



Iran warns of Zionist lobby's plot to undermine Syrian government

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# IRAN DAILY



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## UN, EU urge support for JCPOA implementation on 2nd anniversary

The United States and European Union called for continued support for the nuclear agreement reached between Iran and six world powers on the second anniversary of the landmark deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Friday urged "all member states to support further pursuit of this historic agreement."

"I shall continue to support the implementation of the JCPOA, in accordance with resolution 2231 and other relevant decisions of the Security Council," Guterres said in a statement, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The UN chief said the deal "gives us all hope that the most complex issues in this domain can be addressed through dialogue, understanding and cooperation."

"I am confident that the JCPOA is the best way to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and realize the great aspiration of the Iranian people," Guterres continued.

"Two years on, I am encouraged by the continued implementation of the plan. I commend the Islamic Republic of Iran for implementing its nuclear-related commitments, as verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said.

"It is in the interest of the international community that this achievement of multilateral diplomacy endures transitions and implementation challenges cementing our collective commitment to diplomacy and dialogue," Guterres stressed.

### All must remain committed

EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said all sides to the nuclear agreement must remain committed to their obligations under the deal which was agreed by Iran and the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany on July 14, 2015.

Mogherini described the JCPOA as a "historic achievement" for the security of the region and the whole world, a "success for multilateral diplomacy that has proven to work and deliver."

"This deal belongs to the international community, having been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, that expects all sides to keep the commitments they took two years ago," she added.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany started implementing the JCPOA on January 16, 2016.

Under the agreement, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

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

Mogherini further said through the Joint Commission of the JCPOA, which she coordinates, she is monitoring "very closely the full implementation of the deal in all its parts."

The top EU official stressed the importance of the regular meetings of the Joint Commission in order to "ensure transparency, constant dialogue and implementation by all" and noted that the next meeting of the commission is scheduled to be held in the Austrian capital Vienna on July 21.

"In my capacity as coordinator, my task is and will stay to ensure that the deal is fully and effectively implemented by all sides," Mogherini said.

She emphasized that the 28-nation bloc "is and will stay committed in preserving and implementing" the JCPOA, vowing to build on it to address the "remaining unresolved sources of tension and conflict that are still affecting the region."

Mogherini said, "A stable and peaceful environment in a conflict-free and cooperative regional order remains our ultimate objective."



ISNA

## South Korea's June oil imports from Iran up 10.5%

South Korea's crude oil imports from Iran increased 10.5 percent in June from a year earlier as Tehran continued to ramp up output after sanctions over its nuclear program were lifted.

According to Reuters, Seoul imported 1.15 million tons of crude from Tehran in June, or 281,338 barrels per day (bpd), compared with 1.04 million tons a year ago, customs

data showed on Saturday.

In the first half of the year, South Korea's intake of Iranian oil jumped 51.5 percent to 9.27 million tons, or 375,597 bpd, over the same period a year ago.

South Korea is one of the main Asian customers for Iranian crude, including an ultra-light oil known as condensate.

Although Iran ranked as South Korea's second-biggest crude oil supplier in the January-March period in 2017, the data showed it slid to No.3 spot behind Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the first half of this year as Iran decided to keep condensate shipment volumes after clearing stocks stored on tankers.

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## Turkey marks one year since coup attempt, fires 7,400 workers

Turkish authorities sacked nearly 7,400 more civil servants for alleged links to terror groups as the country on Saturday marked the first anniversary of last summer's failed coup attempt that left some 250 people dead.

"It has been exactly one year since Turkey's darkest and longest night was transformed into a bright day, since an enemy occupation turned into the people's legend," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Saturday in a special parliamentary session attended by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, AP reported.

Turkish soldiers attempted to overthrow the government and Erdogan using tanks, warplanes and helicopters on July 15 last year. The coup plotters declared their seizure of power on the state broadcaster, bombed the country's parliament and other key locations, and raided an Aegean resort where Erdogan had been on vacation. But Erdogan had already left and the coup attempt was

put down by civilians and security forces.

The Bosphorus Bridge, now called the July 15 Martyrs' Bridge, was the scene of clashes between civilians and soldiers in tanks. Some 250 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured across Turkey. Thirty-five coup plotters were also killed.

Yildirim thanked the thousands of people who heeded a call by the president to flood the streets to resist the coup.

