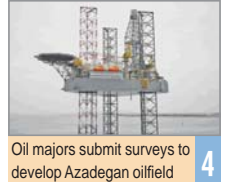




Larijani vows Iran's 'serious' response to US sanction bill

IRAN DAILY



Oil majors submit surveys to develop Azadegan oilfield

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Austria OKs €1bn credit line for Iran steel project



UN official: Netanyahu's call for dismantling UN refugee agency, a fantasy



Iran on the verge of main event



World Press Cartoon Grand Prix goes to Iran's Pakdel

Austria said on Sunday it has allocated a credit line of one billion euros for a major steel production project in southern Iran.

The announcement was made by Austrian Finance Minister Hans Jorg Schelling during a visit to Tehran.

In a meeting with Iranian Economy Minister Ali Tayyebnia, Schelling said that the credit line was meant to help the expansion of relations between the two countries, IRNA reported.

Tayyebnia told his Austrian counterpart that the Austrian government should do more to help expand economic relations with Iran. He emphasized that fighting money-laundering – as well as funds with suspicious origins – were central issues in the plans of Iran's banking system.

Austria's steel production investment plan in Iran involves the establishment of a plant with a capacity of 2.4 million tons per year in Gol Gohar in Iran's southern province of Kerman.

To the same effect, Austria's Voest Alpine has reportedly signed an agreement to team up with Iranian partners to establish a steel production plant in Gol Gohar.

LGs, investment up fourfold

Also meeting with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Austrian minister said Vienna has quadrupled the issuance of letters of guarantee (LGs) and investment in Iran. Schelling said his trip to Tehran is mainly aimed at boosting cooperation in economic and financial sectors.

He further hoped that he would reach investment deals and a double tax agreement (DTA) during his stay in Iran. Zarif expressed Tehran's willingness for growing relations with Vienna in all fields.

He also hailed Austria as the European country with which Iran enjoys the strongest banking interaction.



Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (R) talks to Austrian Finance Minister Hans Jorg Schelling at a meeting in Tehran on Sunday.

Minister: Mastermind behind Iran twin attacks killed

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry announced that the mastermind behind the Tehran terrorist attacks was killed.

In a televised interview, Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi said that the terrorist commander was killed on Saturday by intelligence forces.

He noted that the terrorist had fled the country following the ensuing security operations after the attack, but was killed with the cooperation of friendly foreign intelligence services, Press TV wrote.

At least 17 people were killed and 56 others injured in Tehran on Wednesday when the terrorists mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and Imam Khomeini's Mausoleum. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attacks.



TASNI

After offering condolences to the families of the attack victims, Alavi stressed that over the past few months the country's intelligence forces had neutralized over 25 terrorist cells.

He added that the large number of terrorist operations thwarted by Iran had pushed the terrorists into engaging in the Wednesday attacks.

Alavi also noted that in a recent intelligence raid a large amount of automatic weapons and grenade launchers were obtained from a terrorist group.

Qatar says keen to have 'positive' Iran ties

Qatar's foreign minister expressed his country's willingness to have constructive relations with Iran after several Persian Gulf Arab countries cut their diplomatic ties with Doha.



Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani speaks to RT Arabic on Saturday.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani made the remarks in an interview with RT Arabic on Saturday during a visit to Moscow, where he sat down with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

"As far as our relations with Iran are concerned, everyone wants positive relations with Iran. Iran is a neighbor," Sheikh Mohammed said.

The Qatari minister said, "The strategic choice of all countries is to maintain dialogue with Iran", adding, "We, in the state of Qatar, support these efforts."

It came after the Qatari emir's reported remarks on Iran's stabilizing role in the region sparked a diplomatic storm with Saudi Arabia and its allies even though Doha later said its state media which published the statements had been hacked.

Iran sends food

On Sunday, Iran's national carrier Iran Air said five planes of food had been sent to Qatar as the diplomatic crisis is hitting food imports into the small Persian Gulf state amid a Saudi-led blockade.

"So far five planes carrying perishable food items such as fruit and vegetables have been sent to Qatar, each carrying around 90 tons of cargo, while another plane will be sent today," Iran Air spokesman Shahrokh Noushabadi told AFP.

He also noted that the deliveries will continue "as long as there is demand" from Doha.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates broke off relations with Qatar and suspended all land, air and sea traffic with the monarchy. In their apparent bid to secure US support and that of Israel, the four countries cited Qatar's links with Hamas and accused it of supporting terrorism.

'Legitimate movement'

The top Qatari diplomat also stressed that Arab nations consider Gaza-based Hamas a "legitimate resistance movement" and not a "terrorist organization as viewed by the US."

Doha's stance on Hamas is in line with those of other Persian Gulf states, Sheikh Mohammed said of the resistance movement which has an office in Qatar.

Continued on Page 2

British PM seeks deal with N. Irish party to cling to power

British Prime Minister Theresa May was seeking a deal with a small Northern Irish party on Sunday to stay in power after losing her party's parliamentary majority in a catastrophic electoral gamble just days before Brexit talks are set to start.

But with May's personal authority in tatters, there were reports that moves were under way within her Conservative Party to dislodge her, while opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was insisting she could be ousted and he could replace her.

"Theresa May is a dead woman walking. It's just how long she's going to remain on death row," former Conservative finance minister George Osborne, who was sacked by May when she became prime minister last year, told the BBC.

With Britain due to start negotiating the terms of its exit from the European Union with the bloc's 27 other members on June 19, the political crisis in London could not have come at a worse time.

Her Downing Street office had announced on Saturday that

the "principles of an outline agreement" with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) had been agreed, only for the DUP itself to cast doubt on that account hours later.



REUTERS

It was another humiliation for May, and a sign that the socially conservative DUP, with its strong focus on Northern Ireland's specific political complexities, will not necessarily be a compliant partner for her minority government.

The DUP statement put Downing Street on the back foot, prompting a carefully

worded response in the early hours of Sunday. That said May had "spoken with the DUP to discuss finalizing" a deal in the coming week.

"We will welcome any such deal being agreed, as it will provide the stability and certainty the whole country requires as we embark on Brexit and beyond," the Downing Street statement said.

The Conservatives won 318 House of Commons seats in Thursday's election, eight short of an outright majority. Labour, the main opposition party, won 262. The DUP won 10.

Labour's Corbyn told the Sunday Mirror newspaper he saw a route to power himself, although it was not clear how he would command the support of a majority of members of parliament.

Labour's tally, even when added to those of potential allies such as the Scottish National Party and other smaller parties, was still short of a majority.

"I can still be prime minister. This is still on. Absolutely," Corbyn was quoted as saying.

Macron eyes victory as French vote in parliamentary elections

manding majority.

Macron has enjoyed a smooth start in the five weeks since he beat far-right candidate Marine Le Pen to become France's youngest-ever president, naming a cabinet that crosses left-right lines and making a big impression at international summits, AFP wrote.

His untested Republique en Marche (Republic on the Move, REM) party, which he only founded in April 2016, now needs a clear majority in the National Assembly for him to push through the reforms he has promised.

A host of opinion polls show Macron's party taking around 30 percent of the vote on Sunday, putting it in pole position to secure a landslide in the second round

next Sunday.

Some predictions show REM could take around 400 seats in the 577-seat chamber. The party has already had a boost after its candidates came first in 10 of the 11 French overseas constituencies that voted before the mainland.

If no candidate wins over 50 percent in the first round, the two top-placed go into the second round – as well as any candidate who won the votes of over 12.5 percent of the electorate.

More than 50,000 police will be on patrol in a country still under a state of emergency following a wave of attacks that have killed more than 230 people since 2015.



AFP

French voters went back to the polls on Sunday for the first round of parliamentary elections that are tipped to give President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party a com-

Iran's Foreign Ministry said that the country's top diplomat, Mohammad Javad Zarif, is to visit Norway today to attend the Oslo Council conference.

Araqchi: All the world knows source of terrorism in region

Political Desk

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Saturday that all the world knows where the source of terrorism in our region is.

The Iranian official said that everybody knows how the Islamic Republic has fought terrorism, and how it has been targeted by "barbaric" terrorist attacks on its soil, IRNA reported.

Araqchi added that the Daesh terrorist group is resorting to barbaric terrorism, which shows its degradation and cowardice.

He pointed to last week's twin terrorist attacks in the Iranian capital Tehran and said there are masters who are directing the Daesh terrorists.

The Iranian official added that Daesh elements' recourse to terrorism shows their degradation, defeat, fear, cowardice and most important of all their confusion.



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

Araqchi emphasized that Daesh terrorists randomly shot at innocent people, which "shows that they have not achieved their goals."

He said the confused masters of the Daesh group are to blame for the terrorist attacks in Tehran, adding, "Indiscriminate terrorism sees no option but the killing of innocent humans and this is a catastrophe which is repeated in Iraq and Syria every day."

At least 17 people were killed and 56 others injured in Tehran on Wednesday when gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini.

Daesh claimed responsibility for the two attacks. Araqchi also described claims by US officials about Iran's support for terrorism as "ridiculous, repugnant and shameful."

He said that reactions from the world's leaders to Tehran's terrorist attacks indicates that they understand who the victim of terrorism is, and who is supporting it.

Larijani vows Iran's 'serious' response to US sanction bill

Iran's parliament speaker says the legislature is to deliver a "serious" and "clear" response to a push at the US Senate to impose new sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Ali Larijani made the remarks on Sunday as he ordered Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee to "immediately" draw up a counter-plan and submit it to the legislature, Press TV reported.

The US Senate on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly to advance a bill that would impose new sanctions on Iran, the same day that 17 people were killed in terrorist attacks in Tehran.

A senior Senate aide said the Iran sanctions measure could come up for a vote as soon as next week. The legislation would impose new sanctions on Iran over its defense missile program, support for resistance movements and claims of human rights violations against the country.

To become law, the measure would have to pass the Republican-led House of Representatives and be signed by President Donald Trump. So far, Washington has slapped two rounds of sanctions on Iran under the new US administration, in breach of a nuclear accord.

Larijani said Iran's countermeasure should incorporate "resistance on the right path of the revolution and increased convergence" in the face of the enemies' efforts to "blunt Iran's instruments of dignity."

"The enemy's strategy is to slow down the means of Iran's dignity, and preoccupy its authorities with extraneous issues," he said.



IRNA

At least 17 people were killed and 56 others injured in Tehran on Wednesday when gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"We should accept that a line comprising terrorists and the countries backing

them, which are being led by the United States and Saudi Arabia, has formed against our people," Larijani said.

He also expressed his thanks to world officials and parliaments for extending messages of commiseration to the Iranian people and government over the terrorist attacks in Tehran.

Those messages, he said, have dismayed Riyadh, which only last month

gathered many of its allies, including the United States, in an anti-Iran conference featuring Trump as the keynote speaker.

Larijani said Iranian lawmakers' decision to go ahead with their session as the terrorist attack unfolded in a nearby building and their participation at a funeral for victims of the attacks showed the country's determination to fight terrorists to the end.

Navy flotilla departs for Oman, high seas



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

Iran's Navy said two Iranian warships departed the country's southern waters for Oman and the high seas to carry out an overseas mission.

The 47th flotilla of Iranian warships, comprised of the Alborz destroyer and the Bushehr logistic vessel, embarked on the voyage on Sunday, Press TV reported.

