



Ryabkov: Moscow against attempts to rewrite Iran nuclear deal

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# IRAN DAILY



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## Rouhani: Sanctions hurt Iranian people



president.ir

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the sanctions that had been imposed on the country over its nuclear program impacted the Iranian people rather than government, contrary to what the enforcers of the sanctions claimed.

"In spite of what the Western world would claim, the sanctions didn't bite the government, they bit the people. When sanctions are imposed on [the sales of] our oil, and the country's revenues dwindle [as a result], all government services [to the public] are affected," Rouhani said on Tuesday.

The Iranian president, who was speaking at a health conference in Tehran, said the "cruel" sanctions had even caused trouble in the procurement of medical equipment, med-

ication, and pharmaceutical raw materials, Press TV wrote.

He referred to his administration's efforts to engage more deeply in negotiations with a group of world powers over the bans, saying, "The first thing that had to be resolved was the issue of the sanctions."

He said Iranian diplomacy, supported by the people, proved how it can succeed against the machinations of big world powers.

The Iranian nuclear program had been the subject of a global dispute for well over a decade, during much of which Iran engaged in negotiations to resolve the matter diplomatically. But it wasn't until 2013, when President Rouhani took office, when negotiations between Iran and its latest interlocu-

tors gained momentum. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, a veteran diplomat and once Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, was tasked by President Rouhani to take up the nuclear file.

Zarif and his team engaged in some 22 months of tough negotiations with representatives from six world powers and the European Union before they managed to reach a deal in July 2015, practically ending the long-running dispute.

Under the agreement, which took effect in January 2016, Iran put certain limits on its nuclear program in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic in what was hailed as a diplomatic feat.

## Trump son admits he wanted info on Clinton from Russian

Donald Trump's eldest son admitted to meeting a Russian lawyer in a bid to get dirt on his father's 2016 rival Hillary Clinton, plunging the White House into another Russia-related scandal.

Donald Trump Jr. confirmed reports that he was seeking compromising information on Clinton when he met Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016, AFP reported on Tuesday.

"Obviously, I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent," the president's son said sardonically in a tweet.

He said that the meeting "went nowhere" but he "had to listen."

The FBI and Congress are investigating whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential vote.

US intelligence agencies claimed that Russia had launched a mass effort to tilt the election in Trump's favor, including hacking and leaking embarrassing emails from Democrats.

The New York Times reported that Paul Manafort and Jared Kushner were also at the June 9, 2016 meeting.

The pair were two of Trump's most trusted campaign officials, and Kushner – also the president's son-in-law – became part of the White House inner circle after the inauguration.

In a potentially even more damaging revelation, the New York Times reported

Veselnitskaya is not well-known in Russia, but represented the son of a senior Russian official involved in a major fraud probe that had international repercussions.

Veselnitskaya said she was summoned to Trump Tower to meet with Trump Jr. and asked if she had damaging information on Hillary Clinton, according to an interview aired Tuesday by NBC.

The lawyer said she received a phone call from a man she didn't know and was told to meet with Trump Jr. She said she didn't have information on the Clinton campaign and has never worked for the Russian government.

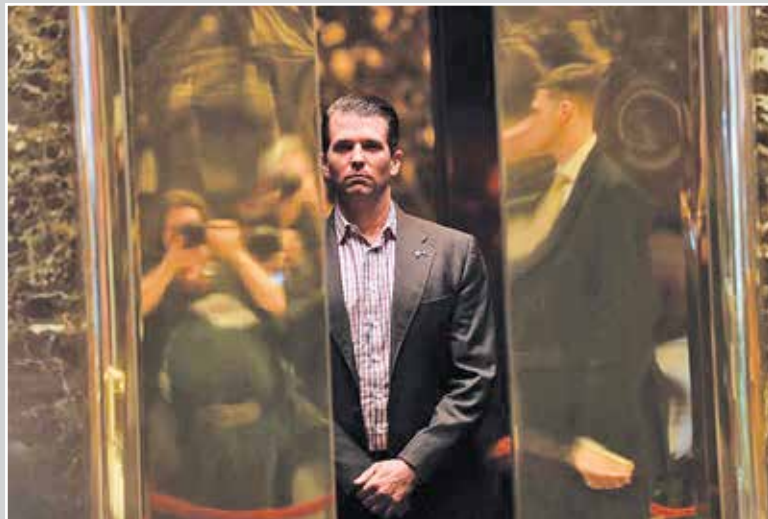
"All I knew was that Donald Trump Jr. was willing to meet with me," she said through a translator.

On Clinton, she said: "It's quite possible that maybe they were looking for information. They wanted it so badly."

According to the NBC interview, Veselnitskaya suggested she didn't initiate the meeting; she said she was lobbying against US sanctions affecting Moscow but wasn't acting on behalf of the Kremlin.

The Kremlin said it "did not know" who Veselnitskaya was. "We can't be aware of all the meetings Russian lawyers have abroad," said spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

President Trump has repeatedly decried allegations of collusion as "fake news" and equivocated about whether Russia tried to interfere in the election.



AFP

## Iran expects steep increase in gas output, exports

Iran will see a steep rise in natural gas output and exports after last year's easing of Western sanctions, said a deputy oil minister on Tuesday, adding that recent deals with global firms show they believe sanctions will not come back.

Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia, Iran's deputy oil minister for trade and international affairs, said Iran's gas production would rise to one billion cubic meters a day by the end of the year from the current 800 million cubic meters (mcm) per day, Reuters reported.

He said volumes available for export should reach 365 mcm a day by 2021, which is higher than the exports of the world's top liquefied natural gas producer Qatar.

France's Total signed a deal earlier this month to help Iran increase gas output from the giant South Pars Gas Field, which the country shares with Qatar.

Total will be the operator with a 50.1 percent stake, alongside Chinese state-owned energy company CNPC with 30 percent and National Iranian Oil Company subsidiary Petropars with 19.9 percent.

The deal marked the first by a major global energy company signed with Iran since the easing of sanctions against Tehran in January 2016.

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## Doubts over Brexit mount as May marks a year in power

A weakened Theresa May came under fresh pressure Tuesday to soften her Brexit position, adding to uncertainty about her negotiating strategy with Brussels one year after she became Britain's prime minister.

May marked the anniversary with a speech in which she appealed to the main Labour opposition party to help implement her policies, a month after losing her majority in a general election, AFP reported.

Amid rumors of plans to oust her, May accepted that "the reality I now face as prime minister is rather different" than it was before the June 8 election.

May took over last year after her predecessor David Cameron resigned in the wake of a shock referendum in which Britain voted to leave the European Union.

She was seen as a safe pair of hands who could heal a Conservative Party that emerged bitterly divided from the referendum.

But her government has been forced into a series of embarrassing U-turn and her gamble of holding an early election backfired spectacularly.

Key parts of her Brexit plan are now also under fire from critics within her own party who want a more moderate approach and whose voices are suddenly influential because of the election result.

The latest fronts in the battle between proponents of a "hard" and "soft" Brexit are Britain's membership of the Europe's nuclear regulator Euratom and the authority of the European Court of Justice.

Some Conservative MPs have reportedly warned they will rebel if May pushes ahead with her plan to withdraw from Euratom after doctors said it could jeopardize treatment for cancer patients.

The government has also hinted it may relent on its headline position of ending the authority of the EU's highest court in Britain from the moment the country leaves the bloc as expected in 2019.

The real showdown is expected after the government on Thursday publishes the Repeal Bill, a hefty draft law aimed at scrapping the cornerstone of Britain's EU membership, the European Communities Act.

The opposition is already planning amendments to the bill, which would also adopt, amend or repeal thousands of EU laws that currently apply in Britain.

The stormy mood among Conservatives prompted former party leader William Hague on Tuesday to ask: "Is it worth having a huge row to insist on a 'purer' version of Brexit? No of course it isn't."

May's influence in the House of Commons took another dent on Monday when one of her MPs, Anne Marie Morris, used a racist epithet at a pro-Brexit meeting and was suspended from the parliamentary party.

Rumors have swirled in recent weeks about possible plots against May from within her own cabinet.

One possible alternative put forward is her Brexit minister David Davis, who has dismissed the reports.

## Russia calls EU-Ukraine pact an 'exemplary breach of WTO rules

Russia indicated a potential new legal salvo in its trade war with Ukraine and the European Union, telling the World Trade Organization that a trade deal between Kiev and Brussels breaks the rules by penalizing Russia.

Minutes of a June 29 meeting of the WTO's committee on regional trade agreements, published on Tuesday, record Russia's representative as saying the EU-Ukraine free trade agreement was "an exemplary case of a situation where a free trade area worsened trade conditions for other trading partners", Reuters reported.

That meant it was a breach of the WTO rules, which say that free trade areas should encourage trade between the signatories without raising new barriers with other countries, the Russian representative said.

Russia has launched six trade disputes within its first five years as a WTO member, all of them against Ukraine or the EU. It's most recent complaint, in May this year, accused Ukraine of "a universe of restrictions, prohibitions, requirements and procedures" that discriminated against Russia.

Russia's representative at the WTO committee on regional trade agreements said the post-Soviet Commonwealth of Independent States had harmonized trade legislation with Ukraine since the 1990s, and signed a treaty in 2011 on coordinating the removal of technical barriers to trade.

"To sum up, there were dozens of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of trade and investment that linked Ukraine with the CIS countries. Many of Ukraine's commitments were inconsistent with its obligations under the EU-Ukraine Agreement," the minutes of the meeting said.

Russia's representative also said Ukraine's 2015 law on the natural gas market required the operator of Ukraine's gas pipelines to be a person with at least five years' experience from the European Energy Community or the United States.

The Energy Community, which aims to extend the EU's internal energy market to the Balkans and Black Sea region, excludes Russia.

The Russian representative at the WTO meeting asked how excluding pipeline experts from other countries could be justified and how it could correspond with the WTO rules that say free trade agreements should not diminish other countries' rights.

She also said that Russia's share in Ukrainian imports had fallen significantly since Ukraine began implementing its Association Agreement with the EU, while the EU's share had grown.



### Dehqan rejects Mattis 'meddlesome' remarks

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan dismissed as meddlesome and disgraceful the recent remarks by his US counterpart James Mattis against the Islamic Republic, saying they run counter to all principles of international law.

Instead of ordering other nations around, the US defense secretary and ruling administration had better think about ways to solve the country's domestic issues and study their root causes, Dehqan said on Tuesday, Press TV reported.



He added that such internal issues would most probably lead to the collapse of the sitting US government in the near future and pose numerous and serious challenges to the country's political system.

The Iranian defense minister said individuals such as the US defense secretary have an arrogant and bullying nature, overlook the power of nations and ignore historical facts and these factors have robbed them of their common sense.

Dehqan likened such comments to delirious comments by an ill person.

Addressing a high school journalism student in Mercer Island, a Seattle suburb on Monday, Mattis called for regime change in Iran for the restoration of Tehran-Washington relations.

He said any potential rapprochement with Tehran would be difficult, claiming that Iran is not really a democratic country.

He also alleged, without providing any evidence, that Iran is the most destabilizing influence in the Middle East.

### Iraqi VP praises Iran's role in defeating Daesh

Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki expressed his gratitude to Iran for its massive supports for the Arab country in the fight against Daesh terrorist group and its major role in the recent liberation of the northern city of Mosul from the terrorists.

In a message on Monday, Maliki, a former prime minister, offered congratulations over the full liberation of Mosul from Daesh terrorists and thanked all those nations that sided with the Iraqi people and government in the anti-terror campaign, Tasnim News Agency reported.

"Among all those who rushed to help Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran should be thanked first, which came to the aid of Iraq with all its might," he said, adding that Iranian advisers' blood has been shed in battlefields against terrorists like their Iraqi brothers'.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared complete liberation of Mosul from terrorists some three years after the strategic city fell to Daesh terrorists.

The recapture of Mosul, located some 400 kilometers north of Baghdad, marks the effective end of Daesh in the Arab country.



# Ryabkov: Moscow against attempts to rewrite Iran nuclear deal

Araqchi: JCPOA Joint Commission meeting to be held on July 21

Zarif to address US Council on Foreign Relations

Political Desk

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that Moscow rejects any attempt to rewrite or reinterpret the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement with world powers.

He said that questioning the viability and the relevance of the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) "is very disturbing and of concern to us," IRNA reported.

He made the remarks prior to a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araqchi in Tehran on Tuesday.

