



Qassemi: Iran supports 'united' Spain 2

# IRAN DAILY



Mianeh sponge iron plant to be launched today 4

Number 5753 • Saturday October 14, 2017 • Mehr 22, 1396 • Mharram 23, 1439 • Price 5,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.irandailyonline.ir

## Trump decertifies Iran deal, sends ball to Congress court

### Rouhani: US more isolated than ever

### Mogherini: Not in power of 'any president' to terminate nuclear deal



International Desk

US President Donald Trump on Friday refused to certify Iran's compliance to the 2015 nuclear deal, in a move that defied other world powers, throwing the ball into the Congress court as EU reaffirmed Iran's commitment to 'robust' deal.

Trump made the announcement during a White House speech that detailed a more confrontational approach to Iran over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, Reuters reported.

He said that he "cannot and will not make this certification."

Trump outlined a new "strategy along with several major steps" to confront Iran's "hostile ac-



tions" and to ensure that "Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon"

While Trump did not pull the United States out of the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he gave the US Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions on Tehran that were lifted under the pact.

That would increase tension with Iran as well as put Washington at odds with other signatories of the accord such as Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union.

The US president accused Iran of failing to live up to the spirit of the deal and committing "multiple violations."

Continued on Page 2

## US, Israel withdraw from UNESCO

The United States and its ally Israel said Thursday they were pulling out of the UN's culture and educational body, in a move that underlined Washington's drift away from international institutions.

The US decision, announced in Washington, follows years of tension at UNESCO, which it accused of having an "anti-Israel bias."

The United States has walked out of the 195-member organization once before, under ex-president Ronald Reagan, who quit in 1984 over alleged financial mismanagement and claims of anti-US bias in some of its policies, AFP wrote.

President George W. Bush announced America's return in 2002, but relations soured again in 2011, when Barack Obama pulled the plug on funding to the body after its members voted to admit Palestine as a full member.

Washington opposes any move



ers in New York, adding that "we need an America that stays committed to world affairs."

But US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said that the cost to the United States of remaining a member had also influenced the decision.

In a statement announcing its own withdrawal, Israel called the Trump administration's decision "courageous and moral," accusing the UN body of becoming a "theater of the absurd" after a series of resolutions condemning the Jewish state. The outgoing head of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, called the US withdrawal a "loss to multilateralism," while UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said through a spokesman that he "regrets this development deeply."

Russia's Foreign Ministry also said it "regretted" Washington's decision.

by UN bodies to recognize the Palestinian territories as a state, believing this must await a negotiated Middle East peace deal.

But President Donald Trump's administration is also reviewing many of its multilateral commitments, pursuing what he calls an "America First" policy that has allies in Europe worried. "UNESCO is about promoting our ideals and values through culture, education and science," France's UN Ambassador Francois Delattre told report-

## Catalan leader faces heat on all sides as deadline looms

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont came under mounting pressure Friday as the radical faction of his separatist alliance pressed him to declare independence just as his region starts to suffer from the economic fallout of the crisis.

Spain's central government has given Puigdemont until next Thursday to abandon his push for secession, failing which it may trigger unprecedented constitutional steps that could see Madrid take control of the semi-autonomous region.

having staged two mass rallies in just five days.

### Pressure to break away

On Friday, the far-left CUP Party, an ally of Puigdemont's coalition government, warned in an open letter that "only by proclaiming a republic will we be able to respect what the majority expressed in the polls."

The referendum took place on October 1 despite a court ban that ruled it unconstitutional, and regional authorities say 90 percent chose to split

an independent state," he immediately suspended the declaration, calling for more time for talks with Madrid.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy rejected talks, retorting that Puigdemont had until next Monday to clarify whether or not he would press ahead with secession and then until next Thursday to reconsider, otherwise Madrid would act.

What Puigdemont will do is unclear, but various allies of his are pressuring him to go down the independence route.



## California fires kill 31, deadliest in US history

The death toll from raging the US state of California wildfires rose to 31 as body recovery teams used cadaver dogs to locate victims, making it the deadliest series of blazes in the state's history.

The fires began on Sunday, leaving thousands of people homeless and burning over 190,000 acres (76,000 hectares) of land, AFP reported on Friday.

Gusty winds hampered the efforts of the 8,000 firefighters battling 20 blazes, and weather conditions were not forecast to improve.

"What this means is that our fires will continue to burn erratically," California fire chief Ken Pimlott told a news conference. "They have the potential to shift in any direction at any time."

"We are a long way from being done with this catastrophe," he said.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) announced that the fires have claimed 31 lives, while Sheriff Rob Giordano of hard-hit Sonoma County said his department has received around 1,100 reports of missing persons.

Of those, "745 of them, roughly, have been located safe," while "we still have 400 outstanding," Giordano said, noting that the actual figure may be smaller because there are sometimes duplicate reports.



He said targeted body recovery efforts had begun in cases where all other leads were exhausted.

Asked if he expected the death toll to rise, Giordano replied: "I'd be unrealistic if I didn't."

As recovery teams fanned out searching for fire victims, evacuation orders were issued for towns in Napa and Sonoma counties, where hundreds of people have already lost their homes to the fast-moving infernos.

The National Weather Service said wind gusts of up to 50 miles (80 kilometers) per hour were forecast in some areas and the "critical fire weather conditions" would continue into the weekend.

Pimlott said hundreds of fire engines and dozens of firefighting crews were being brought in from other states. David Shev, a veteran firefighter with Cal Fire, said the wildfires were like nothing he's seen before.

"I've been with Cal Fire for 30 years and I've seen big fires," said. "But this is extraordinary, having that many and that large and going so fast."

Thousands of people have been left homeless and 25,000 people have evacuated their homes in Sonoma County alone, according to officials.

More than 3,500 homes and businesses have been destroyed in Sonoma and Napa counties. California Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency in eight counties.



### Iran, Russia discuss bilateral, parliamentary ties

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and senior Russian officials reviewed bilateral and parliamentary relations during meetings in the Russian city of Saint Petersburg on Friday.



Larijani held separate meetings with the Speaker of the Russian Parliament's Lower House Vladimir Volodin and Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Valentina Matviyenko, IRNA reported.

During his meeting with Volodin, Larijani said US actions on the Iranian nuclear deal and the sanctions policy against Iran and Russia may cause chaos in international relations.

"They seem to have begun certain movements, which in the long run will cause a lack of order in the international arena," Russian news agency TASS quoted Larijani as saying.



"The proof of that are sanctions, which they have announced against Iran and against Russia, as well as measures they recently began undertaking in relation to the nuclear deal with Iran," the Iranian speaker said.

"If the US fails in agreements on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), nothing will remain from the deal. Over recent months, the US has been violating the nuclear agreements," the Iranian official said.

The Iranian top parliamentarian has traveled to Russia to attend the 137th assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), slated to be held on October 14-18.

Over 100 parliament speakers and some 70 vice speakers, accompanied by delegations, are participating in the event.

Promoting parliamentary cooperation on the international scene, fighting terrorism, countering security challenges faced by countries, discussing economic and financial issues, human rights and democracy are on the meeting's agenda.

The IPU is an international organization of world parliaments, which was established in 1889.



## Qassemi: Iran supports 'united' Spain

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said Tehran supports a united, integrated and democratic Spain which is facing an independence referendum movement in Catalonia.

"Iran, in line with its principled policies, believes in a united, integrated and democratic Spain and calls for the preservation of stability, peace and national solidarity and respect for the provisions of the Spanish Constitution," Qassemi said.

Tensions have been running high ever since an October 1 independence referendum in Catalonia which has been declared illegal by the federal government in Spain, Press TV reported.

Almost 90 percent of voters backed Catalonia's independence with a turnout of 43 percent but the plebiscite was marred by violence after Spanish police tried to halt the voting.

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont signed an independence declaration on Tuesday but said the manifesto would not be implemented for several weeks to allow talks with the government in Madrid.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has ruled out dialogue over the secession bid but left the door open for constitutional reforms.

Qassemi said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran underlines the need for adhering to the rule of law and avoiding violence and pursuing demands in a peaceful and legal manner."

The spokesman called Spain "an important political and economic partner of



REUTERS

the Islamic Republic of Iran in Europe," saying Tehran is closely monitoring developments in Catalonia.

"Iran believes that the interests of all the people in Spain, and the country's political stability and economic growth will be sustained more and better through na-

tional unity and synergy," Qassemi said.

A historic principality that became part of a united Spanish kingdom in the 15th century, it is one of 17 autonomous regions under Spain's devolved political system created after the death of Francisco Franco in 1975. It has its own gov-

ernment, presidency, and parliament. The statute of autonomy defining Catalonia's powers refers to Catalonia as a "nationality".

Catalan and Spanish share status as official languages in Catalonia. Catalonia has its own flag and anthem.

### Putin to visit Iran by yearend

Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to visit Iran by the end of 2017, the TASS news agency quoted Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov as saying on Thursday.

Putin plans to take part in a meeting with his counterparts from Iran and Azerbaijan during the visit, Ushakov was cited as saying.

"That will be a trilateral Iran-Russia-Azerbaijan meeting," he said.



REUTERS

The exact date for the trilateral meeting has not been set yet. The first trilateral meeting between Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2016.

Russian President Vladimir Putin previously visited Iran in November 2015.

### Senior Sunni cleric calls crimes against Rohingya 'shocking'

The senior Iranian Sunni cleric Molavi Abdolhamid described the crimes committed against the Rohingya Muslim community in Myanmar as "shocking and intolerable."

Speaking at a gathering in Zahedan in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the prominent cleric said, "I have urged the Islamic countries and human rights organizations to spare no efforts to help Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar," IRNA reported.

He also called for cooperation among Muslim states to help put an end to the ongoing violence by Myanmar government against the Muslim community in this southeastern Asian country.

Myanmar's Army intensified a brutal crackdown on the minority population in the country's Rakhine state in August following attacks by armed men

on security forces.

The crackdown has killed hundreds of Muslims and left scores of Rohingya villages torched and completely destroyed.

Myanmar's government had brutally driven out half a million Rohingya from Rakhine state to Bangladesh, torching their homes, crops and villages to prevent them from returning.



More than 500,000 people have fled into neighboring Bangladesh. The UN human rights office said on Wednesday that Myanmar's security forces

brands the 1.1 million-strong Rohingya population as "illegal immigrants" from Bangladesh, even as their roots in the country go back centuries.

## Trump decertifies Iran deal, sends ball to Congress court

From Page 1

Trump added that he has directed his administration to work closely with Congress to address the deal's "many flaws".

He threatened that if Congress can't come up with new legislation, he will terminate the Obama-era pact.

Any decision to reimpose nuclear-related sanctions would automatically kill America's participation in the deal.

Trump's move is essentially a compromise that allows him to condemn the accord but stop short of torpedoing it.

#### US more isolated

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani hit back at Trump, saying the US is more isolated than ever when it comes to the JCPOA.

In a live speech aired by national TV, Rouhani stressed a multilateral document cannot be terminated by a president.

He said the Iranian nation will not "bow to a dictator" and that the US cannot bring Iran to its knees.

Rouhani noted that Trump cannot add clauses to the JCPOA with the help of

Congress.

Earlier, Rouhani talked to his French counterpart Emanuel Macron on phone. He said that the nuclear deal is non-negotiable, while Macron noted that France and the EU support the JCPOA.

in the agreement".

She said it was not in the power of "any president in the world" to terminate the agreement, which had been established by a UN Security Council resolution.

"We cannot afford as the international



#### EU slams Trump's decision

After Trump's speech, EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini insisted the deal was "robust" and that there had been "no violations of any of the commitments

community to dismantle a nuclear agreement that is working," said Mogherini, who chaired the final stages of the landmark talks.

"This deal is not a bilateral agreement... The international community, and the European Union with it, has clearly indicated

that the deal is, and will, continue to be in place," Mogherini told reporters.

Mogherini said she spoke to US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson immediately after Trump's speech.

Trump had been under pressure at home and abroad not to scrap the seven-country deal.

Meanwhile, diplomats said Friday there was strong consensus in EU not to be swayed by Donald Trump.

