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Zarif says Caspian Sea legal regime must guarantee interests of littoral states

2

Turkey PM says aims to develop relations with Syria, Iraq

Turkey aims to develop good relations with Syria and Iraq, and both countries need to be stable for counter-terrorism efforts to succeed,

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Wednesday. Turkey has long been one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's staunchest op-

ponents, arguing that only his departure could stabilize Syria. The stance set it at odds with Assad's ally Russia and distanced it from a United

States-led coalition more focused on fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group. →9

British credit agency to finance Iranian water, power projects

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's desk Ministry of Energy and UK Export Finance (UKEF) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in London over financing Iranian water and electricity projects, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The MOU was penned on Tuesday by Director General of Health, Safety and Environment Department of the Iranian Energy Ministry Bahram Taheri and UKEF's Head of Business Group Gordon Welsh, in the presence of Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian, the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a number of British authorities. "All the Iranian energy projects which require foreign investment or finance should obtain UKEF's insurance coverage," Chitchian told IRNA after the agreement's signing ceremony, hoping that the inked MOU would ease financing of Iranian projects by British companies.

"Iran is in need of huge investments in power sector and plans to add 47,000 to 50,000 megawatts to its current capacity in the coming ten years," he said.

Chitchian, accompanied by a delegation, arrived in London on Monday to confer on development of bilateral water and electricity cooperation and attraction of investments with the European country. →4

JCPOA: One year later

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Last desk year on such a day, July 14, Iran and six world powers — the U.S., Russia, China, England, France, and Germany — signed a historic agreement on Tehran's nuclear program.

Under the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was granted relief from international sanctions in exchange for a limit on its nuclear activities. The agreement went into effect on January 16 in the current year.

For Iran, the most important achievement of the negotiations was to make the other side recognize Tehran's right to nuclear technology, including uranium enrichment.

→2



PERSPECTIVE
By **Matin Moslem**
international relations expert

Make no mistake about Brexit

You are totally free to find any justification for better understanding what has come down as "wishing for the separation of the U.S. from Europe". Although this is a quite dreamy wish, the preliminary assessments show that this is not bound only to mere freedom. Any explanation should be founded on realities. This is a philosophical and historical challenge between hard facts and optimal wishes which the pragmatic politics of the 20th century has not been able to overcome.

Thus, I don't know whether Brexit was firstly a bland British joke that turned serious, or was a serious matter in the European body politics that burgeoned in Britain. Whatever it was, it turned the green continent into a ball of fire.

The British democracy has now turned against its primal logic of the priority of the will of the majority on the insistence of the minority. The British pull the rug from under the feet of the European allies and now are waiting for others to pay for it. It was for this that Merkel crossly said that Britain cannot only pick the best items in the menu. Or the European Commission chairman who lashes the British and wants them either to confess to their mistake or go quickly and pay for the Hyde Park stupidity.

It is hard to imagine the effect of the Brexit. It can be said that the event can lead to a big mistake against those who think a bloody domestic war broke out on June 23. With a conservative outlook, it should be said that any revolutionary understanding of the event that includes the prospect of using a stand-off against the EU can lead to a dire mistake.

The undeniable truth is that basic relations between Europe and the U.S. lie on three maxims of comprehensive security, overall political backing, and unified defense against common threats. →9

The future of Iran-South Korea relations is bright: analyst

INTERVIEW
By **Vahid Pourtoajrishi**

TEHRAN — Myung-koo Kang, a professor of politics at Baruch College in New York, says that the prospect of relations between Tehran and Seoul is "bright"

"I see the future is bright," Myung-koo Kang tells the Tehran Times

Kang also sees General Park Chung-hee's "economy first" ideology as the main engine of economic development in South Korea. However, he is greatly worried about a possible military confrontation between North and South Korea, saying, "If there breaks out a real war, both sides will get de-

stroyed completely."

Full text of interview is given in below:

■ What were the most significant works of General Park Chung-hee in the process of modernizing South Korea?

A: First, he was successful in setting up a clear ideological vision

for economic development. He launched an "economy first" ideology and was able to mobilize the Korean people to work hard to get out of poverty. Indeed, in the early 1960s, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. Per capita GDP was lower than that of many Asian and African countries.

During his rule (1961-79), South Korea was able to achieve an industrial take-off, transforming an agrarian society into an industrializing one.

Second, he was successful in building a capable government with loyalists, committed to economic development or more broadly modernization of the "Fatherland". Immediately after he took over the political power by a coup in 1961, he conducted administrative reforms, strengthening the economic bureaucracy. He specifically created the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and used it as the pilot agency which was in charge of economic planning and coordinating macroeconomic policies. →9

If I have to choose only one factor that contributed to the modernization process, I would pick the Korean people's zeal for education. Of course, the Korean government tried to provide good primary and professional education, but more importantly, the Korean people aspired to get more education for their social mobility and professional success.

Tehran center to review Kiarostami's "First Case, Second Case"

ART TEHRAN — World-renowned Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami's 1979 documentary "First Case, Second Case" will be screened at the cinemathèque of Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on July 16.

Film critic Akbar Aalami will also conduct a review of the film after the screening.

"First Case, Second Case" is about a teacher who wants to know who makes funny noises in the class so he dismisses a group of students for one week until one

of them tells him who the one that made the noises was.

The film goes on with two different endings and Kiarostami asks some of the most famous Iranian people at that time about their views on these endings.

Gazprombank starting activity in Iran among other Russian banks

MOSCOW (TASS) — Gazprombank is starting activity in Iran among other Russian banks, Akbar Komijani, deputy governor of Iran's Central Bank is quoted as saying by the Bloomberg agency.

Komijani said he has held talks in St. Petersburg with "big Russian banks."

The presence of Russian banks is a necessary condition for increasing trade turnover between countries and for the expansion of Russian companies on the Iranian market.

In March 2016, there was a meeting in the Bank of Russia between representatives of major Russian and Iranian credit institutions, as well as the two countries' Central Banks to discuss the priorities of interbank cooperation, mutual opening of correspondent accounts by credit organizations, as well as the promotion of mutual foreign trade settlements. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Russia, the Moscow Stock Exchange, the JSC Russian Agency for Export Credit and Investment Insurance (EXIAR),



Vnesheconombank, Iranian and Russian credit organizations.

Moscow and Tehran also discuss interaction of the payment systems and wider use of the national currencies in mutual settlements.

Director General of the International Affairs Department at the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Hossein Yaghoubi Miab said on June 16 that the bank began working with Gazprombank, but would like to expand the number of Russian partner-banks. "We are now in the process of reestablishment of correspondent relations with Russia. The positive thing is that we have started negotiations with Gazprombank and we have fulfilled all the recommendations. But we

expect even more (Russian banks) ... Now we do not have issues relating to sanctions, so we look forward to developing the correspondent (interbank) relations," he said at a panel session at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The United Nations, United States and European Union lifted on January 16 economic and financial sanctions on Iran that had been imposed in connection with the Iranian nuclear program. On January 17, the SWIFT international banking system announced the lifting of the sanctions regime on Iranian banks. According to the Central Bank of Iran, now all Iranian banks are connected to the international system of bank telecommunications.

Gazprombank is one of the three largest banks in Russia and ranks fifth in the list of banks in Central and Eastern Europe. The bank is owned by the Russian natural gas company Gazprom. Gazprombank as a universal financial institution delivers a wide range of banking and investment services for over 45,000 corporate and about 3 million private clients.

PERSPECTIVE
By **Ali Kushki**
Tehran Times journalist

JCPOA anniversary, American pragmatism philosophy, and Tehran's post-deal grievances

Last year on July 14, Iran and the six world powers - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany - ironed out protracted dispute over Tehran's nuclear program which they claimed mounted a threat to the world.

Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), now a buzzword in political and economic texts, Iran agreed to roll back its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

From a political vantage point, the pact is unparalleled in the recent history of international relations which is fraught with tension and confrontational moments.

Particularly, over the past years, this was the first time one subject while falling under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter was peacefully thrashed out. The chapter deals with sanctions and authorization of military force against a country.

The very makeup of negotiators, also, was a distinction of the so-called nuclear parleys. For a long time, international interaction was substantially impinged upon by the polarity concept, which favored bifurcation of the world into Western and Eastern blocs.

This is while the dualistic ruling of the international scene has gradually given place to a collective mindset, as evidenced during nearly two years of nuclear marathon between Iran and the six world powers.

Nevertheless, as the famed American philosopher William James eloquently puts, truths and phenomena, the nuclear agreement in the current argument, have to be appraised in terms of their consequences or use-value; what the philosopher calls pragmatism. →2

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran strongly rejects Bahrain's allegations about ties with bombing suspects

TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry has denied Bahrain's claims about relations between Tehran and the bombing suspects detained in the tiny Arab country recently.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Wednesday described the Bahraini Interior Ministry's statement as "redundant, baseless and a lie" and a "worn-out and extinct method," Fars reported.

He called on the Bahraini government to take lessons from the similar fruitless measures taken in the past and find the root causes of their internal problems instead of repeating such baseless accusations and adopting useless approaches.

"Unfortunately, the Bahraini government raises such fake and claims in an attempt to project the blame on others for its internal conflicts and escape accountability to the public opinion," Qassemi said.



Faisal created Al-Qaeda, Taliban: Zarif

TEHRAN — Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal was the creator of Al-Qaeda and Taliban and left a very dark record in the Saudi kingdom, the Iranian foreign minister said in reaction to Faisal's attendance at a recent MKO meeting in Paris.

Speaking on Tuesday in Astana, Mohammad Javad Zarif said Faisal and other figures who attended the meeting are in the wrong because they tie their future to terrorist groups, Khorasan daily reported.



73% Iranians believe nuclear deal did not change their economic status

TEHRAN — 73 percent of Iranians believe the nuclear deal has not changed their economic status, a recent poll by the Toronto-based IranPoll says.

The poll says it did not make sense to Iranians why banking problems remained after the implementation of the deal.



Tehran City Council moves to monitor mayor's financial maneuvers

TEHRAN — The Tehran City Council is taking measures that if successful, it will contribute to the financial transparency of the mayor, Sharq daily reported on Wednesday.

Accordingly, 22 members of the council have signed a document that requires a partial limitation of the mayor's financial privileges.

"The mayor and his deputies enjoy privileges beyond the law and we are seeking ways to control their financial performances since there is no transparency in that area," council member Ahmad Hakimpour said.



Rouhani appoints three new aids

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday appointed Alireza Avaei as the director of the Special Presidential Inspection Office.

He also appointed Hossein-Ali Amiri as his deputy for parliamentary affairs, ISNA reported.

Rouhani also made Elham Aminzadeh his assistant for citizenship rights.



Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan presidents to meet in Baku next month

TEHRAN — The Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asian and Pacific affairs on Wednesday said the presidents of Iran, Russia and the Republic of Azerbaijan are expected to meet in Baku on August 8.

"This meeting will certainly take place. ...it is expected to be held on August 8," Ebrahim Rahimpour told the Tass news agency.



Guardian Council learns new jurists

TEHRAN — The Iranian parliament on Wednesday elected three new jurists for the Guardian Council.

On the basis of vote counts, Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei got 203 votes, Mohammadreza Alizadeh 178, and Fazlollah Mousavi 142, Mehr reported.

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Zarif says Caspian Sea legal regime must guarantee interests of littoral states

ASTANA — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Wednesday the Caspian Sea's legal regime should guarantee that the interests of the littoral states are met in view of the geopolitical developments, Press TV reported.

Zarif made the remark in a ministerial meeting of the Caspian Sea littoral states in the Kazakh capital of Astana on Wednesday.

The Caspian Sea littoral states - Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Russia - are discussing a convention on the sea's legal regime that would be a comprehensive document outlining the duties and rights of the five littoral states as well as the framework of cooperation among these countries.

Zarif and foreign ministers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Russia have come together in Astana to discuss key issues pertaining to the Caspian Sea, includ-



ing its legal status, and to outline a plan for a summit of the sea's littoral states scheduled to be held in Kazakhstan.

An Iranian working group arrived in Astana earlier this week to participate in the expert-level sessions to devise a convention on the Caspian Sea's legal status.

In the Wednesday ministerial meeting, Iran's top diplomat noted that the legal regime of the Caspian Sea should take into account peace and security.

"Sustainable peace and security in the Caspian Sea [region] is of fundamental significance to regional governments and nations," Zarif said.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran, acknowledging the key issue of security, believes that "transparency, peaceful use of the sea and avoiding an arms race" will ensure peace and stability in the region.

The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed body of water by area and is variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea.

The issue of the legal status of the Caspian Sea was given significance after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of new independent states bordering the sea.

Rouhani: JCPOA violator will be 'political loser'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani of Iran said on Wednesday that any country that violates the nuclear deal - officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - will be a "political loser" in the world.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is beneficial to all countries and international peace, security, stability and development but a violation of it will be detrimental to all. And anyone who starts it will be the political loser at the international arena," he said during a meeting with the cabinet members.

Rouhani said Iran can remove the cap on its nuclear activities if the agreement is violated.

"If, some day, the 5+1 refuses [to fulfill] its commitments, we will be completely prepared, and, in terms of nuclear capabilities, we are at such a level so as to be able to reach our desired stage in a short period of time," Rouhani said.

The president reiterated that Iran abides by its obligation under the JCPOA.

It is essential for all sides to implement the JCPOA and be committed to it based on "national interests" and "wisdom," he noted.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the JCPOA in Vienna on July 14 2015. The deal took effect on January 16, 2016.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran proved on this day [July 14, 2015] that it has the political capability to negotiate with the world powers to solve a complicated international issue and defend the Iranian nation's rights," he explained.

He said that the nuclear negotiations revealed Iran's "political, legal and technical capabilities" and led to the recognition of the country's nuclear rights.

He also said that the nuclear deal proved to the world this fact that Iran had never been seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Rouhani also said that there is no doubt about the fact that the post-JCPOA atmosphere makes it possible to expand economic activities.



