



Iran Daily offers condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Sajjad (PBUH), the fourth Shia Imam.

IRAN DAILY



Iran, Oman discuss energy, transit, developments in region

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At least 50 killed in Las Vegas shooting spree



A body lies under a sheet on The Strip in Las Vegas as police secure the area after at least 50 people were killed on Sunday.

GETTY IMAGES

A gunman perched on the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas hotel unleashed a hail of bullets on an outdoor country music festival below, killing at least 50 people as tens of thousands of concertgoers screamed and ran for their lives, officials said Monday. It was the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. More than 400 other victims were taken to the hospital, AFP reported. SWAT teams using explosives stormed the gunman's hotel room and found he had killed himself, authorities said. He had as many as 10 guns with him, including rifles, they said. There was no immediate word on the motive for the bloodshed. Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said authorities believe this was a "lone wolf" attack. And the US Homeland Security Department said there was no "specific credible threat" involving other public venues in the US. Paddock's female companion, who had earlier been named as a person of in-

terest by police, is believed to have been located, Lombardo added. Country music star Jason Aldean was performing Sunday night in front of a crowd of more than 22,000 when the gunman opened fire from inside the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino across the street. The gunman was identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64, of Mesquite, Nevada. He had checked into the hotel room on Thursday, authorities said. The suspect had both hunting and fishing licenses according to public records, as well as his pilot's license, but no criminal record in the state of Nevada. "What we are going to try to do as best we can is to get our first responders back on their feet and responding and conducting a proper investigation to ensure that we have the safety of this community at heart," the sheriff said. Video then showed Aldean stopping and the crowd getting quiet as if it were unsure of what had just happened.

The gunman paused and then fired another volley, the muzzle flashes visible from the casino, as more victims fell to the ground while others fled in panic. Some hid behind concession stands, while others crawled under parked cars. Witnesses told how Paddock opened fire with an initial long burst, and then appeared to reload as he continued his spree. "We heard what sounded like glass breaking, so you looked around to see what's going on and then heard a pop, pop, pop," Monique Deker told CNN. "You'd think for a moment, okay we're fine, there's no more gunfire, then it starts again." Her sister Rachel said it sounded like "the shots were coming from the right side... it sounded like they were right beside us too... it was right there." Police shut down busy Las Vegas Boulevard, while federal and state authorities converged on the scene. Hospital emergency rooms were

jammed with victims. "It's a devastating time," the sheriff said. President Donald Trump tweeted: "My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!" Although the final toll has yet to be confirmed, it is already the deadliest shooting in the United States. The previous deadliest shooting came in June 2016 when 49 people were killed at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. It was also the latest in a series of recent deadly attacks at concert venues. Twenty-two people were killed while leaving an Ariana Grande concert in the northern English city of Manchester in May when a suicide bomber detonated a nail bomb in the foyer. Ninety people were killed in November 2015 at the Bataclan venue in Paris during a concert by the US band the Eagles of Death Metal.

Spain in crisis after Catalan independence vote

Spain vowed Monday to stop Catalonia from declaring independence after a banned referendum that saw riot police use batons and rubber bullets, as the country grappled with its deepest crisis in decades. The government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy held emergency talks after Catalan President Carles Puigdemont declared Sunday that the region had won the right to break away from Spain, AFP wrote. Images of riot police beating up would-be voters with batons and firing rubber bullets to disperse crowds during Sunday's referendum in the wealthy northeastern region shocked many in Spain and its neighbors in Europe. Puigdemont appealed on Monday for international mediation to help solve the crisis, and called for all police sent in to Catalonia for the vote to be removed. "It is not a domestic matter," Puigdemont told a news conference on Monday. "It's obvious that we need mediation." In its first reaction on Monday, the European Union urged all sides to "move very swiftly from confrontation to dialogue" and said violence should not be part of politics. A jubilant Puigdemont said late Sunday that 90 percent of voters taking part in the referendum had voted for independence for Catalonia, defying the police crackdown and the fierce opposition from Madrid. The regional government said 2.26 million people actually took part in the vote, or just over 42 percent of the electorate in Catalonia. Puigdemont said his people had "won the right to an independent state" in Catalonia, a region of 7.5 million people which accounts for one fifth of Spain's economic output. But any attempt to unilaterally declare independence is likely to be opposed not just by Madrid but also a large section of the Catalan population which is deeply split on the issue. His declaration sets the restive region on course for a deeper split with the Spanish government, after Rajoy reiterated his government's position that the vote was an illegal act, to which the state had reacted "with firmness and serenity".



Spanish Guardia Civil guards drag a man outside a polling station in Sant Julià de Ramis, where Catalan president was supposed to vote, on October 1, 2017, on the day of a referendum on independence for Catalonia banned by Madrid.

Puigdemont has said he would now present the results to the region's parliament, which has the power to adopt a motion of independence. Pro-separatist lawmakers have a narrow majority of 72 seats in the 135-seat Catalan parliament. 'Shameful page' Reacting to the scenes of violence, Puigdemont said Spain's central government had "written a shameful page in its history with Catalonia" while several top figures in the far-left party Podemos called for Rajoy to resign. At least 92 people were confirmed injured, two of them seriously, out of a total of 844 who needed medical attention, Catalan authorities said. Shocking videos posted on social media showed police dragging voters from polling stations by their hair, throwing people down stairs and attacking Catalan firefighters protecting polling stations. Further adding to tensions, unions and Catalan associations have called a region-wide strike for Tuesday due to "the grave violation of rights and freedoms," urging people to take to the streets. Hundreds of people gathered in central Barcelona on Monday to protest against the police violence, chanting: "The streets will always be ours". The euro and the Spanish stock market slid on Monday after the vote, with bank shares particularly hard hit.

Asia's Iran oil imports reach five-month high

Imports of Iranian crude by major buyers in Asia rose for a second month in a row in August to hit their highest level since March, helped by a spike in purchases by China and South Korea.



However, imports by Asia's four main buyers remained below last year's levels for a fourth month in a row, the first time this has happened since Western sanctions against Tehran were lifted in January last year, leading to a surge in shipments, Reuters reported. Continued on Page 4

Myanmar 'makes proposal' to take back Rohingya refugees

Myanmar has proposed taking back the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya who have fled to Bangladesh in recent weeks, the Bangladeshi foreign minister said after talks Monday with a senior Myanmar representative. A.H. Mahmood Ali said the representative of de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi had agreed to set up a working group to coordinate the repatriation. He gave no details, AFP reported. "The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere and Myanmar has made a proposal to take back the Rohingya refugees," the minister told reporters after meeting Kyaw Tint Swe in Dhaka. "The two sides have agreed to a proposal to set up a joint working group to coordinate the repatriation process." He said the refugees would be verified by the joint working group, with the United Nations not involved. The United Nations has called the influx of 507,000 Rohingya since

late August the world's fastest-developing refugee emergency, and says Buddhist-majority Myanmar is engaging in ethnic cleansing against its Rohingya Muslim minority. The Rohingya are denied citizenship, despite having roots in Myanmar that go back centuries, with communities marginalized and subjected to bouts of communal violence over the years. Problems of statelessness had to be tackled, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told a meeting in Geneva. "Nowhere is the link between statelessness and displacement more evident than with the Rohingya community," he said. But many refugees are gloomy about the prospects of going back, fearing they will not be able to furnish the documents they anticipate Myanmar will demand to prove they have a right to return. Myanmar has refused to grant access to a UN fact-finding mission but Suu Kyi last year appointed a team led by former UN secretary general

Kofi Annan to draw up recommendations on solving problems in Rakhine. The commission presented its recommendations on Aug. 24, a day before the insurgent attacks, among them a review of a law that links citizenship and ethnicity and leaves most Rohingya stateless. The panel also recommended that the government punish rights violations, ensure the right to freedom of movement and invest in infrastructure to lift the state out of poverty. Suu Kyi, in her address to the nation last month, said she was committed to the recommendations. There were already about 300,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh before the latest influx. In Myanmar, the government took diplomats to Rakhine to let them see the situation. "Maungdaw feels like a ghost town," Swiss Ambassador Paul Seger said on Twitter, as he arrived in a main town in the north of Rakhine.

Iran, Oman discuss energy, transit, developments in region

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Omani officials held talks on energy, the economy and transit and the potential transfer of Iranian gas through Oman to India, according to the official Oman News Agency (ONA).

The top Iranian diplomat arrived in Oman on Monday morning for a one-day visit and held a meeting with the Sultanate's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah.

Zarif hailed the wise policy being adopted by the Sultanate under the wise leadership of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, as well as His constructive role in the region, which faces several challenges.

In a statement to ONA, Zarif affirmed that both countries are bound by good relations. He added that they endeavor to expand these relations in different fields particularly in economy, energy and transit fields.

Zarif pointed out that his visit comes within the framework of the continuous consultation with the Sultanate about a range of issues of concern to the region. Oman and Iran in 2014 agreed to build an underwater pipeline to pump Iranian gas to the Omani port city of Sohar.

Oman, a tiny sultanate across the water from Iran, has traditionally had close ties with Tehran.

Also on Monday, the Iranian Minister planned to visit Qatar for talks on relations



between Tehran and Doha that have caused tensions among the Persian Gulf Arab states.

It is his first visit to Qatar since Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut ties with Qatar in June.

The four countries accuse Qatar of backing extremism and fostering ties with Iran, charges that Doha denies.

Zarif was scheduled to meet Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi told AFP talks would focus on relations in the Persian Gulf, economic cooperation and the latest developments in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Speaking in Paris last week, the Qatari foreign minister said moves by Qatar's rivals, including the cutting of trade and transport links, were actually pushing Doha into closer ties with Tehran.

"They accuse Qatar of being close to Iran but with their measure... they push Qatar towards Iran. They are giving Qatar like a gift to Iran," he said.

Zarif: JCPOA has "better than 50%" chance of surviving

Despite President Donald Trump's threats to blow it up, the Iran nuclear deal still has "better than 50 percent" chance of surviving the next year, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told Politico in an extensive interview detailing how his country will — and won't — respond to Trump's extraordinary campaign against the agreement the American president calls "an embarrassment to the United States."

Zarif called Trump's harsh attack on Iran in his recent UN speech "the most insulting statement that had ever been made by any US president against Iran since the revolution."

But he said it has backfired, isolating the United States and undermining its credibility "as a reliable negotiating partner" on the world stage, and he vowed not to renegotiate the nuclear deal.

If Trump tried to unravel it, Zarif said, Iran would consider everything from "walking away from the deal to somehow accommodating Europe."

Spend an hour with Zarif, the American-educated diplomat who brokered the agreement two years ago with Barack Obama's administration and five other major world powers, it's clear that he thinks Iran bested Trump at the UN over the last few weeks.

After all, Trump publicly widened the rift with European allies even as his Secretary of State Rex Tillerson failed to persuade them privately—or even make a coherent case—for blowing up the nuclear accord, potentially doing long-term damage to the US ability to cut deals with any number of global "bad" actors.

"The Europeans have made it very clear to us and to the United States that they intend to do their utmost to ensure survival of the deal," Zarif said, using some of his strongest public language yet for a series of backstage meetings that made clear what a striking gap Trump has opened up between the Americans and their closest allies.

Zarif's stinging comments about Trump's efforts come at a key decision point on Iran for the president and Tillerson.

While the Iran deal crisis has been publicly overshadowed in recent days by the president's war of words with nuclear-armed North Korea, it has provoked a major behind-the-scenes battle, pitting an increasingly isolated Tillerson against other Trump advisers ahead of an October 15 deadline for the president to certify Iran's compliance with the deal—or send the issue back to Congress.

Tillerson, whom Trump publicly smacked down on Twitter Sunday over his efforts to open back-channel talks with the North Koreans, has waged a lonely fight against "decertification" of the Iran deal as well, according to several people I spoke with who have been briefed on the internal debates and expect the president to overrule the secretary on this, too.

Zarif acknowledged that Trump has now created the expectation that he will refuse to recertify the nuclear deal—while noting pointedly that Trump could still flip-flop on this, just as he has in so many other cases.

"This would not be the first time that President Trump or other presidents have walked back from positions that they have taken during the campaign," he said.

"It's up to Congress to adopt any decision, or not to adopt any decision, and I believe in the past a Republican Congress had this idea to let the nuclear agreement stay, as did our Parliament," Zarif said. "It had decided in the past not to take action; it can decide again."

"Now, look at the message that you are sending to the world," Zarif said. "It would make it tougher for anybody to believe and rely upon the United States—anybody, not just North Korea. You've seen US allies saying that the United States is not a reliable partner."

Zarif was asked whether Iran would also walk away from the deal if Trump went ahead with his threat to do so.

"No, no, no," Zarif said, at least not right away, what with Europe indicating it will stick with it and with Congress yet to act. "We will wait."

Iran's Army stages third stage of drills near western border

The third stage of military exercises of the Iranian Army started on Monday near the western common border between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq.

The war game code-named "Heidar-e-Karrar" involves various units of the Iranian Army, including the rapid reaction unit, the artillery unit, and the drone unit, Tasnim News Agency reported.

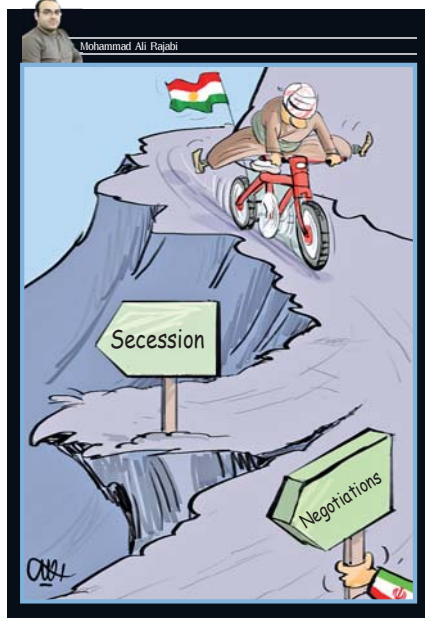
The third stage of the military drills, during which the army plans to showcase its mobility and offensive power, are underway near the Parviz Khan border in western Iran.

