



Iran fires missiles at Daesh in Syria

Zarif: Iran's missile power aims to uproot terrorism

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched six missiles at Daesh's headquarters in eastern Syria in response to terror attacks in Tehran which left 18 dead and more than 50 injured earlier this month.

The IRGC announced on Sunday that six medium-range ground-to-ground missiles were fired from Iran's western provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan into Syria's mostly Daesh-held Deir ez-Zor Province.

It added the projectiles targeted a Daesh command base, killing a large number of terrorists and destroying a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and equipment.

The state television said the attack killed a Daesh commander, a Saudi national named Saad al-Husseini, known as Abu Saad.

"The spilling of innocent blood will not go unanswered," said the IRGC in a statement.

It further assured the Iranian nation that it will "spare no efforts to defend the national security and obviate plots as well as anti-security phenomena."

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Britain, EU kick off 'positive' Brexit talks

Britain and the European Union finally began formal Brexit negotiations Monday, vowing to work constructively for a deal despite disarray in London over whether to go for a "hard" or "soft" divorce.

Almost exactly a year after Britain's seismic referendum to leave the bloc, the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier of France, welcomed his counterpart David Davis with a cheery handshake at the European Commission in Brussels, AFP wrote.

The smiles belied the fact that at stake is not just Britain's future but also Europe's postwar political order and its place in the world, which could be fatally undermined without an agreement by the March 2019 deadline.

"We must first tackle the uncertainties caused by Brexit," Barnier said, citing the rights of EU citizens in Britain and the possible impact on the open border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

"I hope today we can identify priorities and a timetable that would allow me to report to the European Council (summit) later this week that we had a constructive opening of negotiations," added the former European commissioner and French foreign minister, speaking against a backdrop of British and EU flags.

A key issue he did not mention was the EU's bill for Britain to leave, which Brussels estimates at a colossal 100 billion euros.

•Positive and constructive•

Davis, a prominent tough-talking figure in the "Leave" campaign, sounded a positive note, saying that while there would "undoubtedly be challenging times ahead" he wanted a good relationship with the EU.

European stocks rose on Monday, partly on optimism about the talks actually getting underway after months of sniping and uncertainty, analysts said.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized the unity of the remaining 27 EU countries, who have been alarmed in recent weeks by May's threats to walk out of the talks.

"I would like us to get a good agreement that is in both sides' interests. But the 27 of us will formulate our interests very clearly and hopefully, together," Merkel said.

Worried by immigration and loss of sovereignty, Britons voted last year to end their country's four-decade membership in the 28-country bloc – the first nation ever to do so.

May officially triggered the two-year Brexit process in March when she was riding high in opinion polls, and called for fresh elections shortly afterwards to shore up her mandate for a tough Brexit stance.

Russia vows to shoot down all 'flying objects' in Syria

Russia on Monday warned US and coalition forces it will shoot down any aircraft or drones encroaching on its area of operations in western Syria.

The Russian Defense Ministry said it is now treating any coalition aircraft flying west of the Euphrates as targets following the downing of a Syrian jet, Daily Mail reported.

Russia said it was suspending coordination with the US involving 'de-confliction zones' after a US Navy F/A-18E Super Hornet shot down a Syrian Air Force SU-22.

A communication line between Washington and Moscow that was intended to help coordinate flights to avoid midair collisions has also been shut down.

Russia said that the US did not use that line prior to shooting down the SU-22.

Russia has been providing air cover for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's troops since 2015 and have deployed its advance S-400 Growler air defense system in the Latakia Airbase on the Syrian coast.

The Growler has a range of 250 miles and can hit targets up to an altitude of 90,000 feet.

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that it was suspending the deal after the US military confirmed that it downed a Syrian air force fighter jet on Sunday after it dropped bombs near US partner forces.

"The shooting down of a Syrian Air Force jet in Syria's airspace is a cynical violation of Syria's sovereignty," the ministry said.

"The US repeated combat operations under the guise of combating terrorism against the legitimate armed forces of a UN member-country are a flagrant violation of international law and an actual military aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic."

The ministry said it views the incident as Washington's "deliberate failure to make good on its commitments" under the de-confliction deal.

The Pentagon admitted it shot down the Syrian near Ja'Din, south of Taqba on Sunday afternoon. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov on Monday condemned the US for the strike, describing it as an act of aggression.

"This strike has to be seen as a continuation of America's line to disregard the norms of international law," Ryabkov told journalists in Moscow. "What is this if not an act of aggression?"



Van rams worshippers leaving London mosque

A van ploughed into a crowd of Muslims near a London mosque early on Monday, leaving one person dead and injuring 10 others in the second terror attack this month in the British capital.

Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the "sickening" incident, saying Britain's determination to fight "terrorism, extremism and hatred... must be the same, whoever is responsible", AFP reported.

The 48-year-old driver of the van, a white man who police believe acted alone, was detained by people at the scene before being arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

The Finsbury Park Mosque in north London said the van "deliberately mowed down Muslim men and women leaving late evening prayers" at the mosque and the nearby Muslim Welfare House shortly after midnight.

Others linked the attack to an increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes, particularly since the London Bridge rampage on June 3 that left eight people dead, which was claimed by the Daesh terror group.

"This was an attack on London and all Londoners and we should all stand together against extremists whatever their cause," said Neil Basu, senior counter-terrorism officer for the Metropolitan Police.



He added that it had "all the hallmarks" of a terrorist attack. It unfolded as a man was receiving first aid from members of the public in an unrelated incident. The man later died, though it is not yet clear whether his death was linked to the attack, Basu said.

Ten people were hurt, all of them Muslims, with eight of them requiring hospital treatment. Two of them were in a very serious condition, police said.

A witness, Abdiqadir Warra, said that the van "drove at people" and that some of the victims were carried for several meters along the road.

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France's Macron wins strong majority for reform

President Emmanuel Macron was poised to forge ahead with his pro-EU, pro-business reforms Monday after his centrist party redrew France's political map with a resounding victory in parliamentary elections.

Although it fell short of a predicted landslide, Macron's Republic on the Move (REM) and its allies won 350 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly on Sunday, AFP reported.

The election was being closely watched in Europe and around the world to see if France's youngest-ever leader would secure a mandate to push through his pro-EU reform agenda.

The new body will be nearly six years younger on average, have a record 223 women lawmakers, and will be strikingly less politically experienced.

The trailblazing party that 39-year-old Macron founded just 14 months ago has caused a political earthquake even if the winning score was considerably lower than the 470 seats predicted by some pre-vote surveys.

"A profoundly renewed political generation takes over the reins of legislative power," wrote editorialist Alexis Brezet in the right-leaning daily Le Figaro.

Macron's confident start at home, where he has concentrated on trying to restore the lost prestige of the president, and his bold action on the international stage has inspired a raft of positive headlines.

Macron wants to use his majority in parliament to pursue his agenda of loosening labor laws and overhauling France's social security system.

He has already had little pushback on his stated intention to use executive orders to push through reforms without parliamentary debate -- though street protests over the erosion of cherished workers' rights such as those seen last year are considered likely.

The parliamentary boost also strengthens Macron's hand on the European stage as the EU heads into negotiations on Britain's departure from the bloc.

The staunch euophile -- in stark contrast to presidential rival Marine Le Pen -- will take part in his first EU summit Thursday and Friday in Brussels.

He wants a leadership role in countering the kind of nationalism that far-right leader Le Pen represents, which spurred the Brexit vote and helped propel Donald Trump to the US presidency.

Iran condoles with Portugal over deadly forest fire

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Monday expressed sorrow over a deadly forest blaze in Portugal, extending condolences on behalf of the Iranian nation to the families of the victims.

At least 62 people have been killed and dozens wounded in a huge forest blaze in central Portugal. Many of the victims died in their cars as they tried to flee the flames, IRNA reported.



REUTERS

More than 1,000 firefighters were still battling the European country's deadliest forest blaze on Monday.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who on Sunday visited Pedrogao Grande, a mountainous area about 200 kilometers (125 miles) northeast of Lisbon, called it the biggest human tragedy in Portugal in living memory, Reuters reported.

Welcome light rain that started on Monday morning brought only modest relief to the shocked population and exhausted firefighters. Water planes, including French and Spanish ones, resumed their missions after stopping overnight.

"There is still a lot of forest that can burn and the rain does not make much difference," said Rui Barreto, deputy chief firefighter at the makeshift emergency services headquarters in Pedrogao Grande as thunder rolled through the skies over the ash-covered town.

Firefighters said the weather conditions were still adverse in most areas where the flames were raging. Two army battalions were helping the emergency services.

Neighbors help

Dozens of fire engines drove back and forth to fight the raging blaze in areas as far as 20 kilometers north of Pedrogao Grande. In a sign of help Portugal is receiving from its European neighbors, four Spanish fire engines were seen driving off from the headquarters.

At least half the victims died in their cars as they tried to flee along a local motorway while many other bodies were found next to the road, suggesting they had probably abandoned their vehicles in panic.

Despite government assurances that the first response by the emergency services was swift and adequate, many media and residents questioned the efficiency of the operation and the strategic planning in a country which is used to wooded areas burning every year.

Police said a lightning strike on a tree probably caused the blaze on Saturday in a region hit by an intense heat wave and dry, gusty winds, which fanned the flames.

Leader: US regime change efforts in Iran always ended in failure



khamenei.ir

Iran FM urges talks for resolving regional differences

Political Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday called for the peaceful settlement of differences among regional nations through dialogue.

Zarif made the call in a meeting with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz in Nouakchott.

The two sides also discussed ways to deepen bilateral political and economic ties.

Separately, the top Iranian diplomat held talks with his Mauritanian counterpart Isliko Ould Ahmed Ized Beih.

The two ministers discussed regional issues, including the battle against terrorism and extremism. They further held talks over

boosting banking cooperation and encouraging the private sectors of both nations to work in mining, energy, agriculture and fishery sectors.

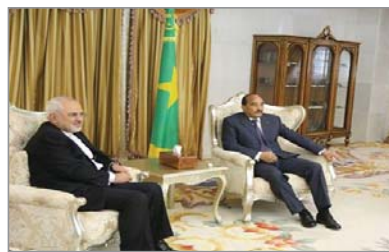
Scientific, technological, aerospace, medication and biotechnological issues were also discussed.

This was Zarif's second leg of a two-day official visit to three North African countries.

Iran's foreign minister left Mauritania for Tunisia to meet and talk with Tunisian officials.

On Sunday, Zarif arrived in Algeria and met with the country's Prime Minister Abdelmajid Téboune and some other senior officials.

The visits are aimed at boosting mutual relations and expanding ties between Iran and the African countries, as well as discussing the developments of the region, including Syria and the Persian Gulf, according to the Foreign Ministry.



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Iran fires missiles at Daesh...

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The missile attack was the first by Iran outside its own territory in 30 years, since the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88.

The strike came after deadly twin attacks in Tehran on June 7, the first ones in Iran claimed by Daesh.

Iran has arrested dozens of terrorists since the Tehran attacks.

Iran anti-terror fight

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday defended the country's right to develop its missile program, saying it is aimed at uprooting terrorism and extremism.

"Iran's missile capability protects its citizens in lawful self-defense," the minister said on his Twitter account on Monday following the missile attack against Daesh.

He added that the Islamic Republic's missile power advances common global campaign to eradicate Daesh, extremism and terrorism.

IRGC warning

IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif warned terrorists and their sponsors about "more serious revenge" should they try their hands at

staging more terror attacks against the Islamic Republic.

Speaking to Press TV on Monday, Sharif said that the counter-strike has taken place "on a very limited scale."

"If similar behavior is repeated with similar terrorist operations, more serious revenge will be exacted on them by our missile power and also by our forces against terrorists," he cautioned.

"The message of this operation for terrorist groups and also their regional and international sponsors is that they should never try to undermine the national security of Iran," he noted.

"Fortunately, all incoming reports and images of drones which were monitoring the operation suggest that the six medium-range powerful Iranian missiles have precisely hit the targets, the key bases of terrorists in the general area of Deir ez-Zor inside Syria."

He said field reports gleaned by the IRGC suggested that the attack had inflicted considerable casualties on terrorist groups and destroyed their equipment and systems.

The retaliation, he said, came after the IRGC vowed to retaliate against the terror assaults.

Missiles hit target

Amir Ali Hajizadeh, com-

mander of the IRGC's Aerospace Force, said on Monday that the missiles fired at Daesh positions have found their targets with maximum accuracy.

"The UAVs which had been flown from around Damascus to Deir ez-Zor transmitted the moments of impact to us in Iran," Hajizadeh said, adding "the missiles precisely hit their targets."

"Our enemies must know that Tehran is not London and Paris. This was a small job and if they put another foot wrong, more deadly blows will come down on their heads," he added.