Four diplomats told POLITICO on Friday ahead of Trump's much-anticipated remarks that EU leaders were strongly committed to the Iran nuclear accord regardless of US President Donald Trump's view. The diplomats said the EU's position was that there would be no renegotiating of the Iran nuclear accord, which was struck in 2015 between Tehran and the so-called P5+1 (also known as the E3+3): the US, UK, France, Russia, China and Germany.

"Our message is that we remain attached to the JCPOA," a senior European diplomat said, referring to the accord, which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. "Our feeling is that there will not be any other agreement."

The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in north and central Vietnam jumped to 54, officials said on Friday.

# Yemen's cholera outbreak the worst in history as millionth case looms

The cholera epidemic in Yemen has become the largest and fastest-spreading outbreak of the disease in modern history, with a million cases expected by the end of the year and at least 600,000 children likely to be affected.

The World Health Organization has reported more than 815,000 suspected cases of the disease in Yemen and 2,156 deaths. About 4,000 suspected cases are being reported daily, more than half of which are among children under 18. Children under five account for a quarter of all cases, the Guardian reported.

The spread of the outbreak, which has quickly surpassed Haiti as the biggest since modern records began in 1949, has been exacerbated by hunger and malnutrition. While there were 815,000 cases of cholera in Haiti between 2010 and 2017, Yemen has exceeded that number in just six months.

"Cholera has been around in Yemen for a long time, but we've never seen an outbreak of this scale or speed. It's what you get when a country is brought to its knees by conflict, when a health care system is on the brink of collapse, when its children are starving, and when its people are blocked from getting the medical treatment they need," said Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children's country director for Yemen.

"There's no doubt this is a man-made crisis. Cholera only rears its head when there's a complete and total breakdown in sanitation. All parties to the conflict must take responsibility for the health emergency we find ourselves in."

The poor country has been facing war by a Saudi-led coalition since March 2015. Riyadh launched the military aggression on Yemen to eliminate the popular Houthi Ansarallah movement and reinstall a Riyadh-friendly former president.

Saudi-led coalition airstrikes — supported by the United States and United Kingdom — continued to be the leading



A mother sits with her sons while they are treated at a cholera center in Sana'a, the capital of Yemen.

KHALED ABDULLAH/REUTERS

cause of 12,000 casualties. The war has also displaced more than three million and ruined much of the impoverished country's infrastructure.

## US support targeted by bill

The Hill wrote on October 10 that the war in Yemen is a tragedy of epic proportions, in which the United States is deeply and directly involved.

The US Air Force's refueling operations for the Saudi-led coalition striking Yemen could end if lawmakers succeed in passing a House bill.

Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat and member of the House Armed Services

Committee, on Sept. 27 introduced House Congressional Resolution 81, which would order the US military removed from unauthorized hostilities in Yemen, except operations directed at Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

According to military.com, the bipartisan resolution, also headed by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C.; Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis.; and Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., has 30 members of the House as co-sponsors.

The congressman Khanna told Middle East Eye on Wednesday that pulling support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen is not enough: The United States must go further and probe whether its decades-old ties with Riyadh have helped it — or simply

sucked Washington into divisive, bungled Middle Eastern quagmires.

He urged the House to vote this week on his bill to stop helping the Saudi-led coalition with military targeting and the mid-air refueling of warplanes in Yemen.

Khanna's bill says Congress was never asked if the US should effectively join Riyadh's assault on the country, and demands that it exit the war within 30 days of an affirmative vote.

The bill's opponents say it does not meet the criteria needed for a fast-tracked House vote, which could otherwise occur this week. Previous congressional efforts to halt US arms supplies to the Saudi-led coalition came close, but did not pass.

## Samsung Electronics boss quits over 'unprecedented crisis'

The chief executive of Samsung Electronics resigned, with a warning that the South Korean technology giant is in the throes of an "unprecedented crisis".

Kwon Oh-hyun announced his decision to step down on Friday, when the company estimated that its quarterly profits from July to September will reach a record high of 14.5 trillion won (€9.6bn), Sky News reported.

Although Samsung is reaping the rewards of a continued boom in the memory chip industry, it is also struggling to overcome a bribery scandal.

The company's heir and de facto head, Lee Jae-yong, was jailed for five years in August after being convicted of offering bribes to South Korea's former president Park Geun-hye.



Samsung CEO Kwon Oh-hyun

Kwon — affectionately known as "Mr. Chip" — has been with the company for 32 years, and chief executive of Samsung's hugely successful components business since 2012.

In a statement, the 65-year-old said: "Fortunately, the company is now producing best-ever results but this is merely a fruit of decisions and investment made in the past."

"As we are confronted with unprecedented crisis inside out, I believe that time has now come for the company to start anew, with a new spirit and young leadership to better respond to challenges arising in the rapidly changing IT industry."

August, the smartphone giant looked to leave its exploding phone disaster behind with the launch of its new Galaxy Note 8.

It was forced to suspend sales of its Galaxy Note 7 last year after some caught fire when the battery exploded.

Kwon will remain on the board of Samsung Electronics until March 2018, and his resignation could widen a leadership vacuum at the company.

Following news of Kwon's departure, one analyst described the timing of his announcement as "nonsensical". Prices of memory chips have skyrocketed globally due to the growing use of social media, mobile data, cloud computing and the emerging internet of things, which have combined to leave supplies tight. In the second quarter, Samsung dethroned Intel Corp. as the world's biggest chip manufacturer.

## Juncker: Britain 'will have to pay' for leaving EU

EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said Friday that Britain must "pay" for its financial commitments to start Brexit trade talks.

Juncker's comments came a day after the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said there was a "disturbing deadlock" over the bill, and not enough progress for leaders to agree at a summit next week to open talks on future relations, AFP reported.

"The British are discovering, as we are, day after day new problems. That's why this process will take longer than initially thought," Juncker said.

"Not in an impossible way, I am not in a revenge mood, I am not hitting the British. The Europeans have to be grateful for so many things Britain has brought to Europe, during war, after war, before war, everywhere and every time."

"But now they have to pay."



Jean-Claude Juncker

INTS KALNINS/REUTERS

The former Luxembourg prime minister added that a row over the rights of three million EU citizens living in Britain was "nonsense".

"I don't even understand this problem. Why not say easily, with common sense, which is not a political category as we know, that things will stay as they are?" Juncker said.

The EU says Britain has to make sufficient progress on three divorce issues — the bill, the rights of EU citizens in Britain, and Northern Ireland — before opening the trade negotiations London wants. EU sources have put the budgetary commitments it says Britain owes at around 100 billion euros (\$118 billion), while Britain says the true figure is about one-fifth of that.

EU leaders meeting in Brussels next week are expected to say that there is not likely to be enough progress until the next summit in December, but that the bloc should begin internal preparations for trade talks now.

Leaders of the 27 remaining EU member states will meet for the summit in Brussels on 19-20 October. They will call on Barnier to begin "internal preparatory discussions" on the transition and trade but will refuse to begin talks with the British.

## South Africa court clears way for Zuma graft prosecution

South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal ruled on Friday that President Jacob Zuma can face prosecution on almost 800 charges of corruption relating to a 1990s arms deal.

Zuma had lodged a challenge at the court in Bloemfontein after a lower court decided in 2016 to reinstate charges that were previously dropped by prosecutors. The National Prosecuting Authority must now decide whether to pursue a prosecution, AFP reported.

"The reasons for discontinuing the prosecution... do not bear scrutiny," said Supreme Court judge Eric Leach, delivering a ruling that the presidency described as "disappointing".

The opposition Democratic Alliance party has fought since 2009 to reactivate 783 charges relating to controversial post-apartheid military contracts that have dogged Zuma for much of his time in government.

The president, who is accused of corruption, fraud, money-laundering and racketeering, has always insisted he is innocent of the allegations that date back to when he was rising through the African National Congress (ANC) party.

Zuma could now contest the ruling by appeal to the Constitutional Court.

"The decision of the Supreme Court of Appeal to



Long dogged by allegations of corruption, South African President Jacob Zuma is accused of corruption, fraud, money-laundering and racketeering.

JOHN WESSELS/AFP

day, whilst disappointing, was much anticipated," said a statement from his office.

Zuma and other government officials were accused of taking kickbacks from the \$5 billion (4.2 billion euros) purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and other arms manufactured by five European firms, including British military equipment maker BAE Systems and

French company Thales.

In 2005 Zuma's former financial adviser Schabir Shaik was convicted for facilitating bribes in exchange for military hardware contracts and sentenced to 15 years in prison. He was later released on medical parole.

Charges were first brought against Zuma in 2005 but dropped by prosecutors in 2009 before their reinstatement some seven years later.

The Supreme Court heard arguments last month against reinstating the charges, but in an unexpected twist Zuma's lawyer agreed that the decision by prosecutors to drop them in the first place was irrational.

The Supreme Court ruling could intensify calls for Zuma to resign and cast a shadow over a conference of the ruling ANC party in December, which will elect his successor.

The case is the latest in a string of political and legal scandals that have haunted the president but failed to shake his grip on power.

The Democratic Alliance (DA), which hopes to make major gains against the ANC in 2019 elections, hailed the ruling.

Zuma, 75, is due to step down as head of the ANC party in December, and as national president before the 2019 general election.

## Kremlin raps US for not issuing visas to UN-bound officials

The Kremlin on Friday accused the US authorities of acting in an unacceptable way by not issuing entry visas to a Russian military delegation which had been due to attend a briefing at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

A group of senior officers from the general staff of the Russian armed forces could not attend the joint briefing on Thursday with the Chinese military at the UN because they had no US visas, said Alexander Emeljanov, from the Russian Defense Ministry international cooperation committee, Reuters reported.

"As a country hosting the United Nations headquarters and its structures, the US authorities bear certain obligations. Certainly, in this case we are very worried by such a situation and consider it unacceptable," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a regular conference call with reporters.



Dmitry Peskov

SERGEI GUNEEV/REUTERS



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Iran finalizes deal to buy six more ATR planes



IRNA

National flag carrier, Iran Air announced that it has finalized a contract to purchase six more ATR passenger aircraft from the Franco-Italian plane manufacturer.

According to Fars News Agency, Iran Air CEO Farzaneh Sharafbafi told reporters at Bandar Abbas International Airport on Thursday, "We have finalized a contract to purchase of six more passenger planes and another contract for 20 other ATR aircraft is being drawn up with the Franco-Italian plane manufacturer."

She noted that the new ATR planes will operate on ten domestic flight routes. "The next stage will be to have the ATR aircraft fly to Persian Gulf littoral states," she added.

She hoped that based on the contract, all the ATR aircraft will be delivered to Iran by the end of 2018 in order to boost the aviation sector.

In a relevant development in April, Iran signed a deal on the purchase of 20 ATR 72-600 with ATR as a third aircraft manufacturer after having signed lucrative deals with Airbus and Boeing following the implementation of the nuclear deal.

The first package including four out of the twenty purchased ATR aircraft landed in Tehran in May 17, followed by two more on September 29.

## Envoy predicts rise in Iran-France trade ties



IRNA

Iran's ambassador to France predicts a good prospect for stronger economic ties with Paris in view of growing ties between the two countries.

Abolqasem Delfi said that considering the relatively good status of relations between Iran and France, bilateral economic ties are expected to grow further, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He was addressing a meeting at Iran's Embassy in Paris which was attended by 32 representatives of Iranian companies and business people from Iranian provinces.

Delfi further pointed to the ideal opportunities for close cooperation in the agricultural sector pointing to a recent visit to France by Iran's agriculture minister that led to the signing of four agreements.

Last week, Iran and France signed four cooperation documents to promote cooperation in the agricultural sector.

The documents were signed in a ceremony in France, attended by Iran's Agriculture Minister Mahmood Hojati and his French counterpart Stéphane Travert.

Based on the agreement, Iran and France will expand cooperation in farming, fisheries and agricultural research.

They have also agreed to form an agricultural committee tasked with handling joint projects.

## Mianeh sponge iron plant to be launched today

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran will launch Mianeh sponge iron plant with an annual capacity of 800,000 tons in East Azarbaijan Province today.

Announcing this, Rasoul Ahmadzadeh, manager of the plant, said that the plant will convert pellets made from iron ore into sponge iron, using the indigenous Persian Reduction (PERED) method, imidro.gov.ir reported.

