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Muslims worldwide mark Ashura

IRNA

Millions of Muslims across the world attended ceremonies to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Shias' third Imam, Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions.

The occasion, known as Ashura, marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussein and 72 of his companions in 680 AD, in a land that is known today as Iraq, after they refused to pledge allegiance to the tyrant Yazid.

Ashura is the culmination of a 10-day annual mourning period in the lunar month of Muharram for the third Imam of Shia Muslims, who was a grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Press TV reported.

The rituals are observed in ultimate magnificence in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, the latter of which hosts Imam Hussein's holy shrine.

On Sunday, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims traveling from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Lebanon and many other countries, descended on Karbala, with officials putting their number at three million.

An Iraqi TV channel said authorities had created a security belt around the holy city to protect it from possible terrorist attacks. In the past, Daesh and other Takfiri groups have targeted the pilgrims on their way to Karbala, or carried out bombings inside the city.

Across Iran, millions of mourners started the processions shortly after sunrise, lining up in coordinated and orderly bands of pas-

sion plays and recitations of elegies which continued until the afternoon.

Sunni Muslims in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Sistan-Baluchestan, as well as devotees of other faiths such as Armenians, joined Shia mourners distributing free food (nazri) in a show of solidarity.

Ashura is also an occasion for unity when Iranians of all ethnic backgrounds, including Azerbaijanis, Arabs, Kurds, Lors, Baluchis and Turkmen, commemorate it in their local languages and dialects.

On Saturday, huge masses in Iran and other countries such as Pakistan and Yemen held mourning rituals on the ninth day of Muharram to mark Tasu'a, the ninth day of the lunar month.

In Iran, devotees in cities, towns

and villages across the country listened to elegies recounting the indescribably tragic events in the Battle of Karbala, in which Imam Hussein and some members of his family and his companions were brutally massacred.

More than 5,000 people marched through the center of Sydney, slapping their chests in a sign of grief. A procession of mourners marched down Wilmslow Road in Rusholme, south Manchester, joining other devotees across the world to mark the occasion.

The Battle of Karbala, between a small group of supporters and relatives of Imam Hussein and a larger military detachment from the forces of the Umayyad caliph, represents the war as one between good and evil.

Hezbollah says Israel pushing region to war

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement accused Israeli regime on Sunday of pushing the region to war in Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, and said nowhere in Israel would be safe if such a conflict were to erupt.

Tensions have risen this year between Hezbollah and its arch enemy Israel, which last fought a major conflict in 2006. Israel has said it would use all its strength from the start in any new war with Hezbollah, Reuters reported.

In a speech to followers, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the Israeli regime did not have "a correct assessment of where this war will lead if they ignite it", and did not know how it would end.

"They do not have a correct picture about what is awaiting them if they go to the idiocy of this war," Nasrallah said.

Israel does not know where such a conflict would be fought, or who would take part, he added.

Nasrallah said earlier this year that a future Israeli war against Syria or Lebanon could draw thousands of fighters from countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Pakistan, and could take place inside Israel.

Nasrallah was speaking on Sunday on the occasion of Ashura, when Shias commemorate the anniversary martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, at Karbala in 680.

He called on Jews who immigrated to Israel to leave and return to the countries from which they came so they are not fuel for any war that the Israeli regime takes them to.

Were war to erupt, he said, they might not have long to leave. "They will have no secure place in occupied Palestine," he said.

Nasrallah also said the battle against Daesh terrorist group must continue in every place to eliminate it.



Canada police investigate "terror attack" in Edmonton

Police find Daesh flag

An attack on a police officer outside a football game with a car and knife and a high-speed chase of a moving van that left four people injured in the western city of Edmonton, Alberta, are being investigated as acts of terrorism, Canadian authorities said early Sunday.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht said officers took a suspect into custody and they think he acted alone. Knecht said a Daesh terrorist group flag was found in the car that hit the officer. They later described him as a 30-year-old Edmonton man. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called it a terror attack, AP reported.

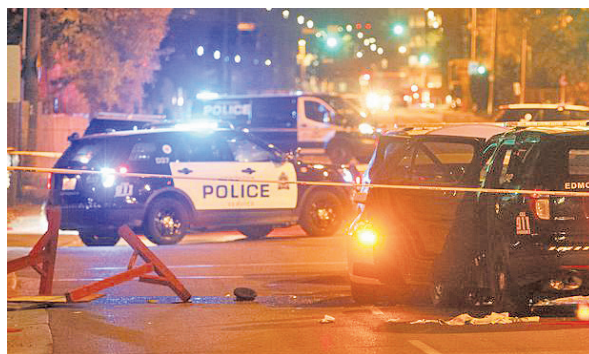
The attack began outside a Canadian Football League game at Commonwealth Stadium on Saturday night when police say a white Chevrolet Malibu rammed a traffic control barricade and sent an officer flying 15 feet into the air. Knecht said the driver, believed to be 30 years old, then got out and attacked the officer with a knife before fleeing on foot.

The officer was taken to a hospital and treated for non-life-threatening injuries while a manhunt was launched. "It's not critical," Knecht said of the officer's condition. A few hours later, a U-Haul van was

stopped at an impaired driving checkpoint north of downtown, on Wayne Gretzky Drive. Knecht said the name of the driver was close to the name of the registered owner of the car that hit the officer.

He said the van then sped off toward downtown with police in pursuit.

Police say the vehicle swerved at pedestrians at crosswalks throughout the chase. Four people were hurt, but the ex-



Canada police investigate the scene where a car crashed into a roadblock in Edmonton on September 30, 2017.

tent of their injuries was not immediately known.

The van eventually flipped near a downtown hotel and a suspect was arrested. Knecht said the man was known to police but did not release his name.

"It is believed at this time that these two incidents are related," Knecht said. "It was determined that these incidents are being investigated as acts of terrorism."

Germany: Withdrawal from JCPOA to undermine Washington's credibility

Germany said Sunday that going back on a nuclear deal with Iran signed by former US President Barack Obama would risk undermining Washington's credibility in negotiating with North Korea.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel in a statement also welcomed US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's announcement that he was "probing" opportunities for dialogue with North Korea about its nuclear program and called for Washington to take a similar step with Iran, Reuters reported.

In 2015, Tehran agreed to restrict its nuclear program in return for the lifting of economic sanctions. But US President Donald Trump has called the deal "an embarrassment" and Washington said last month it was weighing whether to pull out of it.

Germany, one of the few Western countries with a permanent embassy in Pyongyang, has advocated peaceful approaches to de-escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula and criticized some of Trump's more bellicose rhetoric regarding the potential nuclear flash-



REUTERS

point.

"This is exactly the right direction. North Korea would be well advised to take this offer of talks seriously," Gabriel said on Sunday of Tillerson's announcement.

He added: "I would like to see a similar offer for Iran. If the US canceled its nuclear deal with Iran, that would undermine the credibility of its offer to North Korea."

Continued on Page 2

Violence erupts as police try to stop Catalonia referendum

Spanish riot police burst into polling stations across Catalonia on Sunday, confiscating ballot boxes and voting papers to try to halt a banned referendum on a split from Spain as Madrid asserted its authority over the rebel region.

them at any polling station not closed down by police.

Elsewhere, people were not able to access the ballot boxes. In a town in Girona Province where Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont was due to vote, Civil Guard police smashed glass



AP

Police broke down doors to force entry into voting stations as defiant Catalans shouted "Out with the occupying forces!" and sang the anthem of the wealthy northeastern region. In one incident in Barcelona, police fired rubber projectiles, Reuters reported.

Catalan officials said 337 people had been injured in the police crackdown. Officers in riot gear hit people with batons and forcibly removed would-be voters, including women and the elderly, from polling stations.

The referendum, declared illegal by Spain's central government, has thrown the country into its worst constitutional crisis in decades and deepened a centuries-old rift between Madrid and Barcelona.

Despite the police action, hundreds-strong queues of people formed in cities and villages throughout the region to cast their votes. At one Barcelona polling station, elderly people and those with children entered first.

The ballot will have no legal status as it has been blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court and Madrid for being at odds with the 1978 Constitution.

A minority of around 40 percent of Catalans support independence, polls show, although a majority want to hold a referendum on the issue. The region of 7.5 million people has an economy larger than that of Portugal.

Organizers had asked voters to turn out before dawn, hoping for large crowds to be the world's first image of voting day.

"This is a great opportunity. I've waited 80 years for this," said 92-year-old Ramon Jordana, a former taxi driver waiting to vote in Sant Pere de Torello, a town in the foothills of the Pyrenees and a pro-independence bastion.

The Catalan government said voters could print out ballot papers at home and lodge

panels to open the door and search for ballot boxes. Puigdemont voted in a different town in the province. He accused Spain of unjustified violence in stopping the vote and said it created a dreadful image of Spain.

"The unjustified, disproportionate and irresponsible violence of the Spanish state today [Sunday] has not only failed to stop Catalans' desire to vote... but has helped to clarify all the doubts we had to resolve today," he said. The Madrid government said 11 police officers were injured in the clashes.

Nicola Sturgeon, the pro-independence leader of Scotland, which voted to remain part of the United Kingdom in a 2014 referendum, said she was concerned by the images she was seeing from Catalonia.

"Regardless of views on independence, we should all condemn the scenes being witnessed and call on Spain to change course before someone is seriously hurt," she said on Twitter.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel tweeted: "Violence can never be the answer! We condemn all forms of violence and reaffirm our call for political dialogue."

Around 70 polling stations had been raided by police, Spanish Interior Minister Juan Ignacio Zoido said. The aim of the raids was to seize referendum material and not to target people wanting to vote, another senior government official said.

Spain's Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria said police had acted in a proportionate manner.

Puigdemont originally said that if the "yes" vote won, the Catalan government would declare independence within 48 hours, but regional leaders have since acknowledged Madrid's crackdown has undermined the vote.

Iran bans oil product shipments to Iraqi Kurdistan

Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development has warned companies against shipment of oil products to and from the Iraqi Kurdistan "until further notice," Iranian news agencies reported on Saturday.

The decision is in line with Tehran's series of measures in response to a referendum held in the semi-autonomous region on possible secession from Iraq which has drawn international criticism, Press TV reported.

Official results showed 92.73 percent of voters backed the secession. Turnout was put at 72.61 percent.

"Given the recent developments in the region, it is suitable that international transportation companies and drivers active in this field avoid loading and carrying oil products to and from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region until further notice," a directive by the ministry's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization said.

"It should be noted that the consequences of any action in this regard would befall the relevant company," it added.

The transportation is mostly carried out by tanker trucks which take crude oil from the Iraqi Kurdistan to Iran and carry back refined products to the region.

The Iraqi Kurdistan is one of Iran's major trade partners, with annual transactions running to \$4 billion a year.

Iran's first concrete reaction to the plebiscite came on last Sunday when the country halted flights to northern Iraq and closed its airspace to flights originating in the Kurdish region.

The Islamic Republic has rejected the referendum and asserted its support for Iraq's sovereignty over the entire country, including territories run by the regional Kurdish government.

Major regional and international parties have voiced serious concern over the secessionist move, saying it would compound the problems of the country, which is already busy with counterterrorism operations against Daesh terrorists.

Joint military drills

In line with Tehran's policy to support Baghdad's central government, Iran and Iraq will also hold joint military exercises along their border with the Kurdistan region in the coming days, a senior Iranian military commander said.

"The joint maneuver, [dubbed] Eqtedar (Strength), will be held by Iran's Armed Forces and units of the Iraqi Army along the two countries' joint borders," Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri said.

In defiance of Iraq's stiff opposition, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) held a non-binding referendum on September 25 on secession from the central government in Baghdad.

Jazayeri also said high-ranking commanders of Iran's Armed Forces held a meeting, chaired by Chairman of the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, on Saturday to discuss the Iraqi government's official requests from Tehran in the wake of the referendum.

He added that the meeting was "in line with the declared policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran to help safeguard Iraq's solidarity and territorial integrity and following a request by the central Iraqi government for cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of the central government's authority on the two countries' border terminals."

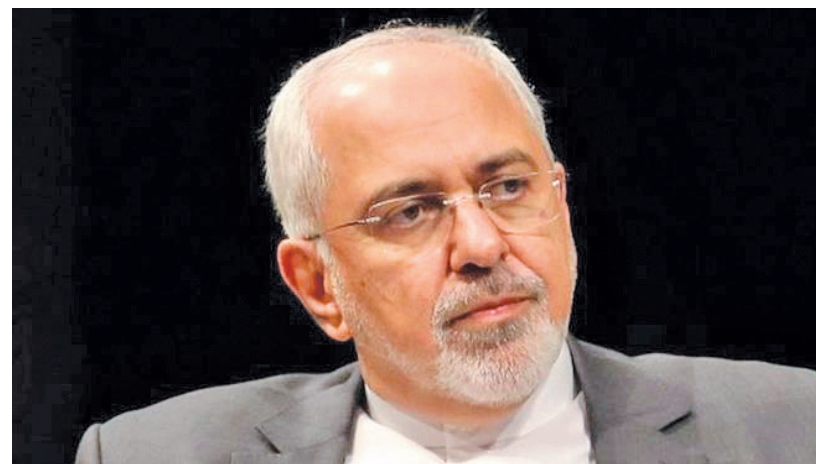
Jazayeri emphasized that participants at the meeting once again stressed the importance of safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and voiced their opposition to the "illegal" referendum held in the northern Kurdistan region.

