



Oil minister defends gas deal with France's Total

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# IRAN DAILY



Iran sees oil output rising to 4 mbd by yearend

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## Iran open to work with BP, US companies: Deputy oil minister

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that wrong decisions made by some states have caused problems in regional countries, including Yemen, Syria, Bahrain and Qatar.

Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Tehran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

President Rouhani warned that the continuation of such a trend would never benefit regional states, and would eventually backfire.

### Blockade on Doha

Rouhani also denounced a blockade imposed by a Saudi-led bloc of states against Qatar, saying resorting to such pressure tactics against neighboring states is a "wrong" policy, Press TV reported.

He further called on all sides to make efforts to end the tensions in the Persian Gulf region and said using "threats, pressure and blockades against neighboring countries like Qatar is a wrong method."

Last month, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt imposed a trade and diplomatic embargo on Qatar, accusing Doha of supporting terrorism. They presented Qatar with a list of 13 wide-ranging demands and gave it an ultimatum to comply with them or face unspecified consequences.

Doha rejected the demands, which included shutting down the broadcaster Al-Jazeera, removing Turkish troops from Qatar's soil, scaling back cooperation with Iran and ending ties with Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood movement.

Qatar complained that the demands were meant to force it to surrender its sovereignty.

### Food supplies to Qatar

Iran has been providing Qatar with food supplies amid the economic siege, which has raised human rights concerns. Iranian president also described dia-



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani (R) shakes hands with visiting Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Tehran on July 12, 2017.

logue as the only solution to the conflicts in Yemen and Bahrain and hailed positive mediatory efforts by Iran, Oman and Kuwait to settle regional rifts.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any efforts that would lead to an end to rifts and clashes in the region," Rouhani said.

Today, terrorism, making divisions and inappropriate interference by some countries in the internal affairs of others are fanning the flames of tension in the region, said Rouhani, underlining the need for "unity and cooperation among regional countries" to end the crises.

Iran helped the Iraqi nation in its counter-terrorism fight until the libera-

tion of the city of Mosul, the self-styled capital of the notorious caliphate of the Daesh terrorist group in the Arab country, he said, stressing that in the future, the Islamic Republic would stand by the Iraqi people and other oppressed nations in the region in the face of terrorism.

### Bilateral ties

Rouhani also said, "Tehran and Muscat have been enjoying friendly ties over the past years and the good relations should be utilized to promote the cooperation in favor of the two nations."

Describing economic agreements between Iran and Oman in various sectors,

including energy, ports, North-South Corridor, and trade as 'important', the President urged the two countries to try to implement the agreements as soon as possible.

The top Omani diplomat described Tehran-Muscat relations as very strong. He further hailed Iran's achievements in the field of nuclear technology, saying the 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement proved Iran's regional and global authority and its status as an international power.

Iran has played an important and influential role in the peaceful resolution of regional issues, including the Syria crisis and the battle against terror, he said.

Iran welcomes collaboration of Iranian firms with BP and American companies for investment in Iran's oil and gas industry, said Iran's deputy oil minister for trade and international affairs said Wednesday.

According to Anadolu News Agency, Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia said at a media conference on the sidelines of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, "Iran and BP have a long and lasting historical relationship and we would invite not only BP but also American companies [to Iran]."

He added, "We would welcome

them to come and forge a partnership with Iranian companies. We think the situation is normal enough now for major international oil business to engage in Iran."

The country's oil and gas production was hindered due to sanctions in the past few years, but aims to revive its oil and gas sectors following sanctions relief after the nuclear deal between Iran and P5+1 signed in July 2015.

Speaking at the same press conference, CEO of BP Bob Dudley said the company has "six or seven upcoming major projects" for next year.

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## EU: Int'l community responsible for full implementation of Iran deal



European Union foreign policy chief said on Tuesday that Iran nuclear deal doesn't belong to one country, it belongs to the international community, adding "We have the responsibility to make sure that this continues to be implemented."

Federica Mogherini made the remarks during a joint news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Brussels, Reuters reported.

The European Union respects the US' review of the 2015 deal with Iran but will make clear to Washington that it was an international accord endorsed by the United Nations, the EU's foreign policy chief said.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the US, Britain, France, China and Russia — plus Germany signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January

16, 2016. The UN Security Council later unanimously endorsed a resolution that effectively turned the JCPOA into international law.

During his presidential campaign, US President Donald Trump described the nuclear accord with Iran as a "disaster" and vowed to unilaterally scrap it. While he has not carried out that threat, his administration is conducting a "review" to see whether the provision of sanctions relief to Iran — a US commitment under the deal — is in America's "national interest".

Earlier in the day, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov hailed Iran's full commitment to its obligations under the JCPOA and said Moscow pursues a firm stance on the deal and believes that there is no replacement for it.

He also decried the US unilateral approach to international issues, particularly the JCPOA.

## Giant iceberg breaks off Antarctica



NASA

One of the biggest icebergs on record has broken away from Antarctica, scientists said on Wednesday, creating an extra hazard for ships around the continent as it breaks up.

The one trillion tonne iceberg, measuring 5,800 square km, calved away from the Larsen C Ice Shelf in Antarctica sometime between July 10 and 12, said scientists at the University of Swansea and the British Antarctic Survey, Reuters reported.

The iceberg has been close to breaking off for a few months. Throughout the Antarctic winter, scientists monitored the progress of the rift in the ice shelf using the European Space Agency satellites.

"The iceberg is one of the largest recorded and its future progress is difficult to predict," said Adrian Luckman, professor at Swansea University and lead investigator of Project MIDAS, which has been monitoring the ice shelf for years.

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## Lavrov: Show me at least one fact Moscow meddled in US election

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday he wanted to be shown at least one fact proving Moscow's meddling in the 2016 US presidential election.

"I don't know anything about this fact. It's amazing that serious people are making a mountain out of a molehill," Lavrov told a news conference during a visit to Belgium. His comments were broadcast live by Russian state Rossiya 24 TV channel.

Lavrov was reacting to reports that US President Donald Trump's eldest son was blamed for meeting a Russian lawyer that emails show might have had damaging information about Hillary Clinton last year.

Lavrov said it was preposterous that Trump's eldest son was blamed for meeting a Russian lawyer.

"I learned with surprise that a Russian lawyer, a woman, is being blamed and Trump's son is being blamed for meeting. For me, this is wild," Lavrov said.

"Because when any person speaks to a lawyer, what problem or threat could there be? I didn't know about this, I learned about it from television."

The emails released by Donald Trump Jr. on Tuesday are seen by Trump critics as the most concrete evidence yet that Trump campaign officials welcomed Russian help to win the election.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said on Wednesday that the Kremlin has never been in touch with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya who met a group of Trump's associates last year.

"We have already said we are absolutely unaware of this story, we have never been in contact with this lawyer... She has nothing to do whatsoever with us," Peskov told a conference call with reporters.

Donald Trump defended his eldest son Wednesday over emails that puts the president's son at the center of the burgeoning scandal involving multiple US investigations into whether Trump associates colluded with Moscow in its efforts to tilt the 2016 election in the Republican's favor.

In a string of emails released on Tuesday, Donald Trump Jr. was told he could get "very high level and sensitive information" that was "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump."

In response, the 39-year-old — who runs the family real estate business — wrote back saying: "if it's what you say I love it." He then held a meeting with a woman described in the emails as a "Russian government attorney."

Speaking to Fox News, Trump Jr said he went along to see what it was about.

"For me this was opposition research, they had something, you know, maybe concrete evidence to all the stories I'd been hearing about," he said.

But he said he didn't mention the meeting to his father after it failed to yield any compromising information, describing it as "such a nothing. There was nothing to tell."

The latest disclosure all but ensures the president's son will come under scrutiny by investigators in Congress and at the FBI who are probing whether Trump's team was in the know.

## MP: JCPOA led to lifting of over 900 sanctions

### Political Desk

An Iranian lawmaker hailed the achievements of the nuclear deal between Tehran and the major world powers saying the accord has resulted in the removal of more than 900 sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

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

Under the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in return for the termination of all sanctions against the country.

"Some 919 sorts of sanctions have been lifted in the post-JCPOA era and 245 other sanctions have

remained," parliamentarian Hesmatollah Falahatpisheh told the Parliament on Wednesday, ISNA wrote.

He made the remarks as Oil Min-



ister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh was briefing lawmakers on a \$5 billion gas deal signed with France's energy giant Total.

Falahatpisheh praised the deal as among the achievements of the JCPOA.

The lawmaker said the agreement with Total is in line with national interests.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in return for the termination of all sanctions against the country.

"Some 919 sorts of sanctions have been lifted in the post-JCPOA era and 245 other sanctions have

## OPINION

## All anti-Iran US sanctions must be lifted

By Sadroddin Moosavi

Opponents of the Iran nuclear deal have been blaming President Hassan Rouhani's government for clinching the agreement with major world powers.

They claim that the imposition of new US sanctions against Tehran not only runs counter to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) but violates the accord.

They point to recent sanctions imposed by Washington against the Islamic Republic as a reason that the US has breached the JCPOA.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has described the Security Council's refusal to slam Tehran's missile activities as a diplomatic success for Iran.

However, the nuclear deal's opponents not only believe this is not a success for the Rouhani administration but also consider new US sanctions as a setback for the foreign policy apparatus.

Contrary to comments made by the critics of the Rouhani administration, the UNSC move was a success for Iran's foreign policy.

Washington has illegally and unjustifiably imposed three categories of sanctions on Iran since 1979.

The first category pertains to sanctions which have been enforced under the pretext of "violating human rights" by Iran.

It is clear that Iran's rights record is much clearer than many US allies in the region. However, Tehran has become the target of sanctions only for political reasons, not because of violation of rights.

The second category is linked to Washington's claims that accuse the Islamic Republic of sponsoring terrorism. Iran is the chief victim of terrorism. Iran has been the main ally of the governments fighting terrorist groups in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

Afghanistan even joined hands with the US at a certain time to oust the Taliban from Afghanistan. At the same time, some terrorist groups whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Iranian people have turned Washington and other US cities into their safe haven with the support and backing of some US headline politicians.

Moreover, a majority of the terrorists who attacked the WTO buildings were Saudi citizens, whereas Saudi Arabia has never been blamed by the United States for the terrorist attacks carried out on its soil.

These facts indicate that the baseless claim that Iran supports terrorism is a merely political pretext to pressure Iran.

The third category of sanctions were illegally imposed for Iran's nuclear activities.

The conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal only lifted nuclear-related sanctions and had nothing to do with the first two categories. Hence, they have illegally remained in place while the US can either increase these sanctions or ease them.

The US has imposed new penalties on Iran for bypassing the sanctions which are not linked to the JCPOA.

Hence, the inhumane sanctions that mainly target the Iranian people must also be lifted because there is no logical and legal grounds for imposing and holding them.

# Oil minister defends gas deal with France's Total

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh briefed lawmakers on a \$5 billion gas deal recently signed with France's energy giant Total, saying the agreement would serve the Islamic Republic's interests.

Addressing an open session of Parliament on Wednesday, Zanganeh defended the deal with Total to develop Phase 11 of the South Pars gas field in southern Iran and said the contract "would create security" for Iran, Tasnim News Agency wrote.

"If the contractor (Total) stops or withdraws from the implementation (of the deal) for any reason, no compensation will be paid to it," the minister added.

He further made it clear that the contract with the French company will not limit the use of domestic capacities, saying that Iranian companies can also cooperate in the major project.

The comments came as some parliamentarians have voiced their strong opposition to the gas deal, saying Total has hatched "a sinister plot" against the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, an urgency bill for the temporary freezing of the contract with Total was removed from the Parliament's agenda on Wednesday. This after the number of signatories to the bill decreased to less than 15. The government's opponents had launched the motion.

Total and China's National Petroleum Company (CNPC) struck the \$5 billion agreement with Iran on July 3.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony in Tehran attended by Zanganeh,



IRAN DAILY

Total's CEO Patrick Pouyanné and senior officials from China's CNPC and Iran's Petropars.

