

TEHRAN TIMES



Al Saud unable to manage Hajj: Iranian cleric

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16 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12652 | Sunday | SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 | Shahrivar 28, 1395 | Dhul Hijjah 16, 1437

West failing to deliver nuclear deal commitments: Iran's Salehi

Iran has fully complied with its commitments under last year's landmark nuclear agreement, but eight months after the official removal of sanctions, the West is failing to deliver on its promises, the country's vice president has told the Guardian.

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the country's Atomic Energy Organization, said that if the agreement was to remain intact, both sides had to meet their commitments.

The U.S.-educated scientist, who also served as a former foreign minister of Iran, was the second most senior Iranian negotiator in nearly two years of talks between Tehran and world's six leading powers that led to the final nuclear accord, known as the joint comprehensive plan of action (JCPOA), in Vienna in July 2015. The deal was implemented in January, and triggered the removal of sanctions.

"As has been stated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iran has remained committed to its commitments," Salehi said. "While the other side - it's very clear now to public opinion and it's not a secret - has not really delivered on the promises; that the sanctions would be removed and that banking transactions would go back to normal, that trade would speed up and economic relations would be enhanced. These have not been materialized to the extent that we expected."



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Fair oil prices meet consumer, producer interests: Rouhani

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said that stable oil market and fair prices meet the interests of

both oil producers and consumers.

Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro in Caracas on Friday.

The Venezuelan president for his part said that Caracas is determined to develop cooperation with Tehran in all areas. →7



IRNA/Ahmad Moeini Jam

Rouhani meets Maduro, welcomes expansion of ties

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Iran submits "Salesman" to Academy Awards

ART TEHRAN — Oscar-winning director Asghar Farhadi's acclaimed movie "The Salesman" was selected on Saturday as Iran's submission to the 89th Academy Awards in the best foreign language film category.

A committee of nine film experts was assigned by Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation to choose the country's submission to the Oscar race.

"The movie was selected by a majority vote," committee spokesman Amir Esfandiari said in a press release.

The film was chosen from a shortlist of five, including "Standing in the Dust," Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian's biopic on Iranian national hero Ahmad Motevasselian, and Reza Mirkarimi's drama "The Daughter" about the generational gap in contemporary Iran.

A Memento production, "The Salesman" is about Emad and Rana who move into a new flat in the center of Tehran. An incident linked to the previous tenant dramatically changes the young couple's life.

The film brought Farhadi the award for best screenplay and the Palme d'Or for best actor for Shahab Hosseini at the 69th Cannes Film Festival this year.

Farhadi's "About Elly" represented Iranian cinema at the 82nd Annual Academy Awards in 2010, but it did not receive a nomination. One year later, his "A Separation", a drama about a breakup, won Iran its first and only ever Oscar.

Tourism sector to create 130,000 jobs by March 2017: labor minister

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran plans to generate about 130,000 jobs and career opportunities for its booming tourism industry throughout the rest of the country's calendar year (March 20, 2017), Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ali Rabiei said on Thursday.



Rabiei made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony for breaking the ground on the first five-star Halal hotel in the country, set to be constructed in the historical city of Isfahan within three years.

"Empowering the tourism industry will lay the ground for improving the economy and also creating jobs in the country," he added.

Earlier in August, the director of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, Masoud Soltanifar, announced that the country has the capacity to be a major destination for Muslim tourists and a center for the Halal tourism industry.

The official considered Muslims from across the globe as a pillar of strength for developing the industry.

A subcategory of traveling, Halal tourism is geared toward the specific needs of Muslim individuals who seek to abide by the Islamic rules.

Culture minister praises Iranian-Armenian nationals' morality

ART TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati has lauded the morality of Iranian-Armenian nationals.



Speaking during a ceremony organized to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Alik, a Tehran-based Armenian-language daily, on Saturday, he said that Armenians have always played a pioneering role in publications and press issues. A number of executives of the Armenian press media and cultural centers were in attendance at the ceremony, which was organized at Parsian Enghelab Hotel, the Persian service of IRNA reported.

"Iran has always had close relations with Armenia in the cultural, political and economic areas," he stated.

"Such a meeting and bilateral visits can result in the expansion of relations on cultural matters between the two countries and should be seriously pursued," he added.

Jannati also said that Iran welcomes plans to organize mutual cultural programs between the two nations.

Analyst: West's military intervention in Mideast is ideologically driven

Jean Bricmont says Washington justifies wars by 'human rights ideology'

INTERVIEW
By Mohammad Homaeefar

TEHRAN — Tehran Times has conducted an interview with Jean Bricmont, author of Humanitarian Imperialism, to discuss the "humanitarian wars" of the United States.

In what follows, a transcript of the interview has been given.

Mr. Bricmont, what's your take on the "humanitarian wars" and how these wars have changed the geopolitics of the Middle East?

A: Well, the wars have changed the Middle East quite a lot. There

are different justifications for wars: some are supposedly because our only ally there (Israel) must defend itself, others are against terrorism or against weapons of mass destruction (Iraq) and finally some are justified because we must protect civilians, as in Libya or to support the "moderate opposition" in Syria. In the end, all those wars have the same effects: massive destruction and destabilization of countries perceived as being our enemies, although they might not be such if we did not attack them, but that are indeed enemies of Israel.

Is America likely to impose more wars with the same excuse?

A: It depends who is elected. Trump is unpredictable, but he seems to want to put "America First", namely to stop intervening in countries where the U.S. has no real interest in intervening (such as all the countries of the Middle East). That is why the establishment supports Clinton so much. She is guaranteed to pursue the policies of confrontation with Russia, Iran, Syria, under any pretext one can imagine: security or human rights or whatever. That greatly increases the risk of a global war, which will almost certainly be nuclear. →3

Iran, Romania join hands to combat environmental challenges

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran and Romania signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) here on Saturday, joining hands to combat environmental challenges that both countries are facing.

The Iranian Department of Environment chief, Masoumeh Ebtekar, and the Romanian Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests, Cristiana Pasca Palmer,

signed the MOU.

"We have similar challenges and issues and we can learn from each other in these areas and exchange experiences and create joint technical groups to enhance our activities in protecting our biodiversity wetlands and forests," Ebtekar said, expressing hope that the terms of the agreement would be implemented in the near future. →13



Iran censures deadly attack on mosque in Pakistan

POLITICS TEHRAN
d e s k — Iranian

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi condemned on Saturday a suicide attack on a mosque in Pakistan which left at least 25 people killed and tens of others injured.

"It is the time for the regional countries to get determined in serious fight against

the roots of terrorism and overt and covert factors behind it through awareness and unity and rid the world of this century's blight," he said.

Qassemi also offered the Pakistani government and people, particularly the families of victims, condolences and expressed sympathy with them.

Jamaat-ul-Ahra, a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban,

has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

According to CNN, the attack took place at one of the biggest mosques in Mohmand Agency, a district in Federally Administered Tribal Areas north of Peshawar.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack in a statement.

Tabriz carpet to convey message of peace and friendship

HERITAGE TEHRAN
d e s k — An exquisite Persian carpet currently being woven in the Iranian city of Tabriz is set to deliver the message of peace and friendship of the Iranian nation to people all around the world.

The carpet being woven by Hamid Kazemnia under the auspices of Iran's Cul-

tural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization will be unveiled at the 18th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council, which will be held in the city of Isfahan from September 24 to 27.

"The carpet will be complete with several symbolic knots to be tightened by high-ranking officials and attendees to the conference,"

the CHTN quoted Morteza Abdar, the director of East Azarbaijan Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, as saying on Saturday.

Being made of pure silk, the carpet interweaves symbols of the five continents with traditional Iranian designs and patterns such as mythical birds, he added.

Last year, the World Crafts Council picked Isfahan and Tabriz as world cities of handicrafts and carpets, respectively.

The non-profit organization seeks to promote fellowship and foster the economic development of member states through income-generating craft-related activities.

ARTICLE

By Ali Kushki
Head of the Politics Desk of the Tehran Times

A reply to Asharq Al-Awsat

TEHRAN — Very little is off limits when it comes to the world of politics, particularly when the category of politicians we are talking about come from Saudi Arabia.

The caliphate's propaganda machine, fed by "tainted petrodollars," has been slinging mud at its rivals no matter if they are right.

More than anything else, Riyadh has seen, and continues to do so, no irony in branding as preachers of hate, terrorism, and extremism its rivals in the beleaguered Middle East.

Over the past five years, the House of Saud has been pointing the finger of suspicion at Iran, and only Iran, for the slaughtering in Syria, Iraq and Yemen as well as for skirmishes in Lebanon and Bahrain.

In a most recent tirade and as a retort to an article by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in the New York Times titled "Let Us Rid the World of Wahhabism," Asharq Al-Awsat Editor-in-Chief Salman al-Dossary has accused the top Iranian diplomat of calculatingly dismissing what he called "hard facts."

Mr. al-Dossary hurls charges at Iran for supporting terrorism, including its backing for Hezbollah as a movement against the manic expansionism of the Israeli regime.

As a reality check against the claim and to give one piece of hard fact as favored by Mr. al-Dossary, I would like to bring him up to speed on a 30-minute address delivered by Prince Turki al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's former spy chief, to a gathering of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) in Paris back in July.

"The Muslim world supports you (MKO) both in heart and soul," al-Faisal told the gathering while wishing for the fall of Iran.

Al-Faisal was making the comments in his capacity as chairman of the board of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies.

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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Leader pardons, commutes sentences of 582 inmates

POLITICS TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has pardoned or commuted the sentences of 582 inmates on the eve of Eid al-Ghadir.

The clemency was granted at the request of Judiciary Chief Sadeq Larijani.

Repeated on similar occasions, the clemency has become a manifestation of Islamic forgiveness.

Article 110 of the Constitution grants the Leader the right to pardon or reduce the sentences of convicts upon a recommendation from the head of the Judiciary.



Kharrazi: FATF co-op to facilitate Iran's international ties

POLITICS TEHRAN — Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said the government's cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will facilitate the country's relations with the world.

There is no problem about the cooperation in the light of the legislations that the Majlis has already passed to fight money laundering, Kharrazi said on Saturday, ISNA reported.

The former chief diplomat added the Supreme National Security Council has set conditions for the cooperation which will "hopefully meet the interests of the nation."



Al Saud unable to manage Hajj: Iranian cleric

POLITICS TEHRAN — The representative of Supreme Leader for Hajj and pilgrimage affairs has slammed Saudi Arabia's rulers for their failure to ensure the safety of Hajj pilgrims, saying the Al Saud regime is unable to manage the Hajj rituals.

Speaking at a ceremony commemorating the victims of the Mina crush, Ali Qazi-Askar said the incidents that occurred in Mecca last year were one of the bitterest incidents in the history of Hajj, Tasnim reported.



Army exhibits achievements in UAV industry

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's ground forces on Saturday unveiled its latest achievements in manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Ground Forces Commander Ahmad Reza Pourdastan described drones as his forces' "sharp eyes" and "far-reaching arms", Nasim reported.

Pourdastan said the unmanned aircraft of the ground forces have successfully carried out all missions in war games so far.

The brigadier general also highlighted the efficiency of drones in controlling the borders, which he described as the Army's main responsibility.



Algerian FM to visit Tehran soon

POLITICS TEHRAN — Algeria's foreign minister has said he will visit Tehran in the near future.

Ramtane Lamamra made the announcement in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Venezuela on Saturday, IRNA reported.

In a similar meeting, Zarif sat for talks with Pakistan's Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs.

In that meeting the Iranian and Pakistani officials reviewed prospects of cooperation at international arenas.



Army announces Sacred Defense Week programs

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian Army announces its programs while it is preparing to mark the 36th Sacred Defense Week, which starts September 21.

The Army Public Relations Commander, Shahin Taghikhani, on Saturday said the program seeks to revive the memory of the Sacred Defense, propagate its cause, and introduce the role of the leadership during the eight years of Iraq's war against Iran in the 1980s.

He added the Army also plans to praise the spirit of devotion and conveying the ideas of the martyrs.

IRGC would not trust the enemy: commander

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Chief of Staff has said that the IRGC would not trust the enemies of the Islamic Republic nor negotiate with them.

Addressing an IRGC meeting on Saturday, Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri said the JCPOA proved that whenever "we trust the enemies, they betray us and violate our rights".

Bagheri added, "The enemy attempts to divert us from our revolutionary spirit, so it can infiltrate our country."

The top military official also said that the enemies were not able to cross Iran's borders through their mercenaries because Iran displayed its military



might in fighting terrorists in Iraq and Syria, forcing the enemies to change their approach against the Islamic Republic.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy IRGC Commander Hossein Salami also warned of hostile attempts by enemies to change the Iranian people's lifestyle in order to undermine the country's Islamic and revolutionary values.

"They want to change our youths' identity with a Western identity which is based on disorder and distress," Brigadier General Salami said.

The IRGC second-in-command went on to say, "This puts us at a real war with them, and we will have no choice but to break every bone in their bodies."

West failing to deliver nuclear deal commitments: Iran's Salehi

Ali Akbar Salehi attacks lack of progress on banking transactions and trade eight months after landmark agreement

➔ Salehi, who speaks fluent English, dealt with the technical aspect of the agreement while negotiating with his U.S. counterpart, Ernest Moniz, who, like Salehi, studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Iranian vice president, who was in London to speak at the World Nuclear Association symposium, also met on Thursday with the chancellor of the exchequer, Philip Hammond, who negotiated with Iran while he was the foreign secretary under David Cameron.

Although nuclear-related sanctions were lifted in January, big European banks remain reluctant to do business with Iran. European banks are concerned about existing US sanctions as well as uncertainty in the U.S. before the election of a new president.

Salehi said he had a good relationship with Hammond and that the chancellor had sounded positive during their meeting. "He stated that they have this file on their agenda, and that they are pursuing the issue very seriously, and they are trying to improve ways and means that would remove the impediments that lie ahead of this banking cooperation with

Iran," he said. The banking issue has prevented Iran from capitalizing on the interest shown by Western businesses in returning to the country, or finalising lucrative deals with the West, such as the purchase of planes from Airbus and Boeing. Iran's central bank chief told the Guardian in May that Tehran was still locked out of global financial system.

Salehi said the nuclear agreement was in the interest of both Iran and the West and that it would be a pity if it was derailed. "JCPOA can set up a new political and diplomatic paradigm in resolving major international crises, so it's incumbent upon both sides to do their best, to keep the integrity of this deal and not let it break down."

The Iranian vice president, who views the nuclear deal as a diplomatic success, warned about attempts to rewrite the nuclear deal and impose ex-

cessive demands. "We see, on and off, that there are some demands from the other side, that those demands go to some extent beyond the JCPOA. At the same time, we see that the other side has not fully delivered its promises, like the issue of big banking doing business with Iran ... If there is a demand of over-compliance then things would get more complicated."

Salehi also attended a meeting with journalists and diplomats at the European Council on Foreign Relations in London, where he said harder times might be facing the Iran nuclear agreement in the light of the U.S. presidential campaign.

"There are hints to do away [with] or to rewrite the deal, and on the other hand, to unilaterally impose excessive oversighting and overcompliance to the point of Iran's discouragement and ultimate submission," he warned. "Our

supreme leader once stated: 'The Islamic republic will not primarily breach the deal,' but at the same time, I do not overrule the threats that may endanger the deal."

Salehi refused to comment on the presidential candidacy of Donald Trump, saying it was an internal issue of another country. "The political credibility of the U.S. will be undermined if they take any measures that would jeopardise the JCPOA - to best of my knowledge the European Union is very supportive and Chinese and Indians and [the rest of] the international community are all very happy," he said. He believed the JCPOA would remain untouched but he also said he was crossing his fingers. "The world would be safer if, besides contemplating peace, we endeavour to attain it."

Relations between Tehran and London have significantly improved since the nuclear agreement, with both sides appointing new ambassadors in their respective capitals this month after nearly a five-year hiatus.

(Source: The Guardian)

Salehi says if the agreement was to remain intact, both sides had to meet their commitments.

Rouhani meets Maduro, welcomes expansion of ties

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said Iran welcomes expansion of ties with Venezuela in various spheres.

During a meeting on Friday with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Margarita Island, the venue of NAM summit, Rouhani said that Iran is interested in expanding cooperation with Venezuela in areas of economy and investment.

Pointing to the current international developments, he attached great importance to the role of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The NAM member states should take steps towards their "collective interests" through "unity" and "mutual cooperation", he added.

For his part, Maduro highlighted the importance of activating a joint economic

committee.

Rouhani had visited Venezuela to attend the meeting of NAM's heads of states and deliver the rotating presidency of the 120-nation bloc to Venezuela.

He is being accompanied by officials including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi.

Following the NAM summit, he will head to Havana, where he will hold talks with Fidel Castro and President Raul Castro.

The signing of a number of agreements with Cuba are on the agenda, said Parviz Esmaeili, the director of the presidential media office. Rouhani plans to address the UN summit in New York, as well.

Kalantari: Water crisis more harmful than Iraq's war against Iran in 1980s

POLITICS TEHRAN — Issa Kalantari, the adviser for water, agriculture and the environment to Iran's vice president, has warned that the water crisis that the country is faced with poses a greater threat to Iran compared to the Iraqi war against Iran in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein was in power.

In an interview with IRNA published on Saturday, Kalantari, a former minister of agriculture, said countering the crisis is much difficult than Iraq's invasion of Iran which started in 1980 and lasted until 1988.

"When the Iran-Iraq war started, no one considered the consequences of the armed conflict and its bombardments on unem-

ployment rate, because there was no time to do so. We were facing a much greater problem being the war itself," Kalantari said.

He went on to say, "Today, we're in a similar situation. We must not consider the unemployment rate among farmers at this point in time, because we're facing a much more critical problem."

Kalantari further warned that if Iran does not change its approach to water use, the result would be mass migration.

"If the water consumption for agriculture remains at this level, in less than 25 years, Iran's eastern and southern areas would be completely deserted, and 50 million people will have to emigrate from



the country" he added.

The former agriculture minister urged both the government and citizens to get involved in the battle against the water crisis.

"It was much easier ten years ago, but today, even if the government and citizens put lots of efforts into it, overcoming this crisis

would still be very difficult," he asserted.

Kalantari also said the main sector that uses the highest percentage of water is agriculture, adding that between 90 to 95 percent of reducing water consumption must be in this sector. Kalantari stressed that Iran must create jobs in other sectors instead of spending money on agriculture.

"In a letter in 2003, addressing former president Seyyed Mohammad Khatami, I wrote the Lake Urmia will eventually dry up. But the Department of Environment dismissed it and said no such thing would happen," he said. He further said that the officials do not fully comprehend the severity of the crisis that Iran is facing today.

A reply to Asharq Al-Awsat

congressional report on the 9/11 were on the ties of Iranian government to the 9/11 hijackers.

Yet, nobody knows how far the Saudis lavished on their petrodollars to expurgate and distort facts reported in the catalog in a bid to make it more Saudi-friendly, so to speak.

Having said that, Riyadh and its "public relations firms," including Asharq Al-Awsat, have been blaming Iran for financing terrorism and extremism.

Just last year Germany's vice-chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, in an interview with German newspaper Bild am Sonntag openly revealed that Saudi Arabia was financing terrorists in the West through its Wahhabi madrasas and mosques.

