

TEHRAN TIMES

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Tasiasat Daryaei reaches AFC Futsal Club C'ship quarter-final **11**

Era of coups is gone: Rouhani

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that the era of stage coup d'état is gone, noting that problems can be resolved through "democracy" and "respect for votes of majority".

"We are in a region where, unfortunately, some think can seize power by tank, plane, and helicopter and topple a government which has been elected by the people," Rouhani said while addressing people in Kermanshah, western Iran.

Rouhani was referring to a military coup attempt in Turkey by a faction of the Turkish military forces in Ankara late on Friday which was crumbled by forces loyal to the Turkish government. The coup attempt left more than 260 people killed.

He added that problems can be resolved by "ballot boxes".

Rouhani also said his administration will counter the issue of inflated salaries.

"The government of 'prudence and hope' will counter all the violations with the help of God," he added.

On July 6, Rouhani issued a statement saying that his government will counter corruption and nepotism at the administrative system until it is "eradicated".

The president said in the statement that he will not waver in his determination to fight corruption with "anybody".

Mahan Mirarab, Amir Wahba to team up for Iranian concerts

ART TEHRAN — Iranian jazz guitarist Mahan Mirarab and Egyptian percussionist Amir Wahba will team up to give some fusion concerts in Iran.

The duo will perform two concert at Tehran's Azadi Tower on July 21 and 22, Mirarab has announced on his official website. They will then leave Tehran for the southern Iranian city of Bandar Abbas to do their gig on July 26.

The last concert will be performed in Shiraz on July 28.

A repertoire of pieces by Mirarab will be performed at the concert.

Bassist Dara Darai and guitarist Golar Shahyar will accompany the musicians in some of the performances.

Iran runner-up at Asian U-20 Volleyball Championship

SPORTS Iran lost to China 3-2 (27-25, 21-25, 31-29, 18-25, 15-13) in the final match of the 2016 Asian U-20 Men's Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Iran and China as the tournament's top two teams had already qualified for the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Men's U-21 World Championship.

The competition will be held in Brno, Czech Republic. Earlier in the day, South Korea beat Japan 3-2 in third-place match.

It was the 18th edition of Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship, which was first held in 1980 in South Korea, and is currently held biennially since 1984 (except for 1982). And it was also the first time for Chinese Taipei to host this AVC competition for under-20 players.

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Iran plans first tender to draw \$12 billion green investment

Iran is planning its first tender for utility-scale renewable-energy projects by year end as it begins a green power build out that could draw \$12 billion of investment by the time it's complete.

The nation wants to install 5 gigawatts of renewable energy in the next five years and an additional 2.5 gigawatts by 2030, Iran's energy minister Hamid Chitchian said Thursday in an interview in London. The Persian Gulf nation, re-

opened to investors following last year's nuclear deal, has been courted by international green power investors at the same time it boosts oil production for export.

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Music turns spotlight on Urmia environmental ruin



© MIZAN/Alì Haaddadi-Asl

Bulgarian musician Ivan Iliev conducts the Tehran Symphony Orchestra during a concert that held at Vahdat Hall on July 16, 2016 to draw attention to the environmental ruin of Urmia, the dried-up lake in northwest Iran.

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Iran bans tours to Turkey until further notice

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization has released a statement, calling on travel agencies not to organize tours to Turkey due to insecure situation in the wake of the recent Turkish coup attempt.

The statement urges tour operators not to

register and send travelers to tourist spots in Turkey until further notice, Mehr news agency reported on Sunday.

The organization with the support of Foreign Ministry and the Civil Aviation Organization plans to return Iranian tourists trapped in airports across Turkey.

The Iranian Embassy in Ankara has advised Iranians to stay indoors and to avoid public places and conflict areas.

Around 1.6 million Iranian people visited Turkey in 2015, rising by 6.3 percent year on year, the president of Turkish Touristic Hotels and Investors Association, Timur Bayindir, has said.

Nuclear chief names new deputies

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has appointed new deputies, saying he has strong belief in them.

Ali Akbar Salehi appointed Mohammad Jamal Shojaee and Pezhman Rahimian respectively as his deputy for human resources and raw material and nuclear fuel.



It seems the new appointments can help better preparation for the AEOI future plans. Recently, Iran has announced initial agreements with Paris to join the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER).

As asserted by Salehi, participation in the project "is the most important mission of the Atomic Energy Organization."

Iranian woman wins UNESCO competition

Sara Mardani from Iran was among one of the winners of UNESCO international photo competition, which aimed to promote books as well as reading and disseminate the message of tolerance.

The competition was launched alongside World Book and Copyright Day, celebrated by UNESCO

every 23 April.

Mardani's photo from Tehran is amongst the top five entries. She illustrated Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, and orator, Marcus Tullius Cicero's quote "A room without books is like a body without a soul".

People from all over the world

were invited to choose a quote from their favorite author and illustrate it in a fun and creative way.

Over the course of the competition, more than 300 posts with the hashtag #Wordsoftolerance were published on social media.

(Source: UNIC)



Sara Mardani's shot wins the UNESCO international photo competition

Boeing following Obama administration's lead, not Congress, in deal with Iran Air

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said his aerospace company is following the lead of the U.S. government when it comes to furthering the \$17.6 billion deal for passenger aircraft that Boeing has tentatively struck with Iran Air.

"We are staying completely within the U.S. government-approved process on this deal," he said on the sidelines of a 100th anniversary celebration

for Boeing employees Friday afternoon.

For Boeing, however, "government" means following the lead of President Barack Obama's administration, rather than the vociferous critics in Congress who voted earlier this month to block Boeing's deal with Iran.

So far Boeing's Iran deal consists of an initial memorandum of understanding with Iran Air. It intends to sell 80 aircraft to Iran Air



and lease it another 29 aircraft, putting the deal's value at about

\$25 billion.

"The next step of the process" is "going through U.S. government license approval," Muilenburg said. If Boeing obtains that approval, then it would move to signing a firm sales agreement.

The Boeing CEO said the potential deal with Iran Air is "a significant opportunity" that represents "significant U.S. manufacturing jobs."

(Source: Business Journal)

No negotiations if nuclear deal is violated, Iran warns

Araqchi says U.S.

administration should meet its obligations regardless of what Congress does

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday the JCPOA is the "final document" and Iran will abide by this international agreement but there will be no other negotiations in case the pact is violated by the other side.

Iran's nuclear activities will be returned to the pre-nuclear deal situation if the other side violates the terms of the agreement, Araqchi asserted.

He also said that the U.S. government should meet its obligations regardless of Congressional moves.

"The U.S. government is duty bound to implement the JCPOA. The U.S. government should prevent any action that leads to violation of the JCPOA and any action that could stop successful implementation of the JCPOA and we don't care what action the Congress takes," the leading diplomat underlined.

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 14 July, 2015.

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ARTICLE

By Kaveh Madani and Shirin Hakim

Iran: Reversing the environmental damages of sanctions

While the lifting of sanctions in January provides great promise for Iran's future economy, the consequential effects they have had on the natural environment have been at an unforgiving cost. The sustained environmental problems that current and future generations have inherited as a result of political strife could take generations to recover from.

Over the last decade, as Iran fell further into economic isolation, its viability to sustain the environment consequently deteriorated. Iran is now home to four of the ten most polluted cities in the world and is in the midst of a prolonged drought, crippling the already over-tapped native bodies of water. This vulnerability of Iran's current environmental state is due in part to socio-economic difficulties and discord from the global community, which has limited its resources, forcing it to wage a self-sufficiency scheme utilizing large amounts of its domestic resources. Iran's thirst for accelerated development under such stifling sanctions was at the discretion of Iranian decision-makers, but sanctions placed the nation in a challenging position that was not entirely in their control. Trying to prove self-sufficiency while simultaneously maintaining an image of strength and rapid development pushed an already fragile environment to the brink of collapse.

Before the sanctions, Iran relied heavily on petroleum imports from European refineries, as the nation lacked the necessary means to refine their own petroleum domestically. In the aftermath of sanctions, Iran turned to converting petrochemical factories to refineries as a short-term solution to maintain the high demand for its domestic transportation needs, adding to the highly toxic air that fills its cities today. In 2012 alone, there were an estimated 80,000 premature deaths in the nation, relating to the poor air quality.

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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MEHR



Iranian Navy's 41th flotilla docks in home

TEHRAN — The Iranian Navy's 41th flotilla of warships will dock in Bandar Abbas port on Monday, Mehr reported.

Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari will take salute, welcoming the flotilla.

The flotilla of warships left Bandar Abbas port for the Gulf of Aden on June 1 to protect Iranian cargo ships and oil tankers against pirates.

The Iranian Navy has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the region since November 2008, when Somali raiders seized the Iranian-chartered cargo ship, MV Delight, off the coast of Yemen.

FARS



Amir-Abdollahian likely to be named as advisor to Majlis speaker

TEHRAN — Most likely, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian would be the next advisor to Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on international affairs, Fars let slip on Sunday.

Amir-Abdollahian was previously deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, recently replaced by Hossein Jabberi Ansari, who acted as the foreign ministry spokesman.

He had previously acted as Iran's ambassador to Bahrain and represented Tehran in the Syrian peace talks.

Currently, Amir-Abdollahian is advisor to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad zarif and it is not yet clear if he will remain in the post.

TASNIM



IRGC second-in-command: Feud with Iran multipronged

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps second-in-command has said the enemy is in a continuous multipronged confrontation with the Islamic revolution, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

"This confrontation is not merely limited to the battlefield, rather it has expanded to include political, economic, mental, social, and cultural dimensions, as well," Brigadier General Hossein Salami told a group of IRGC navy commanders in Mashhad.

This is a macro-level strategy focused on by the U.S. to conquer the Islamic world, Salami stressed.

ISNA



Zarif says ready to take questions on JCPOA by MPs

TEHRAN — The Iranian foreign minister has said he is ready to answer questions on the JCPOA by MPs if they wish so, ISNA reported on Saturday.

"If representatives have questions, we are ready to answer when briefing the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the JCPOA," said Zarif.

Zarif's remarks come one day after his team handed in a 41-page report on the implementation of the JCPOA to the parliament.

According to a bill ratified by the Iranian Parliament, the Foreign Ministry has to brief the body on the JCPOA every three months.

IRNA



New Interior Ministry spokesman named

TEHRAN — The Interior Ministry has appointed Salman Samani as its new spokesman, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The new appointment was confirmed by Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli in his decree.

Samani had previously served as deputy interior minister for parliamentary affairs and provincial cooperation.

He replaced Hosseinali Amiri who has been named vice president for parliamentary affairs a week ago.

Over the past month, there have been new appointments at provincial and national levels by the administration.

Opponents have linked this to the upcoming presidential election due next year.

ILNA



Iran says borders with Turkey open, safe for passengers

TEHRAN — The Iranian embassy in Turkey has announced all land and air corridors with Turkey are open and Iranian nationals who are still in Turkey can get back to Iran through them.

Following a coup in Turkey on Friday night the Iranian embassy in Ankara issued travelling warnings to the country and urged Iranian nationals in Turkey to either stay indoors or avoid crowded places for their safety.

Iranian airlines have been transferring Iranian nationals in Turkey via extracurricular flights to the country.

Zarif says Tehran in forefront of war on terrorism

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Iranian foreign minister has underscored Tehran's serious war on terrorism, describing terrorist attacks as "anti-human deeds."

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks in an appearance on Saturday with Masahisa Sato, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission of Japan's House of Councilors.

"Countering terrorism is of critical importance for us and we were deeply upset by the recent terrorist attack in the French city of Nice," said Zarif.

Geography does not influence Tehran's denunciation and condemnation of "the anti-human deeds," the Iranian foreign policy point man stressed.

"These sorts of anti-human deeds in

any sort or anywhere are condemned in our view."

Tokyo a close friend of Tehran
On Tehran-Tokyo ties, Zarif hailed Japan as a "close friend of Iran," saying there are plenty of grounds for cooperation between the two countries.

"Tokyo can be a major economic partner of Iran and we think Japan has been traditionally showing respect for peace, stability, and security in region."

Referring to economic indexes of Iran, including natural resources and unique security and stability, the foreign minister emphasized the Iranian market is increasingly prepared for cooperation with Japanese companies.

Masahisa Sato, for his part, expressed Japan's interest in upgrading ties with Tehran.

"The Japanese government has



Masahisa Sato, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission of Japan's House of Councilors, met with Iranian Foreign Minister on Saturday.

backed the JCPOA from the outset and has agreed on opening a credit line for Iran to enhance investment in the country."

He further said, "Iran and Japan can shore up collaboration in many areas, including counterterrorism and regional stability and security."

Geography does not influence Tehran's denunciation and condemnation of "anti-human deeds," the Iranian foreign policy point man stresses.

Rezaee: Hollande better to use 'Saudi terrorism' instead of 'Islamic terrorism'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Mohsen Rezaee, secretary of the Expediency Council, has called on French President Francois Hollande to replace the term "Islamic terrorism" with "Saudi terrorism" in his remarks.

In response to the Nice terrorist carnage late on Thursday, French President Francois Hollande said, "All of France is under the threat of Islamic terrorism."

"Mr. Hollande should use Saudi terrorism instead of Islamic terrorism; the Saudi Arabia that is your ally, supporter, and stooge," Rezaee said in a live TV program aired on Saturday.

