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Ahmadinejad unveils doc on Iran's nuclear project 16

Hamas and Israel confirm prisoner swap deal

staff & agencies

Hamas has said the Palestinian resistance movement has reached an agreement for a prisoner exchange with the Israeli regime.

According to a Hamas source who spoke on condition of anonymity on Tuesday, the deal would be implemented "within days," AFP reported.

"A deal between Hamas and Israel has been reached with full Egyptian mediation on the implementation of a prisoner exchange within a week," the source said.

Scenes of celebration in the Gaza Strip and in Beit ul-Moqaddas have greeted the announcement of a Palestinian-Israeli prisoner-swap deal.

More than 1,000 Palestinians are to be freed in exchange for one Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, who has been held for more than five years, under the deal announced on Tuesday.

Shalit was captured by Hamas in 2006. The Israelis have said he will be released within days.

The Israeli cabinet approved the deal after a late-night meeting, with 26 ministers voting in favor and three opposing it.

Khaled Meshaal, the leader of Hamas, confirmed in a televised address from Damascus, Syria, that 1,027 Palestinians in Israeli prisons would be released in exchange for Shalit.

"This is a national achievement that we should be proud of," Meshaal said.

Reacting to the announcement, Palestinians poured out onto the streets in Jabaliya, a refugee camp in Gaza, where celebratory gunfire and car horns could be heard all around, Al Jazeera's Nicole Johnston said.

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Wall St. demos are shaking capitalist system: Leader



TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that the capitalist system has reached an impasse and the protests on Wall Street have set a crisis in motion in the West.

The Leader made the remarks in an address to thousands of well-wishers in the western Iranian city of Kerman-shah on Wednesday.

"The U.S. government may be able to put down this protest movement through taking tough actions, but it will not be able to eliminate its roots," he stated.

"The roots of this movement will grow in such a way that will knock the U.S. and Western capitalist system to the ground," the Leader said.

He added, "Although U.S. officials made efforts to play down this protest movement,

now they have been compelled to acknowledge it."

The Leader also criticized U.S. officials and media outlets for remaining silent about the Occupy Wall Street movement, saying, "After the self-proclaimed supporters of freedom of speech were compelled to acknowledge this protest movement, they launched a crackdown on it and demonstrated the true nature of their claims of advocacy of freedom

of speech, human rights, and freedom of communities in the system of capitalism and liberal democracy.

"The people of the United States are protesting the rule of the 1 percent minority over the 99 percent majority who have spent the money and taxes paid by the people of the United States on waging wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and supporting the Zionist regime."

Contd. on P. 2

Suicide bombers, attacks hit Baghdad police, 28 dead

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Suicide bombers and roadside blasts targeted police across Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 28 people and wounding dozens on the second day of serial bombings in the Iraqi capital in less than a week.

The string of apparently coordinated assaults heightened worries about the ability of Iraq's security forces to contain a stubborn insurgency, despite a drop in violence as the last U.S. troops prepare to withdraw by the end of this year.

One bomber rammed an explosives-filled vehicle into a police station in central Alwiyah district, killing 14 including 8 police and wounding 28, and another blew up his car at a police building in northwestern Hurriya, killing 8 people and wounding 27, police and hospitals said.

"A car approached and... the driver smashed through the checkpoint and ex-

ploded the car when he hit a concrete barrier," Police Lt. Nadeer Adel told Reuters. "Smoke was everywhere, we all took cover. Minutes later we found a crater and some of our police were dead."

The Hurriya blast burned out police vehicles and damaged the station's blue protective blast walls next to the large crater in the road. In other districts blasts blew out windows from nearby homes and shops, scattering streets with debris.

A car bomb also targeted a police patrol in southern Ilam district, killing at least three, while a roadside bomb hit an army patrol in Hurriya, killing one civilian and injuring 12 people, mostly soldiers, police said.

Two police officers were killed and seven people wounded when a roadside bomb hit another police patrol in the Washash district in western Baghdad.

None of Iraq's insurgent or militia groups

claimed responsibility for the attacks, but suicide bombings are usually the hallmark of Iraq's Al-Qaeda affiliates who often target local authorities.

At least 10 people were killed Monday in three successive blasts in Washash district. The first blast was followed by two more when emergency services arrived at the site to tend to the wounded.

Security jitters The two days of Baghdad attacks came just after the government said it was postponing the army's handover of security in the cities to the police because it was concerned over their readiness.

The number of bombings and attacks in Iraq has fallen sharply from its peak during the sectarian slaughter in 2006-2007, but Sunnis tied to Al-Qaeda and radical militias are still a threat in the OPEC producer.

Protesters attempt to occupy U.S. Senate

Police have arrested protesters attempting to occupy a U.S. Senate building, as activists influenced by the "Occupy Wall Street" movement continue to rally in the nation's capital.

Nearly 100 protesters on Tuesday morning marched onto Capitol Hill, the site of the Capitol building, and flooded the Hart Senate Office Building, where they unveiled two banners that read: "End War Now" and "People for the People".

Protesters said that they wanted to shut down Congress until the Senate agreed to hear their demands.

While most of the protesters congregated in the building's atrium, witnesses said that others stood on the buildings balconies chanting and waving banners.

Police moved quickly to disband the protest - arresting six participants and charging them with unlawful conduct.

The Capitol Hill protest was organized by the October 2011/Stop the Machine movement, an offshoot of the larger Occupy DC rally camped mere blocks from the White House and Capitol Hill.

The same group shut down Washington's National Air and Space Museum on Saturday, when they swarmed the building in protest of a new exhibit on military drones.

According to Stop the Machine's website, the movement is dedicated to "nonviolent resistance similar to the Arab Spring and the Midwest awakening" and has tasked itself with "ending concentrated corporate pow-

er and taking direct control of a real participatory democracy".

Police arrested more than 100 protesters from the Occupy Boston movement early on Tuesday after the group expanded its encampment.

"At 1:30 this morning hundreds of police in full riot gear brutally attacked Occupy Boston," the group said in a news release, adding that authorities "made no distinction between protesters, medics or legal observers".

Police said no protesters or police were injured.

"Civil disobedience will not be tolerated," Thomas Menino, mayor of Boston, told a local news station on Tuesday.

(Source: Agencies)

Iran rejects U.S. plot allegation as fabricated scenario

TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk TEHRAN — Iran Tuesday dismissed as a fabricated scenario the allegation that Iran had hatched a plot to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States.

"The false claim that (Iran) has plotted to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador has no basis in fact," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said in a statement.

According to Reuters, U.S. authorities claimed on Tuesday that they had broken up a plot by two men linked to Iran's security agencies to kill the Saudi envoy, Adel al-Jubeir.

Mehmanparast said, "Such outmoded behaviors are based on old hostile American-Zionist policies and can be regarded as a ridiculous farce and (an attempt) by the enemies of Islam and the region to fabricate scenarios with the aim of provoking division."

"Such a fabricated scenario is only meant to create division among regional countries and end the Zionist regime's international isolation," he said.

He added that Tehran-Riyadh relationship is based on mutual respect, emphasizing that such allegations will get nowhere.

Contd. on P. 2

PERSPECTIVE Indigenizing Occupy Wall Street

Hamid Golpira

Up to now, the Occupy Wall Street movement has been a mostly white and a mostly middle class affair.

Taking a glance at the Occupy Wall Street movement and its many offshoots across the United States, many observers asked, "Where are the American Indians of the reservations, the Blacks of the ghettos, the Chicanos and other Hispanics of the barrios, the homeless of all races, and the undocumented immigrants?"

And the answer was, "For the most part, they are not to be found in the Occupy Wall Street movement and its offshoots."

This fact illustrated the limited nature of the movement.

But perhaps the times are changing.

On October 8, the Occupy Denver General Assembly unanimously endorsed an initiative by the American Indian Movement of Colorado on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Afterwards, some members of the Occupy Denver movement said the Occupy Denver General Assembly is a self-appointed group that does not speak for the entire movement.

However, the fact that at least some members of Occupy Denver did endorse the AIM Colorado initiative is an encouraging sign.

It was reported that Occupy Boston also approved a similar, but much less detailed and less specific, proposal on the rights of indigenous peoples earlier on the same day.

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LATEST NEWS

Bahrain opposition demands elected govt.

DUBAI (AFP) — Bahraini opposition groups called in a new declaration on Wednesday for an elected government and for ending discrimination against the majority in order to break the political stalemate.

In "The Manama Paper", a document described as Bahrain's "path to freedom and democracy," the five groups, including the largest Shia formation Al-Wefaq, called for restructuring the political system while "preserving the monarchy."

"The reality is that Bahrain resembles any non-democratic country; it is a copy of (ousted) Zine El Abidine (bin Ali's) Tunisia, (deposed Hosni) Mubarak's Egypt, or (embattled President) Ali Abdullah Saleh's Yemen," said the document, presented at a press conference.

Nearly seven months after a deadly crackdown on a month-long pro-democracy protest, the groups repeated their demand for "an elected government" in the tiny island nation that is ruled by the Al-Khalifa dynasty.

Authorities say 24 people, including four policemen, were killed in a month of unrest. The opposition puts the death toll at 31.

PERSIAN PRESS

Wednesday's headlines

JAVAN: Enemies' elements seeking to turn elections into security challenge, says Hossein Sheikholeslam (Parliament speaker's advisor)

EGHTEHAD POOYA: Khorassan Razavi among top 5 provinces in terms of exports, Khorassan Razavi governor general says

KHORASAN: Iran, Iraq sign agreement to develop the largest joint oilfield

KAYHAN: Egg imports start

HEMAYAT: Tehran-Moscow cooperation will increase regional security, says Me-manparast (Foreign Ministry spokesman)

JAM-E JAM: Iran ready to help Lebanese army, Iranian ambassador to Lebanon says

TEHRAN-E EMROOZ: Iranian, Kuwaiti FMs hold negotiations

TAFAHOM: Water prices to increase from next month (which starts from Oct. 23)

Leading articles

HAMSHAHR, in a news report, has quoted President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as saying that many achievements have been made during his term in office. If such achievements were made during the previous administrations, the government at the time would be praised, Ahmadinejad said, adding, many achievements have been made during his term in office, but instead of admiring the government, certain accusations have been made against it. He added that during his presidency, Iran became a nuclear state, made great progress in aerospace industry, attained self-sufficiency in petroleum production, implemented the subsidy reform plan, cut down fuel consumption, and implemented the Article 44 of the Constitution (privatization of state-run companies). He went on to say that if one of these plans had been implemented in the previous administrations, those administrations would have been called the most successful administrations in Iran's history.

JAVAN, in a news report, has quoted Mohammad Nabi Habibi, the secretary general of Islamic Coalition Party, as saying that those who have a great concern for the Islamic system do not set conditions for contesting the elections. He made the remarks in response to certain figures who had said that the ground should be prepared for those who have a concern for the Islamic system. Commenting on the conditions set by former president Mohammad Khatami and former interior minister Abdollah Nouri for taking part in the elections, Habibi said these people have set certain conditions including amendments to the Constitution and releasing prisoners who have committed security-related offences, but Khatami and Nouri should be aware that they no longer have legitimacy in the eyes of the people. He added that these two figures should make efforts to regain legitimacy instead of setting conditions for the establishment.

Canada complicit in Israeli atrocities against Palestinians: Iran

TEHRAN — The members of the Iranian mission to the United Nations have criticized Canada for making false claims about Tehran's nuclear program and said that Ottawa is a complicit in the atrocities that Israel is committing in the occupied territories.

The Iranian legation made the remarks in a statement read out during a meeting of the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday in response to false allegations that a Canadian ambassador had recently made about Iran's nuclear program.

The Iranian mission dismissed as misleading the Canadian ambassador's claims that producing uranium enriched to a purity level of 20 percent is illegal and said that the measure is completely legal and is meant to provide fuel for the Tehran research reactor, which produces medical isotopes for treatment of more than one million patients who are suffering from cancer.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had requested the countries which produce 20 percent enriched uranium to provide fuel for the reactor, but unfortunately the request was rejected, therefore, Iran has been left with no option but to attain self-sufficiency in producing uranium enriched to a purity level of 20 percent to provide fuel for the reactor in question, the statement read.

It added that the activities of the enrichment facilities in Natanz and Qom have never been secret and they were established based on the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and these facilities are currently under the constant supervision of the agency.

Elsewhere in the statement, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran also criticized Canada's deadly silence on the Zionist regime's clandestine nuclear program which is not under the supervision of the IAEA and poses a serious threat to world peace and regional and international security.

Iran also questioned Canada's honesty about expressing concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons and said that Canada is the main supplier of weapons to the Zionist regime and therefore is complicit in the crimes that this regime is committing in the occupied Palestinian territories and should be held accountable.

Israel accusing Iran to divert attention from its crimes

The members of the Iranian mission also issued another statement in the meeting in response to baseless allegations that Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor had recently made about Iran's nuclear activities.

In the statement, the Iranian legation said that the Zionist regime is leveling unsubstantiated allegations against Iran to divert attention from the crimes it is committing.

The illegitimate Zionist regime which possesses hundreds of nuclear warheads and is pushing ahead with its clandestine nuclear program is a serious threat to world peace, the statement said.

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This column features excerpts from news articles, editorials, and commentaries of the leading Iranian newspapers.

Wall St. demos are shaking capitalist system: Leader

Contd. from P. 1

The Leader also said that the realities of the capitalist system should be a lesson to those who are keen to follow the Western capitalist system.

MENA uprisings illustrate failed U.S. policies

Commenting on the tide of popular uprisings rolling across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, he said, "The recent developments unfolding in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen, and other places are a clear manifestation of the failure of U.S. policies in the region."

"However, the Americans are making great efforts to take over the reins of regional developments. But nations have awakened, and the policies of the global arrogance (forces of imperialism) will get nowhere," the Leader stated.

"The Iranian nation, as a model for recent developments in the region, has a great impact on the direction of these movements," he added.

"The world is at a sensitive and historic juncture where the Iranian nation and Muslim nations can play a role, and Iran's Islamic system can prove that it has the potential to serve as a model," the Leader stated.

Sanctions a minor issue

On the sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, he said, "Sanctions and economic pressure is not a serious issue for the Iranian nation because the Islamic system, through the patience and insight of



The Leader waves hands to a large crowd of well-wishers during his visit to the Western city of Kermanshah on October 12.

the people, particularly the youth, has been able to turn restrictions into opportunities," and has made great progress in many areas.

During his address, the Leader also spoke about the need to root out financial corruption in the country and called on the relevant officials to firmly deal with those who are involved in cases of financial corruption.

People's votes should be respected

The Leader also commented on Iran's upcoming parliamentary election, which is scheduled to be held on March 2, 2012.

He advised the Iranian people to turn out in large numbers for the election and said that the law must be upheld and the votes of the people should be respected.

Tehran, Moscow share similar views on Caspian Sea: official

TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast says Iran and Russia hold similar views on the issues relating to the Caspian Sea.

Mehmanparast made the remarks during a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov in the Russian capital Moscow late on Tuesday.

The Iranian spokesman also called

on the Caspian Sea littoral states to make more efforts to ratify a convention on the Caspian Sea legal regime.

During the meeting, Mehmanparast also called Tehran-Moscow ties historical and said the two countries should utilize their great potential to promote mutual cooperation in all spheres including media.

On the latest developments in the

Middle East, he said regional countries have a duty to promote peace and stability in the region, and they have to hold more consultations with each other to better perform their duty.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mehmanparast called the role of public diplomacy in helping Iran and Russia realize their capacities as prominent and said providing accurate and timely information would prepare the ground

for expansion of bilateral ties as well.

For his part, Bogdanov described relations with Tehran as close and said Moscow is keen to enhance mutual cooperation in all areas including press and media.

The Russian deputy minister also commented on his upcoming visit to Iran and expressed hope that it would help increase relations particularly trade interactions.

Iran rejects U.S. plot allegation as fabricated scenario

Salehi calls U.S. move an 'extremely amateurish game'

Contd. from P. 1

Tehran warns of repercussions of U.S. move

The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, in a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday, warned about the severe repercussions of U.S. allegations against Iran, saying that the adoption of such divisive and hostile policies by the U.S. government will negatively affect international security and peace.

Ambassador Mohammad Khazai said that the Islamic Republic has been a victim of terrorist actions and has always condemned terrorism in all its forms.

"The Iranian nation is seeking a world without terrorism and regards the current American warmongers and their propaganda machine against Iran not only as a threat against themselves but also as a threat to the peace and stability," he stated.

In addition, he said that the Islamic Republic is determined to maintain its friendly relations with regional countries, especially its Muslim neighbors, and calls on regional nations to be vigilant in the face of evil plots, which have targeted the peace and stability of the region.

In conclusion, the Iranian ambassador urged the UN secretary general to try to enlighten the world public opinion on the U.S. government's warmongering policies.

Washington will be compelled to apologize to Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi also said on Wednesday that the U.S. move is an "extremely amateurish

game."

"They will be compelled to apologize to Iran," he stated.

He went on to say that Iran and Saudi Arabia enjoy a good relationship and only have some disagreements over a number of international issues.

He added, "Americans are trying to divert attention through fabricating such scenarios because their country is faced with many internal problems. These days we are observing a wave of popular demonstrations against the U.S. government's policies, a rise in poverty, and the descending graph of the U.S. economy."

U.S. claim against Iran mischief: Larjani

Majlis speaker Ali Larjani also said on Wednesday that the U.S. has started a "foolish and evil" game against Tehran.

"The Americans have started a foolish and evil move which is meant to deflect attention from their problems in the region," Larjani told an open session of the Majlis.

Larjani added that such "cheap" claims by the U.S. are meant to cover up internal problems, an indirect reference to massive protests in the U.S. which have resulted from economic problems.

Swiss envoy summoned over U.S. allegation

On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned Swiss chargé d'affaires to Tehran to protest about the U.S. allegation against Iran.

The Swiss Embassy in Tehran represents U.S. interests in Iran since Tehran and Washington cut diplomatic ties in 1980.

Iranian parliament lambasts blatant violation of human rights in U.S.

TEHRAN (FNA) — A senior member of the Iranian parliament deplored the violent attitude of the U.S. police towards protesters, and said such hostile behaviors towards the ordinary Americans exemplify a blatant violation of human rights in the country.

"The White House leaders have opted for a hostile behavior towards the ordinary Americans and violate the human rights," Head of the parliament's Human Rights Commission Zohreh Elahian told FNA on Wednesday.

She criticized the U.S. officials for their negligence towards the demands of their people, and said the fact that the American leaders call the protesters

hooligans indicates their racist and inhumane view which is common in all the capitalist countries.

Her remarks came after the U.S. Police intensified its heavy-handed tactics against popular protests as the Occupy Wall Street uprising is spreading to different states.

Reports of police brutality during the Occupy Wall Street protests have surfaced, through the testimony of protesters and videos posted on the Internet. Some of the worst scenes include protesters being herded in by New York policemen with orange barricade netting, a woman seized and dragged over a fence by cops and a man with a camera being violently thrown into the hood of a car.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon's letter on abducted Iranian diplomats filed at UN



The letter of Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the fate of four abducted Iranian diplomats has been filed as official document at the UN General Assembly and Security Council, the Mehr News Agency reported on Wednesday. Four Iranian nationals were captured by a Phalangist militia while traveling to southern Lebanon in 1982, then handed over to the Zionist regime and transferred to a prison in occupied Palestine.

Salehi to explain why he met with Bahraini FM



Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi is scheduled to attend a meeting of the Islamic Awakening Faction in Majlis next week to explain about his meeting with the Bahraini foreign minister. The faction has invited Salehi to also give explanation about the latest developments in the region, MP Ali Taheri told the Mehr News Agency on Wednesday.

Larjani to attend IPU meetings in Switzerland



Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larjani is scheduled to pay a visit to Switzerland to participate in the 125th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and related meetings which are to be held in Bern from October 16 to 19. Representatives from 120 countries around the world will attend the assembly to discuss various political, social, and economic issues of today's world.

Sudanese special envoy meets FM Salehi



The Sudanese president's special envoy, Mustafa Osman Ismail, met here on Wednesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi. Salehi said that the Islamic Republic attaches high importance to its ties with African countries and called for increased cooperation among regional countries to bring security, stability, and economic prosperity to the region. The Sudanese envoy also said that his country is keen to expand its relations with Iran.

MP Ali Motahhari resigns



MP Ali Motahhari tendered his resignation to the Majlis Presiding Board in protest at the fact that it did not confirm the receipt of a motion to summon President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the parliament to answer lawmakers' questions about a number of the administration's irregularities. The motion was submitted to the Presiding Board on June 26. One hundred MPs had signed the motion, but 14 lawmakers withdraw their signatures later.

One million Syrians hold demo in support for Assad, and to thank Russia, China

BY staff & agencies

DAMASCUS — One million Syrians held a demonstration in Damascus on Wednesday to show support for President Bashar al-Assad and to express gratitude to Russia and China for their support at the UN.