"Wahhabi mosques all over the world are financed by Saudi Arabia," Gabriel said, adding, "Many Islamists who are a threat to public safety come from these communities in Germany."

It was these Wahhabi links that Mr. Zarif brought to the attention of the world in his New York Times article, a point referred to by American scholar Noam Chomsky, as well.

"An extremist version of Saudi extremism is the doctrine that was picked up by ISIS. So it grew ideologically out of the most extremist form of Islam, the Saudi version, and the conflicts that were engendered by the

U.S. sledgehammer that smashed up Iraq and has now spread everywhere," Chomsky said in an interview in February 2015.

"Saudi Arabia not only provides the ideological core that led to the ISIS radical extremism, but it also funds them," the American scholar added.

The list of hard facts about the disgraceful performance of the Saudi dynasty can go on.

Riyadh is cracking down on the pro-democratic movement in Bahrain. It also continues to target civilians in Yemen and arm terrorist groups, including al-Nusra Front (now called Jabhat Fatah al-Sham) in Syria.

In Iraq, the situation is no better. In August, Iraq asked Saudi Arabia to replace its ambassador in Baghdad over unfounded charges by the ambassador that Iran was fueling sectarian conflicts in Iraq.

I would like to join Mr. Zarif inviting the "Saudi rulers to put aside the rhetoric of blame and fear, and join hands with the rest of the community of nations to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and violence that threatens us all."

We do not wish a world without the Saudis, but strongly believe a different Saudi Arabia will make the world in general and the Middle East in particular a more beautiful place to live in.

Over 3,000 Saudi strikes on Yemen 'hit civilian areas'

A survey has revealed that the House of Saud regime has targeted more than 3,000 civilian sites, including schools, hospital and mosques, in its war on Yemen.

According to the survey, conducted by the Yemen Data Project, a group of academics, human rights organizers and activists, Saudi airstrikes hit 3,158 non-military sites between March 2015 and the end of August this year.

The findings, published by the British national daily The Guardian, further exposed that there have been 942 air raids on residential areas, 114 on markets, 34 on mosques, 147 on school buildings, 26 on universities and 378 on transport over the course of the bombardment.

The independent survey, which was based on open-source data, including research on the ground, also showed that one school building in the Dhubab district of Yemen's southwestern province of Ta'izz, situated 346 kilometers (214 miles) south of the capital, Sana'a, was struck nine times, while a market in the city of Sirwah, which lies about 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of the capital, was hit 24 times.

The study also said that Saudi airstrikes hit more non-military than military sites in five of the last 18 months.

Out of the more than 8,600 airstrikes recorded, 3,577 ones were listed as having hit military sites. A total of 1,882



strikes were classified as unknown.

The revelations have prompted some British politicians to call on London to stop the sale of munitions to Saudi Arabia.

"It's sickening to think of British-built weapons being used against civilians and the government has an absolute responsibility to do everything in its power to stop that from happening. But as ministers turn a blind eye to the conflict in Yemen, evidence that humanitarian law has been violated is becoming harder to ignore by the day," Britain's shadow defense secretary, Clive Lewis, commented.

"Despite consistent evidence showing targeting of civilians, first [former Prime Minister David] Cameron and

now [incumbent PM Theresa] May's governments have continued their hypocritical defense of Saudi Arabia's brutal campaign in Yemen," Liberal Democrat spokesperson, Tom Brake, said.

Brake said that the data adds more weight to calls for the suspension of arms sales to the House of Saud regime.

18 killed in Saudi airstrikes

Meanwhile, at least 18 civilians have been killed in Saudi Arabia's multiple aerial strikes across war-torn Yemen during the past 24 hours.

Saudi fighter jets bombarded Khawlan al-Tayyal district in the western Yemeni province of Sana'a on Friday, killing at least 11 people, including women and children, and injuring a number of others,

including two children.

The victims were all travelling in a vehicle when it came under Saudi fire, Yemen's al-Masirah television channel reported on Friday.

The Saudi warplanes also launched several airstrikes on different localities in the northwestern province of Sa'ada. Initial reports said at least two people were killed in the province's Ghamar district as a result of the airstrikes.

Elsewhere in the west-central province of Ma'rib, at least five other Yemenis lost their lives when Saudi jets pounded Sirwah district.

Saudi warplanes also bombarded areas in the northern province of Jawf and in the western provinces of Amran and Hajjah, but there have been no immediate reports about the possible casualties.

The House of Saud regime has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015, with the United Nations putting the death toll from the military aggression at about 10,000. The offensive was launched to reinstate Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a Saudi ally who has resigned as Yemen's president.

UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen Jamie McGoldrick said last month that the death toll from the Saudi military aggression could rise even further as some areas had no medical facilities, and that people were often buried without any official record being made.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Race tightens in projected U.S. Electoral College vote Trump sparks fury over Clinton gun comments

An election analysis conducted in the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project shows that the race has tightened considerably over the past few weeks, with the United States Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump projected to win Florida, an essential battleground state, if the election were held today.



The project, which is based on a weekly tracking poll of more than 15,000 Americans, shows that the 2016 presidential race could end in a photo finish on Nov. 8, with the major-party candidates running nearly even in the Electoral College, the body that ultimately selects the president.

The States of the Nation project, which delivers a weekly tally of support for the candidates in every state, shows that the race has tightened in several traditional battlegrounds. Pennsylvania has been moved from a likely win for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to a tossup; Ohio has been moved from a tossup to a likely win for Clinton. And Florida is now considered a likely win for the Republican nominee, with 50 percent support for Trump to 46 percent support for Clinton.

If the elections were held today, the project estimates that Clinton has a 60 percent chance of winning by 18 electoral votes. Last week, the project estimated that Clinton had a 83 percent chance of winning the election.

In a separate national Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll, Clinton continues to lead Trump by 4 percentage points, and her recent bout with pneumonia doesn't appear to have scared away her supporters.

The national Sept. 9-15 tracking poll showed that 42 percent of likely voters supported Clinton while 38 percent backed Trump. Clinton, who has mostly led Trump in the poll since the Democratic and Republican national conventions ended in July, regained the advantage this week after her lead briefly faded in late August.

Clinton has an advantage among minorities, women, people who make more than \$75,000 a year, and those with moderate political leanings. Trump has an advantage with whites, men, avid churchgoers, and people who are nearing retirement age.

Little concern over candidates' health

Overall, Americans appear to be relatively uninspired by their choices for president with less than eight weeks to go before the election. One out of every five likely voters said they do not support Clinton or Trump for president. In comparison, about one out of every 10 likely voters wouldn't support Obama or Republican challenger Mitt Romney at a similar point in the 2012 presidential campaign.

Respondents took the survey after video surfaced of Clinton nearly collapsing at a Sept. 11 memorial in New York on Sunday. Her campaign later said she had a non-contagious, bacterial form of pneumonia.

The video sparked a renewed discussion about the health of both candidates. Trump, 70, would be the oldest president to take office, while Clinton, 68, would be the second oldest.

Clinton and Trump have since released details of their personal health. Clinton's doctors said her physical exam was normal, apart from the pneumonia, and that she was in excellent mental condition. Trump released a note from his doctor saying that he was in "excellent physical health."

Americans do not appear to be overly concerned with the health of either candidate. According to a separate question in the poll conducted this week, most American adults said the issue would make "no difference" to how they voted.

Gun comments

Meanwhile, Donald Trump sparked fresh controversy after he appeared to refer to the potential assassination of his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton for the second time.

"I think that her bodyguards should drop all weapons. Disarm immediately," Trump told a rally in Miami. "Take their guns away ... let's see what happens to her."

"Take their guns away, OK? It'll be very dangerous," he continued.

Clinton's campaign manager Robby Mook slammed the comments, saying they ought to be "out of bounds for a presidential candidate."

"Whether this is done to provoke protesters at a rally or casually or even as a joke, it is an unacceptable quality in anyone seeking the job of commander in chief," said Mook in a statement quoted by CNN.

The comments came a month after Trump was accused of encouraging gun owners to assassinate Clinton if she wins the November 8 presidential election.

"Hillary wants to ... essentially abolish the Second Amendment," Trump said at a rally in North Carolina in early August, referring to the U.S. Constitution's enshrinement of the right to bear arms.

"By the way, and if she gets ... to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the Second Amendment people, maybe there is. I don't know," he continued.

Trump at the time denied the comments were an incitement to violence, saying he was encouraging guns rights activists to take to the ballot box and vote for him.

(Source: agencies)

Ceasefire strained by fresh fighting in Syria

Air raids and fighting tested a fragile ceasefire in Syria into Saturday as civilians waited for aid and tensions mounted between Russia and the United States, who brokered the truce.

In New York, the United Nations Security Council cancelled an urgent meeting on Friday that had been called to discuss whether to endorse the deal, billed as the "last chance" to end a five-year war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people and forced millions from the country.

The closed-door consultations were scrapped after Moscow and Washington failed to agree on how to disclose details of the ceasefire to the council.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had earlier called his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov and condemned "repeated and unacceptable delays of humanitarian aid," State Department spokesman John Kirby said.

Kerry told Lavrov that Washington expected Russia to use its influence on the government of President Bashar al-Assad to press it to allow United Nations aid convoys to reach Aleppo and other areas, according to Kirby.

"The secretary made clear that the United States will not establish the Joint Implementation Centre with Russia unless and until the agreed terms for humanitarian access are met," Kirby said, referring to a deal to set up a joint committee to enable the U.S. and Russia to coordinate attacks on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (Front for the Conquest of the Levant) terrorist groups.

Russia has repeatedly warned it could resume air-



strikes on the so-called moderate militants unless Washington did more to distance them from extremists.

Earlier on Friday, Russia said that only Moscow and the Syrian government were fulfilling the deal.

"Although the ceasefire agreement is bilateral, only one side is truly implementing it," Igor Konashenkov, the Russian defense ministry spokesman, said.

Russia said, though, that it was ready to extend the truce, which is due to expire late on Friday, by 72 hours.

Russia accused the U.S. "of not doing their part to get rebel forces to pull back from Castello Road, that vital link that aid trucks will eventually travel along into besieged Aleppo," Al Jazeera's Charles Stratford, report-

ing from Gaziantep along the Turkey-Syria border, said.

Under the truce deal, fighting is to stop across the country except where ISIL and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham are present.

On September 9, Russia and the U.S. agreed on a milestone deal on the crisis in Syria after hours of marathon talks in the Swiss city of Geneva.

The agreement, which came into effect on September 12, urges a nationwide cessation of hostilities in Syria and allows humanitarian access as well as joint Moscow-Washington attacks against terrorist groups, which are not covered by the deal, including ISIL and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham.

The seven-day truce is the second attempt this year by Russia and the U.S. to bring an end to the Syria conflict, which started in March 2011.

Touching on the upcoming U.S. presidential election, the Russian Leader Vladimir Putin emphasized that Moscow would support any person in any country who "is friendly to us".

Back in July, the U.S. accused Moscow of interfering in the country's presidential election campaign after Washington blamed Russian hackers for a leak of U.S. Democratic National Committee (DNC) emails. Moscow dismissed the allegations.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has often expressed admiration for Putin, calling him a "strong leader." The Russian president has also praised the Republican nominee as "a very striking man" and "unquestionably talented." (Source: Al Jazeera)

Analyst: West's military intervention in Mideast is ideologically driven

Washington has waged many "humanitarian wars" on different countries. Who is behind these decisions to wage wars on countries? What pushes America to start new wars?

A: I don't think these wars are in America's interests. It is not even in the interests of the American capitalists or their oil companies, as many anti-war leftists think. There is not much oil in Syria; China has access to Iraqi oil without spending a penny on wars; the chaos in Libya serves nobody; and capitalists who are eager to do business with Iran or Russia are prevented from doing so by the warmongers.

If these are not classical imperialist wars, what are they? Well, they are mainly ideological; on the one hand the neo-conservatives push for American world domination, call for spreading democracy, but are particularly obsessed with enemies of Israel, which is not surprising if one analyzes their relation with that state. Then, there are the humanitarian warri-

ors, who provide a "leftist" justification for those perpetual wars. One could call them the "useful idiots" of the neo-conservatives. They are somewhat similar to the churches and the missionaries during the colonial period, who were offering Christian justifications for the conquests. Now, Christianity has been replaced by the "human rights ideology" that functions more or less like a religion.

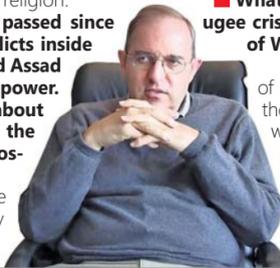
Five years have passed since the beginning of conflicts inside Syria. The West wanted Assad out, but he is still in power. What could you say about that? Do you think the West has failed in imposing a regime change?

A: They may have failed so far, but they certainly do not give up

and, if Clinton is elected, the efforts will redouble. What is remarkable is that now that Western countries are victims of the same terrorism as the one operating in Syria, the public opinion is opposed to the support for the rebels in Syria, but the political class and the mainstream media maintain by and large the position that "Assad must go" and the support for the "moderate rebels".

What's your analysis of the refugee crisis in Europe? Is it a result of Western imperialism?

A: It is in large part the result of our interventions but, since the foreign policy is a domain where all the political parties are in agreement and the voice of the public is barely heard, the majority of the Western population reacts negatively to the influx of



Refugee crisis 'is in large part the result of our interventions', Belgian scholar notes

'British military incapable of defending country against Russia'

The United Kingdom would not be able to confront serious military powers, like Russia, in the event of a conventional conflict, a former senior commander has warned.

General Richard Barrons, who was head of Britain's Joint Forces Command, warned the Defense Ministry before he stepped down in April that the country would quickly be overwhelmed by a concerted Russian air campaign, The Financial Times reported on Saturday.

"Neither the UK homeland nor a deployed force - let alone both concurrently - could be protected from a

concerted Russian air effort," he wrote in a ten-page private memorandum that was delivered to Defense Secretary Michael Fallon. "Counter-terrorism is the limit of up-to-date plans and preparations to secure our airspace, waters and territory ... there is no top-to-bottom command and control mechanism, preparation or training in place for the UK armed forces [to defend home territory] ... let alone to do so with NATO," Barrons added.

The document - obtained by The Financial Times - raised concerns that the army has not been trained to

conduct full-scale wars and that such an experience could be a disadvantage. Barrons, who served in the army for nearly 40 years, described that the army is not equipped to fight a major power, adding that it is significantly out-gunned by Russia. He argued that small numbers of hugely expensive pieces of military equipment that make Britain's military capabilities are "extremely fragile."

"Capability that is foundational to all major armed forces has been withered by design," the general wrote.

(Source: Press TV)

NEWS

Gorgan-Aktau flight to be launched on Sept. 20

ECONOMY TEHRAN — A new direct flight will be launched from Gorgan, the capital of northern Iranian province of Golestan, to Aktau, Kazakhstan's second largest city, on Tuesday September 20, ISNA reported on Saturday.



According to the report, the general director of Golestan provincial airports, Teymour Amiri, said that in order to facilitate commutes of Iranians and Kazakhs, the Kazakh Bek Air Airlines will operate the flights once a week on a regular basis.

As reported in mid-January, Iranian and Kazakh aviation authorities inked a protocol to launch regular flights between the two countries, according to Kazakhstan's ambassador to Tehran, Bagdad Amreyev.

Under the agreement, the Air Astana airline will operate three regular flights between Tehran to Almaty as of June 2016 per week. Before the agreement, the Iranian airline Mahan Air launched two flights per week between Tehran and Almaty.

Establishing Armenia-Iran FTZ may be transferred to private company

The process of establishing Armenia-Iran free trade zone (FTZ) will probably be transferred to any private company, Deputy Minister of Economy Hovhannes Hovhannisyán said stating that this option prevails among the proposed three options.

"The topic of free economic zone has been raised and become a subject of discussions, but this is still not a stage of practical steps. An exhibition of Armenian products is going to be held in Iran soon: we are planning to negotiate on that issue during our visit. We must use that process", he said.

He expects signing of new agreements between the businessmen of Iran and Armenia from the exhibition of Armenian goods and services which will be held in Iran on October 5-8.

"We have certain results over exporting the Armenian services to the Iranian market. We hope this exhibition will contribute to the signing of new agreements and the realization of other Armenian goods, services in the Iranian market", he said.

(Source: Armenpress)

Central bank developments only game in town for markets

U.S. stocks will be taking cues from central bankers more than usual in the coming week as investors await pronouncements from the Federal Reserve and clarification on the Bank of Japan's easing efforts.

Stocks preserved weekly gains on Friday amid a selloff, with the Dow Jones Industrial DJIA, -0.49 percent ending the week up 0.2 percent, the S&P 500 index SPX, -0.38 percent rising 0.5 percent, and the Nasdaq Composite index COMP, -0.10 percent surging 2.3 percent.

Mixed economic data gives both Fed hawks and doves support for their arguments on whether to start raising rates as soon as possible or to keep playing the waiting game. The probability of a Fed rate hike at the September meeting is running at a scant 15 percent, according to the CME Group's Fed-Watch Tool.

Just as the Fed begins their two-day policy meeting, the Bank of Japan will be announcing its policy decision affecting the easing program. That follows a week of anxiety following comments from European Central Bank President Mario Draghi that the ECB might not extend its bond-buying program and concerns that the BoJ is losing enthusiasm for theirs too, ramping up an aversion to risk.

"The Bank of Japan meeting will be an interesting lead-in to the Fed," said Paul Nolte, portfolio manager at Kingsview Asset Management. "The expectation is that they will continue to pump money into their easing program while they're less for it. Like the comments that Draghi made, are they really getting the bang for their 'buck'?"

For the coming week, Nolte said he will be paying particular attention to the energy sector, which has struggled of late because of lower prices. While much has been made about production cuts, Nolte doesn't see it coming from Saudi Arabia or Russia. Plus, players like Nigeria and Libya are looking to increase output.

"They need the money," Nolte said. "Especially the Russians."

While the energy sector has struggled, Nolte said he's been gradually shifting away from defensive sectors like utilities, telecom, and consumer staples, not so much in anticipation of a rate hike but because they've become overpriced as a result of the search for yield in the low-interest-rate environment. Like others, he has rotated into tech, which has been soundly outperforming energy since oil last closed above \$50 a barrel in mid-June.

Tech stocks have been doing most of the heavy lifting in the S&P 500's 1.9 percent rise for the third quarter. Since the quarter began, the tech sector has gained 11.1 percent while the next best performing sector has been financials, with a comparatively paltry 3.5 percent gain.

(Source: Market Watch)

Iran Aviation Summit to host representatives from over 20 countries

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Representatives from more than 20 countries will take part in the two-day Iran Aviation Summit 2016, Reza Jafarzadeh, the manager of Iranian Aviation Organization's Public Relations Department announced, IRIB reported on Saturday.

He explained that more than 150 foreign participants from more than 20 countries, including England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Brazil, Canada, and China will participate in the event which will be held in Tehran on September 18-19.

The conference mainly aims to investigate ways for financing projects



and making investments in the Iranian aviation industry in the post-sanctions era, he added.

