



Iran Daily condoles with its readers the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Shia Imam.

IRAN DAILY



Iranian lawmaker decries UN silence on Tehran terrorist attacks

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Rouhani: Gov't fully supports national football team



preisdent.ir

President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday met with Iran's footballers and coaching staff to express his gratitude for Iran's qualification for the 2018 World Cup, president, it reported.

The government is duty-bound to support Iran's national team for further achievements," said Rouhani in a meeting which was also attended by Iran's Football Federation officials.

Rouhani said, "We must learn from Imam Ali's (SA) way of life and get energy and help from him."

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Foreign investment thriving in Iran

Head of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance said that foreign investment is flourishing in Iran with overseas capital drawn to the country reaching \$3.372 billion.

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Deadly fire engulfs London tower block



AFP

A deadly overnight fire raced through a 24-storey apartment tower in London on Wednesday, killing at least six people and injuring 74 others.

Samira Lamrani, a witness, said a woman dropped a baby from a window on the ninth or 10th floor to people on the sidewalk.

"People were starting to appear at the windows, frantically banging and screaming," Lamrani said, adding the woman gestured that she wanted to drop a baby.

The Grenfell Action Group, a community organization formed to oppose a nearby redevelopment project, has been warning about the risk of fire at Grenfell Tower since 2013.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said many questions now need to be answered about tower blocks around the city.

Asylum-seekers in Australia win multimillion-dollar payout



FAO: Iran's wheat production set to rise this year



Prophet's (PBUH) cloak attracts Ramadan faithful in Istanbul



Congressional Democrats sue Trump over foreign payments

Nearly 200 Democrats in the US Congress joined forces to file a legal case against President Donald Trump over receipt of payments from foreign governments via his businesses.

The plaintiffs accused Trump of violating the Constitution's emoluments clause, prohibiting receipt of gifts without congressional approval, BBC reported on Wednesday.

They said this is the largest number of legislators ever to sue a US president.

State officials and private businesses sued Trump in similar cases.

The attorneys general of Maryland and the District of Columbia announced their lawsuit on Monday.

The White House has denied their allegations. Spokesman Sean Spicer said that "partisan politics" could be behind the lawsuit of the attorneys general.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the latest suit by legislators, but has said previously it is unconstitutional to sue the president in his private capacity.

At least 30 senators and 166 representatives were involved.

They said Trump has not sought congressional approval for any payments received by his businesses from foreign governments since he took office.

"President Trump has conflicts of interest in at least 25 countries, and it appears he's using his presidency to maximize his profits," said Representative John Conyers.

"We do this not out of any sense of pleasure or partisanship, but because President Trump has left us with no other option."

Sen Richard Blumenthal said: "The president's failure to tell us about these emoluments... mean that we cannot do our job. We cannot consent to what we don't know. He's interfering with our constitutional duty."

Trump's worldwide organization includes more than 500 business entities, including hotels, golf courses and apartment buildings, many of which have done business with foreign governments.

Since taking office in January, Trump has turned day-to-day control of his real estate empire and other assets over to a trust managed by his adult sons.

But he has not sold them off as critics said he should do in order to avoid conflicts of interest.



AP

UN: 'Staggering' civilian deaths from US-led airstrikes in Syria

Intensified airstrikes by a US-led coalition on Daesh's stronghold of Raqqa in Syria are causing a "staggering loss of civilian life", United Nations war crimes investigators said on Wednesday.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a group of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by the US-led coalition, began to attack Raqqa a week ago to take it from the terror group. The SDF, supported by heavy coalition airstrikes, has taken territory to the west, east and north of the city.

"We note in particular that the intensification of airstrikes, which have paved the ground for an SDF advance in Raqqa, has resulted not only in staggering loss of civilian life, but has also led to 160,000 civilians fleeing their homes and becoming internally displaced," Paulo Pinheiro, chairman of the UN

Commission of Inquiry told the Human Rights Council, Reuters reported.

Pinheiro provided no figure for civilian casualties in Raqqa, where rival forces are racing to capture ground from Daesh. The Syrian Army is also advancing on the desert area west of the city.

Separately, Human Rights Watch expressed concern in a statement about the use of incendiary white phosphorus weapons by the US-led coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria, saying it endangered civilians when used in populated areas.

White phosphorus is an incendiary and toxic chemical substance. The munitions filled with the substance create a thick white cloud when they explode. Upon contact with flesh, the substance can maim and kill by burning to the bone.

In its speech to the 47-member forum in Geneva, the US delegation made no reference to Raqqa or the airstrikes.

Pinheiro said that if the international coalition's offensive is successful, it could liberate Raqqa's civilian population, including Yazidi women and girls, "whom the group has kept sexually enslaved for almost three years as part of an ongoing and unaddressed genocide."

"The imperative to fight terrorism must not, however, be undertaken at the expense of civilians who unwillingly find themselves living in areas where ISIL (Daesh) is present," he added.

Syria's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva Hussam Edin Aala denounced violations "committed by the unlawful US-led coalition which targets infrastructure, killing hundreds of civilians including the deaths of 30 civilians in Deir al-Zor."

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, a special adviser on international affairs to the Iranian Parliament speaker, said Saudi Arabia is the "prime suspect" behind the recent terrorist attacks in Tehran.

Iranian lawmaker decries UN silence on Tehran terrorist attacks

Iranian lawmaker Yunaton Betkolia in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres strongly criticized the international body's silence on the recent terrorist attacks in Tehran.

"Unfortunately, this is not the first behavior of its kind towards the bloodshed of innocent people by terrorists in Iran," Betkolia wrote in his letter, IRNA reported.

The representative of Assyrians in Iran's Parliament, Betkolia asked why the London terror incidents became top news, but they keep silent on terrorist attacks in Tehran, and over 17,000 victims of such attacks in Iran since the revolution.

"How is it that the terrorist acts of Manchester, London Bridge and Paris should shake the world, but in the case of the Tehran terrorist attacks the world kept silent?" the Iranian lawmaker asked.

At least 17 people were killed and over 50 others injured in Tehran on June 7, 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 assaults.



Tehran terrorist attacks came days after three assailants killed eight people and wounded 48 others by ramming a vehicle into a crowd on London Bridge and then stabbing people in nearby Borough Market on June 5.

TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

OPINION

Why Iran should play a major role in negotiations to ban nuclear weapons

By Seyed Hossein Mousavian*

Since the advent of nuclear weapons, nations and grassroots movements across the world have sought to eliminate the risk they pose to life on Earth through nuclear prohibition and disarmament. The foundation for these efforts has been the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), Article VI of which calls on its 190 signatories for "a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

Last autumn, 123 states issued a call at the United Nations for a nuclear ban treaty, leading to a draft legally-binding text to prohibit nuclear weapons on May 22, 2017. Now, from June 15-July 7, representatives from roughly 130 nations will negotiate the final text and try to make the treaty a reality. Sadly, all the recognized nuclear-weapons states and their allies have voiced strong opposition to the historic talks.

Though the five-recognized nuclear powers are signatory to the NPT and have been obligated to pursue disarmament for nearly 50 years, they have not only failed to do so, but today have far-reaching plans to upgrade and extend the lifespans of their nuclear weapons. Even more egregious, they have de facto supported nuclear-weapons proliferation by establishing strategic relations with countries like India, Pakistan, and the Israeli regime, which have rejected the NPT and amassed sizable nuclear-weapons arsenals.

All told, there exist about 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world today, of which the US and Russia possess around 7,000 each. America's nuclear modernization program alone is estimated to cost the country \$1 trillion over the next 30 years.

Since the NPT went into effect, the reality has been that the world has been split between the haves and have-nots of nuclear weapons, and the haves have been able to selectively agree on the new haves. This longstanding status quo has now led to a majority of nations — cognizant that the world has been held hostage to the weapons stockpiles of the nuclear-armed states — to push for a nuclear-weapons prohibition treaty to put political and legal restraints on the possession of nuclear weapons.

One state supporting the ban treaty negotiations, Iran, can play a unique role in making the talks a success. Three chief reasons explain why Iran can and should be a strong advocate to advance the causes of nuclear non-proliferation and eliminating all weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

First, the July 2015 nuclear deal agreed to by Iran and six major world powers — formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA — sets a new global nuclear non-proliferation standard far stronger than the NPT. As President Obama has stated, the deal cuts "off every single one of Iran's pathways to a...nuclear weapons program" and establishes the "most comprehensive and intrusive inspection and verification regime ever negotiated." Consequently, the JCPOA can serve as a new basis for the verification and enforcement provisions of the disarmament treaty that the prohibition treaty will call for. To this end, Iran can play an instrumental role in pushing for the globalization of the JCPOA's principles and can even position itself as a regional nuclear fuel hub as part of future prohibition and disarmament treaties.

Second, Iran's long-established track record of seeking to advance the cause of nuclear non-proliferation gives it a responsibility to continue its role of spearheading non-proliferation initiatives. In 1974, Iran first proposed a Middle East nuclear-weapon-free zone (ME-NWFZ) at the UN General Assembly, which was passed by the body and has been renewed annually since 1980. The ban treaty negotiations provide Iran and other regional states the opportunity to realize a ME-NWFZ.

Third, Iran is the only country that, at the highest religious levels, has issued religious edicts banning WMDs. Iran's position in this regard was shaped during the 1980s Iran-Iraq War, during which it was the victim of WMDs in the form of chemical weapons attacks, but refused to retaliate in kind due to religious considerations. This was due to a fatwa, or religious decree, by Iran's revolutionary founder, Ayatollah Imam Khomeini, against the production or use of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. Iran's current Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has upheld this fatwa, uniquely binding Iran to be unequivocally against WMDs of all kinds and making it a sincere voice in any WMD-prohibition debate.

The ban treaty negotiations represent a potential major historical turning point where a majority of the world's nations will act to safeguard humanity's future from the threat of nuclear holocaust. While the nuclear-weapons states argue that they need their weapons for reasons of deterrence and strategic balance, their logic does not hold in a world where their nuclear-weapons monopoly is unsustainable. Increasingly, other countries may seek the same status relying on the same logic as the five-recognized nuclear-weapons powers. The North Korean case serves as an example of how an NPT member may leave the treaty and develop nuclear weapons.

If global peace and stability is to be ensured for future generations, a new model for international security must be created that does not rely on WMDs of any kind. Given its longstanding commitment to the non-proliferation of WMDs, Iran must play a decisive role in ensuring the success of the nuclear ban treaty negotiations to bring about such a world.

*Seyed Hossein Mousavian is former ambassador to Germany, former deputy of the Supreme National Security Council, and presently a researcher at Princeton University.

Iran: US implementation of JCPOA not 'acceptable'

Political Desk

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday called on the United States to implement its commitments under a nuclear deal reached between Tehran and major world powers.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors in Vienna, Reza Najafi said Washington's implementation of the agreement has not been "acceptable" to the Islamic Republic.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — plus Germany signed the nuclear accord known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015 and started implementing it in January 2016.

Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear program

in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran. Najafi cited IAEA reports, saying Tehran had fulfilled its obligations under the

joint implementation by all members of the P5+1. The IAEA has so far issued reports declaring that the Islamic Republic has been sticking to its JCPOA commitments.

On Monday, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said the agency continues to verify Iran's fulfillment of its commitments under the landmark nuclear agreement.

In its latest report on June 2, the IAEA also confirmed that Iran had lived up to its commitments under the JCPOA, adding that the country's stock of low-enriched uranium as of May 27 was 79.8 kilograms, well below the agreed limit of 300 kilograms.

The IAEA report, the second since the January inauguration of US President Donald Trump, was sent to the member states amid increasing tensions between Tehran and Washington. Trump has called the nuclear agreement "the worst

deal ever negotiated" and vowed to "dismantle" the "disastrous" deal.

Heavy water sales

Najafi also touched upon the sales of Iran's heavy water, saying Tehran is holding talks with potential customers to sell its stock of heavy water.