Expert examinations of the footage broadcast on state television of the attack identified at least one of the projectiles as the Zolfaghar missile.

Among Iran's medium-range missiles, Shahab 2 and Qiam can fly as far as 700 and 800 kilometers respectively.

Zolfaghar is a solid-fueled medium-range ballistic missile (SRBM) that can reach 700 to 750 kilometers and is accurate within five to 10 meters.

"Identifying terrorist bases and possessing intelligence command in this regard are a world of issues. Firing missiles from a 600-700-kilometer range and landing it over a small building carries a message, meaning they would realize where Iran's fineness is," Hajizadeh said.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that all efforts by the US to change regime in Iran have ended up in failure over the past decades.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with families of martyrs of the Iranian Army, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the police force on Sunday, Press TV reported.

"This revolution and the [Islamic] establishment, which came about [in Iran], have been faced with serious hostilities since its inception," Ayatollah Khamenei said, noting that the United States has always sought to bring about "regime change" in Iran, but has always failed in its efforts to do so.

Downplaying the US claim of regime change in Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Do not look at the bluster of this guy who has just come in America. These [anti-Iran claims] are not new. These have been there since day one, but their language and tone have changed."

Referring to recent remarks by American officials about changing the Iranian government, the Leader noted, "They say we want to change the Islamic Republic establishment. Well, when have you not wanted to do this? You always wanted and you always failed and your nose has been rubbed in the dirt, and it will be like that from now on."

Last Thursday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said during a US House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing that 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 that 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.

The Leader said the American rulers do not know the Iranian nation, adding that the new White House leaders are like nascent hooligans who scare people by brandishing their knives until somebody punches them in the mouth and puts them in their place.

"You see that since the outset of the revolution, these people who wished the elimination of the Islamic Republic are now in the abyss of Hell and have left this world without having achieved their goals," the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the Islamic Republic is standing against world powers with full strength and will continue to do so in the future.

"Everybody must know this; both the enemy must know this and devout friends, [and even] those friends who are sometimes overcome by doubt [must know this]. The Islamic Republic is standing fast, and let it be known that they [enemies] cannot slap us in the face, but we will slap them in the face."

Iranian forces dismantle terrorist group in south

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) managed to kill all members of a terrorist group and completely dismantle it in a southeastern Iranian town, a senior IRGC commander said.

"A terrorist team, which we had engaged a few days ago in the town of Qasr-e Qand, was completely dismantled today after the killing of five more of its elements," Commander of IRGC's Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour told Fars News Agency on Sunday.

Tasnim News Agency reported on Monday that the IRGC managed to kill Jalil Qanbarzahi, a leader of the so-called Ansar al-Furqan terrorist group in the operations.

Pakpour said that two members of the terrorist group had been killed after the operation launched in Qasr-e Qand town in the province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Thursday.

The remaining members had fled to nearby mountains, but were killed during clashes with the intelligence teams of the Qods headquarters of the IRGC ground forces, he noted.

The senior IRGC commander said the identity of the terrorists has not been determined yet, adding, "The terrorists were members of the [so-called] Ansar al-Furqan group and their identities are under investigation."

Pakpour emphasized that no IRGC member was killed or injured in the operations.

The IRGC said in a statement on Thursday that its Qods Headquarters had dispatched its units to Qasr-e Qand after obtaining information about the presence of a Takfiri terrorist group in the area and engaged the group in mountainous areas.

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

On Wednesday, Iranian 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 Kurdistan.

This came in the wake of twin terrorist attacks in the Iranian capital Tehran, which killed 18 people and injured over 50 others.

On June 7, gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of the late Founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assaults. Iran has arrested dozens of terrorists since the Tehran attacks.



Iraqi forces push into Mosul Old City, warn Daesh to 'surrender or die'

Iraqi forces pushed deeper into Mosul's Old City on Monday after launching a final assault on the Daesh terrorist group, warning civilians to stay inside and telling terrorists to "surrender or die".

Iraqi forces launched the operation Sunday to retake the district, the last part of Iraq's second city still held by Daesh after a months-long offensive, AFP reported.

Commanders say the terrorists are putting up fierce resistance and there are fears for more than 100,000 civilians believed to be trapped in the maze of narrow streets.

Staff Major General Maan al-Saadi, a top commander in Iraq's elite Counter-Terrorism Service, told AFP that heavy fighting had resumed at dawn on Monday. "At 6:00 a.m. we pushed deeper into the Old City and took control of new areas in the Faruq neighborhood," he said.

"Daesh resistance has been fierce," he added.

"They have blocked every entrance, planted IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and booby trapped houses our forces might be near," he said. "Penetrating was very difficult. Today the fighting is face to face."

The push into Mosul's historic heart on the west bank of the Tigris River marks the culmination of a months-long campaign by Iraqi forces to retake the terrorist group's last major urban stronghold in the country.

The US-led coalition battling Daesh in Iraq and neighboring Syria has backed the offensive with months of airstrikes.

The loss of Mosul would mark the effective end of the Iraqi portion of the cross-border "caliphate" which Daesh declared in the summer 2014 after seizing



Iraqi forces advance on Mosul's Old City, the last neighborhood of Iraq's second city still held by Daesh, on June 18, 2017

swathes of Iraq and Syria.

Iraqi forces stationed Humvees by the Grand Mosque on the retaken east side of Mosul, facing the Old City and mounted with speakers.

The loudspeakers blared messages to terrorists, telling them: "You have only this choice: surrender or die."

Messages were also broadcast to civilians in the Old City, saying Iraqi forces "are about to end your suffering".

Late on Sunday Iraqi forces dropped nearly 500,000 leaflets over the city, warning that they "have started attacking from all directions".

The leaflets urge civilians to "stay away from open places and... exploit any opportunity that arises during the fighting" to escape.

The United Nations has said Daesh may be holding more than 100,000 civilians as human shields in the Old City.

Commanders have said the fighting is expected to be very difficult and could last weeks.

Surrounded by Iraqi forces on three sides and blocked on the other by the Tigris River that runs through Mosul, the terrorists are cornered.

Iraqi forces launched a vast operation to retake Mosul in October, seizing the city's eastern side in January and starting an assault on its western part in February.

News Analysis

Large parliamentary majority leaves Macron holding all the cards

President has seriously limited traditional left and right parties as high abstention rate casts shadow

By Angélique Chrisafis

Emmanuel Macron's outsider bid to dynamite traditional French party politics appears to have paid off in record time. His fledgling centrist movement and its allies were on course to win a clear parliamentary majority as results were being counted in the legislative elections on Sunday night.

Just over a year after Macron founded a political movement intended to be "neither right nor left", he has succeeded in seriously limiting the traditional left and right parties of government.

But now that Macron's centrist grouping has an absolute majority, the stakes could not be higher for the new president and all the cards are in his hands. He has promised a new honest and irreproachable political class, to streamline the state and to loosen strict labor laws in favor of flexibility for businesses, which he has argued will transform the labor market and reduce unemployment. Expectations are high and there is nowhere for him to hide.

The historic low turnout in the election – around 43% – casts a shadow over the results. A year ago when Macron announced he would run for president, he said he would "end the divorce between the people and those in charge". On Sunday, voter abstention was particularly high in working class and low-income areas and among young people, raising more questions about France's social divide. One of the new parliament's first challenges will be a vote on powers that would enable Macron to use executive decrees to push through changes to employment rules and conditions this autumn.

Macron's plans to loosen labor laws – including potentially setting minimum and maximum compensation awards in unfair dismissal cases – are contentious. The previous Socialist government forced through labor changes by decree last year after street protests led by the leftwing CGT union. Macron's Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, has said the new government will go further to rapidly "modernize" labor laws. Philippe argued that overhauling France's social model of welfare protections was "essential and urgent". There will be delicate negotiations with trade unions first.

"There has never been such a paradox between a high concentration of power and strong tensions and expectations in terms of changes," Laurent Berger, head of France's largest trade union, the CFTD, told the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

A key question is what sort of opposition Macron will face, and who will lead it. In the new parliament, opposition will not come from one single force but will be spread between several fractured parties. The French right, although it will get the second most seats, will have a small presence and many of its MPs are likely to break off and support Macron. Likewise, several of the few Socialists still in parliament will back Macron's proposed new labor laws. The hard-left Jean-Luc Mélenchon's political movement, France Unbowled, will have a parliamentary group intent on providing what it calls "frontal opposition". Marine Le Pen will be vocal but will not have enough members of parliament to form her own far-right group.

France's upper house, the Senate, currently led by the right, could play a vocal role. Certain regional politicians, such as Xavier Bertrand in northern France, will also try to position themselves as opposition forces.

"The debate must always happen in parliament, otherwise it ends up in the street," the rightwing senate leader Gérard Larcher said recently, suggesting that demonstrators with placards could take over from opposition politicians.

It is too early to say whether Macron's labor law changes will spark a street protest movement. The pressure is on the government's negotiation process with trade unions over the coming weeks.

The above analysis was taken from the Guardian.

Police: 79 people presumed dead in London tower block fire

Seventy-nine people are dead or missing and presumed dead following a devastating blaze in a London tower block last week, police said on Monday, as Britain held a minute's silence for the victims.

"As of this morning, I'm afraid to say there are now 79 people that we believe are either dead or missing and I sadly have to presume are dead," Police Commander Stuart Cundy told reporters, AFP reported.

Police had earlier put the toll at 58 presumed dead.

He said only five people had been formally identified so far by police, after officers earlier warned that some may never be identified due to the condition of the remains.

Cundy said the search and recovery operation was ongoing in the burnt-out 24-storey tower.

Cundy promised an "exhaustive" criminal investigation into the fire that would also look at a major refurbishment of the



building completed last year.

"We will go where the evidence may take us," and do everything possible "to ensure that those responsible will be brought to justice," he said.

"If I identify... an issue that is a risk to public safety, we will be sharing that immediately with the relevant authorities," he added.

Cundy warned that the toll of 79 people could change.

"I believe there may be people who were in Grenfell Tower that people may not know were missing and may not have realized they were in there on the night."

"Equally, there may be people who thankfully may have managed to escape the fire and for whatever reason have not let their family or friends or police know," he said.

Van rams worshippers leaving London mosque

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"He was shouting: 'All Muslims, I want to kill all Muslims'," another witness, Khalid Amin, told BBC television.

Basu praised locals for detaining the man, saying that their "restraint in the circumstances was commendable".

Community in shock

The use of a vehicle to mow down pedestrians drew horrifying parallels with the June 3 attack, when three men drove a van into pedestrians before embarking on a stabbing spree, and with another car and knife rampage in Westminster in March. This time, however, the attacker appeared to have deliberately targeted at Muslims.

"Over the past weeks and months, Muslims have endured many incidents of Islamophobia and this is the most violent manifestation to date," said Harun Khan, head of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), an umbrella body.

After the London Bridge attack, the mayor's office reported a 40 percent increase in racist incidents in the city and a fivefold increase in the number of anti-Muslim incidents.

Mohammed Kozbar, chairman of the Finsbury Park Mosque, described it as "cowardly".

"Our community is in shock," he said, urging people attending prayers to remain vigilant.

Media: Japan PM to reshuffle cabinet as ratings slump

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will reshuffle his cabinet to try to bolster ratings battered by suspicions that he helped a friend get favored treatment for his business, media reported on Monday.

The Nikkei business daily, citing government and ruling party sources, said Abe would reorg his cabinet in August or September, Reuters reported.

Abe will probably retain Finance Minister Taro Aso and close ally Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, but it was not clear if he would replace Defense Minister Tomomi Inada, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida or Economy Minister Nobuteru Ishihara.

A slew of fresh public opinion polls showed support for Abe's cabinet slumping sharply, with Mainichi newspaper reporting that his ratings had fallen 10 points to

36 percent, the biggest drop since he took office in December 2012.

Non-support for Abe rose to 44 percent, the first time it surpassed the percentage of backers since October 2015, after parliament enacted controversial security laws expanding the scope for military activities overseas, the Mainichi said.

Last week, Education Ministry unearthed documents that the opposition said suggested Abe wanted a new veterinary school run by a friend to be approved in a state-run special economic zone. The ministry had said it could not find the documents but reopened the probe under public pressure.

Abe has repeatedly denied abusing his authority to benefit his friend.

Opposition politicians and the media have identified Abe's friend



TONY GENTILE/REUTERS

Terrorists: We wouldn't have survived without Israel's assistance in Syria

Israel has been regularly supplying Syrian terrorists near its border with cash as well as food, fuel and medical supplies for years, conducting a secret engagement in the war aimed at carving out a buffer zone populated by friendly forces, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday.

