

Iran's gas condensate exports up 18% in 5 months yr/yr **4**

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Nuclear compliance verification not based on U.S. motives: Zarif

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the verification of Iran's compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal is not based on U.S. officials' "ulterior motives". "IAEA verification of Iran compliance with JCPOA is based on terms of agreement; not the ulterior motives of U.S. officials, nor of lobbyists," he

tweeted on Saturday. The tweet by Zarif came two after the UN atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, released a report confirming once again that Iran has remained within key limits on its nuclear activities. The report was the third since the January inauguration of Donald Trump who during his election campaigns had promised to tear up the nuclear deal. **→2**

'UN rights report based on wrong information'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Sunday that Iran does not recognize a recent UN report on the situation of human rights in Iran, saying it has been drafted based on "wrong information". "The content of this report on the situation of human rights in Iran is

based on wrong information and prejudice which has been prepared by invalid sources," he said. UN special rapporteur Asma Jahangir voiced concern on Thursday about alleged hunger strike by prisoners in Iran "protesting against their conditions of detention and abrupt transfer to a high-security section." **→2**

North Korea conducts 'successful' H-bomb test

North Korea says it has conducted a "successful" hydrogen bomb test, hours after two tremors were detected in the country.

North Korean state television said on Sunday that "The hydrogen bomb test was a perfect success," adding that the device was capable of being loaded onto long-range missiles. The newsreader on the official Ko-

rean Central Television said the test had been of a bomb with "unprecedentedly large power," and that it "marked a very significant occasion in attaining the final goal of completing the state nuclear force."

The broadcaster showed an image of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's handwritten order for the test to be carried out at noon on September 3. **→3**

Mistranslation could threaten the nuclear deal: The Atlantic

In an article in the Atlantic published on Sept. 2, David Eckels Wade, a former State Department official during the Obama administration, and Ariane Tabatabai, a senior analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), have cited examples how mistranslation could threaten the Iran nuclear deal, internationally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Following is the text of the article headlined "How Mistranslation Could Threaten the Iran Deal":

Sometimes the words that matter most in foreign policy are the ones we get wrong. As the Trump administration openly ponders withdrawing from the Iran deal, notwithstanding reports of Iran's compliance with the UN's nuclear watchdog, some might be-

lieve his case was bolstered by inflammatory remarks from Iran's own leaders concerning their intentions. Except that in many cases, those remarks were mistranslated, and the accompanying outcry was often misplaced.

We shouldn't take Iran at its word that it's complying with the deal—that's why the deal provides for inspections and monitoring. But we should at least know what those words are and what they mean before they fill headlines, let alone inform policy. One of us worked for the last secretary of state, from his days in the Senate when he helped open the Obama administration's Oman backchannel to Iran, through his first years of delicate diplomacy at Foggy Bottom building a direct relationship with an Iranian Foreign Minister for the first time in three decades. The other has spent years in

Iran and studied the security thinking and policies, including considerable time deciphering often opaque Iranian statements.

As summer began, one think tank's report alleged that "Iran says it has initiated mass production of advanced centrifuges," and declared "Iran could be in material breach of the nuclear deal." But this damning allegation was entirely based on mistranslation. A senior analyst for the International Crisis Group and native Persian speaker discovered that Iranian officials only said Iran had the know-how to mass-produce advanced centrifuges, hardly a secret or a surprise to anyone, not that it was doing so. On Memorial Day, that think tank quietly issued a revised report to "reflect a corrected mistranslation in the Iranian print media." **→13**

Huge blaze forces hundreds to evacuate in Los Angeles

A massive fire described as the biggest in the history of Los Angeles, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate their homes.

Mayor Eric Garcetti told reporters the blaze, which broke out Friday and lit up the hills surrounding the northern suburb of Burbank overnight, had already burnt 5,000 acres (2,000 hectares), adding: "In terms of acres involved this is probably the largest fire in L.A. city history."

The Los Angeles fire was one of several major fires in the western United States.

The federal government declared state of emergencies in Montana and Washington State, where thousands of people have been evacuated.

Such emergencies are declared to release and mobilize federal resources to help fight the fires.

In Los Angeles, Garcetti has declared local state of emergency and he appealed to California Governor Jerry Brown to do the same at the state level.

The Los Angeles blaze has so far de-

stroyed three structures, including two houses, and forced the evacuation of nearly 700 homes in various parts of the city and neighboring Glendale, firefighters said.

Flames were visible in the hills in several neighborhoods including Burbank, where the Disney and Warner Bros. studios are located.

More than 500 firefighters were mobilized, while 100 others who had been deployed in Houston, Texas to help rescue operations after Hurricane Harvey were asked to return. (Source: AFP)

Syrian government forces inflict heavy losses on terrorists

Syrian government forces have carried out fresh operations against ISIL (Daesh) terrorists across the violence-plagued Arab country, inflicting substantial losses on them.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Syria's official news agency, SANA, that army units had established full control over the villages of Salba, Rasm al- Mazra'ah, Zanouba, Taweina, Hesso, Northern Makeimen, Southern Makeimen, Tibet Dakeij and Jebel Abyad in the eastern outskirts of the western province of Hama, located 213 kilometers north of the capital Damascus.

The source added that scores of Daesh extremists were killed or wounded during the military operations, and several vehicles equipped with machine-guns were destroyed as well.

Syrian bomb disposal units are now combing the liberated areas for hidden ordnance and explosive devices, which Daesh Takfiris have planted there to slow down the advance of the army forces towards al- Uqayribat district.

Separately, Syrian army soldiers regained control over an area north of Mannoukh village in the central province of Homs, inflicting heavy losses on the Daesh ranks and its military equipment.

Elsewhere in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr, Syrian and Russian fighter jets pounded the Daesh positions and fortifications, killing or wounding many of the terrorists.

An unnamed Syrian military official said the aerial attacks targeted terrorists' hideouts in al-Thurdeh Valley, Panorama district, the al-Rashidiyah neighborhood of the provincial capital city of Dayr al-Zawr as well as al-Bughailah and Ayyash villages.

Syria has been fighting different foreign-sponsored militant and terrorist groups since March 2011.

The Damascus government has repeatedly blamed certain foreign countries for the spread of the devastating militancy. (Source: SANA)



ARTICLE

By **Mohammad Homaeifar**
 Tehran Times journalist

Enough is enough

Again a tragic car accident happened. This time schoolgirls became victims of carelessness casting shadow over travel camps mostly involving pupils and university students.

In the bus rollover on Friday night in southern Iran in which seven schoolgirls and a teacher lost their lives and some suffered life-long disabilities, this feeling of sorrow and grief was once again revived among people that as if there is no strong will among officials to prevent the occurrence of such heart-rending incidents.

While in a like event in June 2016 nineteen soldiers were killed in a bus rollover, there was no justification for the recurrence of a similar incident 14 months later.

Iran can boast that it has made considerable scientific and economic progresses, yet it lags far behind in certain areas, especially in safe motoring and protection of environment. A country can claim that it is on the road to progress that it sees a balanced development. It is regrettable that you have an 80 million population with the highest literacy rate in West Asia but have one of the highest road fatalities in the world.

One can hardly find a person that one of his friends, acquaintances or family members have not fallen victim to road rage.

Police have succeeded to reduce the number of road fatalities despite a sharp rise in number of cars hitting the roads and streets across the country, but the pace is too slow.

So far the traffic rules have not been effective enough to reduce road fatalities. Training citizens about safe motoring in schools and TV programs is not getting enough attention. So far we have failed to train citizens that unsafe driving is equal to madness.

It is extremely expected that the loss of schoolgirls put a brake on unsafe motoring. No excuse is acceptable to leave the fate of travelers in drivers' hands who behave irresponsibly or are not psychologically fit for the job.



Bouthaina portrayed in her generation's imagination

TEHRAN — Ilia and Arya, twin six-year old boys, made this drawing after they heard about the sufferings of Bouthaina al-Rimi.

Users around the world started sharing photos of themselves with one eye closed in solidarity with Bouthaina, after footage showed the badly bruised and injured little girl trying to open one of her swollen eyes with her fingers.

The young girl, believed to be four or five, was orphaned after her parents and five siblings as well as her uncle were killed in a Saudi airstrike that destroyed their apartment building in the Yemeni capital Sana'a on Friday. Little Bouthaina suffered severe fractures in her face.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



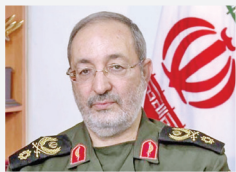
Seminaries, ulema played key role in Iraq victories: Hashemi Shahroudi

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ayatollah Mahmoud d e s k Hashemi Shahroudi, the chairman of the Expediency Council, has highlighted the role of seminaries and ulema in the recent victories of the Iraqi nation against Daesh (ISIS) insurgents.

Hashemi Shahroudi made the remarks in a meeting with Ammar al-Hakim, the leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, on Sunday, Mehr reported.

He also praised the Islamic Republic for its support and the Shia maraji for declaring jihad against the terrorists.

"Victory in the war against Daesh is a divine blessing," he added.



U.S. uproar over Iran military sites 'inconsequential': general

POLITICS TEHRAN — The deputy chief of staff of d e s k the Iranian armed forces has shrugged off the Trump administration's calls for inspection of Iran's military sites, saying Iran regards such uproar as "inconsequential".

Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic would not permit others to interfere in its defense-related affairs, Fars reported.

He also stressed that there is "no relation" between Iran's missile and the nuclear deal, adding underground missile sites weigh much as deterrent against enemies.



House arrest upheld in recent SNSC meeting: Judiciary

POLITICS TEHRAN — Judiciary spokesman d e s k Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i said on Sunday that the issue of 2009 election opposition leaders' house arrest was raised again during a meeting of the Supreme National Security Council last week, where decision was made to uphold status quo, Mizan reported.

This came days after government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht voiced optimism about steps to end the arrest.

Mehdi Karroubi, Mir Hossein Mousavi and his wife, Zahra Rahnavard, were placed under house arrest early 2011 after they insisted on their claims of vote rigging and called for protest.



Iran shoos away U.S. RQ-4 Global Hawk

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's Air Defense d e s k detected a U.S. Air Force RQ-4 Global Hawk drone last week and gave it a warning to stay away from the country's airspace, a top commander said.

Speaking at a televised program on Saturday night, Air Defense Commander Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili said the American RQ-4 drone was given a warning on August 26.

Iran will never allow such hostile planes to approach its airspace and would not hesitate to bring them down if necessary, he added.



'Genocide of Myanmar Muslims a humanitarian catastrophe'

POLITICS TEHRAN — A special aide to Iran's d e s k parliament speaker has expressed deep concern over systematic violence against Muslims in Myanmar, describing it as a "humanitarian catastrophe".

"Genocide of the Muslim minority in Myanmar is a humanitarian catastrophe, which requires urgent humanitarian aid, [and] political and international support," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian tweeted on Sunday.

Amir-Abdollahian also denounced the recent wave of brutal crackdown on Muslims.

He also deplored Muslim countries' silence on the genocide of Rohingya Muslims.



Iraq should act as go-between for regional powers: politician

POLITICS TEHRAN — The leader of the Islamic d e s k Supreme Council of Iraq has voiced optimism over cooperation between Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, saying Iraq should act as a mediator among the three countries.

"In order to create a promising economic future among Iran, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, Iraq acts as the heart of a golden triangle," Alqurtas News quoted Ammar al-Hakim as saying on Sunday.

He underlined that Iraq is the only country that connects Iran and Saudi Arabia by land.

Iran confident to deploy its version of S-300 missile by March

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran is d e s k confident that its air defense will deploy a domestically made ballistic missile by March 2018, which it says matches the prestigious Russian-made S-300.

"In parallel with the deployment of the S-300, work on Bavar-373 system is underway," Farzad Esmaili, commander of the Khatam ul-Anbiya Air Defense Base, told the IRIB on Saturday evening a day before he and his staff were to meet Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran has already tested its home-grown air defense system, designed to match the Russian S-300, Esmaili said, adding, "The system is made completely in Iran and some of its parts are different from the S-300. All of its sub-systems have been completed and its missile tests have been conducted."

The general said Bavar (which means faith) is Iran's first long-range missile defense system, and is set to



be operational by this year's end, the Iranian calendar year which ends on March 20.

In 2010, Iran began manufacturing Bavar-373 after the purchase of the S-300 from Russia was suspended due to international sanctions.

Russia resumed the sale following the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers which lifted sanctions, and Iran's S-300 defense system became operational in March.

On Saturday, the new defense minister Amir Hatami said Iran has "a special plan to boost missile power".

Hatami said he hoped "the combat capabilities of Iran's ballistic and cruise missiles" would increase in the next four years.

The comments as well as the commanders' meeting with the Supreme Leader come amid increasing tensions with Washington, which has passed new sanctions against Iran's ballistic missile program.

Professionalism can solve problems: Ayatollah Khamenei

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyyed Ali d e s k Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said on Sunday that all existing problems can be overcome through taking advantage of efficient manpower that abounds in the country.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili, the chief of Army's Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base, and other senior commanders and officials of the base.

The Leader said skillful manpower plays an unparalleled role in the progress of various sectors, in-

cluding military.

Elsewhere, Ayatollah Khamenei called for taking advantage of talented manpower in order to overcome shortages and satisfy existing needs.

"Numerous advances in different sectors such as the Armed Forces as well as science and technology prove that the country's young and highly-motivated manpower is also capable and the children of Iran are cause of pride both inside the country and in scientific and technological centers of the world," the Leader remarked, according to Press TV.

Ayatollah Khamenei also lauded coordinated efforts made by the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) through the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base. He also praised the base's cooperation with the Defense Ministry, universities and other scientific centers to overcome the existing shortages.

The Leader urged Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base to continue its work at a higher speed and make the country self-sufficient by presenting new plans and initiatives.

Nuclear official: Any inspection will be within IAEA protocols

POLITICS TEHRAN — The d e s k Atomic Energy Organization of Iran's spokesman has said that "any inspection" of Iran's "facilities" would be done within the framework of the July 2015 nuclear deal and the IAEA's protocols.

U.S. efforts to wring a favorable IAEA report failed when on August 30 the United Nations nuclear watchdog released its most recent quarterly report confirming for the eighth time that Iran is committed to limits on its nuclear program under the nuclear agreement.

Speaking to reporters at the Natanz nuclear facility on Saturday, Behrouz Kamalvandi said the IAEA is not permitted to carry out surprise and unplanned inspections of Iran's facilities. "The norm is that we provide the Agency with certain information that will be verified by the Agency. If there is any ambiguity, the Agency will raise the issue and we will definitely respond to it."

"They may have some questions that would reinforce suspicion that Iran is conducting 'unethical' nuclear activities; in that case they may request inspection,"

said the AEOI spokesman.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, met with IAEA officials in Vienna on August 23 for what she claimed a fact-finding mission, which is part of President Donald Trump's review of the deal Iran made with world powers to curb its nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions.

On the same day, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif cautioned in a letter to IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano that Haley's visit was intended to sow doubt about the nuclear agreement. Kamalvandi added, "There is no point

of ambiguity [about Iran's nuclear program] for the Agency, and therefore, no reason to make allegations and wrong assumptions. Everything you hear about Agency's access to Iran's military sites is just media hype."

He further stressed that Iran's nuclear industry is progressing well. "We are advancing our nuclear activities based on our agenda that has already been coordinated with the Agency. Today, our new generation of centrifuges are evolving and will reach mass production in the predicted time frame."

Iran confirms issuance of visa for Saudi team

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry d e s k spokesman Bahram Qassemi confirmed on Sunday that Iran has issued visa for a Saudi delegation who wants to visit Saudi Arabia's diplomatic missions in Iran.

"The Saudi delegation is simply coming to visit diplomatic missions, because the buildings have been empty after the two countries severed ties. We will also visit our missions in Saudi Arabia," he told IRNA.

He said that the Saudi delegations will probably visit Iran after the Hajj ritual.

Qassemi gave no details about the date of the Iranian delegation's visit to Saudi Arabia.

He said that the Iranian delegations received visa to visit Saudi Arabia through Oman two weeks ago.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at odds since the conflict arose in Syria in 2011. The relations suffered more setbacks as 464 Iranian pilgrims were crushed to

death in a stampede in Mecca in September 2015.

The relations started deteriorating as a number of Iranians attacked the Saudi diplomatic missions in Tehran and Mashhad in protest to the execution of the pro-democracy cleric Nimr al-Nimr in January 2016. Though senior Iranian officials condemned the move, Saudi completely cut ties with Tehran.

However some signs are emerging that Saudi Arabia and Iran are seeking to restore ties.

Nuclear compliance verification not based on U.S. motives: Zarif



1 -> In July Trump told the Wall Street Journal he "would be surprised if they (Iran) were in compliance".

Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the U.S., Britain, France, China and Russia - finalized the text of the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, on July 14, 2015. The deal went into effect on January 16, 2016.

However, according to a recent

report in Foreign Policy, Trump has assembled a special team of White House aides whose sole task is to figure out a way to claim that Iran is violating the deal. That way he can say it was Iran's fault the deal fell apart, not his.

According to the JCPOA, Iran has to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. The IAEA is tasked to monitor Iran's compliance to the deal.

'UN rights report based on wrong information'



1 -> Qassemi said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran deeply believes that the report prepared by the rapporteur and her mission are based on a resolution which adopts politically motivated and selective approaches. Iran does not recognize this report and rejects it as unacceptable."

Qassemi noted that the UN special rapporteur ignores advances that Iran has made in the area of human rights.

Jahangir has made efforts to portray a "dark" and "unilateral" image of the human rights situation in Iran by using

"vague" phrases and expressing concerns based on "unreliable" information, the Foreign Ministry official stated.

"The principle of impartiality and professional work of the rapporteur has definitely been undermined," he added.

Qassemi also said that adoption of "political" and "selective" approaches in the area of human rights by some countries will just weaken the status of human rights.

Elsewhere, he criticized ignorance toward violation of human rights in Yemen, Bahrain and Myanmar.

Commander: Iran builds electromagnetic radars to trace cruise missiles

Deputy Commander of the Iranian Navy for Coordination Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari announced that his country's experts have manufactured state-of-the-art electromagnetic radars which can trace cruise missiles.

"Today, we have been able to produce electromagnetic radars with the capability of tracing cruise missiles and they can conduct tracking and reconnaissance operations and lock on them to tar-

get hostile incoming missiles using pinpoint precision-striking systems," General Rastegari was quoted as saying by Defa press on Sunday.

Noting that the new radars are also certainly capable of tracking and intercepting micro-scale flying objects, he said, "Our electromagnetic radars can trace several targets simultaneously and transmit their information to fire control systems."

In relevant remarks in January, Commander

of Khatam ul-Anbiya Air Defense Base Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili underlined that Iran's missile and radar systems that have multi-folded in recent years are fully prepared to confront any threat.

"Our missile, electronic tapping and radar systems have multi-folded and we can confront the modern threats of the world," Esmaili said back then.

(Source: FNA)

North Korea conducts 'successful' H-bomb test

China's anger at West to overshadow tougher action on North Korea

1 → The announcement came after Japanese, South Korean, and U.S. meteorological organizations said they had detected two tremors in North Korea.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) on Sunday detected a first tremor, saying in an updated reading that the quake measured 6.3 on the Richter scale at a depth of 10 kilometers, 24 kilometers northeast of Sungjibaegam in North Korea.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the seismic tremor had been detected near the North's Punggye-ri nuclear test site.

China detected a second tremor, which it said was magnitude 4.6 and came at a depth of zero kilometers eight minutes after the first quake.

While South Korean officials said that the tremors were likely caused by a nuclear explosion, Japan said in certain terms that a nuclear test had occurred.

"After examining the data, we concluded that it was a nuclear test," Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono said at a briefing after a meeting of Japan's National Security Council.

Japan's Ministry of Defense said it had dispatched at least three military jets from bases in Japan to test for radiation.

China 'strongly condemns' test

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry "strongly condemned" North Korea's hydrogen bomb test and the development of the warhead to be mounted on missiles.

North Korea "has ignored the international community's widespread opposition, again carrying out a nuclear test. China's government expresses resolute opposition and strong condemnation toward this," the statement read.

North Korea's latest nuclear test is likely to pile more pressure on China to take tough action against its neighbor, but Beijing already doubts economic sanctions will work and says it is not its sole responsibility to rein in Pyongyang.

China has lambasted the West and its allies over recent weeks for promoting the "China responsibility theory" for North Korea, and been upset by Seoul and Washington's own military drills that Beijing says have done nothing to cool tensions.

"The United States has to play its own role and should not be blindly putting pressure on China to try and squeeze North Korea," said Ruan Zongze, a former Chinese diplomat now with the China Institute of International Studies, a think-



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un provides guidance on a nuclear weapons program in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on September 3, 2017.

tank affiliated with the Foreign Ministry.

While the seriousness of Sunday's nuclear test means China will likely support tough new action, including possibly cutting off oil supplies, China will make clear others need to step up too, Ruan added.

Over the past week, China's foreign ministry has repeatedly hit back at calls from Western countries and Japan for China to do more to rein in North Korea, saying that pushing for dialogue was an equally integral part of the U.N. resolutions, and that escalating sanctions alone had been evidently ineffective.

"On the one hand, sanctions have continued to be put in place via resolutions and on the other hand North Korea's nuclear and missile launch process is still continuing," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said last week.