Some forces of the Iraqi Army are also present in the area and participate in the war game alongside with the Iranian troops.

Last week, Iran's Air Defense intensified activities along the country's western borders, deploying new missile equipment there.

The dispatch of missiles coincided with the military drills that the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have staged along the country's western border areas.

The Army's Heidar-e-Karrar war game had kicked off along Iran's western border areas on last Sunday.



Iran, Turkey agree to boost military cooperation

Turkish Chief of General Staff Hulusi Akar held separate meetings with Iranian officials, during which they discussed expansion of military cooperation.

The Turkish official Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and Iran's president on Monday.

Iran and Turkey agreed on Monday to promote cooperation in various arenas, as in offering help for the persecuted Muslim people of Myanmar, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri announced.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar in Tehran on Monday, Baqeri said they discussed a range of issues in their meeting earlier in the day, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The Iranian and Turkish armed forces will broaden cooperation in training, holding war games, and exchanging experiences, the top Iranian commander said.

He added that the two sides also explored avenues for military cooperation to assist the Muslim people in Myanmar and in Islamic countries.

The Iranian general pointed to the fight against terrorism as another topic discussed in the meeting, saying the two sides have "made the necessary decisions."

"We held talks on the common threats to the two countries, and also on the (secession) referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan region with an emphasis on the maintenance of Iraq's integrity and rejection of the referendum," Baqeri said.

The visiting Turkish general hailed the age-old "friendship and fraternity" between Turkey and Iran, saying the two countries cooperate given the sensitive regional conditions.

According to General Akar, Iran and Turkey have reached agreements on the battle against terrorism and on measures to ensure border security.

The Turkish general also held meeting with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani slammed the independence referendum recently held in Iraq's Kurdistan Region, saying the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani (R) shakes hands with Turkish Chief of General Staff Hulusi Akar in a meeting in Tehran on October 2, 2017.



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri (2nd L) and his Turkish counterpart Hulusi Akar (2nd R) attend a press conference in Tehran on October 2, 2017.

adopted an "irresponsible and amateurish approach."

"Paying no attention to the time and security requirements and pursuing tribal goals through this move will reduce the focus on the fight against Takfiri terrorism as the most important threat to the region and will rapidly spread the harmful security impacts on the Kurdish region of Iraq," he said.

The Turkish general arrived in Tehran on Monday morning, two days before President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's planned visit to Iran.

According to Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, Erdogan will discuss with Iran their response to the Iraqi Kurdish secession referendum in the upcoming visit.



sputniknews.com

Iraqi forces launch assault to retake Daesh-held areas near Hawija

Iraqi forces on Monday launched an attack against Daesh-held areas southeast of the terror group's bastion of Hawija, the operations commander said.

Government forces and the Hashd al-Shaabi, an alliance mostly of Shia forces, are fighting to retake the northern town of Hawija after expelling Daesh from large parts of the territory they seized in Iraq in 2014, Reuters wrote.

"The Counter Terrorism Service and Hashd al-Shaabi have started a broad operation to liberate Rashad and nearby villages as part of the second phase to liberate Hawija," Lieutenant General Abdel Amir Yarallah said.

The Hashd al-Shaabi confirmed the offensive and said it had retaken five villages west of Rashad, which is 35 kilometers (20 miles) southeast of Hawija.

On September 21, Iraqi forces backed by a US-led coalition launched an offensive to retake a Daesh enclave around Hawija, swiftly taking the town of Shirqat on its second day before pushing on towards Hawija itself.

On Friday, they started the battle to retake the town itself, one of the last Daesh bastions in the country along with a stretch of the Euphrates Valley near the border with Syria.

Oil wells on fire

Daesh set fire to three oil wells near Hawija, military and oil officials said on Monday.

Iraqi security forces were using bulldozers to control the fires started by the terrorists in the early hours of Saturday

to slow the advance of anti-Daesh troops toward Hawija town, military officials said.

The Allas oilfield, 35 km (20 miles) south of Hawija, was one of the main sources of revenue for Daesh.

"Terrorists are trying to use the rising smoke to avert airstrikes while retreating from the area toward Hawija," said Iraqi Army Colonel Mohammed al-Jabouri.

Military officials said the fire had been brought under control at one of the wells, while the other two were still burning. They said it would take about three days to put out the fires.

Oil officials from the state-run North Oil Company said it was still too risky to send its crews in to assess damage at the wells as terrorists may have left bombs and landmines.

Kenyan police teargas opposition protesters in capital

Police on Monday fired tear gas at opposition supporters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi who were calling for the sacking of officials they blame for last month's botched presidential election.

A rerun is due to be held October 26 after the Supreme Court voided the August 8 vote due to irregularities. The court criticized the election board on procedural grounds but did not find any individual at the board responsible, Reuters reported.

In the capital, police fired rounds of tear gas over the course of several hours at small groups of protesters in at least three locations in the business district downtown.

Police also fired tear gas to disperse protesters in the western city of Kisumu.

At least 28 people were killed in unrest following last month's vote.

Businesses were paralyzed in Kisumu, an opposition stronghold, on Monday after police and demonstrators clashed.

Kenya is a key Western ally in a region often roiled by violence. It is also the richest country per capita in East Africa and a regional gateway for trade and transport.

Whether the rerun will go ahead as planned looks increasingly uncertain as the parties of the two candidates, Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga spar over proposed changes to the election system to prevent the Supreme Court from annulling the results again.



Police attempt to disperse opposition supporters protesting against the retention of the election officials they blame for last month's botched elections, in Nairobi, Kenya, on October 2, 2017.

THOMAS MUKOYA/REUTERS

1,200 people were killed after a disputed election.

Also on Monday, Kenyatta said opposition supporters should accept the Supreme Court's timeline for when the new poll must be held. "You can't have your cake and eat it," he said. "If you celebrated the court's decision to repeat the election you must also respect the court's decision to have (the election board) preside over the repeat election within 60 days," the president said at an event in Nairobi.

Kenyatta's ruling Jubilee Party presented Parliament with proposed changes last week but Odinga's coalition has said it will not take part unless these are dropped.

After a meeting with the election board, British and US diplomats condemned "inflammatory rhetoric" by politicians and said it undermined the election board's ability to carry out its job of holding the new election.

In the first signal that Western governments might take concrete action against Kenyan politicians engaging in hate speech, a British diplomat told reporters: "Anyone who is found to be inciting or engaging in violence must be held accountable... the UK reserves right to take appropriate action which may include refusing or revoking visas."

Since the Supreme Court voided last month's presidential results, politicians from the ruling party and the opposition have made fiery, at times crude, speeches — stoking fears that violence could take on an ethnic dimension, as in 2007, when

Rights group: Israel has detained 14,000 Palestinians since 2015

Israel has arrested 14,000 Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories since October 2015, according to a rights group.

According to figures released by the Palestinian Prisoners Center for Studies, of the 14,000 detained Palestinians, 3,100 were minors, 437 were women and 450 were online activists, middleeastmonitor.com wrote.

Almost all the detainees were subjected to psychological or physical torture in Israeli detention and investigation centers in total violation of international laws and conventions, the organization added.

Some 2,860 administrative detention orders were issued since October 2015 — 17 of which were issued against female detainees while 42 others targeted minors.

Some 65 young girls were among the female detainees, six of them were shot with live ammunition during their arrest.

Sixteen Palestinian MPs were also detained over the reported period, 10 of them are still being held in Israeli jails.

The figures also documented the arrest of 150 elderly people, 39 academics, 240 patients and disabled people and 115 journalists.

Over the past two years, six prisoners died, raising the number of Palestinian detainees who have lost their lives in Israeli jails to 212.



english.al-akhbar.com

Report: Iraqi Kurdish forces deport Arabs, Turkmen

Kurdish security forces, known as Asayesh and Peshmerga fighters, have deported scores of Arab and Turkmen families from Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk following last week's referendum on secession.

The London-based Al-Quds al-Arabi newspaper on Monday quoted informed sources at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as saying that 58 families had been "forcibly displaced" from Kirkuk so far, Press TV reported.

The daily further said that the families were displaced to Diyala Province's Miqdadiyah.

The deported Arab families said Kurdish forces made copies of their documents and forced them to sign papers. They later found to have signed their purported endorsement of the referendum and participation in it.



The families said the Kurdish forces also marked their houses with a letter in red.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) held a non-binding referendum on secession from Iraq in defiance of Baghdad's stiff opposition on September 25. Kurdish officials said over 90 percent of voters said "Yes" to separation from Iraq.

The voting was held in the three provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk that form the Iraqi Kurdistan Region as well as in the disputed border zones such as the oil-rich province of Kirkuk.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government on Monday allowed foreigners stranded in the Iraqi Kurdistan after an international flight ban to leave the country via Baghdad despite not having a federal visa. Foreigners who had entered the northern region on regional visas not recognized by Baghdad could not previously travel to other parts of Iraq.

"Any person can leave the country via Baghdad without paying a fine or for an exit visa," Interior Minister Qassem al-Araji told reporters. Baghdad imposed a ban on international flights into and out of the Iraqi Kurdistan region on September 29 in response to the secession referendum.

Much of the international community, including the UN, the European Union and Iraq's neighbors, have also opposed the referendum.

Israel has been the only entity to openly support a Kurdish state, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backing "the legitimate efforts of the Kurdish people to attain a state" of their own.

Marseille knife attacker arrested days before rampage

The man who stabbed two young women to death in Marseille in an attack claimed by the Daesh terror group used seven different identities and had been arrested just days earlier, French prosecutors said Monday.

Authorities said the killer, who was shot dead by anti-terror troops after Sunday's attack outside the southern city's main train station, had used a Tunisian passport last week under the name of a 29-year-old with the first name Ahmed, AFP wrote.

But investigators are seeking to confirm his identity as the attacker — who had a history of petty crime but was not on a Daesh watch list — used seven aliases, anti-terror prosecutor Francois Molins told reporters in Paris.



BERTRAND LANGLOIS/AFP

Police evacuated Marseille's ornate Saint Charles station after the attack, temporarily halting all train traffic on some of France's busiest lines.

Molins said "the method of the attacker" was in line with calls from the Syria-based terror group to followers in the West to strike vulnerable targets, such as train stations.

The Daesh group's propaganda agency Amaq claimed the killer was one of its "soldiers", but a source close to the investigation said no solid evidence linked him to the Takfiris.

The attack in France's second-biggest city followed a string of stabbings around Europe claimed by or blamed on Daesh terrorists. The man killed two 20-year-old cousins, one of them a "brilliant" medical student who was studying in the city, according to Aix-Marseille University chief Yvon Berland.

His cousin, a nursing student from the eastern city of Lyon, was visiting her for the weekend. The attacker's fingerprints showed he had had seven brushes with the law since 2005 — most recently when he was arrested last Friday in Lyon for shoplifting. He presented the Tunisian passport to police, saying he was divorced, used "hard drugs", and had no fixed address.

The shoplifting charges were dropped for lack of evidence, and local authorities "were not able to take a decision to deport him," Molins added.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Vietnam eyes rice, shrimp exports to Iran

Vietnam intends to export rice and shrimp to Iran while voicing readiness to purchase fish meal, bone powder and meat from Iran.



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This was announced following a meeting between Iran's Deputy Agriculture Minister Hassan Salehi and the head of Iran-Vietnam Trade Council to discuss ways to expand bilateral trade in the agriculture sector, Mehr News Agency reported.

During the meeting, Salehi elaborated on actions to develop relations between the two countries and voiced the readiness of Iran's Fisheries Organization to cooperate with Vietnam. He also elaborated on Vietnamese cooperative activities in Qeshm and Bandar Abbas in the southern province of Hormuzgan.

Salehi invited Vietnamese companies to take part in international fisheries exhibition of Iran which is scheduled for November.

He pointed to the establishment of an office in Qeshm, and announced their intention to purchase caviar and salmon roe from Iran and build a factory for fish sauce production.

The official called for the removal of obstacles to banking transaction.

China agrees to dispatch two freight trains to Iran every month

Iran and China have reached an initial agreement to operate two freight train service to Tehran every month.

Director of Transportation Department at Iranian Railways Ebrahim Mohammadi made the announcement in a ceremony to mark the arrival of an international freight train from China to Iran via the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan route, Fars News Agency reported.

He noted that six freight trains linking Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Iran's capital will be dispatched by the end of 2017.



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"In a meeting with Liang Hua, the CEO in charge of the Yinchuan-Tehran freight train project, it was decided that China send two trains per month by the end of 2017," Mohammadi said.

He stated that the trains will begin their trips from Yinchuan and travel along the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan route to reach Tehran after 14 days.

Also in the meeting, the Chinese delegation welcomed the proposal to establish a container terminal near Tehran railway station. The Chinese side also promised that its government would exempt businesses from paying rail transport costs up to the Chinese borders as an incentive.

The meeting also discussed cooperation with the Iranian side on facilitating Chinese train services via Iran to Europe.

In a relevant development in late July, Iran and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on electrification of Tehran-Mashhad railway system.