They also adopted the "necessary decisions to establish security along borders and receive forces of the Iraqi central government for deployment at border posts," he added.

FM urges Europe to defy US if Trump sinks nuclear deal

Zarif tells Guardian

'Europe should lead' to keep deal intact



REUTERS

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called on Europe to defy US sanctions if the Trump administration torpedoed the international nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Zarif warned that if Europe followed Washington's lead, the deal would collapse and Iran would emerge with more advanced nuclear technology than before the agreement was reached in Vienna in 2015. However, he insisted that technology would not be used to make weapons, in line with Tehran's obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In an interview published on Saturday by Britain's Guardian newspaper and the Financial Times, Zarif said the only way Iran would be persuaded to continue to observe the limits on its civil nuclear program would be if the other signatories – the UK, France, Germany, Russia, China – all remained committed to its terms and defied any subsequent US sanctions.

"Europe should lead," Zarif said in the interview.

The Iranian foreign minister said he expected Trump to carry through his threat not to certify Iranian compliance in a State Department report to Congress on 15 October. Congress would then have 60 days to reimpose sanctions suspended under the deal.

"I think he has made a policy of being unpredictable, and now he's turning that into being unreliable as well," Zarif said. "My assumption and guess is that he will not certify and then will allow Congress to take the decision."

Trump has said he has already made his decision but has not told anyone outside his immediate circle. He refused to tell British Prime Minister Theresa May when she asked him at a bilateral meeting at the UN last week, despite the fact that the UK is a close ally and a fellow signatory to the agreement.

End of the deal?

Zarif warned that US abrogation of the deal would backfire on Washington, saying that Iran would resume uranium enrichment and other elements of its nuclear program at a more advanced level than before.

"The deal allowed Iran to continue its research and development. So we have improved our technological base," he said. "If we decide to walk away from the deal, we would be walking away with better technology. It will always be peaceful because membership of the NPT is not dependent on this deal. But we will not observe the limitations that were agreed on as part of the bargain in this deal."

He added that "walking away" from the deal was just one option under consideration in Tehran.

"There are other options and those options will depend on how the rest of the international community deal with the United States," he said. "If Europe and Japan and Russia and China decided to go along with the United States, then I think that will be the end of the deal."

However, Zarif pointed out that in a previous era of high tensions between Washington and Tehran – when the US adopted sanctions legislation aimed at punishing European companies for doing business in Iran – Europe had resisted and sought to insulate its firms from US sanc-

tures against the US if the US went ahead with imposing restrictions. And it has been suggested by many that might be the course of action that Europe wants to take."

A 1996 regulation adopted by the EU gave Europeans protection against the application of US sanctions at the time, including the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act passed in the same year. The law could be revived and expanded to cover any new US sanctions.

Following a ministerial meeting on the deal at the UN last week, the EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, stressed that all the signatories, including the US, had agreed that Iran was in

In the wake of the Vienna agreement, however, Europe would have to go further than defying US sanctions. It would have to ignore UN measures as well. Under "snap-back" provisions in the agreement, the US alone could trigger the resumption of UN sanctions, as the provisions allow any participant in the deal to call a Security Council vote on a resolution on whether to continue with sanctions relief – a vote the US can veto.

The clause was designed to stop any country from shielding Iran if it broke the agreement. The negotiators did not anticipate it being used by a government to break the deal even while all other parties were in compliance.

Such an extraordinary situation would put enormous strain on transatlantic ties, argued Jarrett Blanc, the former US State Department coordinator for the implementation of the Vienna agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Europe would thus be faced with a choice between a crime under international law and what it considers to be a policy mistake," Blanc wrote in a commentary published by Reuters. "In either case, Europe would be justifiably furious about being forced to choose between two important, deeply held policies – adherence to Security Council resolutions and implementation of the JCPOA."

The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has confirmed that Iran is abiding by the terms of the agreement, as have the other signatories to the deal. The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, warned that US abrogation would damage its long-term credibility.

"It makes sense to me that our holding up agreements that we have signed, unless there's a material breach, would have an impact on others' willingness to sign agreements," Dunford told Congress this week.

Trump and his top officials have claimed that Iran is in violation of a line in the preface to the agreement that says the signatories anticipate the deal would contribute to regional peace and security. In his interview, Zarif rejected that reasoning.

"Even without being fully implemented, it has contributed because the region has one less issue to deal with. So it was already contributing to regional stability," he said. "If anything, it has been the reaction of US allies in the region – who from the beginning didn't like the deal, and since the deal have done everything to undermine the deal – that have exacerbated tensions in the region."



FILE - Group picture taken at the UN building in Vienna after Iran and six major world powers reached a nuclear deal.

REUTERS

tions.

"In the 1990s they didn't just ignore it," Zarif said. "Europe, the EU, has legislation on the books that would protect EU businesses and adopt counter-meas-

ures against the US if the US went ahead with imposing restrictions. And it has been suggested by many that might be the course of action that Europe wants to take."

compliance with its obligations under the terms of the agreement, and stressed that Europe would do everything possible to keep the deal alive, even in the event of US withdrawal.

Germany: Withdrawal from JCPOA to undermine...

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The US said on Saturday it was directly communicating with North Korea on its nuclear and missile programs but Pyongyang had shown no interest in dialogue.

The disclosure by US secretary of state during a trip to China represented the first time he has spoken to such an extent about US outreach to North Korea over its pursuit of a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile.

"We are probing so stay tuned," Tillerson told a group of reporters in Beijing.

"We ask: 'Would you like to talk? We have lines of communications to Pyongyang. We're not in a dark situation, a blackout."

He said that communication was happening directly and cited two or three US channels open to Pyongyang.

"We can talk to them. We do talk to them," he said, without elaborating about which Americans were involved in those contacts or how frequent or substantive they were.

The goal of any initial dialogue would be simple: finding out directly from North Korea what it wants to discuss.

"We haven't even gotten that far yet," he said.

Trying to tamp down expectations, the State Department said later there were no signs Pyongyang was interested in talks.

Tillerson's remarks followed a day of meetings in

Beijing, which has been alarmed by recent exchanges of war-like threats and personal insults between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi

NOTE

Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company



Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Greenfield Ahwaz Airport Development Project
Planning, Design, Finance, and Construction Services
on Build-Lease-Transfer (BLT) Basis

Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company is seeking to identify Respondents interested in responding to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to provide planning, design, finance and construction services for the Greenfield Ahwaz Airport Development Project on BLT basis.

Respondents interested in performing the above mentioned services are encouraged to complete a Statement of Qualification (SOQ) in response to the RFQ #1396 AAD available on the Authority's website at <https://tenders.airport.ir>. The completed SOQs will be used to prequalify Respondents for receipt of Request for Proposals (RFP) for the performance of the subject services. If you have any technical problems accessing the RFQ documents online, email us at tenders@airport.ir or call (+98 21) 63148566 for assistance. Your email should include the RFQ#1396AAD, your firm name, email address, contact person, mailing address and telephone number.

SOQs are due by 1:00 p.m. local time on December 23, 2017. Submissions must have the RFQ number and full Respondent name clearly indicated on the outside package.

Send your SOQ to: Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, Airport Operation Department, Meraj Street, Mehrabad International Airport, Tehran, Iran

Erdogan: Turkey no longer needs EU membership but won't quit talks

Turkey no longer needs to join the European Union but will not unilaterally abandon the stalled EU accession talks, President Tayyip Erdogan told parliament on Sunday.

"We will not be the side which gives up. To tell the truth, we don't need EU membership anymore," Erdogan said, Reuters reported.

Turkey's 12-year-long accession talks have ground to a halt, with the EU especially critical of Ankara's crackdown following a failed coup last year. Tens of thousands of people including teachers and journalists have been detained.

Erdogan's government says EU states failed to appreciate the gravity of the threat which Turkey faced, and did not respond to requests to extradite coup suspects.

"The EU failed us in a fight against terrorism," Erdogan said on Sunday, though he also suggested the bloc still needed Turkey.

"If the EU is going to leap forward, there is only one way to do so. And it is to grant Turkey membership and start an action of cultural and economic growth," Erdogan said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an election debate last month it was clear Turkey should not join the EU and entry talks should end, despite it being a crucial NATO ally.



ekathimerini.com

Bangladesh to move 15,000 Rohingya from tribal district

Bangladesh is to move to a camp at least 15,000 Rohingya refugees who have settled in a restive hill district near the border with Myanmar, a local official said Sunday.

Most of the estimated half a million Rohingya who have arrived in south-eastern Bangladesh over the last five weeks after fleeing violence in Myanmar are crammed into the camps that have sprung up on government land, AFP wrote.

Banik said the government would begin moving them on Monday to "ensure peace in the hill district".

Bangladesh has opened its borders to the Rohingya, who are denied citizenship in their native Myanmar.

But it has not granted them official refugee status and has made clear it does not want them to remain indefinitely.

Authorities have restricted the movement of the refugees, banning them from leaving the overcrowded camp areas



meetsmedia.com

But thousands of the mainly Muslim refugees have settled in the nearby district of Bandarban, part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where indigenous tribes waged a separatist insurgency in the 1980s and 1990s.

Bangladesh authorities fear their presence could revive communal tensions between the local Muslim population and the tribal minority, who are mainly Buddhist.

"The government has now decided to shift all 15,000 newly arrived Rohingya to the main camp," Bandarban government administrator Dilip Kumar Banik said.

where hundreds of thousands are living in desperate conditions with inadequate shelter.

Banik said the government also wanted to move around 12,000 Rohingya who are stranded in the nearby no-man's land between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Tribal groups ended their separatist insurgency in 1997 and signed a peace treaty with the government.

But tensions persist between the local Muslim population and the tribal groups, who have close ties with the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists accused of carrying out attacks on Rohingya in Myanmar.

Report: 3,000 killed in Syria in September

More than 3,000 people, including nearly 1,000 civilians, have been killed during the past month of foreign-sponsored militancy in Syria, making September the deadliest so far this year.

According to a report published by the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Sun-

since September 2014, without any authorization whatsoever from the Damascus government or a UN mandate. The military alliance has repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians.

It has also been largely incapable of fulfilling its declared aim of destroying Daesh.

the Takfiri Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham groups, and 550 members of the armed opposition groups and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a US-backed group of Kurdish and Arab forces.

The report added that the number of people killed in September was higher due to increased



sputniknews.com

day, 955 civilians, including 207 children, had lost their lives largely by militancy or bombardment conducted by warplanes of the US-led military coalition since the beginning of September, Press TV wrote.

The so-called coalition of 68 countries has been carrying out airstrikes against what are said to be targets belonging to the Daesh terrorist group inside the Arab country

Earlier this year, the observatory said in a report that a total of 42,234 documented airstrikes in the country had resulted in a minimum estimate of some 7,000 civilian deaths by the US-led coalition between 2014 and 2017.

The UK-based monitoring group said in its Sunday report that the toll also included 790 government troops and popular defense groups, 738 terrorists from Daesh and

fighting and "intensified" aerial aggression of the US-led coalition in the north and east of Syria.

On September 12, the Russian military announced that the Syrian government had managed to liberate 85 percent of the country from the grips of terrorist groups, some two years after Moscow began a counterterrorism campaign in Syria at the official request of Damascus.

Yemen Houthis shoot down US surveillance drone

Yemen's Houthi forces shot down a US surveillance drone in the capital Sanaa on Sunday, the state news agency SABA reported.

The Houthi movement and former president Ali Abdullah Saleh control much of northern Yemen, including Sanaa, and are battling a Saudi-led coalition that has been bombing the impoverished nation since March 2015.

The United States backs the Saudi-led coalition by providing it with intelligence and weapons, Reuters reported.

"A military source said (Houthi) air defense shot down a US MQ-9 surveillance drone in the Jader area, in Sanaa Province," SABA reported.

A Reuters photographer said the drone



People gather around the engine of a drone aircraft which the Yemeni forces said they have downed in Sanaa on October 1, 2017.

came down at around 11 a.m. local time in a crowded area on the outskirts of the capital, but there were no reports of any casualties.

The charred wreckage of the aircraft was carried out by the Houthis aboard a Toyota pickup truck.

The Bahrain-based US Fifth Fleet did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

More than 10,000 people have been killed since Saudi Arabia and its allies began their aggression against Yemen.

The war has caused a humanitarian disaster in the country, where more than two million people have been displaced while around 750,000 are suspected to have been infected with cholera.

OPINION

New mission of Europe's Iron Lady

By Hossein Ziaei*

Almost no political expert could have ever predicted that the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) would be able to win 12.6 percent of the vote in last week's parliamentary elections.

The result of the elections seems to have added new challenges to Germany which is considered the largest economy in Europe.

Matthias Muller, Volkswagen's chief, described the AfD as "extreme right and anti-foreigner", and its success as "shocking".

Chancellor Angela Merkel's Chief of Staff Peter Altmaier also voiced serious concern about the prolongation of establishing a coalition government.

Besides, the victory of the German far-right party has drawn various reactions from across the globe.

Such reactions stem from concerns about a rise of instability in European political arena.

Presently, far-right and extremist groups are walking on air.

France's far-right leader Marine Le Pen has hailed the victory of her counterparts in Germany. This comes as the expulsion of migrants from Europe has always been the first goal of far-right parties across the Green Continent.

The mission of Angela Merkel, Europe's Iron Lady, besides facing economic and political challenges, is also thwarting the threats that far-right groups could pose to the country and the continent.