South Korea urges 'strongest punishment'

South Korean President Moon Jae-in also called for the "strongest punishment" against Pyongyang, including new United Nations sanctions "to completely isolate North Korea."

Presidential security adviser Chung Eui-Yong cited Moon as saying that the South would discuss deploying "the strongest strategic assets of the U.S. military," referring to tactical nuclear weapons, which had been withdrawn by Washington in 1991.

Russia warns of 'serious consequences'

Russian Foreign Ministry expressed "strong condemnation" of North Korean hydrogen bomb test and called for restraint by all concerned parties.

"This latest demonstrative disregard by Pyongyang of the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the norms of international law deserves the strongest condemnation," the Russian ministry said in a statement.

Russia also expressed regret that the leadership of North Korea was "creating a serious threat" for the region and warned that "the continuation of such a line is fraught with serious consequences" for Pyongyang.

France calls for 'very firm' response French President Emmanuel Macron called for a "very firm" response by the international community to North Korea's H-bomb test.

"The international community must be very firm in its handling of this latest provocation, in order to get North Korea to unconditionally return to talks and proceed with the complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear and ballistic programs," Macron said in a statement.

The French president called on the UN Security Council to "quickly react" and also urged the European Union to come up

with a "clear and united" response.

IAEA voices 'extreme regret' The head of the UN's atomic organization also denounced the latest nuclear test as an "extremely regrettable" move that violated the international community's repeated demands.

Merkel, Macron seek 'tougher EU sanctions' against N.Korea

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron Sunday urged tougher EU sanctions against North Korea, saying Pyongyang has "reached a new dimension of provocation" with its latest nuclear test.

"The chancellor and the president are in agreement that North Korea has trampled on international law and that the international community must therefore react with determination against this new escalation," Merkel's office said in a statement after she spoke on the phone with Macron.

Both leaders "are calling for tougher EU sanctions against North Korea," it added.

Separately, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Pyongyang's latest test "means that we have to find a level-headed but clear answer".

"We will discuss this reaction with our partners in the EU. I am sure that the UN Security Council will also take necessary measures in a decisive manner," he said.

The 'bomb'

Just earlier on Sunday, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that the country had developed a hydrogen bomb that could be loaded into a new intercontinental ballistic missile.

The developments come amid high tensions over the North Korean missile and nuclear programs.

South Korea, the U.S., and Japan have been unnerved by the North's weapons programs, which Pyongyang has been defiantly advancing as countermeasures to their hostility.

On Tuesday, North Korea fired a Hwasong-12 missile — reportedly capable of carrying a nuclear payload — that traveled nearly 2,700 kilometers into the Pacific, including over Japan.

The violation of Japanese airspace sparked angry reactions from Japan and the U.S., as well as calls for restraint by other countries, including Russia and China. The launch also prompted a United Nations Security Council condemnation.

(Source: agencies)

Hezbollah: U.S. hampering ISIL evacuation deal on Syria border

The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has accused the U.S. of hampering an evacuation deal with the ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group.

According to Hezbollah, U.S.-led forces have stranded most of the convoy's 17 buses in the Syrian desert by destroying the road to Dayr al-Zawr.

"They are also preventing anyone from reaching them even to provide humanitarian assistance to families, the sick and wounded and the elderly," said a statement released by the resistance movement.

Last week, the Syrian government agreed to the deal between Hezbollah and Daesh Takfiri terrorists, which allows the transfer of the latter from the strategic and mountainous region of Qalamoun close to the border with Lebanon to eastern Syria.

The deal has been criticized by Washington and some government officials in Iraq as the terrorists are being transferred close to the Iraqi border.



The U.S.-led coalition, allegedly battling terrorism in Syria, released a statement stating that "the coalition will not condone Daesh fighters moving further east to the Iraqi border."

"The coalition values human life and has offered suggestions on a course of action to save the women and children

from any further suffering as a result of the Syrian government's agreement," it noted.

It noted it would not hit the convoy directly but would target Daesh terrorists and vehicles "seeking to facilitate the movement of Daesh fighters to the border area of our Iraqi partners."

On August 19, Hezbollah and the Syr-

ian army launched an operation to purge Daesh from Qalamoun, located about 330 kilometers (205 miles) north of the Syrian capital Damascus.

Hezbollah also launched a major push on July 21 to clear both sides of Lebanon's border with Syria of "armed terrorists."

In August 2014, the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham and Daesh terrorist groups overran Aarsal, killing a number of Lebanese forces. They took 30 soldiers hostage, most of whom have been released.

Since then, Hezbollah and the Lebanese military have been defending Lebanon on the country's northeastern frontier against foreign-backed terrorist groups from neighboring Syria.

Hezbollah fighters have fended off several Daesh attacks inside Lebanon. They have also been providing assistance to Syrian army forces to counter the ongoing foreign-sponsored militancy.

(Source: al Alam)

Trump's policies worry Muslims at Hajj

American, Canadian and British pilgrims in Mecca this week for the annual Hajj say they are worried about the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump targeting Muslims.

"People are irritated, angry, sombre, a little bit worried," said Yasir Qadhi, an Islamic scholar who travelled from Tennessee for his fourteenth pilgrimage.

"No one that I know is happy at the current circumstances or the current administration. No one, not a single person in this entire gathering."

As a candidate, Trump proposed barring Muslims from entering the United States. In office, he ordered temporary bans on people from several Muslim-majority countries, which have been blocked by courts that ruled they were discriminatory.

His administration has denied any intention of religious discrimination in the travel ban, saying it is intended purely as a national security measure.

But sharp rhetoric about the threat posed by "radical Islam", which was a central part of his campaign, has also



drawn accusations he risks alienating more than three million Americans who practice Islam peacefully.

Many U.S. Muslims say his stance has fuelled an atmosphere in which some may feel they can voice prejudice or attack followers of the faith without fear of retribution.

He 'attacks Islam'

The Hajj, a five-day ritual that retraces the journey the

Prophet Muhammad took 14 centuries ago, is a religious duty once in a lifetime for every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it.

It is the world's largest annual Muslim gathering with more than 2.3 million people attending this year.

American Wajahat Ali said friends back home had asked him to pray for the United States while on Hajj, and other pilgrims he met offered sympathy and encouragement that the situation would improve.

Malaysian pilgrim Abdul Azim Zainul Abideen said the U.S. president should stop what he called his attacks on Islam.

"We don't have anything against any Americans or non-Muslims," he said on Friday at a symbolic stoning of the devil, part of the Hajj rituals.

His sister, 27-year-old Anisa, said she was worried by reports of an uptick in violence against Muslims in the United States "just because of wearing hijab in the streets or just because you have a beard". (Source: Reuters)

Russia: U.S. order to vacate diplomatic property 'blunt act of hostility'

The Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday that a U.S. order to vacate Russian diplomatic property in Washington and San Francisco was a "blunt act of hostility".

"We urge American authorities to change their minds and return Russian diplomatic facilities immediately," it said on its website.

On Saturday, Russian diplomats worked to vacate three properties in the United States, including the six-story consulate in San Francisco, complying with the U.S. order which was issued in retaliation for Moscow cutting the American diplomatic presence in Russia.

(Source: Reuters)

Rohingya exodus continues after 73,000 flee Myanmar

Nearly 75,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled violence in Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh, with aid officials warning relief camps are reaching full capacity as thousands continue to pour in every day.

Vivian Tan, the regional spokeswoman for UNHCR, told Al Jazeera on Sunday that at least 73,000 Rohingya crossed the border since violence erupted on August 25, with thousands more expected.

"Most of the people coming in are completely exhausted, some of them say they haven't eaten in days and some are completely traumatized by their experiences," she said.

"One woman arrived on her own after following a band of refugees across the border. When she met with the UN she said her husband had been shot and her 18-month-old baby had been left with her in-laws.

"She has since lost contact with her family and is struggling to process what is happening," Tan added.

In recent days, tens of thousands of Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh to escape mass killings they say are being perpetrated by Myanmar forces.



Foreign governments and organizations fear Rohingya villages are being subject to collective punishment after an armed group on August 25 attacked police posts and an army base in the western region of Rakhine.

Myanmar officials blame the group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) for the violence, but fleeing Rohingya civilians say a campaign of arson and killings by the Myanmar army is aimed at forcing them out of the country.

"We fled to Bangladesh to save our lives," said a man who paid a smuggler hundreds of dollars to flee the fighting.

"The military and extremist Rakhine [ARSA] are burning us, killing us, setting our village on fire," he told the AP news agency.

He said he paid 12,000 Bangladeshi taka, or about \$150, for each of his family members to be smuggled on a wooden boat to Bangladesh after soldiers killed 110 Rohingya in their village of Kunnapura, near the coastal town of Maungdaw.

"The military destroyed everything. After killing some Rohingya, the military burned their houses and shops," he said. "We have a baby who is eight days only, and an old woman who is 105."

Aid workers told the AP news agency that a large number of refugees required immediate medical attention as they were suffering from respiratory diseases, infection and malnutrition.

The existing medical facilities in the border area were insufficient to cope up with the influx and more aid and paramedics were needed, they said.

Another aid official said on Saturday that more than 50 refugees had arrived with bullet injuries and were moved to hospitals in Cox's Bazar, on the border with Myanmar.

Refugees reaching the Bangladeshi fishing village of Shah Porir Dwip described bombs exploding near their homes and Rohingya being burned alive.

The UN believes the Myanmar government's response to the crisis may amount to ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Satellite imagery analysed by Human Rights Watch shows hundreds of buildings destroyed in at least 17 sites across Rakhine state, including some 700 structures that appeared to have been burned down in just the village of Chein Khar Li.

Myanmar authorities say Rohingya "extremist" have been setting the fires during fighting with government troops, while Rohingya have blamed soldiers who have been accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Sara Netanyahu takes polygraph test over graft claims

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife has taken a voluntary lie detector test to try and dispel allegations she misused public funds, her lawyer said Sunday.

National fraud squad detectives questioned Sara Netanyahu last month on suspicions she routinely claimed state payments for personal housekeeping expenses at the couple's official and private residences.

Private broadcaster Channel Two reported at the weekend that the attorney general was expected to announce charges against her by Sep. 10.

"She took the test," Netanyahu family lawyer Yossi Cohen told Israeli public radio. "It's a very tough test. It's humiliating and she did it wonderfully."

He did not give details of the questions she was asked or the test results. (Source: AFP)

NEWS IN BRIEF



More than \$2.5b allocated for creating jobs in rural areas

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran has allocated 100 trillion rials (about \$2.577 billion) for creation of job opportunities in the rural areas, Tasnim news agency reported quoting a labor official as saying on Saturday.

According to Mohammad Kalantari, the deputy labor, cooperatives and social welfare minister, the allocated budget will be used to create 65,000 jobs in the rural areas.

Half of the allocated fund will be secured from the National Development Fund (NDF) and the rest from four domestic banks, the official said.

Italy's 5-Star says euro referendum would be 'last resort'

CERNOBBIO, Italy (Reuters) — A referendum on Italy's membership of the euro currency would be held only as a "last resort" if Rome does not win any fiscal concessions from the European Union, a senior lawmaker from the anti-establishment Five-Star Movement said on Sunday.

Seeking to reassure an audience of bankers and business leaders at the Ambrosetti conference, Luigi Di Maio, widely tipped to be 5-Star's candidate for prime minister at a general election due by May 2018, said the referendum proposal was a "bargaining tool."

"Austerity policies have not worked, on monetary policy we deserve the credit for triggering a debate... this is why we raised the issue of a referendum on the euro, as a bargaining tool, as a last resort and a way out in case Mediterranean countries are not listened to," he said.

Reuters had access to the comments, which were made behind closed doors.

Most Clariant shareholders support merger

ZURICH (Reuters) — The vast majority of Clariant's (CLN.S) shareholders support the Swiss chemical maker's planned \$20 billion merger with American peer Huntsman (HUN.N), Huntsman's Chief Executive told Swiss newspaper NZZ am Sonntag.



"I have met between 150 and 200 shareholders in groups and in individual talks and explained the details of the merger to them," Peter Huntsman said. "The large majority stand behind us."

The merger unveiled by the companies in May has been opposed by activist investor White Tale Holdings, which says the deal runs against Clariant's focus on specialty chemicals over commodities.

White Tale, whose principals include U.S. hedge fund manager Keith Meister, has amassed a 10 percent Clariant stake worth nearly 750 million Swiss francs (\$778 million).

Huntsman told the newspaper that a merger was needed to save costs and enable the companies to compete with Chinese and Indian rivals.

"Consolidation in the chemicals industry will continue and the environment is getting tougher," he said. "There is a risk of being crushed by the competition."

A representative of White Tale said Clariant should be split up to maximize investor value, telling Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung that several parties were interested in the plastics and coatings division.

Former RBI chief Rajan says had cautioned government on demonetization

MUMBAI (Reuters) — Former central bank head Raghuram Rajan had cautioned the government that short-term costs of a radical ban of high-value currency notes would outweigh the long-term benefits, Times of India newspaper reported on Sunday.

He had first given his opinion on whether to carry out the ban in February 2016, the paper reported, citing excerpts from Rajan's book on his stint at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), titled "I Do What I Do: On Reforms Rhetoric and Resolve".

That was months before Prime Minister Narendra Modi stunned the country on Nov. 8 by abolishing 500- and 1,000-rupee notes, removing 86 percent of the currency in circulation in a bid to crack down on "shadow economy".

"The RBI flagged what would happen if preparation was inadequate," the paper cited Rajan as saying in the book that will be released next week.

Rajan also told the newspaper in an interview that the demonetization had a disruptive impact on the economy.

"I think all said and done, it would be fair to say the intent was good. But certainly at this point, one still cannot in any way say it has been an economic success. But again, as I said, only time will tell," he was quoted as saying.

Iran's gas condensate exports up 18% in 5 months yr/yr

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran's gas condensate exports during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) rose 18 percent compared to the same time span in the past year, according to a gas official.

Masoud Hassani, the managing director of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) which is a subsidiary of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), said 91 million barrels of gas condensate were exported from Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) in southwest Iran during the five-month period, IRNA reported on Sunday.

"The production of gas condensate also increased by 13 percent to reach 86.670 million barrels in the said time span," the official added.

He said the five-month export is more than production because of exporting

some gas condensate previously stored in the company's tanks.

Hassani also noted that gas production from South Pars gas field surged to 68 billion cubic meters which indicates a 15 percent rise compared to last year's five-month figure.

PSEEZ is an energy hub in Iran's southwestern Bushehr Province with 105 kilometers distance from South Pars gas field, a huge field Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf. The field holds about eight percent of the world's natural gas reserves and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Five refineries belonged to SPGC are in charge of refining the gas received from South Pars gas field.

Iran is currently producing over 810,000 barrels of gas condensate and 570 million cubic meters of natural gas from 18 active phases in South Pars field.



Over \$30m of state-owned shares divested since Mar.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO) has transferred 1.174 trillion rials (about \$30.21 million) worth of the state-run shares to the private sector since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2017), Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

IPO plans to transfer the shares of some 337 state-run companies to the private sector by the current Iranian calendar yearend (March 20, 2018).

The Iranian governmental body has classified 337 Iranian governmental companies in two groups and is ready to transfer their stakes to the private sector by yearend.

The government envisioned a large privatization program in the Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan (2010-2015), aiming to privatize about 20 percent of the state-owned firms each year.

Under the present interpretation of the Article 44 of Iran's Constitution, hundreds of state-owned companies have been privatized.

Over 1000 exhibitors to participate in Iran Plast 2017

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 11th International Exhibition of Plastics, Rubber, Machinery and Equipment of Iran (Iran Plast 2017) is scheduled to be held on September 24-27 at Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds.

According to Shana, over 1000 domestic companies and foreign exhibitors from 24 different countries are reported to be participating in this year's event.

During the four-day exhibition, Iranian exhibitors along with renowned companies and firms from countries



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

HSBC's incoming chairman joins the board — with one important task on the horizon

HSBC's incoming chairman Mark Tucker officially joins the board Friday, with one his first tasks expected to be the appointment a new chief executive for the bank by the end of the year.

Tucker joins with the view to assuming the chairman role as of October 1 once his predecessor Doug Flint steps down. Tucker's appointment in March was an unusual choice for a bank that tends to promote from within its own ranks.

Tucker will be joining from the pan-Asian life insurance group AIA, where he was also chairman for seven years and oversaw the company's record-breaking \$17.8 billion IPO (initial public offering) in Hong Kong in 2010.

He was also a non-executive director of the Court of The Bank of England and served as a member of its Financial Stability Committee and Audit and Risk

Committee between 2009 and 2012.

One of the incoming chairman's first tasks will be to appoint a new chief executive for the bank as the incumbent Stuart Gulliver has announced he will be stepping down in 2018.

In a break with tradition, Tucker is said to be considering outside candidates for the job. One name that has been touted is António Horta Osório — current chairman of U.K. lender Lloyds — although Osório is set to unveil a three-year strategy for Lloyds next February so appears unlikely to leave his current role.

Other internal contenders include John Flint — who is Gulliver's protégée — and head of the retail banking and wealth management divisions. Also Samir As-saf, head of investment banking as well as Antonio Simoes, the current head of HSBC Europe.

HSBC shares are up nearly 15 percent year-to-date, boosted by stock buybacks and dividends in the last 12 months and a 5 percent rise in pre-tax profit for the first half of 2017. Buybacks occur when a firm buys their own shares trading on the stock exchange, reducing the portion of shares in the hands of investors. They offer a way to return cash to shareholders — along with dividends — and usually coincide with a company's stock pushing higher as shares get scarcer.

However, the rise in profit follows on from a patchy couple of years for the bank, having been hit by several controversies, namely being fined by the U.S. Department of Justice for money laundering in 2012 and for tax avoidance strategies employed by its Swiss entity. In the U.K., it was also fined for mis-selling PPI (along with other banking counter-

parts) and was one of the six banks implicated in the Libor-rigging scandal back in 2014.

Flint and Gulliver have since worked hard at turning HSBC's fortunes and reputation around, steering the bank back to a year-on-year profit as per its second-quarter results. However, there are still many challenges ahead including how HSBC plans to deal with increasing amounts of regulation and the fallout from Brexit.

Given 45 percent of HSBC's revenues come from Asia, as well as Tucker's background at the BOE, the new chairman brings in a wealth of relevant experience. Analysts will no doubt be watching closely to see who he unveils as chief executive in the next few months and what strategy the new duo will unveil for Europe's largest bank. (Source: cnbc)

China's Xi says BRICS must promote open world economy

XIAMEN, China (Reuters) — The BRICS group of emerging economies must promote trade liberalization and an open world economy, Chinese President Xi Jinping said at a business meeting on Sunday at the start of a three-day summit being held in southeastern China.

The heads of state from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will gather in the city of Xiamen through Tuesday, giving China as host its latest chance to position itself as a bulwark of globalization in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's "America First" agenda.

BRICS leaders will be joined by observer countries Thailand, Mexico, Egypt, Guinea and Tajikistan, and officials will discuss a "BRICS Plus" plan to possibly expand the bloc to new members.

Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto is set to be in China to discuss trade and investment, as Trump has renewed threats to scrap the 23-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that he has labeled a killer of U.S. jobs.

"We should push for an open world economy, promote trade liberalization and facilitation, jointly create a new global value chain, and realize a global economic rebalancing," Xi told BRICS business leaders and senior officials.

Xi said he still had "full confidence" in BRICS countries' development despite claims that the bloc's relevance had faded due to slower growth.

"The development of emerging market and developing countries won't touch anyone's cheese, but instead will diligently grow the world economic pie," he said.

Earlier, Chinese vice trade minister, Wang Shouwen,



(L-R) South African President Jacob Zuma, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Brazilian President Michel Temer arrive for the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum at the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center in Xiamen, China September 3, 2017. REUTERS/Mark Schiefelbein/Pool

said the BRICS meeting was expected to "reach consensus for actions" to oppose trade protectionism. He added that China was interested in possibly establishing a free trade agreement with Mexico.

In July, Xi called on members of the Group of 20 (G20) nations to champion an open world economy, and at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January offered a vigorous defense of globalization.

In Xiamen, Xi closed his 45-minute speech by saying that Beijing encouraged Chinese companies to continue going abroad, and "warmly welcomed" other countries' firms to invest in the world's second-largest economy.

Trump hints at withdrawal from U.S.-South Korea free trade deal

HOUSTON (Reuters) — President Donald Trump on Saturday said he would discuss the fate of a five-year-old U.S.-South Korean free trade deal with his advisers next week, in a move that could see him pull out of the accord with a key American ally at a time of heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Trump made his remarks to reporters while visiting hurricane-hit Houston a day after he spoke with South Korean President

Moon Jae-in and struck a deal allowing Seoul access to longer-range missiles as well as a potential arms sale.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), hammered out by Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama, has been a frequent target for Trump, who in earlier interviews with Reuters threatened to withdraw from what he called an unequal deal in which Washington runs a goods trade deficit of almost \$28 billion with Seoul.

"It is very much on my mind," Trump said in Houston when asked if he is talking to advisers and will do something about the pact this week.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said in an email to members that it and other business groups "have received multiple reports" that the Trump administration is prepared to notify South Korea of its intent to withdraw from KORUS on Tuesday, and possibly sooner. The largest U.S. business lobby urged

member companies to have senior executives call the White House and other administration officials to tell them not to proceed, and to enlist Republican governors in the effort.