"We are able to come together again here today because of our 250 heroic martyrs, 2,193 heroic veterans and the great Turkish people. Your country is grateful to you," Yildirim said.

In the aftermath of the coup attempt, Turkey declared a state of emergency that has been in place ever since, which has allowed the government to rule by decree and to dismiss tens of thousands of people from their jobs. More than

50,000 people have also been arrested for alleged links to US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey blames for orchestrating the failed coup, and other terror groups. Gulen has denied the allegations.

The latest decree published Friday evening sacked 7,395 more state employees including teachers, academics, military and police officers, bringing the number of dismissed to more than 110,000. The government calls the crackdown necessary to purge state institutions of those linked to Gulen, but critics say the dismissals are arbitrary and the victims' paths to recourse severely curtailed.

July 15 has been declared a national holiday in Turkey.

Public transportation in Istanbul and Ankara is free over the weekend and bus destination signs displayed messages of congratulations.

## US stance a 'setback' in bilateral relations: Cuba's Castro

Cuba's president said Donald Trump's hardline stance toward the country was a "setback" in relations with the United States after ties were gradually restored in 2015.

Raul Castro criticized Trump's partial rollback of his predecessor Barack Obama's rapprochement with the communist island in comments ahead of the second anniversary of Havana embassy's reopening in Washington on July 20, AFP reported on Saturday.

"The announcements made by the current president... mean a setback in bilateral relations," Castro said in remarks broadcast on state television at the closing of the first session of Cuba's parliament.

The remarks came after Trump last month stood before a crowd of anti-Castro activists in Miami's Little Havana and announced tightened rules for Americans traveling to Cuba, banned ties with a military-run tourism firm and reaffirmed the existing US trade embargo.

He framed his measures as a move against a "cruel and brutal"

regime, saying progress on bilateral relations would hinge on concessions related to human rights.

Castro called the new measures a toughening of the US embargo against the island, imposed since 1962, saying they evoked "an old and hostile rhetoric that characterized the Cold War."

He also denounced the manipulation of Cuba over human rights issues.

"Cuba has much to be proud of, and it does not have to receive lessons from the United States or anyone else," he said during the session, to which international press does not have access.

"Any strategy that seeks to destroy the revolution, whether through coercion or pressure or through subtle methods, will fail."



AFP

## Maryam Mirzakhani, first woman, Iranian to win Fields Medal, dies at 40

Compiled from Dispatches

Groundbreaking Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman to receive the prestigious Fields Medal for mathematics, died on Saturday following a long battle with breast cancer.

The 40-year-old fought the disease for four years and was recently hospitalized in the US as the cancer spread to her bone marrow.

News of her death was confirmed by her relatives. Mirzakhani is survived by her husband, Jan Vondrak, a theoretical computer scientist, and their daughter, Anahita.

Nicknamed the "Nobel Prize for Mathematics," the Fields Medal is only awarded every four years to between two and four mathematicians under 40. It was given to Prof. Mirzakhani, an Iranian, in 2014, for her work on complex geometry and dynamical systems.

"A light was turned off today. It breaks my heart... gone far too soon," her friend, NASA scientist Firouz Naderi, posted on Instagram.

Born in Tehran in 1977, Prof Mirzakhani was brought up in Iran and won two gold medals in the International Mathematical Olympiad as a teenager.

Mirzakhani was a professor at Stanford University's mathematics department, having graduated from Iran's Sharif University of Technology in 1999 and earning her PhD in mathematics from Harvard University in 2004.

She made history in 2014 after becoming the first woman, as well as the first Iranian, to win the Fields Medal for her outstanding contributions to the fields of geometry and dynamical systems.

Her receipt of the Fields Medal ended a long wait for women in the mathematics community for the prize, first established in 1936.

Christiane Rousseau, the vice president of the International Mathematics Union, said at the time: "It's an extraordinary moment. Marie-Curie had Nobel prizes in physics and chemistry at the beginning of the 20th century, but in mathematics this is the first time we have a woman winning the most prestigious prize. This is a celebration for women."

Prof. Dame Frances Kirwan, a member of the medal selection committee from the University of Oxford, also said at the time: "I hope that this award will inspire lots more girls and young women, in this country and around the world, to believe in their own abilities and aim to be the Fields medalists of the future."