The demonstrators thanked the Russia and China for their double veto at the UN Security Council that killed the Western-backed anti-Syrian resolution in the council last week, the Syrian media reported.

State television described the government-backed demonstration as a "million-strong march ... supporting national independence and rejecting foreign intervention."

The Syrian people converged on the Damascus square early Wednesday, waving Syrian flags and pictures of President Assad, as well as Russian and Chinese flags, AP reported.

Some wore white T-shirts with a photo of Assad with the Arabic word "Minhibbak," or "we love you."

Speakers, including school children, read poetry in praise of Assad.

"We support our leader and we do love him," said Lamia Kinani, 50, a housewife, adding that the newly formed opposition Syrian National Council does not represent the Syrians.

The Syrian National Council, formed last week in Turkey, includes most main opposition factions. No country or international body has recognized it as a legal representative of the Syrian people.

Demonstrator Annas Assad, 23, a university student, denounced the



Syrians wave national flags during a demonstration to show their support for President Bashar al-Assad and to thank Russia and China for vetoing an anti-Syrian resolution at the UN Security Council in Damascus on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011. (AP photo)

council as a "group of traitors and is a tool of the West."

"Assad will remain in power against their will," he said.

According to Reuters, the crowd shouted, "America, out, out, Syria will stay free," chanted the crowd. They also shouted slogans warning the European Union not to intervene in their country.

Assad has the firm loyalty of the armed forces, key to his remaining in power.

The Wednesday's massive demonstrations were another proof that Assad enjoys the support of many his people.

Last Wednesday, Syria applauded

the Russia-China double veto at the Security Council.

"This is a historical day that Russia and China as nations are standing for the people and against injustices," President Assad's aide Bouthaina Shaaban told AFP.

A day earlier, Russia and China vetoed the text maliciously drawn up by France, Britain, Germany and Portugal threatening military action and sanctions against Damascus.

Shaaban accused the Western powers of indirectly supporting "armed gangs", which are involved in terrorist activities in the Middle Eastern country.

Syria has been experiencing unrest

in the past months, with demonstrations held both against and in support of President Assad's government.

After veto the move, Russian ambassador to the UN said the Western-backed resolution was based on a philosophy of confrontation, and Chinese ambassador to the UN added, the Syrian issue must be addressed through a process of dialogue.

The months-long unrest in Syria, Damascus says, is being orchestrated by foreign powers and national TV has also broadcast reports and images of seizure of arms caches and confessions by terrorists, who point out that how they obtained weapons from foreign sources.

REPORT Sanctions on Lebanon over Hariri court tantamount to military invasion: Aoun

Prominent Lebanese Christian opposition leader says if the UN imposes sanctions on Beirut for refusing to fund the U.S.-backed Hariri court it will be equal to launching a military assault on the country.

"Any sanctions against Lebanon over this matter are tantamount to a military invasion," Michel Aoun, the leader of the Free Patriotic Movement said during an interview in the Lebanese capital, Lebanese portal Naharnet reported on Tuesday.

In a June ruling, the U.S.-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL), which probes the former Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri's 2005 assassination, implicated members of the Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah, in the incident.

Hezbollah denies any involvement in the matter and denounces the court as being part of a U.S.-Israeli project aimed at targeting the resistance.

Domestic political factions have faced Beirut with considerable protest for its paying 49 percent of the STL's budget, which currently amounts to \$32 million.

Aoun said the contribution was being made in violation of the Lebanese law.

He said, "The STL is acting as if it is part of the (UN) Security Council and it should therefore fund it itself."

He reminded that the court was established based on an agreement between the government of former Lebanese Prime Minister, Fouad Siniara, and the UN, without the approval of the Lebanese parliament. (Source: Press TV)



Lebanese Christian opposition leader, Michel Aoun

Pakistani Taliban raise funds through street crime

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (AP) — Police caught up with the four Taliban militants about 15 minutes after they robbed the bank, shooting them dead on a bridge as they attempted to drive their loot to the safety of the border regions with Afghanistan.

The rare triumph against the insurgency in this dangerous part of Pakistan was short-lived — 10 days later, the Taliban dispatched a husband-and-wife suicide unit to avenge the deaths, devastating the local police station and killing nine officers.

The daylight raid on the bank and the bombing in June were carried out by the "Black Night" group, a unit of the Pakistani Taliban dedicated to raising funds through robberies, kidnappings and extortion, according to a member of the group and intelligence officers.

The group's emergence highlights a shift in militant funding inside Pakistan, with al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated groups relying less on cash from abroad and more on crime to get money for equipment, weapons and the expenses associated with running an insurgency.

The development is partly a result of Pakistani and American successes in targeting extremists.

Greater scrutiny on money transfers means it is harder to send funds around the world, while American missile strikes and Pakistani army offensives have killed or sidelined many mid-to-top-level commanders who had links to Middle Eastern funding networks, said a counterterrorism official.

As a result, "the militants have issued an internal order telling followers to look for funds from internal sources," said the counterterrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Iraq, another country rive by insurgency, has seen a jump in crime in recent years, according to U.S and Iraqi officials. Militants there use profits from crime to finance operations, but former insurgents are also believed to have drifted into crime.

The Pakistani Taliban draws on a network of militants and for-hire criminals that stretches from the country's northwestern towns, through its Punjab heartland to the commercial capital, Karachi, home to some 4 million Pashtun migrants, the ethnic group that makes up the Taliban.

The crime wave also adds to the militants' goal of destabilizing the country by underscoring a growing feeling among Pakistanis that the U.S.-backed government is unable to provide enough security for its 180 million, mostly impoverished, citizens.

Allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban across the border, the Pakistani Taliban mostly focus on terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, but are also committed to attacking American targets in Afghanistan and the United States. The group trained the Pakistani-American who carried out a failed car bombing in New York's Times Square in 2010.

There are few reliable statistics, but the most common ways of raising funds are kidnappings and extortion, according to Amir Rana, an expert on Pakistani militancy. Ransom demands range from about \$150,000 and to \$1 million.

The Taliban are currently holding in the border region a Swiss couple seized in July.

The same group is suspected in the August kidnapping in the city of Lahore of Shahbaz Taseer, the son of a liberal provincial governor who was killed by militants, according to intelligence officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. They say Taseer is being held in Waziristan close to the Afghan border. Weeks before Taseer's kidnapping, American development expert Warren Weinstein was taken from his house in Lahore. His fate is unknown.

UN human rights office censures Israel for attacking Palestinian civilians

BY staff & agencies

GENEVA — The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) has called on the Zionist regime to stop its attacks on Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank.

"There appears to be certainly a partial siding with the (Jewish) settlers, and perhaps not intervening strongly enough to protect the Palestinian villagers," Rupert Colville, a spokesman for the UNHCHR, said in Geneva on Tuesday.

He added that Israel was legally obliged to protect Palestinian civilians and their property, the Associated Press reported.

The UN official cited some recent examples of the Tel Aviv regime's collusion with settlers, such as the killing of a Palestinian man in the occupied West Bank village of Qusra on September 23, the beating of two Palestinian children arrested by Israeli troops the same day, and the destroying of 200 olive trees in the village on October 6.

Colville further noted that if Pales-

tinians attack Jewish settlers, a 'very harsh' reaction awaits them from the Israelis, but Tel Aviv has virtually given a freehand to settlers.

In recent weeks, the occupied territories have seen a rise of Israeli violence, with hundreds of Palestinian olive trees and olive harvest ruined, holy sites as well as mosques desecrated and the sanctity of Arab cemeteries dishonored by settlers.

The UNHCHR spokesman stated the upsurge of attacks since the beginning of September was "emblematic of the phenomenon of settler vio-

lence throughout the (occupied) West Bank."

A high-ranking Israeli intelligence officer also admitted recently that there has been a dramatic increase in the acts of violence and destruction committed by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.

Tel Aviv occupied and then annexed the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem) — the promised capital of any future Palestinian state — in the Six-Day War of 1967, but the move has never been recognized by the international community.

Saudi king to undergo back surgery

JEDDAH (Reuters) — Saudi King Abdullah, who underwent surgery last year for back-related problems, will undergo an operation in the coming days, Saudi Arabia's state news agency reported on Tuesday.



The health of the ruler of the world's leading oil exporter is of keen interest, given his age — thought to be 88 — and uncertainty over how power would be transferred within Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family. The family governs Saudi Arabia in consultation with conservative clerics adhering to the austere Wahhabi school of Islam.

"In continuation of the scheduled medical follow up of King Abdullah, the king will undergo an operation in the coming days in Riyadh," news agency SPA reported, citing a statement from the royal court.

Details of the planned operation were not disclosed.

King Abdullah was absent for three months late in 2010 while he underwent treatment for a herniated disc that caused blood to accumulate around his spine. He underwent surgery in New York and convalesced in Morocco, leaving his brother Crown Prince Sultan in charge.

Sultan, who is slightly younger than Abdullah, has also been treated for health issues in the past few years and was in the United States in the summer for medical tests.

Ukrainians protest Tymoshenko jail sentence

Massive protests take place in Ukraine as the supporters of the country's former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko gather outside the court building where she was sentenced to seven years in jail.



"I can't believe it happened, not only is the verdict unlawful also we're here with no opposition leader now," a supporter said referring to the jail sentence. About 15 thousand supporters of jailed former Prime Minister gathered in front of the court, Press TV reported on Wednesday.

Anti-riot police officers arrested dozens as fights broke out between the supporters and opponents of Tymoshenko.

Hundreds of angry Tymoshenko supporters tried to stop a heavily guarded truck that carried her to prison.

A Ukrainian court has ruled Tymoshenko guilty of abusing her power when she signed a gas deal with Russia in 2009, sentencing her to seven years in jail and also banning her from political office for three years.

Tymoshenko has denied the allegations, saying the charges against her were politically motivated and that Ukraine has returned to the dark days of Stalin's rule. "The year 1937 has returned to Ukraine with this verdict and all the repression of citizens. I will not stop my fight even for a minute. I will always be with you as long as it's necessary," Tymoshenko said, addressing the Ukrainian people. (Source: Press TV)

Berlusconi seeks confidence vote to save coalition

ROME (Reuters) — President Giorgio Napolitano expressed deep concern about the viability of Italy's government on Wednesday as Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi scrambled to quell an internal rebellion by calling a confidence vote.



Napolitano talked of "acute tensions and uncertainties" in the center-right coalition and commentators said there was a growing possibility of elections next spring, a year ahead of schedule.

In an unusually blunt statement, the president asked if the Berlusconi government still had the necessary unity to pass urgent measures for the country and demanded that Berlusconi offer "a credible response" to the nation.

Berlusconi will address parliament on Thursday and ask for a vote of confidence, Fabrizio Cicchitto, leader of center-right parliamentarians in the lower house, said.

The vote will likely be held on Friday after a parliamentary debate. Berlusconi would have to resign if he loses.

Napolitano's statement was a clear reference to repeatedly delayed measures to boost Italy's chronically slow economic growth, and continuing squabbles over an austerity package — passed under pressure from the European Central Bank — to balance the budget by 2013.

NEWS

Social, economic inequality trigger "Wall Street" movement: economists

Three economists of Western universities believe the root of ongoing social demonstrations under the name "Occupy Wall Street" is growing inequality in the U.S., which is accompanied by frustration of badly management of economy since financial crisis, high unemployment, and general dissatisfaction.



Stephan Klasen, professor of economics at University of Göttingen, Dr. Ross Levine, economics professor at Brown University, and Daniel S Hamermesh, economics professor at Texas University in separate interviews with Fars news agency, expressed their views about the economic roots of the current protest in U.S.

The following is the text of three short interviews:

Stephan Klasen

*In your view what are the roots of the "Wall Street" movement?

The roots are growing inequality in the U.S. and frustration that the economy is doing badly while huge sums were expended to bail out banks.

*What are the goals of it?

It wants better regulation and taxation of the financial sector.

*What will be the future of this movement? Can it reach to its goals?

Hard to say at this stage.

*Do you see a place for it in U.S. political environment and can we expect establishment of a powerful party?

I do not think it will lead to a new political party, but it might become a powerful voice within the Democratic Party and in the run-up to the 2012 elections.

Dr. Ross Levine

*In your view what are the roots of the "Wall Street" movement?

I believe that the roots of this movement can be found in the public frustration that enormous public resources were used to help the wealthy owners, creditors, and executives of private banks and now the public is suffering, while those same owners, creditors, and executives are receiving enormous salaries and bonuses.

*What are the goals of it?

One goal is simply to express this frustration and disapproval to current, and potential, elected officials.

But, I do not know what the other goals are. The movement does not seem to have simple, coherent goals.

*Do you see a place for it in U.S. political environment and can we expect establishment of a powerful party?

If it endures and grows, it could influence political discourse. I do not think it will lead to the establishment of a new political party,

Daniel S Hamermesh

*In your view what are the roots of current movement?

This stems mostly from the current high unemployment and general dissatisfaction. Perhaps too it stems from the perception that the people who made lots of money during the financial crisis do not appear to have suffered at all from the recession.

*What are the goals of it?

As with so many protest movements the true goals are unclear. I view this more as an expression of dissatisfaction rather than a movement with specific goals.

*What will be the future of this movement? Can it reach to its goals?

Given that the goals are so diffuse, I doubt that any will be reached. I doubt that this movement will accomplish anything, which is unfortunate: inequality is much too great in this country, and it is true that those who caused the financial crisis escaped its consequences.

*Do you see a place for it in U.S. political environment and can we expect establishment of a powerful party?

No, at best this might influence the dollar, perhaps provide an offset to the right-winger tea party people.

(Source: Fars)

India to place €2.5b in local rupee accounts to clear debt to Iran

India and Iran have worked out a payments solution to the bilateral trade that had almost stalled because of the US sanctions on Iran.

India will pay for at least half of the oil and non-oil imports from Iran by depositing the equivalent rupees in accounts opened with Indian banks, a government official told Economic Times (ET). The balance trade will be settled through dollar payments routed via foreign banks.

"This will also provide relief to our exporters who have not received payments for an estimated 1,800 crore of goods shipped since December," the official added.

Iran will use the rupee funds to pay for goods it imports from India, to fund already committed investments in petrochemical sector and to buy Indian government bonds.

"The RBI will place 2.5 billion that India owes Iran under the previous ACU (Asian Clearing Union) payment regime as initial corpus in the rupee accounts of the Iranian Central bank BMJI," the official said.

The issue was discussed in a recent meeting between Indian finance ministry officials and a delegation from the Central Bank of Iran.

To begin with, the Iranian central bank will be allowed to open rupee accounts with the IDBI Bank and UCO Bank. BMJI has submitted forms for opening the accounts, the official said.

India has been facing problems in



carrying out both oil and non-oil trade with Iran since December 2010 when US sanctions against the country forced the RBI to suspend settlements through the ACU, a payment arrangement for Asian countries.

India managed to clear 4 billion dues through Turkey's Halkbank. The country is also in talks with banks in Russia and South Korea, both countries that have trade relations with Iran.

Carrying out trade through rupee accounts in Indian banks would, however, provide a more lasting solution to the problem as international banks can back out anytime due to US pressure, as happened with Germany's EIH bank that channelised part of India's oil dues earlier this year.

Although minuscule compared to oil trade, India's non-oil trade with Iran is also significant. India's exports to Iran

during April-December 2010 was \$2 billion which is comparable to non-oil imports worth \$1.2 billion from Iran.

India imported crude oil and related products from Iran worth \$9.3 billion in 2010-11. India's total imports from Iran during the year was \$10.92 billion while its exports to the country was \$2.74 billion.

"We have received several complaints from exporters whose payments are stuck there. Iran is a significant market for them and they do not want to lose it. Hopefully, their grievances will now get addressed," another official told ET.

BMJI and RBI will identify designated banks in Iran and India to open letters of credit that would include exchange rate and other payments conditions. It was also agreed that both sides will identify additional banks for routing payments, the official added.

If the Azerbaijani government wants to open a checkpoint on the border with Iran's Ardabil province, then the Iranian government is ready for it, Ardabil Province Head Hussain Sabiri was quoted as saying by IRNA.

Sabiri said he corresponded with the Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan on the issue of holding negotiations with Azerbaijan to open a new checkpoint on the border.

Opening of the new checkpoint will improve the welfare of the Iranian and Azerbaijani population and development of economic ties, Sabiri said.

(Source: indiatimes)

Iran September oil price hits record high: OPEC

Iran crude oil price in September reached 105.54 dollar, up 0.64 dollar in comparison to August, according to the OPEC's Monthly Oil Market Report.

The average price of Iran's heavy crude since the beginning of 2011 to end of September hit 105.8 dollars per

barrel, which witnessed a 31.2 dollars growth compared to the same period of 2010, the report added.

The OPEC Reference Basket was volatile in September, moving within a wider range of around \$102-\$112/b as market sentiment was dominated by economic uncertainties around the

globe, particularly in Europe, due to Greece's debt problems and the fears of contagion to other countries.

On a monthly basis, the OPEC Reference Basket rose \$1.29 or 1.2% in September to average \$107.61/b.

The recovery in the OPEC Reference Basket was driven essentially by Ecu-

ador's Oriente, which jumped \$5.91 or 6.0%, as well as by light African crudes. Algeria's Saharan Blend and Nigeria's Bonny Light continued to benefit from the combination of stronger demand from Asian buyers and the lack of light grades as Libyan crude remained absent from the market.

Iran sees annual carpet exports up 12%: official

By Staff and agencies

Head of Iran's National Carpet Center Feysal Mardasi has predicted that Iran's carpet exports in the current Iranian calendar year will increase 12 percent compared to the last year.

Iran exported \$556 million worth of handmade carpets in the previous calendar year, up 12 percent year on year. The amount showed some 4 percent increase in terms of weight in comparison to its preceding year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

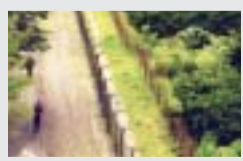
Pakistan Petroleum to partner with Iran for E&P activities

Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) is interested in entering into oil and gas exploration and production activities in Iran. PPL said that it has evaluated a number of opportunities for investment in oil and gas sector of Iran.



Iran offers to open crossing point in Ardabil bordering Azerbaijan

If the Azerbaijani government wants to open a checkpoint on the border with Iran's Ardabil province, then the Iranian government is ready for it, IRNA quoted Ardabil Province Governor General Hussain Sabiri as saying.



Iran, Azerbaijan to set up joint chamber of commerce in Baku

The joint chamber of commerce of Iran and Azerbaijan is scheduled to start activity in Baku in the near future, an Iranian provincial trade official announced on Tuesday.



TEHRAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Overall Index	26844.2	(58.8)	(0.22)
Industry Index	20587.1	(41.8)	(0.2)
Free Float Index	34544.4	(89.2)	(0.26)
Main Board Index	22886.9	(49.1)	(0.21)
Secondary Index	31762.6	(81.6)	(0.26)

OVERALL INDEX DETAILS

First	26903
Max Value	26901.9
Min Value	26844.2
Closing	26844.2
Variety	(58.8)
Change end of year (%)	236.96%
Historical highest	27099.9 (20110911)

Source: tse.ir

Second Announcement



Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tenderers

1	THE ACCESSORIES FOR TESCO TOP DRIVE	TENDER NO.: FP/06-90/048 INDENT NO.: 48-22-8922040
2	P/F "MARRINE ELECTRICALS" Silicon CONTROL RECTIFIER	TENDER NO.: FP/06-90/049 INDENT NO.: 48-22-8922050
1	Amount of Coded Check or bank guarantee TENDER FP/06-90/048: Rials 30,000,000 / Euro 1,972	Estimated value of request: 600,000,000 Rials
2	Amount of Coded Check or bank guarantee TENDER FP/06-90/049: Rials 101,500,000 / Euro 6,688	Estimated value of request: 2,030,000,000 Rials

NIDC hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through public tender upon following terms and conditions.

A) For Brief description of the materials please see the table above.

B) For Estimated value of requests please see the table above.

C) Quality evaluation criteria of tenderers

- 1) Natural/ Legal entities
- 2) Financial soundness to supply materials in Question, offer Bank Guarantee, Coded Check or deposit the equal amounts according to the table above in favor of NIDC.
- 3) Goodwill
- 4) Standardizing Products
- 5) Adequate Knowledge and experience in the relevant field
- 6) Company's good reputation
- 7) Quality Guarantee of products
- 8) Suitability of products volume

D) Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60

E) The quality evaluation documents for bidders to be met are available at fpd@nidc.ir.

Tenderers can also provide the above mentioned docs. in person at the following address:

Foreign procurement Dept., Workshop No.:8
Karoon Industrial Area
NIDC, Ahwaz, Iran

F) Qualified tenderers shall submit the completed documents within 14 days from publication of such a call (second time) to the following address:

#207, Opening Tender Committee Office
Second Floor, Workshop No.: 1, NIDC Main Office
Ahwaz, Iran

G) Qualified tenderers whose documents have been accepted will be considered for award of tender documents thereafter.