Total holds a 50.1 interest in the South Pars project with state-owned China Na-

tional Petroleum Corporation owning 30 percent, and Iran's Petropars 19.9 percent.

The development of Phase 11 of the South Pars project will cost up to \$5 billion.

The vast offshore gas field is shared between Iran and Qatar, where Total is also a major player in gas production as well as in oil and refining. Tehran calls the giant field South Pars, while Doha calls it the North Field.

## Ground Force commander warns of Iran's crushing response to threats

Iranian Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari warned that the country's armed forces will give a crushing response to any aggression or threat by enemies.

"The power of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Force has been displayed in the drills and we will give a crushing response to the aggressors," Heidari said on Wednesday, Fars News Agency reported.

He also stressed that the Iranian Ground Force plans to stage several specialized drills in different parts of the country in the current year.

In relevant remarks last week, Heidari underscored that his forces monitor and defuse enemies and terrorists' moves inside and outside the country.

"We have taken all the needed measures to confront the possible threats of the enemy and there are no obstacles in this regard," he said.

The Iranian Ground Force commander said that his forces have considered all the deterrent measures, adding, "An example of such measures is the recent attack by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Daesh terrorists in

Syria's Dayr al-Zawr."

The IRGC fired six missiles at Daesh positions in Dayr al-Zawr in retaliation for the June 7 twin Daesh terrorist attacks in Tehran which killed 18 people, it said in a statement issued on June 18, adding that the mid-range ballistic missiles were fired from bases in Western Iran and flew through Iraq's airspace before hitting the targets in Syria.

Also, in June, Chief of Staff of Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri underlined Iran's high missile power one day after the IRGC launched missile strikes against Daesh.

"Iran is among the world's big powers in the missile field," Baqeri said, addressing a meeting in Tehran on June 19.

He said the arrogant powers are weak in confronting Iran, and said, "They don't have the capability to engage in clashes with us and of course, we don't intend to involve in clashes with them but we are in permanent rivalry with them in different fields, including the missile sector."

## Russian naval group visits northern Iran port



IRNA

A Russian naval group has berthed at the northern Iranian port city of Anzali on a friendly four-day visit.

The fleet, the fifth one to dock at Iran's Caspian Sea coast, entered the port on Wednesday. It features Russia's Makhachkala battleship from the country's Caspian Sea Marine Brigade, Press TV reported.

The group's mission is to strengthen international cooperation among the Sea's littoral states. Its crew members are set to meet with local Iranian admin-

istrative and Navy officials and honor the memory of the Islamic Republic's wartime martyrs.

Russia has previously dispatched fleets on similar missions to the Iranian coastline in 2007, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

So far, Iranian naval groups have also traveled five times to Russia's Caspian Sea coastal provinces to communicate Iran's message of peace and friendship, strengthen mutual relations, and expand security in the region.

## Detained Iranian researcher sent back to Iran

An Iranian cancer researcher who was detained at Boston's Logan International Airport has been sent back to his home country.

US Customs and Border Patrol spokeswoman Stephanie Malin said Mohsen Dehnavi and his family were put on a return flight shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday, AP reported.

Dehnavi was arriving in the US to start work at a prominent Boston hospital.

Boston Children's Hospital said in a statement earlier Tuesday that Dehnavi was prevented from entering the country with his wife and three young children despite holding a J-1 visa for visiting scholars. They arrived at the airport Monday.

The hospital said the reasons for the detention were unclear.

"Boston Children's hopes that this situation will be quickly resolved and Dr.

Dehnavi and his family will be released and allowed to enter the US," hospital spokesman Rob Graham said in a statement. "The hospital is committed to doing its utmost to support Dr. Dehnavi and his family."

Malin said the Dehnavis' family's detention was for "reasons unrelated" to President Donald Trump's executive order on travelers from six predominantly Muslim countries. She said the detention was based on information discovered during the agency's review. She did not elaborate.

But Malin noted that visa applicants "bear the burden of proof" to meet all requirements and can be denied entry for a range of reasons, including health-related issues, criminality or security concerns.

The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Trump administration could largely

enforce its temporary ban on travelers from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. But the court said the ban can't block people with a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States."

Some advocacy groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Iranian American Council, suggested the detention might be a violation of the Supreme Court order.

"The family is very worried," said Shayan Modarres, a lawyer for the D.C.-based council, which has been in contact with the family. "If it is a minor paperwork issue, then something needs to be told to the family so they can resolve it."

At the very least, the incident shows how the administration's political priorities are leading to "overzealous enforcement" of immigration laws, said Gregory

Romanovsky, chair of the New England chapter of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association.

"Exercising discretion is not what they're comfortable doing anymore, especially if they're dealing with someone from one of the six banned countries," he said of local customs officials. "The travel ban and the whole anti-immigrant mood coming from the very top of this administration certainly affects their ability."

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a Democrat, told reporters he was waiting to hear more about the Dehnavis' circumstances, but also suggested the case was an example of concerns with the travel ban.

"Many people, doctors and nurses and people who are students working in the world-class institutions that we have are going to be boxed out or left out of the country," he said.





# Amid new arrests, Erdogan says lifting emergency rule currently out of question

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday ruled out an immediate end to the year-old state of emergency imposed after a failed coup, saying it could only be lifted once the fight against terrorism was finished.

Earlier on Wednesday Turkish authorities detained 14 army officers and issued warrants for the detention of 51 people, including 34 former employees of state broadcaster TRT, for suspected links to the coup, local media reported, Reuters reported.

"There can be no question of lifting emergency rule with all this happening," Erdogan said in a speech to investors in Ankara. "We will lift the emergency rule only when we no longer need to fight against terrorism. Lifting the emergency rule can be possible in the not-too-distant future."

He did not give a more specific time frame.

Ankara imposed the state of emergency soon after the coup attempt last July, when a group of rogue soldiers commandeered tanks, helicopters and warplanes and attacked parliament in a bid to overthrow the government, killing more than 240 people.

## Minister's Austria visit after row

Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Wednesday he will visit Austria this month after it barred



AFP

him from attending an event to mark the anniversary of the failed coup, Reuters reported.

Austria's move this week followed

a similar step by the Netherlands and echoed restrictions imposed earlier this year by several EU countries on Turkish ministers seeking to address Turks

living in Europe ahead of a referendum in Turkey.

Zeybekci was speaking to reporters in the capital Ankara.

## Brazil's Senate approves labor overhaul by strong margin

Brazil's Senate on Tuesday night approved the country's first major overhaul of labor rules in seven decades in a crucial victory for beleaguered President Michel Temer as he seeks to pull the economy out of its worst ever recession.

The bill, which modernizes some labor laws dating back to the 1940s, was passed in a 50 to 26 vote following approval in the lower house of Congress and will be sent to Temer to be signed into law, Reuters reported.

The changes, which were opposed by trade unions, give more leeway to collective bargaining and reduce the scope for legal action in labor disputes in Latin America's largest economy. Remote work will become regulated and companies will get more flexibility to allocate work hours and vacation time.

Approval of the labor reform in the senate did not necessarily mean Temer held enough support in the lower house to avoid being suspended from office later this month to be tried for corruption.

However, it showed continued support in his multiparty coalition for an economic agenda that investors see as crucial to reviving Brazil's economy.

Under the labor bill, labor union dues, currently mandatory, will become voluntary.

The bill also gives more flexibility for part-time work and temporary contracts.

"We've raised our forecasts for job growth in coming years after we started to expect the labor reform approval," said Alessandra Ribeiro, an economist with Tendências Consultoria.

"The changes will make the job market more flexible and above all they will lower the risks associated with new hires."

Unions said the changes reduced job security while weakening their organizing power by eliminating mandatory union dues.

"None of us senators campaigned in our districts in favor of a labor reform," Workers Party senator Gleisi Hoffmann said on the senate floor Tuesday during a failed opposition attempt to obstruct the vote.

"None of you here was mandated to vote this reform."

Some senators within the ruling coalition also opposed some parts of the bill but agreed to pass the proposal exactly as approved by the lower house after Temer vowed to make a few small changes by provisional decree.

Many of Temer's proposals for the economy, including planned auctions for oil licensing rights and transport concessions, have remained on track despite the political crisis.

The government initiative most likely at risk, according to lawmakers, was a proposed overhaul of the social security system. It requires a supermajority of votes in both chambers of Congress to change the constitution.

Temer was charged last month with taking multimillion-dollar bribes, but the lower house of Congress must now vote on whether to allow the Supreme Court to try the conservative leader.

He has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and refuses to resign despite polls showing his government's approval rating is in the single digits.

## Barnier: EU court should be guarantor of expats' rights after Brexit



AFP

The European Union's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said there were many differences with Britain on citizens' rights, including on the role of the EU court that needed to be sorted out before talks can start on a trade deal.

"We want EU citizens in Britain to have the same rights as British citizens who live in the EU," Barnier told a news conference in Brussels, noting that the British position at the moment does not guarantee these equal rights, Reuters reported.

Barnier said that the European Court of

Justice should be the "ultimate guarantor" of these rights, and if Britain opposed this "it would create uncertainty." Britain wants to regulate citizens' rights under British law.

He said there should be progress on all three priority Brexit issues before talks can begin on trade issues.

"These three priority subjects for the first phase of negotiations are inseparable. In other words, progress on one or two of these topics will not be sufficient to move on to discussions about our future relationship with the United Kingdom."

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"It may remain in one piece but is more likely to break into fragments. Some of the ice may remain in the area for decades, while parts of the iceberg may drift north into warmer waters," he added.

The ice will add to risks for ships now it has broken off. The peninsula is outside major trade routes but the main destination for cruise ships visiting from South America.

In 2009, more than 150 passengers and crew were evacuated after the MTV Explorer sank after striking an iceberg off the Antarctic Peninsula.

The iceberg, which is likely to be named A68, was already floating before it broke away so there is no immediate impact on sea levels, but the

calving has left the Larsen C ice shelf reduced in area by more than 12 percent.

The Larsen A and B ice shelves, which were situated further north on the Antarctic Peninsula, collapsed in 1995 and 2002, respectively.

Big icebergs break off Antarctica naturally, meaning scientists are not linking the rift to man-made climate change.

The ice, however, is a part of the Antarctic Peninsula that has warmed fast in recent decades.

"In the ensuing months and years, the ice shelf could either gradually regrow, or may suffer further calving events which may eventually lead to collapse — opinions in the scientific community are divided," Luckman said.

"Our models say it will be less stable, but any future collapse remains years or decades away."

## Medical officials: Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in West Bank clash

Israeli forces killed two Palestinians on Wednesday in a raid on a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian medical officials said, while the Israeli military claimed its troops had opened fire after coming under attack.

The incident took place before dawn in Jenin refugee camp, and no Israeli casualties were reported, Reuters reported.

Israeli forces often carry out searches in the West Bank undermining the peace of the residents.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the two Palestinians killed by the troops were aged 21 and 16, and that a third person was shot and wounded in the leg.

Camp residents made no mention of any Palestinian gunfire in their accounts of the raid in which they said rocks were thrown at the troops.



REUTERS

Mohammed Sadeq, who lives in the camp, said he witnessed one of the Palestinians being shot.

"The military jeeps were driving in and this martyr was behind them on a motorbike. They shot him ... and he fell to the ground," he said.

The Tel Aviv regime has been trying to change the demographic makeup of Beit-ul-Moqaddas by constructing settlements, destroying historical sites and expelling the local Palestinian population.

More than 300 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces since October 2015, when the tensions intensified.

## Ireland's pro-Palestine stance infuriates Israel

Enraged by Dublin's financial aid to anti-Israel Palestinian rights groups, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at visiting Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney over his country's pro-Palestine policy.

Netanyahu's office made the criticism in a statement issued on Tuesday after the premier's meeting with Coveney in Beit-ul-Moqaddas. The premier "expressed his dissatisfaction over Ireland's traditional stance" on Palestine and urged Coveney to condemn what he called Palestinian "incitement," the statement read, Press TV reported.

