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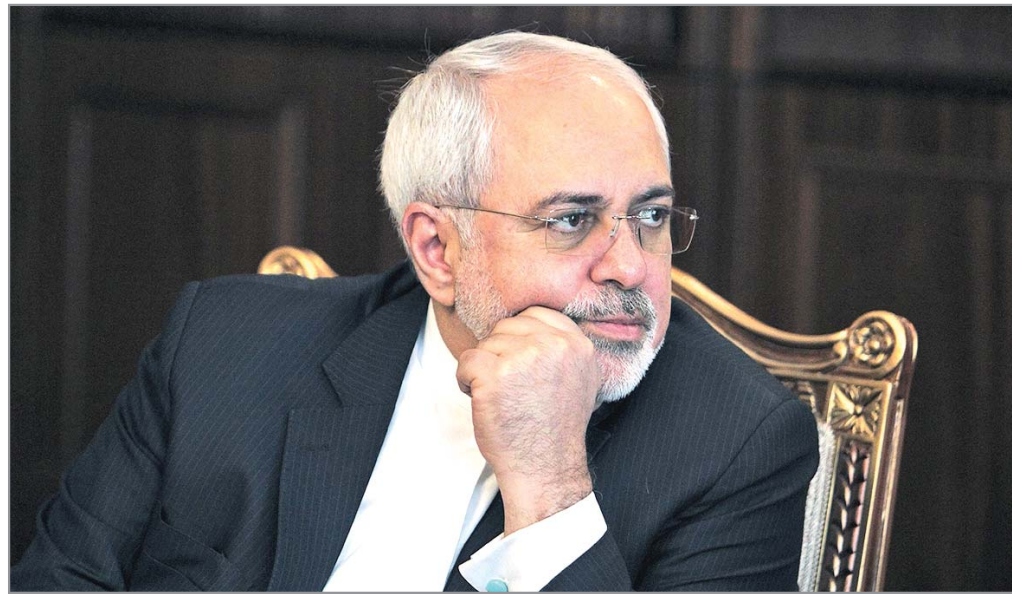
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Zarif: Iranians impervious to outside attempts to decide their destiny

US Senate approves new sanctions on Iran

'Nothing can prevent Iran from pursuing defense right'

Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Iranian nation will not allow attempts made outside the country to decide the destiny of their country.

Referring to recent remarks by his US counterpart, Rex Tillerson, on Thursday Zarif posted on his Twitter account, saying, "The 1953 coup debacle & the 1979 Revolution proved that Iranian people are impervious to outside attempts to decide their destiny," Press TV reported.

Iran's foreign minister was alluding to a US-led coup d'état staged in Iran on August 19, 1953, which toppled the government of then Iranian prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddeq, and restored the former Shah of Iran to the throne despite widespread dissatisfaction with monarchy among the Iranian nation.

Speaking at a US House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing on Wednesday, Tillerson said the Iranian government "continues activities and interventions that destabilize the Middle East."

Asked whether the United States supported regime change in Iran, the American top diplomat said US policy was driven by relying on "elements inside of Iran" to bring about "peaceful transition

of that government."

"Our policy towards Iran is to push back on this hegemony, contain their ability to develop obviously nuclear weapons, and to work toward support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government. Those elements are there, certainly as we know," he said.

Responding to Tillerson's allegations, Zarif wrote on his Twitter account that "before reverting to unlawful & delusional regime-change policy towards #Iran, US Administration should study and learn from history."

"After decades of failed regime change & sanctions, US had to apologize for '53 coup, and acknowledge diplomacy as the only option," he added.

Zarif then made a direct reference to the recent presidential election in Iran, which was marked with a high voter turnout that has been construed by analysts as a sign of high legitimacy of the Islamic establishment among the Iranian nation, as opposed to low voter turnout in presidential polls held in the United States and most Western countries.

Zarif said, "For their own sake, US officials should worry more about saving their own regime than changing Iran's, where 75% of people just voted."

'Interventionist' remarks condemned

Earlier on Thursday Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned Tillerson's hostile remarks on the Islamic Republic, refuting his accusations that Iran had "aspirations of hegemony in the region," saying the remarks violated international law.

The ministry's spokesman, Bahram Qassemi, noted that the top US diplomat's remarks were "interventionist, in gross violation of the compelling rules of international law, unacceptable and strongly condemned."

Qassemi cited a history of US "meddling in Iran in different forms" since the 1950s, saying the policy has only brought about "defeat and global shame" for Washington.

"Confusion, vulnerability to false insinuations and escape from reality are among the distinctive features of the new American government's foreign policy," he added.

Over the past years, the Iranian government and nation have demonstrated that they would stand up to protect "the sovereignty of the country, the government and ideals, with unity, prudence, rationality and wisdom," Qassemi added.

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Bremen manager: Success wins kudos

By Kambakhsh Khalaji & Farzam Vanaki

Werder Bremen was glued to the bottom of the Bundesliga – the top flight of German football – table, at the beginning of the recently finished season, when a new young head coach was handed the reins on September 18, 2016, replacing the side's former Ukrainian manager Viktor Skrypnyk.

The German team coming off of a 13th place finish at the end of the previous season got off to a disappointing start at the beginning of 2016-17 season with three successive defeats to Bayern Munich (6-0), FC Augsburg (2-1) and Mönchengladbach (4-1).

It was the time the club officials decided to replace Skrypnyk with the then Werder Bremen U-23 Iranian-German head coach, Alexander Nouri, as an interim solution.

After a 2-1 defeat to Mainz in his first fixture at the helm of Werder Bremen, Nouri, 37, managed to steer his side to a last-minute 2-1 victory over VfL Wolfsburg – the team's first win of the season – and a hard-fought away 2-2 draw with SV Darmstadt 98 on Matchday 6.

After eking out four points from the first three matches, he was appointed as the Werder Bremen's permanent manager on October 2, 2016.



ALI MOHAMMADPOUR

Iran Daily Editor-in-Chief Kambakhsh Khalaji (C) briefs Werder Bremen manager Alexander Nouri (2nd R) on the paper's sports page and a story the paper has published on the visiting Iranian-German coach's achievements in the Bundesliga as the ICPI Managing Director Mohammad-Taqi Roghaniha (R) looks on.

What seemed to be a flash in the pan at the beginning turned out to be a real success for Nouri with his side finishing eighth in the Bundesliga table with 45 points from 34 matches – three points away from booking a Europa League berth – and having set a record of 11 consecutive league matches – nine wins – with no defeat during Matchdays 21-31.

The retired footballer, who was among the spectators at Azadi Stadium in the Iranian capital of Tehran on Monday night to see Iran's 2-0 win over Uzbekistan and advancement to Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup, visited Iran Cultural and Press Institute on Wednesday, and talked about a wide array of topics, from his achievements and feeling at Azadi Stadium to his ambitions and role models in football, with the Iran Daily.

What follows is an excerpt of the interview of the Iranian English-language paper with energetic, spirited, amiable and lovely Nouri:

IRAN DAILY: How has been the reaction of the Werder Bremen fans to your performance and success as the team's manager?

ALEXANDER NOURI: The success of my club and team is what has always been important to me. I have always done my best to guarantee that. However, you are judged based on your achievements in the world of football. While, you may experience success one day, you may fail to make the same achievement the other day. Everything may change in a blink of an eye. A coach's attainment plays a much more significant role in pleasing the fans than becoming popular among them. So far, Werder Bremen fans have had a positive attitude toward me. But I am not going to let the status quo mislead me, as I know that, soon, there may be a turnaround in the fans' opinion about me, if I fail to keep them satisfied with the team's performance and results. This is the real nature of professional football.

Continued on Page 11

Terrorist group dismantled in SE Iran

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) dismantled a terrorist group in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, killing and wounding a number of the terrorists.

The IRGC's Quds Headquarters dispatched its units to Qasr-e Qand town after obtaining information about the presence of a Takfiri terrorist group in the area and engaged in fighting with the group in mountainous areas on Thursday noon, the IRGC said in a Thursday statement, Press TV reported.

The statement did not provide further details about the number of terrorists killed and wounded in the clashes and their affiliation but noted that a number of the assailants escaped.



"During the anti-terror operation, the IRGC's Quds Headquarters fighters destroyed a vehicle laden with 600 kilograms of explosives, seized five bombs ready to be used in suicide attacks, 700 kilograms of explosives, tens of thousands of bullets and a number of weapons and ammunition," the statement read.

The IRGC stressed that the anti-terror operations will continue until all the fugitive terrorists are captured, noting that future developments will be announced to the public.

On Wednesday, security forces killed two terrorists and arrested five others in Chabahar, another city in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, and arrested another terrorist group in the western province of Kurdestan.

According to informed sources, the terrorists belonged to the so-called Ansar al-Furqan group.

A number of explosive vests and some explosives and ammunitions were also seized from the terrorists.

This came in the wake of June 7 terror attacks in the Iranian capital Tehran, which killed at least 17 people and injured over 56 others.

Gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and Imam Khomeini's Mausoleum. The Daesh Takfiri terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assaults. Iran has arrested dozens of terrorists since the Tehran attacks.

Outrage grows as dozens feared dead in London blaze

Dozens of people are feared dead in the London tower block fire as firefighters continued searching for bodies in the high-rise on Friday amid outrage over the use of cladding blamed for spreading the flames.

Police have confirmed that at least 30 people have died as a result of the blaze at in the 24-story Grenfell Tower. More than 70 people are unaccounted for. Metropolitan Police Commander Stuart Cundy said that of those who were killed, one died in hospital, BBC reported.

Police have warned that some of the victims may never be identified because of the state of the remains, AFP wrote.

Firefighters were using drones and sniffer dogs to search the building, saying that some of the upper floors are still inaccessible for humans because of concerns about the stability of the structure.

The area surrounding the council-owned tower has been plastered by desperate relatives with pictures of the missing, from grandparents to young children, and large numbers of volunteers were assisting survivors.

Anger has grown about local residents' fire safety concerns being ignored for years.

The government has ordered a judge-led inquiry into Wednesday's disaster but is under pressure to act quickly.

"Something's gone wrong here, something's gone drastically wrong," Communities and Local Government Minister Sajid



AFP

Javid told BBC Radio.

Javid said inspections of similar buildings had been ordered, with particular attention to the modern cladding used to beautify and add an insulation layer to ageing concrete and steel structures.

May under fire

Prime Minister Theresa May has come under criticism for not meeting residents when she visited the site on Thursday and

locals yelled questions at mayor Sadiq Khan when he walked through the neighborhood.

The fire forced residents to flee through black smoke down the single stairwell, jump out of windows or even drop their children to safety.

Questions are growing about how the flames spread so quickly, engulfing the tower's 120 apartments in what fire chiefs said was an unprecedented blaze.

The focus of criticism is on the cladding fitted to external walls of the 1974 tower as part of a £8.7-million (\$11-million, €9.9-million) refit completed last year.

According to the BBC, the cladding had a plastic core and was similar to that used by high-rise buildings in France, the United Arab Emirates and Australia, which had also suffered fires that spread.

The Times reported that the type of cladding used on the building was banned in US buildings taller than 40 feet (12.2 meters) because of fire safety fears.

It said the company that manufactured the cladding also made fire-resistant models that cost fractionally more than the standard version. In addition to debate over the cladding, questions have also been raised over why there was no sprinkler system in the Grenfell Tower which could have helped stop the fire spreading, or any central smoke alarm system that would have woken sleeping residents.

Iran slams West's double standards on Israeli nukes

Iran asked the United Nations nuclear agency to take Israel's nuclear activities into "serious" consideration, lambasting the West's duplicitous policies concerning the regime's military nuclear capability.

Reza Najafi, Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, made the remarks to the quarterly meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors on Thursday, Press TV reported.

"Unfortunately, the Zionist regime has over the past years continued to advance its military nuclear program in contravention of all international regulations by ignoring the international community's legitimate calls, and thanks to the blind support by some countries," he stated.



Israel is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal.

The regime, however, refuses to either accept or deny having the weapons.

It has also evaded signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) amid staunch endeavor by the United States and other Western states on international levels in favor of its non-commitment to the accord.

Source of concern

Najafi considered Israel's nuclear activities to be a source of concern for regional countries and the entire international community, accusing the West of double standards in its treatment of Tel Aviv's nuclear program.