According to local terrorists, Israel wants to keep Hezbollah and other forces fighting on the side of the Syrian government away from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

According to the report, Israel is not only in



JACK GUEZ/AFP

ongoing communication with the terrorists against President Bashar al-Assad's government, but has established an IDF unit that also makes modest payments (\$5,000 a month) to local commanders for salaries and buy ammunition. "Israel stood by our side in a heroic way,"

Moatsem al-Golani, spokesman for Fursan al-Joulan (Knights of the Golan) told WSI. "We wouldn't have survived without Israel's assistance."

Fursan al-Joulan is not connected to the Free Syrian Army and its Western-supplies of money and arms.

as Kotaro Kake, the director of the Kake Educational Institution, which wants to open a veterinary department. The government has not approved new veterinary schools for decades because of concern about a glut of veterinarians.

Almost three-quarters of voters in the Mainichi survey said they were not persuaded by the government's insistence there was nothing wrong with the approval process.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Expert: Gov't needs to sign new deals with int'l oil firms

Domestic Economy Desk

An economic expert said that the government needs to sign new contracts with major international oil companies to expedite the development of oil and petrochemical projects.

Abbas Sha'ri-Moqaddam told IRNA that new deals with reputable firms in the upstream sector of the oil industry will stimulate cooperation between other companies and the Islamic Republic.

Sha'ri-Moqaddam, who is the former managing director of the state-owned National Petrochemical Company (NPC), said such agreements will contribute to economic prosperity and promote domestic know-how.

He noted that the accords will generate jobs and increase revenues.

Any delays in signing and implementing such deals, he cautioned, will hinder the exploitation of reserves from joint South Pars Gas Field which the Islamic Republic shares with Qatar.

The economic expert added that any delay will also provide Iran's neighbors with an opportunity to increase the tapping of energy resources.

South Pars Gas Field, which is located in the Persian Gulf, holds the bulk of Iran's natural gas reserves. The joint field — called the North Dome in Qatar — is the world's biggest with estimated reserves of 51 trillion cubic meters of natural gas and some 50 billion barrels of condensate.



SHANA

Sha'ri-Moqaddam noted that investments must be made in petrochemical projects to purchase modern equipment to tap the potentials of joint energy fields.

Iran has so far developed many phases of South Pars and is seeking to lure foreign investment to complete other phases.

The former NPC chief pointed to domestic capabilities in the energy sector, noting that 90 percent of oil equipment can be produced domestically.

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

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

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

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

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

The firms include Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni, Malaysia's Petronas and Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, as well as companies from China, Austria, Japan and other countries.

Georgia says has lowest fee in

South-West Corridor

Georgia is applying the lowest tariffs for cargo transportation via the South-West Corridor, said the chairman of the Georgian Railway LLC in Baku on Monday.

Mamuka Bakhtadze informed the heads of railway companies of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, Poland and Iran that the tariff applied by the Georgian Railway LLC for the South-West route is \$123 per container, Trend News Agency reported.

"This is the lowest tariff applied by the Georgian Railway LLC," Bakhtadze said, noting, "Even domestic transportation is more expensive. This underlines the priority Georgia places on this corridor."

He noted that in a week, consultations between the railway companies of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Iran will take place in Tbilisi, and invited Ukraine and Poland to participate in the consultations.

Bakhtadze also said the integration of India is critically important for the future development of the corridor.

Along with the Trans-Caspian and North-South corridors, the South-West corridor is of great importance for Azerbaijan. The South-West corridor is supposed to run from India to Europe via the Persian Gulf, Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Black Sea.

In the initial stage, it plans to transport 10 million tons of cargo with the possibility of increasing the volume by several times in the future.

An agreement on the South-West corridor was signed in 2016 by Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Ukraine in Baku.

The corridor will make it possible to slash the time of cargo transportation from India to Europe by two or three times.

Iran produces over 6m tons of iron ore concentrates in two months

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran produced 6.053 million tons of iron ore concentrates during March 21-May 21 indicating an increase of 43 percent compared to the figure for the same two months last year.

A report by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said that the country produced 4.225 million tons of iron ore concentrates during March 20-May 20, 2016, imidro.gov.ir reported.

Major companies producing iron ore concentrates are: Gol-e Gohar (2014 million tons), Chadormalou (1.65 million tons), Markazi (718,802 tons), Middle East Mines and Minerals (538,633 tons), Gohar Zamin (671,367 tons) and Sangam (333,579 million tons).

Based on IMIDRO report, six major domestic mining companies produced 1.015 million tons of iron ore granules during the said period.

They included Markazi (332,880 tons), Jalal-Abad (225,360 tons), Iranian Central Plateau Iron Ore Mines Complex (170,777 tons), Sangam (153,624 tons), Chadormalou (73,050 tons) and Mishdovan (60,289 tons).

According to the latest report of United States Geological Survey, Iran ranks among the top 10 iron ore producers.

Iran is among the 15 major mineral-rich countries and exports its industrial and mineral products to 159 countries, including Iraq, China, the UAE, India and Afghanistan.

Mineral exports account for about 32 percent of non-oil exports.

In September 2015, Finland's engineering group Outotec was awarded a contract for the delivery of technology for a new iron ore beneficiation plant in northeast Iran, the company announced.

The plant — owned by Khorasan Steel



IRNA

Complex Company — will have a capacity to produce 2.5 million metric tons of pellet feed grade iron ore concentrate per year.

Under an order worth \$45 million by Iran International Engineering Company (IRITEC), Outotec provides process technology for "a complete beneficiation plant and an entire value chain from raw material testing, process development to concentration and dewatering."

The company will be also responsible for basic engineering, and supply of key process equipment, as well as advisory services for detail engineering, construction and commissioning, Outotec said.

"This order is another significant milestone for Outotec in the quickly developing Iranian iron and steel industry," said Kalle Härkki, the head of Outotec's Minerals Processing business area.

The order is similar to one awarded by Bafq Mineral Complex Iron and Steel Industry Company to Outotec in June, 2015 to establish an iron ore pelletizing plant in Iran's central Yazd Province.

The green field investment program — part of several projects being executed by Outotec in Iran — included building a new plant to produce five million metric tons of iron ore pellets a year by 2018.

Under the contract, the Finnish engineering group would provide the technology license, basic engineering of the pelletizing plant, detailed engineering and supply of proprietary and key equipment and automation, as well as advisory site services for installation, commissioning and start-up.

The company said then that its pelletizing technology was selected due to its strong track record in Iran.

"Our technologies are widely used in Iranian iron ore and copper operations, as Outotec has delivered sustainable technologies to Iran since the 1970s," head of Outotec's Europe, Middle East and Africa region Adel Hattab said.

Iran, Eni to sign MoU on Kish, Darkhovayn fields

Italy's Eni is preparing to sign a preliminary agreement to study Iran's Kish gas field and Darkhovayn oilfield. According to Press TV, the agreement — a memorandum of understanding — is to be signed by Eni and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) today.

The agreement will give Eni six months to study Kish gas field in the Persian Gulf and also Darkhovayn oilfield in the southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Italy's biggest oil and gas firm hopes to pick up where it left off in the Darkhovayn project.

It completed the first and second development phases of the oilfield under a \$550-million contract it had signed in 2001.

Eni was involved in the development of several oil and gas projects in Iran before a series of US-led sanctions barred international oil corporations from investing in the country. The Italian energy giant was involved in projects such as the development of Phases 4 and 5 of South Pars in the Persian Gulf as well as the development of Darkhovayn, Doroud and Balal oilfields.

The company had submitted a proposal to develop Darkhovayn's third phase and was reportedly close to finalizing a \$1.5-billion agreement in 2009, but was forced to halt operations after sanctions were imposed against Iran.

Iran is reportedly drawing around 160,000 barrels per day from Darkhovayn. The third phase seeks to raise daily output by an additional 50,000 barrels.

Located 30 kilometers east of Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf, Kish gas field holds an estimated 1.3 trillion cubic meters of natural gas in situ and more than 500 million barrels of gas condensate.

Iran has signed a flurry of deals with Western

companies over the past year since the easing of international sanctions on Tehran after an accord was reached over its nuclear program.

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



SHANA

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

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

Iran has named 29 companies from more than a dozen

countries as being eligible to bid for oil and gas projects using the new, less restrictive contract model.

The firms include Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni, Malaysia's Petronas and Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, as well as companies from China, Austria, Japan and other countries.

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

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

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

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

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

Norwegian oil and gas company DNO said it was the second Western energy company after Total to sign a deal with Iran under which it agreed to study the development of the Changleh oilfield in western Iran.

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

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

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

ICCIMA: Indonesia major destination for Iranian businessmen

Indonesia is a major destination for Iranian businessmen, said head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Gholamhossein Shafei said in a meeting with Indonesian Ambassador to Iran Octavio Alimudin that Iran-Indonesia trade, which had reached a record high of \$2 billion in 2011, has declined to \$500 million due to sanctions, Mehr News Agency reported.

He however noted that the implement-

ation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) changed the image by creating a new positive atmosphere in economic transactions and bilateral investments.

"Iran attaches great significance to East Asian and Muslim countries, particularly Indonesia which has excellent potentials for strengthening economic ties."

He touched upon good energy cooperation between the two countries and

said that Iran can act as a gateway to CIS countries for Indonesia which can, in turn, can link Iran to ASEAN countries.

Pointing to a gap in communications between economic activists of Iran and Indonesia he called for exchange of more delegations to identify venues for collaboration.

The Indonesian ambassador said the holding of frequent sessions between traders of the two countries was a sign of determination to advance economic

targets.

Alimudin said implementation of earlier agreements will lead to an upsurge in trade turnover between Tehran and Jakarta.

"An Indonesian oil company purchased \$88 million of crude last year from Iran while the figure will climb to \$220 million in the current year," highlighted the ambassador pointing to the rise in oil trade between the two sides.

He further called for improvement of trade tariffs between Iran and Indonesia saying "a delegation is slated to visit Tehran soon to identify and remove barriers to commercial transactions".

Chinese home prices

The property market in major Chinese cities continued to stabilize after authorities implemented a string of measures to contain price hikes, according to an official survey released on Monday.

Brexiters have voted for a poverty even worse than austerity

By William Keegan

When I suggested before the election that an ideal outcome would be a hung parliament and a coalition to think again on Brexit, I was certainly not thinking of the DUP. But, as (former British PM) Harold Macmillan once said: "Here we are, and the question is: Where do we go from here?"

It seems to be generally agreed that the election result boiled down to a vote against austerity and a vote against a so-called 'hard Brexit', with the young — predominantly Remainers and angry about austerity — in full swing. The Guardian wrote:

The vote against austerity was long overdue. Under Cameron and Osborne the Conservatives got away with blue murder in blaming the world financial crisis on Labour in general and Gordon Brown in particular.

Their obsession with 'the deficit' hoodwinked people who do not understand that a nation is not a household, and that cuts in public expenditure are the reverse of what is required in a time of depression.

All economies need a period of rapid growth after a

recession. This was denied to the people of this country, who have finally rebelled. Way back in 1980, in the early stages of Thatcher's sado-monetarist regime, the great J.K. Galbraith wrote in this newspaper: "British social services and social insurance soften what elsewhere might be intolerable hardship. British phlegm is a good antidote for anger, but so is an adequate system of unemployment insurance."

Unfortunately, the gaps in our social safety net are showing, and in some cases a government obsessed with reducing the size of the state has deliberately ripped that net apart.

Thinktanks are vying with one another to tell us about a record period of negligible growth in living standards. Alas, things are becoming even worse as the referendum-induced devaluation bites further into real incomes.

The terrible thing about the prospect of Brexit is that our underlying economic situation is already bad enough, and the Brexit decision, if not reversed, is guaranteed to make things a lot worse.

In economics there are time lags between announcements and their consequences, and under George

Osborne the Treasury overdid its warnings about the timing of the referendum's effects.

Only now are people beginning to realize the consequences of the decision made last year by the world's financial markets that Britain had, in effect, voted to become poorer and less secure. The devaluation constituted a reassessment of this country's economic prospects.

It was Philip Hammond, Osborne's successor, who, in challenging Theresa May's obsession with a hard Brexit, maintained that the people who voted for Brexit did not vote to become poorer. But that is what the 51.9 percent of those who voted in effect did.

There were those who thought that the fantasy of a 150-seat majority would enable May to see off the hard Brexiters and pursue a more sensible policy.

But all the evidence suggested that she meant what she said: That she put reductions in immigration above all else, and was prepared to leave the customs union and the single market in order to realize this dubious aim.