"We in Russia, the whole government and those who participated in the talks on JCPOA tried to impress the US administration that there is no alternative to the JCPOA," he added.

The nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was inked between Iran and the P5+1 countries – namely the US, Russia, China, France, Britain, and Germany – in July 2015 and took effect in January 2016. Under the deal, which was later endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution, some limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the removal of all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, among other things.

The administration of US President Donald Trump, which took over in January 2017, one year after the JCPOA came into force, has been skeptical of the deal, which was negotiated under his predecessor, Barack Obama.

#### Joint Commission meeting

Abbas Araqchi, who is also the head



Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi (R) shakes hands with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov during a meeting in Tehran on July 11, 2017.

of the Iranian task force to monitor the implementation of the deal, told reporters that the Joint Commission of Iran and the P5+1 group on implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement will be held in Austria on July 21.

Araqchi said Ryabkov was in Tehran for political consultations, adding that they would discuss in advance issues that were to be raised at the upcoming Joint Commission meeting.

Among those issues, he said, were failures on the part of the United States to meet its commitments under the nuclear deal as well as the new US administration's moves directed against the accord.

#### Zarif's visit to New York

The Iranian official Araqchi also referred to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's upcoming trip to New York, where he would attend the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The top Iranian diplomat will hold bilateral meetings with officials from the P5+1 countries, Araqchi said, explaining that a meeting with the US side, if held, would be within the framework of talks regarding the JCPOA.

"We would have no further contact

[with the Americans] beyond that," he said.

Iranian Foreign Minister is also planned to attend a conversation organized by the American think tank the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in the New York City on July 17.

According to the think tank's website, the senior Iranian diplomat is going to discuss the "current developments in the Middle East" in the upcoming meeting.

In September 2016, the top Iranian diplomat joined CNN's Fareed Zakaria at the Council of Foreign Relations to discuss regional politics, nuclear security, and US-Iran relations.

## Iran calls for resumption of Cyprus talks

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Islamic Republic supports the integrity of Cyprus, stressing the importance of the resumption of negotiations to solve the island's decades-old conflict.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's approach concerning the issue of Cyprus since its beginning until now has been based on a principled and fixed stance and has supported its integrity," Bahram Qassemi said on Monday.

The latest round of talks in a decades-long effort to reunify the two Cypriotes collapsed on Friday as the conflicting sides failed to narrow their differences and reach a compromise despite an 11th-hour bid by the UN chief to salvage them, Press TV reported.

The talks started in the Swiss Alpine resort of Crans-Montana on June 28 and were regarded as the best chance to end the island's 40-year division.

The failure to reach an agreement follows more than two years of UN-backed efforts to reunify the island and end one of the world's longest-running political crises.

Qassemi said Iran has been scrutinizing the recent talks and all those held over the past two years and gave the opposing sides "consultative standpoints" while hearing their arguments.

He added that Iran presented a proposal last year to host the talks in Tehran which was welcomed

by the sides. The Iranian spokesperson hailed efforts made by leaders of the opposite sides, the United Nations and senior officials of the European Union and expressed regret that the latest round of the reunification talks failed to bear any fruits.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the sides' agree-



ments reached over the past two years on different issues have the adequate capacity to lead to the continuation of negotiations until the achievement of a final agreement and that this [capacity] should not be overlooked," Qassemi said.

He called on the three Guarantor Powers – the UK, Turkey and Greece – and the international community to resume negotiations to help establish peace and stability in the region through the continuation of efforts to reach a deal on the Cyprus issue.

"The final solution to this age-old predicament must be based on established international principles and an agreement among the sides and preservation of all citizens' rights while respecting the island's cultural diversity," the Iranian spokesman pointed out.

He expressed confident that interaction among the opposite sides with the purpose of setting up a political and security structure proportionate to international developments would resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Qassemi once again expressed Iran's readiness to help solve the conflict and said win-win talks would be the best solution to such issues.

There are currently two Cypriotes, the Turkish Cypriotes and the Greek Cypriotes, and the two are being ruled separately. Numerous rounds of talks and generations of diplomats have attempted but failed to resolve the matter, and Cyprus has earned the nickname "the diplomatic graveyard" as a result.

The island has been divided since 1974 when Turkey, one of the three guarantor powers of Cyprus, carried out a military operation in the island and later occupied its northern third in response to an Athens-inspired coup seeking union with Greece.

Turkey maintains tens of thousands of troops in the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

## Iranian, Armenian news agencies to ink cooperation contract

Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Mohammad Khoddadi and Armenian envoy to Tehran Artashes Toumanian agreed to sign a contract on establishing professional cooperation between IRNA and Armen Press.

In a meeting with Toumanian on Monday, Khoddadi pointed to the importance of information dissemination in linking countries, saying the right information will pave the way for correct communications and decisions, IRNA wrote.



Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency Mohammad Khoddadi (R) talks with Armenian Ambassador to Tehran Artashes Toumanian in a meeting in Tehran on July 10, 2017.

He said there are various opportunities for Iran and Armenia to exchange news.

The IRNA Chief also expressed the agency's readiness to maintain professional cooperation with the Armenian news agency.

Meanwhile, Toumanian called for boosting media cooperation between IRNA and Armen Press.

The Armenian envoy also toured IRNA's news room to get familiar with news publication process in the Iranian news agency.

Major NATO exercises in Eastern Europe began in Bulgaria involving 25,000 military personnel from more than 20 allied and partner countries.



SPUTNIK

## Russia poised to expel 30 US diplomats

Press reports from Russia on Tuesday suggested that it is poised to expel around 30 US diplomats and freeze some US assets in a retaliatory move against Washington.

Quoting a Foreign Ministry source, the Izvestiya newspaper said it is over failure to reach an agreement on two Russian diplomatic compounds in the US seized by the outgoing Obama administration in December last year, Euronews reported.

Barack Obama abruptly ordered the closure of the facilities, one in Maryland and the other on Long Is-

land, saying they had been "used by Russian personnel for intelligence-related purposes."

It was part of his response, including the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats, to what US officials called cyber interference by Moscow in the 2016 US presidential election campaign.

The Kremlin's denials of wrongdoing were repeated in person last week by President Vladimir Putin during his G20 meeting with US President Donald Trump.

Talks followed — albeit short lived — of the countries

tackling cyber security together.

The issue of the Russian diplomatic compounds was also raised at the Putin-Trump meeting in Hamburg, according to the Russian press reports.

But as Trump and his family face fresh claims of collusion with the Kremlin, Putin's patience over the non-return of the Russian compounds looks to be wearing thin.

Last year, Moscow didn't retaliate, hoping for improved relations under the new Trump administration. That, however, may be about to change.

## Sporadic clashes continue in Mosul after victory declared

Sporadic clashes continued on Tuesday in Mosul, even after Iraq's Prime Minister declared a "total victory" over the Daesh terrorist group in the city and at least one airstrike hit the Old City neighborhood that was the scene of the fierce battle's final days.

A plume of smoke rose into the air from the strike. Daesh mortar shells landed near Iraqi positions and heavy gunfire could be heard on the western edge of the Old City, AP reported.

by terrorists.

### "Civilian catastrophe"

Amnesty International warned in a report released Tuesday that the conflict in Mosul has created a "civilian catastrophe," with the terrorists carrying out forced displacement, killings and using civilians as human shields. The report also detailed violations by Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition.

"The scale and gravity of

On Monday evening, Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi came to Mosul for the second day in a row to declare "total victory." Flanked by his senior military leadership at a small base on the edge of the Old City, Al-Abadi said "this great feast day crowned the victories of the fighters and the Iraqis for the past three years."

While Mosul fell to Daesh in a matter of days in 2014, the campaign to retake the city, which began last October, has lasted nearly nine months.

## Visiting Doha, Tillerson calls Qatari position 'reasonable'

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters in the Qatari capital Doha on Tuesday it had "reasonable" views in the month-old diplomatic crisis with Arab neighbors.



REUTERS

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson arrives in Doha, Qatar, on July 11, 2017.

"I think Qatar has been quite clear in its positions, and I think those have been very reasonable," Tillerson told reporters, Reuters reported.

Tillerson met with Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as part of a regional tour to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis that erupted with Arab nations' severing of ties with Doha.

Tillerson landed in Doha earlier on Tuesday, on his second stop in the region after Kuwait, which has been mediating in the crisis between Arab nations and Qatar, AFP reported.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut diplomatic ties and transportation links with Qatar. The Arab quartet threatened to impose further sanctions on Qatar after a list of 13 demands was rejected by Doha.



FELIPE DANAJAP

Smoke billows over the Old City in Mosul, Iraq, on July 3, 2017.

Despite losing control of its stronghold in Mosul, the group has seized more than 75 percent of Imam Gharbi, a village on the western bank of the Tigris River some 70 kilometers south of Mosul, and reinforcements are expected, an Iraqi Army officer said. Armed with machine guns and mortars, Daesh launched its attack on Imam Gharbi last week.

The developments underscore the dangers still posed by the terrorists after Iraqi forces announced they reclaimed full control of Mosul, once the country's second-largest city, three years after it was seized

the loss of civilian lives during the military operation to retake Mosul must immediately be publicly acknowledged at the highest levels of government in Iraq and states that are part of the US-led coalition," said Lynn Maalouf, the research director for Mideast at Amnesty.

The report, which covers the first five months of this year, noted how Daesh members moved civilians with them around the city, preventing them from escaping, creating battle spaces with dense civilian populations and how "Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition failed to adapt their tactics."

The Daesh defeat in Mosul dealt a huge blow to the group's so-called "caliphate" — territory that the terrorists seized, spanning large swaths of both Iraq and Syria — but also killed thousands, left entire neighborhoods in ruins and displaced nearly 900,000 from their homes.

Thousands of civilians are estimated to have been killed in the fight for the city, according to the provincial council of Nineveh, where Mosul is the capital — a toll that does not include those still believed buried under collapsed buildings.

## Venezuela enters crucial week in battle over Constitution rewrite

Pro- and anti-government groups are battling fiercely for public support over a contested plan by embattled President Nicolas Maduro to have a new body elected this month to rewrite the Constitution.

The opposition, energized by the release from jail of one of its emblematic leaders, Leopoldo Lopez, is leading the charge against the new assembly to be chosen in a July 30 election, AFP reported.

On Monday it organized a demonstration in Caracas, during which dozens of protesters and some security force personnel confronting them were injured. Unrest also spread to other cities.

On Sunday, the opposition will hold its own

symbolic public vote on whether the new constitutional assembly should be established.

"This population has decided to continue the fight for liberty," one opposition lawmaker taking part, Freddy Guevara, said.

"Sunday will be the biggest act of civil disobedience in Venezuela's history,"

With Maduro determined to see through the process — which critics view as a way for him to bypass the opposition-led parliament — there are fears of more violence in the streets.

Since April 1, more than 90 people have been killed during protests. The latest was a 16-year-old killed Monday in La Isabelica, a town in northern Venezuela's Carabobo state, authori-

ties said on Twitter.

In what could be an ominous sign of violence yet to come, a candidate for Maduro's constitutional assembly was shot to death Monday in Maracay, capital of the central state of Aragua.

According to the Telesur news channel, Jose Luis Rivas, 42, was gunned down at a campaign event. Campaigning for Venezuela's controversial constitutional assembly is to end on July 27.

The opposition coalition has said it will not field any candidates in an election it denounces as a "fraud."

It has been bolstered by Lopez's exit on Saturday from prison, where he had been kept since 2014 on charges of inciting violence.

## UN: Up to 50,000 civilians trapped in Raqqa

Up to 50,000 civilians remain trapped in the Syrian terrorist stronghold of Raqqa, the UN said Tuesday, warning that supplies of water and other essentials were fast running out.

US-backed forces have been closing in on the last redoubt in Syria of the Daesh terrorist group after penetrating its Old City last week, but an estimated 2,500 terrorists are still defending the center, AFP reported.

"The UN estimates that between 30,000 and 50,000 people remain trapped in Raqqa city," UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) spokesman Andrej Mahecic said in Geneva, down from some 100,000 people at the end of June.



DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP

Children who have fled the Daesh group bastion of Raqqa drink from water taps at a camp for the displaced around 25 kilometers from the city on May 10, 2017.

Mahecic stressed it was hard to be sure about the numbers given the lack of access to Raqqa for UN agencies.

But he said: "Availability of food, water, medicine, electricity and other essentials has been dwindling, with the situation rapidly deteriorating."