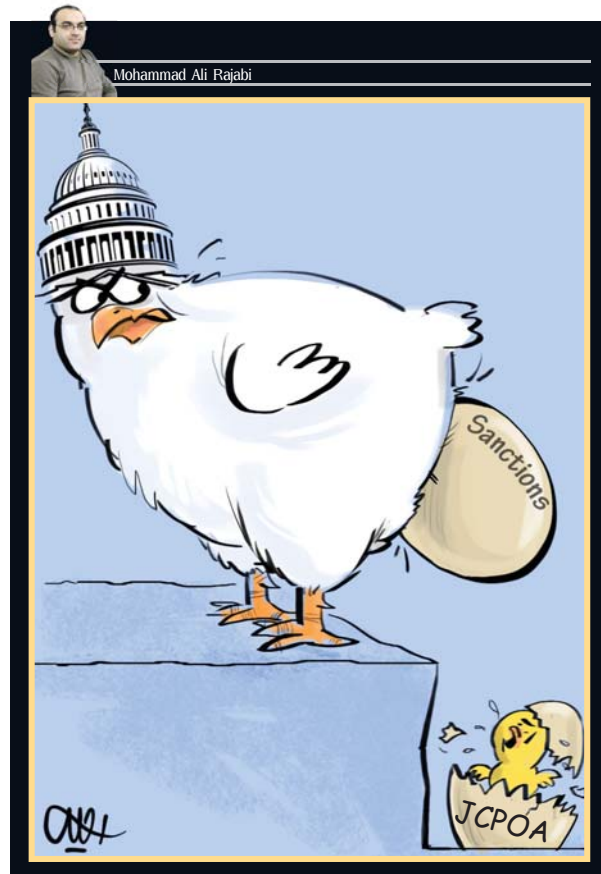
The Iranian official further highlighted repeated international calls for Israel to join the NPT and put all its nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision, stressing that Israel's continued non-membership undermines the treaty.

He added that Israeli scientists enjoy free access to the nuclear facilities of some nuclear-armed countries, while Tel Aviv-hired terrorists assassinate nuclear scientists of NPT members.

Addressing the Board's previous meeting, the Iranian official said the Israeli regime had hired hit men to assassinate nuclear scientists all over the Middle East.

Four Iranian nuclear scientists were assassinated by the Israeli regime between 2010 and 2012. Iran has incriminated the IAEA for leaking information about the four scientists to the Israeli regime.

The American and European delegations to the session reportedly took great exception to the envoy's comments.



President calls constructive criticism helpful

Political Desk

President Hassan Rouhani, in a meeting with the country's media, underlined that constructive criticism is very helpful.

President Rouhani, however, said, "It is true that criticism is necessary, as salt is necessary for food, but the whole food must not be made of salt," president.ir reported.

He added, "Real and constructive criticism means that we must tell the people a fact and, for example, say that we are now self-sufficient in wheat production, and then express a criticism."

Describing working in the media as a sacred job, the president said, "As the Qur'an says, a messenger must be trustworthy; therefore, all the media must tell the truth to the society and help the people understand national goals."

Referring to the key role the media played during the country's 12th presidential election, as well as the nation's participation, Rouhani said that people's high turnout in the election came in the most sensitive regional, historical and global conditions when the West was seeking to put more pressure on Iran, and some in the region were seeking to threaten the country. But the people's turnout in the elections foiled those plots.



president.ir

Iran condemns Daesh mosque attack in Kabul

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Friday condemned a terrorist attack on a mosque in western Kabul, which claimed the lives of four people and wounded five others.

Qassemi offered his condolences to the bereaved families of victims and the Afghan government and nation over the deadly terrorist attack, claimed by the Daesh terrorist group, IRNA reported.



AFP
Afghan security personnel investigate in front of the Al-Zahra Mosque in Afghanistan's capital Kabul on June 16, 2017.

Qassemi said the attackers, whom he called "mercenaries," had shown how those who support and those who carry out acts of terror "infringe upon all ideological and moral boundaries and are thirsty for the blood of innocent human beings."

On Thursday night, an assailant detonated explosives when he was prevented from entering the Al-Zahra Mosque in western Kabul, prompting an exchange of fire between the police and other attackers.

Qassemi said the recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan indicates that terrorist groups have targeted the innocent Afghan people to fan the flames of insecurity in this country.

Referring to heavy defeats the Daesh terrorists have been suffering in Syria and Iraq, he stressed that they are seeking to create insecurity in the region.

Iranian, Chinese navies to hold joint military drills

Iranian and Chinese warships are scheduled to hold a joint military exercise in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman on June 18.

Commander of the First Naval Base Rear Admiral Amir Hossein Azad in a joint press conference with commander of visiting Chinese fleet-150 in southern port city of Bandar Abbas said on Thursday that the maneuver will be held in the east of the Hormuz Strait and north of the Indian Ocean, IRNA reported.

He said that the military exercise is aimed at exchanging naval experiences between the two countries.

The commander added that the two navies are collaborating in the fight against piracy, relief and rescue operations and safeguarding trade fleets in high seas.

Rear Admiral Shen Hao, commander of China Navy Task Force Group 150, said that holding the maneuver had already been planned and the successful execution of the program will help promote interaction and

strengthen confidence between the Iranian and Chinese naval forces.

He called Iran and China as the two ancient and civilized countries of Asia with

Zhou (FFG-532) and Type 903 replenishment ship Chao Hu (890).

The Chinese flotilla had been staying at Karachi, Pakistan, for a training pro-



ISNA

a long history of friendship, adding that by exchanging high-ranking delegations in recent years, cooperation between the two navies has entered into a new phase.

The Chinese flotilla, which docked in Bandar Abbas on Thursday, comprises the guided-missile destroyer Chang Chun (DDG-150), guided-missile frigate Jin

gram before deployment to Iran.

Iran's Navy and the People's Liberation Army Navy (Chinese Navy) have intensified cooperation in recent years.

In September 2014, a Chinese flotilla of warships docked in Bandar Abbas and held a joint naval exercise with Iran.

Zarif: Iranians impervious to outside attempts to decid...

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1953 Iran coup documents released by US

The US State Department on Thursday released a long-awaited "retrospective" volume of declassified US government documents on the 1953 coup in Iran, including records describing planning and implementation of the covert operation. The publication is the culmination of decades of internal debates and public controversy after a previous official collection omitted all references to the role of American and British intelligence in the ouster of Iran's then-prime minister Mohammad Mosaddeq.

For decades, neither the US nor the British governments would acknowledge their part in Mosaddeq's overthrow, even though a detailed account appeared as early as 1954 in The Saturday Evening Post, and since then CIA and MI6 veterans of the coup have published memoirs detailing their activities.

New sanctions

Meanwhile, the US Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly passed tough sanctions on Russia and Iran, sending the House of Representatives a bill that would prevent President Donald Trump from unilaterally easing penalties against Moscow.

The measure, which passed on a vote of 98 to two, includes new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program and other activities not related to the international nuclear agreement reached with the United States and other world powers. It also aims to punish Russia for alleged interference in last year's US election, and to make it tougher for the White House to roll back sanctions.

The measure would require a green light from Congress in the event sanctions on Russia are relaxed, suspended or terminated.

Iran's defense right

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday defended the country's "completely legitimate" missile defense program, emphasizing that nothing can prevent the Islamic Republic from exercising its right to defense.

"Missile defense programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran are completely legitimate and are not even at odds with [the United Nations Security Council] Resolution 2231," Qassemi said on Friday in reaction to the US Senate's decision to impose new sanctions on Tehran.

"No measure will be able to deny the Islamic Republic of Iran from its legitimate defense right," he added.

The spokesperson rejected as "completely unjustified and illegal" allegations leveled in the bill about the country's missile capabilities.

"The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will bravely defend the security and interests of their own country and such measures will not create the slightest disturbance in this path," Qassemi pointed out.

He noted that the US Senate's new move was not "unpredictable" due to the history of Washington's enmity toward the Iranian nation, adding it is in line with US acts of hostility toward the Islamic Republic.

He urged the US administration to completely and sincerely fulfill its commitments under the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, including the United States.

Administrations are not authorized to shun their legal responsibilities by resorting to their internal regulations, the Iranian spokesman said.

"As the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far fulfilled its commitments precisely and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has also repeatedly confirmed this, all the signatories to the JCPOA are duty-bound and obliged to meet their commitments completely," Qassemi added.

He emphasized that Iran closely examines the content and ratification process of the bill and said the Iranian committee tasked with monitoring the JCPOA implementation would resolutely adopt proportionate and reciprocal measures to fulfill the country's national interests. Resolution 2231 was adopted on July 20, 2015 to endorse the JCPOA.

The Pentagon will send almost 4,000 additional American forces to Afghanistan, a Trump administration official said Thursday.

New US Russia sanctions bill riles Germany, Austria

Compiled from Dispatches

Germany and Austria sharply criticized the US Senate for tightening sanctions on Russia, accusing the US of threatening Europe's energy supplies.

In a joint statement, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern said Europe's energy supplies were "a matter for Europe, not for the United States," BBC reported.

"To threaten companies in Germany, Austria and other European firms with fines in the US if they take part in or finance energy projects like Nord Stream 2 represents a new and negative dimension to US-European relations," they added.

They said the sanctions were clearly about US liquefied natural gas exports, US jobs and squeezing Russia out of the European market.

US senators on Wednesday approved sanctions against Russia over its alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election, including some on certain Russian energy projects. The US move was not coordinated with European Union allies.

To become law, the US sanctions bill still requires approval by the House of Representatives and President Donald Trump.

It would mean US sanctions for European firms involved in major Russian oil and gas projects. One such project is Nord Stream 2, a Baltic gas pipeline.

Russia is under Western sanctions over its alleged role in the Ukraine conflict.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, the former CEO of energy giant ExxonMobil, voiced concern about the new sanctions. He said he wanted to maintain



Germany's Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, left, and Austria's Federal Chancellor Christian Kern

HERBERT NEUBAUER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"flexibility" with Russia, to keep channels open for dialogue.

German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries joined in the criticism on Friday and warned of possible retaliation if Washington ended up fining German companies.

Zypries accused the US of giving up a joint approach with Europe on sanctions against Russia.

"I regret that the joint approach of Eu-

rope and the United States on Russia and sanctions has been undermined and abandoned in this way," she told Reuters.

Nord Stream 2 is a controversial project to boost Russian gas deliveries to Central and Western Europe. Russian state energy giant Gazprom already supplies about one-third of the region's gas.

As with Russia's existing Nord Stream pipeline, the route bypasses not only Ukraine but also the Baltic States and Po-

land. Those countries all oppose the project. Gabriel and Kern said thousands of European jobs were at stake, and they voiced support for US State Department efforts to amend the new sanctions bill.

The Kremlin takes an extremely negative view of the proposed new sanctions and believes that they can harm other countries that have to adhere to these sanctions, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, Reuters reported.

Opposition grows to Egypt's plan to cede islands to Saudi Arabia

Compiled from Dispatches

Prominent Egyptian political parties on Thursday criticized President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's plan to transfer two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia and urged people to take to the streets in protest.

Parliament voted on Wednesday to back a treaty to hand over the two uninhabited islands of Tiran and Sisi and Sisi is expected to ratify the decision soon, Reuters reported. The plan to cede the islands to Saudi Arabia, which has given Egypt billions of dollars of aid, was first announced last year and has since become mired in political protest and legal action.



franco24.com

The Egyptian Social Democratic Party (ESDP), along with several other parties and groups, called for protests on Friday.

Thousands of people backed a Facebook page named "Giving up land is treason," which urges people to protest in Cairo's Tahrir Square, birthplace of the 2011 uprising. It shows a box full of Saudi cash, which it describes as the title deeds for the islands.

According to Al Jazeera, Egyptian police stormed the homes of political opponents of the disputed 2016 agreement to transfer control of the two islands to Saudi Arabia, arresting as many as 40 people in raids in Cairo and at least 10 provinces across the country. Opponents of the plan say Egypt's sovereignty over the islands dates back to 1906, before Saudi Arabia was founded. According to Reuters, small demonstrations have taken place over the past couple of days, despite a state of emergency imposed by Sisi in April following church bombings that killed at least 45 Christians. Sisi is losing much of the popularity he enjoyed when he overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013 and was lionized as the savior of the nation.

He is facing mounting criticism over the struggling economy and is seen by many Egyptians as a traitor for giving up the islands. A popular Twitter hashtag is "Sisi is a traitor."

The Free Egyptians Party, usually supportive of Sisi, also issued a strong denunciation of the treaty.

"Our patriotic and historic responsibility requires us to confirm that Tiran and Sanfir islands were and continue to be under Egyptian sovereignty," the statement read.

The statement had also backed a court ruling which blocked the islands deal earlier this year. As legal action rumbles on, the matter will next be taken up by the Supreme Constitutional Court.

Saudi and Egyptian officials say the islands belong to the kingdom and were only under Egyptian control because Riyadh had asked Cairo in 1950 to protect them.

Venezuela protest deaths rise to 72

Two protesters, both aged 20, died Thursday during anti-government demonstrations in separate regions of Venezuela, bringing the total deaths in more than two months of protests to 72, officials said.

Prosecutors said they were investigating the death of Jose Perez, a student in the western town of Rubio who was "shot in the face" during a demonstration, AFP reported.

The incident occurred when a group of students was attacked by government supporters on motorcycles "who fired 40 shots at random," local council president Walter Chacon said.