Other issues to be discussed in the

conference comprise leasing and buying planes, building and developing airports, investigating monetary, insurance as well as banking challenges in Iranian aviation industry, and developing local and international flight networks.

The summit will bring together airlines, aircraft manufacturers, lessors, banks, export credit agencies, regulators and law firms, along with airport operators and investors, and infrastructure developers for panel discussions and networking sessions to identify financing solutions for transactions related to aircraft acquisition, leasing and infrastructure development.

Over 300 companies to attend Iran Telecom 2016

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 17th International Exhibition of Telecommunications, Information Technology, and Innovative CIT Solutions, known as Iran Telecom Innovations 2016, will be held at Tehran International Permanent Fairground on 25-28 September, IRIB news reported on Saturday.

As reported, 220 Iranian companies as well as 95 foreign ones from 22 countries such as Spain, Slovakia, England, the United Emirates, South Africa, Germany, Czech Republic, China, Japan, Sweden, France, Finland, Kazakhstan, Canada, South Korea, Kuwait, Poland, the Netherlands, India, Vietnam, and Greece will showcase their latest products in the exhibition.

The exhibition enjoys the official support of the Ministry of ICT, the Communications Regulatory Authority, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Company (TIC) and the Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI).

It invites all interested in telecommunications technologies to come to see how key telecom and IT technologies as



the drivers of innovation influence business processes and everyday life and how ICT opens new fields for growth in just about every industry.

Iran Telecom Innovations showcases a broad picture of the whole telecom market in Iran, with stands from equipment and infrastructure vendors, satellite operators, wholesale carriers, VAS solutions suppliers, OSS/BSS vendors and more. The market's most dynamic companies across the telecoms ecosystem will be attending this four-day event.

With a gross area about 30,000 square meters and an expected audience of about 40,000 trade visitors and more than 300 exhibitors, Iran Telecom Innovations is the country's leading dedicated telecommunications event.

European parliament approves trade deal with southern African countries

Members of the European parliament (MEPs) have approved, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and six member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) – Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, and South Africa. While 417 MEPs approved the deal, 216 voted against it, and 66 abstained.

The agreement, which was signed last June between the parties, will grant improved access to the EU market for South African companies and duty-free market access for businesses from the other five Southern African countries included in the SADC-EPA.

Six other countries, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, are part of SADC but are involved in the EPA process with the EU as part of other regional groups.

The EPAs are reciprocal, yet asymmetrical, trade and economic



cooperation agreements negotiated between the EU and seven regional groupings of African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries. So far, only the Caribbean group – CARIFORUM – has signed and ratified its EPA, with the six African groupings currently at different stages in the process.

In June, the SADC regional group became the first African region to sign its EPA with the EU. With the approval by the European parliament last Wednesday, the deal will now need to be formally approved by the European Council and ratified by the six southern African countries involved before entering into force.

(Source: International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development)

PICTURE OF THE DAY ILNA/Houshang Hadi



The 9th International Iran Stone Expo (2016) wrapped up in Mahallat city, in the central province of Markazi on Saturday.

German economy minister, business delegation to visit Russia

Germany's economy minister plans to travel to Russia next week with a business delegation, a trip that comes as Western sanctions and a weak Russian currency have weighed on trade.

The Economy Ministry said Friday that Sigmar Gabriel, who is also Germany's vice chancellor, will visit Moscow on September 21 and 22.

It said that he plans talks with several members of the Russian government, whom it didn't name, on "bilateral economic relations between Russia and Germany, as well as with the European Union."

Gabriel also plans to meet representatives of German companies based in Russia.

Russia was Germany's No. 13 trading partner last year, far behind the U.S., China and other European nations. Trade between the two has contracted further this year.

(Source: Fox Business)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pakistan made impressive economic gains in three years: French fin. min.

Pakistan has made impressive economic gains in the last three years characterised by macro-economic stability, fiscal discipline, sustained growth rate and record breaking performance of its stock market. Pakistan can maintain high growth rates in the coming years with continuation of current policies.

The achievements in the war against terrorism are equally laudable, said Michel Sapin, French Minister for Finance, Economy and Industry, in his meeting held in Paris with Senator Ishaq Dar, the Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs.



India slips 10 notches in World Economic Freedom Index 2016

India has slipped 10 positions and ranks behind Bhutan (78), Nepal (108) and Sri Lanka (111) but stood higher than China (113), Bangladesh (121) and Pakistan (133) in the World Economic Freedom Index 2016. Hong Kong topped the index, followed by Singapore and New Zealand among 159 countries.

The Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report, released worldwide on Friday by the Centre for Civil Society, a public policy think tank, along with Canada's Fraser Institute, measures the degree of economic freedom in countries in five broad areas based on 2014 data -- size of government: expenditure, taxes and enterprises; legal structure and security of property rights; access to sound money; freedom to trade internationally and regulation of credit, labour, and business.



Turkish bank decides against leaving Russian market

Fiba Holding Chairman Hüsnü Özyegin informed the Central Bank of Russia that the holding's Russia-based Credit Europe Bank will not be completely sold. During the crisis period between Turkey and Russia, there were rumors that Fiba Holding would put the bank up for sale and withdraw from the Russian market.

Underlining that the rumors do not reflect the truth, Credit Europe Bank General Manager Haluk Aydinoglu said the bank had announced during the crisis period that Fiba Group would evaluate all its strategic options in Russia including sales. According to Aydinoglu, there were three options - remaining in Russia, completely withdrawing from the country and establishing a partnership.

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FEATURE

Trump makes his birther lie worse

By Gail Collins

Donald Trump says President Obama was born here. What a concession. No wonder he's trending up in the polls.

How did we get to this place, people? The big story of the day is that a candidate for president of the United States — a candidate who, according to The Times's Upshot model, now has a one in four chance of being elected — admits he spent years telling the American people a stupendous lie. And even now, he won't say he's sorry.

"President Barack Obama was born in the United States, period. Now we all want to get back to making America strong and great again," Trump said abruptly and briefly last Friday. This was at his new Washington hotel, which he has been promoting with an avidity he has never devoted to, say, getting his immigration policy straight.

Then Trump claimed that Hillary Clinton had been first to spread the rumor that Obama was not a native-born citizen. This is a lie. A lie that all the fact checkers in the world debunked when he started saying it long ago.

People, I know some of you get very frustrated that news coverage of this election does not begin every day with: "In yet another total falsehood, Donald Trump..." This is your moment.

Trump's tendency

The Day of the Double Falsehood is a very clear, very dramatic example of Trump's tendency to, um, speak fictionally. He was just a real estate guy with a cheesy TV show until 2011, when he sort of ran for president, in a bid that focused almost entirely on his claims that Barack Obama had come from Kenya.

"Three weeks ago I thought he was born in this country. Right now I have some real doubts. I have people that actually have been studying it, and they cannot believe what they're finding," he told an NBC interviewer.

We never did learn what they found. But Trump has continued to get some of his most startling information from "people." During the primary season in New Hampshire, a man at a Trump town hall gathering got up to claim Obama was a Muslim and "not even an American." Strong candidates tell guys like this they're wrong. Weak candidates ignore them. Trump responded, "You know, a lot of people are saying that..."

None of the outrageous things he says are his fault. You got a complaint, take it to the people.

Trump's campaign wanted the birther issue to be made to go away. First, running mate Mike Pence said he believed Obama was a natural-born American citizen.

"I confirm that and Donald Trump now confirms that,"

First Pal Rudy Giuliani told another interviewer. Trump had changed his mind, Giuliani claimed, two or three years ago. That would have been around the time he was tweeting: "How amazing, the State Health Director who verified copies of Obama's 'birth certificate' died in plane crash today. All others lived."

Trump claimed that Hillary Clinton had been first to spread the rumor that Obama was not a native-born citizen. This is a lie.

Moving the candidate himself was obviously a harder job. When The Washington Post asked him this week if he'd changed his mind, Trump said, "I just don't want to answer it yet."

I've always said that women won't vote for a candidate who yells because he'll remind them of a bad boyfriend. This is the behavior of the nightmare date from hell. Who tells you exciting stories over drinks, all of which are clearly untrue, and then gets sullen and refuses to talk when you ask a couple of questions.

Trump's people were forced to come up with an unwinding scenario that did not require the candidate to admit he'd ever done anything wrong. So they sent out a press release announcing that Trump was the hero of the story — the man who stamped out the birther rumor, which was started by Hillary Clinton's "vicious and conniving behavior."

Trump's demands

Trump's demands for the truth had forced Obama to release the long-form version of his Hawaii birth certificate while "Hillary Clinton was too weak to get an answer."

"Inarguably, Donald J. Trump is a closer. Having successfully obtained President Obama's birth certificate when others could not, Trump believes that President Obama was born in the United States," the campaign's statement concluded.

Even the most creative minds in the press office could not come up with any explanation for why it took Trump five years to acknowledge what the birth certificate proved. Asked about that, Pence said, disjointedly and desperately, that his running mate's record on behalf of the African-American community "really speaks for itself."

What we have here is a candidate for president of the United States who makes stuff up all the time, but is either incapable of realizing that he's telling a lie, or constitutionally unable to take blame for being untruthful.

Yet, according to the polls, Hillary Clinton's biggest problem is that the public thinks she's dishonest. Amazing.

(Source: The NYT)

What's good news for British arms companies is bad news for Yemenis

There is little chance the government will suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia despite growing unease over civilian casualties.

What is the UK government going to do in the face of mounting evidence that the Saudi Arabian-led air attacks on Yemen appear to be in breach of international law?

In the year since the bombing began in March 2015, the UK has sold £3.3bn in arms to Saudi Arabia. That is a huge boost for UK exports — the deal is for fighter planes and components, as well as bombs and missiles — and a guarantee of jobs at a time of economic uncertainty. Against that backdrop, the chances of the UK suspending arms sales are extremely slim.

And yet there have been few international issues since the 2003 invasion of Iraq that have created such a sense of unease in the UK as the scale of civilian casualties in Yemen.

What makes the issue even more controversial is that UK military advisers are based at the Saudi command and control headquarters where the air campaign against Houthi forces in Yemen is being conducted. The Ministry of Defense has been coy about precisely what their role is, details having to be teased out.

The unease manifested itself early on in the campaign when calls were put into media organizations by British expatriates based in Saudi Arabia and members of the public in the UK who had picked up snippets from British service personnel in pubs, clubs or school playgrounds about the UK military working alongside the Saudi air force.

Human rights groups and campaigners against the arms trade echoed the concerns — followed, increasingly, by MPs. Questions to government ministers have been steadily rising, either in the Commons chamber or through select committee hearings or parliamentary written questions.

The suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Last Thursday alone, two Commons select committees — international development and business — called in a joint report for the suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia until a credible and independent investigation had



Key to the ongoing debate is, unsurprisingly, the context of UK-Saudi relations. Arms sales apart — or maybe because of them — the UK treats Saudi Arabia as a key ally in the Middle East.

been conducted into the number of civilian deaths from the air campaign. But the foreign affairs committee, chaired by the Tory MP Crispin Blunt, remains reluctant. Rather than calling for a suspension, it said that sales should only stop if UK courts ruled them unlawful.

The government's official line, reflected in a parliamentary answer last Thursday, is there will be no suspension of sales.

In private, though, there is an unusually high degree of self-doubt from at least some officials over whether Saudi Arabia has breached international law and whether the UK could be implicated. Some of this seeped out on the final day of parliament before the summer recess, when the government retracted earlier assured statements that the Saudis had not been in breach.

So what precisely does the small

British contingent attached to the Saudi command and control center do? An MoD spokesperson said the personnel were not directing operations or choosing targets, only providing advice, including on compliance with international law.

But a Whitehall source with knowledge of the situation was more forthcoming. "The Saudis explain only in broad terms what they intend to do and the British will respond along the lines of 'Well, have you thought of this? Have you done that?' And that is about it."

Some of this chimed with another Whitehall source. "We look at the Saudi strategy beforehand and we offer advice after. We have looked at what they are doing and we cannot see deliberate targeting. But mistakes happen."

Key to the ongoing debate is, un-

surprisingly, the context of UK-Saudi relations. Arms sales apart — or maybe because of them — the UK treats Saudi Arabia as a key ally in the Middle East.

"Our relationship with Saudi Arabia is extremely important," the source said. "They are our most important ally in the Middle East. We cannot say to them: 'We don't trust you to investigate these things yourself. We wouldn't do that to other allies like the U.S.. It would be double standards.'"

When Saudi Arabia launched airstrikes in March 2015, the expectation was that, armed with all that expensive and much-hyped precision weaponry, it would all be over quickly. It did not turn out like that. Riyadh has had to begin replenishing its stocks. Bad news for Yemeni civilians. Good news for British arms companies.

(Source: The Guardian)

Migration's private-sector problem-solvers

By Peter Sutherland

As the Mediterranean migrant crisis has escalated over the past year, the spotlight has been on national governments' policies, some of which have been generous, others callous. But non-state actors — individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and private companies — have been just as important in responding to the crisis, often literally coming to the rescue of refugees and migrants.

International cooperation among governments is necessary to help displaced people, but it is not always sufficient. The private sector provides critical support for migrants as they travel through legal pathways and integrate into new communities. So, to bolster this support, the Private Sector Forum on Migration and Refugees will be holding a Concordia Summit in New York this month to devise new, practical solutions to migration-related challenges.

Some of the world's most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of the international community's indecisive response to the migrant crisis. Worldwide, only one-tenth of the people who need resettlement have been offered a place to call home, and half of all migrants are hosted in only ten countries. With public concerns about immigration fueling xenophobia and nationalism in the West, some countries are closing their borders.

But that is not the whole story. The migration crisis has also unleashed a wave of sympathy and humanitarian activism in some of the locales most directly affected by new arrivals. On the Greek island of Lesbos last year, more than 50,000 individual volunteers and NGOs such as Sea of Solidarity and the Hellenic Rescue Team, which last week won UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award, assisted exhausted migrants arriving from their traumatic sea crossing. The privately funded Migrant Offshore Aid Station, founded by a young Italian-American couple in Malta, has saved thousands of lives since it was launched in 2014.

Welcome Talent

After migrants arrive, NGOs — such as Refugees Welcome, established by three young Germans, and Startup Refugees, the brainchild of a pair of TV celebrities in Finland — help them find accommodation and employment opportunities, or even launch new businesses. Similarly, private-sector skills-matching initiatives, such as LinkedIn for Good's "Welcome Talent" program in Sweden and Talent Beyond Boundaries in Jordan and Lebanon, allow employers to tap



The Concordia Summit also will consider measures to improve migrants' access to education and employment, and look for new ways to channel private-sector investment to host communities.

into migrant talent pools that fit their hiring needs.

These private-sector initiatives are certainly helping individuals and families. But the global scale of the migrant crisis demands a wider response, which is why connectivity will be a central theme at the Concordia Summit.

Multinational companies like Google, Oracle, and Ericsson are already using information technology to help migrants and the communities that host them, and volunteers within the IT sector have founded Tech4 Refugees to coordinate the industry's efforts. Meanwhile, new start-ups have created apps to deliver real-time information to migrants on the move. Migrants can now use a scattering of Internet hotspots to access digital services and correspond with loved ones.

The Concordia Summit also will consider measures to improve migrants' access to education and employment, and look for new ways to channel private-sector investment to host communities. Through public-private partnerships, local governments can support new immigrants without disrupting services to existing residents. In Canada, for example, private citizens can sponsor migrants for resettlement and help them adapt to their new environment.

Migration is a complex issue that requires a multi-

faceted public- and private-sector response. But, more generally, we need to change the narrative to correct the many public misperceptions about migrants, while highlighting the numerous economic and social benefits migration brings.

Fortunately, global-governance institutions are taking the migration crisis seriously, and the Concordia Summit will coincide with the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, organized by the President of the UN General Assembly. Leaders from 150 countries will meet to draw up a blueprint for enhancing multilateral cooperation and boosting UN member states and agencies' rapid-response capabilities for mass movements of people.

If the international community fails to capitalize on this meeting of minds, the costs of the migration crisis will only continue to rise, as will the nativist movements that now threaten decades of progress on human rights and international cooperation. In our globalized world, political instability and upheaval can spread quickly across national borders.

For government and non-state advocates alike, this month should be the start of a new chapter in global cooperation to accommodate migrants and refugees.

(Source: project.syndicat.org)

Fair oil prices meet consumer, producer interests: Rouhani

Iran and Venezuela have great potentials for cooperation, and we are interested in joint ventures in the fields of industry, infrastructure and energy," he said.

Maduro also pointed to the declining oil prices and said, "oil-producing countries have suffered from the situation, hence they need to get united and strive to stabilize the oil market."

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been raising exports despite the approaching September 26-28 meeting in Algeria, where the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other major producers are to discuss an oil production freeze. Most market participants are skeptical a deal will be reached.

Iran, OPEC's third largest oil producer, maintains that any discussion about it freezing production at the upcoming OPEC meeting would be premature, and that pre-sanction levels would first need to be reached.

OPEC's Monthly Oil Market Report for September 2016 showed Iran's crude oil production for August was at 3.653 million barrels per day—up from 3.631 million barrels per day in July, and between 147,000 and 347,000 barrels per day less than pre-sanction levels.

Venezuela and Iran continue to seek consensus on ways to stabilize oil markets and strengthen OPEC, Maduro said on August 27, following a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"We continue to build common ground and a new consensus on stabilizing oil markets, strengthening industries, strengthening OPEC," Maduro said, Reuters reported.



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (L) met with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro in Caracas on Friday.

NEWS

Iran replacing Venezuela in Spain's oil market

Venezuela is gradually losing Spain's oil market, as the European country has increased its crude oil import from Iran, the Spanish El Mundo newspaper reported.

Despite having the largest proven hydrocarbon reserves in the world, the Venezuelan government is not able to contain the drop in local production and the country has accumulated nine years of consecutive declines in oil extraction, according to the latest BP Statistics.

As a result, the South American country is losing its customers across the world, including Spain.

Spain has reduced its crude purchase from Venezuela by 63.1 percent to 697,000 tons during the first seven months of 2016, which is equal to 1.8 percent of the country's total crude import, according to the Spanish newspaper.

On the other hand, Iran's return to oil market following the removal of international sanctions last January has been a hard blow to the countries that export oil to Spain.

The Spanish oil firms such as Repsol and Cepsa have rushed to sign contracts with the Islamic Republic to import crude of high quality and very accessible by the proximity of this market.

Spain has imported 1.1 million tons of crude oil from Iran during the first seven months of 2016, which is almost two times more compared to imports from Venezuela.

Iran has raised its share from Spain's oil market to 3 percent, although it is still kept away from other major producers such as Mexico, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Before the latest sanctions were imposed in 2012, Iran was exporting about 600,000 b/d of crude to countries in the European Union, with Italy, Spain and Greece its biggest buyers.

According to International Energy Agency, Iran exported around 150,000 b/d of oil to Spain in 2011.

(Source: Trend)

India's Iran oil imports surge to highest in at least 15 years in August

India's daily oil imports from Iran in August surged to their highest in at least 15 years as the OPEC producer boosted its shipments to recoup market share ceded to rivals Saudi Arabia and Iraq under pressure from economic sanctions.

India received about 576,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian oil in August, up about 10 percent from July, according to trade sources and ship arrival data compiled by Thomson Reuters Supply Chain & Commodities Research.