More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on:

WWW.NIDC.IR

Foreign procurement Dept.
National Iranian Drilling Company

A Sentence against Ukraine

BY Alyona Getmanchuk

KIEV (International Herald Tribune) — A Ukrainian court's conviction of Yulia Tymoshenko on charges of abusing her powers when she signed natural-gas contracts with Russia in 2009, when she was the prime minister, is not necessarily proof that she actually committed a crime.

Nobody, except perhaps President Viktor Yanukovich and his inner circle, really believes in the independence of the Ukrainian judiciary. In fact, this case can be viewed as a new chapter in Ukrainian politics — criminal prosecution for political motives.

Yanukovich had two such motives. First was to get rid of an opposition leader whose presence in the political arena has been a source of acute discomfort for him since the days of the Orange Revolution. Tymoshenko played a leading role in that popular uprising, which blocked Yanukovich's first attempt in 2004 to secure the presidency. In his second bid in 2010, he narrowly defeated Tymoshenko.

The second motive was to use the Tymoshenko case as leverage against Russia to lower the price of gas sold to Ukraine. In the trial, Russia figured as an accomplice in an illegal transaction, and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitri Medvedev as allies of Tymoshenko — an ironic reversal of Yanukovich's reputation in the West as the Kremlin's ally.

The Ukrainian government regards the current price of Russian gas as unfair, especially after Yanukovich, in a bid to lower it, extended the lease on Russian naval bases in the Crimea for 25 years, to 2042, and rejected NATO membership for Ukraine.

Yanukovich clearly did not expect that immediately after he satisfied those two Russian demands, Moscow would add two more: Ukrainian accession to a customs union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and the merger of the Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz with Russia's Gazprom — a union that would give the Kremlin control over Ukraine's gas transport network.

Yet the prosecution of Tymoshenko could end up as a political sentence for Yanukovich. For one thing, Tymoshenko would probably be the most convenient sparring partner if he runs for re-election in 2015. Public distrust of Tymoshenko is higher than of most other Ukrainian politicians, so she would be less dangerous as an active opponent than as a political martyr.

Ukrainians are so fed up with the old politicians that virtually any new face could pose a more serious challenge to Yanukovich than Tymoshenko. A recent poll, for example, showed that the 37-year-old leader of the "Front for Change," the former Foreign



Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (C) listens during a court session in Kiev September 30, 2011. (Reuters Alexander Prokopenko)

Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, would be a greater threat to Yanukovich than Tymoshenko.

The Tymoshenko case also stands to seriously harm Ukraine's relations with the European Union — relations which are essential to Ukraine's future. This month Ukraine is supposed to be dotting the final "i" in its negotiations over an Association Agreement with the European Union, which includes an agreement on a free trade zone. Paradoxical as it may sound, the "pro-Russian" Yanukovich now has a better chance to bring Ukraine closer to the E.U. than his "pro-European" predecessor, Viktor Yushchenko, ever had.

An Association Agreement with the E.U. would preclude Ukraine's participation in a customs union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and make Ukraine's European path irreversible. But over the past month Yanukovich has received clear signals from Europe that sending Tymoshenko to prison will create problems for the Kiev-Brussels dialogue and for the subsequent ratification of any agreements by European parliaments.

The problem is that some advisers to Yanukovich believe that European negotiators are using Tymoshenko as a pretext for slowing down Ukraine's integration in the E.U., and that if there were no

Tymoshenko case, they'd find another pretext. They also believe that the E.U. will sign an Association Agreement no matter how the Tymoshenko case is resolved.

Finally, a guilty verdict against Tymoshenko clearly will not improve relations with Russia. The issue is not Tymoshenko herself — though many in Kiev and Moscow believe that Putin now prefers her to Yanukovich as a partner. The fact is that her case involves natural-gas agreements with Russia; a guilty verdict is more likely to worsen Yanukovich's relations with Putin than to make Russia more compliant on gas prices. That is not what Yanukovich needs in advance of parliamentary elections scheduled for next year.

The Tymoshenko case is not a battle of good and evil, of a "democratic and pro-European" Tymoshenko against an "autocratic and pro-Russian" Yanukovich, as some in the West seem to think. Yulia Tymoshenko is not a symbol of Ukrainian democracy, nor of Ukraine's European choice. But this court ruling against her could have serious negative consequences both for Ukraine's democracy and its European hopes.

Do Ukrainian leaders understand that? If yes, they should do everything possible to alter Ukraine's Soviet-era laws, and to set Tymoshenko free.

Burma prisoner release includes prominent comedian

The authorities in Burma have released dozens of prisoners, including political detainees, at the start of a general amnesty.

Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi says more than 100 political prisoners have been released so far.

A popular comedian, Zarganar, was among the first to be freed.

He was arrested in 2008 after publicly criticising the response to Cyclone Nargis, which killed more than 140,000 people.

Speaking to the BBC shortly after his release, Zarganar was wary of his new found freedom, describing it as conditional. "If I do something wrong they will send me back," he said.

"I'm not happy today," he said, "because there are so many of my friends still in prison."

Leaders of a failed uprising in 1988 are reportedly still in jail.

The government said on Tuesday that more than 6,000 prisoners would be freed but it was unclear how many would be political detainees.

A list of those to be released has not been published.

Political prisoners

A spokesman for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), Nyan Win, said that as far as he knew about 120 political prisoners had been released.

A number of monks are thought to be among those freed, but there are conflicting reports about whether they include one of the monks' leaders, Shin Gambira.

He led street protests in 2007, which were crushed by the previous military government.

Early reports that he had been released were later denied by some activists.

Western nations currently impose sanctions on Burma, and one of the key reasons is political prisoners.

Thought to number about 2,000, they include journalists, pro-democracy activists, government critics, monks involved in anti-government protests in 2007 and members of Burma's ethnic groups fighting for greater autonomy.

Burma announced an amnesty of 15,000 prisoners in May 2011 and freed more than 7,000 in 2009 - but those moves were criticised by rights groups for failing to include political prisoners.

Burma held its first elections in two decades almost a year ago - polls which saw military rule replaced with a military-backed civilian-led government.

Since then the government has freed Aung San Suu Kyi and held a dialogue with her.

(Source: BBC)

FEATURE

Pakistan gated community sparks row

BY Mark Magnier

RAWALPINDI (Los Angeles Times) — The houses and manicured lawns slope up the artificial hill edged by unbroken sidewalks and white picket fences, as children play and residents exchange pleasantries.

This sprawling subdivision called Bahria Town - "Come home to exclusivity", it boasts - operates its own garbage trucks, schools, firehouse, mosques, water supply and rapid-response force - a kind of functioning state within a nonfunctioning one. And all supplied without the bribes you'd pay on the outside, residents say.

"I like living here," said Abdul Rashid, a sixty-something retired government worker. "It's like you're in a little protected country - tidy, utilities work, the family can relax. If there's any problem, you just ring up security."

The jarring presence of a middle- and upper-class retreat in this increasingly violent nation has been paved, in part, by the involvement of the country's powerful military.

Benefiting from laws put in place during British Empire days to reward friendly armies and militias with land grants, the military now controls about 12% of all Pakistani state land, by some accounts.

And its privileged position allows it to partner with and otherwise route valuable tracts to favoured developers.

Bahria Town and its partner, the military-run developer Defence Housing Authority, occupy twice as much land as Rawalpindi, the garrison city 30 minutes from the capital, Islamabad.

In the posh Safari Villas subdivision, past Sunset Avenue and College Road, Mohamed Javed, 69, surveys his pocket garden before heading into his three-bedroom corner house with a beige sofa ensemble and Samsung flat-screen TV.

Houses in the neighbourhood run from \$25,000 to \$60,000, well out of reach for most Pakistanis.

Bahria Town has been a hit not only with moneyed Pakistanis but also with returnees. Javed, who owned a petrol station in Canada before retiring, hopes to replicate his North American lifestyle. Bahria's protective walls bring security, he said, although he still won't let his grown children visit lest something bad happen beyond its confines. "We meet in Thailand or Canada," he said.



Children bicycling on the street at Bahria Town's Lahore development.

Although it's difficult to blame Pakistanis for retreating behind private walls as suicide bombings, political killings and political unrest intensify, some view the trend with concern. They fear the projects widen the rich-poor gap and damage the environment.

This growing tangle of developments destroys farmland, fuels traffic nightmares and undermines community life, said architect Jamshaid Khan, who designs houses for Bahria Town and its partner.

Sprawling Bahria Town has no cricket or soccer fields or even libraries because there's no immediate profit in it, he said.

"I volunteered to design libraries for free, even donate books," he said in his office, packed with blueprints. "But they didn't want them."

These communities also highlight economic disparities. "It's unfair," said Mohamed Ameen, 30, a tailor living outside the Bahria Town gate, adjusting a tape measure around his neck. "Rich Pakistanis live the good life and we suffer. It's a state within a state. And the energy used by these palaces only worsens shortages for the rest of us."

Rawalpindi's forest department, among others, recently accused Bahria Town of encroachment. Other complainants who file lawsuits say the group's strong connections with police, courts and local politicians make justice elusive. The company did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Last week, Bahria Town general manager Saeed Akhtar, a retired colonel, was detained by anti-corruption investigators along with site supervisor Mohamed Iqbal over allegations the developer bought 175 acres of land using forged documents.

The firm's lawyer, Malik Waheed Anjum, was quoted by the Express Tribune newspaper as saying Bahria Town was the victim of revenue officials who forged ownership documents.

Malik Riaz, the force behind Bahria Town, started in the 1980s as a small-time contractor. As competitors targeted the rich, he built for the emerging middle class, turning him into one of Pakistan's richest developers.

Critics say Riaz's Bahria Town empire has been fuelled by close ties to the military. Ayesha Siddiqi, author of Military Inc: Inside Pakistan Military Economy, alleges that those links have allowed him to acquire land, in some cases returning a percentage to senior officers as developed plots.

"Even the good ones, with a reputation for not being too corrupt, walk away with two or three pieces of real estate," she said. "It's a mutual benefit."

Official figures show the military controls 11.6mn acres, or 12%, of Pakistani state land, Siddiqi said, with half of that directly controlled by retired and serving military officers in a nation with more than 20mn landless peasants.

"No one besides the military has such access," she said. According to Siddiqi, Riaz's Bahria Town advertised on a recent Sunday for retired major generals and lieutenant generals to fill positions at the company. "These are his keys" to greater access, she said.

But for resident and food industry entrepreneur Shaheryar Egbal, these are minor issues relative to what Bahria Town delivers. "The government should take these communities as a model and replicate them," he said.

"The army already has a joint venture with Bahria Town. Things work. Pakistan must get through this terrorism phase, but this could really be the future."

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD



**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO:
90/146-134/3**

Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) intends to purchase 285 sets of Radio/FM & TV Transmitter as per the description attached to the tender documents.

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) dept 4th floor of IRIB Administration Complex, Jame Jam St. Vali-Assr Ave, Tehran, within office hours (8 a.m.- 4 p.m.) & submit receipt of the amount of RLS 200000 deposited to the account number: 65107384 with bank Tejarat Parkway branch in the name of IRIB, along with authorized letter of representation & collect the tender documents by 1 p.m. on 20 OCT, 2011.

The amount of bid bound is EUROS 35000 and the date of opening the envelopes A&B is on 21 Nov, 2011 at 3 p.m. in the office of Vice President (Administration and Financial Dept.)

For more information please see: <http://www.iriboffice.com/tenders> & www.iets.mporg.ir

Purchasing (KALA) Department, IRIB

NEWS

South Korea's Lee defends stance on North

SEOUL (The Washington Post) — Facing growing criticism that his hard-line stance toward North Korea has backfired, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak defended the strategy, and said there are signs his approach is beginning to work.

Lee has said that Seoul will provide aid and security to its neighbor only after Pyongyang denuclearizes. Speaking on Monday, he said that controversial strategy had yielded a breakthrough: In recent meetings between the Koreans, the North has been willing to discuss its nuclear program. Though talking about the arsenal is far different than dismantling it, the subject itself was previously off limits.

"There are some real changes we are detecting," Lee said in an interview. "In the past, if we had dialogue between the two Koreas, it was never about nuclear weapons. The discussion was only about when and how much aid we would give."

If Pyongyang agrees to a monitored shutdown of its nuclear weapons program, the concession would validate a strategy that has, in the short term, turned North Korea more dangerous, not more compliant.

Lee had hoped his stance would push North Korea to recommit to old denuclearization promises. Instead, the North has kept its weapons — and turned to China for the aid and investment it once got from Seoul. Intra-Korean relations hit a low point last year with two military attacks on South Korea, prompting calls domestically for Lee to soften his approach.

The hard-line strategy marked a dramatic shift from Lee's two predecessors, who oversaw the 10-year "Sunshine Policy" period of aid, investment, and summit meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

Lee has spoken in recent months of a more "flexible" approach toward the North, but he denied on Monday he will reconsider his main principle: The North must commit to denuclearization as a first step for better relations.

Lee travels this week to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with President Obama and address Congress on Thursday.

Nobel winner seeks re-election in Liberia

Liberians voted in the country's second post-war elections Tuesday in which incumbent president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was seeking a second term only days after jointly winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

National elections chief James Fromayan praised a peaceful day of voting, saying the country had reached "a new dimension where the Liberian people chose the ballot box over the barrel of a gun."

Counting was underway, and provisional results were expected on Thursday at 4pm in the presidential, senatorial and legislative elections, held under the watchful eye of UN soldiers and observers.

An impressive turnout from some 1.8 million eligible voters was expected as hundreds were seen lining up under the blazing sun in some parts of the country, and thunderous rainfall in the capital.

Voting was slow in some places as some had to be educated on how to cast their vote. In one polling station an AFP correspondent witnessed fellow voters assisting each other.

"He also reaffirms the continued commitment of the United Nations to support the consolidation of peace and reconstruction of Liberia."

The election, the second since the end of a savage 14-year war, is seen as a test for the west African nation's fragile democracy, and a referendum on Sirleaf's rule, since she became Africa's first elected female president in 2005.

(Source: AFP)

Philippines says no state honors for Marcos burial

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Benigno Aquino III says no state honors will be given when former dictator Ferdinand Marcos is buried because that would be "the height of injustice."

Aquino's decision, which he announced before foreign journalists Wednesday, goes against his vice president's recommendation that Marcos be at least given military honors if he's to be buried in his northern hometown and not at the national heroes' cemetery in the capital, Manila.

Marcos' widow, Imelda, has long pushed for the burial of her husband in the heroes' cemetery, which is reserved for presidents, soldiers, statesmen and national artists. She is opposed by pro-democracy and left-wing groups, which say the late dictator committed massive human rights violations and plundered the nation's coffers.

In China, Putin calls U.S. a parasite

BEIJING (AP) — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is likening the U.S. to a parasite following his meetings with Chinese leaders to push ahead energy deals and draw the once wary neighbors closer.

In an interview with Chinese state media released Tuesday, Putin said that the U.S. itself is not a parasite for the world economy but that its dollar monopoly is. Putin said his criticism was meant to help find a solution to problems in the world economy.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says, "the U.S. is not a parasite for the world economy, but the U.S. dollar's monopoly is a parasite." He offered the criticism constructively in a search for common solutions to ease a roiling world economy.

Putin and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao emerged from a half day of talks and formalities Tuesday pledging to resolve the dispute over the pricing of gas Russia plans to deliver by two Siberian pipelines. Putin is to meet Chinese President Hu Jintao today, the second day of a two-day visit. So far deals struck included Chinese promises to invest \$1.5 billion in a Siberian aluminum smelter and to put \$1 billion into a joint investment fund.

"Those who sell always want to sell at a higher price, while those who buy want to buy at a lower price. We need to reach a compromise which will satisfy both sides," Putin told reporters.

Putin has frequently tried to use



Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, left, shakes hands with China's Premier Wen Jiabao during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

Russia's burgeoning ties with Beijing as a counterbalance to U.S. global predominance. And Chinese leaders have reciprocated the gestures. The Russian leader's trip to Beijing follows his recent announcement that he plans to swap jobs next year with President Dmitry Medvedev, returning him to the top position he held for eight years. Analysts have said that the transition could see Russia tilt further toward China.

Chinese Premier Wen told reporters that China wanted to push ahead a "comprehensive strategic partnership"

with Russia that would safeguard world stability and development.

But even as they reach out to each other, strains are evident between Moscow and Beijing in the trade and security issues that have bolstered relations over the past decade. Moscow is unhappy with China's copying of Russian fighter jets and other military hardware and recently announced the arrest of a Chinese man accused of seeking to buy military secrets.

While trade is booming — rising, by China's count, to more than 39 percent to \$35.9 billion in the first half

of the year from the same period last year — it's heavily geared toward Chinese purchases of Russian resources. Moscow wants more Chinese investment in Russia itself.

Efforts to complete the natural gas deal have plodded on, with Russia preferring to link gas prices to oil prices, as it does in Europe, and China wanting a lower price.

All told, Russian and Chinese officials say deals worth \$7 billion are to be signed during Putin's visit, in fields including biotechnology and space exploration.

Egypt: the mounting cost of protest

Egypt's finance minister has resigned in protest at the authorities' handling of Sunday's bloody demonstration — and the rest of the government may be following suit.

Since it is not the cabinet that's in charge but the military council, the immediate impact on policymaking could be limited. But it makes an unstable regime look even more wobbly, with dire consequences for the economy. The recent fragile recovery in the stock market could take a knock.

According to the state-run Middle East New Agency, Prime Minister Essam Sharaf said a cabinet's decision to consider its future was "standard procedure and did not mean" that the government had resigned. Sharaf was quoted as saying that he was studying the resignation of finance minister and deputy premier Hazem El Beblawi, who quit after only three months in office.

The moves reflect the political tensions squeezing Cairo after clashes between Coptic Christians and security forces left at least 25 people dead. The violence triggered rallies against the military council that took power after the uprising that felled president Hosni Mubarak.

Roula Khalaf, the FT's middle east editor, said: "Of course the finance minister's resignation will make things more difficult. It shows how politics can impact a very fragile economic situation."

Said Hirsh of Capital Economics agreed, saying that even though the military council, not the gov-



ernment, made the key decisions, the finance minister's resignation could worry investors. The post-Mubarak administration is now looking for a third finance minister since it took control earlier this year.

The economy is in the mire. Egypt has lost a third of its foreign currency reserves since the beginning of the year as a result of the turmoil. Reserves fell from \$29.8bn in February to \$19.4bn at the end of September, according to figures published by the Central Bank of Egypt. The current reserves are estimated to cover 4.8 months of imports, down from 6.9 in April 2011.

Hirsh estimates that the authorities could have until this time next year, before reserves reach the critical level of three months' import cover.

(Source: Financial Times)

U.S. open to Afghan peace deal including Haqqani

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday signaled the United States remains open to exploring a peace deal including the Haqqani network, the militant group that U.S. officials blame for a campaign of high-profile violence that could jeopardize Washington's plans for withdrawing smoothly from Afghanistan.

"Where we are right now is that we view the Haqqanis and other of their ilk as, you know, being adversaries and being very dangerous to Americans, Afghans and coalition members inside Afghanistan, but we are not shutting the door on trying to determine whether there is some path forward," Clinton said when asked whether she believed members of the Haqqani network might reconcile with the Afghan government.

"It's too soon to tell whether any of these groups or any individuals within them are serious," she said in an interview with Reuters.

Inclusion of the Haqqani network in a hoped-for peace deal — now a chief objective in the Obama administration's Afghanistan policy after a decade of war — is a controversial idea in Washington.

Officials blame the group for last month's attack on the U.S. embassy in Kabul and a truck bombing that injured scores of American soldiers.

The State Department is facing heat from Capitol Hill for refraining, at least so far, from officially designating the Haqqani group, which U.S. officials say is based in western Pakistan, as a terrorist organization.



Jalaluddin Haqqani (R), the Taliban's minister for tribal affairs, points to a map of Afghanistan during a visit to Islamabad, Pakistan while his son Naziruddin (L) looks on in this October 19, 2001 file photograph. (Reuters/Stringer/Files)

The White House has backed away from assertions from Admiral Mike Mullen, who was the top U.S. military officer until he retired last month, that Pakistani intelligence supported the Haqqani network in the September 13 embassy attack.

But President Barack Obama and others have put their sometimes-ally Pakistan on notice that it must crack down on militants or risk severing a key relationship.

According to media reports, U.S. officials have held meetings with Haqqani network representatives as

part of their efforts — which have not yet yielded any visible results — to strike a peace deal, but the State Department declines to discuss details of the reconciliation process.

In recent months reconciliation has become a more prominent feature of Obama's Afghan strategy even as U.S. and NATO soldiers continued to battle the Taliban and Haqqani militants in Afghanistan's volatile south and east.

Earlier this year, Clinton advanced a peace deal as a key plank of regional policy for the first time, saying Washington would support a settlement between the Afghan government and those militant groups that meet certain requirements, including renouncing violence and supporting the Afghan constitution.