The flotilla left southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas for Oman and then for the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

Meanwhile, Iran's 46th naval fleet, comprised of the Sabalan destroyer and the Lavan logistic warship, left Bandar Abbas for the Gulf of Aden on April 17 after a ceremony attended by Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari.

It is set to return to the country later on Sunday after managing to successfully conduct its mission.

In recent years, Iran's Navy has increased its presence in international waters to protect naval

routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.

In line with international efforts against piracy, the Iranian Navy has been conducting patrols in the Gulf of Aden since November 2008, safeguarding merchant containers and oil tankers owned or leased by Iran or other countries.

Iran's Navy has managed to foil several attacks on both Iranian and foreign tankers during its missions in international waters.

Qatar says keen to have...

From Page 1

"Hamas' presence in Qatar doesn't mean there's support for Hamas in Qatar ... Hamas' presence is a political representation of the Hamas movement," he said, adding, "We do not support Hamas, we support the Palestinian people."

Earlier this week, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said Qatar must end its support for Hamas and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood to restore ties with Persian Gulf Arab countries.

Sheikh Mohammed underlined the need for all disputes to be solved through dialogue and within the PGCC only.

He said the underlying reason for the latest developments "must not be too deep" as Doha's ties with its Persian Gulf Arab rivals "were very friendly even two days prior to the escalation."

There were meetings, consultations and summits in late May, "with no questions related to the current controversy", he added.

Sheikh Mohammed said "an information campaign to demonize Qatar has started all of a sudden" by leveling "groundless and improvised" accusations against Qatar.

"If there are clear claims, they would have better been discussed at the table. Before taking any measures, Qatar should have been given a chance to answer the accusations," he pointed out.

The Saudi-led campaign to isolate Qatar has escalated tensions and deeply divided the region. Turkey has sided with Qatar in the dispute and sent troops to the Persian Gulf country amid reports of a possible military action by Riyadh.

On Saturday, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifah paid a visit to Turkey but there was no immediate word on the purpose of the trip or the content of talks.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu quoted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as having told the top Qatari diplomat that the dispute with Doha should be resolved by the end of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Qatar has a history of diplomatic disputes with other Persian Gulf Arab countries. In 2014, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain temporarily recalled their ambassadors from Doha over what they said to be Qatar's support for Muslim Brotherhood.

Iran official urges pressure on Turkey over dams

An Iranian official urged active diplomacy with Turkey towards tackling the problem of dust storms, which chronically blight regional states as a result of Ankara's massive dam building projects.

As part of its Southeastern Anatolia Project known as GAP, Turkey has built 22 dams on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which also run across Syria, Iraq and Iran, Press TV reported.

The project has reportedly reduced water flow in the rivers' basin by 34 percent and caused 94 percent of the Mesopotamia to dry up, kicking up dust storms in Syria and Iraq which head to Iran and cripple life in its southwestern and western provinces.

Hedayat Fahmi of Iran's Energy Ministry said on Sunday Turkey was exacerbating the situation by continuing to build more dams, leaving more parched river basins which become new breeding grounds for dust storms.

This becomes more palpable if we consider that the dams hold back as much as 100 billion cubic meters of water, half of which is harnessed in the country's Ataturk Dam.

The project, which is executed by US, German and Israeli firms among others, is due to

provide water for up to two million hectares of arable lands in Turkey and boost the country's electricity production by 7,500 megawatts.

Expert projections, Fahmi said, hold that the Middle East would be losing as much as 10 percent of its water resources by 2045. Over the same period, the demand for water in the region would increase by 60 percent, he said, adding this could even lead to regional wars.

"To tackle the problem of fine particles in the country, the four countries are needed to interact and engage in water diplomacy toward ensuring their entitlement to joint water resources," he said.

The official said given that Iraq and Syria are faced with security and social predicaments, Iran should take a more active role in diplomatic efforts.

Regional cooperation on the matter stalled in 2011 when terrorism and conflicts began to blight the two Arab countries.

Back in March, Iran sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, calling for the creation of a regional task force to address the pressing issue of dust storms in the region.



Mohammad Ali Rajzai

The Jordanian Army said on Sunday its border guards killed five people who were approaching its frontier from At-Tanf, a Syrian desert town.

UN official: Netanyahu's call for dismantling UN relief agency a fantasy

International Desk

A UN official has described Israeli prime minister's move for calling for the dismantling of the UN relief agency for Palestinians as unrealistic.

Adnan Abu Hasna, a Gaza-based spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said Netanyahu was pursuing a "fantasy".

The United States, Israel's main ally, was the biggest donor to UNRWA last year, pledging \$368 million (288.78 million pounds), Reuters quoted the spokesman as saying.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Sunday for the dismantling of the UN agency that aids millions of Palestinian refugees, accusing it of anti-Israeli incitement and saying he had conveyed his message to the US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley.

"It is time UNRWA be dismantled and merged with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees," he said.

UNRWA was established by the UN General Assembly in 1949 after hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in the 1948 war that followed Israeli regime's creation. It says it currently aids five million registered Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

Also Chris Guinness, UNRWA's chief spokesman, said in an email to Reuters that only the General Assembly, by a majority vote, could change the agency's mandate.

"In December 2016, UNRWA's mandate was extended for three years by the General Assembly by a large majority," he added.



A Palestinian man sits outside the United Nations food distribution center in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, on June 11, 2017. IBRAHEEM ABU MUSTAFA/REUTERS

Most settlement units

Israel has so far this year advanced its highest number of settlement projects since 1992, the defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said Sunday, as Israeli settlements are illegal under international law, AFP reported.

The European Union on Friday censured the Israeli regime for giving the green light to plans for the construction of thousands of more settler units across the occupied West Bank.

"Israel's continued policy of settlement expansion is illegal under international law," said Federica Mogherini, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, in a statement on Friday. Last week alone, Israel advanced plans for more than 3,000 settlement homes.

The move is a blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 2334, which demands that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, includ-

ing East Jerusalem (Beit-ul-Moqaddas)".

The resolution, adopted last year, also states that the building of settlements by Israel has "no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law."

Some 600,000 Israeli settlers now live in the West Bank and East Beit-ul-Moqaddas, alongside around 4.9 million Palestinians.

Netanyahu has said he still supports a two-state solution, but peace advocates say his actions show otherwise.

No sign of healing in G7 climate change rift

The United States' partners in the G7 club of wealthy democracies vowed Sunday to pursue efforts to curb climate change despite a rift caused by the United States' withdrawal from the Paris accord.

"G7 countries have crucial roles and responsibilities to our own public opinion, and to developing countries and to the planet," Italy's Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti said at the start of a two-day meeting of G7 environmental chiefs. "The international community awaits our message," AFP reported.



NORTH AMERICA DREW ANGERER/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Scott Pruitt, a friend of the oil industry who is skeptical about manmade climate change and was Trump's controversial choice to head the US Environmental Protection Agency, attended the meeting but was due to fly home after the first day.

With Germany's Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks also departing early and France's Nicolas Hulot not arriving until Monday because of legislative elections, there appeared little prospect of substantial dialogue on an issue which has caused significant tensions between Donald Trump's administration and key US allies.

Adding to the frustration of the Italian hosts, Britain was represented by a junior minister as efforts to form a new government in London continued.

Patricia Espinosa, the UN official in charge of implementing the Paris accord, stressed that Trump's pullout would not make any difference in the short-term.

"We've all registered with regret the US decision but at the same time the US remains a party to the agreement because it foresees a three year period before any party can withdraw."

"So for us it is really clear that what we need to do is to go forward with implementing the accord and helping countries translate their national program into their development policies so we can get to 2018 and have a first assessment of where we stand," she said.

Italy's large environmentalist movement had planned a demonstration against Trump's decision for Sunday afternoon in Bologna, an ancient university city and bastion of progressive activism.

Trump announced at the start of this month that the US would not abide by the 2015 Paris agreement and would seek to renegotiate terms he denounced as unfairly damaging to the American economy and overly generous to India and China.

Trump said Washington would not be bound by the targets on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases set down in Paris, and will cut funding for developing countries affected by climate change.

Scientists warn that failing to contain climate change will have devastating consequences as sea levels rise and extreme storms, droughts and heatwaves become more common, endangering crops and fragile environments with knock-on effects in the form of new conflicts and mass fluxes of people escaping affected areas.

The G7 consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, the world's seven biggest economies when the club was formed. The discussions in Bologna were also attended by Chile, the Maldives, Ethiopia and Rwanda, four developing countries with a particular interest in combatting climate change.

Britain denies Trump trip delayed

British Prime Minister Theresa May's office said there has been no change to plans for US President Donald Trump to come to Britain on a state visit, after the Guardian newspaper reported the trip had been postponed.

The paper, citing an unnamed adviser at May's Downing Street office who was in the room at the time, reported Trump had told May by telephone in recent weeks that he did not want to come if there were likely to be large-scale protests, AAP reported.

"We aren't going to comment on speculation about the contents of private phone conversations," a spokeswoman for May's office said. "The queen extended an invitation to President Trump to visit the UK and there is no change to those plans."

The White House had no immediate comment on the report. No date has been set for the visit, which was agreed during May's visit to Washington in January, but British media had reported it was planned for October.

Trump has come under fire in Britain this month for his public criticism of London Mayor Sadiq Khan's response to an attack by terrorists in London, in which eight people were killed. May found herself forced to defend Khan, who is from the opposition Labour party.

At that time, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said there was no reason to cancel the visit, while White House spokesman Sean Spicer said that Trump intended to go and that "he appreciates Her Majesty's gracious invitation".

Kosovo holds snap elections with economy in focus

Kosovars voted on Sunday in snap parliamentary elections, hoping to elect a government that can improve the Balkan state's impoverished economy and make progress in joining the European Union.

About 1.9 million Kosovars, nearly half a million of whom live abroad, were registered to vote in the third elections since Kosovo declared independence in 2008, Reuters reported.

The new government will have to tackle unemployment running at 30 percent and improve relations with its neighbors, especially Serbia, a precondition for both countries to move forward in the European Union accession process.

The West sees the integration of the Western Balkan countries in the European Union as a way to stabilize a region still recovering from wars in the 1990s.

Early elections were called in May when the government of Prime Minister Isa Mustafa lost a no-confidence vote, accused by the opposition of failing to meet pledges to improve the lives of the youngest population in Europe.

Opinion polls put a coalition led by former prime minister Ramush Haradinaj as the frontrunner. His small Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) party signed a pre-election deal with the Democratic Party of Kosovo (DPK), the biggest in the country and in power since 2007.



Supporters of the coalition of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) commanders AAK, DPK and NISMA, attend an electoral rally in Pristina, Kosovo, on June 9, 2017. AGRON BEQIRI/REUTERS

A victory for Haradinaj, however, would probably complicate relations with Serbia, which has issued an international warrant for his arrest for war crimes.

A coalition led by Mustafa's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and the leftist opposition party Vetevendosje (VV), which wants to unite all Albanians in one state, are vying for second place in the vote, according to opinion polls.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008, nine years after NATO bombing drove out Serbian forces accused of killing and expelling Kosovo Albanian civilians during a two-year war. Serbia still refuses to recognize its independence.

Thousands rally in Barcelona for Catalan independence vote



Former FC Barcelona coach Josep Guardiola (L) calls for international support for the Catalan independence referendum in a rally held in Barcelona on June 11, 2017. AFP

Several thousand demonstrators, including Pep Guardiola, the revered former manager of the city's football club, rallied in Barcelona on Sunday to support the Catalonia independence referendum called for October 1.