He called for using new opportunities created after the implementation of the nuclear deal instead of focusing on "marginal" issues.

It is possible to enjoy the post-JCPOA atmosphere through "unity" and "integrity," the president pointed out.

Iran summons French ambassador over MKO rally

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned French Ambassador François Senemaud to strongly protest over a gathering and a rally by the MKO terrorist group in Paris on July 9 in which former Saudi spy chief Prince Turki al-Faisal also attended the meeting and pledged support for the group.

Abolqasem Delfi, the director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for Western Europe, said giving the permission to other countries' officials to insult a third country "violates international law" and is "unacceptable."

He called on the French government to announce its position on the MKO terrorist group and the anti-Iran comments of Prince Turki al-Faisal in the gathering.

Senemaud said that the French government does not recognize the MKO.

An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that Faisal's attendance at the meeting is a new example of the Saudi government's "stupidity, indecency and political frustration".

Faisal, chairman of the Board of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, said in the gathering that "the Muslim world supports you (MKO) both in heart and soul."

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, an advisor to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad

Zarif, said on Sunday that there is no doubt about the Saudi security bodies' relations with the MKO.

The Islamic Propagation Coordination Council also issued a statement on Wednesday saying the MKO meeting in Paris was in fact a "gathering of hegemony, Zionism and Arab reactionary".

The statement called the Paris gathering "a puppet show of the supporters and godfathers of terrorism and violence".

Saudi Arabia has resorted to the terrorists to achieve its objectives and spread division among Muslims, the

statement added.

The MKO has existed as an Islamist-Marxist group since 1965, when it fought against the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi regime. It carried out a number of attacks against U.S. soldiers stationed in Iran and years later it was put on the U.S. State Department terrorist list. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the group resorted to bombings and assassinations. Iran accuses the group of being responsible for 17,000 deaths. The group's most devastating bombing was the 1981 blast at the Islamic Republic headquarters building that killed over 70 people, including Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, who was believed to be the second-most influential figure in Iran at the time after Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

The Islamic Propagation Coordination Council said the Paris gathering was a puppet show of the supporters and godfathers of terrorism and violence.

JCPOA: One year later

On the other, the so-called 5+1 group, believe they have barred Tehran from building nuclear weapons, a claim strongly rejected by Iran as baseless and worn-out.

On the first anniversary, a number of senior Iranian officials commented on the pact, seeing it as a perfect instance that dialogue works.

On Tuesday, President Rouhani said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran proved on this day [July 14, 2015] that it has the political capability to negotiate with world powers to resolve a complicated international issue and defend the Iranian nation's rights."

However Rouhani said, "If, some day, the 5+1 refuses [to fulfill] its commitments, we will be completely prepared, and, in terms of nuclear capabilities, we are at such a level so as to be able to reach our desired stage in a short period of time."

Probably, Rouhani was referring to remarks by the U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump who was quoted as having said he would "tear up" the nuclear deal if he turns out to be president.

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, hailed the involvement of Iran in the inter-

national project on nuclear fusion known as ITER, saying it would have been impossible to achieve this without the nuclear pact.

On July 11, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi laid emphasis on the heavy water deal with Washington, calling it a great achievement for Iran.

"One of the most important achievements of the JCPOA was that we are now recognized as a seller of heavy water by America, which did not accept heavy water production by Iran," Araqchi noted.

Hamid Baedinejad, deputy foreign minister as well as top nuclear negotiator, called it a mistake to reduce

Araqchi says, "One of the most important achievements of the JCPOA was that we are now recognized as a seller of heavy water by America, which did not accept heavy water production by Iran."

the JCPOA to a business and economic agreement, saying, "Expectations of the deal should be realistic."

No redline was crossed to finalize the JCPOA, he stated, rejecting claims in this regard.

On Tuesday, Sergei Ryabkov, a Russian deputy foreign minister and a chief negotiator at the nuclear talks, praised Iran's commitments to the terms of the deal and said "Moscow would also lend its support to other parties' fulfillment of their obligations."

The general optimism by senior Iranian officials comes amid hesitations shown by international banks to resume transactions with Iranian partners. They fear falling foul of fines by Washington.

However, a last-ditch attempt underway may change the scene. The Iranian central bank, the U.S. Treasury and international banks were to meet in London on Tuesday to discuss stalled progress on banks resuming ties with Iran, Reuters quoted British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond as saying on Tuesday.

However, a spokeswoman for the UK Foreign Office later said the meeting had been postponed and would be re-scheduled. She did not give a reason for the delay, or say when it would be held instead.

JCPOA anniversary, American pragmatism philosophy, and Tehran's post-deal grievances

In his Pragmatism (1907), James neatly summarized the perspective when he explained "the pragmatic method ... is to try to interpret each notion by tracing its perspective practical consequences." That is, ideas make sense once considered in light of down-to-earth, practical differences they make.

From this slant, Tehran's post-deal complaints are both legitimate and plausible, because it expected an

economic shakeup after the lifting of sanctions.

Despite the diplomatic thaw, for instance, international banks are still steering clear of entering into transactions with Iranian partners, fearing falling foul of penalization by Washington.

With the banking hurdle still persisting, domestic voices in Iran have gradually ratcheted up pressure on the Rouhani administration and those who championed the deal.

Hence, just as Tehran continues to worry about practical outcomes of the JCPOA, so does Washington: in the eye of Iranians, Washington is held accountable for the banking row and this in turn fosters mistrust!

There is only one way the White House can stop the mistrust: not getting in the way of those who want business with Iran. Only then, we can say the JCPOA is really the deal Tehran would wish to clinch!

David Cameron resigns as Britain's prime minister

LONDON — David Cameron addressed his people for the last time as Britain's prime minister on Wednesday afternoon, before leaving for Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II and hand over power to his successor, Theresa May, the home secretary.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve our country as prime minister over these last six years, and to serve as the leader of my party for almost 11 years," Mr. Cameron said outside 10 Downing Street in London, joined by his wife, Samantha, and their three children. "My only wish is continued success for this great country that I love so very much."

Mr. Cameron cited the nation's economic recovery as his top legacy. "With the deficit cut by two-thirds, two and a half million more people in work, and one million more businesses, there can be no doubt that our economy is immeasurably stronger," he said.

He also cited among his accomplishments the legalization of same-sex marriage, in 2013; changes to the education system; and reduced wait times for operations in Britain's much loved National Health Service.

"I'm delighted that for the second time in British history, the new prime minister will be a woman, and once again a Conservative," Mr. Cameron said. "I believe Theresa will provide strong and stable leadership in fulfilling the Conservative manifesto on which we were elected, and I wish her well in negotiating the best possible terms for Britain's exit from the European Union."



Queen Elizabeth II welcomes Theresa May at the start of an audience in Buckingham Palace. Photograph: Dominic Lipinski/PA

Mr. Cameron and his family set off for the palace at 4:48 p.m. and arrived only five minutes later. The palace confirmed the resignation less than a half-hour later, and Ms. May, 59, immediately left for the palace to meet the monarch. She will be the 13th prime minister to serve the queen; the first was Winston Churchill.

Hours earlier, in his final parliamentary duty, Mr. Cameron took part for the last time in prime minister's questions, the weekly ritual in which lawmakers interrogate the leader in often combative exchanges.

On Wednesday, the discussion was more respectful — and lighthearted — than usual, as Mr. Cameron's political adversaries and allies paid tribute to him as he prepared to leave his office in 10 Downing Street for the last time as prime

minister, a position he has held for six years.

"I'm told that there are lots of leadership roles out there at the moment: There's the England football team, there's 'Top Gear,' there's even across the big pond the role that needs filling," Danny Kinahan, a lawmaker from Northern Ireland, told Mr. Cameron jokingly, referring to the country's soccer team, a popular television show and the United States presidential election.

Jeremy Corbyn, the embattled leader of the opposition Labour Party, congratulated Mr. Cameron for his support for same-sex marriage and for his efforts to secure the release of Shaker Aamer, a Saudi citizen and British resident, from Guantánamo Bay last fall. He pressed Mr. Cameron, however, on his record on

homelessness; the affordability of housing; and the rise of "zero hour" contracts that can exploit low-wage workers.

Mr. Cameron said his government had reduced child poverty and cracked down on mistreatment of workers.

The two men, in their final joust at Westminster, tangled over the respective challenges their leadership has faced. Mr. Cameron announced his resignation in the aftermath of Britain's tumultuous referendum on June 23 to leave the European Union, while Mr. Corbyn, only 10 months into his term as the head of Labour, faces a challenge to that leadership.

Mr. Cameron said his governing Conservative Party had swiftly picked his successor, while saying of the opposition party, "They haven't even decided what the rules are yet."

Mr. Cameron also made a reference to the cat at 10 Downing Street, a tabby named Larry, who belongs to the Civil Service. "The rumor that somehow I don't love Larry — I do, and I have photographic evidence to prove it," he said, holding up a photograph of the cat. "Sadly, I can't take Larry with me."

On a more somber note, Angus Robertson, a lawmaker from the pro-independence Scottish National Party, said that Mr. Cameron's decision to call the referendum risked the breakup of the United Kingdom. Most voters in Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the European bloc, while most voters in England and Wales — with notable exceptions, including London — voted to leave.

(See the full story on nytimes.com)

Seven killed, 11 injured in car bomb attack near Baghdad

A car bomb attack kills at least seven people and injures 11 others at an area to the north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

The attack was carried out at the northern neighborhood of Rashidiya, where another car bomb attack had just occurred on Tuesday.

The Tuesday attack killed at least 25 people and injured dozens of others at a vegetable market in Rashidiyah.

Baghdad has seen a dramatic rise in such terror attacks over the past weeks, most of them claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

No group has claimed responsibility for the two attacks in Rashidiya yet, however.

In a deadly attack on July 3, nearly 300 people lost their lives after a bomber detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle at a shopping district in the Iraqi capital's Karrada neighborhood. ISIL claimed responsibility for that assault.

The fresh wave of violence in Baghdad prompted Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to sack a number of high-ranking officials responsible for security in the capital, including the head of the Baghdad Operations Command.

According to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, a total of 662 Iraqis were killed and another 1,457 wounded in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in June. A great portion of the fatalities was recorded in Baghdad, where 236 civilians were killed.

(Source: Press TV)

U.S. to send more troops to Iraq ahead of Mosul offensive

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The United States is stepping up its military campaign against Islamic State by sending hundreds more troops to assist Iraqi forces in an expected push on the city of Mosul, the militants' largest stronghold, later this year.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made the announcement on Monday during a visit to Baghdad, where he met U.S. commanders, as well as Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Defence Minister Khaled al-Obeidi.

Most of the 560 additional troops will work out of Qayara air base, which Iraqi forces recaptured from Islamic State militants and plan to use as a staging ground for an offensive to retake Mosul, Iraq's second biggest city.

Government forces said on Saturday they had recovered the air base, about 60 km (40 miles) from the northern city, with air support from the U.S.-led military coalition.

"With these additional U.S. forces I'm describing today, we'll bring unique capability to the campaign and provide critical support to the Iraqi forces at a key moment in the fight," Carter told a gathering of U.S. troops in Baghdad.

The new troops were "ready to come" and it would be a matter of "days and weeks, not months," he said.

Abadi has pledged to retake Mosul by the end of the year. However, there is still debate in Washington about the timing of a move on Mosul.

Some U.S. and allied military and intelligence officials warn that aside from its elite counter terrorism force, the Iraqi military is not ready to take on Islamic State militants in Mosul without significant assistance from the Kurdish peshmerga and Shi'ite militias.

(Source: Reuters)

German jihadist gets two years in jail for posing with severed heads

A German jihadist was sentenced to two years in prison Tuesday after posing in pictures in Syria with the severed and impaled heads of two government troops. The trial is Germany's first involving Islamic State war crimes.

Aria Ladjevardi, a 21-year old German with Iranian roots, was sentenced by a regional court in Frankfurt. The court found that the man was radicalized in Germany and then traveled to Syria, where he joined up with a militant identified only as Vedat V.

According to the court, in March or April of 2014, Vedat V. and other jihadists attacked a Syrian army checkpoint near the town of Binnish. There, they captured two government soldiers, beheaded them both, then impaled their heads on metal rods.

(Source: Reuters)

Thousands rally against U.S. THAAD missiles deployment in South Korea

Thousands rallied on Wednesday in a South Korean town of Seongju to protest Seoul's decision to deploy United States missiles in the area, local media reported.

The government has recently disclosed it was going to station the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system in the southern Seongju County.

Some 5,000 people took to the streets of Seongju, saying they had not been consulted, according to the national news agency Yonhap.

The county is expected to host U.S. missiles and a radar. The reports sparked concerns of potential health risks associated with electromagnetic waves coming from the device.

The outlet quoted Kim Hang-gon, member of the county's administration, who said the government expected sacrifices from the population without securing their consent.

(Source: Sputnik)

Israeli forces shoot dead Palestinian youth, injure another near al-Quds

Israeli military forces have fatally shot a young Palestinian man and injured another, saying they attempted to carry out a car-ramming attack north of the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Israeli soldiers opened fire as a car with three occupants on board was traveling allegedly at high speed toward them near the Palestinian town of al-Ramm, which lies northeast of al-Quds, early on Wednesday, Sapa news agency reported.

The Israeli army said in a statement that one of the border guards "felt in danger" when the driver of the car began to speed near the checkpoint, causing them to open fire.

An unnamed Israeli spokeswoman said one of the occupants died on the spot, while the second sustained gunshot wounds. Israeli soldiers arrested the third occupant.

The development came only a day after Israeli forces shot and injured at least two Palestinians with rubber-coated bullets during clashes with a group of demonstrators in the al-Shuyukh neighborhood of the town of Sa'ir, located eight kilometers (five miles) northeast of

al-Khalil (Hebron).

Local residents said violence broke out when Israeli soldiers fired tear gas canisters and rubber bullets to suppress a protest. Young men hurled stones at the soldiers in return.