** William Keegan is the Observer's senior economics commentator.*

dtem25.org

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	78859.2	(54)	0
Industry Index	67760.3	(18.3)	(0.08)
Free Float Index	85851.9	86.3	0.1
First Market Index	54406.9	(34)	(0.02)
Second Market Index	176598.8	192.8	0.15

Overall Index details on 20170619

First	78990.4	Change end of year(%)	918.32%
High	79001.7	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	78859.2	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	78859.2	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	0		

Industry Index details on 20170619

First	67855.4	Change end of year(%)	1027.74%
Max Value	67862.4	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69610.5	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	67760.3	Base Value	
Closing	(18.3)		

Free Float Index details on 20170619

First	86313.9	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	88753.6	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	88687.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	85851.9	Base Value	
Closing	86.3		

Main Board Index details on 20170619

First	54542.1	Change end of year(%)	777.1%
Max Value	54544.4	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	55990.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	54406.9	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(34)		

Secondary Index details on 20170619

First	176638.5	Change end of year(%)	1345.03%
Max Value	176807.8	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	181452.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	176598.8	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	192.8		

Emerging market investors think BRIC nations are back

Resurgent growth is reviving one of the past decade's hottest trades.

Emerging-market investors are again piling into the so-called BRIC nations — Brazil, Russia, India and China — pushing monthly inflows and stock prices to nearly two-year highs. The bet is that a pickup in the global economy will fuel demand for the countries' commodity exports, drive an expansion of middle-class consumption and help them shore up fiscal accounts, according to Bloomberg.

Woored by India's efforts to streamline regulations, Brazil's economic rebound, stabilizing prices for Russian oil exports and China's stronger currency, traders are warming to the countries' higher yields and better outlook for equities.

It's an abrupt reversal after they were scorched by a 40 percent drop in the biggest BRIC exchange-traded fund from the end of 2012 through early 2016 as Brazil



telegraph.co.uk

lost its investment grade. Chinese growth slowed from a meteoric pace, Russia's oil revenue plummeted and India's current account deficit swelled.

"Improving fundamentals, attractive valuations, and high yields in a yield-starved world make emerging markets

once again attractive, including some of the BRICs," Jens Nystedt, a New York-based money manager at Morgan Stanley Investment Management overseeing \$417 billion in assets, wrote in an email.

Non-resident portfolio flows into BRIC nations rose to \$166.5 billion last month,

up from \$28.3 billion in outflows 12 months prior, according to data compiled by the Institute of International Finance and EPFR Global.

Chinese equities saw their biggest quarterly inflows in two years, while traders piled into Indian bonds at the highest level in almost three years, Bloomberg data showed.

Mark Mobius, executive chairman of Templeton Emerging Markets Group, favors Brazil, China and India, adding that Russia will also benefit from a growth rebound.

Brazilian assets will benefit as Latin America's largest economy bounces back from two years of contractions, while Chinese investment will pick up as its foreign reserves recover from a six-year low in January, according to Steve Hooker, who helps oversee \$12 billion of assets as an emerging-market money manager at Newfleet Asset Management.

Japan has surprise deficit as import growth beats exports

Japan had a surprise trade deficit in May, as stronger-than-expected imports overpowered the best export growth in more than two years.

The trade has seen a sustained pickup since the start of the year, with five consecutive months of growth in both exports and imports, Bloomberg reported.

It's indicative of an increasingly healthy global economy and a relatively competitive yen.

The Bank of Japan has expressed optimism that private consumption will join exports in helping drive Japan's economic recovery.

Economist views

• "Exports are solid. Today's report confirms that the shipments will continue to drive Japan's economy in coming months, feeding gradually to capital spending and household spending," said Takeshi Minami, chief

Japan economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

• Japanese exporters are benefiting from a global production recovery, and the trade deficit is "mainly because of a rise in imports, reflecting Japan's resilient economy," Minami said.

• "Export volumes increased for a fourth straight month. That showed exports are growing steadily and external demand is a leading factor in the Japanese economy," said Yuichi Kodama, chief economist at Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co. in Tokyo.

• There's no weak spot among major regions globally and all are heading toward recovery, which is helping Japan's exports, Kodama said.

• The Finance Ministry said that Japan often experiences deficits in May, as exports slow relative to imports due to a string of national holidays early in the month.

• Price and currency changes raised the value of energy imports. The import volume of liquid natural gas



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rose 13 percent from a year ago, while the value jumped almost 69 percent. Coal and oil were similarly affected.

• Exports to China — Japan's largest trading partner — climbed 23.9 percent from a year earlier.
• Those to the US rose 11.6 percent.
• Shipments to the EU increased 19.8 percent.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2848	Chinese Yuan	0.1467
Euro	1.1194	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2796	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2944
Australian Dollar	0.7614	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$44.84	Silver	\$16.64
Gold	\$1252.50	Platinum	\$923.80
Copper	\$2.58	Wheat	\$464.25

Indian government is working on a scheme to promote energy efficient homes by offering cheaper loans and lower registration fee for green residential units as it ramps up efforts to mitigate climate change.

Monitoring soil structure changes after compaction

Soil compaction is a global threat to soil ecosystem services, causing tremendous costs to society. The costs of soil compaction are borne by the cumulative loss of soil functionality (e.g. yield loss) following a compaction event until the soil has functionally recovered.



phys.org

Although soil compaction is relatively widely studied, there is a lack of reliable observations and metrics for soil structure recovery rates after compaction, phys.org reported.

In the April issue of Vadose Zone Journal, researchers describe the objectives, the design, the implementation, and monitoring concept of a long-term field experiment for monitoring post-compaction evolution of soil structure, referred to as a soil structure observatory.

Initial compaction increased soil bulk density to about 0.5-meter depth, decreased fluid transport capability and increased mechanical impedance. Initial results from the post-compaction monitoring indicate projected recovery rates of years to decades, with different recovery rates for different properties and decreasing recovery rates with soil depth.

Besides enabling quantification of recovery rates of compacted soil and better understanding of the recovery mechanisms, the authors expect that data provided by the soil structure observatory will help improve our general understanding of soil structure dynamics and help define strategies and guidelines for accelerating soil structure recovery, and more generally, improving soil structure in modern agriculture.

Preserving Hormuz Island soil

Environment Desk

Department of the Environment (DoE) and Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade will sign a memorandum of understanding within the next ten days to preserve the colorful soil of Hormuz Island in the Persian Gulf and prevent any exploitation, said the deputy head of DoE.

Parvin Farschi further said that this colorful soil, which is very rare, is considered a cultural heritage. She said: "One of DoE's priorities is to preserve Hormuz soil."

Taking even one millimeter of soil out of Hormuz Island is an offense, she said, adding that the MoU would prevent the activities of a mine operating on the island.

Hormuz is a dome-shaped salty island in the Persian Gulf. It is located eight kilometers from Bandar Abbas.

It is considered a key location in the Persian Gulf due to its geography and proximity to the Hormuz Strait.

Hormuz Island is a secluded spot loved by environmentalists and those who long for peace and quiet.

The oval island has gained popularity among artists too.

Its beaches, which are covered with colorful soil, form the canvas for artists.

Among green, brown, white, ochre, red and black mountains, the island's Red Mountains are distinct. Locals use its soil for baking special bread and add it to pickles as spice.

As a result of low precipitation and a high concentration of salt in the island's soil and water, no plant grows there. However, its truly different soil has turned it into an ideal setting for geological studies.



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From luxury hotels to slums, Haiti puts used soap to good use

A Haitian program to recycle used soap bars from luxury hotels has proven a win-win-win proposition, reducing waste, helping fight water-borne disease and giving employees like Magoiana Fremont the chance to send her kids to school and let them 'eat every day'.

The project, simple but effective, has had a remarkable impact, according to AFP.

Laure Bottinelli discovered the idea of

soap-recycling while spending time in Southeast Asia.

Inspired to try something similar in Haiti, she and two associates in January 2016 created the Anacona company, Haiti's first and only soap-recycling enterprise.

They have already enlisted 25 hotels in the plan, in both Port-au-Prince and Jacmel, a weekend destination for many foreigners living in the capital.

"In Haiti, nothing is ever wasted: Poverty is such that everything is recovered, reused in one way or another," said Mai Cardozo Stefansson, part of the management team at Montana, a luxury hotel in Port-au-Prince.

"Normally, the staff saves the soap for their own use. But now they collect used bars and give them to Laure. In return, they receive clean, reconditioned soap bars."



AFP

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Apartment

Apt in Mahmoudieh
5th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., lobby,
spj, big balcony, fully furn,
diplomatic, \$6000
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Several Apts in Garden Tower in
Elahieh
New, from 150 sq.m to 250
sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden, spj,
equipped kitchen, could be fully
furn and new brand, Lobby,
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saloon
Only \$4200 per month
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New Apt in Elahieh
7th floor, each floor one Apt,
329 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., big balcony,
lobby, spj, quit & cozy, equipped
kitchen, furn/unfurn
Price negotiable
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Apt in Jordan
85 sq.m, 1 Bdr., fully furn, clean
& quit
\$1000
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Villa

Palace in
Tajrish/ Elahieh
duplex, 7000 sq.m land, 2200
sq.m built up, 8 Bdrs., renovated,
green & unbelievable Garden,
water fall, Spj, Parking,
completely renovated, big saloon
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Suitable for
Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

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Pkg, indoor pool, Spj
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Suitable for Residency of
Ambassadors
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Luxury Villa in the North
duplex, 1200 sq.m built up,
2000 sq.m land, 5 Bdrs., big
saloon, servant, indoor pool, Spj,
renovated, beautiful and green
garden, semi furn
\$18000 negotiable
Suitable for Embassies
Renting also for Iranian
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Shahrak Qarb
800 sq.m built up, 5 Bdrs., duplex,
renovated, semi furn, garden,
pool, Parking
Suitable for
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150 sq.m, new, furn/ unfurn, good
access, 2 parking spaces, \$3000
Suitable for foreign Companies
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Whole Building in Elahieh
3 Apts, each floor is 130 sq.m with 2
Bdrs., one duplex Apt with 3 Bdrs.,
parking, storage rooms, near to
highway
Price reasonable
Suitable for Embassy
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Whole Building in Kamranieh
5th floor, each floor 4 Apts, 20 Apts total,
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new
Price negotiable
Suitable for Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal offers

Super luxury new Apt
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2nd floor, 140 sq.m, 2 Master rooms,
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مالکین محترم
ویلاي شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

مالکین محترم
ساختمان دربست در مناطق شمال تهران
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم

Sleeping-in on weekends linked to lower body weight

Catching up on lost sleep over weekends may help people keep their weight down, according to a study in South Korea.

Not getting enough sleep can disrupt hormones and metabolism and is known to increase the risk of obesity, Reuters.com wrote.

Lead author Dr. Chang-Ho Yun of the Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, said, "Short sleep, usually causing sleep debt, is common and inevitable in many cases, and is a risk factor for obesity, hypertension, coronary heart disease, as well as mortality.

"Sleeping in may be better than napping, as the sleep may be deeper and follows the body's sleep-wake rhythms more closely."

To determine how weekend sleep is related to body weight, the researchers used data from a nationwide survey of more than 2,000 people who ranged between the ages of 19 and 82.

In face-to-face interviews, researchers asked participants about their height and weight, weekday and weekend sleep habits, mood and medical conditions.

The study team used this information to determine body mass index (BMI) — a measure of weight relative to height — and whether partici-



guardyourhealth.com

pants engaged in catch-up sleep on weekends.

Weekend catch-up sleep was defined as sleeping more hours on weekend nights compared to weekday nights.

On average, the participants slept nearly 7½ hours per night and had BMIs of 23, which falls in the healthy range.

About 43 percent of people slept longer on weekends by nearly two hours than they did on weekdays. People who slept-in on weekends

tended to sleep shorter hours during weekdays, but slept more hours overall across the week.

The researchers' analysis found that those who slept-in on weekends had average BMIs of 22 while those who didn't engage in catch-up sleep averaged 23, which was a small but statistically meaningful difference.

In addition, the more catch up sleep a person got, the lower their BMI tended to be, with each additional hour linked to a 0.12 decrease in BMI.

Jean-Philippe Chaput of the University of Ottawa in Canada, who wasn't involved in the study, said, "Short sleepers tend to eat more meals per day, snack more, engage in more screen time and may be less likely to move due to increased sensations of fatigue when not rested.

"Getting 30 minutes of heart-pumping exercise per day can help improve sleep.

"Sleep experts said that if people need an alarm clock to wake up it is a sign that they don't sleep enough.

"The more good behaviors we can have every day (and sustain for the rest of our lives) the better it is for the prevention of chronic diseases and optimizing health. Sleep should be one of these priorities.

"If you cannot sleep sufficiently on workdays because of work or social obligations, try to sleep as much as possible on the weekend. It might alleviate the risk for obesity."

Yun said, "Weekend sleep extension could be a quick fix to compensate sleep loss over the week but is not an ultimate solution for chronic sleep loss.

"If average sleep duration over the week is far below the optimal amount even with weekend sleep extension, the benefits would likely dissipate."