Carles Puigdemont, leader of the regional government, defied Madrid on Friday by setting a date for the vote even though it has been ruled illegal by Spain's Constitutional Court, AFP reported.

"We will vote, even if the Spanish state doesn't want it," Guardiola told the crowd in Catalan, Spanish and English.

"There is no other way; the only possible response is to vote," he added. As Puigdemont looked on, Guardiola also called for the international community's support against "the abuses of an authoritarian state".

While the city authorities estimated that 30,000 people attended the rally, a separatist source put the figure at 47,000.

The latest regional government poll found that 73 percent of Catalans were in favor of holding a referendum similar to the one held by Scotland in 2014 - though that one had the approval of the British government.

But the same poll found that 48.5 percent of respondents opposed independence, with 44.3 percent in favor.

In 2014, Catalonia held a non-binding vote in which more than 80 percent of those who cast a ballot chose independence, though just 2.3 million out of 6.3 million eligible voters took part.

The wealthy region of 7.5 million people is fiercely proud of its language and customs, and has long demanded greater autonomy from Madrid.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

South Pars annual gas output tops 146 bcm

An energy official announced that the gas production in South Pars Energy Zone has recorded a significant increase rising to over 146 billion cubic meters (bcm).

According to Fars News Agency, a senior official with Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) Abdolrahman Salehi said on Sunday, "A total of 146.74 billion cubic meters of gas were recovered from South Pars joint field in the Iranian year to March 20, 2017."



Salehi, who is the caretaker for planning export of liquids and condensate at POGC, said the Iranian complex refined about 125 billion cubic meters of sweet gas which were supplied to consumers.

Last year, South Pars refineries produced 521,753 tons of graded sulfur of which 520,888 tons were exported.

Implementation of new South Pars phases will further increase output, directly and indirectly, making raw materials available to industries such as petrochemical, refinery, plastic and chemical.

Iran eyes trade boom with EEU after free-trade deal

An Iranian minister hopes that trade exchanges between Tehran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) would rise under a much-awaited free-trade agreement.

Iran hopes to increase commercial exchanges with EEU member states as soon as a free-trade agreement with the union is signed, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammadreza Nematzadeh told Russia's Rambler News Service.

Pointing to Iran's high capacity in producing agricultural goods, particularly fruit and vegetables, the minister added that Tehran also hopes to ink an agreement with Moscow to meet the long-term demands of large chain stores in Russia for summer fruits and vegetables.

The EEU is an economic union of states located primarily in northern Eurasia. It provides for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor within the member states. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia are the current member states of the union.

In April, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Nebenzya said the talks on temporary free trade zone agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and Iran are scheduled to be completed before the next EEU summit this fall.

Envoy: South Korea keen to boost trade with Iran

South Korean Ambassador to Iran Kim Seung Ho called for the further expanding trade relations between Seoul and Tehran.

"Iran is the main supplier of crude oil to South Korea and without Iran's oil, Korean economy will be shaky," Kim was quoted as saying by Fars News Agency.

The South Korean ambassador said that when the new president takes office in South Korea, there would be no changes in trade policy concerning Iran, adding, "Our mutual cooperation will be promising in the new government."

He added, "Our strategy for development of ties with Iran is based on restoration of trade relations, which were decreased to less than one third during the unilateral sanction imposed against Iran by the West."



Second, trade balance is another axis, now South Korea is importing 95 to 98 percent of its consuming oil, so if "we decide to import oil from another country, what will happen?" he asked. In relevant remarks in early February, Managing Director of the Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) Ali Salehabadi announced that South Korea has opened a line of credit (LC) worth \$100 million for Iran.

"This credit line will be used for importing raw materials manufactured in Iran," Salehabadi said.

He noted that South Korea has opened the line of credit for its businesses.

Minister: Iran, Austria to produce fuel-efficient cars

Domestic Economy Desk

An Iranian and Austrian company have agreed to manufacture fuel-efficient cars, said minister of industry, mine and trade.

Speaking during a meeting with an Austrian delegation in Tehran, Mohammadreza Nematzadeh said the agreement is part of a bilateral cooperation accord which was reached a year ago, ISNA reported.

He added that the two sides have embarked on a project to draw up plans for producing the engine of these cars.

The minister said a plant has been set up in the city of Qazvin for mass manufacturing of the fuel-efficient cars estimating that the production of the three-cylinder vehicles will begin in the next two years.

Nematzadeh noted that Iranian auto companies are in talks with their Austrian counterparts for supplying spare parts.

The minister said contracts with countries such as Austria will contribute to promote Iran's auto industry.

He said such agreements are among the achievements of the Iran nuclear deal which was signed in July 2015.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — plus Germany started implementing the accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on January 16, 2016.

Since then a large number of international auto companies have expressed willingness to either resume or boost cooperation with the Islamic Republic.



Iran absorbs over \$3.3b investment in 2016: UNCTAD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced in its recent report, published in June 2017, that Iran has attracted \$3.372 billion — showing a 64-percent growth.

Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland, and it has offices in New York and Addis Ababa.

UNCTAD is part of the UN Secretariat. It reports to the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council but has its own membership, leadership and budget. It is also part of the United Nations Development Group.



The UN agency announced that in 2016, the year which the sanctions on Iran were terminated, Iran could attract \$3.372 billion, IRNA reported.

The report further said that foreign investment in Iran had declined for few years. However, in 2016, Iran enjoyed a 64-percent growth in attracting foreign investment.

In 2016, 37 international investment agreements were signed. Turkey topped the foreign investment table with seven contracts while Iran came second with three contracts.

UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964.

The Division on Investment and Enterprise of UNCTAD serves as the focal point for all matters related to foreign direct investment and multinational enterprises in the United Nations System.

It builds on more than four decades of experience and international expertise in research and policy analysis on investment and enterprise development, fosters intergovernmental consensus-building, and provides technical assistance to over 150 countries.

Iran begins wheat exports to Oman

Iran loaded its first 35,000-ton consignment of wheat on a ship bound for Oman, said the head of Association for Iranian Food Industries Societies.

According to IRNA, Mohammadreza Mortazavi said, "Our wheat export capacity is estimated at two million tons during current year (to mid-March 2018)."

He further announced that big and small consignments of wheat flour have been exported to Iraq this year.

Earlier this month, Deputy Agricultural Jihad Minister for Commercial Affairs Ali Akbar Mehrfard announced that 200,000 tons of wheat flour was exported over past three months.

He noted that Iran's agricultural produces are exported to more than 30 countries.

Oil majors submit surveys to develop Azadegan oilfield

International energy companies have presented technical surveys for the development of the Azadegan oilfield, an Iranian official said.

Managing director of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying that France's Total, Malaysia's Petronas, and Japan's Inpex Corp. have submitted their surveys on the field.

Noureddin Shahnazadeh further said that some other companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, Italy's oil and gas group Eni, and China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) are also interested in the tender to develop the oilfield.

Iran has signed a flurry of deals with Western companies over the past year since the easing of international sanctions on Tehran after an accord was reached over its nuclear program.

Iran needs foreign investment to repair and upgrade its oil and gas fields. It also seeks the transfer of technology to its oil industry after a decade of sanctions.

Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, as well as companies from China, Austria, Japan and other countries.

Russia's Zarubezhneft signed a MoU to conduct feasibility studies on two joint fields in the west of the country.

Norway's International Aker Solutions Company signed an MoU to modernize Iran's oil industry.

In May 2016, Austria's OMV signed an MoU for projects in the Zagros area in western Iran and the Fars field in the south.

South Korean Daewoo Engineering and Construction (Daewoo E&C) signed an MoU to construct an oil refinery in Bandar Jask, on the southern coast of Iran.

Italy's Saipem signed MoUs to cooperate on pipeline projects, upgrading of refineries and development of Tous gas field in the northeastern province of Khuzestan Razavi.

Norwegian oil and gas company DNO said it was the second Western energy



In November 2016, France's Total became the first oil major to sign a big deal with Tehran since the lifting of sanctions and agreed to help it develop the world's largest gas field, South Pars.

Shell signed a provisional deal in December to develop Iranian oil and gas fields South Azadegan, Yadavaran and Kish in December 2016.

Iran has named 29 companies from more than a dozen countries as being eligible to bid for oil and gas projects using the new, less restrictive contract model.

The firms include Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni, Malaysia's Petronas and

company after Total to sign a deal with Iran under which it agreed to study the development of the Chahguleh oilfield in western Iran.

Lukoil, Russia's second biggest oil producer, hopes to reach a decision on developing two new oilfields in Iran.

Germany's Siemens AG signed an MoU in May to overhaul equipment and facilities at Iran's oil operations and refineries.

BASF's Wintershall oil and gas exploration subsidiary signed an MoU with the National Iranian Oil Company in April 2016.

Swiss bank Credit Suisse will slash 1,500 jobs in London by the end of next year as part of cost-cutting efforts, according to reports.

Economists urge May to accelerate Brexit plans



ooyala.com

UK Prime Minister Theresa May must start Brexit talks as soon as possible and prove she is making progress with the EU if she wants to restore confidence among British businesses, economists warned.

Investment could tumble following the general election as companies hold back on major spending plans at a time of intense uncertainty, while poorly thought-through schemes to intervene in businesses risk a "chilling effect" on the economy, according to The Telegraph. Economists want the prime minister to show quick results to stop a slump that could damage the economy, and business leaders want her to reinforce a pro-enterprise message.

"The to-do list is long and the clock is ticking. By pursuing some early wins we can create the momentum towards a good deal for businesses," said Carolyn Fairbairn, director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

She wants May to give priority to "ensuring the rights

of EU citizens, progressing transitional arrangements and shifting the focus of formal talks to future trading relationships" in the next 100 days, as "Britain needs to be seen — and heard — as open, pro-market and pro-enterprise."

But Fairbairn also had a warning for May on any far-reaching new steps in the industrial strategy: "Before there are new market interventions made, they should be given careful consideration, with evidence-based, thorough and full consultations before intervening. Because what you don't want is a chilling effect on investment at this very important time."

Economists want some sign of the 'strong and stable' leadership May offered in the election campaign, and are looking for concrete signals of activity rather than political deadlock.

"If she can get the first Queen's speech passed, that would be a confidence booster — because if she can pass one bill, maybe she can pass more and this can work,"

said Caroline Simmons from the UK Investment Office at UBS Wealth Management, who said she fears for the state of the economy.

"For the immediate term this hung parliament doesn't bode well. In the run-up to the election, housing transactions were lower and activity levels were not quite what they were before the election was announced, and I wonder if that will continue."

May argues that "no Brexit deal is better than a bad deal". Analysts hope this will be a tactic to extract cooperation from the EU, rather than a plan to leave with no trade deal in place.

