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Iranian leader feels the heat over economy

'Payslip-gate' adds to the frustration about the lack of improvement under Hassan Rouhani.

BY RAMIN MOSTAGHIM AND SHASHANK BENGALI

TEHRAN — When a young female Iranian lawmaker named Fatemeh Hossaini was swept into office as part of a pro-reformist wave in February's parliamentary elections, it was supposed to be a signal of change in a country long led by a corrupt and overwhelmingly male elite.

But the substantial income of Hossaini's family has dragged her into the middle of a widening national outcry over public-sector corruption that underscores Iran's economic troubles.

As part of a series of leaks exposing high salaries among state-owned companies, Hossaini's father, Safdar Hossaini, chairman of Iran's sovereign wealth fund, was revealed to be earning more than \$23,000 per month — dozens of times what the lowest-paid government workers earn.

Known as the National Development Fund of Iran, the fund is meant to reserve surplus oil and petrochemical revenues for development and economic emergencies. Safdar Hossaini resigned in silence along with his colleagues.

Then Hossaini's husband, Hani Mirmohammad-Ali, a tile seller turned civil engineer, was accused of using family connections to get a license to operate a money exchange shop that has been implicated in money laundering.

A year after Iran signed a nuclear deal with world powers, the "Payslip-gate" revelations are adding to a growing frustration at the lack of economic improvement under President Hassan

[See Iran, A4]



CHRISTINA HOUSE For The Times

PEOPLE pass El Mercado. "We're going to try and evolve with the tastes of our customers, but at the same time stay true to our identity as an authentic Mexican place," market manager Tony Rosado says.

Market no longer feels the love, looks to evolve

El Mercado manager aims to draw a more diverse crowd

BY BRITTNY MEJIA

Pedro Rosado arrived in Los Angeles from Yucatan, Mexico, in 1968, the same year a three-story shopping center known as El Mercado de Los Angeles opened in Boyle Heights.

After laboring 80 hours a week for three years as a janitor and a truck driver, Rosado subleased and then bought a humble little bookshop amid a honeycomb of stalls — including shops that sell Mexican crafts and candy, a *carniceria* and a botanical shop — that was designed as a kind of love letter to Mexico. Eventually he purchased a restaurant on the top floor of the building on East 1st Street near Lorena Street.

Around 1988, Rosado controlled the majority of shares of the market and he became the proud owner of El Mercado, also known as "El Mercado," or little market.

Rosado died of cancer in December, and management fell to his children — who unlike their father grew

[See El Mercado, A13]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE BOYLE HEIGHTS shopping destination opened in 1968. Some merchants say business has dropped in recent years.

Justice rebuked in feud with Trump

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's public denunciation of the GOP candidate crossed an ethical line, legal experts say.

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

WASHINGTON — It's a strange week when Donald Trump — known for his provocations and unconventional behavior — lectures a Supreme Court justice on what's "highly inappropriate," and many legal experts say he's right.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's unprecedented public criticism of the presumed GOP presidential nominee has left legal experts and her own supporters scratching their heads. No one could recall a similar instance of a justice on the nation's highest court openly and repeatedly denouncing a candidate running for its highest office.

Trump's campaign is already exploiting Ginsburg's attack as the latest example of the high court's growing politicization. He called upon her to step down and predicted her attacks would serve only to energize his conservative base.

While few expect their high-profile spat to weigh heavily in the 2016 race, Ginsburg's remarks cast a harsh spotlight on the court's liberal lion, who inspires such admiration that supporters don T-shirts with her image and have dubbed her "Notorious RBG," a takeoff on Christopher Wallace's rap moniker, The Notorious B.I.G.

Many legal experts agree Ginsburg's public comments crossed a long-standing line that has separated the Supreme Court from partisan electoral politics.

"What Justice Ginsburg did in these interviews is fa

[See Ginsburg, A11]



BARBARA DAVIDSON Los Angeles Times

LAW ENFORCEMENT officers pay tribute at the funeral for Dallas Police Senior Cpl. Lorne Ahrens. "Allow yourself to feel," the pastor told mourners.

With a hectic schedule, Dallas buries its dead

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

DALLAS — After the shock and amid the grieving, Dallas paused Wednesday to bury its own.

Three of the five officers killed in last week's downtown shooting were remembered during a day of mourning that drew friends, colleagues, family members and police officers from across the country.

The back-to-back-to-back services stretched schedules throughout the city.

The mayor planned to attend two; the Dallas police

chief said he was going to all of them.

The police choir was torn. Family of Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Officer Brent Thompson, 34, requested it perform at 10 a.m. But the service for Dallas Police Senior Cpl. Lorne Ahrens was at 11 a.m., half an hour away. Ahrens' family said they understood, and the choir hoped to make it to the cemetery to see him laid to rest.

The police force was also short-staffed. There was a private funeral for Sgt. Michael Smith, 55, at 10 a.m., with a public service at noon Thursday. Services for Officer Michael Krol, 40, were set for Friday; Officer Patrick

Zamarripa, 32, for Saturday. So many police were attending the simultaneous funerals, stations around the city had to cover one another's shifts.

Officers streamed into the stadium-sized Prestonwood Baptist Church in

[See Dallas, A12]

Weather
Clouds clearing.
L.A. Basin: 83/65. B8



NEW AGE GAMES

Several U.S. Olympians have found ways to compete into their late 30s and early 40s

BY DAVID WHARTON

Some days, when Meb Keflezighi hits the road, his legs just don't want to move.

That is what happens to a marathoner when he reaches the comparatively ancient age of 41.

"You can't run like you're 25 anymore," he said. "You're going to have bad days."

The fact that Keflezighi has qualified for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro — where he will become the oldest American Olympic marathoner — astonishes some younger runners.

"Meb is amazing," middle-distance star Alysia Montano said. "He isn't the norm."

But he isn't a rarity, either. More elite athletes are remaining competitive at an athletically advanced age.

The 40-somethings on the U.S. team headed for Brazil include runner Bernard Lagat and cyclist Kristin Armstrong, a defending Olympic champion in road racing who has come back from retirement twice.

Kerri Walsh Jennings will try for her fourth gold medal in beach volleyball at 37. That's the same age as taekwondo athlete Steven

[See Olympics, A13]



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

AT AGE 37, Kerri Walsh Jennings will attempt to win her fourth gold medal in beach volleyball. She's shown celebrating during the 2012 Games in London.