According to irishtimes.com, Netanyahu accused the Irish government of failing to condemn Palestinians for incitement.

During a frank exchange of views, Netanyahu also challenged the top Irish diplomat over Dublin's assistance to the "NGOs that call for the destruction of Israel".

Ireland — alongside Sweden — has for many years been the subject of frequent complaints by Israel that considers both governments to be amongst the strongest critics of Israel in the European Union. Coveney, for his part, said in a news briefing that his talks with Netanyahu touched on a range of issues, including Israeli settlements, the humanitarian and political situation in the blockaded Gaza Strip and the so-called peace process.

"Of course, we have clear differences on some issues, but these differences are honestly held and openly expressed," he noted.

Ireland runs Irish Aid, an official overseas development program for overseas development.

A number of Palestinian rights groups, such as Al-Haq, Addameer and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, are funded by the program. During his three-day trip, which began on Monday, Coveney is scheduled to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, United Nations officials and representatives from the NGOs funded by Irish Aid.

Speaking prior to his departure for the occupied territories, Coveney said he was "looking forward to hearing a diverse range of views from" the Palestinians, Israelis and NGOs.

"Of course, I will also use the opportunity to make clear Ireland's concerns about the impact of the continuing occupation and the fact that, as things stand, the prospects of a comprehensive peace agreement remain dim," he pointed out.

The meeting took place on the same day that Ireland's South Dublin County Council voted unanimously to fly the Palestinian flag over the County Hall in Tallaght for a month in solidarity with the "oppressed people of Palestine."

It has become the fourth Irish local authority to make such a move in recent months.

## Giant iceberg breaks off Antarctica



ESA

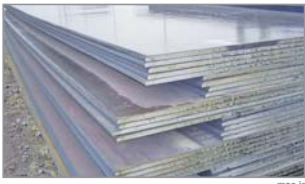
A massive section of Larsen-C ice shelf calving off the glacier in a satellite image released by the European Space Agency.

## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Iran's main steel plate producer to raise exports, targets Europe

Iran's main heavy plate producer, Khuzestan Oxin Steel Co., is planning to increase exports in the year to March 21, 2018 to around 10 percent of its overall output, the head of company's marketing and market research told S&P Global Platts.



msc.ir

Mohammad Khazami further said that Oxin's output was around 650,000 tons in the year to March 2017 of which some 30,000 tons were exported mainly to Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

"Since receiving positive feedback from our European clients, our exports are expected to reach around 75,000 tons this year," Khazami said.

He noted that Oxin offers some products not made by Iran's other main flats producer, Mobarakeh Steel Co. "Oxin is the only Iranian producer of heavy wide steel plate and is able to produce it in widths of 1,100-4,500 millimeters with a thickness of 8 mm-150 mm, as used by shipbuilders, large diameter pipe makers and for special purposes in the oil and gas industries."

Currently, some 80 percent of its required slab is sourced from domestic producers MSC, KSC and Hosco, with a further 20 percent (used for API grade plate) being imported, he said, adding that the company is planning a modern, steel plant which is now at the stage of obtaining environmental permits.

He added: "We are also able to supply the materials needed by new foreign investment projects in Iran's oil and gas industry. Oxin's production is based on European and American standards and the company has been audited by companies affiliated with the country's Oil Ministry, which is in charge of development projects. Therefore, we are able to supply the heavy plate which foreign companies will need for projects in Iran."

As a result of the largest Iranian steel producer, MSC's policy of focusing on requirements of the country's downstream manufacturers and slowdown in exports, Oxin could become the most important flats exporter in Iran.

## Bright horizon for Pakistan-Iran trade despite hurdles: Official

A senior official of Pakistan's Commerce Ministry has expressed optimism that Iran and Pakistan would be able to achieve the target of \$5 billion in bilateral trade in coming years despite some hurdles.

Bilal Khan Pasha told IRNA that Iran and Pakistan are in talks to take full advantage of the bilateral trade.



IRNA

He noted that one of the advantages of trade with Iran is that Pakistan produces many things which are in demand in Iran and many things which Iran produces are in demand in Pakistan. "Iran and Pakistan have complementary trade capacities."

The official said that recent trade negotiation committee meeting with Iran has provided opportunity to both countries to discuss trade issues.

Bilal Khan Pasha added that only 300 items are currently covered in the range of 7,000 items under the preferential trade agreement (PTA).

"To achieve the figure of \$5 billion, we immediately need to increase that list. We need to focus more on the things which are in demand and Pakistan can export like agriculture items, textiles, rice and many other things to Iran and can import petroleum products, cement and other chemicals," added the Pakistani official. He said that non-tariff barriers, absence of direct shipping line between Karachi and Bandar Abbas ports are among the impediments of trade between the two countries.

"We share a border of more than 900 kilometers, but we only have five border posts for trade and out of those five posts only one from Pakistani side is operational at Taftan but from Iranian side all five posts are operational," he said.

He said the fundamental issue in bilateral trade is still the lack of banking channel.

"Though we have signed a banking agreement but still we have not seen any activity in the regards. Right now we are trading via third countries and this adds to the cost of doing business," said the official.

Iran and Pakistan are holding the second round of negotiations between Iran and Pakistan on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Islamabad.

Last year trade between Iran and Pakistan increased to more than \$1 billion showing a growing trend after the JCPOA.

## Iran sees oil output rising to 4 mbd by yearend

Iran's oil output will rise to around four million barrels per day by the end of the year, said an Iranian oil official on Wednesday as the OPEC member tries to ramp up production after years of international sanctions.

"By the end of 2017 we hope to reach about four million barrels per day," Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia, Iran's deputy oil minister for trade and international affairs, told reporters in Istanbul, Reuters reported.

Iran has been producing around 3.8 million barrels per day in recent months.

Zamani-Nia said on Tuesday that the Iranian government is negotiating oil projects worth \$200 billion with 27 foreign companies, adding that some of those deals could be struck very soon.

France's Total and China's state oil company CNPC signed a multibillion dollar deal last week to develop the country's giant South Pars Gas Field — the first investment of its kind since sanctions on Iran were relaxed last year.

Zamani-Nia said Iran was in talks with companies in Europe and Asia, including BP, Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, and Malaysia's Petronas, among others.

Iran has significantly ramped up energy production since the sanctions were relaxed. It was granted an exemption from an OPEC deal in which its members agreed to cut production to reduce a supply glut.

## Cooperation with Turkish companies

Iran is seeking further engagement with Turkish companies especially in the upstream and downstream projects, Zamani-Nia said on Wednesday.

"We will welcome greater engagement by Turkish companies in Iranian upstream and downstream projects," he told Anadolu Agency.

"Turkey is one of our customers," Zamani-Nia said: "We have a long-term contract to supply oil to Turkey that is going pretty well."

According to Turkey's Foreign Ministry, Turkey and Iran signed a Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement



SHANA

in 1996.

There are many common grounds for investment between Iran and Turkey, Zamani-Nia said.

"We need to work together to find projects that suit both companies in Turkey and Iran of which there are plenty," he added.

The official said that he was already in contact with several Turkish companies during the Istanbul congress but did not disclose any further details.

"Turkish companies are into power generation, into importation of gas and oil, and we want to encourage them to engage in upstream projects as well," Zamani-Nia said.

The official said that considering Iran's hydrocarbon reserves, the country's production has not reached its maximum capacity.

Zamani-Nia said that all negotiations that Iran has been engaging in contain an important technology transfer component including 'technology transfer, management and investment'.

Iran holds the world's fourth-largest proven crude oil reserves and largest natural gas reserves, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

However, the country's oil and gas production was hindered due to international sanctions in the past few years.

## Power generation capacity exceeded 76,500 MW in May

## Domestic Economy Desk

Iran's power generation capacity reached 76,647 megawatts by May 20, 2017 thanks to the development trend pursued by the incumbent government.

According to an IRNA report, the country's electricity generation capacity increased by 7,900 MW during August 2013 (when Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took office) to mid-March 2017.

Iran's electricity industry ranks first, third and fourth in the Middle East, Asia and the world respectively in terms of installed power plant capacity.

The country stands 18th worldwide in terms of electricity consumption.

At present, the nominal capacity of Iranian power plants amounts to 76,647 MW, of which 5,750 MW are

generated by 35 thermal units. Twenty of these power plants, with a power generation capacity of 3,260 MW (75 percent) were constructed by the private sector.

Iran's public and private sectors account for 36 percent and 64 percent of the country's total power generation by thermal units.

During the four-year period (August 2013-March 2017), executive operations were initiated by the Rouhani administration to build high-efficiency (class F) thermal power plants using domestic contractors' capabilities and transferring modern technologies to the country.

At present, new thermal power plants with a capacity of 10,000 MW are being constructed by public and private sectors. Using buyback method, 7,500 MW of steam units are being built to expand the country's gas power stations.



## Iran open to work with BP, US companies: Deputy oil minister

## From Page 1

"There are lots of good opportunities around the world," Dudley said, noting that energy giant Total made "a very significant investment" in Iran.

Iran signed a new contract at the beginning of July to develop Phase 11 of the world's largest gas field development project in South Pars with French company, Total and China National Petroleum Corporation and Iranian company Petropars.

According to Dudley, in terms of supply and demand, the industry



REUTERS

would see a reduction of inventory toward the end of the year.

"I think the market is actually balanced today. It has more to do with the inventory level, but I am not speaking as an OPEC member," he

added. The BP head said that the company would spend \$15 billion in projects this year, and in 2018 and 2019.

"We have got our plate full for a while now, and we have some other plans. We just have to stay on our capital diet right now," he added.

He said that if prices continue to drop further, energy companies would have to adopt the new price environment.

Energy companies need to have 'flexibility' and be 'very disciplined' in a period of low oil prices, he concluded.



The German trade sector achieved a total revenue of one trillion euros (\$1.14 trillion) in 2015, marking a 2.5-percent increase compared to 2014, figures released by the Federal Office for Statistics showed.

# IMF sees trouble ahead for emerging Europe

Emerging Europe is facing increasing economic stresses that threaten to unwind some of the political progress made over the past decades, a top International Monetary Fund (IMF) official said.

Poul Thomsen, the head of the IMF European Department, said central and eastern Europe's economic growth potential has halved in the past decade and the rapid outflow of skilled workers is an increasing drag, according to Reuters.

He noted at a conference in Dubrovnik that some governments in the region are even questioning the benefits of European integration.

With Europe struggling through a decade of crisis and economic malaise, convergence between the core Western countries and the Eastern periphery has slowed or stopped.

This has raised domestic questions about the validity of painful economic and political reform.

"This is a timely reminder to all of us not to fool ourselves into believing that governance and institutional progress are inevitable; not to believe that such progress is an unstoppable outcome, a steady evolution. It is not," Thomsen said.

"Going forward, headwinds will grow stronger," the Danish economist said.

Thomsen, who has led IMF programs with countries such as Greece and Portugal, also noted that the exceptional support from a benign global growth environment



that benefitted the region when it had initially emerged from Communism, was unlikely to be replicated.

Meanwhile, the outflow of skilled workers to Western Europe is a top issue

for the region. The IMF estimates that 20 million people have left central and eastern Europe in the past decades — roughly five to six percent of the population.

Half of Hungarian and a quarter of Polish manufacturing firms now claim that a shortage of workers is limiting production and inhibiting investment, surveys showed.

## French gov't aims spending cut of €4.5b

France was working to generate €4.5 billion (\$5.12 billion) in spending cuts in 2017 as it wants to tame the public deficit by three percent of economic output by the end of this year, Gerald Darmanin, minister of action and public accounts said.

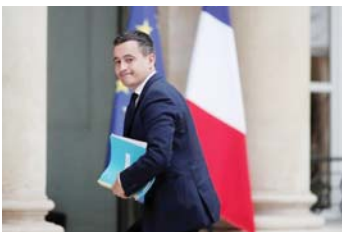
In an interview with the local newspaper Le Parisien, Darmanin said "France will keep its word" after it had broken several times promises to reach the safe line of three percent imposed by the European Union, Xinhua reported.

