abed, manager Ramon Diaz can look to key Uruguayan midfielder Nicolas Milei and his contributions from midfield.

Persepolis

Persepolis have had a historic AFC Champions League campaign in 2017, progressing to the Round of 16 where they defeated Lekhwiya of Qatar 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals for the first time.

Branko Ivankovic's men then went one step further when they completed a 5-3 aggregate victory over Al Ahli to book their spot in the semi-finals.



The Tehran-based side showed great spirit and belief in the quarter-finals after overcoming a 2-0 deficit in the first leg before managing to defeat Al Ahli 3-1 in the second leg, despite being a man down since the 12th minute after Kamal Kamyabnia's sending off.

Mohsen Mosalman and Ali Alipour have the ability to change the game, with both registering three assists each so far. Mosalman, in particular, has excelled, with his 21 chances created putting him joint-highest among the semi-finalists.

(Source: the-AFC)

Branko Ivankovic: Al Hilal are the best Asian team

S P O R T S Persepolis football coach Branko Ivankovic says they will have a difficult task Tuesday night since Al Hilal are best Asian team.

The Saudi Arabian team will host Persepolis in a much-awaited clash in the first leg of their 2017 AFC Champions League semi-final in Abu Dhabi, the UAE.

"We know well Al Hilal are the best team in Asia but Persepolis are well improved this year and are in fine form. We showed our strength in two matches against Al Ahli," the Persepolis coach said in the pre-match news conference.



"We are the only team among four Asian teams who have qualified for the semifinals, relying on domestic players. We will do our best to book a place in the final round, that's why we are here," the Croat added.

Persepolis have missed their best striker Mehdi Taremi after the player was banned by FIFA for four months for breaching his contract with Turkish club Çaykur Rizespor.

"We will not have our best striker, who is one the best striker in Asia, but we have thought about his replacement. Taremi is as important for Persepolis as Carlos Eduardo is for Al Hilal," Ivankovic stated.

Iran's Zamani wins gold medal at World Shooting Para Sport World Cup



S P O R T S Mehdi Zamani from Iran snatched a gold medal at the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup on Monday.

The Iranian para shooter finished in first place, scoring 235.0 points in the P1 10m Air Pistol Men SH1.

Damir Bosnjak from Croatia claimed the silver medal with 230.9 points and bronze medal went to Jungnam Kim from South Korea who finished with 211.6 points.

Moreover, Rio 2016 champions Sareh Javanmardi won a silver medal in the P2 10m Air Pistol Women SH1 after accumulating 236.5 points in the event.

Turkey's Aysegul Pehlivanlar seized the gold medal with 237.7 points and bronze medal went to Krisztina David with 211.3 points.

More than 100 athletes from around 20 countries are competing at the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Osijek, Croatia.

Kimia Alizadeh undergoes successful surgery on right ankle



S P O R T S Iranian taekwondo practitioner Kimia Alizadeh has successfully undergone surgery on her damaged ankle.

She underwent surgery in Tehran's Iranmehr Hospital on Monday.

Alizadeh won a silver medal at the 2017 World Taekwondo Championships in June after losing to Ruth Gbagbi from Ivory Coast in the women's -62 kg final match.

Soon after, her doctor said Kimia

was suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her knee and needed surgery on her damaged ankle as well.

Alizadeh, who is the first Iranian woman who managed to win silver medal in the world championships, will be out of action for several months.

She had already become the first Iranian woman to win an Olympic medal.

Alizadeh was released from the hospital.

Petrochimi outclass Mono Vampire, stay alive for Group A top spot

Mono Vampire Thailand found themselves purely outclassed by a bigger and deeper Petrochimi Iran team on Day 3, 111-60.

The result meant that Petrochimi may still end up as Group A's top team should they topple Chooks-To-Go Philippines tomorrow. Mono Vampire gave the Iranians a strong challenge in the first quarter, but the ASEAN side just could not sustain their momentum, falling behind by 10 at the half and completely losing control in

the last two periods.

Petrochimi's size and ball movement were just hard to match. The Iranians outrebounded Mono Vampire, 48-24, and utilized far superior playmaking to gain more assists, 26-13. It also did not help that the Thais turned the ball over way too many times - 25 to be exact - which let to 36 points off turnovers for Petrochimi.