On Thursday night, an attacker while driving a heavy truck plowed into crowds celebrating Bastille Day in the French city of Nice, killing at least 84 people and injuring scores more in what Hollande called a terrorist act, according to Reuters.

Iran believes regional extremism is fed by Wahabism, which is backed by Saudis financially and logistically.

Tehran has also warned the West of double standards on terrorism, objecting to the West for turning a blind eye to the nurturing and practicing

the Wahabism ideology by Saudis.

"The fundamental problem with the West is that it masks realities ... and this won't help counter terrorism," Rezaee remarked.

Saudi Arabia is the fountain of terrorism, Rezaee said elsewhere in his remarks.

"It won't take too long for European countries and the U.S. to identify the source of terrorism... Saudi Arabia is the source of all these terrors."

Soon or late, however, the West has to stop pretending ostrichism, acknowledging the hand of Saudis behind the bloody scenes, he stated.

"It won't take too long for European countries and the U.S. to identify the source of terrorism ... Saudi Arabia is the source of all these terrors."

U.S. has not met JCPOA obligations: Velayati

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, said on Sunday that the U.S. has not fully met its obligations based on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the nuclear deal.

"The U.S. has not fulfilled its commitments in the JCPOA; the sanctions have not been removed completely and unfortunately, some of the Leader's conditions have not been observed," Velayati said in a forum in Tehran.

"Obama should order removal of sanctions in written, but contrary to their obligation, he has not done that yet. We fulfilled our commitments before the specified time, but the Western sides have not removed sanctions yet," remarked Velayati, a veteran politician who served as foreign minister from 1981 to 1997.

The objective of nuclear talks and the nuclear pact was a restriction of nuclear activities by Iran and removal of sanctions by the West, however the West has not observed its obligations as was expected, Velayati noted.

Despite the nuclear deal the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday passed two pieces of legislation linked to the international nuclear agreement with Iran, one year after the landmark pact was announced, defying President Barack Obama's veto threat.

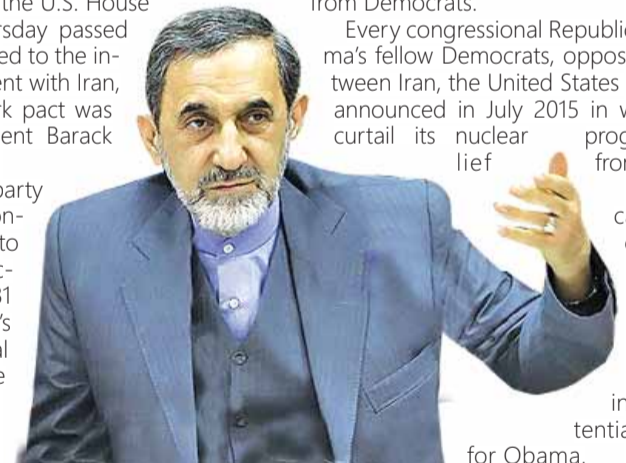
Voting largely along party lines, the Republican-controlled House voted 246 to 179 to pass a new set of sanctions on Iran, and 246 to 181 for a measure to block Iran's access to the U.S. financial system, including use of the dollar, according to Reuters.

The House on Wednesday passed a bill to bar the

U.S. purchase of "heavy water," also with little backing from Democrats.

Every congressional Republican, and several of Obama's fellow Democrats, opposed the nuclear deal between Iran, the United States and other world powers announced in July 2015 in which Tehran agreed to curtail its nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions.

Since then, Republicans have repeatedly offered sanctions bills and other Iran-related legislation that Democrats dismiss as bids to score political points by undermining a deal seen as a potential foreign policy legacy for Obama.



for Obama.

'Coups, Zionism and terrorism are lethal poison for global security'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Hossein Amir-Abdollahi-an, an advisor to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, said on Sunday that "coups, Zionism and terrorism are lethal poison" for the international security and stability.

The remarks by Amir-Abdollahian came after a faction of the Turkish military forces launched a military coup in Ankara on Saturday which was crumbled by forces loyal to the Turkish government. The coup attempt left more than 26 people killed.

"Developments in Syria, Iraq and Turkey proved the fact that the people's role in protecting their votes and determining their destiny is the most important issue in the contemporary world," he re-



marked.

Condemning coup attempt in Turkey, Amir-Abdollahian said, "The recent developments in Turkey showed that coup and terrorism are two sides of the same coin which have targeted security, stability and welfare in the (Middle East) region."

Amir-Abdollahian also said that Takfiri elements and the Zionist regime of Israel have taken actions against the legal government of Syria which go against the Syrian people's votes.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Bashar al-Assad are "legal" president who have been elected in democratic ways, Amir-Abdollahian pointed out.

No negotiations if nuclear deal is violated, Iran warns

On July 20, 2015, the UN Security Council turned the JCPOA into international law by endorsing a resolution, setting the stage for the lifting of the Security Council sanctions against Iran.

The deal went into effect on January 16, 2016.

Araqchi who played a key role in negotiating the nuclear agreement with great powers also said the removal of sanctions was important to Iran, but it was not the only demand of the country.

"The issue of removing sanctions is

undoubtedly very important in implementing the JCPOA and was definitely one of the objectives we sought in the talks; however, we should not forget that removal of sanctions was not our only demand," he said in a press conference.

Araqchi, the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said that Iran's "main demand" in the nuclear negotiations was "recognition" of its right to "nuclear technology" which has been achieved.

He also said according to the nuclear



deal, only the nuclear related sanctions will be removed and lifting of non-nuclear sanctions were not discussed during

the talks.

Araqchi also said that economic achievements have been made since the nuclear deal went into effect in mid-January.

The situation has been normalized in the areas of energy, transportation, industry and business, however, there are still some problems in financial and banking areas, he remarked.

---Sale of heavy water
On sale of heavy water, he said that Iran is negotiating with Russia to sell 40 tons of heavy water to the country.

Armed men in Armenia seize police station, demand politicians' release

Armed men seized a police station and hostages in Armenia's capital Yerevan on Sunday, demanding Armenians take to the streets to press their demands for the release of opposition politicians they said had been jailed unfairly.

One of their main demands was to free Jirair Seifian, an opposition politician whom the authorities have accused of plotting civil unrest. Seifian was jailed in June over allegations of illegally possessing weapons.

Armenia's security service said one policeman had been killed and two wounded in the violence, but that negotiations were now underway to resolve the standoff peacefully.

Two hostages had been freed, it said. Armenian news agencies cited police sources as saying seven or eight hostages remained.

Photographs from the scene show the area ringed with white armored vehicles.

Though far smaller in scale, suggestions by one opposition politician that an armed uprising was underway stoked speculation that the hostage takers had drawn inspiration from an unsuccessful coup attempt in neighboring Turkey.

The security service accused the hostage takers' supporters of spreading false rumors on the internet about an uprising

and the seizure of other buildings. Such assertions were pure "disinformation," it said. "The National Security Service officially announces that such information is absolutely untrue," it said in a statement.

■ Demands

Video footage of the hostage takers posted on Russia's lifenews.ru portal showed the men, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, and wearing bullet proof vests, listing their demands.

"Dear compatriots. It has started. We ask everyone to take to the streets," one of the men said. "Our demand is to set free all political prisoners ... and for them to be brought here."

Another hostage-taker said: "The police station has been in our hands for three and a half hours. We have captured all the weapons. There is no other way. We appeal to you. Don't leave us here alone. We are doing our bit - you do your bit"

There were no immediate reports of crowds taking to the streets.

Several prominent Armenian political commentators said the men appeared to sympathize with the Founding Parliament opposition group, which they said did not enjoy wide support.

At least one other opposition group, Flourishing Armenia, denounced the violence and said the men were unlikely to



inspire more than 50 people to take to the streets.

Armenians news agencies reported that the armed men were also demanding that President Serzh Sargsyan quit. Reuters could not immediately confirm that assertion.

Seifian, a former military commander and the man the hostage takers want freed, has strongly criticized Sargsyan in the past, saying he is unhappy about the way the government has been handling a long-running conflict between pro-Ar-

menian separatists and the breakaway Azeri region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

A Moscow-brokered ceasefire halted four days of violence in the South Caucasus region on April 5, the worst flare-up in years, but sporadic shooting is still frequent at night and people on both sides have been killed since.

The mountainous enclave is within Azerbaijan's borders, but populated mainly by ethnic Armenians who reject Azerbaijan's rule.

(Source: Reuters)

Turkey attempted coup: 6,000 people detained Ankara seeks arrest of Erdogan's military aide

So far 6,000 people have been detained in Turkey in relation to a failed coup, with more detentions expected, broadcaster NTV said on Sunday, citing Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag.

"The judicial process on this will continue," NTV reported Bozdag as saying.

Meanwhile, Turkey's state-run news agency says authorities have issued a warrant for the arrest of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's top military aide.

The Anadolu Agency says Sunday the warrant was issued against Col. Ali Yazici following Friday's failed coup attempt. It wasn't immediately clear what role, if any, Yazici played in the attempted coup that started late Friday.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim says the coup plotters have been defeated, the coup has failed and life has returned to normal.

The government quickly began a purge of soldiers and judiciary officials allegedly connected to the plot after it became clear the attempt had failed on Saturday.

"We are not after revenge. If they have guns and tanks, we have faith," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, speaking a funeral for some of the civilians killed in the violence.

"We are not after revenge. So let us think before taking each step. We will act with reason and experience. The Gulen Movement's step received its response. The putschists are the representatives of Gulen's terrorist or-



ganization."

Erdogan has accused an exiled businessman and cleric, Fethullah Gulen, of orchestrating the violence and is demanding the U.S. extradite him. Gulen, though, denies any involvement and has publicly condemned the events of Friday and Saturday.

By Saturday evening, 2,839 military personnel had been detained, with the number of arrests expected to rise, according to Prime Minister Binali Yildirim.

The top judicial body, the HSYK, dismissed 2,745 judges on Saturday, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

Additionally, a senior Turkish official told Al Jazeera that at least two judges from the constitutional court and 10 judges from the HSYK had been detained.

■ 'One of the masterminds'

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said that the judges were detained based on "financial transactions and communications between the individuals in question and the putschists", but added that detention did not necessarily mean conviction.

Another senior official, also speaking anonymously, told Al Jazeera that a top army general was also being held over his alleged involvement.

"General Erdal Ozturk, commander of the Third Army, has been detained," he said.

"Our sense is that the would-be junta had made preparations for some time. They had determined which military officers would take over as governors, heads of government agencies ... but they were forced to rush due to the upcoming Supreme Military Council meeting," he said.

The official described Ozturk as "one of the masterminds" behind the plan.

The coup attempt began at around 19:30 GMT on Friday with the partial closure by troops of two major bridges over the Bosphorus in Istanbul as tanks moved into the streets and fighter jets were seen in the skies.

(Source: agencies)

Despite reform, Saudi 'guardianship' still restricts women: HRW

Saudi Arabian laws requiring women to have male guardians have been reformed in recent years but continue to restrict and endanger them, obstructing government plans to reform the economy, U.S.-based Human Rights Watch says in a report.

The report drew criticism on Sunday from a government rights official, who said the system was designed to protect and help women, and was less restrictive than portrayed by HRW.

Women in Saudi Arabia must usually obtain permission from a guardian - father, husband, or son - to travel, study or marry.

These laws, making women legal wards of a male relative and backed by a powerful clerical establishment, have in recent years been reformed, with women no longer needing to obtain male guardian permission to work, HRW said in the report, "Boxed In: Women and Saudi Arabia's Male Guardianship System."

But the system remains largely intact and an impediment to realizing women's rights, it said.

Mufleh al-Qahtani, chairman of the government-licensed National Society for Human Rights, told Reuters the report confused tradition with state policy that

was improving women's status.

"It conflates the laws on women's guardianship that authorities are being asked to amend or develop with customs prevailing in society that may... take time to change," he said.

Dozens of Saudi women interviewed by HRW said their lives were subject to male supervision when it came to applying for a passport, leaving the country, getting married and accessing courts and medical treatment.

A 25-year-old woman referred to as Zahra, whose father used to beat her and later refused to allow her to travel overseas to study, was quoted as telling HRW: "Whenever someone tells me, 'You should have a five-year plan,' I say I can't. I'll have a five-year plan and then my dad would disagree. Why have a plan?"

Other women told HRW their friends or relatives had sought to marry to escape strict, conservative, or abusive fathers and brothers. A woman named Tala said: "The guardianship system is always a nightmare. I don't want to get married because I don't want a stranger to control me ... Basically, it is slavery."

■ Conservative society

Women are not allowed to drive and face difficulty in many transactions such



as renting an apartment, without a male relative.

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled in April an ambitious plan to transform the economy by 2030, which envisages increasing women's participation in the workforce to 30 percent from 22 percent.

HRW's Kristine Beckerle said the kingdom could not achieve this vision if it did not abolish male guardianship.

Officials often say the failure to end discrimination against women is not due

to state policy but difficulties in implementation.

On the question of travel, Qahtani said: "There is no problem for any woman to travel in the absence of a dispute in the family. In the event of a dispute it must be resolved first to ensure each party fulfils its obligations toward the family."

He added: "One should bear in mind that Saudi society is conservative and some of the customs and traditions of the society need time to be adjusted."

(Source: Reuters)

Gunman kills two in Florida hospital

A gunman fatally shot an elderly patient and a hospital employee in an apparently random attack inside a Florida hospital early Sunday, police said.

"Victims are an elderly female patient, & female hospital employee. unk motive," the Titusville Police Department said on Twitter.