"We found €4.5 billion of savings to lower the deficit under three percent from this year by reducing state budget only. Neither local authorities nor social security will be involved," the minister added.

In an "unprecedented" move, the government will squeeze public expenditure without increasing taxes and affecting

public services in relation with French daily life, according to Darmanin.

The government aims to balance the country's public finances squeeze



reutersmedia.net

ing mainly by trimming ministerial budgets without slashing jobs, he added.

In a recent report, France's audit office La Cour des Comptes said the deficit of the eurozone's main powerhouse at 3.2 percent of the national output this year, due to eight-billion-euro budget shortfall left by the outgoing Socialist government.

## China could field nearly half of new electric car models by 2020

Chinese automakers are on track to produce 49 of the 103 new electric car models that will be launched globally by 2020, as part of China's push to accelerate the switch to battery power

the world's largest car market, Reuters wrote.

Already, Chinese automakers account for 96 percent of the electric vehicles sold in the country, AlixPartners



STRINGER

from oil, according to a new forecast released on Wednesday.

US consulting firm AlixPartners also said China is aiming to have nearly two-thirds of the world's manufacturing capacity for lithium-ion batteries by 2021, and is investing to support current sales of domestic-brand electric vehicles in

John Hoffeecker, the firm's global vice chairman, told reporters at the Automotive Press Association in Detroit that other factors, such as a significant reduction of the time it takes to recharge electric car batteries, will be critical to efforts to win over reluctant consumers.

By 2025, electric vehicle batteries should be close to even with internal combustion engines in terms of production costs, AlixPartners forecast. Lower battery costs could help boost consumer acceptance.

## Argentina plans billions of dollars in railway projects

Development in Argentina in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century was closely tied to that of the railway. The eighth largest country in the world, Argentina's economy grew through exporting agricultural and livestock products, and the railways were key to founding centers of population and transporting goods to the ports.

Historian Eduardo Lazzari told IPS: "The railways had an enormous social and cultural impact, and often arrived in areas where there was little or no population. Around the middle of the last century there were 48,000 kilometers of track, at which point the railway system was nationalized as Ferrocarriles Argentinos (Argentine Railways), the largest railway company in the world."

But by 1950, decline had set in. Branch lines were closed and the track network was almost halved, in this country with an area of 2.8 million square kilometers and an estimated population of 43.5 million.

This decline is viewed by some Argentines as a cause, by others as a consequence, but nearly all of them see it as symbolic of the fate of the country, which has suffered countless economic crises in recent decades, and where



IPS

according to official figures one-third of the population lives in poverty. Argentina now has a recovery plan for the railways, involving investments of billions of dollars and addressing both freight carriage as well as passenger transport in the Buenos Aires metropolitan area, where 15.2 million people live, representing 35 percent of the

country's total population.

There are also plans, on a lower key, to renovate intercity rail links in this, the third largest economy of Latin America.

Transport expert Alberto Muller, the head of a research center at the Faculty of Economic Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), said: "In the last few years there have been investments on a scale that I have never seen before, especially in the metropolitan railway network. Some of them have not been particularly well planned."

Muller voiced the doubts entertained by many experts in the field about the priorities that have been adopted.

"We have to think about what kind of railway we want, because for many years the main problem has not been lack of investment but bad management. It makes no sense to try to go back to the railway system the country once had, because needs have changed," he said.

In 2008, the state began to buy new railway carriages for metropolitan trains, which it had not done since 1985.

The railway sector was privatized in the 1990s as part of the neoliberal reforms undertaken by the government of Carlos Menem (1989-1999).

### Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79554.8	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68568.7	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	86887.4	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	54939.5	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177859.4	15.3	0.01

### Overall Index details on 20170712

First	79490.4	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79553.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79510.8	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79554.8	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

### Industry Index details on 20170712

First	68554.5	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68567.2	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68568.7	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

### Free Float Index details on 20170712

First	86773.6	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	86887.4	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

### Main Board Index details on 20170712

First	54879.5	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	54938.3	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	54939.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

### Secondary Index details on 20170712

First	177803.7	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177879.0	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177859.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

### Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2769	Chinese Yuan	0.1473
Euro	1.1478	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.2850	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2965
Australian Dollar	0.7653	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0088	Saudi Riyal	0.2667

### Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$45.85	Silver	\$15.88
Gold	\$1218.90	Platinum	\$907.70
Copper	\$2.68	Wheat	\$551.25



## Operations underway to determine 5th Millennium BCE cultures in southwest Iran

Studies to determine the limits of Tol-e Pir in Haraj Village in the city of Mohr, in the southern province of Fars, were conducted to identify cultures dating back to the fifth millennium BCE.

The Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHITO) quoted the head of the exploration team at Tol-e Pir in Haraj, Ahmad Sarkhosh, as saying that the early stages of the current season of exploration focused on compiling aerial photos of the region taken by the Geography Organization of the armed forces based on research works conducted in 1964 to evaluate the present conditions, according to IRNA.

Underlining the importance of Tol-e Pir region, he said the site is one of the few areas which boasted Bakun culture in the southern region of Fars and along the central coastline of the Persian Gulf.

Sarkhosh added that protection of the area and more extensive explorations can provide answers to many archaeological questions on how the culture expanded during the fifth millennium BCE, especially during the Bakun era, along the coastal areas of the Persian Gulf.

# 'Make new rules' to save oceans

New rules are urgently needed to protect the open seas, scientists warned.

A report to a UN ocean conference in New York points out that more than 60 percent of the ocean has no rules because it's outside national jurisdiction, BBC reported.

It said the open ocean is at risk from climate change, over-fishing, deep sea mining, farm pollution and plastics.

The authors say one area — the Bay of Bengal — is at a tipping point which could impact on global fish stocks.

The report was commissioned to inform delegates preparing a UN resolution on governance of the open ocean.

Representatives in New York are preparing a text that could cover everything from establishing marine protected areas to distributing the benefits of valuable biotech products generated from the seas.

One of the report's authors, Prof. Alex Rogers from Oxford University, told BBC News: "This is very, very important. A lot of states are looking towards developing industrial activities in the ocean — fishing, deep-sea mining, renewable energy, even aquaculture offshore."



"It's really vital that we come to some international agreement on how to protect or manage biodiversity on high seas in the face of all these pressures."

The UN is focusing discussion on three areas:

- Setting up a legal framework for marine conservation areas on the high seas — or other spatial measures like

banning destructive fishing gear in vulnerable places;

- A more rigorous environmental impact before industrial activities are undertaken;
- Developing rules around marine genetic resources so all nations get a share of the wealth of the seas.

Together they are categorized under a new UN acronym — BBNJ. That's Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Rogers' report is a review of new science over the past five years.

He said he realized how little is known about some essential ocean processes, and mentions the Bay of Bengal as a source of great concern.

The issue there is nitrogen, which performs a positive role in fertilizing algae at the bottom of the food chain, but can also have negative effects if there's too much of it in the water.

At the moment, nitrogen fertilizers in the Bay of Bengal are running off farmland and over-fertilizing algae.

This in turn encourages bacteria, which capture oxygen. Slowly marine life in the area disappears.

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## UK households binned 300,000 tons of clothing in 2016

The carbon footprint of the UK clothing sector is worsening, a new report reveals, driven by the ongoing popularity of cheap and cheerful 'fast fashion' and a shortage of sustainable raw materials.

Although the amount of clothing being sent to landfill has fallen by 14 percent from 350,000 tons in 2012 to 300,000

in 2016 a staggering one-quarter is still binned rather than recycled. That is down from 31 percent four years ago, The Guardian wrote.

The volume of clothes bought rose by nearly 200,000 tons to 1.13 million tons in 2016, causing 26 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions from production to disposal

and putting clothing fourth after housing, transport and food in terms of its impact on the environment, according to new research by the government's waste advisory body Wrap.

However the 2017 Valuing our Clothes: The Cost of UK Fashion report — an update on an study done in 2012

— also found that UK households are saving 700,000 tons of carbon dioxide a year by washing clothes at lower temperatures and ironing and tumble-drying them less.

Just over a quarter of washes (26 percent) were tumble-dried, down from nearly a third (32 percent) in 2012, while people were also ironing their clothes less, a survey of more than 2,000 people as part of the research revealed.

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جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم



# Immune system may prevent body from neutralizing HIV-1



extremehealthradio.com

A study at the University of Colorado found the process protecting the body from autoimmune disease may also prevent it from creating antibodies against HIV-1.

The study, published in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, may lead to a possible vaccine that stimulates the production of antibodies to neutralize the HIV-1 virus, UPI wrote.

Some patients infected with HIV-1 develop broadly neutralizing antibodies, or bnAbs, that protect against a variety of HIV-1 strains by recognizing a protein on the surface of the virus called Env, which develops after several years of infection.

Researchers theorize that because of shared features of HIV-1 bnAbs, there is an inability to make

the protective antibodies against HIV because the immune system suppresses their production — which prevents the body from creating self-reactive antibodies that cause autoimmune diseases like systemic lupus erythematosus.

However, patients with lupus have slower rates of HIV-1 infection, which could be caused by self-reactive antibodies that recognize and neutralize HIV-1.

This process is known as immunological tolerance, and researchers used mice with genetic defects of lupus-like symptoms to test their theory.

Raul M. Torres, professor of immunology and microbiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said, "We wanted to see if people

could make a protective response to HIV-1 without the normal restraint imposed by the immune system to prevent autoimmunity."

The study found the production of HIV-neutralizing antibodies correlated with levels of a self-reactive antibody that recognizes the chromosomal protein Histone H2A.

"We think this may reflect an example of molecular mimicry where the virus has evolved to mimic or look like a self-protein," Torres said, adding that this could explain the difficulty in developing a vaccine for HIV-1.

"But breaching peripheral immunological tolerance permits the production of cross-reactive antibodies able to neutralize HIV-1."

## Med switch not always best choice with tough depression

Switching to another antidepressant may not be the best way to help depression patients who don't respond to the first antidepressant they take, a new study found.



theemotionmachine.com

Among more than 1,500 depression patients at 35 US Veterans Health Administration medical centers, better symptom relief was achieved when people were prescribed an antipsychotic medication or a second antidepressant rather than being switched to another antidepressant, UPI wrote.

Study author Dr. Somaia Mohamed, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine, said, "We found that among three strategies evaluated in this study, evidence of the greatest symptom benefit was provided by adding an antipsychotic to previous antidepressant therapy."

The researchers found that 29 percent of patients who took the antipsychotic drug aripiprazole (Abilify) for 12 weeks, along with their original antidepressant, achieved nearly total remission of their depression symptoms.

The rate was 27 percent among patients who had the antidepressant bupropion added to their original antidepressant and 22 percent among those who switched from their original antidepressant to another one, the findings showed.

Patients who took aripiprazole with their original antidepressant were also much more likely to have a clinically meaningful response to treatment (symptoms cut in half) than those who took bupropion with their original antidepressant or switched to another antidepressant.

Less than one-third of the 16 million Americans with major depression benefit from the first antidepressant they're prescribed, the study authors noted.

The study was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

According to Dr. John Krystal, chair of Yale's Department of Psychiatry, "The study by Mohamed and colleagues is one of the very few definitive studies addressing this question. This study provides the type of detailed guidance that doctors need."

## Eating citrus fruit could reduce dementia risk

Dementia risk could be reduced by eating citrus fruit every day.

According to express.co.uk, Dr. Chris Steele, a British researcher, said, "It comes after a study found older adults who eat orange or grapefruit every day can reduce the risk of dementia by 23 percent."

"This is interesting. It was a big study of middle-aged people."

"Those who had the citrus fruits were much less likely to get dementia."

Dementia is a set of symptoms which can include memory loss, difficulty problem solving, thinking and can lead to behavioral changes such as a change in temperament or mood but it can affect people in very different ways.



express.co.uk

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Other types of dementia include vascular dementia and mixed dementia.

The researchers, from Tohoku University in Japan have found that an intake of citrus fruit such as oranges and grapefruits, lemons and limes can reduce the risk.