As part of the JCPOA, Iran is expected to keep its heavy water stockpile below 130 metric tons.

The deal says all excess heavy water "will be made available for export to the international market based on international prices and delivered to the international buyer."

Iran is redesigning and modernizing its Arak heavy water reactor in line with the implementation of the JCPOA.

The 40-megawatt Arak reactor is intended to produce isotopes for cancer and other medical treatments.



JCPOA. He stressed that the deal's 'continuation' and 'sustainability' depends on its



China naval group to berth at Iran port today



A Chinese naval group will arrive in southern Iran today as Tehran and Beijing maintain their determination to enhance naval cooperation, the Iranian Navy announced.

The Chinese flotilla comprises two battle cruisers, a support vessel, and a helicopter. The Iranian Navy said, according to Press TV. It said the group, which has

just been to the Pakistani port of Karachi for training purposes, will be docking at the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas today.

A high-ranking naval delegation from China visited Iran for talks in October 2015.

A Chinese Navy flotilla also arrived in the southern Iranian coast three years ago. Subsequently, Iran's Navy

Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari visited China's eastern port city of Qingdao with a high-ranking team in attendance and held talks with Chinese military officials.

The Iranian Navy dispatched a group to China back in 2012, setting a new precedence in the countries' bilateral cooperation.

Authorities in Niger said on Wednesday they have rescued over 100 migrants in the past week abandoned by traffickers in the Sahara Desert as they tried to cross into neighboring Libya.

Egypt's Parliament approves transfer of two Red Sea islands to Saudis

Egypt's Parliament approved a treaty ceding sovereignty over two uninhabited Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia, House of Representatives Speaker Ali Abdelaa said on Wednesday.

The treaty must now be ratified by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a formality, Reuters reported.

Sisi's government last year announced a maritime demarcation agreement with Saudi Arabia, which has given billions of dollars of aid to Egypt, ceding control of the islands of Tiran and Sanafir to the Arab kingdom.

Some members of the committee who did not attend the meeting on Wednesday criticized the decision to approve the accord.

The transfer plan triggered rare street protests last year from many Egyptians, who say their country's sovereignty over the islands dates back to a treaty from 1906, before Saudi Arabia was founded.

Dozens of protesters gathered in downtown Cairo on Tuesday evening and organizers said a handful were briefly detained.

The Egyptian and Saudi governments say the islands are Saudi but have been subject to Egyptian protection since 1950



AMR ABDALLAH DALSHREUTERS

at the request of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah al Saud.

The treaty has also been referred to the courts, irritating Riyadh and raising tensions between two major Arab states and traditional allies.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Breakdown of Saudi-Qatari crisis

By Max Fisher and Amanda Taub

Pretend, for a moment, that you're not at your computer or scrolling through your phone reading this newsletter. Rather, you're sitting in the tiny Persian Gulf nation of Qatar. The year is 1995. Your name is Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and you have just seized the throne from your father in a bloodless coup and become the country's emir.

You and your nation face a problem that small countries often face. You have a neighbor, Saudi Arabia, that is vastly larger and more powerful than you. This neighbor treats you as barely independent, more a de facto province than a sovereign state.

What do you do? Your father's strategy was to let the Saudis dominate. But you believe that your country must break free in order to be secure. And you have bigger ambitions than being a Saudi vassal. You're also developing liquefied natural gas exports that will soon make up 30 percent of global production.

If you're like Mr. Khalifa, you then set out to solve your Saudi Arabia problem by asserting your independence in just about any way you can. And that is the start of the Saudi-Qatari rivalry that would come to parallel — and at points worsen — the Middle East's descent into chaos, culminating with this week's crisis.

Qatar tried two variations of this strategy.

Its first effort, in the 1990s and 2000s, was to forge independent and friendly relations with nearly anyone who would pick up the phone. Qatar opened trade relations with Israel; hosted an American airbase; cultivated ties with Iran, which is Saudi Arabia's archrival, and reached out to Islamist groups that were unwelcome in most other Arab countries.

This set Qatar apart from Saudi Arabia, which was constrained by domestic politics and geopolitics from being quite so diplomatically promiscuous. Qatar also founded Al Jazeera, the television network, which it used to project soft power in countries where media tends to be heavily restricted. It became something of a regional power broker.

This brought tension with the Saudis, who saw Qatar's rise as a threat to their own regional leadership. They were also not wild about Qatar's hosting Islamists and promoting them on Al Jazeera. Saudi Arabia sees independent Islamists as its greatest internal threat. (Leaders in the United Arab Emirates and other Persian Gulf monarchies hold the same view.)

Qatar adopted its second, more aggressive strategy in 2011 with the Arab Spring uprisings, which it heavily supported. For Qatar, this was a historic opportunity to break Saudi Arabia's regional dominance (most Arab autocrats were Saudi-aligned) by becoming a regional peer.

Each time a power vacuum opened somewhere, both Qatar and Saudi Arabia would rush to fill it first. Sometimes this meant backing competing political factions, as in Tunisia. But elsewhere, the rivalry became violent, as in Libya, where Qatar and Saudi Arabia supported opposite sides in what became a civil war.

In Egypt, Qatar backed the Muslim Brotherhood, which triumphed in a 2012 presidential election. When Egypt's military deposed the president in a 2013 coup, Saudi Arabia and its allies offered the military government a \$12 billion aid package.

By 2013, the rivalry had snowballed into a full-blown regional proxy struggle. But Qatar's campaign imploded that year. Its allies lost power in Egypt and Tunisia. Other Persian Gulf countries consolidated around Saudi Arabia, isolating Qatar. And Mr. Khalifa stepped down, handing power to a 33-year-old son.

Still, Mr. Khalifa had arguably established enough independence to break from Saudi dominance. This is why it was perhaps inevitable that Saudi Arabia and its allies would seek to end Qatar's independence, as they appear to be doing now.

The above article was taken from the New York Times.

UN: Less than 30% of pledged Yemen aid delivered

Less than 30 percent of pledged international aid has been delivered to Yemen this year, a UN official said Wednesday, as millions across the country struggle to survive.

Donors in April pledged close to \$1.1 billion (981,500 euros) in aid to war-torn Yemen, which the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs calls the "largest humanitarian crisis in the world," AFP reported.

But "only 25 percent of aid pledged to the UN refugee agency and 29 percent of aid pledged to the UN's humanitarian response plan have been delivered so far," UNHCR's Yemen spokesperson Shabiba Mantoo told AFP.

Some 19 million people are in need of aid in Yemen, with 10.3 million requiring immediate assistance to "save or sustain their lives," according to the United Nations.

Riyadh has been incessantly pounding Yemen since 2015 in a bid to reinstall the country's ex-government and crush the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Saudi Arabia that carries out

airstrikes almost daily has killed at least 10,000 people in Yemen, and hunger and disease are rife there.

Looming famine and an outbreak of cholera in Yemen, the most impoverished country in the region long before the war, are taking their toll on the population.

"Conditions are only worsening. The cholera rates are alarming, health facilities are struggling to remain functional, millions across the country are food insecure and facing prolonged displacement from their homes," Mantoo said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday warned that Yemen's health system is on the "brink of collapse."

The organization said 5,000 new suspected cases of cholera have been reported every day over the past two weeks in Yemen, where an outbreak of the waterborne disease has killed more than 900 people since April 27.

"Two years of armed conflict have brought Yemen's health system to the brink of collapse," said ICRC's head of delegation in Yemen Alexandre Faite.

"This cholera outbreak is only the most recent, and most visible, proof that people and structures have been seriously weakened by the way this conflict is being waged," Faite said.

A quarter of a million people are expected to contract cholera within six months, according to the World Health Organization.



Displaced children pose for a photo as they sit in their family's tent at a camp for internally displaced people in the outskirts of Sana'a, Yemen, on June 8, 2016.

Gunman wounds several at congressional baseball practice in Virginia

A gunman opened fire on Republican members of Congress during a baseball practice near Washington early on Wednesday, wounding several people including House of Representatives Majority Whip Steve Scalise before being taken into custody, police and witnesses said.

Five people were transported medically from the scene in Alexandria, the city's police chief, Michael Brown told reporters. Two of the wounded were Capitol Hill police who were at the scene, Reuters reported.

In a dramatic blow-by-blow account, Representative Mo Brooks of Alabama told CNN the gunman was armed with a rifle and appeared to be a white male. Brooks said he saw the man only for a second, and that he was shooting from a chain link fence behind the third base position on the field where the congressional group was holding an early morning practice ahead of a game against Democrats this week.



REUTERS

"There must have been 50 to 100 shots fired," he told CNN. "I hear Steve Scalise over near second base scream. He was shot," said Brooks, adding he helped apply a tourniquet with his belt to a congressional staffer who was shot in the leg.

"One of our security detail was shooting back, but it was our pistol versus the shooter's rifle," Brooks said. "The only weapon I had was a baseball bat."

Republican Senator Jeff Flake told local ABC-TV Scalise was shot in the

left hip. Flake said the gunman was shot.

US President Donald Trump said in a Twitter message that Scalise, "a true friend and patriot, was badly injured but will fully recover. Our thoughts and prayers are with him."

Scalise's position as whip in the Republican-controlled House makes him one of the most senior figures in Congress. He is a representative from Louisiana.

The group were practicing for the annual Democrats versus Republicans congressional baseball game that was scheduled to be played on Thursday.

Democrats were also practicing at another field at a different location, CNN reported.

Steve Scalise is the third-highest ranked member of the Republican leadership in the House, and has the difficult job of trying to keep order in the fractious party ranks and rounding up votes for bills.

Detainees at an Australian asylum-seeker camp in Papua New Guinea won millions of dollars in compensation for "degrading and cruel" treatment Wednesday, in a decision hailed as an important human rights victory.

Abuse, self-harm and mental health problems are reportedly rife in offshore processing centers, with detainees resorting to desperate protests like sewing their own lips together to raise awareness of their plight, AFP reported.

Wednesday's AU\$570 million (US\$553 million) conditional settlement, to be shared by 1,905 people who have been held on Manus Island since 2012, averted a public trial against the government and security providers Transfield and G4S.

A class action had sought damages for what claimants said was suffering due to the harsh conditions in which they were held.

It also called for a payout for false imprisonment after the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court ruled last year that holding asylum-seekers on Manus



RTE

Island was unconstitutional and illegal.

Law firm Slater and Gordon said they believed it was the largest human rights class action settlement in Australian history, with the defendants also agreeing to pay more than Aus\$20 million in costs.

"The people detained on Manus Island have endured extremely hostile conditions, but they will no longer suffer in silence," said the firm's Andrew Baker.

"While no amount of money could fully recognize the terrible conditions the detainees endured, we hope today's settlement can begin to provide them with an opportunity to help put this

dark chapter of their lives behind them."

The Manus detention facility opened in 2012 to hold people trying to enter Australia by boat, under a tough immigration policy that sends them offshore to be processed.

Campaigners say conditions at the Manus Island camp are basic, and lead to mental health problems for detainees.

They are blocked from re-settling in Australia even if found to be refugees.

Conditions in the camp, and another one on Nauru in the Pacific, have been widely criticized by refugee advocates and medical professionals, with reports of maltreatment and neglect, leading to serious health problems.

Amnesty International called the decision "historic" and "a major crack in the Australian government's crumbling system of abuse."

"It must be a turning point towards a better solution for refugees — one that is grounded in protection, not abuse," said Amnesty Pacific researcher Kate Schuetz.

Asylum-seekers in Australia win multimillion-dollar payout

PERSPECTIVE

Prerequisites for sustainable development

By Mohammad Sattari

Creating economic and political stability, absorbing considerable investment along with adopting interactive approaches in the international arena are essential to spur economic development.

Nowadays, economic development cannot take place without considering key elements. IRNA took a look at some these elements which can lead to sustainable development.