The residents added that Israeli soldiers prevented Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) ambulances from entering Sa'ir, and attending to the injured Palestinian youths. The locals also suffered excessive tear gas inhalation.

In the latest cycle of violence since October 2015, Israeli forces have killed more than 200 Palestinians, including unarmed demonstrators, bystanders and attackers.

Meanwhile, more than 30 Israelis have been killed in stabbings and car ramming attacks.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, nearly 17,000 people have been wounded in the violence, some 6,000 by live or rubber-coated steel bullets.

Palestinians are frustrated by Israel's decades-long occupation and with peace talks going nowhere.

The occupied Palestinian territories have been the



scene of heightened tensions since August 2015, when Israel imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds.

Palestinians say the Tel Aviv regime seeks to change the status quo of the sacred site.

(Source: agencies)

What happens if neither Clinton nor Trump get enough electoral votes?

With two of the most unpopular candidates in history currently gracing the top of the Republican and Democratic parties' presidential tickets, there has been a notable uptick in interest in alternatives. The Libertarian Party and the Green Party are attracting unusual interest in this cycle, polling well above their normal homes in the low-single digits.

And as names like presumptive Green Party nominee Jill Stein, and the two Libertarian Party candidates, former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson and former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld become more commonly known, people just beginning to focus on the presidential race might wonder: Is it possible that nobody could win enough electoral votes to become president? And if so, what would happen? How probable is that

outcome.

A successful candidate must earn more than 50 percent of the electoral votes awarded by individual states on election night -- that means 270 votes in total. With four candidates splitting the vote, and what is becoming a growing list of possible "write in" candidates, it is theoretically possible for the electoral votes to be so diluted that nobody manages 50 percent.

Imagine a race in which both Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump split the vast majority of electoral votes between them -- say 46 percent to Clinton and 44 percent to Trump -- but the Greens and Libertarians snatch 10 percent of the electoral vote between them.

The National Archives explains the system concisely:

"If no candidate receives a majority of Electoral votes, the House of Representatives elects the President from the 3 Presidential candidates who received the most Electoral votes. Each state delegation has one vote. The Senate would elect the Vice President from the 2 Vice Presidential candidates with the most Electoral votes. Each Senator would cast one vote for Vice President. If the House of Representatives fails to elect a President by Inauguration Day, the Vice-President Elect serves as acting President until the deadlock is resolved in the House."

However -- and this is a major caveat -- the likelihood of the election being thrown to the House of Representatives is extraordinarily small because it would require either the Greens or the Libertarians to do more than just snap up a

certain percentage of the national vote. Because electoral votes are distributed at the state level on a winner-take-all basis, they would need to actually win individual states in order to be awarded any in the first place.

To be clear, winning individual states is much, much different than breaking double digits nationwide. In recent history, the only independent candidates to win any electoral votes have generally done so by running what amounted to regional campaigns focused on issues important to a particular constituency.

So while it's possible that in January members of the House of Representatives could find themselves choosing the next president, it's probably not going to happen.

(Source: Fiscal Times)

World must find way to end Israeli occupation of Golan: Syria UN envoy

Syria's envoy to the United Nations has called on the international community to draw up an effective mechanism to end Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and its continued exploitation of the natural resources of the territory.

Speaking at a UN Security Council session on Tuesday, Bashar al-Ja'afari said Israeli forces continue to arbitrarily detain Syrian nationals and loot water and petroleum resources in the Golan Heights in flagrant violation of international law and regulations.

He urged the UN to force Israel to end its occupation of the Golan Heights and withdraw from the area in compliance with the Security Council Resolution 497, which was adopted unanimously on December 17, 1981, and which declares Tel Aviv's annexation of Golan as "null and void and without international legal effect."

The top Syrian diplomat also pointed to Israel's land expropriation policies in the Golan Heights, arguing that Israeli officials have created 750 farms and accommodated 90 settler households there since the beginning of the current year, and are planning to lodge 150 families every year in a bid to change the demographic identity of the area.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and later occupied and annexed it.

Ja'afari further criticized the international community's inaction toward Israel's subversive acts, and its support for al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra), the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda.

He also lashed out at some European countries over their support for Takfiri terrorism, highlighting that they have fallen victim to acts of terror themselves.

■ Russia 'to continue assisting Syria in terror fight'

Meanwhile, Vitaly Churkin, Russia's ambassador to the UN, has said his country is set to provide Syria with all necessary assistance in the campaign against terrorism.

"For our part, we are going to continue providing the Syrian government with assistance in fighting terrorist groups, led by Daesh (ISIL) and the Nusra Front. Undoubtedly, there should be neither delays nor concessions in this struggle," Churkin said at the Tuesday's Security Council meeting.

He further described the free movement of terrorists through borders, the flow of weapons and money to terrorist outfits as well as access to chemical warfare agents as the main challenges in the anti-terror fight.

Separately, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has criticized UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, saying the envoy has failed to fulfill his responsibilities and convene a new round of peace talks for Syria.

(Source: Press TV)

JUMP

British credit agency to finance Iranian water, power projects

The Iranian minister visited the UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd on Tuesday and held negotiations on energy cooperation with her, where he outlined Iran's energy projects and welcomed British companies' joint venture investments in Iran and also called on the UK banking authorities to regulate Iranian banking ties with the UK banks.

UKEF is the UK's export credit agency providing trade finance and insurance to support UK exporters of all sizes.

NEWS

S. Korea, Iran agree to expand direct flights to 11 times a week

SEJONG (Yonhap) — South Korea and Iran have agreed to expand their direct flights between Seoul and Tehran to 11 times a week to help bolster bilateral economic cooperation following the lifting of international sanctions against the Middle East country, the government said Wednesday.

South Korea and Iran reached an aviation agreement in 1998 to allow South Korean airlines to run four flights of passenger and cargo planes.

Earlier this year, the Seoul government resumed the Seoul-Tehran air route and gave a flight license to Korean Air Lines Co., the country's largest air carrier.

In an aviation meeting held on Monday and Tuesday, the two countries reached an agreement to increase the number of weekly flights to 11 from the current four to meet rising tourism and business demand for direct flight services, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation.

The ministry said it will give additional flight permits to other air carriers, including Asiana Airlines Inc., to ferry passengers and air freight 11 times a week between Incheon, the country's main gateway on the outskirts of Seoul, and Tehran.

"The latest agreement paved the way for more than one South Korean air carrier to offer direct flight services to Iran. We expect it will boost economic and cultural exchange between the two countries," said the ministry.

The South Korean government decided to open the direct flight route between Seoul and Tehran, which had been closed for decades, as world powers like the United States and Europe have removed political and economic sanctions against Iran earlier this year, which has completed the necessary steps to restrict its nuclear program.

Market watchers said an estimated 40,000 passengers will travel by plane every year between the two countries.

China June exports and imports both fall, trade outlook dim

China's exports fell more than expected in June as global demand remained stubbornly weak and as Britain's decision to leave the European Union clouds the outlook for one of Beijing's biggest markets.



Imports also shrank more than forecast, suggesting the impact of a flurry of measures to stimulate growth in the world's second-largest economy may be fading, after encouraging readings in May.

Exports fell 4.8 percent in June from a year earlier and were down 7.7 percent in the first half of 2016, the General Administration of Customs said on Wednesday, adding that China's economy faces increasing downward pressure and the trade situation will be severe this year.

Imports dropped 8.4 percent from a year earlier. That resulted in a trade surplus of \$48.11 billion in June, versus forecasts of \$46.64 billion and May's \$49.98 billion.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected June exports to fall 4.1 percent, matching May's decline, and expected imports to fall 5 percent, following May's 0.4 percent dip.

The import decline in May was the smallest since late 2014, raising hopes that China's domestic demand was picking up.

However, China's imports of iron ore, crude oil, copper and soybeans all eased in June from the preceding month.

June industrial output, investment and retail sales will be released on Friday, along with second-quarter gross domestic product, which is expected to show a slight loss of momentum from earlier in the year.

(Source: Reuters)

Russian Zarubezhneft to commence studies on 2 Iranian oilfields

ECONOMY TEHRAN — National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Russia's Zarubezhneft signed a cooperation agreement according to which the Russian company will conduct studies on two Iranian oilfields, Shana reported on Tuesday.

The Russian oil firm is expected to put forward its suggestions about increasing recovery factor in Aban and Paydar Gharb oilfields Iran shares with Iraq after conducting its investigations.

The deal was signed by managing Director of NIOC Ali Kardor and his counterpart in Zarubezhneft Sergey I. Kudryashov, who underlined expansion of relations in various domains, including swap and trade of oil and oil products in their meeting.

Russia's Energy Minister Alexander Novak said last October that Zarubezhneft will take up several projects worth a total of \$6 billion in Iran's oil industry.

Novak said the Russian oil giant's participation in Iranian oil projects will be in line with a series of agreements that were reached with the country to expand mutual economic ties.

Zarubezhneft had earlier announced that it is willing to develop a major oilfield in western Iran which it said could be brought online with an investment of \$2.2 billion. The company's officials had announced that the oil field they were targeting was Changuleh in the west.



Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Ali Kardor (L) and Managing Director of Russia's Zarubezhneft oil firm Sergey I. Kudryashov shaking hand after signing an MOU in Tehran on Tuesday

Meeting of Iran central bank, U.S. Treasury, international banks postponed

A meeting between the Iranian central bank, the U.S. Treasury and international banks in London to discuss stalled progress on banks resuming ties with Iran after U.S. sanctions were lifted in January has been postponed, the British government said.

European banks, some of which have been punished for breaking sanctions imposed on Iran, have shown reluctance to resume trade ties until they get concrete reassurance that they will not be hit again.

Asked by a lawmaker in parliament what discussions he was having with the United States on banking sanctions in order to encourage more British businesses to invest in Iran, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said a meeting was due to take place in London on Tuesday.

"There is a meeting happening this afternoon ... between the Iranian Central Bank, the United States Treasury and international banks based in London in an attempt to try to make some progress on this matter," Hammond said on Tuesday.



British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office later said the meeting had been postponed and would be re-scheduled. She did not give a reason for the delay, or say when it would be held instead.

She said Britain wanted its banks to be able to support

British companies working in Iran and was committed to working through the remaining challenges with international partners, Iran and the banks themselves.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in May told Europe's top banks they had nothing to fear from resuming business with Iran as long as they make proper checks on trade partners.

The banks however reiterated their concerns, with lenders including Standard Chartered and Societe Generale saying they had no immediate plans to resume commercial activities with Iran.

Nine executives from leading European banks took part in the May meeting with Kerry, including Deutsche Bank Chief Executive John Cryan and HSBC's UK head Antonio Simoes.

It was not immediately clear which banks were due to attend Tuesday's meeting.

Hammond said at that time that the objective was to draw Iran back into the international community, overcoming banks' concerns that they risk further punishment for sanctions-busting.

(Source: Reuters)

PICTURE OF THE DAY IRNA/Taha Asgharkhani



Ambassadors and representatives of six eastern Asian countries namely Philippines, Brunei, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand got acquainted with economic potentials and investment opportunities of Iran's Maku Free Trade and Industrial Zone during a meeting with senior officials from Iranian foreign ministry in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan on Tuesday. In this meeting, the attendees were made familiar with economic, geographical, and tourist capacities of the zone and available investment capacities were introduced to them. Managing Director of Maku Free Zone Organization Hossein Forouzan announced that foreign investments are welcomed in this free zone.

Gov't becoming bigger driver of economic expansion in S. Korea

SEOUL (Yonhap) — The main driver of South Korea's economy is shifting from the private sector to the government, who last year contributed to one-third of the country's economic growth, a think tank said Wednesday.

South Korea's economy expanded 2.6 percent last year, with the government contributing 0.8 percent, according to the Korea Development Institute (KDI). State spending helped with 0.5 percent and government investment contributed 0.3 percent. Without such contribution, the country's economic growth last year would have stopped in the 1-percent range, the institute said.

Circumstances are unlikely to change this year, it said. All of the 0.5 percent economic expansion in the first quarter this year came from the government, KDI said.

The government's role in economic growth has been growing for years. In 2011, the state did not add to the 3.7 percent growth, but in 2012, government spending and investment accounted for 0.4 percent of the 2.3-percent growth. In 2013, the government accounted for 0.6 percent of 2.9 percent. The contribution level fell in 2014 to 0.3 percent of 3.3 percent before jumping to 0.8 percent last year, KDI said.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Jaguar Land Rover to test over 100 autonomous cars in Britain by 2020

Britain's biggest carmaker Jaguar Land Rover said it will create a fleet of more than 100 research vehicles over the next four years to test autonomous and connected technology, with the first models to hit the streets later this year.

Jaguar Land Rover, maker of Range Rover 4x4s and sportier luxury saloons, will drive the initial models on a new 41-mile (66 km) test route on motorways and urban roads near its headquarters and plants in central England.

The market for autonomous driving is worth 900 billion pounds (\$1.29 trillion) worldwide, but needs to overcome legal obstacles including determining who would be responsible in the event of an accident.



LG Display sees signs of display market improvement

South Korea's LG Display Co. Ltd is seeing signs of improvement in the display panel industry and expects its business performance to pick up in the second half of the year, the firm's chief executive said.

Panel makers have suffered from price declines in recent quarters due to weak sales of consumer electronics such as smartphones and televisions. But there are signs that the bottom is near, with panel prices for some televisions, tablets and monitors picking up in June, according to research house IHS.

The bottom could not come soon enough for LG, the world's top liquid crystal display (LCD) maker, which is expected to post a 96 percent fall in April-June operating profit to 18 billion won (\$15.72 million), according to the average forecast of analysts in a Thomson Reuters survey.



Nissan launches auto drive features, stresses difference from hands-free driving

Nissan Motor Co. Ltd launched a suite of semi-autonomous driving functions on Wednesday stressing they were intended to assist and not replace drivers.