Willie Warren led five Petrochimi players in double-figure scoring with 20 points, while Navid Niktash

and Sajjad Mashayekhi each dropped 16 points. Young big man Meysam Mirzaei also turned a lot of heads by notching 14 points, 15 rebounds and 3 steals. As for Mono Vampire, they drew a combined 23 points from Mike Singletary and Sorot Sunthonsiri but got next to nothing from Jason Brickman, who had only 3 points in under 17 minutes of action.

(Source: FIBA)

Iran sweep Kyrgyzstan 4-0 at 2018 AFC U-16 Championship qualifier

Press TV — Iran national under-16 football team booked spot in the 2018 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Championship after clinching four consecutive victories at the qualification tournament for the continental event.

On Sunday evening, the Iranian team beat the Kyrgyz squad 4-0 in a Group C fixture played at the multi-purpose Enghelab Stadium in the Iranian city of Karaj, situated 35 kilometers west of the capital Tehran.

Amir Ja'fari scored his first goal of the match 16 minutes into the game, before Shervin Rezaei added a second for Iran 10

minutes later.

Later on, the Kyrgyz team mounted fine resistance against the Persians and disallowed them to score more goals.

Abbas Chamanian's boys finally succeeded in breaching the Kyrgyz defense, and captain Alireza Bavieh found the back of the net in the 72nd minute.

Ja'fari scored his second five minutes later and ended Iran's campaign for a berth in next year's tournament on a high note.

Iran were pitted against Afghanistan, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon in Group C of the 2018 AFC U-16 Championship qualification tournament.

Bahrain were drawn in Group A and had joined Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.

The Maldives, Oman, Syria, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were in Group B.

Group D consisted of India, Iraq, Nepal and Palestine. Bangladesh, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen formed Group E.

While Brunei, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Macau and North Korea shaped Group F, Indonesia, Laos, Northern Mariana Islands, Thailand and Timor-Leste were in Group G.

China, Myanmar, the Philippines and

South Korea are drawn in Group H. Group I consisted of Australia, Cambodia, Mongolia and Vietnam.

Group J had Guam, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Malaysia have clinched an automatic berth for the 2018 AFC U-16 Championship as the hosts nation.

Jordan, Tajikistan, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, North Korea, Indonesia, Australia and Japan have won also their tickets as Group A, B, D, E, F, G, I and J winners respectively.

India, Oman, Thailand and Vietnam ended their qualifying campaign as best runners-up in Groups B, G and H.

Iran bounce back to bag bronze in Ashgabat

Islamic Republic of Iran made amends for their semi-final loss to Japan as they beat China PR 5-1 in the Ashgabat 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games women's futsal bronze medal match on Monday.

The last time IR Iran scored a goal in the tournament, was against Palestine whom they beat 16-1 in their Group B opener. Sara Shirbeigi and Fereshteh Karimi combined to give the 2013 runners-up a 3-1 lead in the first half as they outplayed their opponents to score two more after the break.

Karimi scored the opener - her fourth goal in the Games - in the third minute while Sara Shirbeigi added a brace in the fourth and 10th for a 3-0 lead.

China PR however, got on the scoresheet a minute later though defender Dong Jiabao's effort.

Nasimeh Sadat Gholami almost made it four for IR Iran but her effort was denied by the crossbar in the 25th.

After the break, Karimi scored her second in the 21st and Shirbeigi completed her hat-trick with an effort 10 minutes later as Shahrzad Mozafar's side won 5-1.

(Source: the-AFC)

FIVB Women's World Championship Asian Qualifiers: Iran beaten by Vietnam

Iran lost to Vietnam 3-1 (24-26, 25-22, 25-17, 25-19) at the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Japan 2018 Asian Qualifiers Pool B at the Nakhon Pathom Gymnasium on Sunday.

Vietnam head coach Japanese Irisawa Hidehiro commented after the match: "It was a very difficult match. We lost the first set because, I think, we have played Iran for several times and they started to learn our tactics."