1. Presently, globalization has strongly linked world economies, particularly economic powers. Hence, economic crisis in a country rapidly spreads overseas.

Globalization and the removal of obstacles to global trade, have paved the way for expanding investment, human resources and information technology.

In Iran, interaction replaced confrontation when President Hassan Rouhani assumed office in 2013. Hence, the government managed to resolve the country's nuclear standoff with world powers by pursuing a prudent policy.

2. Experts believe development is universal and is linked to benefiting from joint human and scientific assets.

We can take advantage of the experiences of other countries based on an approach of interaction. Countries which have undergone considerable growth, have benefited from widespread international ties in the political, economic and scientific fields.

Nowadays, world economies are interlinked and no nation can maintain monopoly in the production of commodities. As a result, all countries need each other because the production and service cycles have been turned into specialized procedures. This indicates that the lack of economic interaction had created divergence between Iran's economy and scientific advancement.

China had been isolated for decades and its foreign ties were limited to a number of countries. However, realities of domestic economy and international norms pushed China to open up to the world.

This has turned the Asian nation into an economic super power in the world.

3. Nowadays, we cannot consider politics and economics in two separate categories. Hence, economics and politics impact each other.

Economic development in societies call for some necessities; the most important of which is consensus as well as social and political empathy. As a result, political rivalry should result in promoting political stability. The more political stability and national solidarity is promoted the more the economy will grow.

Attraction of investment and the improvement of the business ambience is linked to boosting solidarity and building trust among all political groups.

If destructive political rivalry replaces constructive criticism, economy will be undermined. This will worsen recession and lead to a fall in investment.

Experts say convergence and moving towards serving national interests contribute to synergy. However, divergence and moving toward factional interests will weaken the national economy. Hence, to record higher economic growth rates we need to attach trust to the economy.

4. It seems that economic problems cannot be resolved unilaterally. National interests can be maintained by pursuing collective wisdom and interaction.

Nonetheless, the role of independence should not be overlooked. In fact, bilateral economic independence can be useful when countries establish fair relations.

FAO: Iran's wheat production set to rise this year

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced that Iran will produce 13.5 million tons of wheat in 2017.

FAO stated in its recent Quarterly Global Report (Crop Prospects and Food Situation) published earlier this month that due to appropriate climate, Iran will remain second in the region after Turkey in wheat production in the current agricultural year, IRNA reported.



IRNA

The report added, "In Iran, the second biggest wheat producer in the subregion, above-average temperatures at the end of April accelerated crop development. The 2017 production in the Islamic Republic of Iran of 13.5 million tons is likely to be on par with 2016's level and exceed the five-year average by 25 percent."

It is expected that Iran's wheat production will reach 13.5 million tons, which is 25 percent more than the average for the past five years. FAO predicted that rice production in Iran will also be 100,000 tons more than the figure for 2016.

According to official Iranian statistics, Iran produces three million tons of wheat more than the country's demand, of which two million tons can be exported.

In line with the export plans, the director of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRISL) said on Monday that the first Iranian wheat cargo left Imam Khomeini Port, Khuzestan Province, southwest Iran, for Oman.



SHANA

First fuel batch ready from new Iranian refinery

Iran said the first consignment of high-quality gasoline produced from its recently commissioned Persian Gulf Star Refinery is ready for nationwide distribution.

Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Abbas Kazemi was quoted by Press TV as saying that the consignment comprised 21 million liters of gasoline.

He said it had been stored in a key NIORDC reservoir in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

Kazemi noted that Persian Gulf Star Refinery had already produced about 100 million tons of gasoline since its official launching on April 30, 2017, adding that the amount had been stored at the refinery's reservoirs.

He underlined that production of gasoline from condensate — what officials had already described as the first of its kind in the country — had started at the refinery from the very first day, dismissing media speculations that the project had not yet become operational.

The official added that the NIORDC would gradually receive the total amount of gasoline produced at Persian Gulf Star Refinery.

He put Iran's current gasoline production capacity at around 62 million liters per day, adding that the figure would reach around 70 million liters within a month.

Kazemi said Iran's total gasoline production would exceed 100 million liters per day once Persian Gulf Star Refinery becomes fully operational. Iran inaugurated the first phase of the refinery in late April to make the country self-sufficient in gasoline after 36 years.

The refinery would produce at least 12 million tons per day of high quality gasoline — technically classified as Euro4 — in the first phase.

On completion, other daily production would include 14 million tons of diesel, 4 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas, 3 million tons of jet fuel and 130 tons of sulfur.

Azerbaijan to build transshipment terminals in Iran

Iran and Azerbaijan signed an agreement for the construction of a 1.4-km railway line and four terminals with high transshipment capacities on Iranian territory with the support of Azerbaijan Railways CJSC.

in Tehran, Trend News Agency reported.

Based on the document, Azerbaijan Railways CJSC will rent the above-mentioned railway line for 15 years and terminals for 25 years.

They noted the work will be accelerated following the construction of an 82.5-meter railway bridge across Astara River on the Azerbaijani-Iranian border on April 20, 2016.



IRNA

Azerbaijan Railways CJSC announced in a statement that the deal, which was within the framework of the "Construction and operation of [Iranian] Astara loading and unloading terminal" project, was signed by the Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Saeed Mohammadzadeh and his counterpart at Azerbaijan Railways CJSC Javid Gurbanov, during a meet-

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Gurbanov and Mohammadzadeh noted that the project will strengthen ties between the two countries, as well as transit and economic potential of the railway sector and will also provide an impetus for attracting freight traffic.

The two sides also discussed the current state of the International North-South Transport Corridor Pro-

A single-track railway was built from Astara station (Azerbaijan) to the Iranian border and the bridge itself in shortest time, along which a test run was conducted across the Azerbaijani-Iranian border.

The construction of a railway station and an unloading terminal is currently underway on a 35-hectare territory in Iran's Astara.

Iran pays Turkey part of \$1.9b debt with natural gas supplies

Iran paid off a part of its \$1.9-billion debt to Turkey by supplying natural gas, said a member of Iran's Parliamentary Committee on Energy.

Asadollah Karahani told Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on Wednesday that Iran had provided Turkey \$800 million worth of natural gas to clear a portion of its debt, Daily Sabah reported.

He added that the remaining amount owed to Turkey would also be paid off through natural gas supplies.

Iran, which started exporting gas to Turkey in 2001, is the second largest supplier to the country after Russia, delivering 10 billion cubic meters annually.

Majid Boujarzadeh, a spokesman for National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), told the Turkish media in October that technical studies are already underway to increase exports to Turkey.

"We have a lot of gas reserves in Iran. Currently, we send 30 million cubic meters of gas daily to Turkey," said Boujarzadeh. NIGC Managing Director Hamidreza Araqi had in August announced that Iran's exports of gas to Turkey could increase by six million cubic meters per day.

Araqi underlined that the increase in exports of gas to Turkey can be implemented through the existing infrastructure. Boujarzadeh added that Iran has plans to build a LNG factory in Iran, and called on Turkey to invest in the project.

"We are ready to send LNG if Turkey is ready to receive it from Iran. If Turkey is able to invest in this LNG plant, we are ready to provide many opportunities to Turkey," he said.

Boujarzadeh said Turkey could avail of the opportunity to generate more income should Iran start to pipe gas to Europe via Turkish territory.

This could further be strengthened with the existing pipeline between Turkey and Iran, he added.

"We are considering sending gas to Europe via Turkey. We have excess capacity now to send gas to Turkey and Europe from Greece," Boujarzadeh said.

Foreign investment thriving in Iran

From Page 1

After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that was signed on July 14, 2015, Iran reached agreements with Japan, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Iraq and Tanzania; also the agreements with Czech Republic, Croatia and Lithuania have been finalized and are ready to be signed, according to Khazaei.

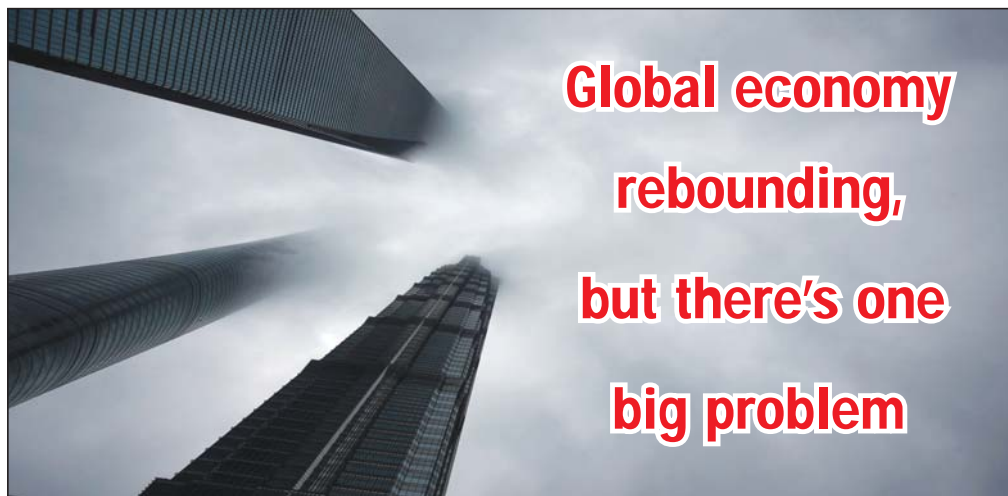
He added that the provinces of East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Tehran, Qazvin, Kerman and Khorasan Razavi were more successful than others in absorbing investments.

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

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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.



Global economy rebounding, but there's one big problem

bwbx.io

There's a dark cloud building behind the world's best period of synchronous growth among developed and emerging economies this decade — one that in time could rain down volatility in global markets. The problem, identified by strategist and hedge fund manager Stephen Jen, is a deepening imbalance in the lack of new safe-haven assets as the world's output expands, according to Bloomberg.

China and other developing nations are accumulating wealth, but failing to create sophisticated local markets that feature their own risk-free instruments. That's left a dangerous reliance on US Treasuries, according to Jen's argument, perpetuating a bond bubble and pushing investors into riskier assets.

It's a tweaked version of the 'savings glut' argument that then-Federal Reserve governor Ben S. Bernanke

put forward in 2005 to explain why American borrowing costs were stuck at low levels even as the US hiked interest rates.

These days, current account imbalances among the US, China and Japan have come down, and Asia's biggest economies are carrying higher debt loads, undermining the idea that there's too much savings.

Instead, the problem is that emerging markets haven't yet been able to develop assets that investors are willing to hold as stores of value and collateral when times get tough.

Doing that requires strong levels of confidence in the rule of law, equitable regulation and belief that money can be withdrawn by the investor whenever needed.

"The local capital markets in EM still lack the sophistication to match the real sectors in these economies," Jen and colleague Nicolo Bandera wrote in a note last week.

The continued growth of emerging markets while their financial systems lag behind produces "a situation whereby the genuine safe-haven assets such as the US Treasuries, German bunds, and the British gilts become increasingly rare and in short supply," they wrote.

Fed and other central bank purchases of their own government bonds have even further limited the supply of such assets, Jen and Bandera highlighted.

The Fed is widely forecast to raise borrowing costs for the second time in 2017 this week, with attention zooming in on plans to dial back its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet.

China, as the world's second-largest economy, offers the best chance to develop an alternative to the US Treasuries market, though its capital controls have left foreign investors wary to take full advantage of new avenues to invest in its government bonds.

Wealth growth in Asia puts it on track as world's richest region in two years

Asian financial centers Singapore and Hong Kong will attract more wealth from within and outside the region in the coming years — a development that will help to propel Asia Pacific to become the world's wealthiest region by 2019, a study by Boston Consulting Group showed.

The report, released on Tuesday, found that Asia Pacific experienced the fastest increase in overall wealth in 2016 but trailed behind North America. Private wealth in Asia Pacific, including Japan, is expected to surpass North America by 2019 and hit \$77.8 trillion by 2021, CNBC wrote.