"This is an all hands on deck effort," the group said in a memo seen by Reuters that recalled another emergency campaign in April to persuade Trump not to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Russia likely to back extension of OPEC deal as prices stabilize

Russia is likely to back a further extension of the OPEC agreement cutting oil output, judging that it has helped to stabilize the market, the country's deputy prime minister said.

"The most likely outcome is that the deal will be extended," Arkady Dvorkovich said in an interview with Bloomberg TV in Cernobbio, Italy, though he added that it's still too early to make a definitive decision. "We are still six months away, so we will see," he said.

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in May to maintain curbs on production until March 2018 as part of efforts to reverse a drop in crude prices which has their economies and budgets. The cuts came into effect in January after an initial deal in November 2016.

"Based on preliminary assessment, it is clear that the deal was efficient and contributed to the stabilization of the market," Dvorkovich said. The Russia oil ministry is "fully involved" in monitoring compliance with the reductions, he added.

Russia's energy minister Alexander Novak and his Iraqi counterpart Jabbar al-Luaibi met last week in Moscow to discuss cooperation within the framework of the OPEC and non-OPEC ministerial meeting, according to the Russian Energy Ministry.

Russia's publicly traded oil producers, both state-led and non-state, have voluntarily reduced output in order to support prices.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, is trading at about \$53 a barrel, around the same level as when cuts were agreed in May. (Source: Bloomberg)



Australia set to be largest LNG exporter by 2020

Harold Hamm, Chairman of Continental Resources sees attractive long-term growth prospects in global gas demand, the Financial Times reported in a recent story about Hamm.

Hamm expects U.S. LNG exports to rise from about 3.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/day) in 2017 to 10 Bcf-11 Bcf per day by 2019, just from the export plants now under construction. The EIA came out with a report that tops that—putting U.S. exports of natural gas at 13.5 Bcf/day.

"As further liquefaction projects are approved and completed, he expects this to rise to 30 Bcf-35 Bcf per day in the longer term. At that rate, the U.S. would be exporting about 42 percent of this year's total gas production," FT calculated.

There is no doubt U.S. LNG exports are on the rise, thanks to the first-mover status of Cheniere Energy which completed its Train 1 liquefaction facility at Sabine Pass and started exporting LNG in early 2016. With six major projects in progress including capacity expansions at Sabine Pass, the U.S. isn't slowing down. These six projects will give U.S. a major presence in not only the regional gas market, but the global gas trade. Here is a recap of where the U.S. stands in the race to export natural gas.

Currently, Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass is the only active LNG exporting facility in the U.S.

The Sabine Pass facility is partially complete, with three of a total of five trains operational. The fourth train of Sabine Pass is nearly complete, and was 99

percent constructed at the time of Cheniere's second quarter conference call earlier in August. Cheniere reports that Train 4 will be completed in October. The fifth train is not as far along, and current plans suggest it will come online in August 2019. Cheniere is currently in the process of obtaining commercial contracts and financing for a sixth train, which would be the final one at Sabine Pass.

Each train at Sabine Pass is designed to process 4.5 million tons of LNG per year, giving the facility current production of 13.5 MTPA and eventual total capacity of 27 MTPA.

The next facility to come online will most likely be Dominion Energy's Cove Point facility in Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Cove Point is currently an LNG import facility, but the rise of unconventional production from the Marcellus has pushed the facility to be retrofitted to export gas.

Dominion released an update in July which stated that the project was 92 percent complete, with an in-service date in Q4 2017. All of the major equipment has been set in place, now the focus is on commissioning activities. Cove Point LNG will have a total capacity of about 5.7 MTPA when operational.

(Source: oilprice.com)

U.S. energy industry claws back after Harvey, but gas prices elevated

Several key refineries began restarting over the weekend after Hurricane Harvey slammed into the U.S. Gulf Coast energy hub and crippled their operations, but gasoline prices remained near two-year highs amid fears of shortages.

The storm took down a quarter of U.S. oil refining capacity and lifted average gasoline prices by more than 17.5 cents since Aug. 23.

On Saturday, ExxonMobil Corp began restarting the country's second-largest oil refinery, the 560,500 barrels per day (bpd) Baytown, Texas, unit, while Phillips 66 said it was working to resume operations at its 247,000 bpd Sweeny refinery and at its Beaumont oil and fuels terminal.

The restarts followed an announcement from Valero Energy Corp on Friday that it was increasing production at its Corpus Christi, Texas-area refineries.

The hurricane battered Texas before weakening to a tropical storm and inundated the region with torrential rains and flooding.

Some pipelines also restarted over the weekend, assuaging worries over the ability of refineries to get the crude oil they need to operate. Magellan Midstream Partners said it had resumed operations on Friday on its BridgeTex and Longhorn crude oil pipelines, which transport around 675,000 bpd of West Texas crude to East Houston.

Still, the majority of Texas ports remained closed to large vessels, limiting discharge of imported crude, and the Colonial Pipeline, which hauls more than 3 million bpd of refined products including gasoline, diesel and jet fuel from the Gulf Coast to the populous U.S. Northeast was also partially closed.

(Source: Reuters)

Statoil aims to develop Argentinian shale

Statoil and YPF announced an agreement on Saturday to explore hydrocarbons in the Vaca Muerta shale. This represents Statoil's entry into Argentina.

Under the terms of the agreement, Statoil will enter the Bajo del Toro license block with a 50 percent interest. YPF will retain a 50 percent share and will remain the operator. Statoil will recognize YPF's past costs incurred in the block and will fund 100 percent of the cost of certain activities in the future.

Bajo del Toro represents almost 39,000 acres in the Neuquén Basin in west-central Argentina. The Vaca Muerta shale in the Neuquén Basin is one of the most promising shale plays in the world. Tremendous amount of oil and gas in place and generally favorable governmental attitudes toward development have made the play very attractive. In addition, the Vaca Muerta benefits from generally cheaper acreage than most U.S. unconventional, so it is easier for a company to acquire a sizeable position. It is one of the few international shale plays that has seen successful development, and many major players are investing money.

In June 2016, for example, ExxonMobil's then-CEO Rex Tillerson stated that the company may spend up to \$10 billion in developing the Vaca Muerta in the next few decades. According to the EIA, the formation holds over 16 billion barrels of shale oil and 308 Tcf of shale gas.

(Source: oilprice.com)

قرعه کشی
حساب های
قرض الحسنه
پس انداز



۱۰ دستگاه
رنو ساندر



۱۰ کمک هزینه
خرید مسکن با ارزش
۰۰۰/۰۰۰/۰۰۰/۰۰۰ ریال



هزاران
جایزه نقدی

همه با #هم برنده ایم

مهلت افتتاح حساب
۱۳۹۶/۶/۳۱
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Second Announcement

N.I.O.C
1396.2462

National Iranian Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender (First Publish/Seconded Publish)
One-Stage (compressed)

TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
3,869	150,000,000	3,000,000,000	Pressure transmitter for mud logging units	1.497.857	Tender No.: fp/05-96/041 Indent No.: 9645035	1

Brief description of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahwaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:
A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:
The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.
B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.
Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must 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 tender will be known as tenderer from tender committee.
C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualification worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the 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 activities licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranian 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 ۹۶/۱۲ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۱۳

Why Russia seeks to stay neutral in Saudi-Qatar rift

Russia clearly wants to remain neutral in the conflict among Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries, as evidenced by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's three-day trip this week to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The minister not only visited states representing both sides of the conflict, he also went to Kuwait to express Russian support for that country's efforts as a mediator.

The beginning of the current tensions between Qatar and Saudi Arabia was an unpleasant surprise for Russia. While Moscow had no illusions regarding political friction among PGCC members, it could not have expected the friction to lead the Arab monarchies to such a deep crisis. Under these circumstances, the Kremlin made the only reasonable choice: It stayed neutral and offered its services as a mediator. Picking one side would damage Russia's relations with the other, and Moscow wants to remain in good standing with all PGCC members.

Russian interests in keeping good relations with Saudi Arabia, which Lavrov said he would visit in early September, are quite obvious and largely related to economic matters. Moscow and Riyadh are trying to stabilize prices in the oil market. In April, the speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, Valentina Matvienko, said that by the beginning of 2018, Moscow and Riyadh plan to implement several important projects costing as much as \$3 billion. In July, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak confirmed Moscow still has a big appetite for joint oil and gas projects with the Saudis. On one hand, Russia promotes establishing joint scientific centers that would work on new technologies in drilling, oil servicing and oil transportation. On the other hand, it also seeks to open the Saudi market for Russian oil drilling and service companies. In addition, the Kremlin hopes to sell Riyadh arms and military equipment. Russia is well aware of Saudi Arabia's political influence in the region and the Muslim world, and Moscow would also like to find common language with the Saudis on the situation in Syria. All these motives are enough to keep Russia interested in the dialogue with Saudi Arabia, but not enough to make the Kremlin take Riyadh's side in the conflict with Qatar.

From 2009 to 2015, Russia's relations with Qatar were not easy. For almost six years, Qatar was an "enfant terrible" of the Middle East for Russia. Doha heavily criticized Moscow for its support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Qatar's TV channels openly called Putin "the dictator of the 21st century" and even labeled Russia the main enemy of the Muslim world. In 2012, Russian Ambassador to Qatar Vladimir Titorenko was assaulted at the Doha airport. Finally, Doha actively confronted Moscow's efforts to dominate at the Gas Exporting Countries Forum.

Consequently, it was surprising to see the Kremlin clearly prepared to help Doha minimize the negative effect from its conflict with other Arab countries. On June 9, shortly after the beginning of Saudi attempts to isolate Qatar, Russian authorities welcomed Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Moscow; he thanked the Kremlin for its readiness to help. Moreover, just a couple of days before that visit, Russian officials were discussing prospects for cooperation in the oil and gas sphere and beyond with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Saudi Oil Minister Khalid al-Falih. There was logic in Russia's behavior.

First of all, after years of complicated relations with Qatar, Russia came to understand that a country's size isn't necessarily relevant to its clout in the Middle East. It made complete sense to befriend "small" Qatar, which has significant influence in the political arena and in the media (neither the Saudis nor their allies have anything equal to Al Jazeera). Qatar is also a leading exporter of liquefied natural gas — a niche market Russia would like to be involved in.

Since 2015, Russia has been trying to improve its relations with Doha. In late 2013, it decided not to demand an apology from Qatari leadership for the airport assault on Titorenko, and it appointed Nurmuhhammad Kholov as his replacement. Since then, contacts between the two countries have grown. In 2016, Qatar even bought a stake in Russian oil and gas giant Rosneft. Under these circumstances, the Saudi-Qatari conflict provided Moscow with new opportunities to improve relations with Doha. Russian officials' warm welcome to Al Thani during his June trip sent a signal to Doha: Russia is a friend. Of course, the promise of help was a formality. Moscow knew Qatari authorities wouldn't accept the offer, yet it was an important, positive political gesture that Doha will probably remember for quite a while.

Russia's positive economic cooperation with Qatar also influenced Moscow's neutrality in the conflict. In spite of periodical turbulence in political relations, Russia and Qatar have built a sustainable economic dialogue. From this perspective, Riyadh doesn't fare well in comparison; the Saudis keep feeding Moscow promises of huge investments in the Russian economy but never deliver on these promises. Doha, on the contrary, is one of the biggest Middle Eastern investors in the Russian economy. By 2017, the volume of Saudi investments in Russia reached \$600 million against Qatar's \$2.5 billion. The Qataris' choice of investment projects was also important. Apart from Rosneft, in 2013 they bought into a leading Russian bank, VTB. Three years later, they invested in the Pulkovo Airport in Putin's native St. Petersburg. While preparing these deals, the Qataris got acquainted with influential figures in Russian business and politics.

Finally, the United States also factored into Moscow's decision not to join the anti-Qatari or anti-Saudi alliance. As tensions between Moscow and Washington continue, the Kremlin wants to remind the United States and the international community that Russia is an important player and its views should not be ignored. By offering to mediate, Moscow demonstrates its significance as a country that can talk to either side of the conflict, as opposed to the United States, which has managed to criticize both sides harshly, depending on who is speaking at the moment.

However, while officially proclaiming its readiness to play a mediator role, Russia would prefer to avoid playing it. According to some Russian diplomats, Moscow will join the settlement process only if directly sought out by the parties involved. The Russian motives for letting others play the intermediary role are quite clear: A failed attempt to settle the conflict might harm Russia's image as a mediator, and the chances of failure are quite high. There are also no reasons for Russia to be in a hurry to settle the crisis between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Moscow is successfully balanced between Doha and Riyadh. Meanwhile, the crisis diverts attention of both the Saudis and Qataris from Syria and makes them less interested in direct involvement in Syrian affairs. Consequently, Russia — which sees Riyadh and Doha as its opponents in Syria — has more freedom there.

(Source: Al Monitor)

Mattis, Tillerson and Kelly 'press on' under Trump – but for how long?

Rex Tillerson has appeared listless in a job he has said he never wanted, while reports suggest a sense of duty may be what's keeping James Mattis and John Kelly at work.

After voicing views that appeared directly at odds with those of the president, the defense secretary, James Mattis, was asked this week why he continued to serve.

"You know, when a president of the United States asks you to do something - I don't care if it's Republican or Democrat - we all have an obligation to serve. That's all there is to it," Mattis told journalists on Thursday.

The former marine general recalled that he had disagreed with Trump on three major issues in 40 minutes the first time the two men met, but he was hired all the same. Mattis argued that was a good sign — that Trump was ready to listen to other points of view.

"So anyway, press on," Mattis concluded, in stoic military style.

Pressing on is something that other members in this highly irregular administration have chosen to do despite obvious unease with at least some of Donald Trump's words and actions.

The White House chief of staff, another ex-marine, John Kelly, is also reported to be clinging on out of sense of duty, with estimates of his departure ranging from a month to a year, as Trump has bridled at Kelly's efforts to impose discipline on a turbulent White House and a wayward president.

After being on the receiving end of a Trump outburst last month, according to the New York Times, Kelly told colleagues "he had never been spoken to like that during 35 years of serving his country."

Gary Cohn, Trump's chief economic adviser, is reported to have drafted a resignation letter after the president blamed "both sides" after a confrontation involving neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups in Charlottesville, Virginia. A right-wing extremist killed a counter-demonstrator and wounded many others when he drove his car through a crowd.

Cohn ultimately decided to stay but gave an interview to the Financial Times declaring that the administration "can and must do better" to condemn hate groups.

The secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, issued an even more direct disavowal of his boss in the aftermath of Charlottesville in an appearance on Fox News.

"I don't believe anyone doubts the American people's values," Tillerson said.

"And the president's values?" he was asked.

"The president speaks for himself," the secretary of state replied.

Tillerson's aides made no attempt to mitigate the implications of his remarks, leaving it clear that he intended to put significant distance between himself and the president, and raising speculation that he would resign. But for the time being, at least, the former ExxonMobil executive is staying and even signaled his fealty by putting out an official statement in support of the president's tax cut plan, an unusual intervention in domestic policy for a secretary of state.

■ Cabinet resignations

Cabinet resignations are highly un-



James Mattis and Rex Tillerson have taken a very different line from their boss on global affairs.

Pressing on is something that other members in this highly irregular administration have chosen to do despite obvious unease with at least some of Donald Trump's words and actions.

sual in U.S. government. There has not been a resignation on a matter of principle since the former secretary of state Cyrus Vance left the Carter administration in 1980 in protest against the military operation to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran. But the degree of public dissonance between senior officials and the president in this administration is also rare, arguably unprecedented.

On major global issues, both Mattis and Tillerson have taken a markedly different line from Trump, reaffirming faith in NATO when Trump has been dismissive, being tough on Moscow when he has consistently refused to be critical, and emphasizing the importance of diplomacy over North Korea when the president threatened "fire and fury".

There have been many cabinet secretaries in modern U.S. political history who have disagreed strongly with policies pursued by the White House, albeit more privately, but they have stayed in office nevertheless, telling themselves they were doing so in the interests of the country.

That is how Mattis described his mindset this week and Thomas Ricks, the author of several books on U.S. military leadership, said he believed the sentiment was genuine.

"That is what he has always said and that is how he fundamentally thinks," said Ricks, whose latest book is Churchill & Orwell: The Fight for Freedom. He pointed to a speech Mattis gave at the Naval Academy in Annapolis in 2004, in which he described the U.S. as a great but fragile experiment that needed to be protected by "morally very straight" armed forces.

It is a theme Mattis returned to last week when he gave an impromptu pep

talk to U.S. troops stationed in Jordan. He told them: "You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other and showing it," promising them "we'll get the power of inspiration back".

It is a theme that predates Charlottesville. When asked by the New Yorker in the spring what he was most concerned about, Mattis used similar vocabulary: "The lack of political unity in America," he said. "The lack of a fundamental friendliness."

"If he thought he could not help the country, he'd be happy to go back to running a food bank in Washington," Ricks said. After retiring from the military in 2013, Mattis had gone to live in a modest house in Washington State to be near his mother, sitting on the board and volunteering for the local food bank.

■ The strongest defense secretary

Now that he has been called back to public life, Mattis is almost certainly the strongest defense secretary in recent decades. The White House chief of staff, John Kelly, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Joseph Dunford, both served under him in the military. Compared to the White House and state department, the Pentagon is functioning smoothly. Some of Mattis's picks for senior administrative roles have been turned down by the White House, but he has filled the gaps with career officials and uniformed officers.

"Mattis occupies an extraordinarily powerful position. He has shown he can chart an independent course and survive," Ricks said. "The saving grace of Donald Trump is his incompetence. He pretends to be a president on Twitter and TV, and the rest of the government just chugs along."

Some Wall Street analysts speculate that Cohn, a former president of Goldman Sachs, only remains in the administration after Charlottesville because of his aspirations to become the chairman of the Federal Reserve. Asked on Fox News whether he was only staying on to get tax cuts passed, he did not deny it.

"Look, tax cuts are really important to me," he said. "I think it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

He could also plausibly argue he is "holding the line," like Mattis, only in his case it is the line holding back a potential financial panic if he left, abandoning the helm of conventional Republican low-tax economics to nativists who could set off a global protectionist spiral. Vanity Fair magazine referred to him as "one of the only halfway-sane economic voices in this administration" — though it still called on him to resign.

■ Tillerson to resign

In recent days there have been many more calls for Tillerson to resign. Unlike the Pentagon under Mattis, the state department is demoralized and hobbled under Tillerson, who has not tried to defend it against deep budget cuts proposed by the White House. He is seeking to reorganize its bureaucracy but senior administrative posts — that would be necessary even in a significantly smaller institution — have remained unfilled.

"What is ... surprising — shocking, even — is that Tillerson has proven to be such an inept manager," Max Boot, a conservative commentator, wrote in Foreign Policy. "You would think that as the former CEO of a giant oil company, he would know how to run an organization like the state department. His track record thus far suggests otherwise."

The secretary of state did not arrive in Foggy Bottom from ExxonMobil bursting with enthusiasm.

"I didn't want this job. I didn't seek this job," Tillerson told the Independent Journal Review (IJR), in his first interview in the post. "My wife told me I'm supposed to do this."

It was not the most auspicious rallying cry to begin with, and since then Tillerson has often appeared listless and ever more unhappy in the role. In his deliberate choice of words on Fox News, Tillerson seemed to be daring Trump to fire him. The president is reported to be furious with him but reluctant to destabilize his unsteady presidency further with another high-profile departure.

Daniel Drezner, international politics professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, said Tillerson should spare Trump the dilemma and leave now. He argues that the state department would continue to function and resist radical departures from conventional foreign policy urged by the White House. Trump could not impose a far-right ideologue as a successor as he or she would not be confirmed by the Senate. One rumored replacement, the U.S. envoy to the UN, Nikki Haley, has shown herself a better manager and better at articulating U.S. foreign policy, Drezner said.

"Tillerson is actually worse than if there was no one there," Drezner said. "He has been that bad."

(Source: The Guardian)

The slaughter of children in Yemen

The Saudi-led coalition waging a bombing campaign in Yemen has once again been named in a United Nations draft report as the major culprit in the deaths and injuries of children in that war-ravaged Arab state. The Saudis are already said to be privately campaigning to change the report and keep its coalition off the list of armies that kill and maim children. Last year they succeeded. That should not be allowed to happen again.

The civil war that has engulfed Yemen, one of the Arab world's poorest countries, for almost three years has created one of the worst humanitarian crises on the globe. Almost three million Yemenis are internally displaced; the numbers of acutely malnourished children and people in dire need of food assistance are the highest in the world; health services have been devastated; and a cholera epidemic has killed nearly 2,000 people and infected more than half a million in just three months. Yet a blockade by the Saudi-led coalition since 2015 has reduced humanitarian aid to a trickle.

And there's the bombing. Since the Saudi coalition entered the fray in March 2015 to push back Houthis, more than 7,600 people have been killed and 42,000 wounded, most of them in coalition airstrikes. Saudi Arabia insists its planes avoid civilian targets, but hospitals, schools and other civilian sites have been struck. On Wednesday, 23 August, the United Nations reported that at least 30 civilians had been killed in Saudi bombing runs around Sana.



The Saudi coalition — and its American enablers, who provide military equipment, aerial refueling and targeting — simply cannot be allowed to continue killing civilians and destroying what little is left of Yemen.

Last year, threatened with inclusion on the United Nations blacklist of forces that harm children, Saudi

Arabia threatened to withhold financing from major humanitarian operations, and Ban Ki-moon, then secretary general, reluctantly struck the coalition off the list. But he made the episode public, effectively acknowledging that the coalition (which includes Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates) did belong on the list.