"Actually, I admit that we had a tight schedule ahead of this tournament. After the Asian Championship in Manila last month, we then competed in the South East Asian Games. After the SEA Games, some of my players had injuries and a few had a bad condition on mentality. That's why we could not combine good players with hard training in preparation for this tournament," he added.

Iran had previously lost to North Korea, South Korea and Thailand. The Persians came fifth among five teams, while South Korea and host Thailand finished in the top two and qualified for the FIVB Volleyball Women's World Championship Japan 2018.

(Source: asianvolleyball)

Tevez challenged to prove his worth by Shanghai Shenhua

Carlos Tevez has been challenged to "show the real stuff" by Shanghai Shenhua, although the Chinese Super League side have rejected reports their marquee signing has been banished from their first-team plans.

Tevez joined Shenhua from Boca Juniors in December in a deal that reportedly made him the highest-paid player in world football.

The 33-year-old Argentinian forward has subsequently failed to impress, scoring three times in 13 games, and chairman Wu Xiaohui last week said his form "didn't meet our expectations".

Tevez, who has been booed by his own team's supporters, was left out of Shenhua's previous two CSL matches but club spokesperson Ma Yue rejected reports in Argentina that he had refused to play for the reserves.

"Tevez has never been told that he has no place in the first team, and the claim that he refused to answer [the] club's calls [to play with reserve team] is not true," Ma said in a statement.

"Quite the contrary, head coach Wu Jingui and team leader Mao Yijun have shown great concern for him and the communication between them is very smooth."

Ma added that Shenhua were not looking to make excuses for Tevez and called upon the former Manchester City and Juventus star to apply himself in training and win back a starting place on merit.

"Tevez brings a private coach from Argentina during the season interval and does extra training of his own will after 4pm every day," the statement added.

"We are not making excuses for Tevez, the club just want to clarify that he hasn't abandoned himself like some foreign media have claimed."

"He should have realized that he will not be picked in the starting line-up purely on reputation. We have five healthy foreign players, if he wants to be one of the three who are eligible to play, he's got to show the real stuff"

Last week, Shenhua accused French media outlet SFR Sports of taking apparently disparaging comments by Tevez about the quality of football in China out of context.

The 3-1 win over Guangzhou R&F on Saturday was Shenhua's first in eight matches.

(Source: Four Four Two)

Juve defender Hoewedes suffers new injury setback

Juventus defender Benedikt Hoewedes will have to wait for up to four more weeks to make his debut for the Serie A champions after picking up a thigh strain, the club said on their website.

The 29-year-old Germany international sustained the injury during a training session on Thursday.

Hoewedes, capped 44 times by his country, joined Juventus on loan from Schalke 04 in August.

He is likely to miss Serie A games against Atalanta and Lazio and Champions League matches against Olympiakos Piraeus and Sporting Lisbon as well as Germany's World Cup qualifiers against Northern Ireland and Azerbaijan.

(Source: Football Italia)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Ali Asgari
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051450
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.o. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



NLAI director visiting Bulgaria

A R T TEHRAN — The director of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Ashraf Borujerdi, along with a number of her aids arrived in Sofia, Bulgaria today to hold meetings with a number of cultural officials of the country.



NLAI director Ashraf Borujerdi (C) attends an interview at Sofia Airport on September 25, 2017. (NLAI)

Her visit to Bulgaria has been arranged at the invitation of Krasimira Aleksandrova, the director of the SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library, the national library of Bulgaria, the NLAI announced in a press release on Monday.

She is also scheduled to pay visits to the University of Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and several other cultural centers during her sojourn in the country.

Soul singer Charles Bradley dead at 68

Charles Bradley, known as the "Screaming Eagle of Soul" for a powerful, raspy style that evoked one of his musical heroes, James Brown, died Saturday at age 68.

Bradley, who achieved success later in life with his 2011 debut album "No Time for Dreaming," was diagnosed with stomach cancer in the fall of 2016 and underwent treatment, according to a statement from his publicist Shazila Mohammed. He headed out to tour earlier this year after receiving a clean bill of health, but the cancer returned recently, spreading to his liver, the statement said.