"In Asia Pacific, which is characterized by strong GDP growth, the key impetus will be new savings," BCG wrote in the report, adding that China was the largest source of offshore wealth in the Asia Pacific region, BCG said, contributing nearly \$12 billion in revenue pools for private banks.

BCG's measurement of private wealth includes household holdings such as life insurance, pensions and assets such as



yimg.com

equities, bonds and cash.

In the coming years, Asian financial hubs Singapore and Hong Kong are projected to attract more money from abroad compared to their European rival

Switzerland, the business consultancy said.

Offshore assets in Singapore and Hong Kong would increase at a compound annual growth rate of eight

percent and seven percent through 2021, respectively. That is quicker than Switzerland's projected three percent, according to the report.

Nevertheless, Switzerland retained its status as the world's top offshore wealth management hub with \$2.4 trillion in assets in 2016 — higher than Singapore's \$1.2 trillion and Hong Kong's \$0.8 trillion, the BCG report showed.

"Hong Kong and Singapore remain the fastest-growing offshore centers globally because of both their status as the preferred booking centers for regional clients and the anticipation of strong growth in Asia-Pacific," the report said.

"Expansion is expected to continue in the long term, but China's ongoing restrictions on investment outflows may slow it down to some degree in the short term."

Asia Pacific's growing wealth has led to both global and regional banks expanding their wealth management operations in the region. Among those that have done so include UBS Group and DBS Group Holdings.

China, Singapore vow trade cooperation in sign of warmer ties

China and Singapore pledged to cooperate on trade and regional infrastructure projects, in a sign the countries have begun to repair ties strained amid security disputes in Southeast Asia.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan said in a briefing in Beijing they reached agreement to work more closely on China's 'Belt and Road' trade and infrastructure initiative. Balakrishnan described ties as 'strong' and said China's relationship with Southeast Asia was "stable, calm and positive", Bloomberg reported.

"We had in depth talks and reached a lot of consensus on bilateral, regional issues and shared interests," Wang said. "Both of us are of the view that, against the background of a backlash against globalization, China and Singapore — as the champions of regional integration — need to work together to address challenges and uphold common interests."

The remarks suggest that Singapore's efforts to paper over diplomatic tensions with its largest trading partner are paying off. The city-state of 5.3 million had found itself in Beijing's cross-hairs over its military ties with

Taiwan, support for the US naval presence in the disputed South China Sea and perceived lack of support for the 'Belt and Road' program.

Singapore didn't receive a formal invitation from China to attend a 'Belt and Road' summit in May, Bloomberg News reported last month. A shipment of Singaporean infantry carrier vehicles that had been used in military exercises in Taiwan was seized and held in Hong Kong for two months before being released in January.

Balakrishnan described Singapore as a 'strong believer and supporter' of the 'Belt and Road' plan and pledged to establish a financial cooperation platform with China.

"China-Singapore relations are in good working order," he said. "They are strong, with the potential to grow even stronger."

The two countries accounted for \$66 billion in two-way trade last year, represented 13 percent of Singapore's global total. Singapore is also China's second-largest investor, with \$6.18 billion last year, according to official China figures.



ANTHONY KWAN/BLOOMBERG

Wang said Singapore was an important clearance center for the yuan.

"To advance the 'Belt and Road' initiative we need financing," he said. "We hope that cooperation with Singapore will draw upon Singapore's strengths as a financial center."

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79446.4	(54)	0
Industry Index	68252.4	(18.3)	(0.08)
Free Float Index	86458.1	86.3	0.1
First Market Index	54880.9	(34)	(0.02)
Second Market Index	177517.7	192.8	0.15

Overall Index details on 20170614

First	79501.3	Change end of year(%)	918.32%
High	79471.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79432.2	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79446.4	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	0		

Industry Index details on 20170614

First	68309.3	Change end of year(%)	1027.74%
Max Value	68275.6	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69610.5	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	177521.2	Base Value	
Closing	(18.3)		

Free Float Index details on 20170614

First	86584.9	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	88753.6	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	88687.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	86458.1	Base Value	
Closing	86.3		

Main Board Index details on 20170614

First	54892.2	Change end of year(%)	777.1%
Max Value	54877.0	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	55990.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	54881.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(34)		

Secondary Index details on 20170614

First	177795.9	Change end of year(%)	1345.03%
Max Value	177741.6	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	181452.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	177795.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	192.8		

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2844	Chinese Yuan	0.1471
Euro	1.1223	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2783	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2944
Australian Dollar	0.7557	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$45.94	Silver	\$16.89
Gold	\$1271.10	Platinum	\$931.50
Copper	\$2.59	Wheat	\$446.25

Merkel urges bigger fight against climate change after US move

Germany and the rest of Europe should redouble their efforts to fight climate change after the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate pact, Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

Merkel told members of her conservative party in the German town of Erfurt that the US decision would not stop those committed to protecting the earth from continuing their efforts, according to Reuters.



REUTERS

"For us, it is clear that the Paris agreement is a cornerstone for cooperation in the world," she told the event, which was livestreamed on Facebook. "I believe we must take even more decisive action in Germany and Europe to join forces to combat climate change."

Merkel said the efforts would pay off for humanity and would also spur economic growth.

The German leader, who is seeking a fourth term in September national elections, said she had been involved in the issue for nearly her entire political career. She served as German Environment Minister from 1994 to 1998.

Climate change is likely to be a contentious issue when US President Donald Trump visits Germany next month for a summit of the Group of 20 industrialized countries.

Impacts of ozone depletion felt in the tropics

The hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica has more far-reaching consequences than previously assumed. A study by Bernese climate researchers has now shown that it even affects precipitation in the tropical regions of the Pacific, 10,000 kilometers away. This new finding demonstrates how the climates of extremely remote areas are linked.

The struggle to close the hole in the ozone layer that opens above the Antarctic each spring is seen as one of the greatest achievements of international environmental policy, phys.org wrote.

In the late 1980s, the international community committed to drastically reducing the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer. This led to a steady recovery of the ozone layer above Antarctica, and in 2014, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that if this trend continued, recovery would be complete by the year 2050 at the latest.

Now, however, an international team of researchers led by the Oeschger Center for



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Climate Change Research at the University of Bern has concluded that the depletion of the ozone layer has had previously unknown effects on the climate system.

Researchers found that even rainfall in the tropical regions of the Pacific is affected by the ozone hole. "The fact that there are such connections in the climate system between

places so far apart is fascinating. However, it is disturbing that people are responsible for this", said the Bernese climatologist Stefan Brönnimann, who headed the study that has just been published in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

Simulations with a range of different climate models and statistical analyses of observed data from the past 60 years show that the hole in the ozone layer causes a ridge to the east of New Zealand.

From that point, a wavy circulation pattern extends over the South Pacific and causes an increase in precipitation in the heart of the South Pacific Convergence Zone — one of the most intense rain belts on Earth. For example, precipitation between October and December in Rikitea, French Polynesia, increased by 50 percent between the 1960s and the 1990s.

A large part of that increase was down to the hole in the ozone layer. This trend will reverse during the ozone hole recovery that will take place over the next decades: Precipitation in the region will be decreasing again.

Side street routes to avoid city pollution can cut exposure by half

Taking a side street route when walking through a city cuts a person's air pollution exposure by half, according to a new study.

Signposting these clean air routes and providing online maps would keep people away from heavily polluted main streets and would benefit their health, the researchers said. In fact, the UK group behind the research have developed a new

interactive map of London that allows people to put in any route and be shown a low-pollution walking option, according to The Guardian.

Air pollution is the world's largest single environmental health risk, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), with 80 percent of the world's urban population now living in cities that exceed WHO

standards for pollution.

The new research was conducted in London, which has illegally high levels of toxic air.

The team from King's College London analyzed seven popular routes through the city, with different researchers simultaneously walking along main road and backstreet routes while carrying pollution

measuring equipment.

The routes included King's Cross Station to Euston Station, Embankment to Covent Garden, and Earl's Court to Holland Park; each pair of routes were similar in length.

Black carbon was measured as it comes primarily from diesel vehicles, which are the main source of the city's pollution problem.

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Possible earliest stage of Alzheimer's identified

Study by the University of Southern California (USC) found elevated levels of amyloid plaque in the brain are the first signs in the earliest stage of Alzheimer's.

Researchers at the Keck School of Medicine at USC analyzed 10 years of data and found that elevated levels of amyloid plaque, clusters of a sticky protein, found in normal cognitive functioning older adults may be the earliest stage of Alzheimer's disease, UPI reported.

The study, published in JAMA, focused on amyloid levels in 445 cognitively normal individuals in the US and Canada through cerebrospinal fluid taps or positron emission tomography, or PET, scans. Approximately 242 participants had normal amyloid levels and 202 had elevated levels.

Researchers found the elevated amyloid group was older and less educated, in addition to carrying at least one extra copy of the ApoE4 gene — increasing the odds for developing Alzheimer's disease.

Paul Aisen, director of the USC Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute [ATRI] at the Keck School of Medicine, said, "To have the greatest impact on the disease, we need to intervene against amyloid, the basic molecular cause, as early as possible.

"This study is a significant step toward the idea that elevated amyloid levels are an early stage of Alzheimer's — an appropriate stage for anti-amyloid therapy."

Amyloid plaque in the brain is similar to cholesterol in the blood, as both are warning signs of impending diagnosis of Alzheimer's or a heart attack.

Researchers found that the incubation period with elevated amyloid plaques — also known as the



sapientlabs.com

asymptomatic stage — may last longer than the dementia stage of the disease.

According to Aisen, one in three adults over the age of 65 have elevated amyloid plaques in the brain leading to symptomatic Alzheimer's disease in 10 years.

Researchers suggest that if Alzheimer's prevalence estimates included the preclinical stage before symptoms appear than the number of people

affected would more than double from the current 5.4 million Americans.

Aisen added, "We need more studies looking at people before they have Alzheimer's symptoms.

"The reason many promising drug treatments have failed to date is because they intervened at the end-stage of the disease when it's too late.

"The time to intervene is when the brain is still functioning well — when people are asymptomatic."

The real reason for insomnia

Sleep can be difficult to get enough of, particularly if you suffer from insomnia.

It's defined as the inability to get to sleep or remain asleep, and is often attributed to psychological reasons, such as stress, express.co.uk wrote.

But new research has found it could actually be due to genetics instead.



express.co.uk

In a study, published in the journal Nature Genetics, researchers have found — for the first time — that there are seven risk genes for insomnia.

It had previously been thought that the sleep condition could be because of stress, anxiety or depression.

Or, according to the National Health System (NHS), due to noise, uncomfortable sleeping conditions and recreational drugs, jet lag or shift work.

However, the study's authors have discovered that it's not a purely psychological condition.

This new knowledge brings scientists a step closer to finding out what the biological mechanisms are that cause insomnia.

Professor Eus Van Someren, of the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, said, "As compared to the severity, prevalence and risks of insomnia, only few studies targeted its causes. Insomnia is all too often dismissed as being 'all in your head'.

"Our research brings a new perspective. Insomnia is also in the genes."

After looking at 113,006 individuals, they found particular genes that predisposes people to insomnia.

One of the genes has previously been linked to two other sleep disorders — Periodic Limb Movements of Sleep (PLMS) and Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS).

However, PLMS and RLS are associated with restless movement and sensation, whereas insomnia is more a restless stream of consciousness.

Interestingly, they also found a genetic overlap with anxiety disorders, depression and neuroticism, and low subjective wellbeing.

Anke Hammerschlag, a neuroscientist and first author of the study, said, "This is an interesting finding, because these characteristics tend to go hand in hand with insomnia.

"We now know that this is partly due to the shared genetic basis."

Additionally, slightly more women than men tend to suffer.

Professor Danielle Posthuma, of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, said, "We also found a difference between men and women in terms of prevalence: In the sample we studied, including mainly people older than fifty years, 33 percent of the women reported suffering from insomnia. For men this was 24 percent."