The 1.5-billion-dollar financing contract for the electrification of Tehran-Mashhad railroad was inked in a ceremony attended by vice president of China Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of China), Ambassador of China to Iran Pang Sen, Iran's Deputy Road and Urban Development Minister for International Affairs Asghar Fakhrieh Kashani, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Saeed Mohammadzadeh, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for Foreign Exchange Affairs Gholamali Kamyab as well as Chairman of Board of Directors and Managing Director of Bank of Industry and Mine Ali-Ashraf Afkhami.

The agreement marks the first financing contract to be signed in the past one and a half years in Iran.

Tehran-Mashhad, the most frequented railway line of Iran and one of the few double-track lines of the country, with 926Km of length and 50 stations passing through the major cities of Garmisar, Semnan, Damghan, Shahroud, and Neishabour.

Currently, the route permits a speed of 160 km/h which will be increased to 200 km/h once the electrification project is completed. Based on predictions, the railway will carry 33 million passengers and 10 million tons of freight annually by 2032. This load of passenger and freight will put the Tehran-Mashhad railway into the list of top ten most commuted railway lines in the world.

Turkey's imports from Iran up 74%

Turkey imported goods worth \$5.154 billion from Iran in the first eight months of 2017 which was 74 percent more than the figure for the same period of 2016 (\$2.962 billion).

According to the latest figures released by the Turkish Statistical Institute Trade, between Iran and Turkey stood at \$7.252 billion in the first eight months of 2017, Trend News Agency reported.

This indicates a 14.7-percent growth compared to the amount for the same period in 2016 which was \$6.32 billion. Trade between the two countries reached \$928.36 million in August 2017.

Turkey's exports to Iran in August 2017 amounted about \$286.3 million (\$462.092 million in August 2016), while the country imported goods worth \$642.058 million from Iran in the same month (\$459.712 million in the same period of 2016).

Turkey's exports to Iran in the first eight months of 2017 amounted to \$2.098 billion, compared to \$3.358 billion in the first eight months of 2016.

Trade between the two countries was \$13.71 billion in 2014 while in 2015 the figure stood at \$9.76 billion, indicating a 29-percent plunge.



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Europe-Iran Forum to examine post-sanctions investments

The 4th Europe-Iran Forum (EIF) focusing on post-sanctions investment and trade will begin today in the Swiss city of Zurich.

The two-day EIF4 will be the first to be held during the tenure of US President Donald Trump, IRNA reported.

Despite the US lack of commitment to the July 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in order to prevent Iran from benefiting from the agreement, the Europeans have expressed unanimous support for the international agreement and welcomed Tehran's return to the financial markets and trade and banking activities.

The founder of Europe-Iran Forum, which was established four years ago, has recently commented on the EIF4, saying the event is very important for Europe's business community.

Esfandiar Batmanqelji told finews.com on September 11, "Cooperation is needed among the full range of stakeholders, and the Forum is designed to help support more dialogue, information sharing, and relationship building within the network of business leaders and policymakers working on Iran today."

The first, second and third EIF were held in October 2014 in London, September 2015 in Geneva and May 2016 in Zurich respectively.

"We see more political willingness to reform key laws and policies in order to create better conditions for foreign investors," the Swiss news site quoted Batmanqelji

as saying about the reelection of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on May 19.

On Iran's economic conditions, the EIF founder said "Iran has made good progress in its complicated process of financial reform."

"Early this summer, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) chose to continue to suspend Iran's position on its 'black-list'."

"The process remains in its early phase, but Iran's bankers deserve credit for their determination to regain their place in the international financial system."

The presence of the Secretary General of the European

Union in upcoming days.

In a related development, European Union's Ambassador to the United States David O'Sullivan said a week ago, "This agreement [JCPOA] is delivering on a very, very important objective, which is to ensure that Iran does not possess nuclear weapons."

"The view of the European Union is that this agreement is a success."

Iran is "fully living up to its commitments" under the agreement, O'Sullivan noted at the Atlantic Council held in the US last week.

It may be up to the Europeans to save the deal, O'Sullivan said while pointing to the challenges Trump administration has presented to the JCPOA.

Ultimately, O'Sullivan and his German, French and British counterparts "reiterated their commitment to the agreement", the website of the Atlantic Council wrote on September 25.

Analysts believe that EIF4, which is held just less than two weeks after Austria's Oberbank and Denmark's Danske

Bank signed banking agreements with Iran, will prepare good grounds for the European companies to further cooperate with Iran.

Companies from Switzerland, Austria and Nordic states (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden in Northern Europe) have been waiting for cooperating with Iran. Therefore, the fourth EIF can pave the way for the Europeans to build sustainable cooperation between Iran and Europe in the future.



Asia's Iran oil imports reach five-month high

From Page 1

China, India, South Korea and Japan together imported 1.64 million barrels per day last month, down 10.8 percent on a year ago, government and ship-tracking data showed.

Iran aims to maintain crude oil and condensate exports at around 2.6 mbd for the rest of 2017 although recent maintenance, depleted oil storage and a growing domestic appetite will limit shipments abroad, a senior official at National Iranian Oil Company said last week.

Chinese imports rose 5.5 percent from a year ago in August to 786,720 bpd, the highest monthly amount since 2006, according to data on Reuters Eikon.

South Korea's imports jumped 46.7 percent to a five-month high of 407,323 bpd. India, however, continued to reduce its intake in retaliation

at Tehran's potential decision to award a giant gas field to a Russian company.

India imported 335,400 bpd in August, the lowest level since February 2016, and down about 42 percent from a year ago.

Japan's Iranian imports fell for a fourth straight month from a year ago to 107,357 bpd, the lowest volumes since April, Trade Ministry data showed.

Iran has been exempted from an agreement by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reduce output, a victory for Tehran that has argued it needs to regain the market share it lost under international sanctions over its nuclear program.

The country is aiming to raise oil output to around 4 mbd by the end of the year and 4.5 mbd within five years from around 3.8 mbd in recent months.



IRNA

Automakers plan electric car blitz



flipboard.com

Here are two facts that defy logic: By the end of the year, electric-car maker Tesla Inc. will have burned through more than \$10 billion without ever having made 10 cents. Yet companies around the world are lining up to compete with it.

Almost 50 new pure electric-car models will come to market globally between now and 2022, including vehicles from Daimler AG and Volkswagen AG. Even British inventor James Dyson is getting into the game, announcing last week that he's investing £2 billion (\$2.7 billion) to develop an electric car and the batteries to power it, Bloomberg wrote.

The reasons for chasing Tesla are part city hall, part show business. Regulators in Beijing have laid out a plan to mandate electric vehicle production in China, while California requires carmakers to build more EVs or be forced to buy credits from rivals.

At the same time, Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk and his sleek cars have captured the imagination of Americans to the point where consumers and investors are throwing money at his Silicon Valley company.

Erich Joachimsthaler, founder and CEO of brand-strategy firm Vivaldi, which works with German luxury carmakers, said, "Nobody doubts that the future will be electric. The car companies dragged their feet with electric. Now they are being dragged into it by Tesla and by regulations."

In North America alone, the number of electric vehicles will soar to 47 by the first quarter of 2022 from 24 in the third quarter of this year, according to data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance. China's EV market will go to 80 from 61, and European buyers will have 58 electric choices, up from 31. Globally, there will be 136 EVs on the market by the end of that year, and that doesn't even include the hybrid models or fuel cells.

That will make for a very crowded field in a nascent zero-emission car market that most consumers have yet to embrace and where financial losses loom large.

In the US, electric car sales were less than one percent of the market last year, according to the International Energy Agency. They were 1.4 percent in China and in the UK.

Kevin Tynan, senior analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, said, "Companies are committed to electric cars, but there is little evidence that there is a lot of consumer demand for it."

At this point, expensive battery technology still makes them money drains. General Motors Co. loses about \$9,000 on every Chevrolet Bolt electric car it sells. Tesla had record sales of its EVs last year — and still lost \$675 million on \$7 billion in sales.

China factor

So why bother? China is a big reason. Electric cars got a regulatory boost when the world's most populous nation released a set of regulations meant to cut carbon emissions and pollution by 2030. Carmakers must produce a certain share of so-called new-energy vehicles — which include electric cars — to obtain credits so they can keep selling gasoline-powered ones.

Because China is now the world's largest car market, automakers are stepping up development. GM, the top-selling foreign automaker there, will offer electrification technology — hybrids or pure electric — in almost all of its models in China by 2025 as it looks to hold its lead.

Many of the electric models today are luxury cars, and Tesla's Model S sedans and Model X sport utility vehicles often sell for more than \$100,000. It's easy to bury the expensive price of electric drive in the fatter sticker prices of high-end vehicles.

The Model 3, which just started production, will sell for more like \$35,000 before options and incentives. Tesla said that more than 450,000 people have put down \$1,000 deposits to reserve a Model 3.

Musk has poached buyers from German luxury brands and will continue to do so, said Salim Morsy, an analyst with Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

"What was seen as a minimum requirement for regulations has shifted to an opportunity for market share and profit," Morsy said.

"In the luxury segment, the Germans see the opportunity to take market share back from Tesla."

Here are some of the significant new models coming to market:

- VW's Audi brand will start building the e-tron Quattro, a luxury SUV, in 2018, followed by the Sportback coupe in 2019 and a third, unnamed vehicle by 2020.

- Porsche AG will sell a production version of its Mission E sports sedan concept car starting in 2019.

- In addition to BMW's current electric i3 compact and i8 sports car, the German automaker will have an electric Mini in 2019, an X3 compact SUV in 2020 and 10 others by 2025, Chairman Harald Krueger said in a speech in September.

- Daimler's Mercedes-Benz brand plans 10 battery-powered vehicles in its EQ sub-brand through 2022, while Volvo Car Group, which is owned by China's Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd., has said any new models launched in 2019 or later will be offered only as hybrid, plug-in hybrid or all-electric versions.

- Tesla plans to build the Model Y small SUV in 2019 or 2020.

The good news for carmakers is that the cost of batteries is coming down. GM said on its first-quarter earnings call that its lithium-ion batteries cost about \$145 per kilowatt hour to produce. The goal is to get that below \$100 in the next few years.

BNEF forecasts that battery costs will get down to \$109 per kwh in 2025 and \$73 by 2030. That's why global electric car sales will likely surpass sales of vehicles that burn fossil fuels by 2040, BNEF said in a July report.

The list of companies piling in added an unusual name last week when Dyson, who made billions making high-end vacuum cleaners, announced his foray into the electric car market. Dyson said his car will be radically different from the vehicles being designed by Tesla and the established carmakers.

Since Dyson doesn't compete with Tesla or need to meet rules faced by traditional automakers, the planned car may be more of a flight of fancy, said Joachimsthaler of Vivaldi.

"More likely, this is an Icarus complex," he said. "He will realize he flew a little too close to the Sun."

Spain to lose 20% of its economy if Catalonia splits

The Spanish region held a controversial independence referendum on Sunday with major economic implications for the country — and Europe.

Spain's central government fiercely opposed the referendum, with riot police raiding polling stations to suppress voter turnout. Regional officials said the vast majority of ballots were in favor of independence, CNN wrote.

The vote comes as Spain emerges from nearly a decade of economic trauma. Catalonia is its most economically productive region. Richer on their own?

Catalonia accounts for nearly a fifth of Spain's economy, and leads all regions in producing 25 percent of the country's exports.

It contributes much more in taxes (21 percent of the country's total) than it gets back from the government.

Independence supporters have seized on the imbalance, arguing that stopping transfers to Madrid would turn Catalonia's budget deficit into a surplus.

Catalonia has a proven record of attracting investment, with nearly a third of all foreign companies in Spain choosing the regional capital of Barcelona as their base.

Volkswagen and Nissan, for example, both have plants near Barcelona.

But there are many unanswered questions — including continued membership in the European Union.

If Catalonia was forced to independently apply for EU membership, it would have to convince all of the bloc's current members to agree — including Spain.

Economists at Berenberg Bank wrote in a research note, "We currently see no practical way for Catalonia to become an independent country within the EU, as most supporters of independence want."

Dropping out of bloc would likely raise the cost of exporting goods produced in Catalonia to EU members and other nations.

Stephen Brown, an economist at Capital Economics, said, "It would join the small list of countries that are not World Trade Organization members, meaning it would face significant trade barriers."

Brown said the move would increase the price of imported goods in Catalonia and result in job losses.

Independence could also make it more expensive for the region's government to borrow. Credit ratings agencies Moody's and S&P



Source: thinkadvisor.com

both downgraded Catalonia's debt rating in 2016.

The region could continue using the euro as its currency, but would not have a seat at the European Central Bank.

What about Spain?

Spain's highest court has banned the referendum, calling it unconstitutional. But the separatist regional government still pushed ahead with the vote.

A split would leave a hole in Spain's finances and dramatically increase uncertainty.

If Catalonia declares independence unilaterally, it might also refuse to take on its share of the national debt.

"While there does not appear to have been any serious effect on the wider Spanish economy so far, it is likely that business and consumer confidence would deteriorate if Catalonia were to secede," Brown said.

What's next

The buzzword for investors is uncertainty. ING economist Geoffrey Minne wrote in a research note, "As with Brexit, we believe that any Catalexit would plunge the region into a long period of uncertainty and would most probably be negative for the private sector."

Kathleen Brooks, the research director at City Index, said a referendum win for the separatists could cause the euro to decline by as much as five percent.

The European currency was down about 0.3 percent against the dollar in morning trading in Asia on Monday.

A decisive 'yes' vote is unlikely to result in Madrid or the EU recognizing Catalonia as 'independent', according to experts.

Laurence Allan of IHS Markit said, "The Catalan government will instead attempt to use a positive referendum result to increase its leverage in future negotiations with the Spanish government."