Experts said, "The citrus fruits contain a chemical nobiletin — which experts have previously found can slow memory loss."

It is also expected to have anti-inflammatory.

The scientists looked at more than 13,000 older adults for up to seven years.

They found rates of dementia among the adults who eat citrus fruit at least once a day were significantly lower than in volunteers consuming them less than twice a week.

The researchers stated, "Some biological studies have indicated citrus may have preventive effects against cognitive impairment."

"But no study has examined the relation between citrus consumption and rates of dementia."

"Our findings suggested frequent consumption is linked with a lower risk of dementia."

The study was published in *Journal of Nutrition*.

## Health myths

A low-salt diet doesn't protect against high blood pressure, latest research showed.

What does help is eating foods high in potassium, such as avocados, found the Boston University School of Medicine, [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) reported.

So which other health myths could actually be ho-kum? Here the UK's leading experts help debunk some 'facts'.



enchantedacresia.com

### Sugar triggers diabetes

Caroline Butler, a care adviser for Diabetes UK, said, "Diabetes isn't caused by having too much sugar, but by a failure of the pancreas to produce enough insulin to control glucose levels in the blood."

This means having too much sugar cannot in itself cause it. However, type 2 diabetes can be triggered by excess weight gain, perhaps through eating too many sugary foods.

It's also a myth that those with the condition need to buy sugar-free foods suitable for diabetics.

This is not the case, particularly as many products contain sweeteners which could have a laxative effect.

It's not necessary to cut sugar completely out of a diabetic diet. Intake should be moderate and monitored in accordance with insulin intake and general health.

### Carbs

Nobody's going to argue that a diet of chips three times a day won't pile on the pounds, but there's more to chips — and almost any other comfort food — than carbs.

Nutritionist Sam Stear said, "If you eat less energy than you expend, then you lose weight. Carbohydrates are the fastest-burning foods you can eat and should be making up around two-thirds of your total energy intake."

It's easy to confuse high-carbohydrate foods with high-fat ones because the two ingredients often appear together, especially in baked products such as muffins, or in chips.

Stear added, "And it's high-fat foods that obese people crave, not the carbs."

"You need sustained energy and the very best source for that is slow-burn carbohydrates, such as are found in porridge and pasta."

### Eight glasses of water

Eight glasses of water isn't necessary as long as you get enough fluid from other sources.

Cath Collins, chief dietician at St. George's Hospital in London, said, "The general rule of taking in around two liters of fluids a day is fine."

"But that can be almost any fluid — soup, tea and coffee — literally anything except spirits, which are a significant diuretic and will leave you peeing out more fluid than you've taken in."

And you'll also be taking in around 400ml of fluid by getting your five a day, along with minerals and natural sugars that can actually help rehydrate you.

Fruit and vegetables are about 95 percent water. Even bread is about a third water, and any protein or fats you take in are metabolized into carbon dioxide and water.

### Changing diet can cut cholesterol

Dr. Mel Lobo, a consultant in cardiovascular medicine, said, "Although a well-balanced diet, low in fat and rich in fruit and vegetables, is important for overall health, simply following this and using low-cholesterol products, such as margarine, is rarely enough to reduce high cholesterol significantly."

In fact a 10-percent reduction is the best that's ever been shown to be achieved.

High cholesterol is often genetic, therefore dietary intake will make little difference to bringing it down.

The condition can be successfully treated with drugs, such as statins. However, Lobo does point out that once the cholesterol level drops through the use of drugs, a healthy diet is needed to help maintain it at an acceptable level.

High cholesterol is not dangerous in itself, but is a marker for potentially serious conditions, such as high blood pressure, which is why it is vital to keep it in check.

### Eating after 8 p.m. makes you fat

It doesn't matter what time of day you eat — it's how much you eat during the whole day and how much exercise you get that make you gain or lose weight. No matter when you eat, your body will store extra calories as fat.

If you want to have a snack before bedtime, make sure you first think about how many calories you've already eaten that day.

Try not to snack while doing other things, such as watching television, playing video games or using the computer.

If you eat meals and snacks in the kitchen or dining room, you're less likely to be distracted and more likely to be aware of what and how much you're eating.

If you want to snack while watching TV, take a small amount of food with you — a handful of pretzels, for example, not the whole bag.

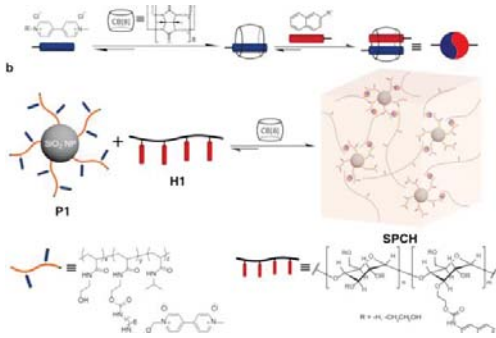
## Scientists develop more eco-friendly way to synthesize spider silk

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have developed a new, more eco-friendly method for synthesizing spider silk.

The extra stretchy, super strong fibers could be used in textiles, sensors and other technologies, UPI wrote.

though our fibers are not as strong as the strongest spider silks, they can support stresses in the range of 100 to 150 megapascals, which is similar to other synthetic and natural silks.

"However, our fibers are non-toxic and far



A new synthesis method yields synthetic spider silk with threads of molecules held together by a unique variety of forces, making them extra stretchy and strong.

The synthetic spider silk fibers, which look like mini bungee cords, are made of mostly water.

Unlike previous synthesis methods, the new technique doesn't require toxic solvents. The new method is also less energy intensive and can be performed at room temperature.

The new synthetic silk is spun from a hydrogel, composed of 98 percent water and two percent silica and cellulose.

The combination of silica and cellulose feature molecular "handcuffs" called cucurbiturils, which hold the gel's molecules together and allow threads to be pulled from the gel solution.

Water evaporates from the pulled threads leaving behind a stretchy, strong fiber.

Darshil Shah, a material scientist in Cambridge's architecture department, said, "Al-

less energy-intensive to make."

The threads are held together by unique molecular structures, not covalent bonds.

Researchers detailed their breakthrough method in the journal PNAS.

Lead study author Yuchao Wu, a doctoral student in Cambridge's chemistry department, said, "When you look at these fibers, you can see a range of different forces holding them together at different scales.

"It's like a hierarchy that results in a complex combination of properties."

Not only are the new fibers stronger than previous interactions of synthetic spider silk, they also can absorb more energy — like a bungee chord.

Shah said, "We think that this method of making fibers could be a sustainable alternative to current manufacturing methods."

## Ants build sinking Eiffel Towers

If you want to see the Eiffel Tower, you don't have to go to Paris. Just look down at your feet — but watch your step.

Fire ants use their bodies to construct Eiffel Tower-looking structures when they run into a tall obstruction while looking for food or escaping to new areas, phys.org reported.

A new study from the Georgia Institute of Technology suggested that they build these structures without a leader or coordinated effort.

Each ant wanders around aimlessly, adhering to a certain set of rules, until it unknowingly participates in the construction of a tower several inches tall.

David Hu, a Georgia Tech mechanical engineering professor who co-led the study, said, "If you watched ants for 30 seconds, you could have no idea that something miraculous would be created in 20 minutes.

"With no planning, and using trial-and-error, they create a bell-shaped structure that helps them survive."

The tower study is a follow-up to the group's 2014 ant raft research, which examined how the insects link their bodies in order to build water-proof structures that stay afloat for months.

The ants march along until they come to an open space — the edge of the raft — then settle in to become a building block of the raft.

They do the same thing for the towers, searching for an empty spot like a car in a crowded parking lot.

Once an individual ant finds one, typically at the top of the tower, she stops and braces for more ants to climb on top and go vertical.

But vertical is a relative term. The ants don't position themselves straight up and down like a skyscraper.

Instead, the tower gets wider as it grows taller, gradually becoming the same shape as Paris' iconic landmark.

The weight of the tower is supported by a wider cross-section at its base, which allows the ants to better distribute their weight.

Craig Tovey, a coauthor of the study and professor in Georgia Tech's Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, said, "We found that ants can withstand 750 times their body weight without injury, but they seem to be most comfortable supporting three ants on their backs.

"Any more than three and they'll simply give up, break their holds and walk away."

Even though the ants evenly distribute their weight as a group, the tower is in constant motion. The column sinks as the insects work, as if the bottom is being melted like butter.

The ants slide down, then exit out of tunnels buried in the base. The tower's movement is similar to a slow-motion chocolate fountain in reverse.

The sinking towers were discovered by accident. The researchers planned to record ants building for two hours, but the camera rolled for three. Tovey said, "We didn't expect to see anything interesting in that extra hour, so we sped up the video to 10 times real speed.

"We were amazed at how different the ant movements appeared."

In real time, they saw ants busily moving on the surface of a tower of apparently stationary ants. At high speed, however, the surface ant movements appeared as a blur and the entire tower slipped downward.

Tovey said, "The tower sinking was too slow to see at real speed."

The sinking was confirmed by X-ray videography. The researchers fed some of the ants radioactive food, then threw the colony in an X-ray machine across campus in Professor Dan Goldman's physics lab. Cameras again recorded the critters building a tower. Using time-lapse photography, they watched the radioactive insects walk up the sides, gradually sink to the tower's depths, leave the pile, then continually repeat the process for hours.

Hu, who is also a faculty member in the School of Biological Sciences, added, "Ant towers are like human skin.

"The tower is constantly rebuilding and replacing its surface."

The findings, which are now published in the journal Royal Society Open Science, could have implications for modular robots, which currently aren't very effective at building tall towers.

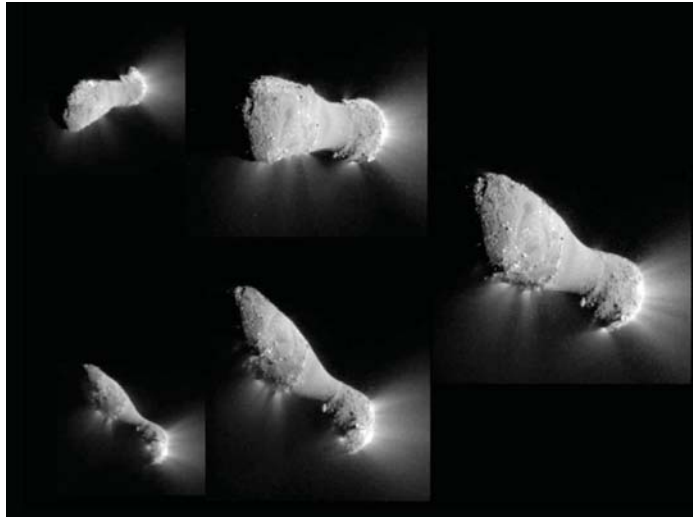
Tovey, who is also a biologist, has a different reason for studying ant behavior.

Tovey added, "Ninety-nine percent of all the species that have ever lived on Earth are extinct.

"The rest of us have developed very effective techniques to survive."

"Why wouldn't we study these processes? Engineers and scientists don't always know what our findings will lead to, but bioinspired design can be a powerful tool to make our world more efficient."

# Alien ice seen forming on Earth



celebfresh.co.uk

A strange form of ice that's found naturally only on alien worlds has been captured being frozen from water in real time on Earth for the first time, the US researchers said.

In a study published online in the US journal Physical Review Letters, researchers at the Stanford University described how ice VII, or ice seven, which normally forms in environments such as when icy planetary bodies collide, was created and imaged in the lab in just billionths of a second, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

Study lead author Arianna Gleason, a post-doctoral fellow at Los Alamos National Laboratory, said, "These experiments with water are the first of their kind, allowing us to witness a fundamental disorder-to-order transition in one of the most abundant molecules in the Universe."

Under regular conditions on our planet's surface, water crystallizes in only one way,

dubbed ice Ih or simply 'hexagonal ice', whether in glaciers or ice cube trays in the freezer.

To create ice VII, Stanford researchers used the Linac Coherent Light Source, the world's most powerful X-ray laser.