"It is imperative that trapped civilians are able to secure safe passage out to reach safety, shelter and protection." Daesh terrorists overran Raqqa in early 2014, turning the northern city into the de facto Syrian capital of their so-called "caliphate."

Raqqa has been without steady running water for several weeks after damage to pipelines by heavy bombardment, including suspected strikes by the US-led coalition.

Civilians dehydrated by the blistering summer heat have been venturing out to the Euphrates River and makeshift wells around the city, risking their lives as the fighting intensifies.

Activists say they have documented symptoms of waterborne diseases among those who are drinking the river water, including fever and loss of consciousness that it is feared could indicate cholera.

The UNHCR spokesman said the agency had managed to complete a first series of humanitarian convoys by road from the province around Raqqa to Qamishli in Syria's northeast.

The road had been shut by fighting for nearly two years, forcing UN agencies to use costly airlifts to reach some of the 430,000 people displaced by fighting around Raqqa.

Four convoys, totaling 22 trucks, have over the past fortnight transported tents, blankets, jerry cans and other essentials to refugees who have reached Qamishli from Raqqa, Mahecic said.

## At least 16 dead in military plane crash in Mississippi

A military transport plane crashed in Mississippi on Monday, killing at least 16 people aboard, authorities said.

The Marine Corps KC-130 aircraft crashed in Leflore County, Mississippi — located about 85 miles north of Jackson — at around 4 p.m. local time, according to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, abcnews.go.com reported.

Speaking at a press conference late Monday, Leflore County Emergency Management Director Fred Randle said the crash scene was still being investigated. The FBI was also on the scene.

Randle said the cause of the crash was unknown and further details would come following next of kin notifications.

The Marine Corps, which said it operated the plane, announced the crash via Twitter at about 8:30 p.m. ET. It did not disclose where the flight originated or where it was headed.

"A USMC KC-130 experienced a mishap the evening of July 10," said Capt. Sarah Burns, a Marine Corps spokesperson said earlier. "Further information will be passed as available."

The Marine Corps has not confirmed the number of fatalities.



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Iran looks to build high-speed rail links with Italian firm

Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IRIR) said it has signed a preliminary agreement with Italy's state railway to construct two high-speed links in Iran.

Four memoranda of understanding worth \$1.36 billion were announced Tuesday, AP reported.

They refer to the construction of high-speed railways between Qom and Arak and the capital, Tehran, and Isfahan. They also include cooperation agreements between Iranian and Italian universities.

Iran is looking to revive its aging infrastructure following the lifting of international sanctions under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

In April 2015, Iran signed an \$8-million deal with the French company AREP to modernize three train stations, in Tehran, Qom and Mashhad.

## Indonesia-Iran agree to finalize trade negotiation in 2017

Indonesia and Iran agreed to finalize talks on a preferential trade agreement by the end of 2017 to expand access and diversify of exported products to non-traditional markets.

Head of the Indonesian negotiating team Made Ayu Marthin stated that a wider access for Indonesians as well as Iranian products to the market is expected to increase bilateral trade to \$2 billion per year, Antara News reported.

"To benefit the momentum of implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Indonesia and Iran have shared optimism to finalize PTA by the end of 2017," Made noted in a statement here on Monday.

Indonesia and Iran held the third round of talks on PTA last week in Tehran after it was stalled in 2015.

During the talks, the two sides discussed draft text on I-PTA, modality and request list to facilitate products that would have the preference to be exported to each country.

Thus business operators from both Indonesia and Iran could get maximum benefit from the PTA.

The two countries have sought the agreement to set payment mechanism in the transaction; thus, businessmen would not only enjoy tariff reduction but also exemption or reduction of transaction cost when the PTA is implemented.

PTA is an agreement between Indonesia and Iran to reduce or abolish some export tariffs from both countries. The legal basis for the agreement was signed in 2005 by both trade ministers in Tehran.

In 2008, the two countries agreed to establish the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to negotiate the PTA.

The first round of talks was held in 2010, followed by the second negotiation in 2015.

Trade between Indonesia and Iran during January-March increased significantly by 457.36 percent, compared to the same period of 2016.

Total trade between the two countries reached \$338.6 million in 2016 — up by 23.99 percent compared to \$273.1 million of trade in 2015.

Based on a data of the Indonesian Trade Ministry, trade between Indonesia and Iran during 2012 was recorded at \$1.3 billion — down by \$568.4 million in 2013.

## Envoy calls for enhancing

## Iran-Africa ties

Iran's economic and trade ties were discussed in a meeting between Iran's Ambassador to Ghana Nosrattollah Maleki and the International Representative of Muslim African-Americans Akbar Muhammad in Accra.

According to Fars News Agency, Maleki said in the meeting that Africa is the region of opportunities which should be recognized and invested in. He pointed to the abundant opportunities and capacities for cooperation with African countries and called for them to be introduced to the public through the media.

Muhammad also referred to the ample unique economic and cultural opportunities, and called for using the media to introduce the capacities to promote Iran-Africa ties.

"West has managed to direct the world and African public opinion using media in its favor," he added. In relevant remarks in mid-May, South African Ambassador to Iran William Whitehead called for broadening of Pretoria-Tehran relations.

"The implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will help Iran and South Africa to expand mutual cooperation," Whitehead said in an address to the Joint Iran-South Africa Economic Commission meeting in Tehran.

The South African ambassador said that Iran is an important economic power in the Middle East providing access to the Central Asian and Eurasia countries as well as Silk Road.

In relevant remarks in October 2016, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari and South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkomo-Mashabane in a meeting in Pretoria underlined the need for further expansion of ties. During the meeting, Jaber Ansari and Nkomo-Mashabane explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation in different areas.

Iran's deputy foreign minister briefed Nkomo-Mashabane on the results of Iran-South Africa Joint Political Committee meetings, and said, "Iran is ready to broaden cooperation with South Africa in all areas."

Nkomo-Mashabane, for her part, pointed to the good relations between the two countries, and said that South Africa is ready to host the 13th joint commission meeting before President Hassan Rouhani's upcoming visit to Pretoria.

## Over 750m tons of mineral reserves discovered last year



Domestic Economy Desk

Over 750 million tons of mineral reserves were discovered in Iran during March 2016-March 17, said the managing director of Iran Mines and Mineral Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IM-MIDRO).

Speaking in a live televised program on Monday evening, Mehdi Karbasian added the reserves include 400 million tons of iron ore, more than 350 million tons of coal and 50 tons of gold, imidro.gov.ir reported.

Karbasian noted that some 100,000 square kilometers of mining (mostly surface mining) exploration activities were carried out in the country in the year to mid-March 2017.

IMMIDRO's CEO said more than 250,000 square kilometers of area mining exploration activities have been conducted during the incumbent government's tenure in office which started in 2013.

Underlining the need for the government and the Parliament to support mining exploration activities and establish the infrastructure for this, he said, "A titanium mine was discovered 30 years ago [in Iran]. Nevertheless, it began production after years of remaining inactive."

"A lack of access to modern technologies were among the damages inflicted by the [Western] sanctions on the country's mining sector. However, during the past 18 months we have gained access to such technologies and managed to increase our mining capabilities."

Karbasian classified the country's mines into big, medium-size and small, adding there is a limited number of big mines in Iran.

He urged the small mines to form consortiums to cut their expenses, noting the government can shore up these mines by meeting a part of their infrastructure expenses.

## Tehran, Kiev review expansion of maritime relations

Iran and Ukraine discussed ways to promote maritime and port relations between the two countries.

Managing Director of the Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran Mohammad Saeednejad in a meeting with visiting Head of Ukraine delegation Viktor Yanukovich pointed to the route linking Mumbai Port in India to the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf and thence to ports in Ukraine as a cheap, fast and short way to transfer goods, Fars News Agency reported.

He also called for expanding sisterhood ties between port cities in Iran and Ukraine. "By doing so, the two countries will be able to begin comprehensive

talks on enhancing maritime ties, transferring technical know-how, education and investment," Saeednejad added.

An Iranian delegation from Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran is scheduled to visit Ukraine next month, he said.

Yanukovich said that negotiations are underway on using Ukraine as a transit route to access China and East Asia.

He expressed Kiev's readiness to supply railroad equipment, including rail road switches, rails, locomotives and wagons to Iran.

In early March, Iranian Agricultural Jihad Minister Mahmoud Hojjati and Ukrainian Energy Minister Ihor Nasyalyk in a meeting in Kiev signed

a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to broaden cooperation between the two countries.

The MoU was signed in a ceremony at the end of the Sixth Joint Economic Commission meeting in the Ukrainian capital.

The MoU covered agriculture, investment, finance, trade, chamber of commerce, industry, mine and steel production, machinery, geology, banking, oil, gas, petrochemical, transport, tourism, health, sport, communication and engineering consultant services.

During his four-day visit to Ukraine, Hojjati, who was accompanied by a 40-member delegation, visited a number of manufacturing plants, institutes and farms.

## Iran's oil exports increase by 77% in 2016: OPEC

Iran's crude oil exports increased by 77.7 percent to over 1.921 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2016, compared to the previous year, OPEC announced in its annual report.

Iran exported 497,300 bpd to EU compared to 111,400 bpd in 2016, while exports to Asia increased from 969,700 bpd to 1,423 mbd, Reuters reported.

The country also increased petroleum products (including gas condensate, NGLs and oil products) export by 74.6 percent to 897,900 bpd.

In total, Iran's oil exports reached 2,819 mbd in 2016 compared to 1,595 mbd in 2015. Oil exports revenue also soared during the period from \$27.308 billion in 2015 to \$41.123 billion.

OPEC said Iran's petroleum products import also increased by 17 percent to 61,600 bpd in 2016 year-on-year.

Iran imports gasoline, while exports mostly diesel and fuel oil as well as a little LPG and kerosene.

The report said Iran's refinery throughput capacity increased by 2.2 percent to 1,857 mbd, while its oil products demand decreased by 2.9 percent to 1,742 mbd.

OPEC didn't elaborate the reason,



From Page 1

"With the contracts signed last week, with the Chinese company and Total and the Iranian company, that is also a very good indication that the assessment by international oil companies is that the return of sanctions is very unlikely, if not impossible," Zamani-Nia said in a conference in Istanbul.

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.

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

Iran has named 34 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

## Iran expects steep increase in gas output, exports

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 Khorasan 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 Chahgul-e 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.

German exports increased by 14.1 percent and imports by 16.2 percent year on year in May, the country's Federal Statistical Office reported.



## National insurance tax hit for gig economy firms

wordpress.com

By Kamal Ahmed\*

One department is likely to be cheering the publication of the Mathew Taylor review into the new world of work.

The Treasury will be delighted with the recommendations from Taylor, the head of the Royal Society of Arts, on gig economy companies, BBC reported.

He is recommending that firms which have a 'controlling and supervisory' relationship with their workers would have to pay a full range of benefits.

That also includes millions of pounds in national insurance contributions.

Taylor — head of the government's review into modern employment practices — told BBC that such people were not self-employed as many gig firms insist.

"If you are being controlled and supervised you are probably a worker and you should get workers' rights and also the employer that employs you should be paying national insurance," Taylor told me.

### 'Control and supervision'

I asked him if such a relationship encompassed firms like Deliveroo and Uber, which say that their riders and drivers are 'self-employed' and have full flexibility to work when they want.

"We do not mention individual companies in our report, but I think that if you look at some of the big gig work platforms, at the present time you would say their business models look as though it may be that the people who work for them would be classified as workers rather than as self-employed," he said.

Taylor said: "If you look at the judgments that the judges have been making about employment rights in the gig economy, it looks as though the courts are saying that it looks as though somebody is subject to control and supervision they should be described as a worker and not self-employed."

"Which, interestingly, is the same criterion used by the tax authority when they determine whether somebody is self-employed or an employee."

"We think that principle is right."

"Workers" — which Taylor wants to redefine as 'dependent contractors' — receive a wider range of benefits and protections compared with 'self-employed' people, including sick pay, holiday entitlement and the minimum wage.

Firms which employ them are also obliged to pay national insurance contributions to HM Revenue and Customs at 13.8 percent of an employees' earnings above £157 a week.

Although it is difficult to judge the economic value of the gig economy, more than one million people work in the sector.

If large numbers of them are reclassified as 'dependent contractors' that could significantly increase taxes paid

to the government by gig firms.

### 'Fiscal headache'

Taylor told me that government tax receipts were negatively affected by the rapid growth in the number of 'self-employed' people who pay lower levels of tax than fully employed workers.