Japan's second-ranked carmaker by vehicle sales said its Pro-Pilot can drive a vehicle on single-lane motorways and navigate congestion. It said the feature will first appear on a Serena minivan model on sale in Japan from next month.

As global automakers race to develop self-driving cars, the safety of current automated systems was called into question by U.S. investigators saying a driver died in a crash while the autopilot of his Tesla Motors Inc Model S was engaged.

Qazvin, the forgotten Persian capital!

Just as the continuous attacks of the Ottomans and Uzbeks were getting out of hand, Shah Tahmasp, the second king of the Safavid Empire decides to relocate the capital from Tabriz to Qazvin. Not only was Qazvin further enough from the borders to facilitate keeping things under control, it was also located along the Silk Road with great connections to the rest of the country.

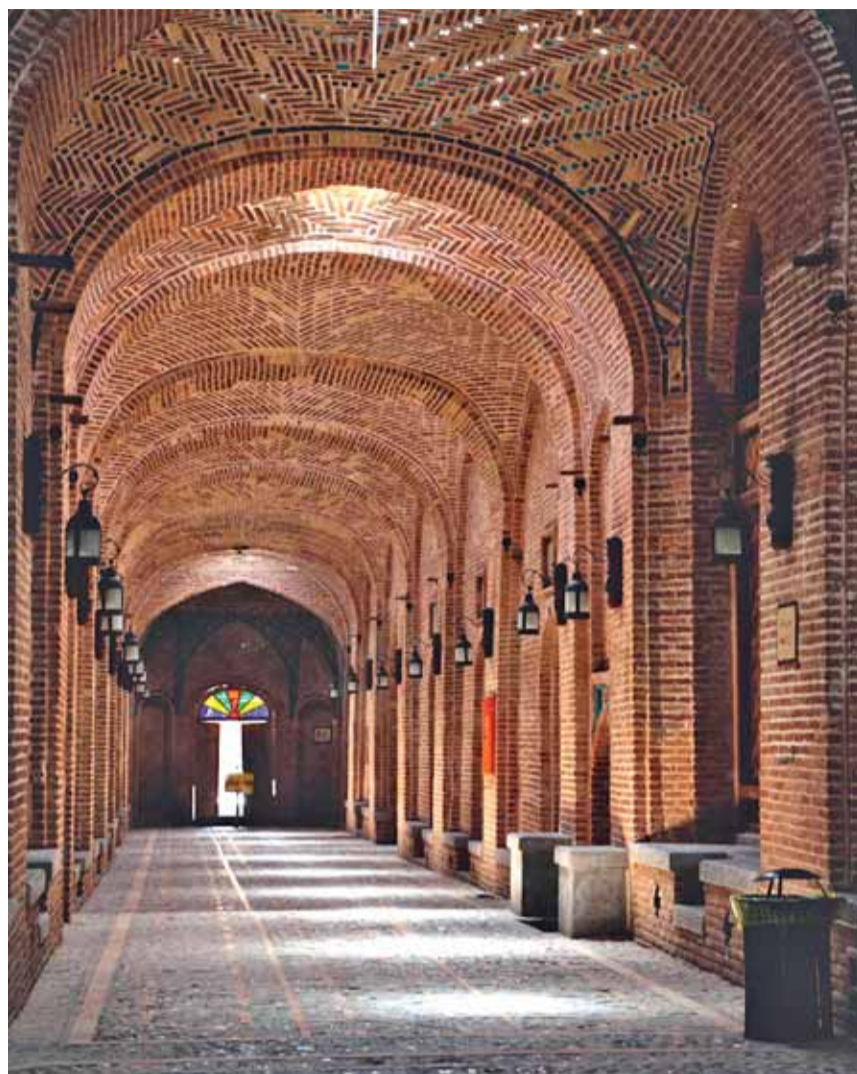
A great patron of art, Shah Tahmasp managed to attract the finest artists and architects to build his new home. However everything proved to be only a rehearsal for his successor, Shah Abbas I, to bring Isfahan to sublimity later on.

Today Qazvin, once the nation's capital, has a considerable number of minor sites and is a launch point to the mysterious castle of Assassins just over an hour away. But again like many other Iranian cities it's left forlornly isolated and ignored.

The stunning Caravanserai of Sa'd al-Saltaneh is currently going through it's last steps of renovation. Expect this place to be boasting with shops, restaurants and much more if you're visiting in the coming years.

Water cisterns

Qazvin is home to some of Iran's best conserved domed water cisterns. Since most part of the country has been struggling with drought and lack of rain ever since, water cisterns are commonly found in drier parts of the country. The architecture of these cisterns is quite a masterpiece itself. The water tanks would be built below ground level which was consequently earthquake resistant – a good reason why many of them are still standing tall even after the city has been hit by a devastating earthquake. The water storage tanks in Qazvin are interestingly built with a rectangular plan whereas most of the others specially the ones in Yazd have a cylindrical plan. In order to access the water one would go through the entrance which would lead to a long staircase reaching the bottom level of the water storage. There was no access to the tank itself after it was built, but fau-



Caravanserai of Sa'd al-Saltaneh

cets were installed in intervals along the staircase where people could fill up their bottles.

We visited the Ab-Aanbar (water cistern in Persian) of Haj Kazem, one the most famous landmarks of the city. Since the water cistern is currently not in use, they have opened an entrance to the tank at the bottom of the staircase where visitors could actually see the interior of

the storage itself. The cistern comes with a beautifully tiled portal and two wind towers that reach 8 meters high, although only one stands today.

Thirty-eight steps down and you'd end up at the bottom of the tank, where there was even a resting place for you to catch your breath and enjoy the cool air of the cistern on a hot summer day! Genius! – You can't see the faucets in this picture,

but they were placed a little further down on the right side, where the tank is located on the other side of the 3m width wall.

The smallest church of Iran

During the Russians occupation of Qazvin in the Second World War the Russians built this church to feel more at home. Now this tiny Orthodox Church with its turquoise brick belfry dome is the smallest church of the Iran and open to visitors.

The Aminiha house

Surprise! Surprise! A wealthy Iranian merchant decided to spare some cash to build the home of his dreams! If you've been to Kashan, you'd know exactly what I'm talking about!

While now we would write down a check for our private interior designer, then, in 1858, Haj Kazem Amini brought the finest craftsmen to adorn his house with dazzling mirrored walls, stucco ceilings, wooden doors and handwoven carpets.

While there's no lack of majestic structures in Qazvin and there are a few good restaurants to offer great local delicacies, the city left me in thoughts. Recently I've been directing my travels to lesser known parts of the country and I can't help to see their huge contrast with places like Tehran.

I've come to witness nice and clear that apart from a few major cities, others don't seem to be getting much. While here in Tehran we have theatre and cinemas scattered all across the city, huge parks and green spaces to enjoy our picnics and dozens of festivals, exhibitions and other entertainment to keep us busy, others seem to be only getting a bluer sky. There's seems to be almost nothing happening in the banal modern backstreets of cities like Qazvin.

Despite the unoriginal modern side of the city, Qazvin comes with tons of history and culture. The most typical dish – Gheime Nesar – is a must eat and the city offers a huge variety of sweets to try out.

(Source: travestyle.com)

NEWS

China continues to set the pace of global tourism

Already the #1 source of global tourism, the size of China's travel market is mind-boggling and virtually untapped. At 1.4 billion people, China is the world's most populous country, yet only about 5% of its population today holds a passport. Those who do hold passports represent a middle class that is almost as large as the entire population of the US, and a middle class that is expected to double in size to over 600 million people in the next four years. Even at today's level, 10% of all international travelers today come from China, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council. By 2020, this market is expected to grow by 14%, adding roughly 250 million people.



Among the most promising aspects of China's middle class is its phenomenal growth. The World Bank reports that China has lifted more than 600 million people out of poverty and into its middle class over the past three decades. The more affluent members of this group are expected to exceed 200 million households by 2020.

These more affluent folks spend about 19% of their annual salaries on overseas travel, putting them among the world's top spenders both in terms of per trip and number of nights. Oxford Economics and InterContinental Hotels Group recently predicted that as Chinese households move into the upper middle and upper classes (each with \$24,000 in disposable income), their demand for long-haul leisure trips and more luxurious accommodations and shopping will escalate. As a point of reference, consider this – last year alone, Chinese visitors to California spent \$2.5 billion, or about \$7,500 per person, while traveling here; the highest of any overseas visitor group to the state.

As for those who have qualms about the strength and staying power of the Chinese economy and assume future Chinese travelers might feel the need to trim their wings and stay home, they, too, need to think again. Over the past six years, China has ranked as the world's second largest economy, behind the US. In terms of purchasing power, China already ranks #1. Even at today's 6.5% economic growth rate, China generates an incremental annual economy equal to Germany's, the world's 4th largest economy.

(Source: Forbes.com)



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Who is Theresa May?

Britain's prime minister in waiting Theresa May is a pragmatist who has emerged from the chaos of the Brexit referendum unscarred, portraying herself as the one who will lead the country out of the EU.

The country's second female leader after fellow Conservative Margaret Thatcher, Ms May was officially — but unenthusiastically — in

favor of Britain staying in the European Union.

She kept a low profile throughout the campaign, and when the June 23 referendum delivered a shock "Leave" result, stepped into the political vacuum left by David Cameron's decision to quit.

She insists "Brexit means Brexit".

Although Ms May trounced her ri-

vals for the premiership, she faces an uphill struggle to unite a country and a party deeply split by the referendum.

She has been labelled, in an unguarded moment, a "bloody difficult woman" by senior Conservative Kenneth Clarke.

But the 59-year-old claims this is the very quality which will stand her in good stead for the battles ahead.

■ The next person

The "next person to find that out will be Jean-Claude Juncker," she reportedly told MPs, referring to Brexit negotiations with the European Commission president.

Ms May is a keen cricket fan and lists her hobbies as walking and cooking, telling one interviewer that she had more than 100 cook books at home. → 9



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No balance: oil markets still oversupplied, now growth is stuttering

Oil industry hopes that markets are about to return to balance, ending a global glut that pulled down prices by over 70 percent between 2014 and early 2016, might be abruptly dashed.

Despite recent disruptions and output cuts, there is mounting evidence that plentiful supplies and brimming inventories will delay a much-quoted rebalancing of oil markets.

"The market needs to stop worrying about this balance and concentrate on the now," said Matt Stanley, a fuel broker at Freight Investor Services in Dubai.

"We rallied on the back of supply outages, wildfires and seemingly increased demand. Well, Shell have lifted force majeure at (Nigeria's) Bonny ... the wildfires are out and Canada is close to full production, and (U.S.) gasoline demand is at 15-month lows," he added.

Not just are supplies improving, now demand may be waning.

With the United States and Europe stagnating, Asia has been the main pillar of oil demand growth. But that too is now stuttering, with tanker flows into the region down for four straight months, Thomson Reuters Eikon data shows.

One indicator of a continuing glut is the shape of the forward crude oil futures curve, which has been in contango for much of this year, meaning that oil for sale at a later date is more expensive than that for immediate delivery.

This makes it attractive for traders to store oil for sale later and is seen as a key sign of oversupply.

In fact, so much oil is now stored that the world is running out of space, forcing traders to charter supertankers in which to keep unsold fuel.

There is so much oil in storage that it could take well into 2018 for the glut to clear.

"There are still excess stocks on the market - hundreds of millions of barrels of surplus oil. It will take a long time to



reduce this inventory overhang," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih told a German newspaper.

While headline figures such as Chinese car sales and gross domestic growth (GDP) remain strong, both have slumped most of this year. China's new passenger vehicle sales, while still huge at over 2 million per month, have fallen by a quarter since reaching their December peak.

Counting on a continuing boom, China's oil refiners are producing so much fuel that even its huge domestic market can't cope, resulting in a surge of Chinese fuel exports into an already glutted Asian market.

Furthermore, China's program to

build up strategic petroleum reserves (SPR), a strong source of crude demand over the past years, may slow sharply or even halt soon, as its available storage facilities are full or close to capacity.

As a result, U.S. bank JPMorgan expects a "15 percent month-on-month decline in China's crude imports in September."

The impact on oil consumption of Britain's vote to leave the European Union is likely to delay the supply/demand rebalancing further, probably by six months.

India not the new China

The U.S. Energy Department cut its forecast for oil demand growth in 2016,

and increased its demand growth forecast for 2017, according to a monthly outlook issued on Tuesday.

U.S. oil demand is expected to grow 160,000 barrels per day in 2016, compared with previous expectations for 220,000 bpd, according to the department. Demand will grow 120,000 bpd in 2017, compared with 60,000 bpd previously.

Many in the oil industry hope India will pick up the baton from China and act as the global driver for oil demand growth.

Yet such hopes are premature as India remains, for the time being, too poor to get anywhere near China's fuel consumption.

While its demand may now be growing faster than China's, its outright consumption remains far lower, as seen in vehicle sales.

Meanwhile, Asia's two most developed major economies, Japan and South Korea, are grappling with a steady and likely terminal decline in oil demand.

Some pin their hopes on Southeast Asia, where large emerging markets such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia have huge potential. But like India, the region still lags China in terms of development for it to act as a substitute.

In short, the sort of fuel demand growth seen in Asia over the past decade may be a thing of the past.

While few expect the region's demand to fall outright, many say the oil industry needs to adjust to a future of lower Asian growth just like the coal and steel industry has had to.

Again, the automobile sector provides a clue. "Car sales in Asia, including in China, are falling amid economic downturn," Tae-nyen Kim, executive managing director of Korea Automobile Association, told Reuters.

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brexit to cause credit challenges for U.S. commercial real estate companies

The UK decision to leave the European Union, or Brexit, will cause near-term credit challenges for U.S. commercial real estate companies that do business in the United Kingdom, Moody's Investors Service said in a press release.