The shooting took place on the third floor of the Parrish Medical Center in Titusville -- 40 miles (64 kilo-

meters) east of Orlando -- local police said earlier via Twitter, adding that the victims had died.

Police arrested the gunman at the hospital, local television station WFTV reported. The authorities have not yet identified him.

Unarmed security guards had subdued and detained the suspect before the police arrived.

The suspect apparently did not know the victims or

have any connection with the hospital, Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey told local reporters.

"It appears to be extremely random," he said, local channel WKMG reported. However, he cautioned that it was still early in the investigation.

Last month, a gunman killed 49 people inside a gay nightclub in Orlando, the worst gun massacre in recent U.S. history. (Source: AFP)

Syria fully cuts militant route to Aleppo, retake key town in Latakia

By staff & agencies

Syrian government forces have completely cut off the only main road used by foreign-backed militants into Aleppo.

According to a London-based monitor on Sunday, militant-controlled parts of the northern Syrian city are now completely besieged after the army reached the Castello Road and fully cut it.

"Aleppo is now 100% besieged," the French news agency AFP quoted a militant based in the city as saying, adding the army has started setting up sandbag barriers.

The army had advanced on July 7 to within firing range of the key supply route but had not reached the road itself.

Located south of the Syrian-Turkish border, Aleppo is the commercial and industrial hub and has always been a military strategic site.

The army had been attempting to seize the Castello Road and nearby Mallah Farms for more than two years as it is the only route militants can use to access districts they control in the second Syrian city.

Last week, the army repelled a massive counter-offensive by militants to reopen the supply route into Aleppo, killing nearly 30 terrorists.

President Bashar al-Assad said last month that Takfiri militants would gain no more grounds in Aleppo and the city would become their graveyard.

The president said Syrian forces would step by step liberate all the territory that has been under the control of the terrorists over the past years.

■ Terrorists pushed out of major town

Meanwhile, Syrian government forces have pushed out terrorists from a major city in the country's western Latakia province, says a UK-based monitoring group.

According to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, government troops, backed by the Russian air force, regained control of Kinsabba on Saturday following around two weeks of clashes.

Local reports have confirmed that the town and its surrounding hills are fully in control of government forces.

Militants with the al-Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front took control of the city at the beginning of the month.

Earlier, the observatory announced that at least 18 members of the ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group have been killed in Russian airstrikes in central Syria, including near the ancient city of Palmyra. It added that a number of European nationals were among the killed militants.

Russia has been bombing the Daesh and Nusra Front terrorist groups in Syria at the official request of President Bashar al-Assad since September 30, 2015.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict. The UN has stopped its official casualty count in Syria, citing its inability to verify the figures that it receives from various sources.

A ceasefire brokered by the US and Russia went into effect in Syria on February 27, but it does not apply to the Daesh and al-Nusra Front terrorist groups in the Arab country.

Bahrain court dissolves main opposition group

A court in Bahrain has dissolved the country's main Shia opposition group, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, almost a month after the regime suspended its activities.



The so-called administrative court in the capital, Manama, on Sunday ordered the dissolution of al-Wefaq and the seizure of its funds.

The Bahraini justice ministry had suspended the opposition group's activities on June 14.

The latest move, part of a wide crackdown on political dissent in Bahrain, is certain to prompt more protests in the country, whose embattled regime has faced an uprising since 2011.

Various human rights organizations had condemned the suspension, labeling it is part of a new crackdown on dissent.

Al-Wefaq's secretary general, Sheikh Ali Salman, has been in prison since December 2014 on charges of attempting to overthrow the regime and collaborating with foreign powers, charges he has denied. A court sentenced him to four years in prison in June 2015.

The spiritual leader of the group, Sheikh Issa Qassim, has also been stripped of his Bahraini citizenship over similar accusations. On Saturday, the public prosecutor in Bahrain said the cleric will go on trial early next month on charges of "illegal fund collections and money laundering," without providing an exact date.

Since February 2011, thousands of anti-regime protesters have held numerous demonstrations on an almost daily basis, calling for the Al Khalifah regime to relinquish power.

In March that year, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — themselves repressive Arab regimes — were deployed to the country to help in the crackdown on peaceful protests.

(Source: Press TV)

NEWS

Total explores to invest in Iran's Parsian energy zone

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Representatives of the French oil giant Total visited Parsian Energy Intensive Industrial Special Economic Zone in Iran's southern province of Hormozgan to explore investment capacities, Shana reported on Saturday.

In a meeting, Hassan Shahrokhi, director of the zone, and the French company's envoys discussed the projects with the feature of comparative advantage to be implemented in the area.

Shahrokhi briefed Total representatives on advantages of investment in special industrial zones and noted that based on Iran's law, investors can use many exemptions and advantages in such areas.

The envoys for their part, acknowledged that investment in Parsian Zone is highly lucrative and with low risk.

Establishment of petrochemical complexes with annual capacity of 20 million tons of petrochemical products is among projects foreseen for this strategic area.

By establishing mining infrastructures, Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has paved the way for foreign investment in the zone and so far several major international companies have shown interest in establishment of their specialized docks in the zone.

With an area of 9800 hectare, Parsian Zone, a subsidiary of IMIDRO, is located in the west of Hormozgan province.

Tehran to host 5th Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic meeting soon

Afghanistan's Minister of Finance Ekil Hakimi met with Iranian ambassador to Kabul Mohammad Raza Bahrami on Saturday to discuss and exchange views related to holding the fifth meeting of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee in Tehran in the near future.

Improvement of economic and trading relations between the two countries, cooperation in banking, holding railway ministerial conference of Afghanistan, Iran, China, Tajikistan and Kirghizstan and other key economic and regional issues will be discussed in the upcoming event.

In the committee's fourth meeting, held last year in Kabul under the chairmanship of Hakimi, financial affairs, customs, transit, energy, education, transport and human resources were discussed. (Source: bakhtarnews.com)

Strength of Nikkei resurgence will depend on Japan stimulus plans

Japanese markets were among the worst hit by the uncertainty following the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union in late June. But last week the Nikkei Stock Average rose 9.2% to 16,497.85, back above the level prior to the British referendum.

The yen, too, regained its pre-Brexit vote level, falling 4.1% last week against the dollar -- a tonic for Japanese policy makers who want the country's currency to be weaker in the hope that will help key exporting companies.

Domestic and global factors were behind the change in fortunes, with success for Japan's ruling government in a parliamentary election, strong economic data from the U.S. and a measure of political certainty returning to the U.K. with the selection of a new prime minister all helping.

The question now is whether the Japanese resurgence can be maintained.

"I do believe it's a turnaround," said Arthur Kwong, head of Asia Pacific equities at BNP Paribas Investment Partners. "In fact, things were not doing that bad anyway. It's just the macro-risk that led the currency to appreciate and hurt sentiment."

Despite the Japanese market's good week, the Nikkei is down 13% this year, putting it among the world's worst-performing stock markets in 2016. And at 104.94 to the greenback, the yen remains up 15% since January, despite the Japanese central bank's efforts such as introducing negative interest rates for the first time in January.

Sentiment was helped last week by the 71% surge in shares of Nintendo Co., amid a sudden craze for its Pokémon Go game. Messaging-app operator Line Corp. meanwhile rose 32% Friday in its Tokyo trading debut. (Source: Wall Street Journal)

China will struggle to maintain growth pace for wages

Wages in China kept pace with economic growth in the first half of 2016 but maintaining that will be difficult, the country's statistics bureau said on Sunday.

It cited issues such as overcapacity in China's coal and steel sectors as well as some declining agricultural prices as taking a toll on salaries.

Maintaining the relationship between the pace of growth and that of wage increases is a challenge requiring "close attention", Wang Pingping, head of the National Bureau of Statistics' (NBS) household survey office said, according to the bureau's website.

Disposable household income, adjusted for inflation, rose 6.5 percent in the first half of the year, compared with economic growth of 6.7 percent, the statistics bureau reported on July 15.

Economic growth in the second quarter was faster than expected as a government spending spree and housing boom boosted industrial activity, but a slump in private investment growth points to a loss of momentum later this year. (Source: Reuters)

Iran plans first tender to draw \$12 billion green investment

"We're not going to use the money from oil in that sector at all," Chitchian said. "All the investment will be done by the private sector, including local and foreign companies."

At least 150 trade delegations from around the globe have visited Tehran in the six months since economic sanctions were dropped.

Tehran's government is seeking commerce with countries and companies offering the best financial terms rather than prioritizing political and historical ties. The energy ministry is already in talks with some of the world's largest renewable-energy players including Vestas Wind Systems A/S and Siemens Wind Power Ltd., Chitchian said.

Vestas' chief sales officer, Juan Aratuce, said last month that Iran could be an important new market for wind energy. Automaker Iran Khodro Co. is negotiating with South Korea's LG International Corp. to jointly develop electric vehicles.

"Foreign direct investment dried up during the sanctions but it is already starting to flow," said Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh, Iran's charge d'affaires in UK. "Many companies have signed agreements during the last few months. Electricity is considered to be one of the most important sectors."

Most of Iran's power plants are over 40 years old and need to be renovated and repowered, he said. The government is planning to invest a total of \$50 billion in its electricity system in the next seven years.



Iran will tender 1 gigawatt of wind and as many as 3 gigawatts of solar, likely in several stages, Chitchian said. It is also seeking to build biomass and geothermal plants and swap natural gas for electricity with Armenia.

Iran may also add solar to its system of energy swaps, which before sanctions were lifted allowed the country to

trade crude for refined products. Under a so-called "solar for service" program, developers and land owners would split cash flows generated from power sales.

Iran currently supplies 80 percent of its power from natural gas and wants to raise that figure to 90 percent by the end of next year. (Source: Bloomberg)

Monthly petchem output reaches 4.15m tons in Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The total volume of petrochemical products produced by Iranian complexes reached 4.15 million tons in the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (May 21-June 20, 2016), IRIB news reported on Sunday.

According to the main member of the board of directors of National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NPC) Farnaz Alavi, the

Islamic Republic plans to increase its total capacity of producing petrochemical products by 50-60 million tons, based on the country's sixth-five year development plan (2016-2021).

As Shana news agency quoted Alavi earlier on June 2, some of 28 new petrochemical projects, which need to be implemented at a cost of \$32 billion, are to be directly fi-

nanced by foreign parties.

In the past Iranian calendar year (which ended on March 20, 2016), 46 million tons of petrochemicals were produced in Iran by the use of 80 percent of the capacity of domestic plants, Alimohammad Bossagzadeh, the NPC's control manager told the Shana news agency in early April.

In June 2015, Mohammad-Hassan Pey-

vandi, the deputy managing director of NPC, said Iran planned to raise its petrochemical production to over 180 million tons in a course of ten years.

Also, as Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh announced in February, the country plans to augment the worth of its petrochemical production by about 30 percent to \$22 billion by the next two years.

Iran to complete 34 mining, mineral industries projects by Mar. 2017

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Mehdi Karbasian, the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), announced that 34 mining and mineral industries projects will become operational in the country by his organization

by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017).

Karbasian, who made the remarks in a conference in Tehran on Sunday, put the worth of investment to complete the mentioned projects at \$7.2 billion, IRNA reported.

In early May, the IMIDRO head said

that Iran offers \$40 billion investment opportunities to the foreign entities for development of its mining sector, Mehr news agency reported.

Noting that Iran has a comprehensive plan for the development of mining sector, he asserted that Iran is one of the least

expensive countries for investors in mining and mineral industry.

Iranian government plans a growth rate of 8 percent for the economy in the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021) and the mining sector has a great potential in this program.

PICTURE OF THE DAY SHANA/Reza Rostami



Platform 19A of Iran's South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf) was installed over Phase 19 of the gas field on Saturday night. Phase 19 is set to produce 56 million cubic meters per day of sweet gas, 75,000 barrels per day of gas condensate, 400 tons a day of sulfur, 1.05 million tons a year of liquefied petroleum gas and one million tons a year of ethane.



Oil flows through Turkey energy corridor unhindered as coup ends

Oil is flowing unhindered through Turkey's pipelines and waterways, one of the world's largest energy trading corridors, after a coup attempt against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan failed.

The Turkish straits are open to shipping traffic, an official at the Istanbul-based shipping center said by phone on Saturday. Crude oil shipments from Azerbaijan and Iraq into Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan are operating normally, a port agent said as BP Plc, operator of the Baku-Tiflis-Ceyhan pipeline, confirmed the oil flow was uninterrupted.

"Our facilities in Turkey are open and operating normally," BP spokesman David Nicholas said in an e-mail in response to questions. "There are no disruptions to the flow of oil through the BTC pipeline."

At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Turkey is a vital conduit of crude transport from Russia and Iraq to the Mediterranean Sea. Millions of barrels of oil travel through the nation's waterways and pipelines each day. The country is also on the fringe of broader conflict in the Middle East, with Syria bordering Turkey's southeastern edge. Oil futures rose as much as 1.9 percent on Friday after the coup began. (Source: Bloomberg)



Mobile privacy pioneer Silent Circle raises \$50 million in funding

NEWS IN BRIEF

Silent Circle, a Geneva-based pioneer in securing mobile communications, said on Friday it has raised \$50 million in a Series C financing round led by Santander Bank as it looks to reinvent itself as an enterprise-focused business.

The firm, which was founded by well-known cryptologists in 2011, said it plans to use the funds to expand development of software products aimed at businesses, governments and law enforcement agencies, a shift from an early focus on individual consumers.