In a 2008 interview, she said that she had dreamt of being a writer as a child, but later took up math with her elder brother's encouragement. She told the American Mathematical Society in 2013, "The situation of women in math is far from ideal. The social barriers for girls who are interested in mathematical sciences might not be lower now than they were when I grew up. And balancing career and family remains a big challenge."

It makes most women face difficult decisions which usually compromise their work. However, there has been a lot of progress over the years, and I am sure this trend will continue."

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AFP

Trump's critics have warned his clampdown on dealings with Cuban military-run tour firms and on private US travel to the communist-run island would only impoverish ordinary Cubans and threaten diplomatic rapprochement.

## PERSPECTIVE

## Diplomacy works



Letter from John Kerry

Friday marked the two-year anniversary of a remarkable diplomatic achievement, one that unequivocally made the world a safer place -- the Iran Deal.

Two years later, there's proof, not just promise, that diplomacy works.

I'm proud of many things that we accomplished together during my four years as President Obama's Secretary of State -- from the Paris

Agreement on climate change, to finding the path for a unity government in Afghanistan, to raising the American flag over our embassy in Havana for the first time in six decades -- but I don't think anything looms larger than reaching the historic deal. In that case, diplomacy was a fancy word for avoiding a war -- and this week 38 retired Generals and Admirals reminded us that it's working, and that "the only good wars are the ones you don't have to fight."

Getting to the Iran nuclear agreement wasn't easy. It required steadfast faith in the power of determined diplomacy, when many dismissed it or denied it or were ready to give up.

We had to start with no trust -- from the trip in 2011 when President Obama sent me to Muscat as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to 2013's first face-to-face meeting between an American secretary of state and an Iranian foreign minister since before the 1979 Revolution.

We spent long hours at the negotiating table over years to find the path to get everyone to agree to a tough and fair deal. We had to bring the international community together.

And then, of course, we had to convince Congress that the deal passed muster -- something we couldn't have done without grassroots support from people like you who made your voices heard.

We demanded that Iran meet tough, verifiable obligations, and they are complying -- as even the new administration, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency has acknowledged. They've shipped out more than 98% of their enriched uranium, shut down two-thirds of their centrifuges, permanently disabled their heavy water reactor, and abided by unprecedented verification procedures.

When we began, many people thought we were crazy for even talking to them.

But in the end, what we proved was that diplomacy works.

So, I hope you will feel proud on this anniversary -- but I also hope you'll be filled with purpose.

To protect what we all did with President Obama.

To remember that as tough as it may feel today, we've all got to keep speaking out.

I know I am, and I know you will.  
Thank you,  
John Kerry  
Former US Secretary of State

# Iran warns of Zionist lobby's plot to undermine Syrian government

A senior Iranian official warned that the Zionist lobby is carrying out widespread activities to steer the political and security equations in the region toward undermining the legal Syrian government.

In a meeting with Russia's special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev, in Tehran on Saturday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani said all sides involved in the Syrian crisis must respect the country's national sovereignty, Press TV reported.

"Any agreement must not undermine this unchangeable principle or prepare the ground for Syria's breakup," he added.

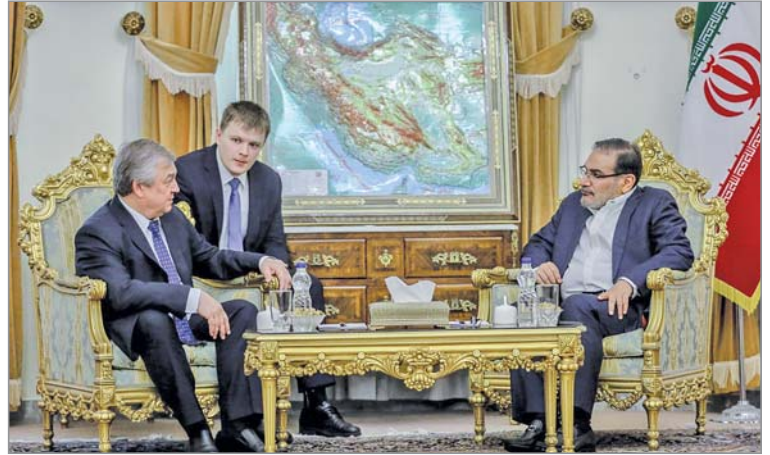
"The Zionist regime [of Israel] forms deep and extensive bonds with terrorist groups and their sponsors and seeks to make use of these groups as an instrument to allegedly secure Israel's borders and to continue with the suppression of the oppressed Palestinian people," he said.