"Global commercial real estate transaction volumes have fallen over the past few months as a result of capital market volatility, concerns about rising interest rates and low oil prices," Moody's analyst Griselda Bisono stated on Tuesday. "And the Brexit vote is likely to drive additional declines from leasing and sales in the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future."

Moody's explained that offices in London are especially at risk because they will be most impacted by the negative employment and job growth expected after the Brexit.

Both owners and occupiers of UK commercial real estate are expected to be negatively impacted.

The multi-year nature of commercial real estate contracts should keep long-term revenues relatively stable, according to the release.

Last month, Moody's said the Brexit decision would lead to a prolonged period of uncertainty that will ultimately be credit negative for the United Kingdom.

(Source: Sputnik)

China committed to market reforms, fighting overcapacity: Premier Li

China's Premier Li Keqiang told European Union officials on Wednesday that the country was committed to market reforms and remained determined to tackle a steel capacity glut that has sharpened tensions between the two sides.

Li, speaking at an EU-China business summit, said China had always abided by its commitments on reform, and would work to improve market access for foreign companies in the hope that all firms could compete on a level playing field.

"We want trade between China and Europe to grow on a stable platform," he said.

European enterprises working in China have long complained about unfair restrictions that make it difficult for them to compete with local rivals. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told the summit that Beijing should remove barriers and improve legal certainties.

China's sprawling steel sector has come under global scrutiny after a record surge in cheap exports were blamed for plant closures in Britain and elsewhere, sparking a rise in anti-dumping complaints and putting the country's market economy status in jeopardy.

(Source: Reuters)

Despite recent disruptions and output cuts, there is mounting evidence that plentiful supplies and brimming inventories will delay a much-quoted rebalancing of oil markets.



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6. Brain health
7. Diabetes

NEWS

'Stroke among Iranian youth on the rise'

MEDICAL TEHRAN — The executive secretary of the desk first conference on neuro-oncology in Iran has reported an increase in the rate of stroke among younger population in Iran.

Neuro-oncology is the study of brain and spinal cord neoplasms, many of which are (at least eventually) very dangerous and life-threatening.

According to IRNA, Farid Nejad-Dadgar, on the sidelines of the conference on Wednesday said, "Weight gain is the most important common cause of stroke."

"The reason being for that is Iranians have lost concern over maintaining an ideal weight."

According to health ministry data, he added, "40 to 50 percent of Iranians are considered to be overweight."

Vast majority of strokes occur in people aged 60 and over, however, changes in lifestyle and nutrition has increased the incidences of stroke among youngsters.

The risk factors leading to stroke are high blood pressure, high fatty food, thrombosis, and sedentary lifestyle, he enumerated.

It is worth noting that fatty deposits in arteries can break off, flow to the brain, and cause blood clots.

On the other hand, he said, shedding the extra pounds, eating nutritious food, working out, breaking the habit of smoking, and controlling blood glucose are lifesaving choices when it comes to stroke.

Stroke or brain attack, is when poor blood flow to the brain results in cell death.

Stroke is preventable

It is easy to keep away from stroke, Nejad-Dadgar said, by taking effective preventive measures. "After all, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

A supernova might have abetted a mass extinction on Earth

A supernova might have occurred around the right time and at the right distance from Earth to contribute to a minor mass extinction several million years ago.

An exploding star hundreds of light-years from Earth may have played a role in a minor mass extinction that happened 2.59 million years ago, new research indicates. Scientists modeled the light and radiation that would have reached Earth from relatively close exploding stars, or supernovae. The impacts on Earth and its lifeforms could help explain the die-off that happened as the Pliocene Epoch wrapped up and the Pleistocene began, they say. It's generally accepted that several stars have gone supernova about 300 light years from Earth within the past few million years. Recent evidence for these supernovae comes from two studies published in April. In one, researchers traced the amount of iron-60, a radioactive form of iron, in deep-sea crusts.

Iron-60 is catapulted into space by supernovae or in winds from massive stars; its presence can reveal when a star exploded nearby. Scientists found two influxes of iron-60, one about 1.5 to 3.2 million years ago, another at 6.5 to 8.7 million years ago. Another group calculated the likely trajectories of recent supernovae, and found that the stars were probably nine times the size of our own sun, and exploded about 300 light years from Earth.

In the new study, scientists were curious about how these recent supernovae might have affected life on Earth, as well as our planet's atmosphere. To cause a truly catastrophic extinction, you'd need a supernova within about 26 light-years from Earth. (Source: Popular Science)



The world's clouds are in different places than they were 30 years ago

In a new study published in Nature on Monday, scientists say they have for the first time thoroughly documented one of the most profound planetary changes yet to be caused by a warming climate: The distribution of clouds all across the Earth has shifted, they say.

And moreover, it has shifted in such a way — by expanding subtropical dry zones, located between around 20 and 30 degrees latitude in both hemispheres, and by raising cloud tops — as to make global warming worse.

"As global warming occurs, there's the expectation that the storm track will shift closer to the pole and the dry areas of the subtropics will expand poleward," said Joel Norris, a climate scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, and the study's lead author. The work was conducted with scientists at Scripps, the University of California at Riverside, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Colorado State University.

An increase of CO2

The study observed this change, but a northward shifting of storm tracks was not



An "increase of CO2 leads to cooling of the stratosphere, so it's cooling down, the troposphere underneath is warming up, and so that means, as the clouds rise up they can rise up higher than they did before," climate scientist, Joel Norris says.

the only effect. The tops of clouds are also now reaching higher into the atmosphere,

Norris explained. An "increase of CO2 leads to cooling of the stratosphere, so it's cool-

ing down, the troposphere underneath is warming up, and so that means, as the clouds rise up they can rise up higher than they did before," Norris adds.

That these things would happen in theory, based on our understanding of the physics of the atmosphere, has long been expected. The physical reasons for the expectation get complicated fast, involving factors like the atmospheric "Rossby radius of deformation," and how the Earth's rotation bends the path of winds — the so-called Coriolis force, Norris explains. But all of this has long been an expectation based on runs of sophisticated climate simulations that embed within their coding the fundamental equations that govern the behavior of the atmosphere.

However, the study painstakingly pieced together images from weather satellites between the years 1983 and 2009 — correcting for the numerous known quirks of these satellites that have also made their measurements of atmospheric temperatures a messy affair — to line up pre-existing theory with observations.

(Source: The Washington Post)

Dietary mineral could be one key to blood pressure control

Sufficient dietary levels of the mineral nutrient magnesium might be a boon to good blood pressure, new research suggests.

"Magnesium dilates arteries, and in doing so lowers the blood pressure," explained Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum, a cardiologist who reviewed the new findings.

"Foods high in magnesium include whole grains, beans, nuts and green leafy vegetables," she added.

The new study was led by Dr. Yiqing Song, associate professor of epidemiology at Indiana University's School of Public Health. According to the researchers, past studies that focused on the role of magnesium in regulating blood pressure have been relatively small, and produced mixed and controversial results.

To help sort the data out, Song's group pooled the data from 34 clinical trials on magnesium supplements, which together involved more than 2,000 people.



The daily dosage of magnesium supplements used ranged from 240 milligrams (mg) to 960 mg. Most trials had participants meet or exceed the U.S. Recommended Dietary Allowance for daily magnesium intake.

Collected data

Sifting through the collected data, Song's team detected a small but significant link between magnesium intake and healthy reductions in blood pressure.

For example, the study found that taking about 368 mg of magnesium daily for about three months resulted in overall reductions in systolic blood pressure (the top number in a reading) of 2 millimeters of mercury (mm/Hg) and diastolic blood pressure (the bottom number) of 1.78 mm/Hg.

Higher magnesium levels were associated with better blood flow -- another factor linked to lower blood pressure, the researchers added. Still, the finding "underscores the importance of consuming a healthy diet that provides the recommended amount of magnesium as a strategy for helping to control blood pressure," American Heart Association spokeswoman Penny Kris-Etherton said in an AHA news release.

(Source: HealthDAY News)

Side sleeping may clean up 'mess' in brains

Sleeping on your side -- rather than your back or stomach -- may be the best way to rid your brain of waste. It may even help reduce the chances of developing Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurological diseases.

Researchers used dynamic contrast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to image the brain's glymphatic pathway, a complex system that clears wastes and other harmful chemical solutes from the brain.

Researchers have used dynamic contrast MRI for several years to examine the glymphatic pathway in rodent models. The method helps identify and define the glymphatic pathway, where cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) filters through the brain and exchanges with interstitial fluid (ISF) to clear waste -- similar to the way the body's lymphatic system clears waste from organs.

Body posture and sleep quality

In the new study, researchers used the dynamic contrast MRI method along with kinetic modeling to quantify the CSF-ISF exchange rates in anesthetized rodents' brains in three positions—lateral (side), prone (down), and supine (up).

The "analysis showed us consistently that glymphatic transport was most efficient in the lateral position when compared to the supine or prone positions," says Helene Benveniste, principal investigator and a professor of anesthesiology and radiology at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Most popular position

Benveniste and first-author Hedok Lee,



assistant professor of anesthesiology and radiology developed the safe posture positions for the experiments. Lulu Xie, Rashid Deane, and Maiken Nedergaard, all at the University of Rochester, used fluorescence microscopy and radioactive tracers to validate the MRI data and to assess the influence of body posture on the clearance of amyloid from the brains.

"It is interesting that the lateral sleep position is already the most popular in human and most animals—even in the wild—and it appears that we have adapted the lateral sleep position to most efficiently clear our brain of the metabolic waste products that built up while we are awake," Nedergaard says.

The study therefore adds further support to the concept that sleep subserves a distinct biological function of sleep and that is to clean up the mess that accumulates while we are awake.

(Source: futurity.org)

In a scientific first, blind mice regain eyesight

In an astonishing study, scientists restored the sight nerves in blind mice, helping them to see again.

Once the optic nerve that's responsible for sight is damaged, it's impossible to see again. At least that's been the dogma. But a group of U.S. scientists has upended that thinking and helped mice with destroyed optic nerves to see again. It does not have immediate implications for humans yet, but it points researchers in promising new directions.

Andrew Huberman, an associate professor of neurobiology at Stanford University, and his team describe their advance in a study published in Nature Neuroscience. To learn about the way vision nerves grow, they crushed the optic nerve in one eye of mice.

Once destroyed, the long finger-like extensions sent out by nerve cells from the eye to the brain start to shrivel, eventually severing any connection to the brain and resulting in blindness. Huberman and his colleagues, however, found that a combination of visual stimulation of the nerve, along with nerve-growing chemicals, can rescue these extensions, called axons, and coax them to stretch out again.

Regrowth of axons

Not only that, but the axons are able to find their appropriate connections to the correct sight-dedicated parts of the brain to restore vision. Mice with similar damage to the nerve that didn't receive the treatment did not show much regrowth of the axons.



About three weeks after the optic nerves in the mice were damaged, the researchers saw evidence of axons extending back into the brain from the eye, something that previous efforts to regenerate eye nerves haven't done with much reliability. The combination of keeping the damaged but remaining axons stimulated, by exposing the mice to bars on a screen that are moving in different directions, and the nerve growth factors lead to a 500-fold increase in axon regrowth. Granted, not all of the axons managed to sprout again, but those that did were able to do so with impressive speed and distance to reach the brain.

When the researchers conducted four different tests to verify how much of the regrowth contributed to actual restoration of vision in the animals, the animals passed two of the tests that detected large objects and movement.

(Source: Time)

Researchers develop novel microscope to study the underwater world

A new microscopic imaging system is revealing a never-before-seen view of the underwater world. Researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego have designed and built a diver-operated underwater microscope to study millimeter-scale processes as they naturally occur on the seafloor.

The research team observed coral turf wars, coral polyp "kissing," and much more using the new microscopic technology.

Many important biological processes in the ocean take place at microscopic scales, but when scientists remove organisms from their native habitats to study them in the lab, much of the information and its context are lost. In a quest to overcome this challenge, Scripps oceanographer Jules Jaffe and his team have developed a new type of underwater microscope to image marine microorganisms in their

natural settings without disturbing them.

Fluorescence imaging capabilities

The Benthic Underwater Microscope, or BUM, is a two-part system—an underwater computer with a diver interface tethered to a microscopic imaging unit to study marine subjects at nearly micron resolution. The instrument has a high magnification lens, a ring of focused LED lights for fast exposures, fluorescence imaging capabilities, and a flexible tunable lens, similar to the human eye, to change focus for viewing structures in 3-D.

"This underwater microscope is the first instrument to image the seafloor at such small scales," said Scripps PhD student Andrew Mullen, co-lead author of the study published in the July 12 issue of the journal Nature Communications. The "system is capable of seeing features as small

as single cells underwater."

The motivation for building the imaging system was to better understand the many ecological processes taking place underwater on a microscopic scale, according to the Scripps researchers.

To "understand the evolution of the dynamic processes taking place in the ocean, we need to observe them at the appropriate scale," said Jaffe, the senior author of the study, and head of the Jaffe Laboratory for Underwater Imaging at Scripps.

To test the new technology's ability to capture small-scale processes taking place underwater, the researchers used the imaging system to view millimeter-sized coral polyps off the coast of Israel in the Red Sea, and off Maui, Hawaii.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held an emergency meeting to discuss intensifying violence in Kashmir after nearly 30 people were killed in protests over the killing of a popular rebel leader.

India's Minister of State Jitendra Singh said Modi has "appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain calm and peace so that normality returns in the valley."

The emergency meeting was attended by ministers of home affairs, external affairs, finance, defense, along with the national security adviser and senior security officials.

"Soon after returning from his four-nation tour on Tuesday morning, Prime Minister convened the high-level meeting. This is evidence that he was keeping a close tab on the situation of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh further said.

He said Modi has promised to provide any assistance to the violence-hit state and hoped that innocent people should not face inconvenience.

The clashes came after residents of Kashmir held a funeral for separatist Burhan Wani, the young leader of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), who was killed on July 8 along with two other people during a brief gun battle with government forces.