Silent Circle launched an app for encrypting mobile communications in 2012 and a highly secure device known as the Blackphone in 2013 to much fanfare from privacy advocates, but the products had limited commercial success.



Avast sees smooth acquisition of AVG, IPO seen later down the road

Avast Software, maker of the world's most popular computer antivirus protection, doesn't see any obstacles to completing its \$1.3 billion acquisition of AVG Technologies but it will probably delay its expected IPO until 2019.

Prague-based Avast, whose software has more than 230 million users, announced on July 7 that it plans to buy AVG for \$25 per share, a 33 percent premium to the previous day's closing price. It expects to complete the deal by around the end of September.

Avast CEO Vincent Steckler told Reuters on Friday that he saw no obstacles to completing the AVG deal but the work involved in integrating its competitor would probably push back any plans for a long-anticipated stock offering.



UBS, DBS, Falcon face Singapore scrutiny over 1MDB transactions: sources

Singapore's central bank is scrutinizing several banks, including UBS Group AG and DBS Group Holdings, to see if they broke anti-money laundering rules in handling transactions linked to scandal-hit Malaysian state fund 1MDB, three people with knowledge of the matter said.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is looking at several aspects of the banks' operations including whether they were diligent enough in knowing who their customers were and what the source of their funds was, and whether they were particularly careful in screening politically-exposed persons such as government officials, banking and legal sources aware of the review said.

Day trip from Yazd: Zoroastrian Temple of Chak Chak and Meybod

Our few day trip in Yazd had allowed us to cover most of the main attractions within the city. Considering we were staying right in the heart of the old town, everything was at a walking distance. A decision we were extremely happy about.

The day before our departure we had lunch in a lovely place and went to Haj Khalifeh Rahbar to buy souvenirs. If you didn't know, that's the most legit place to buy some delicacies from Yazd. They've got a branch close to Mir Chakhmaq square where you're likely to pass.

Anyways, so as we were doing the shopping we saw a mini bus parked right in front of the shop which was apparently taking a bunch of students on a field trip. One of the boys suggested we should hire him to take us on a day trip the following day. Our train would leave in the evening so we had plenty of time. Just before we know it, he went over and talked to the driver, negotiated the price and set the time. And we were off.

There are quite a few day trip options from Yazd. However we were all drawn to visiting Chak Chak, the famous pilgrimage site of the Zoroastrian faith and if we got up super early we would be able to fit in a stop at Meybod in the itinerary as well. Sure we did!

So what's so special about a tiny grotto in the heart of the mountains?

Chak chak is an extremely sacred place for Zoroastrians. Every year from June 14 to 18 devoted Zoroastrians from all over Iran and even abroad finds their way here to pay their respect. It's told that Nikbanou, the daughter of Yazdgerd III, the last Sassanid ruler was cornered by the Arabs here.

Somehow Nikbanou got here and since there was nothing but mountains and deserts to be seen, she wept and prayed to Ahura Mazda for safety. Her prayers were answered and the mountain miraculously opened up to shelter her. Today there's an ever-dripping spring



inside the site. You will see that the water is carefully collected and is considered a holy drink. Legends say these are tears of grief the mountain sheds for Nikbanou's pain.

The interior is rather simple. There's the dripping water, a painting of Ahura Mazda and of course the eternal flame, a none separable part of any Zoroastrian-

ism holy place. There's also a huge tree outside the temple known as Nikbanou's cane. Other than that it's really the spirit and back story that attracts visitors. Not to mention, the views from above the temple and the pin-drop silence of the desert is just divine!

Our next stop would be Meybod, where we intended to have a late lunch

in the Abbasid Caravanserai which dates back to the Safavid era. Little did we know that without reservations we'd have to wait for ages for food to arrive. It was Friday, the city had basically closed down and there was nothing but a tiny fast-food place where we could have lunch. We were too hungry to object!

Next stop was the one of the most ancient castles of Iran, Narin Qaleh. Different sources set different dates for this castle or fort, from 2000 years ago to 7000. Studies are still being conducted but what's clear is that the castle dates back to the pre-Islamic era and probably as early as the Parthian. The castle was built on a hill and adjusted to accommodate 3 levels of people. The lowest for common people, the second for the business men and clerics and the top for royals. They even had a huge balcony with a 360° view of the whole city.

The castle is extremely rich in its architecture and security measures and urban planning. It's a great sample of government controlled towns of old Persia and is known to be the first actual city constructed in Yazd province.

If I were to suggest visiting Meybod to anyone, I'd say don't do it on a Friday. Friday is the weekend in Iran but it's not really taken that seriously in big cities. Here it's blackout! We drove every road there was in town to find a place to have tea or ice cream. Nothing was to be found! Luckily the famous avenue filled with pottery workshops and shops was open. We spent a while looking for tea cups and flower pots. It was an unsuccessful mission. Though there's a huge variety, I wasn't really sold to the high prices set for the not so delicately painted pieces.

Yazd has a lot to see itself. It's definitely a must for anyone visiting Iran and I've wrote long on my love affair with it. However if you've got the extra day, planning a day trip is also a good option.

(Source: travelstyle.com)

NEWS

'Iran's tourism unfazed by Turkish unrest'

TOURISM TEHRAN — The recent coup attempt in Turkey has had no serious effect on Iran's tourism industry, the head of Iranian Tour Operators Association, Ebrahim Pourfaraj, has said.



"Summer time is not high season for foreign tourists to visit Iran. Moreover, the number of tourists is not so high that the situation in Turkey threatens their planned tours. However, if such an incident had occurred two months later, it would have faced much more tourists with problems because many European and American travelers should temporarily stop at the Istanbul Airport," ISNA quoted Pourfaraj as saying.

Fortunately, some French, German, and Italian airlines have launched direct flights to Iran, he said, adding that if the unrest continues in Turkey, there are some alternative choices for foreign tourists to come to Iran.

Meanwhile, the number of safari and bike tours which come to Iran from Turkey through borders are very limited due to hot weather in Iran, he said.

"The time for overland tours is in September. We do hope stability in our neighboring country would be restored by that time," he added.

Iran has three land border crossings with Turkey in north-western part of the country, namely Bazargan, Razi and Serow.

Istanbul's Ataturk Airport is a common stop for European tourists who have to use foreign airlines to travel to Iran due to extant sanctions on Iran's aviation industry.

The closure of Ataturk Airport late on Friday had caused the diversion of 35 airplanes and cancelled 32 flights, Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci told broadcaster CNN Turk.



Export-Based Development, IKCO Salient Advantage in Intl. Arena

Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) considers having active presence in international market and getting lion's market share for economic enterprises as "essential". Like any other giant economic enterprise, IKCO also considers mission of changing a situation from a local economic enterprise into a regionally or globally recognized economic enterprise in clarification of its perspective.

Manufacturing product in overseas and exporting product completely are considered as two export methods followed up by the company strictly. Currently, the company's manufactured products has witnessed a growing trend with national brand in international markets which indicates optimal use of investment made by the company outside the country. Approx. 15 years ago, the company started manufacturing of first national car brand named "SAMAND" and took a giant stride in car manufacturing industry in world. With exporting its domestically-manufactured car with national brand, the company managed to introduce high capability and potential of its domestic engineers in international level. Broadly speaking, Iran's car manufacturing industry experienced a considerable boost in global level.

Promoting and increasing efficiency of widespread distribution network through optimal use of capacities created in distributing, selling, and boosting sales and after-sales services network qualitatively and quantitatively and also improving quality of sales agencies in abroad are considered as salient approaches of IKCO in promotion of its foreign market.

For this purpose, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) has defined one or more cars as its export product in each target market depending on tastes, requirements and rivals in this competitive arena. Moreover, the company has put the followings atop agenda in its sales agencies outside the country: active and consecutive presence in target markets, creating diversity in basket of export products, safeguarding national brand and assembling passenger cars including "RUNNA", "DENA" and "SOREN".

● Development of International Strategies

Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) has defined its strategy in cooperation with foreign partners as "win-win" basis. Developing multi-brand cooperation model, changing strategy in share of products' basket in cooperation with partners, boosting power of negotiation on



the way of cooperation with special emphasis on foreign exchange balance, etc. have been considered as main strategy of the company in this respect.

Changing in model of cooperation from Completely Knocked-Down (CKD) to investment of foreign side in whole value chain of car and completion of basket of products in different classes, etc. are considered as the other strategies of the company in international level.

● IKCO's Export Program in Current Year

With the coordination made in this regard, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) will export 20,000 passenger cars to target markets in the current Iranian calendar year 1395 (to end March 19, 2017), details of which have been put atop agenda.

Given the above issue, the company will export 30 percent of its products to Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) i.e. Caucasus and Central Asian states which is equal to 6,000-9,000 units. The remaining part of company's products will be exported to neighboring Iraq. Moreover exporting passenger cars as Semi-Knocked

Down parts, the company has planned to export manufactured trucks to overseas in the same period.

Exporting products to Tunisia and also modernizing its car manufacturing site in Venezuela have been considered as the other programs taken by the company in the current year.

Eyeing Russia's lucrative and profitable market has also been taken into serious consideration, details of which have been put atop agenda of management of the company.

● Production Capacity in IKCO's Sites in Overseas

In its cross-border manufacturing sites including Belarus, Russia, Iraq, Senegal and Venezuela, IKCO has decided to manufacture 63,000 passenger cars annually.

After some years of hiatus, the company has decided to resume its car manufacturing activity in Syria's SIAMCO site as well.

It should be noted that IKCO's SIAMCO site in Syria was launched in lasting months of the last Iranian calendar year 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) and consignments have also been dispatched to the site.

With the studies made in this regard, it is expected that 2,000 passenger cars including "RUNNA", "DENA" and "SOREN" will be manufactured in company's site in Syria.

In this respect, IKCO will not make any investment in Republic of Azerbaijan while the company will offer quality technical and engineering services in this country for commissioning the assembly line.

Earlier, IKCO was exporting its products to Azerbaijan as completely knocked-down packages.

Since Azerbaijani people showed high welcome of IKCO's products, planning was made for manufacturing "SAMAND", "SOREN" and "RUNNA" passenger cars in this country. According to the negotiations made in this regard, manufacturing commercial vehicle for urban transportation fleet has been envisioned in Republic of Azerbaijan.

● Investment-Free Car Production

Over the past years, IKCO has embarked on investing and launching production line in some countries. Some production lines, which were launched by the company, ceased under the auspices of political instability and special economic conditions in these countries.

With the coordination made in this regard, the company has taken giant strides in order to reopen the closed production lines in these countries.

Given the above issue, the strategy of the company has been changed in other countries which is focused on producing car directly without investment.

Of salient example in this regard, it should be referred to commissioning production line in Algeria without any investment directly in a way that the company will export only technical and engineering services to Algeria for manufacturing car.

Therefore, IKCO has kept probable and contingency challenges from political and social conditions of target countries "immune and sage" which can guarantee future of exports of its products.

It is worth mentioning that foreign car manufacturing companies have tight competition in global export markets, each of which tries to attract more customers with boosting quality of manufactured products coupled with reducing price.

With fulfilling feasibility studies at market and identifying its rivals, IKCO is able to present quality cars observing requirements of international standards.

By: A.Saeidi

Nice Terror Attack Likely to spark Frexit as National Front's Le Pen surges

The National Front's Marine Le Pen was already leading all presidential candidates by a wide margin, but an attack on the country's day of liberation seems all but certain to put the country on a crash course for far-right nationalism.

Last Thursday evening, France once again was the target of a Daesh terror plot killing at least 84 people and injuring some 202 others as the people of Nice gathered to celebrate France's national holiday, Bastille Day. Horror ensued when a commercial truck plowed through the unsuspecting crowd while the driver, and possibly other accomplices, shot into the crowd.

In the globalist world laid out by the European Commission

and adopted in full by Socialist President Francois Hollande, terror attacks of this nature have become what U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry referred to offhand following a separate strike two weeks ago at the Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul, Turkey as "daily fare."

As the country now looks to pick up the pieces following another mass casualty event that struck terror in the hearts of the public and ripped at the very fabric of France's national identity, the possibility of France departing from the EU under the command of a future President Marine Le Pen appears all but certain marking the final act of the European experiment.

The reality is that the collapse of the European experiment

and a move to shut down the open borders within the Schengen Zone has been a long time coming with similar populist uprisings occurring throughout Europe from Britain to Germany and Austria to Greece.

The most recent public opinion polls, dating nearly five weeks prior to the terror attacks in Nice, show that far-right nationalist party leader Marine Le Pen torches her presidential opponents earning support from 28% of French voters – twice as many as for current Socialist President Francois Hollande and bludgeoning former Conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy who carries 21% of the French electorate.

(Source: Sputnik)



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Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Velenjak
1st Fl., 170 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn, completely renovated, cozy place, **2000 USD**
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Qeytarieh
150 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn, Pkg, **Diplomatic, 1700USD**
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Secret section of 9/11 report does not reveal Saudi complicity – but is unlikely to quiet critics

By Taimur Khan

The publication of a previously secret section of a report on the September 11 attacks that for years fuelled accusations about Saudi government complicity has not revealed any proof of such links, but is also unlikely to quiet critics.

The 28 pages, which catalogued potentially suspicious connections between Saudi officials in the United States and a number of the hijackers, were part of a congressional report from 2002 but were classified by then president George W Bush on grounds of national security. Many have speculated that his administration thought the pages would strain relations between the two countries.