*Hossein Ziaei is a journalist

Police: Two dead in Marseille train station knife attack

A man armed with a knife killed two people at the main train station in the Mediterranean port city of Marseille on Sunday before being shot by soldiers patrolling there, local officials said.

"Two victims have been stabbed to death," regional police chief Olivier de Mazieres said, referring to the attack which occurred at 1:45 pm (1145 GMT), AFP wrote.

Local prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux said the knifeman had been shot by soldiers, while the Marseille police urged people in the city to avoid the area around Saint-Charles station.

The deaths came with France still on high alert following a string of terror attacks which began in January 2015 when gunmen stormed the offices of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, killing 12.

The government has since launched Operation Sentinelle, deploying about 7,000 troops across the country to guard high-risk areas such as transport hubs, tourist sites and religious buildings.

The attacks since 2015 have left 239 people dead, according to an AFP count before Sunday's incident.

Tunisia rescues 140 migrants off its coast

The Tunisian Navy rescued 98 Tunisians fleeing to Europe when their boat started to sink off Kerkenah on the southeast coast late on Saturday, the National Guard said.

Separately, the army said it had arrested 43 illegal migrants rescued from four boats off Zarzis, also on the southeast coast, according to Reuters.



akhbareyaom.com

Tunisia has been praised for its democratic progress after a 2011 uprising against autocrat Zine el-Abidine ben Ali, but successive governments have failed to create jobs for young people, some of whom head illegally toward Europe to seek work.

Tunisia arrested about 550 Tunisian and African migrants trying to sail to Europe in September, against only 170 in August, official data showed on Thursday.

Human traffickers increasingly use Tunisia as a launch pad for migrants heading for Europe as Libya's Coast Guard, aided by armed groups, has tightened controls.

"The water leaked to a boat carrying 98 migrants, when it was sinking, but the naval guard rescued them off the coast of Kerkenah," said Colonel Major Khelifa Chibani of Tunisia's National Guard.

O P I N I O N

Iran's raw materials, attractive for foreign investments

By Fatih Karimov

Iran has huge reserves of mineral and hydrocarbon resources that have made the country to an attractive market for foreign investors.

Proven oil reserves in Iran, according to its government, are the fourth-largest in the world with approximately 158 billion barrels as of 2013. The country is also the world's biggest gas reserve holder (33.5 trillion cubic meters or 18 percent of the total).

The Islamic Republic is among the 10 major mineral-rich countries. It possesses seven percent of the world's total mineral deposits with about 68 kinds of commercially valued minerals, including gold reserves. The volume of Iran's minerals is estimated at 57 billion tons.



IRNA

Such reserves present a unique opportunity for the country's development, but they can also be seen as a negative factor, if the administration is encouraged to gain huge money through sales of raw materials.

A look at the list of Iran's top exports indicates that raw materials make up a dominant share its non-oil export basket. Gas condensates, propane, butane and some other raw oil products — which Iran puts in the non-oil exports basket — made the country's top exported goods in the five months from March 21.

The government tries to benefit from the removal of the international sanctions, attracting foreign investments to form a more diverse and globally competitive economy and safeguard the economy against future shocks and restrictions.

However the country can make its raw material reserves an opportunity to attract foreign investors. Mining and mineral industries are suitable grounds for attracting investment and Iran has defined projects worth some \$30 billion in mining and mineral industries such as steel, copper, aluminum and gold, according to local officials.

Foreign investors are also well-aware of the Iranian mineral market's benefits. A visiting French official involved in plastic industry, who attended the Iran Plast Exhibition in Tehran, described the abundant raw materials as the main reason for the interest of the Europeans in cooperating with Iran in this sphere.

There is a brilliant path ahead of the Iranian administration, to revise its regional policies, expand cooperation with the globe, to gain trust of the foreigners for investment, in order to revive the country's sanction-hit economy.

Tehran, Baku review goods, passenger transit

Iranian and Azerbaijani officials discussed issues pertaining to transportation of commodities and passengers between the two neighboring countries.

Head of Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization for Transit and International Transportation Reza Nafisi and his Azerbaijani counterpart Habib Hassanov met in Baku on Friday to examine the problems faced by the two countries in the transit of goods and passengers, IRNA reported.



ISNA

They also discussed the current situation of international road transportation between Iran and Azerbaijan Republic and also development of transit relations in the future.

The officials further called for creating transit corridors and using the international Green Card System.

An International Motor Insurance Card System is an arrangement between authorities and insurance organizations of multiple states to ensure that victims of road traffic accidents do not suffer from the fact that injuries or damage sustained by them were caused by a visiting motorist rather than a motorist resident in the same country.



Azar, Azadegan joint oilfields have stabilized production: Report

Domestic Economy Desk

Production from Azar and Azadegan joint oilfields have stabilized with the implementation of development plans.

According to an IRNA report, Azar oilfield currently produces 30,000 barrels per day (bpd) while production from Azadegan oilfield has increased by 22,000 bpd with the launching 14 new oil wells. The two oilfields are shared with Iraq.

During the tenure of 11th government (2013-17), Iran closed the production gap from South Pars Gas Field

with Qatar by concentrating on the development of incomplete phases.

Azar oilfield in Ilam Province has pumped over 4.5 million barrels of crude oil since it went into operation and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has drilled over 176,000 meters of oil wells in the field.

The report further said that NIOC also has plans to drill seven wells to raise production to 65,000 bpd.

Azar oilfield will produce annually 100,000 barrels of crude oil once the second phase of its development plan is completed.

The project will be implemented within the frame-

work of Iran Petroleum Contract in cooperation with foreign companies including Russia's Gazprom Neft.

The report also shows that Azadegan oilfield, which is considered as Iran's largest oilfield, has stabilized its daily production to 83,000 barrels.

NIOC has drilled 54 wells to attain the current level of production in Azadegan oilfield, in Khuzestan Province, which holds 33 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves.

Based on the report, the development projects of Azadegan oilfield will start under IPC framework in the near future.

US unable to ban Iran's oil exports: Platts

If the US reimposes sanctions on Iran's oil sector without support from Europe, China and Russia, it will see grudging and uneven compliance by international energy companies and will not be able to stop crude flows that returned to the market in 2015, said a sanctions expert.

Elizabeth Rosenberg, the director of energy economics and security program at the Center for New American Security and a former Treasury Department adviser on sanctions told S&P Global Platts' Capitol Crude podcast, "Grudging compliance does not look like robust, immediate information sharing to support the enforcement of sanctions."

"In that world, sanctions are leaky, they're not so strong and they will be revealed to Iran and the world to be not an effective tool of statecraft and there will be myriad opportunities for opportunistic business people — and confused business people — to find ways of continuing the business that they have in place."

The possibility of the US going it alone on reimposing Iran sanctions has increased since President Donald Trump is widely expected to not certify Iran's compliance in the 2015 nuclear deal before Congress' October 15 deadline.

Rosenberg said Trump is understood to have certified Iranian compliance twice before 'under duress' and has made clear to staff that he would not do so again.

mediately.

Rosenberg said the move would damage US economic leverage at a time when it needs major Iranian crude buyers on board for other diplo-

all kinds of jurisdictions precisely to avoid constraints on their activity ... it will be incredibly difficult for the United States to be tough on enforcement without very willing and robust participation from Iran's major oil consumers."

Rosenberg said some international companies would abide by US sanctions. "Of course companies make their own decisions and they may look at this high-risk scenario with expensive compliance costs if they wanted to try to find the narrow legal path or non-legal path to keep doing business with Iran," she said.

"Where there is compliance, it will be because countries internationally see value in preserving alliance even where they are unhappy about doing so."

While companies would manage to work around the sanctions to trade Iranian oil, Rosenberg said companies wanting to make significant investments in Iran's energy sector will have a tougher time evading reimposed US sanctions.

"Anyone who's interested in moving forward in that investment picture, they have to be willing to court massive legal risk if they want to try and continue it. So I think we'll see a much more cautious attitude toward flouting US sanctions there."



IRNA

She said the administration likely thinks it can pressure Europe, China and Russia to agree to rework the deal and present the new version to Iran as a take-it-or-leave-it offer.

If a new deal never materializes, the Trump administration or Congress could reimpose Iranian sanctions im-

mediate priorities like leaning on China to help counter the North Korean nuclear threat.

She said trades for Iranian oil would continue despite US sanctions.

"In that world of really creative trading plays and companies and trading houses being domiciled in

Iran, Kazakhstan trade stable

Iran-Kazakhstan economic ties are of regional importance, with promising areas of growth. In recent years, trade turnover between the two countries was changing, going up and down, but now it seems to have reached a stable level.

Trade turnover between Iran and Kazakhstan was declining from 2014 to 2016. Relatively good result amounting to \$986.345 million in 2014 decreased to \$635.567 million in 2015 and \$596.242 million in 2016, according to the Committee of Statistics of Kazakhstan, reported Trend News Agency.

Currently, economic cooperation remains close to that of the previous year with \$273.891 million, during the first half of 2017.

Exports from Kazakhstan to Iran constitute a large share in general trade between the two countries.

Kazakhstan's export to Iran amounted to \$892.503 million in 2014, \$565.791 million in 2015 and \$550.518 million in 2016. In the first half of 2017, exports amounted to \$239.756 and it is expected to reach the level of the previous year.

Earlier, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Iranian economic officials in a meeting in April 2017 declared the two countries' decision to increase trade turnover to \$1 billion per year.

President Nazarbayev called on Iranian companies to cooperate in his country's agricultural and mining sectors while pledging to ease visa requirements for Iranian traders.

However, the only positive indication at present is the stability of Iran-Kazakhstan economic relations, and plans on further development seem to be in the implementation process.



IRNA

Nissan Motor Co. will temporarily halt new vehicle registrations in Japan after learning that thousands of models were shipped from all six of its domestic factories after receiving final inspections from unauthorized employees.

EU declines to rank rival bids for agencies leaving Britain over Brexit



REUTERS

The European Commission has shied away from ranking which cities should host Europe's drugs regulator and banking authority after Brexit, saying the decision is up to the 27 member states which will remain.

The EU executive said its assessment, published on Saturday, was wholly based on the information provided by governments in their bidding war to host the two agencies, which will be forced to relocate from Britain when it leaves the bloc, Reuters wrote.

"It (the assessment) respects the member states' decision that the criteria should be unweighted and does not provide a ranking or shortlist of any kind," the Commission said in a statement.

Nineteen member states have bid to host the European

Medical Agency (EMA) and eight want the European Banking Authority (EBA).

The final say on where to move the agencies rests with EU leaders who will try to reach a deal at their next summit in three weeks' time, with a final decision a month later.

Candidate cities will be appraised based on their ability to have an office ready in time, their accessibility, the quality of schools, healthcare and jobs for the families of staff, and how disruptive the move would be.

In their eagerness to host the agencies, some governments have offered tax breaks or rent-free headquarters for the EU institutions — a big break for the bloc's budget.

However, the EU's need to ensure business continuity

could clash with another EU ambition — spreading the bloc's agencies more evenly across Europe and giving newer, eastern member states a chance to catch up.

The EMA warned that it could lose more than 70 percent of its staff, making it unable to function, if politicians pick an unpopular base for the London-based agency once Britain leaves the European Union.

Amsterdam, Barcelona or Vienna were the top three choices of staff, according to a survey of around 900 of its workers. The Netherlands, Spain and Austria all already host one or more EU agencies.

The EMA has said it would take at least three years to recover fully from the disruption to its operations. It sees retaining staff as key to maintaining essential services such as new drug approval and monitoring side effects.

Saudi Q2 GDP shrinks

Saudi Arabia's economy contracted for the second quarter in a row as the kingdom grapples with low oil prices and its businesses struggle to cope with economic reforms.

According to Bloomberg, the kingdom's gross domestic product shrank one percent from the same period a year earlier, when it expanded 0.9 percent, according to official data released on Saturday. The economy had contracted 0.5 percent in the first three months of 2017.



WASEEM OBAIDI/BLOOMBERG
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman is leading the push to transform the biggest Arab economy at a time when crude prices are at about half their 2014 peak. But as authorities seek to reduce the kingdom's reliance on oil, they're also leading efforts among OPEC members and some other major producers to bolster prices by cutting output. The

kingdom's oil GDP shrank 1.8 percent in the second quarter, weighing on overall activity.

The data also showed how non-oil industries are still struggling with efforts to overhaul the economy and shore up public finances. The non-oil GDP, the main engine of job creation, expanded below one percent, driven mainly by the government sector, the data showed.

Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, said, "What we're seeing is stagnation in non-oil activity. Second-quarter data show still very lackluster demand" even after the government reversed a decision to cut or freeze bonuses and allowances for state employees.

Figures released by the government's statistics agency also show:

- Within non-oil GDP, private sector activity grew 0.4 percent after expanding 0.9 percent in the previous three months
- The government sector expanded almost one percent
- The construction industry shrank 1.6 percent after contracting three percent in the first quarter
- Petroleum refining expanded 5.8 percent

A Bloomberg survey conducted before Saturday's release show economists expect growth to grind to a halt this year, compared with a growth forecast of 0.5 percent in the previous poll.

North Korea's mineral resources estimated at \$279 trillion

North Korea has mineral resources potentially worth some 3,200 trillion won (\$2.79 trillion), whose development is dominated by Chinese firms, while South Korea is shut out due to sanctions, a report from a state agency said Sunday.

The Korea Resources Corp. (KORES), in a report submitted to Rep. Eoh Kiy-ku, said the

others are divided among companies from Japan, which have two contracts, France, also two, and Switzerland, which has one.