New Air India owners won't have to worry about debt

The new owners of Air India following divestment may not have to worry about its gargantuan debt as the government has decided to move much of this into a special purpose vehicle (SPV) before selling the carrier, senior aviation ministry officials said.

The committee on Air India's divestment led by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley took this decision at a meeting on August 30, they said, The Times of India wrote.

One of the officials said, "The committee decided to transfer all debt and assets of Air India to an SPV that will be managed by the government. The airline will be sold only with aircraft debt on its books. This will make the airline a much more lucrative proposition."

Air India has a total debt of Rs 52,000 crore and about Rs 33,000 crore is on account of working capital loans, which will be transferred to the SPV.

The remaining is against aircraft purchases, which will be with the company that's put up for sale. Another official said the valuation would improve significantly if the working-capital debt is transferred to the SPV.

"Either the government decides to sell the company with debt, which would not fetch any money, or the government sells it without the debt — that would fetch money," the person said.

"Selling the company at a lower or nil valuation would create a much bigger controversy than selling it at a valuation."

It's also been decided that Air India's assets are on lease to the carrier and ownership vests with the government.

So the seller will be the government and not the national carrier. ET had reported this first on September 18.

Another key decision was to allow airlines with up to 49 percent foreign partnership to bid for Air India. "This will improve the interest in Air India," said one of the officials.

Another official added that the current foreign direct investment (FDI) norms that don't allow 49 percent foreign investment in the national carrier can be amended as and when required.

Oil prices lower after strong third quarter

Oil prices fell on Monday, pausing for breath after posting gains of as much as 20 percent in the third quarter, after a survey pointed to a slight increase in production of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in September.

US crude was down 13 cents, or 0.3 percent, at \$51.54 a barrel at 0346 GMT. The US benchmark on Friday posted its strongest quarterly gain since the second quarter of 2016 and the longest streak of weekly gains since January, Reuters reported.

Global benchmark Brent crude for December delivery was down 22 cents, or 0.4 percent, at \$56.57 a barrel. On Friday, Brent for November delivery closed 13 cents higher at \$57.54 a barrel, notching up a third-quarter gain of around 20 percent, the biggest gain in five quarters. It was the biggest third-quarter increase since 2004.

The contract reached its highest in more than two years early last week, and posted its fifth consecutive weekly gain. It was Brent's longest weekly bull run since June 2016.

The price gains have been supported by anticipated demand from US refiners resuming operations after shutdowns due to Hurricane Harvey, but a quick resumption of shale production could put a dampener on prices.

"US production should be soft over August and September, due to Hurricane-related shut-ins but should rebound" in the fourth quarter, Barclays Research said in a note.

Oil output from OPEC also rose last month, gaining by 50,000 barrels per day (bpd), a Reuters survey found.

Iraqi exports increased and production edged higher in Libya, one of the OPEC producers exempt from a deal to curb output and support prices.

Middle Eastern oil producers are concerned the recent price rise will only stir US shale producers into more drilling and push prices lower again.

US energy companies added oil rigs for the first week in seven after a 14-month drilling recovery stalled in August, energy services firm Baker Hughes said on Friday.

Drillers added six oil rigs in the week to Sept. 29, bringing the total count up to 750.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2796	Chinese Yuan	0.1503
Euro	1.1760	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3353	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3074
Australian Dollar	0.7817	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0088	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$51.54	Silver	\$16.60
Gold	\$1276.00	Platinum	\$909.00
Copper	\$2.96	Wheat	\$446.50

Poorly insulated homes may cost £1 billion extra in energy bills

Tenants in the UK's draughtiest homes risk paying £1 billion extra in energy bills because of a government loophole letting landlords off the hook, a charity has warned.

Landlords will be banned from letting poorly insulated homes from next April under new regulations designed to protect vulnerable tenants and cut carbon emissions, The Guardian wrote.

But campaigners argue that exemptions, which landlords were able to apply for from Sunday, will mean many homes are not upgraded.

If all the landlords of the 300,000 properties affected apply successfully for exemptions, tenants would collectively pay £1 billion extra for energy over the next five years, said climate change charity 10:10.

The group said the regulations were 'toothless' while the loophole existed, and made a mockery of Conservative election pledges to keep a lid on energy bills.

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Mountains of garbage, despair in India's dirtiest city

Flies throng over piles of feces, the drains overflow with sewage and the foul smell in the air is inescapable.

Welcome to Awass Vikas: One of the most exclusive parts of Gonda, a city suffering the ignominy of being branded the dirtiest in India. Even in such upmarket areas, garbage trucks are rarely seen, green spaces are littered with rubbish and residents are desperate for their bickering leaders to bring about change, AFP reported.

Gonda, 125 kilometers from the Uttar Pradesh state capital of Lucknow, was best known as a quiet stopover point for people traveling to Nepal or to see the region's temples. Infamy arrived in May when Gonda came bottom of an Indian government cleanliness survey of 434 cities.

The study looked at the use of toilets, waste collection, civic infrastructure and other areas. It is a daily battle for pedestrians and cars to navigate the piles of plastic bottles, discarded food containers and animal excreta.

The stray cows love it, but residents in Awass Vikas are at breaking point.

Durgesh Mishra said, "The filth and the stench have made us infamous across the country."

He gestured desolately at a crater in the road by his house, which is now filled with dirty water and



freemalaysiatoday.com

buzzing with mosquitoes.

"It is a really pathetic state of affairs. We've been rated as India's dirtiest — just look around and you can see it's a perfect ranking. You can't imagine how we live here."

Most locals hope the 'dirtiest city' accolade will shame politicians into action and break the cycle of civic apathy and corruption, which is blamed for the mess.

Rajiv Rastogi, a trader and veteran local politician, said, "The manpower and infrastructure issues that we face today are a result of unplanned development over the last 10 years."

Political rivalry between Gonda and the Uttar Pradesh

state government has also bogged down projects. Signs of the dysfunction are everywhere.

Houses have been abandoned and left to decay, while neighborhood parks and ponds have become dumping grounds. Those who can afford it, hire laborers to clear garbage from outside their homes — even if that means discarding it out of sight in another part of town.

Kanshiram colony is regarded by some as the most insalubrious part of India's dirtiest city.

Kanshiram resident Sushila Tewari said, "We live in sickness. Diseases like cholera are an everyday issue. We don't see a municipal worker around here for

days at a time. When stray animals die and lay rotting here, sometimes we have to cover them with soil ourselves."

She swatted away flies and mosquitoes from a waste-filled pond opposite her home.

Kirti Vardhan Singh, a three-term lawmaker for the area, said he has been 'bombed' with telephone calls and social media messages since the survey.

"It was very, very embarrassing," he said.

"I explained to as many as I could that, as a parliamentarian, I don't have any say or authority over local civic body matters — the mismanagement, inaction and

corruption over the last decade."

Singh acknowledged that Gonda is dirty but is skeptical that it is really the dirtiest city in the nation.

"I feel it got the ranking because of a lack of cooperation and communication between the survey team and the local administration," he said.

He feels Gonda's story is typical of other smaller Indian cities that have grown quickly in India's economic boom without a plan or rules.

JB Singh, district magistrate for the region, acknowledges there are problems but does not believe Gonda's ranking is fair.

"The bottlenecks were the biggest issue in the past but we are working to bring change, and locals will see it within the next two months," Singh said, adding that new garbage trucks and dustbins are being purchased.

The town is also looking for a private waste collection agency to help tackle the problem and will launch a cleanliness awareness campaign, he explained.

Some argue Gonda's ranking and the subsequent media attention has made an issue that is endemic across the nation, seem like a unique local problem. Even if the city's administrative and political problems are solved, many feel the biggest challenge is changing attitudes in a populace often happy to dump at will.

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Physical abuse, punishment impact children's academic performance

A researcher and her collaborator from Pennsylvania State found that physical abuse was associated with decreases in children's cognitive performance, while non-abusive forms of physical punishment were independently associated with reduced school engagement and increased peer isolation.

Sarah Font, assistant professor of sociology and co-funded faculty member of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network, and Jamie Cage, assistant professor in Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work, found that children's performances and engagement in the classroom are significantly influenced by their exposure to mild, harsh and abusive physical punishment in the home, sciencedaily.com reported.

Their study was recently published in Child Abuse and Neglect.

While corporal punishment and physical abuse have been linked with reduced cognitive development and academic achievement in children previously, Font's study is one of the few that simultaneously examines abusive and non-abusive physical punishment as reported by both children and caregivers.

Even if physical punishment does not result in serious physical injury, children may experience fear and distress and this stress has been found to negatively impact brain structure, development and overall well-being.



popsugar.com

Font said, "This punishment style is meant to inflict minor pain so the child will change their behavior to avoid future punishment, but it does not give children the opportunity to learn how to behave appropriately through explanation and reasoning."

In this study, over 650 children and their caregivers were examined in three areas of physical punishment: Mild corporal punishment, harsh corporal punishment and physical abuse.

The groups reported their use or experience with physical punishment

and researchers then measured cognitive outcomes, school engagement and peer isolation in the children.

The data was analyzed to determine trajectories between cognitive and academic performance and how initial and varying exposure to physical punishment and abuse influences them.

Font added, "We found that while all forms of physical punishment and abuse are associated with declines in school engagement, only initial exposure to physical abuse has a significant negative influence on

cognitive performance, and only harsh corporal punishment notably increases peer isolation in children and was observed in both child and caregiver reports.

"This suggested that preventing physical abuse could promote children's cognitive performance, but it may not be enough to get children to be involved and well-adjusted in school."

Considering that mild physical punishment can develop into physical abuse and that even these mild punishments have consequences on children's cognitive and social school functioning, parent education on alternative forms of punishment may be one solution to prevent physical abuse.

Programs that reach parents during services that they regularly use may be one way to give them alternative punishment technique education.

This could be a medical professional informing parents during a child's health visit or staff members of an Early Head Start program providing parent education during the child's enrollment.

Font said, "Further research and efforts in these types of interventions needs to continue so we can learn more."

This research was made possible support from the Population Research Institute, part of the Social Science Research Institute.

Study identifies protein that may improve flu symptoms, reduce deaths

A new study identified a protein that can potentially improve symptoms of the influenza virus and reduce mortality from it.

The US Department of Health and Human Services announced its guidelines for the 2017-2018 flu season, focusing on increasing the number of people vaccinated in the US against the flu, UPI wrote.

In the 2016-2017 influenza season, vaccination rates were mostly stagnant among all age groups, aside from small increases in those 50 and older, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this week.

Flu vaccination coverage throughout the entire US was 46.8 percent, which is an increase of 1.2 percent from the 2015-2016 season, the CDC reported, that translates roughly into half the country not receiving the flu vaccine.



UPI

Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine identified a new strategy to fight the flu for those who go unvaccinated — or get sick even with the vaccine — using the small protein retrocyclin-101, or RC-101, that has the potential to improve symptoms and mortality associated with the flu.

The study, published in the October edition of the Journal of Leukocyte Biology, involved isolating mouse and human macrophages in vitro and a mouse influenza infection model to determine that RC-101 inhibited the production of inflammatory cytokines.

Researchers infected two groups of mice with a lethal dose of influenza, giving one group RC-101 two days after infection for a total of five days and the other group a placebo.

Mice were treated with RC-101 exhibited less severe symptoms of the flu and decreased mortality compared to the mice who received the placebo, researchers reported.

Dr. Daniel Prantner, a research associate in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said, "Every year, thousands of people across the country die from the flu or its complications — despite widespread use of annual influenza vaccines."

"In the future, we hope to see RC-101 approved for use in the clinic, where it can be another tool in the battle against this disease."

Clearing out clogged face pores could cause rosacea

Skin with clogged pores can be unsightly — but steaming your face to unblock them could cause rosacea.

Skin with clogged pores on your face can be irritating, however beware what you do to get rid of them, express.co.uk wrote.

When pores become blocked, it causes small blackheads — filled with dead skin and dirt — to form.

There are a number of reasons why pores clog in the first place.



express.co.uk

These include hormones, bacteria and over-cleansing.

The size of people's pores is down to genetics, but how big they are doesn't influence whether they're more likely to fill up with dirt.

They are designed to clean themselves, so you need not do anything to them.

However, naturally most people would like to reduce their appearance if possible.

Michael Freeman, a dermatologist and associate professor at Bond University in Australia, said that you should never squeeze a blackhead because it might cause the oil glands to rupture back into the skin.

Freeman advised that buying skincare products containing vitamin A could help.

This is because it can stop the skin lining the pores thickening, meaning the oil glands aren't blocked.

Using lukewarm water — rather than hot — to wash your face with is also less likely to inflame them.

He also warned against potential pore-reducing methods that could be harmful.

Steaming the face can make blood vessels stand out and trigger rosacea in those who are prone to it.

Rosacea is a skin condition that causes redness on the nose, cheeks, skin and forehead, particularly in those over 30 years.

Using a facial brush might help, but the risk is that the pore will swell due to irritation, causing more of a blockage.

Pore strips have become popular for very effectively removing pore content, however they can leave skin very sensitive to other products.

Seven non-dairy foods you didn't know contain calcium

We all know that calcium is crucial for children with growing bones, but it's a vital part of adult diets too, helping to maintain healthy bone structure and muscle function.

The National Health Service (NHS) recommended adults aged between 19 and 64 consume 700mg of calcium a day, and their main recommended sources are milk, cheese and dairy sources, according to independent.co.uk.

So where does this leave the increasing number of vegans, lactose-intolerant and dairy-free people in the UK?

Fortunately there are plenty of other ways to get calcium into your diet, as Frida Harju-Westman, nutritionist at the health app Lifesum, explained to The Independent.