The connections listed were then investigated by the September 11 Commission, whose final report, released in 2004, found no evidence that the "Saudi government as an institution, or senior Saudi officials individually" had helped the Al Qaeda attackers.

The U.S. house intelligence committee released the pages last Friday, with some redactions, after they were forwarded by the White House. Its chairman, Republican Devin Nunes, said the pages do "not put forward vetted conclusions, but rather unverified leads that were later fully investigated by the intelligence committee".

Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton, the chairmen of the September 11 commission, said last Friday that they supported the government's view that the Saudi government as an institution was not linked to the plot, but still considered one of the Saudi nationals mentioned in the congressional report, Fahad Al Thumairy, "a person of interest".

Al Thumairy was visited by two of



Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton, the chairmen of the September 11 commission, said last Friday that they supported the government's view that the Saudi government as an institution was not linked to the plot, but still considered one of the Saudi nationals mentioned in the congressional report, Fahad Al Thumairy, "a person of interest".



Fahad Al Thumairy Omar Al Bayoumi

the Saudi hijackers, Nawaf Al Hazmi and Khalid Al Mihdhar, while they lived southern California, as well as a low-ranking employee at the Saudi consulate.

The FBI suspected Al Thumairy of assigning a fellow Saudi to help the two men during their stay in Los Angeles, according to a report last year by the 9/11 review commission, another congressional entity.

However, when interviewed by the September 11 commission, Al Thumairy denied knowing the man he was suspected to have assigned – Omar Al Bayoumi, an employee of the Saudi civil aviation authority – despite phone records of 21 calls between them.

Saudi officials have called for the classified section of the congressional report to be released since 2003, and the foreign minister said last Friday that "the matter is now finished".

"We hope that with the release of these pages, the aspersions that have been cast against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over the past 14 years will come to an end" and "we can focus on moving ahead," Adel Al Jubeir said.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest also stood by the commission's conclusions, saying that the pages "don't shed any new light or change any of the conclusions about responsibility for the 9/11 attacks".

(Source: The National)

COMMENT

Democracy is sustained in Turkey—Sort of

By Paul R. Pillar



Before this week it had come to be broadly accepted conventional wisdom that the days of Turkish military coups were over. After a post-World War II history in which the military had taken over the government about once every ten years, in the last couple of decades the return to the barracks appeared to be final. One of the most successful and powerful civilian politicians that modern Turkey has produced, current president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, seemed to have stared down the generals enough to keep them out of politics.

Friday night's coup attempt does not necessarily denote a reversal of this more recent pattern. The short-lived attempt appears to have failed. And unlike past coups, this unsuccessful one evidently was instigated not by the top brass but instead by some other not yet identified elements within the military.

The abortive coup does signal, however, fragility in Turkish democracy, in a couple of respects. One is the fact that any such coup was attempted at all. Another concerns probable reasons the attempt was made. Those reasons most likely are related to the autocratic tendencies that Erdogan has increasingly displayed in recent years. Maybe the plotters thought they were acting patriotically to protect Turkey against those tendencies. Maybe they were thinking in more self-centered fashion about how military officers might increasingly become targets of, and suffer consequences from, Erdogan's drive to concentrate more power in his own hands.

■ The plotters' motives

Perhaps we will learn something more directly about the plotters' motives in the weeks ahead. But it is a good bet that they included some version of the above considerations, and perhaps also a desire to uphold the secularism of the Ataturk tradition against the Islamist inclinations of Erdogan's AK party.

Bearing in mind Erdogan's increasingly evident authoritarian streak, defeat of the coup is not entirely a victory for liberal democracy. It is likely that this episode will incline Erdogan to make that streak even bolder. That seems more in line with his habits than for him to conclude—which would be a reasonable conclusion—that he had overplayed his political hand and that this overplaying helped to stimulate the coup attempt. The implications for independence of the press and the judiciary in Turkey are not good.

→9

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BOTANICAL SECRETS

Rosa canina

By: Soraya Ghoddousi

Rosa canina, commonly known as wild rose, is native to Europe, Northwest Africa and Western Asia. Other common names are Wild rose, Heprose, Canker flower, Wild briar, Pig rose, and Horse bramble. It is a small, bushy shrub up to 3 meters, possessing dentate, oval-shaped, acute, and stipulate leaves with 5-7 leaflets. Pink to white flowers grow individually or within integrated corymbs. After ripening, the red to orange pitcher-shaped receptacle (hip), below the falling petals, contains red fibers covering the achene fruits.

■ Uses



Hips, fruits, and petals, which are a plentiful source of naturally-occurring vitamin C, are consumed in teas, soups, syrups, jam, tea flavorings and used in distillates and perfumes.

■ Ingredients

Fresh Hips contain a 0.5 to 1.7% combination of ascorbic acid (vitamin C as an antiscorbutic, dietary supplement and lipoxygenase inhibitor), hydroascorbic acid, vitamins A1, B1, B2, B3, K (antibleeding), and pectin 11% (laxative). Its

fruits contain 2% to 3% tannins (analgesic, anti-diarrhea, and anthelmintic). However, malic and citric acids (laxative), flavonoids (anti-oxidant polyphenols), and especially carotenoids, vanillin, essential oils, sugars, and purgative glycosides like multiflorin A and B (potent inhibitor of glucose absorption) are predominantly found in petals.

■ Functions

Wild rose is used in the treatment of stomach ailments (spasms, acid deficiency, irritation, and ulcers) and is consumed as a "stomach tonic" for intestinal diseases. It has remedial effects on gallstones, gallbladder ailments, kidney disorders, fluid retention (dropsy or edema), gout, back and leg pain (sciatica), diabetes, high cholesterol, weight loss, high blood pressure, chest ailments, fever, increased immunity during exhaustion, increased urine flow, and improved hydration.

■ Recipe

Add 1-3 tablespoons of chopped fruit to boiling water, leave for 15-20 minutes, and filter before drinking. This can be repeated up to three times per day (12g max depending on body weight).

■ Toxicity

Prolonged exposure to villous fruits may cause respiratory problems and skin irritation.

Jet lag really is worse if you go east instead of west: mathematician

If you've ever thought that jet lag hits you much harder when traveling east rather than west, it's not your imagination — a new mathematical model created by researchers at the University of Maryland proves that it's actually true.

As co-author of the study Professor Michelle Girvan tells Digital Trends, it's all to do with the brain's so-called "pacemaker cells" getting disrupted as people travel across different timezones.

The "reason that it's harder to go east for most people is that your internal clock has a natural period that's a little bit longer than 24 hours," Professor Girvan explains. "What that means is that if you travel west, that's making your day longer — which your internal clock has an easier time with because its period is already slightly more than 24 hours. With east, on the other hand, it's more difficult for the opposite reason."

■ Mathematical proofs

The University of Maryland study uses mathematical proofs to show how the brain's pacemaker cells have to resynchronize as they adapt to new time-



The University of Maryland study uses mathematical proofs to show how the brain's pacemaker cells have to resynchronize as they adapt to new timezones.

ezones — with certain eastbound journeys being so far that they actually set

your internal clock backwards instead of forwards.

"What was surprising for us was that the small difference between the natural period of your internal clock and a full 24 hour day is responsible for very large differences, in terms of recovering from jetlag for a trip that's east versus west," Professor Girvan continues.

According to the model she helped develop, traveling eastward across three timezones will take the average person around four days to recover — while a similar trip westward would take just three days for a person to return to normal.

She does, however, note that not everyone reacts in exactly the same way, and that the parameters in the model account for variation on a person-to-person basis. "For some people, the toughest travel might be six hours east," Professor Girvan says. "For other people it might be nine hours east."

Going forwards, she tells Digital Trends that she would like to form "a stronger partnership with neuroscientists" to find out more about this effect. (Source: Digital Trends)

Soon a NASA astronaut will get to sequence DNA in space

Very early Monday morning, a SpaceX rocket is scheduled to blast off for the International Space Station, and among the cargo it will be lifting up will be a small DNA sequencer. That tiny device will let NASA astronaut Kate Rubins sequence DNA in space, the first time that's happened.

Rubins is a 37-year-old microbiologist who, until she launched up to the station earlier this month from Kazakhstan, had never been to space before. Her career had seen her studying dangerous pathogens like ebola and smallpox, and as a doctoral student, she focused on cancer biology.

■ Orbiting laboratory

The small sequencer set to join Rubins on the orbiting laboratory will let her sequence DNA in space, and she told Reuters that — after the technology is tested — she'd like to use it to analyze the water on the station to see if any microbes live in it.

"We've got wonderful clean water, but we've got a water



system that's been up here for 15 years," she explained to Reuters during an interview from the space station. "Do we have any microbes living in the system?"

DNA sequencers determine the sequence, or order, of

the many base pairs — like adenine and thymine, which join together just as cytosine and guanine do — that constitute what look like rungs on the twister-ladder-shaped DNA molecule. Genes, which code for proteins, are located on those long molecules.

Rubins spoke to FoxNews.com from Russia in June before her launch, and said that she was excited about doing experiments that focus on cellular biology. For example, the SpaceX mission will be taking heart cells up to the station.

NASA's Biomolecule Sequencer investigation will test a new device that will allow DNA sequencing in space for the first time. The miniature device is one of the research experiments headed to the space station on the next SpaceX commercial cargo resupply mission, targeted to launch Monday, July 18, 2016 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. (Source: foxnews.com)

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Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump trailed Democratic rival Hillary Clinton by 12 percentage points in a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday, making him the clear underdog ahead of next week's Republican National Convention.

Forty-five percent of likely voters supported former Secretary of State Clinton, 33 percent supported Trump, the wealthy businessman, and the remainder supported neither, according to the July 11-15 online poll.

The survey showed little change from Tuesday, when Clinton had led Trump by 13 percentage points.

Clinton has been ahead in the poll since early January. Trump only approached her level of support in May, after his last two remaining rivals quit the race and he became the presumptive Republican nominee.

Trump's favorability has dropped since then, as his campaign began to focus on the Nov. 8 general election.

Trump has faced criticism in recent weeks over his now-defunct Trump University venture, which is accused of making false promises, and over his anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim

Clinton leads Trump by 12 points ahead of Republican convention

Trump unveils running mate



rhetoric.

The poll results were mostly gathered before Thursday night's deadly truck at-

tack in Nice, France, and before Trump's announcement on Friday that Indiana Governor Mike Pence would be his vice

presidential running mate.

The poll results suggest that Clinton's use of personal email for government business while secretary of state and her handling of classified information have not damaged her support among likely voters.

The CBS News/NY Times telephone poll has the candidates tied at 40 percent each, while a McClatchy/Marist telephone poll has Clinton leading by just 3 percentage points, 42 percent to Trump's 39 percent.

Trump may get a bump in the polls following next week's convention in Cleveland, where the party is expected to rally behind him as the nominee. In 2012, support for Republican nominee Mitt Romney rose about 5 percentage points following the convention that year.

The Democratic convention is set for the following week, opening July 25 in Philadelphia.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll surveyed 1,186 likely voters across the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. It has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points.

(Source: Reuters)

S. Sudan conflict tops African summit agenda

Renewed fighting in South Sudan that has killed more than 300 people dominated an African Union summit that starts in the Rwandan capital Kigali on Sunday.

A shaky ceasefire has held since late on Monday after fighting raged for four days in the South Sudanese capital Juba, forcing 40,000 people to flee their homes.

The violence echoed fighting that triggered the civil war and marks a fresh blow to last year's deal to end a bitter conflict that began when President Salva Kiir accused ex-rebel and now Vice President Riek Machar of plotting a coup.

The unrest has also plunged into doubt a peace deal signed in August 2015.

Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi, reporting from Juba, said the ceasefire appeared to be holding but that there was a sense of

uncertainty in the city.

Locals, she said, were wondering about the whereabouts of Machar, who has been in hiding.

"What is certain is that he has not left the country," Soi said. "But he says he still feels his life is in danger and until his safety is guaranteed he will not come out."

Speaking to regional grouping IGAD in Kigali on Saturday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said a "critical stage" in the South Sudan crisis had been reached.

"Now is the time to send a strong message to the South Sudanese leadership," he said.

"The people of South Sudan have been let down by their own leadership. Their hopes and dreams have been tarnished at the expense of warring parties

enriching and empowering themselves. We cannot and will not tolerate this."

Leadership crisis

The AU will also seek to hammer out a solution to a crisis engulfing Burundi where a spate of killings have rocked the country since President Pierre Nkurunziza's announced he would seek a third term.

Also on the crowded agenda will be the ongoing fight against the Boko Haram armed group that has its roots in northern Nigeria but has carried out attacks across the Lake Chad region.

Recent violent incidents in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo are also expected to feature in the talks.

Efforts to secure peace in the South Sudan and elsewhere, howev-

er, will be complicated by divisions over who should succeed Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma as chair of the AU's new commission.

Several countries on the continent have indicated that they do not back any of the leading candidates for the job, arguing that they lack stature.

Now all three of the leading candidates - Botswana's Foreign Minister Phelekezela Mampoko, her Guinean opposite number Agapito Mba Mokuy and Uganda's former vice president Specioza Wandira-Kazibwe look like they may fail to get a majority of votes from the African Union's 54 members.

If that happens the vote could be abandoned and re-run at the next AU summit in January 2017.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Yemen rival parties reconvene peace talks in Kuwait

The UN-mediated negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict in Yemen have resumed in Kuwait City after a 15-day suspension.