"We have a big issue about the fact there is a gap between the amount of tax we pay on self-employed labor and employed labor," he said.

"If you go back to the beginning of the welfare state, that difference was about two-thirds — we paid two-thirds as much for self-employed labor as we did for employed labor — now it is one-third."

"And at the same time self-employment has grown."

"So we are creating a fiscal headache for ourselves, and one of the things we say is over time we need to move to a situation where we pay a more similar amount."

Taylor said: "So it doesn't really matter if you're an employee or self-employed — if I pay for your labor, I should pay a similar amount of tax associated with the labor."

"Doing that, as the chancellor found out in March, is extremely difficult."

\* Kamal Ahmed is an economics editor for BBC.

### Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79490.4	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68554.5	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	86773.6	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	54879.5	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177803.7	15.3	0.01

### Overall Index details on 20170711

First	79377.0	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79511.3	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79414.7	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79490.4	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

### Industry Index details on 20170711

First	68432.8	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68517.9	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68554.5	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

### Free Float Index details on 20170711

First	86140	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	86773.6	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

### Main Board Index details on 20170711

First	54790.3	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	54913.6	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	54879.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

### Secondary Index details on 20170711

First	177612.5	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177856.4	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177803.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

## Egyptian inflation rises again

Egypt's core inflation rose in June and is expected to rise even more after the government's recent decision to increase fuel and electricity prices.

Import-dependent Egypt has been hit by soaring inflation since it floated its currency in November, allowing the pound to roughly halve in value. The float marked the opening of a three-year, \$12 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) reform program that includes tax increases and subsidy cuts, Reuters reported.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile items like food, increased to 31.95 percent year-on-year in June from 30.57 percent in May, the central bank said.

Annual urban consumer price inflation rose slightly in June to 29.8 percent from 29.7 percent in May, the official statistics agency, CAPMAS, said.

Last week, the government increased electricity prices by up to 42 percent this fiscal year for households. A week earlier, it raised fuel prices by up to 50



REUTERS

percent to help meet the terms of its IMF loan agreement.

Although the monthly inflation rate in Egyptian cities eased to 0.8 percent in June from 1.7 percent in May, government officials and analysts expect the higher fuel prices to add 3 to 4.5

percentage points to year-on-year inflation in the coming months.

Allen Sandeep, head of research at Naem Brokerage in Cairo, said: "Based on our rough calculation, headline inflation should rise above 35 percent starting July/August. However, some of this

could get offset if the Egyptian pound strengthens."

"Invariably, most goods and services are impacted by energy costs, be it in the form of energy input, transportation, feed stock."

Egypt's central bank, faced with accelerating inflation, raised its key interest rates by 200-basis points for the second policy meeting in a row on Thursday, surprising economists who had forecast no change.

The bank raised interest rates by three percentage points after the currency floated. The IMF has said lowering inflation is crucial to keeping the reform program on track and that raising interest rates could be an appropriate tool for doing so.

The central bank has said it aims to cut inflation to 13 percent by the end of next year. The IMF is expected to disburse a second loan installment of \$1.25 billion this month.

## South Korea ranks second in stock purchases by foreigners

South Korea ranked second among emerging economies in the amount of stocks purchased by foreign investors during the first six months this year, market data showed on Tuesday.

Foreigners net bought \$9 billion worth of South Korean stocks during the January-June period, the second largest only after Taiwan's \$9.4 billion, according to the statistics by Yuanta Securities, Yonhap wrote.

India came in third with \$8.5 billion, followed by Brazil at \$1.4 billion, Indonesia at \$1.3 billion, the Philippines at \$408 million and Vietnam at \$406 million.

The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) jumped 18 percent to 2,291.79 as of June 30 from the end of last year, marking the highest rise among emerging economies.

Vietnam posted the second-highest increase rate at 16.8 percent, trailed by India at 16.1 percent.

Analysts forecast the continuation of 'Buy Korea' by foreigners for the coming months, saying sound corporate earnings and expectations of the global economic recovery will be able to offset concerns over North Korea's firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile and possible capital flight from US rate hikes.

Min Young-kyu of Yuanta Securities said: "We do not see any risk of overvaluation of the rising stocks. South Korea's earnings per share (EPS) is expected to be the highest among 46 countries in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) index. However, South Korea's stock prices are currently valued at the third lowest."



KOREA BIZWIRE/KOBIZMEDIA

### Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2752	Chinese Yuan	0.1470
Euro	1.1390	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.2894	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3004
Australian Dollar	0.7617	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0087	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

### Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$44.61	Silver	\$15.44
Gold	\$1208.90	Platinum	\$896.30
Copper	\$2.64	Wheat	\$556.00



Exceptionally warm years in the Arctic have provoked extra-cold winters and springs further to the south, decreasing crop yields across central Canada and the United States, researchers said.

## Sassanid, early Islamic era clay works found in northeast Iran

Clay works dating back to the Sassanid and early Islamic eras were discovered during the first season of archaeological excavations in Bazei Floor region of Mashhad in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi.

The Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) quoted the head of the exploration and research team Maysam Labbaf Khaniki as saying that during the excavations, a large number of collapsed columns were discovered which indicated that a structure with columns existed on the eastern side of a four-arch monument known as "Chahar Taqi", according to IRNA.

Excavations in the area were conducted by a group of experts from the Archeology Department of Tehran University, the Research Institute of ICHHTO and Khorasan Razavi Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department, he said.

It was also found out that the area, which stretched over an expanse of about 10 hectares, included residential spaces and cemeteries dating back to the Sassanid and early Islamic eras, he added.

Khaniki pointed to Bazei Floor Chahar Taqi as a structure belonging to the Sassanid era, and added that the monument, which was registered on the National Heritage List in 1931-1932, is one of the few cultural buildings remaining in eastern Iran from the post-Islamic era.

# Earth's sixth mass extinction event underway, scientists warn

A 'biological annihilation' of wildlife in recent decades means a sixth mass extinction in Earth's history is underway and is more severe than previously feared, according to research.

Scientists analyzed both common and rare species and found billions of regional or local populations have been lost. They blame human overpopulation and overconsumption for the crisis and warn that it threatens the survival of human civilization, with just a short window of time in which to act, The Guardian reported.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, eschews the normally sober tone of scientific papers and calls the massive loss of wildlife a "frightening assault on the foundations of human civilization".

Professor Gerardo Ceballos, at the



XINHUA

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, who led the work, said: "The situation has become so bad it would not be ethical not to

use strong language." Previous studies have shown species are becoming extinct at a significantly faster rate

than for millions of years before, but even so extinctions remain relatively rare giving the impression of a gradual loss of biodiversity.

The new work instead takes a broader view, assessing many common species which are losing populations all over the world as their ranges shrink, but remain present elsewhere.

The scientists found that a third of the thousands of species losing populations are not currently considered endangered and that up to 50 percent of all individual animals have been lost in recent decades. Detailed data is available for land mammals, and almost half of these have lost 80 percent of their range in the last century. The scientists found billions of populations of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians have been lost all over the planet, leading them to say a sixth mass extinction has already progressed further than was thought.

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## Shells record West Antarctic glacier retreat

Scientists are getting a much clearer picture of the retreat of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet over thousands of years, and of the forces driving it.

New research indicates that warm waters pulled up from the deep by strong winds sharply undercut glaciers from about 11,000 years ago to 7,500 years ago, BBC wrote.

This incursion then stopped until it got underway again in the

1940s. The findings are important because they inform our understanding about how the ice may respond in the future.

Today, the big glaciers that enter the ocean in a key sector called the Amundsen Sea Embayment are in a rapid withdrawal.

These ice streams, such as Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers, are colossal in scale — and their

melting has become a significant contributor to global sea-level rise at around 1mm per decade.

The glaciers' grounding lines — the places where they enter the ocean and become buoyant — are heading inland; as are the floating segments, or shelves, they push out in front themselves.

Claus-Dieter Hillenbrand, a senior marine geologist at the British Antarctic Survey, explained:

"We know today that the ice sheet in the Amundsen Sea is mainly influenced by this warm deep-water upwelling, which is very effectively melting the undersides of the ice shelves and weakening them, and because these shelves buttress the glaciers we therefore get the thinning of the glaciers, the acceleration in the flow speed of the glaciers and the retreat of their grounding lines."



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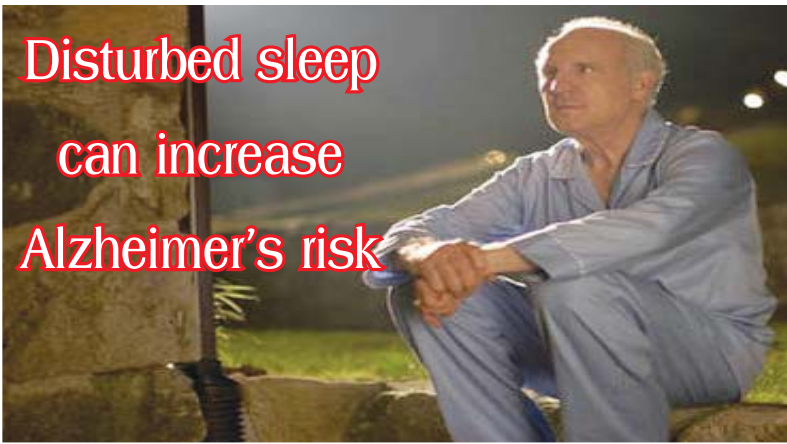
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## Disturbed sleep can increase Alzheimer's risk



express.co.uk

**D**isturbed sleep can increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, a study warned.

Scientists found interrupted slumber raises levels of toxic proteins in our bodies that are tell-tale signs of the incurable disease, express.co.uk reported.

The danger affects people in middle age and is a big worry for those suffering serious conditions, such as sleep apnea.

Researchers from Washington University School of Medicine, in St. Louis, Stanford University, in California, and Radboud University Medical Center, in the Netherlands, studied the sleep patterns of 17 healthy adults aged between 35 and 65.

They found that disrupting sleep meant people had higher levels of amyloid — a toxic protein and key hallmark of Alzheimer's,

when they woke up.

The study did not test whether people went on to develop Alzheimer's but their findings may explain why poor sleep has been associated with the onset of dementia.

Study author Dr. David Holtzman said, "We showed that poor sleep is associated with higher levels of two Alzheimer's-associated proteins. "We think that perhaps chronic poor sleep during middle age may increase the risk of Alzheimer's later in life."

Yo-Ei Ju, assistant professor of neurology at Washington University, said, "The main concern is people who have chronic sleep problems. "I think that may lead to chronically elevated amyloid levels, which animal studies have shown lead to increased risk of amyloid plaques and Alzheimer's.

"At this point, we can't say whether improving sleep will reduce your risk of developing Alzheimer's.

"All we can really say is that bad sleep increases levels of some proteins that are associated with Alzheimer's disease. But a good night's sleep is something you want to be striving for anyway."

Dr. Doug Brown, of Alzheimer's Society, added, "Research is emerging that indicates poor quality sleep may be associated with a higher risk of developing Alzheimer's.

"Getting a good night's sleep is important for a range of different health reasons. "If you are worried about your sleep patterns, or your memory, it's important to speak to your GP."

The findings were published in the journal Brain.

## Bulimia brains use food to avoid negative thoughts

The brains of women with bulimia react differently to food under stress than other women's brains, psychologists have discovered.

In a small study, the US researchers found decreased blood flow in bulimic women to a part of the brain involved in self-critical thinking, BBC wrote.

This supported the idea they may be using food to avoid dwelling on negative thoughts about themselves.



BBC  
The precuneus region of the brain is complex and linked with memory and self-awareness.

Bulimia usually leads to binge-eating and then purging, through vomiting.

It is an eating disorder and a mental health condition that means people have an abnormal attitude to food and body image.

Psychologists have long thought that binge-eating is triggered by stress and gives women with bulimia a way of focusing on food, instead of being critical of themselves.

This is the first study to look at what happens in their brains.

Writing in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Washington researchers scanned the brains of 20 women — 10 with bulimia and 10 without — while carrying out experiments.

They fed them all the same meal before showing them a series of neutral pictures followed by pictures of high-sugar or high-fat food, such as ice cream, pizza or brownies, while having their brains scanned.

To make them stressed, the participants were given an impossible maths problem to solve — then they were shown different photos of sugar and fat-laden food and asked the rate their stress and food craving levels.

Although everyone said their stress levels had gone up and down at similar times during the tasks, the brain scans had shown very different results, the researchers said.