During the past five years, Wani had become the iconic face of militancy in Kashmir, using social media to reach out to young people in the region.

Wani's body was handed over to his family earlier on Saturday and the locals, who see the slain 22-year old as a hero, turned the mass funeral into a full-scale protest.

According to Indian police, anti-riot troops used live ammunition, pellet guns

Indian premier holds emergency meeting over anti-govt. protests in Kashmir



and tear gas to disperse the crowds and calm down the outrage. Authorities have also suspended mobile networks and the internet to prevent massive demonstrations.

So far, at least 28 people, most of whom teens and young men, were killed and hundreds of others sustained injuries in the clashes. One policeman has also been killed in the clashes and nearly 100 others wounded.

Meanwhile, former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah called on Modi in a tweet to send optometrists to Kashmir, where, according to lo-

cal doctors, hundreds of young people risk losing their eyesight due to wounds from pellets fired by security forces.

For the past few days, Indian authorities imposed a curfew to the whole Kashmir valley, including the major city of Srinagar to curb the protests. The protesters, however, openly defy the curfew and continue with their rallies.

Kashmir, a Himalayan region known for its beautiful landscapes, lies at the heart of more than 69 years of hostility between India and Pakistan.

Both neighbors claim the region in full

but have partial control over it. India controls two thirds of Kashmir while the remaining one third is under the Pakistani rule.

The neighbors agreed on a ceasefire in 2003, and launched a peace process the following year. Since then, there have been sporadic clashes, with both sides accusing the other of violating the ceasefire.

Thousands of people have been killed in the violence in Kashmir over the past two decades.

■ Kashmiri doctors lament injuries by pellets in protests

Meantime, Kashmiri doctors have lamented the use of deadly pellet-firing shotguns on protesters after more than 100 people suffered grievous injuries to their eyes in a weekend of ferocious violence following the killing of Wani.

According to local media reports, at least 32 people have been killed and 1,365 others injured in some of the deadliest clashes between protesters and Indian security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir since 2010.

The divisional commissioner, Asghar Samoon, said that 80 percent of the injuries were minor, although the Hindustan Times reported on Tuesday that they had counted 110 people with bullet wounds in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Indian state, alone.

Doctors said that security forces had been deliberately using rubber pellets to inflict maximum physical and psychological damage on protesters without risking further fatalities.

Although rubber pellets are not fatal, pellets fired by hydraulic pump action guns can cause blindness, disfigurement and damage to organs.

(Source: al Jazeera)

The future of Iran-South Korea relations is bright: analyst

1 → During his rule, he was able to recruit the most talented people of a society as government officials, based on higher civil servant examinations and other merit-based recruitment practices.

Third, he was successful in instilling the Korean people with "we can do" spirits. In fact, the Korean people were placed in a helpless situation. Korea went through the Japanese colonial rule (1910-45), the Division of the Korean Peninsula, the Korean War (1950-53), and then the succeeding foreign aid dependent economy in the 1950s. Under the circumstances, many Korean people were not properly motivated for bright future or optimism about the destiny of the country. Under the circumstances, he was able to provide positive incentives for the people by making country's economy prospering, based on an export-oriented development strategy and a heavy and chemical industrialization strategy.

Of course, we cannot attribute the economic success of South Korea entirely to him. But it looks true that his regime contributed greatly to the economic development, which is the necessary condition for the successful modernization.

■ Was the military regime the main engine of industrial development in Korea? Or, what was the main factor that contributed to the Korean modernization?

A: The period from 1950s to 1970s was decades of military coups and military regimes in many parts of the world. The Korean military regime was one of them. But what made it distinctive, probably, from other military governments is that the Korean military regime's ideological commitment to economic development was strong and it pursued the goal consistently (or tenaciously). At least, it looks clear that the military regime tried to provide positive incentives to the Korean people that enabled them to work harder.

But I would not say that Korean modernization was possible because of the military regime. Instead, it may be fair to say that Korea could modernize itself despite the oppressive military rule. If I have to choose only one factor that contributed to the modernization process, I

would pick the Korean people's zeal for education. Of course, the Korean government tried to provide good primary and professional education, but more importantly, the Korean people aspired to get more education for their social mobility and professional success. The zeal for education might have come from the strong tradition of Confucianism, which emphasized education and learning.

■ How much serious is North Korea's threat to Seoul?

A: I would say that both North and South Korea are placed in a "balance of terror" situation. If there breaks out a real war, both sides will get destroyed completely. So, conquering the other side by the military or war is not a plausible option for reunification at all.

Many foreign people do not know how close from Seoul to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which divides North and South Korea. The distance from Seoul to DMZ is only 34 miles (or 55 km). But in Seoul about 10 million people live and in the metropolitan Seoul area about 25 million people, about the half of the Korean people, live. The DMZ is regarded the most militarized border on earth. Most military power (soldiers and other weapons) is centred around the DMZ. It's estimated that the active North Korean military personnel is about 1.2 million, and South Korea's one is about 600,000. If we include para military personnel in both sides, it exceeds 10 million. North Korea's most artillery (short and long range) are deployed targeting Seoul metropolitan area. Also, North Korea is believe to keep about 180,000 special operation forces. So, just in case any massive direct military warfare occurs between North and South Korea, civilian casualties and damages (including economic, social and political) will be unbearably colossal to South Korea.

Legally speaking, North Korea and South Korea are under a cease-fire situation. The South Korean government didn't sign the Truce agreement with North Korea after the Korean War. Also, Constitutions of both North and South Korea claim that the other part is only unrecovered area, illegally occupied by illegitimate govern-

ments.

Any disruptions in North Korea (or the North Korean regime) may cause skirmish conflicts between the two Koreas near the DMZ area, as North Korean regime often tried to externalize internal conflicts to consolidate its own people, and those skirmish conflicts can be escalated into a full-blown war any time. So, the stability of the North Korean regime is very critical for the peace of the Korean Peninsula. But unfortunately, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-eun, did not have enough time and experiences to consolidate his power before he succeeded to his father, Kim Jong-il. From the Kim Jong-il period, North Korea has pursued a "military first" policy and has tried to develop nuclear weapons, equipped with long range missiles, and Kim Jong-eun has more aggressively pursued this goal to consolidate his power quickly.

Right now, a real concern to the U.S. is that North Korea may transfer its missile or nuclear technology to terrorist organizations or other (rogue) nations. From the perspective of nuclear non-proliferation, North Korean nuclear development should be averted. Also, recent nuclear tests and long range missile tests have posed serious concerns in Japan. The Japanese people are really allergic to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests. The U.S. wants to maintain a stable regional security order, consolidating the trilateral alliance with South Korea and Japan. So, containing the North Korean nuclear/missile threats is very critical for that purpose.

■ How do you evaluate the future relationship between Iran and South Korea?

A: I see the future is bright. Both sides can get economic benefits by strengthening ties. South Korean companies can participate in many economic infrastructure building projects and help transfer advanced industrial technology or knowhow. In return, Iran can provide oil and share its rich cultural heritage including the deep legacy of the Persian Empire to Korea. As economic ties become strengthened, other cultural and diplomatic relations will get better in the end, mutually beneficial for both societies.

IME CEO: Online certified gold coin trading kicks off

ECONOMY On the sidelines of 9th Intl. Exhibition of Exchange, Bank & Insurance (FINEX 2016) held in Tehran, Chief Executive of Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) revealed the commissioning of online certified gold coin trading, effective as of Tuesday July 12.

He termed launching online certified gold coin trading as a good news for the Capital Market and gold coin traders, because, stock dealers can embark on carrying

out cash transactions of Azadi gold coin at IME as "online".

The online system will provide easy transactions for market activists and dealers to do business in the shortest time possible, he maintained.

Given the above issue, a tutorial workshop for online cash transactions of gold coin kicked off at the exposition booth of IME, he said, adding: "Suitable way has been paved for dear customers

in this system in order to transact gold coin in cash similar to stocks every day from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m."

In the end, senior official of Iran Mercantile Exchange said: "Presently, FMLE of gold coin is opened in stock online transactions system, based on which, traders can embark on buying and selling gold coin in cash. If requested, traders can receive their gold coins from Treasury Complex of Refah K. Bank."

UN pays travel costs of Bank Shahr managers to Geneva Conference solely

ECONOMY The United Nations reimbursed all travel costs of managers of Bank Shahr who visited Geneva in order to participate in Municipalities' Financial and Urban Economy Forum.

Approx. six months ago, UN invited senior officials of Bank Shahr, as operating bank, to participate in Municipalities' Financial and Urban Economy Forum, held on July 5-6 in Geneva with the aim of setting up Regional Monetary Fund.

As one of the leading and pioneer banks in materialization of objectives of "Resistance Economy, Action and Implementation", Bank Shahr has

made its utmost effort to take advantage of opportunity created in post-sanctions era in line with realizing most economic objectives in the best form possible.

Active presence of the bank, as main pillar of Regional Monetary Fund, in the Forum can bring about many achievements for the Islamic Republic of Iran and cities of country as well, the report added.

It should be noted that representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran have thus far participated in different summits and also have embarked on reflecting their expert-level viewpoints.

Tehran hosts "Oceanography and Modern Marine Technologies in Caspian Sea" meeting

ECONOMY A specialized meeting entitled "Oceanography and Modern Marine Technologies in Caspian Sea" was held in Tehran on Tuesday July 12 in cooperation with Maritime Knowledge-Based Industries and Technology Development Headquarters, Presidential Office's Scientific and Technology Deputy Office, Center for Technological and Innovation Cooperation Center, Iran Maritime Engineering Association in the presence of Prof. Robert Nigomalotin Head of Russia's Shyrshov Oceanography Institute and Dr. Lew Merklyn Faculty Member and Head of Seismic Stratigraphy Division of the Institute, a number of represent-

atives of Iran's maritime organizations.

Introducing oceanography activities of Russia's Oceanology Institute, exchanging modern oceanography technologies and reviewing challenges facing oceanography in the Caspian Sea have been cited as the main aim behind organizing this meeting, the report added.

It should be noted that a bilateral cooperation agreement was concluded between National Iranian Atmospheric Sciences and Oceanology Research Center and Russia's Shyrshov Oceanography Institute in order to exchange university students and broaden more scientific and training cooperation in the field of oceanography, the report ended.

JUMP

Turkey PM Yildirim says aims to develop relations with Syria, Iraq

1 → Since taking office in May, Yildirim has repeatedly said that Turkey needs to "increase its friends and decrease its enemies" - an apparent tacit admission that past policies have left Ankara sidelined.

"It is our greatest and irrevocable goal: Developing good relations with Syria and Iraq, and all our neighbors that surround the Mediterranean and the Black Sea," Yildirim said, in comments broadcast live on television.

"We normalized relations with Russia and Israel. I'm sure we will normalize relations with Syria as well. For the fight against terrorism to succeed stability needs to return to Syria and Iraq," he said.

Turkey last month announced the restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel after a six-year rupture and expressed regret to Russia over the downing of a warplane, seeking to mend strained alliances. Officials have insisted those moves do not mark a broader foreign policy shift for Ankara.

(Source: Reuters)

Make no mistake about Brexit

1 → These three facts provide the basis for the formation of NATO as well as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The EU at best is a third phenomenon in that category.

European capitals may like to adopt a more independent path among themselves and in relation to Washington, but they are hampered by security and political constraints.

There is some finesse in the inclination to go on one's way and stay in the united Western group, which is the key to understanding the internal relation between Europe and the U.S. Forgetting this basic fact will lead to problematic interpretations of what will come out of any disagreement between London, the EU, and the U.S.

Whatever it may bring, the Brexit will not impact the EU-Britain-U.S. relations in a way to affect their most fundamental interests. On Monday it was announced that Theresa May will replace David Cameron as prime minister. She talks well but does not seem to act so. I doubt if this will resolve the crisis.

Who is Theresa May?

6 → In an interview for BBC radio, she selected the ABBA song Dancing Queen as one of her favorites.

She is well known for her collection of leopard-print kitten heel shoes — a contrast with her sober dress sense and demeanor.

But Ms May as a whole has been fiercely private about her life in a way that is unusual for modern politicians.

She was born Theresa Brasier in the southern English seaside town of Eastbourne in 1956.

Her father Hubert was an Anglican clergyman, one of several points which has drawn comparisons between her and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Her education — at a series of little known state and private schools — has been contrasted with the elite Etonian background of Cameron and many in his "Notting Hill Set" circle.

Husband Philip, a banker — they were reportedly introduced by Benazir Bhutto, later assassinated as Pakistani premier. The couple married in 1980 but were unable to have children.

■ May's rival

Ms May's rival Andrea Leadsom withdrew from the leadership race two days after comments were published suggesting this made her less qualified to be prime minister.

Ms May worked in finance, including at the Bank of England, before being elected as MP for the London commuter town of Maidenhead in 1997.

As Conservative chairwoman in 2002, she made waves by suggesting the Tories were seen as the "nasty party" and needed to overhaul their image — although under Cameron's leadership, they did so.

When the Conservatives won the 2010 general election, Ms May was named home secretary, the hardest job in government which has wrecked a string of other political careers.

But Ms May has kept the job for six years - the longest serving interior minister since 1892.

Supporters say her achievements include deporting radical cleric Abu Qatada to Jordan - where he was later freed after a decade of legal cases - and standing up to the Police Federation, the powerful police officers union, to try and address a string of scandals.

In 2013, Ms May revealed she had type 1 diabetes but insisted it would not affect her career, saying it was a question of "head down and getting on with it".

While widely respected, she is not part of any clique at Westminster, acknowledging that she does not drink in parliament's many bars or "gossip about people over lunch". (Source: abc.net.au)

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Blessed are the hearts that can bend; they shall never be broken.