Bird flu virus in China

China has decided to vaccinate poultry from next month against the H7N9 bird flu virus, after it claimed hundreds of lives last winter and caused major damage to the industry.

Eating chips twice a week doubles death risk

Eating chips more than twice a week can double risk of dying, a new study found.

Whether with battered cod, a burger, curry sauce or doused in salt and vinegar, chips of all varieties are one of Britain's favorite treats, independent.co.uk reported.

People in the UK consumed three times as many chips in 2014 than in 1974 — including frozen chips bought in the supermarket — according to the Government's National Food Survey.

But while it's common knowledge that indulging a chip habit too often can lead to weight gain, it may also affect mortality rates, researchers have now shown.

The study, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, found that over an eight-year period, people who regularly ate fried potatoes were twice as likely to die.

Researchers analyzed the potato consumption and health of 4,440 people aged between 45 and 79. After eight years had passed, 236 of the participants had died.



independent.co.uk

All types of fried potatoes, including hash browns, crisps, and wedges, were linked to a hike in mortality rates.

They found that while eating lots of potatoes overall — regardless of cooking method — did not increase the risk of death within that time period, those who consumed fried potatoes two to three times a week were twice as likely to die compared to those who did not eat any.

All types of fried potatoes, including hash browns, crisps, and wedges, were linked to a hike in death rates.

Lead researcher Dr. Nicola Veronesi from the National Research Council in Padova, Italy, said, "The frequent consumption of fried potatoes appears to be associated with an increased mortality risk."

The scientists said the age or sex of the participants did not influence the result, but highlighted that other factors including obesity, lack of exercise and high salt consumption may also have contributed to the deaths.

Susanna Larsson, an associate professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said, "Fried potato consumption may be an indicator of a less healthy (Western) dietary pattern which is associated with increased mortality."

The National Food Survey showed that consumption of takeaway food has nearly doubled since 1974.

Obesity rates have also trebled in the last 30 years to 27 percent in 2015, with 58 percent of women and 68 percent of men said to be overweight or obese.

Heartburn symptoms could be causing constant acid reflux

Heartburn, also known as acid reflux or indigestion can cause an unpleasant taste in the mouth, a sore throat, chronic cough and pain in the chest.

Heartburn can be triggered by eating too much food, express.co.uk reported.

Acid reflux is caused by stomach fluid, which contains strong digestive acids to break down food, 'leaking out' of the stomach and traveling up toward the esophagus.

Everyone has acid in their stomach however acid reflux only happens to certain people.

The condition could indicate a person is suffering from a stomach ulcer — an ailment which can lead to serious complications such as internal bleeding, perforation and gastric outlet obstruction.

The bacterium called Helicobacter Pylori — also known as H.pylori can affect the lining of the stomach.

It is the main cause of ulcers occurring in the lining of the upper part of the small intestine and in the lining of the stomach, which are called gastric ulcers.

However, not all people infected with the condition will develop an ulcer.

Signs of stomach ulcers include heartburn and indigestion, bloating — a gnawing or burning pain which can be felt in the stomach area when hungry and at night time — and in severe cases nausea and vomiting.

A woman recently contacted This Morning to ask the doctors for a second opinion.

The woman said she is having to take medication every day to stop symptoms of acid reflux.

Dr. Zoe Williams said: "The reasons we get it is the stomach produces acid when we eat and sometimes it can come up the gullet.

"If it's been going on for a year, there is a simple test for bacteria.

"A lot of us have this bacteria but it can increase the acid production. "First of all get that checked. Think about lifestyle things we can all do for heartburn acid reflux or indigestion."

She said smoking, eating spicy food and stress can increase the risk of acid reflux.

Tests for H.pylori include blood antibody tests which can see if your body has made antibodies to H. pylori bacteria.

A stool test can check for infection or bleeding from the stomach.

NHS Choices said a breath test for a Helicobacter pylori infection — involves drinking a glass of clear, tasteless liquid that contains radioactive carbon and blowing into a bag.

Type 2 diabetes could be more likely in people who swap to a vegetarian or vegan diet, a study found.

Experts suggested this could be due to vitamin A — a substance which is found in animal foods and dairy products, according to express.co.uk.

The vitamin boosts cells in the pancreas that produce the blood sugar-regulating hormone insulin, researchers said.

There has previously been no known link between diabetes and vitamin A — which is found in liver, oily fish and cheese — until now.

Dr. Albert Salehi, senior researcher at the Lund University Diabetes Center in Sweden, said that vitamin A is found mainly in offal and dairy products.

The researchers said milk in Sweden is enriched with vitamin A and there appears to be no deficiency in people who eat a varied diet.

However, he said some vegetarians perhaps need to be

Ditching two unexpected foods from diet could increase diabetes risk



express.co.uk

aware of the problem.

The research team from King's College London and the Oxford Center for Diabetes found the vitamin improves the function of the specialist cells — known as beta cells.

They initially discovered the cells contain a large quantity of a cell surface receptor for vitamin A.

Salehi said, "There are no unnecessary surface receptors in human cells. They all serve a purpose but which, in many cases, is still unknown and because of that they are called

'orphan' receptors.

"When we discovered insulin cells have a cell surface expressed receptor for vitamin A, we thought it was important to find out why and what the purpose is of a cell surface receptor interacting with vitamin A mediating a rapid response to vitamin A."

The researchers believe vitamin A has an important role for the development of beta-cells in the early stages of life — and as people get older.

They worked with insulin cells from mice and non-diabetic and

type 2 diabetic donors.

By partially blocking the vitamin A receptor and challenging the cells with sugar, they could see that the cells' ability to secrete insulin deteriorated.

Salehi added, "We saw close to a 30 percent reduction."

He said impaired cell survival and insulin secretion are key causes of type 2 diabetes and said the same thing could be seen when comparing insulin cells from type 2 diabetics.

Cells from patients were less capable of insulin secretion compared with those from

healthy individuals.

The researchers also saw that the beta-cells' resistance to inflammation decreases when vitamin A is not prevalent.

In case of a complete deficiency, the cells die.

The discovery may also be significant for certain types of type 1 diabetes when the beta-cells are not sufficiently developed during the early stages of life.

Salehi said, "In animal experiments it's known newborn mice need vitamin A to develop their beta-cells in a normal way.

"Most likely, the same applies to human beings. Children must absorb a sufficient amount of vitamin A through their diet."

Salehi added that vitamin A would not work as a treatment for diabetes because it is possible to have too much.

However, he said experts are trying to find substances similar to the vitamin A which could activate the newly found receptor.

Prostate cancer blood test helps target treatment

Scientists have developed a blood test that could pick out which men with advanced prostate cancer would benefit from a new drug treatment.

The test detects cancer DNA in the blood, helping doctors check whether precision drugs are working, according to bbc.com.

Cancer Research UK said the test could greatly improve survival.

But larger studies involving more men needed to take place to confirm if doctors could rely on the test, the charity said.

Blood samples from 49 men with advanced prostate cancer were collected by researchers, as part of the phase II clinical trial of a drug called olaparib.

This type of precision drug is seen as the future of cancer medicine but because it is a targeted treatment, the drug does not work for everyone.

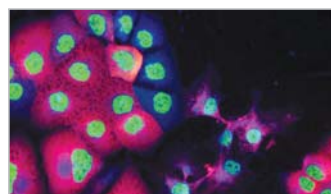
Researchers from The Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust said that the test could help target treatment better and also reduce its side effects.

They used it to identify men who were not responding to the treatment in four to eight weeks and also to pick up signs that the cancer was evolving and becoming

resistant to the drugs.

Major impact

Professor Johann de Bono, consultant medical oncologist at the two organizations, said: "From these



Blood tests could help target precision drugs at the right people with cancer.

findings, we were able to develop a powerful, three-in-one test that could in future be used to help doctors select

treatment, check whether it is working and monitor the cancer in the longer term.

"Not only could the test have a major impact on treatment of prostate cancer, but it could also be adapted to open up the possibility of precision medicine to patients with other types of cancer."

Dr. Aine McCarthy, senior science information officer at Cancer Research UK, said the blood test was an 'exciting' development.

"The test has the potential to greatly improve survival for the disease by ensuring patients get the right treatment for them at the right time and that they aren't being given a treatment that's no longer working.

"Further studies involving a larger group of men will confirm if doctors should use this test when treating patients with advanced prostate cancer."

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. Over 46,000 men are diagnosed with the disease every year in the UK.

Dr. Matthew Hobbs, from Prostate Cancer UK, said, "The results from this study and others like it are crucial as they give an important understanding of the factors that drive certain prostate cancers, or make them vulnerable to specific treatments."

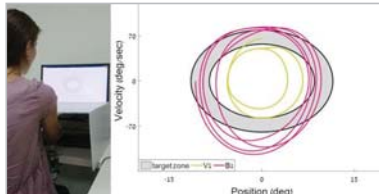
Poor physical activity

Physical activity among children and teens is lower than previously thought, and, in another surprise finding, young adults after the age of 20 show the only increases in activity over their lifespan.

Older adults can improve movement using same motor strategy as babies

A motor mechanism that has been attributed primarily to early development in babies and toddlers can also help older adults improve movement accuracy, according to new research from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU).

In an article published in *Scientific Reports*, the researcher showed that an infant's exploration-exploitation process can work in older adults, as well, medicalxpress.com reported.



A younger person places her forearm on a sensor below an opaque cover to demonstrate the experiment. She uses the movements of her forearm to control a cursor displayed on a computer screen (R), trying to keep it in the target zone.

Dr. Shelly Levy-Tzedek, a lecturer in the BGU Department of Physiotherapy, Leon and Matilda Recanati School for Community Health Professions, said, "In early development, babies seem to make random movements in all directions until they learn to purposefully reach for objects."

"Their movements are variable until they find a solution for the problem at hand, like reaching for that Cheerios bit. When they find a good movement plan, they exploit it."

In the study, the arms of older adults were connected to a sensor that measures the rotation of the arm at the elbow.

Participants were then asked to make rhythmic movements of the forearm in a "windshield wiper" motion while trying to maintain certain speeds and arm amplitude, with and without visual feedback.

Dr. Levy-Tzedek, who is also head of BGU's Cognition, Aging and Rehabilitation Lab and a member of the University's ABC Robotics Initiative, said, "At first their movements were too slow and too small."

"We then encouraged them to make movements that were larger and faster, and their performance on the original task improved significantly."

The researchers hypothesized that older participants would not be able to maintain an increase in speed and amplitude of movement over time due to fatigue, but were surprised to discover that making mistakes helped improve future task performance.

They also found that once a better movement pattern was established, the variability dropped. Making exaggerated movements actually helped them fine-tune their control.

Levy-Tzedek said, "We haven't tested it directly in physical therapy, but perhaps getting older adults to make exaggerated movements can help fine-tune their performance on specific tasks that they find difficult to accomplish otherwise."

When a baby is born small, it's often attributed to genetic factors or maternal risk factors like poor nutrition or smoking.

But a twin study led by researchers at Boston Children's Hospital now find that slower transport of oxygen from mother to baby across the placenta predicts slower fetal growth, as well as a smaller brain and liver, sciencedaily.com reported.

The study, published in *Scientific Reports* is the first to make a direct connection between birth outcomes and placental oxygen transport.

By studying identical twins, the researchers were uniquely able to control for both genetic factors and maternal risk factors.

Although identical twins also share a placenta, it is divided into two separate compartments, and one may be healthier than the other.

P. Ellen Grant, MD, director of Boston Children's Fetal-Neonatal Neuroimaging and Developmental Science Center, and Elfar Adalsteinsson, PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a non-invasive method that uses MRI to map the timing of oxygen delivery across the placenta in real time.

Using this technique, called Blood-Oxygenation-Level-Dependent (BOLD) MRI, they showed that dysfunctional placentas have large regions with slow oxygen transport to the fetus.

Grant said, "Until now, we had no way to look at regional placental function in vivo."

"Prenatal ultrasound or routine clinical MRI can assess placental structure, but cannot assess regional function, which is not uniform across the placenta."

"Doppler ultrasound, the current clinical method of assessing placental function, measures blood flow in the umbilical arteries and other fetal vessels, but it cannot tell how well oxygen or nutrients are being transported from



This is the first study to make a direct connection between birth outcomes and placental oxygen transport. wholeparent.com

Why is one twin smaller than the other?

mother to fetus."

Real-time placental oxygen mapping

In the new study, part of the NIH-funded Human Placenta Project, Grant, co-senior investigator Julian Robinson, MD, chief of obstetrics at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), and their colleagues followed seven sets of identical twins all the way to birth, specifically tracking pregnancies in which one twin was smaller than the other.

At 29 to 34 weeks of pregnancy, the seven mothers underwent BOLD MRI for about 30 minutes.