■ Fighting, talking

Despite the conciliatory signals, Clinton said the United States would stick to its military campaign that the White House hopes will make militants more likely to enter serious negotiations.

"Now, it is also true that we are still trying to kill and capture or neutralize them (the Haqqani network)," Clinton said. "And they are still trying to, you know, kill as many Americans, Afghans and coalition members as they can."

"In many instances where there is an ongoing conflict, you are fighting and looking to talk," Clinton said. "And then eventually maybe you are fighting and talking. And then maybe you've got a ceasefire. And then maybe you are just talking."

Sajas, a 12th century Friday Mosque

Over 800 years old, Sajas Friday Mosque is situated in a small town of the same name in Zanjan Province. Although no date is mentioned in any of the inscription friezes found in the mosque itself, the articulation of its brick structure and decoration indicate that it is a Seljuk mosque built sometime in the early 12th century. Its approximate construction date has been determined to be around 1100.

Three elements are most prominent in the overall shape and design of the Friday Mosque at Sajas: a large square chamber, a dome, and the transition between the two. In plan the square-shaped mosque is oriented towards qibla, approximately north-south. It is entered from the north through an opening in the center of the elevation, directly opposite the mihrab in the center of the southern wall.

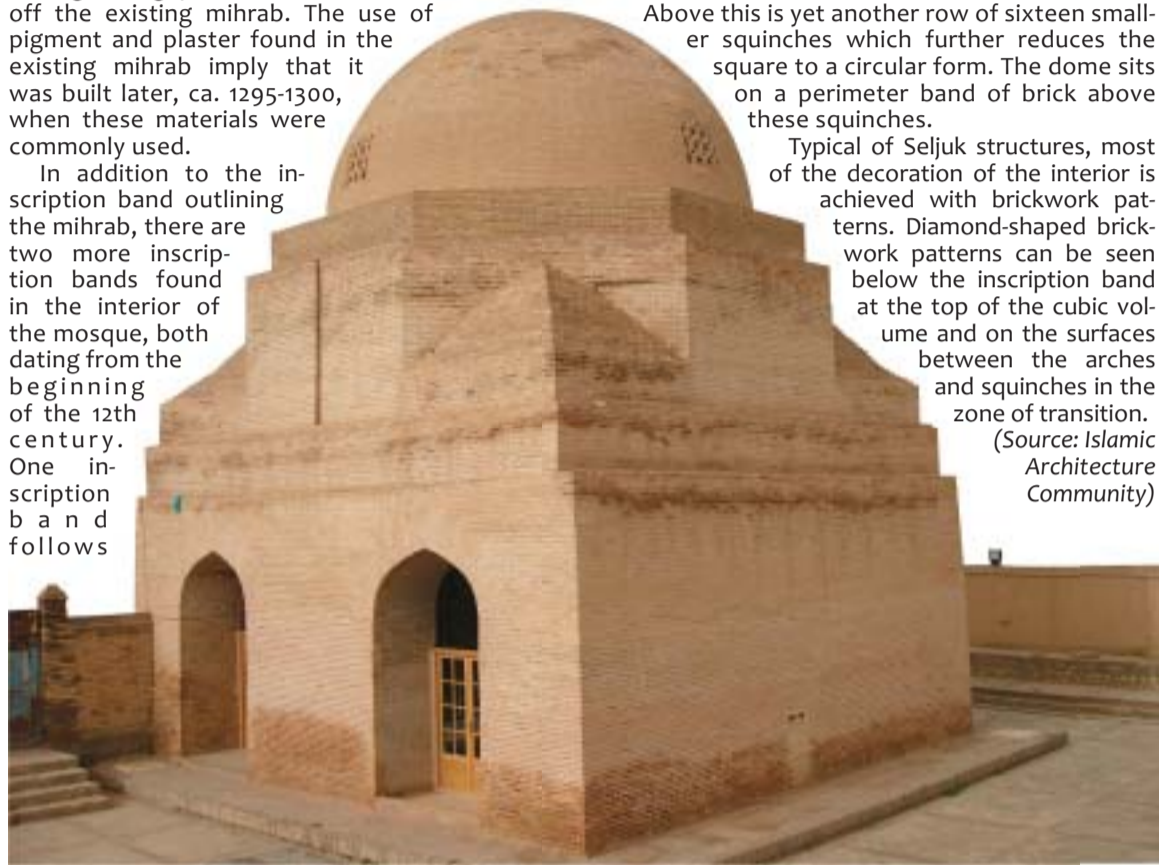


The structure is symmetrically organized with two large pointed arch window openings at the edges of each of the lateral walls and a single large entrance opening, also a pointed arch on the northern elevation. Four small window openings pierce the dome above, at the center of each of the sides. Further emphasizing the symmetry of the interior, at either side of the entrance and on either side of the mihrab, the surfaces are decorated with a shallow inset arch with small muqarnas above it and a diamond shaped pattern on its surface. Each of these is set within a rectangular frame with a floral and vegetal pattern

carved in the brick on either side of the arch.

The mihrab is also set within a larger rectangular frame with a perimeter inscription band that is rounded in section and a second band with a floral design. Within these two bands fits a semi-vault that is recessed within the wall of the square chamber. At the center of this and smaller in scale is an arch that is further recessed in the wall of the structure. An earlier, narrower mihrab can be seen through the gaps where stucco has broken off the existing mihrab. The use of pigment and plaster found in the existing mihrab imply that it was built later, ca. 1295-1300, when these materials were commonly used.

In addition to the inscription band outlining the mihrab, there are two more inscription bands found in the interior of the mosque, both dating from the beginning of the 12th century. One inscription band follows



the perimeter of the top edge of the cube volume, while the other encircles the perimeter at the base of the dome. Between the two inscription bands is the transition of square to circle. The transition of the cube base to the dome of a smaller diameter above is achieved by large squinches at the corners. Above the inscription frieze is a row of four large squinches, one at each of the corners, and four squat pilastered pointed arches between these, located at the center of each of the sides.

Above this is yet another row of sixteen smaller squinches which further reduces the square to a circular form. The dome sits on a perimeter band of brick above these squinches.

Typical of Seljuk structures, most of the decoration of the interior is achieved with brickwork patterns. Diamond-shaped brickwork patterns can be seen below the inscription band at the top of the cubic volume and on the surfaces between the arches and squinches in the zone of transition.

(Source: Islamic Architecture Community)

The book of a thousand tales

One of the most famous collections of ancient tales is Alf Layla wa Layla, the Arabic name of One Thousand and One Nights, commonly known in English as The Arabian Nights. The original Arabic compiler is reputedly the 9th century storyteller Abu abd-Allah Muhammed el-Gahshigar.

These stories came to Europe during the Middle Ages, but were not written down in a European language until the beginning of the 18th century, when Antoine Galland, a French orientalist, translated them into his own language. Translations into English by Edward Lane and Sir Richard Burton followed in the 19th century.

Sources dating to the 10th century AD which mention this collection allude to the existence of a Persian book called Hezar Afsaneh (The Book of a Thousand Tales), the story of a king, his vizier, and the vizier's daughters Shahrazad and Dinazad. These same characters appear in the story that frames One Thousand and One Nights, though here the main plot is built around two brothers, the Sassanian kings Shahzaman and Shahriyar, one of whom rules in Samarkand and the other in India and China. Both find out that their wives have been unfaithful, and all the women and slaves involved in their affairs are beheaded.

Shahriyar, then gives his vizier



A girl with Parrot, scene from the One Thousand and One Nights

(meaning minister in Persian) an order to find him a new wife every night (in some versions, every third night). After spending one night with his bride, the king has her executed at dawn. This practice continues for some time, until the vizier's clever daughter Shahrazad (better-known in English as "Scheherazade") forms a plan to become Shahriyar's next wife. She persuades her father to let her go to the king, taking her younger sister Dinazad with her. After their marriage, she instructs Dinazad to

ask her for a story every night. She spends hours telling her sister and the king stories, and each time she stops by dawn, at a crucial point, thereby arousing the king's interest in hearing the rest of the story the following night. She is then able to make them last for one thousand and one nights.

During this period Shahrazad gives birth to three male children by the king, and when her storytelling finally ends he offers to grant her a wish. She asks the king to spare her life for the sake of their young children, which he willingly agrees to do, and they live happily ever after.

The names of Shahriyar (holder of a kingdom; prince or king), Shahrazad (of noble lineage) and Dinazad (exalting the goddess Den) are Iranian, and the name of Shahriyar's brother Shahzaman consists of the Persian shah (king) and Arabic zaman (time). It is believed that the frame story of One Thousand and One Nights is of both Persian and Indian origin.

The tales vary widely; they include historical tales, love stories, tragedies, comedies, poems, burlesques and Muslim religious legends. Some of the famous stories Shahrazad spins in many western translations are Aladdin's Lamp, Sindbad the Sailor, and the tale of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves; however Aladdin and

Ali Baba were in fact inserted only in the 18th century by Antoine Galland, who had heard them in oral form from a Maronite story-teller from Aleppo.

Among the tales in the collection which are believed to be of Persian origin are love stories and fairy tales, which often include div (demon) and pari (fairy), as well as magical animals and birds. Other stories, such as The Ebony Horse, although beginning with a description which fits perfectly into the Persian tradition, are nevertheless believed to be of Indian origin.

The Ebony Horse, also known as The Magic Horse, is about a magical horse presented as a gift to the king of Persia. The king's young heir sits on the ebony horse to test the magic and flies into the sky. He visits another country (Yemen), falls in love with a princess, and after a series of adventures returns to his father's court and marries the princess.

Numerous stories depict djinns, magicians, and legendary places, which are often intermingled with real people and geography; the historical caliph Harun al-Rashid is a common protagonist.

Sometimes a character in Shahrazad's tale will begin telling other characters a story of his own, and that story may have another one told within it, and so on, adding to the fantastic texture.

(Source: Art Arena)

Zakani, Persian poet and satirist

Najamoddin Obeid Zakani was a 14th century poet, satirist and social critic of Iran, whose works have not received proper attention in the past. His satirical works more than anything else in Persian literature illustrate the then social conditions.

He wrote the Resaleh Delgoshah (Joyous Treatise), as well as Akhlaq al-Ashraf ("Ethics of the Aristocracy") and the famous humorous fable Masnavi Moosh va Gorbah (Mouse and Cat), which was a political satire. His non-satirical serious classical verses have also been regarded as very well written, in league with the other great works of Persian literature.

Zakani studied in Shiraz under the then best masters became one of the most accomplished men of letters and learning of his time, acquiring complete proficiency in every art, and compiling books and treatises

thereon.

He subsequently returned to Qazvin, where he had the honor of being appointed to a judgeship and was chosen as the tutor and teacher of sundry young gentlemen. He composed a treatise known as Akhlaq al-Ashraf, which was not intended as mere ribaldry, but as a satire containing serious reflections and wise warnings.

So, likewise, in order to depict the level of intelligence and degree of knowledge of the leading men of Qazvin, he included in his Resaleh Delgoshah many anecdotes of which each contains a lesson for persons of discernment.

He wrote Moosh va Gorbah around 1370 and in it he highlights the moral dilemma of the suppressed who faces the problem of his own powerlessness. The mice who fight against the



domination of the cats, don't simply fail because of their weakness, smallness or fear, they lose because of the cats' superiority in brutality. For the mice no alternative exists.

Zakani composed a treatise Ilm-i-Ma'ni u Bayan (Rhetoric) which he desired to present to the King.

The courtiers and favorites, however, told him that the King had no need for such rubbish. Then he composed a fine panegyric, which he desired to recite, but they informed him that His Majesty did not like to be mocked with the lies, exaggerations and fulsome flattery of poets.

Zakani, himself a kind of poet-jester, resented being kept waiting because the King was busy with his real jester. Zakani wondered whether the King's most intimate acquaintance could be gained through jesting and ribaldry, and the jesters become his favorites, while the men of accomplishment and learning would find themselves deprived of his favors.

Thus Zakani a serious writer, a moralist and a panegyrist was compelled by circumstances to become a ribald satirist.

TRAVELOGUE

Return to Shiraz and final thoughts

While I enjoyed the unique sites and architecture of Yazd, for some reason I also found this the touristiest place I visited in Iran. Maybe it's relatively small size and the concentration of tourists into two large hostels/hotels in the same area added to the feeling. Maybe tomorrow's package tour cast a negative light over my feelings about Yazd. I'd like to return for the Zoroastrian sites I missed this time round but need to find a way to escape the tourist circuit here.

The next day we race around Meybod, Chak Chak and Kharanaq. Highlights were the good weather (breezy and not too hot), the surprisingly attractive pigeon tower where tens of thousands were once kept to produce tonnes of fertilizer for local farmers, Chak Chak, the holiest Zoroastrian mountain shrine, and the company of the others on the tour. This turns out to be ten in total with our quartet, some women on a Dragoman Istanbul to Beijing overland tour and a couple on a yearlong honeymoon around the world.

Up bright and early to get the 8am bus to Shiraz, which departs from the Yazd Economic Zone, far from town. The bus station is huge, modern and empty at this time of day.

All the stores sell snacks for the trip and souvenirs or specialties of the town including huge foot-high cones of sugar. Not sure how those can be transported on the bus. I buy a bag of potato chips for the bus ride.

Arrive in Shiraz. After a huge lunch of salad, garlic yoghurt, rice, bread and kebab, time to head to the Pars Museum, which holds the tomb of Karim Khan Zand, a former Iranian ruler.

Shiraz is known for its gardens and the museum is set in a lovely garden. No photos allowed inside. As the guards are armed with machine guns I decide not to sneak any photos. The rest of the day is spent hanging out in the square and wandering around, lots of people doing the same. Huge lines in front of one faloodeh shop, while the others are empty.

I spent slightly more time in Shiraz than originally planned so this is just a list of impressions and final thoughts on my time in Iran.

Shiraz is where I see the largest groups of foreign tourists on tours. I see the same groups at several sites. Their behavior is fascinating: one person will spot an interesting photo opportunity and soon 10 others will be lined up photographing the same thing. I watch a group line up to photograph a flowering tree.

I admit there were times during my time in Iran when I definitely did not want to return.

Many have huge DSLRs and numerous lenses. So do many Iranians who also spend lots of time taking photos.

Many amazing sites and lovely gardens, April really was the best time to visit in this regard.

By the Hafez's tomb, lots of people taking cell phone photos but also lots of others place their hands on his tomb and silently meditate, recite his poetry. Very touching and his tomb is set in another lovely garden.

At the end of every trip I reflect on what I'd have done differently and whether I want to return to a particular place again. I admit there were times during my time in Iran when I definitely did not want to return. The dress code is beginning to wear me out mentally. At one point I thought of extending my time in Iran and skipping Syria, but the prospect of 10 more days was unbearable. There are too many places I haven't seen including Isfahan and Yazd that I want to make a return trip but probably for a shorter trip of two weeks at most.

Persepolis, Pasargadae and Naqsh-e Rostam

A long day trip with a driver to three of the greatest archaeological sites in Iran:

Pasargadae was somewhat disappointing in the sense of there not being a whole lot left to see, apart from the still-impressive tomb of Cyrus the Great that stands alone against the mountains. It was nice to be outside town and to do some walking and climbing on the fortress of Toll-e Takht.

Next up was Naqsh-e Rostam. I admit I did not read up on these sites until I was in the car so was pleasantly surprised by these huge tombs carved into the cliff face. Underneath are newer carvings and sculptures from later rulers hoping to coopt the prestige of Darius, Xerxes, Artaxerxes, Darius II and Darius III.

Finally we arrive at Persepolis. My first impression is of the size of this site. There are many local and foreign tourists as expected at such an important site. The broad path up to the site is lined with restaurants and souvenir stalls. It's quite a hike just to get to the entrance. Favorite parts of the site: ancient graffiti on the magnificent Gate of all Nations and the delicacy of the carving on the stairways and Apadana palace clearly depicting the different races and nations bringing tribute to the king.

(Source: TravelPod.com)

Concluded



Amir Chaghmagh Square in Yazd



Tomb of Hafez, Shiraz

IN THE NEWS

Cancer screening and treatment

Breast cancer continues to be the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in the United States. In 2008, an estimated 182,400 U.S. women were newly diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 40,000 women died from the disease.

The good news is that breast cancer deaths have declined recently among white women in this country; the bad news is that over the same period, survival has decreased among black women. The 5-year breast cancer survival rate is 69 percent for black women, compared with 85 percent for white women.

In 2008, there were an estimated 11,000 newly diagnosed cases of invasive cervical cancer in U.S. women, and about 3,900 women died from the disease. Cervical cancer occurs most often among minority women, particularly Asian-American (Vietnamese and Korean), Alaska Native, and Hispanic women.

Although deaths from cervical cancer have declined substantially over the past 30 years, the cervical cancer death rate for black women continues to be more than twice that of white women.

(Source: ahrq.gov)

Cardiovascular disease the number one killer



Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States. More than one-fourth of all deaths among U.S. women in 2006 were due to heart disease, which usually occurs about 10 years later in life in women than in men.

Heart disease mortality differs substantially among women of different races, and almost two-thirds of women who die suddenly of coronary heart disease have no previous symptoms.

(Source: ahrq.gov)

New website lists health insurance increases

A new website that enables consumers to check if a health insurer has raised its rates has been introduced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The site also explains a company's reasons for raising its rates.

"We are taking a good, hard look at why insurance companies are seeking to raise your rates, why your premiums might be going up, and making sure these decisions are public and justified," HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a news release, USA Today reported. "This is just a start, and over time we will be reporting more of these requests," she added.

This type of information was largely unavailable before but all insurance companies must now file rate raises with the HHS under the new health care law, USA Today reported.

(Source: healthfinder.gov)

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Even medical students want conventional medicine to include alternative therapies

By S. L. Baker

Are up-and-coming young doctors going to practice the same kind of mainstream medicine as their predecessors?

Will the next generation of doctors turn up their heads at alternative therapies such as acupuncture, yoga, herbs and vitamins -- just like the majority of the current doctors?

In what may come as a surprise to many mainstream physicians, the answer to those questions may be a resounding "no".

According to research published in the online edition of the peer-reviewed journal Evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (eCAM), 75 percent of medical students surveyed think it would be beneficial for conventional Western medicine to integrate with complementary and alternative medicine (CAM).

In fact, 74 percent agreed that a medical system which integrated conventional medicine with CAM could be more effective than either type of medicine used independently.

CAM places emphasis on natural therapies and using the body's own healing powers instead of relying on drugs, vaccines and other standard Western treatments.

A University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and University of California, San Diego, research team comprised of experts in the fields of CAM, integrative medicine, Western medicine, medical education and survey development created a first of its kind 30 question survey that was distributed to 126 U.S. medical schools.

Some 1,770 medical students completed the survey -- roughly, about three percent of the 68,000 medical students nationwide. Although the response rate

to the survey was fairly low, the researchers say it provided valuable insights into current medical students' perceptions of CAM.

For example, the findings revealed that 77 percent of the medical student participants agreed patients whose doctors are knowledgeable about complementary and alternative medicine in addition to conventional medicine benefit more than those whose doctors are only familiar with Western medicine.

In fact, 74 percent agreed that a medical system which integrated conventional medicine with CAM could be more effective than either type of medicine used independently.

A whopping 84 percent of the participants surveyed said CAM contains beliefs, ideas and therapies that could benefit conventional medicine. Some of this attitudinal shift in medical students could be the result of personal experiences -- almost half of the participants said they had used complementary and alternative treatments themselves.

"Complementary and alternative medicine, or CAM, is receiving increased attention in light of the global health crisis and the significant role of traditional medicine in meeting public health needs in developing countries," study author Ryan Abbott, a researcher at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, said in a statement to the media.

"Integrating CAM into mainstream health care is now a global phenomenon, with policymakers at the highest levels endorsing the importance of a historically marginalized form of health care."

The study also found that more than 60 percent of the medical student participants want more education related to CAM during their time in medical school.

In a press statement, the researchers noted that although



more than 50 percent of U.S. medical schools currently offer some type of CAM courses, these studies could be streamlined into more formal curricula as part of standardized medical school education.

"Although the content of integrative medicine programs remains controversial, medical schools across the country are moving forward with

ambitious new programs to teach the next generation of health care leaders," concluded Dr. Ka-Kit Hui, the Wallis Annenberg Professor of Integrative East-West Medicine at UCLA, founder and director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, and chair of UCLA's Collaborative Centers for Integrative Medicine.

(Source: NaturalNews)

How can one overcome stress?

By Dr Robert Puff

Meditation is a highly effective means to overcome stress. It helps restore the body to a calm state.

A knowledgeable expert can guide individuals using the correct stress management meditation techniques, helping to relax and focus the flow of thoughts over a sustained time period.

If you regularly feel stressed, then perhaps you will find some comfort in the fact that most people suffer from some sort of strain.

Statistically speaking, more than 40% of adults are adversely affected by stress.

If untreated, stress can inflict serious, detrimental effects to one's physical and mental health.

Numerous different factors may contribute to an individual's elevated stress level.