Separately, the Public Ministry said it was investigating the death of Luis Vera in the northwest city of Maracaibo, who was "at a demonstration when he was shot". The 37-year-old gunman was caught and will be brought before a preliminary proceedings court.

Near-daily protests against President Nicolas Maduro began on April 1, with demonstrators demanding his removal and the holding of new elections.

The demonstrations have often turned violent with more than 1,000 people injured so far, prosecutors say, and more than 3,000 arrested, according to the Venezuelan Penal Forum.

Protesters blame Maduro for an economic crisis that has caused desperate shortages of food, medicine and other basic goods, as well as soaring crime rates.

Maduro says the crisis is a US-backed conspiracy.

He has launched moves to set up an elected assembly to reform the constitution in response to the protests, but his opponents say that is a ploy to cling to power.

Pakistan's Sharif slams 'slandering' of his family over wealth

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lashed out at those behind a probe into the wealth of his family, saying the "slandering" campaign would certainly hurt the country.

"What is happening here is not about corruption allegations against me, it is about slandering the businesses and accounts of my family," said Sharif on Thursday after attending an interrogation in Islamabad in the office of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), a powerful panel of Pakistan's Supreme Court, over allegations that his family members used government funds to run offshore businesses, Press TV reported.

The Pakistani premier, who was reading a statement, appeared defiant as he insisted that the probe into his family's offshore wealth would go nowhere.

The probe began last year after the opposition threatened that it would stage protests over information leaked from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm showing that Sharif's daughter and two sons had bought luxury properties in London using two offshore holding companies they owned on the British Virgin Islands.

In a verdict in April, the Supreme Court rejected requests to remove Sharif from office, saying evidence was not sufficient, but it ordered further investigations.

Sharif is the first Pakistani prime minister to be questioned by the JIT. He says the family's wealth has been gained legally and that the firms have used the wealth of his father, a prominent industrialist.

Sharif was ousted from office as premier two times in the 1990s. A coup in 1999 forced him into exile in Saudi Arabia, but he returned to office in an election in 2013, and has ruled Pakistan despite occasional disagreements with the powerful military on key foreign pol-icy and national security issues.

UN: Daesh has 100,000 civilians as 'human shields' in Mosul

The UN said Friday that Daesh terrorists may be holding more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians as human shields in the Old City of Mosul.

Iraqi forces are fighting to retake Mosul from Daesh, after the terrorist group overran the city in 2014, imposing its brutal rule on its inhabitants, AFP reported.

The UN refugee agency's representative in Iraq, Bruno Geddo, said Daesh had been capturing civilians in battles outside of Mosul and had been forcing them into the Old City, one of the last parts of the city in their grip.

"More than 100,000 civilians may still be held in the Old City," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Iraq told reporters in Geneva.



AFP

"We know that ISIS (Daesh) moved them with them as they left... locations where the fighting was going on," he said. "These civilians are basically held as human shields in the Old City."

With virtually no food, water or electricity left in the area, the civilians are "living in an increasingly worsening situation of penury and panic," he said. "They are surrounded by fighting on every side."

Snipers meanwhile try to kill anyone trying to leave the area under terrorist control, he said, adding that the few who manage to escape are "deeply traumatized."

Iraqi forces said on Thursday they were about to complete the encirclement of Mosul's Old City where only Medical City, a complex of hospitals in Al-Shifa neighborhood, remains under the terrorist group's control, Press TV reported.

Since the battle to retake Mosul began eight months ago, an estimated 862,000 people have since been displaced from the city, although 195,000 have since returned, mainly to the liberated east of the city.

That means 667,000 people remain displaced, nearly all of them from western Mosul, and are living in 13 camps set up by UNHCR or with host families.

Geddo also said the UN agency so far had provided assistance to more than 500,000 of the displaced people, and was also attempting to help those returning to Mosul, often to live in bombed-out buildings.

"Many of these people are returning ... to situations of penury," he warned.

Turkey summons US envoy over arrest warrants

Turkey's Foreign Ministry "invited" the US ambassador in Ankara to condemn arrest warrants issued for a number of Turkish security agents accused of attacking protesters during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Washington last month.

A ministry statement called the decision "wrong, biased and lacking legal basis." The Turkish undersecretary has told US Ambassador John Bass that police in Washington did not take security precautions against the protesters, who Turkey says were associated with outlawed Kurdish militants, AP reported. The ministry said, "Our citizens cannot be held responsible," and argues the conflict would not have occurred if customary precautions for high-level meetings had been taken.



AA

The ministry statement added, "It has been emphasized to the US ambassador that this decision, which is clearly the result of an investigation that was not objective and independent, is unacceptable."

The Turkish president slammed the US decision to arrest a dozen of his security guards and two others accused of taking part in the violent attack on protesters during the visit to Washington, D.C.

Erdogan asked, "What kind of a law is this?"

Relations were severely strained even before the incident, which came as Erdogan arrived May 16 at the Turkish ambassador's residence after a White House meeting with President Donald Trump. Police said video showed security guards and some Erdogan supporters attacking a small group of protesters. Nine people were hurt.

Referring to his security detail, Erdogan said, "If they are not going to protect me, why would I bring them with me to America?"

Erdogan said the protesters were members of an outlawed Kurdish militant group and the US police failed to act. He vowed to fight the decision on legal and political grounds.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Official: Insurance coverage provided for Iranian ships

A senior navigation official said that Iranian ships now have full international insurance coverage.

According to Fars News Agency, Managing Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) Ali Akbar Ghonji further said, "No restrictions currently exist on providing international insurance coverage for Iranian vessels."

He underlined that insurance plays a significant role in the development of maritime transport. "The well-equipped container and bulk fleets of the IRISL have always been at the forefront of the country's economy during the imposed war and sanction years," Ghonji said.



IRNA

In relevant remarks in mid-April, a senior official announced that several foreign companies have voiced readiness to invest in the country's insurance industry.

"We have had meetings with heads of the world insurance industry and they have voiced readiness to cooperate with Iran," said the Head of Central Insurance of Iran Nasser Hemmati.

He reiterated that foreign insurance companies will begin investing in Iran's insurance industry within next two to three months.

Hemmati predicted that Iran's insurance industry will witness a significant growth in the year to March 21, 2018.

In July 2016, Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMDRO) Mehdi Karbasian said that European insurance companies are ready to cooperate with Iran.

Karbasian said that the impediments to the activities of the French export credit insurance of Coface and the Italian Export Credit Agency SACE in Iran have been removed.

He said problem with Hermes insurance is also getting solved.

The official further commented about European insurance companies' cooperation with Iran and said such a success has been gained following a visit by President Hassan Rouhani to France and Italy.

He said talks with leading international companies have been underway since 2013 for investment in Iran and the negotiations have increased after the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in January 2016.

Minister: Iran, Oman eying \$2b trade exchanges

Omani Minister of Trade and Industries Masoud al-Sunaidi underlined the need to bolster trade ties between Tehran and Muscat to \$2 billion by the end of the current year.

Al-Sunaidi made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Oman Mohammadreza Nouri Shahroudi in Muscat, Fars News Agency reported.

He said that economic exchanges between the two countries has reached \$1.2 billion, and hoped that the figure would hit \$2 billion by the end of the year.



IRNA

"Given the good ties between Iran and Oman, Masqat is determined to further promote commercial, economic and political relations," al-Sunaidi said.

A short sea distance between Iran and Oman provides a suitable opportunity for enhancing ties in all fields, he noted.

Both sides expressed pleasure over the high level of political ties, underlining the need for bolstering commercial exchanges.

They also highlighted the need for issuing visas for commerce activists, developing infrastructure, strengthening transportation fleet and promoting financial and banking relations.

Nouri Shahroudi had also held talks with Chairman of Oman's State Council Yahya bin Mahfoudh al-Mantheri on Wednesday to discuss ways to broaden bilateral ties.

During the meeting in Muscat, Nouri Shahroudi and al-Mantheri reviewed ways to expand parliamentary relations between the two countries' parliaments.

The two sides stressed that the long-standing relations between Iran and Oman are an indication of wisdom and prudence of the two countries' senior officials.

South Korea's five-month Iranian crude imports up

South Korea — one of Iran's major Asian customers — took in 8.12 million tons of its crude, or 394,324 bpd, over the January-May period. That was up nearly 60 percent from 5.08 million tons for the same time last year, customs data showed on Thursday.

South Korea's Iranian crude intake amounted to 1.02 million tons, or 242,058 barrels per day (bpd) in May, Yonhap reported.

South Korea's crude imports data includes an ultra-light oil known as condensate, but a breakdown is not available.

"South Korean buyers purchased less condensate from Iran because of high prices and diversified condensate import sources," said a spokesman at SK Innovation, the owner of South Korea's top refiner SK Energy.

South Korea imports condensate mainly from Iran and Qatar.

Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is exempt from that group's drive to curb oil supply to boost prices, pushing to regain market share lost during years of sanctions over its nuclear program.

However, it has already used up oil stocks it had in floating storage — mostly made up of condensate — and it is now fighting to boost crude output to support export volumes.

Meanwhile, South Korea's crude im-



IRNA

ports from Saudi Arabia rose in May even though the OPEC-led push to curb supply was last month extended until the end of next March. Saudi Arabia is the de facto leader of OPEC.

Overall last month, the world's fifth-

biggest crude importer shipped in 12.37 million tons of oil, or 2.93 mbd, the data showed, steady with 12.43 million tons a year ago.

In the first five months of 2017, South Korea imported 60.62 million tons of

crude, or 2.94 mbd, up 1.5 percent from 59.73 million tons over the same period in 2016.

Final data for May crude oil imports by state-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) is due later this month.

Armenia, Iran to broaden economic cooperation

Iran and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding in Tehran to enhance cooperation in the food industry, announced Armenian Ministry of Economic Development and Investment.

The document was signed by Armenia's Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investment Emil Tarasyan and the Deputy Head of the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) Vahid Marandi Moqadam, ARKA reported.

According to the ministry, the memorandum calls for developing and expanding cooperation between the parties on the exchange of legal information pertaining to food industry and non-alcoholic beverages, organizing training courses on halal products, certifying products for compliance with Iranian halal standards in Armenia as well as auditing and exchanging information on markets and implementing joint projects.

During the meeting, Tarasyan said the memorandum



IRNA

would lead to an expansion of cooperation, enabling both tourists and businessmen to take advantage of the halal standards in the country.

He further noted that Armenia is ready to expand cooperation with Iran in all sectors of the economy, and the halal standard will lead to an increase in trade between the countries.

Earlier, Armenia's Economic Development and Investments Minister Suren Karayan said that the halal certificate will permit Armenian producers to export not only to Iran but also to all 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

According to the National Statistical Service of Armenia, trade between Armenia and Iran in 2016 showed a 14.7-percent decline from the previous year to \$238.8 million. Armenia's exports to Iran fell by 8.4 percent to \$74.8 million, while imports fell by 17.3 percent to \$198.3 million.

India's import of Iranian crude tops 487,000 bpd in May

India, Iran's top oil client after China, shipped in 487,600 barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian crude oil in May, about nine percent less compared with April, according to ship tracking data obtained from sources and data compiled by Thomson Reuters Oil Research and Forecasts.

"We still buy substantial amounts of oil from them, and we expect reciprocity from Iran," India's Minister of State for

Oil and Natural Gas Development.

India was one of four countries — China, Japan and South Korea being the other three — that continued to import large amounts of Iranian oil after sanctions were toughened in 2012.

Some of the drop in imports from Iran is due to lower demand. Overall, India imported about 4.2 percent less oil in May, compared with April, due to a shutdown of the 180,000-bpd Bathinda refinery for upgrades.

In the first five months of 2017, India's oil imports from Iran still jumped about 64 percent, the data showed.

While Iran's oil exports to India are stalling, supplies to Europe and Turkey hit their highest level since the lifting of sanctions in 2016.

Iraq continued to be India's biggest oil supplier for the second month in a row in May, followed by Saudi Arabia.

Middle Eastern oil in May accounted for 65 percent of India's overall imports, compared to 71 percent a year ago, while the import share of Africa and Latin America has risen, the data showed.

The shift is likely a result of an effort led by the Middle East-dominated Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut production to prop up oil prices.



SHANA

Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan told reporters when asked if India was still hopeful of getting the development rights for the Farzad B field, Reuters reported.

Iran has likely reached an agreement on the concession with Russia's state-controlled gas giant Gazprom, Russian and Indian media reported.

Last month, Iran said India had not offered an acceptable proposal on the Far-

Iran, South Korea in final talks over \$13b loan

Iran is preparing for a major credit line worth \$13 billion from South Korea for several of its industrial projects within the next few weeks.

According to Press TV, talks on the credit line were almost complete and Iran's Economy Minister Ali Tayyebnia would soon visit Seoul to finalize the procedures.

The report added that Korea Eximbank (KEXIM) would provide the lion share of the funds at \$8 billion. The rest of the funds — \$5 billion — would be provided by Korea Trade Insurance Corporation.