The August imports from Iran are likely a record although reliable data is available only back to 2001.

Iran used to be India's second-biggest oil supplier - a position now held by Iraq - before sanctions aimed at Tehran's nuclear program began undercutting its petroleum trade.

The sanctions were lifted in January, and in August, Iran's crude exports, excluding condensate, rose to near



pre-sanctions levels at 2.11 million bpd, with loadings headed for India surpassing those for China, Tehran's top oil client.

India's oil imports from Iran last

month were nearly triple the 199,000 bpd taken in August a year ago, according to the tanker arrival data.

In April-August, the first five months of India's current fiscal year, Iran's share

in its overall imports surged to 10.7 percent, its highest since 2010/11.

India's Iran oil purchases rose nearly 70 percent to 451,000 bpd over those five months from about 266,000 bpd in the same period a year ago, the data showed.

India's oil imports from Iran are set to surge to a seven-year high in the year that began April 1, with the nation's state-owned and private refiners together buying at least 400,000 bpd on average.

In the first eight months of 2016, India's oil imports from Tehran rose 84 percent to about 395,000 bpd, the data showed, in comparison with 214,000 bpd a year ago.

Private refiner, Essar Oil, was the top Indian client of Iran in August, followed by Indian Oil Corp and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.

(Source: Reuters)

PICTURE OF THE DAY IOTCO/Received



Assaluyeh port, in the southwestern province of Bushehr, is one of the liquefied gas export terminals in South Pars Special Energy Zone. Having the highest technologies in volume measurement of liquefied gas the port is a perfect example of modern oil and gas terminals.

Iran's renewable energies conference slated for December

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The international conference of Iran's renewable energies will be held in Tehran on December 6-8, Shana reported on Saturday.

According to the report, the conference aims to acquaint foreign companies and investors with Iranian companies' potentials and capabilities in this area.

Renewable Energy Organization of Iran; Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade; and Organization for Investment Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran are among sponsors of the event.

Earlier this month Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian announced that Iran plans to generate 7 gigawatts (GW) of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

Chitchian who was speaking at the 3rd international conference and exhibition of solar energy in Tehran, also mentioned that the country plans to add 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity generated through renewables to the grid by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), of which 70MW will be from solar energy.

Russia's GazpromNeft to start Messoyakha oil in weeks

Russia's GazpromNeft, the oil arm of state gas firm Gazprom, plans to launch its Messoyakha oil field within weeks, a senior executive said, adding to its own fast-growing production and contributing to a global glut.

Messoyakha, in the Russian Arctic, will produce 0.6 million tons of oil this year. It will target 3 million tons in 2017 and reach 5.5 million by 2020 (60,000 barrels per

day to 110,000 bpd respectively).

Russia is expected to end this year with production of close to 547 million tons, or almost 11 million bpd, which would be a post-Soviet record.

Russia's level of production suggests realizing plans for a global deal on freezing crude output, in order to prop up world crude prices, will be difficult.

(Source: Reuters)

Austria's OMV joins Iranian oil buyers' club

Austria's OMV said on Friday it received 1 million barrels of crude oil from Iran in a spot delivery at the Italian port of Trieste which the energy group will send to its two refineries in Austria and Romania.

According to Reuters, The delivery was Iran's first to OMV since 2012, when sanctions were imposed on the country. OMV is in talks with Iran about future deliveries, although no such contract has been signed yet, a spokesman said.

Friday's delivery included Iranian heavy and light crude, he added.

OMV has been present in Iran since 2001 when it implemented operations at the Mehr exploration basin in the western part of the country, which became the first contract of the company with Iran, Trend reported.

The Austrian Company earlier signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) as it looked to revive its activities in Iran. The deal covered several areas ranging from oil and gas field evaluation to crude oil and petroleum product swaps.

Mohsen Qamsari, the director for international affairs of NIOC, earlier said that Iran signed agreements for the sale of crude oil with companies from Spain (Repsol) and Greece (Hellenic Petroleum), and negotiations with other major oil companies are underway.

Crude oil exports of Iran jumped 15 percent from July to more than 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in August.

(Source: agencies)

Venezuela to use Non-Aligned summit to push oil consensus

Venezuela will use this weekend's Non-Aligned Movement summit to meet fellow oil producers and gather support for a global deal to strengthen oil prices at a gathering in Algeria this month, Oil Minister Eulogio del Pino said on Friday.

"Obviously we are going to use this meeting to build consensus," Del Pino told reporters, saying leaders from OPEC nations from the Persian Gulf to Ecuador would be present at the 120-nation bloc's meeting on Margarita Island.

"The focus for the consensus is Algeria, where we hope to reach important stabilization accords to obtain a fair price for hydrocarbons that all producer countries are seeking," he said in comments at a pro-government march carried on state television.

Algeria is hosting meetings of the International Energy Forum and OPEC on Sept. 26-28.

Price hawk Venezuela, which has the largest oil reserves in the world, has been one of the countries worst hit by the fall in crude prices, which has left its economy in crisis.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has flown into Margarita for the meeting on Saturday on Sunday, where Latin American leftist leaders from Bolivia and Ecuador are also expected. But overall turnout could be a record low for the Cold War-era group.

Before departing from Quito, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa ratified the planned oil producers' discussion, saying delegates from his country, Iran, Algeria, Nigeria and Venezuela would be talking.

"The oil price keeps falling ... this hurts us all," he told reporters. "So we are going to talk in Margarita with bilateral and multilateral meetings between OPEC members and non-OPEC members who are important producers and exporters."

(Source: Reuters)

My beloved mother, Mrs. Zarrin Malek Akbar has passed away. Her memorial service will be held on Monday 19th September, 29th Shahrivar from 17:00 to 19:00 at her residence located at No. 4, Reza dead-End, Shahid Kolahdouz (Dolat) Ave., Gholhak.
Sadegh Samii

In Bratislava, little unity for the European Union

By John Lloyd

For Angela Merkel, it was an uncommon note of pessimism. The German chancellor, to whom all in Europe look to for leadership and guidance (even when it's unwelcome,) arrived at the summit of European leaders in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava Friday and said that "Europe is in a critical situation."

It almost did not need to be said, and the fact that it was drew attention to the fact that she is no longer the EU's tower of strength.

Germany is divided over her generous welcome to some one million migrants this past year. Worse, the third place her Christian Democratic Union took earlier this month in the regional elections in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern — where it was beaten by the second-placed far right, anti-immigration, anti-Muslim group, Alternative for Deutschland — showed what the ruling CDU might expect in local elections today and in the national elections next year. Merkel still leads Europe's healthiest economy and most stable government, but in a few weeks, she has dropped off her pedestal to become another harried European leader, battling a shift to the right.

This is the first meeting of the European heads of

government since Britain's decision to leave the EU. Once implemented, the Brexit decision means the group will lose its second largest economy and most powerful military state. Some leaders and officials see this as an opportunity for European nations to move closer without the hindrance of a country that kept itself out of the euro zone and out of the Schengen no-passport agreement. This, however, overlooks the fact that other states do not want centralization.

These nations include the so-called Visegrad Four: the former Communist Central European states of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the host, Slovakia. The quartet tabled a joint document at the meeting, arguing for more power to be returned to national parliaments, continued reliance for defense on NATO rather than a European army, free movement of labor and more inclusive EU negotiations.

Tough elections

As the leaders met all were conscious that many of their colleagues face tough elections over the next year. Austria will rerun its residential election on December 4; the favorite is the far right Freedom Party candidate Norbert Hofer, narrowly beaten in May this year and now leading the Green Party Leader Alexander van der Bellen by 52-48 in a recent poll.



The Netherlands holds parliamentary elections in March next year, with Geert Wilders, leader of the far right Freedom Party, also ahead in the polls. Wilders says that as prime minister he would "instantly" pull his country out of the EU.

France's presidential election is next April and May; Marine Le Pen, leader of the far right National Front, is likely to go into the second round. Few expect her to win, but a good showing on her part would boost her party in the parliamentary elections as well as force

the new president — likely from the center right — to adopt some of her agenda.

Then the big one: the German parliamentary elections, in August or September next year. This, still a year away, is harder to predict. Merkel remains the most popular politician in Germany, and the Alternative für Deutschland has had little time to raise the profile of its leader, Frauke Petry. Petry, a 41-year old chemist, talks tough, calling for police to be allowed to shoot migrants trying to enter Germany illegally. That may be too red meat even for those opposed to immigration.

Merkel is fighting hard, but she was booed at a rally for the CDU candidate in the city election in Berlin today — another indication of her declining standing.

Antagonism to immigration

All leaders must make electoral calculations, and for the moment, these are strictly national. For many, voters' restless antagonism to immigration is further fuelled by high youth unemployment — especially in Greece (which remains in the economic intensive care ward) Spain, Italy and France. This is widely feared to be a rebellion in the making as promised upturns in the economy fail to emerge, and the prospect of a life on welfare, or in dead-end employment, sinks in.

→13

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These mesmerizing illustrations will help you get the best stretch

By Heidi Pashman

Every time you go to yoga class or do some simple stretches, you know the poses and movements you're doing—but do you know exactly which muscles you're working? If you're like us, probably not. With this info, you can give yourself the nicest, best stretch. Not to mention properly alter your technique if you sense any pain.

Camel pose



Muscles highlighted: Rectus abdominus and external obliques. This stretch is best reserved for people who have good flexibility already. Sit on your heels and place your hands behind you as you push your hips up and forward. Avoiding putting too much pressure on your lumbar spine. If you have neck problems do not drop your head back.

Wide forward fold

Muscles highlighted: Adductors. This is a great exercise to open the hips



and stretch the adductors and hamstrings. Start this stretch with your knees bent and spine straight. As your muscles begin to release you can slowly straighten your legs, round out your back, and reach for your feet. Lightly pull on the bottom of the balls of your feet to release the calf muscles as well. If you cannot reach your feet you can use a belt or a towel. You can also perform this stretch lying on your back with your feet going up the wall.

Frog pose



Muscles highlighted: Adductors. This is a deep groin stretch that can place pressure on your knees so it's helpful to be on a soft surface. Start by

resting on your hands and knees and slowly bring your knees wider until you feel a good stretch in your groin muscles. You will feel slight variations in the stretch as you actively push your hips back and forward.

Wide side lunge pose



Muscles highlighted: Adductors. Start with both feet forward in a wide stance with your legs as straight as possible. Slowly walk your hands to your right foot while bending your right knee and rotating your left toes up to the ceiling, sitting into your right hip. Keep your right foot flat on the ground.

Butterfly stretch

Muscles highlighted: Adductors. Start in a seated position and bring the soles of your feet together and sit tall through your sit bones. Progress this stretch by placing pressure on your knees with your hands. The closer your feet are to your body the more you will stretch



your groin muscles. Bring your feet farther from your hips and slowly round your upper body to release your back muscles.

Forearm extensor stretch



Muscles highlighted: Forearm extensor. Start by packing your shoulder down and back, then externally rotate the shoulder for the optimal position to stretch the forearm muscle. Once in this position apply pressure to your opposing hand to begin the stretch. You can progress this stretch by touching the tips of your fingers together in a tea cup shape. (Source: greatist.com)

Things you can do to become a morning person

At 6 a.m., you might barely have the energy to chug a cup of coffee, let alone go for a run, plan out your day, and start your to-do list.

While it's tempting to sleep in, waking up with the sun has its own perks—follow these simple tips, and you might even look forward to getting out of bed.

1. Stop sleeping in on weekends

It confuses your system, says Frank Scheer, Ph.D., a neuroscientist at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Scheer says shifting your wake-up time from 6

a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday has the same effect as going from Eastern Standard Time (EST) to Pacific Standard Time, then trying to wake up on EST again on Monday.

2. Ease into it

The part of your brain that controls your internal clock is evolutionarily wired to shift your wake-up time gradually with changing seasons.

Scheer recommends going to bed 30 to 60 minutes earlier and setting your alarm back by the same amount each day until you reach your goal time. Then give it at

least a week to feel normal.

3. Eliminate decisions

Humans are prone to "decision fatigue"—we have a finite amount of willpower, and deciding to get up early flexes that willpower muscle hard.

Eliminate as many subsequent decisions as possible, says Stephen Graef, Ph.D., a sports psychologist at the Ohio University Sports Medicine Center.

Prep your clothes, breakfast, and workout plan the night before. (Source: menshealth.com)

EAT YOUR DRIED FRUIT Raisin



Raisins pack more nutrition than their small size might indicate. When grapes are dehydrated to produce raisins, the nutrients become more concentrated. Raisins are also a good source of carbohydrates for energy. If you have a sweet tooth, pop healthy raisins instead of teeth-damaging candy.

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- Cancer prevention
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- Fever
- Eye care
- Bone health
- Source of fiber
- Rich in B vitamins, iron, potassium

If you shower every day, you're cleaning these body parts too often

You've probably heard there's no need to wash your hair every day, unless you work up a sweat. Even then, you should skip the shampoo.

But what about the rest of your body? It seems logical that the more you shower, the better. It turns out, though, you don't need to soap up and scrub down as often as you think.

Your arms and legs don't produce many oils, so washing them daily with soap will make the skin on your limbs super dry. Save the soap for the oily, smelly parts of your body: your armpits, butt, and feet. The most surprising area you should stop soaping up? Your groin. While it's a good idea to wash down there for sanitary reasons, men and women can steer clear of soap and just use water. (Source: springfieldnewsun.com)

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NEWS

Syrian ceasefire or shortcut to Aleppo?

By Parnaz Talebi

Russia and U.S. have recently agreed on a ceasefire in Syria that doesn't seem promising and enforcing at all, noting the facts on the ground.

G20 Summit in China, which was attended by Russian, American and Turkish high officials, was considered an ample opportunity to discuss one of the most critical issues of the international scene: Syrian crisis. However hopes faded as no white smoke emerged after the meeting between U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 4, on the sidelines of the summit. Calling the meeting "candid, blunt and business-like," Obama said "we had some productive talks about what a cessation of hostilities would look like for Russia and the U.S. to focus on our common enemies," adding that, regarding "the gap of trust that exists" the differences are not solved yet. Putin, more optimistic, underlined that Russia would strengthen counter-terrorism ties with United States and even said an agreement could be reached in the next few days.



Talks was then continued by Russia Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the G20 Summit the same day, which was dedicated to discussing "further steps to assist in resolving the conflict in Syria, including the task of consolidating the cessation of hostilities and the Russian-U.S. cooperation in the fight against terrorist groups," according to a statement by Russia Foreign Ministry. "There still remains a couple of tough issues that we need to work on," Kerry said after the meeting during a press conference announcing that the talks will continue.

Lavrov and Kerry resumed talks on Syrian political process and joint fight against terrorism in Geneva on September 9, while Lavrov had met with UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura a day earlier. It was German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier who revealed what was going on behind the closed doors in Geneva; "The most important thing for now is a humanitarian pause for Aleppo, and it would be preferable to make it last for 48 hours. Talks are currently being held on implementing a ceasefire for between seven and 10 days."

The marathon of exhaustive talks ended late Friday. The agreement reached by U.S. and Russia, albeit not a comprehensive ceasefire but a temporary cessation of hostilities, was put into action at sundown on September 12, involving halting all attacks, including airstrikes, by all parties. The agreement also requires unimpeded humanitarian access to areas in need, including Aleppo, and depends on all forces pulling back from strategic Castello Road. Next step, if the sides respect the ceasefire for seven days, would be establishing a Joint Implementation Center (JIC) by Russia and U.S., separating terrorists from moderate groups and finally joint airstrikes against terrorists.

Yet, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov stressed that there still remains a lack of confidence in U.S.-Russia cooperation and negotiations on Syria; "despite all the problems, despite the lack of trust, which continues to emerge, despite attempts to sabotage what we agreed upon today, we have managed to work out a package," Lavrov told reporters. "Today's document is not the only one, there are actually five of them," which both Lavrov and Kerry rejected to talk about. Not surprisingly, Kerry stressed the importance of aid to Aleppo during the presser held immediately after talks; "Both pro-government and opposition groups will be required to provide safe, unhindered and sustainable humanitarian, commercial and civilian ac-



cess to eastern and western Aleppo," he said. "Neither the opposition nor the government will be permitted to attack or to take territory held by the other or...to obstruct the delivery of humanitarian goods."

The deal received acclaim nearly all around the world, the most important of which was the approval of it by Syrian government. Damascus has been informed of the deal, agreed to it and the cessation of hostilities will be applied to the city of Aleppo for humanitarian purposes, SANA reported on September 10.

The so-called opposition also hailed the deal when Basam Kodmani, the opposition's High Negotiations Committee (HNC) spokeswoman, announced that moderate groups would re-organize and distance themselves from the radical groups. She underlined that in return government forces should end the "strategy of surrounding whole areas and besieging them."

Mina stampede compensation, stepping stone toward mending ties

By Marjohn Sheikhi

The first anniversary of the Mina stampede which took the lives of over 4,000 people from some more than 30 countries, including 465 Iranians, during Hajj rituals on Sep. 24, 2015, came as a great source of grief and continued desolation for the families of innocent hajj pilgrims who had been the victim of Saudi ineptitude and mismanagement in the land of what was supposed to be peace and security for Muslims. The anniversary came against the backdrop of many unresolved issues that from a humanitarian point of view, if nothing else, should have been handled by the Saudi regime by now, but they weren't. Saudi Arabia still refuses to update the death toll of 770 despite fatality reports from other countries whose nationals had been among the victims of the stampede.

The Arab country has yet to issue an apology – official or otherwise – to the bereaved families of the martyrs for what has been so obviously the fault in its mismanagement, negligence and complete disregard for sacred human lives that the Kingdom should have protected but instead left them under the burning sun and buried under piles of bodies for a horrifying, gradual death.

The Saudi regime's hostile attitude was also the reason hundreds of Iranians did not attend the Hajj pilgrimage this year. According to the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Saeed Ohadi, after lengthy negotiations, Riyadh added 11 articles to a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which were not there in last year's Hajj agreements between the two countries. Riyadh's new restrictions and conditions for Iranian pilgrims, including limiting use of various medicines, refusal to raise Iran's flag over their residential buildings, banning certain ceremonies and prayer gatherings, refusal to guarantee the safety of pilgrims, halting flights to and from Iran following the severing of diplomatic ties, and their disregard for political courtesy during the negotiations, were all to blame for the canceling of Hajj by Iran.

And last but not least, another unresolved issue that needed to have been addressed by Saudi Arabia in the immediate days following the tragedy was the offering of financial and moral compensations to the injured and the families of victims of the Mina stampede; a promise that the Arab Kingdom, with its secure place at the heart of the UN's human rights machinery, is very good at breaking. Just remember the deadliest crane collapse in modern history that happened in the Grand Mosque in Mecca on September 11, 2015, which killed more than 100 people, including a number of Iranians, and left over 300 others wounded. Saudi minister of Hajj had promised to pay compensations to the families of the martyrs of the crane collapse, but 11 months after the incident, Saudi officials have not paid any compensations to any countries whose nationals were killed in Mecca. Iran had also reached an agreement with Saudi Arabia for receiving compensations over the crane collapse before this year's Hajj ritual, but the agreement did not materialize.