While they inhaled pure oxygen for 10-minute stretches, Grant's team measured how long it took oxygen to

reach its maximum concentration in the placenta, known as the time to plateau (TTP), and then how long it took for the oxygen to pass through the umbilical cord into the fetus and penetrate the brain and liver.

Researchers led by Polina Golland, PhD, at MIT CSAIL used image-correction algorithms developed by MIT to adjust for fetal motion.

They found that a longer TTP in the placenta correlated with lower liver and brain volumes and lower newborn birth weights.

TTP also correlated with placental pathology when placentas were examined after birth by placental pathologist Drucilla Roberts, MD, at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

Grant hopes her team's work will be used to better understand pregnancy risk factors, develop a prenatal test for mothers in whom placental dysfunction is suspected and ultimately improve prenatal care.

She said, "Our next goal is to figure out what causes variation in oxygen transport in the placenta and identify a cutoff value that would be of concern in a pregnancy, including singleton pregnancies."

Then, we can think about potential treatments to improve placental oxygen transport, and use our methods to immediately assess the success of these treatments."

Future directions

Grant believes placental oxygen transport is a prime example of how environmental factors can modify the DNA we all inherit. Future studies will investigate how placental oxygen transport affects fetal gene expression and specific measures of brain development and organ metabolism.

These studies will use a special MRI coil to improve image accuracy, developed for pregnant mothers by collaborator Larry Wald, PhD, at the Athinoula A. Martinos Center.

William Barth, MD, chief of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at MGH and Chloe Zera, MD, MPH, a BWH obstetrician, have also joined the team to guide the development of novel MR imaging strategies to improve the management of pregnant mothers.

David Weinberg, project lead for NIH's Human Placenta Project, launched by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, said, "The placenta plays a key role in fetal development and maternal health."

"Understanding how it functions is essential for developing interventions to improve the health of mothers and their infants."

Leading researchers have condemned attempts to change the way carbon from trees will be counted in Europe.

The scientists fear that millions of tons of CO₂ from forests will disappear from the books if the changes go ahead, according to bbc.com.

Trees are important carbon sinks as they soak up about 10 percent of Europe's emissions every year.

But some countries want to cut more trees down in future without counting the resulting loss of carbon.

Europe's forests have been increasing for the last century, and over the last 10 years the equivalent of 1,500 football pitches of trees have been added every day.

However accounting for carbon contained in trees is a fiendishly difficult task. Forests can both soak up and emit carbon depending on how old they are, and how they are managed and harvested.

As the European Union tries to put in place wide-ranging plans to restrict future carbon emissions, officials want to ensure that accounting for the impact of forests on the atmosphere should be based on sound science.

To this end they want to cap the use of forestry at the levels seen between 1990 and 2009.

If countries want to harvest more trees in future than they did during this period, the loss of carbon would count towards the country's overall emissions.

However several countries including Austria, Finland, Poland and Sweden want a change in



Trees are said to absorb about 10 percent of Europe's carbon emissions every year. bbc.com

Scientists fear new EU rules may 'hide' forest carbon loss

these rules so that increased harvesting in the future should not be penalized.

The Finnish government said that it plans to increase tree harvesting by almost a quarter before 2030.

The Finns argue that they should not have to account for these extra emissions, since the country's forests will still absorb more carbon dioxide than they release.

Industry supporters argue in favor of a more 'flexible' approach. They said that Europe's forests have increased because of investment from businesses that want to be able to exploit the resource.

Putting in place rules that leave trees standing forever won't benefit anyone, they said.

Sylvain Lhôte, from the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), said, "In the Czech Republic they have a

problem with their forests as they are getting older and older.

"Those forests were planted right after World War II; they are reaching an age of carbon potential. We need to exploit them or they will decay."

"Will they do this investment in future if they know they can't do this harvesting in the future?"

But researchers in the field are very anxious about the proposed changes. Around 40 forestry experts from across the world have signed a letter arguing that if the rules are amended, it would 'hide' roughly 300 million tons of carbon dioxide every year — equivalent to two-thirds of France's annual emissions.

Prof. Joanna House from the University of Bristol, the UK, and a former lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said, "What the countries are arguing is that they should be

able to use the forests in what they call a sustainable way."

"But it doesn't account for what's happening right now. If you are increasing the harvest rate, you will have less of a stock of carbon in the trees and soils."

The forestry industry argues that a smart accounting system is needed as different parts of Europe have different patterns of growth.

A more flexible system would encourage countries like the UK, Germany and France to plant more trees, they believe. They want scientists to take a longer-term view.

Sylvain Lhôte said, "It's a long-term game. You need to be thinking how the carbon sink will behave over the period between today and 2050 and beyond. What are the implications in the long run?"

"It is a part of the thinking that is a little bit short-sighted."

However, the scientists involved reject that view — they believe they are speaking up for the atmosphere and the planet.

House said, "These forest sinks are quite critical to meeting the two-degrees Celsius target under the Paris Agreement."

"We can't meet those targets at all without the forest sinks. If a decision is made that sends the wrong type of incentives to protect those sinks — that could undermine the Paris Agreement."

Environment ministers from across the EU will discuss the issue on Monday in Brussels but no agreement on this complex area is expected at this point.

Investigating emotional spillover in brain

Life is full of emotional highs and lows, ranging from enjoying an activity with a loved one and savoring a delicious meal to feeling hurt by a negative interaction with a co-worker or that recent scuffle with a family member.

But when we let emotions from one event carry on to the next, such spillover can color our impressions and behavior in those new situations — sometimes for the worse, medicalxpress.com wrote.

Researchers at the Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are discovering what happens in the brain when such emotional spillover occurs and, for the first time, are able to pinpoint areas directly responsible.

Their findings were published in *Psychological Science*, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.

Using Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), a technique that produces a magnetic field that can temporarily 'knock out' or inhibit activity in specific parts of the brain, the team discovered that when the lateral prefrontal area of the brain (a region known for executive function) was inhibited by the stimulation, participants showed more emotional spillover.

In the experiment, they measured this by collecting people's ratings and first impressions of neutral faces they saw immediately after faces that were smiling (prompting positive emotions) or fearful (prompting negative emotions).

The findings, supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, are part of larger efforts to understand the complexity of the brain and what types of mental training or activities can best improve emotional reactions known to promote higher levels of well-being.

TMS therapy is approved for depression by

the FDA, and this work may shed light on why stimulating parts of the prefrontal cortex is successful in improving the ability to regulate negative emotions.

Regina Lapate, Center for Healthy Minds collaborator and current postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, who led the work, said, "It was interesting because participants saw the emotional faces very briefly."

"And when asked afterward, they didn't think that they had been influenced by it in their ratings."

"Having their prefrontal cortex disrupted generated spillover onto their unrelated events that followed. Emotional spillover can happen without us being aware of it."

The team discovered that when the lateral prefrontal cortex was intact (when the brain was not inhibited by TMS), the person did not show spillover when viewing subsequent neutral faces.

And when the opposite occurred — when the lateral prefrontal cortex was inhibited by TMS — emotional spillover occurred more frequently and with greater intensity.

Three days later outside of the laboratory, participants still showed that emotional bias when asked to rate the same neutral faces, suggesting that the negative emotional spillover they first showed in the laboratory produced long-lasting, biased first impressions.

Lapate added, "If your first impression of someone is formed when you're experiencing emotional spillover from a previous context that negative impression may stick."

In addition, research on mindfulness meditation has been suggested to improve emotion regulation and connectivity between the prefrontal cortex and more emotion-centered areas of the brain such as the amygdala.



medicalxpress.com

Study: Shootings kill or injure 19 US children each day



bbc.co.uk

Shootings kill or injure at least 19 US children each day, with boys, teenagers and blacks most at risk, according to a government study that paints a bleak portrait of persistent violence.

The analysis of 2002-14 US data is billed as the most comprehensive study on the topic. While it mostly confirms previously released information, it underscores why researchers view gun violence as a public health crisis, go.com wrote.

The report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention involves children and teens through age 17. It was compiled by analyzing death certificates and emergency room reports. Among the findings published in the journal *Pediatrics*:

- The yearly toll is nearly 1,300 deaths and almost 6,000 nonfatal gunshot wounds — most of them intentional.
- Most deaths result from homicides and suicides, while assaults caused most of the nonfatal injuries.
- The annual death rate is nearly two out of 100,000

children — the rate is double for blacks — while non-fatal gunshot wounds injure almost eight out of 100,000 kids each year.

- Suicides increased from 2007-14, from 325 to 532. The suicide rate increased 60 percent over those years to 1.6 per 100,000. One-third of these kids were depressed and most had experienced a recent crisis, including relationship breakups and problems at school.

- Homicides fell from 2007-14, from 1,038 to 699, the rate dropping by 36 percent to less than one per 100,000.

- Most unintentional deaths resulted from playing with guns and unintentionally pulling the trigger. Most victims were bystanders although among kids up to age 10 in this group, more than 40 percent accidentally shot themselves.

The report noted that unintentional shooting deaths may be significantly underreported, which was highlighted in a report by The Associated Press and USA

TODAY Network.

The news organizations found during the first six months of 2016, minors died from accidental shootings — at their own hands, or at the hands of other children or adults — at a pace of one every other day, far more than limited federal statistics indicate.

Congress has prohibited the CDC from using federal money to advocate or promote gun control. CDC spokeswoman Courtney Lenard said the congressional directive “does not prohibit CDC from conducting public health research into gun violence” and the agency continues to do so.

“Public health research is fundamental for understanding the problem and developing scientifically sound solutions,” said the study’s lead author, Katherine Fowler of the CDC.

An accompanying editorial in the journal said it’s “both reasonable and wise” for doctors to talk about firearms safety with parents, particularly those who keep guns at home.

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

hindustantimes.com

Are we subliminally drawn to violence?

Why do we watch social videos of beatings, lynchings, attacks, rapes and suicides which, unlike the make-believe violence in film, are real people caught on camera, causing mindless pain, grief and anguish?

The ease of shooting and uploading videos on social platforms has brought violent imagery to everyone’s smartphones, hindustantimes.com wrote.

Recently, there was footage of a homeless woman being beaten by men in Nagaur in Rajasthan, India.

There have been several clips of vigilantes on destructive rampages; there was one of a poor farmer carrying his dead wife home because the hospital refused him a hearse; of the London Bridge terror attack; and of many Daesh beatings.

The images are heart-wrenching and far more disturbing than any written descriptions could be. Still, instead of reading about it, we hit play and watch. Very

often we share the disturbing footage with our followers and friends. Sometimes we retweet or ‘Like’ the clips too.

Why can’t we stop watching? Is it because we want to face up to the violence latent in society? Are we subconsciously seeking to be shaken out of apathy?

Are we sharing footage to spur outrage to force the authorities to act? Or are we watching it simply because we are subliminally drawn to violence?

Whatever the cause, these videos are shot and posted but they are not forgotten.

Watching violence helps some people confront the violent aspects of life and helps foster positive emotions such as empathy, admiration for acts of courage and introspection about violent impulses, reported researchers from Germany and the United States some years ago.

Their study found that watching others in distress helped people re-examine their own violent thoughts and impulses and consider how they would have

responded if they’d been placed in a similar situation.

Behavioral scientists say that now that most people are rarely in an adrenaline charged ‘fight or flight situation’ in their daily lives, watching others in distress gives them a window into social aggression that hasn’t directly touched their lives. It’s a voyeuristic experience but it’s not one that gives pleasure.

It is an empathetic gateway into the many things that can potentially go wrong with one’s life or with the lives of people one loves.

Previous studies on violence in films and video games also suggest that most people are not necessarily attracted to aggression and gore, but are drawn to the associated thrill and suspense and the associated insights into human behavior in a challenging situation.

Copycat potential

The worrying aspect of sharing

violent videos is its potential to trigger copycat behavior in people who are mentally distressed.

How widely a video of a violent act is shared on social media has been linked to an increased likelihood of copycat violence in at-risk persons, reported a US study in the journal, *PLOS One*.

This happens because watching real-life violence plants seeds of ideation in at-risk persons and propels them to commit similar acts, said researchers.

An obvious example is the recent spurt in cow vigilante violence across northern India. What’s better documented, however, is the many school shootings in the United States, where a Mother Jones investigation showed that the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado in 1999 that killed 13 persons and injured 24, spawned at least 74 plots or attacks across 30 states in the US over the next 15 years.

China to build new communication network

In a bid to build an entirely new kind of Internet — completely secure and impervious to hackers — China has pulled off a major feat in particle physics.

Chinese scientists have set a new distance record for beaming a pair of entangled particles: Photons of light that behave like twins and experience the exact same things simultaneously, even though they’re separated by great distances, news.com.au reported.

The principle is called quantum entanglement and it’s one of the subatomic world’s weirdest phenomena. And China has smashed the distance record for quantum entanglement.