Rogue immune cells increase shingles risk among heart patients

Researchers from Stanford University in the US have found coronary artery disease is linked to a higher risk of shingles due to defective immune cells muting the body's immune response.

Individuals with coronary artery disease are at an elevated risk for shingles because aberrant immune cells reduce the body's immune response to viral pathogens like the virus that causes shingles, the researchers report in a study published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation, UPI wrote.

Shingles' incidence increases significantly after the age of 50, with about half of all people over the age of 80 having experienced an attack.

Shingles is a leftover from childhood infection by varicella zoster, the virus that causes chickenpox.

Even after the body's immune system defeats the active infection, the virus lives on inside nerve ganglions.

In older or immune-compromised people, the long-dormant virus can reactivate, crawl along the nerve fiber and emerge at nerve endings as a painful skin rash that's exceedingly difficult to treat.

Previous studies have shown that macrophages — cells of the immune system that are formed in response to infection that recognize, engulf and destroy target cells — in patients with coronary artery disease have excessive amounts of molecules involved in the uptake of glucose.

Dr. Cornelia Weyand, professor and chief of immunology and rheumatology at Stanford, said, "Coronary artery disease patients' glucose-grabbing macrophages, it turns out, exert the same paralyzing effect on T cells that cancers cells do, in much the same way."

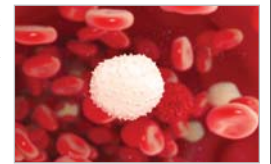
Macrophages are attracted to wound sites such as coronary artery vessels, which can develop tiny scars or tears.

Previous studies demonstrated that while macrophages may have good intentions, those that are predisposed to glucose gluttony may go off-task, become inflammatory and make the problem worse.

The inflammatory macrophages accelerate plaque buildup in coronary arteries and make it brittle, which can then break off, block blood flow and cause a heart attack.

Coronary artery disease accounts for half of all deaths in the US. The current study showed glucose-addicted macrophages in atherosclerotic lesions are unable to spur T-cells' antiviral activity and actively prevent it.

Weyand said, "Finding out why this happens is the next frontier."



UPI

A new study has found that increased risk of shingles in coronary artery disease patients may be caused by glucose-eating immune cells.

Prenatal fever linked to autism risk

Children born to mothers who experienced fever, especially multiple fevers, during the second trimester of pregnancy are at increased risk for developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a new study suggested.

Researchers found that mothers who experienced a fever over 37.22°C during the second trimester of pregnancy had a 40 percent increased risk of having a child with ASD compared to women who had no fevers, according to Reuters.com.

But none of the women who used ibuprofen to treat a fever during pregnancy gave birth to children later diagnosed with autism, the researchers note.

Lead author Dr. Madeline Hornig of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York, said, "What is particularly important about our findings is that it not only strengthens the evidence for a particular pathway for ASD, but it also suggests that we may be very close to understanding how to safely mitigate or prevent some outcomes by



christiannewstoday.com

directing prevention or intervention strategies toward this pathway."

An increased risk of ASD among women with prenatal fevers has been reported before, the authors wrote in the journal Molecular Psychiatry. What's new about this study is that it is the first large, prospective investigation showing a so-called dose-response effect.

The chances of ASD rose with the number of maternal fevers, increasing by more than 300 percent if a mother had three or more fevers after the first trimester.

Hornig said, "Since fever is caused by acute inflammation, the profound difference in risk of ASD is consistent with the idea that a longer exposure of the fetus to an inflammatory environment in the womb can cause a greater disruption of brain development."

A crosstalk of immune molecules called cytokines can reach the fetus across the placenta to affect the developing brain.

Hornig added, "The findings also provide clues to suggest women are using the wrong drug during pregnancy to bring down fever."

While none of the mothers who took the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) ibuprofen to treat fever during the second trimester had a child who developed ASD, mothers who took acetaminophen during this time made very little difference in their child's fever-related risk for ASD.

The study analyzed data on 95,754 women participating in the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study, which is following pregnant Norwegian women and their children born between 1999 and 2009.

Among its limitations is that small numbers of women used ibuprofen during pregnancy so researchers can't be confident that ibuprofen had mitigating effects.

In addition, the study did not address the causes of fever, such as microbial infections.

The researchers noted, "An ongoing study is testing blood samples collected at mid-pregnancy and at birth to explore the possible role of specific infectious agents and the

contribution of distinctive patterns of immune response among mothers and children to understand the mechanisms creating vulnerability."

Dr. Geraldine Dawson, who wasn't involved in the study, said, "This is a really important study that sheds light on risk factors for ASD because of its size and it looked at how the use of different medications, as well as how the timing of a fever affects the risk of ASD.

"I don't think previous studies have done that well enough. However, the studies have not been entirely consistent so we need to conduct more of them to sort out these effects."

Dawson, who directs the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development in Durham, North Carolina, said that she thinks it's very important that fever and the medications used to treat it not be considered to be the causes of autism, but rather potential risk factors, just as cholesterol and high blood pressure are risk factors for heart disease.

Scientists kill malaria-carrying mosquitoes with genetically engineered fungi

A genetically engineered fungus, designed to produce toxins from spiders and scorpions, could effectively kill malaria-carrying mosquitoes, according to a new study.

The fungus does not pose a risk to humans and early test results showed it's also safe for honey bees and other insects, according to the study from the University of Maryland (UMD) and colleagues from Burkina Faso, China and Australia, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

The fungus involved in the study is known as Metarhizium pingshaense, a natural killer of mosquitoes that was originally isolated from a mosquito.

Previous evidence suggested that the fungus is specific to disease-carrying mosquito species, including Anopheles gambiae and Aedes aegypti.

When spores of the fungus come into contact with a mosquito's body, the spores germinate and penetrate the insect's exoskeleton, eventually killing the insect host from the inside out.

However, the fungus requires fairly high doses of spores and a large amount of time to have lethal effects.

To boost its deadly power, researchers engineered the fungus with several genes that express neurotoxins from spider and scorpion venom — both alone and in combination with other toxins.

Then, they tested the engineered fungal strains on wild-caught, insecticide-resistant mosquitoes in Burkina Faso.

Each engineered strain killed mosquitoes more quickly and efficiently than the unaltered fungus, but the most effective strain used a combination of two toxins, one derived from the North African desert scorpion Androctonus australis and another derived from the Australian Blue Mountains funnel-web spider Hadronyche versuta.

Brian Lovett, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology and a coauthor of the paper, said, "Our most potent fungal strains, engineered to express multiple toxins, are able to kill mosquitoes with a single spore."

"We also report that our transgenic fungi stop mosquitoes from blood feeding. Together, this means that our fungal strains are capable of preventing transmission of disease by more than 90 percent of mosquitoes after just five days."

The researchers inserted a genetic "switch" in the fungus that ensures the toxin genes can only be activated in the blood of insects. As a result, the fungus will not release the toxin into the environment.

To further ensure the safety of non-target insect species, they also tested the engineered fungal strains on honey bees and found no bees had died as a result of the toxin-boosted fungus in their tests in Burkina Faso.

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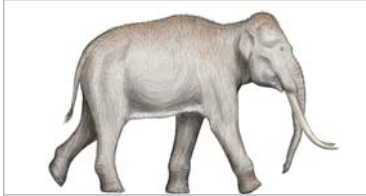
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Ancient DNA shakes up the elephant family tree

Fossil DNA may be rewriting the history of elephant evolution. The first genetic analysis of DNA from fossils of straight-tusked elephants reveals that the extinct animals most closely resembled modern African forest elephants, according to sciencenews.org. This suggested that straight-tusked elephants were part of the African, not Asian, elephant lineage, scientists reported in eLife. Straight-tusked elephants roamed Europe and Asia until about 30,000 years ago.



The first DNA analysis of straight-tusked elephants (illustrated) finds they are most closely related to modern African forest elephants. sciencenews.org

Much like modern Asian elephants, they sported high foreheads, double-domed skulls and downward sloping spines. Adrian Lister, a paleobiologist at the Natural History Museum in London who was not involved in the study, said, "These features convinced scientists for decades that straight-tusked and Asian elephants were sister species." For the new study, researchers extracted and decoded DNA from the bones of four straight-tusked elephants found in Germany. The fossils ranged from around 120,000 to 240,000 years old. The genetic material in most fossils more than 100,000 years old is too decayed to analyze.

Study author Michael Hofreiter of the University of Potsdam in Germany, said, "But the elephant fossils were unearthed in a lake basin and a quarry, where the bones would have been quickly covered with sediment that preserved them." Hofreiter's team compared the ancient animals' DNA with the genomes of the three living elephant species — Asian, African savanna and African forest — and found that straight-tusked genetics were most similar to African forest elephants. If straight-tusked elephants were closely related to African forest elephants, then the African lineage wasn't confined to Africa — where all elephant species originated — as paleontologists previously thought. It also raises questions about why straight-tusked elephants bore so little resemblance to today's African elephants, which have low foreheads, single-domed skulls and more horizontal backbones.

Scientists image molecular machinery never before seen in bacteria

Scientists have discovered several never before identified bacterial structures — pieces of molecular machinery. Researchers identified the new appendages while imaging the bacterial species *Prostheco bacter debontii*, UPI reported. The discovery prompted researchers to survey more than 15,000 3D images of bacterial cells, representing 88 different species. Their analysis suggested the structures are not unique to *Prostheco bacter debontii*.



While imaging bacteria cells, researchers noticed never-before-seen internal, macromolecular structures. UPI

Researchers hope their survey, published in the *Journal of Bacteriology*, will help bacterial cell biologists determine the structures' functionality. Among the bacteria featuring the newly identified structures are several scientifically significant species including an agent of cholera, carcinogenic bacteria and a strain essential to Earth's nitrogen cycle. Catherine Oikonomou, a research scientist at the California Institute of Technology, said, "The study drives home the point that a wealth of information remains to be discovered even about the fraction of bacteria that we know about. "Even well-studied species contain prominent structural features that we didn't know about before, whose function is still unknown." Improved imaging technology has allowed scientists to render internal cellular structures in high resolution, revealing surprisingly complex molecular machinery. Oikonomou added, "In the last 20 years, electron cryotomography has allowed us to visualize bacterial cells in an intact, fully-hydrated state, preserving their internal structures." By studying the macromolecular structures inside bacterial cells, researchers can learn how different strains adapt to a variety of exotic environments. Oikonomou said, "Our work underscores the diversity and complexity of bacterial cells. And it reminds us that many structures still remain to be seen."



Sea ice, an iceberg (land ice), the ocean and diffuse sunlight are the conditions necessary for an Ice Age. phys.org

Team takes temperature to determine cause of Ice Age

New research by Simon Fraser University Professor Karen Kohfeld and University of Tasmania Professor Zanna Chase, published in the *Journal of Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, examined how the ocean pulled carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and into the deep sea during the last Ice Age 125,000 to 18,000 years ago. Ever since scientists first discovered that carbon dioxide levels were low during Ice Ages, they have been proposing theories to understand why, *phys.org* reported. Kohfeld and Chase's research uses the fossil record to put together the first global database of ocean temperatures over the last 125,000 years. Their research compiled ocean temperature records with other studies to show how carbon dioxide took different paths into the deep sea during different periods of the Ice Age. Karen Kohfeld, associate professor in the School

of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University, said, "This study shows for the first time how temperatures changed across the whole ocean as the Earth entered the last Ice Age. "This new understanding of ocean temperature changes hints at some important thresholds in the climate system. "It's clear that some parts of the system — such as sea-ice around Antarctica — responded rapidly when the ocean cooled. "Other parts, like deep ocean circulation, changed very slowly and needed a nudge of extra cooling to push the system into a new state, a whole 30,000 years after the sea ice changed. "With direct measurements only providing ocean temperatures for approximately the last 100 years, Kohfeld and Chase turned to chemical and biological clues left by tiny fossils in mud from the sea floor to understand past temperatures.