The official said that the plant, which was constructed at a cost of \$70 million, will create 250 direct and 750 indirect job opportunities.

Ahmadzadeh put the average purity of Mianeh sponge iron at 95 percent adding that 97-percent pure sponge iron is also to be produced in the complex.

He added that about 300 domestic firms have contributed to the construction of Mianeh plant.

PERED, jointly developed by Iran and Germany, is a direct reduction process converting iron oxides, in the form of pellets or lump ore, to highly reduced product suitable for steel making.

The project is being implemented under the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracting arrangement with the aim of providing feedstock for Iran's steel mills.

The owner of the project is the Organization for Development and Renovation of Mining and Mining Industries of Iran (IMIDRO) which is also in charge of sourcing equipment from domestic companies in line with the policy of creating jobs and preventing capital flight.



IRNA

Steel is a strategic commodity for Iran, which is also the Middle East's biggest carmaker. It is fundamental to the Iranian society with its massive oil and gas industry, transportation network, water supply, urban centers and mammoth construction.

Steel was Iran's largest export item after oil, gas and petrochemicals last year, partly because of the slump in

domestic construction.

The country has been boosting steel production, targeting an output plateau of 55 million tons per year by 2015. Currently, Iran produces nearly 18 million tons, which is one percent of the global total. An IMIDRO statement says exports are expected to reach 20-25 million tons by 2025.

Iran's biggest mill is Mobarakeh

Steel Company which produces 7.2 million tons of steel per year. The country exported four million tons of steel last year, according to IMIDRO Director Mehdi Karbasian.

Italian steel firm Danieli has signed commercial agreements valued at \$5.7 billion with Iran, including a joint venture, called Persian Metallics, worth \$2 billion.

## Iran seeking to sign its first FLNG deal with Norway

Iran, the world's biggest gas reserve holder (33.5 trillion cubic meters, 18 percent of the total) has increased its gas output significantly and is targeting an output of 1 bcm/d by March 20, 2018.

Iran prefers to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to distant markets including the EU, but no agreement has yet been reached on the construction of plants for the purpose, reported Trend News Agency.

The country's sole LNG project, the 52-percent completed 'Iran LNG' needs an investment of about \$8-10 billion and talks with foreign investors haven't yielded any results so far.

Last year, Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company Ali Kardor said that Iran is targeting exports of 0.5-2 million metric tons per year (MT/y) of LNG using mini-LNG plants and floating LNG vessels (FLNG) — Iran's alternative projects to export LNG.

The country has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with



SHANA

South Korean Kogas on the development of LNG projects as well as with National Energy Administration of China on developing mini-LNG projects.

However, talks on purchasing or manufacturing floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) vessels in recent months

have so far yielded no results.

Now, Kardor says that Iran's first deal on the construction of a FLNG facility will soon be signed with a Norwegian company.

The 20-year deal is intended to produce 500,000 tons of LNG, Kardor said

on October 10, adding that pricing formula of the products will be determined by the Oil Ministry.

He did not disclose the name of the Norwegian firm, but last year it was announced that Tehran is negotiating with Norwegian Golar and Hemla Vantage companies. Golar owns one of the largest FLNG fleets in the world, while Hemla Vantage was keen to lease a FLNG vessel from a Belgian company, Exmar, to collect and liquefy flaring gas in offshore fields around Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf (the amount of yearly collection and liquidation of flaring gas in Kharg Island can stand at 0.5 MT).

Launching FLNG and mini-LNG facilities will help Iran diversify and expand its natural gas market.

The projects will also grant the country chance to convert its flaring gas (mostly from burning associated gas in the oil sector), which currently amounted at about 11 billion cubic meters per year (bcm/y), into LNG.

## Iran's minister in Washington to attend World Bank, IMF meeting

Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Masoud Karbasian arrived in Washington at the head of a delegation to attend the 2017 Annual joint meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Deputy Minister and President of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance Mohammad Khazaei and Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, Hossein Mir Shoaei are accompanying Karbasian during his visit, IRNA reported.

While in Washington, Karbasian will meet top banking officials from other countries.

During his visit, he will also hold meetings with ministers and economic officials from several countries, the vice chairmen and managers of the World Bank Group, the head of the International Monetary Fund and the heads of the cen-

tral banks.

The World Bank's three-day autumn summit began on Friday in Washington.

While in Washington, Karbasian will take part in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development, also known as G-24 in which heads and ministers of member countries will also be present.

Iran, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Lebanon (from Asia), Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago (from Latin America and South Africa), Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, Congo, Ivory Coast and Ghana (from Africa) are members of G-24.

China, Saudi Arabia and Morocco are attending the meeting of G-24 as observers.



imf.org



# Global economy chiefs told to reform while going is good

Finance chiefs from around the world were warned Thursday to get their houses in order while the global economy is strong and to be ready for possible shocks in the future.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said that countries must address their mounting debts and deepening inequalities now, before possible setbacks that could come as the era of cheap money from major central banks nears an end, AFP wrote.

That includes reducing sovereign borrowing and dependence on often fickle flows of portfolio capital that have elevated the prices of investment assets like stocks and property.

It also means recognizing the potential upheaval that comes with the rapid changes in technology that can quickly turn competitive industries into also-rans in countries trying to move up the economic ladder.

"After several years of disappointing growth, the global economy has begun to accelerate," Kim said at the opening of the annual IMF-World Bank meetings in Washington.

"Trade is picking up, but investment remains weak. We're concerned that risks such as a rise in protectionism, policy uncertainty, or possible financial market turbulence could derail this fragile recovery."

"Countries need to build resilience against the overlapping challenges we face today," he added, pointing to climate change, famine and natural disasters like the hurricanes which have wrecked economies across the Caribbean.



foreignbrief.com

Lagarde said that even though the IMF has just raised its estimates for global economic growth — to a healthy 3.6 percent this year and 3.7 percent in 2018 — "it is not time to be complacent."

"It is time to take those policy decisions that will actually enable more people and more countries to benefit from that recovery that should be made sustainable," she said. "That is the question that we will put to

the policymakers, the finance ministers, and the governors of central banks who will be attending the meetings."

Lagarde said that despite the now nearly fully-fledged recovery from the financial crisis that erupted in 2008, 47 countries still experienced negative growth last year, many of them small and fragile economies.

She said inequality, the gap between the rich and the poor, was in particular

need of tackling.

"Far too many people across all types of economies are seeing their aspirations limited by the impact of technologies and the repercussions of excessive income inequality," Lagarde said.

As a result, political tensions are spiking and skepticism is rising about the benefits of the kind of globalization and liberalizing trade that the IMF and World Bank support.

## China September imports past expectations as economy remains in high gear

China's import and export growth accelerated in September, suggesting the world's second-biggest economy is still expanding at a healthy pace despite widespread forecasts of an eventual slowdown.

The data also suggested further improvement in the global economy, with business activity and demand having picked up markedly this year in Europe and the United States, according to Reuters.



China canadawood.org

The upbeat readings will be welcome news for Beijing ahead of a twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress next week, at which President Xi Jinping is expected to tighten his grip on power and set out the government's top political and economic priorities for the next five years.

Imports grew 18.7 percent in September from a year earlier, beating analysts' forecasts for a 13.5 percent expansion and accelerating from 13.3 percent in August, customs data showed on Friday. The gain was stronger than the most optimistic forecast in a analysts poll.

Exports rose 8.1 percent, below forecasts of 5.8 percent but the most in three months and handily beating August's 5.5 percent.

"Growth momentum is still quite strong and better than our previous expectations," ANZ senior China economist Betty Wang said.

Once again, China's imports were led by industrial resources as a year-long construction boom shows no signs of flagging and factories kept humming, boosting demand for materials from steel to copper.

Higher commodity prices greatly magnified the strength of the bounce, but volumes surged, too, pointing to still-solid underlying demand.

Iron ore imports rose to a record 103 million tonnes, from 88.7 million tonnes in August, according to calculations. Copper imports were the highest since March.

That left the country with a trade surplus of \$28.47 billion, less than the near \$40 billion expected and down from around \$42 billion in August.

China's foreign trade will likely grow at a double-digit pace this year if current conditions continue, the General Administration of Customs said.

In addition to pointing to buoyant demand, some of the surge in September imports may have been due to companies' 'front loading' supplies ahead of a week-long national holiday in early October, analysts said.

Capital Economics' China economist Julian Evans-Pritchard said the timing of the mid-Autumn festival this year also meant there were more working days last month than in September 2016, suggesting October figures should show a partial reversal.

"Nonetheless, today's figures suggest that not only has strong foreign demand continued to prop up manufacturing activity in China but domestic demand remains resilient, too," Evans-Pritchard said.

## ASEAN currency swap deal renewed to provide \$2b support

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to renew a currency swap deal for two more years from November 17, providing a total of \$2 billion in financial support, the Malaysian central bank said on Friday.



The agreement was reached between regional central banks and monetary authorities, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said in a statement.

The ASEAN Swap Arrangement (ASA) was established in 1977 as part of regional initiatives to promote financial stability through the provision of short-term liquidity support for member countries which suffered temporary balance of payment difficulties.

## Economists oppose Abe's plan to use sales tax revenue for education



japan.munsifdaily.in

Most economists oppose Prime Minister Shinzo plan to redirect some revenue from a planned sales-tax increase to child care and education because it would add to Japan's massive debt burden, a poll showed.

The economists said the government elected in an October 22 general election should prioritize reform of Japan's restrictive labor market and its social security system, Reuters reported.

Campaigning began on Tuesday in a race that pits Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) against the fledgling Party of Hope led by Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and other smaller parties contesting seats in Japan's more powerful lower house of parliament.

Abe promises to press ahead with the 2019 hike in sales tax to 10 percent from eight percent but wishes to use some of the extra revenue for child care and education, instead of the original plan to repay government debt. Koike's Party of Hope, by contrast, says it would freeze the tax hike to ensure economic recovery.

"Considering huge public debt, which is at more than twice the size of the economy, balancing fiscal revenue and spending is a pressing issue," said Atsushi Takeda, chief economist at Itochu Economic Research Institute.

"Financial resources for new policies should be financed by cutting other government spending," Twenty-three of 34 economists said they do not support Abe's plan to reallocate the sales tax revenue, the poll taken between October 3 and 12 showed.

And 27 of 35 economists expect the government will increase the tax as planned in 2019. Abe has already postponed planned increases twice.

Asked about which economic areas the new government should focus on after the election, 22 economists in the poll selected labor market reform and 21 picked medical and social security reform.

Seventeen economists said the government needs to focus on measures to improve productivity, while nine advocated policies to encourage wage growth and a recovery in consumer spending. Fourteen respondents favored child care and education.

**First Announcement**  
TENDER No. 96/002/AT  
Permit No.: 1396/3197

**INVITATION TO COMMON BID (Pre-Qualification)**  
CHARTERING OF ONE ASD VESSEL

**National Iranian Oil Company (Private Joint Stock)**

**IRANIAN OFFSHORE OIL COMPANY (IOOC) intends to open Pre-Qualification for above tender with the following conditions:**

Scope of work: Chartering of One ASD Vessel  
Location: IOOC Oil fields in Persian Gulf  
Performance Period: Two years  
Other items that shall be considered:

- Ability of submitting Bid Bond as in the amount of Iranian Rial 4,774,571,700 or AED 514,557.00
- Ability of submitting 10 percent of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee in case of winning according to company's procedure.
- Proposals should be submitted with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of package specification in deadline.
- Company shall reserve the right to accept or reject any or all of proposals or ports(s) within the framework of the law of holding tenders.
- The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be three months from the closing date that is extended for one further period.
- For invitation to the above tender, it is necessary to achieve the determinate minimum score in the Pre-qualification.

Bidders, who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification, are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within one week from Second Announcement through a representative and collect the Pre-Qualification Forms.

Closing date for submission of the Pre-Qualification documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of collecting Pre-Qualification documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.