All of the 10 long-term contracts, effective for between 10 to 50 years, are with Chinese companies, the report said.

South Korea is barred from the



nknews.org

estimated value of North Korea's untapped minerals as of the end of 2016 is 14 times more than 230 trillion won for South Korea, Yonhap wrote.

The North has signed 38 contracts with foreign companies to develop the mineral mines ranging from gold and silver to coal, of which 33 are with Chinese firms,

business under sanctions imposed in 2010.

According to the report, South Korean firms had invested \$41.95 million in North Korea's mineral development, but most of the projects have been suspended.

KORES had invested \$6.65 million and retrieved about \$244,221, the report said.

Carmakers rush to put Saudi women behind wheels

Car companies haven't wasted any time courting the nine million potential customers unlocked when Saudi Arabia lifted its ban on women drivers.

The decision has lit up social media, with both cheers and jeers for the ruling, which takes effect in June. Also joining the chorus are automakers looking to capitalize on the move, racing each other to get their first words out to woo prospective female drivers in the Middle East's biggest economy, Bloomberg wrote.

In a Twitter post titled 'Welcome to the driver's seat', Ford Motor Co. attached an image of a pair of woman's eyes appearing in a rear-view mirror against a black background. In another tweet under the hashtag #SaudiWomenCanDrive, it offered a 'dream car' to a women's rights campaigner by putting up a picture of a bright yellow Mustang racing in a tunnel.

Tata Motors Ltd.'s Land Rover and Jaguar brands posted an image of a handbag spilling out a car key, lipstick and a bottle of perfume among other items, with titles that say 'Adventure awaits you' and 'The road is yours'.



economist.com

Volkswagen AG published a black picture, placing the words 'My turn' between two henna-tattooed fists. BMW AG's Mini went further, attaching an 11-second film showing a chestnut Cooper driving off a parking space with words painted in white that say 'Reserved for Women'.

The move by King Salman bin Abdulaziz to issue driver's licenses to women is part of a larger effort to modernize and diversify the kingdom's economy and reduce its reliance on oil.

Ziad Daoud, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, said, the change may add about \$90 billion to economic output by 2030.

Increased mobility means more women will be able to seek work, which could boost discretionary income. Opening up the auto market in the nation of 32 million won't only boost demand for cars, but also for such related products as insurance, loans and billboard ads, which currently are barred from depicting women.

While sport utility vehicles have been a fixture on Saudi roadways, carmakers may need to make smaller models for single working women and female students, analysts said.

On the flip side, ride-hailing services like Uber Technologies Inc. could see decline drop as more women get behind the wheel.

For now, car companies are trying to capture the attention of their potential female drivers.

Japanese automaker Toyota Motor Corp., whose vehicles made up 32 percent of all those sold in Saudi Arabia last year, tweeted a picture of a female driver standing next to a shiny blue car. Its high-end Lexus brand published an image of a woman's finger on an ignition switch with its website and phone number underneath. "Share your choice with us?" it asked in Arabic.

Nissan Motor Co., which is considering making cars in the kingdom like Toyota, published a number plate that's printed '2018' and 'Girl' in Arabic, congratulating Saudi women who now have the 'permission to drive'.

South Korean exports soar 35%

South Korea's exports soared 35 percent to reach an all-time high in September thanks to strong demand for semiconductors and displays, government data showed on Sunday.

Outbound shipments came to \$55.1 billion for the month, up from \$40.8 billion tallied a year earlier, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, and the Korea Customs Service, Yonhap wrote.



YONHAP

The September figure marks the largest monthly total in South Korean history, eclipsing the earlier record of \$51.6 billion set in October 2014.

The country's exports have been on a steady rise since November led by an uptick in oil prices and recovering global trade. September marked the ninth month in a row that exports grew by double digits.

The amount of goods shipped out per working day also jumped 20.6 percent on-year to a record \$2.35 billion to mark the 10th consecutive month of growth, with won-denominated shipments surging 37.8 percent.

Imports also rose 21.7 percent on-year to \$41.4 billion last month.

The country's trade surplus came to \$13.8 billion, marking 68 straight months that the country's exports have exceeded imports, the ministry said.

The Trade Ministry said South Korea's major export items like computer chips, steel and displays lent support to the record-breaking exports volume.

Exports of semiconductors skyrocketed 70 percent on-year in September to a record \$9.69 billion, on the back of steady price hikes and releases of flagship smartphones, such as Samsung's Galaxy Note 8 and Apple's new iPhones. It is the first time that monthly outbound shipments of computer chips topped the \$9 billion mark.

Overseas sales of steel products more than doubled to reach a fresh record high of \$4.67 billion in September, extending their rally to six months, on a rise in steel prices.

Outbound shipments of petrochemicals vaulted 41.5 percent on contracted global supply stemming from a hurricane-hit southeastern region of the United States, and those of flat screens leaped 10.1 percent thanks to steady sales of organic light-emitting diode (OLED) panels.

Exports of South Korean-made vessels made a rebound to move up 38.7 percent on-year, while shipments of cars advanced 57.6 percent last month from a year earlier.

However, exports of wireless devices fell 15.9 percent on-year despite the scheduled rollout of new smartphone models, while overseas sales of home appliances tumbled 15.6 percent on-year in September.

Exports of auto parts edged down 6.4 percent due to contracted demand from big markets like the United States and China.

By region, South Korea's shipments to China, the largest export market, gained 23.4 percent last month to a three-year high of \$13.52 billion on steady demand for mobile chips and petrochemical products to mark 11 straight months of rise, while those to Vietnam shot up 69.4 percent, expanding for the 20th month in a row.

Exports to Japan landed in positive terrain for the 11th consecutive month to post a 16 percent on-year increase in September led by a rise in shipments of steel and auto parts.

The European Union's imports from South Korea rose 23 percent last month from a year earlier on the back of clear signs of economic recovery in the region.

Shipments to the United States also jumped 28.9 percent on-year in September for third month in a row, on a sharp increase in exports of petrochemicals and machinery. The trade surplus with the world's largest economy climbed to \$2.56 billion last month.

For the July-September period, Asia's fourth-largest economy saw its quarterly exports jump 24 percent on-year to \$151 billion, the largest since the first quarter of 2011.

Exports of semiconductors reached a record high of \$26.3 billion, up 61.7 percent, and those of steel jumped 42.9 percent to \$9.9 billion over the three-month period.

The Trade Ministry said the upbeat global trade trend will continue for a while on the back of the recovery in the US, EU and China.

Minister Paik Un-gyu said in a statement, "Despite rising uncertainties like the risks associated with North Korea, South Korean trade pulled off record-high numbers last month."

"In the upcoming fourth quarter, however, the growth pace will likely slow down to some extent due to strengthening trade protectionism and decreased business days."

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2804	Chinese Yuan	0.1502
Euro	1.1815	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3396	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3066
Australian Dollar	0.7836	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0088	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$51.64	Silver	\$16.69
Gold	\$1282.50	Platinum	\$910.90
Copper	\$2.94	Wheat	\$449.00

Energy firms in India are increasingly diversifying to generate revenues from renewables in an effort to keep pace with the country's push towards green energy.

New Zealand leaders urged to protect environment

Environmental groups have written a letter to political party leaders urging them to prioritize protecting the environment.

"The ability of New Zealanders to safely swim in their rivers and lakes, will be a key measure of environmental success for the new government," said the letter.

The letter from groups including Forest and Bird, Greenpeace, WWF and Fish and Game said there was a strong public expectation that whichever parties form the next government make clear gains for fresh water, the climate and conservation, radionz.co.nz reported.

The letter was sent to four party leaders: National's Bill English, Labour's Jacinda Ardern, James Shaw from the Green Party and New Zealand First's Winston Peters.

In the letter, the groups said they would continue to offer their help to achieve what had been promised.

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Climate change, forest fires and hurricanes



ibtimes.com

In an unusual sign of the fickleness of the seasons, the west side of Going to the Sun Highway in Glacier National Park was (and still is) closed because of forest fires while the east side was closed because of snow and ice. The good news, however, is precipitation and cooler temperatures have slowed down the forest fires, with firefighters now controlling them even as many continue to burn.

In the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and elsewhere, the multiplicity of devastating hurricanes seem to have run their course, at least for now, leaving in their wake widespread destruction that defies comprehension, qonline.com wrote.

Now that hurricanes and forest fires no longer are dominating the news, it's time to catch our breath and address an exceedingly

important underlying question: Is climate change a contributing factor to these catastrophes? There is reason to believe such is the case.

A study published a year ago in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reports in the last 30 years, climate change has doubled the area affected by forest fires in the western part of the United States.

Park Williams, a Columbia University bioclimatologist who was a coauthor of the study, states, "No matter how hard we try, the fires are going to keep getting bigger, and the reason is really clear. ... Climate is really running the show in terms of what burns. We should be getting ready for bigger fire years than those familiar to previous generations."

The study notes average temperatures in forested areas of the

western part of the US have gone up 2.5°C since 1970. Higher temperatures dry out the land, making it more susceptible to fires.

The authors of the study do not suggest all of the increase in temperature can be attributed to human activity. However, they do suggest a significant portion of the climate change can be attributed to humans.

This year, while much of the western part of the US suffered from drought, hurricanes dumped huge amounts of rain on Houston and other areas. How much of that is the result of climate change?

Scientists who have studied these matters do not suggest climate change is the cause of hurricanes. Rather, as Sean Sublette, a meteorologist with a nonprofit group that studies climate change, puts it, climate change is not the cause "of the storm but makes

these bad storms worse. And in the case of a really bad storm, climate change can make it totally disastrous or catastrophic".

Warmer ocean temperatures result in greater evaporation of water from oceans and other bodies of water. Warm air can carry more evaporated water than cold air, which means when this water returns to the surface of the earth in the form of rain, there is more water to come down. The result is torrential rainfalls such as Houston and other areas hit by hurricanes experienced. That is part of the effect of climate change.

But how much of this is the result of human activity? There is substantial data indicating global warming is, at least in part, the result of the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, with carbon dioxide being one of the big ones. These

greenhouse gases keep heat from escaping into space.

But how much of the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is the result of human activity? While scientists disagree about the exact numbers, there is substantial agreement that a significant portion of the increase of carbon dioxide is the result of burning petroleum-based fuels and other fossil fuels. As the Pogo cartoon strip that ran on Earth Day in 1971 put it, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

The huge forest fires covering large areas in the western US and the devastating hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other areas ought to be a wake-up call for all of us. Driving hybrid or electric cars and otherwise reducing our consumption of fossil fuels is something we all ought to be doing.

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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت
مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

مالکین محترم
ساختمان در دست در مناطق شمال تهران
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمپانی‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Regular cups of coffee will not ease tremors and movement problems caused by Parkinson's, despite prior evidence that caffeine may help, researchers reported.

Daily intake of arthritis pill halts disabling bone loss

A daily pill which halts the disabling bone loss caused by osteoarthritis is being hailed as a new dawn in the treatment of the disease.

The new drug has excited scientists after trials showed that after just six months it reduced bone damage around knee joints and also maintained cartilage thickness, according to express.co.uk.

It is the first time a drug has been shown to tackle underlying bone structure changes in diseased joints.

Current treatments have aimed only at helping patients manage pain symptoms.

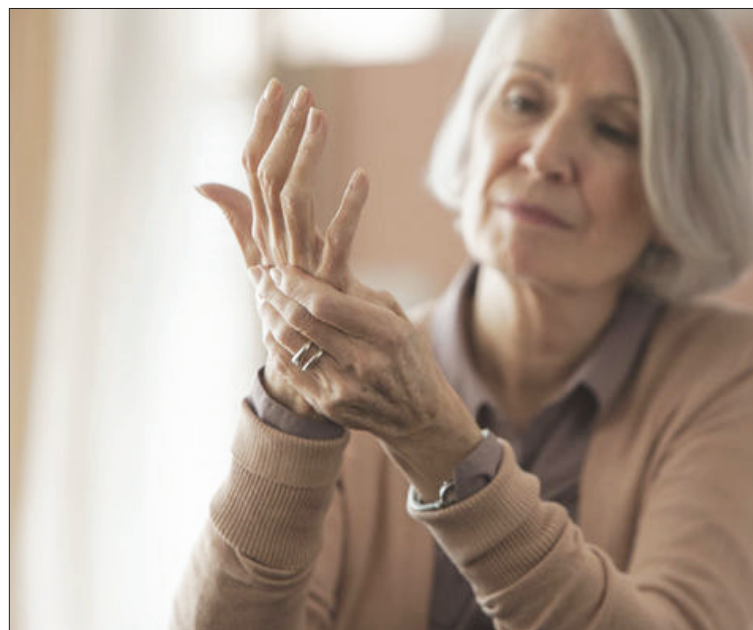
The pan-European study was carried out over six months with 244 patients aged between 40 and 80 with osteoarthritis in the knee.

Lead investigator Philip Conaghan, professor of musculoskeletal medicine at the University of Leeds, said, "These results are enormously exciting."

"This drug heralds a new dawn in the treatment of this disease as it is the first evidence we have of a drug which can have a significant benefit on the structure of the bone."

Conaghan, previously chairman of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence group on the management of osteoarthritis, added, "We now need larger studies to replicate these findings, the results of which we hope will open up a new class of drug."