In a groundbreaking experiment led by Professor Jian-Wei Pan of Hefei University in China, a laser on a satellite orbiting 480 kilometers above the earth produced entangled photons.

They were then transmitted to two different ground-based stations 1,200 kilometers apart, without breaking the link between the photons, the researchers said in a report published in the journal *Science*.

That distance achieved in the experiment is 10 times greater than the previous record for entanglement and is also the first time entangled photons have been generated in space.

Thomas Jennewein, physicist at the University of Waterloo in Canada, told *Science*: “It’s a huge, major achievement.”

“They started with this bold idea and managed to do it.”

China launched its first quantum satellite in August and if all goes according to plan will send up plenty more to create a system of communication which relies on entanglement.

By launching a group of quantum-enabled satellites, China hopes to create a super secure network that uses an encryption technique based on the principles of a field known as quantum communication.



news.com.au

Professor Ping Koy Lam from the ANU’s Department of Quantum Science told news.com.au last year: “In physics, we are trying, and we have demonstrated some encryption techniques that rely on the law of physics rather than the mathematical complexity and we call this quantum key distribution.”

“For that to work you need to send laser beams that carry certain information, quantum information, and then you need the senders and the receivers to get together to find a protocol to secure the communication.”

The reason it can’t be hacked is because the information carried in the quantum state of a particle cannot be measured or cloned without destroying the information itself.

“We can show that this kind of quantum encryption works in a city radius or at most between two nearby cities,” Lam said.

However, China believes the atmosphere in space will allow the photons to travel further without disruption because “in space there’s nothing to attenuate light”.

In the latest experiment, both stations which received the photons were in the mountains of Tibet, at a height that reduced the amount of air the fragile photons had to traverse.

Smartphone app can alert drowsy driver

Scientists have developed a new smartphone app that can alert a car driver if they are sleepy, an advance that may help avoid fatal accidents caused by fatigue driving.



thetatesman.com

The new approach adopts a smartphone’s real-time video to track and analyze the facial features of a driver, in particular the changes in his eyelids and head position, which are prominent fatigue symptoms, jagranjosh.com wrote.

With the app installed in a smartphone, a driver just has to put it near the steering wheel with the front camera facing him in his normal driving position.

When the camera captures features like drooping eyelids, drowsiness or even nodding off, an alarm is automatically set off. To ensure that the driver is awakened, the driver has to turn off the alarm either by voice or by hand.

The method, developed by Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) in China, requires only a smartphone without any additional devices or sensors. It is cost-effective, simple to operate, portable, detects accurately, highly reliable and supports online system updates.

Professor Cheung Yiu-ming from HKBU said: “As the system can activate the rear camera of the smartphone, it can also be utilized as a normal driving recording system, as used by many drivers now. The results of fatigue driving should not be underestimated.”

The new system is suitable for all drivers, but especially for professional drivers and machinery workers who have long working hours.

Yiu-ming added that the system may also interest corporations with a vehicle fleet, or insurance companies. Fatigue-driving detection systems are currently installed only in a few luxury models offered by car manufacturers.

Those systems require additional devices and sensors installed in a vehicle, making them non-portable, expensive and difficult to fit system updates, thus not beneficial to general drivers.

Elderly kept indoors for days in UK’s care homes

Elderly and vulnerable people in the UK are being denied trips to the loo and kept indoors for days on end, a shock survey found.

Severe staff shortages in residential care homes are being blamed by public service union Unison, thesun.co.uk reported.

Four out of five staff said they are so rushed they are compromising the dignity and well-being of people they look after.

Most of them claim they regularly work through their breaks at private or local authority care homes.

The union said its research revealed a ‘worrying picture’ of residents being denied the most basic

levels of care.

More than a quarter of care workers said they did not have the time to help elderly people eat and drink.

They said they were often too busy to chat or take people to the loo and outside for fresh air.

Nine in 10 of 1,000 surveyed blamed a lack of staff.

Unison general secretary, Dave Prentis said: “The government must act now to fund social care properly.”

Secret filming at a £1,000-a-week Bupa dementia care home in Chester uncovers alleged ‘textbook institutional abuse’, including patients left for hours in soiled sheets.



dailymail.co.uk

Award-winning matador gored to death by bull



A renowned bullfighter died after he tripped over his cape and was gored during a festival in France.

Ivan Fandino, a 36-year-old from Spain, had fallen to the ground as he got his feet caught in the material, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

The rampaging bull, which weighed more than half a ton, then tossed him into the air and impaled him in the chest.

The father-of-one's last words were said to have been, "Hurry up, I'm dying!" after he was carried out of the arena by fellow matadors.

He was taken to hospital with serious injuries to his lung and kidneys, but he died on the way after suffering a heart attack.

The five-year-old bull's name was Provechito, which is Spanish slang for 'burp'.

Fandino won an earlier fight against the bull and cut off its ear. The animal was also seriously injured in the later fight and was killed afterwards.

Fandino's death comes less than a year after another Spanish matador, Victor Barrio, died in a fight in Spain.

A member of the crowd at the Corrida des Fetes — Bullfighting Festival — in Aire-sur-l'Adour, south France, said at first many spectators did not realize Fandino was in trouble.

"Ivan was caught by surprise and suffered the consequences," the witness said.

"People were cheering to begin with, thinking everything was under control."

"Then, we realized that Ivan was very badly hurt, and he was rushed away by other matadors, supported by paramedics."

Matadors carry brightly

colored capes to distract and man oeuvre bulls, which are bred especially for the spectacle.

Fandino's death reignites the fierce row about bullfighting. Critics describe the activity as barbaric, while supporters insist it is a tradition rooted in history and an art form. Spain's royal family, politicians and the bullfighting world mourned Fandino's death yesterday.

The royals paid tribute on their official Twitter feed to a 'great bullfighting figure', while Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy lamented the 'sad news'.

But a spokesman for the animal protection group the Humane Society said: "For the thousand bulls brutally killed in French bullfights every year, every single fight is a tragedy in which they have no chance of escaping a protracted and painful death. Blood sports like

this should be consigned to the history books. No-one, neither human nor animal, should lose their life for entertainment."

Fandino, who reportedly fought his first bull when he was 14, had been a professional fighter since 2005. He had been injured at least twice before.

In 2015 he was thrown into the air by a bull in Pamplona in Spain — which holds the famous Running of the Bulls event each year — while the year before he was hurt more seriously when he was knocked unconscious in Bayonne, France.

Fandino's widow, Cayetana, with whom he had a baby daughter Mara, was yesterday arranging to have her husband's body returned to their home in Orduna, in Spain's autonomous Basque region, for the funeral.

Ivan Fandino was the first matador to die in an arena in France for almost a century.

Dad with cleft lip adopts a child just like him

Brian felt an instant connection with Hattie when he saw her adoption photo. She had a cleft lip, just like he did.

He vowed to give her the life she deserved, sunnyskyz.com wrote.

When Brian and Molly Pierce were on their honeymoon, they met a family with a 12-year-old daughter adopted from China. The Pierces had always known they would adopt someday.

Brian and Molly communicated through their adoption agency that Brian had a cleft lip and palate as a child.

When they opened the envelope containing a photo of their baby-to-be, Brian wasn't surprised to see that little Hattie had been born with a cleft lip and palate, just like him.

Molly said, "She smiles with her eyes," the same thing she had said to Brian on their second date.

Ten months later, the Pierces



sunnyskyz.com

brought Hattie home to meet her new big sister and dog.

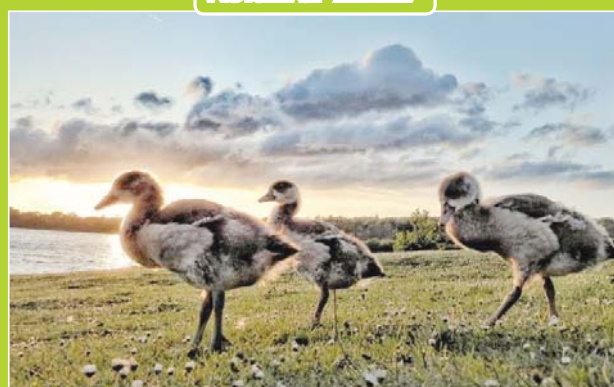
Hattie received surgery for her cleft lip and palate at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the same place Brian had gotten

his own surgery nearly 40 years earlier.

"Everyone who meets her falls in love with her," Brian said.

"All the other kids like to play with her."

PICTURE OF THE DAY



MARGARET MCEWAN / CATERS NEWS

Duck- and geese-shaped clouds form over a lake in Berkshire, the UK, as goslings wander across the lakeside.

Blooming corpse flowers draw crowds in northern California

Plant lovers in northern California are getting a rare treat as two corpse flowers bloom for the first time in a decade.

Hundreds of people are flocking to the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers after it issued a 'stink alert' that the eight-foot-tall plant from Sumatra was beginning to unfurl its frilly purple-and-green leaf around a yellow spike, according to abcnews.go.com.

When it's blooming, the flower known as Titan Arum emits a stench redolent of rotting flesh.

The conservatory is extending its hours so visitors can gaze at the giant flower and get a whiff of its putrid odor. The smell



kiro7.com

peaks for no more than 48 hours before the flower begins to collapse.

The plant was donated by a San Francisco man after it began to overtake the bathroom in his small apartment.

Sidney Price told KQED News he bought

a seedling of the corpse flower after witnessing one bloom at the University of California Botanical Garden in Berkeley in 2010.

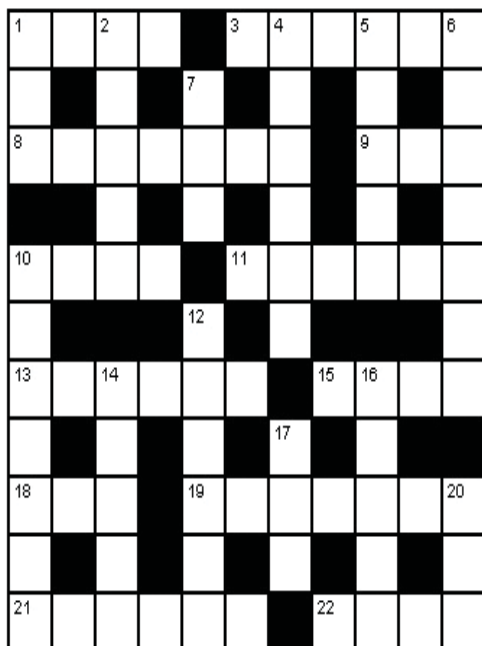
"It smelled like dead possum," Price recalled. "It was pretty pungent and intense."

He said he was thrilled to see the plant thrive in the moist environment of his bathroom, but as it got bigger he worried about the consequences of an untimely bloom.

"I was worried I'd be away on a trip and somebody would call the police and tear down my door because they thought a dead body was inside," he said.

Price said he had to let go of the plant when one of its gigantic leaves reached seven feet.

Quick Crossword



DOWN

1. Fastener (3)
2. Detection instrument (5)
4. Japanese martial art (6)
5. Armholes (5)
6. Restricted (7)
7. Adult male swan (3)
10. Coaxed (7)
12. Part of the eye (6)
14. Majestic (5)
16. Stringed instrument (5)
17. Consumed (3)
20. Litigate (3)

ACROSS

1. Nil (4)
3. Cask (6)
8. Security device (7)
9. Water barrier (3)
10. Terse (4)
11. Rudderless (6)
13. Technical terminology (6)
15. Zealous (4)
18. Written record of events (3)
19. Countries (7)
21. Currency unit (6)
22. Labyrinth (4)

Yesterday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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

Iran's campaign at the 2017 FIVB Volleyball World League came to an end with a defeat as the Asian side was beaten in straight sets (26-24, 25-18, 25-18) by European giant, Russia in the city of Lodz, Poland.

There was nothing to fight for on the part of Iran in the final Pool H1 fixture of Group 1 on Sunday night as the defeat on the preceding night against Poland had already put the Asians out of contention with the qualification for the World League Finals in Brazil.

On the other hand, a victory for Russia would have secured the European side's berth in the Finals and the Russian put all their efforts into the game to finish in the top-six of the Group 1 table.

Iran's coach, Igor Kolakovic decided to rest his key players in the starting line-up for this one and gave the opportunity to some of his fresh and young faces to gain experience at the highest level of world's volleyball.

Iran's young talents started the game brightly and could have won the first set as they went in front by a 24-21 score line. However the lack of experience eventually led to Iran's defeat in the first set (26-24).

That was pretty much the same story in next two sets and Iranians did not really have much to offer as the Asian powerhouse was easily beaten in those sets (25-18, 25-18) to lose the game 3-0. Egor Kliuka was the top scorer for the Russians with 13 points, but it was Russia's defensive display which shone bright – Ilyas Kurkaev won three blocks from just nine attempts.