That should have put Saudi Arabia on notice. But leaked drafts of a report for 2016 by the special representative for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, who was named by Mr. Ban's successor, António Guterres, said the coalition was responsible for more than half of child casualties and three-quarters of the attacks on schools and hospitals in Yemen last year.

Al Qaeda and ISIS, which are also embroiled in the conflict, were held responsible for the rest.

Saudi Arabia's main motive for joining the fighting was to prop up a Sunni government against what it saw as an assault by Shiites.

But the war is at a stalemate, and the Saudi coalition — and its American enablers, who provide military equipment, aerial refueling and targeting — simply cannot be allowed to continue killing civilians and destroying what little is left of Yemen. That is why it is imperative to publicly identify the unconscionable slaughter of innocents for what it is, and to hope that this will shame Saudi Arabia and its American backers to search for a humane end to Yemen's hell.

(Source: The NYT)

Ex-White House expert: Iran will remain under JCPOA

By Javad Heirannia

Richard Nephew, a former White House expert said "It is admirable that Dr. Salehi suggested that Iran would continue to implement its obligations under the JCPOA, provided Europe does, and in furtherance of regional stability and security."

Nephew, now a senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University says "That said, I believe the barriers to doing so may be difficult if, even if European governments stay within the JCPOA, their companies do not."

However, Nephew, who was the lead sanctions expert on Iran during the Obama administration, says, "European governments cannot force their companies to do business in Iran if they do not wish to do so, and this may be a challenge for the JCPOA and the Iranian government."

Following is the full of the interview:

■ Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi has recently suggested that regardless of possible US retreatment from JCPOA, Iran will stay committed to nuclear obligations as long as EU has not pull back from it. In fact Iran tries to preserve JCPOA in case of Washington's breach of promises. What are the technical barriers to this idea? Do all European countries are required to keep their commitment despite the US withdrawal?

A: It is admirable that Dr. Salehi suggested that Iran would continue to implement its obligations under the JCPOA,



IRAN SANCTIONS & THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
RICHARD NEPHEW
Former Lead Sanctions Adviser for U.S. Team
Negotiating With Iran, 2013-14

provided Europe does, and in furtherance of regional stability and security.

That said, I believe the barriers to doing so may be difficult if, even if European governments stay within the JCPOA, their companies do not.

European governments cannot force their companies to do business in Iran if they do not wish to do so, and this may be a challenge for the JCPOA and the Iranian government.

■ What might be the reaction of 5+1 partners in case of this very likely act by Trump to pull back from JCPOA?

A: I believe the rest of the 5+1 countries would reject a U.S. decision to withdraw from the JCPOA unless this decision was based on clear indications of Iranian violations.

■ In a new report, IAEA reconfirmed Iran's JCPOA compliance and refused to visit the Iranian military sites despite Washington's hostile stance. However, Nikki Haley US ambassador to UN, in her recent trip to Vienna, urged IAEA to inspect all military and non-military sites. In fact, the first step of the US scenario is to put pressure on IAEA to ask for free access to Iran's military sites, an act Tehran shrugs off as US "dream demand". The next step is to use Iran refusal as a pretext to accuse Tehran of breaching its terms. The fact is that Trump's administration wants to breach JCPOA at the expenses of Iran. As Washington has no legitimate right to ask for inspections and it falls on IAEA to make the

decision, Isn't it a political game by the US to reach some specific goals?

A: To be clear, I believe the JCPOA is clear that, if there is a need to do so in order to address open questions about Iranian compliance with either its Safeguards Agreement (and Additional Protocol) or the JCPOA, Iran should grant access to the IAEA, including at military sites. Iran is incorrect when it states that such access is not permitted. It is in both the same agreements with the IAEA that other countries have as well as the JCPOA.

That said, I do believe that some in the United States are using this issue as a pretext to convince the rest of the world that Iran is hiding something and justify a withdrawal from the JCPOA. The easiest thing for Iran to do to prevent such a move would be to grant access; if Iran has nothing to hide, then granting IAEA access ought not be a problem.

■ What might be the future of JCPOA if Trump declares his withdrawal in the next report to US congress? What is Trump's alternative for Iran's nuclear deal?

A: I do not know what Trump's alternative is and, candidly, I do not think the Trump Administration knows either. I believe they think a "better deal" can be negotiated, but I am deeply skeptical.

■ What might be Iran's possible reaction to Trump's withdrawal from JCPOA?

A: I suspect that Iran will remain in compliance with its obligations under the JCPOA for some time, as Dr. Salehi has suggested. Further Iranian steps would depend, I'm sure, on how Iran sees the situation developing from Trump's decision forward.

Lack of political participation in Europe

By Ana Sadat Hosseini Fard

Although there isn't much time left until the national elections in Germany, polls indicate that many German citizens have not decided on voting for the traditional and new parties, and even a large number of citizens do not intend to participate in the elections.

Approximately half of eligible voters in Germany have not yet decided what party to vote for in the September 24 parliamentary election, according to a poll conducted by the Safe Harbor Institute.

German citizens' rejection of political participation in the election seems to have become a widespread issue for the European Union. This is a problem that European politicians have repeatedly warned about. In 2014, when the European Parliamentary elections in different countries of the European Union (EU) were held, we witnessed a small amount participation from citizens.

The rate of citizens' participation from different European countries in that election was about 44%. Meanwhile, senior European officials made their best efforts to persuade citizens to take part in the election.

Finally, a frustrating participation in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections was formed. The outcome of these elections was the emergence of extreme right-wing parties in the European Parliament. Nationalists who basically disagreed with the European Union and the euro area, (and demanding structural transformation in Europe), won more than 100 delegates to the European Parliament in Brussels.

After the 2014 parliamentary elections, we also saw the growth of the right wing extremist parties in different European elections. In countries such as Finland, Sweden, France and extremist parties were able to gain more power.

For example, in the French presidential election in 2017, Marine Le Pen won his rivals in the first round. Although Le Pen was defeated by Emmanuel Macron in the final round of the election, his presence in the final round of the election was a great victory for the French National Front.

We are now in 2017. Although the emergence of extremist parties and fear of their power have led to the unwitting presence of some European citizens in various elections, the lack of political and social participation in Europe is not something that can be concealed.

The presence of Donald Trump at the White House has also exacerbated this trend. Presently, the President of the United States is one of the main proponents of nationalist and extreme right-wing movements in Europe.

Europe is experiencing a lack of political participation of its citizens. Now, signs and symptoms of this issue are also observed in Germany. While the political activity of the Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, Green Party, etc. is at its peak, the feedback is not good among German citizens.

This suggests a resentment among European citizens. Dissatisfaction with the functioning of political parties and the widening gap between politicians and citizens has played a key role in this issue. At the moment, everybody believes that the level of dissatisfaction among European citizens with politicians has increased. Hence, when politicians in many European countries succeed in national elections, they will face public discontent after a short time.

For example, Emmanuel Macron, who won the nation's general election this year in the run-up to France's French National Front leader Marine Le Pen, has now faced declining popularity.

A recent poll in Germany once again shows that the electoral vigor in European countries has declined significantly (compared to the early years of the establishment of the European Union). In such a situation, senior European officials need to rebuild the structure they have created. Otherwise, public discontent and worse, lack of political participation among citizens in the near future can turn into the heel of Achilles of Europe.

Here's another point that needs to be addressed. It is not easy to reform the structure of the European Union. European politicians have a hard way to do this. Undoubtedly, with the continuation of the current path, the hopeful future is not waiting for the European Union.

European citizens have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction with European authorities during polls and elections. This dissatisfaction has increased in recent years. The occurrence of a variety of security, political and economic crises has exacerbated this trend. Will current politicians in Europe be able to manage the crisis?

The answer is not "Yes"! It should not be forgotten that many current politicians in Europe have been guilty of creating the current situation. Obviously, these politicians can't be a symbol of change in the principles and behaviors of the European Union.

Although the traditional parties (the center-right and the center-left) are trying to remain as powerful as possible, this process can not continue for a long time. These parties must reconsider their approach before the emergence of right-wing extremist currents throughout Europe. If not, the return of the European Union to the era of nationalism will be decisive.

Why does Trump support racists?

By Hamed Rashidi

Virginia's (Charlottesville) recent bitter and violent events once again underscored the persistence of the institutionalized racism in the United States Social Equations. Undoubtedly, American politicians acted as an instrument to crystallize this dirty spirit in their country over the past decades. Although it was believed that in 2008, following the victory of a black man in the US presidential election, racism has reached its end, many American analysts and sociologists completely rejected this hypothesis.

In 2014, some blacks were killed at the Church of Charleston. At that time, US President Barack Obama said racism as a heritage of slavery continues to exist in the US. We are now in 2017. The recent incidents in Virginia have provoked anger and hatred in the world. In the recent conflict, Trump did not actually condemn the violent behavior of racists. Trump's standpoints aroused anger of many American citizens, and even politicians and citizens of Europe. Many European leaders have condemned Trump's approach to the recent events in Charlottesville, as the US president's attempts to support racists.

However, it seems that Trump does not intend to retreat from his positions. He refuses the condemnation of the racists and right-wing extremists who were the main cause of recent violence, claiming that both sides were to blame for Charlottesville violent incidents. The attachment of extremist groups to Trump and their political support for him keeps the president of the United States silent against them. During this recent Charlottesville events, Trump spoke directly to his racist sympathizers: He will support them as long as he is present at the White House.

At this point the main question is "Why the president of the United States supports racists?" And also "Does Donald Trump have any interest in supporting these extremist groups?" The answer to these questions is "Yes". As mentioned, the root of these issues should be sought in the US political equations. During the US presidential election 2016, many racists and white supremacists turned their votes for Trump.

Trump's defense of American nationalism, economic protectionism, and the focus on the internal borders of the country have led many racists and extremist groups to gather around him. In such an equation, many of the silent

votes (belonging to extremist groups), which had not been essentially involved in the presidential elections in the United States so far, raised up for the Republican presidential nominee.

At that time radical groups, based on Trump's slogans, found that he had the proper talent to support racism. This was even perceived by right-wing extremists and anti-immigrant groups in Europe. During the last year's electoral campaign, many of the far-right extremist groups, including the French National Front, have announced their support for Trump.

The association of racist, nationalist, neo-Asian and extremist groups in Europe has been strengthened with the new president of the United States after his arrival at the White House. Trump and his accompanying team are now not only sponsors of racism in the United States, but also support extremist thoughts throughout the world. Although during the presence of other US presidents in power (even Obama's time) this trend has existed, but now the White House has become the official supporter of racist groups around the world.

This is due to the presence of a racist and radical president in the White House.

In such a situation, some media and politicians expect Trump to condemn Charlottesville's events and those racists who have contributed to the incident!

Well, it looks futile! Obviously, Trump will not condemn the behavior of extremist and racist groups for the next four years. In the 2020 presidential election campaign, Trump will have an urgent need to repeat the outcome of the 2016 election. He does not intend to lose his infantry easily, even though his public support has fallen in the last seven months. Trump looks at extremist and racist groups in the United States as his political capital and does not intend to lose them. Right now, extremist and racist groups have relied on Trump's support. Trump's recent stand against Charlottesville events has sent a special message to the racists.

We now face a racist president in the United States. Undoubtedly, events that have occurred in Charlottesville will be repeated in the future. The incident has increased the anger of many American citizens against Trump. Most US citizens are now demanding the resignation of Trump. However, he clearly does not intend to pay attention to this public demand.

What crises does Europe face?

By Ali Alemi

The European Union is currently facing several crises, the crises that will continue in the future. The performance of the European authorities has not had any impact on the resolution of these crises. Even in some cases, the type of behavior and function of European authorities has strengthened this trend. Europe faces three types of crises: security crises, economic crises, and the crisis of immigrants.



The combination of these three crises has created a difficult situation in Europe. On the other hand, each of these crises can lead to political crises in Europe. Many European countries have been damaged in this regard.

The recent terrorist attacks in Spain and Finland have created new security concerns in Europe. In 2015, following the terrorist attacks in Paris, many people thought that the scope of terrorist attacks in Europe was limited to one or two European countries.

However, the onset of the terrorist attacks in Brussels in early 2016 and the spread of other terrible terrorist attacks in the Europe, and eventually the recent attacks, uncovered the "security crisis" as a chronic, wide-spread, and expanding crisis in the European Union.

The recent terrorist incident in Barcelona is contemplative. This incident together with similar incidents that have taken place lately in different parts of Europe show that, unlike what some used to believe, the security crises in Europe are not limited to one or more specific countries.

In this equation, all European countries, especially those located within the Schengen area, are more vulnerable to serious security damages.

Security crises have intensified in Europe once again. Common security policy in Europe has not only improved the safety of either Schengen or other European borders, but has turned into a weakness in intelligence and security in this complex. "Security and safety of personal and social life" has been damaged as the minimum requirement of the European citizens. In the meantime, current and past security policies all over Europe have been contributed in the formation of a new security crisis in this complex.

The function of European security services to strengthen extremist right-wingers and to support these devices from Takfiri groups in the West Asia region is something that can't be denied. On the other hand, the protection of some European countries from Saudi Arabia has led to security crises in Europe.

The three countries of Germany, Britain and France played a significant role in strengthening this trend. Frequently, various parties and groups in Europe have opposed Saudi Arabia's military equipment exports.

The second crisis that Europe faces is the economic crisis. The security crises in Europe have already left the debate about economic crises, but this crisis is still felt in the everyday lives of European citizens.

Increasing the symbols and indicators of the financial crisis in Europe and reducing the credit ratings of banks and the growth of unemployment in countries that are still affected by the financial crisis have been the cause of many crises in Europe.

The crisis of foreign debt in European countries should also be added to a series of economic and credit crises in the West. We are now witnessing the introduction of austerity policies in various European countries.

The European economic crisis has begun since 2007 and has continued so far. There is now no sign of improving economic troubles in the near future. In such a situation, European citizens must tolerate austerity policies for years to come.

As long as austerity policies continue, we can't talk about economic growth in Europe. Some European officials promised that austerity in Europe will end in 2012 and economic growth will replace it, but it has not happened yet!

The immigration crisis is the next issue that the European Union has faced since 2015. Of course, European policies in the West Asia region and the escalation of security crises in the region have played an important role in shaping this crisis. Hence, European officials are facing a crisis that they have contributed to its creation. Currently, the social and political equations of some European countries are under the influence of the immigration crisis.

The European Union is currently unable to cope with the migration crisis. Although Germany and Sweden are more committed in this regard, countries such as Denmark and Eastern European countries do not fulfill their minimum obligations in this regard.

Obviously, in such a situation, the immigrants' crisis will be heavier than others in certain European countries. The EU-Turkey agreement on the crisis of migration has also been subject to failure and destruction. Even some European countries such as Austria have called for the abolition of the agreement between Europe and Ankara.

Finally, the series of security, economic, social and immigration crises throughout Europe alone has led to the ineffectiveness of the European Union. The strikes seem hard to overcome, a problem that many European politicians have admitted to it.

Why did Kenya's Supreme Court annul the elections?

By Nanjala Nyabola

Democracy is a marathon, and Kenya just delivered one of the most decisive victories for African democracy in recent history. Marathons are, after all, our thing.

In a 4-2 decision, the Supreme Court determined that the recently concluded presidential election "was not conducted in accordance with the Constitution and ... is invalid".

In practical terms, this means that Kenyans will have a second presidential election within the next 60 days - expensive in terms of money and time, but worth it for a clear and decisive declaration that democracy in Kenya is maturing.

The August 8 vote was a deeply flawed election. Yet weighty assumptions at home and abroad about how democracy is supposed to work in Africa prevented many from seeing that.

Critics were accused of being spoilers or "perennial losers". If they pointed out one of the many problems of the electoral process, they were labelled "tribalists", or overly demanding. Apparently, African citizens should be happy about "good enough" elections and shouldn't demand more. The public was told that credible elections are simply not for this part of the world. The eyes watching Kenya's election were so focused on the prospect of violence

that they were prepared to force a clearly problematic process onto Kenyans.

International observers

The ruling of the Supreme Court exposes how faulty this minimalist logic is. It underscores that what the elections commission, international observers and some international press wanted to write off as "irregularities" were actually significant procedural failures that undermined the core of Kenyan democracy. ➔13

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Onions with skin

We all are well aware of the fact that onions, despite their pungent odor, are very beneficial for our health. They are loaded with properties that protect you from illness. They are antibiotic, antimicrobial, and antiseptic in nature. Their nutritional content and the benefits they provide are something that we all know about, but did you know that the skin of the onion contains more antioxidants than the onion itself?

Yes, you read that right. We peel the onion skin and throw it away in the trash without realizing that these discarded scraps can make your meals go further. Experts suggest that they contain quercetin (a flavanol), which can help control blood pressure and prevent clogging of the arteries. Onion skin is packed with fiber and phenolic compounds that help in preventing coronary disease.

So, the next time you peel an onion and throw the skin away, just stop for a moment and recollect the health benefits of onion skin. A few of them are stated below:

- They help in decreasing LDL cholesterol levels.
- They help in maintaining the optimal levels of blood pressure.
- They help in treating depression.
- They help to fight against allergies.
- They support muscle growth and their functioning.
- They help in reducing inflammation.

Now, you might be thinking that since the skin of the onion is not edible, how can it be beneficial for your body? The answer is very simple – there are many ways in which onion skin can do good to your health, body, and skin. Here are a few ways by which you can make the most out of those peels that you throw in your bins without giving a second thought.

- The quickest and easiest way to incorporate the nutrients present in onion skin is to add a few of them in soups or sauce and let them stew in it until cooked properly. Later, you can take out the skin as most of the nutrients would have steeped in the liquid by the time the cooking is done.

- Another way to use them is to make tea out of them using a tea ball. Let them steep in boiling water for some time.

- Onion skins are also considered to be a great remedy for curing leg cramps. Here is what you can do – oil the skin of onion in water for 15-20 minutes. Now, drain the water using a clean cloth or a strainer and drink this infusion as tea right before going to bed. Repeat it for a week or so, and soon,



The quickest and easiest way to incorporate the nutrients present in onion skin is to add a few of them in soups or sauce and let them stew in it until cooked properly.

you will notice that those horrid cramps are gone!

- You can even use onion skins as a dye for wool or woolen clothes.

- Onion skin can help you chop off onions and protect your fingers from getting cuts due to the knife. It will get the job done and keep your hands safe at the same time. All you have to do is instead of peeling off the thick skin, fold the thick parts of the skin and then, using it as a handle, start chopping the onion. This natural handle will keep the onion stable until you reach the ends. So, if your knife skills are rusty or poor, onion skin can turn out to be a lifesaver for you. Here is a pictorial representation of how you can cut onions easily for better understanding:

- Onion skin can also be used as a hair dye. And the best part is it is much cheaper than other hair care product. It works best on blonde hair. To use onion skin as a hair dye, boil 30-50 grams of

Onion skins are also considered to be a great remedy for curing leg cramps.

onion peel in a glass of water for around half an hour. By now, the consistency of water will become thick. Filter the water and then apply this to your hair. Let it settle for some time and then rinse it off with shampoo. It will add a nice golden sheen to your hair.

- Onion skin also promotes hair growth. The reason behind it is that onions are rich in sulfur. This mineral promotes the formation of collagen and thus helps in the maintenance of your hair. You can boil onion skins in water and use it as a rinse to promote hair growth and maintain healthy and shiny hair.

- You can also use dried and ground onion skin in a small percentage as a replacement for wheat flour to increase the antioxidant content in bread.

- If you are suffering from any skin disease, rub onion skin over your skin. This can help you get rid of the irritation. Rub it gently over the infected area and then wash it off with a gentle soap.

NOTE: Make sure you use the skin of organic onions; others contain pesticides that can be harmful to your health. Also, if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, do not try these methods as it can cause irritation to your skin.

(Source: stylecraze.com)

Tips for eating meat on a lipid-lowering diet

By Jennifer Moll

When you are following a diet to lower your cholesterol and triglycerides, one of the foods you typically limit are those that are high in saturated fat, such as animal meat. If you've been a meat eater all your life, it's hard to cut it out just like that. Fortunately, you don't have to completely scratch meat off your grocery list.

Meat contains proteins necessary to build muscle and carry out a variety of functions in the body.

Unfortunately, meats also contain varying amounts of cholesterol and saturated fats. The National Cholesterol Education Program recommends that if you are trying to lower your cholesterol, your saturated fat intake should not be more than 7 percent of your total caloric intake each day.

Following a lipid-lowering diet doesn't mean that you have to surrender your meat entirely. Instead, there are a few things you can do to offset the damage it may do to your cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

Know which meats are leaner

Some meats are higher in fat than others. For instance, poultry (chicken and turkey), lamb, veal, and "loin" or "round" cuts of pork or beef are considered leaner options.

"Lean" and "extra lean" are nutritional statements designated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). However, not all meats can be labeled as "lean." The following requirements must be met for meats to be designated as "lean" or "extra lean":

- Lean – Meats with this designation



Try to stay away from meats that appear fatty or have a "marbled" appearance to them.

should have less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams of saturated fat and trans fats, and 95 milligrams of cholesterol in each 100-gram serving.

- Extra Lean – Meats with this designation should contain less than 5 grams of total fat. Of this total fat, these meats should also contain less than 2 grams of saturated fat and trans fats and 95 milligrams of cholesterol per serving (about 100 grams).