The cash would be accordingly used for projects already approved by Tehran and Seoul. They include the renovation of Isfahan Refinery as well as the construction of Siraf condensate refineries.

A certain portion would also be allocated for producing ethane in South Pars Phase 12.

South Korea and Iran have also agreed on the construction of a hospital, the report added without specifying where and with what capacity

the hospital would be built.

The report added that the allocation of the \$13-billion credit line by South Korea to Iran would open the way for Japanese and European banks to follow suit.

South Korea announced in May that it had drawn up a package of loans worth \$25 billion for Iran's in-



IRAN DAILY

frastructure projects. The announcement was made during a visit to Tehran by former South Korea president Park Geun-hye.

During her stay in Tehran, Park oversaw the signing of more than a dozen agreements between Iran and South Korea to boost cooperation in areas such as energy, power, auto industry and railway section.

The European Union is ready to propose immediately scrapping import tariffs on most Japanese car parts in trade negotiations now underway, the Nikkei daily said.

Eurozone ministers strike deal to release funds to Greece



The finance ministers of Germany and Greece shook hands on the deal

GETTY IMAGES

Eurozone ministers have struck a deal to unlock the latest tranche of Greece's bailout cash.

The bailout fund will disburse €5.5 billion (£7.4bn) to Greece, eurozone ministers said in a statement, BBC reported.

The latest tranche of the international bailout will help avert a fresh debt crisis in July when the €7 billion repayment of loans becomes due.

The payment is still subject to parliamentary approvals in some countries.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director

Christine Lagarde said she would propose an approval in principle to her executive board.

The IMF wants clarity on longer-term debt relief for Greece once the current funding scheme, worth up to €86 billion, runs out next year.

Lagarde said the IMF was ready to participate in the third bailout program for Greece after the meeting of eurozone finance ministers in Luxembourg which capped months of negotiations.

However, the IMF could join the program with a financial support "in the range of \$2 billion" only after a full deal on

additional measures of debt relief for Greece, she said.

Time was beginning to press for this payment. Greece has repayments on other loans due next month, which it could not otherwise have made.

The decision by eurozone finance ministers reflects economic policy actions already taken by Greece and the new commitment by the IMF's managing director to recommend that her board contribute financially to this bailout.

An IMF contribution was politically important for Germany, especially to strengthen the

perceived credibility of the bailout.

We have got used to delays resulting from Greek politics — a referendum, elections, problems in parliament holding up economic policy reforms that Greece was required to make.

This time it was more about German politics and the insistence on an IMF financial contribution while being reluctant to agree up-front the commitments on debt relief that the IMF thinks essential to make the Greek finances sustainable.

The result is the IMF agreeing in principle to contribute provided the eurozone do eventually

make a commitment on debt.

It's untidy and Lagarde called it second best. And it is not a large contribution that the IMF will make.

She suggested it would be about \$2 billion against a eurozone commitment to provide more than forty times that amount.

The eurozone group welcomed the financial and structural reforms enacted by Greece, including income tax and pension reform.

"I am pleased to announce we have achieved an agreement on all elements," Eurogroup head Jeroen Dijsselbloem said.

Big Oil may be ignoring the rapid growth of solar and wind energy at its own peril.

The world might still get the majority of its energy needs from fossil fuels like oil and coal, but governments have begun to crack down on carbon. And consumers are shifting to cleaner options like solar panels and electric cars, CNN suggested.

Traditional energy companies need to act quickly or they risk being left behind when the world's appetite for oil has finally peaked.

"Wind and solar are poised to radically reshape energy markets," analysts at oil and gas consultancy Wood Mackenzie wrote in a report this week, calling it the "biggest shift in strategic direction in a generation".

Big Oil must spend \$350 billion on wind and solar between now and 2035 in order to have their renewable market share match the 12 percent they currently hold in oil and gas, Wood MacKenzie estimates.

"The shift to alternative energy is underway," the report said. "The transition is forcing the oil and gas industry to re-think its future."

Up until this point, large oil companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron have avoided investing heavily in renewables. Critics have pointed to the high costs of solar and wind and the reliance on generous government subsidies that could fade away.

But renewable energy costs have begun to come down, a trend that many expect will accelerate thanks to the billions of dollars being poured into new



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Big Oil needs to spend \$350 billion on wind and solar

technologies. Solar costs alone have been roughly halved over the past five years. The growth is backed up by impressive job creation, with solar employment expanding last year 17 times faster than the total US economy.

All of this means there may now be a business case for Big Oil to diversify into cleaner forms of energy, if for no other reason than to protect its own future.

"The growth opportunities in

renewables cannot be ignored," Wood Mackenzie wrote, adding that "renewables pose a threat to legacy oil and gas operations".

Of course, it would take a very long time before renewable energy can make up a meaningful portion of energy companies' total production. And the timing for future demand for oil is notoriously difficult to predict.

Still, it is clear that fossil fuel investments no longer look as alluring as they

once did. Oil and natural gas prices remain depressed due to serious gluts, forcing large energy companies to postpone long-term and expensive projects like deep water drilling.

Part of the problem is that governments have begun to crack down on carbon emissions amid heightened awareness about global warming. While the US decided to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, most nations and many business leaders remain committed to the goal of boosting cleaner energy.

That's why Wood Mackenzie has begun forecasting a "carbon constrained" scenario where oil demand peaks before 2030 and "enters a slow decline" as investor sentiment towards carbon "hardens".

In that pessimistic scenario for fossil fuels, the firm estimates that solar and wind power could make up nearly one-quarter of the global power market by 2035. In this scenario, Wood Mackenzie says renewable energy could generate nearly three times more revenue by 2035 than all of US shale.

Big Oil does seem to be listening. Many energy companies have shifted towards natural gas, which is seen as a cleaner fossil fuel.

Europan oil companies are moving more aggressively into renewables, with Norway's Statoil investing in offshore wind and France's Total acquiring solar companies.

If Wood Mackenzie's predictions are true, much more will need to be done soon if oil companies want to ensure they aren't left behind in a cleaner energy world.

Bank of Japan keeps policy on hold, remains optimistic

The Bank of Japan kept monetary policy on hold at its June meeting, underscoring its determination to keep policy accommodative even as the economic outlook has shown signs of improvement.

The central bank, which is seeking to avoid speculation about an early exit from stimulus, on Friday held its main policy rate steady at minus 0.1 percent and stuck to its pledge to keep the yield on 10-year Japanese government bonds around zero, FT wrote.

The decisions were expected by economists. The BoJ retained its relatively upbeat stance, which emerged at its April meeting, and used its policy statement to repeat that Japan's economy "has been turning toward a moderate expansion" and that this trend was likely to continue.

It was in April that the BoJ adopted a more upbeat

tone in its Outlook for Economic Activity and Prices, forecasting real domestic product growth of 1.6 percent in the 2017 fiscal year, up from a 1.5 percent estimate



cnbc.com

provided in January.

Some of that optimism may have been rattled after the most recent revision to March quarter GDP showed growth adjusted to an annualized one percent by the Cabinet Office from an initial estimate of 2.2 percent.

However, on the plus side, Japan's labor market is now at its tightest since 1990 and the peak of the bubble economy. The BoJ, though, is of the view fears about labor shortages could be too slow to generate sufficient inflation, and therefore a reason it plans no hasty exit from its monetary policy stimulus.

Most BoJ officials expect inflation to move up slowly to their two percent target, but the view is that wages are likely to follow rising prices, not lead them.

Australian banks agree \$4.6b tax hit not fatal

Australia's five biggest banks on Friday agreed a surprise \$4.6 billion tax can be absorbed without damaging the stability of the country's financial system or pushing lenders to move overseas, but have asked that foreign rivals face the same levy.

Banks have criticized the tax as unfair since its unveiling last month, but executives on Friday told lawmakers they agreed with the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's assessment that it would not threaten the financial system, Reuters reported.

The lenders also pressed for legislation to be amended to include foreign banks, such as HSBC Holdings PLC and Citigroup Inc to help them stay competitive in low-profit margin markets such as trade finance and bond trading.

"All we ask is that we be put into the same position as the foreign banks and that the levy be applied to them given the advantage their scale gives on a global basis and here in Australia," Commonwealth Bank of Australia General Counsel Anna Lenahan told a senate committee.

The tax on bank liabilities including corporate bonds, commercial paper and certificates of deposit is forecast to raise \$4.6 billion in its first four years to help Australia return to a budget surplus by 2021. But the tax, which is not yet in effect, lacks an expiration date sought by the banks.



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The tax, which has bipartisan backing, applies to banks with more than A\$100 billion (\$76 billion) of relevant liabilities in Australia, capturing the country's five largest domestic banks by assets.

Many international banks operating in Australia fall short of that threshold locally, though they exceed it globally. But Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. told the committee the big five Australian banks' overseas branches would also be taxed under the legislation.

National Australia Bank Ltd. Chief Financial Officer Gary Lennon said he doubted lawmakers' intent was to put Australian banks at a disadvantage to foreign rivals at home or anywhere else.

"It is possible that it will change the profitability of some of our businesses," he said of the levy. "Once you change the profitability we might be deploying less capital to those businesses or exiting that business."

Macquarie Group Ltd. Chief Executive Nicholas Moore said the tax would inevitably make the bank less competitive but that there were no plans to move the firm's head office offshore as a result.

Westpac Banking Corp. said there should be provisions to suspend the tax if bank profits were significantly affected.

HSBC and Citigroup declined to comment.

The senate committee will issue a report on the hearings on Monday. Both houses of parliament will vote on the tax next week.

European car sales up

European car sales rose 7.7 percent in May from the same month a year ago, industry data showed, returning to growth after a dip in April and with nearly all auto manufacturers recording sales increases.

New passenger car registrations in the European Union and European Free Trade Association increased to 1.43 million vehicles last month, according to the Brussels-based Association of European Carmakers (ACEA), according to Reuters.

"In volume terms, this result comes close to May 2007 levels, just before the economic crisis hit the auto industry," the industry group said in a statement.

Europan car sales returned to annual growth in 2014 after a six-year slump during which registrations fell to their lowest in decades. Demand has been growing most months since, as an improvement in consumer confidence, retail incentives and new product launches lured customers back to the showrooms.

The May increase comes after registrations dropped the previous month, given fewer trading days around Easter and thanks to a double-digit sales decline in Britain.



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Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2833	Chinese Yuan	0.1467
Euro	1.1145	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2770	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2944
Australian Dollar	0.7590	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$44.49	Silver	\$16.78
Gold	\$1254.80	Platinum	\$931.50
Copper	\$2.58	Wheat	\$457.00

Artisan couple eliminates lead from pottery products

Cultural Heritage Desk

A couple from Estahban, Zohreh Kamran Azad and Mohammad Yaqoubi, from the southern province of Fars, have eliminated lead from their pottery products to help preserve the environment.

According to IRNA, Kamran Azad, a female entrepreneur in the potteries sector, said: "We intend to prevent any damage to the nature and environment during our work. I and my husband are environmental activists."

Kamran Azad, who is a top entrepreneur in Fars Province, has industrial certificate and has taken part in several national exhibitions.

"We have consulted two top Italian universities to cooperate with us."

"Our company produces over 50,000 pottery items annually."

The couple along with their colleagues have restored the dome of Imamzadeh Shah Mir Hamzeh Mausoleum in Boyanat, Fars Province.

Also, Yaqoubi said: "If we receive low-interest loan and our insurance problem is overcome, we can increase our entrepreneurship tenfold."

Estahban is located to the southeast of Fars province. It is bound by Bakhtegan Lake to the north, Toudaj Mountains to the south, Rouniz Plain to the west and Darab and Eej Mountains to the east.

Earlier, the city was called Estahbanat, which was changed to Estahban in the 1970s. The name is derived from the term Setahban, which means vineyard.

The city had four neighborhoods in the past, each of which boasted of mosques and water cisterns.

An eminent historian and poet of the Ilkhanid era, Hamdollah Mostofi, referred to the city as a place full of trees with mild climatic conditions, various types of fruits and saffron.

However the city requires further facilities to more host tourists.



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Abr Forest boasts unique ecological diversity

Environment Desk

The unique ecological diversity of the Abr (Cloud) Forest, a spectacular natural setting in Shahrood, Semnan province, can help make it a valuable ecotourism site, said the director general of the Department of the Environment's Office for Public Participation.

Mohammad Darvish added the ecological diversity in one hectare of Abr Forest is 100 times that of other parts of Iran.

The official said Abr Forest is



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one of the important habitats of various plants, adding DoE refused to issue permit to implement development projects or road construction in the precincts of the forest. "This helped preserve the

special natural characteristics of the forest," he said.

The official said Yazd and some other provinces have changed their traditional and natural structures to become industrial zones,

which led to the destruction of wildlife in a large part of the country.

Paying attention to ecotourism

and wildlife attractions of Shahrood and using its natural capacity, will help turn it into a tourism hub in the region.