The treatment, known as MIV-711, is based on a molecule involved in the turnover of bone and cartilage in the joints. It works by interfering with the process that leads to joint breakdown.



express.co.uk

It was tested against patients given a placebo and after six months those receiving the treatment showed a 65-percent reduction in bone loss.

Those on the dummy pills showed slight increases in bone loss. The drug, which was shown to have relatively few side effects, also halted cartilage loss, with those on low doses experiencing a 70-percent reduction in cartilage thickness and those on higher doses showing a slight increase in cartilage thickness.

Experts hope over a longer period the results may be greater, and could have an impact on significantly reducing pain from the condition.

The results of the trial are likely to be revealed next month at a conference in San Diego.

The news comes as experts call for an end to the widespread long-term use of painkillers such as paracetamol and anti-inflammatories such as ibuprofen for osteoarthritis, following research showing they may be doing more harm than good.

Current guidance from NICE still recommends paracetamol and anti-inflammatories as treatments for this disabling condition.

However, in one large US study people who regularly took paracetamol over 12 years had a 35-percent increased risk of a stroke or fatal

heart attack.

Other recent studies have linked long term use of anti-inflammatory drugs to an increased risk of stomach ulcers and kidney failure.

One of the UK's leading experts on arthritis, Dr. Rod Hughes, former president of rheumatology at The Royal Society of Medicine, said, "There are numerous side effects linked with anti-inflammatory drugs and we need to look at safer long-term alternatives for those living with joint pain."

He also highlighted research which shows a derivative of rosehip can dramatically reduce arthritis joint pain.

Laboratory studies of the treatment, called Gopo, suggested it dampens tissue inflammation.

Patient studies show the food supplement improved joint mobility and reduced pain by up to 80 percent for those who used it for at least three months.

Former footballer Mark Beard, 42, who played for Millwall and Sheffield United, said using Gopo dramatically reduced the severe and disabling pain he suffered as he came to the end of his career.

Beard, now full-time coach at Brighton FC and who also boxes to raise money for charity, had multiple injuries that led to severe pain in his ankles, knees, wrist, back and other joints that sometimes left him bedridden.

He said, "I had lots of pain. Sometimes I struggled to walk downstairs and could barely grip a pen. Taking Gopo has transformed my life."

"I swear by it and so do many ex-footballers."

New technique could spare thousands of breast cancer patients

A new test could spare thousands of breast cancer patients from unnecessary chemotherapy by predicting how likely it is to return.



express.co.uk

The cutting edge technique, Oncotype DX, analyses samples of tumor removed during surgery and provides a recurrence score of between one and 100 on the likelihood of cancer returning, express.co.uk reported.

The test is currently only available to some women with breast cancer, but experts said thousands who miss out undergo chemotherapy they do not need.

The call to make the test more widely available follows the results of a recent trial highlighted at a leading cancer conference last month which revealed 98 percent of patients with a low recurrence score who avoided chemotherapy after surgery survived at least five years without their cancer returning, showing they did not need chemotherapy.

The trial, known as Plan B, was presented at the European Society of Medical Oncology in Madrid and involved over 4,000 patients in 12 centers in Germany.

It was published in leading journal *Clinical Oncology*.

This trial showed the test was effective both in women whose cancer remained in the breast and in those patients whose cancer had spread to the lymph nodes.

However, the £2,600-test is not routinely used by all UK hospitals and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends it only for women whose cancer has not spread. Chemotherapy costs up to £9,000 per patient.

The Plan B trial echoed results of a UK study of the test led by experts at University Hospital of South Manchester which found 63 percent of women given the test were able to avoid chemotherapy if their cancer had not spread and almost 70 percent of women could be spared if their cancer had spread to the lymph nodes.

Professor Nigel Bundred, a leading breast cancer surgeon at the hospital, said, "Thousands of women are undergoing unnecessary chemotherapy because of the failure to make this available to everyone throughout the UK."

The test is suitable for women who have a hormone-driven breast cancer type known as Oestrogen receptor positive HER2 negative which accounts for most breast cancer patients.

In a statement NICE said it reviews and updates diagnostics guidance at any time if significant new evidence becomes available.

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Relevant Dept.	Deadline for submitting the documents	Subject	No.	Type of call	No.
RAW MATERIAL AND ENERGY PURCHASING	26/10/2017	MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE 50000 M/T METALLURGICAL COKE	48445286	Public	1
PURCHASING CONTRACTS	31/10/2017	Design, Engineering, Procurement, Installation, Commissioning, Supervision, Training and Performance Tests of A New Double Side Two-Wheels Bridge Reclaimer in the form of an "EPC" Project	48366154 48360671	Public	2

For further information and receiving the bidding documents the suppliers may refer to www.msc.ir purchase and suppliers link and select the desired tender through the SRM system according to the guideline.

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Umbilical cord stem cells show promise

A heart failure treatment using umbilical cord-derived stem cells may lead to notable improvements in heart muscle function and quality of life, according to a new study published in *Circulation Research*, an American Heart Association journal.

Study corresponding author Fernando Figueroa, MD, professor of medicine at the Universidad de los Andes in Chile, said, "We are encouraged by our findings because they could pave the way to a non-invasive, promising new therapy for a group of patients who face grim odds."

According to sciencedaily.com, in this trial, 30 patients, aged between 18 and 75, with stable heart failure receiving optimal drug therapy underwent intravenous infusions with either umbilical cord-derived stem cells or placebo.

The umbilical cords were obtained from full-term human placentas from healthy donors by caesarean section after informed consent.

Compared to the placebo treatment, the stem cell therapy:

- Showed sustained and

'significant' improvement in the hearts' ability to pump blood in the year following treatment;

- Resulted in greater improvements on measures of daily functional status and quality of life; and



cvmus.com

- Was safe with no adverse effects or development of alloantibodies, a common immune complication in patients receiving organ transplants or blood transfusions.

Researchers have previously assessed the potential of bone marrow-derived stem cells as treatment; however, intravenous umbilical cord-derived stem cells have never been evaluated. The latter type has been

particularly appealing because they are easily accessible, widely available, unlikely to cause immune complications and free of the ethical concerns that surround embryonic stem cells, the researchers noted.

Lead study author Jorge Bartolucci MD, a cardiologist from Cells for Cells and professor at the Universidad de los Andes, said, "Standard drug-based regimens can be suboptimal in controlling heart failure, and patients often have to progress to more invasive therapies such as mechanical ventricular assist devices and heart transplantation."

Heart failure, marked by the heart muscle's inability to pump blood efficiently, affects some 37 million people worldwide.

Despite medical advances, half of patients diagnosed with heart failure will die within five years of diagnosis, according to Figueroa.

If affirmed in larger studies, these findings could provide a promising new treatment option for a condition that currently has few.

Study links 'love hormone' to enjoying time with friends

If you like to hang out with friends, it might be due to the 'love hormone' oxytocin, a new study suggested.

Oxytocin promotes socialization by triggering pleasurable feelings when people get together, said Stanford University researchers, UPI wrote.

Study senior author Dr. Robert Malenka, associate chair of psychiatry and behavioral science at Stanford's School of Medicine, said, "Our study reveals new insights about the brain circuitry behind social reward, the positive experience you often get when you run into an old friend or meet somebody you like."

"The reward circuitry is crucial to our survival because it rewards us for doing things that have, during our evolutionary history, tended to enhance our survival, our

reproduction and the survival of our resulting offspring.

"For example, when you're hungry, food tastes great, he pointed out. When you're thirsty, water is refreshing."

"Hanging out with friends has historically conferred a survival advantage, too, by decreasing the odds of getting eaten by predators, increasing chances of finding a mate and maybe helping to learn where food and water are."

Malenka and his colleagues conducted a series of lab experiments that examined oxytocin's role in social behavior. Their findings were published in the journal *Science*.

The findings could lead to new ways to help people who have difficulty socializing, including those with autism and schizophrenia, according to the researchers.

PERMIT NO: 1396/2913
TENDER NO.: 48-32-9500052

Second Announcement



Invitation for Prequalification

National Iranian South Oilfields Company
Intends to purchase the following goods:

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
PUMP: PLUNGER TYPE PUMP MANUFACTURER: LEWA (GERMANY) LIQUID: CRUDE OIL CAPACITY: 24.4M ³ /HR IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD IEC60034 IPS-M-EL-131(2), IPS-E-EL-110	03 NO
TWO YEARS SPARE PARTS	03 St

Vendors, who intend to participate in the A/M tender, are requested to send their resume and tendency letter via fax/mail to the following address not later than 14 days after the second announcement. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide a bid bond of Euro 9,648/RIs 375,000,000 in favor of NISOC. Iranian vendors shall submit their resume according to forms No. 01, 02 and 03 which are available at www.shana.ir and www.nisoc.ir

Foreign Purchasing Dept.
Kouy-e Fadaeian Islam (New Site)
Bldg No. 104, Ahvaz, Iran
Tel/Fax No.: +98-61-34457437

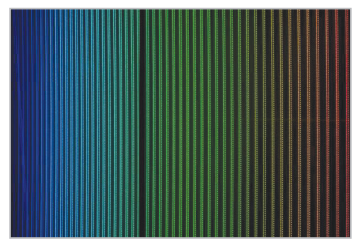
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Japanese researchers believe they've discovered the oldest known evidence of life on Earth. The scientists found signs of biological activity in 3.95 billion-year-old rocks from Labrador in northeast Canada.

New laser sensor could detect explosives, dangerous gases more quickly

Scientists have developed a new laser-based spectroscopic method for identifying potentially dangerous gasses.

The method, which relies on the combination of two spectroscopic techniques, could be used to more quickly and accurately identify explosives and other dangerous substances, UPI reported.



UPI
Researchers used a pair of frequency combs, which produce a spectrum of sharp, equally spaced frequency lines, to analyze the spectral properties of molecules in a gas mixture.

The first technique, called multi-dimensional coherent spectroscopy, relies on short laser pulses.

When bounced through a mixture of gases, scientists can measure which wavelengths are absorbed and use their observations to identify the gas molecules.

Steven Cundiff, a physics professor at the University of Michigan, said, "If you have light going through the gas, and, for example, you use a prism to separate white light into colored light, in the rainbow spectrum you'd see

there'd be black stripes.

"Where the black stripes are almost gives you a barcode that tells you what kind of molecule is in the sample."

Similar methods have previously been used to identify single gas samples, but a more complex method was needed to analyze gas mixtures.

Until now, scientists have had to rely on supercomputers to reference catalogues of molecular data when analyzing gas mixtures.

Cundiff added, "It's like trying to look at three people's fingerprints on top of each other. This is a stumbling block for using these methods in a real-world situation.

"Our method takes about 15 minutes to a few hours using traditional approaches to Materials Data Curation System (MDCS)."

Scientists accelerated the processing time by marrying MDCS with another method called dual comb spectroscopy.

Frequency combs produce a spectrum of sharp, equally spaced frequency lines. The lines work like a ruler and are used to measure the optical frequencies of atoms and molecules.

A pair of combs can be combined to efficiently analyze the spectral qualities of a collection of molecules.

Cundiff said, "This approach could allow the method of multidimensional coherent spectroscopy to escape the lab and be used for practical applications such as detecting explosives or monitoring atmospheric constituents."

Cundiff and his Michigan colleague, Bachana Lomsadze, used their newly developed method to analyze a sample of rubidium atoms featuring a mix of atomic isotopes.

The spectral difference between the two isotopes are too subtle to be measured using MDCS alone. But when researchers combine MDCS with a pair of frequency combs, they were able to accurately identify the different spectral lines produced but the two isotopes.

Cundiff, Lomsadze and their fellow researchers detailed their work in a new paper, published in the journal Science.

The scientists plan to add a third laser in subsequent tests to further speed up the identification process.

Hawaii approves telescope on volcano sacred to indigenous people

A team of scientists won approval from Hawaii officials on Thursday to build a \$1.4 billion telescope atop a volcano indigenous people consider sacred, but opponents vowed to continue fighting.

The Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources voted 5-2 to allow construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on the summit of Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island, state officials said, Reuters.com wrote.

Astronomers consider the summit one of the world's best places to view the cosmos, while Native Hawaiians say the project would disturb holy ground crucial to their connection with ancestors and the heavens.

A consortium of scientists, after selecting the site in 2009 and applying to build there, initially received construction permits from state officials in 2011.

In 2015, the Hawaii Supreme Court voided that decision, saying officials did not follow the proper procedures for a 'contested case hearing'.

That forced the state board to re-evaluate the proposal with more input from opponents.

The project calls for building one of the world's largest telescopes atop the dormant volcano.

Suzanne Case, chairwoman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, said, "This was one of the most difficult decisions this board has ever made."

The 4,205 meters volcano is already dotted with telescopes, the



REUTERS
An artist's concept illustrating the TMT Observatory at the proposed site on Mauna Kea, Hawaii provided September 28, 2017.

board noted in a 345-page decision paper.

The board's decision paper said, "Today, Mauna Kea is the best place on earth to study the heavens."

Kahookahi Kanuha, who is co-founder of the Hawaii Unity and Liberation Institute and is Native Hawaiian, said, "Native Hawaiians and environmentalists will soon stage protests at the site and another legal challenge is expected in the Hawaii Supreme Court."

Ilima Long, 40, a graduate student in political science at the University of Hawaii who opposes the project, added that Native Hawaiians like herself support science, just not this project.

"Hawaiians, our ancestors were scientists. We're the best navigators and wayfarers of all human history."

The board placed dozens of conditions on the consortium, which includes scientists from the California Institute of Technology and Japan,

India and Canada.