Perhaps you have a serious communication problem with one of your loved ones. Or maybe you hate your job but have no other options.

You may be living alone, gradually cultivating a feeling of loneliness. Indeed, there could be any number of reasons for an individual's stress.

Stress often manifests itself as discomfort, worry, anxiety, uncertainty, fear, and excitement.

The behavioral symptoms of stress include eating more or less, isolating oneself from others, sleeping too much or too little, neglecting responsibilities, and using alcohol, cigarettes, or other substances to relax.

Stress can lead an individual to develop other tell-tale habits such as nail-biting and pacing.

The effects of stress vary from person to person.



Some people thrive upon stress, while others feel bogged down by the slightest obstacle or frustration.

The ability to withstand the negative effects stress depends on several factors including one's general outlook on life, the quality of the relationships one has, one's emotional intelligence, and genetics.

Additionally, a strong network of supportive family members and friends acts as a buffer against stress.

And, if you possess confidence in your ability to influence events and overcome challenges, you will find it easier to take stress in stride.

Optimistic individuals can cope with stress much better than those with a negative view of life.

Stress-hardy people embrace challenges and are willing to accept change.

One's ability to deal with emotions also counts. If you know how to soothe yourself when feeling sad, angry, or frightened, you will be able to balance your emotions.

It also helps to be prepared for a stressful situation.

For example, if you undergo surgery keeping realistic expectations post-op, your recovery will be less stressful.

Conversely, if you expect to bounce back immediately and this does not happen, you will feel more stressed.

In order to successfully combat stress, you need to develop resilience.

If you do so, you will be able to bounce back more easily. Everyone faces challenges in his/her life, whether he/she is financial, personal, or professional.

Regardless of social or economic status, every person faces some sort of adversity.

The important thing is that you are able to move past it! Meditation is a highly effective means to overcome stress. It helps restore the body to a calm state.

In order to achieve the utmost results, one needs to practice meditation under the guidance of an experienced instructor.

A knowledgeable expert can guide individuals using the correct stress management meditation techniques, helping to relax and focus the flow of thoughts over a sustained time period.

A successful stress management program helps to cultivate the skills necessary to better combat stress.

If you need professional help to cope with stress, you should enroll in such a program. I guarantee that you will see a dramatic difference in your stress levels.

This article was written by Dr. Robert Puff, a well-known California-based motivational speaker, author, stress management expert, and TV show host. speaker

(Source: EzineArticles)

Vitamin E may be risky for prostate

A daily dose of vitamin E could actually increase a man's risk of prostate cancer, a study out today shows. Researchers discovered the disturbing link while studying the effects of antioxidants on men's health.

The vitamin E study comes on the heels of Tuesday's report that common daily supplements, including multivitamins, iron, B6 and magnesium, appear to raise the death rate of older women.

There are big differences between these two studies, but both point to the inevitable conclusion that vitamins and supplements are not the magic potions that many people hope, even though more than two-thirds of the U.S. population takes them and they make up a \$28

billion-a-year industry.

The vitamin E study, called the SELECT trial, began in 2001, used the highest standard of scientific evidence -- a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial -- with the goal of proving vitamin E and selenium reduced the risk of prostate cancer.

The rationale was sound. Small studies had suggested that the antioxidant effects of the two substances might reduce a man's cancer risk.

As part of this major trial, funded by the National Cancer Institute, 35,000 men were recruited to test one or both of the compounds, or a placebo. By 2008, the study was halted because the evidence was clearly showing no benefit.

Meanwhile, researchers continued to monitor the men. After four more years of

follow-up, they found that vitamin E actually increased the risk for prostate cancer by 17 percent among men who took a daily dose of 400 IU, according to the report's conclusion published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

While the verdict on selenium is still not in, the researchers fear it might show negative effects, too, as they continue to follow the participants.

"I was surprised by the results of this trial," says Dr. Eric Klein, a urologist and the study leader from the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. "There was a substantial amount of evidence going into SELECT when it was designed in the early 2000s to suggest that vitamin E or selenium might prevent prostate cancer and that's why we did the trial."

Because the government rules for the sales of vitamins and supplements are so much more lax than those for pharmaceuticals, you can still walk into a health food store today and find a bottle of Vitamin E with a label that reads: "Supports prostate health."

"Consumers should be skeptical about claims that are made on bottles and elsewhere unless there is solid scientific evidence," Klein says.

In the multivitamin study, researchers tracked 3,800 older women in Iowa for nearly two decades. The study found women taking vitamin B6, folic acid, magnesium, zinc, copper and iron had higher death rates. Those taking calcium had lower death rates.

(Source: msnbc)

Shuttle Endeavour's final trip planned

By Rong-Gong Lin II

Trees, traffic lights and power lines will have to come down — how else could you possibly move 180,000 pounds of metal along an L.A. street, especially when it measures 122 feet long and has a wingspan of 78 feet?

That will be the next mission of the California Science Center, the state museum that on Tuesday was officially granted ownership of the retired space shuttle Endeavour.

The ship won't arrive until the latter half of 2012, fortunately, because finding a clear path for it will be a gargantuan task. Already, workers have taken images of a tentative route and fed them into a computer model, simulating how the shuttle would move across the city.

"It's going to come on top of a big airplane, a 747, and it's going to circle the L.A. area three times, and then we're going to have a parade — the mother of all parades," L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said to cheers at the science center Tuesday. "And from LAX, through the great city of Inglewood, down Martin Luther King Boulevard, it is going to be a sight to be seen."

Los Angeles won the right to the shuttle after besting museums across the country in a competition sponsored by NASA. Museums in Florida and suburban Washington got the two other shuttles, while a New York City museum secured the shuttle prototype. The science center plans to make Endeavour a centerpiece of its upcoming \$170-million third wing, a new Air and Space Center.

Though officials won't need to tear down buildings or bridges to make way for Endeavour, smaller hindrances like traffic signals, power lines and trees could come down, said museum Presi-



Mark Kelly, left, commander of the final flight of the space shuttle Endeavour, visits students and teachers at the California Science Center. (Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / October 12, 2011)

dent Jeffrey N. Rudolph. The cities will be reimbursed by the museum for the cost of moving lights, and trees will be replaced after the move, the mayors of L.A. and Inglewood said.

After arriving at LAX and spending a week in a hangar, the shuttle will be prepared for a 14- or 15-hour journey to its new home at the Exposition Park museum next to USC. In space, the shuttle traveled at 17,500 mph, but on the ground its top speed will average about 1 mph. "We might really speed up a couple of times to 2 or 3 miles an hour," Rudolph said.

According to officials, the preliminary route envisions the shuttle crossing over the 405 Freeway, traveling

through Inglewood on Manchester Boulevard, and then approaching the museum via Crenshaw and Martin Luther King Jr. boulevards.

"We can do it," Rudolph said. "You go over a freeway. It's just the capacity of the bridge to handle the weight, and we've got that. You can't go under, unless you're taking a bridge down. But we're not going to do another 'Carmageddon.'"

"There's no single thing that's a big obstacle. It's hundreds of power cables, hundreds of telephone cables, hundreds of lights and poles, and we can't miss one of those. Because if we get eight miles from the airport and someone says, 'Oops, we forgot about

that,' that's not going to look very good," Rudolph said.

One street that will probably lose trees is Crenshaw Boulevard, but those trees would have to come down anyway for the construction of a light rail line, Rudolph said.

Despite the headaches of bringing the shuttle to the city, Villaraigosa and Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts gave their full-throated welcome to Endeavour.

Said Butts: "Really, the largest impact is going to be the spark that's going to get to the imagination of the community and to the children. It'll be something on the order of an Olympics being held in town." (Source: Los Angeles Times)

New iPhone conceals sheer magic

By David Pogue

What's in a name?

A lot, apparently. Apple's new iPhone is called the iPhone 4S. But what people really wanted was the iPhone 5.

The rumors online had predicted the second coming — or, rather, the fifth coming. It would be wedge-shaped! It would be completely transparent! It would clean your basement, pick you up at the airport and eliminate unsightly blemishes!

Instead, what showed up was a new iPhone that looks just like the last one: black or white, glass front and back, silver metal band around the sides. And on paper, at least, the new phone does only four new things.

THING 1: There's a faster chip, the same one that's in the iPad 2. More speed is always better, of course. But it's not like people were complaining about the previous iPhone's speed.

THING 2: A much better, faster camera — among the best on a phone. It has a resolution of eight megapixels, which doesn't matter much, and a new, more light-sensitive sensor, which does. Its photos are crisp and clear, with beautiful color.

The low-light photos and 1080p high-definition video are especially impressive for a phone. There's still no zoom and only a tiny LED flash — but otherwise, this phone comes dangerously close to displacing a \$200 point-and-shoot digital camera.

64-gigabyte models

THING 3: The iPhone 4S is a world phone. As of Friday, you will be able to buy it from AT&T, Verizon and, for the first time, Sprint (\$200, \$300 or \$400 for the 16-, 32- or 64-gigabyte models). But even if you get your iPhone 4S from Verizon, whose CDMA network is incompatible with the GSM networks used in most other countries, you'll still be able to make calls overseas, either through Verizon or by inserting another carrier's SIM card. Call ahead for details.

Each carrier has its selling points. Sprint is the only one with an unlimited iPhone data plan (example: \$110 a month for unlimited calling, texting and Internet). AT&T says it has the fastest download speeds. But if you care about calling coverage, Verizon is the way to go.

THING 4: Speech recognition. Crazy good, transformative, category-



redefining speech recognition.

Exactly as on Android phones, a tiny microphone button appears on the on-screen keyboard; whenever you have an Internet connection, you can tap it when you want to dictate instead of typing. After a moment, the transcription appears. The sometimes frustrating on-screen keyboard is now a glorified Plan B.

Apple won't admit that it's using a version of Dragon Dictation, the free iPhone app, but there doesn't seem to be much doubt; it works and behaves identically. (For example, it occasionally seems to process your utterance but then types nothing at all, just as the Dragon app does.) This version is infinitely better, though, because it's a built-in keyboard button, not a separate app. But dictation is only half the story — no, one-tenth of the story. Because in 2010, Apple bought a start-up called Siri, whose technology it has baked into the iPhone 4S.

Siri is billed as a virtual assistant: a crisply accurate, astonishingly understanding, uncomplaining, voice-commanded minion. No voice training or special syntax is required; you don't even have to hold the phone up to your head. You just hold down the phone's Home button until you hear a double beep, and then speak casually.

You can say, "Wake me up at 07:35," or "Change my 07:35 alarm to 08:00." You can say, "What's Gary's work number?" Or, "How do I get to the airport?" Or, "Any good Thai restaurants around here?" Or, "Make a note to rent 'Ishtar' this weekend." Or, "How many days until Valentine's Day?" Or, "Play some Beatles." Or, "When was Abraham

Lincoln born?"

In each case, Siri thinks for a few seconds, displays a beautifully formatted response and speaks in a calm female voice.

It's mind-blowing how inexact your utterances can be. Siri understands everything from, "What's the weather going to be like in Tucson this weekend?" to "Will I need an umbrella tonight?" (She has various amusing responses for "What is the meaning of life?")

It's even more amazing how Siri's responses can actually form a conversation. Once, I tried saying, "Make an appointment with Patrick for Thursday at 3." Siri responded, "Note that you already have an all-day appointment about 'Boston Trip' for this Thursday. Shall I schedule this anyway?" Unbelievable.

Siri can perform an incredible range of tasks. She can get stock prices, weather, currency and price conversions, dictionary definitions, measurement conversions, math totals. She lets you use your voice to edit or check the Clock, Calendar, Notes and Address Book apps, the new Reminders app and the renamed Music (formerly iPod) app. She can read your text messages to you — and let you respond, all by voice (big news for drivers). She uses GPS to know where you are, so you can say things like, "Remind me to pick up the dry cleaning when I leave work" — and she'll do it.

She is not, however, as smart as "Star Trek's" computers. She draws an apologetic blank if you say things like, "How many AT&T minutes do I have left this month?" or "How do you get ketchup stains out?" And it's surprising that she

doesn't interact with more of the built-in apps. It would be great if you could open an app by voice ("Open Angry Birds") instead of hunting through 11 screens, or turn on Airplane Mode by voice, or display a certain set of photos.

Apple says Siri will improve with time — both because she adapts to you, and because Apple itself will periodically upgrade her brain.

But already, Siri saves time, fumbling and distraction, and profoundly changes the definition of "phone." I find myself using certain commands constantly, especially "Wake me at," "Call," "Send a message to," "Give me directions to," and "Remind me."

It's a shame that Siri isn't available for older iPhones. Apple says that she requires the 4S's faster processor, although before Apple bought the company, there was a Siri app that ran just fine on other models.

Software features in the 4S

Most of the new software features in the 4S, however, are indeed available to older iPhones, thanks to the free iOS 5 software update.

Some of its 200 new features play Android catch-up. For example, a tidy, attractive Notification Center appears when you swipe a finger down the screen. In one place, it lists all of your missed calls, text messages received, coming appointments and other updates — a tremendous convenience.

You can now fire up the camera right from the Lock screen, saving you a detour to the Home screen. You can now press the Volume Up button to snap a picture; it falls exactly where a real camera's shutter button would be. Basic photo-fixing tools (auto-color adjust, cropping and red-eye removal) are now built in.

If you're sending a text, photo or video to another iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch, iOS automatically uses a new, proprietary service called iMessages instead of sending a traditional text message. (It's not a separate app; it's built into the existing Messages app. These iMessages appear in blue text bubbles; regular text messages appear in green.) This new service lets you see if the recipient has read your message yet, and it can save you money; instead of counting as a cellular text message, each i-to-i message goes over the Internet and costs you nothing.

(Source: The New York Times)

FEATURE

Perturbation theory: are we covering up new physics?

A timely award of the J. J. Sakurai Prize acknowledges how hard it can be sometimes to pin down what the Standard Model really thinks.

A graphical representation of a proton-proton collision. Loosely speaking, the red, yellow and some blue bits are the skeleton, and the green stuff is squishy. Credit: Frank Krauss, Sherpa.

We're measuring all kinds of stuff at the Large Hadron Collider right now. The question we're addressing could be summed up as

Does the Standard Model of particle physics work at LHC energies or not?

If it works, there is a Higgs boson but not much else new. If it doesn't, there might not be a Higgs but there must be something weird and new going on. As I have said before, the energy range of the LHC is special.

How well do we really understand the predictions of the Standard Model at these energies?

This isn't an easy one. In general we can't solve the Standard Model exactly. We use approximations. Most of these rely on the fact that the "coupling", that is the strength of the fundamental forces, is not very large.

The strength of a force can be expressed as a number. If it was 0.1, say, then the chances of two particles interacting would be proportional to $0.1 \times 0.1 = 0.01$. But for three to interact it would be $0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 = 0.001$, four would be 0.0001 and so on. This means when the coupling is small, you can ignore the contributions which involve more than say four particles — they are just a small perturbation on the main result, because they are multiplied by $0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 \times 0.1 = 0.0001$. They don't change the result much. This is "perturbation theory". It is accurate if the coupling is small, that is if the force is weak.

This is mostly true at LHC energies, except for when it isn't. The bits when isn't mostly involve the strong nuclear force, Quantum Chromodynamics. That's why it's called the strong force. (We don't intentionally obfuscate, it's tough enough as it is.)

For example, aspects of how quarks and gluons are distributed inside the protons we collide can't be calculated from first principles. Neither can the way the quarks and gluons turn in to new hadrons in the end. We have some constraints from our theory, we have basic stuff like the conservation of energy and momentum, and we have a lot of data from other places. But we can't use perturbation theory. The coupling number gets near to one, and $1 \times 1 \times 1 \times \dots = 1$. This means no matter how many particles you include in your calculation, you don't converge on a solid answer. In the end we have to make educated guesses, or models. And these are always adjustable.

A long time ago Lily wrote a piece, where she, and commenters, worried that we might be adjusting these models in such a way that we actually covered up exciting new physics. This is a real worry. To avoid it, you need to have calculations of what you know, done with perturbation theory, linked up to models of what you don't know very well. I think of this rather gruesomely as a skeleton of hard predictions inside and squidgy body of best guesses. The body can change shape. You can push in its stomach quite painlessly, but you really know about it if you break a bone.

Anyway, marrying the squidgy models to the rigid perturbation theory is mostly done using Monte Carlo event generators. These not only encode much of what we know about what happens when particles collide, but they are also an invaluable tool in designing new experiments and working out how your existing experiment is responding to data. "Monte Carlo" is an allusion to the fact that they use a lot of random numbers, like roulette, or taxmen.

As a theorist you can sometimes lose out for being involved in one of these generators. You can have a paper with thousands of citations and people will say "it's only a Monte Carlo thing" whereas with a similar number of citations in string theory you might stride the world like a colossus, despite that fact that the generator will describe data whereas string theory isn't even wrong. (Source: Guardian.co.uk)

3LM rolls out enterprise security platform for Android

3LM, a developer of mobile enterprise security software and solutions and mobile device management products for the Android operating system, is making its enterprise security platform available this week, according to media reports.

The company claims its product is unique in the industry, by providing "seamless" access to enterprise resources and the Internet "simultaneously and securely," according to 3LM officials.

Tom Moss, president of 3LM, told PC World, "There are solutions that allow you to create (secure) containers or some space on a device for the application. Those platforms are limited because applications have to be written for that container and because everything outside of the container is insecure."

The 3LM solution bonds a device to the enterprise assigning it secure credentials that alleviate the need to store the user's enterprise password on the device, putting the IT manager in charge of device security. All communication between the device and the enterprise is secured with industry grade encryption and plugs into an enterprise's Exchange server to securely deliver email, calendar and contacts content to the device.

But 3LM has had to convince handset makers to load a piece of its software onto their phones to secure an entire Android phone, PC World reported. 3LM stands for the Three Laws of Mobility, which serve as the "guiding principles" of the Mountain View, Calif.-based company. They are:

— Protect your user. A mobile device may not harm its user or, through inaction, allow its user to come to harm through malicious code or content.

(Source: Techzone360)

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Denmark, France, Greece, Russia, Sweden qualify

Denmark, France, Greece, Russia and best runners-up Sweden secured the last five automatic places in the UEFA EURO 2012 finals while next month's play-off lineup was also confirmed as the nine qualifying groups concluded.

Already through alongside co-hosts Poland and Ukraine were holders Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and England. Now 12 teams are confirmed for the finals draw on 2 December in Kyiv while next month's play-offs will involve Turkey, the Republic of Ireland, Estonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Portugal and the Czech Republic.

There were two direct contests for group supremacy and for a while it seemed as if Bosnia and Herzegovina would make their first final tournament at France's expense as they led 1-0 in Paris, but Samir Nasri's penalty 12 minutes from time ensured Les Bleus topped Group D.

Meanwhile in Copenhagen, Denmark secured the victory against Portugal they needed to overtake their visitors in Group H. The 2-1 result means Portugal go to the play-offs, pipping Norway - who beat Cyprus 3-1 - on goal difference.

In another first-versus-second fixture Sweden knew they could not overtake the Netherlands in Group E. However, a home win would mean automatic qualification as the runners-up with the best record against the sides first, third, fourth and fifth in their section. And having had a

lead wiped out and then fallen behind, the Swedes replied with two goals in a minute for a 3-2 advantage that took them to the finals, and also meant they were the only side to take points off the Dutch.

Meanwhile, both Greece and Russia began the day needing only a point to seal their places and did so with victories. With 11 minutes left Greece were actually heading for the play-offs as they were 1-0 down in Georgia and Croatia were beating Latvia 2-0, but substitute Giorgos Fotakis and Angelos Charisteas ensured Greece topped Group F.

It was more comfortable for Russia, who saw off Andorra 6-0 to win Group B two points ahead of the Republic of Ireland, who sealed a play-off by beating Armenia 2-1. Also in Thursday's draw, despite not having a game tonight, are Estonia, thanks to Serbia's 1-0 loss in Slovenia giving the Baltic nation a first play-off as Group C runners-up behind Italy.

The Azzurri only dropped two points but Germany and Spain completed perfect runs and denied their opponents play-off chances. Germany made it ten Group A wins with a 3-1 defeat of Belgium, leaving Turkey second after their 1-0 victory against Azerbaijan. Meanwhile Spain overcame Scotland 3-1 for an eighth success, allowing the Czech Republic to end as runners-up with a 4-1 triumph in Lithuania.

Only in one section was everything wrapped up before today, England



Portugal players leave the pitch looking dejected after losing 2-1 to Denmark during the EURO 2012 group H qualifier match.

having won Group G and Montenegro with a first play-off, despite tonight's 2-0 loss in Switzerland. They can now await the play-off draw at 13.00CET on Thursday in Krakow when the four ties to take place on 11/12 and 15 November will be determined.