The non-dairy foods you didn't know contain calcium:

approximately 175mg of calcium per serving.

Harju-Westman said, "If you don't fancy having white beans or want to introduce some variety, you can try winged beans or navy beans, both of which also provide plenty of calcium."

Oranges: Unbeknown to many, oranges contain high levels of calcium.

Harju-Westman added, "Eating just one orange has over 70mg of calcium, ensuring that you receive six percent of your calcium intake for the day, as well as a great boost of vitamin C, in just one snack."

Almonds: Nuts aren't the first thing people think of when they think about calcium-rich foods, however many nuts contain a significant amount of calcium.

Almonds in particular are a great calcium-rich snack and they're also one of the few proteins that are alkaline forming, which helps to give you better



independent.co.uk

immune function and energy.

Sardines: Not only are sardines full of essential omega-3 fats, they are packed with calcium, containing as much as 350mg in just one small can.

Harju-Westman said, "Sardines can be easily added to your salad for instant flavor, as well as a providing you with a healthy boost of vitamins B-12 and D."

Figs: The seasonal fruit is another great calcium source.

Harju-Westman said, "While also containing significant amounts of antioxidants and fiber, eating approximately five dried figs per day can provide you with around 135mg of calcium, which goes a long way in helping you to achieve the required daily intake."

"Although it's worth bearing

in mind that five figs also contain a lot of sugar."

Leafy greens: Leafy greens such as kale are extremely low in calories, contain zero fat and high levels of fiber and calcium.

Harju-Westman advised, "I recommend adding a side of kale to your evening meal or making your own homemade kale chips for a healthy snack."

Spinach is another good source for calcium. "The easiest way to consume spinach is to add raw leaves to a salad or eat boiled spinach with scrambled eggs at breakfast. Or try chucking some frozen spinach into a smoothie."

Broccoli: Broccoli is a 'super-veg' if ever there was one.

Not only is it jam-packed with essential nutrients including vitamins A-K and minerals such as magnesium, zinc, and phosphorous, but it also contains exceptionally high levels of calcium, which is easily absorbed by the body.

CDC deactivating EOC for Zika response



UPI

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention in the US announced it is deactivating its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the Zika virus.

The CDC activated its EOC on January 22, 2016, in response to the effects of the Zika virus infection during pregnancy, UPI reported.

The EOC is the command center for monitoring and coordinating emergency response to public health threats and has been activated for previous events such as natural disasters, the 2014 Ebola outbreak and 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

Experts from the Zika Coordination and Operation Transition Team, or ZCOTT, will lead the transition from the EOC activation to routine, long-term activities to ensure coordination and collaboration on

scientific, communication and policy activities.

Zika is still a threat to public health in the US and around the world, and a great risk for pregnant women.

The continental United States and Hawaii will continue to find some travel-related cases as people visit countries and territories with a high risk of Zika transmission.

Since the 2016 EOC activation for Zika, experts have worked to protect pregnant women, fetuses and infants from the virus and its effects.

According to the CDC, deactivation does not mean the Zika threat is less of a priority or that people are no longer at risk for infection.

The CDC still recommends that pregnant women avoid traveling to areas with high Zika risk.

Scientists have discovered a new rat species in the Solomon Islands. The rodent lives among the tree tops and can crack coconut shells with its big front teeth.

NASA pushes back launch date for James Webb Space Telescope

NASA's new target window for the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope is between March and June 2019.

The world's most powerful space telescope was previously scheduled to launch in October 2018, UPI reported.

Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate at the agency's DC headquarters, announced, "The change in launch timing is not indicative of hardware or technical performance concerns.

"Rather, the integration of the various spacecraft elements is taking longer than expected."



UPI
NASA has announced another delay in the target launch date for the James Webb Space Telescope.

An international agreement with the European Space Agency required NASA to analyze the telescope's launch preparedness one year prior to the launch date.

The assessment forced officials to reconsider their plans, and ultimately inspired NASA to push back the launch date once more.

JWST, the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, was first conceived of in 1996.

Along the way, the project has been planned several times, each time pushing the target launch date backward — from 2011 to 2013, from 2015 to 2018 and now to the spring of 2019.

Scientists said the latest delay is largely the result of the complexity of the space telescope's sunshield.

Eric Smith, program director for the James Webb Space Telescope at NASA's headquarters, said, "The combination of some integration activities taking longer than initially planned, such as the installation of more than 100 sunshield membrane release devices, factoring in lessons learned from earlier testing, like longer time spans for vibration testing, has meant the integration and testing process is just taking longer."

Unlike Hubble, which can be serviced by astronauts and have instruments swapped in and out, JWST must be in its final form before launch.

The construction of such a massive and complex telescope has been a lengthy process.

NASA had to build new facilities in which to build and test the groundbreaking telescope — a painstaking and expensive process that may never be repeated.

NASA administrator Charles Bolden said, "This may be the last [space] telescope that we build that is not modular."

Once it begins its scientific mission, though, astronomers are sure to rejoice as they begin to field giant troves of rich astronomical data.

The telescope's 18 hexagonal mirrors will field massive amounts of infrared light, allowing scientists to peer deeper into space with greater clarity and to study the Universe's first generation of stars and galaxies.

JWST will also help scientists study the habitability of nearby exoplanets.

Electrically heated textiles possible via UMass Amherst research

Commuters, skiers, crossing guards and others who endure frozen fingers in cold weather may look forward to future relief as manufacturers are poised to take advantage of a new technique for creating electrically heated cloth developed by materials scientist Trisha Andrew and colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

They have made gloves that keep fingers as warm as the palm of the hand, sciencedaily.com reported.

In a new paper in Applied Materials and Interfaces, the scientists describe how they use a vapor deposition method for nano-coating fabric to create sewable, weavable, electrically heated material.

The demonstration glove they made can keep fingers toasty for up to eight hours.

The three-layered glove, with one layer coated by the conducting polymer poly, also known as PEDOT, are powered by a button battery weighing 1.8g. A dime weighs just under 2.27g.

The authors pointed out, "Lightweight, breathable and body-conformable electrical heaters have the potential to change traditional approaches to personal thermal management, medical heat therapy, joint pain relief and athletic rehabilitation."

Andrew said, "We took a pair of cotton gloves and coated the fingers to allow a small amount of current to pass through, so they heat up.

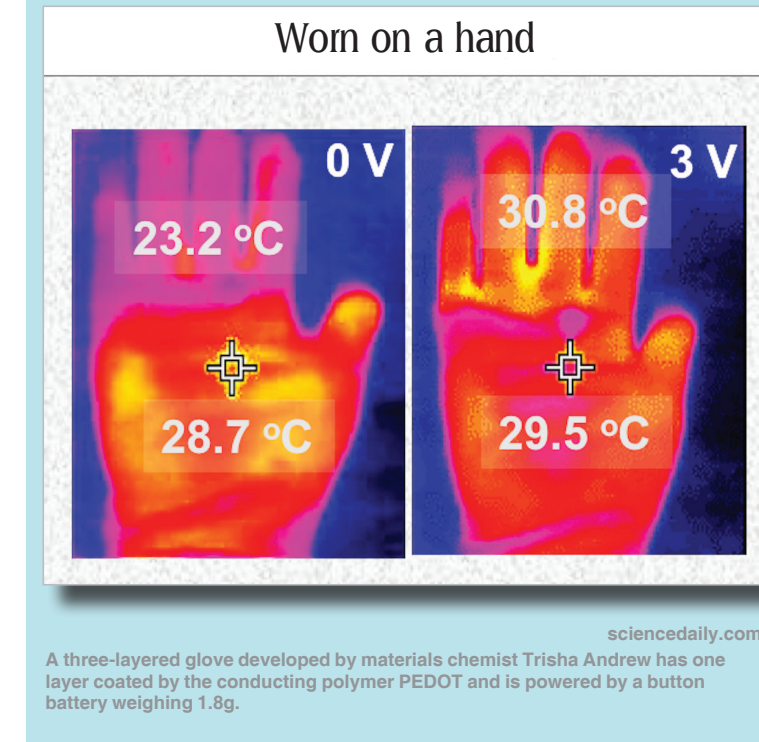
"It's regular old-fashioned cotton cloth. We chose to make a pair of gloves because the fingers require a high curvature that allows us to show that our material is really flexible.

"The glove is powered by a small coin battery and they run on nano-amps of current, not enough to pass current through your skin or to hurt you.

"Our coating works even when it's completely dunked in water, it will not shock you and our layered construction means the conductive cloth does not come into contact with your skin.

"We hope to have this reach consumers as a real product in the next few years.

"Maybe it will be two years to a prototype and five years to the consumer.



I think this is the most consumer-ready device we have. It's ready to take to the next phase."

Until recently, textile scientists have not used vapor deposition because of technical difficulties and high cost of scaling up from the laboratory.

But recently, manufacturers are finding that the technology can be scaled up while remaining cost-effective, the researchers said.

Using the vapor deposition method described in their paper, Andrew and colleagues also coated threads of a thick cotton yarn commonly used for

sweaters.

It performed well and offers another avenue for creating heated clothing, the authors stated.

Andrew said, "One thing that motivated us to make this product is that we could get the flexibility, the nice soft feel, while at the same time it's heated but not making you sweaty.

"A common thing we hear from commuters is that in the winter, they would love to have warmer fingers.

"In their laboratory tests, her research team reported, four fingers of the test glove warmed to the same

temperature as the palm and the wearer could feel the heat transferred from the fabric heaters to her fingers a few seconds after the voltage was applied."

Andrew and chemistry postdoctoral researcher Lushuai Zhang, with chemical engineering graduate student Morgan Baima, conducted several tests to assure that their gloves could stand up to hours of use, laundering, rips, repairs and overnight charging.

Andrew noted, "Right now we use an off-the-shelf battery that lasts for eight hours, but you would need a rechargeable to make these more practical."

"If you are skiing and rip your glove, you can repair it just by sewing it back together with plain thread."

They arranged for biocompatibility testing at an independent lab where mouse connective tissue cells were exposed to PEDOT-coated samples and responses compared to positive and negative controls.

They reported that their PEDOT-coated materials are safe for contact with human skin without causing adverse reactions to the chemicals used.

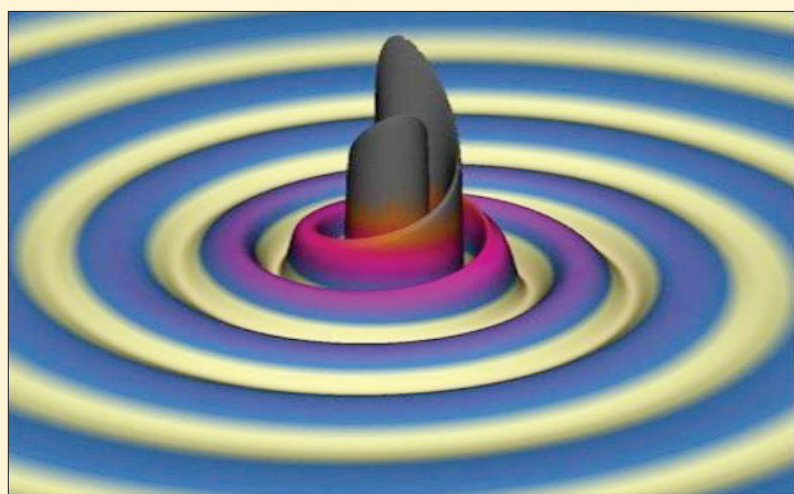
They also addressed questions of heat, moisture and skin contact stability to prevent the wearer from experiencing any electric shock from a wet conducting element.

Andrew said, "Chemically, what we use to surround the conductive cloth looks like polystyrene, the stuff used to make packing peanuts.

"It completely surrounds the conducting material so the electrical conductor is never exposed."

Experimenting with different variables in the vapor nano-coating process, they found that adjusting temperature and chamber pressure were important in achieving optimal surface coverage of the cloth.

In a test of the fabric's ability to resist cracking, creasing or other changes when heated, they generated a temperature of 28°C with connection to a 4.5-V battery and 45°C connected to a 6-V battery for an hour, and found no dramatic morphology changes, indicating that the PEDOT-coated cotton textile was rugged and stable enough to maintain its performance when used as a heating element.



UPI
An illustration shows gravitational waves emanating from the collision of two black holes.

Astronomers pinpoint origin of gravity wave signal

For the first time, astronomers have combined data from the Virgo and LIGO gravitational wave detections systems.

Researchers used the data to triangulate the origins of a gravitational wave signal, UPI wrote.

The signal was picked on August 14 by the two LIGO detectors in Louisiana and Washington, as well as by the Virgo detector near Pisa, Italy.

Using data collected by the two gravitational wave detection systems, scientists determined that the gravity wave signal was produced by a black-hole merger 1.8 billion light-years from Earth.

Before joining forces, the two black holes were 25 and 31 times the mass of the Sun.

Scientists described their plotting of the black-hole merger in a new paper, which

has been accepted for publication in the journal Physical Review Letters.

Carlos Lousto, a professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), said, "We now can pinpoint where those black holes collided in the Universe with 10 times higher precision than we had with only two detectors.

"Astronomers can look more accurately toward this

direction in sky with conventional telescopes to see if there is an electromagnetic counterpart to such cosmic collisions."

With three detectors — one on each side of the US and a third in Europe — astronomers can more readily pinpoint where gravity waves are originating from.

So far, astronomers have only traced gravity waves to faraway galaxies, but scientists believe the phenomena could also originate from within the Milky Way.

Richard O'Shaughnessy, an assistant professor at RIT, said, "We can tell astronomers when and where to point their telescopes."