By counting the numbers of cold versus warm fossils of species with known distinct temperature preferences, scientists can estimate past ocean temperatures. Kohfeld and Chase trawled the scientific literature for studies of past sea surface temperatures. In total, they found data from 136 locations around the globe, amounting to over 40,000 estimates of temperature. Chase added, "We've combined the individual efforts of hundreds of scientists. "What comes out is a remarkably clear picture of how the ocean changed during the last Ice Age. "The team's next step is to combine their new temperature database with paleoclimate models to test their theories. Kohfeld added, "We're providing a benchmark dataset that allows scientists to model the ocean and climate from a different time, which can improve our modeling of future relationships between carbon and climate."

Birds and bees battle for nesting sites



The chaffinch is the UK's second commonest breeding bird. bbc.com

Competition for nesting sites could explain why some birds and bumblebees are declining faster than others. Research suggests animals that build their nests in early spring may win the fight for available habitat at the expense of late breeders, according to *bbc.com*. Conservation efforts should focus on ensuring rare species have enough places to nest, said scientists. For example, areas could be left to grow wild between spring and summer to help bumblebees establish nests. Habitats such as hedgerows and hay meadows are being lost in many countries, meaning that fewer nesting sites are available. Competition among animals for a suitable place to nest could explain why some species are struggling to survive. Dr. Andrew Higginson of the University of Exeter said, "Ecologists understand why some groups of species are declining more, such as why farmland species are declining more than woodland species.

"But an enduring mystery is the big variation in the declines of closely related species. Fighting over nest sites may be part of the reason — when nest sites are hard to come by, the species that will suffer most are those that nest later in the year." The University of Exeter study

analyzed population changes in more than 200 bird species and 40 bumblebee species around the world. The population data was combined with a mathematical model that used game theory to predict the likely behavior of bees and birds when faced with competition for nesting sites.

It calculated the implications of fighting for nesting sites, based on the size of each species, the time of nesting and the quality of the nesting site. The study found larger species that nest early generally do better, while smaller bees and birds that nest later in the year lose out in the struggle for habitat. For example, the chaffinch is doing well in the UK, while the goldfinch is on the decline. Higginson added, "We need to have a more holistic approach to providing good habitat for animals. "We need to worry about the whole life cycle not just what they eat. "Conservation efforts for animals such as birds and bees tend to focus on providing food. "Restoration and provision of nest sites should be an urgent priority." This could be as simple as waiting to cut hedgerows until later in the year when all animals have nested or providing more boxes for birds to nest in.

Jupiter: The oldest planet in solar system

New evidence suggested Jupiter is the oldest planet in the solar system — the first to form inside the Sun's protoplanetary disk. Analysis of tungsten and molybdenum isotopes in meteorites from two distinct nebular reservoirs suggest the orbital debris stocks permanently separated some one to three million years after the formation of the solar system, UPI wrote. Thomas Kruijer, a researcher at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, said, "The most plausible mechanism for this efficient separation is the formation of Jupiter, opening a gap in the disc — a plane of gas and dust from stars — and preventing the exchange of material

between the two reservoirs. "Jupiter is the oldest planet in the solar system, and its solid core formed well before the solar nebula gas dissipated, consistent with the core accretion model for giant planet formation." Simulations of the solar system's formation and evolution have predicted Jupiter was born first, but astronomers have been unable to put an exact date on the gas giant's birth. The impressive mass and gravitational pull of Jupiter — the largest planet in the solar system — were influential for the formation of our planetary system.



NASA

Dating Jupiter's formation will help astronomers build a more accurate timeline for the evolution of the early solar

system. Researchers believe Jupiter's early birth prevented the formation of any super-Earths —

especially large rocky planets. Jupiter's size created a barrier dissecting the sea of rocky debris orbiting the Sun, preventing the movement of fresh material between the inner and outer solar system. Kruijer added, "Our measurements show that the growth of Jupiter can be dated using the distinct genetic heritage and formation times of meteorites." The solar system's main asteroid belt today is found between Mars and Jupiter, but in the early solar system, rocky belts were likely more spread out. Kruijer and his colleagues published their analysis in the *journal PNAS*.

Refugee numbers outpace resettlement spots



citifmonline.com

Against the backdrop of increasing refugee numbers around the globe, fuelled by crisis and insecurity, and an ever-widening gap in places to resettle them, the top United Nations official dealing with refugee issues has called on governments to 'step up' and deliver places for refugees in line with the commitments they have made.

"The fact is global resettlement needs today far outweigh the places made available by governments by a factor of 13 to one, despite more countries taking part in the program and an increase in private sector and community involvement," Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said on June 12 at the opening of the UN agency's annual resettlement consultations in Geneva, Switzerland, Ipsnews reported.

Close to 1.2 million refugees need resettling globally, but only 93,200 places in resettlement countries are expected to be available this year — 43 percent fewer than in 2016.

For refugees from sub-Saharan Africa the situation is especially acute — with just 18,000 available places for more than half a million refugees.

"The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was a milestone in global solidarity with refugees and the mainly developing countries which host almost nine in 10 of them. But true sharing of responsibility requires places for refugees in third countries on a scale in

line with the needs. We need urgent action to get there," Grandi said.

The UN refugees agency's report UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs in 2018 estimates some 1.2 million refugees need a third country solution in the coming year — a slight increase from the previous year. This includes more than 510,000 refugees in 34 different countries across Africa, some 280,000 in the Middle East, 302,000 in Europe (mostly in Turkey), over 100,000 in Asia and some 1,800 in the Americas.

The UNHCR report tabled at the Geneva meeting notes that the widening gap between needs and places in 2017 follows a year of several positive achievements in the global resettlement program.

In 2016, UNHCR submitted more than 162,500 refugees for resettlement — the highest number in 20 years — and more than 125,800 started new lives in third countries. Almost half of the refugees submitted were Syrians, while 44,000 were from sub-Saharan Africa — the highest from this region in almost 15 years.

The number of resettlement states grew to 37 in 2016, with some European governments setting up programs for the first time and Argentina and Brazil, amongst others, making new commitments to resettle Syrian refugees, the UN agency informed.

"Despite the rhetoric against refugees in some

quarters we have also seen an outpouring of goodwill, with ordinary citizens sponsoring refugees to live in their countries, inviting them into their homes and helping them to find jobs," Grandi added.

He also noted that the increased engagement of civil society and the private sector embodies the spirit of the New York Declaration, which calls for all parts of society to play a role in the global response to large movements of refugees.

"Resettlement places not only help those refugees who face extreme difficulty in their first country of asylum, but are an important gesture of solidarity with countries hosting large numbers of refugees."

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted on September 19, 2016 by 193 Member States of the United Nations.

In it governments committed — amongst other objectives — to work on increasing resettlement places and other legal pathways for admission of refugees on a scale that would match the annual resettlement needs identified by UNHCR.

Refugees in need of resettlement are those people identified by UNHCR as having particular problems in the countries where they have sought refuge because their life, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental rights are at risk.

UK women should study English to earn more than men

Women should study English in the UK to earn more than men, official data showed, as it is the only subject where the salaries of female graduates exceed those of their male peers.

For every other subject, male graduates earn more than women at the majority of universities five years after leaving university, according to a telegraph.co.uk wrote.

The figures also reveal the huge gulf in earnings between graduates who studied the same subjects at different universities.

The average salary of a law graduate from Oxford University was £61,400 five years after university, compared to a salary of £17,300 for a University of Bradford law graduate.

Dr. Tim Bradshaw, the director of the Russell Group which represents the 24 leading higher education institutions including Oxford and Cambridge, said the figures show that employers are "willing to pay a premium" to hire graduates from top universities. The average salary of a law graduate from Oxford University was £61,400 five years after university.

He said that Russell Group graduates "benefit from high average incomes after they leave university" in a wide range of subjects including psychology, social sciences, law, computer sciences and engineering.

For the first time, the DfE has analyzed the average graduate earnings with a breakdown by gender, subject and university.



afgwnsw.org.au

In all but one of the 23 categories of subject analyzed by the DfE, male graduates were earning more than women within five years. The gulf is particularly pronounced in Medicine and Dentistry, where male graduates at 94 percent of universities earn more than women.

For Architecture, Building and Planning graduates, men at 90 percent of universities earned more than women, and 88 percent more if they studied Engineering and Technology. The only subject to buck the trend was English, where female graduates at 58 percent of universities earned more than men.

Anna Vignoles, a professor of education at Cambridge University, said that English degrees have a gender bias towards women which affects the graduate earning data.

"There will be a higher proportion of women taking English as a subject, and significant number of English graduates go into teaching where the pay scale is relatively rigid," she said.

"That means the gaps you see emerging in private sector may not emerge."

Vignoles added that English has a relatively low median earning, so even if women are earning more than men, their actual salary remains fairly low.

She said: "Throughout education women outperform men: they get higher General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSEs), they are more likely to go to university. But this is not true once they get into the labor market."

Vignoles, who specializes in access to higher education and graduate earning, said that some of the gap in salaries can be put down to career choice, as women can opt for lower paid industries than men or for part-time rather than full-time work.

California's kids healthy but many live in poverty

Ambar Garcia, who lives just north of downtown Los Angeles, said she's thankful her two daughters have health coverage through California's version of Medicaid, the government program for low-income people.

"That's one less bill to worry about. But Garcia, a 30-year-old receptionist at a dental office, said she still has trouble paying the rest, californiahealthline.org reported.

Nearly all of her monthly income goes to her rent, so she relies on her mom to help with child care, and the federal Women, Infants, and Children program to help with food. "I have to work a lot to be able to put food on the table and a roof over their heads," she said.

Garcia is like many parents in California, whose children have among the best access to health insurance in the country but also rank near the bottom in terms of economic well-being.

Those are the findings of KIDS COUNT, an annual report released that looks at health indicators such as medical coverage, death rates and teen birth rates, as well as financial circumstances like poverty rates and parental employment.

Overall, California ranked near the top in the nation on children's health but near the bottom for their economic well-being, according to the report, issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Many of the nine million children in California live in families that are one major expense away from being thrown into a financial "tail spin," said Laura Spear, associate director of policy reform and advocacy for the foundation.

"The economic well-being of families in [California] is really lagging," she said. "And that has lots of implications for kids."

Nationwide, families have finally started recovering from the recession and have achieved greater economic stability, according to the report. Ninety-five percent of all children in the US have health coverage — a historic high. But about 14 percent live in high-poverty neighborhoods, according to the study.

In California, the percentage of uninsured children dropped from nine percent to three percent between 2010 and 2015 — the largest decline in the nation during that time.

More than half of the state's children are now on Medi-Cal. That includes children who are undocumented immigrants, for whom the state began offering full health benefits through Medi-Cal in 2016.

Overweight UK nurses told to beat the bulge

Overweight nurses in the UK need to trim down if they want to send the right message to their patients about being healthy, regulators said.

New rules drafted by health leaders have asked all nurses to "maintain a level of personal fitness" to be able to care for people, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

There is growing concern at the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) that many staff are too unfit to carry out simple tasks.

The standards, which are up for consultation, are the latest in a long line of attempts to motivate the NHS workforce to stay in shape.

New rules imposed by health leaders have asked for all nurses to "maintain a level of personal fitness" to be able to care for people.

Jackie Smith, chief executive of the NMC, told The Telegraph: "It's an area that divides opinion, there is no doubt about that.

"Nurses need to have a level of fitness that means they can meet the needs of the patient in front of them."

"It's also to some extent about being a role model."

A spokesperson added: "These plans will help make sure that nurses of the future have the right skills and qualities, not only for today but for years to come."

It comes as NHS England is set to introduce its own tax on sugary drinks and foods in all hospitals and health centers in England by 2020.

The plans will see such products sold in its cafes and vending machines cost more in an attempt to stop staff and patients buying them.

Of the 1.3 million NHS workers, it has previously been estimated that 700,000 are either overweight or obese.