Address for those willing to participate and submit Pre-qualification Documents is as follows: Fifth Floor, #12, Touraj St., Khakzad St., between Vah-e Asr Ave. and Balal Mosque, before Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran.  
Tel: +9821-23942510

Note: Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir) on the day of Second Announcement

Public Relations Department of Iranian Offshore Oil Company

1396/3196 **First Announcement**

**IRANIAN OFFSHORE OIL COMPANY**  
Pre-Qualification

**PROVISION OF COILED TUBING SERVICES IN THE PERSIAN GULF**  
INVITATION TO COMMON BID  
TENDER NO. OF/069/96

**National Iranian Oil Company**

**IRANIAN OFFSHORE OIL COMPANY (IOOC) intends to open Pre-Qualification above tender for Two (2) Years with the following conditions:**

Scope of work: Provision of Two Coiled Tubing packages for call-out basis and its related services.  
Location: Districts of IOOC in Persian Gulf Waters  
Performance period: Two years  
Other items that shall be considered:

- Ability of submitting Bid Bond as in the amount of RIAL 8,518,380,000.00 or amounting EURO 213,000.00 in case of passing Pre-Qualification evaluation.
- Ability of submitting 10 percent of total Contract Price value as performance guarantee.
- Proposals should be submitted in due date with no condition, incomplete, ambiguous or adverse of Package specification.
- Obtain a minimum Score of Pre-qualification assessments.
- The validity of the submitted financial proposals shall be 3

Note: Bidders shall be the Owner of the Packages or submit the valid agreement for hiring the Packages among the Period of the Contract.  
Bidders, who have ability and are willing to participate in the Pre-qualification, are requested to submit a written request to Contract Department, within Ten Days from Second Announcement through a representative.  
Closing date for submission of the Pre-Qualification Documents shall be up to 14 days after the deadline of receiving Pre-Qualification Documents. Place and time of submission and opening of proposals will be stated in Tender Documents.  
Address for those willing to participate and submit Pre-Qualification is as follows: Fifth Floor, #12, Touraj St., Khakzad St., Vah-e Asr Ave., between Balal Mosque and Modarres Crossroad, Tehran, Iran.  
Telephone: +98 21 23 94 25 11 Fax: +98 21 22 66 42 34  
Note: Additional information is available at IOOC website address: [www.iooc.co.ir](http://www.iooc.co.ir)

Public Relations Department of Iranian Offshore Oil Company

Major Currencies			
Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2739	Chinese Yuan	0.1519
Euro	1.1840	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3290	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3095
Australian Dollar	0.7836	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities			
Crude Oil	\$51.00	Silver	\$17.03
Gold	\$1300.30	Platinum	\$934.10
Copper	\$3.03	Wheat	\$431.75



## Coffee shops not doing enough to combat wasted cups

Coffee shops are not doing enough to deal with the billions of disposable cups that are thrown away in the UK each year, an influential committee of MPs has been told.

The environment audit committee heard that the 'phenomenal growth' of 'on the go coffee' meant that 2.5 billion disposable cups are thrown away annually in the UK, a number expected to rise to about three billion by 2025. Only one percent are recycled, according to The Guardian.

Committee chair Mary Creagh said this 'massive increase' was having a damaging environmental impact and insisted it was time the big coffee chains did more to address the waste they produce.

"These coffee shops have a big responsibility under the producer responsibility obligations to provide proper recycling facilities and they are in breach of them."

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## Forest grazing counteracts effectiveness of trees to reduce flooding

Planting trees can reduce flood risk, but a high intensity forest land use, such as grazing, can counteract the positive effect of the trees, a recently published study suggested.

As the frequency and severity of flooding becomes an increasing problem, land managers are turning to natural flood management measures, such as tree planting, to reduce the risk, phys.org wrote.

When rainfall exceeds the rate at which water can enter the soil it flows rapidly over the land's

surface into streams and rivers. Trees can help to reduce the risk of surface runoff by increasing the number of large pores in the soil through which water can drain more easily.

Land use, such as grazing, also affects the soil's ability to absorb water; however, while the effect of land use on surface runoff has been well studied in grasslands, little is known about the effect of land use in forests.

The study, undertaken by Lancaster University and the Center

for Ecology and Hydrology and published in the journal *Geoderma*, investigated the rate that water infiltrated the soil under trees at an experimental agroforestry site in Scotland.

Researchers found that infiltration rates were between ten and a hundred times higher under trees when the forested area remained relatively undisturbed, compared with adjacent pasture. Where sheep were allowed to graze under the trees there was no observable difference from the pasture.

They also compared forest types — conifer forest planted with Scots Pine and broadleaved forest planted with sycamore — and found that infiltration rates were significantly higher under Scots Pine than under sycamore, but only when the forest was ungrazed.

Using rainfall records the researchers were able to infer that a storm with a probability of occurring at least every two years would be very likely to generate surface runoff in the grazed forest at the field site. However, it was unlikely

to occur in the undisturbed forest areas, regardless of tree species, even during a 1 in 50 year storm.

Lead author Dr. Kathy Chandler said, "Previous studies have often compared largely undisturbed forested areas with land that is grazed or used to grow crops. This has led to the perception that trees always increase infiltration rates and, therefore, reduce the risk of surface runoff; however, this study shows that forest land use also plays an important role."

"Tree planting can make an important contribution to flood risk management, but forest buffer zones, with restricted access, strategically placed to intercept surface runoff before it reaches the stream may be more effective than larger scale planting when the forested areas are used for other purposes."

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 و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم



# Baby talk in any language: Shifting the timbre of our voices

When talking with their young infants, parents instinctively use "baby talk", a unique form of speech including exaggerated pitch contours and short, repetitive phrases.

Now, researchers reporting in Current Biology have found another unique feature of the way mothers talk to their babies: They shift the timbre of their voice in a rather specific way, sciencedaily.com reported.

The findings hold true regardless of a mother's native language.

Elise Piazza, from Princeton University, said, "We use timbre, the tone color or unique quality of a sound, all the time to distinguish people, animals, and instruments."

"We found that mothers alter this basic quality of their voices when speaking to infants, and they do so in a highly consistent way across many diverse languages."

"Timbre is the reason it's so easy to discern idiosyncratic voices — the famously velvety sound of Barry White, the nasal tone of Gilbert Gottfried, and the gravelly sound of Tom Waits — even if they're all singing the same note."

Piazza and her colleagues at the Princeton Baby Lab, including Marius Cătălin Jordan and Casey Lew-Williams, are generally interested in the way children learn to detect structure in the voices around them during early language acquisition.



cognitkids.com

In the new study, they decided to focus on the vocal cues that parents adjust during baby talk without even realizing they're doing it.

The researchers recorded 12 English-speaking mothers while they played with and read to their 7- to 12-month-old infants.

They also recorded those mothers while they spoke to another adult.

After quantifying each mother's unique vocal fingerprint using a concise measure of timbre, the researchers found that a computer could reliably tell the difference between

infant- and adult-directed speech.

In fact, using an approach called machine learning, the researchers found that a computer could learn to differentiate baby talk from normal speech based on just one second of speech data.

The researchers verified that those differences couldn't be explained by pitch or background noise.

The next question was whether those differences would hold true in mothers speaking other languages.

The researchers enlisted another group of 12 mothers who spoke nine

different languages, including Spanish, Russian, Polish, Hungarian, German, French, Hebrew, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

Remarkably, they found that the timbre shift observed in English-speaking mothers was highly consistent across those languages from around the world.

Piazza said, "The machine learning algorithm, when trained on English data alone, could immediately distinguish adult-directed from infant-directed speech in a test set of non-English recordings and vice versa when trained on non-English data, showing strong generalizability of this effect across languages."

"Thus, shifts in timbre between adult-directed and infant-directed speech may represent a universal form of communication that mothers implicitly use to engage their babies and support their language learning."

The researchers said the next step is to explore how the timbre shift helps infants in learning.

"They suspect that the unique timbre fingerprint could help babies learn to differentiate and direct their attention to their mother's voice from the time they are born."

And not worry, dads. While the study was done in mothers to keep the pitches more consistent across study participants, the researchers said it's likely the results will apply to fathers, too.

## 'Light therapy' may offer relief to patients with bipolar disorder

People afflicted with bipolar disorder may find some relief from depression with daily doses of light therapy, new research suggested.

With light therapy, people spend time sitting in close proximity to a light-emitting box — in this case, bright white light — with exposures increasing from 15 minutes per day to a full hour over a period of weeks, according to UPI.



verilux.com

The study found that within a month the therapy helped treat depression in people with bipolar disorder.

Lead researcher Dr. Dorothy Sit, who is associate professor of psychiatry at Northwestern University in Chicago, said, "Effective treatments for bipolar depression are very limited."

"This gives us a new treatment option for bipolar patients that we know gets us a robust response within four to six weeks."

According to the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, bipolar disorder is a brain and behavior disorder characterized by severe shifts in a person's mood and energy, making it difficult for the person to function.

Over 5.7 million Americans are thought to have the disorder, which often involves depressive episodes.

As Sit's team noted, prior research had shown that morning light therapy reduces symptoms of depression in people with seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, a condition where winter's reduced light spurts depression.

However, it's also been noted that light therapy can sometimes cause side effects, such as mania, in people with bipolar disorder.

Still, the Northwestern team wondered if the treatment might not have a role for bipolar patients with at least moderate depression who were also taking a mood stabilizer drug.

In the study, 46 patients received either a 7,000 lux bright white light or a 50 lux light that acted as the "placebo arm" of the trial.

The study participants were told to place the light box about one foot from their face for 15 minutes between noon and 2:30 p.m. each day at the start of the study.

Over six weeks, the patients increased their light therapy "doses" in 15-minute increments until they reached a dose of 60 minutes per day — or had a significant change in their mood.

Compared with people in the placebo group, those in the treatment group were more likely to have significant improvements, Sit's team said.

More than 68 percent of patients in the treatment group achieved a normal mood versus 22 percent of those in the placebo group, the findings showed.

Patients in the treatment group also had a much lower average depression score than those in the placebo group, and significantly higher functioning, meaning they could return to work or complete household tasks they hadn't been able to finish before treatment.

Significantly, none of the patients experienced mania or hypomania, a condition that includes a period of elation, euphoria, irritability, agitation, rapid speech, racing thoughts, a lack of focus and risk-taking behaviors.



UPI

Sit said, "As clinicians, we need to find treatments that avoid these side effects and allow for a nice, stable response."

"Treatment with bright light at midday can provide this."

Two psychiatrists agreed that the therapy may have merit for patients, who often have few options.

Dr. Seth Mandel, who directs psychiatry at Northwell Health's Huntington Hospital in Huntington, NY, said, "No standard antidepressants are approved for treatment of bipolar depression."

"Antipsychotics that are approved for bipolar disorder often come with side effects that cause many patients to stop using them."

"Light therapy offers us another option, one that certainly appears to do no harm."

"Patients with more severe symptoms weren't included in the Chicago study."

He also believes many people won't be able to adhere to the hour-long, daily dosage required.

Dr. Ami Baxi is a psychiatrist who directs adult inpatient services at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

She agreed that light therapy may be a welcome addition to our limited treatment options for bipolar depression.

The study was funded by the US National Institute of Mental Health and published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

## Eating dark chocolate lowers heart disease risk

Dark chocolate can lower your blood pressure.

The chocolate contains chemicals called flavanols, express.co.uk reported.

Flavanols are thought to widen blood vessels, meaning blood pressure is lowered.

The chemicals are found in cocoa products, including dark chocolate. Some fruit are also rich in flavanols, including apples, pears, grapes and blueberries.

Research has confirmed the link between dark chocolate and a lower risk of cardiovascular problems, including heart disease.

The average blood pressure reduction was about two to

three mmHg, a relatively modest amount, according to the National Health Service (NHS).

But, the small difference could have a positive effect on health when combined with regular exercise.

Although it's high in fat and calories, chocolate can be part of a healthy, balanced diet when eaten in moderation.

There is a balancing act between lowering blood pressure by eating the chocolate and the risk of obesity by eating too much.

High blood pressure — or hypertension — is estimated to affect one in four people in the UK.

In the UK, there are about



express.co.uk

seven million people living with the condition undiagnosed, according to the British Heart Foundation.

Vital organs are put under pressure with high blood pressure. That includes the brain, heart and kidneys.

Humans come in a range of colors and new research is getting a step closer to how that happens.