The consortium will be required to provide \$1 million a year for college scholarships for Native Hawaiians and other educational initiatives.

TMT International Observatory Board Chairman Henry Yang said, "In moving forward, we will listen respectfully to the community in order to realize the shared vision of (Mauna Kea) as a world center for Hawaiian culture, education, and science."

Lockheed Martin reveals surface landing vehicle for Mars Base Camp

Mars Base Camp is the name for Lockheed Martin's planned crewed space station orbiting Mars.

The aerospace and defense company offered new details for its Martian space station, including plans for a surface lander, UPI wrote.

The lander, dubbed Mars Ascent/Descent Vehicle, or

During a presentation at the International Astronautical Congress, held in Adelaide, Australia, Lockheed Martin engineers described the lander's supersonic retropropulsion system, which would use Mars-facing boosters to slow the lander's supersonic speeds as it approached the Martian surface.

shouldn't invent anything new if you don't need to."

The lander's engines would be filled by liquid-hydrogen/liquid-oxygen propellant while docked at the space station.

The propellents would be made by splitting water molecules using energy supplied by solar panel arrays.

Missions to the Red Planet via the Mars Base Camp would rely on NASA's Deep Space Gateway, the planned lunar space station.

Earlier, Russia announced it would team with the US in the planning and construction of the space station, which would serve as a jumping-off point for deep space missions.

Chambers said, "Base camps are not a destination unto themselves.

"They're a place from which you then set out — in this case, to descend to the surfaces of other worlds."

SpaceX's Elon Musk also announced plans for his company's own Mars mission.

The SpaceX founder said that he hopes to launch an unmanned Mars mission by 2022 and a crewed mission two years later.

He plans to pay for it by using the company's Falcon X rocket for international flights — New York to Adelaide in 30 minutes.

The aerospace company also shared an idea for another task-specific vehicle, the Water Delivery Vehicle (WDV), which engineers said could potentially be built by another aerospace company.

The WDV's would fetch water from nearby ice-covered asteroids.

Lockheed Martin engineers said they anticipated Martian



UPI
An illustration shows Lockheed Martin's design for its Mars lander, which would ferry crews to the Red Planet from its Mars-orbiting space station.

MADV, would ferry space station crew members down to the surface of the Red Planet for brief expeditions.

Lockheed Martin explained, "Each surface mission could last two weeks with up to four astronauts, and return to the orbiting Mars Base Camp without surface refueling or leaving assets behind."

SpaceX's reusable Falcon 9 rockets used the same technology to safely land upright.

Engineers said that NASA's Orion deep space transport vehicle served as the starting point for the lander's design.

Robert Chambers, senior systems engineer at Lockheed Martin, added, "We think you

Bloodhound supersonic car fires up Eurofighter engine

The Bloodhound supersonic car has been fired up for the first time — and worked a treat.

Engineers turned over the vehicle's Eurofighter jet engine in a tie-down test at Cornwall's Newquay airfield, according to bbc.com.

It worked flawlessly, sending a big orange flame out of the rear nozzle.

The intention is for the car to begin some 'slow-speed' running — about 320 km/h — at the end of next month.

The team had been concerned that the Rolls-Royce EJ200 power unit might have some operational difficulties being in a car as opposed to sitting in a fighter aircraft.

But when driver Andy Green flicked the switches in his cockpit, the engine lit up and performed exactly to its specification.

It was proof also that all the car's electronic systems, its computers, and software were working as designed.

Wing Commander Green, World Land Speed Record holder, said, "It's blown us away, frankly.

"It's given us huge confidence going forward. We now know the engine has no limits just because it's in a car.

"It is an EJ200 with the full performance envelope available to us, under all conditions, from stationary onwards."

October's slow-speed running should have paved the way for an attempt on the world land speed record in 2018, but it looks now as though the project will have to slip another year.



bbc.com
The team is working towards a public day of running on October 26.

Bloodhound SSC will race in South Africa on a specially prepared, dried-out lake-bed, using both the jet engine and a rocket motor.

The aim is to lift the current record of 1,228 km/h to 1,288 km/h and then eventually to take it above 1,610 km/h.

However, the conditions at Hakskeen Pan in Northern Cape are really only suitable for running in the period from July to November — and getting the car fully prepared to meet this window in 2018 is now seen as unachievable.

In part, this is because there are still technical challenges to do with Bloodhound's rocket motor.

This is coming from the Norwegian aerospace company Nammo, and the development work must fit in around the firm's commercial business, which has extended the timeline.

But the Bloodhound project also has to function within its privately

generated budget, and although some big sponsorship deals have been signed recently, engineering can only proceed at the rate cash comes into the venture.

The decision has therefore been made to wait until 2019 to begin the assault on the land speed record.

Nonetheless, the team hopes static test, and the initial runs set for October 26, will be visible proof that Bloodhound is in good shape.

Green, a British Royal Air Force fighter pilot, said, "Today has been a demonstration that with just a little bit of resource in place we've delivered exactly what we said we would, when we said we would.

"And based on what I've seen today from the EJ200, we are going to over-deliver — October 26 won't be just a show of a fast car, it will be a spectacular show of a car that's going to astonish people."

The percentage of Argentines living in poverty fell to 28.6 percent in the first half of 2017, indicating that President Mauricio Macri's economic policies have begun benefiting lower-income families.

Online shopping making you weak, feeble



bgr.in1

Without a doubt, the online age has made shopping easier and more accessible.

We can order anything we could ever want — groceries to clothes, greasy food to cocktails — direct to our doors, without ever having to leave bed, metro. co.uk wrote.

A new study by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy suggested that, by staying at home and ordering everything direct to us, we're missing out on a whole load of essential muscle-strengthening exercises.

You might not consider your daily grocery shop much of a workout, but as one supermarket chain helpfully reminds you as you pack away your week's shopping, every little helps.

A poll of more than 2,000 people found 24 percent of those aged 65 and more do no muscle strengthening activities at all in a week. The society says that puts them

at increasing risk of the dangers of falls and other health problems.

Professor Karen Middleton, chief executive of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, said: "Online shopping may be very convenient but it does mean that we are losing some of the methods that used to exist for strengthening our muscles.

"We're carrying fewer bags home from the supermarket because it arrives at our door.

"We're also waiting at home for other goods to be delivered when in the past we would have gone out to buy them.

"This isn't an argument against progress. It's just to show that maintaining strength and being active doesn't have to mean going to the gym, and we should look for ways to build it into our everyday lives."

NHS guidelines recommend two strengthening

exercise sessions a week, be it weight-lifting or simply carrying home your weekly shop. For those of us who are a bit older, activities that involve stepping or jumping — dancing, for example — can also be incorporated.

"As the guidelines set out, it doesn't mean immediately hitting the gym to lift weights," Karen continued.

"To start, it can be digging in the garden or simple body-weight exercises like standing up out of a chair 10 times.

"There are easy ways to do it but the essential thing is to get started and these poll results show a lot of work needs to be done to get that message out."

So next time you're thinking of ordering in, or rejoicing at the simple, sofa-bound convenience of your every whim, perhaps consider heading outside to do it in real life instead.

Your muscles will thank you.

What's this — children showing self-control?

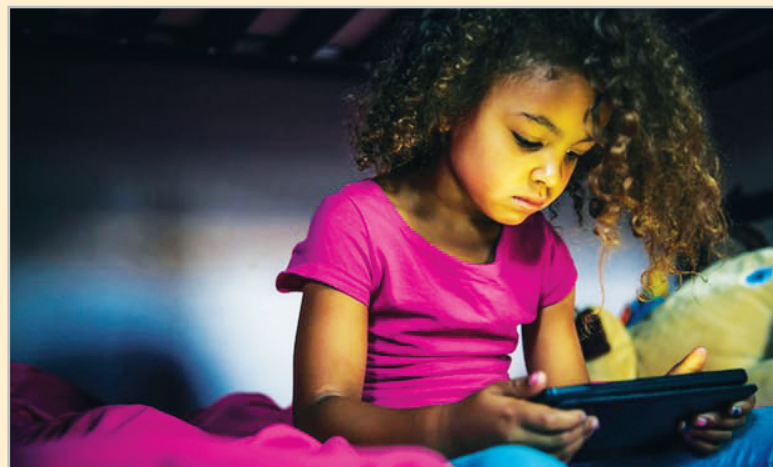
By Vanessa Thorpe*

The innocuous-sounding 'marshmallow test', many will remember, is the beguiling name given to an established experiment that serves to separate those children who can control their primal urges from those who cannot.

Given the choice of confectionery now or a double helping a bit later, the child with a greater chance of success in future life will wait for longer. As such, it is a test that has always carried a pretty gloomy, though sugar-coated, message about our pre-determined fates, The Guardian reported.

But now this way of measuring young children's behavior, used as an index by scientists for 50 years, is offering a cause for celebration. It seems that, contrary to common wisdom, girls and boys are getting better at mastering their immediate impulses. Research released last week by John Protzko, a psychologist at the University of California, showed that across all levels of ability children can now hold out for several minutes longer.

It is a welcome finding that goes against the pessimistic assumption that addictive video games, mobile phones and fizzy drinks are collectively sending our progeny to hell in a designer-branded handcart. In fact, while they probably



theguardian.com

do face a greater variety of temptation these days, they may also have more opportunity to learn.

Television was once the popular devil that sucked out the brains of our young. Before that, back when my mother was a child in the 1940s, it was the thrilling draw of cheap paperback novels. Now the gaming console is widely agreed to be the gateway to evil. So could it truly be that all those pesky computer games are actually teaching our children more about strategy and the value of patience?

If so, we should be pretty impressed, because the adult world around them is pervaded by the consumer message that all grownups are entitled to whatever they momentarily desire.

Parents commonly find it easy to berate their children for a shocking lack of self-discipline and yet also find it hard to recall their own early selfishness. For them, sadly, the heady solipsism of a nursery day is a faded dream.

Of course, the marshmallow test was never intended to be a question of

morality. It was just a way to monitor brain development that was also quickly seen as a useful predictor of intellect. Interesting then that just as the ability to wait for marshmallow gratification is growing, so are the IQ levels of our children. Something that is known to psychologists as the Flynn effect, it is proving similarly difficult to explain.

Doom-mongers will argue that IQ tests and marshmallow challenges are scientifically flawed, but shouldn't we embrace a glimmer of positive news and let our children off the hook a little?

Mothers and fathers get all het up about their kids succumbing to temptation precisely because we all wrestle with its power. Why else would Oscar Wilde's quip about resisting everything else have proved so memorable?

The fact is, children are small versions of us but with less self-control. And perhaps this is what can make them so irritating: They are a reminder of what fun it used to be to please ourselves. A sadder truth than Oscar's comes from the late comedian Joey Adams who once helpfully said: "Do not worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older it will avoid you."

* Vanessa Thorpe is arts and media correspondent on the Observer

One million unvaccinated Venezuelan kids vulnerable in measles outbreak

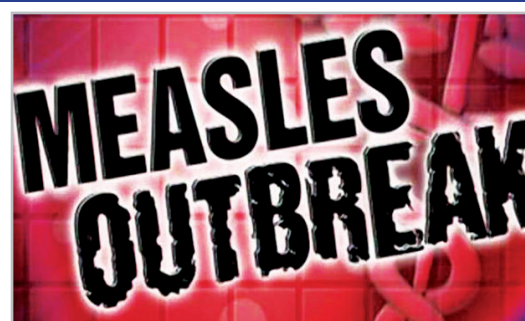
Around one million unvaccinated Venezuelan children are susceptible to measles, a highly contagious disease that has re-emerged in the crisis-stricken South American nation, a group of doctors estimated.

A crippling shortage of medicines and vaccines, as well as decaying hospitals and an exodus of doctors has thrown Venezuela's health sector into a tailspin, Reuters reported.

Amid the crisis, once-controlled diseases like diphtheria and measles have returned to the fore, putting Venezuela's 30 million people at risk and raising the threat of contagion beyond its borders.

Measles, caused by a virus usually passed through direct contact and the air, is a top cause of death for young children although a vaccine is available. The World Health Organization warned it can be especially lethal in countries that have suffered violent conflict and whose health infrastructure is deteriorated.

Venezuelan health associations first raised the alarm about the return of measles in the rough southern mining state of Bolivar in August. Since then, the WHO has reported 84 suspected cases, with 34 confirmed cases.



duluthnewtribune.com

"Preliminary data indicates it is evolving rapidly," two Venezuelan public health organizations said of the measles outbreak in a report.

"We've identified a suboptimal vaccination coverage, and on a national level we estimate that at least 1,150,000 children under the age of 1 were not vaccinated... over the last 10 years," the report added.

Ana Carvajal, a doctor and one of the authors of the

report, told Reuters the estimate is based on data obtained through sources at the Health Ministry and WHO figures.

Still, an ongoing vaccination drive in Bolivar has likely lowered the risk.

The WHO has said it is helping with the purchase and delivery of some 7.2 million vaccines against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) in Venezuela and hopes to spread the drive across the country.

As Venezuela's medical crisis has worsened, the Health Ministry has largely kept mum and no longer publishes a weekly bulletin that includes data on infant mortality or mosquito-borne diseases like malaria.

The government did not respond to a request for comment on this story.

Measles deaths dropped around 79 percent between 2000 and 2015 globally thanks to vaccinations, according to the WHO.

But gaps in coverage have led to several measles outbreaks in Europe in the past year, officials said in April, with lack of trust leading people to turn down potentially life-saving vaccines.