For women with bulimia, blood flow to a region of the brain called the precuneus

decreased when they looked at food pictures — but in women without bulimia, it increased.

Sarah Fischer, coauthor of the study and associate professor at George Mason University, said: "We would expect to see increased blood flow in this region when someone is engaged in self-reflection, rumination or self-criticism."

And in a second study, involving 17 different women with bulimia, the results were the same.

The researchers say the decreased blood flow is a sign that thinking about food shuts down thoughts about their own shortcomings in those with bulimia.

Fischer said the findings could help women to control their binge-eating triggers.

"We found that it doesn't take much stress to trigger binge-eating. "I would love to see if teaching basic emotion-regulation behavioral skills works for some women. "For others, they may need medication or trans-cranial stimulation to stop the rise in stress before they binge."

The eating disorder charity Beat said the first part of call for people looking for help was to visit their GP.

The GP may then recommend online support or cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and sometimes medication.

## Study finds link between pain reliever to kidney injury in endurance runners

A new study found that the common practice of taking ibuprofen for pain relief while competing in ultramarathons causes a large increase in acute kidney injury.

As a result, according to the study by researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine and several other institutions, people who take the painkiller ibuprofen while running very long distances double their risk of acute kidney injury, news.xinhuanet.com wrote.

Grant Lipman, clinical associate professor of emergency medicine at Stanford and lead author of the study, said, "As many as 75 percent of ultramarathoners use the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, or NSAID, in this fashion."

"While most cases of acute kidney injury appear to resolve spontaneously, the condition has the potential to progress to renal failure."

Hypothesizing that ibuprofen would not result in an increased rate of acute kidney injury compared to placebo,

Lipman and his colleagues conducted the first randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blinded study to test the use of ibuprofen in ultramarathoners.

The 89 participants who completed the trial were randomized to take either ibuprofen or a placebo during 80km, section of one of four

with few roads and varying topography and they carried all their personal items for the duration of the race, including all their gear, food and clothing.

Lipman said, "The morning of this 80km section of the race, the participants came to the medical tent. "We weighed them and gave them a bag-

by the researchers at the medical tent.

There, they were weighed and their electrolyte levels and renal functioning were measured.

Forty-seven percent of the participants took ibuprofen, and 53 percent took the placebo.

Results showed that about 39 of the 89 participants had acute

runners who took ibuprofen, there was one additional case of acute kidney injury. That's a pretty high rate."

Ultramarathon races have increased in popularity in recent years. The number of races worldwide reached 1,357 in 2015, with over 70,000 runners finishing these races every year.

Lipman said, "This study should cause endurance athletes and distance runners to pause before taking ibuprofen while competing but does not infer that the average athlete would necessarily face similar effects from taking the drug.

Lipman, who has served as the medical director of "Racing The Planet" ultramarathon events, said, "Running these races tends to hurt."

Having seen firsthand how common it is for runners to take ibuprofen before, during and after these races to relieve pain and reduce joint swelling, Lipman has now switched to using acetaminophen, such as Tylenol, for pain relief and taking ice baths after racing.



thedoctor.pk

different seven-day, nearly 250km and ultramarathons.

They were required to refrain from taking ibuprofen at least 12 hours prior to the 80km section of the race.

They ran in ultramarathons either in China, Chile, Ecuador or Sri Lanka.

They ran through wilderness terrain

and said to take these pills every four hours.

"They were given either 400mg of ibuprofen or sugar pills. Nobody knew which. And instructed to take one every four hours. And they ran off."

Twelve- to 36-hours later, depending on the speed of the runners, the participants were met

kidney injury at the end of the 80km section of the race.

There was an 18 percent higher rate of kidney injury among those who took the drug compared to those who didn't, the study found.

Lipman called this an impressive difference.

He said, "Basically, for every five

## Malaria drug protects fetus against Zika

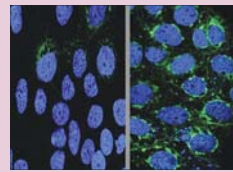
Researchers at Washington University School of Medicine found that a drug used to treat malaria may protect fetuses from the Zika virus.

In mice studies, researchers discovered the Zika virus infects the fetus by manipulating the body's normal barrier to infection, UPI reported.

Indira Mysorekar, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and of pathology and immunology, said, "We found that the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine effectively blocks viral transmission to the fetus."

"This drug already is used in pregnant women to treat malaria, and we suggest that it warrants evaluation in primates and women to diminish the risks of Zika infection and disease in developing fetuses."

The study, initially involved



UPI

the amount of placental cells infected with Zika.

They then infected two groups of pregnant mice with Zika with one group having the autophagy process disrupted and the other working normally.

Mice with a weak autophagy response had 10 times fewer viruses in the placenta and heads of the fetuses and less placental damage.

Bin Cao, a postdoctoral fellow, said, "It appears that Zika virus takes advantage of the autophagy process in the placenta to promote its survival and infection of placental cells."

Hydroxychloroquine suppresses this autophagy response and mice treated with the drug had significantly less Zika virus in the fetuses and placentas.

## Disruptive technology reduces bleeding in hemophilia by 87 percent

Researchers at Children's Hospital Los Angeles developed a new therapy called emicizumab that decreases bleeding episodes by nearly 90 percent.

People with hemophilia A have excessive bleeding and need prophylactic treatment with intravenously administered clotting factor about three times a week, according to UPI.

This weekly administration of clotting factor can cause the development of antibodies known as inhibitors that destroy the clotting factor and make treatment more challenging.

Emicizumab — a new monoclonal antibody — decreased the incidence of bleeding episodes in patients with hemophilia A and inhibitors has been to use medications called 'by-



UPI

passing agents'.

"This new therapy is dramatically more effective at preventing bleeding. "Additionally, in comparison to by-passing agents, emicizumab is easier to administer, requires less frequent dosing, and based on this study, appears to have an improved safety profile."

The study, which was published in the New

England Journal of Medicine, consisted of 109 males over the age of 12 with hemophilia A with inhibitors.

Participants who received emicizumab had 87 percent fewer bleeding episodes compared to untreated patient and 79 percent fewer bleeding episodes compared to patients treated with by-passing agents.

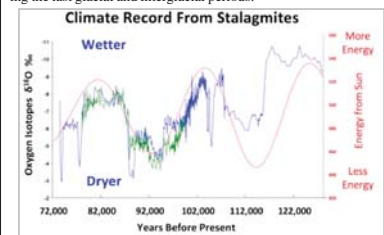
Dr. Guy Young, who is also a professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California and a hematologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, said, "This is the most significant advancement I have seen during my 20 years working in the field of hemophilia. "We've had families flying in from all over the country to get access to this medication."

## Iranian stalagmites suggest Middle East unlikely to get reprieve from drought

New analysis of Iranian stalagmites have offered a detailed history of water resources in the region.

The findings suggested the Middle East is unlikely to enjoy a relief from its prolonged drought for at least another 10,000 years, UPI wrote.

The newest analysis — detailed in the journal *Quaternary Science Reviews* — helped scientists estimate water availability during the last glacial and interglacial periods.



UPI

The findings suggest water in the Middle East is likely to remain scarce for some time.

Sevag Mehterian, lead author of the new study and a doctoral student at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School, said, "Local governments generally prefer the narrative that the region is only in a temporary dry spell and better prospects of water availability lay ahead."

"Our study has found evidence to the contrary, suggesting that in fact, the future long-term trend based on paleoclimatic reconstructions is likely towards diminishing precipitation, with no relief in the form of increased Mediterranean storms, the primary source of annual precipitation to the region, in the foreseeable future."

Stalagmites are formed by calcium deposits on the cave's floor, which build up as water drips from the cave's ceiling. Shifts in chemical composition with their layers, like an ice or sediment core, can reveal changes in climate.

Analysis of the Iranian stalagmites revealed a strong connection between water availability and solar insolation — the amount of sunlight shining onto Earth's surface — between 75,000 and 130,000 years ago.

Similar correlations were found among stalagmites elsewhere in Eurasia. Ice cores and sediment records confirmed the link between the climate patterns of the Middle East and Eurasia.

Climate models suggested solar insolation is unlikely to increase for another 10,000 years, which means reprieve from the Middle East's prolonged drought isn't likely to arrive any time soon.

A number of climate models have previously predicted much of the Middle East will become too hot and dry to sustain large human populations by the end of the century.

## Scientists recover human DNA from mosquitoes

New research proves human DNA can be successfully extracted from mosquitoes and sequenced two days after feeding.

Forensic scientists have previously suggested suspects could be placed at the scene of the crime if their DNA was recovered from a local mosquito population, UPI reported.



UPI

But until now, researchers weren't sure how long it takes mosquitoes to digest human blood and render DNA unrecognizable.

The new research — published in the journal *PLOS ONE* — suggested human DNA remains intact inside a mosquito's stomach for at least two days after consumption.

Yuiji Hiroshige, a forensic scientist at Nagoya University in Japan, said, "We asked several volunteers to let mosquitoes bite them."

"After allowing the mosquitoes to digest the blood for a certain amount of time, we extracted the human DNA and used polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques to amplify the sample for quantification and genotyping."

Scientists used PCR to amplify DNA fragments in the mosquito blood. The technique allowed scientists to identify DNA fragments belonging to the study participants.

After three days, researchers found no recognizable DNA fragments, as the human blood had been completely digested. Lead researcher Toshimichi Yamamoto said, "Ours is the first study to systematically apply modern DNA profiling techniques to the challenging forensic analysis of mosquito blood meal."

"We hope this will help crime scene investigators collect reliable evidence that could be used to guide investigations and support convictions."

"Although we need to take some steps to improve our methods and obtain more data, with more accurate quantification methods, we might be able to estimate the time after mosquitoes' blood feeding with even greater accuracy."

# Iranian researchers produce non-toxic rodenticide

Iranian researchers managed to produce a non-toxic rodenticide using nanotechnology.

The product was produced by an Iranian new technology-based firm (NTBF), employing nanotechnology and is currently available in the market, Mehr News Agency wrote.

It is quite annoying to see a mouse at home or at work. When searching for food or scurrying around, mice spread certain diseases which is quite dangerous to human health.

Particularly, when scuttling in places where food is kept, such as kitchen, or children's play rooms, the risk of them transmitting diseases which is quite dangerous to human health.

A natural habit of mice is gnawing at things which means that the rodents can damage houses, furniture and home appliances.

A number of methods are used to get rid of mice. They include the use of mousetraps and rat poisons, which are the two most common ways to eliminate rodents.

Toxic rodenticides, however, pollute underground or surface water. They can also accidentally poison humans or kill pets.

Thus, production of nontoxic rodenticides has always been of utmost importance to both producers and consumers alike.

Since three years ago, Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) has been involved in evaluating the quality of nano products by Iranian NTBFs and



fajrlaboratory.com

confirming their nanoscale dimensions.

The INIC has approved the quality of non-toxic rodenticide produced by Iranian researchers.

Routine evaluation of the quality of nano products

and nanomaterials produced domestically is among the measures contributing to greater transparency in the marketing of such products, higher quality of the goods and winning the trust of consumers.

## NASA studying fungi to keep space travelers safe in new worlds

Human presence in closed habitats that may one day be used to explore other planets is associated with changes in the composition of the fungal community — the mycobiome — that grows on surfaces inside the habitat.

According to phys.org, Dr. Kasthuri Venkateswaran, senior research scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech, and corresponding author of the study, said, "Our study is the first report on the mycobiome of a simulated habitat meant for the future human habitation of other planets."

"We used the Inflatable Lunar/Mars Analog Habitat (ILMAH), a unique, simulated closed environment that mimics the conditions found on the International Space Station (ISS) and possible human habitats on other planets."

"We showed that the overall fungal diversity changed when humans were present."

The researchers found that certain kinds of fungi — including known pathogens that can colonize the human body and cause allergies, asthma and skin infections — increased in number while humans were living inside the ILMAH.

Prolonged stays in closed habitats might be stressful for inhabitants and thus lead to decreased immune response, making people more vulnerable to opportunistic pathogens like fungi.

Venkateswaran added, "Fungi are

extremophiles that can survive harsh conditions and environments like deserts, caves or nuclear accident sites, and they are known to be difficult to eradicate from other environments including indoor and closed spaces."

"Characterizing and understanding possible changes to, and survival of, fungal species in environments like the IL-

protect the health of the people who live there."