"If you believe this claim that no deal is better than a bad deal is part of a negotiating tactic, then once they get into the conference chamber, the agreements are much more amicable. That is the sort of thing I think will help give businesses a little more confidence that we're not heading to the edge of the abyss," said economist Peter Dixon at Commerzbank.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79876.2	0	0
Industry Index	68666.8	(18.3)	(0.03)
Free Float Index	86905.0	86.3	0.1
First Market Index	55166.1	(34)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	178548.8	192.8	0.11

Overall Index details on 20170611

First	79885.5	Change end of year(%)	918.32%
High	79884.4	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79845.5	Historical lowest	100 (13691/6)
Close	79876.2	Base Value	100 (13691/6)
Change	0		

Industry Index details on 20170611

First	68664.5	Change end of year(%)	1027.74%
Max Value	68673.2	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69610.5	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68666.8	Base Value	
Closing	(18.3)		

Free Float Index details on 20170611

First	86801.4	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	88753.6	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	88687.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	86905.0	Base Value	
Closing	86.3		

Main Board Index details on 20170611

First	55117.9	Change end of year(%)	777.1%
Max Value	55167.5	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	55990.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55166.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(34)		

Secondary Index details on 20170611

First	178876.9	Change end of year(%)	1345.03%
Max Value	178820.7	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	181452.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	178548.8	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	192.8		

EU, Asia remain top Philippine export markets



retailnews.asia

Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority said that total Philippine trade grew to \$11.7 billion in April 2017, with 12.1 percent growth in exports offsetting the 0.1 percent decline in imports.

The agency said it is optimistic of the country's trade performance for the rest of the year, considering thriving exports and trade linkages, especially with Europe and East Asia, Xinhua reported.

"For exports, East Asia and the EU remain the top destinations of our products, accounting for 62.3 percent of total export receipts," Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said.

He said exports to EU and East Asia grew by 36 percent and 10 percent in

April 2017, respectively.

Despite global uncertainties, he said the NEDA is "upbeat that the country will sustain the strong performance of export and trade growth recorded in the first quarter."

"We aim to deepen our engagement with our neighbors in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance trade and investment links," Pernia said.

He recognized the positive contributions of trade connections and cited China as an example.

"Also worth noting is the tripling of exports to the United Arab Emirates and India in April. This was the third month that receipts to UAE tripled, and the second month for India," Pernia said.

Egypt will not reinstate ban on grain fungus



REUTERS

Egypt will not reinstate a controversial ban on ergot, state grain buyer General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) told Reuters, despite a court ruling, which could allow a return to the common grain fungus being barred entirely from wheat cargoes.

Traders said the previous zero-tolerance requirement, which the Egyptian agricultural department said was to protect human and plant health, is impossible to fulfill and makes doing business with Egypt too risky, Reuters wrote.

But an Egyptian court said it was planning to overturn a food inspection system launched this year by the world's largest wheat buyer, which was intended to address this issue and streamline trade after a nearly yearlong

row.

The new inspection system sidelined a body called agriculture quarantine, which last year applied a zero-tolerance rule on ergot in wheat cargoes and led traders to boycott the state's tenders en masse, briefly cutting off the import-dependent country from global grain markets.

Lawyers on the case said that the ruling, scheduled to be issued on June 13, would restore the agriculture quarantine's authorities, which could allow them to again ban the fungus entirely from wheat cargoes.

But in its first comments since news of the pending court ruling, GASC Vice Chairman Ahmed Yousef said the court ruling would not mean a return to the zero-tolerance rule.

South Korean exports plunge 12.2%

South Korea's exports plunged 12.2 percent in the first 10 days of June from a year earlier, the latest customs data showed on Sunday, after posting seventh straight months of growth.

Total outbound shipments reached \$12.2 billion during the cited period, down 12.2 percent from the same period last year, according to the findings compiled by the Korea Customs Service (KCS), Yonhap reported.

The decrease comes partly on the back of huge increases of ships exported in early June of last year, the agency said.

"The number of ship exports greatly increased in early June of last year," a KCS official said. "Last year's number was unusually large, and the data does not mean exports are shrinking."

Outbound shipments of chips surged 32 percent on-



internapcdn.net

year during the cited period and petroleum increased 10.4 percent on-year, while numbers for ships plunged 77.7 percent on-year, the data showed.

Exports to Vietnam and Japan surged 32.2 percent and 13.7 percent, respectively, over the 10-day period of June from a year earlier, while those to China and the United States decreased one percent and 26.7 percent, respectively, the data showed.

Meanwhile, the latest findings showed that imports rose 12.4 percent to \$13.5 billion over the cited period. Consequently, the country logged a trade deficit of \$1.3 billion.

Asia's fourth-largest economy saw its outbound shipments make a turnaround from a two-year slump in November last year on the back of recovering world trade and rising oil prices.

Last month, South Korea's exports jumped 13.4 percent from a year earlier to extend their winning streak to seven months on the back of brisk overseas sales of computer chips and displays.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2826	Chinese Yuan	0.1471
Euro	1.1194	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.2743	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2919
Australian Dollar	0.7539	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$45.90	Silver	\$17.18
Gold	\$1268.80	Platinum	\$940.10
Copper	\$2.62	Wheat	\$446.00

Germany, California to tackle climate change together

Germany is teaming up with California to cooperate on tackling climate change following the US government's decision to withdraw from the 2015 Paris agreement.

Europe's largest economy and the biggest US state in economic terms will back the work of the "Under 2 Coalition", which includes cities, regional governments and states, German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks said, reported Reuters.



omicsgroup.org

"We cannot achieve our climate goals without the engagement of local and regional communities. That has become even clearer after the US withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement," Hendricks said after agreeing on the joint approach with California Governor Edmund Brown in San Francisco.

"California and Germany unite the world leaders in the fight against climate change, the existential threat of our time," Brown said in a statement released by the German ministry. US President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States from the landmark 2015 Paris agreement drew anger and condemnation from world leaders and industry.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel last week pledged her country's continued commitment to the agreement, calling the US decision "very regrettable".

Hendricks said the German government would ensure that cities, communities and regions played an important role in the UN climate change conference in Bonn in November.

Handicrafts sector, shortest route for creating wealth

Cultural Heritage Desk

Promoting the handicraft sector is the shortest way to create wealth across the country, said the head of Iran Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO).

Zahra Ahmadipour further said that handicrafts can help the provinces do away with underdevelopment and unemployment.

In light of the support extended by the incumbent administration, appropriate opportunities will be created for creating jobs in the handicraft sector and generating revenues, she said.

"If we seek Iranian-Islamic lifestyle, we should take into consideration the handicraft sector and support the craftspeople."

"We will generate 75,000 jobs through developing the handicraft sector with cooperation of the Parliament and High Employment Council," he pointed out.

Based on a memorandum of understanding inked with the Interior Ministry, permanent handicraft marketplaces will be launched in villages with population of under 100,000, she said.

"We will use all potentials of the domestic industry to ensure sustainable development by launching handicraft booths and shops in various cities," she added.

Also, Deputy Head of ICHHTO Bahman Namvar-Motlaq said: "Export is an important indicator for us. We have witnessed a 16-percent growth in domestic handicraft market and 36-percent rise in global market during the year to mid-March 2017."

In addition, a 67-percent growth of foreign fairs indicates that Iranian handicrafts have managed to comprehend the preferences of foreign customers, he said.

He added, "I hope the number of handicrafts houses will rise."

Namvar-Motlaq also cited Isfahan and Tabriz as global cities of handicrafts and carpet respectively.

Mashhad and Lalejin were chosen as global cities of gem stones and potteries respectively, he added.

He said plan to support artisans has 20 notes which revolve around issues such as insurance of artisans, value-added in the handicraft sector, as well as production and trade.



nokteonline.com

China showcases green energy solutions at Astana World Expo

The China Pavilion of the 2017 World Expo opened in the Kazakh capital of Astana, which highlights China's achievements in developing, utilizing and protecting new energy.

The 2017 World Expo is scheduled for June 10-September 10, the first time for a Central Asian country to host a global event of this kind. More than 100 countries and 10 international organizations will participate in the exhibition, Xinhuanet.com wrote.

The China Pavilion, under the theme 'Future Energy, Green Silk



china.cn

Road', is among the largest at the expo village and the first one put into test operations.

Covering about 1,000 square meters, it aims to share China's experience in areas such as traditional

energy upgrading, new energy, environmental protection and sustainable development.

With 'The Past, Today, and Future' as its main timeline, the China Pavilion is composed of the Preface, an Energy Corridor, a Chinese Wisdom and Practice Section, an Energy Dream Theater, a Global Responsibility and Partnership Section, and a Last Section and Reception Area.

Visitors can drive China's most advanced high-speed trains in a simulated train cab running from northwestern Chinese city of Xi'an,

a starting point of the ancient Silk Road, all the way to the expo village in Astana.

The China Pavilion exhibits models of smart refrigerators and cookers, which can automatically control temperatures based on what is being stored and cooked, so that energy is saved without compromising freshness and taste.

A household energy management system can distribute power to different parts of a house at different time of the day to maximize the efficiency of power consumption.

Electric vehicle technology demonstrates how the Chinese people seek to improve their way of traveling.

At the pavilion, visitors can wear virtual reality glasses and use other similar devices to experience China's latest clean energy achievements.

The China Pavilion also displays miniatures of a water-powered wooden spinner used in ancient times and the ship sailed by Zheng He, the country's most famous mariner and explorer in the 15th century.

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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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ساختمان دربیست در مناطق شمال تهران
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمیته‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Just one dose of an experimental Zika vaccine provided mice with 100 percent protection against a potentially lethal dose of the virus, researchers reported.



ysjournal.com

Is antibiotic resistance becoming a big killer

Is antibiotic resistance a threat to surgical outcome? A retrospective study by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on 100 infants who underwent heart surgeries at the institute from June 2015 to June 2016 suggested so.

Cardiac surgeons have found that 16 children developed hospital-acquired infection, which led to longer hospital stay and need for ICU support than those who didn't, timesofindia.indiatimes.com wrote.

Also, of those who acquired infection, three died due to sepsis.

Dr. Shiv Kumar Choudhary,

additional professor of cardiac surgery at AIIMS, said that Klebsiella was the most common cause of hospital-acquired infection.

It is a "superbug" that causes a range of diseases, depending on which part of the body it infects.

He added, "In the past decade, surgical outcomes have improved with expertise and improved infrastructure. But our study shows all this could remain useless if infections become untreatable."

Of the three infants who died due to infection at AIIMS, the first was a month-old child who had undergone

arterial switch operation and ventricular septal defect closure.

According to the study report published in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine, the infant had grown Klebsiella in endotracheal secretions and blood.

The infection was resistant to commonly used antibiotics except colistin, and the baby succumbed on day 38 to sepsis with multi-organ failure.

The second child was 15 days old and his blood culture was positive for Klebsiella, again sensitive to colistin only.

Despite starting colistin, the child

succumbed on day 18 to septic shock.

The third child was of 11 months old and he, too, developed a Klebsiella-positive blood stream infection and died on day 15 to sepsis.

Colistin is a fourth-generation antibiotic developed in the 1960s.

Experts said, "Its use was forbidden in hospital-acquired infections as it damaged the kidneys, but doctors are using it routinely these days to save lives."

TOI had earlier reported the case of an elderly American woman who died in the US recently after having contracted an infection while being treated for a thigh bone fracture in India two years ago.

Tests showed no drug or combination of drugs available in the US would have cured the infection.

AIIMS trauma center doctors said at least eight patients were identified with colistin resistant Klebsiella pneumonia at their hospital recently.

Dr. Sumit Ray, vice chairperson, critical care at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "The incidence of hospital-acquired infection has reduced significantly across big hospitals, in India and abroad."

"However, we are seeing that those who get it are difficult to treat because the organisms causing infections are resistant. We may lose many patients if this trend grows."