Gender-based violence hindering development in Uganda

The National Population and Housing Census 2014 results show that there are 16,935,456 million males in Uganda, compared to 17,921,357 million females.

The state minister for gender and culture, Peace Mutuzo, has said Gender Based Violence is hindering development in Uganda, as it hinders women from reaching their full potential, newvision.co.ug reported.

Mutuzo said women, who are the majority in Uganda, have the capacity to turn around the country if their rights are respected and if they get equal treatment like men in terms of access to resources like land and money.



amazonaws.com

"Imagine if these women had equal rights like the men and had access to resources like men. We would be seeing a lot of development in this country because women are hardworking," Mutuzo said.

She was speaking during a workshop on gender-based violence organized by the United Nations Joint Program to end Gender Based Violence at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala.

Mutuzo, said that government is committed towards ending GBV, which is one of the serious public and socio-economic concerns that is hindering Uganda's development.

She condemned the ongoing killings in Wakiso District which have left over 20 women.

UNFPA country representative Alain Sibener highlighted some of the tangible results achieved since the program started in 2008, which include several laws on GBV that were enacted from 2010.

He mentioned the Domestic Violence Act and regulations and the Anti-FGM Act.

He also mentioned several policies and guidelines that have been adopted, like Standard Operating Procedures for the prevention and response to GBV, psychosocial guidelines, Multimedia strategy for GBV, and the Male Involvement strategy, among others.

"Today, more girls are going to school, more women have joined the labor force and more women have access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning," Sibener said.

Despite the progress, Sibener warned of complacency about the work that remains to have GBV eliminated.

"Gender based violence continues to take a devastating toll on women and girls. The future we want is a world where every woman and girl and can live free from discrimination and violence and enjoy her full human rights and human dignity," Sibener said.

According to Susan Eckey, the Norwegian ambassador to Uganda, the program has changed the lives of many women, girls and families, by creating new and more sound dynamics free of GBV, allowing them to become equal partners in their families and communities.

"The program has had — and is still having — a real effect on the ground. Norway's action plan aims at eliminating violence against women and girls in all its forms, both in the private and public sphere, including trafficking, sexual and any other kind of abuse," Eckey said.

Calls to ban energy drink sales to under 18s

Experts have found that some Aussie kids are consuming the equivalent of 10 cups of instant coffee a day in sugar-loaded drinks, and it could be destroying their health, and their futures.

The global energy drinks market is estimated to be worth \$68.9 billion, and a survey by paediatric sleep expert Dr. Chris Seton from The Children's Hospital at Westmead found that more than one in three teenagers drink at least two a day, tenplay.com.au reported.

Researchers have found that kids start consuming them at about 10-years-old, and they've been linked to headaches, sleeping difficulties and heart palpitations.

The US FDA is reportedly investigating 18 deaths linked to the drinks.

"We have massive issues with energy drinks in Britain; they are fast becoming a breakfast for a lot of kids, it's terrible," celebrity chef Jamie Oliver told News Corp.

"They're being misused almost like a legal high."

Australian students' performance is in decline according to the Program for International Student Assessment, ranking 19th internationally in maths, 11th in reading and ninth in science.

Some experts say energy drinks are to blame for Australia's academic decline.

Some experts put it down to the fact that kids are consuming too many energy drinks, which is affecting their concentration because of sleep deprivation.

"These rankings started in the year 2000 and every year Australia students' performance was worse than the year before and that parallels the sleep deprivation caused by increasing use of technology and energy drinks," Seton, who backs a ban on selling the drinks to those under 18, told News Corp.

Between 2004 and 2010, there were 300 calls relating to caffeinated energy drinks made to the NSW Poisons Information Center, 128 of which reportedly resulted in hospitalization.

The Australian Beverages Council have slammed the calls for age restricted sales of the products, saying that regulations in Australia are already tight enough.

Britain's oldest biker rides past 101st birthday

A 101-year-old man, believed to be Britain's oldest biker, still rides through his neighborhood streets every day.

Jack Stares has owned multiple bikes since he first began riding 97 years ago and has renewed his motorcycle license 10 times since he turned 70 to remain on the road, UPI reported.

"I was seven years old and my dad brought home a motorbike which had been discarded and I got it going and would ride it all over," Stares said.

"I was the only boy in the grammar school who went in on a motorcycle. It was quite a statement, and it still makes me chuckle now."

Stares celebrated his 101st birthday by testing his cycling skills on the British television show '100 Year Old Driving School'.

"If the examiner says 'You're not safe', my instinct would be,

"Look, get stuffed and mind your own business. I'm gonna carry on". That would be my instinct," he said.

"But I am so considerate to other people and their opinions that I would take it on board and take it very seriously and think, well should I be driving?"

In the meantime, Stares can be spotted completing his morning

errands on his Yamaha 125 scooter and plans to renew his license once again next year.

"I still get the same thrill from my scooter now as I got when I first started riding and when I had big powerful bikes," he said.

"I get excited about going to the shops because it means I get the feeling of being on the road again. There's a true feeling of freedom."



INSIDE EDITION/INFORM INC.



Maxims of Imam Hussein (PBUH)

Imam Hussein (PBUH) was a 7th century revolutionary leader who made the ultimate stand for social justice in the face of corruption and tyranny. He gave everything, including his life, for the dignity of his society.

He was born in 620 CE in the city of Medina (present day Saudi Arabia). He came from a family renowned for strong values of justice, charity and peace — the family of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Imam Hussein (PBUH) was widely respected across the lands of Arabia and beyond for his generosity, sincerity and wisdom.

Despite coming from a relatively privileged background and being a prominent figure in Islam, Imam Hussein (PBUH) would dismiss the grandeur of his status, in favor of breaking bread with the poor and needy. He challenged the status quo and brought people together.

Never will be salvaged the people who win the consent of the creature at the cost of the dissatisfaction of the creator.

No one will feel secure on the Resurrection Day except those who feared God in this world.

Being thankful for a grace of God makes God reward you with another grace.

Among the signs of ignorance is arguing with irrational people.

Avoid oppressing the one who does not have any supporter against you, other than the Almighty God.

One who reveals your faults to you like a mirror is your true friend, and one who flat-

(to come in) before saying 'Salam' (greetings).

Among the signs of a learned man is criticizing his own words and being informed of various viewpoints.

Whoever becomes generous becomes a noble; and whoever becomes stingy becomes vicious and mean-spirited.

The most generous person is the one who offers help to those who do not expect him to help.

Whoever sorts out a problem of a believer, God sorts out his difficulties of this world and the hereafter.

Never raise your need except to three (kinds of people): to a religious, to a brave man or to a nobleman.

Seventy rewards are for 'Salam' (Islamic greeting); sixty nine for the starter and one for the one who replies.

You deserve the Paradise, don't sell yourself for anything less. Whoever is content to the worldly pleasures, has sufficed to something low.

Never trust anybody but those who fear God.



One who pursues a goal through sinful ways, will ironically distance himself from that goal, and will approach what he was afraid of.

To me, death is nothing but happiness, and living under tyrants nothing but living in a hell.

If you don't believe in any religion and don't fear the Resurrection Day, at least be free in this world.

ters you and covers up your faults is your enemy.

Wisdom will not be complete except by following the truth.

Hastiness is foolishness.

Associating with corrupt people makes you subject to suspicion.

Crying out of fear from God is salvation from the hellfire.

Do not permit anybody

PICTURE OF THE DAY



JIMMY S., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC YOUR SHOT

A wild American crocodile lies in wait in southern Mexico, near the Belize border.

Octo-Cross

1	2	3	4		5	6	7
8					9		
10					11		
			12	13			
14	15	16					
17				18	19	20	21
22				23			
24				25			

DOWN

- Mesh
- Brew
- Golfing term
- Boredom
- Desiccated
- Entice
- Look searchingly
- Mother-of-pearl
- Nocturnal insect
- Song for solo voice
- Requirement
- Jurisprudence
- Consumed
- For each

ACROSS

- Part of the neck
- Mountain
- Stylish elegance
- Regret
- Gull
- Anger
- Below
- Craze
- Metal-bearing mineral
- Applaud
- Bind
- Pace
- Possessed
- Pitcher

Thursday's solution

W	I	S	E		E	L	F
H	O	A	X		L	E	E
O	N	C	E		A	N	T
			R	I	N	S	E
L	I	S	T	S			
O	D	E		L	O	B	E
N	E	E		E	V	I	L
G	A	P		T	A	N	K

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.

		9		2				1
1	5			4				
	2		1	6				
	8	1			4			2
9		5				4		8
3			8			6	7	
				8	1		2	
				3			5	6
4				5		1		

3	8	1	9	5	2	7	6	4
9	5	7	6	3	4	8	1	2
4	2	6	1	8	7	9	3	5
6	7	9	5	1	8	2	4	3
8	1	4	2	7	3	5	9	6
2	3	5	4	6	9	1	8	7
5	6	3	7	9	1	4	2	8
7	9	2	8	4	6	3	5	1
1	4	8	3	2	5	6	7	9

The former American football star and actor O.J. Simpson was released on parole early Sunday after serving nine years in a Nevada jail for a Las Vegas kidnapping and armed robbery.

Iran finishes Russian FS wrestling tourney with two medals



Iranian freestyle wrestler Younes Emami (on the top podium) poses for a photograph after winning the gold medal of the men's 65kg competitions at the Dmitry Korkin Cup 2017 in Yakutsk, Russia, on September 30, 2017.

Sports Desk

Iranian freestyle wrestlers managed to win a gold and a bronze at the end of Dmitry Korkin Cup 2017 in Yakutsk, Russia.

On Saturday – the first day of the tournament, Younes Emami clinched Iran's sole gold after outmuscling a competitor from Russia 5-1 in the final of the men's 65kg bouts at the Sports Training Center.

En route to final, he had defeated a contestant from Japan 9-3 in the opening round before powering past a representative from Mongolia 6-4 in his second bout.

Emami had, then, defeated his Uzbek opponent 11-8 in the next challenge to march into the semifinal round.

In the semifinal round, he overcame his Russian rival 6-5.

On Sunday – the last day of the competitions, Kamran Qassem-Pour earned Iran's second medal after defeating his Russian rival in the third place playoff of the men's 86kg weight class.

Prior to the final showdown, Qassem-Pour had outmuscled a wrestler from Uzbekistan 6-0 in his first bout, powered past his compatriot Esmael Mahmoudi 5-1 in the second round and defeated a Russian competitor 4-3 in his third match.

In the semifinal round, he, however, had failed to notch up a victory against his Russian opponent losing the bout 4-5.

Iran's other four representatives, including Mahmoudi, Amir-Reza Amiri (men's 125kg), Mehran Nasiri (65kg) and Morteza Qiassi (65kg), came short of collecting any medal in the two-day tourney.

The competition opened on September 30 and finished on October 1.

Dozens of athletes from 19 countries, including Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Iran, Japan, Romania, South Korea and Turkey took part in the international tournament.

Iran's Petrochimi stands fourth at FIBA Asia Champions Cup

Sports Desk

Iranian professional basketball club Petrochimi Bandar Imam, also known as Petrochimi, failed to clinch the bronze medal at the 2017 Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) Asia Champions Cup, and finished fourth at the end of the tournament.

On Saturday, the Iranian club was looking for revenge on Basketball Club Astana of Kazakhstan, to which it conceded its only loss in the group stage, but the Central Asian side demonstrated steadier performance and won the third-place playoff 81-78, Press TV reported.

The match took place at the Chenzhou Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium in the south central Chinese city of Chenzhou. The Iranian team lost the first and fourth quarter 17-19 and 17-19. It won the second quarter 20-19 and snatched a 24-24 draw in the third quarter.

Anthony Clemmons was BC Astana's top-scorer. He tossed in 22 points and had 5 assists, while the side's American swingman Justin Carter scored 19 points. Veteran Kazakhstan national

team guard Rustam Yargaliev also did well with 11 points.

The Iranian club's Behnam Yakhchali notched up 18 points and was named the top scorer of Petrochimi.

88-59 win to claim the title.

All-Star Five

At the end of the competition, the Ira-



The picture shows a view of the third-place playoff between Iranian Petrochimi Bandar Imam (players in white) and Basketball Club Astana at the 2017 FIBA Asia Champions Cup at the Chenzhou Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium in Chenzhou, south central China, on September 30, 2017.

Al Riyadi of Lebanon faced China's

Kashgar in the final match, and sealed an

nian club's Arsalan Kazemi got named in the star-studded All-Star Five – the team

of the tournament – by Tissot. He was brilliant for Petrochimi. In seven games, the NBA draft pick averaged 9.6 points and 11.7 boards, proving to be a superbly efficient as the Iranians made it to the top four.

China Kashgar star guard Darius Adams was named Most Valuable Player of the FIBA Asia Champions Cup 2017 and led the All-Star Five.

Adams did not have his best game for China Kashgar in their Final loss to Al Riyadi today, but it was his tournament-long brilliance that netted for him the MVP plum also offered by Tissot. He averaged 22.0 points, 6.0 rebounds, 4.3 assists and 2.9 steals per game and had a 23.4 efficiency rating – the highest among all guards.

The other members of the All-Star Five were Chris Daniels and Quincy Douby of Al Riyadi and Justin Carter of BC Astana.

The 2017 FIBA Asia Champions Cup started on September 22 and concluded on September 30.

Previously known as the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Champions Cup until 2002, the tournament is organized by FIBA Asia, and takes place once a year.