Newly identified gene variants tied to skin colors among Africans could offer insights into human evolution, upi.com wrote.

Researchers said, "The findings could also boost scientists' understanding of skin cancer and other conditions."

Study senior author Sarah Tishkoff, professor of genetics and biology at the University of Pennsylvania, said, "We have identified new genetic variants that contribute to the genetic basis of one of the most strikingly variable traits in modern humans."

Until now, only a few genes linked with normal variation in skin color have been pinpointed. Most of them have been found in studies of Europeans.

In this study, researchers assessed skin pigmentation and genetic data from nearly 1,600 ethnically and genetically diverse people in Africa.

Tishkoff said, "When people think of skin color in Africa, most would think of darker skin, but we show that within Africa there is a huge amount of variation, ranging from skin as light as some Asians to the darkest skin on a global

## Scientists spot genes behind skin color

level and everything in between.

"We identify genetic variants affecting these traits and show that mutations influencing light and dark skin have been around for a long time, since before the origin of modern humans."

"Skin color is a classic variable trait in humans and it's thought to be adaptive."

"Analysis of the genetic basis of variation in skin color sheds light on how adaptive traits evolve, including those that play a role in disease risk."

There are benefits to both light and dark skin. For example, darker skin is believed to help provide some protection against the Sun's ultraviolet rays.

Africans don't often develop the

deadliest skin cancer, melanoma, the researchers said.

On the other hand, lighter skin improves sunlight-triggered vitamin D in regions with lower amounts of sunlight, the study authors added.

Most of the skin color-linked genetic variants identified in the study appear to have originated more than 300,000 years ago.

Some emerged roughly one million years ago, well before the advent of modern humans, according to the report.

In many cases, older versions of these variants were associated with moderately pigmented skin, which suggested that our ancient ancestors had lighter rather

than darker skin.

She said, "If you were to shave a chimp, it has light pigmentation, so it makes sense that skin color in the ancestors of modern humans could have been relatively light."

"It is likely that when we lost the hair covering our bodies and moved from forests to the open savanna, we needed darker skin."

"Mutations influencing both light and dark skin have continued to evolve in humans, even within the past few thousand years."

She also said the study highlights the diversity of Africans and challenges biological notions of race.

She said, "Many of the genes and new genetic variants we identified to be associated with skin color may never have been found outside of Africa, because they are not as highly variable."

"There is so much diversity in Africa that's not often appreciated. There's no such thing as an African race."

"We show that skin color is extremely variable on the African continent and that it is still evolving."

"Further, in most cases the genetic variants associated with light skin arose in Africa."



UPI

## Scientists trace path of inland plastic pollution from rivers to ocean

The problem of plastic pollution in the ocean is much talked about. But where does all that garbage come from? How do plastics from inland cities make their way into the ocean?



pinterest.com

In setting out to answer those questions, a team of researchers decided to identify 10 rivers around the world where plastic waste mismanagement is most severe, UPI reported.

The scientists detailed the 10 biggest plastic polluters in a new paper published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*.

The myth of giant floating patches of garbage has sometimes overshadowed the reality of plastic pollution in the ocean.

There are garbage patches, but much of the debris consists of tiny plastic particles suspended in the ocean.

Until now, scientists didn't have a detailed understanding of how high concentrations of microplastics move from inland rivers downstream into the ocean.

The new study promises to fill in the knowledge gap and retrace the microplastic concentration patterns.

Scientists in Germany surveyed dozens of studies on plastic pollution, including data collected from 79 sampling sites along 57 rivers.

They discovered a strong link between poor plastic waste management practices and high concentrations of plastics in local waterways.

The analysis of Christian Schmidt — researcher at the Helmholtz-Center for Environmental Research in Leipzig — and his colleagues showed just 10 rivers are responsible for 88 to 95 percent of plastic pollution in the ocean. Eight of the 10 rivers are in Asia.

Cutting plastic pollution in the ten listed rivers could reduce plastic pollution in the ocean by as much as 45 percent.

Because collecting microplastic particles from the ocean is nearly impossible, researcher said the only ways to curb microplastic pollution is the stop it at its source and intercept it along its route to the ocean.

## Scientists study whale's blow hole microbes using drone

Scientists have for the first time surveyed the unique community of microorganisms — the microbiome — living inside the blow-hole of a humpback whale. They did so with the help of a six-rotor hexacopter.

Researchers with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) used a custom-built drone to collect blow samples, the moist breath exhaled by whales, from 17 humpbacks off the coast of Cape Cod and from nine humpbacks swimming near Canada's Vancouver Island, UPI wrote.



UPI

The scientists sequenced the genetic material found in the blow samples to identify the microbes living in each whale's respiratory tract.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) researcher John Durban said, "We were using the drone to take aerial images of the whales, so that we could assess body conditions."

"Because of the stable flight performance of our hexacopter, we quickly learned that we could reliably fly through whale blow without disturbing the animals."

The biologists involved in the study — published in the journal *mSystems* — believe a better understanding of the humpback's microbiome will help them monitor whale health.

WHOI researcher Amy Apprill said, "The pulmonary system is a common site for bacterial infections in whales."

"We see evidence of respiratory illnesses frequently in stranded and deceased animals."

"Until now, little has been known about the normal respiratory microbiome of healthy whales."

Microbe samples sequenced from the blow samples revealed a common, or core, microbiome shared by all 26 whales — a microbiome distinct from the microbial communities found in seawater.

Apprill said, "From this study, we have a good idea of what a normal, healthy whale microbiome looks like."

"Now we need to understand what the microbiome of an unhealthy whale looks like."

"This comparison is critical for health monitoring and disease detection."

Imagine super-fast computers that can solve problems much quicker than machines today.

These "quantum computers" are being developed in laboratories around the world. But scientists have already taken the next step, and are thinking about a light-based quantum Internet that will have to be just as fast, according to bbc.com.

It's not easy to develop technology for a device that hasn't technically been invented yet, but quantum communications is an attractive field of research because the technology will enable us to send messages that are much more secure.

There are several problems that will need to be solved in order to make a quantum Internet possible:

- Getting quantum computers to talk to each other.
- Making communications secure from hacking.
- Transmitting messages over long distances without losing parts of the message.
- Routing messages across a quantum network.

### What is a quantum computer?

A quantum computer is an ultra-fast computer that will be able to factor impossibly large numbers that the classical computers of today can't solve.

In conventional computers, the unit of information is called a "bit" and can have a value of either 1 or 0. But its equivalent in a quantum system — the qubit (quantum bit) — can be both 1 and 0 at the same time.

This phenomenon opens the door for multiple calculations to be performed simultaneously.

But the qubits need to be synchronized using a quantum effect known as entanglement, which Albert Einstein termed "spooky action at a distance."

There are four types of quantum computers currently being developed, which use:

- Light particles
- Trapped ions
- Superconducting qubits
- Nitrogen vacancy centers in diamonds

By being able to solve problems incredibly quickly, quantum computers will enable a multitude of useful applications, such as being able to model many variations of a chemical reaction to discover new medications; developing new imaging technologies for healthcare to better detect



Quantum encryption will make communications much more secure.

bbc.com

# How do you build the next-generation Internet?

problems in the body; or to speed up how we design batteries, new materials and flexible electronics.

### Pooling computing power

Quantum computers might be more powerful than classical computers, but some applications will require even more computing power than one quantum computer can provide on its own.

If you can get quantum devices to talk to each other, then you could connect several quantum computers together and pool their power to form one huge quantum computer.

However, since there are four different types of quantum computers being built today, they won't be all be able to talk to each other without some help.

Some scientists favor a quantum Internet based entirely on light particles (photons), while others believe that it would be easier to make quantum networks where light interacts with matter.

Joseph Fitzsimons, a principal investigator at the National University of Singapore's Center of Quantum Technologies, said, "Light is better for communications, but matter qubits are better for processing.

"You need both to make the network work to establish error correction of the signal, but it can be difficult to make them interact."

It is very expensive and difficult to store all information in photons, Fitzsimons said that is because photons can't see each other and pass straight by, rather than bouncing off each other.

more secure

One of the key applications of the quantum Internet will be quantum key distribution (QKD), whereby a secret key is generated using a pair of entangled photons, and is then used to encrypt information in a way that is impossible for a quantum computer to crack.

This technology already exists, and was first demonstrated



The video call between Austrian and Chinese scientists on September 29, 2017.

bbc.com

Instead, he believes it would be easier to use light for communications, while storing information using electrons or atoms (in matter).

### Quantum encryption

Quantum encryption will make communications much

in space by a team of researchers from the National University of Singapore and the University of Strathclyde, UK, in December 2015.

But it's not just the encryption that we will need to build in order to secure our information in the quantum future.

Scientists are also working

on 'blind quantum computer protocols', because they allow the user to hide anything they want on a computer.

Fitzsimons said, "You can write something, send it to a remote computer and the person who owns the computer can't tell anything about it at all except how long it took to run and how much memory it used."

"This is important because there likely won't be many quantum computers when they first appear, so people will want to remotely run programs on them, the way we do today in the cloud."

There are two different approaches to building quantum networks — a land-based network and a space-based network. Both methods work well for sending regular bits of data across the Internet today, but if we want to send data as qubits in the future, it is much more complicated.

To send particles of light (photons), we can use fiber optic cables in the ground.

However, the light signal deteriorates over long distances (a phenomenon known as "decoherence"), because fiber optics cables sometimes absorb photons.

It is possible to get around this by building 'repeater stations' every 50km.

These would essentially be miniature quantum laboratories that would try to repair the signal before sending it on to the next node in the network.

But this system would come with its own complexities.

### How does quantum key distribution work?

To understand how QKD works, let's go back to the video call made between the Austrian and Chinese scientists.

The Micius satellite used its light source to establish optical links with the ground stations in Austria and the ground stations in China.

It was then able to generate a quantum key.

The great thing about quantum encryption is you can detect whether someone has tried to intercept the message before it got to you, and how many people tried to access it.

Micius was able to tell that the encryption was secure and no one was eavesdropping on the video call.

It then gave the go ahead to encrypt the data using the secret key and transmit it over a public Internet channel.

## Mystery surrounding people of ancient Easter Island deepens



gjobotreks.com

The massive brooding stone figures peering from Easter Island's hillsides are emblematic of the enigmatic people who once thrived on the dot of land in the middle of the Pacific.

New genetic research only deepens the mystery around these people, Reuters.com reported.

Scientists said an analysis of DNA from ancient skeletal remains ruled out the likelihood that Easter Island's inhabitants intermixed with South Americans before the arrival of Europeans on the island in 1722.

A 2014 genetic study had indicated interbreeding between the people of Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, and native people in South America occurred roughly between 1300 and 1500.

The new research, studying the DNA of three Rapa Nui people from the 1400s and 1500s and two from the 1800s, found no evidence of such mingling.

The research underscored the isolation of these people, who lived on an outpost some 2,300 miles (3,700km) west of South America and 1,100 miles (1,770km) from the nearest island.

Archaeologist Cat Jarman of the University of Bristol in Britain said, "Our study shows that there is no simple scenario of population exchange and migration between Rapa Nui and the Americas as suggested by many archaeologists, historians, population geneticists and even

adventurers.

The study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, confirmed a growing body of evidence that Easter Island was settled by Polynesians who crossed the open ocean.

"We were surprised that we didn't find

any Native American admixture in our ancient Rapa Nui individuals."

The Rapa Nui people formed a unique culture best known for the 900 monumental head-and-torso stone statues known as moai erected around Easter Island. The culture flourished starting around 1200.

The study did not rule out some type of cultural contact between Easter Island and South America.

Jarman added, "However, if it did take place, the new evidence suggested that it was infrequent or, at least, that it did not leave a discernible genetic trace."

University of California-Santa Cruz anthropologist Lars Fehren-Schmitz said evidence like the presence of sweet potatoes, a South American staple, in Polynesia indicates some cultural exchange occurred between the Americas and Polynesia before the impact of European colonization.

Fehren-Schmitz added, "Many researchers suggest Rapa Nui as kind of the best point of contact because it is closest to South America, but an exchange could have also been initiated on other islands, if it happened."