Dr. Vipul Gupta, director of neuro-intervention at Artemis Hospital, said, "Those with lower immunity, for example infants or immunocompromised patients, are at the highest risk for increased mortality due to infections."

Dr. Rommel Tickoo, senior consultant, internal medicine, at Max Hospital Saket, said, "Resistance to antibiotics is making it difficult to treat even milder illnesses, such as typhoid."

Eating garlic could help cure high cholesterol

Heart disease is one of the risks associated with high cholesterol.

However, there are natural ways of reducing the symptoms of the common condition, also known to raise the risk of circulatory problems and peripheral arterial disease, express.co.uk reported.

The latest statistics reveal that one in two adults in the UK will suffer from high cholesterol at some point in their lives.

Cholesterol is a fatty substance known as a lipid and is vital for normal body function.

However, having an excessively high level of them can have an adverse effect on your health.

It can lead to circulatory problems, peripheral arterial disease and heart disease.

High cholesterol is caused by a poor diet full of saturated fats from animal products and trans fat found in processed foods, as well as a lack of exercise.

Statins can be prescribed, but for many people they can trigger unpleasant side effects.

However, there are ways to help lower it using natural methods.

- **Up your fiber:** It's not only beneficial for digestion, but it can help lower cholesterol levels when eaten as part of a diet low in saturated fat.
- Shona Wilkinson, nutritionist at Superfood UK, said, "Make sure your diet is rich in beans, oats, flaxseed and oat bran as this may help lower total blood cholesterol levels by lowering low-density lipoprotein, or 'bad', cholesterol levels."
- "Studies also have shown that high-fiber foods may have other heart-health benefits, such as reducing blood pressure and inflammation."
- **Exercise:** One of the main causes of high cholesterol is a sedentary lifestyle.
- Even an extra two hours a week — or 30 minutes a day — can go a long way to reducing levels.



Eating garlic is a natural way to help lower cholesterol. express.co.uk

- **Add garlic:** Research has found that garlic can lower cholesterol, and help to reduce blood stickiness — meaning to keep the blood flowing normally and prevent clots.
- Try adding a slice of garlic to boiling water with lemon in the morning.
- **Invest in red yeast rice:** Barns explained, "Red yeast rice is a natural substance created by fermenting red rice with a type of yeast called 'Monascus purpureus'."
- "The fermentation process produces a substance called monacolins K, which has been found to help maintain healthy cholesterol levels. It may help lower both total and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) 'bad' cholesterol."
- **Eat fish:** Oily fish such as mackerel and salmon contain omega-3 fatty acids which help to prevent abnormal blood clotting.
- Dr. Marilyn Glenville, a nutritionist, said, "The use of omega-3 fish oils has been shown to reduce the risk of coronary artery disease and heart attacks."
- "The anti-inflammatory effects they have on the body are very important in prevention of heart disease and lowering cholesterol."

Compound may improve balance, coordination in mice with Parkinson's

Researchers at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) have created a molecular compound that improves balance and coordination in mice with Parkinson's disease.

The drug, CLR01, reduced the level of toxic protein in the brain that is believed to be responsible for the development of Parkinson's disease, UPI wrote.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive nervous system disorder affecting one million Americans, with roughly 60,000 new diagnoses each year. There is currently no cure.

CLR01, known as a molecular tweezer, is a complex compound capable of disrupting the formation of toxic clumps of alpha-synuclein proteins that kill brain neurons that produce dopamine, the neurotransmitter needed to send signals to neurons to control movement.

CLR01 wraps around chains of the basic amino acid lysine and can decrease the clumping of alpha-synuclein proteins.

The compound prevents the proteins' negative effects without detectable toxicity or side effects harming normal cells in the brain.

Researchers found there are two toxic types of alpha-synuclein: One that clumps together forming aggregates and a second soluble form that is more toxic and harder to detect.

The latter is thought to be the driving force affecting neurons.

The research team used a treatment of CLR01 that did not affect the aggregated form of alpha-synuclein, but did reduce the soluble form enough to improve movement in mice with early-stage Parkinson's disease.

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL, JOHAD STATE LIVESTOCK AFFAIRS LOGISTICS INC (S.L.A.L) ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

STATE LIVESTOCK AFFAIRS LOGISTICS (SLAL) INC. INTENDS TO INVITE INTERNATIONAL TENDERERES FOR THE SUPPLY OF 80,000 MTS OF FEED CORN AND 65,000 MTS OF FEED BARLEY. ALL INTERNATIONAL GRAINS SUPPLIERS ARE REQUESTED TO DOWNLOAD RELATED DOSSIERS FROM OUR WEBSITE ON WWW.IRANSLAL.COM. TENDERS AND CONTRACTS CATEGORY BY 17.06.2017

OFFERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN 18.07.2017.

ADDRESS: NO. 33, EASTERN BRAZIL AVE., VANAK SQ., TEHRAN - IRAN

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL, JOHAD STATE LIVESTOCK AFFAIRS LOGISTICS INC (S.L.A.L) ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

INTERNATIONAL TENDER

STATE LIVESTOCK AFFAIRS LOGISTICS (SLAL) INC. INTENDS TO INVITE INTERNATIONAL TENDERERES FOR THE SUPPLY OF 1,000 MTS FRESH FROZEN BEEF. ALL INTERNATIONAL BEEF SUPPUERS ARE REQUESTED TO DOWNLOAD RELATED DOSSIERS FROM OUR WEBSITE ON WWW.IRANSLAL.COM. TENDERS AND CONTRACTS CATEGORY BY 17.06.2014

OFFERS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED NOT LATER THAN 18.07.2017.

ADDRESS: NO. 33, EASTERN BRAZIL AVE., VANAK SQ., TEHRAN - IRAN

Babies' fascination with faces starts before birth

An infant's fascination with faces is already evident in the womb, a new study contended.

Young babies pay more attention to faces than to other objects. But, the study authors said their is the first study to show that this preference begins before birth, UPI reported.

Study author Vincent Reid, a psychology professor at Lancaster University in England, said, "We have shown the fetus can distinguish between different shapes, preferring to track face-like over non-face-like shapes."

The investigators projected light images through the uterine wall of dozens of pregnant women. They tracked the 34-week-old fetuses' responses with 4D ultrasound.

The fetuses were more likely to turn their heads to look at face-like images than at other shapes, according to the study.

The results were published in the journal Current Biology.

Reid said, "This preference has been recognized in babies for many decades, but until now exploring fetal vision has not been attempted."

Along with showing that babies' preferences for faces begins in the womb, the study also confirms that fetuses have enough light to see and have visual experiences in the womb, he and his colleagues said.

Reid added, "However, pregnant mothers should not shine bright lights into their bellies."



netmums.com

Space-traveling flatworms reveal effects of microgravity on regenerative health

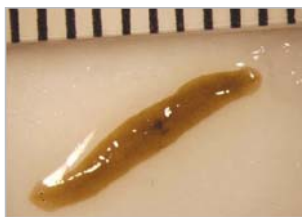
Understanding the impact of space travel on human health remains a primary goal for NASA.

Scientists have used a number of animal models to measure the effects of microgravity on biological mechanisms, UPI reported.

In a recent study, scientists used flatworms to determine how microgravity influences regenerative health.

Planarian flatworms are appreciated by scientists for their remarkable ability to repair and regenerate tissue after amputation.

Scientists at Tufts University sent several flatworm specimens into space to see how microgravity impacts their ability to regenerate cells.



UPI
One of the amputated flatworms sent to the space station came home with two heads.

Michael Levin, a professor of biology at Tufts, said, "During regeneration, development, and cancer suppression, body patterning is subject to the influence of physical forces, such as electric fields, magnetic fields, electromagnetic fields and other biophysical factors."

"We want to learn more about how these forces affect anatomy, behavior and microbiology."

In 2015, several *Dugesia japonica* flatworms flew to the International Space Station aboard SpaceX's Dragon cargo ship.

Each worm was contained in a small capsule featuring a combination of air and water. Half the worms were amputated, half were whole.

A group of control worms were kept in similar conditions on Earth. When the flatworms returned from space, researchers compared the specimens to the control worms.

The worms were analyzed immediately upon their return and monitored for 20 months after.

A series of behavioral, microbiological, and morphological tests revealed a variety of differences between the two groups of worms.

The most startling difference: One of the space-traveling amputees regrew a double head.

When scientists sliced off both ends of a worm returned from space, the fragment regrew heads on both ends — proof the impacts of space travel on flatworm regeneration are permanent.

Researchers also found worms returning from space reacted differently to aqueous conditions and light.

Tests showed space travel altered the microbiota and metabolism of the test worms.

Scientists shared the results of their flatworm study in the journal *Regeneration*.

Researchers use new technique to recycle plant material into stock chemicals

Recycling can encompass more than just materials like plastics and paper. Important chemicals can also be recovered and reused.



UPI

Researchers at the University of Michigan have developed a new technique for recycling plant material into stock chemicals, or commodity chemicals, UPI reported.

When recycling plant materials, the target is lignin — a complex organic polymer that provides structure to the tissue of vascular plants.

Lignin is especially important to the formation of a plant's cell walls. It also lends wood and bark their strength.

When broken down, lignin yields molecular fragments that can be used to create pharmaceuticals, plastics and other household products.

Until now, the methods for breaking down and recycling lignin's chemical components were inefficient. The techniques proved low-yield and inconsistent.

Scientists at Michigan hypothesized that an electrochemical approach might offer more precise control and yield more productive results.

By combining electricity and blue light to trigger chemical reactions, researchers were able to target the breakdown of one specific chemical bond. The technique produce more predictable results.

"We envision that new information technologies may

emerge based on these new 2D magnets."

Xu and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Physics Professor Pablo Jarillo-Herrero led the international team of researchers who proved that the material, chromium triiodide, or CrI₃, has magnetic properties in its monolayer form.

Other groups, including co-author Michael McGuire at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is managed for the US Department of Energy, had previously shown that CrI₃, in its multilayered, 3D bulk crystal form, is ferromagnetic.

In ferromagnetic materials, the "spins" of constituent electrons, analogous to tiny, subatomic magnets, align in the same direction even without an external magnetic field.

However, no 3D magnetic

substance had previously retained its magnetic properties when thinned down to a single atomic sheet.

Co-lead author and UW doctoral student Bevin Huang from the university in US Pacific Northwest said, "You simply cannot accurately predict what the electric, magnetic, physical or chemical properties of a 2D monolayer crystal will be based

on the behavior of its 3D bulk counterpart."

Atoms within monolayer materials are considered "functionally" two-dimensional because the electrons can only travel within the atomic sheet, like pieces on a chessboard.

The researchers used a special type of microscopy to detect a signature in CrI₃, as in other ferromagnetic materials

Human fossils

The understanding of human origins was turned on its head, with the announcement of the discovery of fossils unearthed on a Moroccan hillside that are about 100,000 years older than any other remains of our species.

NASA unveils visionary Mars rover



The new rover which will be the prototype for future missions to Mars.

flipboard.com

It looks like the futuristic space truck from Ridley Scott's film "Prometheus" but this is NASA's visionary new Mars rover which could one day provide transport for manned missions to the Red Planet.

The giant six-wheeled concept vehicle was unveiled at NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

Made entirely of carbon fiber and aluminum, the electric and solar-powered truck is 8.5 meter long, four meter wide, and designed to accommodate four astronauts. It even has its own detachable laboratory for extraterrestrial fieldwork.