By combining the latest observations from gravitational wave detectors with data from traditional electromagnetic observatories, researchers expect to gain new insights into the nature of black-hole mergers and other relativistic phenomena.

Lousto said, "Our supercomputer simulations of black-hole collisions continue to be crucial to determine the astrophysical parameters of those extreme objects and they provide important information for modeling their history, from the death of their progenitor stars to their final merger into a larger black hole."

Ice in space might flow like honey

Ice in space may break out the bubble. Zapping simulated space ice with imitation starlight makes the ice bubble.

If this happens in space, this liquid-like behavior could help organic molecules form at the edges of infant planetary systems, according to sciencenews.org.

The experiment provides a peek into the possible origins of life.

Shogo Tachibana of Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan and colleagues combined water, methanol and ammonia, all found in comets and interstellar clouds where stars form, at a temperature between -263°C and -258°C.

The team then exposed this newly formed ice to ultraviolet radiation to mimic the light of a young star.

As the ice warmed to -213°C, it cracked like a brittle solid. But at just five degrees warmer, bubbles started appearing in the ice, and continued to bubble and pop until the ice reached -123°C.

At that point, the ice returned to a solid state and formed crystals.

Tachibana said, "We were so surprised when we first saw bubbling of ice at really low temperatures."

The team reported its finding in Science Advances.

Follow-up experiments showed fewer bubbles formed in ice with less methanol and ammonia. Ice

that wasn't irradiated showed no bubbles at all.

Tachibana said, "Analyses traced spikes of hydrogen gas during irradiation suggested the bubbles are made of hydrogen that the

that irradiated ice forms a cornucopia of molecules essential to life, including ribose, the backbone of RNA, which may have been a precursor to DNA.

But it was not clear how smaller



sciencenews.org
The nurseries where stars are born, like Cepheus B (shown), are bathed in ultraviolet radiation. That radiation could make ice act like a liquid and help organic molecules form in space.

ultraviolet light split off methane and ammonia molecules.

"The irradiated ice took on another liquid like feature: Between about -185°C and -161°C, it flowed like refrigerated honey, despite being well below its melting temperature."

That liquidity could help kick-start life-building chemistry.

In 2016, Cornelia Meinert of the University Nice Sophia Antipolis in France and colleagues showed

molecules could have found each other and built ribose in rigid ice.

Meinert added, "At the time, critics said complex molecules could have been contamination.

"Now this is helping us argue that at this very low temperature, the small precursor molecules can actually react with each other.

"This is supporting the idea that all these organic molecules can form in the ice and might also be present in comets."

Parisians were encouraged to roller-blade, bike or stroll through the City of Light on Sunday for a 'car-free' day intended to leave the streets vacant for slower, clean forms of transport.

Older persons key players in global development agenda

By Shamshad Akhtar*

As the proportion of the older persons across the Asia-Pacific region increases exponentially, we must seek out new and innovative approaches to turn this demographic trend into an opportunity to be harnessed to help achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The number of older persons in the region is expected to more than double, from 535 million in 2015 to about 1.3 billion by 2050, we need to consider the myriad impact of this phenomenon on our economies, societies, and livelihoods, according to a press release sent by the UN.

Ignoring this challenge is likely to have profound consequences. We cannot leave the care of older persons to families alone nor can we ignore the need for progressive health care and income security schemes.

Future economic growth cannot be assured by the current and projected working-age population. The ratio of people of working-age to older persons is decreasing sharply, and in most countries of the Asia-Pacific region, less than a third of the working-age population contributes to a pension scheme.

Traditional systems rely on the family to support their aging relatives — both financially as well as providing care for those who need it. However, with smaller families, there will be fewer family members in working-age to shoulder this responsibility. Declining support ratios also have implications on existing social security schemes, particularly pay-as-you-go pension systems, under which the contributions paid by current workers support the pensions of retirees.

When one considers the differences in the average age at marriage, coupled with the longer life expectancy of women, women outlive their spouses on average by a range of 4 to 10 years.

Yet, as the proportion of women in the population increases with age, women are less likely than men to have adequate pension benefits or control over assets, such as land, in their old age. Special social protection measures are required to redress the feminization of poverty, in particular among older women.

There is a linear relationship — although not a causality — between GDP per capita and the level of population aging, which shows that countries with higher



cnbc.com

incomes tend to be more advanced in the aging process.

Some countries became old before becoming rich, such as Georgia, Armenia and Sri Lanka with per capita incomes between \$3,500 and \$4,100 and a proportion of older persons between 13 and almost 20 percent.

To economically benefit from our aging populations, we must ensure that older persons who want to work have the right to and are provided with opportunities for re-employment. The statutory retirement age across Asia and the Pacific is low, considering the current and increasing life expectancies, resulting in long retirement duration.

Eliminating age barriers in the formal labor market would help to ease the fiscal pressure on pension schemes and healthcare systems. Allowing older persons to work as long as they are able and willing would sustain their self-sufficiency and reduce their social

alienation.

We can turn the phenomenon of population aging into a second demographic dividend, with financially-secure, healthy older persons, empowered to focus their decades of accumulated experience, wisdom and wealth to stimulate new economic growth.

With the right preparation, we can benefit from a golden generation of healthy, wealthy and active older persons. In 2002, the UN brought countries together in Madrid to agree on a global way forward: To treat older persons as actors of development; to ensure their health and well-being; and to create enabling and supportive environments for them.

*Dr. Shamshad Akhtar is under-secretary-general of the United Nations and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Teach kids about money in school

By Dharendra Kumar*

Over the decades that I have been asked by people about their personal finances, I have never ceased to be amazed by the abysmal level of knowledge that they have about this subject.

People who have worked successfully at their professions for years and have deep skills and competence in their chosen vocation, have no idea how investments, insurance and even banking works. The Times of India reported.

One typical pattern is of successful people earning crores of rupees in their careers, and investing it all in real estate. Now, as they near the end of their working life, some of them are realizing that if at all there ever was any logic in this kind of financial management, it certainly isn't there now.

One is tempted to ask, why does this happen? However, that's the wrong question to ask, and more than a little patronizing. Instead, the question to ask is, "Why shouldn't it happen?" Why should we expect people — even educated people — to have a proper idea about how the world of personal finance



indiatimes.com

works? How would they know? Who do we think would tell them, or teach them?

The uncomfortable answer to these questions is personal finance is not part of any education that anyone receives in school or college, nor is there any trustworthy way to acquire such knowledge. Sure, people can turn to the media, as readers of this column are doing. However, it is a sort of a chicken-or-egg situation. To seek out, filter and evaluate the learning and information that is

available in the media, one must already have a basic level of knowledge. However, a complete lack of knowledge is the problem to begin with.

In effect, the only sources of knowledge that seek out and actively tries to carry the message to the audience are the sellers of financial products themselves. However, this education is actually just a sales message, and is a cure worse than the disease. It's almost a rule that the more lucrative a financial product is for its sellers, the worse it is for

the end users.

In fact, some months back, I wrote about how a study had shown how financial literacy was negatively correlated with the quality of personal financial management. The reason was that most of what passes for financial literacy is actually happy talk about what wonderful financial products are available, with little attention paid to the actual fundamentals which would enable people to take their own decisions.

Typically, young people get to know money only in the ways they deal with it. They get it from their parents and they spend it. They see their parents swipe cards at shops and ATMs, and that's all. Of course, things like this should ideally be taught by parents.

However, that's another chicken-and-egg situation, because our starting point was that the parents don't know anything much either.

There may actually be only one solution to this problem, which is the universal inclusion of personal finance as a topic in formal education.

*Dharendra Kumar is the founder and CEO of Value Research.

If addiction is a disease, should relapse mean jail time?

Less than two weeks after a court ordered Julie Eldred to not use drugs while on probation, she tested positive for the powerful opioid fentanyl. The woman, who has severe substance use disorder, spent the next 10 days behind bars in Massachusetts until her lawyer could find a bed for her at a treatment facility.

In a unique case that could have big implications, Eldred is now challenging the practice of requiring people with addiction to remain drug free as a condition of probation. The 29-year-old argued that by jailing people with substance use disorder for failing to stay clean, courts are unfairly punishing users for something beyond their control, abcnews.com wrote.

"Julie Eldred did not 'choose' to relapse any more than a person who has hypertension chooses to have high blood pressure, a person who is homeless chooses to sleep in an

alley, or a person who is destitute chooses not to pay court-ordered fees or restitution," her attorneys wrote in their brief to Massachusetts' highest court, which is set to hear the case on Monday.

Most addiction specialists — including groups such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse and American Society of Addiction Medicine — view substance use disorder as a brain disease that interferes with a person's ability to control their desire to use drugs.

But the Massachusetts attorney general's office and others fighting Eldred's case argue that the probation conditions — which are used widely across the country — help users on their path to recovery. The practice should be upheld because people with addiction maintain the ability to make choices, Attorney General Maura Healey's office argues.

Emily Snyder, a spokeswoman for Healey, said in an email, "Research shows that drug-free testing can help probationers reach recovery goals, and testing can help defendants remain engaged in treatment and avoid long-term incarceration."

Eldred was charged with larceny for stealing jewelry and sentenced to one year of probation, which allows people to avoid jail or prison if they meet certain conditions. She was participating in outpatient treatment when she relapsed and violated no other conditions of her probation when she was sent to jail, where she received no treatment.

Her lawyers say her incarceration was unconstitutional and that her probation violation was not 'willful'.

Assistant Attorney General Maria Granik said in her brief that Eldred's stint behind bars may have helped save her life, "given the dangerous nature of fentanyl in particular".

Reading poetry beneficial for children

Many parents take the time to read picture books and board books to their young children every day. But did you know poetry can also be very beneficial for children? Reading poetry aloud to and with your young children can have benefits that last for years.

There are many reasons why poetry is significant for young readers. Research has shown that poetry motivates children to read, builds phonemic awareness and builds essential skills like vocabulary, fluency, expression, and writing. Each of these is crucial for children to develop in order to become strong readers, heraldextra.com wrote.

According to Reading Rockets, good readers are "phonemically aware, understand the alphabetic principle, apply these skills in a rapid and fluent manner, possess strong vocabularies and syntactical and grammatical skills, and relate reading to their own experiences".

By exposing children to poetry, both by reading and writing poetry, we are helping them gain those foundational skills that lead to later reading success. Scholastic highlighted Regie Routman, a language arts teacher who teaches 1st and 2nd grade who has seen his students grow and develop through writing free verse.

"I was amazed at how creative and insightful all (the) kids became. Students who struggled with forming letters and words, writing sentences, and who found writing in school burdensome, blossomed in this genre.

"Free from restrictions in content, form, space, length, conventions, and rhyme, they could let their imaginations soar. Proficient writers also shone. For all children, their choice of words improved, and their joy in innovating surfaced."



heraldextra.com

That joy in learning — and specifically in poetry — can begin when children are very young. Many children's books, including picture and board books, are written in meter. Some of the most well-loved children's authors, use poetry to strengthen young children's literacy skills while creating entertaining stories and messages.

Poetry is also a healthy way for children to express their feelings, especially during emotionally challenging situations. It helps children understand themselves and others, allowing them to cultivate valuable qualities like compassion and empathy.

One of the reasons why poetry can help children develop empathy and express creativity is that there's room for personal interpretation. Reading poetry out loud can help you experience it more fully, and unveil the deeper meaning of the poem.

Selecting poetry books for young kids that are funny, interesting, or relates to the experiences they're having, can help improve their literacy and improve motivation to read.

Writing and reading poetry is a rewarding endeavor for any age, that has a myriad of benefits. Using poetry as a tool in children's education is helpful, and is a fun literacy strengthening activity that can help children learn in a different way.

Poverty fight goes on at stone gate in China

It has never been easy to make a difference in Shimen, a place hidden in the mountains in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

Shimen, translated as 'stone gate', had its share of fame about 110 years ago due to the dedication of British pastor Samuel Pollard, who in China was known as Bo Geli, and his followers, but it never fully escaped poverty. People here have persistently struggled against isolation and destitution, and the battle is still on, according to Xinhua.

At the beginning of 20th century, Pollard, a British missionary arrived at Weining County, which administers Shimen township. Shimen was known as Shimenkan at the time.

Pollard pioneered modern education in the community, where ethnic Miao people lived. He founded Guanghua elementary school in 1905.

Shimen once flourished under external influence, however, it went into decline since the 1940s due to remoteness, poor infrastructure and failing education.

Over 1.48 million people live in Weining, an autonomous ethnic county in western Guizhou, inhabited by Yi, Hui and Miao people.

Even today, about 13 percent of the population there are still struggling under the poverty line. Per capital annual income is under 2,300 yuan (\$353). The poverty rate in Shimen is around 25 percent.

In 2015, Shimen became a liaison point for Chen Min'er, Communist Party chief of Guizhou at the time. Chen has went to Shimen three times to personally direct anti-poverty efforts here.

In Guizhou, 20 provincial leaders were sent to lead poverty-relief work in 20 'extremely poor' towns.

New houses, roads and power grids are under construction in Shimen. Investment in schools has greatly increased.

Poverty must end at this generation, not the next, and the only means to get rid of it is through better education, Chen told teachers at Minzu Middle School in a visit.

The school has been completely renovated at cost of over 97 million yuan (\$15 million).

Li Zhengdong, the principal, said, "It is very expensive to build a school on a mountain like ours. The walls and underlying structure cost over 40 million yuan."

Now the school, where 1,044 students study, has air-conditioned classrooms, new labs and well-equipped libraries.

Before 2015, the school ranked almost the lowest in the county in terms of performance, but this year it ranked second. Students in Shimen had very good scores in high school entrance exams, Zhengdong said.