Mojtaba Mirzajanzpour contributed 12 points for Iran – the only one of Iran's players to score more than eight.

"This match didn't really mean much to us, as we already knew that we can't qualify for the final six, while for Russia it was very important. Russia is a big team, which they showed today and in general during this tournament. I had a chance to give other players opportunity to play. They had not spent long time on court before, during the major events. Although, I think that they used this opportunity in good way. They played some good volleyball, but to beat Russia much more is needed. I am happy with how they fought until the middle of the second set," Kolakovic said after the game.

Iran's captain, Saeed Marouf was also delighted with the way Iran's newcomers performed against a powerful Russian team, saying: "It's good that we played with six other players. They played very good even if they don't have a lot of experience in the World League. They played with their maximum efforts, but it's Russia and they were perfect in serve and block during this tournament and it was difficult to play against them," three wins and six defeats put Iran at the 11th position of the Group 1 table of the World League. France, Brazil, Serbia, Russia, Canada and USA topped the table and will play the 2017 World League Finals in the city of Curitiba in Brazil on July 4-8, 2017.

Journey ends for Iran in 2017 WL



Masoud Gholami spikes the ball against Russia in the final Pool H1 fixture in Group 1 of the 2017 World League in Lodz, Poland on June 17, 2017.

Former UFC fighter dies after knockout

Former UFC fighter Tim Hague died aged 34 after being knocked out in a boxing bout in Canada on Friday.

The Canadian, who fought in UFC from 2009 to 2011, was knocked down five times in the first two rounds against Adam Braidwood before it was stopped, BBC reported.



ESTHER LIN/mmafighting.com

Tim Hague died on Sunday at the age of 34.

He walked out of the ring but was then taken to hospital and fell into a coma.

"It is with incredible sadness, sorrow and heartbreak to report that Tim has passed away," his family said in a statement on Sunday.

"He was surrounded by family, listening to his favorite songs," they added. "We will miss him so greatly. We ask for privacy during this difficult time."

Hague beat Pat Barry on his UFC debut but went on to lose his other four fights.

He held a similar record after moving to boxing, starting with victory over Patrick Graham, then losing the following three bouts, including two knockouts against fellow Canadians, Mladen Milijas and Braidwood.

Portugal held, Ronaldo frustrated

Cristiano Ronaldo set up the opening goal as his Portugal side was held to a draw by Mexico in its first game at the Confederations Cup in Russia on Sunday.

headed in off the post from a Jonathan dos Santos cross.

Earlier, Ronaldo had a header brilliantly tipped away by Mexico keeper Guillermo Ochoa, while

the time to sound the alarm."

Later on Sunday, Chile beat Cameroon 2-0 thanks to goals from Bayern Munich midfielder Arturo Vidal and Tigres forward Eduardo



Cristiano Ronaldo (R) produced a Man of the Match performance in a Group A match between Portugal and Mexico at the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup in Kazan, Russia, on June 18, 2017.

Pepe had a goal disallowed for offside after a referral to the video assistant referees before Ricardo Quaresma sold the keeper a dummy and slotted in, BBC reported.

Javier Hernandez equalized with a low header from Carlos Vela's cross.

Cedric Soares' 86th-minute shot was deflected in, but Hector Moreno snatched a point in the 91st minute.

Mexico defender Moreno, who recently joined Italian side Roma from Dutch club PSV Eindhoven,

Gelson Martins – a target for Liverpool – fired just wide on the counter for Portugal.

Portugal captain, Ronaldo lamented his side's failure to close out victory over Mexico after conceding an injury-time equalizer.

"It's not the result that we wanted. Our team practically had the match won and we conceded a goal in the final minutes. That's football though," Ronaldo told FIFA TV. "If we win (our next game) we'll be close to qualifying so it's not

Vargas.

Arsenal forward Alexis Sanchez came off the bench to cross for Vidal's 81st-minute header, with Vargas finishing in injury time after Sanchez rounded the keeper but failed to beat a defender on the line.

Had Sanchez found the net, he would have become Chile's all-time leading goal-scorer. He currently has 37 goals, level with former Lazio and Juventus striker Marcelo Salas, who retired in 2008.

Iranian karateka Asgari snatches Spanish silver

Iran's Bahman Asgari grabbed a silver medal at the 2017 Karate 1-Series A in Toledo, Spain.

Asgari made it to the -75kg final contest on Sunday only to suffer defeat against his French opponent in a point-for-point battle by 8-7 and settle for the silver medal.

Asgari had overcome contenders from England, Australia, Italy, Greece and again England on his way to the final.

More than 800 competitors from 67 countries were registered for the Toledo competition, which took place across two days at the Sports Hall Javier Lozano Cid.

After Toledo, the Karate 1-Series A season will stop in Istanbul, Salzburg and Okinawa.



Bahman Asgari

Australia in talks over Iran friendly

Australia could be set to face former rivals Iran for the first time in more than 20 years, with discussions taking place aimed at staging a high-profile friendly in Australia before the 2018 World Cup.

Football Federation Australia are deep in negotiations with their Iranian counterparts to play a senior international between the two nations for the first time since the famous 1997 World Cup qualifier at the MCG. (Australia were 2-0 up and looked like it was headed to France until serial pest Peter Hore ran onto the field, cut up Iran's goal net and halted all its momentum late in the second half and Iran eventually managed to score two late goals to make 2-2 on the night. In the first leg, Australia had scored an impressive 1-1 draw in front of more than 100,000 at the Azadi Stadium). The Sydney Morning Herald reported.

A deal is yet to be done but it is understood talks are at an advanced stage. The friendly would be held in

the March international window in what both federations hope will be a key part of their preparations for Russia.

the most devastating moments in Australian sport. It would be great to play a strong team in preparation for Russia



Iran and Australia last met on November 29, 1997 in Melbourne, Australia, when a late drama in the game saw Iran overcome a two-goal deficit and make the final score 2-2 which led to nationwide celebration as Iran qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France after 20 years.

sia 2018.

FFA chief executive David Gallop confirmed that negotiations were taking place.

"We are talking to a number of excellent football nations from Asia and other confederations. Iran is one of them," Gallop said. "The anniversary of that heartbreaking night at the MCG is a point to highlight. Many people, including me, remember it as one of

but talks are at an early stage."

Iran proved one of the biggest drawcards for fans at the 2015 Asian Cup in Australia, boasting the second highest average attendance for a visiting team, second only to Japan.

Despite moving to the Asian Football Confederation in 2006, Iran is one of the only major nations in the region Australia has not played in a senior international.

Barry's 'glorious and unusual' novel wins Walter Scott prize

Sebastian Barry became the first double winner of the Walter Scott prize for historical fiction — just seven years after the honor was first presented. Barry's 'glorious and unusual' 'Days Without End' beat a strong shortlist to take the prestigious £25,000 award. He previously won the award in 2012 with his novel 'On Canaan's Side'.

According to theguardian.com, the Walter Scott prize judges included journalists James Naughtie and Kate Figes, writers Katharine Grant and Elizabeth Laird. They were joined by prize co-founder Elizabeth Buccleuch, James Holloway of the Abbotsford Trust — which manages Scott's grand home in the Scottish Borders — and historian Alistair Moffat.

Moffat, who served as chair, said: "The film 'Days Without End' took the lead, for the glorious and unusual story; the seamlessly interwoven period research; and above all for the unfaltering power and authenticity of the narrative voice, a voice no reader is likely to forget."

Barry emerged as winner after fierce debate among the judges.

"Our decision to award 'Days Without End' was one of the hardest the Walter Scott Prize has ever had to make," they said in a statement. All seven shortlisted books had strong supporters among the judges, who had "championed their cause in a protracted and passionate debate about the nature and purpose of historical fiction. The very books themselves seemed to fight tooth and nail for the accolade."

Narrated by Irish immigrant Thomas McNulty, who has fled the Great Famine for the nascent US, 'Days Without End' takes in an epic sweep of his adopted land's history and landscape. McNulty and his lover John Cole travel the country to fight in the Indian wars and the American civil war.

It is the second major accolade for 'Days Without End' this year, after the novel won the Costa book of the year award in January. The Costa judges hymned "a miracle of a book — both epic and intimate — that manages to create spaces for love and safety in the noise and chaos of history."

Other titles fighting for the prize were fellow Costa finalists Francis Spufford's 'Golden Hill' and Rose Tremain's 'The Gustav Sonata', as well as Graham Swift's 'Mooring Sunday', Charlotte Hobson's 'The Vanishing Futurist', Hannah Kent's 'The Good People' and Jo Baker's 'A Country Road, a Tree'.

The Walter Scott prize is awarded annually at the Borders book festival to the best UK, Irish and Commonwealth novel set at least 60 years ago. The prize was founded in memory of Walter Scott, who has been credited with the invention of the historical novel. Its past winners include Andrea Levy and Robert Harris, as well as Hilary Mantel, who won the inaugural prize in 2010.

Shakespeare theaters getting threats amid Caesar controversy

Theaters nationwide that perform the works of William Shakespeare are receiving threatening phone calls, messages and social media posts linked to a controversial New York City production of 'Julius Caesar'.

The Boston Globe reported theaters in Massachusetts, Texas, and Washington have gotten abusive messages ranging from death threats to accusations that the theater is responsible for the recent shooting in Alexandria, Va. that left four wounded, including Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, time, com reported.

"We just got slammed," the executive and artistic director of Shakespeare Dallas Raphael Parry told the Globe. "It's pretty amazing the vitriol, the wishing we would die and our family would die. A whole lot of them say that we should burn in hell."

The various Shakespeare theaters across the country are not linked to the New York performance.

The Public Theater in New York has been staging a production of Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar' with a Trump-like figure in the titular role. The interpretation has been met with criticism from those offended by the scene in which Caesar is assassinated by a group of senators. A pair of protesters interrupted Friday's performance and were heard shouting "Stop the normalization of political violence against the right!" and "you are inciting terrorists!"

"The Public Theater's artistic director recently responded to the controversy by saying the organization does not advocate violence. 'This play, on the contrary, warns about what happens when you try to preserve democracy by nondemocratic means,' said the director, Oskar Eustis."

While the assassination scene is the play's most well-known moment, it also portrays the Roman Empire descending into chaos after Caesar is killed.

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Iranian play 'Palet', written and directed by Mohammad Hatami, will be on stage for one month until July 18, 2017 at Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall of Iranshahr Theater Complex in Tehran.



Sweden jury can't help voting for Iran's 'Overruled'

Iranian documentary 'Overruled' was announced as the best documentary film in the 4th Afghanistan International Documentary Film Festival in Sweden.

Documentaries produced by filmmakers from Germany, Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Iran and Afghanistan were screened in the event held in the Swedish capital Stockholm, and only 16 films were selected by the jury, IRNA reported.

The movie was produced by Farnaz and Mohammadreza Jourabchiyan over a period of three years and it was edited by Bahman Kiarostami.

'Overruled' is about five illegal Afghan migrants who seek refuge in Tehran and quite by accident, find jobs at a tennis court in the north of the Iranian capital and play tennis and learn the sport skillfully.

The Iranian documentary movie had also been nominated for the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Canadian Diversity Festival, Irish Silk Road Film Festival, Spain's La Costa Film Festival (LCFF) and the White Nights Film Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The festival in the Swedish capital wrapped up on June 17.



Two Iranian films on Paris silver screen



Documentary film 'The Mannequins of Hassan Khan Castle', directed by Sam Kalantari, will go on screen at the 5th Cinema(s) d'Iran in Paris.

The Iranian documentary, produced by Documentary and Experimental Films Center of Iran and directed by Sam Kalantari, examines the surreal path of shop window dummies, from their design in a factory to a possible final use, IRNA reported.

Experiencing its 8th international presence, 'The Mannequins of Hassan Khan Castle' has earlier won Best Director, Cinematography, Editing and Sound Awards from Iran International Documentary Film Festival, Cinema Verite.

'Parting', directed by Navid Mahmoudi, is another Iranian film to go on screen at Iranian Film Festival in Paris, which examines and discusses Iranian independent cinema.

It tells the story about the two young Afghans, Feresteh and Nabi, who are in love, but Feresteh has to follow her parents and leave Afghanistan to find refuge in Iran. Nabi decides to illegally cross the border, find Feresteh and take her through Turkey to Europe and a better life.

The film tells a story of a refugee crisis keeping the audience in the dark about the perspectives of the two young lovers.

The festival is an association created by Iranian, French and Franco-Iranian students with the aim of improving the understanding of Iranian culture in France. The association's official goal is to put in place cultural manifestations to initiate dialogues.

The fifth edition of Cinema(s) d'Iran opened on June 14 and will run until June 20, 2017.

Weather