The primary goal of the ILMAH was to understand the physiological, psychological and behavioral changes in humans in a confined environment.

Three student crews were housed inside the ILMAH for 30 days. In order to determine which fungal species were present



orlandogunitugu.blogspot.com.tr

MAH is of high importance since fungi are not only potentially hazardous to the inhabitants but could also deteriorate the habitats themselves."

Knowing how fungal communities change in the presence of humans is thus necessary for the development of appropriate countermeasures to maintain habitats like the ILMAH or the ISS and to

and how the composition of the mycobiome changed during human habitation, samples collected at various time points in a 30-day period were characterized.

The ILMAH was completely isolated from the outside world, except for the exchange of filtered air between the indoor and outdoor environments.

Crew members were given a weekly

work schedule which included cleaning the habitat and collecting surface samples.

Samples were collected from eight sampling locations at four time-points; just before habitation and at 13, 20 and 30 days of habitation. The habitat was cleaned weekly with antibacterial wipes.

The researchers gene sequenced the samples to show which species of fungus were present and to determine the total (alive and dead) and viable (alive and able to reproduce) fungal populations.

They showed that the diversity of the mycobiome and the levels of different fungal populations changed during the duration of the experiment.

For example, populations of *Cladospirium cladosporioides* — a common outdoor fungus — increased.

While *C. cladosporioides* rarely causes infections in humans, it could cause asthmatic reactions especially in individuals with weakened immune systems, such as astronauts.

Venkateswaran said, "In-depth knowledge of the viable mycobiome will allow the development of required maintenance and cleaning procedures in a closed habitat like ILMAH and also prevent it from deteriorating and becoming a health hazard to its inhabitants."

"However, to be able to show that increased fungal diversity is a result of human presence, the mycobiome of the occupants will also need to be studied."

## Fossil sheds light on bird evolution after asteroid strike

The fossil of a tiny bird that lived 62 million years ago confirms that birds evolved very rapidly after the asteroid strike that wiped out the dinosaurs.

The sparrow-sized tree-dweller lived just a geological blink of an eye after the mass extinction, according to bbc.com.

Bird fossils from that time period are very rare.

Analysis suggested the ancestors of most modern birds, from owls to woodpeckers, had taken to the wing within four million years of the asteroid strike.

Like mammals, the birds that survived the extinction were able to expand and diversify to become one of the most successful animal groups on Earth.

Analysis of the fossil and its relationship to other members of the bird family tree suggested as many as 10 major bird groups had appeared within four million years of the extinction.

Dr. Daniel Ksepka, curator of science at Bruce Museum in Greenwich,

Connecticut, said *Tsidiyazhi abini* was a very special little bird for several reasons.

"It is very old, very small and had zany little feet."

"The age is between 62.2 and 62.5 million years, just a geological blink of the eye after the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs."

DNA evidence suggested birds recovered rapidly from the extinction event 66 million years ago that wiped out most animals on land, including flying reptiles, dinosaurs and primitive birds.

The origins of modern birds can be traced back to this time.

However, bird fossils from this era in geological history are very rare because their bones are so small and delicate.

This has made it difficult to resolve how modern birds arose and diversified, leading to some controversy.

The discovery of *Tsidiyazhi abini* — an ancient species of mousebird — is a new source of evidence.

Ksepka said, "When we place the bird in the evolutionary tree, it reveals that other closely related groups must have also split off by then because they occupy lower branches."

"So this discovery shows not only mousebirds but things like owls, raptors, the Coraciiformes (a group that includes birds like kingfishers and woodpeckers) and many other groups were all showing up just a short time after the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs."

*Tsidiyazhi abini*, or 'little morning bird' was found in 62.5-million-year-old rocks in the Nacimiento Formation of New Mexico.

Dr. Thomas Williamson was on a fossil hunting trip with his twin sons, when the birds' bones came to light.

The curator of Paleontology at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science explained, "They discovered an unusually rich site that had some skeletons of small mammals.

"Over the next several months, I collected some bulk samples from the site and within these I discovered the bones of a small bird."

He said the new birds were close to modern mousebirds (Coliiformes), a group now found only in Africa, but which was geographically more widespread in the Paleogene [from 66 million years ago to 23 million years ago].

The bird was able to flip the fourth toe on its foot to face backwards — something that is useful for climbing and grasping. This feature is also seen in other birds, such as modern owls.

*Tsidiyazhi* lived at a time when the planet was undergoing great change, with placental mammals and flowering plants also diversifying rapidly.

The bird lived in forests and dined on fruits and seeds from flowering plants.

Today, there are more than 10,000 living species of bird.

The research was published in the journal *PNAS*.



Strict parents who punish their children may not help them behave. Instead, scolding youngsters only encourages them to continue with their bad habits, new research suggested.

## Rising violence forces 40,000 more to flee CAR's east



unhcr.org

A fresh wave of violence has forced 40,000 more people to flee from their homes in the Central African Republic (CAR), bringing the number of refugees in the country's east to 100,000, an NGO said.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reported that the ongoing fighting in the CAR has also left over 100 people dead since April, according to aljazeera.com. In the eastern province of Haute-Kot, clashes between armed groups since June have forced almost the entire population of its regional capital Bria to flee for their lives.

The humanitarian group estimates that nine in 10 of the important mining town's 47,000 population have fled their homes because of the latest violence.

Fatimatou Sai, a refugee, said: "We are worried about the situation in the city, and we call on the humanitarian community to support the organizations already in the area to assist us."

A peace deal signed by 13 of the country's 14 armed groups in June brought hope of peace to the war-ravaged country. But hopes faded when over 50 people were killed in fighting that broke out the same day.

According to NRC staff member Severin Modowanza, "Those 43,000 displaced persons live in dire conditions since the beginning of this crisis. Lack of access to health services, drinking water and adequate shelters are some of the issues that worsened with the conflict."

People have fled to seven locations across the eastern region, including two churches and a hospital.

The group said it is working to provide legal aid to those who have fled their homes, while extending humanitarian assistance like food, water and shelter to

the displaced people.

The country, one of the poorest in the world, has been plagued by inter-religious and inter-communal conflict since 2013 between the mainly Muslim Seleka rebels and the Christian Anti-Balaka militia that started after the overthrow of leader Francois Bozize.

In May this year, the UN's refugee agency said that there were more than 500,000 internally displaced persons in the entire country.

CAR has enjoyed little stability since gaining its independence from France in 1960.

## World Population Day is really about women

There are about 214 million women around the world who want to avoid pregnancy but don't have access to contraception, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Addressing this unmet need is part of the inspiration for the theme of this year's World Population Day on Tuesday: Family Planning, usatoday.com reported.

The world has 7.4 billion people in it, and by 2023 the United Nations predicts there will be more than eight billion people who call the planet home.

In Africa alone, the continent with the highest fertility rate and lowest use of modern contraceptives, 26 countries will double their population by 2050, according to the UN.

Roger-Mark DeSouza, director of population, environmental security and resilience at the non-partisan policy Wilson Center, based in Washington, DC, said: "Fundamentally, if you're looking at World Population Day, it is at heart a women's rights issue."

"World Population Day is meant to draw attention to the challenges we face with a human population that is



gannett-cdn.com

constantly growing."

Rapid population growth in the poorest countries leads to rapid consumption of natural resources, which makes it difficult for countries to feed themselves and recover from the effects of climate change, such as increased flooding, DeSouza said.

The population of the least developed

countries grows about 2.4 percent per year, with a birthrate of 4.3 children per woman.

DeSouza said this rate of growth will be unsustainable if the level of consumption in developing countries reaches that of the industrialized world.

Many African countries are addressing this issue by investing money in

women's empowerment, including the unmet need for education, he said. Improving women's rights can be a powerful tool to tackle unsustainable population growth.

In both the developing and industrialized world, women with more education have fewer children, according to the World Bank.

Access to safe family planning options not only allows women to become more economically productive but would also result in a 75-percent decline in unintended pregnancies, unplanned births and induced abortions in developing regions, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive justice and sexual health research institution.

Access to contraception and information about family planning are vital components of gender equality.

According to the UNFPA, "When women and couples are empowered to plan whether and when to have children, women are better enabled to complete their education; women's autonomy within their households is increased; and their earning power is improved."

## Study examines fathers' experiences of child protection process

New research from the University of East Anglia (UEA) challenges assumptions that men in child protection cases do not stay involved in children's lives and always, or only, pose a risk of harm to their child — fathers in this study were rarely 'absent'.

The study aims to improve policy and social work practice by addressing the knowledge gap about men in child protection, by focusing on fathers' perspectives and supporting the involvement of men in the process, phys.org wrote.

Most men involved in the study, conducted by UEA's Center for Research on Children and Families (CRCF), wanted to be part of their child's life and presented as both a risk and resource for their children.

The findings will be discussed at the Nuffield Foundation in London, which funded the innovative 'Counting Fathers In' project — the first to attempt to understand how men negotiate the day-to-day challenges of their encounters with the child protection system.

The team examined father involvement in 150 children's case files to provide a context for an in-depth study of 35 men's lives and their experiences of child protection over the course of a year, across three local authorities.

The group included men who had lost previous children to care, and men who were, or became the main carers for their child.

Lead researcher Dr. Georgia Philip said the findings showed that social workers and multi-agency teams needed to be more curious about men's lives. "Very little is known about men's own views on the child protection process and this was at the heart of our study. This project has produced an important and vivid picture of how the system works for fathers."



huffpost.com

For example, one father said: "I am a father to my children and I know a lot of men, well I can see why they do it now, it is so much easier just to let the women get on with it and see your kids whenever but I am not like that, I want to be an influence in my children's life."

While another commented: "In my mind the system is geared up in a way to assume that everything will be okay with mom and that everything will inevitably cock up with dad. Do you get what I mean, and that is frustrating, that is hard to deal with."

## Mental health issues prompt student demand for extra time in exams

The number of university students demanding extra time in exams due to mental health problems has surged in recent years, new figures showed.

Growing rates of anxiety, stress, and other psychiatric issues on campus mean more students are granted extra time in exams, or second attempts to submit essays, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

Student groups insist that the figures point to a growing mental health crisis on campus, although one academic warned over the weekend that the practice is becoming too widespread, and risks rendering the exam system "a joke".

At Cambridge University 218 students were granted extra time last year — a threefold increase from five years ago.

At Imperial College London special arrangements were granted to 111 students who complained of mental health problems last year, up from just 11 in 2011-12.

One in four British undergraduates reports some form of mental illness, a survey found last year, with depression and anxiety ranking as the common issues.



telegraph.co.uk

The growing student demand for extra time mirrors the situation in British schools. Almost 20 percent of private school pupils sitting A-Level and GCSE exams were granted extra time last year — some 27,000 pupils. The figure was 11 percent for pupils in state schools.

The new figures, obtained by The Sunday Times through Freedom of Information requests, also showed that Edinburgh University allowed 16 students to avoid having to give oral presentations last year.

One student at Newcastle University was allowed to re-sit an exam due to a gambling addiction.

Frank Furedi, emeritus professor of sociology at Kent University, warned over the weekend that the growing demand for extra time is becoming a "joke" and urged universities to clamp down.

He said: "A few decades ago it was only granted in very rare circumstances but it has now become like a joke. It means there are different rules for different people and that some people who work hard and just get on with it are effectively penalized."

Furedi warned that many universities require only a doctor's note, which can be obtained easily.

"There are genuine cases but you have examples like 'Mary broke up with her fiancé and she shouted at her about it and now she's traumatized and can't concentrate on her exams,'" Furedi said.

Student Minds, a mental health charity, said that special adjustments are legitimate, and it was very unlikely that students are "making it up to get out of doing the work".

## Smart technology needs smart users

A quarter of energy consumption worldwide occurs in the home, and this percentage is increasing, even in member states of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), despite more efficient fridges and better insulation.

The amount of energy a household requires is strongly dependent on the behavior and purchase decisions of the inhabitants — and both are rarely based on well-informed assessments, according to phys.org.

On the one hand, households often invest considerably less in economical appliances and energy efficiency than would be financially advisable.

On the other, people who do try to save energy often concentrate their efforts in areas with little impact: They'll be fastidious about turning off the lights when leaving a room, but will leave the window open, while underestimating how much energy heating and hot water require — over 80 percent of the household total.

Numerous companies, organizations and politicians are therefore hoping for digital progress. Intelligent electricity meters and clever apps are supposed to show people where they can most effectively save energy.