NASA already has two robot

rovers' on Mars but the space agency has vowed to plant human colonies on the Red Planet by the 2030s and so is looking ahead to transportation needs.

The new rover was designed by US based Parker Brothers Concepts using specifications provided by NASA and will inform the design of future rovers.

The truck separates in the middle with the front area designed for scouting and equipped with a radio and navigation provided by GPS.

The back section serves as a laboratory which can disconnect entirely for autonomous research.

Designer Marc Parker, said that the rover could hit top speeds of up to 70

mph, but was built to overcome the rocky environment of Mars, and so is expected to trundle along at around 15 mph.

He said, "What we actually came up with was a dual-purpose vehicle. It actually separates in the middle."

"The rear section is a full lab, the front area is a cockpit for going out and doing scouting. The lab section can actually disconnect and be left on its own to do autonomous research."

"That way the scout vehicle can go out to do its thing without the fuel consumption and extra weight, then come back later."

Its six wheels are 1.3 meter tall, 75 centimeter wide, and are designed with

air ducts to let the red sands of Mars pass through. The rover was built as part of an educational program to inspire the public about space exploration, but NASA said it is keen to incorporate its design in future rovers.

Rebecca Shireman, assistant manager of public relations for NASA's Kennedy Visitor Complex, said, "While this exact rover is not expected to operate on Mars, one or more of its elements could make its way into a rover astronauts will drive on the Red Planet."

"It's an all-encompassing effort to review the history of our efforts to explore Mars and look ahead to what is being planned."

Physicists use numerical 'tweezers' to study nuclear interactions

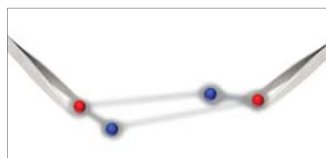
Researchers from North Carolina (NC) State University and the Ruhr-Universität Bochum have developed numerical "tweezers" that can pin a nucleus in place, enabling them to study how interactions between protons and neutrons produce forces between nuclei.

They found that the strength of local interactions determines whether or not these nuclei attract or repel each other, shedding light on the parameters that control attraction or repulsion in quantum bound states, phys.org wrote.

Dean Lee, professor of physics at NC State and corresponding author of a paper describing the work, said, "Ultimately we want to understand how nuclear forces determine nuclear structure by studying how nuclei attract or repel one another."

"So we needed a way to hold particles in place and move them around relative to one another in order to measure attraction or repulsion."

Lee, along with Ruhr-Universität Bochum colleagues Evgeny Epelbaum and Hermann Krebs and graduate



phys.org
Numerical tweezers used to measure the effective potential between two quantum states.

student Alexander Rokash, utilized a numerical lattice with attractive potentials in order to isolate the particles they wanted to study.

The attractive potentials created a way for a particle to get "stuck" in one place — like a hole in the ground that a marble could roll into. These were the numerical tweezers.

The team began simulations with two single particles held in different positions, then with particle pairs.

They looked at two types of interactions between the groups of particles: Local interactions, where the particles' positions relative to one another don't change, and non-local interactions, where the positions do change.

Lee said, "We found that the local interactions had a much bigger effect on determining whether nuclei would stick together, or become bound."

"Specifically, the strength and range of the local interactions determined whether or not the nuclei would bind to each other."

"In non-local interactions, on the other hand, the nuclei sometimes repelled each other."

"We're interested in finding out why nuclei bind together to form new elements."

"Numerical tweezers allow us to do simple simulations using just a few particles, giving us insight into the most basic particle interactions and the ways in which nuclear interactions inform nuclear structure."

2D magnet discovered for first time

A team of researchers has for the first time discovered magnetism in the 2D world of monolayers, or materials that are formed by a single atomic layer.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature*, demonstrate that magnetic properties can exist even in the 2D realm, opening a world of potential applications, as magnetic materials form the basis of technologies that play increasingly pivotal roles in our lives today, according to xinhuanet.com.

Xiaodong Xu, a professor of physics and of materials science and engineering at the University of Washington (UW), said, "What we have discovered here is an isolated 2D material with intrinsic magnetism, and the magnetism in the system is highly robust."

"We envision that new information technologies may

emerge based on these new 2D magnets."

Xu and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Physics Professor Pablo Jarillo-Herrero led the international team of researchers who proved that the material, chromium triiodide, or CrI₃, has magnetic properties in its monolayer form.

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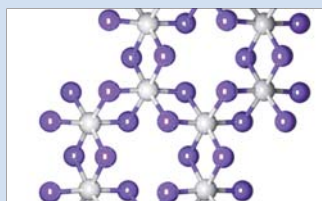
The researchers used a special type of microscopy to detect a signature in CrI₃, as in other ferromagnetic materials

when a beam of polarized light is reflected off the material's surface, indicative of intrinsic ferromagnetism in an isolated monolayer.

And surprisingly, in CrI₃ flakes that are two layers thick, the telltale optical signature disappeared.

This indicates that the electron spins are oppositely aligned to one another — a term known as anti-ferromagnetic ordering. Ferromagnetism returned in three-layer CrI₃.

Yet to conduct further studies to understand why CrI₃ displayed these layer-dependent magnetic phases, Xu noted that 2D monolayers alone offer exciting opportunities to study the drastic and precise electrical control of magnetic properties, which has been a challenge to realize using their 3D bulk crystals.



phys.org

Workplace accidents have risen by about 10 percent in Greece every year since 2013 despite a dip in 2011-12, the association of technical and sanitation inspectors SEPYAE said.

Empowering adolescent girls is investing in a brighter future



repsi.org

There are 600 million adolescent girls in the world, most of them living in the developing world. 600 million adolescent girls who each overflow with the potential to become an entrepreneur, a scientist, a visionary change-maker, or the leader of her country. But so many of these girls face daily, arduous barriers that prevent them from reaching their potential.

Every 10 minutes, an adolescent girl dies as a result of violence. Pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death and illness for adolescent girls. 65 million girls are out of school. Almost 1,000 young women are newly infected with HIV every day. And more than 13 million girls will become child brides this year alone, according to unicef.org.

This month, UNICEF launches the Girls' Empowerment Initiative — a platform that mobilizes our extensive partnerships, communications, and advocacy efforts

to transform the risks and deprivations adolescent girls face into pathways towards a better life.

UNICEF is proud to have Gucci as a founding partner of the initiative. UNICEF's Girls' Empowerment Initiative builds on innovation as a driving force of change for girls, a key principle that underwrites UNICEF's Gender Action Plan.

Innovation to empower girls is designed with girls in mind. UNICEF is committed to finding, developing, and escalating innovative solutions in the forms of new technologies, models, and ways of thinking towards empowering girls. One of these innovations is U-Report, a social messaging tool that currently has over 1,300,000 female users — called U-Reporters — in 35 countries. The platform is a place for girls to voice their opinions, questions, and concerns, and to engage in conversations on issues that matter to them.

Another innovative program UNICEF supports looks toward quality girls' education and future employability is the joint UN IT Girls initiative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. IT Girls teaches young girls and women to code so they have the skills and confidence to pursue careers in the high-paying ICT sector.

The Girls' Empowerment Initiative will expand these and other successes and invest in new, innovative platforms and ideas, including through the 2017 Innovation Gender Challenge which calls for proposals across 190 UNICEF Country Offices.

Empowering adolescent girls and giving them the opportunities they deserve leads to healthier families, strengthened economies, and more equitable societies. It's not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do as we strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Women's Aid criticizes domestic violence campaign

Women's Aid has voiced concerns over a Dublin-based modeling agency's plan to bring the controversial Black Dot campaign to Ireland.

Women's Aid Federation of England, commonly called 'Women's Aid' is one of a group of charities across the United Kingdom which aim to end domestic violence against women and children.

The campaign, which encourages women who are the victims of domestic violence to mark their hands with a black dot, could lead to 'very dangerous situations', Women's Aid said, irishtimes.com wrote.

The Black Dot campaign first came to prominence in the UK and the US two years ago. Women suffering domestic abuse were encouraged to paint a black dot on their hands as a sign they were in need of help.

However, the campaign came in for strong criticism, as leading domestic violence charities said they believed it might be dangerous for some women to take part in it.

In 2015, the Black Dot campaign in England had its main social media page closed following claims it could do 'more harm than good'.

The Size Gorgeous Management modeling agency plans to launch in Dublin on Sunday a 'black-dot awareness campaign' to highlight domestic violence.



havenhousefsc.com

Women's Aid, which provides domestic violence support services across Ireland, say they are 'concerned that [the campaign] could put those affected at further risk'.

A spokeswoman said: "Domestic violence is a very serious issue that affects one in five women in Ireland and women's safety must be to the fore of any public awareness initiative."

"We are surprised that the Black Dot campaign is being taken up here, given the valid criticisms of it when it started in the UK and US in 2015."

"These led to the campaign dissipating very quickly. While we don't doubt the good intentions behind the idea, Women's Aid — the leading domestic violence support service in Ireland — is concerned that it could put those affected at further risk."

"Encouraging people experiencing domestic violence to visibly mark themselves in this way could, unwittingly, lead to very dangerous situations. It could signal to the abuser that the person wants to leave and is asking for help."

"Domestic violence is motivated by power and control and if abusers feel that

being threatened, they can escalate the abuse."

However, Size Gorgeous Management is hoping for a positive response to its initiative, which will be launched with a photo-shoot on Sunday morning at famous Dublin locations.

"We are the first body in Ireland to launch the #sgnblackdotcampaign here in Ireland. We will launch on the streets of Dublin and in and around popular locations to highlight that the black dot on the palm of a hand is a silent cry for help against domestic violence for both men and women," organizer Sharon McCarthy said.

"One of the models that we work with has been the victim of domestic violence and we are doing this for her. We all know somebody that has been a victim in the past and domestic abuse is not uncommon in the modeling world."

"Sometimes husbands become jealous of the attention that models can get, and this is when the abuse can start. The black dot enables victims who cannot ask for help verbally to reach out to persons who recognize this and hopefully help in some way."

"We believe the black dot idea is a legitimate method of seeking aid and by raising awareness to it will help the most vulnerable victims of domestic violence," added McCarthy.

New program offers mediation services for caregivers, elderly

Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and West Hawai'i Mediation Center, in the US, in partnership with Hawai'i County Office of Aging, have partnered to launch a new program providing mediation and conflict resolution support services for kupuna (older person), caregivers and families on Hawai'i Island.

"Are you taking care of a parent or grandparent? Having a hard time communicating your needs? Or do you need support talking to family members or service providers? We can help," said WHMC Executive Director Zaheva Knowles, bigislandnow.com wrote.

The program is called 'Communication and Conflict Resolution Support for Kupuna and Caregivers', and offers a safe place for having difficult conversations, making tough decisions and resolving disputes that may arise in caregiving situations.

"Issues that can be discussed in mediation include

living arrangements, financial support, durable and limited powers of attorney, as well as changing roles, shared decision-making, and divvying up responsibilities," said Julie Mitchell, Ku'ikahi's executive director.

"For example, what if mom wants to maintain independent living and safety is a concern, or grandpa is having a hard time balancing his checkbook, and family members disagree on how best to provide assistance?"

The program services are offered free or at a low cost.

In August and October, the centers will offer two workshops in Hilo and Kona for caregivers of adults aged 60 and older. The first workshop will be 'Communicating Needs to Family Members and Service Providers'.



bigislandnow.com

The second is titled 'Communicating More Effectively in Challenging Situations'. Caregivers include spouses, adult children, siblings, other relatives, friends, neighbors or other unpaid helpers.