First, the science team beamed an intense, green-colored laser at a small target containing a sample of liquid water.

The laser instantly vaporized layers of diamond on one side of the target, generating a rocket-like force that compressed the water to pressures exceeding 50,000 times that of Earth's atmosphere at sea level.

As the water compacted, a second beam from an instrument called the X-ray Free Electron Laser arrived in a series of bright pulses, each of which lasts only a femtosecond, or a quadrillionth of a second.

Akin to camera flashes, this X-ray laser snapped a set of images on the progression of molecular changes as the pressurized water

crystallized into ice VII.

The team said, "The phase change took just six billionths of a second, or nanoseconds, and during this process, the water molecules bonded into rod shapes, and not spheres as theory predicted."

Delving into extraterrestrial ice types, including ice VII, will help scientists model such remote environments as comet impacts, the internal structures of potentially life-supporting, water-filled moons like Jupiter's Europa, and the dynamics of jumbo, rocky, oceanic exoplanets called super-Earths.

Gleason added, "Any icy satellite or planetary interior is intimately connected to the object's surface."

"Learning about these icy interiors will help us understand how the worlds in our solar system formed and how at least one of them, so far as we know, came to have all the necessary characteristics for life."

## Padova, Jiroft universities ink MoU on cooperation

Principal Supervisor of Jiroft University Shahpour Kohestani said that Jiroft University and Padova University in Italy signed a five-year memorandum of understanding on cooperation to promote educational and research studies.

According to IRNA, he said, "One of the articles of the MoU

calls for exchanging professors and students at the post-graduate level."

He added, "The two universities are obliged to provide facilities and welfare, educational services for visiting instructors and students.

"Also, the two universities are to cooperate in launching PhD majors."

Implementation of joint international research plans, holding conferences, seminars and workshops were among other articles of the MoU.

Kohestani underlined that University of Padova is one of the first universities of Italy with a history of over 800 years. It has 60,000 stu-

dents and more than 2,000 faculty members.

Jiroft University has 4,000 students studying in 34 majors at the graduate and post-graduate levels.

The city is located 230 kilometers south of Kerman city, capital of south-central province of Kerman.

## New synthetic compound can silence disease-causing genes in mitochondria

Scientists in Japan have successfully silenced disease-causing genes inside mitochondria, the cell's powerhouses, using a novel synthetic compound.

Most DNA is found inside the cell's nucleus. Researchers have previously deployed pyrrole-imidazole polyamides, or PIPs — a DNA-reading and gene-silencing compound, inside cell nuclei, UPI reported.

But some DNA exists inside mitochondria, where PIPs have been previously unable to access.

Scientists at Kyoto University attached a mitochondria-penetrating peptide, or MPP, to a PIP, allowing the compound to overpower the mitochondria's energy barrier.

Researchers designed their so-called MITO-PIP to block the binding site for mitochondrial transcription factor A, or TFAM.

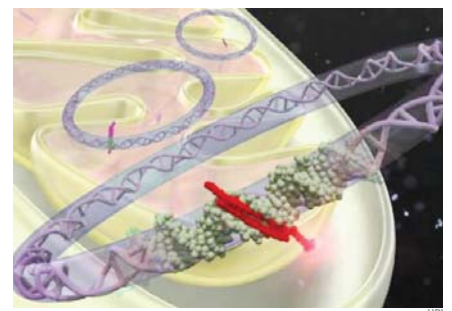
TFAM controls the mitochondria's metabolic processes and plays an important role in the transcription of the gene ND6.

Researchers found different concentrations of their novel compound, TFAM-inhibiting MITO-PIP, reduced ND6 expression between 60 and 90 percent.

ND6 is associated with several mitochondrial defects, including central vision loss, muscle weakness, seizures and learning difficulties.

Scientists hope their breakthrough — detailed in the Journal of American Chemical Society — will inspire the development new gene therapies for mitochondrial diseases and defects.

Lead researcher Ganesh Pandian Namasivayam, from Kyoto University's



UPI

Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Science, said, "We plan to develop an advanced version of MITO-PIPs that can identify and localize only inside diseased mitochondria."



# 80,000 foreign children studying in Iran



jamejamonline.ir

## Society Desk

In line with the guidelines of Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, educational facilities have been provided to more than 80,000 children of both legal and illegal foreign refugees during 2014 and 2015, said director general of Interior Ministry's Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs.

Ahmad Mohammadifar said, "We established one class for every 30 foreign pupils during the period, thus the total of 2,600 classes have been added to the country's educational capacity."

The official noted that 250 schools should be constructed nationwide to meet the educational requirements of foreign refugees, adding 30 schools have so far been established in cooperation with the UN in 2016.

He added that more than 330 children of foreign nationals received education in Iranian schools before 2014.

Mohammadifar said immigrants made up four percent of Iran's population, adding based on figures released by the UN, Iran is the world's fourth destination for foreign refugees.

"About 11 percent of Afghan population, which is roughly three million legal and illegal refugees, are living in Iran", he said, underlining that healthcare facilities are also available to all refugees.

He said free health insurance coverage has been extended for 114,000 foreign nationals residing in Iran, adding ground has been prepared to increase the figure to 800,000.

## UBI could work in Southeast Asia if it goes to women

The universal basic income (UBI) debate has been raging for some years, with politicians and people hotly divided over the notion of their government paying every citizen a set amount of money on a regular basis, without requiring work to be completed.

The idea of everybody, including society's most marginalized, being able to afford their basic needs is popular with mostly libertarian and progressive politicians, and there is some empirical evidence that it can quickly increase a country's productivity and reduce domestic inequality, according to the conversation.com.

Conservative economists, however, reject the idea, citing its 'impossibly expensive' nature.

Economic feasibility is a critical question for any government program, of course, and it is particularly relevant in the developing world, where UBI has been suggested as a development tool.

One reason that Southeast Asian countries, for example, have struggled to improve gender equality (despite avowals of commitment to the idea) is increased economic insecurity, which has widened the gap between men and women and separated women from opportunities.

Might UBI be one way to both empower women and reduce hunger in the region?

A conducted research focused specifically on women from the region who

live below the poverty line, which, for East Asia and the Pacific, the World Bank defines as living on less than \$3.20 a day.

In Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam — among the poorest Southeast Asian nations — between 13 percent and 47 percent of the population is living in poverty. The number is significantly lower in better-off Brunei and Singapore.

On the whole, women in these countries fare well enough compared to their peers in other developing regions in terms of literacy, employment, political participation and the right to organize. But this has not translated into greater gender equality.

Here, heteronormativity reigns, dictating that men and women (and only men and women; all other gender identities are discounted) have distinct and complementary roles in life, from economics and education to politics.

Women are primarily seen as wives and mothers, a gender stereotype reinforced in both everyday experiences and in the theological texts of the main religions in the region.

That perspective also seems to dominate within the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Though women feature strongly in ASEAN's socio-cultural community line of work, there is very little debate about the role of women in the economic or political

sphere.

By giving women the financial freedom to act as 'agents' of development in the region, universal basic income could be a tool that ultimately paves the way for their future economic and political involvement.



theconversation.com

This process would start with something simple (and seemingly uncontroversial): Women being able to put food on the table.

In poor families in Southeast Asia, up to 80 percent of household income is spent on food, yet undernutrition remains a huge problem in Cambodia, Laos, the

Philippines, Indonesia and, to a lesser extent, in Vietnam.

If women were provided with sufficient income to feed their families, it would translate into better nutrition, health and general well-being for children and others dependent in their care, and by extension,

their communities.

Creating economic security for women is also key to a country's development. Southeast Asian women in poorer income brackets generally have access to very few jobs, outside of traditional occupations such as farming and housekeeping.

## Kids Adventure Games gives children an opportunity they can't find at home

BIG SKY — it may not be American Ninja Warrior, but children got to test out their racing skills at the Kids Adventure Games.

The Big Sky Resort hosted the obstacle course race over the weekend and the participants were in for a treat. The race included 13 obstacles that ranged from biking to rock climbing to running across water.

The Kids Adventure Games travel across the US putting on events for kids, but Lisa Reeder, the event's sponsorship coordinator, said the organization is also trying to change the culture of racing, montanasports.com wrote.

"Kids love to play and there's so many adult races out there and not as many kids races, so this is giving us a great opportunity to take these younger kids and maybe do things that are outside their comfort zone," said Reeder.

Reeder asserted that the goal of the games is to get children active and to give



montanasports.com

them an experience that they can't get outside in their front yard.

"They go over cargo nets or they go through a mud pit or through a swampy area, and they have their map, which is

something different than playing outside," Reeder said.

"They have to think outside the box and it's a challenge for a lot of them, and they always cross the finish line smiling

and happy."

The Kids Adventure Games are a national organization, but before it had some very humble beginnings. It started out as just an idea for a birthday party.

The event's founder, Billy Mattison, and his wife, Helen, had an idea for his twin children's birthday party: An obstacle course in the backyard. Mattison is a former adventure racer himself, and a pretty successful one, winning international races in places like Morocco.

So he built a little course and invited friends and family over to give it a try.

And since then, the idea got bigger. The following year it was held at a park and more children showed up, then they brought it to Vail, Colorado and held an official event. Now it spans coast to coast, getting thousands of kids outside and active.

It also teaches them important life lessons, not only to think outside the box, but to never give up when a challenge is difficult.

## Do you live in the world's laziest country?

US scientists have amassed 'planetary-scale' data from peoples' smartphones to see how active we really are.

The Stanford University analysis of 68 million days' worth of minute-by-minute data showed the average number of daily steps was 4,961, bbc.com wrote.

Hong Kong was top averaging 6,880 a day, while Indonesia was bottom of the rankings with just 3,513.

But the findings also uncovered intriguing details that could help tackle obesity.



usnews.com

Most smartphones have a built-in accelerometer that can record steps and the researchers used anonymous data from more than 700,000 people who used the Argus activity monitoring app.

Scott Delp, a professor of bioengineering and one of the researchers, said: "The study is 1,000 times larger than any previous study on human movement."

"There have been wonderful health surveys done, but our new study provides data from more countries, many more subjects, and tracks people's activity on an ongoing basis."

"This opens the door to new ways of doing science at a much larger scale than we have been able to do before."

The findings have been published in the journal Nature and the study authors say the results give important insights for improving people's health.

The average number of steps in a country appears to be less important for obesity levels, for example.

The key ingredient was 'activity inequality' — it's like wealth inequality, except instead of the difference between rich and poor, it's the difference between the fittest and laziest.

The bigger the activity inequality, the higher the rates of obesity.

Tim Althoff, one of the researchers, said: "For instance, Sweden had one of the smallest gaps between activity rich and activity poor... it also had one of the lowest rates of obesity."

The United States and Mexico both have similar average steps, but the US has higher activity inequality and obesity levels.

The researchers were surprised that activity inequality was largely driven by differences between men and women.

In countries like Japan — with low obesity and low inequality — men and women exercised to similar degrees.

But in countries with high inequality, like the US and Saudi Arabia, it was women spending less time being active.

Jure Leskovec, also part of the research team, said: "When activity inequality is greatest, women's activity is reduced much more dramatically than men's activity, and thus the negative connections to obesity can affect women more greatly."

## British Asian students more likely to receive negative media coverage

Media outlets continue to differentiate between British East Asian students and East Asian students in the UK education system, portraying the former in a negative, undesirable light, a new study in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies revealed.

During the first ever study of its kind, researchers from the University of Surrey examined 185 newspaper articles investigating how this minority group is reported in the media. They discovered that British East Asian students are more likely to receive negative media coverage than East Asian students, primarily from China and India, who have come to the UK study, sciencedaily.com wrote.

The research found that references to British East Asian students in the media tended to have racial undertones and focused mainly on ethnic tensions within UK schools.

The concept of 'reverse racism', whereby acts of discrimination and prejudice perpetrated by racial minorities, was a common theme in articles. It found that the perception that many schools are unwilling to tackle racism on the part of Asian students towards white pupils.