The results thus far haven't been particularly

encouraging: In large-scale studies on smart electricity meters, the realized savings came to around two percent of a household's total electricity consumption (or 0.5 percent of its total energy consumption).

This isn't a huge surprise: During the development of these kinds of systems, the focus is generally on technical and legal questions rather than the issue of how to create designs that will encourage people to actively engage with them. Many system developers assume a user who weighs up and optimizes information on the basis of rational economic considerations.

However, our behavior is anything but rational. It is subject to numerous cognitive biases and misconceptions. Factors such as social norms (how other people think and act) and defaults (predefined settings) shape our thoughts and actions far more than most of us realize.

Whether we decide in favor of green energy, for example, isn't just a matter of price: A German power company managed to increase the proportion of new customers choosing green energy ten times over, simply by placing green energy as the default selection in the dropdown menu.

And it wasn't that this change was leading customers to choose green energy by accident. In fact, a study carried



famo-smarhome.de

out alongside this experiment showed that most people care about the environment — which makes it harder for us to actively refuse green power when the box is already ticked for us.

Decades of work in the social sciences have yielded insights into how information can influence human behavior, and how we can present information in such a way that people will notice it and react accordingly.

Using these insights, systems that provide feedback on energy consumption can be designed far more cheaply and effectively than is currently the case.





## Spicy diet boosts lifespan of 110-year-old woman

The daughter of a Texas woman celebrating her 110th birthday credited a diet heavy in spicy food with contributing to the woman's longevity.

Maria Lopez celebrated becoming a supercentenarian two days before her official birthday, surrounded by family at Mya's Tex-Mex Cafe in San Antonio, UPI wrote.

Lopez's daughter, Rosemary Galvan, said the elderly woman's spicy diet was a contributing factor in her good health. "I think they can all vouch for her.

She always has a lot of chili on her food. A lot of hot pepper. Even when I was small, I remember having hot sauce on the hamburgers and hot dogs. So I think that's what that is," Galvan told WOAI-TV.

Lopez has one daughter, four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Lopez moved to San Antonio from Mexico when she was 18-years-old. She was married to Galvan's father for more than 50 years prior to his death and remarried at the age of 90 to a man she met at the Presa Senior Center.



The family of 110-year-old Maria Lopez credits her spicy diet with helping keep her healthy. WOAI-TV

## Texas man breaks 37-year record with 1,033-pound hammerhead shark



VIA TEXAS CITY JAYCEES / FACEBOOK

A Texas fisherman took first place in a tournament — and broke a 37-year-old record — when he landed a 1,033 pound (468.56kg) hammerhead shark.

Tim McClellan was fishing in Texas City as part of the 55th Annual Tackle Time Fishing Tournament, hosted by the Texas City/La Marque Jaycees, when he managed to reel the hammerhead into the waystation of the Texas City Dike, according to UPI.

"You can fish all your life and not catch something like this," McClellan told KHOU-TV. "It's the one monster I'd been looking for 20 years."

The 1,033-pound hammerhead broke a state record set in 1980, when Mark Johnson landed an 871-pound hammerhead shark.

McClellan's catch was weighed Sunday morning, the last day of the tournament. His catch took the first place spot away from Sergio Roque, who landed a 946 pound tiger shark a few days earlier.

## Florida woman snaps 'world's fattest rattlesnake'

A Florida woman shared a photo of an unusual sight she spotted from her truck — the 'world's fattest rattlesnake' slithering across a road.



UPI

Cathy Terry said she and her companions spotted the 'monster' eastern diamond rattlesnake while they were out birding last month a few miles south of Bartow, UPI wrote.

Terry described the serpent as 'the world's fattest rattlesnake'. "Yes, I used a telephone

lens but it was crossing the road right in front of us and it's length was about 7/8 of the width of a two-lane road," she wrote on Facebook.

She said she hopes her photo serves as a reminder to others that alligators aren't the only dangerous creatures in Florida.

"Good thing we remembered to look down from the windows of the truck before getting out or we would have stepped right on it," she wrote.

## Top 20 European hidden holiday hotspots

Thinking about a holiday? It's doubtful Boring, Nasty, Rotteneegg will be on your list of possible destinations.

The bizarrely named locations emerged following a study into Europe's hilariously named towns and villages commissioned by flight and holiday company, Monarch Holidays, mirror.co.uk reported.

Austria's Rotteneegg is unlikely to cause a stink among visitors — instead it's known for the

And Reigny in central France typically gets five hours of sunshine every day and has lower than average monthly rainfall figures.

Other notably place names include Piles in Spain, Windpassing in Austria and Bidet in France.

Richard Francis, managing director of Monarch Holidays, said: "We can all be guilty of judging a book by its cover — or a place by its name.

avoid a town or city if it had an unsavory name.

- Top 20 European hidden holiday gems
1. Rotteneegg (Austria)
  2. Boring (Denmark)
  3. Nasty (Hertfordshire)
  4. El Morron (Spain)
  5. Reigny (France)
  6. Piles (Spain)
  7. Windpassing (Austria)
  8. Fail (Viseu, Portugal)
  9. Monster (Netherlands)
  10. Drama (Greece)



GETTY

quality of its air and 360 degree views of its beautiful mountainous terrain.

There is plenty to do in Boring as its minutes from Denmark's cultural center.

And the only thing off-putting about Nasty is the sky high property prices due to its location as it is among rolling hills, stunning wildlife and thatched cottages.

Despite its moniker, Depressa in Italy is famed for its olive oil, artichokes and tomatoes — and its beautiful medieval towns and secret coves with turquoise waters.

"So as part of our 'Year of Nice' campaign we have put together a full tour guide for inquisitive travelers that shines a light on some of these unfairly named locations.

"We've uncovered some real hidden gems not far from many of our popular destinations, which despite their deceptive names are some of the nicest places to visit in Europe."

Ninety-five percent of the 2,000 holidaymakers polled said they are open to exploring new places, however one in six would

11. Lucifer (France)
12. Weener (Germany)
13. Ugley (Bishopstortford)
14. Bastardo (Italy)
15. Angers, (France)
16. Bidet (France)
17. Depressa (Italy)
18. Bitch (France)
19. Bra (Italy)
20. Looe (Cornwall)

For the campaign Monarch has teamed-up with Laura Hamilton from Channel 4's 'A Place in the Sun' to showcase the untold beauty of these places — all of which are within driving distance of Monarch flight routes.

### True or False Crossword

1		2	3	4	5	6	7
		8					9
10					11		12
13			14		15		16
				17			
18					19		20
21		22		23			
24					25		

### DOWN

1. Gloves / Footwear (7)
2. Fair / Unfair (9)
3. Square / Egg-shaped (5)
4. Vocalist / Instrumentalist (6)
5. Tense / Relaxed (7)
6. Girl / Boy (3)
7. Start / Finish (5)
12. Gardening tool / Communication device (9)
14. Clumsy / Graceful (7)
16. Happiest / Unhappiest (7)
17. Close / Distant (6)
18. Snack / Banquet (5)
20. Piece of cake / Piece of furniture (5)
22. Part of the hand / Part of the foot (3)

### ACROSS

1. Mariners / Doctors (7)
5. Recital / Spontaneous remark (5)
8. Legendary bird / Legendary horse (7)
9. Animal / Fish (3)
10. Lengthen / Shorten (7)
11. Frequently / Infrequently (5)
13. Grabbed / Dropped (6)
15. Pop songs / Sacred songs (6)
18. True / Untrue (5)
19. Broke away / Captured (7)
21. Insect / Bird (3)
23. Fruit / Vegetable (7)
24. Charity / Larceny (5)
25. Sincere / Insincere (7)

### Yesterday's solution

M	I	R	A	G	E	C	A	M	P	U	S
E	E	E	B	U	E	I					
A	M	P	L	E	R	O	S	T	R	U	M
N	U	S	O	T	K	I					
T	A	L	L	E	S	T	E	A	S	E	L
			S	H	R	A					
E	J	E	C	T	S	D	E	A	R	E	R
A			E	A		E					
R	I	D	E	R	D	A	M	A	G	E	S
N	R	M	D	A	U	W					
E	D	I	F	I	C	E	I	G	L	O	O
S	L	T	R	Z	A	R					
T	E	L	L	E	R	N	E	A	R	E	D

### 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.

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

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



Arsene anticipation

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger on Tuesday insisted striker Alexis Sanchez is going nowhere, saying he expected him to honor his contract and potentially sign an extension.

Only one man in the history of football has scored more than 100 goals for his country, standing above all-time greats such as Pele and Ferenc Puskas and modern-day stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

That man is Iran's legendary striker Ali Daei who netted an incredible 109 goals in 149 appearances for Team Melli, a staggering statistic that earns him a place in the afc.com's list of Asian Icons. Here is what the AFC's official website had to say about Iran's most famous figure in sports world:

After starting his footballing career as a teenager in 1988, Daei's ability to find the back of the net with regularity at his early clubs saw him snapped up by Tehran giant, Persepolis, in 1994, by which time he had already begun what would wind up as a record goal-scoring spree with the national team.

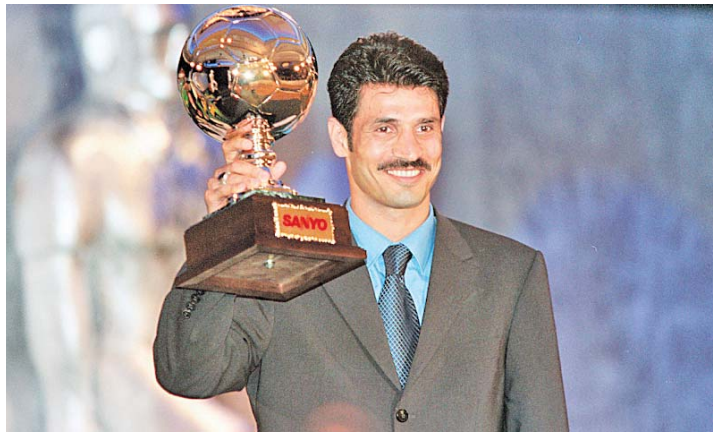
A league title with Persepolis followed in the 1995-96 season, but it was at the AFC Asian Cup in the UAE later that year that Daei alerted the wider world to a talent that would make him one of the most feared strikers ever to come out of Asia.

That game

Now at Qatar's Al Sadd, Daei scored in all three first-round fixtures of the 1996 AFC Asian Cup as Iran progressed to the quarterfinals on top of its group, but that paled into insignificance compared to what happened next.

With the Iranians and Korea Republic tied at 2-2 midway through the second half of the quarterfinal, Daei took over. The striker put his side 3-2 up on 66 minutes before scoring another three to take his tally to four as Iran swept aside the Koreans 6-2 to advance, before ultimately finishing third after a

# AFC: Daei's legend will live for years to come



Ali Daei was named the AFC Footballer of the Year in 1999, the year he signed for German club, Hertha Berlin.

penalty shootout defeat to Saudi Arabia in the last four.

"That match changed my sporting life because after that, I was transferred to Germany and my life totally changed," Daei, who finished the tournament as top scorer with eight goals, told the-afc.com earlier in the year.

Germany bound

Now 28, Daei's time to test himself in Europe had arrived as Germany's Arminia Bielefeld came calling and, after only a season in the Bundesliga, he was on the move to one of the biggest sides in world football: Bayern Munich.

A year with the German giant saw

Daei become the first Iranian to play in the UEFA Champions League as Bayern finished runner up, while he also won the Bundesliga. Hertha Berlin then swooped for him in mid-1999, the same year he was named the AFC Footballer of the Year.

Daei spent three years in the German capital with highlights includ-

ing a brace in a 2-1 UEFA Champions League win over Chelsea and another goal in the San Siro against AC Milan.

"I learned many things [in Germany] and one of the most important things I bring to the Iranian teams now is the discipline I learned there," added Daei, who returned to Asia with the UAE's Al Shabab in 2002.

Historic achievement

A year after Daei moved to Germany, the international team would compete at the 1998 FIFA World Cup in France, 20 years after its only previous appearance at the tournament.

The competition provided one of the most memorable matches in Iran's history as Iran claimed a 2-1 victory over the USA in a game that grabbed the world's attention.

Although Daei did not get on the scoresheet, the forward's defense-splitting pass teed up Mehdi Mahdavi for the decisive goal and the country's first ever FIFA World Cup win.

Defeats to Yugoslavia and Germany either side of that victory meant the Iranians exited at the first hurdle, but Daei insists the class of '98 was the best national team he played with.