Delegates from Yemen's Houthi movement and Saudi-backed loyalists to the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, attended a ceremonial meeting on Saturday night in the presence of UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

The two sides are expected to get down to bargaining on Sunday despite Hadi's threat to boycott the peace talks if the UN keeps insisting on a roadmap for the formation of a unity government.

The talks were suspended on June 29 after weeks of deadlock.

The UN envoy told Saturday's meeting that the discussions would last for two weeks, warning that they may be Yemen's last chance for peace.

"It's time for decisive decisions that will prove your true intentions and national responsibilities to Yemenis,"



he said in an address to the delegates.

The peace talks, which started in Kuwait City on April 21, were held against the backdrop of a shaky ceasefire that began in the conflict-ridden state at midnight on April 10.

Elsewhere in his comments, Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the negotiations would focus on strengthening the truce and "forming the military committees that will supervise

the withdrawal and handover of weapons... and opening safe passages for humanitarian aid"

The UN official further noted that he had held intensive talks in Sana'a, Riyadh and Muscat and met with many dignitaries over the settlement of the Yemen crisis over the past two weeks.

Yemen has seen almost daily military attacks by Saudi Arabia since late March 2015, with internal sources putting the toll from the bloody aggression at about 10,000. The Saudi military aggression was launched to crush the Houthis and allies and restore power to Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh.

The Houthi Ansarullah fighters took state matters into their own hands after the resignation and escape of Hadi, which threw Yemen into a state of uncertainty and threatened a total security breakdown in the country, where an al-Qaeda affiliate is present.

(Source: al Alam)

Anti-Russia bans cost Western states \$100bn: Medvedev

The Russian prime minister says Western countries have lost an estimated USD 100 billion due to sanctions imposed on Moscow over the Kremlin's alleged role in the Ukraine conflict.

"According to estimates of international experts, in recent time, the countries that have imposed the sanctions have lost about USD 100 billion," Dmitry Medvedev said.

Medvedev, who was among the attendees in the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit in Mongolia, also noted that most of officials he talked to during the event agreed that the bans harm economic relations.

On Friday, the Russian premier further

held a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the sidelines of the ASEM summit.

According to the Russian government press service, the two sides "discussed the situation in Ukraine, ... the trade and economic relations between Russia and the European Union and ... the Russian-German cooperation."

Heads of state and representatives from 28 EU member states and 21 Asian countries attended the two-day event.

The West's sanctions against Russia were initially introduced after the Black Sea Crimean Peninsula declared independence from Ukraine and voted for re-



unification with the Russian Federation in March 2014.

The Kremlin has slapped restrictions on some food imports from the US, the EU, Norway, Australia and Canada in

a tit-for-tat move.

Washington and its European allies accuse Moscow of destabilizing Ukraine. Moscow, however, rejects having a hand in the crisis gripping the Eastern European state.

Ukraine's eastern provinces of Donetsk and Lugansk have witnessed deadly clashes between pro-Moscow forces and the Ukrainian army since Kiev launched military operations in April 2014 to crush pro-Moscow protests there.

The conflict has left around 9,400 people dead and over 22,000 others injured.

(Source: RT)

BIM opens \$11b worth of L/Cs in the past two years: CEO

ECONOMY Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM) has opened \$11 billion worth of Letters of Credit (L/Cs) for industrialists and industrial activists in the last two years.

Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive of Bank of Industry and Mine Ali Ashraf Afkhami announced the above statement and said: "The aforementioned figure is significant as compared to the capital of the Bank."

He placed special emphasis on Working Group as key to success of the bank and reiterated: "It is hoped that more employment opportunities will be generated in the country in cooperation with concerned industrialists."

During 6 months which have elapsed since implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the bank managed to set up brokerage relationship with a number of 51 foreign banks, he said, adding: "As the major shareholder of Iran and Europe Commercial Bank, headquartered in German Hamburg city, BIM managed to open \$1.2 billion worth of Letter of Credit (L/C)."

In the end, senior official of the bank said: "Iran-Europe Commercial Bank has thus far opened €5.4 billion worth of financial exchanges for industrialists of the country without brokers, so that 10 to 15 percent has been saved in this regard."

Fire damage in Mashhad "Salman" Tower compensated by Sarmad Insurance Co.

ECONOMY The initial evaluation of fire damage in Mashhad "Salman" Tower building was compensated by Sarmad Insurance Company.

While visiting "Salman" Administrative-Trade Tower Building in shrine city of Mashhad, Managing Director of Sarmad Insurance Company Alireza Hadi said: "This tower has kept fire insurance premium package as much as 11 percent with Sarmad Insurance Company and also reinsurance coverage with other domestic insurance companies as much as 89 percent."

The damages incurred to the building are under investigation in various dimensions, he said, adding: "Sarmad Insurance Company will take decisive

measures in line with safeguarding interests of the insured entities in the best form possible."

Gaining satisfaction of the insured through investigating and compensating in the shortest time possible has been put atop agenda of management of the company, he maintained.

For this purpose, an expert insurance board comprised of two insurance experts from Tehran and one from Mashhad referred to this Tower on Wednesday July 13 in order to evaluate and estimate the damage incurred to the building.

In the end, senior official of the company said that his company will make all its utmost efforts in this respect in an expert-level session.

NEWS

France pleas to youths to join reserves after Nice attack

The French government has called on young people to help boost security across France by joining the special "operational reserve" following a deadly attack in the city of Nice that killed 84 people.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on Saturday, "I want to call on all French patriots who wish to do so to join this operational reserve."



The operational reserve is a French police force that currently has 12,000 volunteers aged between 17 and 30.

The Nice terrorist attack on Thursday night was the third act of terror in France in 18 months. During the attack, an individual identified as Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel plowed with his truck through a crowd of people celebrating the French national day in Nice, brutally killing 84 people and wounding 300 others.

The Takfiri Daesh terrorist group later claimed responsibility for the attack and said the 31-year-old driver of the truck was a member of the terror group. However, there is speculation that Daesh may have sought to claim a high-profile attack without really having been linked to it, particularly as the assailant had had a history of psychological disturbances and is not known to have been in contact with Daesh.

The French government has faced criticism over the security breakdown that allows such attacks.

Last November, assailants struck at least six different venues in and around the French capital, Paris, leaving 130 people dead and over 350 others injured. Daesh claimed responsibility for those assaults.

In January 2015, Daesh assailants also killed 17 people in attacks in the French capital. Cazeneuve, the French interior minister, has defended the state of security and said France has faced a "new kind of attack" that highlighted the "extreme difficulty of the anti-terrorism fight."

He said the driver "had not been known to the intelligence services because he did not stand out... by being linked" with a radical ideology.

France is observing three days of national mourning in tribute to the victims of the deadly Nice massacre.

The European country has been in a state of emergency since the November attacks last year.

Two suspects arrested

Meanwhile, police have made two more arrests in Nice in connection with the terror attack.

A judicial source said that a man and a woman were arrested on Sunday as part of an investigation into the Thursday attack. Five other people have also been arrested and are already in custody. Lahouaiej-Bouhlel's wife was also among those arrested. A source close to the investigation also said that Lahouaiej-Bouhlel had visited the Nice promenade with his truck twice before carrying out the attack.

(Source: Press TV)

Democracy is sustained in Turkey—Sort of

7 → Erdogan and his followers now can point to an actual instance of subversion and disloyalty, not just another of the fabricated ones that have been prominent in Turkey in recent years. There was the "Sledgehammer" case, in which 200 military officers were accused of a plot against the government before being acquitted last year. Even more prominent has been the "Ergenekon" case, involving another alleged plot involving many officers in the military and security establishment; three months ago an appeals court overturned the convictions in the case. Those alleged plots may have been mostly phony; this week's coup attempt was for real.

U.S. interests

This whole episode holds nothing good for U.S. interests. At a minimum it will be a major distraction for the Turks away from security cooperation with the United States. There already has been an interruption in operations at Incirlik air base, which plays an important role in air operations over Syria. The distraction comes just when the Turkish government was shifting its priorities regarding the conflict in Syria in a direction that would make them more helpful partners in countering the extremist groups ISIL and al-Nusra. A more hard-boiled Erdogan in the wake of the coup attempt probably will be less inclined than before to take a constructive and forward-looking posture toward the Kurds, and this will be another complication in dealing with the war in northern Syria. Any harsh crackdown within Turkey, notwithstanding whatever short-term security benefits it buys, may stimulate violent radicalism and terrorism that can touch U.S. interests, reminiscent of last month's attack at the Istanbul airport.

Not surprisingly, Erdogan has wasted no time in blaming the attempted coup on his former allies and now arch-adversaries in the Gulenist movement. This involves the United States because Fethullah Gulen himself lives in exile in the Poconos. Erdogan's government earlier had accused the Gulenists of using their positions in the judiciary and prosecutors' offices to push the Ergenekon case. Expect the official line out of Ankara now to be that the Gulenists were trying to frame others for subversion while they themselves were the real subversives.

Let there be any thought about Erdogan overlooking the U.S. connection: when the Turkish president made his first statement upon landing in Istanbul Saturday morning, he framed his accusation that Gulen had committed treason as a "message for Pennsylvania." (Source: The National Interest)

IRAN'S WILDLIFE

Caspian Horse

Physical description

The Caspian is a small horse that grows no larger than 12 hands high (91 to 117 centimeters), but is considered a horse rather than a pony. It is thought to be descended from Mesopotamian horses which became extinct in the 7th century, but was rediscovered in the 1960s.

The Caspian Horse is extremely hardy, with very dense bone and hard feet that rarely need shoeing. It is similar in build to the Arabian. The head should be short and fine with large eyes and a tapering muzzle. The nostrils are large and low-set, and the ears should be very small (no larger than 4.5 inches long). The shoulder is sloping, allowing the pony to take exceptionally long strides, so that it can easily keep up with a horse at the walk, trot, and canter, despite its small height.

The body of the Caspian is narrow, with a high-set tail and strong hindquarters. Although the limbs are fine, they have dense bone, the pasterns are fine and sloping, and the hooves are oval somewhat more oval-shaped than other breeds and very strong. There is little feathering on the fetlock, although the pony has a dense mane and tail.

Caspian horses are usually bay or chestnut, rarely black, and may also be gray, dun or chestnut, and may occasionally have white markings on the head and legs. Interestingly, some horses lack chestnuts or ergots.

The horses range from 10-12.2 hh, and average at 11.2 hh. However, improved feeding programs at the Norouzabad stud have resulted in horses with a height smaller than their parents, which may indicate that the original size of the breed is around 9 hh. Improved living conditions outside Iran have also produced horses that are larger than their parents. It is likely that the stock is not completely pure, but more likely superb examples of the original "type."

History

The Caspian is thought to be one of the oldest horse or pony breeds in the world today, dating back from the now-extinct miniature horses of Mesopotamia, who lived in the region from 3,000 BCE until the 7th century. The horses now inhabit an area between the Caspian Sea and the Elburz Mountains, although new groups of horses potentially related to the Caspian have been identified in a much wider range.

The Caspian Horse was rediscovered in the 1960s in a mountainous region of northern Iran, not far from the Caspian Sea, by American-born Iranian horse breeder, Louise Firouz. Firouz was searching for small ponies to be ridden by children, when she happened upon a bay stallion in the town of Amol. The horse was pulling a heavy cart, and was nicely conformed to the body of a "well-bred oriental horse." She purchased the stallion, naming him Ostad. Finding that the animals were few in number and in poor condition, she began a breeding program with Ostad at her riding school in Norouzabad, starting with seven mares and six stallions. He became a successful sire of children's ponies.

A breeding program was set up by the Shah of Iran, who established the Royal Horse Society at Louise and Nancy Firouz's Norouzabad Stud.

In the fall of 1965, on a visit to her family in Great Falls, Virginia, Louise Firouz approached Kathleen McCormick with the Caspian story and photos of the horses she had brought to Norouzabad. A plan was made to export a Caspian stallion from Iran to the United States. Kathleen selected the stallion Jehan* from the group of photos. In April 1966, William M. Santoro, DVM, accompanied Jehan* on the four-day, 8,000-mile journey to New York. Because there was difficulty getting Jehan* out of Iran, only a part bred breeding program was established in the U.S. at that time and plans to import mares were put on hold.

Prince Philip suggested that some of the horses be shipped to England to start a population, and in 1976, a Caspian Stud in England was formed, saving much of the foundation stock. During the Iranian Revolution, the horses were again used as pack horses and for food, further depleting their numbers.

Following the revolution, the ban on horse ownership was lifted and Firouz managed to find 15 horses that could be used for breeding (after performing DNA testing to confirm they were the Caspian breed). These horses began the Persicus stud, and in 1993, seven of the horses were exported for breeding in England, with the help of the Russian Horse Society. The combined efforts of breeders across the world have established the breed in several European countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

The first U.S. Caspian purebred breeding program only began in 1995. With approximately 300 in the U.S., we now maintain close to half of all Caspians in the world outside of Iran.

Primary uses

The horses are used in the towns of Amol, Babol and Shahi in Iran, as cart ponies, and outcrossed with other breeds such as the Mongolian Pony or Tarpan to increase their size to make them suitable riding horses. They are known for their speed and ability to carry very heavy loads, but are not used for draft work.

The Caspian also makes an excellent children's mount. The breed is known to be incredibly versatile. They are natural jumpers and are especially suited for children, because their conformation, gates and temperament is like that of small horses, rather than a pony.