Experts have long argued that health professionals should the fight against the flab, which is known to be deadly.



workingnurse.com

People phubbed by others turn to social media for acceptance

People who are phone snubbed — or 'phubbed' — by others are, themselves, often turning to their smartphones and social media to find acceptance, according to new research from Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business.

Building on their earlier study that phubbing can damage relationships and lead to depression, researchers Meredith David, PhD, assistant professor of marketing, and James A. Roberts, PhD, Ben H. Williams professor of marketing, have found that the circle nearly completes itself as the offended parties frequently jump online to find affirmation in the likes and shares and positive comments of social media, phys.org reported.

Their study, 'Phubbed and Alone: Phone Snubbing, Social Exclusion, and Attachment to Social Media,' was published in the Journal of the Association for Consumer Research. The research investigates the relationship between phubbing, social media attachment, depression, anxiety and stress.

"When an individual is phubbed, he/she feels socially excluded, which leads to an increased need for attention. Instead of turning to face-to-face interaction to restore a sense of inclusion, study participants turned to



cnbc.com

social media to regain a sense of belonging," said David, lead author of the study.

"Being phubbed was also found to undermine an individual's psychological well-being. Phubbed individuals reported higher levels of stress and depression."

"We're looking online for what we're not getting offline," Roberts said. "It's a vicious cycle."

As part of their research, David and Roberts surveyed more than 330 people across two studies. They found:

- Nearly half of those who were phubbed reported spending more than 1½ hours on their phone each day. In addition, one-quarter of those phubbed reported spending more than 90 minutes per day on social media sites.

- More than one-third of phubbed individuals indicated that they turn to social media to interact with new people.

- More than half of individuals who said they were phubbed indicated that social media enhances their life and makes their life better. The majority reported that people's comments on their social media posts makes them feel affirmed and more accepted.

"Although the stated purpose of technology like smartphones is to help us connect with others, in this particular instance, it does not," David said.

"Ironically, the very technology that was designed to bring humans closer together has isolated us from these very same people."

Leopard killed by angry mob after mauling nine people

A wild leopard was clubbed to death in India after it mauled nine people as it prowled through homes in the area.

Shocking photos show the moment the leopard was killed in Gurgaon, India, after it ventured into the town from a nearby forest, daily.iran-daily.com wrote.

Villagers chased the two-and-a-half-year-old leopard into a concrete house where it covered under a bed as a growing mob surrounded it.

During a three-hour rampage in the village of Mandawar, the leopard had plunged its teeth into nine different people.

The leopard was eventually battered to death as some 1,500 locals looked on.

Despite the attack taking place on November 26 last year, photos of the incident have resurfaced as leopard sightings and attacks in the region have increased due to industrial development driving the animals out of their natural rural habitats.

Wildlife official Rambir Singh said that police and conservationists had been present during the incident in the town of Mandawar but could not stop angry villagers from attacking the creature.



He said: "We faced difficulty when an aggressive mob of around 1,500 villagers started attacking the leopard."

"The animal also retaliated and in the scuffle, nine persons were injured. The leopard died later."

The corpse was dragged away as locals continued beating it. The leopard's victims were treated at hospital in nearby Sohna.

Experts believe the leopards ventured into the region after being forced out by new commercial and residential developments in the vast Aravallis Mountains which run through the state.

In April this year, two people were injured when a leopard entered a home in Durga Colony of Sohna in the state of Haryana. Faridabad wildlife inspector Daal Chand and villagers said that the animals are forced into residential areas with new homes and commercial premises being built as well as regular explosions from mines.

He said: "The regular blasts in Mevat and Gurgaon region of Aravalli are forcing the wild animals to leave forest corridor of Alwar-Mewat and Gurgaon. These animals are now heading towards Faridabad."



VIRAL PRESS

BBC's Bafta winning iguana scene caught in fakery row

It went viral within seconds of going out on television, won a Bafta for 'Must See TV Moment' and was used to open the biggest chat show in America.

But the iconic iguana chase scene from 'Planet Earth II' — which left people covering behind their sofas — might have not been all it seemed, daily.iran-daily.com wrote.

The producer behind the nail-biting, snake versus lizard clip revealed that it was 'stitched' together using several different takes, and was not — as viewers were led to believe — one iguana making a desperate dash to safety.

Elizabeth White, who was in charge of the 'Islands' episode, shocked the audience at the Media Production Show when saying: "It wasn't the same iguana no, and often we have to augment it with other clips."

"Unfortunately lizards, snakes and iguanas aren't good at 'takes'."

She went on to explain that the Bafta-winning moment was the product of two cameras, which were both trained on the beach in the Galapagos as the newly-hatched marine iguanas were chased by racer snakes.

She added: "For continuity, it was better to crop the scenes together based off of the two cameras as we had at the time to create the best possible scene."

At the Bafta TV awards last month it picked up two awards, 'for best specialist factual program and Virgin TV's 'Must See Moment', which was voted for by the public.

The chase proved so popular that American chat show host Ellen DeGeneres used it as a metaphor for hope when starting her post-US election show in November, saying it was proof that 'things can turn out to be OK'.

'Planet Earth II', which was narrated by David Attenborough, became the most watched natural history program for at least 15 years and the 'Mountains' episode was the eighth most popular show in 2016.

Series producer Tom Hughes-Jones shed some light on how a series of that scale was financed, suggesting it had cost in the region of £7 million.

New technology, including ultra-high-definition cameras and drones, was used to get the highest quality shots, and the crews traveled around the world gathering footage.

He said: "For wildlife shows only about 12 percent of it is paid by license fees."

"BBC Worldwide invests heavily in wildlife shows because they know they can stick a voice from Kazakhstan or a voice from China and it would translate very well."

"They are a really good money maker for worldwide and so there isn't really much money going on it."

"I won't say what it was for 'Planet Earth II', but for big landmark shows like this, you are looking at £1 million per episode."

It is not the first time the BBC has been accused of misleading viewers in one of its flagship nature programs.

In 2011, an episode of 'Frozen Planet' featured dramatic footage of a polar bear tending to her cubs in the snow.

Eight million viewers were led to believe the scene had been captured by BBC cameramen inside an underground cave in the brutal sub-zero temperatures of the Arctic wilderness.

It was fact filmed in a den made of plaster and wood in a wildlife enclosure at a Dutch zoo, sparking criticism from the Commons culture, media and sports committee, that viewers had been misled.



daily.iran-daily.com

Welcome to Barking ham Palace

A British design company has launched the world's most luxurious dog houses which cost as much as a staggering £170,000.

The fancy handcrafted 'dog manors' have smart technology fitted to allow owners to adjust the temperature as needed and even come with treat dispensers, televisions and a conference calling system, mirror.co.uk wrote.

Each house is split into two rooms, a living room and a bedroom, and is constructed using high quality woods, marble and aluminium.

It takes Cheshire-based design company Hecate Verona almost four months to build each dog manor from their range, which includes the Colonial Villa, Roman Imperial Mansion and Spanish Palacio.

The luxury dog properties are built with the size of the dog that will live there in



SOLENT NEWS AND PHOTO AGENCY

part of our families and as such deserved a home as grand as their owners.

She said: "I started working on my dog manors after I began asking myself why a dog house shouldn't be as elegant and beautiful as its owners'."

"Our objective now is to create majestic and royal looking homes for dogs, while seeking to compliment the garden and surroundings it stands in."

"The customers we have worked with typically have their dogs living indoors, but we see the dog manors as a way of providing their pets the comforts of indoor living while making the experience of being outside more enjoyable."

"It leads to the dog enjoying being outdoors even more and staying more active, which is highly recommended by vets."

mind, including having the windows positioned depending on their height to allow them a clear view of their territory.

Prices start from around £30,000, with fully-equipped and high-end models costing up to almost £170,000.

Miss Williams said dogs are considered a

Snake dangles from air conditioner, hoists rat

A snake that dangled from a home's air conditioner to catch a rat was filmed pulling the rodent back into the machine by shocked residents.

The video, posted to YouTube on Saturday, showed a snake dangling from an air conditioning unit inside a home with a rat or large mouse in

its mouth, according to UPI.

The snake pulled the rodent back into the air conditioner while the witnesses filmed the spectacle and expressed shock.

The exact location of the incident was unclear, but the video is believed to have been filmed in China.



UPI

Quick Crossword

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DOWN

- Abominable snowman (4)
- Serviette (6)
- Indolent (4)
- Choice (9)
- Marine mollusk (6)
- Sustenance (9)
- Time of year (6)
- Gentle breeze (6)
- Untrusting (4)
- Aquatic bird (4)

ACROSS

- Hanker (5)
- Lariat (5)
- Decimal base (3)
- Conundrums (7)
- Garret (5)
- Dull pain (4)
- Long narrative poem (4)
- Commence (5)
- Vegetable (7)
- Novel (3)
- Nursemaid (5)
- Synthetic fabric (5)

Yesterday's solution

N	E	P	H	E	W		O	P	A	L
O			A		O		R			I
M	A	P		S	A	P	I	E	N	T
A	U	Y		E		C		H		
D	A	R	E		U	R	S	I	N	E
		L	A		A	P				
T	R	O	P	H	Y		K	I	D	S
E		I		E	S		C		E	T
P	E	N	N	A	N	T			E	V
I		E		D		E				R
D	O	D	O		O	P	T	I	O	N

Sudoku

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

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

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

French Open champion Rafael Nadal withdrew from the Aegon Championships at Queen's Club after the 31-year-old Spaniard was advised to rest by his doctor.

Rouhani: Gov't fully supports national football team

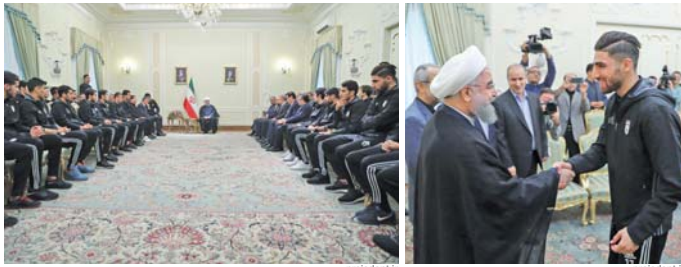


From Page 1

He also said that sport plays an important role in people's health and happiness, adding, "Today, football has turned into a public sport and all people, including men and women, girls and boys, are interested in this sport."

for the Iranian nation, the president said, "Iranian people feel proud of being Iranians when their president suggests the proposal of the World Against Violence and Extremism (WAVE) in the United Nations, stressing Iran's role as the forerunner of fighting against violence."
"The people of Iran have endured

port of the national team."
The president expressed appreciation for the Portuguese coach of Iran's national team, saying, "A foreign coach cooperating with Iranian players is another small example of interaction with the world and indicates that when we interact with the world well, we can bring in more



Winning in professional sports competitions, football in particular, indicates national integrity, said the President, adding: "Achievements in football matches are manifested in the word 'Iran,' and when they win, all groups and ethnicities demonstrate unity; and this is where unity and integrity are manifested, and people feel proud of being Iranians."

Describing the Iranian nuclear negotiation team's success in negotiations with world powers as an honor

a lot of hardships and problems throughout history and deserve to be happy," the president said.
He added, "We must do whatever we can to make the Iranian nation happy because this nation worked very hard to achieve independence and freedom. The least we can do for them is to make them smile and be proud of being Iranians."
The president said, "I congratulate this victory on behalf of 80 million Iranian people, and the administration will do whatever it can in sup-

honor."
At the end of the meeting, President Rouhani was awarded with Iran's No. 17 shirt by Iran's national team coach, Carlos Queiroz, and skipper Masoud Shojaei.
On Monday night, Iran saw off Uzbekistan by two goals at home in a Group A fixture of Asian qualifiers to secure a historic place in the 2018 World Cup, as Iran's consecutive participation in the world showpiece turned out to be a one-off occasion in Iranian football history.