# Up to 100 million girls unprotected against child marriage

Over 20,000 girls are married before the age of 18 every day around the world as countries continue to lack legal protections, according to a new study.

Concerned over the lack of progress, Save the Children and the World Bank teamed up to research child marriage laws around the world and found a dismal picture, Ipsnews noted.

Globally, even in countries that restrict the practice, almost eight million girls are married illegally under the age of 18 each year, making up 60 percent of child marriages.

"It is such a critical issue for young girls around the world...but also for her future family and health of her children later as well," said President and CEO of Save the Children Carolyn Miles.

Marriage often has irreversible impacts on child brides who are at greater risk of poor health outcomes, living in poverty, and dropping out of school.

In fact, loss of access to education appears to be both a cause and consequence of child marriage.

Around the world, 32 million primary school and 29 million lower-secondary school-aged girls are out of school. Such girls are more likely to be married as children, Miles noted.

"For girls, being in school is a protective mechanism really," she said.

Girls who marry also often forced to leave school, and many find it difficult to return after marriage due to social pressure, domestic responsibilities, and even government policies.

In Tanzania, schools are allowed to expel or exclude students who are married or become pregnant.

By undermining their basic rights to



panews.net

education, girls' life opportunities become limited, creating a domino effect that impacts the well-being of societies at large.

Some nations have made progress towards ending child marriage, including Mexico, Nepal, and Zimbabwe, all of which either raised the minimum age for marriage or eliminated exceptions to the practice.

However, many countries still allow girls to be married before 18 with parental or judicial consent while others still retain a lower legal age for marriage.

Bangladesh, for example, recently passed a law to allow girls below 18 to be married in 'special cases', setting back progress towards ending child marriage.

While stories of child marriage are commonly associated with the Global South, countries like the US are also

guilty of the practice.

Across all 50 states, marriage before the age of 18 has remained legal as some lack any minimum marital age while others allow exceptions such as parental and judicial consent.

Most recently, New Hampshire rejected a bill to increase the age of marriage from 13 to 18 while New Jersey vetoed a ban on marriage under the age of 18.

When considering parental and judicial exceptions, Save the Children and the World Bank found that close to 100 million girls around the world are not legally protected against child marriage.

The organizations also found that two-thirds of all child marriages take place even in countries where the practice is banned, indicating a lack of enforcement of marriage laws.

Bangladesh, despite having set a

minimum age of 18, has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world with 65 percent of girls married before the age of 18.

West and Central Africa sees 1.7 million illegal child marriages every year, making it one of the highest proportions globally.

Legal reforms alone are therefore not enough to end the harmful practice, Miles said.

"It's about trying to change the local customs or belief that it's okay for a girl to be married," she noted.

"Yes, we need laws and yes, we need laws that aren't going to be circumvented, but we also need to change beliefs and these underlying issues," Miles continued.

Among such laws is a legal age of 18 for marriage and the elimination of parental and judicial exceptions.

The report also highlighted the need for countries to adopt clear interventions to delay marriage and to increase investment in the poorest and most marginalized girls in areas such as safe, accessible, affordable, and quality education.

Efforts are also needed to address discrimination and social norms that prevent girls from attending school and limit their future opportunities.

"Investing in such interventions, documenting their impacts, and implementing a broad range of gender transformative policies will all be key to ensuring a better future both for girls and countries as a whole," the report concluded.

The globally adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognizes the harmful practice and includes a target to eliminate child marriage by 2030.

## Immigration crackdown interfering with domestic violence cases

The crackdown on immigration may be preventing victims of domestic violence from reporting incidents to police or participating in the prosecution of those charged, Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

"I have heard that has directly impacted the number of reports to the police," including victims failing to show up in court or failing to show up on return dates for orders of protection, McMahon said this week during his monthly news briefing, according to chicagotribune.com.



huffingtonpost.com

He added, "That makes it difficult to achieve justice for the direct victim and the victim in general, our community."

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and McMahon invited representatives from the county's two domestic violence shelters — The Community Crisis Center in Elgin and Mutual Ground in Aurora — to talk about efforts to bring domestic violence awareness to their communities, providing safe havens for victims and treatment for offenders.

"It is a constant. It crosses all socioeconomic boundaries — our most rural and urban areas in Aurora and Elgin, the Tri-Cities and in the other part of the county," McMahon said.

Kane County prosecutes 1,150 to 1,250 misdemeanor domestic violence cases each year, McMahon said. He said the number of felony domestic violence cases is harder to track.

There was a time that domestic violence wasn't prosecuted as aggressively — partially because the victims may have been reluctant to testify or recanted, he added.

While domestic violence murder cases are rare here, it shows "how serious domestic violence is and how it can turn in an instance for somebody who wants to end a relationship and wants a better life for themselves and their children," McMahon said.

"There is a lot we have learned over the years," about the why of domestic violence, he said.

"Domestic violence is a crime of power, it is a crime of intimidation and it is a crime of emotion," he said.

"It is a belief by men that women are inferior and that they can control them through verbal and physical abuse and too often it ends in tragedy," McMahon concluded.

While women and men can be victims of domestic violence, women are most often the victims, said Maureen Manning, director of client services at the crisis center.

"From 85 percent to 95 percent of the time, the domestic violence we are talking about is perpetrated by male versus a female," she said.

The remaining 15 percent to 5 percent includes female against male, Manning said.

The data show that one in four women and one in seven men can experience some level of domestic violence, said Michelle Meyer, executive director at Mutual Ground.

## Ninety children taken into care each day in UK

Ninety children are being taken into care every day in England and Wales and it's claimed social workers are 'firefighting' the most serious cases late into the night.

Professor Ray Jones, who works in social services improvement, said staff fear children slip through the net as they try to keep up with rising pressures, BBC reported.

Latest government figures show 32,810 children were taken into care in 2017.

Ministers said extra money was being targeted towards improving services.

The total number of children in care is a record 72,670 — up three percent on 2016.

Council bosses, who are responsible for child protection services, said it's the biggest rise in seven years.

The Local Government Association, which is taking part in a conference on care services in Bournemouth, said it comes as children's services face a £2 billion a year funding gap by 2020.

Professor Jones said: "What I am hearing from social workers is that they are having to spend most of the time 'firefighting' with the most serious concerns that get presented to them.

"They are spending a lot of time, including late into the night and at weekends, preparing for court proceedings.

"They are also having to close down work very quickly where the child is not an immediate concern.

"The consequence of that is the considerable stress they feel over concerns that they may be missing something."

He added: "Secondly, something that social workers are telling me is that they are closing down cases very quickly or even turning them away.

"And they are not able to work through potential cases where children are unhappy and distressed, because they are having to concentrate on cases where there is an immediate danger."

But the figures continue a longer trend of rising numbers of children facing severe need in terms of child protection.

Richard Watts, chairman of the LGA's children and young people board, said: "Children's services are at a tipping point with growing demand for support combining with ongoing council funding pressures to become unsustainable.

"Last year saw the biggest rise in the number of children in care for seven years.

"With 90 children coming into care every day, our calls for urgent funding to support these children and invest in children and their families are becoming increasingly urgent."

Robert Goodwill, minister for children and families, said councils would receive more than £200 billion for local services, including children's social care, up to 2020.

## Parents hear warnings of what teens face today

The average teenager sends 3,741 texts per month. Two billion people, or one in three people worldwide, are on Facebook. And 700 million people post photos to Instagram each month.

Those were statistics shared by Pamela Casey, district attorney for Blount County, with a group of parents of children in Auburn City Schools. Casey gave a presentation about the dangers posed by social media applications at the Auburn University Alumni Center, on Oct. 10.

"I think parents are sometimes oblivious to what their children are doing on their phones," said Casey, who is serving her second consecutive term as district attorney.

"And it's not just phones; it is their iPod and their iPad. Parents might say, 'My kid doesn't have a cellphone.' But they've



frododo.com

got that connection."

Casey spoke to the crowd of parents about cases where predators used messaging apps, such as Kik and Omegle, to lure teens and children to meet them. She educated parents on apps such as Photo Vault and Audio Manager that allow

users to hide photos and messages on their phones. And she taught them what they can do to help protect their children from social media dangers. Precautions include adjusting settings to disallow app downloads unless they are first approved by parents.

"I have a middle schooler," said Catherine Edwards, a parent of children in the Auburn City Schools system.

"Technology is advancing so quickly, and I get overwhelmed as a parent. "My child's phone is on a plan where they can't download any apps without us approving them first," she continued.

"So I was glad to hear that if we're doing that, at least we're on top of things. But in no way do I think that's where we stop being aware and at least keep learning."

Lee County District Attorney Brandon Hughes, who introduced Casey before she spoke, said he and his wife have the passwords to their children's social media accounts.

"We realized texting isn't the only way they can message. Instagram has a messaging

feature," he said.

"Kids are going to stay one step ahead of their parents. That's why kids aren't on Facebook much anymore. If the kids go somewhere, parents follow. Then, somebody comes up with something else, and that's where the kids go."

Casey has traveled across Alabama to educate parents and students about the dangers of social media. She also has discussed the subject on CBS' national programs and ABC's "Good Morning America."

"To me, it's important to spread the word," she said, adding parents are "hungry" for information because they didn't grow up with a cellphone. "I believe that if you can save one child, or one parent picks up the phone and finds an app that could have led to something with their child, then it's worth it every time I come to speak."

## China lifting 800m people out of poverty is historic

China lifting more than 800 million people out of poverty since the start of its economic reform is a great story in human history, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said today, underlining that there is 'lessons to be learned' from this Chinese experience.

"This is one of the great stories in human history, frankly," Kim told reporters at the start of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

According to india.com, starting in 1990 with the evolution of the Chinese economic system and its embrace of the global market China has lifted over 800 million out of poverty, he said.

"So, most of the progress that's been made in going from 40 percent of the world living in extreme poverty to now less than 10 percent...most of that

progress happened in China.

"So, we're always looking for the lessons from that experience and it continues," Kim said in response to a question.

The World Bank, he said, has been working very closely with China on things like ensuring that some of the more distant regions in China are also getting access to social services and healthcare.

"It is working right now on a pilot project on healthcare system. If it works out it could lead to a major change in the healthcare system that would help to improve outcomes overall," he said.

"So, this effort has been historic. I think we're still trying to understand exactly how 800 million people were lifted out of poverty, but it was one of the great successes."



chinadaily.com

The World Bank chief, however, refrained from responding to questions on the upcoming congress of China's ruling Communist Party.

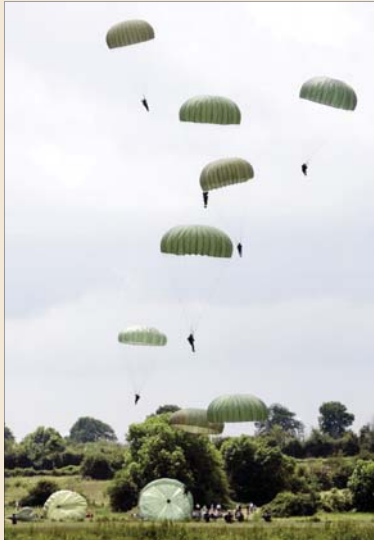
"These are internal Chinese political matters. But I think China was pretty clear about the direction it's going," he noted.



## Battiest weapons and craziest conflicts



GETTY  
The Australians fought a battle against emus after farmers complained they were destroying their crops.



Reuters  
Dolls were attached to mini parachutes to fool the Germans into thinking they were paratroopers.



PA  
The bats had bombs attached to their legs.

Think war is crazy? You wouldn't be wrong...

There have been more stupid conflicts for daffier reasons than you could imagine, not to mention peculiar plans, eccentric events and strange coincidences.

Author Benedict Le Vay picked some of the wacky war stories from his book and told of the bizarre creatures who fought, [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) wrote.

### The Great Emu War

In the 1930s, the military might of Australia took on an apparently easy-to-define enemy: The emu.

Farmers — mostly veterans of the World War I who had been encouraged to settle in Western Australia, just in time for the Great Depression to slash prices for their produce — were desperate and pleaded for drastic government action to deal the emus

savaging their crops.

Given that the emu cannot fly, has no commanders, is generally unarmed and untrained, and an easy target at six feet tall, and that the soldiers were armed with Lewis guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition, it should have been no contest.