Broadband Internet service planned across Nepal 'in two years'

The Nepalese government has expedited process of connecting the entire nation with broadband Internet service within two years. The move is in line with the long term plan devised by the Ministry of Information and Communications for increasing communication accessibility.



ekantipur.com

The government in the budget for the current fiscal year too has stated that all the district headquarters, municipalities and rural municipalities will be connected by optical fiber laid down beside the national highways and road connecting district headquarters within two years. Broadband Internet Service will be expanded to ward-level, ekantipur.com wrote.

Telecommunication service providers will be encouraged to get merged to make the telecommunication service more systematic and competitive.

The Finance Ministry has allocated Rs4.98 billion for information, communication and technology (ICT) development in the budget for the fiscal year 2017-18 — a big chunk of which will be invested to connect the entire nation to broadband Internet network.

According to Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) Chairman Digambar Jha, the government has already designated Nepal Telecom to lay optical fiber network in provinces 1, 2 and 3. The state run telecommunications service provider will cover area starting from Panchthar in the east to Dhading.

United Telecom Limited is responsible to initiate the process in province 4 and 5; starting from Gorkha to Rukum. After the first phase of tender call was scrapped, the NTA is currently in the process of choosing Telecom Company to undertake the task in province 6 and 7. Smart Telecom has submitted Letter of Intent (LoI) for the purpose and is likely to be awarded with a contract.

"We are developing an information highway. That'll look like a backbone and gradually evolve to fish bone," Jha explained.

This means the NTA will develop information highway starting from Chiya Bhanjyang in Panchthar to Jhulaghat in Baitadi.

After the completion, north-south highway will be connected with main network giving it a shape of fish bone. "We plan to connect all district headquarters and nearby municipalities with optical fiber network."

Technoference associated with child behavior problems

Scanning text messages or checking news or sports alerts on a cellphone is common in today's world. If parents do this while interacting with their children, might it affect the children's behavior?



washingtonpost.com

The study involved 170 two-parent families with at least one child older than one (average, three years old). Most mothers and fathers were in their early 30s, washingtonpost.com wrote.

Asked to assess how often phones, tablets, computers and other technology devices diverted their attention while they were spending time with their children, such as during meals, playtime or other activities (described as 'technoference'), nearly half (four percent) of the parents said this happened three or more times on a typical day. Twenty-four percent said it occurred twice a day, 17 percent said it happened once daily and 11 percent said it never happened.

As technoference increased, so did children's behavioral problems, such as whining, sulking, restlessness, temper tantrums and acting out.

The children's own use of devices (their screen time) also increased. The researchers wrote that "even low and seemingly normative amounts of technoference were associated with greater child behavior problems".

Who may be affected?

Families with young children. Technology has revolutionized daily life in myriad ways for adults and children alike. Children's screen time has been shown to have benefits, such as educational development, as well as risks, including a decline in healthy physical activity, loss of social skills and possible exposure to violence.

Adults face similar pros and cons, with the added risk of work time intruding on personal or family time.

Data on parents' and children's use of technological devices and information on the children's behavior came from the parents' responses on periodic questionnaires.

Swedish town mulls musical toilets for embarrassed pupils

A Swedish councillor has suggested installing music in school toilets, to help pupils worried about embarrassing noises.

Center Party councillor Cecilia Cato, in the town of Tingsryd, said some are so concerned that they refuse to use the toilet all day, BBC reported.

She raised the musical solution in a proposal to the council. "I don't think it's just about number two on the toilet, but many also don't do number one," Cato told The Local.

"I've worked in the world of education for many years and know through the students that this is a problem, above all in junior and senior high school.

"I myself experienced this when I was young and now that it's being talked about many others confirm that they did too. It's not



PAUL KERLEY/BBC

something you talk completely openly about."

Swedish broadcaster SVT spoke to local students who confirmed they fretted about being overheard answering nature's call.

One noted that adding music would be environmentally

friendly, as it would stop people running the taps or using excessive toilet paper to cover the sound.

Cato was inspired by a new music school in Tingsryd, which has tuneful distractions in every toilet.

The local authority will now take a vote on her suggestion.

Geese dump droppings on Disneyland guests

Disneyland visitors got more adventure than they bargained for when a flock of geese let go in flight, fouling the guests.

Police and fire officials of Anaheim in Orange County, California, the US, said 17 people, including six children, were hit by bird droppings just before 9 p.m., according to AP.

A hazardous materials team was sent to Main Street near

the Sleeping Beauty Castle after a report that feces had been thrown on people.

It was quickly determined the real culprit was a flock of geese flying overhead.

Authorities say the smeared visitors were taken to a private restroom to clean up and were given clean clothes.

Police reported that the guests were 'healthy and happy' after the event.



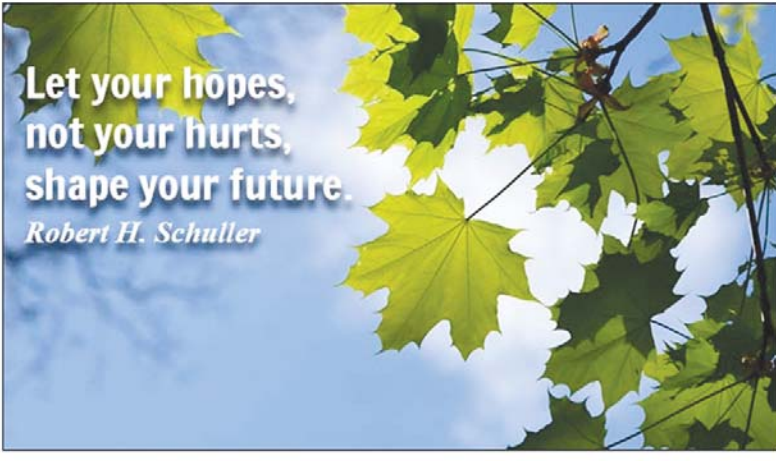
ctvnews.ca

PICTURE OF THE DAY



THAI DUNG L/INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

A woman harvests water lilies in Mekong Delta, Vietnam. The fertile region is home to a wealth of plants and animals, and its agricultural yield has earned the Delta the nickname of Vietnam's 'rice bowl'.



Western Michigan city breaks sand angel world record

A western Michigan city has broken a mark set by the Guinness World Records for the most people simultaneously making sand angels at a beach.

The Ludington Daily News and The Muskegon Chronicle report 1,387 people angelically assembled on a Lake Michigan beachfront in Ludington

and worked their magic for 30 seconds. That far surpasses the roughly 350 who made sand angels for 15 seconds two years ago in Pembroke-shire, Wales, AP reported.

A Guinness judge verified the record. The Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Foundation organized what's

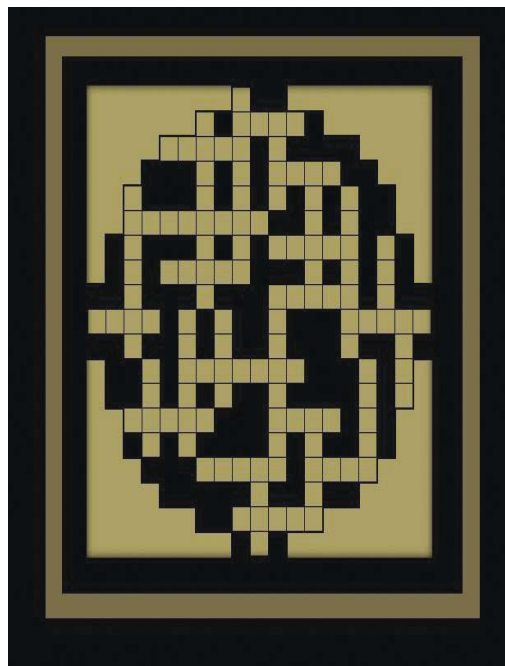
been dubbed 'Be Someone's Angel'. The event, which had a \$20 suggested donation, raised money for the hospital's cancer service center.

The effort was part of 'Love Ludington' weekend, which also features the opening of the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum.



wordpress.com

Global Word-fit



Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?

4 letters
BONN
DOHA
FIJI
IRAN
LIMA
MALI
OHIO
OMAN
ROME
SUVA
UTAH

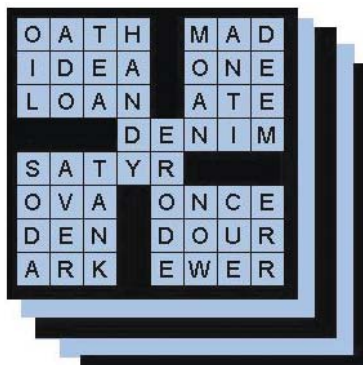
5 letters
ACCRA
ARUBA
BOISE
IDAHO
INDIA
MALTA
MIAMI
PARIS
PERTH
TONGA

6 letters
DUBLIN
MANAMA

7 letters
BAHRAIN
NAIROBI
PHOENIX

8 letters
BRASILIA
HONOLULU
ILLINOIS
SCOTLAND

Yesterday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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

Saudi Arabia banned the wearing of any Barcelona shirt with a Qatar Airways logo due to the club's ties with the company. A fine of up to £120,000 and a 15-year prison sentence has also been imposed on anyone found guilty.

Iran on the verge of main event

Group A leader in 2018 World Cup qualifiers in Asia, Iran, will host third-placed Uzbekistan at an anticipated to be jam-packed Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Iran, tonight, knowing a win will see Carlos Queiroz's men advance to a second successive FIFA World Cup for the first time in its history.

Unbeaten in seven qualifying games, Iran has been in dominant form in Group A, having yet to concede on the road to Russia and boasting an attacking lineup featuring the likes of Sardar Azmoun and Mehdi Taremi, the-afc.com reported.

Carlos Queiroz's side sits four points clear at the top of the standings after claiming five wins and two draws from its seven qualifying games.

Iran goes into the fixture on the back of 2-1 victory over Montenegro in a friendly tie that saw Iran's Azmoun score a brace.

The White Wolves of Uzbekistan are in familiar territory in third place in the standings, next to South Korea but a shock away victory would see the side remain in firm contention for a top-two finish with two games remaining.

'Hard work works'

Veteran Iranian defender Pejman Montazeri believes Iran's dominant form in Group A of the qualifiers is down to years of hard work as Team Melli stands on the brink of advancing to the global showcase.

"During the past four or five years we worked very hard and we had a bunch of young guys who are now mature enough and we think we have reached the goal we were looking for."



IRNA

said Montazeri.

"The team is ready and we are strong defensively and play very compact. I think we reached the goal we wanted to achieve five years ago."

The Qatar-based defender played all three games at the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil as Iran claimed one point from three games and exited at the first hurdle.

But the points tally does not tell the whole story as the Asian powerhouse came within seconds of holding Argentina to a scoreless draw only for Lionel Messi to pop up with a stoppage-time winner.

"Concerning the last World Cup, one of the best memories was coming back to Iran and people being so happy with how we performed," added Montazeri.

"If we can qualify for this World Cup, people will now be expecting us to get through the group stage, so reaching the second round would be our main goal.

"But it's better to talk about this once we qualify because we still haven't and we have one of our most important games of the past seven or eight years, so we are only focusing on this."

Iran will be wary of today's visitor after the Central Asian side came away with all three points following a 1-0 win in the 2014 qualification campaign almost five years ago.