Semnan is one of the most beautiful provinces in terms of natural resources and landscapes, he said, adding Haj Ali Qoli Desert of Damghan, Garmasr National Park, Khar Turan National Park and Abr Forest can draw a large number of tourists.

"The limited number of Asia cheetahs is a source of concern for us. Thus in addition to carrying out related cultural actions in the region, the local community should recognize the importance of preserving the cheetahs."

On the loss of Asian cheetahs in road accidents, he said the traffic signboards of the roads crossing from habitat of cheetah should be changed to resolve the problem.

Iran's Abr Forest is located 45km to the north of Shahrood, between Shahrood and Azadshahr.

Leaving behind the orchards in Bastam, one can see the clouds far-off over the mountains and along the 4,000-meter Shahvar Mount as if they have been trapped in the sharp claws of the mountain — a scene which promises you are getting closer to the dreamy cloud forest.

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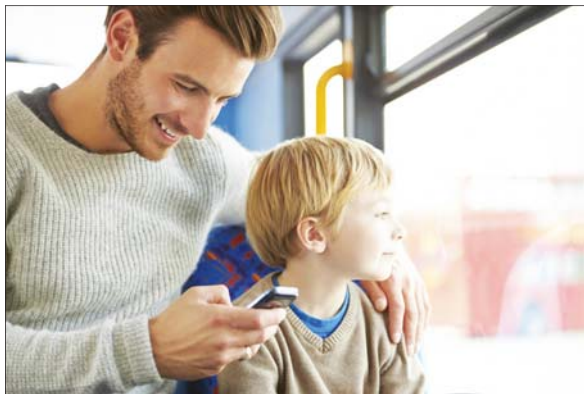
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Penn State College of Medicine researchers found the use of statins may actually speed up the onset of Parkinson's disease symptoms rather than prevent them.



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Study links parental focus on smartphones, misbehaving children

Could your smartphone prompt a toddler tantrum? Perhaps, a new study suggested.

Young children whose parents interrupt family time by pulling out their smartphones or tablets appear more prone to misbehaviors, such as whining, sulking and tantrums, the research revealed, UPI wrote.

Study author Brandon McDaniel coined the term "technoference" about five years ago when researching technology's intrusion into face-to-face interactions and relationships.

His new findings on kids and parents reinforce established research focusing on technology's effects on child development.

Patrick Drew McDaniel, an assistant professor of human development and family science at Illinois State University, asked, "Do you like it when you feel snubbed by someone, when that person isn't

validating or listening to you?"

"It's the same thing with kids, but since they're not adults, the way they show it is probably by acting out a little more."

"Most parents really love their children, but it's hard for a child to feel that if you're staring at your phone."

A lot of research has looked at technology's impact on children's routines.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "Kids between ages eight and 18 spend about 7½ hours per day using a screen — whether TV, computer, cell phone or another device — for entertainment."

But this study included surveys from 168 mothers and 165 fathers of young children from 170 two-parent households.

The researchers asked parents about their use of smartphones, tablets, laptops and other technology,

and how the devices disrupted family time.

Technoference could include checking phone messages during meals, playtime or routine activities with their children.

Parents were also asked to rate how problematic their device use was, based on how difficult they felt it was to resist checking messages and worrying about calls and texts.

The study participants also reported how often their devices diverted their attention when otherwise engaged with their kids.

About half of the parents said technology typically interrupted their parent-child time three or more times a day, with 24 percent reporting twice a day and 17 percent reporting once a day.

Mothers perceived their phone use as more problematic than dads did, the findings showed.

Regarding their children's behavior, parents answered questions about how often their children sulked, whined, became easily frustrated, threw tantrums or showed signs of restlessness and hyperactivity over the prior two months.

The findings showed that even low or seemingly "normal" amounts of technoference were associated with more behavioral problems in participants' children.

However, the study didn't prove a cause-and-effect relationship just that an association existed.

McDaniel explained, "Theoretically, it makes sense that if [technology] is interfering with parenting quality, children are going to react to worse parenting."

"It's possible that parents may also 'escape' into technology use when children misbehave."

Susan Neuman is a professor of childhood and literacy education at New York University. She praised the study for highlighting parents' use of technology rather than children's use, which is examined more frequently.

"What I often see is parents completely ignoring their children, and so very often it [leads to] bad behavior because the children's needs are totally being ignored."

"Children need parent-child interaction. When parents isolate themselves by playing on their phone, children are not getting that basic human need, which is attention at particular times."

Neuman said establishing rules for family technology use often isn't effective. But parents, she noted, should set aside key times each day — during meals, while kids are preparing for school, and bedtime — to completely avoid technology use and fully interact with their children.

McDaniel said, "We all have these devices with us all the time now and people shouldn't feel guilty about it."

"But, we really need to pay a little more attention to how often we pull out our phones when we're around young children because, at the very least, it's connected to their behavior."

20 percent hospitalized adults have side effects from antibiotics

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine found adverse side effects from prescribed antibiotics occurred in one-fifth of adult hospitalized patients.

The study consisted of 1,488 adults admitted to the general medicine services at The Johns Hopkins Hospital between September 2013 and June 2014 and received at least 24 hours of antibiotic treatment who were followed for 30 days after discharge to identify any adverse reactions to the antibiotics, UPI reported.

Dr. Pranita Tamma, an assistant professor of pediatrics and director of the Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, said, "Too often, clinicians prescribe antibiotics even if they have a low suspicion for a bacterial infection, thinking that even if antibiotics may not be necessary, they are probably not harmful."

"But that is not always the case. Antibiotics have the potential to cause real harm to patients. Each time we think to prescribe an antibiotic, we need to pause and ask ourselves, Does this patient really need an antibiotic?"

"If the patient develops an antibiotic-associated adverse reaction, even though that is, of course, unfortunate, we should be able to take some comfort in knowing that at least the antibiotic was truly necessary."



acneinstein.com

The study, which was published in JAMA Internal Medicine, found 20 percent of patients who received antibiotics had one or more side effects and that each additional 10 days of antibiotics increased the risk of side effects by three percent.

Among the most common side effects, 42 percent of participants experienced gastrointestinal abnormalities, 24 percent experienced kidney abnormalities and 15 percent experienced blood abnormalities.

The participants were followed for up to 90 days for the development of Clostridium difficile infection and new multidrug-resistant infections.

Researchers found four percent of patients developed C. difficile and six percent of patients developed multidrug-resistant organism infections.

The study found that 19 percent of antibiotics prescribed to patients were considered clinically unnecessary.

Dr. Sara Cosgrove, a professor of medicine and director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, said, "In general, we would expect our hospital to have lower numbers of antibiotic-associated side effects than at hospitals without antibiotic stewardship programs because our stewardship team assists healthcare providers with optimizing the administration of antibiotics, and we tend to recommend targeted therapies for shorter periods of time."

What to eat to reduce diabetes symptoms

Diabetes symptoms can be controlled with the help of a healthy, balanced diet according to Diabetes UK. However there are certain foods which can particularly help with blood glucose.

Yesterday it was revealed that a daily glass of broccoli juice could help lower blood sugar and even prevent the condition, according to express.co.uk.

Additionally, early in the week another study recommended a plant-based diet to control symptoms and promote weight loss.

To coincide with Diabetes Week, here are a number of other diabetic 'superfoods' that could also help.

Dr. Sarah Brewer, a GP and medical nutritionist for Healthspan, explained which other foods work to stabilize blood glucose levels.

She recommends eating them every day.

Almonds

Eat a handful of nuts and seeds every day — they contain monounsaturated and omega-3 fatty acids that help to improve insulin levels and glucose control.

This may help to protect against heart attack and stroke — for which people with diabetes have an increased risk.

Chocolate

Dark chocolate has been shown to decrease insulin resistance —

when cells of the body don't respond properly to the hormone insulin, and the driving factor that leads to type 2 diabetes. For most people with diabetes, chocolate is best restricted to a few squares to prevent too much of an increase in sugar levels.

Avocado

The fruit provides as much as 80 percent of its energy content in the form of oils, of which most are beneficial monounsaturated fatty acids.



express.co.uk

Sweet potato

These are a better option than white potatoes for people with diabetes. Reducing your intake of excess, rapidly-digested (high

glycemic index) carbohydrates — such as regular potatoes and white bread — can improve insulin sensitivity

Sweet potatoes are also high in fiber — and a high-fiber diet slows absorption of dietary carbohydrates and cholesterol to improve glucose control and blood cholesterol balance.

Tea

Tea — especially green and white tea — contains antioxidants

that increase insulin sensitivity.

A study involving 38,000 women found that those drinking four or more cups of tea per day were 27 percent less likely to develop type 2 diabetes than those drinking none.

Spinach and kale

Green leafy vegetables, such as spinach and kale, help to protect against age-related macular degeneration — a common cause of reduced vision in people with diabetes.

Cabbage, beans and some tubers such as Jerusalem artichoke contain substances that lower glucose levels, making them particularly beneficial for people with diabetes.

Supplements

Many food supplements can also improve blood glucose control and reduce your risk of diabetic circulatory, eye, kidney and nervous system complications in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

For example, chromium (found in Brewer's yeast, egg yolk, red meat, cheese, fruit, wholegrains, vegetables, black pepper) may help to improve insulin resistance in your muscle cells.

"Magnesium (found in seafood, meat, eggs, dairy products, wholegrains, pulses, nuts, green leafy vegetables) or a 300mg supplement may also help with the side effects of diabetes."

Keeping to regular bedtime tied to success at work

Going to bed at the same time every night can be difficult — when there's a cliffhanger after cliffhanger in your favorite series, what other choice do you have than to stay up till 2 a.m. binge-watching?

And the next night you'll undoubtedly crash at 10 p.m. because you're so tired, independent.co.uk wrote.

But it turns out this pattern could be affecting you in more ways than one.

Researchers have found that those with regular bedtimes are more successful than those who hit the hay at a different time every night.

Just as important as getting enough sleep is having a regular sleep pattern, scientists from Brigham and Women's Hospital found.

The small study measured sleep and circadian rhythms in 61 at Harvard College undergraduate students for 30 days using sleep diaries, before comparing that data to their academic performance.

They found that the students with the least regular sleep patterns had a lower grade point average than the others.

Not only that, but those who went to bed at the same time every night were more likely to get straight up in the morning (rather than hitting snooze) and fall asleep

quicker at night (rather than tossing and turning, struggling to feel sleepy).

The reason those who go to bed at different times every night struggle to fall asleep is down to irregular melatonin releases, which is the hormone that makes us want to sleep.

Interestingly, the students all slept for about the same amount of time, but their body clock varied.

Dr. Charles A. Czeisler, senior study author and director of the Sleep Health Institute at the hospital, said, "We found that the body clock was shifted



thesheeting

Your body clock (AKA circadian rhythm) gets completely confused.

Dr. Andrew J. K. Phillips, lead study author and biophysicist at the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders, Brigham and Women's Hospital, said, "Our results indicate that going to sleep and waking up at approximately the same time is as important as the number of hours one sleeps."

"Sleep regularity is a potentially important and modifiable factor independent from sleep duration."

nearly three hours later in students with irregular schedules as compared to those who slept at more consistent times each night.

"For the students whose sleep and wake times were inconsistent, classes and exams that were scheduled for 9 a.m. were therefore occurring at 6 a.m. according to their body clock, at a time when performance is impaired."

"Ironically, they didn't save any time because in the end they slept just as much as those on a more regular schedule."

Lightning more powerful over ocean than land

People who live and work along coasts and coastlines everywhere may be more likely to experience a super-charged lightning strike, according to new research from Florida Institute of Technology that shows lightning can be much more powerful over the ocean than land.

Florida Tech's Amitabh Nag, assistant professor of physics and space sciences, and Kenneth L. Cummins, research professor at Florida Tech, and the University of Arizona wrote in a research paper: "Negative First Stroke Leader Characteristics in Cloud-to-Ground Lightning Over Land and Ocean in the American Geophysical Union's Geophysical Research Letters", phys.org reported.

The scientists analyzed lightning over parts of Florida and its coasts using data provided by the US National Lightning Detection Network.



phys.org

Some previous indirect observations led scientists and others to believe that strikes over sea water tend to be more powerful, but the Nag and Cummins study represents the first time that an independent measurement has validated those beliefs.

Lightning scientists break down every cloud-to-ground strike into sub-processes to get a better understanding of the way it formed. Plenty of physics is packed into fractions of a second from when charged particles in thunderclouds form into downward channels of electricity that "attach" to electrical, charge-carrying channels rising from land or water to form that familiar zigzag bolt.

In their study, which measured peak currents of various cloud-to-ground lightning strikes over land and ocean from 2013 to 2015, Nag and Cummins calculated the duration of the "negative stepped leader" — the electrical channel that moves down toward ground from a thundercloud. When this leader touches ground a surge of current, typically with a peak value of around 30 kilo amperes, flows upward to the cloud. The durations of negative stepped leaders over the ocean were significantly shorter than those over land, which indicates that they carry more charge in them. This leads to a higher following current surge from ground.