Except for Iran, other countries whose pilgrims had been killed in the Mina stampede did not put much effort into pursuing the case through legal and political channels. Saudi Arabia has enough money and deeply-rooted ties with the U.S. to be granted a privileged perch at the UN Security Council and buy the international silence on many of its atrocities, be it the current inhuman war the regime is waging in Yemen, or their irresponsibility toward protecting the lives of millions of Muslim pilgrims, or even their complicity in the 9/11 attacks, which only just came to the surface – after 15 years since the catastrophic incident – as the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee released a 28-page report in July that determined 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers were Saudi citizens, and exposed links between some of the hijackers and officials in Saudi Arabia.

Nevertheless, the Islamic Republic of Iran is among the few countries that does not care for Saudi dollars,



neither is it swayed or impressed by the regime's powerful allies, including the U.S., the UK and the rest of Persian Gulf Arab states. The head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization said in August that a legal committee has been formed to deal with the legal and political aspects of the Mina case and using the French legal expertise to restore the rights of Hajj victims.

Furthermore, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in his latest remarks on the Mina tragedy during a meeting with the families of those who lost their lives, criticized other governments that have not raised issues with what happened in Mina, and deemed their silence and indifference a 'great disaster for the Islamic Ummah'. Ayatollah Khamenei described Saudi rulers as 'Evil Progeny' in his 2016 Hajj message published on Sep. 5, and blamed them for the deaths

have also blocked attempts at forming a truth commission to investigate into the incident and expose the truth of what had happened to the public. The severed diplomatic ties between the two countries is also another hampering factor that allows Saudi Arabia to circumvent acknowledging its wrongdoing, which could help repair damaged relationships and ensure that wrongful acts would not be repeated.

Addressing injustice and redressing past abuses by responsible governments is critical for building peace and helping victims to put the past behind them. Throughout history, reparations have been able to repair damaged ties and allow countries to restore their positions on the international scene. The following is a list of some of the most important cases of compensations:

■ **Treaty of Versailles (1919)**

According to International Law, Saudi government has been obliged to ensure the safety of passengers, and as such, it is bound to legal prosecution of offenders in case of an offence, and financial or even moral reparations to the families of victims.

of the thousands of pilgrims in both incidents in Mina and Mecca. "Because of these rulers' oppressive behavior towards God's guests, the world of Islam must fundamentally reconsider the management of the two holy places and the issue of hajj. Negligence in this regard will confront the Islamic Ummah with more serious problems in the future," he warned.

But is there any possibility for Iran to file a case of compensations against Saudi Arabia? According to a Professor of International Law, Saber Niavarani, the government of Saudi Arabia has been, with no doubt, obliged to ensure the safety of these passengers, and as such, it is bound to two international commitments: 1) legal prosecution of offenders in case of an offence, and 2) financial or even moral reparations to the families of victims. Niavarani believes that if Saudi Arabia does not observe these two commitments, the government has violated an international law. Meanwhile, Iran's Chief of Police announced that the country has filed a complaint against Saudi Arabia with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) over the Mina stampede, and the police department will follow up on the issue in cooperation with Foreign Ministry and the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization in the future.

While Iran is mobilizing every resource to make sure the grief-stricken families of the victims are compensated for both material and psychological injury, Saudi rulers still refuse to address past injustice and expedite the process of healing and reconciliation. They

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■ **Malaysia Airlines Flight 17**

The international passenger flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was mistakenly shot down on 17 July 2014, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew on board. Ukraine and Western powers have been blaming Moscow for the downing of the plane, while Russian President Putin said that Ukraine bore responsibility for the incident which happened in its territory. Unless investigators determine who fired the missile, the Malaysia Airlines' reinsurer will be required to pay reparations of about \$1 billion.

■ **Iran Air Flight 655**

On July 3, 1988, 290 people were killed in a US missile attack on an Iranian passenger flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai across the Persian Gulf. The US never took any responsibility for the attack, called it a justifiable self-defense, and went so far as to award all the men of the USS Vincennes combat-action ribbons for what Iran deemed as a "criminal act" and a "massacre". The incident was brought to the International Court of Justice eight years later during which the US agreed to pay \$131.8 million in compensation to the Iranian government, including \$61.8 million to the families of the victims, although without any apology or accepting legal liability.

■ **9/11 attacks**

In a recent development, and 15 years after the September 11 attacks of 2001 which killed about 3,000 people, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would allow the families of victims to sue Saudi Arabia's government for damages. The 28-page report on Saudi Arabia's involvement in the attacks exposed links between some of the hijackers and officials in the Saudi kingdom and identified fifteen of the 19 hijackers as Saudi citizens. This is while Riyadh continues to deny any responsibility and the Obama Administration confirmed that the bill would be vetoed by the president, as the bill would make "the United States vulnerable in other court systems around the world." The possibility still remains, however, that Obama's veto would be overridden with a two-thirds majority vote from both houses of Congress.

The international law provides the legal basis for victims of human rights violations to receive appropriate remedy, including official apologies, financial compensations, psychological and social support, as well as the prosecution of the offenders and public condemnation of the committed crime. These reparations, throughout the history, particularly in regard to the two world wars, have been a tremendous help for allowing the countries to compensate for their wrongdoings and move on toward a better future. As Saudi Arabia acknowledges its responsibility over the death of thousands of Muslim pilgrims during the Mina stampede and agrees to pay reparations to the families of victims, this move could be a stepping stone toward mending the severed diplomatic ties between Iran and the Saudi Kingdom and expedite the healing process of the injuries suffered by the Iranian nation.

■ **Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918)**

Russia agreed to pay reparations to the Central Powers consisting of Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria, when Russia exited the war in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (1918). Under the treaty, Russia was forced to give up close to half its European territory including Ukraine, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and part of Latvia, and pay six billion marks in reparations.

■ **Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine (1919)**

After its defeat in World War I, Bulgaria was required to cede various territories, reduce its army to 20,000 men, pay reparations of £100 million, and recognize the existence of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

■ **Pan Am Flight 103**

In 1988, after a Libyan national was found guilty of planting a bomb in the cabin of Pan Am Flight 103 from Frankfurt to Detroit, which crashed over Lockerbie, Scotland, and killed all 243 passengers and 16 crew as well as 11 more people on the ground, the Libyan government agreed to pay \$10 million to each family of the victims.

Could SpaceX's Falcon 9 really launch again by November?

SpaceX is grounded after a Falcon 9 rocket caught fire on the launch pad on September 1. Yet despite the fact that CEO Elon Musk has called the explosion the "most difficult and complex failure we have ever had in 14 years," SpaceX president Gwynne Shotwell expects the company might resume launching rockets in November.

That seems optimistic, considering the cause of the explosion remains unknown. Musk put out a call for help on Twitter last week, to see if extra photos and videos of the disaster will yield any new clues.

The last SpaceX disaster occurred in June 2015, when a Falcon 9 blew up a few minutes after launch. The company ID'd the problem (a faulty strut) by July 2015, but still the Falcon 9 didn't get off the ground again until December 2015, resulting in 5.5 months of downtime.

Tory Bruno, the CEO of United Launch Alliance, told Reuters that it usually takes 9 to 12 months to recover from a space launch accident. However, SpaceX does a lot of things differently from ULA (such as launching at a much cheaper price), so it



wouldn't be terribly surprising if they can return to the launch pad sooner than a traditional rocket company would.

And an industry source told Popular Science that part of the reason SpaceX was down for so long after the June 2015

With no new launch vehicle, the recovery from the September 1 mishap could happen a lot faster this time around.

accident was because they were prepping a souped-up new version of the Falcon 9.

■ New launch vehicle

With no new launch vehicle, the recovery from the September 1 mishap could happen a lot faster this time around.

"Every single component in these machines is working at the limit of what the materials can take and what the machinery can give you. It's not surprising that accidents happen. SpaceX is learning from this and I'm sure they're going to recover."

But SpaceX's return to flight depends on how long it takes to figure out what went wrong and then fix it. Depending on the complexity of the cause, that could take some time, says Paulo Lozano, a researcher at MIT's Space Propulsion Lab.

"If a turbo pump in the rocket engine fails, it could take months or years to recover from a failure like that. It's not the same as something simple like a leaking valve. The timeline is going to depend on the complexity of this particular case."

(Source: Popular Science)

Scientists identify world's longest lightning bolts

Scientists this week announced that lightning can travel much farther and last much longer than previously thought.

The conclusion is based on observations of a 2007 storm in Oklahoma that produced a lightning bolt nearly 200 miles long, nearly half the width of the state. The longest-lasting flash was observed in southern France, where a single flash in 2012 lasted for 7.74 seconds. Most lightning bolts last less than a second and travel only a few miles.

"We should be more aware of lightning if we can have lightning that can travel 200 miles," said Randy Cerveny, the spokesman on weather and climate extremes for the World Meteorological Organization, which added, for the first time, lightning to its list of extreme weather events. This list includes records for heat, cold, wind speed, rainfall and other events, according to an announcement from the group.

Reporting in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society Tuesday, scientists said that the Oklahoma lightning bolt shot from Tulsa, Okla., westward, nearly to the Texas border. It touched the ground in several places.

The "lightning can start tens or hundreds of miles away and then come back to where you are," said Timothy Lang, a researcher at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. "You have to be careful of where the lightning is coming to ground, even though the storm is past."

Of course not all storms have extreme lightning like that observed in Oklahoman and French storms. The Oklahoma bolt came in the midst of a particularly bad patch of weather early on June 20, 2007. Ground lightning sensors tracked the bolt's path.

"Most lightning will strike within the 30-30 rule," said Dr. Cerveny. The "30-30 rule is one that we still want to stress and make sure people are aware of ... but it does

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demonstrate that lightning can hit far from where the storm actually is."

The "30-30" rule stipulates that if thunder follows lightning within 30 seconds, people should go inside for 30 minutes for safety. If it takes longer, it's safe to stay outside.

(Source: The CSM)

'Lift-the-flap' books may stop toddlers learning new words, say scientists

They are meant to make learning more fun and interactive, but lift-the-flap books could significantly harm a toddler's chance of learning words, a new study suggests.

Picture books for children often include unusual textures or pop-ups, which are thought to encourage engagement and keep youngsters interested.

But researchers found that when toddlers have to hunt for a word or object they are less likely to remember it.

In tests with 31 toddlers, those who used books with lift-up-flaps were half as likely to remember words compared to those using normal books.

Dr. Jeanne Shinskey, a senior lecturer at the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London said: "Many educational picture books for toddlers often feature manipulatives like

flaps or texture to encourage interaction, but do these actually help toddlers to learn new words?"

"We wanted to test how a commercially-available book with or without flaps affected two-year-olds' learning of a new word for an unfamiliar object."

For the experiment the toddlers were split in to two groups. Each group were asked to look through a book with a researcher that contained nine food objects including a new fruit they had not seen before – a starfruit.

The books were exactly the same but one had lift-the-flaps and the other had these sealed.

Around 68 percent of the youngsters who looked at the book without flaps correctly remembered the starfruit at the end of the session compared to just 30



per cent of those who were given books with flaps.

We would recommend having a range of books available so children learn to love reading as well as learning more about the world.

Dr. Shinskey said: "Books with these sort of features are very popular with parents who hope the interactive feature will aid learning and enjoyment of reading."

(Source: The Telegraph)

Competitive Advantages of IKAP Products

The companies in the supply chain of Iran Khodro and Peugeot came together in Tehran to discuss grounds for cooperation in producing parts for IKCO-Peugeot joint vehicles in a conference titled "Suppliers Day".

The IKCO-Peugeot joint venture, "IKAP", is supposed to produce cars with the annual capacity of 200-thousand vehicles, engaging Iranian part makers to the highest possible level in the supply chain of IKAP products through transferring the required know-how and technology.

So, the two-day conference in Tehran was mainly aimed at exploring new ways to fulfill the mentioned goals. During the first day of the conference titled "Suppliers Day" on September 10, held in SAPCO gathering hall, SAPCO and IKAP CEOs and Peugeot executive vice president gave speeches on the subject.

Addressing the first day of conference, SAPCO CEO, Hossein Najjari said quality, optimization, improved efficiency as well as offering valuable services are among the main standards of SAPCO when it comes to estab-

lishing cooperation with the part makers. He went on saying that SAPCO's affiliated part makers are required to raise funds for increasing capacity, investment and employing the latest technologies.

Najjari called for continuous improvement of logistical process of the part suppliers saying they should show commitment to financial transparency. "Suppliers have to adopt creative measures to divvy up the standards of the budgets," he noted.

SAPCO CEO also called on the suppliers to take long strides to achieve SAPCO and IKAP goals and produce quality vehicles with global standards saying the measures are required to turn IKCO into a global car maker.

He announced SAPCO's structure has undergone some changes as part of the measures to localize the operations, adding SAPCO's internal procedures have been reviewed and a joint committee has been established between SAPCO and IKAP to vet active part makers for their qualifications for further cooperation.

Najjari also touched on export of IKAP vehicles' parts adding: "Based on an agreement with Peugeot, 30 percent of the vehicles will be exported and this naturally means that we will see their parts exported as well."

For his part, IKAP CEO, Mohammad Reza Motamed called the conference a new opportunity to develop cooperation in joint production.

"IKCO and Peugeot have had long lasting cooperation and we are now planning to expand our ties in future," he said.

The CEO also put emphasize on the production of quality vehicles with appropriate price. "IKAP does not downplay the quality and economy of its vehicles, and these two must be among the main competitive advantages of the products," he noted.

Over 130 delegates from 65 French part making companies along with 15 top project managers of Peugeot took part in the conference. On behalf of Iran, over 140 part suppliers were invited by SAPCO to take part in the event.

Under the agreement, "We have announced foreign companies to adopt an Iranian partner in order to embark on transferring technology and technical knowhow easily."

In the end, Chief Executive of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian said: "Foreign companies were not interested in making investment in Iran in pre-sanctions era, but in post-sanctions period, world's important insurance companies including Italian Sachs, French Coface and Germany's Hermes insurance companies and also guarantee insurance funds in S. Korea and Japan have expressed their readiness to make huge investment in Iran in relevant fields."

NEWS

Scientists decipher color of 'super cute' bristly dinosaur

Scientists guided by small structures preserved in fossilized skin have deciphered the color and camouflage pattern of a little dinosaur with a parrot-like beak and bristles on its tail that roamed thick forests in China about 120 million years ago.

Psittacosaurus was mainly brown but with a paler underside of the tail and belly, a pattern called countershading that may have helped the 5-foot-long (1.5-meter) bipedal plant-eater go unnoticed by hungry predators, the scientists said on Thursday.

It also had a heavily pigmented face and hind legs that were striped on the inside and reticulated and spotted on the outside.

The color pattern suggested Psittacosaurus (pronounced sit-TAK-ah-sawr-us) lived in a forest environment with diffuse light from a dense canopy of trees, the researchers said. They created a life-sized, full-color, three-dimensional model based on their findings.

"Our model suggests it was super, super cute. I think they would have made fantastic pets. They look a bit like E.T.," said molecular paleobiologist Jakob Vinther of the University of Bristol in Britain, referring to the friendly alien in the 1982 film "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

Psittacosaurus, meaning "parrot lizard," is one of the most thoroughly studied dinosaurs, with hundreds of individual fossils. It was roughly the size of a Labrador retriever, and probably was a common meal for Cretaceous Period predators like the 30-foot-long (9 meters) T. rex cousin Yutyrannus.

Psittacosaurus is the third dinosaur to have its color deduced using fossilized organelles called melanosomes that synthesize and store the pigment melanin in vertebrate animals and are present in hair, feathers and skin. It also was the first time researchers were able to hypothesize the environment a dinosaur inhabited based on its coloration.

(Source: Reuters)

Dust may harbor harmful chemicals

A little dust may seem harmless, but scientists have identified a number of potentially hazardous chemicals in the dust found in households, according to a new review study.

The researchers analyzed information from 26 previous studies that included data on dust samples collected from homes in 14 U.S. states. Results revealed 45 chemicals in dust that were originally from consumer or household products, such as vinyl flooring, furniture, cleaning products, perfumes, and even pizza boxes and popcorn bags.

What's more, 10 of these chemicals were present in 90 percent of the dust samples collected, which suggests that many people are exposed to these substances, the researchers said.

The 45 chemicals belong to five classes of compounds: phthalates, flame retardants, phenols, fragrances and highly fluorinated chemicals. Many of these chemicals have been linked to health hazards in previous studies, such as hormone disruption, fertility problems and cancer, the researchers said.

Children are likely at higher risk for exposure to chemicals from dust, because children often crawl or play on the floor and put their hands in their mouths, the researchers said.

The "findings suggest that people, and especially children, are exposed on a daily basis to multiple chemicals in dust that are linked to serious health problems," study co-author Ami Zota, an assistant professor of environmental and occupational health at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health in Washington D.C., said in a statement.

(Source: Live Science)

Scientists caught black holes swallowing stars

Supermassive black holes are voracious beasts. Their tremendous gravitational pull sucks in everything that gets too close, including stars.

For the first time, astronomers have clearly observed at infrared wavelengths what happens after a black hole eats a star: it burps back up a brilliant flare of light that echoes through space.

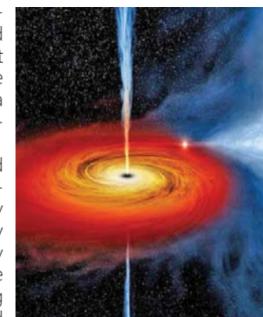
Two studies published this week — one by scientists at NASA, the other by researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China — describe these "tidal disruption flares" using data from NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE), a space telescope that has photographed the entire sky in infrared light.

"This is the first time we have clearly seen the infrared light echoes from multiple tidal disruption events," Sjoert van Velzen, a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University and lead author of the NASA study, said in a statement. Van Velzen's study caught three black holes in the act of star swallowing; researchers in China documented a fourth.

The technical term for these celestial phenomena is "stellar tidal disruption events." When a star gets too close to a black hole's event horizon (the "point of no return," at which not even light can escape), it gets stretched and torn apart by variations in the black hole's gravitational pull.

Scientists call the process "spaghettification" for the way that it elongates everything that has the misfortune of enduring it.

(Source: The Washington Post)



Two five million-ton pelletizing projects will be put into operation before termination of the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (to end March 19, 2017).

Chief Executive of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian announced the above statement and said: "Two five million-ton pelletizing projects, totally 10 million tons, will be launched by yearend."

Presently, construction operations of 15-m ton conglomerate and 17-m ton iron ore concentrate are underway in Sangan mineral deposit, he said, adding: "Once the two projects are put into operation, 10 million tons more pellets will be added to the current capacity of the country."

Two 5m-Ton Pelletizing Projects to Be Inaugurated by Yearend

NEWS

August equals July as hottest month in modern times

August equaled July as the hottest month in modern times, the UN's weather agency said Friday, warning that extraordinary temperatures were "set to become the new norm".

The United Nations Meteorological Organization (WMO) also forecast that 2016 will prove to be the warmest year on Earth over 137 years of record-keeping.

"It is looking likely that 2016 will (be) the hottest year on record, surpassing the incredible temperatures witnessed in 2015," WMO chief Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

The August figures were an especially jarring reminder of soaring temperatures on the planet, since July has typically proven to be the hottest month of each year.