Albert Camus

LEARN ENGLISH

Working Overseas

Danielle: I'm so excited! I just got my new **posting overseas**. I can't wait to live **abroad** and work as an **expat**.
 Angus: I remember my first overseas assignment. It was interesting, but the **adjustment** took some time.
 Danielle: I won't have any problems. I already have my **work permit** and vaccinations, and I speak the language fairly well. And remember, I don't have any family to **relocate**.
 Angus: I didn't think I'd have any problems either, but when I got to McQuillanland, I was in **culture shock**.
 Danielle: I'm ready for the differences in the cost of living. I'll be getting a **housing allowance**, which will **offset** the increase in living expenses.
 Angus: I wasn't thinking so much about the expense of living abroad. I was referring to a different **pace of life** and the many cultural differences that affect every **facet** of life.
 Danielle: That's what I'm looking forward to. It'll all be so exciting.
 Angus: I'm glad you're in **euphoria** right now, but be prepared for some **bumps in the road**.
 Danielle: No problem. To me, **smooth sailing** would be boring!

(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

- posting**: if a soldier, a representative of a country etc. gets a posting somewhere, they are sent there to do their job
- overseas**: to or in a foreign country that is across the sea
- abroad**: in or to a foreign country
- expat**: an expatriate; someone who lives in a foreign country
- adjustment**: a change in the way that someone behaves or thinks
- work permit**: an official document that you need if you want to work in a foreign country
- relocate**: if a person or business relocates, or if they are relocated, they move to a different place
- culture shock**: the feeling of being confused or anxious that you get when you visit a foreign country or a place that is very different from the one you are used to
- housing allowance**: an amount of money that you are given regularly or for a special purpose in this case for paying the rent
- offset**: if the cost or amount of something offsets another cost or amount, the two things have an opposite effect so that the situation remains the same
- pace of life**: used to refer to the speed at which changes and events occur
- facet**: one of several parts of someone's character, a situation etc.; aspect
- euphoria**: an extremely strong feeling of happiness and excitement which usually only lasts for a short time
- bumps in the road**: a problem or a setback
- smooth sailing**: easy progress

QUIZ OF THE DAY

182) She was responsible ___ the mess.
 a) for
 b) of
 c) in
 d) on
 (Quiz No. 181 answer: b)

PHRASAL VERB

Veer away from

- Meaning**: avoid, stay away from
- For example**: I veer away from hypochondriacs if I can.

ENGLISH PROVERB

He can who believes he can

Explanation: if you believe you can do something, you will be able to do it



Without earth no birth!

Iran, Italy team up to fight diabetes

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory Foundation (IBDO) and the Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute affiliated with University of Tehran have inked a memorandum of understanding to prevent the prevalence of diabetes in the two countries.

According to IRNA, the MOU was signed on Tuesday in Rome to prevent and treat diabetes by enhancing academic cooperation between the two countries' universities and research centers with the intention of developing schemes to fulfill the goal.

Mentioning the high incidence of diabetes in Iran and other countries worldwide, Mohammad-Baqer Larijani, the director for teaching affairs at the Health Ministry, said that "We are planning on hampering the disease from spreading by offering a better diagnosis, more efficient control, and better treatment procedure."

"Our cooperation won't be limited to Italy and we will undertake much broader activities

to manage the disease," Larijani explained.

Diabetes is one of the most serious predicaments of this century as World Health Organization (WHO) calls for global action to halt rise in and improve care for people with diabetes this year concurrent with World Health Day on April 7.

Based on WHO Global report on diabetes the number of people living with diabetes has almost quadrupled since 1980 to 422 million adults, with most living in developing countries. Factors driving this dramatic rise include overweight and obesity.

Every 6 seconds one die of diabetes worldwide and considering the 10 percent prevalence of the disease in Iran it is projected that 8.4 million Iranian will be affected by diabetes by the Iranian calendar year of 1414 falling on 2035.

By the same year the number would increase to 6.1 million in Italy but Iranian and Italian researchers have already started joint international attempts to manage the disease.



Tehran to host 1st World Conference of Mayors and Councilors

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The First World Conference of Mayors and Councilors will be held in Tehran on July 20-21, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The conference is organized by Tehran's City Council, Iran's architecture and urban development supreme council, Tehran's Municipality, ministries of transport and urban development, communication and information technology, culture and Islamic guidance, foreign affairs, and youth affairs and sports.

Aiming at learning about the latest world scientific achievements in the field of city management the conference will be held with some 1,800 city managers, city councilors and mayors from inside and outside of the country in attendance.

Additionally, President Hassan Rouhani, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli, Transport and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhondi, Communication and Information Technology Minister Mahmoud



Vaezi, Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif and some deputy ministers will attend the event.

Some of the world mayors are also scheduled to deliver speeches on the subject of city management during the course of the conference.

Those interested on the subjects can refer to the website www.tnsi.ir for more information.

Softens blow of Euro-2016 defeat for France with Persian rug gift

The French were left stunned by their defeat to Portugal in the final match of the Euro 2016 association football championship, but can take comfort in some consolation gifts from Iran.

After making it all the way to the final of the Euro 2016 association football (soccer) tournament, favorites France were defeated 1:0 by Portugal in extra time on Sunday.

While all did not go according to plan on the football field for Les Bleus, Iran has presented France with a worthy consolation gift, as a gesture of thanks for hosting the tournament.

On Saturday, in the presence of French Football Federation President Noel Le Graet, Iranian ambassador to France Ali Ahani presented France with a silk Persian carpet and two decorative clay jugs.



The rug is decorated with France's famous Eiffel Tower, the Super Victor tournament mascot, and the national flags of the countries which took part.

It was woven by expert carpet makers in Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azerbaijan Province and a famous center of carpet making.

(Source: Sputnik)

Italian mayor shuts offices after mass arrests for absenteeism

The mayor of a small town outside Naples had to shut down most municipal offices after police arrested 23 of his staff on Tuesday in the latest revelations of absenteeism in Italy's public sector.

Police arrested around half of all employees in the town hall offices of Boscotrecase following a weeks-long investigation which they said revealed 200 cases of absenteeism involving 30 people.

Staff were filmed clocking in and then leaving to go

about their personal business or using multiple swipe cards to register absent colleagues, in scenes which have become familiar after numerous similar scandals.

A police video showed one man trying to tamper with a security camera and then putting a cardboard box over his head to hide his identity before swiping two cards.

"I'll probably have to shut down the town hall," Pietro Carotenuto, elected just a month ago as mayor of the town of 11,000 people, told Sky Italia.

He said four major town hall departments had been closed on Tuesday due to a lack of staff. Those arrested, accused of fraud against the state, included the head of the local traffic police and the head of the town's accounting department. The workers, clearly undeterred by a recently announced government crackdown against absenteeism, have been suspended from work for between six and 12 months and risk eventual dismissal.

(Source: Reuters)

IN FOCUS @ IRNA/ Taha Asgharkhani



Picturesque sceneries of nature in the Boursalaan region near the city of Maku in West Azarbaijan province with a view of the Ararat Mountain in the background attract tourists to the area every year.

Sheriff warns: Stop trespassing to find Pokemon on new app

GOOCHLAND, Va. (AP) — Searching for Pokemon on a popular new smartphone game is not a valid excuse for trespassing.

That's the warning from a central Virginia sheriff's office. In a post on its official Facebook page, the Goochland Sheriff's Office links a rise in reports of trespassing and suspicious activity over the weekend to Thursday's release of the popular Pokemon Go game.

The "augmented reality" game encourages players to wander in the physical world to find and catch new Pokemon on their screens.

Deputies say they have found people on business, church, and government properties late at night when the grounds are closed.

Authorities say those actions constitute trespassing and put both members of the public and law enforcement officers at risk.

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran's first environmental charity foundation established

The first environmental charity foundation of Iran was set up in the western province of Lorestan, the province's chief of the department of environment Mehrdad Fat'hi-Beiranvand said. Despite the fact that Lorestan constitutes 0.7 percent of the country's area, the province's biodiversity is almost unbeatable, Beiranvand told YJC. "Approximately 25 percent of the biodiversity of the whole country exists in Lorestan," he noted. Kaiser's spotted newt, also known as the Lorestan newt and Zagros cave garra [with the scientific name of *Iranocypris typhlops*] are two species endemic to Lorestan, he noted. Additionally 367 species and 1,700 different kinds of plants, of which 70 are endemic to Lorestan, are found in this province, he highlighted.

اولین مجمع خیرین محیط زیست کشور به ثبت رسید

مهرداد فتحی بیراوند مدیر کل حفاظت محیط زیست استان لرستان گفت: برای اولین بار در سطح کشور مجمع خیرین محیط زیست استان لرستان به ثبت رسید. بیراوند در گفتگو با باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان گفت: علی رغم مساحت استان لرستان که نسبت به کل کشور ۷درصد در صد است، اما تنوع زیستی در این استان کم نظیر یا بی نظیر است. وی خاطر نشان کرد: حدود ۲۵درصد از تنوع زیستی کشور تنها در استان لرستان وجود دارد. وی ادامه داد: سمندر لرستانی و ماهی کوره غار از گونه‌های بومی استان لرستان است. وی گفت: علاوه بر این موارد حدود ۳۶۷ گونه جانوری در لرستان به ثبت رسیده و ۱۷۰۰ گونه گیاهی نیز شناسایی شده که از این تعداد ۷۰ گونه آن بومی استان است.

Iran football team to hold training camp in Italy

SPORTS The Iranian football team **d e s k** will hold a training camp in Italy as part of preparation for the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification.

Team Mellini will travel to Italy in mid-August to hold a 12-day training camp in Italy.

Carlos Queiroz's men will play two friendly matches with Serie B Selection and a team from the Serie B in the training camp.

Iran has been drawn in Group A of the World Cup qualification along with Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria.

The winner and runner-up of each group (four teams in total) will qualify for the Russia 2018, while the third-placed teams of each group will advance to the Asian play-off.

The winner of the Asian play-off will face the side that finishes fourth in the fifth round of the CONCACAF qualifiers in a two-leg inter-confederation playoff.



Cichello: Iran volleyball could reach Olympic semi-final



SPORTS Iran national volleyball **d e s k** team coach Juan Manuel Cichello believes that the Persians could reach semi-final of the Olympic Games.

"After a couple of days we're back to training. The players need time to get back to the top form and I believe regarding the time left until the Olympic Games we can build a strong team that could reach to the last four in Rio," Cichello said.

"This is the most important tourna-

ment in the history of Iran volleyball so we have to prepare the best team," he added.

Iran has been pitted against London 2012 gold medalist Russia, World Championship 2014 winner Poland, Argentina, Cuba and Egypt in Pool B of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The Rio 2016 Olympic Games men's volleyball tournament runs from August 6 until August 20.

Karim Ansarifard Panionios's great weapon



SPORTS Iranian international **d e s k** striker Karim Ansarifard, who is currently playing for Greek side FC Panionios, is believed to be his team's best player in next season's Superleague, according to a report on NovaSport.

"I believe Panionios's great weapon is Iranian striker Karim Ansarifard. He can score even more goals this season and help his team to move up to the title contenders," NovaSport pundit

George Vassiliou said.

"Their coach Marinou Ouzounidis is a smart trainer, who won't let his team's best players leave. He didn't let Ansarifard leave the club despite offers from AEK and PAOK," he added.

After a poor spell in Osasuna, Ansarifard joined Greek side Panionios last summer and impressed in his first season with the team as he scored 9 goals in 30 appearances.

Iran announces weightlifting team for Olympic 2016

SPORTS Three athletes have been named as the **d e s k** three weightlifters who will represent Team Iran at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Behdad Salimi will compete in the men's +105kg in Olympics.

The 2012 Olympic Champion could return from knee surgery in time for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

In the men's 94kg, Sohrab Moradi will represent Iran in the prestigious event.

Kianoush Rostami will take part in the men's 85kg in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

He snatched a silver medal in the previous edition.

The weightlifting competition at Rio will be held from August 6.



Iran basketball team announced for Jones Cup

Iran Basketball Federation announced the name of the players who will represent the country in the William Jones Cup, also known as the Jones Cup.

Iran, coached by Dirk Bauermann, will participate in the event with a combination of the young players and experienced players.

The German coach has invited 18 players to the training camp for the event.

The team consists of Rouzbeh Arghavan, Farid Aslani, Ali Allahverdi, Mohammad Ojaghi, Mohammad Torabi, Mohammad Hassanzadeh, Vahid Dalirzahan, Adnan Doraghi, Navid Rezaeifar, Amir Sedighi, Saleh Foroutan, Arsalan Kazemi, Sajjad Mashayekhi, Rasoul Mozaffari, Salar Monji, Meysam Rezaei, Behnam Yakhchali and Yousef Mohammadvand.

The key players namely, Hamed Haddadi and Oshin Sahakin have been left out of the team.



The Iranian team is preparing for the 2016 FIBA Asia Challenge which is an international basketball tournament.

FIBA Asia will be hosted by Iran from September 9 to 18 in Tehran.

This tournament will serve as the first step in determining the process of the qualifiers for the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup which will feature teams from both FIBA Asia and FIBA Oceania for the first time.

(Source: Tasnim)

Germany may rest players for Confederations Cup - Oliver Bierhoff

Germany may not take all of their stars to the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia, general manager Oliver Bierhoff has told Sport Bild.

World Cup winners Germany will be one of the eight contenders at next summer's tournament, which will take place in Russia from June 17 through to July 2.

However, Germany may not take their strongest squad for the competition, which serves as a warm-up for the 2018 World Cup.

"The Confed Cup just doesn't have the sporting significance of a World Cup or a European Championship," Bierhoff said. "So it is possible that we will not travel to Russia with the best available team."

During Euro 2016, Germany forward Thomas Muller warned that players need a "mental break" from the game every once in a while to compete at the highest level.



Bierhoff said: "With a view to the 2018 World Cup it could make sense to allow one key player or another a longer break in the summer."

He said promising youngsters such as Bayer Leverkusen forward Julian Brandt or Borussia Monchengladbach midfielder Mo Dahoud could be handed the chance to make an impression internationally.