Although it's not what comes to mind when you think of "meat," fish — including halibut, cod, tilapia, and trout — is another great lean protein option. Some fish, such as salmon and tuna,

contain high amounts of omega-3 fatty acids, a type of unsaturated fat that is considered heart healthy because it can help lower your triglycerides. In fact, the American Heart Association recommends consuming one serving of fish at least two times a week, especially fish that are high in omega-3 fats.

Know your high-fat meats

You don't have to cut out meat entirely, but you can make an effort to steer clear of any high-fat meats or meats that are processed. In the least, try to lower your consumption of these.

Meats that are high in saturated fat content include ground beef, bacon, and organ meats like liver. Meats that are processed, including sausages, hot dogs, and some luncheon meats, are also high in fat and should be consumed in minimal amounts. If you are in doubt, check the food labels for saturated fat content.

Cut out extra fat

If you see that any portions of your meat that contain extra fat, be sure to remove it before eating. This can also lower the fat content of your meat. Try to stay away from meats that appear fatty or have a "marbled" appearance to them.

How is your meat cooked?

The manner in which your meat is cooked also counts in the cholesterol department. Frying your meat is probably the worst way to prepare it if you are trying to follow a low-fat diet. Meats that are fried are also high in saturated fat, which can affect your heart health.

Instead, try baking, grilling, broiling, or roasting your meat. These methods can deliver some tasty dishes and will not sabotage your cholesterol-lowering efforts as much as frying your meat.

Moderation counts

You could eat meat with the lowest fat content, but if you eat lots of it, your lipid levels can still rise.

Moderation counts when trying to lower your cholesterol. The American Heart Association recommends consuming no more than 6 ounces of meat each day.

(Source: verywell.com)

Lose fat

Whether you call it a muffin top, abdominal fat, spare tire, or a bear belly, belly fat is one of the most difficult things to get rid of. You might have followed a number of diets or workouts to get rid of it, but mostly, they didn't work. Fret not! You can now say buh-bye to your annoying belly fat with this magical drink.

Let's check out the recipe of this fat-burning drink.

If you drink this before going to bed, you will burn belly fat like crazy.

- Ingredients
- 1/2 glass of water
 - 1 tablespoon of fresh aloe vera

juice

- 1 cucumber (sliced)
- 1 tablespoon of freshly grated ginger
- 1 lemon (sliced)
- A bunch of cilantro (or parsley)

How to make it

1. Put all the ingredients in a jar and let the mixture infuse overnight.
2. The drink is ready to consume the next day.

Why does it work?

All the ingredients present in this detox water help in burning body fat. As we all know, cucumbers are considered as one of the best natural

ingredients to reduce stomach fat. They are loaded with fiber and contain very less calories (around 45 calories in one full cucumber). Moreover, cucumbers have a high water content and are refreshing too.

The other ingredient, i.e., parsley or cilantro also contains very low calories. Moreover, it is rich in antioxidants that help in easing water retention and also prevent bloating and other tummy discomforts.

Grated ginger melts the unwanted belly fat, fires up the metabolism of our body, and prevents constipation. Lemon juice flushes out the toxins

that are accumulated in the body and contributes to the faster melting of fats.

The last ingredient, i.e., aloe vera juice is very helpful for weight loss. It contains antioxidants that help in delaying the growth of free radicals in our body and reducing the inflammatory processes going on in the body.

Isn't this healthy detox water simple to make? Drink it daily before going to bed, and within a week, you'll see the results. Try this out, and you can always thank us later. (wink!)

(Source: stylecraze.com)

Mindfulness techniques can be more than quiet contemplation

Different meditations to achieve focus, relaxation

Mindfulness—the practice of focusing on the here and now—seems to boost both your mood and overall well-being. You may think of mindfulness as something you do during meditation—that is, while you're sitting quietly with your eyes closed. If you can carve 20 minutes out of your day to meditate, that's great. But meditation is just one mindfulness technique. You can also practice informally, by simply being present in the moment during everyday activities.

For example, instead of trying to multitask and do two or more things at the same time (such as eating while you're driving or watching television), try to practice "single-tasking." That means doing one thing at a time and giving it your full attention. As you floss your teeth, pet the dog, or eat an apple, slow down the process and be fully present as it unfolds and involves all of your senses.

The goal of any mindfulness technique is to achieve a state of alert, focused relaxation by deliberately paying attention to thoughts and sensations without judgment. This can help you refocus on the present moment. Below are suggestions of different meditations you can try, as found in the Harvard Special Health Report Positive Psychology.

Basic mindfulness meditation

Sit quietly and focus on your natural breathing or on a word or mantra (such as "om," "relax," or "peace") that you repeat silently. Allow thoughts to come and go without judgment and return to your focus on breath or mantra.

Body sensations

Notice subtle body sensations such as an itch or tingling without judgment and let them pass. Notice each part of your body in succession from head to toe.

Sights and sounds

Notice sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touches. Name them "sight," "sound," "smell," "taste," or "touch" without judgment and let them go.

Emotions

Allow emotions to be present without judging them. Practice a steady and relaxed naming of emotions: "joy," "anger," "frustration."

Urge surfing

When you feel a craving or an urge (to eat excess food, use an addictive substance, or practice an unwanted behavior), acknowledge the urge and understand that it will pass. Notice how your body feels as the craving enters. Replace the wish for the craving to go away with the certain knowledge that it will subside. (Source: health.harvard.edu)

Lose excess weight in a week with a diet of dates and milk

Lose some extra pounds of weight quickly for an event or occasion approaching as they always want to show their full grace and beauty.

So they intend to follow hard diets to achieve fast results. But unfortunately, there are many ladies use wrong diets which affect them badly.

But the diet of dates and milk is one of the most famous among the other fast diets that have guaranteed results.

But is it healthy and safe? What is the safe way that can be followed without having a negative impact on our body?

How to make the fat burning process faster?

Dates for diets

There are many ways to burn fats and make your burning process faster like exercises, following a good diet and eating the types of foods which help in this process.

A diet of dates and milk is a perfect way to lose weight. It has more benefits than you expect, and I will show you in the following few steps the benefits of them:

- 1- It is free from cholesterol (which harms you and make you fat). Also it doesn't contain excessive amounts of fats.
- 2- By eating dates you can replace fatty foods with it which will give you nutrients for the same amount of calories.
- 3- It is considered as a perfect source of protein.
- 4- It contains also a high percent of vitamins which improve your health.

5- As for the energy you need every day, dates can provide you with a high energy, you can consider it as a snack due to the natural sugars in it.

6- Also, It prevents from having a high-calorie meal or unhealthy snacks.

In this article, you will find all information about the diet of dates and milk, and how to have a grace body in one week!

First, let's introduce you to how this diet works, it consists of some dates divided throughout the day in the form of three main meals, and each meal consisting of 7 beads of dates accompanied by a glass of milk or low-fat milk, which will let you have a grace body in one week.

Usually it results in a loss of 3-4 kilos a week since this diet has low calories and in addition, the dates and milk mix contains on several benefits like fats, sugars, calcium, iron, protein, vitamins, phosphorus and zinc.

What is not preferable for this diet is the fact that is quietly poor of some food elements so it is not advisable to follow it for more than 7 days only for people who do not suffer from any diseases.

As it leads to a continuing fatigue and tiredness and a lack of the necessary elements for the body like carbohydrates, animal proteins and lots of fruits and vegetables.

Here you will find best pieces of advice you should follow in dates and milk diet:

Dates and milk mix for diet

1- Our advice to you if you want to lose 3 or 4 kilograms of weight you can follow this diet for one week only.

2- If you want to lose more weight you can follow this diet for a week and then in the next week following the standard diet containing carbohydrates and animal proteins and lots of fruits and vegetables.

3- You should have the mix in the morning, it will provide you with the energy you need plus.

(Source: best-weightlossshakes.com)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

1 More than four million records of users of Time Warner Cable's MyTWC app were found unsecured on an Amazon server last month, digital security research center Kromtech Security Center said in a blog post. The files — more than 600 gigabytes in size containing sensitive information such as transaction ID, user names, Mac addresses, serial numbers, account numbers — were discovered on Aug. 24 without a password by researchers of Kromtech.

2 Apple shifts responsibility for Siri to operating system chief.

Apple Inc has transferred responsibility for Siri, its voice assistant, from content chief Eddy Cue to operating systems chief Craig Federighi, a sign that the company is looking to embed the voice assistant more deeply into its core systems amid rising competition from Alphabet Inc's Google and Amazon.com Inc.

3 Huawei just made its proprietary Kirin 970 SoC official. The company's CEO Richard Yu took the stage at IFA in Berlin to announce that Huawei's latest chipset will bet heavily on deep learning and AI to deliver a vastly improved user experience in upcoming mobile devices. The first smartphones to feature the new Kirin 970 processor will be the Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro.

4 Mobile phone sales in Brazil have been showing signs of recovery in 2017 after the decline seen as a result of the economic slowdown, according to a new study by analyst firm IDC.

Some 12.8 million devices sold in the second quarter, up 5.9 percent on the same period in 2016. The number is in line with first quarter figures, which grew by 3.7 percent on Q1 2016, with 12.3 million devices sold.

5 Roku Inc., the company that makes various streaming devices and smart TVs, is going public, according to papers filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It is looking to raise \$100 million, and will trade on the New York Stock Exchange with the ticket symbol "ROKU".

6 A research team at MIT has created a clever new way for drones to use RFID technology in warehouses for stock-keeping purposes. It lets companies use much smaller, safer drones to find stuff in giant buildings than was possible before.

When RFID tags started replacing bar codes in warehouses, they were supposed to help automate and improve the accuracy of inventory management. The small tags, which are briefly activated by the radio frequency of a reader, have been adopted and used everywhere from pet microchips to optional implantable chips for company employees.

7 An Instagram hack hit millions of accounts, and victims' phone numbers are now for sale.

A bug that exposed users' contact information affected a far greater number of accounts than Instagram originally said. The bug, which appears to have been responsible for Selena Gomez's account being hacked this week, allowed hackers to scrape email addresses and contact information for millions of accounts, Instagram said today. (It has since been fixed.) While the company first said the hack was limited to holders of verified accounts, it said today that non-verified users had been affected as well.

8 Google announced ARCore, a software-based solution for making more Android devices AR-capable without the need for depth sensors and extra cameras. It will even work on the Google Pixel, Galaxy S8, and several other devices very soon and supports Java, Unity, and Unreal from day one.

9 Nintendo has partnered with Western Digital on a line of officially official SanDisk microSDXC cards for its Switch console. What makes them so different? Well, Mario and Link are on the packaging and the 64-and-128 gigabyte cards have Nintendo branding printed on them.

10 Google's iOS app now shows trending searches. Google added a "trending" widget in its iOS search app that shows off what people are looking for at any given moment. Now, Google's adding that info right into the main part of the app.

Harman now has smart speakers for Alexa, Cortana and Google Assistant

When you're looking for a smart home speaker, you might think you're stuck with those made by Amazon, Apple or Google in order to use the specific intelligent assistants from the respective companies. Now, however, you can pick up a speaker that works with Alexa or Google Assistant, in addition to the one that already supports Microsoft's Cortana. The Samsung-owned Harman International just announced three new JBL Link speakers at IFA, each a voice activated speaker with Google Assistant built in. The company also revealed the Harman Kardon Allure, an Alexa-enabled smart speaker with 360-degree sound.

The Link speakers come in two portable sizes as well as a larger design, can be linked together for multi-room listening and also have Chromecast built in. The Allure will retail for \$250, starting in winter of 2017, while the Link speakers will debut in the UK this fall at €170, €200 and €300, respectively.

Both Google and Amazon have been putting their respective assistants on more devices, lately. Google has plans to bring Assistant to upcoming Anker and Panasonic speakers and LG washing machines while Amazon has already linked up with Ultimate Ears' line of Bluetooth speakers as well.

(Source: harman)

What to expect from the Windows 10 Fall Creators Update

By Ed Bott

After a little more than two years, Microsoft has finally settled into a rhythm with its new, fast-paced development cadence.

What Microsoft's marketers are calling the Fall Creators Update (version 1709) is in the final stages of development now and is scheduled to arrive on desktop PCs starting October 17.

This will be the fourth feature update to Windows 10 in a little over two years. And that pace will continue, with new feature updates (essentially full upgrades) due on a predictable twice-yearly cadence going forward.

As with previous feature updates, there will be no last-minute surprises in this update. It's been developed in the open, with dozens of preview releases to members of the Windows Insider Program. For those who haven't been paying close attention, though, this article should get you up to speed quickly.

The user experience

The logical place to start is, of course, the Start menu.

After a few gyrations in the first year, the basic design of the Windows 10 Start experience has remained consistent. This build is the first to incorporate elements of Microsoft's new Fluent Design, which adds subtle performance and usability improvements, including easier resizing and smoother transitions.

Action Center, which hosts notifications on the right side of the screen, also gets Fluent Design features (most noticeable when you have transparency turned on) and is redesigned to make it easier to deal with notifications.

Cortana's settings, which used to be available only from within the Cortana app, are now integrated into Settings. And in a cool design change, Cortana now displays answers in a flyout from the Start menu. That also includes results from web searches (powered by Bing only), which means you don't have to open a browser to do a search.

Windows Update has also evolved significantly in the two years since Windows 10's initial release. When new updates are available, you'll see an interactive toast notification that doesn't interrupt whatever you're doing now.

Smarter storage

It took much longer than it should have, but the OneDrive Files on Demand



feature is now built into Windows. The settings take some getting used to (I'll publish a tutorial later) but the results are worth it, with a much better way to work with large amounts of cloud storage on devices with minimal local storage.

Another unheralded feature in Windows 10 also gets some improvements in the Fall Creators Update. Storage Sense, which is designed to manage storage intelligently, has a new design and a few new settings.

Edge's incremental evolution

Microsoft Edge, the default browser in Windows 10, is still unlikely to win over most Chrome users, but it's steadily improving.

The biggest change in this update is a vastly improved interface for managing saved Favorites. You can now rename Favorites, edit their URLs, and work with folders directly without having to switch to a special editing mode. (The Edge design team must have been reading the comments on the Creators Update installment in this series.)

Alternative input methods

One of the major selling points of Windows 10 devices (led by Microsoft's own Surface line) is support for input from sources other than traditional keyboards and pointing devices.

Windows 10 already had some of the

best handwriting input tools available on any platform, and this update adds some noteworthy improvements that are worth experimenting with if your PC includes a pen. In addition, Microsoft has improved the design of the touch keyboard to make it easier to use.

One of my favorite classic Windows features, Volume Mixer, has finally been updated to include Universal Windows Platform (UWP) apps, including Microsoft Edge and Groove Music. This option, accessible by right-clicking the speaker icon in the taskbar, lets you set the volume of each app independently without affecting the overall system volume.

Another minor but welcome change is the addition of GPU performance information in Task Manager for systems with a discrete GPU.

Settings improvements

The migration of Windows knobs and levers from Control Panel to the modern Settings app continues with this update.

Security

The long list of improvements to the security architecture of Windows 10 starts with a momentous change. The horribly insecure SMBv1 protocol is being removed from clean installs of Windows 10. (The SMBv1 components will continue to be included on upgrades where they are already installed.)

As a side effect of that change, the legacy Computer Browser service is also being removed.

The Windows Defender Security Center, which was introduced in an earlier feature update, has two major additions. The first is Exploit Protection, which offers many of the mitigations that were previously part of the separate Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit (EMET).

Finally, there's Windows Defender Application Guard, a security feature that uses Hyper-V virtualization to create sandboxed browser sessions using Microsoft Edge. For now, at least, it's available only in Windows 10 Enterprise edition.

Hyper-V

One of the single most useful features in the Professional and Enterprise editions of Windows 10 is Hyper-V. This extremely robust virtualization platform gets more than its share of attention in this release.

A new Virtual Machine Gallery should make it easier for task-focused users to create useful virtual machines without having to wade through a long series of technical settings. After you create a virtual machine, you can export it more easily as well, by clicking the new Share button and compressing its pieces into a .vmcx file that can be imported on another Hyper-V capable PC.

(Source: ZDNET)

Silicon Valley has been humbled, but its schemes are as dangerous as ever

By Evgeny Morozov

Just a decade ago, Silicon Valley pitched itself as a savvy ambassador of a newer, cooler, more humane kind of capitalism. It quickly became the darling of the elite, of the international media, and of that mythical, omniscient tribe: the "digital natives". While an occasional critic — always easy to dismiss as a neo-Luddite — did voice concerns about their disregard for privacy or their geeky, almost autistic aloofness, public opinion was firmly on the side of technology firms.

Silicon Valley was the best that America had to offer; tech companies frequently occupied — and still do — top spots on lists of the world's most admired brands. And there was much to admire: a highly dynamic, innovative industry, Silicon Valley has found a way to convert scrolls, likes and clicks into lofty political ideals, helping to export freedom, democracy and human rights to the Middle East and north Africa. Who knew that the only thing thwarting the global democratic revolution was capitalism's inability to capture and monetize the eyeballs of strangers?

How things have changed. An industry once hailed for fuelling the Arab spring is today repeatedly accused of abetting Islamic State. An industry that prides itself on diversity and tolerance is now regularly in the news for cases of sexual harassment as well as the controversial views of its employees on matters such as gender equality.

The Silicon Valley backlash is on. These days, one can hardly open a major newspaper — including such common-sense rags as the Financial Times and the Economist — without stumbling on passionate calls that demand curbs on the power of what is now frequently called "Big Tech", from reclassifying digital platforms as utility companies to even nationalising them.

Meanwhile, Silicon Valley's big secret — that the data produced by users of digital platforms often has economic value exceeding the value of the services rendered — is now also out in the open. Free social networking sounds like a good idea — but do you really want to surrender your privacy so that Mark Zuckerberg can run a foundation to rid the world of the problems that his company helps to perpetuate? Not everyone is so sure any longer. The Teflon industry is Teflon no more: the dirt thrown at it finally sticks — and this fact is lost on nobody.

Nonetheless, Big Tech's political influence is not at the level of Wall Street or Big Oil. It's hard to argue that Alphabet wields as much power over global technology policy as the likes of Goldman Sachs do over global financial and economic policy.

This will surely change. Big digital platforms will thus



seek to acquire more policy leverage, following the playbook honed by the tobacco, oil and financial firms.

There are, however, two additional factors worth considering in order to understand where the current backlash against Big Tech might lead. First of all, short of a major privacy disaster, digital platforms will continue to be the world's most admired and trusted brands — not least because they contrast so favourably with your average telecoms company or your average airline (say what you will of their rapaciousness, but tech firms don't generally drag their customers off their flights).

And it is technology firms — American companies but also Chinese — that create the false impression that the global economy has recovered and everything is back to normal. Since January, the valuations of just four firms — Alphabet, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft — have grown by an amount greater than the entire GDP of oil-rich Norway.

The culture power of Silicon Valley can be gleaned from the simple fact that no sensible politician dares to go to Wall Street for photo ops; everyone goes to Palo Alto to unveil their latest pro-innovation policy. From Italy's Matteo Renzi to Canada's Justin Trudeau, all mainstream politicians who have claimed to offer a clever break with the past also offer an implicit pact with Big Tech — or, at least, its ideas — in the future.

Second, Silicon Valley, being the home of venture

capital, is good at spotting global trends early on. Its cleverest minds had sensed the backlash brewing before the rest of us. They also made the right call in deciding that wonky memos and thinktank reports won't quell our discontent, and that many other problems — from growing inequality to the general unease about globalisation — will eventually be blamed on an industry that did little to cause them.

Silicon Valley's brightest minds realised they needed bold proposals — a guaranteed basic income, a tax on robots, experiments with fully privatised cities to be run by technology companies outside of government jurisdiction — that will sow doubt in the minds of those who might have otherwise opted for conventional anti-monopoly legislation. If technology firms can play a constructive role in funding our basic income, if Alphabet or Amazon can run Detroit or New York with the same efficiency that they run their platforms, if Microsoft can infer signs of cancer from our search queries: should we really be putting obstacles in their way?

Data might seem infinite but there's no reason to believe that the enormous profits made from it would simply smooth over the many contradictions of the current economic system. A self-proclaimed caretaker of global capitalism, Silicon Valley is much more likely to end up as its undertaker.

(Source: Guardian)

Iranian scientist finds sun missed star-boom in Milky Way by 5 billion years

Professor Peter Behroozi, a scientist at Stanford University, has found that galaxies like the Milky Way have been affected by a star birth explosion in which large numbers of stars were born with high speed.

Most of the Milky Way's stars were formed in a star-birthing frenzy that peaked 10 billion years ago, but our Sun was late for the party, not forming until roughly 5 billion years ago, the new study has found. The study involved a multi-observatory galaxy census, one of the most comprehensive yet.

Missing the party, however, may not have been so bad for the Sun. Its late appearance may actually have fostered the growth of our solar system's planets. Elements heavier than hydrogen and helium were more abundant later in the star-forming boom as more massive stars ended their lives early and enriched the galaxy with material that served as the building blocks of planets and even life on Earth.

How galaxies grow

The new census provides the most complete picture yet of how galaxies like the Milky Way grew over the past 10 billion years into today's majestic spiral galaxies.

The multi-wavelength study spans ul-



The new census provides the most complete picture yet of how galaxies like the Milky Way grew over the past 10 billion years into today's majestic spiral galaxies.

traviolet to far-infrared light, combining observations from NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes, the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory, and ground-based telescopes, in-

cluding the Magellan Baada Telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile.