Final standings
Automatic qualifiers
(Draw 2 December, matches 8 June to 1 July)

Hosts: Poland, Ukraine

- **Group A:** Germany
- **Group B:** Russia
- **Group C:** Italy
- **Group D:** France
- **Group E:** Netherlands, Sweden*
- **Group F:** Greece
- **Group G:** England
- **Group H:** Denmark
- **Group I:** Spain (holders)

Best runners-up
Play-offs
(draw Thursday, matches 11/12 & 15 November)

- Turkey
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Estonia
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Croatia
 - Montenegro
 - Portugal
 - Czech Republic
- (Four teams to be seeded based on coefficient tbc)

The nine pool winners, plus the runners-up with the best record against the sides placed first, third, fourth and fifth in their pool qualified directly, with the other second-placed teams entering the play-offs.

(Source: Uefa)

Brazil FA chief Teixeira probed by police

Brazil's top football official Ricardo Teixeira is to be investigated by the police this week on suspicion of illegal transfer of funds into the country and money laundering. The police and the federal prosecutor's office (MPF) made the announcement on Tuesday following media allegations against Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) and the local 2014 World Cup organising committee.

"The investigation into Teixeira will open this week. It will be conducted by the anti-financial crimes bureau," a police spokeswoman said.

Teixeira could be called in for questioning. "Federal prosecutor Marcelo Freire asked head office of the Federal Police in Rio de Janeiro to open a police investigation of the president of the CBF for the crimes of illegal transfer of money to Bra-

zil and money laundering," the MPF said. The investigation will centre on accusations by the BBC of three top officials of football's world governing body FIFA, including Teixeira, of taking bribes over the appointment of International Sports and Leisure (ISL) as its marketing arm.

ISL went bankrupt in 2001. The BBC, which said 175 secret payments were made by ISL between

1989 and 1999, also named Confederation of African Football (CAF) chief Issa Hayatou and South American (CONMEBOL) head Nicolas Leoz of Paraguay.

They and Teixeira are members of FIFA's executive committee.

The MPF has asked the police to investigate whether any part of that money entered Brazil illegally through companies in tax havens belonging to Teixeira. (Source: Reuters)

Injured Totti ruled out of Rome derby

Roma captain Francesco Totti will miss Sunday's Rome derby against Lazio after failing to recovery from a thigh strain picked up in the club's 3-1 victory over Atalanta on the 2nd October.

Despite initial encouraging signs he has still yet to train with the squad and requires further treatment on the injury.

Roma released a statement confirming Totti's absence.

"Francesco Totti will continue his rehabilitation fol-

lowing further scans which took place at Trigoria on Tuesday.

"He will continue physiotherapy treatment and will have another scan next week to evaluate his progress."

It is possible that he will return in the following game a week later against Palermo but the club are being non-committal about when he will be available again for selection.

(Source: forzaitalianfootball)



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CYCLING Cavendish joins Team Sky

Mark Cavendish has confirmed that he will ride for Team Sky from 2012.

The 26-year-old rider won the green jersey at this year's Tour de France, and the World Championship road race in Copenhagen last month.

He had been heavily linked with a move away from current team HTC-Highroad, who are folding at the end of the year, to the British outfit.

"Mark is the greatest sprinter of his generation and is well on his way to becoming the greatest of all time," Team Sky Principal Dave Brailsford said.

"He is a rider of exceptional talent who has proved his pedigree at the very highest level of our sport.

"Mark is a born winner and what excites me most is the attitude he brings to all the teams he rides for. We want to inspire more fans to get into cycling and I can think of no one better to help us do that. We are delighted that the new world champion will be riding for Team Sky next season."

The sprinter has already recorded 20 stage wins on the Tour de France since his 2007 Tour debut, as well as 10 other Grand Tour victories.

His new British team-mates Bradley Wiggins and Geraint Thomas were also ecstatic to welcome the Manx rider to the fold.

"I think I speak for everyone in the squad when I say that we're all delighted to have Cav joining us at Team Sky," Wiggins said. "He is the best sprinter in the world and has an energy and passion for cycling that is infectious. Team Sky has enjoyed a fantastic second season and Mark's signing is another statement of our intent for next year and beyond."

Thomas added: "Cav joining Team Sky is fantastic news. In many ways it's like he's coming home - the team has a number of riders and support staff that he grew up with and it won't take him any time to settle in."

"I think everyone saw that when we helped him to victory for Great Britain at the Worlds, and we are all looking forward to helping him deliver more wins for Team Sky."

Cavendish won stage 5, stage 7, stage 11, stage 15 and stage 21 of the 2011 Tour de France—bringing his total to 20 career Tour de France stage wins, and the first person ever to win the final stage three years in succession. (Source: Eurosport)



FEATURE

Kids walking to school alone could be illegal

By Meghan H.

Recently, a little boy from my daughter's first grade class was hit by a car. It was quite scary for everyone; the injuries were serious enough for a medical helicopter to come air lift him to children's hospital. I don't know all the details about what happened, only that he had run home (across the street from the school) and was running back to the school. Though his injuries are serious, he will make a full recovery thankfully in part to the fact the driver was not going very fast when the boy darted out between two parked cars and into the street.



This of course has brought the school board into the mix and has everyone talking about driver and pedestrian safety around the schools, the possible need for getting our crossing guards back and of course the other question that always pops up, at what age should you allow your child to walk to and from school alone?

I wrestle with this one anyway, but have even more so these last few days. We live behind our school, there is no

street to cross and it takes less than five minutes for my kids to reach their classrooms from our front door. During drop off and pick off times the walk from our house to the school is filled with other kids and parents. It's pretty much as safe a walk as you can get for your child.

But I still walk my kids to school each day and walk to pick them up. My daughter is in first and personally that's not old enough for me to let her walk alone, my son is in third grade and I am on the fence with the idea of letting him walk to school alone. But he is not ready to make sure his younger sister gets to class, so the question is pointless, because even if he was ready to walk alone, I'd still be there walking his sister.

I see the age when parents allow kids to walk alone varies in our neighborhood (the first grader who was hit is only five). I think parents need to think hard about their specific situation before making the decision. They need to examine a number of things before making that call. How close are you to the school? How many streets are there to cross and how busy are those streets? Is your child going to be walking in a steady stream of school foot traffic or alone? How familiar is your child with the rules of the road, and does he or she understand those rules? And also, can you get arrested for letting your child go off to school alone? (Source: life360.com)

Building mental wellness in our children

By Dr. Valerie Bereny

We've all heard about the mind/body connection. Psychiatrist Dr. Chris Wilkes likes to put a finer point on it. "There is no health without mental health," Wilkes says, explaining that it is profoundly connected to our physical health and overall well-being.

He's got the numbers to prove that poor mental health equals poor physical health - at a huge cost to our health-care system.

Wilkes and a group of other Calgary researchers recently published a paper in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry that showed Calgarians with a psychiatric diagnosis cost the healthcare system three times more for physical (non-psychiatric) health care than those without a diagnosis.

Last year, a study in the same journal reported that a person with a mental health diagnosis had a 70 percent increase in mortality. "And it wasn't through suicide; it was through things like diabetes, cancer, heart disease," says Wilkes.

"There is a health care problem associated with mental health diagnoses."

Mental illness costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$51 billion annually in health care and lost productivity, according to 2003 figures from Statistics Canada. It's the No. 1 cause of disability in Canada.

According to the World Health Organization, depression will be the single biggest medical burden on health care by 2020.

As Dr. Frank MacMaster, a pediatric neurobiologist at Alberta Children's Hospital, points out: "One in five Canadians have a mental illness and four out of five know someone with a mental illness. It's touching everybody, basically."

Even if you or your child don't have mental health issues, "it's everybody's problem," says George Ghitani, executive director, Hull Child and Family Services.

"Angry, unhappy kids become angry, unhappy adults. Mental health issues cost our society billions of dollars, not just in terms of health, but in terms of education services, justice and prisons. Where do you think these problems come from? Most of them start in childhood."

What's the solution?

Mental health experts call for more funding targeted at children and youth as a way to prevent, catch and treat problems early, thereby saving precious health care dollars and untold pain and suffering.

In September, the Alberta government unveiled plans to improve mental health services - a full three years after an auditor-general's report harshly criticized the system for its lengthy waits, lack of co-ordination between departments and agencies, and the need for better standards of care.

Alberta Health and Wellness Minister Gene Zwozdesky acknowledges the need for better access to mental health services.

"Right now people aren't getting these services to the degree we would like; we want to ensure they do."

He says the first year of Alberta's new five-year addiction and mental health strategy is focused on a review of all services - government, government funded agencies and community organizations. (Source: calgaryherald.com)

For Afghan women, giving birth still poses a deadly risk

When Fawzia went into labor with her fifth child, she knew something was wrong. She felt like her insides were being ripped apart by knives. She bled so much that her clothes were soaked. "I did not want to die," recalls Fawzia, 25, who, like many rural Afghans, only uses one name. "I prayed and hoped the pain would go away. But when it didn't, I asked to go to a hospital."

Fawzia, an ethnic Hazara from Jaghori district in the volatile center-east province of Ghazni, had never been to a hospital, and says she had no idea where to find one. She had given birth to her other children at home, and the closest clinic is a two-hour drive away. When she got there, the staff said they couldn't help her. Go to Kabul, they said. It took another 10 hours to drive to Rabia Balkhi, a women's hospital in central Kabul that offers free services to impoverished women.

About 18,000 Afghan women die during childbirth every year, says the Afghan Health Ministry. According to a recent report by the NGO Save the Children, Afghanistan ranked as the worst place to give birth, followed by Niger and Chad.

By then, Fawzia had lost so much blood that doctors were worried she wouldn't make it. Dr. Taiba Motaqi, 30, a resident in obstetrics, knew right away that the young woman had a ruptured uterus. The complication is rare among pregnant women in the developed world, but it kills many Afghan women each year. Fawzia underwent an emergency C-section, a common procedure at Rabia Balkhi Hospital. "Women come here with problems like this at the very last minute," Dr. Motaqi says. "We have to work quickly to save them."

When Fawzia got married 10 years ago, the Taliban were still running Afghanistan, and women's rights were at a nadir. Most women gave birth at home, and the few who managed to venture to hospitals often discovered that the facilities were understaffed and lacked equipment and medicine. In late 2001, the U.S.-led military campaign pushed the Taliban out of power, and since then, millions of dollars in U.S. and foreign aid have gone to help build clinics and hospitals and train health workers. It was supposed to be a new beginning for Afghan women marginalized by the Taliban's brutal



On average, about 1 in 23 mothers are expected to die from pregnancy-related causes.

and theocratic rule. But a decade later, Afghanistan still ranks as the worst country in the world to be a mother.

About 18,000 Afghan women die during childbirth every year, says the Afghan Health Ministry. According to a recent report by the NGO Save the Children, Afghanistan ranked as the worst place to give birth, followed by Niger and Chad. In these countries, 60% of all births are not attended to by skilled health professionals. On average, about 1 in 23 mothers are expected to die from pregnancy-related causes. Children also die young and suffer from malnutrition, and education for girls is poor.

Often the challenge is just getting women to hospitals. Rural Afghans, even in relatively progressive provinces like Bamiyan in central Afghanistan, are suspicious or dismissive of doctors. In the town of Bamiyan, the main hospital has a new maternity ward. But head midwife Sediqa Hosseini says many of the 25 beds in the ward are often empty. On a recent summer afternoon, Hosseini, a tiny, serious woman in a baby blue headscarf, greets the 12 women who have checked in. One is Fatima, a 25-year-old farmer's wife. "When Fatima arrived, her baby was coming out shoulder first," Hosseini says. "She had to have a C-section. Without help, both of them would have died."

Fatima says her husband took her to the hospital

when her labor became so painful that she was doubled over. Hosseini says few husbands would have done the same. Many rural men prefer to pray with a mullah to cure illnesses, she says. "They believe this is more reliable than medicine." As she breast-feeds her newborn daughter, Fatima says she wouldn't have gone if it had not been for a community-health worker who told her hospitals are safe and free.

Adding to the problem is that rural Afghan women are also conservative, and some are ashamed of being pregnant because it's a public acknowledgment of sex with their spouses, says Gulpari, a midwife in Bamiyan's remote Sayghan district. Sayghan is a dusty, wind-lashed stretch of bare mountains, cratered dirt roads and some 60-odd villages of compact mud huts. Gulpari lives in the village of Khudadadkhel, where she works at the small, understaffed Sayghan clinic that mostly treats stomach ailments and lung diseases.

Most of Sayghan district's residents are Tajiks who are Sunni and far more conservative than Bamiyan's main ethnic group, the Shi'ite Hazara. Hazara women were liberated enough to take up arms against the Taliban in the 1990s. The Tajik women rarely leave their homes, Gulpari says, but she's managed to convince some of them to let her help them when they give birth at home. "In 15 years, I've never lost a mother," she says. (Source: time.com)

Poverty to rise and income to fall: IFS

Middle incomes will fall by 7 percent and a quarter of Britain's children will be living in poverty by 2013, says a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

The IFS report predicts that median incomes will see the biggest three-year fall for 35 years in the period up until 2013, as a result of incomes growing more slowly than inflation over the next few years.

There will also be a rise in absolute and relative poverty, as benefits will not meet levels of inflation, even when the government's universal credit is introduced in 2013, says the report.

The economic think tank predicts that 3.1 million children (23 percent) will be living in absolute poverty by 2013, up from 2.8 million (21 percent) now. Absolute poverty is defined as living below 60 percent of the 2010-11 median income, adjusted for inflation.

The forecast means that the government's target of cutting absolute child poverty levels to 5 percent by 2020, as set down in the 2010 Child Poverty Act, is unlikely to be fulfilled.

However a government spokesman said that the IFS report did not take proposed welfare changes and reforms to the education system into account.

The IFS analyses tax and benefit policies, as well as official economic forecasts, to compile its report. James Browne, one of the report authors said: "Even if there were an immense increase in the resources made available, it is hard to see how child poverty could fall by enough to hit this supposedly legally-binding target in just nine years."

Alison Garnham, chief executive of Child Poverty Action Group, called the report "devastating" and said it leave the government's social mobility strategies in jeopardy.

"Ministers seem to be in denial that, under current policies, their legacy threatens to be the worst poverty record of any government for a generation," she said. "The Government must accept that you cannot fight poverty or improve life chances by making the poor poorer." (Source: channel4.com)

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ROLEX

Iran water polo team crowned Asian Age Group champions

TEHRANTIMES Sports Desk Iran water polo team claimed the title of the 7th Asian Age Group Championships in Palembang, Indonesia on Wednesday.

The Iranian outfit, which is headed by Ukrainian coach Vadim Skuratov, defeated Uzbekistan 9-7 in the final game and won the championship.

Hamed Malek Khanbanan was also selected as the most technical player of the competition.

Kazakhstan beat Kuwait 11-4 in the bronze medal match.

Iran, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kuwait as the tournament's top four teams qualified for the 2012 FINA World Junior Water Polo Championship, which will be held in Perth, Australia.

Iran water polo team has already won the championship twice in Thailand 2005 and in Indonesia 2007.



Rooney facing three-match UEFA ban

England striker Wayne Rooney is facing a three-match ban from the Euro 2012 finals on Thursday if UEFA abide by their strict disciplinary regulations.

The European body's disciplinary regulations article 10(e) says that the "suspension for three competition matches or for a specified period for

assaulting another player or other person present at the match".

The Manchester United forward was shown a straight red card by German referee Wolfgang Stark for kicking Montenegro's Miodrag Dzudovic off the ball during Friday's 2-2 draw that saw England reach the finals as

Group G winners.

UEFA's control and disciplinary body are set to make their judgement on Rooney's conduct on Thursday with the player set to be banned for at least one match. The severity of a three-match ban would see Rooney sit out all of England's three group matches

in Poland and Ukraine.

It would provoke debate among England fans on whether or not he should be part of Fabio Capello's squad for the finals if he is missing such a large chunk of a competition in which the winners play a maximum of six games. (Source: Eurosport)

World Football - Jack Warner was keen on 'cash gifts'

Video evidence of ex-FIFA vice-president Jack Warner urging Caribbean officials to accept cash gifts from Mohamed Bin Hammam has emerged.

The recording of a speech made by Warner to members of the Caribbean Football Association (CFU) on May 11 is being used as evidence in FIFA ethics committee hearings into charges against 15 of those officials this week.

The video, which has been posted on www.telegraph.co.uk, shows Warner telling members they are not obliged to vote for Bin Hammam in the FIFA presidential election but that he had told the Qatari to bring cash. Bin Hammam was banned for life in July by FIFA's ethics committee but is appealing.

The speech took place in Trinidad a day after cash gifts of 40,000 US dollars each were handed out to the leaders of Caribbean associations.

Warner says on the video: "When



Mohamed Bin Hammam asked to come to the Caribbean he wanted to bring some silver plaques and wooden trophies and bunting and so on, and told me to bring for 30 people would be too much luggage. I told him he did not need to bring anything but if he wanted to bring anything to bring something equivalent to the value of the gift that he brought.

"I said to him if you bring cash, I don't want you to give cash to any-

body, but when you do you can give it to the CFU and the CFU will give it to his members. Because I don't want (it) to even remotely appear that anyone has any obligation to vote for you because of what gifts you have given them, and he fully accepted that."

Warner also says he will return any money if the officials choose not to keep it.

He adds: "I know there are some people here who believe they are more pious than thou. If you are pious go to

a church friends, but the fact is that our business is our business. If there is anybody here who has a conscience and wishes to send back the money I am willing to take the money and give it back to him at any moment."

There is also an astonishing barrage aimed at UEFA president Michel Platini, saying a victory for Sepp Blatter over Bin Hammam would lead to the Frenchman taking over.

Warner says: "We have to ensure Platini is not some automatic inheritor of FIFA. Because I tell you if that happens FIFA will become a French province. Forever. The fact is that Platini is being groomed to succeed Mr Blatter and we don't know if it is in our best interests to have a French president, a French general secretary....but in any event I don't think it's in our best interests to do that."

(Source: PA Sport)

Webber had "No Other Choice" when signing new Red Bull contract



According to Spanish website El Pais, Red Bull's Mark Webber signed his new contract with the team believing he had no real alternative.

Webber has been in the frustrating position of also-ran this season, less than a year after coming so close to his own drivers' championship. He has spent most of this season playing second fiddle as team-mate Sebastian Vettel raced towards the 2011 Championship in the sister car.

Tensions appeared to be growing during the 2010 season when Webber claimed the team were favouring Vettel unreasonably and were brought to the fore during the British Grand Prix when the team removed a development wing from Webber's car and fitted it to Vettel's.

This season, however, the relationship between the two drivers appear to be more harmonious, but tension still lies beneath the surface, as seen by reporters who asked him about the relationship between him and Vettel in Singapore.

Speaking recently, Webber

confessed that his re-signing with Red Bull had been more or less dictated by the fact that all the other teams had already confirmed their line-ups for 2012. He also confirmed his contract is for just one year.

"It doesn't worry me too much," Webber said. "You can renew for two or three years, but I'm sure that both Jenson and Fernando have clauses to opt out of McLaren and Ferrari respectively if they fail to develop a competitive car."

The end of that one year contract may also have something to do with the fact that Ferrari's Felipe Massa will almost certainly retire at the end of next season. Webber says he himself has no plans to retire.

"It's rewarding when you drive competitively against the fastest and can make things difficult," he said. "At the moment I don't see myself sitting on the sofa on Monday mornings."

(Source: Sportsvibe)

Cassano sets retirement date



Italy striker Antonio Cassano has revealed he will retire from football in 2014.

Cassano has been crucial in helping the Azzurri secure a spot in next year's European Championships, scoring twice in Tuesday night's 3-0 win over Northern Ireland to take his tally to six goals in ten qualifying games.

"I've been in the national team for ten years but I've only got 25 caps," the AC Milan player told Rai Sport. "I'm always in and out (of the national team)."

"I hope that from now until the World Cup I can have continuity in the national team and then I will stop."

"I want to do a good Euro 2012, a good World Cup and then I will retire. I will retire at 33 to enjoy my family. Football has been the most beautiful thing in the world for me but now I am a little tired."

"I want three more good years and then that's it because if I continue beyond that, it will become a routine and routine stresses me."

Cassano, who helped Milan win the Scudetto last season, has thanked Italy coach Cesare Prandelli for saving his international career.

The 29-year-old was part of Italy's Euro 2004 squad but was left out of the final selection for the World Cup two years later. He was part of the Euro 2008 squad which lost to Spain in the quarter-finals and returned to the fold under Prandelli after a two-year absence.

"Sport gives you back what you put into it," Cassano said. "I didn't put enough in, so I didn't get much out. If (Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi) Buffon won 10 times as much as me, it's because he was the absolute number one in his role. I was one of many."

"Prandelli has given me so much confidence and told me he believed in me. He has been very close to me at the time when I was struggling."

"He has also helped me to get off to a good start with Milan this season. We have a fantastic rapport, a special one, and I want to thank him for that." (Source: Soccernet)

TENNIS

Nadal, Murray advance at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI (AP) — Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray advanced to the third round of the Shanghai Masters on Wednesday, although only the Spaniard had to step onto the court.