In fact, the emu was the clear victor. Only a few were hit, and carried on being pests, tearing holes in fencing so whole regiments of rabbits could join in on their side. The Army retreated, humiliated after two failed campaigns.

### Paradupers

Not all the D-Day allied paratroopers dropped onto France were quite as they seemed. Some were mini-men dolls, with smaller parachutes, to fool Germans — you can't tell from the ground.

They had firecrackers attached that went

off when they landed to start apparent firefights with which the Germans obligingly joined in, while urgently calling HQ to warn that the invasion was on — in the wrong place.

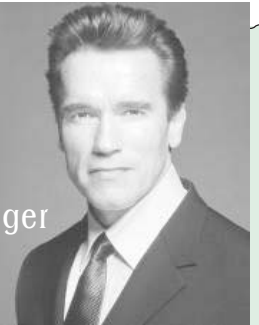
### Bat bombs

The US military developed a strange program in World War II to drop bat bombs over Japan. Each bomb would contain thousands of live bats to be released close to the ground.

The bats would carry tiny incendiary bombs strapped to their legs and, come daybreak, roost in nooks and crannies of the paper and wood houses of the Japanese cities.

The plan was coming along when one of the canisters burst open at a US air base in New Mexico. The creatures fled to roost in dark places around the base — including fuel tanks and ammunition stores. Boom!

## Arnold Schwarzenegger quotes



Arnold Schwarzenegger, arguably, is the best bodybuilder of all time. He's a powerful source of motivation and has had a positive effect on many people's lives.

Everything he has, has come from building himself a great body: The movie roles, money, American citizenship, confidence, governor of California. It all started with focusing simply on building his body.

There's a lot of knowledge stored within Schwarzenegger and this list of greatest Arnold Schwarzenegger quotes clearly show that.

Positive thinking can be contagious. Being surrounded by winners helps you develop into a winner.

Be hungry for success, hungry to make your mark, hungry to be seen and heard and to have an effect. And as you move up and become successful, make sure also to be hungry for helping others.

Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.

The resistance that you fight physically in the gym and the resistance that you fight in life can only build a strong character.

What is the point of being on this Earth if you are going to be

like everyone else?

Just like in bodybuilding, failure is also a necessary experience for growth in our own lives, for if we're never tested to our limits, how will we know how strong we really are? How will we ever grow?

For me, life is continuously being hungry. The meaning of life is not simply to exist, to survive, but to move ahead, to go up, to achieve, to conquer.

Help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that while public service improves the lives and the

that you can do something, you can do it, as long as you really believe 100 percent.

If you don't find the time, if you don't do the work, you don't get the results.

If you want to turn a vision into reality, you have to give 100 percent and never stop believing in your dream.

If you don't find the time, if you don't do the work, you don't get the results.

The more knowledge you have, the more you're free to rely on your instincts.



I knew I was a winner back in the late sixties. I knew I was destined for great things. People will say that kind of thinking is totally immodest. I agree. Modesty is not a word that applies to me in any way — I hope it never will.

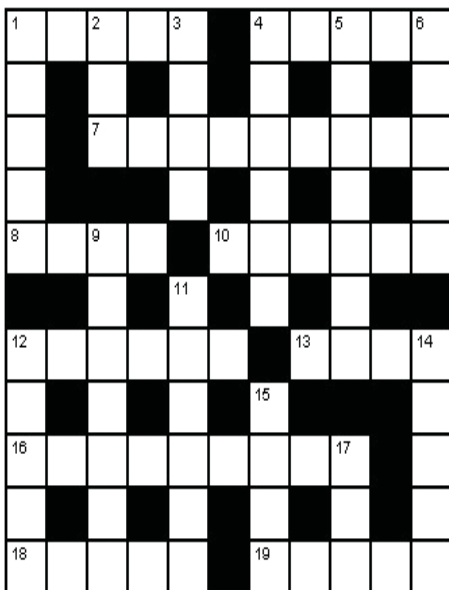
I do the same exercises I did 50 years ago and they still work. I eat the same food I ate 50 years ago and it still works.

If it's hard to remember, it'll be difficult to forget.

Life may be full of pain but that's not an excuse to give up.

Money doesn't make you happy. I now have \$50 million but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million.

### Quick Crossword



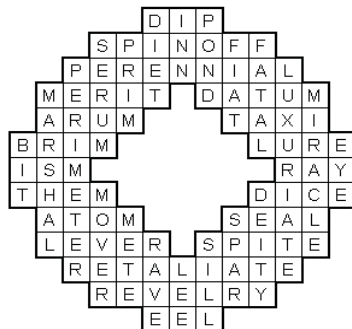
### DOWN

- Journal (5)
- Menagerie (3)
- World's longest river (4)
- Secret or hidden (6)
- Bustling (7)
- Abated (5)
- Placed a bet (7)
- Thinner (6)
- Consumed (5)
- Proficient (5)
- Female relative (4)
- Part of a circle (3)

### ACROSS

- Twelve (5)
- Hoard (5)
- Unaware (9)
- Gape (4)
- Wore away (6)
- Birds of prey (6)
- Notion (4)
- Large spider (9)
- The lowest point of anything (5)
- Implied (5)

### Thursday's solution



### Sudoku

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Khwarazmi. Fill 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid, contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

		1			7	3		
6	4				5		1	
	3							8
7				9		4		
		4				8		
		9		8				1
9							8	
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# Iran extends winning streak with Costa Rica romp

## Sports Desk

Iran finished its group-stage campaign at FIFA U-17 World Cup in Goa, India, in style as the Asian side clinched a comfortable 3-0 victory over Costa Rica to win the Group C of the competition.

Beating Guinea and Germany 3-1 and 4-0 earlier in the group, Iran went into the fixture against the Central Americans at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday, needing only a draw to claim the top spot of the group.

Iranian wonderkid Younes Delfi was brought down twice in the 18-yard box to convince the referee to point to the spot on both occasions.

Captain Mohammad Ghobeishavi opened the scoring with his spot-kick on 25 minutes before Taha Shariati emulated his skipper with a penalty finish of his own four minutes later.

Iran cruised through the second half before adding a third goal just before the final whistle through substitute Mohammad Sardari.

The only disappointment for Iran was a second yellow card of the competition for Ghobeishavi, which will rule him out of their Round of 16 match.



Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (L) of Iran battles with Fernan Faerron of Costa Rica during the FIFA U-17 World Cup Group C match in Goa, India, on October 13, 2017.

## Nadal, Federer reach semis in Shanghai



REUTERS

Top seeds Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer remain on course to meet in Shanghai Masters after reaching the last four on Friday.

World number one Nadal beat Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 to register his 15th consecutive win and will face fourth seed Marin Cilic in the semis, BBC reported.

The Spaniard is chasing a tour-leading seventh title this season, and beat Dimitrov for the second time in

a week following his semifinal victory at the China Open.

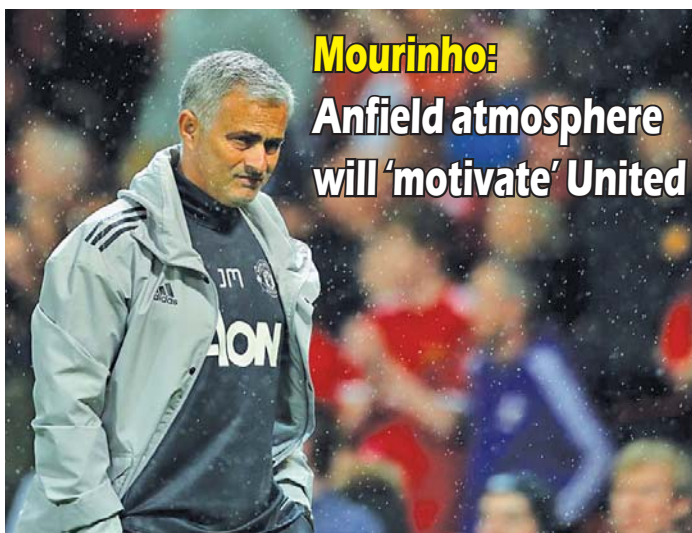
"It was a very tough match," said Nadal.

"I think both of us played at a very high level of tennis. The conditions, of course, have been different today than my two previous matches. I think [it was] a great battle between two players who are playing all the time very focused, very intense points all the time."

Meanwhile, Federer managed to outmuscle France's Richard Gasquet (7-5, 6-4) in an entertaining match.

Federer took some time to find his rhythm, particularly on serve, but managed to seal victory in one hour and 19 minutes.

He will face 16th seed Juan Martin Del Potro after the Argentine overcame an injury scare to beat Victor Troicki 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the quarters.



GETTY IMAGES

## Mourinho: Anfield atmosphere will 'motivate' United

Jose Mourinho insisted there is nothing Liverpool fans can do to make Anfield intimidating for his Manchester United players later today.

Phil Neville said this week that a trip to Anfield is the "ultimate test" for a United player while Mikael Silvestre warned the current squad to prepare for "hell". ESPN reported.

Mourinho, though, insists his players will "enjoy" whatever the 55,000 Liverpool fans can throw at them.

He told a news conference on Friday, "You know this is quite funny for me because I think when people speak about big atmospheres, it looks like we don't like, it looks like it's a problem for us to go to a certain place and to face a big atmosphere - this is what we want."

"I am surprised that you speak about that in a negative way, I am even more surprised when I hear former, big players speak about atmospheres like something sinister, something that worries."

"It motivates us, it is something that we want, it is something that we could have every match we would have every match."

"We are speaking about Old Trafford, in this case Anfield like it's a big problem, it's a satisfaction, that's what we want."

"I never see a player complain 'oh, this atmosphere was very strong' - we complain when the atmosphere is flat. "When we play at home and we don't see big enthusiasm in the peo-

ple, we complain."

"So we go to where we want to go, we go to play against a big team with a big tradition in an amazing stadium with great tradition."

"We know that the fans have huge animosity against Manchester United historically, but this is what we want so we are very happy to have one more opportunity in our careers to play in this beautiful conditions. It's beautiful to play at Anfield. Beautiful."

Mourinho confirmed he will be without Michael Carrick for the game but Romelu Lukaku is expected to start after shaking off an ankle injury.

Marouane Fellaini and Paul Pogba are set to miss out with knee and

hamstring injuries, respectively.

United is looking to maintain its impressive start to the season and keep pace at the top of the table with Manchester City, which faces Stoke City at the Etihad Stadium today.

Mourinho added, "It's just one more match, could be the first, could be the eighth or ninth or the last one. "Probably, if it was the last, maybe it would decide something important but October for me is just another match."

"I understand the tradition, the emotions around the supporters but I look at it in a professional way."

"What I try to tell my players from the beginning of the season is every match is important, there are no easy matches, there are no matches you prepare more carefully than others, so if I try this mentality I am not going to say this match is more important than others."

### Coutinho, Firmino fit to play

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he was "not happy" to see midfielder and club captain Jordan Henderson play for England after the national team had already achieved World Cup qualification.

Henderson started for England in Sunday's match in Lithuania despite Gareth Southgate's side booking its place in Russia for next summer three days earlier by beating Slovenia at Wembley.

Klopp told a news conference on Friday ahead of today's Premier League clash against Manchester United at Anfield, "I was not happy Hendo was on the pitch [against Lithuania] when they had already qualified."

Liverpool will be without forward Sadio Mane for around six weeks after the Senegal international suffered an injury while on international duty, but he is confident that Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino will be fit to face United in the lunchtime kickoff despite only returning from Brazil on Thursday.

## Barca game not a political protest, says Atletico president

Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo wants the club's fans to avoid turning tonight's game with Barcelona into a political demonstration following weeks of rising tensions between the Spanish government and Catalonia.

Catalan club Barca visits the Spanish capital for the first time since a banned vote on independence from Spain took place in Catalonia on October 1, Reuters reported.

Barca decided that day to play its game with Las Palmas at the Nou Camp behind closed doors to show opposition to police violence against voters, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said at the time.

The Frente Atletico (Atletico Front) supporters' group have called for a mass display of Spain flags in the Wanda Metropolitano stadium for the visit of Barca.