Nag and Cummins found that with strikes over water in western Florida, the median stepped-leader duration was 17 percent shorter over ocean than over land, and in eastern Florida the median durations were 21 and 39 percent shorter over two oceanic regions than over land. Using a relationship between leader duration and lightning peak current derived in this study, the authors estimate that lightning with peak currents over 50 kilo amperes is twice as likely to occur in oceanic thunderstorms.

These findings suggest that people living on or near the ocean may be at greater risk for lightning damage if storms develop over oceans and move on-shore.

This new understanding of the nature of lightning could inform how off-shore infrastructure and vessels are to be built to minimize the risk of super-powerful lightning bolts from thunderstorms formed over the sea.

Study clarifies how we can tell where a sound is coming from



medicalxpress.com

A new University College London (UCL) and University of Nottingham study has found that most neurons in the brain's auditory cortex detect where a sound is coming from relative to the head, but some are tuned to a sound source's actual position in the world.

The study, published in PLOS Biology, looked at whether head movements change the responses of neurons that track sound location, according to medicalxpress.com.

The study's first author, Dr. Stephen Town (UCL Ear Institute), said, "Our brains can represent sound location in either an egocentric manner — for

example, when I can tell that a phone is ringing to my left — or in an allocentric manner — hearing that the phone is on the table.

"If I move my head, neurons with an egocentric focus will respond differently, as the phone's position relative to my ears has changed, while the allocentric neurons will maintain their response."

The researchers monitored ferrets while they moved around a small arena surrounded by speakers that emitted clicking sounds.

Electrodes monitored the firing rates of neurons in the ferrets' auditory cortex, while LEDs were used to track the animals' movement.

Among the neurons under investigation that picked up sound location, the study showed that most displayed egocentric orientations by tracking where a sound source was relative to the animal's head, but approximately 20 percent of the spatially tuned neurons instead tracked a sound source's actual location in the world, independent of the ferret's head movements.

The researchers also found that neurons were more sensitive to sound location when the ferret's head was moving quickly.

The study's senior author, Dr. Jennifer Bizley (UCL Ear Institute), said, "Most previous research into how we

determine where a sound is coming from used participants with fixed head positions, which failed to differentiate between egocentric and allocentric tuning. Here we found that both types coexist in the auditory cortex."

The researchers said their findings could be helpful in the design of technologies involving augmented or virtual reality.

Town added, "We often hear sounds presented through earphones as being inside our heads, but our findings suggest sound sources could be created to appear externally, in the world, if designers incorporate information about body and head movements."

Today, Mars is a freezing cold desert and has been for at least three billion years. And yet, the Red Planet features a network of water-carved valleys that scientists believe formed between 1½ and three million years ago.

The network branches outward from an impact crater called Lyot. Until now, scientists weren't sure how the shallow valleys were formed, UPI wrote.

New research suggested the region was covered by a thick slab of ice at the time of the Lyot impact. The collision projected hot rocks on the surrounding ice, creating flows of meltwater that carved the valleys.

Lead researcher David Weiss, who recently earned his PhD from Brown University, said, "Based on the likely location of ice deposits during this period of Mars' history, and the amount of

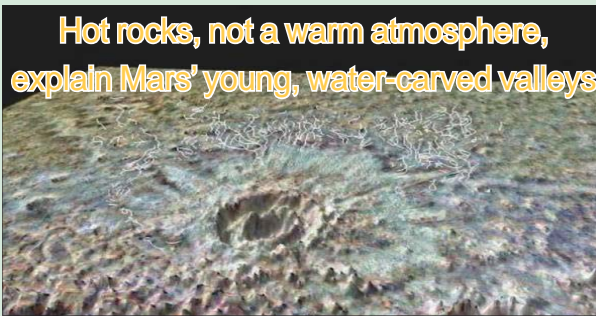
meltwater that could have been produced by Lyot ejecta landing on an ice sheet, we think this is the most plausible scenario for the formation of these valleys."

Evidence of water activity on the surface of Mars is plentiful, but the canyon systems and remnants of ancient lake systems are all older than three million years — before the Amazonian epoch ushered in a cold, dry climate.

The Lyot valleys represent a relatively recent episode of water activity — an anomaly.

Scientists have previously suggested the Lyot impact released a reservoir of groundwater. But the latest analysis suggested such an explanation doesn't fit the geologic evidence.

Weiss added, "If these were formed by deep groundwater discharge, that water would have also flowed into the crater itself.



NASA

The shallow valleys surrounding the Lyot impact crater serve as some of the most recent evidence of water activity on the Martian surface.

"We don't see any evidence that there was water present inside the crater."

Scientists have also

hypothesized that ejected material briefly warmed the region's

atmosphere, encouraging rain. But erosion from rainwater would have carved the rubble ejected by the impact.

There is no evidence of eroded ejecta.

Brown grad student Ashley Palumbo said, "The vast majority of the valleys seem to emerge from beneath the ejecta on its outer periphery, which casts serious doubt on the rainwater scenario."

The findings — detailed in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* — left glacial meltwater as the most plausible explanation for the shallow valleys.

The fact that Lyot is surrounded by so few secondary craters suggested to scientists the region was covered by ice at the time of the impact.

When giant rocks are expelled during an impact, they often

create a series of smaller craters where they land. However, a layer of ice would have prevented the formation of secondary craters.

Models showed the Lyot impact likely blasted several tons of rock onto the surrounding ice. Some of the boulders were likely heated to temperatures of 121°C or more.

The layer of hot rocks would have been sufficient to produce several thousand cubic kilometers of meltwater.

Grad student James Cassanelli said, "What this shows is a way to get large amounts of liquid water on Mars without the need for a warming of the atmosphere and any liquid groundwater."

"So we think this is a good explanation for how you get these channels forming in the Amazonian."

Robot uses deep learning and big data to write and play its own music



sciencedaily.com

Shimon, a robot in the Center of Music Technology and School of Music.

A marimba-playing robot with four arms and eight sticks is writing and playing its own compositions in a lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology. The pieces are generated using artificial intelligence and deep learning.

Researchers fed the robot nearly 5,000 complete songs — from Beethoven to the Beatles to Lady Gaga to Miles Davis — and more than two million motifs, riffs and licks of music, according to sciencedaily.com.

Aside from giving the machine a seed, or first four measures to use as a starting point, no humans are involved in either the composition or the performance of the music.

The first two compositions are roughly 30 seconds in length. The robot, named Shimon.

Ph.D. student Mason Bretan is the man behind the machine. He's worked with Shimon for seven years, enabling it to "listen" to music played by humans and improvise over pre-composed chord progressions.

Now Shimon is a solo composer for the first time, generating the melody and harmonic structure on its own.

Bretan, who will receive his doctorate in music technology this summer at Georgia Tech., said, "Once Shimon learns the four measures we provide, it creates its own sequence of concepts and composes its own piece."

"Shimon's compositions represent how music sounds and looks when a robot uses deep neural networks to learn everything it knows about music from millions of human-made segments."

Bretan said, "This is the first time a robot has used deep learning to create music."

"And unlike its days of improvising, when it played monophonically, Shimon is able to play harmonies and chords."

"It's also thinking much more like a human musician, focusing less on the next note, as it did before, and more on the overall structure

of the composition.

"When we play or listen to music, we don't think about the next note and only that next note."

"An artist has a bigger idea of what he or she is trying to achieve within the next few measures or later in the piece. Shimon is now coming up with higher-level musical semantics. Rather than thinking note by note, it has a larger idea of what it wants to play as a whole."

Shimon was created by Bretan's advisor, Gil Weinberg, director of Georgia Tech.'s Center for Music Technology.

Weinberg, a professor in the School of Music, said, "This is a leap in Shimon's musical quality because it's using deep learning to create a more structured and coherent composition."

"We want to explore whether robots could become musically creative and generate new music that we humans could find beautiful,

inspiring and strange."

Shimon will create more pieces in the future. As long as the researchers feed it a different seed, the robot will produce something different each time — music that the researchers can't predict.

In the first piece, Bretan fed Shimon a melody comprised of eighth notes. It received a sixteenth note melody the second time, which influenced it to generate faster note sequences.

Bretan acknowledges that he can't pick out individual songs that Shimon is referencing. Bretan, who plays the keyboards and guitar in his free time, said, "They sound like a fusion of jazz and classical."

It's the latest project within Weinberg's lab. He and his students have also created a robotic prosthesis for a drummer, a robotic third arm for all drummers, and an interactive robotic companion that plays music from a phone and dances to the beat.

UN rights expert urges Myanmar to protect detained Rohingya children

Myanmar should guarantee the rights and medical care of children from the Rohingya Muslim minority detained in an army crackdown launched in October, a UN human rights investigator said.

Children as young as 10 were among hundreds of men detained on charges of consorting with Rohingya Muslims, Reuters said in March, citing a previously un-released police document.

Thirteen juveniles were among more than 400 arrested since October 9, when Rohingya Muslims allegedly attacked police posts in northwestern Rakhine state, near the border with Bangladesh, according to the police document, dated March 7.

This led to the biggest crisis of leader Aung San Suu Kyi's first year in power, prompting some 75,000 Rohingya to flee the subsequent army crackdown to Bangladesh.

Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Yanghee Lee, the organization's special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, said children should not be "arbitrarily deprived of their liberty" and the government should guarantee their right to timely proceedings.

"I remind the government that children should be detained strictly as a last resort, for the shortest appropriate period of time, and must be treated with humanity and respect in a manner which takes into account their age," said Lee.

She also urged the government to investigate the death of a child who, according to the government, died because of ill health in February. The government



affinitymagazine.us

did not report the death until last week, she said.

In April, Deputy Executive Director of the UN children's fund (UNICEF) Justin Forsyth sought the release of the children while on a visit to Myanmar.

The United Nations, in report based on interviews with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, said Myanmar's security forces had committed mass killings and gang rapes against Rohingya during their campaign, which could amount to crimes against humanity.

The military has denied the accusations, saying it was engaged in a legitimate counterinsurgency operation.

Myanmar's ambassador in Geneva, Htin Lynn, did not directly address the issue of the detained children, limiting his remarks to say that the Convention of the Rights of the Child applied "equally to all children in Myanmar".

Lee also called on Myanmar to "fully cooperate" with a recently established UN fact-finding mission to investigate the alleged human rights violations by the

military.

Suu Kyi has opposed the mission, saying this week it would create "greater hostility between the different communities".

On Thursday, Ambassador Htin Lynn echoed her comments:

"It will not help solve the problems Myanmar is facing in Rakhine State ... We are ready to work with the international community on any advice or arrangements should they constitute part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Over 30% of adults don't know e-cigarette vapor may harm kids



joinnest.com

One in three adults aren't fully aware that electronic cigarette vapor is harmful to children, according to a new study.

Many adults are still unaware of this danger, although the US surgeon general said e-cigarette vapor may expose children to nicotine and other harmful chemicals, daily.mail.co.uk wrote.

A new CDC study found this concerning because although the devices may be less toxic than traditional cigarette smoke, they still emit harmful substances into the air.

Long-term health effects of the ingredients and flavorings in e-cigarettes are unclear, causing the organization to encourage adults not to smoke around kids.

The CDC polled adults in an online survey in 2015, questioning them if they thought if there was any harm exposing children to secondhand e-cigarette vapor.

These battery-powered gadgets use a heating element that turns liquid nicotine and flavorings into vapor that users inhale, which also releases other chemicals as secondhand smoke.

Overall, just 5.3 percent of adults who participated thought there was "no harm" to kids.

Another 40 percent of adults thought it caused "little harm" or "some harm" to children.

Senior study author Brian King said: "The bottom line is that kids should not be exposed to the emissions from any type of tobacco product, irrespective of whether that product is smoked, smokeless or electronic."

King, who is a researcher with the CDC Office on Smoking and Health, added: "Although e-cigarette aerosol generally contains less harmful ingredients than secondhand smoke, it is not harmless; safer is not the same thing as safe."

"It's important for users of these products, particularly parents, to know the dangers of secondhand exposure to e-cigarette aerosol and to protect kids from this preventable health risk."

To assess how adults thought about the risk of exposing kids to e-cigarettes, CDC researchers examined data from a survey of 4,127 adults 18 or older.

The survey asked people to consider the potential harms of all electronic vapor products including e-cigarettes as well as e-hookahs, hookah pens, vape pens and e-cigs.

Current e-cigarette users were almost 18 times more likely than people who never tried the devices to think the secondhand vapors caused no harm to children, and former e-cigarette users were more than seven times more likely to have this opinion, according to the results published in the CDC journal Preventing Chronic Disease.

150,000 illegal immigrants enter UK each year

A damning report claims that illegal immigration in Britain may be running at 150,000 a year.

It says the true scale of those here unlawfully is being hidden because the Home Office estimates have been held back, daily.mail.co.uk reported.