Attitudes to learning amongst British East Asian parents were also subject to criticism in the UK media, with continued reference to the 'pushiness' of this group in regards to academia. Concern was raised in some articles that this 'tiger mother' characteristic was spreading into English society.

This negative reporting was not apparent when media references to East Asian students studying in the UK were examined. Due to the economic benefits generated by East Asian students in the education system, who typically pay higher tuition fees than their UK counterparts, their presence in the UK was favorably reported with figures highlighting this income frequently cited.

When discussing East Asian students, the media used this as an opportunity to present the UK education system in a favorable light in comparison to their international rivals, and inferred that these students are fortunate to be studying in such an environment.

Lead author of the report, Professor Rachel Brooks from the University of Surrey, said: "It is worrying to see how these two groups are portrayed differently in the media, and shows that the media is still heavily biased towards certain groups. British East Asian in particular are singled out for negative coverage."

## UFO disappearing inside another before both vanish



EASTWEST

A bizarre video which purports to show a UFO disappearing inside another before they both vanish has left viewers scratching their heads.

The strange film has been seen in the diamond-rich region of Yakutia in Russia's Siberia Province, but its origin and location is unclear, according to mirror.co.uk.

A man called Semyon, who posed the weird footage, said: "An unidentified flying object was seen floating above houses. It had many lights, and also a vapor trail."

He added: "At the end of a short video a diamond-shaped brightly illuminated 'window' opens up above the flying object, which disappears into it."

Semyon noted, "There is no information about when and where it happened." One theory is that the video is a "performance" involving lasers and a drone.

"Police have not reported calls about strange objects in the sky," reported The Siberian Times.

This is not the first UFO which has appeared over this region.

In October last year, a series of bright

green flashes were seen in the sky above Lake Baikal near the Mongolian border.

Initially people believed it was the tail of an International Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) test but this was later disproved and a leading astronomer said it was not a meteorite.

Lilia Mironova from the Astronomical Observatory at Buryat State University in Ulan-Ude told the Siberian Times it was 'definitely man-made' as it was traveling too slow to be a meteorite, meteor or comet and if it had hit the ground there would have been a 'shockwave'.

## Meet the youngest woman to ever captain a Boeing 777



At just 30-years-old Anny Divya is the youngest woman ever to captain a Boeing 777.

But realizing her dream hasn't been easy.

Anny started training to be a pilot at the age of 17, and although she was supported by her parents, other family members did not agree with her career choice, mirror.co.uk wrote.

But Anny, who grew up in Andhra Pradesh, India, refused to listen to her critics.

Instead she persevered with her career path until she was able to join the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IG-RUA), a flying school in Uttar Pradesh.

She went on to train in Spain and London before gaining her wings as a qualified commercial flyer.

Anny credits her entire success to her mother and father, who is a retired army official.

When she struggled financially, she said her parents helped her cover the costs of the education, despite having no guarantee that she would ever be in a secure enough position to pay the money back. Anny told Times Now: "I am thankful to my parents and teachers for what I am today."

"My parents really believed in my goal and let me fly. There were no jobs at the time, so it's not like the money my parents were putting in was something

that I could earn later.

"Nobody was doing any pilot course in Vijayawada at that time. So I was not encouraged to do it by a lot of people around me. But I just wanted to fly."

Anny admitted it was not easy, and said she was bullied for her English skills while she tried to grasp the language.

She said: "People made fun and laughed at me but I knew that I had to speak — even if I made mistakes — to actually learn."

"People used to mock me for my poor English and that hurt me a lot."

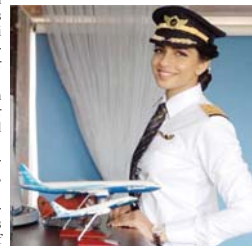
Anny refused to give up, and continued to try out her English skills at her flying school, until she had a much better grasp of pronunciation.

Then aged 19, she traveled to Spain for further training, which is where she first flew a Boeing 737.

Then, aged 21, Anny was sent to London to complete advance training and piloted a Boeing 777 for the first time.

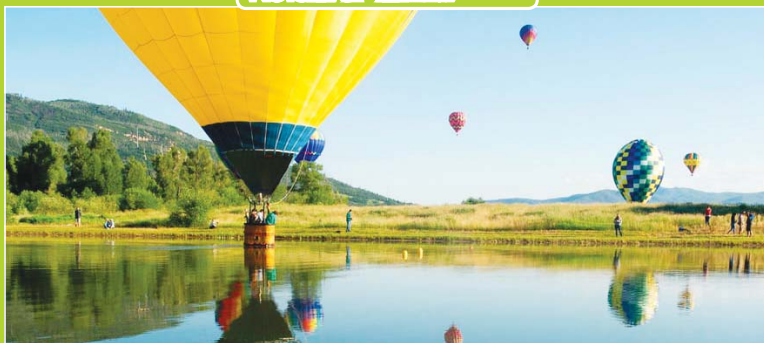
Amazingly, being the youngest female captain of a Boeing 777 is not the only impressive part of Anny's story.

She has also earned a degree in BSC Aviation, is a classical keyboard player, a dancer — and has a post-graduate degree in law.



CEN

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



JASON CONNOLLY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A balloon dips into Bald Eagle Lake during the 36th annual Hot Air Balloon Rodeo in Colorado, the US.

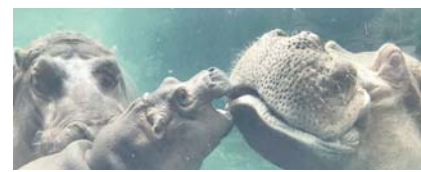
## Both parents join Cincinnati Zoo's baby Fiona

And Daddy makes three.

The father of the Cincinnati Zoo's popular baby hippo Fiona has joined her and mother Bibi in their first time together as a trio.

Zoo officials say Fiona, Bibi and Henry were united in the Hippo Cove outdoor pool before the zoo opened. They say the supervised visit of about an hour went well, with Bibi properly reacting protectively, abcnews.go.com wrote.

Fiona has been exploring the outdoor habitat with Bibi for several weeks, with some contact inside separately with Henry.

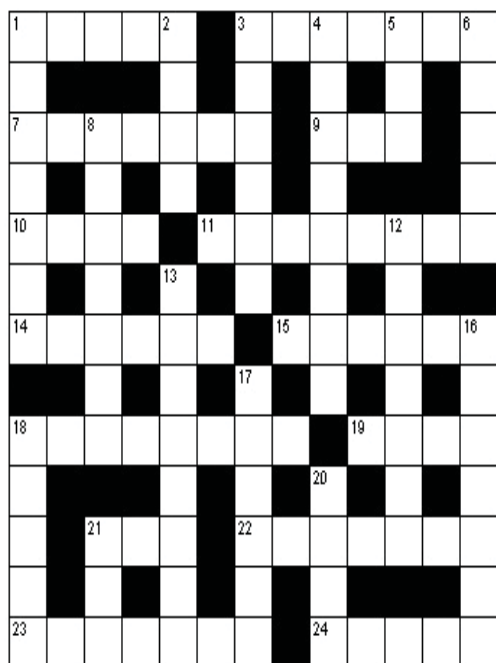


AP

Fiona was born January 24, weighing 29 pounds (13 kilograms). She overcame health scares and now weighs nearly 375 pounds (170 kilograms). Her parents weigh

about 10 times that. Video updates such as Fiona taking a bottle, splashing or running have drawn millions of online views.

### True or False Crossword



### DOWN

1. Soldier / Tailor (7)
2. Period of time / Unit of weight (4)
3. Gross / Dozen (6)
4. Birdcage / Fish tank (8)
5. Metal / Vegetable (3)
6. Send payment / Collect payment (5)
8. Cradlesong / Shout (7)
12. Professional / Non-professional (7)
13. Novice / Expert (8)
16. Concealed / Revealed (7)
17. Type of bicycle / Type of hammer (6)
18. Fruit / Insect (5)
20. Reptiles / Simians (4)
21. Meat / Fish (3)

### ACROSS

1. Calm / Breezy (5)
3. Farm vehicle / farm animal (7)
7. Capture / Let go (7)
9. Large vase / Clock (3)
10. Working / Not working (4)
11. Sunny / Cloudy (8)
14. Sowed / Harvested (6)
15. Clergyman / Computer (6)
18. Involving the body / Involving the mind (8)
19. Give / Retain (4)
21. Chicken / Egg (3)
22. Leaves / Arrives (7)
23. Exciting / Dull (7)
24. Audio / Video (5)

### Yesterday's solution



### Sudoku

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

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

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



## Captain Carrick

Manchester United's long-serving midfielder Michael Carrick will replace Wayne Rooney as the club's new captain after the Red Devils' all-time top goal scorer signed for Everton, Premier League club said on Tuesday.

## EPL remains richest football league

The Premier League is set to remain by far the world's richest football league, its clubs earning approximately €2 billion (£1.7 billion) more collectively than those in Europe's second richest, the German Bundesliga, according to the annual review of football finances by the consultants Deloitte.

The total €3.6 billion earnings of Premier League clubs in 2015-16 are projected to have increased to €4.5 billion last season, the first of the league's vastly more lucrative 2016-17 TV deals, the Guardian reported.

League has already disclosed its distribution of TV and sponsorship money last season, which Deloitte calculates was 45 percent higher than in 2015-16.

The size of that increase, and the gaping financial superiority over the other leagues, is reflected in Premier League clubs' transfer activity so far this summer, accounting for the majority of the biggest money signings and the continuing attraction of players and managers from other European leagues.

Chelsea, last season's champion,

secured per season from sales of TV rights overseas, which is distributed equally, £39.09 million to each of the 20 clubs.

The gap between Premier League clubs' earnings and those in Europe's next wealthiest leagues would be even greater if not for the fall in the value of the pound against the euro following the British vote to leave the European Union last June. Deloitte projects England's top 20 clubs will make €5.1 billion in the forthcoming 2017-18 season, Bundesliga clubs €3.2 billion, Spanish La Liga clubs €3 billion, with less than €2 billion forecast to be earned by the clubs in each of the French and Italian top divisions.

The gap created by the Premier League is widening in England too, its £2.4 billion annual TV deal



Chelsea celebrated with the Premier League trophy in May. The champion received £151 million in TV revenue for last season but even bottom-placed Sunderland earned £93 million.

The size of domestic and international TV rights sales, £2.8 billion per season, £8.4 billion in total over three years, is approximately double that of the Bundesliga's own improved deals, which are expected to pay around £1.4 billion annually to the clubs in Germany's top two divisions. Although England's clubs will not publish their 2016-17 accounts for several months yet, the Premier

League was paid £151 million from the Premier League's TV and sponsorship distribution. Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester City, Liverpool and Manchester United all earned more than £140 million, while Sunderland, which finished bottom, nevertheless received £93 million. Those earnings, by far a record for any domestic league's TV deals, included the clubs' share of £782 million the Premier

League is almost 30 times greater than that of the EFL, which is reported to be currently £90 million across all three divisions.

In May, the Premier League said it spends £100 million on grass roots facilities and projects via the Football Foundation and club community programs, which is approximately 3.6 percent of the Premier League's annual TV income.

against easy teams, don't stress the players, they will only come to America for really what they said was marketing, but they weren't really doing much, except just coming.

"Now everything has changed. Now the players are serious, the commercial departments are serious."

Stillitano credits Mourinho for changing the way clubs approach their preseason plans.

"The guy who really led the way was Jose Mourinho in 2004. Alex Ferguson said later in his book that he learned a lot from Jose, because Jose won the Premier League two years in a row and Jose attributed the two titles in a row to playing big teams in preseasons and being ready," he explained.

But Stillitano notes the marked difference between tours to the US and Asia.

"The idea of a long preseason doesn't really exist in China or Singapore," he says. "It's much more commercially driven, they come in, try to play games in a short amount of time, they do their preparation first at home and then leave."

After the Manchester derby, United will play Real in Santa Clara – a fixture that drew a record US crowd of 109,318 at Michigan Stadium in 2014 – in a dress rehearsal for next month's European Super Cup, before meeting Barca, while City plays Real in Los Angeles and round out its tour against Tottenham Hotspur.