They have fantastic temperaments, so that stallions are even handled by children, and several stallions can be turned out together.

They have excellent movement, with an exceptionally long stride that allows them to keep up with a horse, making them good show animals. There have also been several outcrosses with Thoroughbreds, producing very fancy show horses. Additionally, the Caspian has exceptional jumping ability.

The Caspian is also well suited to be an elegant harness horse. Their acceleration, maneuverability, endurance and intelligence bring them considerable success in the show ring.

(Source: www.equisearch.com)



How biological magnification changed song of Passerines

INTERVIEW

By Farnaz Heidari

M.Sc. of Environmental Science Engineering

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are synthetic chemical pollutants with demonstrated toxic and developmental effects on humans and wildlife.

Biological magnification of PCBs in an aquatic food chain is undeniable. Most of the 209 different PCBs are insoluble in water, soluble in fats, and resistant to biological and chemical degradation-properties that result in their accumulation in the tissues of organisms and their biological amplification in food chains and webs. Although the long-term health effects on people exposed to low levels of PCBs are unknown, high doses of PCBs in laboratory animals produce liver and kidney damage, gastric disorders, birth defects, skin lesions, hormonal changes and tumors.

Laboratory studies suggest that PCBs influence behavior due to their effects on endocrine and neurological systems, yet little is known about the behavioral consequences of sublethal PCB exposure in the field. Additionally, specific PCB congener data (in contrast to total PCB load) is necessary to understand the possible effects of PCBs in living organisms since number and position of chlorine substitution in a PCB molecule dictates the toxicity and chemical fate of individual PCB congeners. Dr. Sara DeLeon and her colleagues investigated on non-lethally total PCB loads, congener specific PCB profiles, and songs of black-capped chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) and song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) along a historical PCB gradient at the Hudson River in New York State.

In a rare interview Dr. DeLeon explains their studies' results for Tehran Times:



Chickadees

Why did this research focus on the black-capped chickadee and song sparrow? And why didn't you choose a vulnerable or endangered species such as the bald eagle or heron?

A: The black-capped chickadee and song sparrow are common passerines in the area where the research was conducted. This was important since the study required the comparison of individuals of the same species from different locations, and not all bird species have ranges that cover all of the study areas. In addition, the study species needed to have well-studied songs. Both the black-capped chickadee and the song sparrow have well-studied songs. Although chemical pollution is likely in many other species, including large piscivorous birds, these birds do not learn their song, and are harder to target for behavioral studies.

How could you measure PCBs in protected and endangered species?



Song Sparrows

A: Measuring PCBs in protected and endangered species is challenging. In larger organisms they can be measured by taking blood or feathers/hair, without doing harm to the individual. This does not work in smaller organisms. Often individuals are sacrificed, or, in the case of birds, PCB levels are often measure in eggs.

As you mentioned in your article, PCB exposure has been shown to cause a decrease in volume of the robust nucleus of the arcopallium in avian brains. Can a similar effect be expected in mammal brains, for example, on the amygdala?

A: I don't know. Presumably, areas of the brain with hormone receptors may all be influenced by PCB exposure.

Can you explain more about the burgeoning techniques to measure PCB loads in small amount of wildlife blood, feather, or hair samples?

A: We are really pleased with the results

of this portion of the study. Although this method was theoretically possible, it is a challenging procedure, and was modified from previously published studies to use a GCMS system that was in a chemical ecology lab that focused on plant-insect interactions. Also, it was successful with very small volumes of serum, which allowed us to not kill the individual birds.

What about song analysis methods and limitations.

A: The differences in songs that we discovered, were unable to hear with our ears. Therefore, the use of song analysis software, specifically RavenPro, was essential for this study. The visualization of the songs of individuals allowed us to make the needed measurements.

What are the bioaccumulation differences between black-capped chickadees and song sparrows?

Black-capped chickadees and song sparrows occur in the same regions, but have different microhabitats, foraging preferences, and life histories. Black-capped chickadees do not migrate, forage higher in the canopy, and tend to nest further from the water. Song sparrows often forage directly adjacent to water, migrate, and have nesting territories closer to the water as well.

Finding a large number of pollutants in a region is normal. How could scientists select the most important/highlighted ones? Which factors must be noticed?

A: Often in areas of high chemical concentrations, the synergistic effect of the chemicals is more problematic than their effects singly. In areas where this is a problem, scientists still struggle with how to determine which chemicals are causing the problems, and how to clean up the area. I think this a very real problem, and the complicated decisions made to address these problem areas often are unique to the situation.

Iran: Reversing the environmental damages of sanctions

➔ Part of the issue is not even due to internal affairs. Dust particles from neighboring Iraq cross the western border and enter the country, making the already polluted air more harmful to inhale and further illustrates how environmental issues are not bound by international borders.

Water scarcity, a pre-existing national challenge entered a new critical phase in recent years. Large government subsidies allocated to farmers resulted in inefficient use of water in the agriculture sector, responsible for more than 90 percent of water use in the country. The agricultural sector relies on outdated technologies that hinders Iran's ability to effectively cope with their changing landscape.

More frequent droughts together with over-abstraction of surface and ground water through a large network of

hydraulic infrastructure and deep wells have taken the situation to a critical level, evidenced by drying rivers and wetlands, declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, and desertification. While sanctions turned out to be a good opportunity for the water engineers of the country to improve their dam construction skills, the many dams built in the country as a symbol of power, development and independence are now recognized by the lay public as the main cause of water crisis in the country.

There is an unmistakable, albeit understudied, association between sanctions and environmental degradation. Economic sanctions serve to push foreign policy interests on a targeted nation by imposing restrictive and rigid measures. However, inadvertent implications of these sanctions contradict sustainable development, often wors-

ening the quality of life for the majority of the targeted country's population. In an increasingly interconnected world where environmental issues are recognized as matters of shared international importance, to what extent should the global community be concerned for the environmental hardships Iran faces today? Environmental issues know no boundaries-- Iran's environmental strife extends beyond its borders and requires a united approach to salvage the obstacles this nation now faces.

Shirin Hakim is a doctoral researcher at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London, working on environmental issues in Iran.

Kaveh Madani is a senior lecturer of environmental management at the Centre for Environmental Policy of Imperial College London.

This 144-year-old Wisteria in Japan looks like a pink sky

It's a rainbow, it's a roof, it's a tree? This 144-year-old Wisteria located in Japan looks nothing like your ordinary tree. With branches protruding out half-a-mile long, standing beneath this tree makes you truly feel like you've slipped into another world. A world where an enchanted pink sky hangs like a canopy overhead.

The pink and purple blooms typical of the wisteria tree are spread wildly throughout, extending far and wide. The ginor-

mous vines stretching out of the tree are held up by steel rods placed throughout.

The steel rods make it possible to venture beneath this tree and see how stunning it looks from the underside. From inside, the light pours in through the brightly colored vines, reflecting off of the flowers in unimaginable ways.

There are wisteria trees in many parts of the world, but one of the most well-known gorgeous giants is located at Ashikaga Flower Park.

Planted around the year 1870, this tree has since brought so much delight. The wisteria is at its peak beauty between mid-April and mid-May.

Tourists and locals come to visit this tree, the sights that it offers never get old. Not only is the tree fun to gawk at from all angles, but the vines give off a lovely aroma, reminiscent of grapes.

Depending on what time of day you visit, the lighting changes offering a world of diversity. (Source: Earth Porn)



IN FOCUS @ iew.ir



A red deer calf was born in a wildlife rehabilitation center in Sari, Mazandaran province, on Friday. This is the third calf which was born in this center over the past few days and increased the total number of the calves kept in this center to nine.

Boa constrictor pulled from beneath SUV in Pennsylvania

KINGSTON, Pa. (AP) — Two men have pulled an 8-foot-long boa constrictor from beneath a vehicle parked outside of a northeastern Pennsylvania medical building.

The Citizens' Voice in Wilkes-Barre reports the men pried the snake from a Mercury Mountaineer's undercarriage Thursday afternoon after one saw it wriggle underneath.

Owner Katie Hauer, who'd been inside the Geisinger Kingston medical center in Kingston borough, says "They told me I better not get in my car."

One of the men, herpetologist Cameron English, identified the snake as a Red Tailed Boa Constrictor. It was placed in a plastic container.

No one was injured and it wasn't immediately known who owns the snake.

Majda Cicic satisfied with Iran women volleyball team



T I S P O R T S Majda Cicic, head coach of Iran national women's volleyball team, is satisfied with her team's performance in the training camp ahead of the 5th AVC Cup for Women.

The fifth edition of the AVC (Asian Volleyball Confederation) Cup for Women will take place in Vinh Phuc, Vietnam from September 14 to 20.

The Iranian team has been scheduled in Pool A along with host Vietnam, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

Pool B consists of China, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Japan.

In the fourth stage of preparatory camp, Cicic talked with the press about her plans: "My attempt is to implant the new training system of world volleyball and I am rather confident about its result.

"How training and what degree are two important keys to keep the players interested in this sport. I have my serious plans which I think required for the support of all Iranians. I am satisfied with all my 16 players present in the camp. We have intensive practices and the national federation is throwing his full support to our women team that is praiseworthy," she added.

On the future performance of the Iran women's team, she said: "We will hold a camp in Slovenia on July 24 and are expected to have twelve friendly matches. The national volleyball women of Slovenia, Austria, and the champion of Italian Super League are of the rivals we will face against there. I think, this camp will bear fruit for Iran team."

Regarding the training schedule, Cicic said: "I will implant the recent training system of volleyball and I am rather confident about the result. All I try is to improve the ranking of Iran in Asia and we will next think about the better ranking in major competitions the following years."

Esteghlal favorite to win title, says new signing Robson



T I S P O R T S Esteghlal has announced the signing of Brazilian defender Robson Januario de Paula on a season loan deal from Esporte Clube Bahia on Sunday.

The 22-year old defender caught the eye of Alireza Mansourian at Armenia training camp which led to signing a contract.

"From the first day the head coach was satisfied with my performance at the trainings but I preferred to take part in Armenia camp and then sign the con-

tract," Robson said.

"Esteghlal has great defenders playing at a high level but I will try my best to earn a place in the starting lineup. According to what I've heard about Iran Professional League, Esteghlal is the favorite to win the title next season," he added.

Esteghlal has already signed Arash Afshin, Bakhtiar Rahmani, Ali Ghorbani, Vouria Ghafouri, Hossein Kanaanizadegan, Kaveh Rezaei and Farshid Bagheri in the transfer window.

Iran's Khodabakhsh one of most dominant fighters: WTF

Iran's Mahdi Khodabakhshi is the top-ranked Taekwondo player in the -80kg category in the Olympic Games.

Khodabakhshi has been playing at the highest level of competition for two years. He is one of the most dominant fighters in the sport: His name, translated into English, means "God-given" and his nickname is appropriate: "The Terminator."

From the 2014 season, he started winning major open championships, and then medaled at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games as well as in the elite Grand Prix events in Astana and Manchester, World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) wrote.

In 2015, he won further gold medals at the World Taekwondo Championships in Chelyabinsk and at the Samsun



Grand Prix. On his way to doing this, he defeated two of the most famous fighters on the circuit, US taekwondo legend and two-time Olympic gold medalist Steven Lopez and Moldova's crowd-pleasing favorite, Aaron Cook.

The Iranian has weapons-grade skills, is tall and leggy – and is one of the most stylish-looking fighters on the circuit to boot. However, he was injured in the third Grand Prix of 2015 in Manchester and did not appear at the Grand Prix Final in Mexico City.

Now that his techniques and tactics are well-known, he told taekwondo media that he will have an entirely new game in Rio. We shall see.

(Source: worldtaekwondofederation)

Iran's Sanat Naft signs Korean Kim Gwi-hyeon

Iranian football club Sanat Naft Abadan completed the signing of South Korean midfielder Kim Gwi-hyeon.

The 26-year-old player has joined Abadan based club on a one-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

He is the first South Korean football player who joins an Iranian club.

Kim Gwi-hyeon has also played at Argentinian club

Velez Sarsfield, and South Korean Daegu and Gyeongju Citizen.

Sanat Naft Abadan secured promotion to the Iran Professional League (IPL) in May.

The team will open the IPL new season with a match against Saba in Abadan.

(Source: Tasnim)



Bayern Munich winger Arjen Robben ruled out for six weeks with groin injury



Bayern Munich winger Arjen Robben has been ruled out for six weeks after picking up a groin injury in Saturday's friendly win away to Lippstadt.

Robben, 32, limped off in the 4-3 win in Carlo Ancelotti's first game in charge and will now miss the early part of the Bundesliga season which starts on Aug. 26.

A statement on the Bayern website

read: "The injury to the player's right leg was diagnosed after an examination conducted by the club's medical unit in Munich on Sunday. Robben will be sidelined for approximately six weeks."

Robben will hope to be fit for the start of Netherlands' World Cup qualifying campaign against Sweden on Sept. 6.

(Source: ESPN)

Hewitt pulls out of Rio coaching role - report



Two-times grand slam champion Lleyton Hewitt has opted out of his role as coach of the Australian men's tennis team at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics for "personal reasons", local media reported on Sunday.

Hewitt's withdrawal is another blow for Australia's prospects at Rio after top-ranked players Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic withdrew themselves from consideration.

Tennis Australia had applied to the

Australian Olympic Committee to replace Hewitt with former professional Mark Draper, Australian Associated Press said.