Citing data from the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and the US space agency NASA, the UN said August "wound up tied" with July "for the warmest month ever recorded."

The average temperature last month was 0.16 degrees warmer than the previous hottest August, which was in 2014. Last month was also 0.98 degrees warmer than the average August temperature from 1950-1980, the WMO said.

Scientists say the heating trend is being driven by fossil-fuel burning, and is made worse by the ocean warming phenomenon known as El Nino, which came to an end in July.

"We have witnessed a prolonged period of extraordinary heat which is set to become the new norm," Taalas said.

WMO further urged global leaders to sign and implement the landmark pact agreed in Paris last year.

(Source: phys.org)



Millions of refugee kids losing education, UN warns

The UN has warned that millions of children with refugee status have been missing out on a chance to get an education, calling on the world to do more to provide the kids with proper schooling.

On Thursday, the United Nations refugee agency released a report revealing that the agency had failed to provide schooling for more than half of the children under its responsibility.

A full 3.7 million school-age children under the agency mandate have no school to attend, said the report.

It added that some 1.75 million refugee children were not in primary school and 1.95 million refugee adolescents were not attending secondary school.

"This represents a crisis for millions of refugee children," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a statement, urging international action to get the children back to school.



According to the UN report, just one percent of older refugees are lucky enough to attend university.

The report said that 40 percent of Syrian refugee children, or nearly 900,000, were living in neighboring countries with-

out an education.

Due to the lack of sufficient funding, the report said only 39 percent of Syrian school-age refugee children and adolescents in Turkey were enrolled in primary and secondary schools while the number was 40 and 70 percent in Lebanon and Jordan respectively.

The report called on donors to provide sufficient funding to allow for sustainable education planning and programming for refugee kids and young people.

The report comes as the UN General Assembly is preparing to host a summit on refugees in New York next week.

The UN refugee agency plans to use the summit as a platform to urge governments, private donors, and humanitarian agencies to support the UN agency in ensuring that every refugee child gets a chance to receive a decent education.

(Source: Press TV)

Boy donates hair to make wigs for child cancer patients

A 10-year-old boy in the US is being praised for a hair-raising act of kindness that has gone viral online.

Thomas Moore, from Maryland, noticed his mother watching a video about a five-year-old girl who had lost her hair during chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

Moved by the effects of the treatment, Thomas decided to grow his hair long to give it to the little girl.

"He didn't set a time frame for how long he would grow his hair for, he just wanted it to be long enough to make the girl feel happy," Thomas's aunt, Amber Lynne, told BuzzFeed.

"It started off just fine when his hair was shorter," she said. "But as the afro grew, they had to cornrow it to keep it nice and tame."

Two years on, Thomas has finally had his hair cut, provid-

ing enough hair to make three wigs for children with cancer.

"He was feeling nervous about getting the cut, wondering what he would look like," said Ms Lynne, whose post of the before and after photos have been shared more than 55,000 times on Twitter. Afterwards, she said: "Thomas said he felt good about it and hoped it would make other people happy."

(Source: Telegraph)

LEARN ENGLISH

Listening to Motivational Speakers

Jamal: I really **dread** these annual management meetings. We usually have to **sit through** the most boring **motivational speakers** giving us **pep talks**.

Cindy: I think you'll be surprised by the person they've hired to **kick off** our meeting. She's supposed to be a **guru** on **crisis management**.

Jamal: Oh no, not another one.

Cindy: This one has a lot of **real-world** experience. She was a **fighter pilot** who has apparently survived some very difficult **missions**.

Jamal: What does a fighter pilot know about business? I can't believe our company is **shelling out** thousands of dollars on **speaking fees** for someone like her to tell us how to do our jobs better.

Cindy: I think that the idea is to understand how other organizations and professions handle crises, which may **shed some light on** how we can do things better.

Jamal: Well, I don't have **high hopes**.

Cindy: Don't you think she can teach us anything?

Jamal: Sure, in fact our speaker has inspired me to try to get on the **lecture circuit** myself.

Cindy: What would you speak about?

Jamal: Avoiding **corporate waste!**

(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

dread: to feel anxious or worried about something that is going to happen or may happen

sit through: to attend a meeting, performance etc., and stay until the end, even if it is very long and boring

motivational speaker: also inspirational speaker is a speaker who makes speeches intended to motivate or inspire an audience

pep talk: short speech intended to encourage someone to work harder, win a game etc.

kick off: if you kick off a discussion, meeting, event etc., you start it

guru: someone who knows a lot about a particular subject, and gives advice to other people

crisis management: the process by which a business or other organization deals with a sudden emergency situation

real-world: in, from, or having to do with actual experience or practice, rather than being theoretical, idealistic, or impractical

fighter pilot: a military aviator trained to engage in air-to-air, and often air-to-ground combat while in the cockpit of a fighter aircraft

mission: an important job that involves travelling somewhere, done by a member of the air force, army etc., or by a spacecraft

shell out: to pay a lot of money for something, especially unwillingly

speaking fee: a payment awarded to an individual for speaking at a public event

shed light on something: to make something easier to understand, by providing new or better information

high hope: to be confident that someone or something will be successful

lecture circuit: regular itinerary of venues or events for touring lecturers or public speakers

corporate: belonging to or relating to a corporation

waste: when something such as money or skills are not used in a way that is effective, useful, or sensible

IN FOCUS Tehran Times/Aref Fat hfi



The fifth exposition of flowers, plants, seeds, saplings, and related industries was held from September 11 to 16 in the city of Karaj on a land area of 5.5 hectares.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Penalties for starting wildfires

Starting wildfires as a result of recklessness or non-compliance with environmental regulations is either punished by serving in prison or paying fines, Mehr news agency reported.

Those who set fire to the forests will be punished by either serving three months to three years in prison or by paying a fine of 1.8 million rials (\$50) to 20 million rials (\$570), according to a statement issued by Tehran province's department of environment.

Those who repeat the crime have to both pay the penalty and serve in the prison. Moreover, in case someone sets fire to the forests on purpose they will be sentenced to two to five years of jail time.

ENGLISH PROVERB

The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken

■ **Explanation:** if you depend on just one thing, and it fails, you have no alternatives
 ■ **For example:** Don't put all your money in a single bank account. The mouse that has but one hole is quickly taken.

PHRASAL VERB

Be/get fed up with

■ **Meaning:** annoyed or bored, and wanting something to change
 ■ **For example:** I'm really fed up with this constant rain.

ENGLISH IDIOM

The apple of your eye

■ **Explanation:** a person, usually a child, who is the apple of your eye is one for whom you have great affection
 ■ **For example:** My grandson is the apple of my eye.

مجازات در انتظار متخلفان در صورت آتش سوزی عمدی

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر ایجاد و فراهم کردن مقدمات آتش سوزی بر اثر بی مبالاتی یا عدم رعایت مقررات محیط زیست و تخلف در این خصوص جرم محسوب می شود و فرد خاطی به مجازات حبس یا جزای نقدی محکوم می شود.

اداره حفاظت محیط زیست استان تهران طی اطلاعیه ای اعلام کرد: متخلفانی که باعث ایجاد آتش سوزی شوند به مجازات حبس از ۹۱ روز تا ۳ سال یا جزای نقدی از یک میلیون و ۸۰۰ هزار ریال تا ۲۰ میلیون ریال و در صورت تکرار به هر دو مجازات محکوم می شود.

به علاوه در صورت آتش سوزی عمدی متخلف به حبس از ۲ تا ۵ سال محکوم می شود.

Thousands of the supporters of prominent Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have staged demonstrations across the country to demand what they call the containment of rampant corruption and the formation of a technocrat government.

On Friday, protesters gathered at Tahrir (Liberation) Square in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, to call for comprehensive change in governmental organizations, a genuine fight against alleged corruption as well as improvements in youth employment and national job opportunities al-Baghdadia television network reported.

"The government ignores public demands for reforms. It is impossible to bring about reforms when government ministers are corrupt. The government had better resign and be replaced with a technocrat one," said a protester, Sa'd al-Kanani.

Elsewhere, in the city of al-Diwaniyah, located 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Baghdad, people staged a mass demonstration to demand the implementation of reforms and the trial of corrupt officials.

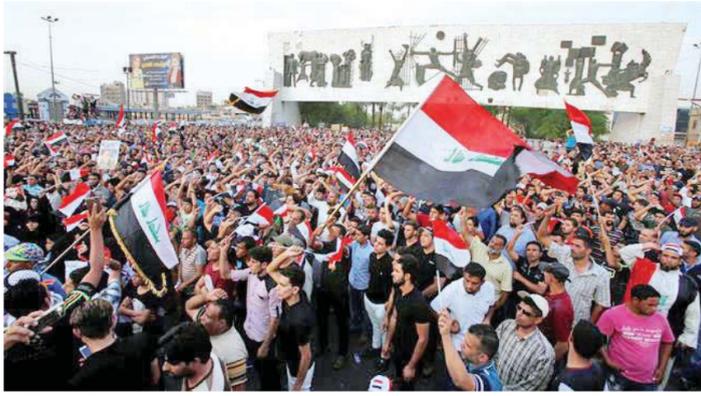
The demonstrators carried banners calling for reforms, better public services as well as changes to the electoral law to ensure that corrupt authorities would not assume power again. They vowed to escalate their protests in case their demands go unanswered.

Also on Friday, hundreds of people took to the streets in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, demanding the formation of a technocratic government and the eradication of corruption from state institutions.

They also called on the Baghdad government to dismiss Basra's Provincial Governor Majid Mahdi Abd al-Abbass

1000s rally across Iraq demanding reforms

Iraqi troops close in on last ISIL-held city



al-Nasrawi, and asserted that they will continue holding demonstrations until their demands are met.

ISIL last base

Meanwhile, hundreds of the United States troops have arrived at an air base 40 miles south of Mosul to support Iraq's efforts to liberate that city from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, a U.S. defense official told CNN.

Qayyarah air base was recaptured from ISIL by Iraqi soldiers backed by U.S. airstrikes in July and the American forces operating there will mainly provide logistics, supplies and support for the Iraqi offensive on Mosul. The move brings U.S. personnel

closer to the battle and ISIL's defensive lines.

Asked if U.S. forces advising the Mosul operation faced increased risk, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told reporters that "the secretary (of defense) has made clear that our forces in Iraq are in harm's way. Everyone who is serving there is in a dangerous situation."

The air base is also expected to be rebuilt to allow U.S. and coalition aircraft to operate there, since its proximity to Mosul makes it tactically important.

"When the (Iraqi Security Force) is ready to move on in their operations to get after Mosul, we'll be prepared to support that and the airfield will be ready," Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigian told reporters at

the Pentagon.

"This is a partnered effort. This is something we're working from both the land component perspective with the Iraqis and clearly ensuring that, as we begin to put some of our airplanes in there in the future, that it's got the capabilities that we need," Harrigian added, describing efforts to prepare Qayyarah.

The assault on the last major Iraqi city held by ISIL could begin as early as October, according to several U.S. officials.

The next stage of the effort will involve attempts to seize towns and villages on the southern outskirts of Mosul.

Iraqi security forces air dropped thousands of leaflets south of the city over the weekend warning citizens in anticipation of a new offensive.

"Protect yourself, don't be human shields for the enemy, leave the town immediately," a leaflet shown by the Iraqi military to CNN said.

The coalition is stepping up airstrikes along key infiltration routes into Mosul in hopes of keeping the city from being reinforced further by ISIL, a U.S. defense official added.

The fight for Mosul is expected to be a difficult one with defense officials and intelligence analysts saying that ISIL has dug-in since it first seized the city back in 2014.

There are 3,000 to 4,500 ISIL fighters in Mosul, according to Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman Col. John Dorrian.

"There is still a tough fight ahead against an adaptive enemy that will try to challenge us as we hone in on Mosul," Harrigian, the commander of U.S. air forces in the Middle East, said.

(Source: agencies)

Powell says Israel has '200 nukes all pointed at Iran'

Israel has 200 nuclear weapons, according to the latest revelation hidden in a cache of Colin Powell's leaked emails.

The former U.S. secretary of state revealed the information in an email he sent to a colleague last year, which was obtained by the hacking group DCLeaks and published on LobeLog, a foreign policy blog.

Israel has a policy of nuclear ambiguity and has never talked about the type or size of its weapons, even if it has been an "open secret" that the U.S. ally is well armed. Some Israel watchers estimate the country has as many as 400 weapons but Mr. Powell is one of the most authoritative sources to date.

He was writing to business partner and democratic donor Jeffrey Leeds re-



garding Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to U.S. Congress, warning them against the nuclear deal with Iran which would limit Tehran's nuclear ability in return for lifting international oil and financial sanctions. The deal

was nonetheless finalized last summer.

"Negotiators can't get what he wants," wrote Mr. Powell in the email.

"Anyway, Iranians can't use one [a nuclear weapon] if they finally make one. The boys in Tehran know Israel has 200, all targeted on Tehran, and we have thousands. As Akmdinjad (sic) [said], "What would we do with one, polish it?" I have spoken publicly about both nK and Iran. We'll blow up the only thing they care about - regime survival. Where, how would they even test one?"

Yet Mr. Powell publicly endorsed the agreement - he told NBC's Meet the Press in September 2015 that it was a "pretty good deal" - but did not seem so

keen in another email to Mr. Leeds a few months later. He expressed doubt to Mr. Leeds that Iran could test out a nuclear weapon "within a year".

In the email, the retired statesman and general also acknowledged that sanctions would not be enough to halt Iran if it was really bent on developing nuclear weapons.

"They [the Iranians] say, correctly, that they have every right to enrich [uranium] for energy. Russians helped build a power reactor at Busheh. Can't get enough sanctions to break them Lots of bs around about their progress. Bibi likes to say "a year away," as do our intel guys. They say it every year. [It] ain't that easy to do."

(Source: Independent)

Russian embassy in Ukraine's capital comes under attack

Russia's embassy in the Ukrainian capital Kiev has come under attack as Russia plans to hold parliamentary elections in Crimea for the first time.

About 20 unidentified Ukrainians, wearing balaclavas, lobbed scores of fireworks at the embassy building during the early hours of Saturday. They chanted, "There will be no elections," while holding a banner reading, "Fireworks today, Grad (multiple rocket launchers) tomorrow." No arrests or damage have been reported.

On Sunday, polling stations will open across Russia for local parliamentary elections, which are held every five years. Russia previously announced that its citizens in Kiev would also be able to cast their ballots at a polling station at its embassy as well as other diplomatic missions in Ukraine.

However, what most of all has angered the government in Kiev is Moscow's decision to open polling stations in the Crimean Peninsula for the first time since it rejoined the Russian Federation in 2014. Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly rejected Moscow's plan, saying they would not recognize such elections in Crimea.

People in Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea

voted in a referendum to join the Russian Federation in March 2014. The move angered the West and the Ukrainian government, which branded it as Moscow's annexation of the territory.

The referendum came almost at the same as the Ukrainian government engaged in a crackdown on the Russian-speaking people in the eastern region of Donbass.

On Friday, Moscow said it was the responsibility of Ukrainian leaders to ensure the security of the elections.

Dmitry Peskov, the spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said, "They (Ukrainian authorities) are obliged to do so in compliance with the Vienna Convention."

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, however, did not welcome Moscow's call, saying his country "will not guard the electoral process of the Russian Federation."

"The law enforcement system will perform its functions in a normal mode," the Ukrainian premier added.

He also described the firework attack as "hooliganism" and "a small incident that does not require any



comment."

There are 450 seats in the lower house of the Russian parliament, also known as State Duma, to be filled in the elections, with 4,500 candidates competing in 14 parties. About 2,000 of the candidates are running as independents. If a party is to garner a majority, it will need to grab at least 266 seats in the elections.

(Source: Press TV)

Syrian ceasefire or shortcut to Aleppo?

10 →

However, despite all hope and optimism the temporary cessation of hostilities agreement brought up in international scene, the nature of the deal doesn't seem so strong to bear the heavy weight of an almost 5-year-long war. The agreement is even considered fragile and weak as it is pursuing far-fetched aims like separating the so-called moderate opposition groups from terrorists, which is in fact impractical, let not say illogic. The issue was also one of the major causes that bring the February agreement of ceasefire to a failure. No doubt the ceasefire has so far reduced the violence paving the way for delivery of humanitarian aid to the country, particularly the besieged Aleppo where both sides are in dire need for. Still, U.S. and Russia are aware that the agreement would barely reach its final stages, if it could stand the several violations both sides are currently blaming each other for. Being realist, U.S., concerned by recent developments in the region, specifically rapprochement of Russia to Turkey and the achievements of Syrian army and its Russian and Iranian allies in strategic Aleppo as well as its fading role in Syria, is trying to buy time for itself and its allies in the region to turn the situation around. The temporary halt of violence on the terrorist's side is due to repairing and regrouping as the core of the anti-government militia in Syria are groups like ISIL and former al-Nusra Front (current Jabhat Fatah al Sham) and their several affiliates who have no interest in political talks and solution as their ultimate purpose is to topple down President Assad and the democratic government and to establish a caliphate, an essential part of which is in line with what U.S. is seeking in Syr-

ia. Talking about Syrian crisis, it should be always kept in mind that it was U.S. and its western allies who inflamed the conflict for regime change and invaded the Arab country under the pretext of fighting terrorism against the will of Damascus. Hence, the ceasefire deal, at its American prospect, is another time-buying plot to help the insurgents recover, particularly in strategic Aleppo where they have been encircled by government forces. Noteworthy, the truce states trucks should be allowed to travel into eastern Aleppo, which is held by terrorists and insurgents, without the need for written permission from the Syrian government and without stop in checkpoints. This would have no other meaning than lifting the siege, giving breathe time to terrorists and supplying them with arms and goods, or the so-called "humanitarian aid", as they have been heavily weakened by Syrian army recently.

Yet the greatest challenge would remain the separation of moderate terrorists, what Lavrov has called the top priority for both parties of the ceasefire. This is the point where many believe that the brokered truce would fail, as that would be impossible to differentiate between thousands of terrorists and tens of groups affiliated to each other and overlapped. The major problem, as well, would be the notorious al-Nusra Front, which includes several opposition groups U.S. doesn't want to target.

On the other hand, the temporary ceasefire would negatively influence the Syrian army and its allies in Aleppo. Ceasing attacks and air strikes and the possible delivery of aid to the terrorists may halt the advancements of Syrian army in battlefield. But from a different point of view, the

Syrian government may also take advantage of the temporary ceasefire to reinforce its army and forces.

The confidentiality of some parts of the deal, however, sets the ground for negative speculations. U.S. Department of State spokesman Mark Toner said at a briefing "There are some operational details, areas of sensitivity, we do not believe would be in the interest of the agreement, or in anyone's interest, to share," while Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov called on U.S. to publicize the deal; "In order to brush away any doubts on how we will fulfill our commitments in the way in which they were stipulated in the agreement, we suggested revealing these agreements and not keeping them secret, as our American partners wanted," he said, adding that Russia has nothing to conceal.