Records start to tumble

Daei netted another three in the 2000 AFC Asian Cup in Lebanon as Iran reached the quarterfinals. Twenty international goals in 2000, meanwhile, was more than any other player in world football managed for their country.

The striker then bagged 10 in the 2002 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign only for Iran to lose to the Republic of Ireland in the UEFA/AFC Intercontinental playoff as a golden generation narrowly missed out on a second successive FIFA World Cup.

Toward the end of 2003 came arguably Daei's biggest achievement when a goal against Lebanon saw him surpass Ferenc Puskas to become the highest-ever goal scorer for a national team after striking for the 85th time.

Three more goals in the 2004 AFC Asian Cup, where Team Melli suffered more penalty shootout heartache to host China in the last four, left Daei on 14 AFC Asian Cup goals, a record that still stands to this day.

The centurion

Still scoring at an incredible rate, Daei became the first male player to reach 100 goals for his country following four against Laos in 2004 en route to qualifying for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

The forward's 109th and final goal for Iran came in a 3-2 friendly win over Costa Rica in March 2006, before Iran was eliminated at the first hurdle in Germany as Daei bowed out from international football.

"I think this record is for Iranian football, not only me. It is also because of other good players who were playing in the team with me and it was a gift from God," said Daei.

"I think all records are there to be broken, so maybe it will be broken in the future."

What happened next?

Daei would go on to win the Iranian Persian Gulf Pro League as player/interim coach with Saipa the following year before hanging up his boots.

Stints at the helm of the national team, Persepolis and Naft Tehran followed, while he is now back as head coach of Saipa. Inducted into the AFC Hall of Fame in 2014, Ali Daei's legend will live for years to come.

## Bayern signs James Rodriguez on two-year loan

Bayern Munich signed James Rodriguez from Real Madrid in a two-year loan deal.

The 25-year-old moves to the German champion after three seasons in the Spanish capital, where he never managed to secure a guaranteed starting place. Bayern has an option to buy the Colombian at the end of the loan deal, the Guardian reported.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the Bayern chairman, said, "We are very happy that we have managed to conclude this transfer. The signing of James Rodriguez was the big wish from our manager, Carlo Ancelotti, after the two of them worked together successfully at Real Madrid."

Bayern is expected to sell Douglas Costa to Juventus. The German side has already signed Corentin Tolisso (Lyon, £36.4 million), Serge Gnabry (Werder Bremen, £7.7 million), Sebastian Rudy (Hoffenheim, free), Kingsley Coman (Juventus, £18.4 million) and Niklas Süle (Hoffenheim, £19.3 million).

Gnabry, the former Arsenal player, is expected to be sent out on loan and Renato Sanches could also join another club for a season to gain match experience. Rummenigge said, "It wasn't an easy first year for Renato. He returned from the Euros and was injured for three months. I think it's vi-



James Rodriguez has moved to the German champion on a two-year loan deal.

"James is a very versatile player. He scores a lot of goals himself and is also able to set up goals and sets overall high standards. We have, without question, heightened the quality of the squad with this transfer."

Rodriguez will join up with the Bayern squad immediately and travel with his new teammates on the 12-day tour in China and Singapore.

tally important for him to play on a regular basis this year. That's why we'll consider whether it makes sense to keep him here or to arrange a loan deal. He urgently needs minutes out on the pitch."

The Bundesliga kicks off on Friday, August 18, when Bayern, which won the league by 15 points last season, takes on Bayer Leverkusen.

## Djoko, Federer, Murray through; Nadal out of Wimbledon



Rafael Nadal (L) was knocked out of the 2017 Wimbledon after he lost a marathon five-setter against Gilles Muller in four hours and 48 minutes on July 10, 2017.

Title favorites, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Roger Federer reached the quarterfinals of Wimbledon after emphatic straight-set victories in the fourth round while Rafael Nadal suffered defeat in a fifth set marathon 15-13 against Gilles Muller to get knocked out of the tournament.

On Tuesday, Djokovic secured his place in the last eight of the tournament after he eased past French Adrian Panatta 6-2, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, eurosport.com reported.

Toward the end of the match Djokovic took a medical timeout for an issue with his right shoulder/elbow but at the moment it is unclear how serious that is even though he was grimacing regularly between points.

When asked if the injury would be a problem going forward, the world No. 4 told the BBC: "We will see, it's something I have been dragging back and forth for a while but I am still managing to play."

Next for the Serbian is a quarterfinal meeting with Tomas Berdych.

Earlier on Monday, The 34-year-old Muller from Luxembourg fired down 30 aces as he sent the two-time champion, Nadal, packing in a bril-

liant display of power in just under five hours.

Muller won the first two sets 6-3, 6-4 before the Spaniard fought back to take the next two sets 6-3, 6-4 to set up a thrilling finale.

The 31-year-old Nadal saved four match points in a 135-minute fifth set in which he successfully served to stay alive nine times.

At the 10th time of asking, however, and with thousands of transfixed fans watching the drama unfold on the screen on the hill and on the edge of their seats on Court One, Nadal buckled under the relentless pressure exerted by an inspired Muller.

"It was not my best match against a very uncomfortable opponent," said Nadal, who won the Wimbledon title in 2008 and 2010.

"Well done to him. He played great, especially in the fifth set, but I fought to the last ball."

"I'm just glad it's over," Muller, who claimed a second Wimbledon win over Nadal having beaten him at the All England Club in 2005, said.

"I did really well in the first two sets, then Rafa stepped it up. It was a big battle. When I had the last two

match points, I thought I just had to give it a shot."

Muller will face Marin Cilic in the last eight, with No. 1 seed Murray, who saw off Benoit Paire on Monday, his potential semifinal opponent.

Murray went down 4-2 in the first set before fighting back and forcing a tiebreak, which he won convincingly 7-1.

He then rattled off the second set 6-4 and scored a crucial break at 4-4 in the third, before taking it by the same score line.

"I thought I played well today, apart from a couple of sloppy service games in the first set," said Murray. "That's by far the best I have hit it this week. He's not an easy guy to play - tactics aren't easy against him."

"Two weeks ago I was resting and a bit concerned, it was frustrating. But I have managed it well and have played some good stuff. I'm doing well and hopefully will keep it up."

Federer reaches 50th Slam QF

Seven-time Wimbledon champion Federer reached his 50th Grand Slam quarterfinal with a compre-

hensive win over Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov.

The 35-year-old, who has yet to drop a set, recorded a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 victory in one hour and 37 minutes.

"I thought it was a terrific match and I didn't expect it to go that easy for me," said the Swiss world number five.

Federer will now play Canada's Milos Raonic, who defeated him in last year's semifinals, later today.

Raonic, beaten by Andy Murray in the final last year, is into the quarterfinals after a hard-fought five-set win over 10th seed Alexander Zverev of Germany.

"I've got to bring the intensity, the focus that I've shown throughout this tournament and the mentality on the serve," said the 18-time Grand Slam champion of Wednesday's first-eight encounter.

"I've got to make very few wrong decisions and understand what to do at what stage. "Then on the return, to keep going for it, keep staying aggressive, have a positive attitude. I do believe good things can happen."



## Art & Culture

### 1,400-year-old manuscript found in Egypt

A palimpsest containing an ancient medical treatise beneath biblical text was discovered by the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery in South Sinai, according to a report in Ahram Online. Minister of Antiquities Khaled El-Enany said the manuscript was found during restoration work in the monastery's ancient library, which holds some 6,000 manuscripts, archaeology.org wrote.



The leather pages of the palimpsest were first used in the sixth century AD for a recipe attributed to the Greek physician Hippocrates. Three other medical recipes, and pictures of medicinal herbs, had also been recorded on its pages by an anonymous scribe. During the medieval period, the pages were scraped and reused for the text of the Codex Sinaiticus, an early version of the Christian scriptures. "This was done due to the high cost of leather at that time," explained Ahmed al-Nimer, supervisor of Coptic archeology for the ministry.

### Hundreds dress as Frida Kahlo to attempt world record

Hundreds of people in Texas dressed as Mexican artist Frida Kahlo for a world record attempt in honor of her birthday. The Dallas Museum of Art hosted a 'Frida Fest' event to celebrate Kahlo's 110th birthday, as people of all ages gathered in an attempt to recreate the legendary Mexican artist's unique look to claim a Guinness World Record, saudigazette.com.su reported. To achieve the record, all participants were required to wear a red or pink shawl and a floral dress that went past their knees, place at least three artificial flowers in their hair, and sport Kahlo's signature unibrow.



It was estimated that hundreds of men, women and children turned up to recreate the look featured in Kahlo's self-portraits and Guinness is expected to release an official number to determine if the group set the record within a few weeks. The celebration included documentary presentations. A selection of Kahlo's work is on display at the museum as part of the special exhibit 'Mexico 1900-1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco, and the Avant-Garde'.

### Hanks to be honored by US Nat'l Archives Foundation

Actor Tom Hanks is being honored by the National Archives Foundation in Washington.



The National Archives Foundation, the nonprofit partner to the National Archives, announced that Hanks will receive its 2017 Records of Achievement Award. The foundation says the honor will recognize Hanks' career supporting history through both acting and filmmaking, AP reported. In a statement, the foundation says it is honoring Hanks for "for his powerful illumination of the American story through his vast body of work in film and television during the past four decades".

The foundation says Hanks will receive the award at the foundation's annual gala on October 21 at the National Archives Museum in Washington. The gala will include a question and answer session with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns.

### Weather



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## Malaysia, Iran to enhance educational, cultural ties

Malaysia and Iran are working to enhance cooperation in the education sector by introducing programs to attract and encourage more students to pursue higher education in the two countries.

Iran's Ambassador to Malaysia Marzieh Afkham said the plan will include university courses and professor exchange programs which could benefit the students, nst.com reported.

"Currently, there are less than 4,000 Iranian students pursuing tertiary studies at universities in Malaysia. Many Iranian researchers are also based in your universities, at the same time, we offer Persian language course at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"Malaysians opt to study in Iran because our universities' ranking is improving," she said.

Afkham was speaking to reporters after launching the translated version of one of the well-known Persian classics titled 'Rose Garden', to 'Taman Mawar' in Malay, which was written by famous Iranian poet Sa'di Shirazi at the National Library (PNM).

Sa'di, a great Iranian poet during the medieval period, was born in 1210 in Shiraz.

PNM collaborated with the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran through the Iranian embassy to introduce the great works of Iran.

The embassy donated 500 copies of 'Taman Mawar' to PNM, which will be distributed to libraries in Malaysia while the public can purchase it in book stores nationwide soon.

Meanwhile PNM Director General Datuk Nafisah Ahmad said there are about 622 items related to Iran in the library's collection of books, serials, journal articles, video and maps.

"These items have been acquired through purchases and gift exchange programs with the Iranian National Library and Archives and other agencies," she said.



Iran's Ambassador to Malaysia Marzieh Afkham (R) presenting a copy of the translated version of one of the well-known Persian classics titled 'Rose Garden' ('Taman Mawar' in Malay) to the head of Malaysia's National Library Nafisah Ahmad. 'Rose Garden' was written by famous Iranian poet Sa'di Shirazi.

She also welcomed embassies and high commissions on their respective countries through art exhibition, cultural events, book launch and professional talks.



Iranian opera drama 'Shakhenabat', directed by Mehdi Shamsaei, is on stage at Tehran's Vahdat Hall until July 20, 2017. The play depicts a different story of 'Cat and Mouse' by the Iranian poet and satirist Obaid Zakani.



### Ferdowsi's epic to be published in German

An Iranian researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna Nasrollah Rastegar has completed editing the German translation of 'Shahnameh' (the Book of Kings) — a voluminous versified epic by the great Iranian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi.

A report on Tuesday by the Academy of Persian Language and Literature said that Rastegar has finished translating and editing the book in four volumes which will be published in Vienna and Berlin in late 2017 or early 2018.

Austrian jurist and researcher Adam Polak had already translated a large section of 'Shahnameh' into German, between 1945 and 1983, based on the French translation of the book published by Jules Mohls in 1871.

Ferdowsi (c. 940-1020) was a Persian poet and the creator of 'Shahnameh', the world's longest epic poem ever created by a single poet. Called 'the Savior of Persian Language', Ferdowsi is celebrated as the most influential figure in Persian literature and one of the greatest in the world.

'Shahnameh' is the national epic of Greater Iran (the regions of the Caucasus, West Asia, parts of south and central Asia that have been deeply influenced by Iranian culture).