Venus Williams, 37, is the oldest player to play in the last four of Wimbledon since Martina Navratilova in 1994.

Five-time champion Venus Williams won in her 100th singles match at Wimbledon to knock out French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko and reach the semifinals.

powerful," she said. "So whatever age that is, as long as I feel like that, then I know that I can contend for titles every time."

Williams, competing at her 20th Wim-

## Veteran Venus to play British Konta in Wimbledon semis

Williams earned a 6-3, 7-5 victory against the 20-year-old Latvian in one hour and 13 minutes on Centre Court, BBC reported.

She will play Britain's sixth seed Johanna Konta in the last four later today after Konta knocked out second seed Simona Halep.

Garbine Muguruza will play Magdalena Rybakovska in the other semifinal today.

American Williams, 37, is the oldest player to reach the last four since Martina Navratilova in 1994, but says she doesn't think about her age.

"I feel quite capable, to be honest, and

bledon, is just one victory away from her ninth final at SW19 – eight years after her last appearance.

She has not won a Grand Slam title since Wimbledon in 2008.

Williams dominated Wimbledon for almost a decade between 2000 and 2009, winning five titles and finishing runner up in another three finals.

But the seven-time Grand Slam champion had become a peripheral figure after being diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, an illness that causes fatigue and joint pain, in 2011.

She says she refused to consider retirement, despite her world rank-

ing plummeting to 103 by the end of 2011.

The American returned to the top 10 last year and then reached her first Grand Slam final since 2009 when she lost to sister Serena at the Australian Open final in January.

Now she is just one more victory away from another major final after beating an opponent who was only born a couple of weeks before she made her SW19 debut in 1997.

Ostapenko confirmed her status as one of the rising stars of the women's game when she earned a surprise victory at Roland Garros last month.

But her aggressive, risk and reward game came unstuck against the powerful Williams serve.

"She was serving really well. It was very tough to break. Because of that I had more pressure because I had to keep my serve," said Ostapenko.

"I was not feeling nervous. I just couldn't really play my best."

Spaniard Muguruza, who reached the final at SW19 in 2015, beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 15 minutes on Court One.

Muguruza will now play Rybakovska after the Slovak overpowered a wayward Coco Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-3.

Unseeded Rybakovska was ranked outside of the top 400 in the world as recently as March after knee and wrist injuries and appeared in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

## Compatriot European giants to play friendlies overseas

Real Madrid and Barcelona square off in a rare overseas Clasico while Manchester United and Manchester City meet for the first time outside Britain as the world's leading clubs strive to optimize their preseason preparations.

Preseason tours have grown significantly in importance over the past decade as teams promote their brand visibility while simultaneously striving to ensure players are ready to hit the ground running, AFP reported.

Asia, Australia and the United States are popular destinations for the top clubs, but there is more to these trips than simply pitching up and kicking a ball.

AC Milan and Borussia Dortmund kick off the International Champions Cup (ICC) in Guangzhou, China, on July 18, the first of 19 matches in a preseason tournament featuring several of Europe's top clubs spread across three countries.

Bundesliga giant Bayern Munich then meets Arsenal in Shanghai before the Gunners take on Premier League champion Chelsea in Beijing.

"What I really stress whenever somebody comes out here is that the game is probably actually the least important part. It's really just 90 minutes," Tom Elsdon, senior client manager with

Shanghai-based Mailman Group, told AFP.

"You can't expect to come out here on a China tour or do one deal and you've made it. It's a continuous commitment to this market."

"You need to come out every year or other year to continue that connection with fans, relationships with sponsors and grassroots initiatives. It's a long-term play."

Chelsea, Bayern and Inter Milan will also visit Singapore, but the bulk of the fixtures take place in the US where Jose Mourinho's United plays Pep Guardiola's City on July 20 in Houston, with European champion Real meeting archrival Barcelona in Miami on July 29 – the first Clasico held outside Spain since 1982 in Venezuela.

Charlie Stillitano, chairman of Relevant Sports which oversees the ICC, believes the appeal of the US is its "perfect marriage of commercialism and football."

"(Clubs) have an opportunity to have training facilities which are second to none," says Stillitano. "(Zinedine) Zidane came last year (with Real), they didn't do anything except train for 10 days, then they play very competitive matches."

"It was always thought that preseasons should be playing

## McGregor vows to knock Mayweather out



Floyd Mayweather (L) and Conor McGregor are set to go into battle at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, the US, on August 26, 2017.

Mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor vowed to knock Floyd Mayweather out inside four rounds when the pair meets in a Las Vegas boxing match next month.

McGregor has never boxed as an amateur or professionally but will face undefeated former multiple world champion Mayweather at the T-Mobile Arena on August 26 under normal boxing rules, BT Sport reported.

Speaking in Los Angeles at the first

stop of a four-city media tour, McGregor said, "I am honored to be here, to give you this spectacle. His little legs, his little core, his little head, I am going to knock him out inside four rounds, mark my words."

"I am a young, confident, happy man that has worked extremely hard for this."

"All these rules, all these restrictions, it doesn't faze me; it amuses me. It is funny to me all these rules."

"All I need is a gum shield. Line me up to the ring and I am good to go."

Mayweather, however, hit back before an expletive-laden exchange between the pair. He said, "We talking about from the nineties to now, world champion 18 years, but it is no problem. I'm not the same fighter as I was years ago, but I got enough to beat you."

"God only made one thing perfect, and that is my boxing record."

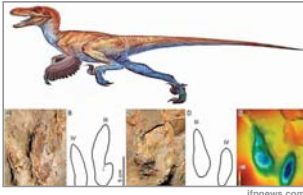
Thomas Paine:

A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right.

## Traces of feathered dinosaur found in Iran

Iranian scientists found archeological traces of some feathered dinosaurs in Iran in cooperation with professors from Beijing and Colorado universities.

Associate Professor of Zanjan University Nasrollah Abbasi said drawing on the recent discovery of a rich collection of dinosaur traces in the Central Alborz Mountain Range, Iranian scientists along with their counterparts from Beijing and Colorado universities found traces of feathered dinosaurs in Iran, ifnews.com reported.



ifnews.com

Abbasi said that the latest research shows that the extinct reptiles in Iran included feathered dinosaurs from running dinosaurs species.

"In cooperation with Lida Xing from Beijing University's Geology College and Martin Lockley from Colorado University, we studied the sedimentary rocks in Baladeh region of Mazandaran Province [in northern Iran] and found the traces of two-fingered dinosaurs which belonged to feathered dinosaurs species," he said.

Abbasi added that the remnants date back to 179 million years ago.

"The discovery is significant for two main reasons: First, it proves that Iran used to be the habitat of feathered dinosaurs in the past, and second, it sheds light on some vague issues regarding the lives of two-fingered dinosaurs."

According to Abbasi, this is the fourth largest discovery in the field worldwide which provides the scientists with clues about understanding the ambiguous points about dinosaur species in Iran.

The findings have been published by Historical Biology Magazine, he concluded.

## Berlin police make arrests over \$4 m gold coin museum robbery

German special police commandos arrested several people during raids in Berlin on Wednesday over the spectacular robbery of a 100 kilo gold coin, worth about \$4 million, from Berlin's Bode Museum in March.

Pictures showed armed police in balaclavas and paramedics outside a property in the Neukoelln area of Berlin, Reuters wrote.

"We are at the moment conducting searches and executing arrest warrants in several places in Berlin concerning the break in at the Bode museum in March," said Berlin police.

The unlikely robbery from one of Berlin's most prestigious museums in the center of the capital, from behind bullet-proof glass stunned Germans.

The Canadian coin, named 'Big Maple Leaf', which bears the image of Queen Elizabeth II, is made out of pure gold with a material value of about \$4 million. Its face value is about \$1 million.



theguardian.com

The coin, 53 centimeters in diameter and 3 centimeters thick, even made it into the Guinness Book of Records for its unrivaled degree of purity. It was loaned to the Bode Museum in December 2010.

Police had said it was probably stolen by a group of robbers who broke into the museum through a window, possibly with a ladder.

They had also said they would expect the coin to be melted down.

The Bode has one of the world's largest coin collections with more than 540,000 items.

German media showed a picture of a man being led away by police with a white garment thrown over his head to disguise his identity.

# IRAN DAILY

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IRAN DAILY

## Turquoise domes rooted in Iranian traditions

Exclusive

By Sadeq Dehqan &amp; Hamideh Hosseini

An Iranian painter Mani Emadi is holding an exhibition in which turquoise domes makes him distinct from other artists.

Iran Daily conducted an interview with Emadi, a PhD graduate from Art Research Center in the University of Tehran and a Soureh University professor, to know more about his style of surrealist painting.

The art exhibition opened on July 11 and will run until July 16 at Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran.

Excerpts from the interview follow:

**IRAN DAILY: Please tell us briefly about the artworks in this exhibition.**

**MANI EMADI:** The exhibition features 11 paintings in the dimension of 100cmX70cm. I have used oil colors plus a little bit acrylic in my paintings. I have spent six years on these works among which 11 have been selected for the current exhibition. I created the paintings in surrealist style. In other words, they are beyond what we face in the reality. The atmosphere in these works are not seen around us. For instance, monuments or mosques

which you see here, are not available in reality and we cannot put a specific name for them.

**What is the importance of turquoise domes which are evident in your works?**

They might be either a reflection of our traditional atmospheres which are on the verge of extinction or rooted in my childhood.



**Why did you choose surrealism style for your paintings?**

Despite a large number of artists who choose their subjects before starting to paint, this exhibition's artworks were painted without a primary

theme or subject. I began creating them without thinking about their theme.

**Generally, all your paintings revolve around a building? What is the reason for that?**

Human beings who are living in the present time are witnessing destructions of some buildings and monuments in addition to the demise of traditions around us. These have obsessed my mind for a long time. Such degenerating trend could be shown in the frame of a building which can consequently reflect either a real building or a mindset which is approaching destruction.

**What do you mean by the mental atmospheres in these paintings?**

I believe that the desire for mysterious and obscure atmospheres is fading in my life as well as in those of all the people. Popular lifestyles are changing and are getting farther from mysterious atmospheres.

In the past, beautiful and mysterious myths accompanied people's lives. For instance, long time ago people were so much willing to go for metaphysics and life after death, while today humans do not show any desire for them.



Shahrazad Theater Center is hosting Iran's 'Hamlet, Tehran 2017' by Kiumars Moradi until July 16, 2017.

## 'Lunch Time' grabs three awards at FRAPA

Art &amp; Culture Desk

Iranian film 'Lunch Time' directed by Alireza Qasemi won the best screenplay, best title and best scene awards at the Fifth Porto Alegre Screenwriting Festival (FRAPA) in Brazil.

The festival was held at Cinemateca Capit6lio from July 4 to 7, Mehr News Agency reported.

'Lunch Time' tells the story of a 16-year-old girl, who deals with harsh bureaucracy to fulfill her responsibility of having to identify the body of her mother.

The Porto Alegre Screenwriting Festival is the largest event focusing on scriptwriting for television and film in Latin America. Its aim is to discuss and strengthen the significance of screenplay writing in

times of rise in TV and film production in Brazil, as well as promote a place for local professional screenwriters to get to know what's new and in production all around Latin America.

Inspired by similar festivals in the United States and Europe, FRAPA has grown in size throughout the years, organizing debate sessions, competitions, workshops, screenings, master classes and business rounds. The organizers intend to make FRAPA a reference for the thought of audiovisual writing in Latin America. By encouraging the exchange of experiences between screenwriters and other professionals in the audiovisual market, it seeks to create an opportunity for qualification and celebrate new partnerships.

## » Weather



48 31

Ahvaz



31 14

Borujerd



24 20

Rasht



28 21

Semnan



28 14

Arak

26 ^

v 21

Tehran



25 18

Bishkek



32 22

Istanbul



36 23

Amman



22 10

Minsk



23 17

Moscow