Overall it seems that Russia is the key player of the fragile Syrian ceasefire. With its increasing influence in the region stemming from its consistent and productive policies in Middle East, Russia has the upper hand in Syrian crisis and it should be noted that its presence in the Syria has been authorized by Damascus. The U.S.-Russia truce, whether successful or not, once again bolsters Russia's role and position in the region, demeaning the U.S. as a superpower, which is unable to settle down the crises it has triggered. It is now on Russia to not only convince Syria follow the ceasefire - as the two have so far proved to be loyal to - but also should have an eye on the United States to abide by the deal and stick to its commitments in convincing terrorist and armed groups to hold their fire.

NEWS

Putin: Terrorists use Syria ceasefire to try & regroup

Terrorists groups, which Russia expected to be separated from the so-called 'moderate rebels' with the United States help, and be subject to joint U.S.-Russian attacks, are instead using the ongoing ceasefire to regroup, the Russian president said.

"We agreed that the al-Nusra Front and the likes of it would be separated from the so-called healthy opposition factions, and we would be shown where the latter are located. But what we see today is not separation of the healthy part of the opposition and the terrorists. We see terrorist forces trying to regroup," Vladimir Putin told journalists on Saturday.

Moscow and Washington agreed last week to use their influence on the Syrian government and the so-called moderate rebel forces respectively to establish a ceasefire in the war-torn country. While violence diminished, progress is undetermined by violations.

Russia has repeatedly complained that the U.S. is failing to keep its part of the bargain and stop the mingling of armed groups, which genuinely want peace in Syria, and those which want the hostilities to continue.

The U.S. for its part accused Russia of not pressuring Damascus enough to facilitate humanitarian access to Syria. The Syrian government cited the danger posed by continued shelling by non-compliant rebel forces as the reason why humanitarian convoys were not allowed to pass through.

Putin said that despite the set-backs, Moscow is hopeful that this attempt at reconciliation in Syria would succeed.

"We are more positive than negative and expect that the promises, which the U.S. administration made to us, would be delivered," he said.

The two nations are also at odds over another key issue. Moscow says it wants the terms of the U.S.-Russian deal to be made public and endorsed in a United Nations Security Council resolution. Washington insists that the terms should remain classified, saying that otherwise the truce could be derailed.

(Source: RT)

Iran, Romania join hands to combat environmental challenges

1 →

Similarities between the policies in Iran and Romania are quite interesting, she said, adding, "That we have similar challenges and similar policies devised to address these challenges indicates that how important it is to cooperate both bilaterally and within the framework of international cooperation."

Pasca, for her part, explained that future steps in promoting this newly signed MOU will establish direct contacts between the institutions in both countries and can develop initiatives that are mutually beneficial.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is the pillar of stability in the region and also a country with tremendous natural patrimony and rich biodiversity which are all treasures to the world and this is why we are keen to strengthen the exchanges between our countries and learn from each other experiences," the minister highlighted.

Environmental matters such as moving towards sustainable forest management, monitoring forests and fighting wildfires, fighting poaching, mitigating water, soil and air pollution, restoring wetlands, combatting climate change and global warming as well as strengthening green economy and green technologies are of the areas the two countries have discussed so far and agreed upon for further cooperation.

The two countries would meet their commitments by exchanging experience and knowledge in the aforesaid areas by launching training courses, seminars and workshops, exchanging experts and scientists, and carrying out joint environmental projects.

In Bratislava, little unity for the European Union

8 →

Italy, a major but presently ailing economy, causes most concern, because of its size. On Thursday, the employers' federation, Confindustria, reported that it was downgrading its forecast growth for this year and the government said it would produce revised forecasts later this month. Luca Paolozzi, head of Confindustria's research unit, pointed out that Italy had not grown since 2000 - a 16-year stagnation which the country seems unable to shake off.

The continued stagnation of the southern economies, above all the continued low employment levels, creates a widening gulf between north and south. The north, led by Germany, calls for more reforms; the south begs for an end to austerity.

Nothing in that grim standoff was changed by the Friday meeting. The leaders adopted a road map of reforms and initiatives, but few details were readily available. Merkel and President Francois Hollande of France held a joint press conference, showing in their togetherness one of the largest foundation stones of the Union - an end to centuries of bloodshed between France and Germany. There were, said a spokesman, no recriminations.

But this was billed as an informal talk: a formal meeting would have had to include the UK, still a member even as - according to Prime Minister Theresa May - "Brexit means Brexit".

The remaining months of the EU's dreary year will tell whether or not the alliance has the will, the energy and the solidarity to preserve its shape and its mission in hard times. Hard times which are, by most indications, set to get harder.

(Source: Reuters)

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FOOTBALL

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Paul Pogba feature in Google Trends

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is the most Googled Premier League player this year.

The 34-year-old was the most popular player in 36 out of 120 countries where sufficient data was available up to mid-August, according to Google Trends.



Ibrahimovic topped the charts in Russia and dominated large swathes of Scandinavia, Asia and the Middle East. He also topped France - the home nation of the second-most searched player, Paul Pogba.

Pogba signed for United from Juventus for a world record fee of £93.25m in August and was the most popular player in 29 countries, including Canada, Australia and several African nations.

Some way behind the United duo were Chelsea's Pedro (seven countries), Leicester's Jamie Vardy (five) and Arsenal's Mesut Ozil (three).

Vardy was most popular in the United Kingdom, as well as in Cyprus, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Zimbabwe and Bermuda.

Bojan Krkic, Ramadan Sobhi, Riyad Mahrez, Sergio Agueiro and Xherdan Shaqiri all topped two countries apiece, while another 29 players claimed one each.

Besides Vardy, four other English players dominated territories outside the UK: Manchester City's Raheem Sterling topped the USA, Manchester United's Michael Carrick in the Gambia, Chelsea's John Terry in Taiwan and Tottenham's Dele Alli in Jersey.

Other Premier League stars that proved surprise favourites in faraway lands included Philippe Coutinho in Zambia, Juan Mata in Thailand, Henrikh Mkhitaryan in Somalia and Adnan Januzaj in Swaziland.

(Source: SkySports)

Chelsea must pay attention in every moment of every game - Antonio Conte

LONDON — Antonio Conte warned his Chelsea players that they must "feel the danger in every moment of the game" if they are to avoid a repeat of last season's Premier League capitulation, after a 2-1 defeat against Liverpool on Friday.

First-half goals from Dejan Lovren and Jordan Henderson gave a dominant Liverpool what proved an unassailable lead after 45 minutes at Stamford Bridge, though Diego Costa scored his fifth Premier League goal of the season in the 61st minute to set up a tense finale.

Much of the prematch talk centered around David Luiz's return to the heart of the Chelsea defence but the Brazilian was not directly at fault for either goal, with Philippe Coutinho's cross finding Lovren unmarked at the back post for the opener before Henderson curled a 30-yard strike into Thibaut Courtois' top corner.

"In the first half -- I must be honest -- I thought we gave away two goals," Conte said. "The first after a free-kick they took very quickly, the second after a throw-in and then a great goal from long distance.

"When you give away two goals in this way it's very difficult, because against Liverpool you play with a great team. These are tough games and I think you must pay attention in every moment, in every single minute of the game, in every second, because the details make the difference.

"It's not important if this defeat is my first defeat [as Chelsea head coach]. It's our first defeat. It's Chelsea's defeat and there are the players, the manager, the staff who work at this club. It's important to understand that every single game is very tough and we mustn't forget last season. It's important because last season was a bad season. I don't want to repeat last season.

"For this reason we must pay attention in every single moment of the game, in every minute. I'm guilty because I'm the coach and it means I have to work more on this aspect. Now it's not enough because it's not the first time this happened.

"We must feel the danger in every single moment of the game if we want to win, if we want to think like a great team. Chelsea is a great team but we must show this in every single game - to pay attention, to be focused."

Conte attracted widespread criticism from Chelsea supporters for his decision not to make any substitutions until the 84th minute, when he introduced fan favourite Cesc Fabregas, Victor Moses and Pedro Rodriguez all at once with his team 2-1 down and chasing an equaliser.

After the match Conte explained that he delayed making changes because he was encouraged by his team's second-half performance. "In the second half we started with the same players and you saw another game, with great intensity," the Italian insisted.

"We scored a goal, we created many chances to score the draw, and for this reason I waited to make the substitutions. Then the last 10, 15 minutes I changed three players. I put [on] fresh players to give freshness to try to change the result. In the past this happened. This time it didn't happen."

(Source: Soccernet)

Ronaldo at 40: Il Fenomeno's legacy as greatest ever No9, despite dodgy knees

The Brazilian will be 40 on Sunday and while many remember his injury-blighted latter years, at his fearsome peak for PSV, Barcelona and Internazionale he was arguably the most dangerous striker the world has ever seen.

A footballer's career does not end when he retires. The reputation of a player can change after the event because of anything from evolution to nostalgia. Some players have their achievements diminished by the next generation; others age beautifully. For the Brazilian Ronaldo, who turns 40 on Sunday, this is particularly acute. A number of forwards, from Thierry Henry to Lionel Messi, have achieved greatness - and in some cases surpassed him - by paying homage to his style of play; another has changed how we respond to his name. The need to distinguish the two Ronaldos has led to some unflattering comments. In 2013, when considering the merits of both, Sir Alex Ferguson absent-mindedly spoke for many in both his judgment and description. "If I compare Cristiano with the fat one, the old one, Cristiano is better."

The fat one. The old one. There are still plenty of people who remember him as the one: Il Fenomeno or - if you're into the whole Edson Arantes de Nascimento thing - Ronaldo Luis Nazario de Lima. Even before Cristiano, there were two Ronaldos: the one that returned after long-term injury in 2002 was a great goalscorer, but the 1990s version was a great everything.

The knee injuries suffered at Internazionale took away the explosiveness that made him possibly the greatest young footballer of all time, a futuristic fusion of speed, strength and skill. That is not to belittle Ronaldo's achievements in the second half of his career, when he scored eight goals in a single World Cup and became the first Ronaldo to receive a standing ovation at Old Trafford, but it is the memory of the early years that puts mist in the eyes of grown men.

By the time he suffered his first career-threatening injury in 1999, Ronaldo was 23 and had already scored more than 200 goals for Cruzeiro, PSV Eindhoven, Barcelona, Inter and Brazil. His solitary season at Barcelona went straight into folklore: he scored 47 in 49 games, many of them outrageous solo goals. That total looks relatively tame since the bar was raised by the other Ronaldo and Messi, but at the time it was almost unprecedented. In quantitative terms, you need to judge



Ronaldo by the standards of 1996, not 2016. Qualitatively, he stands up to the fiercest contemporary scrutiny. Old football can look relatively slow and clumsy, evolution being what it is, yet Ronaldo's speed is awesome even to modern eyes.

There were centre-forwards before Ronaldo who roamed and ran with the ball - Dixie Dean, Eusebio, Preben Elkjaer and especially George Weah - but none did it as devastatingly or excitingly. He did not get between the lines of the defence and midfield; he got between the lines of the defenders, with or without the ball. He did not pass the ball through the eye of the needle; he squeezed through it himself. His famous hat-trick against Valencia in 1996 included two remarkable goals in which he bulldozed through the tiniest gap between defenders. "He's not a man," said the former Real Madrid striker Jorge Valdano. "He's a herd."

That Barcelona team is seen as one of the great coaching seminars, with Pep Guardiola, Luis Enrique and Laurent Blanc on the pitch and José Mourinho on the bench. Ronaldo did not bother with all that theory. He could link play when necessary but at his best he was the antonym of tiki-taka: he just ran through everything and scored a goal.

He was faster with the ball than most people were without it. "When Ronaldo had the ball, he ran at 2,000 miles per hour," said Zinedine Zidane. His love of dribbling was such that in the majority of his one-on-ones he ran straight past the goalkeeper as if he was just another defender. Other times he would make a fool of the keeper: in the 1998 Uefa Cup final, he used sleight of hip to put Lazio's Luca Marchegiani on his backside without touching the ball.

At times Ronaldo was so unstoppable that you could have allowed all 11 players to use their hands and he would still have scored. "When he stripped, he looked like a boxer," said Robson. "He had wonderful biceps and shoulders with terrific definition." That speed and strength made him football's Jonah Lomu - but with the best of David Campese as well. He was very much a head-up dribbler. "I've never seen a player able to show such precise con-

trol at such high speed," said Marcel Desailly. "Watching him was like watching a character in a video game." In many ways he was the first PlayStation footballer. His stepover was a form of hypnosis, and his signature trick, the elastico, could certainly have come from a computer screen.

His most famous was on the great Alessandro Nesta in the 1998 Uefa Cup final. That match had been hyped as a meeting between the best attacker and the best defender in Serie A. Ronaldo destroyed Nesta. "It was the worst experience of my career," he said. Nesta watched the match repeatedly on video, trying to work out what he had done wrong, until he finally had his Eureka moment: there was nothing anyone could have done. "Ronaldo," he said, "was simply unstoppable."

Some defenders, particularly in Serie A, would try to stop him by foul means or foul-er. But for the most part Ronaldo left a great generation of centre-backs at their wits' end, their brains melting with the demands of concentrating against him for 90 minutes. Gary Neville, who played in the centre of defence against Brazil during Le Tournoi in 1997, recalled Ronaldo and Romário laughing their heads off at a joke while play was going on at the other end and England's defenders were gulping oxygen.

An opposing defence could not even contemplate relaxing while he was on the field, whether it was 22 seconds into the second half of a World Cup semi-final or in the 89th minute of his final game for Barcelona. They were drawing 0-0 against Deportivo in a match they had to win to retain a realistic chance of winning the title. Ronaldo went on one last charge but was knocked over 35 yards from goal. He stayed on the floor for a second or two, watching the play; then, when a Deportivo player fractionally miscontrolled the ball, he sprang to his feet, surged through the defence and scored. One moment he was on his back 35 yards from goal; three touches and four seconds later he was celebrating. It was a perfect summary of his year in Catalonia. "He's the most spectacular player I've ever seen," said Luis Enrique, who played with him at the Camp Nou and

is now Barcelona's manager. "He did things I'd never seen before. We're now used to seeing Messi dribble past six players, but not then. He was strong, a beast."

When Ronaldo put Compostela on the football map by scoring his most famous goal against them in 1996, Robson turned away and put his hands over his head. He looked like he could not cope with seeing such brilliant football, especially from somebody who had only turned 20 less than a month earlier.

Nothing in sport excites like the emergence of a brilliant young player, such is the seductive infinity of potential. Ronaldo is easily the best of the past 30 years, possibly ever. The other Ronaldo and Messi were brilliant teenagers but had nothing like the same impact at that age. Only Pelé, Diego Maradona and George Best can really compare. In 1997, aged 21, Ronaldo became the youngest winner of the Ballon d'Or, a record he still holds. He received 38 votes for first place that year; nobody else got more than two. He also broke the world transfer record twice before his 21st birthday; Maradona is the only other player to break it twice at any age. "If it wasn't for injury I think he would be talked about on the same level as Pelé and Maradona," said the Juventus and Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. "He had all the skills needed to be the best ever. He was like an alien because of what he could do on the pitch." That is not an isolated view. Robson said: "Had he managed to stay free of injury, he had every chance of becoming the best footballer ever."

Most blame those knee injuries for the fact he peaked so early, though others think it was more down to lifestyle. Either way, the romantic "what if" has enhanced his legend in some ways. We get to have our cake and not eat it; to wonder wistfully how good it might have tasted.

There are players who have achieved more but nobody has yet replicated Ronaldo's blend of skill, strength and astonishing speed. He brought the visceral thrill of the 100 metres to the football field. Every time he got involved in an attack it was like a starter pistol went off: on your marks, get set, goal.

(Source: Guardian)

Jurgen Klopp on Liverpool's win at Chelsea: 'We played football like hell'

Jurgen Klopp said Liverpool "played football like hell" as his side defeated Chelsea 2-1 on Friday night.

Dejan Lovren's volley and Jordan Henderson's wonder strike gave Klopp a second victory at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League since he took over the Reds last season.

Diego Costa found a second-half goal for Chelsea, and while Klopp said the Blues were "too strong" to control for all 90 minutes, he was particularly pleased with his side's performance before the break.

"The beginning was brilliant -- brilliant from my side. We played football like hell. It was really nice to watch," the German said on Sky Sports after the game.

"And then we scored the goals in other moments. We were quick in mind after set pieces, which we didn't do too often, but it was wonderful. What can I say?"

"Then second half, of course it was a little more difficult with less power. It was getting intense. We invested a lot more in the first half than Chelsea, so Chelsea came then in the second half. That's not too fair, but it's normal."

"And they scored a goal but after the goal we managed it again. It was absolutely OK. Not a lot of chances for them."

Klopp nearly giggled when asked about Henderson's strike from distance into the top corner.



"It was really nice and it was deserved," Klopp said. "He's a hard-worker and he's still a young lad and a lot of pressure on his shoulders, and we are helping him to learn how to handle it and he's getting better and better and better."

"He did well and gets the benefit of all the hard work with a wonderful, wonderful strike."

Asked about his first goal of the season, Henderson said: "I was just thinking about protection, but there was a clearance and I just took a good touch at my feet and just tried to bend it in the far corner and thankfully it went in."

"[Thibaut Courtois] is a world-class keeper, but it's about time really I got a goal, but I always say the most important thing is the three points."

Liverpool went level with Chelsea on 10 points in five games, and Henderson said he believed his side were well worth their fine start to the season.

"It keeps our momentum going," he said. "We have been training well and I had a good feeling going into the game. We knew it would be difficult as Chelsea are a good side but I thought we defended well and deserved the three points."

The goals gave the Reds a 2-0 lead after the first half, which Lovren called Liverpool's finest 45 minutes thus far in the campaign.

"We always know it's a tough game here to play but I think we did brilliantly. Especially the first half, we played I think the best football this season," the defender said. "We dropped a little bit back in the second half, but in the end a fully deserved win."

"It's always good to score, but the most important thing are the three points. We're acting like a team. The spirit is really, around the club, perfect, so we just need to keep working stronger and stronger."

(Source: ESPN)

Iran's football 7-a-side team ranks 2nd in Rio 2016 Paralympics

The Iranian men's national football 7-a-side team collect a silver medal in the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

On Friday, the Iranian side conceded the title 1-2 to Ukraine after a game at the Deodoro Stadium.

The Iranian team had goalkeeper Babak Safari Kourabbasloo, defenders Hashem Rastegari Mobin, Lotfollah Jangjou, and midfielders Farzad Mehri, Hossein Tizbor, Mehdi Jamali and Jaseem Bakhshi in its initial line-up.

The Ukrainian team exerted pressure on Iran's goal from the beginning of the game until the 10th minute, when the Persians managed to decrease the pressure on them and establish themselves as a power to be reckoned with.

In the 24th minute, Safari kicked the ball out of the penalty area, but 37-year-old midfielder Antoniuk Volodymyr unleashed a shot toward Iran's goal two minutes later to nail the opener for Ukraine.

Iranian players built up pressure on their opponents' goalpost after the break, and went close to scoring the equalizer but didn't quite get there.

They eventually managed to level the score at 1-1 in the 50th minute, when Jamali hit the back of the net.

Both teams failed to net the winner in the remaining minutes of the second half, and the gold medal match went into extra-time.

Artem Krasnylykov, 25, put Ukraine ahead in the 65th minute when he sailed the ball past Safari and into Iran's net.