Hewitt's agent and Tennis Australia were unable to be reached for comment.

Thanasi Kokkinakis and John Millman are representing Australia in the men's singles at Rio, with John Peers and Chris Guccione in the doubles.

(Source: Reuters)

FOOTBALL

Tasisat Daryaei reaches AFC Futsal Club C'ship quarter-final

A Hossein Tayebi treble helped secure a 6-2 victory for defending champions Tasisat Daryaei over Lebanon's Al Mayadeen on Sunday as the Iranians advanced to the quarter-finals of the AFC Futsal Club Championship as Group B winners while their opponents were eliminated.

Needing just a point to top the group, Tasisat went in front as half-time approached at Bangkok Arena when Tayebi rounded off a fine flowing move, before the forward scored a quick-fire double early in the second half to complete his hat-trick.

Dragan Tomic pulled one back soon after and Mohamad Kobeissy continued the comeback, only for Alireza Vafaei to score twice and Vahid Shamsaee to round off the scoring to mean Uzbekistan's Almalyk FC qualified ahead of Al Mayadeen by virtue of superior goal difference.

Al Mayadeen had the first sight on goal inside two minutes when Serbian Tomic hit the top of the crossbar after being picked out by Khaled Takaji.

Tasisat began to take hold of the game, though, and Tayebi made space for himself on the edge of the area before firing just wide midway through the half.

The forward then almost broke the deadlock in the 12th minute when his silky flick was expertly saved by Hussein Hamadani, before he came even closer a minute later by lashing against the post.

The holders then took the lead a minute before the interval after a lovely move involving captain Shamsaee, Mohamad Shajari and Tayebi.

Veteran Shamsaee's pass was dummied by Tayebi before he spun into the middle to get on the end of Shajari's centre for an easy finish.

Tasisat opened up a two-goal gap just seconds after the restart when Reza Sangsefidi broke through the middle before playing in Vafaei, who then found Tayebi for another tap-in as the hitman moved to the top of the tournament's scoring charts with four goals.

And Tayebi then completed his hat-trick on 23 minutes when he powered past Hamadani, only for Tomic to restore hope two minutes later with a finish from close in.

Kobeissy pulled another one back with 15 minutes still to play, and Tomic then saw his effort come back off the inside of the post on 12 minutes as a nervy encounter ensued.

But Vafaei tapped in with four minutes remaining before rounding Hamadani and tapping in to put the result beyond doubt.

Shamsaee then capitalised on a power-play to lob into an empty net from his own half as the holders made it two wins from two.

Tasisat Daryaei coach Amir Shamsaee:

"We are getting better game by game. The first game was like a practice session. But in this game we were smoother. We are not at our peak yet. You will see in the next game that all the players will be much better. We have no choice now, every game we must be at our best. Hossein Tayebi is the key and he loves to score goals. But behind him is the harmonization of a good team and it doesn't matter who scores the goals."

Al Mayadeen coach Vasko Vujovic:

"We played a good game and were brave with a good heart on the field. We tried for a good result to get to the next stage but we were not lucky. We had some chances, but from the start we had bad luck. I always tell the players to believe until the last moment. In this competition we have played two very good games and now we'll go back to Lebanon to work hard and come back again. We take a lot of positives (out of the tournament). We were organised very well, but we want more chemistry for the next championship."

(Source: AFC)

Cristiano Ronaldo injury 'accidental' after Dimitri Payet tackle - Collina

UEFA's chief refereeing officer Pierluigi Collina has defended France star Dimitri Payet after the tackle which injured Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo in the Euro 2016 final.

Payet, 29, said after the game that he had nothing to apologise for with regard to his robust eighth-minute challenge (which he was not booked for) that saw the Real Madrid forward stretched off before Portugal went on to win the title 1-0.

"The entry of Payet, it was a foul," Collina, a former leading referee, told Gazzetta dello Sport. "He deserved a yellow? It is debatable, but the dynamic of the battle -- knee to knee -- it was accidental. It is an unfortunate episode. Payet did not want to hurt him."

Reports from Spain have suggested that Ronaldo visited a clinic while on holiday in Ibiza for hyperbaric oxygen therapy to speed recovery from his current knee injury.

The 31-year-old's mother tweeted a picture of her son in tears during the game, adding: "I cannot see my son in this way."

While Payet told reporters after Portugal's 1-0 win at the Stade de France: "I came in for a tackle, full stop. I got the ball back, but if I hurt him it wasn't intentional -- it's not in my nature to be a nasty player on the pitch. There's no question about that."

(Source: Soccernet)





Poem of the day

The body becomes, eventually, like a vest of chain mail in peaceful years, too hot in summer and too cold in winter.

Rumi

Prayer Times

Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:39 Dawn: 4:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:03 (tomorrow)

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NEWS IN BRIEF



IAF cinematheque to screen "Chinatown"

T A R T TEHRAN — The Cinematheque d e s k of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen Polish director Roman Polanski's 1974 movie "Chinatown" at 5:30 p.m. today.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian critics Mehrzad Danesh and Keivan Kasirian.

Starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, "Chinatown" is about a private detective, JJ who is hired by a woman claiming to be Mrs. Mulwray to see if her husband is having an affair.



Tehran meeting to review women's status in post-revolution cinema

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian scholars will d e s k gather for a meeting in Tehran this evening to discuss the place of women in post-revolution Iranian cinema.

The meeting, which will be held at the Iranian National School of Cinema in Tehran, will review "The Representation of Women in the Post-Revolution Cinema", a survey by Iranian scholar Nadereh Sadat-Serki.

Film expert Azam Ravadrad and director Tina Pakravan are scheduled to give speeches at the meeting.

Music turns spotlight on Urmia environmental ruin

T A R T TEHRAN — The Tehran Symphony d e s k Orchestra came on stage at Vahdat Hall on Saturday night to draw attention to the environmental ruin of Urmia, the dried-up lake in northwest Iran, by performing Iranian composer Saeid Sharifian's "Urmia".

Department of the Environment Director Masumeh Ebtekar and some ranking officials from the city of Urmia attended the performance conducted by Bulgarian musician Ivan Iliev.

"By composing this piece, I wanted to stir a cultural movement; I wanted to express my concern about the crisis," Sharifian said during a press conference that the organizer, the Rudaki Foundation, held last week to brief the media about the concert.

"Lake Urmia is one the richest geographical regions of our country and I have always been very interested in it and I have lots of pleasant memories of my stays in this amazing region," he added.

The concert was also organized to commemorate various tribes living in the Urmia region, the organizers said.

"In this region, you can see different ethnic groups and tribes living in peace beside each other," Sharifian stated.

In addition, Mohammad Karimi, the director of the West Azarbaijan Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, expressed his hope that the concert could help save Lake Urmia from environmental ruin.

The orchestra was even greener when it continued with a performance of Sharifian's "In the Jungle".



The Tehran Symphony Orchestra performs a concert at Vahdat Hall on July 16, 2016 to draw attention to the environmental ruin of Urmia, the dried-up lake in northwest Iran. (Mizan/Ali Haddadi-Asl)

First episode of doc series on Iranian entrepreneurs released

T A R T TEHRAN — The first episode of d e s k "Karestan", a documentary series on Iranian entrepreneurs, was released on Saturday.

Director Bahram Azimpur, project manager Rakhshan Bani-Etemad and producer Mojtaba Mirtahmasb attended a screening of the episode entitled "Cotton and Fire" at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The episode centers on Ali-Asghar Hajibaba, an entrepreneur active in the foundry and casting industry, to highlight new and creative ideas.

"The idea to make a series about Iranian entrepreneurs goes back ten years. We wanted to make people, especially the youth, more acquainted with entrepreneurs.

"I wanted the youth to know these individuals and today after screening this film, my wish has come true," she added.

"These types of projects need to be recognized by cultural policymakers and offered to an expert, but we



Project manager Rakhshan Bani-Etemad speaks during the unveiling ceremony of the first episode of the "Karestan" documentary series on Iranian entrepreneurs in Tehran on July 16, 2016.

ourselves had to recognize the need and pursue the projects and complete them," she regretted.

Azimpur in his brief words said that talking about Hajibaba is as difficult as making a film about him, due to his varied economic activities. "When I first met him, I thought I might not be able to get enough close to him to make this doc, but we gradually learned many things from him."

Firuzeh Saber, the director of "The Entrepreneurship Development Foundation for Women and Youth", which sponsors the event, also said that the project covers those entrepreneurs who have worked hard to stand on their own in order to portray the national development in the country.

"Karestan" depicts the successful lives of Iranian entrepreneurs and gives a new definition of careers in Iran.

The project includes 17 independent films, each centering on the life of a successful entrepreneur who is active in the private sector, directed by different filmmakers under the supervision of Bani-Etemad and Mirtahmasb.

PICTURE OF THE DAY © Tasnim/Erfan Kuchari



Iranian vocalist Vadud Moazzenzadeh performs a concert along with some Azerbaijani musicians at Tehran's Miald Tower on July 15, 2016.

NEWS

Amazon's Jeff Bezos gets cameo in new "Star Trek" film

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Amazon founder Jeff Bezos got to live out every Trekkie's fantasy by playing an alien in the new "Star Trek" movie.

Bezos is listed in the credits for "Star Trek Beyond", the third installment of the rebooted sci-fi franchise. In interviews Friday, producer J.J. Abrams and director Justin Lin confirmed his appearance in the movie.

Lin said the billionaire CEO arrived with plentiful security for a day of filming and waited patiently for crews to shoot the single tracking shot that includes his character.

"He was awesome," Lin said. "It was like a president was visiting, you know? He had a big entourage! But it didn't matter because he was so into it. He had to wait around all day because it was one day we were shooting like three different scenes and, it was also credit to Jeff because ... he just nailed it every time."

Bezos has spoken in interviews of his passion for "Star Trek" and said his childhood dreams of space led him to found his private space travel company, named Blue Origin.

His cameo in the latest movie comes after several musicians and actors made unbilled appearances in Abrams' "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", including Daniel Craig as a Stormtrooper.

"Listen - you can't keep people away," Abrams said, laughing. "I saw it, I thought it was funny."

Even for Hollywood actors accustomed to the red-carpet glitz, Bezos caused a stir with his appearance on set.

"Rogue One" unveils gritty, grounded new "Star Wars" story

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A "Star Wars" world with a host of new characters and a new feisty female lead was unveiled at a special fan event on Friday, as the cast of the upcoming film "Rogue One" discussed the latest chapter of the much-loved franchise.

British actress Felicity Jones, who follows in the heels of newcomer Daisy Ridley leading last year's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", said her character Jyn Erso is "incredibly independent" in "Rogue One", out in theaters December 16.

"She can be tough when she needs to be but she has, I hope, great humanity as well at the same time, and someone who throughout the film finds a cause and finds those leadership qualities inside of her," the actress told Reuters.

Jones joined "Rogue One" cast members to kick off this year's "Star Wars Celebration" in London, which features three days of panels and events for fans.

Mexican actor Diego Luna, who plays Captain Cassian Andor, said "Rogue One" was the "most grounded film" in the franchise and centered on a group of rebels fighting for freedom and to "change their reality."

Forest Whitaker, who plays Saw Gerrera, said "Rogue One" director Gareth Edwards shot a "very gritty" film with handheld camera work that made it more "personal and intimate." The characters, Whitaker said, struggled with "light and darkness."

Disney released a three-minute reel online on Friday of behind-the-scenes "Rogue One" footage that featured action, explosions, green screen sets, new creatures and Stormtroopers wading through calm blue waters on a tropical beach.

ICRO director, Chinese ambassador meet

CULTURE TEHRAN — The director of the d e s k Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Abuzar Ebrahimi-Torkaman, has met with Chinese Ambassador Pang Sen to discuss expansion of bilateral art, cultural and media relations.

The two officials met at the ICRO office and discussed ways to develop ties, ICRO announced in a press release published on Sunday.

The ambassador emphasized good cooperation between Iran and China in all fields, especially in cultural programs over the past years, and praised ICRO's cooperation in holding programs.

He also announced that a Chinese delegation would be traveling to Iran next month, adding that



a number of exhibits to include photos, Chinese traditional costumes, jewelry and musical instruments

would be set up during their stay.

He also noted that several Muslim clerics from China would be accompanying the delegation and they would like to meet Iranian clerics and see the religious sites, and asked the organization to provide the facilities.

The ambassador emphasized that he is trying to act like a bridge for the development of ties between the two countries.

For his part, Ebrahimi-Torkaman also promised to cooperate with the Chinese delegation that is due to visit Iran.

In addition, he welcomed the idea of establishing Iranian and Chinese cultural centers in the two countries.

Tehran museum to honor veteran painter Mir Ahmad Ghaffari

T A R T TEHRAN — The d e s k Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) will honor veteran painter Mir Ahmad Ghaffari in a ceremony on Tuesday.

A documentary directed by Soroush Milanizadeh about the life story of Ghaffari is scheduled to be screened at the ceremony, which will take place at the TMCA cinematheque.

A collection of Ghaffari's works selected by Ahmad-Reza Dalvand and Mojdeh Tabatabai will go on display at the event.

In addition, a bust of the master created by sculptor Jafar Najibi is due to be unveiled at the ceremony.

Born in Tabriz in 1944, Ghaffari began with the realism style of paintings but followed with abstract impressionism in his works.

The ceremony has been arranged by the Kamalolmolk School of Painting in collaboration with the museum and his family members.