In this May 9, 2014 file photo, soul singer Charles Bradley performs at the Shaky Knees Music Festival in Atlanta, Ga. (AP Photo/Ron Harris/File)

Recording on the Daptone label, Bradley was a fiery live performer. He followed up his first album with "Victim of Love" in 2013. His third album, "Changes," was released last year.

Among his TV appearances was a stop last year on "CBS This Morning: Saturday," which earned him an Emmy nomination.

Born in Gainesville, Florida, Bradley found himself living in New York at age 8. He left home as a teenager and lived as an itinerant until he settled in Brooklyn 20 years ago.

Bradley idolized Brown, working as a Brown impersonator known as Black Velvet before he was discovered by Gabriel Roth, a Daptone co-founder. He later became known for closing shows under his own name with hugs for his audiences.

"The world lost a ton of heart today," Roth said in the statement. "Charles was somehow one of the meekest and strongest people I've ever known. His pain was a cry for universal love and humanity. His soulful moans and screams will echo forever on records and in the ears and hearts of those who were fortunate enough to share time with him."

Roth said he told Bradley recently there's solace to be found for fans knowing Bradley "will continue to inspire love and music in this world for generations to come."

Bradley's response? "I tried."

(Source: AP)

Photo exhibit explores ordeal of Mosul civilians before liberation

A R T TEHRAN — A photo exhibition opened at the Zemestan Gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Friday depicting the suffering Mosul civilians went through when the Iraqi city was under the reign of Daesh terrorists.

Photographer Maryam Mazruei visited the civilians' camps set up within 20 kilometers of Mosul before the city was liberated in July.

The exhibition displaying 50 photos was called "Mosul, Turbulence Rally" due to the people who used to walk through the camps all their time desperately, she told the Persian service of MNA on Sunday.

"The people of Mosul were well off enough to be able to live a good life before the war and the homelessness came as a complete shock to all of them," Mazruei stated.

She said that many of the NGOs working under the auspices of the United Nations pursue objectives

other than their mission to provide humanitarian aid.

"The NGOs have created a negative public image of Iranians and it is hard to work as a woman and non-European photographer in the region," she added.

She said that Iraqi people are suffering from a type of scopophobia and added, "Iraqi people do not like to be photographed. They lament that their country has been destroyed in the war and they have been turned into news subjects for the media, which cover their ordeal to receive awards from various international festivals."

Mazruei has also travelled to Afghanistan several times for her projects on various themes. She said that she plans to showcase her collection on Afghan women in her next exhibition.

The exhibition will run until October 3.

موصل؛ رالی بی فراری / عکس‌های مریم مزروعی Mosul; Turbulence Rally / Maryam Mazruei's Photos



A poster for Iranian photographer Maryam Mazruei's exhibition "Mosul, Turbulence Rally"

Persian carpets with floral motifs on display at Tehran exhibit

A R T TEHRAN — A selection of Persian carpets bearing floral motifs dating back to the Qajar period (1796-1925) is on display in an exhibition at Tehran's Golestan Palace Museum in Tehran.

"A rare collection of carpets woven in different cities such as Arak, Mashhad and Isfahan are kept in the treasury of the palace museum," director of the palace museum Masud Nosrati said in a press release on Monday.

Nine carpets and seven rugs from the treasury of the museum have been selected to be showcased at the exhibition, he added.

He also said that the names of the weavers are not known and only one of the carpets bears the name, Akhavi, of its weaver.

The exhibit will be running until October 22.



This file photo shows a carpet from Chahar-Mahal and Bakhtiari region.

Tehran museum to showcase sculptures by Tony Cragg

A R T TEHRAN — The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) is scheduled to organize an exhibition of sculptures by British sculptor Tony Cragg in late October.

About 80 sculptures from Cragg's collections will be showcased during the exhibition, which will run for three months, TMCA director Ali-Mohammad Zare' told the Persian service of MNA on Monday.

Some of the artworks will be selected for display in exhibitions at the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art and the Kerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

Turner Prize-winning Cragg is known for merging contemporary industrial materials with the suggestion of functional forms from mundane objects and ancient vessels like jars and bottles.