The paper also warns of a possible 'surge' once legal migration from the EU is curbed following Brexit.

The most recent official figures show net migration — the difference between those leaving and arriving in the UK lawfully — stands at 273,000.

But the report suggests, when illegal migrants are included, this figure may be much higher.

Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to cut immigration to the tens of thousands by 2022.

But the report warns that unless there is a dramatic change of approach her pledge will be impossible to meet.

Its stark assessment comes from former immigration chief David Wood and Alasdair Palmer, a speechwriter to May when she was home secretary. The pair claim immigration to the UK is far higher than official statistics, with a "glaring gap" between what ministers say and the reality.

They wrote: "Until the reality is honestly recognized, there is no possibility that immigration into Britain will be diminished by any government policy."

Wood, a former director general of immigration enforcement, said the Home Office privately estimates

illegal immigration is running at 150,000 a year — around the same as the population of Poole in Dorset.

Unlawful entrants include those who have overstayed



daily.mail.co.uk

their visa limit, asylum rejects and those who arrived with no legal entitlement in the first place.

Publicly the Home Office has insisted there are no accurate figures for illegal immigration. The report warns the situation is 'almost certainly going to get significantly worse' when Britain leaves the EU.

Migrants from central and eastern European countries will still have strong motives to move to Britain, where they can earn more than in their home countries.

The report warned: "The principle effect of leaving the EU will therefore be to create a whole new class of illegal immigrants to the UK — migrants who are geographically far closer to the UK than those from developing countries."

They added: "Without effective enforcement of immigration laws and regulations, the result of Brexit won't be that we take back control of our borders, as the prime minister has promised."

The paper, titled 'The Politics Of Fantasy' and published by the think-tank Civitas, pointed the finger at poor immigration controls.

It said: "The resources devoted by the government to enforcement are just too small to enable officials to keep track of foreign nationals, to monitor who is permitted to be here and to deport those who are not."

The report claimed the chance of a migrant being detained and deported for overstaying their visa is about one in a thousand.

It says ineffective border controls can be worse than none at all because the country receives no tax benefit from illegal migrants but pays for the cost of "creating a new and very large class of criminals".

UNICEF: 20% of children in rich countries live in relative income poverty

One in five children in high-income countries lives in relative income poverty and an average of one in eight faces food insecurity, according to the latest Report Card issued by the UNICEF Office of Research — Innocenti.

Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries is the first report to assess the status of children in 41 high-income countries in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identified as most important for child well-being, according to unicef.org.

It ranks countries based on their performance and details the challenges and opportunities that advanced economies face in achieving global commitments to children.

"Report Card 14 is a wake-up-call that even in high-income countries progress does not benefit all children," said Sarah Cook, director of UNICEF Innocenti.

"Higher incomes do not automatically lead to improved outcomes for all children, and may indeed deepen inequalities. Governments in all countries need to take action to ensure the gaps are reduced and progress is made to reach the SDGs for children."

Key results on selected SDG indicators for children and adolescents in rich countries include:

- **End poverty:** On average one in five children in high-income countries lives in relative income poverty, though there is wide variation, from one in 10 in Denmark, Iceland and Norway to one in three in Romania.

- **End hunger:** An average of one in eight children in high-income countries faces food insecurity, rising to one in five in the United Kingdom and the United States, and to one in three in Mexico and Turkey.

- **Ensure healthy lives:** Neonatal mortality has dramatically fallen in most countries; and rates of adolescent suicide, teenage births and drunkenness are declining. However, one in four adolescents reports two or more mental health issues more than once a week.

- **Ensure quality education:** Even in the best-performing countries, including Japan and Finland, around one-fifth of 15-year-olds do not reach minimum proficiency levels in reading, mathematics and science.

- **Achieve gender equality:** On average, 14 percent of adults surveyed in 17 rich countries believe that boys deserve preference for university education, and in the majority of these countries the belief is higher among males.



shareyouresays.com

In ranking 41 countries, the league table reads well for those countries that frequently appear at the top of recent comparisons of human and child development — the Nordic countries, Germany and Switzerland — and less well for lower-income countries in the group, such as Romania, Bulgaria and Chile.

However, a closer look reveals room for improvement across the board as all countries rank in the mid- or bottom-third on two or more goals.

For some indicators — income inequality, adolescent self-reported mental health and obesity — the trends suggest cause for concern in a majority of rich countries.

In two out of three countries studied, the poorest households with children are now further behind the average than they were in 2008.

The rate of obesity among 11–15 year olds and the rate of adolescents reporting two or more mental health problems a week is increasing in the majority of countries.

Although many countries have seen broad progress in a number of indicators, there are still wide gaps between them in other areas.

National income levels fail to explain all of these differences: for example, Slovenia is far ahead of much wealthier countries on many indicators, while the United States ranks 37 out of 41 in the summary league table.

Based on the results presented in Report Card 14, UNICEF calls for high-income countries to take action in five key areas:

- **Put children at the heart of equitable and sustainable progress:** Improving the well-being of all children today is essential for achieving both equity and sustainability.

- **Leave no child behind:** National averages often conceal extreme inequalities and the severe disadvantage of groups at the bottom of the scale.

- **Improve the collection of comparable data —** in particular on violence against children, early childhood development, migration and gender.

- **Use the rankings to help tailor policy responses to national contexts:** No country does well on all indicators of well-being for children and all countries face challenges in achieving at least some child-focused SDG targets.

- **Honor the commitment to global sustainable development.**

The overarching SDG framework engages all countries in a global endeavor.

Best quotes and sayings of Imam Ali (PBUH)

Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Shia Imam, had the best upbringing as he grew up in the house of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). So you can imagine the character of Imam Ali (PBUH) and how good it was. Each and every word of Imam Ali (PBUH) would be of great importance and inspirational to any generation of Muslims and even non-believers.

Smile even if your heart is dripping blood.

The tongue is like a lion. If you let it loose, it will wound someone.

It is easier to turn a mountain into dust than to create love in a heart that filled with hatred.

Forgiveness is the best revenge.

Anger is like a ball of fire, but if you swallow it, it's sweeter than honey.

There are two ways to live a pleasant life, either in someone's heart or in someone's prayer.

Evil does never think well of anyone because they see others in their own nature.



Do not be a slave to others when Allah has created you free.

Let go of anything that brings you stress and sorrow.

Be like the flower that gives

its fragrance even to the hand that crushes it.

Nothing hurts a good soul and a kind heart more than to live amongst people who cannot understand it.

Do not disappoint the one whose hope lies in you.

If you succeed in misleading somebody, do not think of him of being a big fool, rather think about how he trusted you.

I didn't see anyone who smiled more than Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Beautiful people are not always good, but good people are always beautiful.

The moment you start arguing with an ignorant fool, you have already lost.

Honesty - O' People! Try to be honest for Allah. It's He, the helper of honest people. Avoid telling lies since it will ruin your faith. Know that honest people are on the verge of nobility and honor, while liars are on the verge of collapse and destruction.

Do not try to run after one who tries to avoid you.

Aim to live in this world without allowing the world to live inside you, because when a boat sits on water it sails perfectly, but when water enters inside the boat, it sinks.



UPI

Danish festival features sand sculptures of undersea life

A Danish festival gathered 44 artists to transform more than 13,000 tons of sand into massive and intricately detailed sculptures with an 'under the sea' theme.

A video posted to YouTube and recorded at the Sundring Sand Sculpture Festival,

which is now in its 15th year, shows some of the enormous sand sculptures created by the 44 artists behind this year's exhibition, which began late last month, UPI reported.

Organizers said they trucked in more than 13,000 tons of sand for this year's event, which

features a 'Life under the Sea' theme.

"This year's theme provides insight into the wild and impressive world of marine animals, immersing both children and adults in a spectacle full of life and adventure," organizers wrote on the festival's website.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



GEORGIOS KEFALAS/AP

The artworks 'Mountain View' and 'Sleeping Girl' by Belgian artist Hans Op de Beeck are on display at Art Basel, the international art show in Basel, Switzerland, until June 18.



Australian man records dog's battle with kangaroo

An astonished onlooker captured video of a prolonged brawl between a German shepherd and a kangaroo that police eventually broke up.

Anthony Hartley posted a video to YouTube that he said represents only a small portion of the 20-minute standoff between the dog and kangaroo, UPI reported.

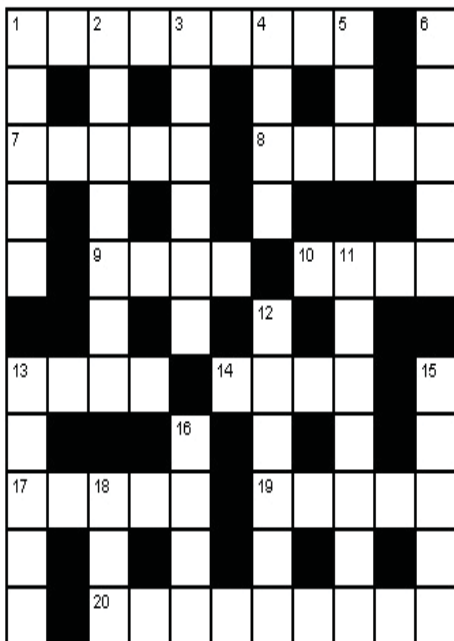
Hartley said he was driving through Cooma, New South Wales in Australia when he stopped to record the unusual animal fight. "I saw a kangaroo and a German Shepherd have a bit of a scuffle for about 20 minutes, until the



UPI

police broke it up," he told 7 News Online. He said neither animal appeared to land any major blows during the battle.

Quick Crossword



DOWN

1. Stateroom (5)
2. Large house (7)
3. Worshipped (6)
4. Not working (4)
5. Short sleep (3)
6. Book of maps (5)
11. Disregarded (7)
12. Writing implement (6)
13. Postpone (5)
15. Stay clear from (5)
16. Tribe (4)
18. Part of a circle (3)

ACROSS

1. Friend (9)
7. Stringed instrument (5)
8. Part of a jacket (5)
9. Notion (4)
10. Prejudice (4)
13. Sand hill (4)
14. Vegetable (4)
17. Weak (5)
19. Freight (5)
20. Ended (9)

Thursday's solution



Sudoku

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Kihwarzami. 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.

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

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

Cristiano Ronaldo made the decision to leave Real Madrid following accusations made by Spanish tax authorities of defrauding of 14.7 million euros in tax, according to Portuguese newspaper, A Bola.

From Page 1

Bremen manager: Success wins kudos

When you were offered the managerial position of a bottom-placed team, were you confident enough to imagine such a great success for yourself in the face of the daunting challenge? How high is the ceiling of your ambition?

Undoubtedly, I knew that I possessed the capability to take the helm of a top-flight European team. I yearned to take that position. I believe that I should always count on myself and be confident about my abilities. Such self-confidence is definitely what you need to work and succeed at this level in a European league. In the beginning, we sought to promote the team's solidarity.

What I expect myself is to improve my capabilities and performance on a daily basis. Prior to my managerial post at Bremen, I had attended the training sessions of a large number of Bundesliga sides as an observer and apprentice. I am always in contact with the experienced members of my club, particularly its managing director Frank Baumann, and know that I have to listen carefully to what they say to be able to understand them. We consult with each other every day. There is a good coordination between us. I always look at things with an open mind and look for inspirations to boost my confidence.

Nevertheless, I do not want to be over-forgiven, think too much about the future or to work out very long-term plans.

Would you please elaborate on the German clubs' facilities?

What is quite unique about Werder Bremen club is that it is the only sports organization in Germany which is located at the heart of the [northwestern Bremen] city.

The club is surrounded with its training grounds. Some of the club's training pitches are covered with hybrid grass and some of them are equipped with under-soil heating.

The club's talent scouting center is the best in Germany, which enables us to discover a large number of new talents each season and add them to the lineup of our senior team. Our junior side found its way to the final of the U-17 Bundes-



PHOTOS BY ALI MOHAMMADIRAN DAILY

liga this year. We added players such as Maximilian Eggstein (German midfielder) and Ousman Manneh (Gambian striker) from the club's youth team to the senior team in 2015. We have also managed to train many brilliant players and have a very convincing fitness.

Our club enjoys effective infrastructure in all sectors which is an important key factor to achieving success in Bundesliga. Having appropriate infrastructure is also very important to us in the sense that we do not possess the ability to spend €20 million on purchasing new players each season and, thus, have to reinforce our team by focusing on improving our young play-

ers' skills and capabilities.

Who are your role models as footballer and manager?

I was very much fond of the playing style of [the German manager and former player] Lothar Matthäus as a footballer. However, as for my coaching role model, there are a large number of great coaches. I cannot name one.

Have you ever dreamed of becoming Iran manager?

Iran has a very good and successful head

clubs in his six years in the position. Now he wants total support in the 12 months leading to Russia.