The top-seeded Nadal easily beat countryman Guillermo Garcia-Lopez 6-3, 6-2, while Murray received a walkover when his opponent, Dmitry Tursunov of Russia, pulled out with a thigh injury before their match.

Tursunov had defeated Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil in a tough, three-set match in the first round on Tuesday.

Murray, the second seed and defending champion, hasn't played a match yet in Shanghai. He received a bye in the first round.

Earlier Wednesday, fourth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was knocked out by Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-4. The Frenchman fought off two match points with aces before hitting a backhand long to hand Nishikori the win.

The loss hurts Tsonga's chances of claiming one of the four remaining spots in the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London. He currently sits in eighth position in the standings, the last qualifying spot.

In another second-round match, third-seeded David Ferrer of Spain defeated Canadian Milos Raonic 7-5, 7-6 (7). Raonic, who has now lost to Ferrer three times this year, had a set point in the tiebreaker, but couldn't convert.

Sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych, fresh off a win last week at the China Open in Beijing, also advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 win over fellow Czech Radek Stepanek.

Garcia-Lopez won his last meeting with Nadal in the semifinals of the Thailand Open in 2010, Nadal's first tournament after capturing the U.S. Open.

"It was a tough loss last year in Bangkok," he said. "Less painful because I came after winning the U.S. Open, but it probably was the more unbelievable loss in my career against him last year because I never had as many chances as I had in that match, and I lost. It was a little bit in my mind today in the breakpoints."

After losing the first set and going down a break in the second set Wednesday, Garcia-Lopez tried mixing up his game by hitting drop shots to bring Nadal into the net.

He broke Nadal's serve to level the score at 2-2, but Nadal immediately broke back with a sensational defensive point in which he got to a drop shot, chased down a lob and then hit a stab backhand volley for a winner.

Nadal's only complaint afterward was with the balls being used in Shanghai, which he said are much faster than those at the Japan Open in Tokyo last week. He said the same balls should be used when there are several tournaments on the same surface in a row, such as the hard-court tournaments in Thailand, Japan and China on the tour's autumn Asian swing.

"Something must change because it is too dangerous for the shoulders," he said. "That's something that, in my opinion, can change. In my opinion, not difficult to change."

Nadal plays 15th-seeded Florian Mayer of Germany in the third round, while Murray faces Stanislas Wawrinka, the 13th seed from Switzerland. Murray's draw has opened up with the losses of Tsonga and fifth-seeded Mardy Fish, who fell to Australian Bernard Tomic on Tuesday. The highest seed remaining in his half of the draw is No. 8 Gilles Simon of France.

Tsonga appeared sluggish early in his match, spraying forehands long and allowing Nishikori to run him around the court. Although he won the first-set tiebreaker, he was broken twice and hit only four winners to drop the second set.

The 47th-ranked Nishikori, who was 1-9 against top 10-ranked players before the match, then broke Tsonga twice more in the third set to close out the match after nearly two and a half hours.

"He's really talented, especially when everything works," Tsonga said. "Today he didn't miss one drop shot. He played really well. He returned unbelievable. I think nobody breaks me many times like this."

American teenager Ryan Harrison, who upset 11th-seeded Viktor Troicki in the first round, lost to fellow qualifier Matthew Ebden of Australia, 6-4, 6-2. Ebden, ranked 124th, had only won eight matches on the ATP tour coming into Shanghai.

Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero rallied from a set down to beat compatriot and 16th-seeded Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

In other second-round matches, Colombia's Santiago Giraldo edged out 14th-seeded Jurgen Melzer of Austria, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5), and Alexandr Dolgoplov, the 12th seed from Ukraine, defeated qualifier Albert Ramos of Spain, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Juve play down talk of Tevez move

Juventus director Beppe Marotta has distanced his club from a possible swoop for unsettled Manchester City forward Carlos Tevez.

Tevez is meeting City officials on Wednesday to discuss his alleged behaviour in refusing to come on as substitute during City's recent 2-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

"It's normal to talk about players when it comes to Juventus, but we haven't started negotiations for Tevez," said Marotta. "We have a squad that presently meets our needs, then with each passing Sunday we'll evaluate things."

"We didn't discover Tevez, it is clear that he is a great player and we are a great club so the link is normal, but to go from that to say that we are in talks for him [is misleading]." (Source: Eurosport)

NEWS

Spain's 'blank check' may offer Rajoy room to reduce deficit: euro credit

Spaniards will probably hand opposition head Mariano Rajoy a record mandate in elections next month. Unwilling to risk his lead in polls, the People's Party leader hasn't told voters what he'd do with it.

Five weeks before the Nov. 20 election that polls suggest he'll win, Rajoy hasn't said how he'll cut spending or change labor rules. He's pledged tax breaks for small businesses, said he "wouldn't like" to cut pensions and vowed a "true" bank restructuring, without saying what that means. Voters don't know who would be his finance minister.

That hasn't stopped Spaniards from telling pollsters they'll hand the PP its largest-ever majority as the country struggles with Europe's highest jobless rate amid a three-year economic slump. With an outright majority and few election pledges to deliver on, Rajoy may be free to slash the budget deficit, overhaul labor rules and shield lenders from the sovereign-debt crisis.

The extra yield on Spanish 10-year bonds over German equivalents was at 295 basis points at 10:41 a.m. in Madrid, up two basis points from on Tuesday. That compares with a euro-era high of 418 basis points on Aug. 5 and an average of 15 basis points in the first decade of monetary union.

"The PP isn't going to make any proposals from now until the elections - it's not worth making pledges that may scare part of the electorate," said Ismael Crespo, a political scientist at the Fundacion Ortega-Maranon institute and former head of the state polling unit. "He's seeking a blank check."

Spain vs. Italy

Rajoy would inherit a deficit that was the third-largest in the region last year, a jobless rate of 21 percent and a banking industry struggling with surging borrowing costs. Even with the European Central Bank propping up the Spanish bond market since Aug. 8, the nation pays around 5 percent to borrow for a decade, more than twice what it costs Germany.

Spanish borrowing costs have fared better than Italy's as both nations grapple with the debt crisis. The gap between what investors charge Spain to borrow for 10 years compared with Italy was less than 5 basis points on Aug. 8 when the ECB began buying their bonds. It was at 60 basis points on Wednesday, partly reflecting potential political instability under Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Rajoy, a 56-year-old former deputy prime minister who has lost two general elections since 2004, has pledged to send markets "very strong signals" and erect "barriers against contagion." What that may entail wasn't made any clearer in the 255-page autobiography he published last month or at last week's PP conference in Malaga. He's vowed to cut "superfluous" spending and said in Malaga "there's no magic wand" to cure the economy's ills.

'Absolute majority'

"The market would be reassured by any situation with a clear absolute majority, and will react positively to that," said Gilles Moec, co-chief European economist at Deutsche Bank AG in London. "The risk for any party that comes up with a very detailed adjustment program is it would come under fire and could end up with a muddled result."

A clear majority may also strengthen the new government's hand to clean up regional finances as most of the 17 semi-autonomous regions are in PP control, Olaf Penninga, a fund manager at Robeco Groep in Rotterdam, said in a telephone interview. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero had to woo regional parties from the Basque Country, Catalonia, and the Canary Islands to pass his minority government's legislation.

'Clear outcome'

"If they don't need support from the small regional parties, it would make it easier to take a credible approach to the regional governments' finances," said Penninga, who helps manage 150 billion euros, including Spanish debt. "There might be more investors coming in if there's a clear election outcome."

PP-led regional governments are already slashing spending as swollen budgets are limiting their access to capital markets, giving an indication of what Rajoy may do. Castilla-La Mancha's administration aims to cut its deficit to 1.3 percent of output from 6.5 percent over two years, without raising taxes, while the region of Madrid has faced strikes by teachers protesting staff cuts.

Citizens consider austerity a "virtue" and leaders who are cutting spending aren't being damaged by it politically, said Juan Jose Guemes, a professor at the IE business school and a former PP minister in the regional administration of Madrid.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Crude rises to trade near three-week high as Europe prepares bank support

Oil advanced to trade near its highest in three weeks in New York on speculation that proposals on European bank recapitalization will support economic growth and fuel consumption.

Futures rose for a sixth day, their longest winning streak this year. European Commission President Jose Barroso is due to outline plans in Brussels on Wednesday. The International Energy Agency, which on Wednesday cut forecasts for global oil demand in 2012, said recent data does not signal a "downward consumption spiral."

"There's still robust growth but it's being affected by this economic slowdown," David Fyfe, head of the IEA's industry and markets division, said in an interview with Maryam Nemazee on Bloomberg Television's "The Pulse." The IEA doesn't "think the balance of probabilities has tipped towards that much weaker picture of economic growth for next year."

Crude for November delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose as much as 78 cents, or 0.9 percent, to \$86.59 a barrel and was at \$86.49 at 11:14 a.m. London time. The contract on Tuesday climbed as high as \$86.64, the highest price since Sept. 21. Prices are down 5.4 percent this year.

Brent oil for November settlement rose \$1.20 to \$111.93 on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. The European benchmark contract was at a premium of as much as \$25.70 to U.S.



crude, the most since Sept. 15 and down from a record of \$26.87 on Sept. 6.

The Paris-based IEA reduced estimates for world demand in 2012 by 210,000 barrels a day, to 90.5 million a day. That means consumption will increase by 1.3 million barrels a day, or 1.4 percent, from this year. Oil inventories

in industrialized nations fell below their five-year average for the first time in more than three years, according to the IEA.

U.S. crude-oil stockpiles probably rose by 800,000 barrels last week, according to the median of 15 analyst estimates in a Bloomberg News survey

before a weekly Energy Department report tomorrow. The industry-funded American Petroleum Institute published its weekly figures on Wednesday. Both sets of data are being released a day later than usual because of this week's Columbus Day holiday.

(Source: Bloomberg)

ECB's Nowotny worried by economy, relaxed on inflation

The euro zone economy risks a protracted period of weakness while inflation is not a worry, European Central Bank policymaker Ewald Nowotny said, expecting price pressures in the bloc to fall below the ECB's target level next year.

The ECB opted to keep interest rates on hold at 1.5 percent last week despite some of the bank's policymakers calling for a cut amid signs the euro zone economy is deteriorating further and as Greek default fears weigh on the markets.

Nowotny's comments suggest the state of the economy remains the larger concern.

"One need not have any fear of inflation... We expect a clear decline of inflation, under the 2 percent mark in the second half of 2012," news agency Market News International quoted Nowotny as saying late on Tuesday.

Euro zone inflation jumped to 3.0 percent last

month but Nowotny, Austria's central bank chief, said it should drop clearly below the ECB's preferred level of 2 percent in the second half of next year.

A greater concern was the economic outlook.

"What one must fear is the real economy," he said. "There is the risk that we will enter a relatively long phase of weaker growth. Because the dynamic of exports is dwindling and at the same time we see weak domestic demand because of the consolidation of public finances."

Governments are tightening their budgets in response to the euro zone sovereign debt crisis, a factor a leading Austrian corporate executive said was impacting business prospects.

"Consumers' uncertainty about the debt crisis is beginning to hit the real economy," Voestalpine Chief Executive Wolfgang Eder told the Financial Times Deutschland paper.

Speaking in Riga, outgoing ECB policymaker Juergen Stark said the euro zone was not a transfer union in which member states are liable for each others' debts. He pressed governments in the bloc to tackle their own debt problems.

The troubles facing some euro zone countries highlight the need for sustainable fiscal policies, said Stark, who is resigning early from the ECB this year in protest at its policy of buying bonds to help troubled euro zone debtor states.

The ECB has faced sharp criticism in Stark's native Germany for buying bonds - a move many in the euro zone's leading economy see as taking the bank into the fiscal arena and threatening its core role of fighting inflation.

"Stability begins at home," Stark, a member of the ECB's Executive Board, said in a speech at a Bank of Latvia.

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK unemployment jumps to highest in 15 years



Slovakia parliament to vote again on euro-zone fund after government falls



Geithner panel approves rule for designating firms that pose systemic risk



The UK unemployment rate rose to the highest in 15 years in the three months through August, adding pressure on the government to loosen its fiscal squeeze as the economy struggles to avoid recession. The jobless rate increased to 8.1 percent from 7.9 percent in the three months through July, the Office for National Statistics said in London on Wednesday. The number of unemployed reached 2.57 million, the most since 1994. In September, jobless claims rose for a seventh month. They climbed 17,500, less than the 24,000 forecast in a Bloomberg News survey. Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has pledged to maintain the biggest fiscal squeeze since World War II even as the outlook for the recovery deteriorates.

Slovakia's political parties rushed to find a way to approve Europe's enhanced bailout fund after lawmakers rejected it on Tuesday amid a dispute over the future of Prime Minister Iveta Radicova. Radicova wanted to start talks on Wednesday with the opposition on a second vote, according to spokesman Michal Lukac. The premier said the only country in the 17-member euro area yet to approve European Financial Stability Facility must find a solution to the issue "as soon as possible." No time for a new vote has been set. Slovakia "must sign up to the rescue fund," Robert Fico said late on Tuesday, adding that his party, which didn't back the measure on Tuesday because it couldn't support Radicova's government, is awaiting a proposal from the ruling coalition.

A team of U.S. regulators will scrutinize asset size, leverage and debt levels of non-bank financial firms to determine which ones need extra supervision because they pose a potential threat to the economy. The Financial Stability Oversight Council voted on Tuesday to evaluate companies that have more than \$50 billion in assets and meet any of five other criteria, including a 15-to-1 leverage ratio, \$3.5 billion in derivatives liabilities or \$20 billion of outstanding loans borrowed and bonds issued. Firms such as insurance companies that meet the tests might be subject to additional supervision by the Federal Reserve. Bank holding companies with more than \$50 billion in assets are automatically considered systemically risky under the terms of the Dodd-Frank act.

Gold prices flatline on stronger dollar

NEW YORK (The Street) — Gold prices were drifting sideways Tuesday as a stronger U.S. dollar and profit taking weighed on the metal.

Gold for December delivery was losing \$1.90 to \$1,668.90 an ounce at the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. The gold price has traded as high as \$1,686.70 and as low as \$1,655.40 an ounce, while the spot gold price was down \$9, according to Kitco's gold index.

Silver prices were up 4 cents at \$32.02 an ounce while the U.S. dollar index was adding 0.21% at 77.78.

Gold prices rallied 2% on Monday and some investors were using the pop to take profits while a stronger U.S. dollar capped any gains and kept bargain hunters sidelined.

Experts seem split as to where gold goes from here. Mihir Dange, founder of Arbitrage, says he is short term bearish but long term bullish and is forecasting a wide range for gold prices from \$1,550 to \$1,715 an ounce. If either of those levels are broken, the upside and downside could be \$100, according to Dange.

Gold prices continue to move with stocks, a bizarre correlation of late. "Both markets have been beaten up so much," argues Dange, "I think once we get out of this range and you find the S&P out of this range [the correlation] will return to normal."

It is also possible that gold and stocks are moving together on the same news but for different reasons. The latest headline is that the Eurozone will come up with a plan to recapitalize European banks whether through private funds, governments or the Europe-

an Financial Stability Fund, or EFSF. Hopes of a plan rallied stocks, but those same hopes have many experts now seeing inflation -- that part of the plan will consist of the European Central Bank pumping more money into governments and banks.

"We are seeing gold rally on the news that there will be more printing money that we're not going to go into the deflationary spiral that we saw in 2008," says Jeb Handwerker, editor of GoldStockTrades.com. "There's definitely some upside momentum to take us to challenge some previous levels around \$1,750 ... traders have to remember that short positions are increasing to record levels similar to 2008. Whenever the masses get to such a level like that you have to be thinking about a turn around and a relief rally."

Phil Streible, senior market strategist at MFGlobal, also says that the ECB will "expand their balance sheet no matter what." There is a built in back-stop, argues Streible, who says even in the U.S. the Federal Reserve could do so many things, among them pumping more money into the system, to help jumpstart the economy.

Streible argues that this doesn't mean another blow-off top for gold. "If (the European Central Bank) expands, it does weaken the euro and help the dollar and limit gold's rally ... gold will still go up but not that \$2,000 number everyone is looking for." Streible thinks that \$1,850 an ounce is more achievable for year end. "If you see equities breakout ... and gold is not north of \$1,700, I think investors move out of gold and get more heavily weighted in equities."

MAJOR CURRENCIES

Currency	To U.S. Dollars	To I.R. Rial	Currency	To U.S. Dollars	To I.R. Rial
US dollar	1	10,581	100 Japanese yen	1.301	13,794
British pound	1.573	16,468	Canadian dollar	0.983	10,286
Swiss franc	1.113	11,629	Australian dollar	1.011	10,494
Swedish krona	0.151	1,580	Saudi riyal	0.266	2,822
UAE dirham	0.272	2,881	Chinese yuan	0.157	1,658
Kuwait dinar	3.623	38,302	Euro	1.376	14,409

Sources: cbi.ir & xe.com

MAJOR COMMODITIES

Light crude	\$ 85.81 per bbl.	Silver	\$32.00 per oz.
Gold	\$ 1,661.00 per oz.	Platinum	\$ 1,518.80 per oz.
Copper	\$ 3.29 per pound	Wheat	660.75 ¢ / bushel

Source: cnm.money.com

The price of torching mosques



COMMENT

Jonathan Cook

Jewish far-right groups responsible for a series of arson attacks on West Bank mosques over the past year broke dangerous ground last week when they turned their attention for the first time to holy places inside Israel. A mosque was torched, followed days later by an attack on Muslim and Christian graves.

In each case the settlers left their calling card -- the words "Price tag", indicating an act of revenge -- scrawled on their handiwork.

None of the recent attacks against Palestinians has led to prosecutions. The so-called "Jewish division" of the Shin Bet secret police, which is charged with solving such crimes, is known to be more than half-hearted about pursuing investigations. Like many state institutions, including the army, its ranks are filled with settlers.

Paradoxically, a recent report from the Shin Bet warned that Jewish terror networks were not only flourishing in the hothouses of the West Bank's settlements but growing bolder because of this impunity.

The desecration last week of a mosque in the Bedouin village of Tuba Zangariya, in northern Israel, should not therefore have been a surprise. It was followed at the weekend by the despoiling of two cemeteries in Jaffa, next to Tel Aviv.

The goal of the settler movement is to destroy any hope of a two-state solution, which is seen as limiting the Jewish people's right to all of the land promised by God. Egged on by an ever larger number of rabbis, the hardliners in this camp are too blinkered to understand that Israeli leaders, including prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have already voided the peace process.

It was no coincidence that the torching of Tuba's mosque came in the wake of an application last month to the United Nations by Mahmoud Abbas to recognize Palestinian statehood. The Palestinian Authority president raised the stakes, and so too did the settlers -- by this time including Israel's Palestinian Arab minority, a fifth of the population, in their "price tag".

The Jewish extremists' new strategy is apparently to stoke hatred and violence on both sides of the Green Line. As has been noted by Jafar Farah, the director of the Mossawa Center, an Arab Israeli advocacy group, the intention is to drain any residual support among Israeli Jews for a Palestinian state by persuading them that they are in an apocalyptic struggle for survival.

The target was carefully chosen in this regard. Tuba is one of a few fervently "loyal" Arab communities in Israel. While many Bedouin were expelled during the 1948 war that created Israel, the tribes of Tuba and Zangariya had an area next to Jewish communities set aside as a reward for fighting alongside Israel's armed forces.

Deprived of jobs and facing the same discrimination suffered by the rest of the Arab minority, many young men still serve, like their grandfathers, in the Israeli army. After the mosque attack, a community leader boasted to an Israeli reporter: "We were among the founders of the state of Israel."

But as news of the mosque's desecration spread, enraged youth burnt government buildings, fired their army-issue rifles into the air and clashed with police. The settlers' dream of setting the Galilee ablaze briefly looked like it might be realized.

Last Saturday, following the attack on Jaffa's graves, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a nearby synagogue in reprisal, further inflaming tensions.

Netanyahu was among those who denounced the mosque's torching, but the logic of his approach to the peace process ac-

cords with the militant settlers'. He and his far-right foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, have created a climate in which the narrative of an epic Jewish battle for survival sounds plausible to many ordinary Israelis.

Like the settlers, Netanyahu opposes the emergence of a meaningful Palestinian state; he too implies that the world's anger at Israel is fuelled by anti-Semitism; and he too wants to reopen the "1948 file", a historical reckoning in which the Arab minority's status as citizens would be reappraised.

And like the settlers, Netanyahu approaches peace with an iron fist that demands at best Palestinian capitulation, and suggests at worst a future in which a second wave of ethnic cleansing might be necessary to "finish the job" of 1948.

Celebrations in the occupied territories at Abbas's UN move -- a solitary act of defiance by the Pal-

estian leader -- will quickly sour as it becomes clear that the U.S. and Israel are in no mood to make concessions. The question is: what next? Despite the best efforts of Netanyahu and the hard-line settlers to shape the answer, it may not be to their liking.