One of his famous works is Terris



British sculptor Tony Cragg is seen beside one his works in an undated photo.

Novalis, an enormous, enigmatic, public steel sculpture of engineering instruments, which was created in 1997.

Cragg, 68, is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Iran-Armenia joint production "Yeva" premieres in Yerevan

A R T TEHRAN — "Yeva", a co-production between Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and the National Cinema Center of Armenia, premiered at the Moscow Cinema in the Armenian capital of Yerevan on Saturday.

Directed by Iranian-Armenian filmmaker Anahid Abad, the film tells the story of Yeva, a young woman who escapes her influential in-laws with her daughter Nareh, after her husband's tragic death, and takes refuge in one of the villages of Karabakh, Armenia.

Farabi director Alireza Tabesh and National Cinema Center of Armenia director Shushanik Mirzakhanyan also attended the screening of the film.

Before the screening, Tabesh said that Iran is ready to collaborate with neighboring countries on joint film productions.

"The cinema of Iran can pave the ground for cinematic growth based on morality through joint productions not only



Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation director Alireza Tabesh (1st L) and "Yeva" cast and crew attend the premiere of the movie at Moscow Cinema in Yerevan on September 23, 2017. (IRNA)

with Armenia but also with the neighboring countries with shared commonalities," he added.

Tabesh expressed his hope that the ideal conditions for expanding relations on cinema between Iran and Armenia are created. He also announced Iran's readiness to organize mutual film weeks.

On her part, Abad expressed thanks to her Iranian colleagues, especially producer Taqi Aliqolizadeh, and said that the film shows the high potential of Iranian cinema and Armenia artists.

The film, which is on screen at three movie theaters in Yerevan with Persian subtitles, will later go on screen in other Armenian cities: Gyumri, Ashtarak and Goris.

In addition, in a meeting held on Monday at the Armenia Ministry of Culture, Tabesh and Mirzakhanyan signed an agreement to expand ties in cinematic fields.

Stevie Wonder takes a knee at Global Citizen Festival

Stevie Wonder took a knee in solidarity with former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick at the 2017 Global Citizen Festival in New York's Central Park on Saturday.

"Tonight, I'm taking a knee for America," Wonder said, dropping to first one knee and then the other.

"Not just one knee, but both knees in prayer for our planet, our future, and leaders of our world."

He added, "Our global brothers and sisters, I didn't come here to preach, but I'm telling you, our spirits must be in the right place all the time."

The singer then played a crowd-pleasing set that included "Higher Ground," "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours," and "Sir Duke" as well as a cover of John Lennon's "Imagine" and a guest appearance from Pharrell Williams.

Wonder's comments follow remarks made by President Trump at a rally in Alabama last week. "Wouldn't you love



Stevie Wonder took a knee in solidarity with former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick at the 2017 Global Citizen Festival in New York's Central Park on Saturday.

to see one of these NFL owners when somebody disrespects our flag to say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now,' the president said, adding "He's fired. He's fired!"

During the 2016-2017 football season, Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem as a sign of protest. His contract with the San Francisco 49ers was not renewed and he has not yet signed with another team. (Source: Variety)

Actor Jan Triska dies after fall from Prague bridge

Jan Triska, an actor who moved to the U.S. after being banned by the Czechoslovak Communist regime, has died, more than a day after he fell from Prague's iconic Charles Bridge. He was 80.

Prague theater director Jan Hrusinsky confirmed the death Monday. Triska died in Prague's military hospital overnight due to injuries from Saturday's fall, the circumstances of which are unclear.

Triska emigrated in 1977 after signing a human rights manifesto inspired by his close friend, dissident playwright Vaclav Havel.

He settled in Los Angeles and appeared in dozens of movies, including "Ragtime" and "The People vs. Larry Flynt" by his fellow Czech Milos Forman.

After the anti-Communist 1989 Velvet Revolution led by Havel, Triska regularly returned home to play



In this March 24, 2017, file photo, Czech actor Jan Triska attends a press conference during Febio film festival in Prague, Czech Republic. (Michal Krumpal/CTK via AP)

in movies and theaters, including a leading role in "The Elementary School," nominated for an Academy Award. (Source: AP)