Astronomers compiled the story our Milky Way's formative years from studying galaxies similar in mass, found in

these deep surveys of the universe.

The farther into the universe astronomers look, the further back in time they are seeing, because starlight from long ago is just arriving at Earth now. From those surveys, stretching back in time more than 10 billion years, researchers assembled an album of images containing nearly 2,000 snapshots of Milky Way-like galaxies.

Milky Way

"This study allows us to see what the Milky Way may have looked like in the past," said Casey Papovich of Texas A&M University in College Station, lead author on the paper that describes the study's results. "It shows that these galaxies underwent a big change in the mass of its stars over the past 10 billion years, bulking up by a factor of 10, which confirms theories about their growth. And most of that stellar-mass growth happened within the first 5 billion years of their birth."

The new analysis reinforces earlier research that showed Milky Way-like galaxies began as small clumps of stars. The diminutive galaxies built themselves up by swallowing large amounts of gas that ignited a firestorm of star birth. The study reveals a strong correlation between the galaxies' star formation and their growth in stellar mass. (Source: *isna.ir*)

Physicists want to rebuild quantum theory from scratch

Scientists have been using quantum theory for almost a century now, but embarrassingly they still don't know what it means. An informal poll taken at a 2011 conference on Quantum Physics and the Nature of Reality showed that there's still no consensus on what quantum theory says about reality — the participants remained deeply divided about how the theory should be interpreted.

Some physicists just shrug and say we have to live with the fact that quantum mechanics is weird. So particles can be in two places at once, or communicate instantaneously over vast distances? Get over it. After all, the theory works fine. If you want to calculate what experiments will reveal about subatomic particles, atoms, molecules and light, then quantum mechanics succeeds brilliantly.

But some researchers want to dig deeper. They want to know why quantum mechanics has the form it does, and they are engaged in an ambitious program to find

out. It is called quantum reconstruction, and it amounts to trying to rebuild the theory from scratch based on a few simple principles.

Quantum mechanics

If these efforts succeed, it's possible that all the apparent oddness and confusion of quantum mechanics will melt away, and we will finally grasp what the theory has been trying to tell us. "For me, the ultimate goal is to prove that quantum theory is the only theory where our imperfect experiences allow us to build an ideal picture of the world," said Giulio Chiribella, a theoretical physicist at the University of Hong Kong.

There's no guarantee of success — no assurance that quantum mechanics really does have something plain and simple at its heart, rather than the abstruse collection of mathematical concepts used today. But even if quantum reconstruction efforts don't pan out, they might point the way to an equally tantalizing goal: getting beyond quantum mechanics itself to a still deeper theory.

"I think it might help us move towards a theory of quantum gravity," said Lucien Hardy, a theoretical physicist at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Canada.

The basic premise

The basic premise of the quantum reconstruction game is summed up by the joke about the driver who, lost in rural Ireland, asks a passer-by how to get to Dublin. "I wouldn't start from here," comes the reply.

Where, in quantum mechanics, is "here"? The theory arose out of attempts to understand how atoms and molecules interact with light and other radiation, phenomena that classical physics couldn't explain.

Quantum theory was empirically motivated, and its rules were simply ones that seemed to fit what was observed. It uses mathematical formulas that, while tried and trusted, were essentially pulled out of a hat by the pioneers of the theory in the early 20th century.

(Source: *Wired*)

BSI Takes Giant Strides towards Modern-Day Banking

Using financial supermarket is one of the salient measures taken in recent years by Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) in line with presenting better banking services to clients, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Given the above issue, financial supermarket of the bank offers quality services such as banking, insurance, investment, consultation, money exchange and tourism services wholly in an integrated package in various branches of the bank nestled across the country in order to gain customers' satisfaction, the report added.

More giant steps have been taken in the field of

financial supermarket since 2010, all of which include banking, insurance and investment fields, the report added.

As one of the top 1,000 banks in the world and also the largest stock and private bank in the country, Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) has drawn up a consolidated roadmap for coming years.

Of salient specifications determined for these financial supermarkets, it should be referred to the ability to create added value, provide new services, introduce advanced financial products and structure of integrat-

ed financial accountability, the report added.

Developing services and turning bank branches into financial supermarket is one of the strategic objectives of the bank which was raised in the past year and it is now followed up seriously.

Complying with modern banking models, facilitating customers' banking and financial activities and increasing access to the diversified banking services, etc. have been cited as the other salient characteristics of financial supermarket at the bank, the report ended.

Gaining Customers' Satisfaction Using Modern Tools of Islamic Banking: CEO

On the occasion of Islamic Banking Week, Chief Executive of DAY BANK Mohammad-Reza Qorbani placed special emphasis on the development of Islamic contracts in banking system of the country, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

In his message, the senior official of the bank pointed to the key role of Islamic banking and its achievements for banking network and economy of country and revealed the new programs of the bank envisioned for the development of instruments of Islamic banking.



The text of message sent by Chief Executive of the bank is read as follows:

"Making effort in line with the removal of unacceptable phenomenon of usury from banking operations of country was the general orientation in the field of banking operations in the first years after the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution. For this reason, the law that was studied and approved in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament also called Majlis) was entitled "Usury-Free Banking Operations".

Elsewhere in his remarks, CEO of DAY BANK said: "The fact is that Islamic banking is the ideal that we should

move towards it. What is currently being implemented in our country is far from the ideal and reality but what should not be neglected here is that the existence of such a wide gap does not mean worthlessness in what we have achieved in the banking sector."

In the end, Chief Executive of DAY BANK Mohammad-Reza Qorbani once again pointed to the salient achievements of the bank and said: "Relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God, the bank will make all its utmost efforts in order to materialize most objectives."

SHATEL Mobile SIM Cards with "0998" Area Code Hit Mobile Market

"SHATEL" Mobile Phone New Generation Operator SIM Cards with brand name of "SHATEL Mobile" hit the mobile market of the country today with the aim of providing services of "conversing", sending "SMS", mobile internet based on "3G" and "4G" with the area coded "0998" and also Code No. 1, Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

Initiation of the first two expectation of fixed and mobile service convergence, access to the 3rd and 4th generation networks, the possibility of providing prepaid and postpaid combination services for the first time in the country, cloud communications and messaging, affordable international roaming services, content, complementary and entertaining services along with offering affordable combination of tariff plans and packages with the ability to transfer part of the remaining volume of data to the next period have been cited as the salient specifications of SIM cards of this mobile phone operator.

Mohammad-Hassan Shanehsazzadeh Chairman of the Board of Directors and Founder of Group Companies of SHATEL announced the above statements in a press briefing and said: "SHATEL Mobile Communications Development Company, with the brand name of "SHATEL

Mobile" was founded in 2015 with the aim of focusing on the new generations of wireless communications based on mobile networks, "TD-LTE" and "Wi-Fi".

He pointed to the potentials and capabilities of "SHATEL Mobile" Network in the country such as affordable products and services, widespread sales- and after-sales services (24-hr), network coverage in nearly 600 cities, affordable international roaming services, nationwide coverage of network representing over 900 points, unique area coded "09981" and various channels and methods of shopping products, charging services and organization solutions, etc.

Arash Karim-Beygi Chief Executive of SHATEL Mobile Company was the next speaker who pointed to the supply of new generation operator SIM cards of "SHATEL Mobile" with the area coded "0998" and Coded No. 1 and said: "Mobile phone network of "SHATEL Mobile" is based on 3rd (3.75th) and 4th and (4.5th) generations, so that 2G internet does not provide by this advanced network."

Speaking in press briefing held on the pilot commercial commissioning of mobile phone network of "SHATEL Mobile" and said: "According to the evaluation made from the target market, we have come to the conclusion that



we will provide our services with accessing high-speed internet without any restrictions on the speed and technology on the mobile network of 3rd and 4th generations. The possibility of using TD-LTE network services on the applied frequency of 2600 MHz will be provided for users in the very near future."

"Shatel is an Iranian Internet Service Provider and a "Large" Local Internet registry based in Tehran, Iran. Shatel is the first ADSL2+ service provider in the country, and the first gigabit wireless network operator based on registered microwave frequency."

How our immune systems could stop humans reaching Mars

Yet although we now have the technological ability to leave Earth, scientists have found another stumbling block to colonizing new worlds - our own immune system.

Although it is said we are all made of 'star stuff' when it comes to travelling away from our home planet humans are far more vulnerable to the rigors of space than our interstellar origins might suggest.

Billions of years of evolution has effectively backed mankind into a corner of the Solar System that it may be now be tricky to leave.

A team of scientists from Russia and Canada analyzed the effect of microgravity on the protein make-up in blood samples of 18 Russian cosmonauts who lived on the International Space Station for six months.

They found alarming changes to the immune system, suggesting that they would struggle to shake off even a minor virus, like the common cold.

The "results showed that in weightlessness, the immune system acts like it does when the body is infected because the human body doesn't know what to do and tries to turn on all possible defense systems," said Professor Evgeny Nikolaev, of Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology.

The effects of spaceflight on the human body have been studied actively since the mid-20th century and it is widely known that microgravity influences metabolism, heat regulation, heart rhythm, muscle tone, bone density, the respiration system.

Last year research from the U.S. also found that astronauts who travelled into deep space on lunar missions were five times more likely to have died from cardiovascular disease than those who went into low orbit, or never left Earth. (Source: *The Telegraph*)

Researchers show how simple stickers could trick self-driving cars

A team of researchers from four American universities has provided a troubling preview of how self-driving cars could be tricked into making dangerous mistakes. By altering street signs in ways that look innocuous to a human observer, the researchers were able to completely alter how an artificial intelligence interpreted them.

This isn't just a matter of slapping paint across a sign. The team, whose work was first highlighted by *Ars Technica*, designed an attack algorithm that carefully tailors the visual "perturbations" to be applied to an existing sign. The alterations, made using standard color printing or stickers, look like either graffiti or general wear to a human. One example will be familiar to many urban drivers - stickers that change a standard Stop sign to instead read "Love Stop Hate."

But to the demonstration neural network used by the researchers, these ho-hum alterations became mind-bending hallucinations. In the most dramatic example of the bunch, a Stop sign altered with what looks like natural weathering was consistently seen by the neural network as a 45 mph speed limit sign. In another test, just four carefully-placed rectangular stickers caused a Stop sign to be seen as a speed limit sign with only slightly less consistently.

Those misinterpretations could, obviously, be incredibly dangerous. And they held up under a wide variety of conditions, including different distances and viewing angles.

There are two caveats. The research has been publicly shared, but hasn't yet been published with peer review.

While their work is a strong proof of concept, the researchers write in an accompanying FAQ that "this attack would most likely not work as-is on existing self-driving cars." (Source: *Fortune*)

Unistellar, the next evolution in backyard telescopes

For centuries, astronomers have explored the cosmos through personal telescopes. And, although these devices have grown stronger over the years, they have remained relatively simple in both form and function.



Now a French startup unveiled a powerful new evolution in personal telescopes that make the act of stargazing brighter, clearer, and more engaging.

Dubbed Unistellar, the new telescope enhances the image of objects in the sky by accumulating and amplifying the light that they are emitting, according to its creators. They're calling Unistellar an Enhanced Vision Telescope (eVscope), which uses electronics and optics to magnify a cosmic object's brightness in real time. Distant galaxies go from blurred to crisp and colorful.

"Apart from the four main planets Mars, Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn, for which they are a great tool, classical telescopes, even high-end (ones), don't really allow you to really see colors and details of other objects. So even if astronomy is a popular subject among the population, many people tend to be disappointed," Arnaud Malvache, Unistellar president and co-founder, told Digital Trends.

"Our first goal was to solve this problem. As scientists we also wanted to foster more interest about astronomy and science in general, so we also focused on finding other ways to make astronomy easier and more exciting."

The eVscope feature can be turned on and off for stargazers who would rather use the Unistellar as a traditional telescope, or for those wanting to compare just how powerful the technology is.

The telescope also comes equipped with an automatic field detection algorithm that allows it to identify celestial objects in its field of view. (Source: *Digital Trends*)

Childhood overweight, obesity doubled in Iran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — With the number of undernourished children decreased by half over the past two decades, overweight and obesity have doubled among the Iranian children, said an official with the Ministry of Health.

Some 20 years ago children were mainly suffering from malnutrition, but currently the situation is reversed. Now, overweight and obesity are posing a threat not only to children under age five but to those under age two, IRNA quoted Zahra Abdollahi as saying.

In 1995, about 20 percent of the children under age five had short stature caused by nutritional deficiency while currently only 6.8 percent of the children under age 5 have short stature due to malnutrition, Abdollahi highlighted.

She went on to explain that 17 percent of the Iranian children under age five were underweight in the same year but the number has now decreased to 4 percent.

On the other hand, she said, in a study conducted by the Ministry of Health and Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2012 on average 20 percent of the under-two year olds are suffering overweight and obesity nationwide. However, the number grows in northern provinces to 30 percent, she regretted.

In another study conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health and universities of medical sciences 20 to 25 percent of the school children are also affected by overweight or obesity nationwide.

As per the study most school children aging 7 to 18 carry abdominal fat caused by consuming too much sweets, fizzy drinks, fruit juices, fast food, deep fried food, lack of movement and not eating healthy food such as fruits, and vegetables, she pointed out.

According to World Health Organization (WHO) childhood obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. The problem is global and is steadily affecting many low- and middle-income countries, particularly in urban settings. The prevalence has increased at an alarming rate. Globally, in 2015 the number of overweight children under the age of five, is estimated to be over 42 million. Almost half of all overweight children under 5 lived in Asia and one quarter lived in Africa.

Overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and more likely to develop noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age. Overweight and obesity, as well as their related diseases, are largely preventable. Prevention of childhood obesity therefore needs high priority.

LEARN ENGLISH

You Are Fired!

A: Hi Isabel! You wanted to see me?
 B: Yes Anthony, come on in. Have a seat.
 A: Is everything okay? You seem a bit **preoccupied**.
 B: Well, Anthony, this is not going to be an easy conversation. The company has made some decisions which will have a **direct impact** on your employment.
 A: Okay...
 B: I don't want to **beat around the bush** so I'm just gonna come out with it. We are going to have to **let you go**.
 A: What? Why? I mean... just like that? I'm fired?
 B: I'm sorry but, **to be honest**, you are a terrible employee!
 A: What! I **resent** that!
 B: Anthony, you were caught making international calls from the office phone, you **called in sick** eight times this month and you smell like alcohol!

■ **Key vocabulary**
preoccupied: worried; thinking about something else
direct: connected to, related to
impact: strong influence or effect
beat around the bush: avoid saying something by talking about other things
come out with it: say something directly
let (someone) go: have someone fired or dismissed
to be honest: used to say something directly
resent: find something very insulting
call in sick: call the office to say you can't come to work because you're sick

■ **Supplementary vocabulary**
severance package: money or benefits you give someone when they are fired
lay off: end an employment because of business reasons, not performance
layoffs: the action of ending employment because of business reasons
dismissal letter: a letter written to tell an employee he is fired
terminate: end the employment of a person; fire
 (Source: irlanguage.com)

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

Expo to put spotlight on healthy food, healthy life

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Good nutrition and healthy food is our first defense against disease and our source of energy to live and be active.

Nutritional problems caused by an inadequate diet can be of many sorts, and when they affect a generation of youngsters, they can lower their learning capacities, thus compromising their futures, perpetuating a generational cycle of poverty and malnutrition, with severe consequences on both individuals and nations.

In this line, the first national exhibition on healthy food production technology will be held on October 11-14 in Isfahan, ISNA reported.

Coordinated by the headquarters for development of medicinal herbs technology and traditional medicine, affiliated with presidential directorate for science and technology, the exhibition is aiming at supporting healthy food manufacturers, creating job opportunities in rural and urban areas, raising awareness about healthful and nutritious food, increasing productivity, changing poor eating habits to prevent health conditions and enhancing export.

Side events, including conferences



and workshops are also scheduled as well.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) healthy soils are the foundation of the food system. Food availability relies on soils. Nutritious and good quality food and animal fodder can only be produced

if our soils are healthy living soils.

Over the last 50 years, advances in agricultural technology and increased demand due to a growing population have put our soils under increasing pressure. In many countries, intensive crop production has depleted the soil, jeopardizing the soils productive capacity

and ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Holistic production management systems that promote and enhance agro-ecosystem health that are socially, ecologically and economically sustainable are necessary in order to protect our soils while maintaining its high productive capacities.

Farmers play a central role in this aspect. Numerous and diverse farming approaches promote the sustainable management of soils with the goal of improving productivity and maintaining the quality of the products to guarantee the consumers' health.

In addition to the agricultural aspects of a production some consumers have concerns about additives because they may see the long, unfamiliar names and think of them as complex chemical compounds. In fact, every food we eat is made up of chemical compounds that determine flavor, color, texture and nutrient value. All food additives must be carefully regulated by health authorities and various organizations to ensure that foods are safe to eat and are accurately labeled.

Iran's first mobile virtual network operator offering services

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran's first mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) is now providing the costumers with communication services, IRIB reported on Saturday.

MVNO, or virtual network operator (VNO), or mobile other licensed operator (MOLLO), is a wireless communications services provider that does not own the wireless network infrastructure over which it provides services to its customers.

An MVNO enters into a business agreement with a mobile network operator to obtain bulk access to network services at wholesale rates, then sets retail prices independently.

Currently, three major mobile network operators are up and running in Iran and 83 users are being provided with com-



munication services, Arash Karim-Beigi, the CEO of Iran's first MVNO said.

To date, 51 companies have applied for receiving MVNO permits, however, only 25 managed to obtain the required permits, Karim-Beigi added.

Kids raise money for animals displaced by hurricane Harvey

A group of kids in Western New York have opened a lemonade stand to raise money for animals that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey.

The children in the small town of Hamburg waved down cars earlier this week to pour fresh lemonade for 25 cents a cup. The money they made went directly to the Houston SPCA to save animals in the flood-ravaged region.

"They saw some of the cats and dogs being rescued and really wanted to help them out," Kristin Dellapenta, one of the children's mothers, told CBS News.

"The animals are in the flood and we want to help them not die," one of the kids said. So



far, they have raised more than \$160.

The exact number of animals displaced by the hurricane remains unclear.

(Source: msn.com)

Charity spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations

Charity, like the notions of volunteerism and philanthropy, provides real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies. Charity can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises, supplement public services in health care, education, housing and child protection. It assists the advancement of culture, science, sports, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. It also promotes the rights of the marginalized and underprivileged and spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations.

The International Day of Charity was established with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

The date of 5 September was chosen in order to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace."

Mother Teresa, the renowned nun and missionary,

was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910. In 1928 she went to India, where she devoted herself to helping the destitute. In 1948 she became an Indian citizen and founded the order of Missionaries of Charity in Kolkota (Calcutta) in 1950, which became noted for its work among the poor and the dying in that city.

For over 45 years she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned and dying, while guiding the Missionaries of Charity's expansion, first in India and then in other countries, including hospices and homes for the poorest and homeless. Mother Teresa's work has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world and she has received a number of awards and distinctions, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Mother Teresa died on September 5th 1997, at 87 years of age.

In recognition of the role of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering within and among nations, as well as of the efforts of charitable organizations and individuals, including the work of Mother Teresa, the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution A/RES/67/105PDF document designated the 5th of September, the anniversary of

the death of Mother Teresa, as the International Day of Charity.

In the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015, the United Nations recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Agenda also calls for a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It also acknowledges the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the Agenda can be grouped into six critical areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. They have the potential to transform our lives and our planet by providing the framework needed for philanthropic institutions to enable all people to contribute to the betterment of our world.

(Source: un.org)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Feast of charity' starts nationwide

A charity event called Jashn-e Nیکوکاری (the feast of charity) started in Iran on Wednesday.

As announced by Ali Mohammad Zolfaqari, an official with Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, there are some 1.6 million underprivileged families receiving financial assistance from the foundation.

"In addition to the funds allocated by the government to the foundation donations made by the philanthropist also adds up to the budget," Zolfaqari highlighted.

"What we are seeking most is to promote the giving spirit among the young population to stop poverty in the country," he added.

آغاز جشن نیکوکاری در سراسر کشور

جشن نیکوکاری روز چهارشنبه در سراسر ایران آغاز به کار کرد.

علی محمد ذوالفقاری معاون توسعه مشارکتهای مردمی کمیته امداد گفت: یک میلیون و ۶۰۰ هزار خانوار تحت حمایت کمیته امداد هستند.

ذوالفقاری خاطر نشان کرد: کمیته امداد برای رسیدگی به امور این ایتمام و نیازمندان بخشی از اعتبارات خود را از دولت و بخشی دیگر را از طریق مشارکتهای مردم خیر و نیکوکار تامین می کند. وی افزود: ما دنبال توسعه فرهنگ نعدوستی برای حضور پررنگ خیران جوان، نوجوان و خردسال هستیم تا از افزایش فقر در کشور جلوگیری شود.

ENGLISH PROVERB

All work and no play (makes Jack a dull boy)

■ **Explanation**: continuous work without rest or relaxation is harmful to one's personal life and well-being.
 ■ **For example**: I'd like to take a week's vacation next month. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

PHRASAL VERB

Dole something out

■ **Meaning**: to give something such as money, food, advice etc. to more than one person; distribute, give out
 ■ **For example**: Vera was doling out candy to all the kids.