With no hope of statehood, Palestinians will have to devise their own new strategy for coping with the reality of an apartheid system in which the Jewish settlers become their permanent neighbors. Trapped in a single state ruled over by their occupiers, Palestinians are likely to draw on the experience of their cousins inside Israel.

Israel's Arab community has been struggling with marginalization and subordination within a Jewish state for decades. They have responded with a vocal campaign for equality that has antagonized the Jewish majority and resulted in a wave of anti-Arab legislation.

The two Palestinian communities, both confronting a harsher future under Israeli rule, have every incentive to develop a unified platform and struggle jointly

-- and more powerfully -- against an overarching regime of Jewish privilege.

Their response could be tit-for-tat violence -- that is certainly what the settlers would prefer. But a more effective and likely long-term strategy is a civil rights movement much like the ones that fought against Jim Crow laws in the U.S. and against apartheid in South Africa. A simple rallying cry, voiced to a world exasperated by Israel's self-destructive behavior, would be "one person, one vote".

Netanyahu and the settlers hope to subdue Palestinians with the establishment of a Greater Israel. But as the conflagration of mosques suggests, they may ultimately achieve the opposite. By reminding Palestinians on either side of the Green Line of their common fate, Israel may yet unleash a force too powerful to control. The price tag -- this time demanded by Palestinians -- will be high indeed for the Jewish supremacists.

Jonathan Cook won the 2011 Martha Gellhorn Special Prize for Journalism. (www.jkcook.net)

A Nobel for the Arab Spring



COMMENT

Larbi Sadiki

The shared Nobel Peace Prize given to human rights activist Tawakul Karman is rightly deserved. It's more deserved than the award given to U.S. President Barack Obama in 2009. Partly, it is an accolade for the entire Arab Spring and its unsung heroes. Partly, it recognizes the revolutionary kudos of woman power in the advent of the Arab Spring.

However, there are a few legitimate questions that must be posed. In particular, to what extent does the award understate the power of the powerless?

Where there is a will...

The 32-year-old Yemeni female activist name literally means "determined" and "endowed with resolve, initiative and will". And Tawakul lives up to her name. This perhaps explains why a petite female Islamist mother of three has been steadfast in her non-violent activism and tenacity, sustaining a sit-in since the eruption of the Yemeni protest movement several months ago. Yemeni friends describe her as audacious, courageous, street smart, sagacious, gracious and down to earth.

Probably what makes Tawakul stand out is her healthy position towards dogma. Although ideologically an Islamist, in practice she favors a brand of civic politics that champions equal protection for all even under secular arrangements.

And perhaps this is the ideal type of Islamist politician that the Arab Spring needs right now for mature democratic fruition -- a visionary woman from the reform and Muslim Brotherhood-linked al-Islah party.

The prize implicitly at least has shifted the global lens through which Islamists are routinely depicted as fire and brimstone religious activists. Perhaps this is a recognition that Islamists are legitimate pro-human rights and democracy agents. In the Yemeni context, there is an additional subtlety.

Since the Arab Spring burst forth, political Islam has inherently been a force to be reckoned with in the mobilization and organization for human rights and good government. The slogan "Islam is the solution" may now be somehow unwittingly validated by the powers-that-be who, until recently, avowedly worked to deny the claimants of this bottom-up type of politics a margin of existence.

Tawakul is a woman whose actions speak louder than the Nobel Prize awarded to her. Her struggle preceded the Yemeni uprising, galvanizing both men and women for greater and equal citizenship. Whether in penning free opinion or protesting against Abdullah Saleh's authoritarianism or leading the NGO Women Journalists Without Shackles, Tawakul's intrepid activism has gone against the grain of a deeply patriarchal society.

Her activism has undermined the existing stereotypes about Yemeni and Arab women as well as veiled women. This is a case that showcases that the veil and Islamist identity do

not stand in the way of the visibility, moral protest and democratic struggle.

It's a stroke of genius on the part of the Nobel committee to honor Tawakul. The feminist touch to expand the club of female laureates, especially from the Third World, is welcome on this occasion. Women are steadfast participants in the struggle against the ills of poverty, autocracy, inequality and war.

However, the beauty of the Arab Spring and moral protest in the Arab world is that it has been generally leaderless, nameless and without any 'cult' figures.

The Nobel Prize may be akin to

the attempts to 'contain' 'commodify', 'co-opt' or 'buy' the Arab Spring are unsavory properties of a global consumer culture driven by the logic of the market and the white man's burden to civilize all things other.

A cynic can not help but regret the reduction of a dynamic and multifarious movement into a single locus -- Tawakul. One dares not name any of the equally deserving men and women, Egyptian, Bahraini, Sudanese, Libyan, Tunisian, and Yemeni.

Not many Arabs over the years have been included in the elite club of Nobel Laureates, even the awarding of the Nobel for the sake of having a token recognition of the cause of the



Yemeni Tawakul Karman, one of the three recipients of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize award is seen with her children at her tent at Taghree square in Sanaa on October 8, 2011. (EPA photo)

cloning Aung San Suu Kyi in Yemen as an equivalent moral force and a face of democratic hope around which anti-authoritarian protests and forces could rally. There is a tinge of artificiality in the seeking to sculpture a heroine out of Tawakul in Yemen's Arab Spring as well as 'manufacturing' consensus around her newly acquired status and to lend global legitimacy to dissent against the existing order.

There are two positives in awarding the Peace Prize to Tawakul: first, her struggle and sacrifice is redeemed; second, protest -- which has always worried Western governments as unruly and potentially threatening to their interests, client regimes and security arrangements -- is finally recognized to be legitimate and acceptable in the entire Arab world.

"The feminist touch to expand the club of female laureates, especially from the Third World, is welcome on this occasion."

From this perspective the Nobel goes to Tawakul; but the award may also be intended as symbolic recognition of the fervor of the Arab Spring in its entirety.

Nobel ... to what end?

There is a negative side. The Nobel Peace Prize almost names a price for the Arab Spring, itself a priceless moral protest movement that can be measured only by its immaterial content and normative ethos. The struggle for freedom has no price and nor does the Arab Spring nor can any global force name a price or award a prize for the Arab Spring.

The rewards for the Arab Spring are an inner force generated within. The international community's show of support is welcome but some of

Arab Spring may prove to be counterproductive. Tawakul's constituency is largely composed of conservative and religious men and women. There is also a dynamic of tall poppy syndrome that can further undermine Tawakul's support within Yemen.

Nobel-ity

This particular Nobel expands the politics of recognition to a single female individual as well as to an entire movement. But ambiguity is inevitable. For, this recognition through the naming of a single actor oddly enough restricts this very recognition by 'fixing' it in a single person.

The elan of moral protest in the case of the Arab Spring is that it has persistently lacked a Che or an Aung San Suu Kyi. The gain is the plurality embodied in a broad movement driven by ideals not mortals or ideologies.

There are thousands of voices from within the Arab Spring that carry on the moral flame of protest against corrupt and authoritarian political elites. They are all Tawakul. The nobility of the struggle waged by all these free Arabs is not up for grabs.

Nobel or no Nobel, the march for Arab freedom shall stay the course as Bouazizi, Tawakul and others keep on displaying. The nobility of these freedom-seeking acts in a many Tahrir Square as an essence will never be captured any amount of Nobel-ity.

Dr. Larbi Sadiki is a Senior Lecturer in Middle East Politics at the University of Exeter, and author of *Arab Democratization: Elections without Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and *The Search for Arab Democracy: Discourses and Counter-Discourses* (Columbia University Press, 2004).

(Source: Al Jazeera)

JUMP

Indigenizing Occupy Wall Street

Contd. from P. 1

Occupy Denver and Occupy Boston agreed to the proposals on the eve of Indigenous People's Day, which was observed on Monday.

Progressives in the United States are opposed to the official holiday called Columbus Day and celebrate Indigenous People's Day on that date.

Following are a few excerpts from the text of the American Indian Movement of Colorado initiative, which is entitled An Indigenous Platform Proposal for Occupy Denver:

"As indigenous peoples, we welcome the awakening of those who are relatively new to our homeland. We are thankful, and rejoice, for the emergence of a movement that is mindful of its place in the environment, that seeks economic and social justice, that strives for an end to oppression in all its forms, that demands an adequate standard of food, employment, shelter and health care for all, and that calls for envisioning a new, respectful and honorable society. We have been waiting for 519 years for such a movement, ever since that fateful day in October 1492 when a different worldview arrived -- one of greed, hierarchy, destruction and genocide."

"In observing the 'Occupy Together' expansion, we are reminded that the territories of our indigenous nations have been 'under occupation' for decades, if not centuries. We remind the occupants of this encampment in Denver that they are on the territories of the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Ute peoples. In the U.S., indigenous nations were the first targets of corporate/government oppression."

"If this movement is serious about confronting the foundational assumptions of the current U.S. system, then it must begin by addressing the original crimes of the U.S. colonizing system against indigenous nations. Without addressing justice for indigenous peoples, there can never be a genuine movement for justice and equality in the United States."

Elsewhere in their proposal, AIM Colorado asked Occupy Denver "to repudiate the Doctrine of Christian Discovery... to endorse the right of all indigenous peoples to the international right of self-determination... to acknowledge that indigenous peoples have the right to practice and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies... and to have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites... to recognize that indigenous peoples and nations are entitled to the permanent control and enjoyment of their aboriginal-ancestral territories... and... to assert that indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions."

AIM Colorado also asked Occupy Denver "to recognize that the settler state boundaries in the Americas are colonial fabrications that should not limit or restrict the ability of indigenous peoples to travel freely, without inhibition or restriction, throughout the Americas" and "to demand the immediate release of American Indian political prisoner, Leonard Peltier, U.S. Prisoner #89637-132, from U.S. federal custody."

Those are tall orders.

Will the members of the Occupy Wall Street movement and its many offshoots agree to all of this, join forces with the indigenous peoples of the Americas, embrace indigenous perspectives, and transform their movement into an Occupy Together movement?

Some of them are ready to do so already.

However, it will probably be very difficult for most of them.

Very many of them do not have a One World mindset, and it will not be easy for them to adopt such a worldview.

Many of them grew up in a racist environment or went to schools that used biased curriculums.

They are not familiar with Native American history and the indigenous narrative.

To understand the indigenous perspective, they will have to elevate their consciousness and will have to unlearn some of the things that were "taught" to them in the Western education system.

If they can do all that, then an Occupy Together movement can be created in the United States, and they could even join forces with like-minded people in similar movements in other parts of the world.

And if that happens, perhaps it will be the beginning of the long-awaited global paradigm shift.

Hamas and Israel confirm prisoner swap deal

Contd. from P. 1

"It's really important to remember that the first part of the siege on Gaza really started after the capture of Gilad Shalit and intensified after Hamas won the elections and took power in Gaza," she said.

"The people in Gaza have had very much to bear the brunt of the capture of Shalit with a five-year-long siege, which means they haven't been let out of Gaza, exports and imports have been severely restricted, and for some time hardly anything was allowed in."

In two phases

Meshaal said the detainees will be freed in two phases: the first phase will see the release of 450 "in one week", which include all Palestinian women currently in Israeli jails, and in the second phase another 550 will be freed "in two months".

From the 450, 131 will be returned to Gaza, while 110 will be sent home to the West Bank. Six are Israeli Palestinians. Another 203 remaining prisoners will be deported, with 40 barred from Israel and the Palestinian territories.

NEWS

Anti-Zionist movie appears in Tehran's theaters

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk TEHRAN — The anti-Zionist movie "Saturday Hunter" by Parviz Sheikhtadi will go on screen in Tehran's theaters from Wednesday. "It is the first movie reveals some novel aspects about Zionism, focusing on radical Zionism," Sheikhtadi mentioned in a press release. Sheikhtadi said that the re-editing of the film and the negligence of the producer are two factors which postponed screening the film for two years. "A film is not like a commodity which satisfies the buyers in the shop windows by its shape and color. The audience should be aware of the movie's content before watching it," he said. The Jebraeel Film Distribution Company, which is now screening the film, promoted the movie by setting up tents during the Qods Day demonstrations, he said. The film narrates the story of a Jewish widow who marries a Christian man. The grandfather of her son asks her to bring his grandson to spend a short time with him after which the boy can decide whether to stay with his mother or his grandfather. Ali Nassirian, Amir-Yal Arjomand, Darin Khamseh and Mehdi Faqih star in film.

Shiraz commemorates Hafez Day

TEHRAN TIMES Culture Desk TEHRAN — Hafez lovers, scholars and officials together with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gathered in the Mausoleum of Hafez in Shiraz to mark Iran's National Hafez Day on October 12.

A group of children clad in traditional costumes of the Fars region welcomed the guests. They were holding placards bearing the images of the Hafez Mausoleum and the Shahcheragh Holy Shrine. World poets attending the 2nd Congress of Iranian and International Poets in Tehran also took part in the ceremony. Several programs were arranged for the day in which a statue for Hafez National Day was unveiled. The inlaid statue reflects the image of the Hafez Mausoleum in Shiraz. The ceremony continued with the seminar focusing on affinities between Hafez and the National Poet of India Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary. Also included was an unveiling ceremony in which four books on Hafez were unveiled. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hosseini and the Science, Research, and Technology Minister Kamran Daneshju were also among the participating guests.

Angelina Jolie visits Libya to show solidarity

GENEVA (Reuters) — Actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie was in Libya on Tuesday for a visit to help agencies bringing aid to Libyans in Tripoli and Misrata, she said in a statement provided to Reuters. "I have come to Libya for a variety of reasons, to see a country in transition at every level and to witness efforts to fully realize the promise of the Arab Spring," Jolie said. "The country faces a host of challenges, including internally displaced people, refugees, rule of law, security, sanitation, education, health and other humanitarian needs. All of these pieces must be delivered and coordinated properly in an environment of reconciliation and justice." The two-day trip was Jolie's first to Libya, but she previously visited Libyan refugees in Malta and on the Italian island of Lampedusa in June, and went to Tunisia in April to appeal for international support for people fleeing the revolution there. Jolie is an ambassador for the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR and is expected to announce an expanded role soon. On her Libya trip, she met representatives from UNHCR, Medecins Sans Frontieres and local non-governmental organizations delivering assistance to Libyans in Misrata and Tripoli. "I will be meeting with officials from all sides but above all, listening to the local people in the street. I am here to express solidarity with them. It is the work of rebuilding and recovery that will determine Libya's future."

Javier Bardem takes villain role in new Bond movie

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — He's known as a genuinely nice guy in Hollywood, but Oscar-winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem transforms into a villain for the upcoming James Bond film, due in theaters next year. Bardem appeared for an interview on ABC News program "Nightline" and confirmed what had been rumored for months when he was asked by journalist Christiane Amanpour about "the next villain you are going to play in James Bond." "I'm very excited because my parents took me to watch the movies, and I saw all of them so to play that is going to be fun," Bardem said. "They choose me to play this man, but I cannot give you many details."

Ahmadinejad unveils doc on Iran's nuclear project

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled a documentary film on Iran's nuclear program during a ceremony at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Tuesday. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hosseini and a number of cultural and military officials attended the unveiling ceremony of "Uncontained", which has been described as "an aspect of soft power of the Islamic Revolution" by its producer, the Safir Documentary Film Center. "I believe that the documentary is successful, because a documentary that is able to keep the people in their seats until the end, it is very powerful," Ahmadinejad said. He also thanked "Uncontained" director Mostafa Rezvani and his colleagues. "Uncontained" is about Mohtasham Ali Marvi, a Pakistani student who begins research on Iran's nuclear program after two Iranian nuclear scientists were killed during a terrorist attacks in 2010. Mohtasham plans to study the reports claiming that Iran is making atomic weapons behind its efforts to obtain peaceful nuclear power. He meets with Iranian nuclear scientist Seyyed Mahmud Aqamiri, controversial Iranian MP Ahmad Shirzad and French political analyst Thierry Meyssan for his study. Through many interviews with ordinary people, political activists, university professors and MPs, he also wants to shed light on the reasons behind the sanctions imposed upon Iran.



President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad shakes hands with a crew member of "Uncontained" during the unveiling ceremony of the documentary film, which is about Iran's nuclear program, at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on October 11, 2011. (IRNA/Meysam Alaqaemankhan)

Mohtasham did the narration in English for the documentary. "I am here to thank you, the students who made this documentary," Culture Minister Hosseini said. "This documentary could show the world the great determination of our youth," he added. Firqat al-Isra, a music band affiliated with Hezbollah in Lebanon, gave performances during

the ceremony. A number of neckerchiefs bearing the logo of Hezbollah were presented to Ahmadinejad and organizers of the event by the band's leader during the ceremony. Ahmadinejad honored the crew members of "Uncontained" with awards at the end of the ceremony.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Marzieh Musavi/IRNA



Iranian pop singer Mohsen Yeganeh performs a concert at Tehran's Milad Tower on October 11, 2011. It was one of a series of benefit concerts, which have been organized by Yeganeh and singers Benyamin Bahadori and Reza Sadeqi to raise funds for the treatment of Iranian stage actor Majid Bahrami, who is suffering from blood cancer.

Fishing film nets documentary prize

LONDON (BBC) — A film about the effects of overfishing has won a new award set up to honor films that have made a significant impact on society. "The End of the Line" received the first Puma Creative Impact award, worth 50,000 euros (£43,737), at a London ceremony hosted by newsreader Jon Snow. Director Rupert Murray said he hoped the prize would "inspire more people to make films that make a difference". Another contender, Burma VJ, received a special commendation from the jury. The Oscar-nominated film, about video journalists who go undercover to report on human rights abuses in the country, received 25,000 Euros (£21,889). U.S. film-maker Morgan Spurlock, Christian Aid director Loretta Minghella and Queen Noor of Jordan sat on the panel that selected the winners. Environmental documentary "The Age of Stupid", starring the late Pete Postlethwaite, was among the five

finalists. **Incensed** Speaking after the presentation, Snow said he was "not surprised" "The End of the Line" had been named the overall winner. The documentary had "completely transformed the way a very large number of people think about fish", he added. "You can see restaurants and supermarkets changing their ways because of what their customers now know," Snow told BBC News. Filmed over two years and released in UK cinemas in 2009, Murray's film followed British journalist Charles Clover as he investigated the steep decline in global fish stocks. Pret A Manger co-founder Julian Metcalfe was so incensed when he saw the film he made his High Street sandwich chain change its policy on tuna. The Creative Impact award was set up in partnership with the Channel 4 Britdoc Foundation, which part-funded "The End of the Line".

Italian author wins courage award

LONDON (BBC) — An Italian author who has been in hiding since writing an expose about the Naples mafia has won the Pen/Pinter International writer of courage award. Roberto Saviano's 2006 book "Gomorra" explores the vast reach and corruption of the Camorra. Saviano, 32, has lived under constant police protection since death threats were issued against him by the mafia in 2006. He is sharing the prize with British playwright Sir David Hare. The Pen/Pinter Prize was established by the writers' charity Pen in 2009 in memory of British playwright Harold Pinter. Each year a British writer receives the award alongside another writer who has been persecuted for expressing his or her beliefs. The identity of the "writer of courage" is announced at the ceremony. "Roberto Saviano took on the Neapolitan mafia, first in the novel Gomorra and then in the film made from it," Sir David, 64, said at the awards ceremony in London on

Monday. Sir David was awarded the Pen/Pinter Prize in August and shares it with Saviano "He did so at great risk to his own safety. My hope in sharing my prize with him is that a measure of recognition from Pen may, in however small a way, make his life easier." Saviano, now living under 24-hour police protection, sent a message expressing his gratitude. "When you feel that so many need to see, to know and to change, and not just to be entertained or comforted, then it is worth it to carry on writing," he said in a statement released by organizers. Gomorra has been translated into 53 languages and remained in the bestsellers list for several weeks after its release in 2006. It sold 2.5 million copies in Italy alone and a further four million around the world. In 2009 he released his second book, "Beauty and the Inferno", which was a collection of articles written mainly whilst in hiding.

Dehnamaki refuses producer's proposal to cast Jolie in "Scandal"

TEHRAN TIMES Art Desk TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Masud Dehnamaki refused to accept his film producer's proposal to star Angelina Jolie in his film "Scandal". Producer Ali Sartipi had entered into discussions with Angelina Jolie's manager Geyer Kosinski and (Angelina Jolie's attorney) Robert Offer in late September. "According to the discussions, it appears that Mrs. Jolie has shown an interest in coming to Iran to act in an Iranian film, but the necessary arrangements must be made beforehand," Ali Sartipi had old the Persian service of the Fars News Agency on October 4. However, Dehnamaki, director of Iranian box office hit "The Outcasts" and its sequels rejected the idea. "I announced my disapproval to Sartipi from the very beginning and asked him to inform the sponsors as well," Dehnamaki told Fars. This is while Sartipi had said that they are planning to first obtain Angelina Jolie's consent to act in the project and then to enter into discussions with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to obtain approval.