"In order to progress, we need better infrastructure and financial support for camps and friendly games. If we don't do that, the result will be stagnation. This is not the expectation for Iran fans and not what they deserve."

"It is time to say that the national team has been doing everything for Iranian football, now it is time for the authorities to step up. The passion is there and we need to implement a different program in order for different players to progress. In Portugal we were producing good players 26 or 30 years ago, but in Portugal we did not sleep and kept producing players. This is what Iran misses – a master plan with an infrastructure and individual support."

"If all goes well, the next stage of the plan is within reach. Iran has appeared in four World Cups but has yet to survive the group stage."

"We have built a team and a squad of 26 and more players and I have more options," he said. "I have three goalkeepers, three right-backs and so on. At the next World Cup, I can rest people and keep them fresh for the games while keeping the same standard."

"This is due to our players being brilliant. I have never seen in my life players who made such sacrifices."

"My goal and dream is to get to the knockout stage at the 2018 World Cup. I am fighting against this satisfaction disease. We should not be satisfied with the first round. We need to be ambitious. We need to think big. We will not go to Russia as tourists."

defeat in the final.

Iran claimed the top spot of the team table with a total of 71 points followed by Kazakhstan and India which grabbed 58 and 55, respectively.

The two-day competition started on June 15 in the city of Taichung in Chinese Taipei.



coach at present. Nonetheless, anything is possible in the future.

Would you please talk about Bremen's 11-game undefeated streak in the league?

Interestingly, we had lost a host of starters to injuries. Nevertheless, our team's solidarity and great integrity, without which notching up nine wins was not possible for us, was most striking at that time. Our players tenaciously fought on the pitch for each other.

In the meantime, we successfully employed the tactics we had worked out and practiced in our training sessions.

How did you feel when Iran defeated Uzbekistan and qualified for the Russia 2018 World Cup?

I had an indescribable feeling. At that moment, I got goosebumps. I also cannot describe the way I felt when I was cheered by the Iranian fans, received their love and sensed their emotions. However, Iran's advancement to the World Cup is my best memory of that night.



Carlos Queiroz (C) led Iran to qualification for the 2018 World Cup by overcoming Uzbekistan 2-0 in Tehran on June 12, 2017.

Queiroz insists Iran 'will not go to Russia as tourists'

Carlos Queiroz made history this week with Iran, and he wants to do so again next summer.

On June 12, Iran beat Uzbekistan 2-0 at the iconic Azadi Stadium in Tehran to qualify for the World Cup – the first time it'll be in back-to-back competitions – and now its sights are set on a debut appearance in the knockout stages, ESPN FC reported.

"The atmosphere and excitement of the fans were great. They deserve this," Queiroz told ESPN FC.

"We tried not to think about the World Cup, not to play two games in the same game," said Queiroz who was appointed in 2011. "We just wanted to focus on Uzbekistan, just win the game and collect the points. No doubt we were

the best team on the pitch and fortunately we won. Someone needs to win in football, and it was us."

After four years in which Iran was Asia's highest-ranked team according to FIFA, few would argue that this team is the best on the pitch, the only one of any of the traditional continental powerhouses to shine consistently in qualification.

Despite that, Queiroz believes Iran still has work to do.

"I think that, honestly, there are two competitors in Asia," said the former Real Madrid and Portugal boss. "The stats and the real competition. From a data point of view, the numbers show that we are the No. 1 and there is no doubt about that. We did not concede one goal, did not lose and

qualified with two games left.

"But overall, we are far away from the international level. In that sense, I believe that South Korea and Japan are one step ahead of us. They have more experience and football closer to European standards. This is the gap we need to close during our preparation."

Preparation is key. There is a year until it all starts in Russia. "Not many [understand] as to the right amount of credit we deserve for this qualification," he said. "It is hard to explain to the world our problems and that it is hard to find a place to train or teams to play."

Queiroz has had numerous run-ins with bosses at the Iranian Football Federation and various

Iran crowned Asian Greco-Roman champion

Iran was crowned champion in 2017 Asian Youth Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships in Chinese Taipei, claiming five gold medals and two silvers. Iranians, Pouya Dadmarz,

Mohammad-Javad Rezaei, Amin Kavianejad, Mehdi Bali and Amir-Mohammad Hajipour dominated their weight class to finish in the top spot of 50kg, 55kg, 66kg, 84kg and 120kg

classes, respectively. Representing Iran in 60kg class, Karamat Abdevali and 96kg-class wrestler, Amir-Mohammad Norouzi also settled for silver medals after they suffered

Iran defeated to get off race

Iran's chances of a place in 2017 FIVB Volleyball World League Finals in Brazil were seriously jeopardized as the defeat against USA in straight sets (25-17, 25-22, 30-28) leaves the Asian side in 10th place of the Group I table with two games to spare.

Pool H1 fixtures of the World League got underway in Katowice, Poland, on Thursday night and Iran went into its opener against USA on the back of three wins out of six previous fixtures in the

performance at the block that made the difference (12) as Iran's Amir Ghafour was the best scorer for his team (12 points). With an all-round performance, Taylor Sander (9 points, 2 blocks, 1 ace) was also instrumental in his team's win.

Iran's coach, Igor Kolakovic, criticized his team's poor start to game, saying: "We started this match bad, we didn't have a good energy at the beginning of the first set. While the second set was full of ups and downs and in

and thanks to it they managed to equalize. The set was prolonged, we played point-by-point and it went to their advantage, because we didn't have enough self-confidence, so we lost a set which we should win."

Iran's captain, Mir Saeed Marouf, was also disappointed with the way Iran performed in first two sets. "We played just one set. We came back to the game set three, but the moment in the last part was really difficult for us. It's not about stress



Amir Ghafour (L) of Iran, in action against USA's Garrett Muagutiablock, claimed 12 points for Iran in straight-sets defeat against the US, on June 15, 2017.

competition.

With two sets down, Iran was in front by 24-21 in the third set, but still failed to clinch one last set point as USA bounced back to win the decisive third set 30-28.

Youngster Benjamin Patch, 23, was once again the man of the match as he recorded a team-high 21 points. But it was the American per-

formance at the block that made the difference (12) as Iran's Amir Ghafour was the best scorer for his team (12 points). With an all-round performance, Taylor Sander (9 points, 2 blocks, 1 ace) was also instrumental in his team's win.

end we didn't manage to win a set playing this way. The last set was very similar, we also struggled with ups and downs, however, at some point we managed to play our game and what's even more important, we were able to achieve a good score. We were leading 20-14, but then Americans started to risk a lot with their service

before this match, it's about how we played. If you control the match you can win. About the match with Poland I can speak tomorrow," Marouf said after the game.

Next for Iran is a battle with the host, Poland, in the city of Lodz, later tonight. Iran will face Russia in the last game of its campaign in Group I tomorrow.

Art & Culture

Iranian photographer presents gold medal to President Rouhani

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian photographer Mohammad Ali Berno, who received the gold medal at the Paris Photography Awards for his 'Mr. President' photo collection, offered his award to Iran's President Hassan Rouhani.



He presented the award to the president during Rouhani's meeting with media officials in Tehran on June 14, IRNA reported.

Berno participated in the competition's press/political section with a collection of portraits of Iran's president.

The 'Prix de la Photographie, Paris' (P×3) strives to promote the appreciation of photography, to discover emerging talent, and to introduce photographers from around the world to the artistic community of Paris.

Winning photographs from this competition are exhibited in a gallery in Paris and published in the high-quality, P×3 Annual Book of Photography.

The Paris Photography Awards was originally conceived by Hossein Farmani, Anousheh Barbezieux and Anne Lagerberg in June of 2004 in Paris. The logo was designed by Funda Çakır Mehter.

Charlie Chaplin's Kennington home honored with blue plaque

Charlie Chaplin was honored with an English Heritage blue plaque at his former London home in Brixton Road, Kennington — his last British home.

According to londonnewsonline.co.uk, the plaque was unveiled by comedian Paul Merton outside the top-floor flat of Glenshaw Mansions — a home he shared with his older half-brother Sydney between 1908 and 1910.

One of his few surviving London addresses, Chaplin remembered this flat in his 1964 autobiography calling it his 'cherished haven'. Chaplin and his brother moved into this four-storey mansion block spending just £40 on furnishings.

This included a couch, two armchairs, a fretwork Moorish screen lit by a yellow bulb and a tasteful female portrait. Chaplin, believed to have been born in East Street, Walworth, described the design in his autobiography as a combination of a 'Moorish cigarette shop and a French whore-house. But we loved it'.

He left from there for America in 1910 — leaving a note for Sydney because he disliked goodbyes. Chaplin's tramp character remains one of the most iconic in the history of cinema. Chaplin's tramp costume — a too tight jacket, voluminous trousers and oversized shoes — reflect the ill-fitting clothes that he wore during his poverty-stricken childhood.

John Bew wins £3,000 Orwell Prize

Historian John Bew won the £3,000 Orwell Prize for Books 2017 for his biography of former Labour Prime Minister Clement Attlee, published by riverrun/Quercus.

The Orwell Prize for political writing is awarded by The Orwell Foundation each year to the book which comes closest to the English writer George Orwell's ambition "to make political writing into an art".

The winner of the £3,000 prize was announced at The Orwell Prize Ceremony at University College London and presented by Richard Blair, George Orwell's son, the bookseller, com reporter.

'Citizen Clem: A Biography of Clement Attlee' examines "the intellectual foundations and core beliefs of one of the most important figures in twentieth-century British history, arguing that he remains underappreciated, rather than simply underestimated".

It wins The Orwell Prize just a week after a sea change election in British politics, in which Jeremy Corbyn's Labour achieved the highest increase of the Labour vote since Clement Attlee's party in 1945, while the UK remains set to leave the European Union.

Bew teaches History and Foreign Policy at the War Studies Department at King's College London. He is a contributing writer at the New Statesman and the author of five books, including 'Realpolitik: A History and Castlereagh (OUP)'. He was born in Belfast, educated at Cambridge and lives in Wimbledon, London.

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Artworks went on display at the 25th Tehran International Holy Qur'an Exhibition. The exhibition's motto was 'Quran, Ethics and Life'.



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Best US Accolade given to Iran's 'Release from Heaven'

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian animation 'Release from Heaven', by Ali Noori-Oskouei, grabbed the best film award at the 14th Accolade Global Film Competition in the US.

Set in a war torn country, the animation narrates the story of a female writer and teacher, Sareh, who has to accompany two of her students on a life changing mission find their fathers, cinemaps.ir wrote.

'Release from Heaven' is a mixture of fantasy and reality in which the teacher tries to tell stories for her students to encourage them, but she finds out that the heroes of her stories are real.

The flick also received the Animation that Matters Award at the 3rd Animation Day in Cannes (ADIC).

The Accolade Global Film Competition is unique in the industry. It attracts both powerhouse companies and talented new filmmakers in an exceptional, truly international



awards competition, and not a traditional film festival, allowing filmmakers from around the world to enter their films in this prestigious competition.



The Great Wall of Gorgan: World's longest brick wall

The Great Wall of Gorgan is a series of ancient defensive fortifications located in Gorgan on the southeastern corner of the Caspian Sea.

The wall, dating back to the late Sassanid era, is located



at a geographic narrowing between the Caspian Sea and the mountains of northeastern Iran.

Among archeologists the wall is also known as the Red Snake due to the color of its bricks.

According to UNESCO World Heritage Center, the Great Wall of Gorgan stretches for almost 200km and is lined by 38 forts. It is the longest fort-lined ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, it is longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together.

It is also more than three times the length of the longest late Roman defensive wall built from scratch — the Anastasian Wall west of Constantinople. The combined area of the forts on the Gorgan Wall exceeds that of those on Hadrian's Wall about threefold. These figures do not take into account that a substantial section in the west appears to be buried under marine sediments of the Caspian Sea. It may even join up with the Tammisheh Wall — a shorter defensive barrier of strikingly similar design.

Both walls employed large fired bricks of similar shape and size, both are lined by an earth bank and ditch (supplied with water by canals) and by batteries of virtually identical brick kilns, both are protected by similar forts and both run from the Alborz Mountains to the Caspian Sea. Whether or not they were parts of a single barrier, the Gorgan and Tammisheh Walls and their associated forts certainly formed part of the same defensive system.

The Great Wall of Gorgan and its associated earthwork, forts, brick kilns and canals still survive in part on an impressive scale. Whilst much of the brick wall itself has been robbed, some sections survive to up to 1.5m height, whilst in others only the bottom courses remain. Much better preserved are those elements of the defensive system built of soil or mud-brick. Excavations in Fort 4 have demonstrated that the original mud-brick walls of these, probably two-storey-high, buildings survive to a height of more than three meters.

Weather



24 19

Amol



43 31

Jiroft



24 19

Ramsar



36 19

Shahriar



38 21

Shiraz

35[^]
v22

Tehran



38 23

Dushanbe



46 29

Mecca



23 13

Saint Petersburg



27 19

Tokyo



26 20

Toronto