(Source: Soccernet)

FOOTBALL

Gibraltar Red Imps striker will be back at his main job this weekend

Gibraltar Red Imps hero Lee Casciaro has revealed he will be back at work as a police officer this weekend, after his famous strike handed his team of underdogs a famous victory against Celtic in their Champions League qualifier on Tuesday night.

Brendan Rodgers' first competitive game as Celtic boss ended in disaster, as Casciaro produced a fine finish to hand his side a 1-0 victory in the first leg tie.

While Celtic left Gibraltar humiliated by their defeat against their part-time rivals, Casciaro toasted his strike as the best moment of a career that has rarely had such high profile high points.

"I have been playing football since the age of six or seven and I am 35 in September, but this is the greatest moment of my life," Casciaro told talkSPORT. "It has all come late for me, but for a small club like Lincoln this is surreal. It will take a long time to sink in."

"It was an historic night for us. We are part time amateurs and now we beat the mighty Celtic. This is something we will cherish for most of our lives."

Casciaro went on to reveal the make up of the Red Imps squad, with the scale of Celtic's embarrassment highlighted by these comments.

"Five or six of us are professionals, but the rest are semi-professionals," he stated. "Most of us work. I work for the Ministry of Defence police in Gibraltar with my brother. We have a customs officer, a laborer...we have a bit of everything."

"This is why we are all so amazed by this result. Now we have to try and think about the second leg at Celtic."

If the Red Imps were to knock Celtic out of the Champions League, it may well go down in history as the biggest upset the game has seen and Casciaro is talking up his side's hopes ahead of the game at Parkhead next Wednesday.

"If we get an away goal at Celtic, it will complicate them, so we will fly to Scotland see what we can do," he added.

"Realistically, we knew they were not 100 per-cent prepared for this. We knew they would suffer with the temperatures as it is 30 degrees out here and the pitch suits us because it is an artificial pitch and it suits us."

"Nothing has been done. This is just half-time at the moment. Let's see how we do in the second leg."

(Source: Independent)

Antoine Griezmann turned down PSG to stay at Atletico Madrid - agent

Antoine Griezmann's agent has revealed that the France forward considered offers from Paris Saint-Germain and other clubs before deciding to stay at Atletico Madrid for at least another season.

Griezmann, 25, signed a new contract with Atletico last month after helping them reach the Champions League final for the second time in three years.

The former Real Sociedad player will have won even more admirers after being named player of the tournament at Euro 2016 and winning the Golden Boot with six goals for beaten finalists France.

Sources told ESPN FC last month that Manchester United were also monitoring the player.

Speaking on RMC on Tuesday, Griezmann's advisor Eric Olhats confirmed that he had been in contact with PSG sporting director Olivier Letang in recent months.

"There were discussions with Olivier Letang," Olhats said. "There was interest from Paris. We listened because it is all the same a club with objectives and resources."

"After numerous discussions, and drawing a parallel a little bit with other offers, we opted for continuity."

Olhats did not rule out Griezmann signing for PSG before his career is over but also stressed that they were not the only team who were interested.

"There were approaches," he said. "It's 100 percent certain that he'll be at Atletico Madrid next season."

"Would it have been wise for him to leave for a club with a bigger scope to win trophies? Barca and Real are fully stocked at the moment."

"Atletico give the impression of a struggle, but I think they're equipped to win trophies."

(Source: ESPN)

Tehran derby date announced

The date for the match between Persepolis and Esteghlal football teams in Iran Professional League (IPL) has been announced.

The two rivals will face-off at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran on September 16 as Esteghlal looks to get revenge for the 4-2 defeat it suffered in April.

Esteghlal headed the head to head results in competitive matches with 24 wins to Persepolis's 20, and 38 matches ended in a draw.

Tehran derby is a football match between the two prominent Tehran clubs Esteghlal (Blues) and Persepolis (Reds).

World Soccer magazine in June 2008 declared this match as the most important derby in Asia and 22nd most important derby in the world.

The 16th edition of IPL season will kick off on July 25.

(Source: Tasnim)

Mario Balotelli's future is not at Liverpool - Jurgen Klopp

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has confirmed that Mario Balotelli has no future at Anfield.

The striker, who spent last season out on loan at AC Milan, is back on Merseyside as the Reds begin their preparations for the 2016-17 campaign but Klopp says that it isn't a good "situation" for Balotelli or the club.

"I have spoken to him about this. He's not at the stage of his career where he should be battling with four or five other players for one or two positions," the German tactician told the Telegraph.

"We want him to become the player he was before his injury -- the talent is still there, there's no doubt about it. When we have done the crossing, heading and stuff he's been world class."

"But this is not a situation where he should be battling with other players like this for one position, so it's clear we need a solution."



"There will be a club around who would be happy to have the new Mario Balotelli. I have spoken clearly to the player about that."

"In this case it's obvious. It's now time to make decisions and I try to help Mario to get in the best shape he can be in and we will see what happens."

Despite being told that he has no future, Klopp praised the effort that Balotelli had been putting into preseason training, saying that Liverpool would continue to help the 25-year-old regain form and fitness as his search for a new club goes on.

"I can talk of Mario because that one is obvious. I heard a lot about him ever since I came here," said Klopp.

"But since he has been back here, he's been a good guy and I can't say anything different than that. It's not that he's come back and said 'who's the boss, I'm the boss no sorry it's you!' It's not been that at all. Everything's been good, it's all okay. And now he's here, we will do everything we can to get him fit."

(Source: ESPN)



Poem of the day
Art thou with grief afflicted, with the smart
Of absence, and is bitter toil thy part?
Thy lamentations and thy tears, oh Heart,
Are not in vain.

Hafez

Prayer Times

Noon:13:10 Evening: 20:41 Dawn: 4:17 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:00 (tomorrow)

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NEWS

Veteran Iranian writer Jamshid Arjmand dies at 77

CULTURE TEHRAN — Jamshid Arjmand, the veteran Iranian writer who was mostly known for his film reviews and works translated from world literature, died at Shohada-e Tajrish Hospital in Tehran on Wednesday from congestive heart failure. He was 77.



He was the translator of German historian Josef Wiesehofer's "Iranians, Greeks and Romans" and English writer Wilfrid Scawen Blunt's "Isfahan: Pearl of Persia".

"Little Nicholas" by French comics writer René Goscinny, and "A Husband in a Boarding School" by Italian journalist and humorist Giovannino Guareschi are among the books translated from children's and young adult literature.

Arjmand, whose reviews were published in many Iranian magazines and newspapers over the past five decades, is widely recognized as a pioneer of film criticism in the country.

Thespians from Iran to stage "Growth" at Armenian festival

ART TEHRAN — A group of Iranian pantomime troupers led by director Nazanin Valajam is scheduled to stage "Growth" at the 5th Leonid Yengibaryan International Mime Festival, which will be held in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia from August 10 to 15.

The 35-minute performance interweaves concepts of creation and perfection within a framework of Iranian culture and traditions.

The festival is named after Soviet clown and actor Leonid Georgievich Yengibarov (1935-1972) who developed the art of clownery by introducing lyrical tones into traditional buffoonery and outlandish sequences.

Groups from Latvia, USA, France, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Japan, Kazakhstan and dozens of other countries will perform during the event.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian director to stage "Hearing" in Italy and France

ART TEHRAN — Iranian director Amir-Reza Kuestani plans to stage "Hearing" at two international festivals in Italy and France in July.

His troupe, Mehr, will first perform the play during the Santarcangelo Festival Internazionale del Teatro in the Italian town on July 15 and 16.

The group will later go on stage at the Festival d'Avignon, which will be held in France from July 21 to 24.

Elham Korda, Mahin Sadri, Mona Ahmadi and Aynaz Azarhush are the main members of the cast for the play, which is about the female world of girls' dormitories where entry by any male is prohibited.



"Sormeh" to compete in Greek festival

CULTURE TEHRAN — Iranian director Azadeh Qochaq's short film "Sormeh" will be screened at the first edition of the IndieCrete International Film Festival, which will be held in Crete, Greece from August 19 to 21.

The movie is about a young woman who is getting ready for her wedding ceremony in the heat of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Sormeh" won the best film award at the 11th Dieciminti Film Festival in the Italian city of Ceccano in January.

"Cow" director blames medical team for death of Kiarostami

ART TEHRAN — Dariush Mehrjui, the director of the acclaimed drama "The Cow", has said that top Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami died because of his Iranian medical team's negligence.

"I'm angry over this accident that is the outcome of the carelessness and irresponsibility of the surgeons who killed Abbas Kiarostami," he said during a memorial service for Kiarostami that held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran on Tuesday.

"The murderers are among us," noted Mehrjui who was weeping bitterly and asked the country's judicial authority to bring them to trial.

Talking to the Persian service of ISNA on Tuesday, Ahmad, the elder son of Kiarostami, announced his family's plan to file a lawsuit against the medical team.

Kiarostami who was suffering from a severe gastrointestinal disease died at a Paris hospital on July 4.

Kiarostami was hospitalized in mid-March at Tehran's Jam Hospital and underwent several operations. Although he didn't recover fully, he left the hospital in late April.

Meanwhile, some reports published on social networks have accused his surgical team of negligence.

Due to the repercussions of the operations, he was admitted again to Arad Hospital in Tehran, but on June 27, he decided to leave the hospital to resume his medical treatment at the Paris hospital.

The Iran Medical Council has assigned a special committee to examine Kiarostami's medical file in several sessions. The council has also asked Kiarostami's family doctor to submit the file of Kiarostami's French medical



Director Dariush Mehrjui addresses the audience during a memorial service for Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran on July 12, 2106. (Mehr/Mahmud Rahimi)

The first session was held on Wednesday and the committee is scheduled to its submit comments late next week. In addition, the Majlis Health Committee has announced that it is scrutinizing the medical file.

"Assholism" goes on stage in Tehran to awaken people's conscience on social issues

ART TEHRAN — Director Ali Hosseini has said that he intends to awaken the conscience of people in Tehran on some social issues by staging a play based on Xavier Crement's "Assholism" at Tehran's 3-Noqteh Amphitheater.

Hosseini has written the play by a Persian translation of the book by Mahmud Farjami.

"We have tried to narrate social problems and offer ethical standards in humor in this play. We are not teachers of morals but we only mean offer valuable instructions, information and warnings,"

Hosseini said in a press release published on Wednesday.

"All the people are aware of what they are doing but act out of conscience. But if we live in our conscience, we would not face such a great number of social misbehaviors," he added.

"In the original book, a writer who is tired of assholism that he observes among his people begins to write about their behaviors and offers solutions for them.

"Likewise in this play, a writer grows weary of the events occurring around him and writes things played by the

actors on stage. The play is considered a conceptual play reflecting the problems," he explained.

"Usually the audience asks us so they know if they are about to watch a comedy or a philosophical play. It is sad to realize that people prefer to watch a comedy and hardly relate to other types of plays. However, we have tried to narrate things in the language of satire to keep the audience satisfied," he concluded.

Afshin Rahgozar, Nushafarin Keyhan, Amin Satyar, Sara Shirazi, Mehdi Darband Haqiqat, Nazanina Amiri, Mohamad-Hossein Gharavai and Melika Mashal are



The main actors in the play.

The play will be on stage until August 2 at the amphitheater located at No.10, Kabkanian St., Keshavarz Blvd.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Honaronline/Elaheh Bahrami



Reza Yahyai creates a painting during his performance art exhibition entitled "A Tragedy in Twenty Stages" at Vesal Gallery in Shiraz on July 23, 2016. A collection of his bronze sculptures is also on display at the showcase, which runs until July 21. (Honaronline)

Taylor Swift tops Forbes highest paid celebrity list

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Singer Taylor Swift has topped this year's Forbes list of the world's 100 highest paid celebrities, earning \$170 million mainly thanks to her hugely successful "1989" world tour.

The "Shake It Off" singer, 26, came ahead of boy band One Direction, currently on a break, who took second place with \$110 million.

"The pop superstar smashed the Rolling Stones' North American touring record, grossing \$200 million on the continent en route to a quarter-billion dollars in total for her 1989 World Tour," Forbes said in a statement.

With earnings of \$95 million, American author James Patterson came in third. U.S. television personality Dr Phil McGraw and Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo were tied fourth with earnings of \$88 million, the magazine said.

The other top 10 spots were held by American comedian Kevin Hart, British singer Adele and Barcelona footballer Lionel Messi alongside U.S. radio hosts Howard Stern and Rush Limbaugh.

Iran's Contemporary Art Biennial spotlights peace

ART TEHRAN — A selection of works by Iranian and international artists highlighting "peace" will go on display at Iran's Contemporary Art Biennial opening in Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on July 22.

"About 200 works in paintings, photos, installations and video art showcasing peace not in contrast with war, will go on show in the second edition of the biennial," art critic Amin Shahed said in a press conference held at Salees Publications on Wednesday.

The works have been created by about 90 Iranian and 35 international artists, Curator Abbas Farahani said, adding that, "The works have been provided by fifteen galleries including three from Germany, Turkey and Dubai, and others from Tehran and other cities."

Farahani explained on choosing the topic "Peace on Paper" for the second biennial, and said, "Paper has a lot of meaning for us. The biennial was also due to be held in Istanbul, and the material of paper was easy to

transfer. However the idea of holding the biennial in Istanbul was halted due to the recent suicide bombing at Istanbul's main international airport.

"If we only focused on peace against war, it would turn to be a repetitious topic. In this collection we did not think of peace as a sweet world, but focused on the influence of different factors in the world on one another. Actually, the participation of various artists in a single event conveys the meaning of peace in itself," he added.

Graphic designer Hamed Jaberha,

also attending the conference, said that the biennial is a non-governmental artistic event.

He also explained about the poster of the biennial and said, "The poster bears the image of a paper missile, which actually is a kind of joke with peace, and shows how one can make peace with paper."

The exhibit will be on display in Tehran until July 31 and will next move to the Abadan Museum of Contemporary Art opening on September 20.