Qatar seals Iran's top spot finish

Hassan Al Haydos scored twice and set up another as Qatar kept its slim hopes of qualifying for next year's FIFA World Cup finals alive with a thrilling 3-2 win over Korea Republic on Tuesday.
The result leaves South Koreans second in the Group A of the Asian qualifiers with 13 points; seven points adrift of group leader Iran with only two games to spare, which now means Iran will definitely finish its campaign as group winners.

Al Haydos scored the winner 16 minutes from time having seen the Koreans come back from going two goals down to level the game with strikes from Ki Sung-yueng and Hwang Hee-chan after Al Haydos and Akram Afif



Hassan Al Haydos (L) scored two as Qatar beat South Korea 3-2 in Asia's World Cup qualifiers in Doha, Qatar, on June 13, 2017.

The win puts the Qataris, who are now fifth in the Group A standings, onto seven points from eight games, some five points behind third-placed Uzbekistan.

Iran to meet USA as race heats up

Iran and USA meet for the seventh time in World League history later tonight in their opener of Week 3 of the 2017 FIVB World League.

The Pool H1 fixtures of the men's competition get underway in Katowice, Poland tonight where Iran, USA, Russia and the host country square off against each other as the race for a ticket to the Final Six in Curitiba heats up. fivb.com reported.

Iran has a slight edge over USA in the standings, but the Americans lead their head-to-head series 4-2 in the past six meetings in the competition.

Both Iran's victories came as straight-sets wins at the Intercontinental Round in 2015. The last encounter between these two teams was in the 2016 World League with United States winning 3-1.

Iran goes into the Week 3 of the competition on the back of three wins, two of which came in last week's fixtures in Tehran against Belgium and Argentina.

Iran's five-set triumph over Argentina was the Asians' sixth con-

secutive victory in a five-setter in FIVB World League history. The last team to win a tie-break against Iran in the competition was Poland in 2015.

Iran's leading scorer Milad Ebadipour has scored 86 points so far in

United States are the only country with two players in the top-10 scorers in Group 1 of the World League: Taylor Sander (5th) and Patch Benjamin (6th).

Iran currently sits eighth in the Group 1 table with three wins, fol-



Saeed Marouf (C) and Adel Gholami (R) were in action when Iran overcame Argentina 3-2 in Tehran on June 11, 2017.

the competition. There are two US players with more points in the 2017 World League; Taylor Sander (89) and Patch Benjamin (88).

United States started last weekend with two straight set victories against Italy and Russia before losing against France in four sets.

lowed by USA which has bagged two victories.

The top five teams of the Group 1 table at the end of Week 3 along with host Brazil will play The 2017 FIVB Volleyball World League Finals in the city of Curitiba in Brazil on July 4-8, 2017.

EPL Fixtures list released

Chelsea will begin its title defense at home to Burnley when the 2017-18 Premier League season kicks off on the weekend of August 12-13.

Newly promoted Newcastle hosts Tottenham, while Brighton welcomes Manchester City and Huddersfield visits Crystal Palace, BBC reported.

Manchester United will start its campaign at Old Trafford as Jose Mourinho's men will host West Ham United.

Leicester after the international break and then welcoming Arsenal (September 16).

Arsene Wenger's Gunners have a chance to show their top-four credentials in week three when they visit Liverpool.

Another early indicator in the race for the Champions League places comes in the following round of games, with Liverpool travelling to Etihad Stadium to face Manchester City.

action, with home games against Arsenal, Manchester City and Manchester United as well as a trip to Liverpool coming immediately after Champions League fixtures.

The first Manchester derby of the season takes place at Old Trafford on the weekend of December 9 - immediately after the final Champions League group game - while City faces Arsenal after the fourth group match.

Tottenham has perhaps the easiest



Spurs' first game at Wembley will be against Antonio Conte's champion on the second weekend of the season.

The league season is set to finish on Sunday, May 13, 2018 - a week earlier than last season - with the World Cup finals in Russia starting on June 14.

Europa League winner Manchester United does not face another Champions League qualifier until it visits Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool on the weekend of October 14-15.

Festive fun

English football's top-flight sides will face four league games in nine days over Christmas and New Year, with eight in total from December 2 to January 1.

The final round of the Champions League group stage also takes place during that period, as traditionally does the fifth round of the League Cup.

Chelsea did not have to contend with Champions League games on its run to the title last season, but the new Premier League fixture list means a challenging European schedule for Conte's side.

The Blues face four of last term's top six on their return from continental

run of fixtures following Champions League dates - at home to Swansea, Liverpool, Crystal Palace, West Brom and Stoke, plus a trip to Huddersfield.

Derby days and maager rivalries

Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho will get the chance to renew their rivalry on December 9 at Old Trafford, with the return fixture at Etihad Stadium on the weekend of April 7.

This season's Merseyside derbies fall on the same weekends as Manchester's, with Everton making the short trip across Stanley Park to face Liverpool in December.

FA Cup winner Arsenal returns to Wembley for the north London derby in February, with Spurs first heading to the Emirates on November 18.

Liverpool and Manchester United first meet at Anfield on October 14, before Klopp's side go to Old Trafford on March 10.

Art & Culture

Iranian artworks set for display in UK exhibition

Art & Culture Desk

Artworks by two Iranian artists have found their way to the competition section of the Kunsthuus summer exhibition in Yorkshire, said the head of Culture and Islamic Guidance Department in the southern city of Dezful, Khuzestan Province.

According to IRNA, Nader Sa'adati-Fard said that Abdolreza Talebi and Hamid Nourabadi were selected among 100 artists from 11 countries for the competition. He added that the former will present a painting while the latter will put a video art work on display.

Kunsthuus Gallery features a rich range of work by prolific British and international professionals bringing a varied and desirable selection of work to Yorkshire, offering something a little different in contemporary tastes.

"With a vibrant eclectic program of exhibitions we represent painters, sculptors, print and jewelry makers, glass artists, photographers and ceramists," said the gallery's website.

Atwood wins German 2017 Peace Prize

One of Canada's most celebrated writers Margaret Atwood won Germany's 2017 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for her "political intuition and a deeply perceptive ability to detect dangerous and underlying developments".



The €25,000 (approx. C\$37,000) prize has been awarded since 1950 and honors those who "reflect the German book trade's commitment to the promotion of international understanding". The prize is funded entirely by donations from booksellers and publishers, cbc.ca reported.

"Humanity, justice and tolerance are the unvarying characteristics of Atwood's work," a statement from the Board of Trustees of the prize said.

"Through her, we experience who we are, where we stand and what responsibilities we carry with regard to ourselves and our peaceful coexistence with others."

Atwood is the first Canadian to receive the award. Past recipients include Orhan Pamuk, Susan Sontag, Chinua Achebe and Amos Oz.

Andy Warhol's inaugural 'selfie' expected to fetch £7m at auction

He was the artist embracing selfie culture half a century before the rest of us. And now, the self-portrait that secured Andy Warhol's move from artist to celebrity — his inaugural 'selfie' — is to be sold at auction for the first time.

The print from 1963 was created using an image of Warhol taken in a standard New York dime store photo booth, and was the beginning of the artist's own face becoming a distinctive feature of his artwork until he died, theguardian.com reported.

The work will go on sale at Sotheby's in London, the first time it has ever been sold at auction, having been in a personal collection since the 1980s. It is expected to sell for about £7m.

While the phenomenon of the selfie is relatively new, it draws on the cult of celebrity Warhol was obsessed with, and the age of Instagram and social media makes his now-notorious proclamation that "in the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes" seem extremely prescient.

Sotheby's senior specialist in contemporary art, James Sevier, said: "The artist's first self-portraits — created using a strip of photographs taken in a New York dime store photo booth — have never felt more relevant to contemporary culture."

He added: "This is a work of immense art historical importance that marks the watershed moment when Warhol joined the canon of the greatest self-portraitists."

By the time he turned the camera on himself, Warhol had already made his distinctive portraits of figures such as Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and Elvis Presley, and his own star as a celebrity, was rising. The self-portrait idea was suggested by art dealer Ivan Karp, who told Warhol: "You know, people want to see you. Your looks are responsible for a certain part of your fame, they feed the imagination."

After the work was done, Warhol was taken with the blurred line between his own persona and identity and the art he created, and his later self-portraits reflect the growing concerns he had with mortality.

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei took part in a mourning ceremony to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Shia Imam, in Imam Khomeini Husseineyeh in Tehran. The ceremony was attended by a large gathering from various social strata as well as a number of government officials.



Prophet's (PBUH) cloak attracts Ramadan faithful in Istanbul

A long queue of men and women standing in separate lines extends from an Istanbul mosque to see a centuries-old garment pressed down flat inside a glass exhibition case: The Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) sacred cloak made of linen, cotton and silk.

The Hirka-i-Serif (the Noble Cloak) was brought to Istanbul in the seventeenth century, at a time when the Ottoman Empire controlled much of the Islamic world deep into today's Saudi Arabia.

Every year, during the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, the cloak is put on special display at the Hirka-i-Serif mosque in Istanbul, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The garment had been entrusted to Uwais al-Qarni, who went in the seventh century to Medina to see Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but had to return to Yemen due to his mother's illness without seeing the Prophet (PBUH).

Impressed by the story, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) gave his cloak via companions to Al-Qarni as a present and he received the garment in Yemen.

Al-Qarni had no children and the relic was then pre-

served by his relatives. Istanbul mufti Hasan Kamil Yilmaz said. In 1611, Ottoman Sultan Ahmed I brought the holy cloak to Istanbul from Kuasadas in western Turkey where Al-Qarni's relatives had preserved it.



"Since then Hirka-i-Serif has been in Istanbul," Yilmaz told AFP.

And in 1851, Sultan Abdul Majid built the Hirka-i-Serif mosque in the Fatih District with the goal of preserving and exhibiting the cloak.

"There are two keys to the cloak — one held by the foundation and the other by the family," he said.

The sacred garment has passed on from one generation to another and its current head keeper is Baris Samir — the 59th generation grandson of the Al-Qarni who was first given the garment.

"It's a very honorable duty. We are very happy to perform it, and have such a responsibility," Samir told AFP. "It's also a tough job, it is a tough responsibility, morally and financially."

Zehra, 48, said it was a great happiness for the Muslims even to lay eyes on the Prophet's (PBUH) cloak. "I believe that brings us closer to him."

Every year, over one million believers come to see the sacred garment from all over the world.

"People from Siberia to Africa, from America to Far East come and see the prophet's cloak," Samir said.

"The number of visitors usually exceeds one million. We receive many visitors especially on the Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Destiny marking when the Holy Qur'an was revealed) because the cloak can be seen till the morning."

Iran to enhance tourism ties with East Asia

Iran will hold talks with Japan, South Korea and China to facilitate tourism, said the head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

Zahra Ahmadipour further told Tasnim News Agency that Iran is contemplating easing visa regulations for tourist trips to Japan, South Korea and China.

Delegations from the three countries are scheduled to visit Iran for talks on ways to enhance tourism ties, she added.

"We will do our best to (persuade Japan to) facilitate visa for trips to Japan," Ahmadipour said, adding that Iran should also try to attract more Japanese tourists to catch up with other countries frequented by the Japanese.

She also unveiled plans for negotiations with Chinese tourism officials on the sidelines of an upcoming meeting

of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The 22nd session of the UNWTO General Assembly will be held in China's Chengdu in September.

Pointing to familiarity of the Iranians with South Korean products, such as household appliances and cars, Ahmadipour said it would be fair to have more South Korean tourists in Iran.

She also highlighted the need for plans to attract more Russian tourists, which she said would lead to arrival of more travelers from Asian countries.

Asian countries usually follow Russians in choosing tourist destinations, she pointed out.

Iran's tourism industry has witnessed a growing trend following implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear agreement



between Iran and the P5+1 (Russia, China, the US, Britain, France and Germany), which went into effect in January 2016.

Weather