Two minutes later, Jamali squandered a marvelous opportunity and failed to net in a one-on-one position.

The Iranians then attempted but failed to equalize.

Earlier in the day, the Brazilian hosts had emerged victorious in their last battle against the Netherlands, and finished in the third place to receive the bronze medal.

Also on Friday, Iranian sportsman Hamed Amiri took part in the men's shot put F54/55 category contests at the Estádio Olímpico João Havelange, also known as



Nilton Santos Stadium, and collected a silver medal with a throw of 11.40.

Bulgaria's Ruzhdi Ruzhdi was awarded the gold medal with his best attempt of 12.33 meters. Lech Stoltman from Poland threw 11.39 meters to grab the bronze.

Iranian athletes have so far clinched 21 medals — seven golds, eight silvers and six bronzes — and the Islamic Republic is in the 16th slot of the medal count table.

China is on the top of the medal count table with 217

medals (94 golds, 74 silvers and 49 bronzes).

Britain has claimed the second spot with 126 medals (58 golds, 33 silvers, 35 bronzes), and Ukraine is on the third with a total of 106 medals (38 golds, 33 silvers and 35 bronzes).

The United States, Australia, Brazil, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland and Italy are in the 4th to 10th places respectively.

(Source: PressTV)



Iran's sitting volleyball team cruises into Rio 2016 Paralympics final

Iran's sitting volleyball players have managed to book a place in the final fixture of the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, following a sweeping victory over the hosts.

On Friday evening, the Iranian squad achieved a remarkable 3-0 win, with set scores of 25-20, 25-19 and 25-17, against the Brazilian side at the massive Riocentro - Pavilion 6 indoor stadium.

The Iranian players had defeated the Netherlands 3-2, with set scores of 25-21, 25-13, 23-25, 15-25 and 15-13, in their quarterfinal match the previous day.

They are scheduled to play against Bosnia and Herzegovina in the title clash of the tournament on Sunday.

"Our players deserve to clinch the championship,

since they have been fairly determined in their show-downs against opposite sides. Yet, odds are likely to happen when it comes to sports. I make no promise of earning the championship, but we will do our best to defeat Bosnia," Iran's head coach Hadi Rezaei said.

"[The Iranian] players really made a deal of efforts in this edition of the [Paralympic] Games, and exhibited fine performances. The London [2012 Paralympics] final was a happening, which I hope that it will not be repeated in Rio. We still cannot get along with the defeat sustained at the hands of Bosnia and Herzegovina," Iran's captain Davood Alipourian said.

(Source: PressTV)

Iran advance as Jordan's luck runs out in Semi-Finals

Jordan came into this game winners of their last five games, but their luck finally ran out as they lost to hosts Iran, 74-63, in the Semi-Finals of FIBA Asia Challenge 2016 in Tehran, Iran.

Jordan's naturalized player Dar Tucker started hot in this game, scoring 10 of his team's first 12 points, but not even his individual brilliance could carry Al Nashama into the Final. Coach Sam Daghas couldn't get much out of key players Zaid Abbas and Ahmad Al-Hamarsheh here, and that made it even tougher for them to match up with Iran, which saw four players score in double-figures, led by 2.18m behemoth Hamed Haddadi.

Turning Point: Jordan were trailing by just three points entering the fourth quarter, but their rotation was thrown off-kilter when Ali Jamal Zaghab fouled out early in the final frame. That prompted Iran to rattle off seven unanswered points care of a Mohammad Jamshidi three, a Hamed Haddadi inside foray, and a Sajjad



Mashayekhi steal that turned into 2 fastbreak points. All of a sudden, Jordan found themselves trailing by 10, and they couldn't fully recover.

Stats Don't Lie: Playmaking was a major factor in the outcome of this game. With Tucker having a score-first

mentality and Iran's defense reacting well, Jordan had trouble distributing the basketball. Al Nashama ended up with a paltry 6 assists the entire game, while Iran had a dozen. Jamshidi led them in this department with 4 assists.

Game Hero: Hamed Haddadi imposed his will in the paint and around the basket. He has really slowed down the past couple of years, but his basketball IQ and all-around finesse in the shaded lane more than made up for his diminished mobility. Haddadi recorded his first 20-20 ballgame, scoring 26 points and grabbing 20 rebounds on top of 6 blocked shots.

The Bottom Line: Iran were wary of Jordan's capabilities, but Team Melli prepared really well. Iran's defense was generally disciplined, and that made it difficult for guys like Abbas and Al-Hamarsheh to get any rhythm. Iran now book a return trip to the Final, one step closer to that third straight tournament title, though they still don't know they'll play.

(Source: FIBA)

De Boer confident Inter will be back where they belong

Frank de Boer is adamant Inter will return to the top irrespective of their underwhelming start to the 2016-17 campaign.

Inter have collected just four points from their opening three Serie A fixtures, while they were beaten 2-0 by Hapoel Be'er Sheva in the Europa League on Thursday.

Pressure on De Boer is already building following his stuttering start to life at San Siro, but the Dutchman remains optimistic ahead of Sunday's match against champions Juventus.

"Pressure is to be expected at Inter. We're working hard to make sure we improve. I'm convinced that we will put Inter back where it belongs," De Boer stated at a news conference.

"We're up against a very strong side, everyone knows that. I have great respect for what Juventus have achieved. We analyse all our opponents with the same level of care, no matter who they are. You will see how we play on Sunday. The game against Juventus is a special one for us all. The stadium will be full and we will feel the support of our fans.

"The whole squad and everyone around the club wants us to do well in a really important match. We lost our



heads a bit after we conceded [on Thursday]. We need to maintain the same intensity whenever we play. The whole team is ready to play 90 minutes. There are no more excuses for not being fit. We've worked hard on that."

(Source: Goal)

Lahm eyes role upstairs at Bayern Munich

Bayern Munich captain Philipp Lahm is keen on remaining with the club when his playing career ends.

Lahm, who retired from international football after he lifted the 2014 World Cup with Germany, intends to quit when his current Bayern deal expires in 2018.

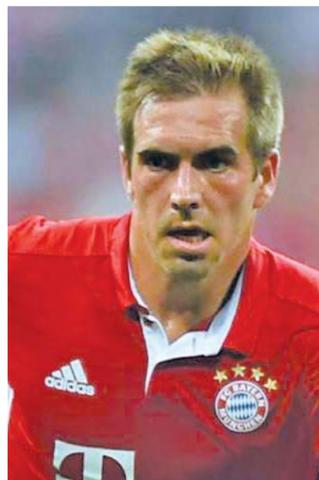
As a product of the Bayern youth system, Lahm is keen to become the latest playing icon to take on a role behind the scenes at the Allianz Arena when he hangs up his boots, following talks with chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"Last week was the first time I discussed the subject with Karl-Heinz Rummenigge," he told *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

"I've always said that I would like to stay with FC Bayern."

Bayern are without a sporting director at present after Matthias Sammer stood down in July, while Lahm has already made steps into the business world as a co-partner of cosmetics manufacturer Sixtus Werke Schliersee.

"For me it is a further training," he



said. "I learn something new to know about the distribution.

"For this, the numbers are coming. I always get reports on how it runs.

"This is very interesting for me. It does not hurt to be independent."

(Source: Soccerway)

FOOTBALL

U-16 Championship - MD2: Group A Preview

Coach Abbas Chamanian (pictured) already has one eye on the AFC U-16 Championship India 2016 quarter-finals as Islamic Republic of Iran prepare to face off with the United Arab Emirates in Group A at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday.

The Iranians endured a tough opening 45 minutes to the continental competition, trailing 2-0 to Saudi Arabia at half-time, but responded emphatically after the interval as goals from Allahyar Sayyad, Mohammed Ghaderi and Alireza Asadabadi secured a 3-2 victory.

Next up for Chamanian's Iran is a UAE side who also claimed a come-from-behind 3-2 win, against hosts India, in their first match of the AFC youth tournament.

"It's very important for both teams to win this game because the winner of the group may have an easier game in the quarter-finals," said coach Chamanian.

"We have analysed UAE's game against India and have knowledge of their system. They're a good team and were able to come back into the game and defeat the hosts."

UAE, meanwhile, played out a similar scenario in their first game at the tournament by coming from 2-1 down at half-time to eventually record an impressive 3-2 scoreline over India thanks to Manea Aydh's winner 16 minutes from time.

"I want to congratulate Iran for their win against Saudi Arabia; we will now look at that game and study their positive and negative points," said coach Abdelmajeed Al Nemer.

"We will try to find a way to get a good result against them. We are going to look for three points but the minimum we expect is a point."

Sunday's other Group A encounter pits Nicolai Adam's India against Saudi Arabia in a tie that both teams will be looking to register their first points of the competition.

After an outstanding opening 45 minutes by Adam's team, the young Blue Tigers let a 2-1 lead slip before eventually succumbing to a 3-2 defeat.

"The atmosphere after the opening match was not good," said Adam. "But I told them we have to suck it in and experience the suffering, and that energy we will put into the next game.

"I don't consider the game a must-win — we will continue our work. But we want to win and we will do our best."

Saudi Arabia also put in a dominant first-half showing in their opening fixture but were poor after the restart, and will now be looking for a positive response against the hosts.

"Losing the first game, especially in such a scenario, was of course upsetting for the whole team," said coach Mohammed Al Abdali. "But we have worked on maintaining the players' confidence and I hope they will show great spirit tomorrow.

"India is a good team and we expect a tough game. Both sides need to win, which makes the task harder — we need the win as much as they do."

(Source: AFC)

PSG can trust Cavani completely to keep scoring, says Matuidi

Paris Saint-Germain star Blaise Matuidi is hoping Edinson Cavani's four-goal salvo against Caen will provide the striker with the confidence he needs to go on a scoring spree.

The Uruguay international has come under fire this season after initially struggling to fill the boots of Zlatan Ibrahimovic in the central striking role at PSG — a position he has publicly craved for some time.

But the tide has been swinging in Cavani's favour of late, with his goal in mid-week against Arsenal in the Champions League and four more — all in the first half — at Caen indicating an upturn in form.

And his displays in front of goal have provided Matuidi with evidence that his team-mate is starting to emerge from the Swede's shadow.

"He already scored against Arsenal and [against Caen] he got four goals so we are really pleased for him. I hope he will keep moving forward," the midfielder told reporters.

"We know that Edi is a guy who needs confidence. We know that. But he's a very talented player. He scores a lot of goals every season.

"We trust him completely. I know that he will score a lot of goals this year."

Close-season recruit Grzegorz Krychowiak believes Caen walked into a PSG backlash following their frustrating draw against the Gunners at the Parc des Princes.

The Poland midfielder said: "I think we've been a little disappointed because I think we could have won against Arsenal. We had several chances to. Unfortunately we lacked a bit of efficiency.

"The win against Caen is good for what lies ahead. We will keep going."

(Source: Goal)





Poem of the day

Who was it brought thee here at nightfall, who?
Forth from the harem in this manner, who?
To him who in thy absence burns as fire,
And trembles like hot air, who was it, who?

Khayyam

Prayer Times

Noon:12:58 Evening: 7:25 Dawn: 5:26 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:50 (tomorrow)

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

NEWS IN BRIEF



"Oblivion Season",
"Invisible Player"
share best film award
at Salento festival

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Abbas Rafei's acclaimed drama "Oblivion Season" and Italian director Stefano Alpini's "The Invisible Player" shared the award for best feature at the 13th Salento International Film Festival.

"Oblivion Season" was also the opening movie of the festival, which was held in Tricase, Italy from September 2 to 10.

The film tells the story of Fariba, an ex-prostitute who starts a new life by marrying her lover, but leaving the shadow of her dark past turns out not to be as easy as it had seemed beforehand.



Iranian films to go
on screen at Warsaw
Film Festival

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Parviz Shahbazi's latest movie "Malaria" will go on screen in the international competition of the 32nd Warsaw Film Festival, which will be held in the Polish city from October 7 to 16.

The film is about a young girl who informs her father that she has been kidnapped while in truth she has run away with her boyfriend.

In addition, another Iranian film "Lanturi" by Reza Dormishian will also be screened in Discoveries, a non-competitive section.



Italian musician
Francesco-Maria
Manara to hold
master class in Tehran

T A R T TEHRAN — Italian violin virtuoso Francesco-Maria Manara will hold a master class at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on September 21.

The program has been organized by Iran's Rudaki Foundation in collaboration with Teatro alla Scala, the most famous opera house in Milan, Italy.



"Fish and I" crowned
best at U.S. filmfest

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Babak Habibfar's short film "Fish and I" won the best international short film award at the 16th Annual International Nevada City Film Festival, which was held in the American city from September 8 to 11.

The film is about a blind man who tries to save the life of his goldfish.

Landmine victims under spotlight at Tehran exhibit

T A R T TEHRAN — An exhibition opened at Tehran's No. 6 Gallery on Friday showcasing photos by Mehdi Monem that turn the spotlight on landmine victims in Iran.

In his new series titled "After the War", Monem shows ordinary people who were injured by landmines leftover from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war that were laid mainly in border towns, the Persian service of ISNA reported on Saturday.

"This collection contains 12 black and white portraits of victims in addition to photos of a family injured after Iraq's chemical attack on the Iranian village of Zardeh near Dalahu in Kermanshah Province on July 22, 1988, after Iran had accepted UN Resolution 598, which ended the Iran-Iraq war on July 20 1988," Monem explained.

"Another collection centers on a young couple. The man named Sala has lost his two eyes and hands in a landmine explosion, but his wife Serveh is an educated woman who is physically healthy and has chosen to marry Sala.

"The photos show the young couple's life and daily activities," Monem added.

On his aim behind the subjects of his photos, Monem said, "These subjects are a part of the history of Iran. They are about a great event, which has happened in the country. Actually, war is history and all the related events are part of this great history. I try to record that part of history, which future generations would surely want to see, and I also intend to state that war is something ugly and is not acceptable regardless of what the reason might be."

He continued, "The photos can help peace.



Art fans visit an exhibition of photos by Mehdi Monem on landmine victims in Iran at Tehran's No. 6 Gallery on September 16, 2016. (Honaronline/Farzan Qasemi)

I make all my efforts to show that war is not a desirable event and we are all committed to strive to establish genuine peace. These photos are actually the ambassadors of peace."

The photographer also mentioned that the Red

Crescent has been supporting him. "This means it has been a successful job", he remarked.

The exhibit will be running until September 23 at the gallery located at No.2, 20th Alley, off Mirzaye Shirazi St.

Muslim British journalist Yvonne Ridley on Resistance festival panel

T A R T TEHRAN — Yvonne Ridley, the Muslim British journalist who was captured by the Taliban in 2001, will judge the short films and animations of the 14th International Resistance Film Festival (IRFF), organizers announced on Saturday.

The International Resistance Film Festival will be held in Tehran from September 23 to 30, during the Sacred Defense Week to commemorate the

anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

Ridley converted to Islam after release, and later became an outspoken opponent of Zionism.

"Torture - Does It Work? Interrogation Issues and Effectiveness in the Global War on Terror", "In the Hands of the Taliban: Her Extraordinary Story" and "Ticket to Paradise" are some of the books written by Ridley.

Iranian filmmakers Majid Majidi and Ahmadreza Darvish have been selected for the jury of the official competition of the festival.

In addition, filmmakers Rashed Radwan from Spain and Anis Lassoued from Tunisia will judge works at various sections of the festival.

The event will also host the U.S. filmmaker Abdallah Omeish to promote his documentary "The War around Us".



PICTURE OF THE DAY

IRNA/Mohammad Babai



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati (R) and Archbishop Sebouh Sarkissian, the prelate of the Armenian diocese of Tehran, shake hands during a meeting held by an association of Iranian-Armenian journalists at Tehran's Parsian Enghelab Hotel on September 17, 2016 to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Alik, a Tehran-based Armenian-language daily.

Ukraine hands back stolen paintings to Dutch museum

KIEV (Reuters) — Kiev authorities handed over to the Netherlands on Friday five masterpieces stolen from a Dutch museum in 2005 and recovered in Ukraine earlier this year.

The paintings - part of a group of 24 works valued at 10 million euros when they went missing in 2005 - were said in December to have been discovered in a villa in a pro-Russian separatist controlled area of eastern Ukraine.

Dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, they will now head back to Westfries Museum in Hoorn, north of Amsterdam, from where they first disappeared when thieves hid in the building before closing time and disabled the alarm system before making off with the artworks.

"I can't wait to see these beautiful objects of art back in the place where they belong," Westfries Museum director Ad Geerdink said at a handover ceremony at the Dutch embassy in Kiev. "It will feel like some of our lost sons finally come home."

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ Paintings by Arian Lavasani is on show in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery.



The exhibit entitled "Hidden Reality" will be running until September 28 at the gallery located at 24 Sinai Alley, off Keyhan St. and Moqaddas-e Ardabili Ave.

■ Paintings by Mahya Giv are on display in an exhibition at Arte Gallery.



The exhibit entitled "Cold Summer Morning" runs through September 25 at the gallery located on Molla Sadra St. near Vanak Square.

Multimedia

■ Atbin Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures and installations by Jeyran Fakhri-Musavi.



The exhibit entitled "Dinosnail" runs until September 27 at the gallery, which can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, off Vali-e Asr Ave near Parkway Intersection.

Painting/sculpture

■ Shirin Gallery is currently playing host to two separate exhibitions.



A collection of paintings entitled "Remnants of Tehran" by Aisling Sareh Haqshenas is on show in one of the halls of the gallery.

Another hall of the gallery is showcasing sculptures by Mahdieh Pazuki in an exhibit named "The Margin Versus the Text".

Both exhibits run until September 28 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

Pulitzer-winning playwright Edward Albee dies at 88 at his NY home

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee, whose provocative and often brutal look at American life in works such as "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" earned him a reputation as one of the greatest American dramatists, died on Friday in Montauk, New York. He was 88.

He died in the late afternoon at his summer home in Montauk, a seaside fishing hamlet on the eastern tip of Long Island, after suffering a short illness to which he apparently succumbed, Albee's assistant, Jakob Holder, told Reuters.

Holder said the playwright was not alone at the time of his death, but declined to furnish any further details.

Albee once told the Paris Review that he decided at age 6 that he was a writer but chose to work in the format of plays after concluding he was not a very good poet or novelist. His works would eventually rank him alongside Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neill in American drama.

Albee described a playwright as "someone who lets his guts hang out on the stage," and the innards of his own works included a powerful anger as he pushed themes such as

alienation, resentment and the dark underside of life in the 1950s.

In the preface to his play "American Dream," Albee described his approach as "an examination of the American Scene ... a condemnation of complacency, cruelty, emasculation, and vacuity ... a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen."

The harsh humor and ferocity that prevailed in his more than 25 works long divided critics and audiences, earning Albee as much condemnation as praise. He always returned the volley of attacks, calling his critics fools and

his Broadway audiences "placid cows."

"Art should expand the boundaries of the form and, simultaneously, it should change our perceptions," he told his biographer. "I despise restful art."

Albee made his name, and shocked audiences, when his scathing drama "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" opened on Broadway in 1962. Actors Arthur Hill and Uta Hagen starred as a married couple, George and Martha, who invite two friends over for an evening that deteriorates amid vitriol, drunkenness, profanity, cruel mind games and physical abuse.