ENGLISH IDIOM

Best of both worlds

■ **Explanation**: if a person has the best of both worlds, they have the benefits and advantages of two different things.
 ■ **For example**: We live in the center of town, but only 5 minutes from the beach. We have the best of both worlds.

Mistranslation could threaten the nuclear deal: The Atlantic

Next, in mid-August, news reports suggested that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had warned his parliament—on live television—that Iran was prepared to “return ... within hours—to conditions [in its nuclear program] more advanced than before the start of negotiations.” It took a day for a more accurate translation to indicate that Rouhani had instead argued, “new U.S. officials should know that failed experience of sanctions and coercion brought their previous governments to the negotiating table,” and that if the agreement dissolved “we will return to a much more advanced situation than at the time of the start of the talks.” In other words: Sanctions didn’t solve the nuclear issue, only negotiations did; and if the United States rips up the nuclear agreement, Iran has options too. These might reasonably be interpreted as old facts, not new threats. Indeed, the truly striking thing about the remarks was the fact that Rouhani—even to a parliament populated by plenty of hard-liners—doubled down on his commitment to compromise and diplomacy rather than to escalation and confrontation. He didn’t tell the hardliners what they wanted to hear. To an audience that at times doubts Rouhani, he made it clear that the nuclear agreement isn’t Iran’s only option, it is “Iran’s preference.”

This week nuclear deal opponents coalesced around an alleged threat by Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran’s nuclear sector, that “we are able to resume 20 percent enrichment in at most five days.” The Independent initially reported that this meant the Iranians could have a nuclear weapon within five days of withdrawing from the agreement. Very few reports bothered to include his contemporaneous comment that “definitely we are not interested in such a thing happening. We have not achieved the deal easily to let it go easily. We are committed to the deal, and we are loyal to it.”



Does all of this mistranslation and misinterpretation matter? History tells us it certainly can. Historians still debate whether a mistranslation of the Japanese word “mokusatsu” at the Potsdam Conference as World War II put America on a road of no return to drop the atomic bomb. The Allies pressed Japan for an unconditional surrender, to which the Japanese delegation responded using the term “mokusatsu,” to “reserve comment.” Truman was misinformed that the word meant “ignore.” We will never know what might have happened had a translator conveyed, correctly, that Japan might not have intended to “ignore” the Allies and close the door on negotiation

after all, but rather “reserved comment” to keep it cracked open for future discussion.

Cold Warriors invoked Nikita Khrushchev’s threat “we will bury you” as justification for arms races, military interventions, and even quagmires. We will never know what might’ve happened if we had relied on a more accurate and less menacing translation of the Soviet premier’s words: “We will outlast you.” And in America’s troubled history with Iran, policy-makers and historians still ask “what if” in 1953, as America studied the words of Prime Minister Mossadegh, it had chosen to see a nationalist rather than a budding Marxist. Would America

“The risk that mistranslation and misinterpretation could escalate into something more dangerous than mistrust is greatest when two sides don’t talk to each other at all.”

have still fomented a CIA coup which still haunts the relationship?

But the risk that mistranslation and misinterpretation could escalate into something more dangerous than mistrust is greatest when two sides don’t talk to each other at all. The last administration built a channel for communicating with Iran, first quietly through Oman and then regularly and reliably between the U.S. secretary of state and Iran’s foreign minister. It proved indispensable in concluding the nuclear deal, securing the release of a number of Americans held in Iran, and in defusing a potentially explosive situation when American sailors were captured by Iran’s Revolutionary Guards. Seven months later, the new secretary of state has not yet met with or spoken with Iran’s Foreign Minister Javad Zarif. It’s a marked contrast to the way the rest of the world engages with Iran, as this week even arch enemies and regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran announced they would soon exchange diplomatic visits.

In our view, it would be a mistake to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement—especially at a time when the United States and its allies are using sanctions to try and drive North Korea to the negotiating table. President Trump is on record that he wants to find Iran noncompliant with the deal, notwithstanding the advice of his own Cabinet or the findings of the IAEA that Iran is in compliance. He has yet to make his case to the public about why this would be in America’s interests. The diplomats and technocrats who gave the world the Iran nuclear agreement spent thousands of hours and hundreds of days laboring over each word. In this critical time, a lot can hinge on something as mundane as mistranslation—and a lot can be lost through simple misunderstanding.

Why did Kenya’s Supreme Court annul the elections?

The discontent and criticism of the election were never about Raila Odinga losing it as some have alleged - it was about having a winner who was worthy of the title “democratically elected”. And the Supreme Court found that the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) simply did not deliver on basic democratic principles of transparency and rule of law that should guide any election.

With this ruling, the court has vindicated advocates for credibility, arguing that Kenyans deserved free, fair and credible - not just “good enough” - elections.

With this ruling, the court has vindicated advocates for credibility, arguing that Kenyans deserved free, fair and credible - not just “good enough” - elections.

The court has 21 days to deliver a detailed ruling, but it seems one of the main problems with the election was IEBC’s ignoring many aspects of the Constitution and electoral law. Fundamentally, this ruling was about reminding the IEBC that it cannot pick and choose which parts of the constitution to obey.

In court, lawyers for the IEBC struggled to give good reasons about why the core tools of electoral management dictated by law and publicly promised to voters were not actually used during the election. For example, IEBC lawyers shockingly argued that the tallying website public.iebc.or.ke on which local and international reporting about the election relied was “not the public portal” that the IEBC promised, and they never told the court what that website was and why it existed.

The ruling was also about glaring errors that, on one hand, the IEBC argued were not enough to alter the outcome of the election, but on the other, critics argued, compromised the integrity of the whole system. For example, the IEBC conceded that they did not use the electronic transmission system they were required to, and instead relied on text messages and photographs of manually filled forms as sources of information.

The process of tallying was also problematic because the IEBC seemed to ignore much of the law regulating it. The commission lawyers argued that the forms used for reporting results from the different regions were all available in time for the announcement of the results on August 11. Yet as late as August 14, the IEBC was still asking the opposition to “be patient” while it tries to make the forms available to them for verification. How was the final result generated on the basis of forms that were not available until several days after the election?

(Source: Aljazeera)

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Monfils injured yet again as he loses to Goffin in New York

Gael Monfils suffered yet another injury as he retired from his third-round match against Belgian ninth seed David Goffin at the U.S. Open on Saturday.

The Frenchman had dropped the first set 7-5 before losing interest in the match in the second as he appeared to suffer from a leg injury.

The 18th seed quickly fell 5-0 behind, finally requesting the trainer on court for a right thigh massage. He won one game before throwing in the towel.

Monfils has suffered an Achilles injury, a knee injury and an ankle injury this season.

Goffin next faces Bosnian Damir Dzumhur or Russian Andrey Rublev for a place in the last eight.

(Source: Reuters)

Manchester United players probed by taxman

At least two Manchester United stars are being investigated by HMRC over alleged image rights tax dodges, as the taxman continues to open new cases against top footballers in the Premier League.

The financial affairs of up to 200 players are under scrutiny but sources say that number continues to rise.

They are being investigated for their use of private companies and a range of other legal schemes to cut millions from their tax bills. Under an agreement reached in the 2014-15 season — first revealed by Sportsmail — clubs were told they can pay up to a fifth of their footballers' total pay packages to 'image rights' companies rather than as part of their wages.

The player avoids income tax on the money while clubs cut National Insurance contributions they pay.

There is no suggestion the United players were knowingly dodging tax. A source close to one of them — a household name on international duty over the past few days — confirmed HMRC are looking into him. The club and his agent declined to comment.

The number of players, clubs and agents being investigated has increased since the taxman revealed earlier this year that 100-plus players, 39 clubs and 13 agents were under investigation.

A HMRC spokesman said: "We rigorously enforce the rules and tackle firmly anybody who games the system. Since 2014-15 we have delivered £269million in extra tax from tackling rule-breakers in the football industry generally."

(Source: Daily Mail)

Wayne Rooney rules out England return for 2018 World Cup

Wayne Rooney has no intention to come out of international retirement to try and help England at the 2018 World Cup - should they qualify.

England's record goalscorer called time on his career with the national team in August after falling out of favour with Gareth Southgate due to a lack of playing time at Manchester United.

Two goals in his first two matches for Everton this season had led to calls for a recall, but Rooney retired before Southgate named his squad to play Malta and Slovakia.

And the 31-year-old insists there will be no come back to help England in Russia next year, the striker believing it is time for the next generation to take the team forward.

"My mind is made up," Rooney, who was charged with drink driving on Friday, told talkSPORT. "I have seen it a few times, where players have come out of retirement and gone to tournaments - and it's not right."

"The lads who are trying to qualify for Russia will be the players that deserve to play in the tournament. So my decision has been made. 'I've had my time. I can't have any regrets. It's now time for some of the younger lads to step up and try to take it further."

"Of course I'll be watching. I've made it clear throughout my career that I love playing for England and want England to do well - and that remains."

"Now I won't be playing, I'll be watching with the same interest as everyone else. Hopefully we can go that next step in the tournament."

(Source: Independent)

Mbappe wants to make history with PSG

Kylian Mbappe opted for Paris Saint-Germain over a host of European suitors because he wants to make history in Ligue 1 before leaving France.

Mbappe rose to stardom last season after a thrilling campaign with Monaco, the 18-year-old scoring 26 goals in all competitions as Leonardo Jardim's young side lifted the league title and reached the semi-finals of the Champions League.

His outstanding displays under Jardim led to the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona and Arsenal all being linked with a close-season swoop for the teenage prodigy.

However, Mbappe opted to swap Monaco for PSG after the clubs agreed a season-long loan deal with a binding option to make the move permanent for €180million.

Mbappe revealed staying in his homeland was a conscious decision so early in his career and that the presence of Neymar made PSG too good to turn down.

"Great players make history in their own country," he told Telefoot. "If I had left France after six months I would have left as an eternal hope."

"When you come to Paris you are at a club that has the ambition to be the best in the world, you have come to a club that wants to play in all the competitions."

"I'm going to give everything I have got to make history with PSG. 'Playing with Neymar is something extraordinary. PSG already interested me, but having Neymar is an additional boost."

The forward also paid tribute to Monaco, saying the club will remain dear to him.

He added: "I will never forget Monaco and I will always be grateful to the club."

(Source: Four Four Two)

Unbeatable Teddy Riner wins ninth consecutive world title

Imagine you've reigned supreme in a sport for approaching a decade, winning 128 successive matches on the way to securing a record eight world titles.

What could there possibly be left to achieve?

In the case of Teddy Riner, a whole lot more. The pursuit of sporting history seemingly never stops for the French judoka, who dominated the heavyweight division once again at this year's Suzuki World Judo Championships in Budapest.

"It is a big day for me, my family and my federation" Riner told CNN Sport. "This gold medal is French. This gold medal is mine!"

The 28-year-old hadn't stepped onto a tatami in a competitive match since winning the Olympic final in Rio de Janeiro 386 days ago.

Much has changed since — not least the very rules themselves — but his standing within the sport remains unquestioned.

The six-foot-eight, 141 kilogram judoka was imperious under the lights of the Papp Laszlo Arena, pawing away his opponents' advances like a cat toying with a piece of string.

Bigger, heavier opponents stood in Riner's way — including Egypt's Maisara Enagar (151.8kg) and Brazil's Rafael Silva (167.8kg) — but no man could stop him.

Winning all four of his preliminary matches by ippon — judo's equivalent of a knockout — Riner faced explosive Georgian Guram Tushishvili at the semifinal stage in one of the most hotly-anticipated clashes of the Championships.

It was the first ever meeting between two of the best pound-for-pound judokas on the planet.

Tushishvili, the lightest in the division (111kg) and still just 22, had capitalized on Riner's absence by winning European Judo Championships in Warsaw earlier this year.

But, despite forcing the match to golden score and enjoying the backing of a noisy Georgian contingent, he was unable to prevent the man known as "the Teddy Bear" scoring the decisive waza-ari.

It meant Riner faced David Moura of Brazil for a re-



cord-extending ninth World Championship title in the gold-medal showdown.

Champion in both Cancun and Ekaterinburg this year, Moura traveled to Hungary occupying top spot in the rankings. Riner, meanwhile, had dropped to 14th place during his absence from judo and begun the tournament unseeded.

Not that it mattered.

Riner won the match in golden time with a sasae-tsurikomi-ashi throw, taking his unbeaten run to 134.

"These days it is very difficult," Riner told CNN Sport. "This is my first competition since the Olympic Games and now there are a lot of new opponents."

"The younger guys have very beautiful judo, very quick judo, so I am very happy!"

Still just 28 years old, Riner is now aiming for a tenth consecutive World Championship gold.

"The Olympic Games are very far away," he said. "After maybe five or 10 days' rest, I will come back, train and go for it again."

In Saturday's other weight divisions, Japan's Aaron Wolf emerged victorious in the -100kg final against Georgia's Varlam Liparteliani, with Azerbaijan's Elmar Gasimov and Azerbaijan's Kirill Denisov walking away with bronze.

South Korea's Minjeong Kim and Iryna Kindzerska took bronze in the women's +78kg category. China's Song Yu beat Japan's World Championship debutant Sarah Asahina in the showdown for gold.

(Source: CNN)

Federer dispatches Lopez in straight sets to reach fourth round of US Open

Roger Federer hit form at the US Open to ease into the fourth round.

After five-set battles in his opening two matches, Federer only needed an hour and 46 minutes to dismiss Feliciano Lopez 6-3 6-3 7-5.

The third seed's movement was much improved and he made far fewer unforced errors as he set up a last-16 clash with German Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Federer said: "I struggled the first couple of rounds, but that had something to do with my opponents as well. I think I played a very clean match tonight, I couldn't be happier."

"To win in straight sets against Feliciano, who's been such a tough competitor over the years, is such a great feeling."

Federer had perhaps simply had enough of waiting, with three long day session matches - the last of them another battle for Rafael Nadal - meaning the night session started two and a half hours late.

More than 20,000 ticket-holders had been left outside in the rain while Nadal finished off his four-set win over Leonardo Mayer.

It was a full house and a lively atmosphere, and the fans were more than happy with a paucity of drama if it meant seeing Federer back to free-flowing normality.

His protestations that his suspect back was feeling just fine after battles against Frances Tiafoe and Mikhail Youzhny rang a little hollow but there was certainly much more of the player who did not drop a set at Wimbledon in this performance.

After extending his winning record to 17-0 against Youzhny, Federer met another old sparring partner in 35-year-old Lopez, who he had beaten 12 times in a row.

The pair combined to make this the oldest US Open clash since Jimmy Connors faced Ivan Lendl 25 years ago.

On that occasion, 32-year-old Lendl beat 39-year-old Connors, but here the older man was on top from the start, needing just 25 minutes to win the opening set.

Lopez had several chances in the second but could not take them, and he looked doomed when Federer broke early in the third. The 36-year-old Swiss played his one really loose game of the night to drop serve immediately but seized his chance when it came in the 12th game, clenching his fist in delight.

(Source: Eurosport)



Nadal survives early wobble to book last 16 spot in New York

World number one Rafa Nadal ran into a spot of bother before crushing Argentine Leonardo Mayer and booked his place in the last 16 of the U.S. Open with a 6-7(3) 6-3 6-1 6-4 victory on Saturday.

The Spaniard, chasing his second grand slam title of the year, was on the back foot early on but once he found his rhythm, the contest was virtually over under a closed roof on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Nadal will next face Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov. "It was a tough situation for a set and I had some break points against me early in the second. I fought, I was there mentally and then I started to play much better," said Nadal.

"I must improve on the forehand. At the end of the match I was creating more space but at the beginning I failed to convert several chances with my forehand."

Mayer played some steely tennis in the first set, hitting neat and powerful shots to stave off six break points and force a tiebreak, in which the Argentine was always in control.

In the tiebreak, he took a mini-break for 3-2 when Nadal inexplicably netted a routine backhand and then sealed it with an unreturnable serve.

Nadal was hanging by his teeth, facing two break points in the fourth game of the second set. Two massive shots saved him and he got to level for 2-2 as he let out a huge 'Vamos', raising his clenched fist towards the crowd.

The match was dragging along and while the 23,000 day session spectators enjoyed the match, there were 23,000 waiting outside in the rain for the night session to start.

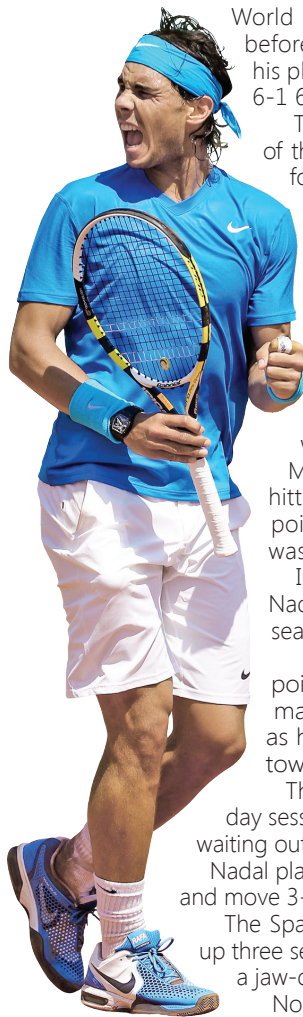
Nadal played tighter to finally take the first break of the match and move 3-2 up when his opponent sent a forehand wide.

The Spaniard went on to win seven successive points to set up three set points and on the third, he leveled the contest with a jaw-dropping dipping passing shot.

Normal service had resumed as Nadal won his seventh successive game to open up a 3-0 lead in the third set.

Mayer briefly threatened a comeback when he pulled a break back for 5-3 in the fourth set but Nadal served it out at 5-4 with Mayer sending a forehand long on match point.

(Source: Guardian)



Mesut Ozil hits back at Arsenal legends: 'stop talking and start supporting'

Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil has posted a lengthy message on his Instagram account calling on former players to 'stop talking and start supporting' following further criticism of his performances.

Ozil is currently on international duty with Germany and played in his country's 2-1 win over the Czech Republic, but he has taken the time to address stiff criticism he received following two straight defeats for Arsenal.

Sportsmail's Martin Keown joined former striker Ian Wright in claiming that Arsenal are in crisis, with Wright describing the current situation as a 'nightmare'.

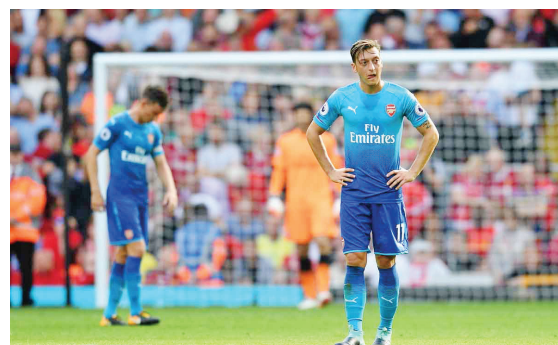
The Gunners were beaten 1-0 at Stoke at the bet365 Stadium, with Ozil being blamed in some quarters for not fulfilling his defensive duties as Jese Rodriguez ran free to score.

The German then produced an abject display during Arsenal's humiliating 4-0 loss to Liverpool at Anfield last Sunday, while the club missed out on target Thomas Lemar on transfer deadline day while Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain was sold.

Alexis Sanchez came close to leaving for Manchester City, but on the fourth anniversary of his move from Real Madrid, Ozil obliged to speak out in defence of his performances.

The 28-year-old wrote on Instagram: "It's September 2nd, 2017. I'm with the German National team right now, and yesterday we took a big step towards the World Cup in Russia after beating Czech Republic 2-1."

"During the last couple of days my DFB teammates have



been asking me about how everything is at Arsenal at the moment.

"They claimed to have read about the current crisis through the media, as pundits and former players are commenting on a daily basis. They say that this could be the worst team in years, even decades."

"I'm writing this together with people that are close to me, and we've got something to celebrate. Although no match was won, or trophy was lifted today, Arsenal and I are celebrating our anniversary!"

"Four years ago I was transferred in a last minute deal from Real Madrid to Arsenal - Arsene Wenger convinced me. He told me about the great history of this club, about

its living legends such as Bergkamp, Vieira and Pires, who owe a large part of their success to the manager."

"Arsene told me how he would help me to develop as a player, and that is something every player wants to hear, as it is great encouragement."

"Although I initially struggled when coming to the Premier League, I accepted the challenge. I started as a left-winger at the beginning, and in all honesty, I am not a great admirer of that position for myself - I'm better as a 'number 10'."

"When playing in the centre I can control the game and generate chances. The Premier League is physically much more demanding than La Liga or the Bundesliga. 1-1 draws are much tougher, and the smaller clubs also have very strong teams that can easily catch you out."

"Furthermore, there is no winter break, meaning the season is extremely long and exhausting, especially when you are playing at European and National team level too."

"We have achieved a lot in our four years together. Three of the 13 FA Cup victories have been accomplished in the past four years, with the other ten taking 75 years for the club to win. This is in addition to our three Community Shield wins."

"After all, six titles in four years is quite something. However, this only makes myself and the team even more disappointed for not playing a role in the title race at the end of last season - this is something we hope to change this year."

(Source: Mirror)

Jahanbakhsh delighted with hard-earned point

Alireza Jahanbakhsh hailed a "great job" by the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Group A winners came away from Korea Republic in their penultimate FIFA World Cup qualifier with a scoreless draw on Thursday despite playing most of the second-half with 10 men.