Yet the game has not been classified as a high-risk event by the Spanish football federation as no Barcelona fans will be present due to a disagreement between the two clubs over a ticket allocation.

"I want the game to be played with the same sporting spirit as always against Barcelona, Saturday's game is not a political demonstration, it's a game of football," Cerezo said in an interview with radio station Onda

Cero on Friday.

"Atletico won the league in the Nou Camp (in 2014) and the whole stadium applauded us, we can't forget that."

Barcelona is the only team that Diego Simeone has been unable to beat in La Liga since he took over Atletico in 2011 and transformed the club's fortunes.

He has failed to win in 11 league encounters between the teams, although his side has twice eliminated the Catalans in the Champions League.

"They've always scored one goal more than us, they've been decisive in the key moments and they are a very good team," Simeone told a news conference ahead of the game.

"We have been stronger in the Champions League and I hope tomorrow we can overcome this obstacle."

Barca has a 100 per cent record in the league and in Europe this season and lead the standings by five points over nearest challengers Sevilla. They are six points clear of Atletico in fourth.

"They are one of the best teams in the world, right now I'd say Real Madrid are slightly better, but they have reinvented themselves very quickly after the departure of Neymar and their players never tire of winning," added the Argentine coach.

## Bright future awaits five-star Iran



GETTY IMAGES

If you heard that only one nation had qualified for five men's FIFA tournaments in 2016 and 2017, chances are you would guess it was Brazil, Germany or another of the game's global superpowers.

In fact, Iran hold that unique and impressive distinction, having reached the senior World Cup as well as FIFA's U-20 and U-17 finals, and its futsal and beach soccer showpieces.

Nor have the Asian giant been satisfied simply with taking part, as fifa.com discovered.

### FIFA World Cup Russia 2018

Played 18, lost none. That was the remarkable record that propelled Carlos Queiroz's team to Russia 2018, and ensured that Iran became the first Asian side to qualify. Iran sealed its place with two games to spare and is now looking forward to a fifth World Cup, having previously participated in the 1978, 1998, 2006 and 2014 editions. Queiroz is not content simply to be joining the party though. "My goal and dream is to get to the knockout stage," he said. "We should not be satisfied with the first round. We need to be ambitious. We need to think big. We will not go to Russia as tourists."

### FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017

Although Iran qualified for India 2017 by reaching the final AFC U-16 Championship, few would have expected the impact the Asian side has made thus far.

The Asian side topped the Group C of the competition and booked a place in the knockout stages, having beaten Guinea 3-1 and inflicted a stunning 4-0 defeat on Germany before outclassing Costa Rica 3-0 on the final

day of the group phase.

The Germans' coach, Christian Wuck, praised his side's conquerors afterward, saying, "Iran played a great match. They are mentally a very good team."

### FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017

Iran's U-20 campaign looked set for success too when it opened its campaign in Korea with an impressive 1-0 win over Costa Rica.

And while Iran was ultimately edged out by Portugal and Zambia for a place in the last 16, midfielder Omid Nourafkan vowed that the tournament would help prepare the Iranians for challenges in the senior ranks.

"The level of the experience we've got here is not comparable to anything we've had," Nourafkan said.

"This event will greatly assist and help us."

### FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Bahamas 2017

Having qualified for Bahamas 2017 by retaining the Asian title, Iran proceeded to make history by finishing third at the global finals.

That represented the highest-ever finish by an Asian side at the Beach Soccer World Cup, with Mexico, Switzerland and Italy all beaten en route to the podium.

### FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016

Another tournament, another bronze medal and another best-ever finish for Iran.

Mohammad Nazem-al-Sharia's side qualified as Asian champion and emerged as one of the tournament's major success stories, stunning record champion Brazil in the Round of 16 on the way to finishing third.



## Art & Culture

### Iranian writer Vafi to receive LiBeratur Prize in Frankfurt Book Fair

Compiled from Dispatches

Iranian author Fariba Vafi is to receive the LiBeratur Prize — a literary honor that is presented by the Litprom Association in Frankfurt, Germany at Frankfurt Book Fair today.

She received the prize for her second novel 'Tarlan' which was translated into German by Jutta Himmelreich, Mehr News Agency reported.

"The book was published by Markaz Publications in Iran about 14 years ago. It was translated into German about two years ago. I just came to know from the official website of the



Litprom Association that my book won the prize," said Vafi.

Published by Sujet Publications in Germany in 2015, the book is about a young girl, Tarlan, who dreams of becoming a writer but she chooses to attend the Police Academy.

LiBeratur Prize is awarded annually to inform about literary developments and trends in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

'Litprom' is a non-governmental cooperation that works in collaboration with Frankfurt Book Fair and receives financial support from the German government. It chooses the best works published in Asia, Africa and Latin America each year for translation into German and introduces them to German-speaking audiences to make them acquainted with those works.

Vafi's first short story collection 'In the Depth of the Stage' was published by Cheshmeh Publishers in 1996. Her second work 'Even While We Are Laughing' was published by Markaz Publications in the fall of 1999. In 2002 Markaz published Vafi's first novel 'My Bird' which received Golshiri and Yalda awards and has had twenty one printings.

It was translated into English by Syracuse University Press in 2009, into Italian by Ponte 33 in 2010, into German in 2012 by Rotbuch Verlag and into Kurdish in 2011 and into Turkish in 2016.

Her second novel 'Tarlan', published by Markaz Publications in 2004, was translated into German by Sujet Verlag in 2015. Her novel 'The Dream of Tibet' received the Hooshang Golshiri Literary Award for 'Best Novel'. Her novel 'The Secret in the Alleys' was published in 2008 and was translated into French by Zalma in 2011 and also into Norwegian.

Her third collection 'On the Way of Villa' was published by Cheshmeh Publications in 2008. 'The Moon Becomes Full' is her other novel which was published in 2011 and in the same year she published her short story collection 'All the Horizons'.

Her last novel 'After the End' was published in 2014 while her last short story collection 'Without Wind Without Oars' was published in 2016. Some of her stories were translated into English, Italian, Turkish, Russian, Swedish, Japanese and Arabic.

### Iran, Turkey news agencies to broaden cooperation

Iran and Turkey highlighted the need to expand ties in media affairs.

In a meeting between Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian-Fard and Managing Director of Anadolu Agency Shonali Ganguly, the two sides also examined ways to expand cooperation at bilateral, regional and international levels, wrote IRNA.

Noting that bilateral relations have entered a new phase following Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent trip to Iran, Taherian-Fard pointed to cooperation between the two sides on Syrian peace talks in Astana as well as common stances and exchange of views on the recent referendum on Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches importance to expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations and also cooperation on regional developments, he said.

Ganguly said close media cooperation can help expand relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Turkish people have a positive attitude towards Iran and a large number of tourists visit tourism and cultural sites in the two countries each year, he said.

# IRAN DAILY

License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 Managing Director: Sadreddin Mousavi  
 Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji  
 Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88755761-2  
 Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761869  
 Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 885521954, +98 21 88748900  
 ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 5  
 Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 8850067- irandaily@iranagahiha.com  
 Website: http://www.irandailyonline.ir  
 Email: irandaily@icpi.ir  
 Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Add: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

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## Three Iranian films nominated for APSA

Compiled from Dispatches

Three Iranian films have been nominated for prizes at the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA).

Mohammad Rasoulof's 'A Man of Integrity' (Lerd) will compete for Best Feature Film award, Navid Mohammadzadeh for Best Performance by an Actor and 'The Skier' by Ferioudoun Najafi for Best Youth Feature Film.

Rasoulof's film will compete with Vivian Qu's 'Angels Wear White' (Jia Nian Hua, China, France), Samuel Maoz's 'Fox Trot' (Israel, Germany, France and Switzerland), Sergei Loznitsa's 'A Gentle Creature' (Krotkaya; France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands), and Warwick Thornton's 'Sweet Country' (Australia). For the first time in the event's history, three of these extraordinary filmmakers had earlier won Asia Pacific Screen Awards: Vivien Qu ('Black Coal and Thin Ice', 2014), Samuel Maoz (Lebanon, 2010), Warwick Thornton ('Samsen and Dellalah', 2009). Additionally, Mohammad Rasoulof's 'Goodbye', received three nominations in 2011.

Mohammadzadeh (playing role in 'No Date, No Signature') and actors from the Philippines, Japan, India and Palestine will compete for Best Performance by an Actor. Nominated are Paolo Ballesteros for 'Die Beautiful' (the Philippines), Koji Yakusho for 'The Third Murder' (Sandome no Satsujin, Japan) and Rajkumar Rao for 'Newton' (India).

Father and son actors share the final nominations as the APSA International Nominations Council were unable to

separate the performances of Mohammad Bakri and Saleh Bakri. Both nominated for 'Wajibi' (Duty; Palestine, Colombia, France, Germany, Norway, Qatar, the UAE) because each were integral to the other. This is the second nomination for Mohammad Bakri following his 2009 nomination for 'Eid Milad Laila' (Laila's Birthday), while his other son Adam Bakri was also nominated in 2013 for Hany Abu Assad's APSA Best Feature Film winner 'Omari'.

'Big Big World' (Koca Dünya), by Reha Erden, 'Jasper Jones' by Rachel Perkins, 'The Seen and Unseen' (Sekala

which encompasses the films judged by two International Juries, films from Australia, Japan and China lead the nomination tally with six each.

Thornton's 'Sweet Country' (Australia) received three nominations in total. As well as Best Feature Film, the film also received nominations for Achievement in Cinematography (the father and son team of Warwick Thornton and Dylan River) and Best Screenplay (David Tranter and Steven McGregor). Warwick Thornton's 'Samsen and Dellalah' won the APSA for Best Feature Film award in 2009 and is the only Australian film ever to win in this category.

Hirokazu Kore-eda's film 'The Third Murder' (Sandome no Satsujin, Japan) is also nominated for three APSAs in 2017. A Japanese auteur and APSA Academy member, Kore-eda is nominated for Achievement in Directing and Best Screenplay, and eminent performer Koji Yakusho is nominated for Best



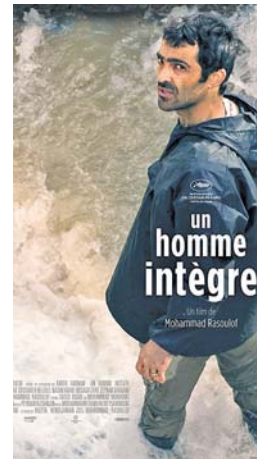
A scene from 'The Skier' (Niskala) by Kamila Andini. 'The Summer is Gone' (Ba Yue), by Zhang Dalei will participate in Best Youth Feature Film category.



Navid Mohammadzadeh acting in 'No Date, No Signature'.

feature categories by Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, together with former APSA International Jury President Lord David Puttnam, member of the APSA 2017 Nominations Council Kiki Fung and Chair of APSA and its Academy Michael Hawkins.

In all, 41 films from 21 countries and areas of the Asia Pacific region have received nominations in 2017, including the



'Lerd' Performance by an Actor.

Kore-eda has previously received APSA nominations for his films 'I Wish' (Kisaki) in 2009 and 'Like Father, Like Son' (Soshite Chichi Ni Naru) in 2013.

Also receiving three nominations is 'Scary Mother' (Sashishi Deda; Georgia, Estonia), nominated for Achievement in Directing (Ana Urushadze), Achievement in Cinematography (Mindia Esadze) and Best Performance by an Actress (Nata Murvanidze).

The APSA Cultural Diversity Award under the patronage of UNESCO is an award which represents the shared common goals of APSA and UNESCO, to promote diversity of cultural expression and raise awareness of the value of culture at local, national and international levels.

The nominees in this prestigious and important Award are: 'Centaur' (Kyrgyzstan, France, Germany, Japan, and Netherlands), 'Dede' (Georgia, Croatia, the Netherlands, Qatar, and United Kingdom), 'Die Beautiful' (The Philippines) 'Honeygiver among the Dogs' (Munmo Tashi Khyidron, Bhutan) and 'Lady of the Lake' (Loktak Lairembee, India).



Iranian artist Sadeq Hemmati is showcasing his works in an exhibition titled 'Alterity' at Tehran's A Gallery until October 17, 2017.



### Weather



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