Airbus plane engine disintegrates mid-air on flight from Paris to Los Angeles

Passengers reacted with horror after the engine of an Air France plane from Paris to the USA disintegrated in the sky, forcing the aircraft into an emergency landing.

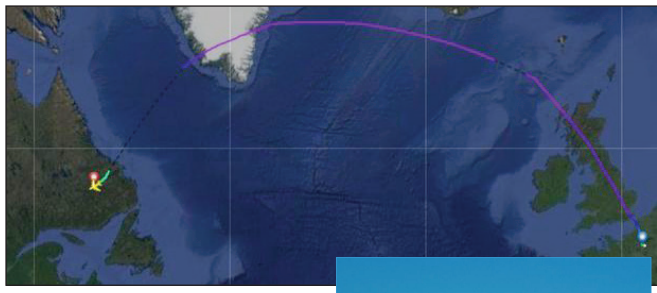
Horrifying video footage showed part of the plane's engine flapping in the air as it flew over the Atlantic Ocean with 520 passengers on board, mirror.co.uk reported.

Travelers described how everything seemed normal until they heard a 'loud thud and a lot of vibration' before the pilot declared a mayday.

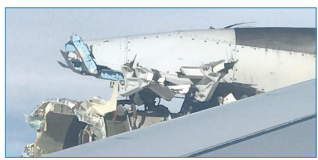
Ground crews were left to 'pick up pieces of the plane from the runway', one passenger added.

Flight records show the Airbus A380 aircraft, traveling under flight number AF66, was diverted to Canada's Goose Bay.

Air France confirmed there was serious damage to one of



A map showing the course of the plane before its emergency landing.



The mangled front of the engine where the metal has been shredded.

the plane's four engines before it landed safely.

One traveler said on Twitter the engine had "blown over the Atlantic Ocean", leading to the



emergency landing in Canada.

Another, named Daniel McNeely, said: "I'm on board. One of our engines is slightly blown apart. Just glad to be on the ground."

He later added, alongside a photo of the engine: "I think the engine has seen better days."

Peter Cowan also shared an

image of the engine and wrote: "This is the reason ground crews had to pick up pieces of the plane off the runway after landing."

Goose Bay airport is a small site not normally equipped to handle such large aircraft, according to passengers.

Air France said in a statement: "Air France confirms that the crew of flight AF66 decided to divert to Goose Bay airport following serious damage on one of its four engines."

"The plane landed safely at 3:42 p.m. and the regularly trained pilots and cabin crew handled this serious incident perfectly."

"The passengers are currently being assisted by teams dispatched to the location."

"Air France is currently working to re-route the passengers to Los Angeles via one of its connecting platforms in North America."

Paws for laughter: Animal antics caught on camera

Crazy party animals show their whinnying ways — with this zebra the joker in chief.

The headless penguins, squirrel in a feeder and snowballing monkey are just some of thousands of images sent into the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards, mirror.co.uk wrote.

These feature in a hilarious book which gives 10 percent of its sale revenue to animal charity Born Free Foundation.

Contest judge and comedian Hugh Dennis, who wrote its foreword, said: "Animals, inadvertently, can be hilarious."



COMEDY WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Man woken up by mysterious noises gets most amazing surprise

When a photographer awoke to strange sounds coming from outside his house, he may well have feared there was an intruder trying to get in.

Living in Alaska, that intruder could have been a bear or some other type of wildlife you may not wish to come face to face with first thing in the morning while still in your pajamas, according to mirror.co.uk.

But Tim Newton just couldn't put his finger on what was making the mystery sound, so he bravely crept over to the screen door and looked out onto the decking to find out exactly what was creating the strange scrambling sound.

And the sight that greeted him more than made up for the early morning awakening.

Four cute lynx kittens were playing on Tim's porch and they were soon joined by three siblings and their mum.

Luckily, being a photographer, Tim had a camera to hand and managed to snap these adorable shots of the cats, which he later posted to his Facebook page, Tim Newton Photography.



TIM NEWTON PHOTOGRAPHY
The kittens played outside Tim's Alaska home for about 40 minutes.

And he had plenty of time to get perfect photos as the family of felines hung around for about 40 minutes.

Speaking to The Dodo, Tim said: "It was right near dawn. I heard some noises; it was like something scrambling on the deck."

"Coming out of my slumber, I thought, 'What the heck is that?' So I put on my bathrobe and slowly eased back the

curtain. And right there, 2ft away, was a lynx kitten. He was sitting there watching his sibling's race by.

"They were running back and forth, pouncing on each other. I started snapping away. I thought, 'Wow! What incredible luck. This is just wonderful!'"

Despite living close to an area populated by all sorts of wildlife, Tim had only seen lynx a handful of times so was quite excited.

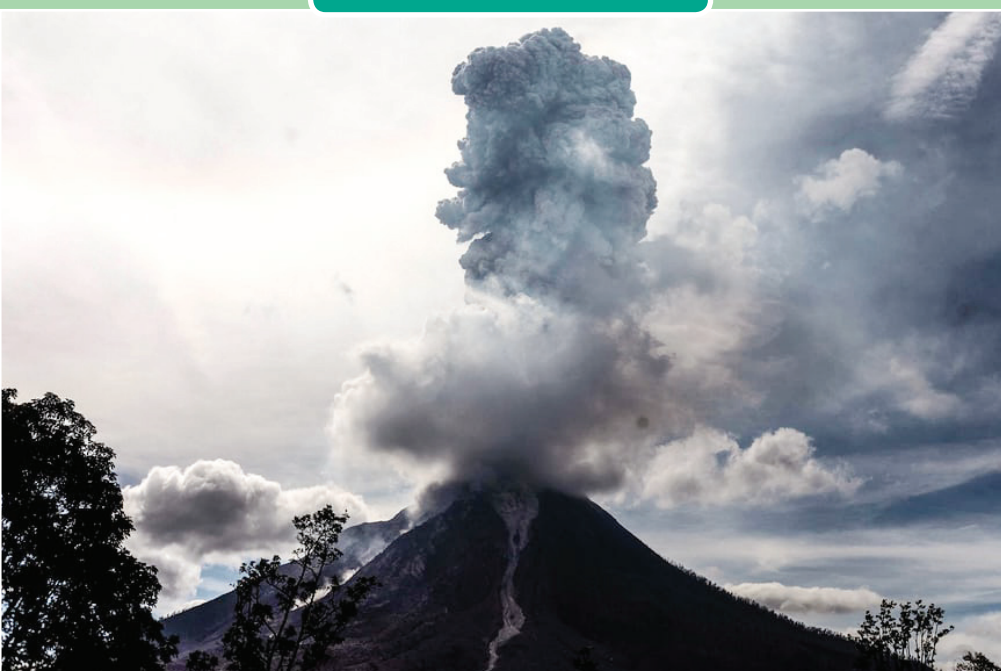
"They were so cute. It was cute-tastic," he added.

After a while the kittens scampered off and Tim assumed playtime was over but he was wrong — it had only just started — and the kittens soon returned with a further three siblings and mum.

As he watched the young kittens wrestling, rolling around and chasing each other he admitted he felt a certain amount of admiration for mum for keeping them all under control.

He joked: "She has her hands full. I've concluded that lynx must spend one percent of their waking lives chasing rabbits, and 99 percent chasing their kids."

PICTURE OF THE DAY



XINHUA/REX SHUTTERSTOCK
Mount Sinabung is seen spewing hot lava into the air from Sukendi Village in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

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

- Leguminous plant
- Chafe
- Anger
- Slogan
- Hurt
- Extremely excited
- Optical device
- Fertile part of a desert
- Cloak
- Fiend
- Temperate
- Mineral
- Female animal
- Conjunction

ACROSS

- Priggish
- Crony
- Currency
- Mature
- Assist in wrongdoing
- Electrically charged particle
- Gripping device
- Beverage
- In the past
- Pop
- On the affirmative side
- Metallic element
- Snakelike fish
- Outstanding tournament player

Yesterday's solution

N	A	P	E		A	L	P
E	L	A	N		R	U	E
T	E	R	N		I	R	E
			U	N	D	E	R
M	A	N	I	A			
O	R	E		C	L	A	P
T	I	E		R	A	T	E
H	A	D		E	W	E	R

Sudoku

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

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

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

Queiroz announces Iran's roster for Togo, Russia friendlies

Iran's head coach Carlos Queiroz announced the names on the final roster of his squad for the forthcoming friendlies against Togo and Russia as part of preparations for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

On Sunday, the 64-year-old Portuguese picked Alireza Beiranvand, Alireza Haqiqi, Hamed Lak and Rashid Mazaheri as goalkeepers, Press TV reported.

The defenders are Saeid Aqaei, Rouzbeh Cheshmi, Ehsan Hajsafi, Jalal Hosseini, Vouria Ghafouri, Hossein Kana'anizadegan, Milad Mohammadi, Morteza Pour-Ali-Garji and Ramin Rezaeian.



MOHAMMADREZA ABBASI/mehnews.com

The Iranian side's midfielders are Ahmad Abdollahzadeh, Vahid Amiri, Ashkan Dejagah, Omid Ebrahimi, Saeid Ezatollahi, Akbar Inami and Mehdi Torabi. Moreover, Queiroz has selected Sardar Azmoun, Karim Ansarifard, Saman Ghoddos, Reza Ghoochannejhad, Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Kaveh Rezaei and Mehdi Taremi as his team's forwards in its upcoming friendlies.

Difficult decision

An interesting point about Queiroz's new list is the presence of the Iranian-Swedish midfielder Ghoddos, who currently plays for Sweden's Östersund, in it. In late September, he finally decided to wear the jersey of his national football team despite being invited to play for Sweden, the Swedish TV announced.

The 24-year-old midfielder, whose side Östersund FK tops the Group J of Europa League, was recently called on by Carlos Queiroz to play for Iran while he had played in two friendly matches for Sweden and scored a goal.

On August 25, 2017, Ghoddos revealed in an interview that he acquired his Iranian passport from the embassy. The following day, August 26, he announced on his Instagram page that he would be joining Iran for their 2018 World Cup qualifiers against South Korea and Syria.

Ghoddos was called up for the first time for the Iran senior team training camps on August 27, 2017 by Queiroz for matches against South Korea and Syria.

After Ghoddos could not make his debut for Iran due to administrative issues with FIFA, he was named in the Sweden's World Cup qualification squad on September 27 for matches against Luxembourg and Netherlands.

He told the Swedish side that he will make his decision by September 28. Later, Sweden's Fotbollskanalen said Ghoddos had finally decided to play for Iran.

He later told a Swedish website that he is grateful to Andersson, the head coach of Sweden, for giving him the extraordinary option, but he has made his final decision and he will play for Iran.

Iran will take on Togo at Azadi Stadium in the Iranian capital of Tehran on October 5, before playing against Russia at Kazan Arena in Kazan five days later.

The Iranian team defeated Uzbekistan 2-0 at Azadi Stadium on Jun 13, and qualified for the 2018 World Cup in Moscow.

Germany's Winfried Schäfer takes helm at Esteghlal of Iran

Sports Desk

German football coach Winfried Schäfer was appointed at the helm of Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League club Esteghlal on Monday.

Schäfer as well as former Real Madrid coach Bernd Schuster (Germany) and ex-Al Hilal boss Zlatko Dalic (Croatia) were the final three candidates for the position, varzesh3.com reported.



sports1.de

He will be Esteghlal's first foreign head coach after 15 years.

The German coach, who was without a team after parting company with Jamaica in September 2016, replaced former Iranian football player Alireza Mansourian in the Tehran-based club.

After the news was announced, a source close to the Iranian club said the 67-year-old coach will travel to Tehran within the next two days (today or tomorrow). Schäfer started his coaching career at Borussia Mönchengladbach II in 1982. He has also coached VfB Stuttgart, Tennis Borussia Berlin, Cameroon, Thailand and Emirati football clubs Al Ain and Al Ahli.

Esteghlal sacked Mansourian in mid-September after the side's dire results in the current season (2017-18) of Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League.

Primarily, the popular Iranian team entered negotiations with Turkey's Fatih Trn which it failed to reach an agreement with the former Turkey coach due to financial issue. Following that, local media suggested that Italian Walter Zenga was on the list, but Esteghlal ruled out the possibility of hiring him.

Iran counting on Goa to power FIFA World Cup U-17 challenge

Islamic Republic of Iran is hoping its familiarity with Goa will give it additional power in the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 which kicks off on Friday.

Goa was the scene of Iran's run to the AFC U-16 Championship final last year, which it lost on penalties to Iraq, the-afc.com reported.

The loss in the final aside, Iran has fond memories of Goa and is hopeful that this can help it sustain a strong challenge against the world's best U-17 teams.

Drawn in Group C, Iran has Guinea, Germany and Costa Rica for company but head coach Abbas Chamanian believes in his team's chances.

"It's awesome to return to the same city where we spent 22 days. We played six difficult and memorable matches at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Fatorda) but now the situation at the World Cup will be different.

"We are trying to make the players realize that we will face stronger teams and the conditions will be different too. We feel that returning to Goa is a good omen for us," the Iran head coach said in recent interviews.

While Chamanian is quietly confident Iran can impress, his immediate target is for the team to emulate the 2009 squad which made the quarter-finals.

"The group looks tough as there isn't much that separates teams in age group tournaments but having seen videos of recent matches involving Germany and Guinea, I feel that all the teams are equally strong.

"However, we have a common goal and are working as a team to



the-sfc.com

reach that target," said Chamanian. And with Goa filled with happy memories, Iran may well go one better than it did in the AFC U-16 Championship when the curtains came down on the FIFA U-17 World Cup India on October 28.