"We know it will probably be one of the most difficult games we have had," said Montazeri, whose side defeated Uzbekistan 1-0 in Tashkent earlier in the campaign.

"We know them very well and have analysed them for two weeks so we know it's going to be a tough game. But everyone is focused and we hope to get the result we need."

Iran finishes third in Asian arm wrestling meet

Iran finished in the third spot of the 2017 Asian Arm Wrestling Championships in Bordsunskiy, Kyrgyzstan, claiming eight medals including two golds.

Eleven arm wrestlers represented Iran in men's competition, with Qorban-Ali Ebrahimi and Nemat Ghaffa-

ria grabbing two gold medals in the 70kg and 110kg categories, respectively.

In 75kg, Ebrahim Iri finished runner-up and Ali Rastgoo took another silver in the 100kg class for Iran.

Mohammad Qassemi, Akbar Habibzadeh, Babak Faraji and Sak-

id Izadi were the other medal winners in Iran's outfit, clinching four bronzes.

Some 800 arm wrestlers from 14 countries attended in the competition.

The 2017 Asian Arm Wrestling Championships took place from June 6-10.

Champion Ostapenko believes anything is possible

French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko believes "anything is possible" with the all-out attacking style which brought her a first Grand Slam title.

The Latvian, 20, hit 54 winners on her way to a "dream" 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Romania's Simona Halep, BBC reported.

"I always had the possibility I could hit the ball really hard," said Ostapenko. "If I have a chance to go for a shot, I'm trying."

She is the first unseeded woman to win the French Open since 1933.

It was only her eighth appearance at one of the four tennis majors, the fewest by a champion since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon in 2004.

A 100-1 outsider at the start of the tournament, she will rise from 47th to 12th in the world rankings following her spectacular victory.

"Nobody taught me, it's just the way I play," said Ostapenko. "And also I think my character is like that. I want to really hit the ball."

Ostapenko beat Olympic champion Monica Puig, former finalist Sam Stosur, former number one Caroline Wozniacki and two-time semifinalist Timea Bacsinszky on her way to the final.

But it was not until the closing moments of her win over third seed Halep, the 2014 runner-up, that the Latvian contemplated winning the title.

"I think I was up in the third set 5-3, then I realized I can win the match," she said. "Not before that. I was just taking it step by step."

Having earned a total of £1million in her professional career before Roland Garros, Ostapenko, who turned 20 on Thursday, will take home £1.65million

for Saturday's victory.

"I wasn't even thinking about it," she said. "I was thinking about winning the title."

The junior Wimbledon champion in 2014, she will now head to the All England Club next month among the contenders.

Ostapenko begins her grass-court season in Birmingham at the Aegon Classic, along with eight of the world's top 10, and will then head on to Eastbourne for the Aegon International.

"Of course I will probably now will have more pressure and attention, but I'm going to try to deal with that," she said.

"I think it's going to be little bit difficult but I chose to be a tennis player, so that's my career. I should be fine with that."



REUTERS

Jelena Ostapenko raised the women's French Open trophy on June 10, 2017 becoming the first unseeded woman to win the competition since 1933.

Nervous Bolt wins final 100m race on home soil

An emotional Usain Bolt recovered from a moderate start to win his final 100 meters sprint on home soil, clocking 10.03 seconds at the 2nd Racers Grand Prix in Kingston on Saturday.

The multiple Olympic and world gold medalist, who will retire after August's world championships in London, confessed to being a nervous wreck before running his last race on Jamaican soil, REUTERS reported.

nerve racking. I never expected this. I knew it was going to be Big, the stadium was ram packed so thank you guys for coming out and supporting me."

Running from lane five, Bolt took control of the race before the halfway mark and pulled away to the delight of more than 30,000 spectators.

"It's Big to see everybody that turned out. It shows that what I've done for the sport is a big deal to them and they really appreciate it," said the



GILBERT BELLAMY/REUTERS

Jamaica's Olympic champion Usain Bolt won his final 100 meters sprint at the 2nd Racers Grand Prix at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica, on June 10, 2017.

"The run, it was just ok. I must say it was ok. I don't think I've ever been that nervous running a 100m," Bolt said after a lap of honor before a packed stadium, including International Association of Athletics Federations President Sebastian Coe and the top brass of Jamaican politics including Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

"I think that was possibly one of my worst race. My execution was poor, my start was poor as always. I think in the last bit I lost it a little.

"But I didn't expect anything spectacular... my first race since January when I ran a 150m and some relays in Australia so I just wanted to stay injury free, put on a show for the crowd and shown them I'm thankful for the support over the years.

"Just the atmosphere and the people, the support they came out and give me tonight, it was really

30-year-old.

"So thank you and it was my honor to put the sport of track and field at the top and to continue to dominate. I'll try my best even when I've hung up my spikes, to really continue to push track and field in any way possible."

The double world record holder, who has amassed eight Olympic golds and 13 world championship medals, will make his final bow in August in the British capital, where he will only run the shorter sprint despite having a wildcard for the 200m.

"It will definitely just be the 100. I know a lot of people really want to see me run it (200m) but the 100m will be the one cause I know people really want to see that also," Bolt said.

"I'm just going there to do my best and to come through victorious as always."

Art & Culture

Iranian writer Vafi wins LiBeratur Prize in Germany

Iranian author Fariba Vafi won the LiBeratur Prize — a literary honor that is presented by the Litprom Association in Frankfurt, Germany.

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



ISNA

"The book was published by Markaz Publications in Iran about 14 years ago. It was translated into the German language about two years ago. I just understood from the official website of the Litprom Association that my book won the prize," said Vafi confirming the report.

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

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

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

The winner will receive €3,000 and an invitation to attend the Frankfurt Book Fair. Vafi was born in Tabriz on January 1, 1963 to a middle-class family. She started writing early in school and later authored short stories.

Her first short story collection 'In the depth of the Stage' was published by Cheshmeh Publishers in 1996. Her second, 'Even While We Are Laughing' was published by Markaz Publications in the fall of 1999. In 2002 Markaz published Vafi's first novel 'My Bird'. This novel received Golshiri and Yalda awards and has had twenty one printings. It was translated into English by Syracuse University Press in 2009, into Italian by Ponte 33 in 2010, into German in 2012 by Rotbuch Verlag and into Kurdish in 2011 and into Turkish 2016.

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

Her third collection 'On the Way of Villa' was published by Cheshmeh Publications in 2008. 'The Moon Becomes Full' is her other novel which was published in 2011 and in the same year she published her short story collection 'All the Horizon'. Her last novel is 'After the End' published in 2014 while her last short story collection is 'Without Wind Without Oars' published in 2016. Some of her stories were translated into English, Italian, Turkish, Russian, Swedish, Japanese and Arabic.

Morpurgo receives Children's Book Award for 4th time

'War Horse' author Michael Morpurgo won the Children's Book Award in the UK for a record fourth time.

His novel 'An Eagle in the Snow', illustrated by Michael Foreman, is inspired by the true story of one man who might have stopped World War II.

The annual book prize is chosen and voted for entirely by children. The children's laureate last won the prize in 2011 for 'Shadow' — the story of boy who is befriended by an army sniffer dog in Afghanistan.

'Kensuke's Kingdom' and 'Private Peaceful' also won the prize in 2000 and 2004 respectively.

'An Eagle in the Snow' begins in 1940, when a boy called Barney and his mother find themselves on a train forced to shelter in a tunnel during an air raid. In the darkness, a stranger on the train tells them a story of Bobby Byron — a hero of WWI who had the chance to kill Adolf Hitler.

"Michael Morpurgo has demonstrated once again that he is a truly magical storyteller," said Jane Etheridge, chair of the Federation of Children's Book Groups, the charity which runs the award. Morpurgo and Foreman's novel was picked as the overall winner from the winners of three age categories.

One, by Sarah Crossan, won the older readers category and 'Oi Dog!', written by Kes and Claire Gray and illustrated by Jim Field, won for younger children.

The Children's Book Award, formerly known as the Red House Children's Book Award, was established in 1980.

Previous winners include J.K. Rowling, Patrick Ness, Malorie Blackman and Anthony Horowitz.

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Warm colors of Hani Najm's paintings decorate Tehran's Did Gallery during the hot days of spring.



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Iranian actress No-Nahali grabs US award

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian actress Roya No-Nahali won the Inspiring Woman in a Film award for her role in 'High-light' by Shahrzad Dadgar at the Festigious International Film Festival in Los Angeles, the US.

The film, in its first international presence, scored a great success, festigious one reported.



Supported by IMDb, the world's most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV and celebrity content, the festival is being held monthly and Dadgar's film received the award for May.

The film stars Nassim Adabi, Rabie'e Madani, Shafiq Shokri and Behnaz Jafari.

The Best Picture award went to 'Spillover' by Luis Antonio Rodriguez and Israel Rios.

World Press Cartoon Grand Prix goes to Iran's Pakdel

Art & Culture Desk

Iran's Alireza Pakdel won the Grand Prix World Press Cartoon 2014 Award with an image of the refugee drama, the organization announced at a ceremony held at the Cultural and Congress Center (CCC) of Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.

He received the prize for his untitled work, which shows some Europeans watching a group of Middle East refugees drowning in an aquarium.

According to worldpress-cartoon.com, the cartoonist's drawing was published in an Iranian newspaper in August 2016, when he won the Zélio de Ouro Trophy Grand Prize at the 43rd Piracicaba International Humor Salon in Brazil.

The "balance between the quality of the drawing, the pertinence of the theme and the way it was approached" in the cartoon, which portrays the drowning of refugees, was really valuable, according to the director of the ceremony António Antunes.

In addition, Pakdel also received the top prize in the Cartoon Editorial category, while the second prize in this category was awarded to Kountouris (from Greece) and third to French Constantin Sunnerberg, who is known as Cost.

In the Humor Design category, the winner was Toso Borkovic from Serbia. The second and third prizes were awarded to Swen from Switzerland and Bonil from Ecuador, respectively.

Two Brazilians, Fernandes and Baptista, won the first and second prizes respectively in the Caricature category, which gave the third place to Gio, from Italy.

The winning entries were selected by an international jury of cartoonists who met in Caldas da Rainha in April, and included the director of the ceremony António Antunes of Portugal, Ross Thomson of the UK, Hermenegildo Sábat of Uruguay, Angel Boligán of Mexico and Zoran Petrovic of Germany.

The award-winning cartoons feature an exhibition of 267 cartoons, editorial cartoons and humorous drawings that portray, through the eyes of cartoonists, the most emblematic moments of the last year.

Pakdel said, "I am proud of winning the award for myself and my country, because it is the biggest media festival in the world."

World Press Cartoon is an independent organization based in Lisbon, Portugal.

Founded in 2005 the organization is known for holding one of the world largest and most prestigious annual press cartoon contests. World Press Cartoon has also organized separate exhibitions under thematic criteria, as gender violence or environment protection.

From 2015, the awards ceremony is held in the Cascais Culture Center. After the contest, the prizewinning cartoons are assembled into a traveling exhibition that was already presented in Spain, France, Belgium, Mozambique, Brazil, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Mexico, United Kingdom, China and India. A catalogue presenting all the prizewinning entries is published annually in English and Portuguese.

Another primary objective of the organization is to support professional cartoonists on a wide international scale, with a special focus in the freedom of the press.



ISNA

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