Having already secured their safe passage to Russia next year, Iran went into the fixture at Seoul World Cup Stadium with few worries, but a strong determination to ensure they see out the campaign unbeaten and with their perfect defensive record still intact.

The Iranians looked solid throughout, even after Saeid Ezatolahi was dismissed shortly after half-time, limiting Korea Republic to only a handful of chances in a performance that displayed all the attributes of togetherness that long-serving coach Carlos Queiroz has instilled in the squad.

"We knew they were going to start at 100 percent because they were playing at home in front of 60,000 people, so they were going to start with attacking football," said Jahanbakhsh.

"We knew it was going to be difficult but we tried to concentrate, to stay compact and use the counter-attacks, which we did very well in the first-half.

"But at the beginning of the second-half, unfortunately, we got the red card and after it was more difficult. We had to stay more compact and close the spaces.

"There was more pressure after we went down to 10 men but fortunately we got one point and that's all that matters right now."

The visitors went into the game without the suspended Sardar Azmoun and chose to leave three-goal top scorer Mehdi Taremi on the bench.

Jahanbakhsh and fellow Nether-



lands-based teammate Reza Ghoochannejhad were the only players to start the game who had netted in the Group A campaign, with the pair scoring in a 2-0 win over Qatar back on Matchday One.

And, while chances were at a premium for Team Melli, the fighting spirit of a side determined to maintain a qualifying record that will be hard to match anywhere in world football was evident for all to see.

"One of the strongest parts of our national team is that we work together as a team in both defence and attack," added

Jahanbakhsh.

"The defensive part was perfect and we did a great job. One point in front of 60,000 people, with 10 men, was enough today. There was more pressure on them as they had to win.

"We had the goal of not conceding and we did this with great teamwork."

Next up Iran will welcome Syria to Azadi Stadium on Tuesday in a game that has more than just their impressive record riding on it.

Syria's 3-1 win over Qatar on Thursday moved the West Asians into third

place in Group A, two points behind second-placed Korea Republic, and means they go into the clash with automatic qualification in their sights.

"The next game is Syria and they still have a chance so it's going to be difficult because they'll give 100 percent," said Jahanbakhsh.

"But we're playing at home and we always do a good job at home. We'll do our best to try and finish without conceding a goal and get the three points in front of our fans."

(Source: AFC)

Australia not reaching for the panic button, says Milligan



Under-pressure Australia will qualify for their fourth successive World Cup, by the long road or the short, stand-in captain Mark Milligan declared on Sunday.

Australia's 2-0 loss away to Japan last week put their qualifying hopes on a knife edge.

They need to beat Thailand in Melbourne on Tuesday then hope Japan can hold Saudi Arabia to a draw or better in Jeddah to grab the second direct berth to next year's tournament in Russia.

Australia can still qualify from third place but would need to negotiate home and away playoffs against the third-placed team in the other Asian group then a side from the North, Central and Caribbean (CONCACAF) region.

"Going to consecutive World Cups has been very important not just for the national team but for Australian football, the A-League and lower leagues," Milligan, who led the side in the defeat in Saitama in the absence of regular skipper Mile Jedinak, told reporters.

"I still truly believe that we will go out Tuesday night and we'll put in a good performance. Whether it's Wednesday that it's announced that we're going to a World Cup or whether we have to

wait a bit longer, it will happen.

"Obviously that's worst case scenario but there's a long way before we have to hit that panic button."

Australia have never been a side renowned for pace but they were made to look sluggish by fleet-footed Japan, whose well-organised defence scrambled hard to frustrate the Soccerroos' forwards.

Thailand, already eliminated from the World Cup running, are unlikely to offer as stiff a challenge as Japan but Australia need to accelerate their ball movement forward, said winger Mathew Leckie.

"The ultimate topic we spoke about (after Japan) was that the ball movement was too slow," he said.

"We let them get back into their formation and sorted in their own half very easily. If we moved the ball quicker and went forward faster we could have definitely found gaps.

"If we can get on top of Thailand push them back into their own half, it'll definitely give us the opportunity to get high.

"We need goals and towards the end of the game we might have to take some risks as well."

(Source: Reuters)

China PR Primed for road to Russia 2018 miracle



China PR defender Feng Xiaoting is hoping Thursday's 1-0 win over Uzbekistan can lead to a "miracle" in the final 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier on September 5 against Qatar.

The Chinese need to beat the West Asians in Doha and hope that both Uzbekistan and Syria fail to win against Korea Republic and Islamic Republic of Iran respectively, as well as overcoming a significant goal difference inferiority, to clinch third place in Group A and with it the play-off place for Russia 2018.

China's one and only World Cup finals appearance so far came in the 2002 edition, co-hosted by Japan and Korea Republic.

"We have been fighting so hard for the 2018 FIFA World Cup since last year," said Guangzhou Evergrande centre-back Feng.

"Now there is only one match to go, all of us are hoping to make a miracle happen."

It was very much a game of two halves at Wuhan Sports Centre Stadium, with Marcello Lippi's men on top in the first 45 minutes but with the visitors roaring back after the restart.

Nevertheless, the turning point

came with just over five minutes remaining when Feng was brought down inside the box which allowed club teammate Gao Lin to convert from the resulting penalty.

"After the first meeting [a 2-0 defeat in Tashkent] last year, we learnt a lot about the Uzbekistan team," said Feng.

"This helped us prepare our tactics for the match in Wuhan. We kept pushing up on the opponents' defenders and this worked effectively and we had so many chance in the first 70 minutes.

"We followed Lippi's tactics for the corner and then we got the penalty with this high intensive pressing.

"After Gao Lin scored the spot-kick, we were able to hold-out until the final whistle."

China were cheered on by a large and passionate crowd of home supporters and Feng acknowledged the boost the fans gave the national side.

"I want to say thanks to the fans, who put on their red shirts and came here to support us," he added.

"In the end, with their help, we won the game - I hope we made their wishes come true!"

(Source: AFP)

German players snub fans after 'terrible' chants during Czech Republic match

Germany may have beaten the Czech Republic in Prague on Friday, but the behavior of some of their fans left plenty to be desired. The German players declined to applaud their supporters after several unsavory incidents.

Germany fans were heard chanting and shouting throughout the minute's silence and whistling through the national anthems ahead of their World Cup qualifier against the Czechs. Germany eventually won the game 2-1.

Marcus Bark, a journalist for German network ARD tweeted after the game that Julian Brandt had said: "If chants with a National Socialist background are sung, then there is no reason to support that

and go to the stands."

Defender Mats Hummels was equally forthright after the game: "That was so wrong that there was never even a question of going to the stands."

Tobias Altschäffl of SportBild reported some strong words from Hummels (see the Tweet at the foot of the page) concerning insults to Timo Werner, the German FA and Nazi chants heard from the stand:

"The chants were terrible, a catastrophe," he said. "It started during the minute's silence. Some behaved badly then. Timo Werner was insulted. Then the fans started to chant that crap. We distance ourselves completely from that. We don't want to have anything to do with it.

I'm sorry for those who didn't chant anything... We don't need that nonsense at our games.

"They are hooligans. They have nothing to do with football fans. We have to make sure that these people are taken out of the stadium."

"Those people who shout that certain football institutions are breaking football, are breaking it themselves," Hummels is also quoted as saying.

Germany's sporting director Oliver Bierhoff said there were two blocks of Germany fans, one organized by the DFB and another, which was not organized by the governing body.

(Source: Deutsche Welle)

Syria's Al Soma Hopes of Beating Iran at World Cup Qualifier

Syria's national football team's striker Omar Al Soma hopes that they will beat Iran in the 2018 World Cup qualifier.

An unlikely win away to Iran on Tuesday coupled with defeat for South Korea by Uzbekistan in the final round would give Syria second spot and direct entry to the finals in Russia next year.

The Syria's most celebrated footballer due to his goal scoring exploits with Saudi club Al Ahli, celebrated his return with victory over Qatar.

"Thanks to God, my return to the national team was good," he said after the game.

"I hope that we can bring joy to our people, who need such joy."

"I will give my best in the next match in order to win and hopefully we can qualify for the World Cup," Al Soma added. (Source: Tasnim)

Esteghlal Defender Montazeri Undergoes Surgery on Shoulder Injury

The Iranian national football team and Esteghlal's defender Pejman Montazeri underwent shoulder surgery in Tehran's Bahman Hospital.

Montazeri suffered a shoulder injury in practice last week. He will be out of action for Esteghlal for at least two months.

The 33-year-old international defender joined Esteghlal on a two-year contract in late June.

Montazeri was a member of Team Melli in the 2014 FIFA World Cup and played full 90 minutes in all three matches against Nigeria, Argentina and Bosnia and Herzegovina but missed 2015 AFC Asian Cup due to injury.

Montazeri's injury is a "big blow" for the Blues since they sit 15th in Iran Professional League after five weeks. (Source: Tasnim)

It's grass and four lines - Dier dismisses talk of Spurs' Wembley hoodoo

Tottenham may have only won one match at Wembley in the last 12 months but Eric Dier does not buy into talk of a hoodoo affecting the Spurs players.

Last season Mauricio Pochettino's side played their Champions League group stage matches at England's national stadium, losing to Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen before a 3-1 win over CSKA Moscow when their elimination was already sealed.

There was also a Wembley defeat to Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-finals, and things have not improved this season after Spurs temporarily moved in while their new stadium is being built.

An 88th minute Marcos Alonso strike saw Chelsea win Spurs' opening league game at the ground, while Chris Wood snatched a stoppage time equaliser for Burnley last weekend.

Their struggles have led to some suggest Spurs might be suffering a Wembley curse but it is not something Dier buys in to.

"There's no curse, it's just grass and four lines, I really don't think it makes too much of a difference," said the England international.

"If you get down to it and look at last season in the Champions League with Spurs, we weren't in a good period as a team, full stop.

"People just wanted to jump on the Wembley thing.

"This season with the Chelsea game, I thought we played extremely well for the whole game. We lost, but I thought our performance was very good. Against Burnley we didn't kill the game off so we drew.

"I'm looking forward to playing there again. It's one of the most historic stadiums in world football and I'm lucky to get the chance to play there every other week."

(Source: Daily Star)

Big gap between Real Madrid and Man Utd, warns Cole

Manchester United icon Andy Cole has warned his former club not to get carried away by their excellent start to the new season, warning they remain a long way behind Real Madrid ahead of the Champions League.

Cole, who managed a United legends team in a 2-2 draw against Barcelona at Old Trafford on Saturday, has been impressed by Jose Mourinho's side winning all three of their opening Premier League matches without conceding a goal.

But he feels the UEFA Super Cup defeat to Real Madrid should not be forgotten in a hurry, and believes European glory this season is a tough ask, ahead of United's return to the continent's elite club competition at home to Basel on September 12.

"It's massive for the club [to be back in the Champions League], because that gives you another platform to bring in the players that you need," Cole, who won the tournament in 1999, told reporters.

"That is what the fans want and what they expect at a club like Manchester United. So that is major as well.

"It gets tougher and tougher to win that Champions League. If you look at the team that has won it two years on the bounce now, we played them in the Super Cup and I think you saw the gap there.

"There was a big gap between Real Madrid and Manchester United. And Real Madrid had some of their better players on the bench as well.

"So to win that competition you are going to have to be in tip-top condition."

(Source: Goal)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korean cultural exhibition opens at Tehran center

TEHRAN — A South Korean cultural exhibition opened at Tehran's Melal Cultural Center on Sunday.



South Korean Ambassador Kim Seung-Ho and a number of Iranian cultural officials attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition titled "Korea, Close-Up", the Persian service of IRNA reported.

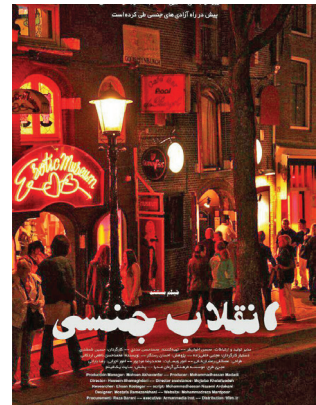
The exhibition is displaying some photos of Korean tourist attractions, Korean food and traditional costumes, and a number of other materials.

The Embassy of South Korea organizes the exhibit in collaboration with the Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality to celebrate the 55th anniversary of Iran-Korea diplomatic relations.

The exhibit will run until September 9 at the center located on Qeitarieh Park.

Doc criticizes sexual liberation in Iran

TEHRAN — Hossein Shamaqdari, the director of the documentary "Alberta Legacy" about the brain drain in Iran, has recently made another film that criticizes sexual liberation in Iran.



"Sexual Revolution" produced at the Arman Media Cultural Institute was released online on Sunday, the Tehran-based institute announced.

The documentary starts with a narrative reading "We are at the beginning of a path that the West followed two hundred years ago" to warn about sexual liberation in Iran.

Shamaqdari visited some countries in Europe, including the Netherlands, France and Spain to conduct interviews with young people and also to gather information for his film.

Boy and his horse seek kindness in Venice movie "Lean on Pete"

VENICE (Reuters) — A lonely teenager takes to the road with an aging race horse he has saved from slaughter, in a movie that premiered in Venice on Friday that, according to its star, is about a simple but rare human quality: kindness.

Charlie Plummer plays Charley in "Lean on Pete", a 15-year-old whose mother left when he was young and whose father's drinking and womanizing leads to a heap of trouble.

Taking the horse he has befriended during a summer job at a local racetrack, Charley, penniless and homeless, sets off through the desert hoping to find a place to call home with a relative he hasn't seen in years.

Plummer, an 18-year-old taking the biggest film role of his career, told Reuters at the Venice Film Festival the movie challenges the viewer to feel more compassion for people who are facing difficulties in life, including the homeless.

"We need more kindness and compassion in the world and we need to be able to realize that everybody is struggling and understand that we are more similar than we are different and feel that," he said.

Directed by British filmmaker Andrew Haigh, "Lean on Pete" is based on the novel by Willy Vlautin.

Haigh, who won plaudits for the 2011 romance "Weekend" said "Lean on Pete" is something of a pre-coming-of-age story.

"It's almost like Charley hasn't got time to even begin to understand really who he is because he is always moving and fighting and trying to get some kind of home," Haigh said.

"It was almost like that the coming of age story will be the next chapter in that story, oddly. That's what kind of really appealed to me about it."

The movie is one of 21 U.S. and international movies competing for the Golden Lion that will be awarded on Sept. 9.

Exhibits to premiere photos of WWII Polish refugees in Isfahan

By: Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

TEHRAN — Two exhibitions, which will be organized in Tehran and Isfahan during October and November, will premiere a collection of photos of the Polish people who took refuge in the central Iranian city of Isfahan from the atrocities of the Soviets' labor camps during World War II.

This unique collection, which has never been presented or published before, has been prepared from the negatives discovered in the studio of Abolqasem Jala in Isfahan half a century after WWII by Parisa Damandan, a photographer and art historian who will curate the exhibitions, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute that is one of the organizers of the showcases announced in a press release.

The exhibitions titled "Lahestaniha [Poles], the Children of Isfahan Back in Iran after 75 Years" have been organized to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Polish refugees in Iran.

White Gallery at Tehran's Sadabad Palace will host the exhibition from October 6 to 31. The exhibition will then open at the Isfahan Museum of Contemporary Art on October 10 and will run through November 23.

The collection comprises photos depicting the Polish refugees in groups and singles in their daily life. Part of the collection also includes the portraits of the Poles Jala had taken at his atelier.

Several hundred thousand Polish people fled to the Soviet Union during World War II, but they fell victim to labor camps in that country.

A total of 116,000 the Polish people, 3,000 of whom were orphans, escaped from the Soviet Union to Iran, starting a new life in Isfahan.

"Their stay in Isfahan meant a complete change in their circumstances," the Adam Mickiewicz Institute wrote. "After years spent in the steppes of Kazakhstan, the



A woman and two boys from the Polish people, which fled to the central Iranian city of Isfahan during WWII, pose in a photo by Iranian photographer Abolqasem Jala.

deserts of Turkmenistan and the taigas of Siberia, these Polish orphans found themselves in a fairy-tale oasis; Isfahan was like a paradise to them."

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute, an affiliate of Poland's

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, will organize the exhibitions with support from PGNiG, a Polish state-controlled oil and gas company, and the Embassy of Poland in Tehran.

"Breath", "The Salesman" lead nominations at Iran Cinema Celebration



Posters for "The Salesman" and "Breath"

TEHRAN — Asghar Farhadi's Oscar-winning film "The Salesman" and Narges Abyar's anti-war drama "Breath" led the nominations at the 19th Iran Cinema Celebration on Sunday each with ten nods.

The films followed by director Hamid Nematollah's movie "Subdued" with nine nominations are competing in several categories, including best film.

Shahab Hosseini, the winner of this year's Palme d'Or for best actor at Cannes for his role in "The Salesman", was nominated for the best actor



award, while his co-star, Taraneh Alidusti received a nomination in the best actress category.

Farhadi will also contend for the best screenwriter award with Peyman Qasemkhani for his comedy film "Good, Bad, Garish", Masumeh Bayat for "Subdued", Mehran Kashani for "Daughter" and Soheil Beirazi for "Me".

Winners will be announced during a special ceremony in Tehran on September 12.

The Iranian House of Cinema organizes the celebration annually to observe Iran's National Day of Cinema.

Iran's "Light Sight" honored at American, Italian events



A scene from "Light Sight"

TEHRAN — Iranian director Seyyed Moslem Tabataba'i's short animation "Light Sight" has been honored at two international film festivals in the U.S. and Italy.

The 1st Sunrise 45 Film Festival, which was held in the small town of Alpena located in northeastern Michigan in the U.S. from August 18 to 20, picked the animation as Best International Student Film.

It also won the second prize in the international short film section of the 1st International Luci Della Ribalta Film

Fest, which was held in Terni, Italy from August 25 to 27.

The Renato Church Special Award-Music and Images at the festival was also presented to the movie.

"Light Sight" is scheduled to compete in the Marietta International Film Festival, running in the American city located in the state of Georgia on September 9 and 10.

The movie is about a creature named M.E. who is fascinated by a white light outside its room. It tries to reach the light but there are obstacles in the way.

George Clooney tackles 'original sin' of slavery and racism in dark comedy

VENICE (Reuters) — Breaking the brittle veneer of the picture-perfect suburbs of 1950s America, George Clooney's new satire tackles racial prejudice which the actor and director said on Saturday continues to erupt in today's angry society.

"Suburbicon", starring Matt Damon and Julianne Moore, is set in a town of that name which is rudely awoken from the American dream by a series of surreal crimes and the residents' furious reaction to a black family's arrival in the neighborhood.

"This is a movie about our coming to terms with the idea that we have never addressed our issues with race fully," Clooney told a news conference after the premiere at the 74th annual Venice film festival.

"We've still got a lot of work to do, from our original sin of slavery and racism."

Damon said last month's violent clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia showed the issues addressed in the film "have not and will not go away until there is an honest reckoning in our country".

Damon plays Gardner, a family man whose home life darkens as tensions rise in the



Actor and director George Clooney and actor Julianne Moore pose during a photocall for the movie "Suburbicon" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy September 2, 2017. (Reuters/Alessandro Bianchi)

community outside, while Moore plays both his wife and her twin sister.

Based on a script written by Joel and Ethan Coen in the 1980s, the film opens with a cheery prologue promoting the charms of Suburbicon, which include a church and a mall.

But the promise that it is a "melting pot

of diversity" is quickly and categorically disproved, and a burgeoning friendship between a white boy and his black neighbor sparks violence.

Clooney, a festival stalwart who got married in a star-studded party in Venice in 2014 and has since made Italy his second

home, said the film reflected deep anger in his home country, although he declared, "this isn't a movie about (President) Donald Trump".

"People are angry, a lot of us are angry, angry at ourselves, angry at the way that the country is going, angry at the way the world is going," he said.

Asked whether he would like to be the next U.S. President, Clooney joked, "That sounds like fun!" and Damon cut in: "Can I just say I would like anybody to be the next President of the United States, right away please."

"Suburbicon" is Clooney's latest turn in the director's chair since 2014's "The Monuments Men", but he is perhaps best known for his decades-long acting career.

He reminisced on Saturday about participating in Civil War re-enactments in his home state of Kentucky when he was growing up, when the meaning of the roles assigned had eluded him.

"You got to pick if you wanted to be a union or a rebel soldier and I was like give me the rebel, I want to be the rebel. You didn't really understand the history of the Confederate flag ... a flag that was designed to carry into battle ... in favor of slavery."

Real life ugly beasts inspire new book by "Gruffalo" author Donaldson

EDINBURGH (Reuters) — An African safari has inspired a new book by Julia Donaldson in which the creator of children's favorite "The Gruffalo" homes in on an unsightly bunch of wild animals known as "The Ugly Five."

A wildebeest, a warthog, a spotted hy-

ena, a lappet-faced vulture and a marabou stork delight in their ungainliness until their view is challenged in a rhyming tale with a gentle twist.

Donaldson's best-selling stories often combine a message with a hint of comedy by reversing roles or expectations, and the

importance of team work comes up again and again.

The new book has the ring of earlier work by the former children's laureate such as "Stick Man", "Room on the Broom" and "Zog" and she has again teamed up with long-time collaborator Axel Scheffler,

whose drawings evoke fantasy and humor.

"I'm not setting out to preach, I'm setting out to tell a story. But I suppose some of (my books) are quite subversive," Donaldson told Reuters, adding that she likes books like "Princess Mirror-Belle", where she can indulge her "naughty streak".