Iran's Group C Fixtures
October 7: vs. Guinea
October 10: vs. Germany
October 13: vs. Costa Rica

Fabulous in friendlies

On Sunday, Chamanian's boys defeated Mexico 3-0 in the Costa del Sol 2017 Friendly Match Week in Marbella Football Center in San Pedro de Alcántara, southern Spain, as a part of their preparation for the world Cup 2017.

Mohammad Qaderi scored the opener for Iran 65 minutes into the match. Sobhan Khaqani extended

Iran's lead in the 80th minute and Saeid Karimi made it 3-0 with two minutes remaining.

The Iranian U-17 side had already defeated France 4-0 in its first match on September 28.

Iran's remarkable performance in its two friendly matches prior to the worldwide tournament in Goa, shows that Chamanian's side is a tough rival for any team in its group.

Guardiola: Barcelona should not have played amid referendum violence

Pep Guardiola believed Sunday's match between Barcelona and Las Palmas should not have gone ahead.

The former Barca boss also called on Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to answer questions after violent scenes broke out during Catalonia's unofficial independence referendum, skysports.com reported.

"Amid that backdrop of rising tensions in the city, Barca had attempted to get its fixture with Las Palmas postponed but, after seeing its request rejected by La Liga, ended up playing the match behind closed doors, winning 3-0.

"I wouldn't have played the Barca-Las Palmas game, not at all," Guardiola told Catalunya Radio.

"And if it did have to be played, then not behind closed doors. You do it with the public there. With all the consequences."

The 46-year-old Catalan, who represented Barcelona for over two decades as a player and coach, was also left shocked by the scenes of violence that were broadcast around the world as attempts to shut down the polls by Spain's Guardia Civil led to clashes.

The Spanish government had declared the referendum - in which voters were being asked whether they wish Catalonia to become an independent republic - to be illegal.

"The images don't lie, there were people who wanted to vote and they've been attacked with violence," added Guardiola.

"There are more than 700 hurt... people who were going to vote, not rob a bank.

"Spain will try to hide the reality, but the rest of the world's media will show it. The images are clear and everybody knows what has happened.

"We don't want them to think that we don't like Spain, Spain is an incredible country, with its literature, sport, cities... but you need to understand that there's a population who want to decide their future.

"The Prime Minister of the Spanish government must

accept questions, continue being the Prime Minister of all Spaniards.

"The laws are different now to 30 years ago. Everything's changed. The message from the Prime Minister of the Government, from the opposition, has made me sad.



skysports.com

"Why can't we learn from the British, who have had many more years of democracy than us?"

Pique proposal

Guardiola's reaction came as, following Barcelona's Sunday match, the team's defender Gerard Pique said he will retire from international football before the World Cup if his support for Catalonia's independence referendum is deemed a problem.

The 30-year-old described his side's fixture against Las Palmas as his "hardest game".

"I think I can continue," said Pique.

"But if the board really thinks I'm a problem, I will take a step back and leave the national team before 2018.

"There are many people in Spain who disagree with what happened today and believe in democracy."

Catalonia, a region of 7.5 million people in north-

eastern Spain, has its own language and culture and Barcelona is its capital.

It also has a high degree of autonomy, but is not recognized as a separate nation under the Spanish constitution.

Jeered during Spain games

Pique has played 91 times for Spain but has become a divisive figure because of his stance on the referendum.

During their June friendly against Colombia in Murcia, a city in south Spain, he was jeered frequently by supporters who oppose Catalan independence.

Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos has intervened to ask fans to show his international colleague "respect".

Before Sunday's game against Las Palmas, Pique posted a picture on Twitter of him voting in the referendum.

The former Manchester United defender wrote: "I have already voted. Together we are unstoppable defending democracy.

On his team's Sunday match, he said, "The board tried to suspend the match, but it wasn't possible. We debated it and the club decided we should play.

"I am and I feel Catalan, today more than ever. I am proud of the behavior of the people of Catalonia. Voting is a right that must be defended."

Pique believed Sunday's events will cause further political instability in Spain.

"For a moment I couldn't believe it," he told the AFP agency. "I thought they would try to block the vote but they would try to do it in a peaceful manner.

"It wasn't like that, but at least the whole world has seen it.

"This decision has made things a lot worse. It is one of the worst decisions made by this country in 40 or 50 years. "It has only served to separate Catalonia and Spain more and it will have consequences."

British javelin thrower Blair suspended in doping case

British javelin thrower Joanna Blair was provisionally suspended after failing an anti-doping test.

Blair, who won the British title last year with a personal best of 57.44 meters, has the chance to appeal and the right to a full hearing, BBC reported.

Blair, from Luton, represented Great Britain at the European Athletics Team Championships in Lille this

summer.

UK Athletics said the 31-year-old has been charged with committing an anti-doping rule violation.

Blair is accused of breaching International Association of Athletics Federations' anti-doping rule, article 2.1, which concerns the "presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers in a sample".

Imam Hussein (PBUH):

I did not rise up for the cause of wickedness, amusement, corruption or oppression, but I rose up to reform the Muslim community of my grandfather [Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)]. I wanted to promote virtue and prevent vice.

Italian historians unearth remains of Galashiels war hero

Historians believe they have found the remains of a Galashiels war hero in Italy.

Captain Robert Donald Brown singlehandedly held off a German attack in the days following the Allied landings at Salerno, south of Naples, armed only with a pistol and hand grenades.

Captain Brown was serving with The Leicestershire Regiment, when he led a company attack against a German-held position known as White Cross Hill, bordertelegraph.com reported.

During some of the most intense fighting of World War Two, and under heavy machine gunfire, he managed to storm the hill and take a German trench.

But the 28-year-old was killed during the fierce battle which ensued — and his body was never recovered.

Now historians believe that it is Captain Brown's remains that were unearthed earlier this year following the more recent discovery last month of an inscribed silver bracelet just 10 yards away from the skeleton.



bordertelegraph.com

The bracelet is inscribed 'R Donald Brown' and contains the army number 121662 as well as the abbreviation 'Pres' to signify his Presbyterian faith.

Amateur historian Matteo D'angella, who is a member of Salerno 1943 research group, said: "The leather dog tags were easily destroyed in battle so some soldiers had their name and number inscribed on bracelets or tags so that their bodies could be identified if they were killed."

Donald Brown was born in 1915 in Galashiels and was educated at St Mary's Preparatory School in Melrose, and at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh.

He had passed his first year examination at the Royal Veterinary College in Edinburgh when war broke out.

In July 1939 he joined the 165 Officer Cadet Training Unit at Dunbar.

And the following March, 24-year-old Donald was commissioned into The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and posted to the 9th Battalion.

In May 1943, he was attached to the 25th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment while fighting in Tunisia.

It was with the Tigers battalion that he took part in the landings at Salerno.

On September 16, 1943 while commanding a company of 25th Leicesters he was posted missing in action.

Captain Brown was awarded a posthumous Distinguished Service Order in 1946 "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field".

The citation which appeared in The Scotsman on March 23, 1946 stated: "In an attack near Salerno in September 1943, Captain Brown, alone and armed only with a pistol and grenades, held the summit of a hill against continued assaults, and was last seen being attacked on all sides, after he had killed a number of the enemy. "Unsupported, he inspired his company to renewed efforts to reach him and to drive back the enemy."

Captain Brown is commemorated on the Cassino Memorial in Italy and on the Merchiston Castle School war memorial.

His name is also inscribed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Montecassino — the site of another savage battle between the Allies and the Germans during Italy offensive.

Other artefacts, including belt buckles, buttons and ammunition, found with the remains earlier this year also indicate the soldier was British.

The amateur historical group who recovered the remains and the bracelet believe Captain Brown's family can now be given closure, 74 years after his death.

Salerno 1943 members are appealing to British military authorities to carry out DNA testing on the skeleton and match it with DNA from any surviving relatives of Captain Brown.

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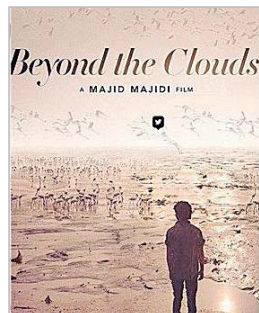
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Iranian filmmaker Anvari joins BFI London jury

Majidi's 'Beyond the Clouds' in lineup



cinemapiress.ir



blog.mameva.ir

Compiled from Dispatches

Iranian filmmaker Babak Anvari will be on the panel of jury at this year's 61st BFI London Film Festival.

Oscar-winning director Andrea Arnold will head the festival's official competition jury while Emma Thomas, producer of 'Dunkirk' and the Oscar-nominated 'Inception' will also serve on the jury.

Joining the panel of the official competition jury are actors Eric Bana and Lily Cole; programmer Ashley Clark; and Alexei Popogrebnsky, head of directing at Moscow Film School, Variety wrote.

Meanwhile, 'Beyond the Clouds', by renowned Iranian director Majid Majidi, will be in the lineup for this year's official competition.

The official competition lineup comprises Robin Campillo's '120 Beats Per Minute'; Vivian Qu's 'Angels Wear White'; Nora Twomey's 'The Breadwinner'; Juliana Rojas and Marco Dutra's 'Good Manners'; Xavier Beauvois' 'The Guardians'; Andrew Haigh's 'Lean On Pete'; Andrey Zvyagintsev's 'Loveless'; Azazel Jacobs' 'The Lovers'; Warwick Thornton's 'Sweet Country'; Cory Finley's 'Thoroughbreds'; and Anemarie Jacir's 'Wajib'.

The festival's Best Film Award recognizes inspiring, inventive and distinctive filmmaking, with the jury selecting the winner from a shortlist of 12 titles. Last year's winner was Kelly Reichardt's 'Certain Women'.

Additional juries will decide winners in the festival's First Feature, Documentary and Short Film competitions. Producer and composer Melissa Parmenter ('The Face of an Angel') will head up the jury of the First Feature Competition this year. Oscar-winning producer John Battsek will serve as jury head for the Documentary Competition; and 'The Red Turtle' director Michael Dudok de Wit will chair the Short Film Competition.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony October 14. As announced, British filmmaker Paul Greengrass will receive this year's BFI Fellowship at the ceremony.

The London Film Festival runs from October 4 to 15.

Top director Berliner among guests honoring Brazil film industry in Iran

Art & Culture Desk

Prominent Brazilian director Roberto Berliner will attend the Brazilian Film Week in Iran which is scheduled to begin on October 7 and run through October 13 in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan. The event will feature seven Brazilian movies.

The international department of Cinema will hold the opening ceremony of the Film Week on Saturday in a ceremony which will be attended by Brazilian Ambassador to Iran Rodrigo de Azeredo Santos, envoys from other countries, cinema managers and artists in Iranian Artist Forum.

Berliner was born in 1957 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a director and producer, known for 'Nise: The Heart of Madness' (2015), 'A Farra do Circo' (2014) and 'Herbert de Perto' (2009). He has won several awards from renowned festivals including Grande Prêmio do Cinema Brasileiro, San Francisco International Film Festival and Tokyo International Film Festival.

In late June, the Brazilian ambassador said, "We would like to present all the aspects of Brazilian culture, such as literature and art, to Iranians." The very famous Brazilian director, Carlos Diegues — also known as Cacé Diegues — is also invited to take part in the event. Diegues, known as the father of modern Brazilian cinema and a member of the Cinema Novo movement, has accepted the invitation.

Azeredo Santos said, "During the week, a number of seminars and discussions are planned. We also intend to show some of the movies by the director and hold meetings between him and Iranian cineastes."

Speaking about the potentials of bilateral cooperation, the ambassador said that Brazilians and Iranians are also very creative. Street art in Iranian cities is really great. There are a large number of paintings and graffiti, by Iranian artists, on the walls in Tehran's streets and alleys.

"We also intend to bring Brazilian graffitiists to Iran and provide them with the opportunity to meet their Iranian counterparts and perhaps begin cooperation in a project here. This, however, should be discussed with Tehran Municipality in advance."

He stated, "Before coming to Iran, I got in touch with a major TV network in Brazil, and helped them organize a two parts documentary about Iran, which was broadcasted in prime time on Brazilian TV last week."

"We were able to show the true image of Iran, its kind people and admirable culture, without the misconceptions about the country that we usually see in the international media."



novocine.es

Montenegro keen to deepen Iran ties

Montenegro has voiced willingness to enhance ties with Iran in various fields, said the Montenegrin culture minister.

Janko Ljumovic, in a meeting with Iran's accredited Ambassador to Montenegro Hossein Molla-Abdollahi in Cetinje on Monday, pointed to Iran's cultural and civilization contributions to human community, and said that cooperation with a country with such rich cultural and civilizational heritage for several thousand years is so valuable for Montenegro, IRNA wrote.

He said that one of bright visions of Iran's culture is its cinema, which is so inspiring and valuable for the entire human society.

Ljumovic expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in fields such as film industry, music, painting, theater and cultural heritage, and welcomed a proposal on exchanging media and cultural delegation between the two countries.

Ambassador Molla-Abdollahi hoped that cultural cooperation between the two countries would promote reciprocal recognition of the two nations and governments. He added such reciprocal acquaintances will pave the way for mutual cooperation.

Iran's envoy in Montenegro pointed to his talks with political officials in waiving visa requirements between the two countries, which, he said, could enhance bilateral cultural, tourism and economic relations.

Referring to Iran's active participation in Montenegro book exhibition, the Iranian envoy called on Montenegro to take part in Tehran International Book Fair.

Montenegro is located in southern Europe and its currency is euro.

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Weather