Iwobi on target as Gunners ease to comfortable victory

Goals from Nacho Monreal and Alex Iwobi stretched Arsenal's unbeaten run to seven matches in all competitions in a 2-0 win over Brighton.

Monreal's first goal since March 2013 and Iwobi's first of the season helped Arsenal on its way and although Chris Hughton's side put in a spirited performance, with Solly March and Davy Propper coming close in the first half, Arsenal's quality showed in a dominant display, skysports.com reported.

Three points for Arsenal means the team has so far notched up 13 points from seven league matches.

Arsenal started firmly on the front foot as Alexandre Lacazette's strike hit the post and evaded Alexis Sanchez just minutes before Mat Ryan was called into action in the 13th minute to get down and save Iwobi's first-time effort.

But Arsene Wenger's side did break the deadlock on 16 through Monreal, who placed his attempt into the bottom corner after the ball bounced around the penalty area following three blocked Arsenal shots.



AFP

Brighton responded brightly after going a goal down. March's 20-yard shot smacked the post before Lewis Dunk fired the rebound wide. Ten minutes later and Lacazette broke through following a sloppy back-pass miscontrolled by Dunk, but the France international's shot was too timid to really

trouble Ryan.

The Australian goalkeeper was called into action once again shortly before halftime as he smartly used his feet to clear Aaron Ramsey's low strike following a rapid counterattack. At the other end, Propper curled his effort just wide of Petr Cech's goal from

a tight angle.

Arsenal began the second half in dominant fashion and Iwobi slotted home in the 56th minute as he latched onto a stunning backheel from Sanchez. The Chile international almost piled on the misery moments later but his shot was cleared off the line by Dunk, who then smothered Lacazette's shot with a perfectly-timed block in the 67th minute.

Brighton rallied late on with substitute Glenn Murray making an impact off the bench as his vicious header hit the side netting five minutes from time, but Arsenal held on to secure a crucial victory.

Man of the Match

The Chile international put in a fine display against Brighton as he set the tempo for the majority of his side's attacks.

His fine backheel for Iwobi's goal highlighted the quality Arsenal's star winger has, while he was unlucky not to have a goal of his own following Dunk's excellent block off the line.

Course record set as Kenyans dominate at Cardiff Half Marathon



BBC

Kenya's John Lotiang celebrates winning the men's race at the Cardiff Half Marathon held in the Welsh capital of Cardiff on October 1, 2017.

Kenya's John Lotiang won the men's race at the Cardiff Half Marathon, beating defending champion Shadrach Kimining in a course record of one hour 47 seconds.

Kipkemboi Kiprono rounded off a Kenyan 1-2-3 with Wales' Dewi Griffiths fourth in a personal best time of 1.01.31, BBC reported.

Edith Chelimo also set a course record as she won the women's race, with Dorcas Kimeli and Beatrice Mutai completing another Kenyan clean sweep.

Melissa Nichols and Richie Powell won the wheelchair races.

The event drew a record entry of 25,000, made up of elite, club and charity runners.

Griffiths' fourth place is the latest success in a year in which he finished as the best British runner in the London Marathon.

"It was pretty fast from the start. The race organizers asked for a fast pace so I knew it was a fast pace and it was just about how long I could stick with it really and go as hard and fast as I can," the 26-year-old said.

"I knew I was in great shape, I've PB'd over the last couple of weeks and it's another PB today.

"The crowds were great, the support was great. It was a great event again."

Verstappen hails 'unbelievable' car after Malaysian GP win

Max Verstappen capped a perfect birthday weekend with victory in the Malaysian Grand Prix and then hailed his Red Bull team for giving him an "unbelievable" car.

Third on the grid, Verstappen was second by the end of the pit straight after Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen retired from second spot before the start with engine problems, AFP reported.

It took him only four laps to reel in pole-sitter Hamilton and from there the young Dutchman was never in any danger, taking a dominant victory on the day after his 20th birthday.

"I think in the beginning, straight away, the car felt good," said Verstappen.



ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP

Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates with his team after winning the Formula One Malaysia Grand Prix in Sepang on October 1, 2017.

"Saw Lewis was struggling a bit... of course he has more to lose in the championship, so I went for it at turn one.

"From there I could do my own race. The car was unbelievable, if I had to speed up I could. It was a very tough race and incredible to win."

Hamilton came second to extend his drivers' championship lead to 34 points over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Daniel Ricciardo completed the podium at the Sepang International Circuit.

It was Verstappen's second career grand prix victory but only his second podium finish in a 2017 season which has seen him fail to finish seven of the 15 races.

"Super, super job," said Red Bull team principal Christian Horner over team radio after Verstappen took the checkered flag.

The son of former Formula One driver Jos Verstappen was third at the Chinese Grand Prix back in April but has not appeared in the top three since because of crashes and retirements. "I'm absolutely delighted for Max," Horner told reporters after the race.

"He's endured so much bad luck this season. He absolutely deserves this victory. He turned 20 yesterday and this is the best possible way to start that new decade," said Horner.

"He had pace all weekend. He did a great job yesterday and then to overtake Lewis, in the move that he made, was exemplary."

Verstappen's victory was Red Bull's second of the season after Daniel Ricciardo won in Azerbaijan.

Ricciardo also won in Malaysia a year ago and Horner praised the Australian for overtaking the Mercedes of Valtteri Bottas to seize third before withstanding a fierce late challenge from Sebastian Vettel.

"Daniel was fantastic," said Horner, delighted with first and third for the team.

"He was unlucky starting on the damper side of the track but the pass he made to Valtteri, the way he defended against Vettel, was exceptional."

» Art & Culture

James Franco's 'The Disaster Artist' wins at San Sebastian

Having placed second in Toronto's People's Choice Awards, James Franco scored his first big outright win as a director, his 'The Disaster Artist' scooping the 65th San Sebastián Festival's Golden Shell — the top plaudit at the highest-profile film event in the Spanish-speaking world.

"This was a family affair, my brother, my sister, my old friend Seth Rogen," Franco said, accepting the award on stage at San Sebastián.

He added, thanking Warner Bros.: "It's a very simple film about a crazy man but he had big dreams and it's better than not having dreams. I hope that in these crazy times this brings a little light and inspiration."

Described by Variety as 'the comedy sensation of SXSW', Franco's uproarious 'making-of' satire of 2003's 'The Room', Tommy Wiseau's best worst movie of this century, 'The Disaster Artist' had already won the Spanish critics' Feroz Zinemaldia Prize, and was one of the two best-ranked titles on a reviewers' poll run by El Diario Vasco, a local newspaper.



VARIETY

Bogdan Dumitrache won best actor for his performance in Constantin Popescu's 'Porroca' as a father devastated by the disappearance of his daughter. The film sparked up-beat to rave reviews. "Constantin Popescu's study of a missing-person crisis hits with direct emotional force," Variety announced.

In one of two firsts for San Sebastián, Jon Garaño and Aitor Arregi's 'Handia', sold by Film Factory, scooped the San Sebastián's Special Jury Prize — the first big prize to go to a Basque movie in main competition at San Sebastián.

Set from 1836 in backward rural Basque Country, 'Handia' turns on the two brother's deep affective bonds warped but never destroyed by grinding poverty, romantic rivalry and the carnage of the 1833-40 Carlist War and the wrenching impact of a modern industrial world.

But it was women who made much of the running at Saturday night's prize awards. Argentine Anahi Berneri's 'Alanis', the portrait of the trials and tribulations of a call girl turned struggling streetwalker, won the first best director prize to go to a woman in San Sebastián's 65-edition history. Sofia Gala took best actress for her lead performance.

Three features by first-time or on-the-rise women filmmakers, Chile's Marcela Said, France's Marine Francen and Laura Mora's 'Killing Jesus', did indeed achieve something at San Sebastian.

Francen's debut, 'The Sower' a delicate love story and ode to freedom set in a hamlet in the hills of France in 1851, won the Festival's New Directors competition, its major sidebar. "You can be a director and also a mother," Francen announced, on stage at San Sebastian.

A withering portrait of Chile's ruling class complicity in the atrocities of Augusto Pinochet's bloody dictatorship first seen at Cannes Critics' Week, 'Los Perros', Said's second fiction feature which is handled by Films Boutique, chronicles a woman's fascination with an ex-colonel, accused of human rights abuse under Pinochet.

Mora's first feature, 'Killing Jesus', ripped by Latido Films, won San Sebastián's Eroski Youth Award for a social thriller following a young student who hits Medellín's mean streets to track down the sicario who murdered her father before her eyes.

In a good night for Argentine cinema with both its competition films scoring awards, Diego Lerman won best screenplay for the Film Factory-sold 'A Kind of Family', starring Barbara Lennie as a woman traveling across Argentina to adopt a baby. A leading figure of the New Argentine Cinema, Lerman used the occasion to express his concern at new — if maybe provisional — market minded Argentine subsidy regulation whose rulings threaten smaller art films, he argued.

One of the most celebrated kudos was the Irizar Prize for best Basque movie to 'Handia'. Also celebrated with huge applause, Telmo Esnal's 'Dantza', a polished attempt to inscribe a heavily stylish Basque musical in a modern European dance film tradition, embodied by the movies of Esnal's compatriot Carlos Saura, won best picture at a new Glocal in Progress competition.

The 65th San Sebastián International Film Festival ran from September 22 to 30.

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ISNA



ILNA

Iranian filmmaker Dormishian on Iraq's panel of jury

Art & Culture Desk

Reza Dormishian, the Iranian director of acclaimed movies 'I'm Not Angry' and 'Lanturi', has been selected to serve on the panel of jury at the second edition of the Slemeni International Film festival which is being held on Iraq's Kurdistan from October 1 to 7.

Dormishian was an assistant to some

prestigious Iranian filmmakers, including Dariush Mehrjoui and Alireza Davoodnejad. He began his directorial career in 2002 making short films and documentaries, ISNA reported.

The festival includes 47 films from Iran, France, USA, Germany, Italy, the UK, Mexico, Chile, Spain, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, India, Lithuania, Serbia, Paraguay, Albania, Algeria, Morocco, Colombia, Chile, Portugal, Russia,

the Netherlands, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Belarus, Japan, Egypt, Turkey, Denmark and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The International Cinema Section presents a series of feature and short films from all over the world. It includes feature films (narrative features with a minimum length of 60 minutes) and short films (the short film with a maximum length of 25 minutes).

The Kurdish Cinema Section presents a series of Kurdish films; feature, and short films, made in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria. This section includes feature films (narrative features from Iraq's Kurdistan Region, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria with a minimum length of 60 minutes) and short films (the short film with a maximum length of 25 minutes).

Tehran hosts photo exhibition on Muharram rituals



farhangsara.ir

Laleh Gallery and the City Photo Museum in Tehran are hosting a collection of historical photos from the mourning rituals in the lunar month of Muharram.

Titled 'Mourners: The Historical Photos of the Muharram Mourning', the event will continue until October 31. It showcases 55 images concurrently in the two venues, ifilmvtv.ir wrote.

The photos are mostly from religious mourning ceremonies, dating back to the Qajar Dynasty (1789-1925).

The month of Muharram is the

time of national mourning and paying tribute to Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam, and his 72 companions in the Karbala tragedy.

The anniversary of the Imam's martyrdom is observed on the tenth day of Muharram each year.

Muharram mourning ceremonies have long been intertwined with Persian culture and are often also manifested through different field of arts, including film, photos, plays and paintings.

International Translation Day observed

Compiled from Dispatches

International Translation Day was observed on September 30, 2017 with an aim to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, who play an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.

The day is celebrated every year on September 30 on the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators. The celebrations have been promoted by FIT (the International Federation of Translators) ever since it was set up in 1953. In 1991 FIT launched the idea of an officially recognized International Translation Day to show solidarity of the worldwide translation community in an effort to promote the translation profession in different countries (not necessarily only in Christian ones). This is an opportunity to display pride in a profession that is becoming increasingly essential in the era of progressing globalization.

The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on May 24, 2017 declaring September 30 as International Translation Day, an act to recognize the role of professional translation in connecting na-

tions. [1]. Eleven countries — Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, Qatar, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam — are the signatories of Draft Resolution A/71/L.68. Also several organizations have been advocating for this resolution to be adopted: AIIC, CLI, FIT, IAPTI, Red T, WASLI.

This event highlights the vision of the Department of Culture and Tourism which seeks to encourage younger genera-



The Kalima Translation Project at Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism hosted a range of cultural activities for adults and children at Dalma Mall as part of the International Translation Day celebrations.

Organized in cooperation with Dalma Mall and presented by the Children's Center from the National Library Sector of the Department of Culture and Tourism, the events included sessions for children to read a collection of translated Kalima publications, a handi-

crafts workshop as well as a one-word translation contest, photography sessions and quizzes where winners received Kalima books as prizes. There were also 1,000 books given away to the audience at the event.

This event highlights the vision of the Department of Culture and Tourism which seeks to encourage younger genera-

tions to read more and to spread happiness and positive energy throughout UAE society. Kalima is one of the key initiatives of Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism. It was launched in 2007 under the patronage of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, with the aim of reviving the translation movement in the Arab world and promoting cultural dialogue.

» Weather



24 17
Amol



36 23
Jiroft



24 18
Ramsar



30 14
Shahriar



32 14
Shiraz



30 ^
v 16
Tehran



28 15
Dushanbe



38 26
Mecca



11 5
Saint Petersburg



24 18
Tokyo



19 14
Toronto