The SNSC secretary described as "unacceptable and worrisome" moves by certain terrorist elements to take advantage of political talks and ceasefire to recover.

"These elements are not committed to any agreement or deal and will use any opportunity to kill innocent people and pursue their own inhumane objectives," Shamkhani said.

The Russian diplomat said Iran, Russia and Syria are playing a leading and determining role in the genuine fight against terrorism.

He emphasized that the three countries



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (R) talks with Russia's special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev in Tehran on July 15, 2017.

would seriously proceed with their strategic cooperation until uprooting terrorism.

Syria has been fighting different foreign-sponsored militant and terrorist groups since March 2011. The United Nations special envoy for Syria, Staffan de

Mistura, estimated last August that more than 400,000 people had been killed in the crisis until then.

Syrian Defense Minister Major General Fahd Jassem al-Frej on Thursday lauded the support provided by Iran, Russia and

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement in battling terrorism inside Syria.

Russia and Iran are the main international backers of the Syrian government in its battle against foreign-backed terrorists.

## Iran: US leaders should use "language of respect" when addressing Iranian nation

The new US leaders should take lessons from the past and only use the language of respect when addressing the Iranian nation, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Saturday.



IRNA

Qassemi was responding to anti-Iran remarks made by the US President Donald Trump during his recent trip to France, IRNA reported.

Describing Trump's remarks as "injurious", Qassemi said, "Apparently, his (Trump's) advisers are still in the hallucinatory atmosphere of the past, and just as they were unaware of the realities and elementary axioms before, they are still far behind the developments in Iran, the region and the world".

"(Trump) ought to seek the reason for subversion and rebellion in his own arbitrary and conflicting policies and actions, as well as those of his arrogant, aggressive and occupying allies in the region," Qassemi said.

The Iranian spokesman further advised the new US administration not to overlook Iran's positive and constructive role in boosting stability in the region and the world.

At a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday, Trump claimed, "We face new threats from rogue regimes like North Korea, Iran and Syria and the governments that finance and support them."

## Maryam Mirzakhani, first woman, Iranian to win Fields...

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### Condolences over Mirzakhani's death

In a message, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Mirzakhani's "doleful passing" has caused "great sorrow."



Mirzakhani receiving an award from then president Ayatollah Rafsanjani in 1995.

The president praised her scientific achievements, saying the "unprecedented brilliance of this creative scientist and modest human being, who made Iran's name resonate in the world's scientific forums, was a turning point in showing the great will of Iranian women and young people on the path towards reaching the peaks of glory and in various international arenas," read part of the message.

In a post on Instagram, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also offered his condolences over Mirzakhani's death.

He said that the death of the young Iranian math genius has caused grief for all Iranians who take pride in their country's prominent scientific figures.

In a tweet, Gary Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator for the Islamic Republic of Iran, also expressed his sorrow over Mirzakhani's death.

"Sad to learn about the passing of #MaryamMirzakhani -- the intelligent #Iranian daughter, wife, mother, professor. May her eternal soul RIP."

## Police fatally shoot knife attacker in Tehran metro

Tehran police said in a statement its forces shot dead a man who attacked a cleric with a knife at a subway station south of the Iranian capital on Saturday, according to IRNA.

Hadi Tamdhari, deputy governor of the Shahr-e Rey district in south Tehran, said the 40-year-old unidentified man attacked the clergyman with a knife after a dispute, and injured another man.

Security forces at the station asked the attacker to hand over his weapon but he refused, forcing them to open fire, injuring him in the leg, IRNA cited the police information center in Tehran as saying. He died from his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Police said four people were injured by the assailant. A spokesman for the metro said traffic at the Shahr-e Rey station returned to normal after the incident.

Police said they are investigating the incident.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY



# France wades into Qatar row, urges end to punitive measures

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Saturday called on Qatar's neighbors to immediately lift measures impacting thousands of people in the Persian Gulf, becoming the latest foreign diplomat to visit the region and attempt to find a resolution to a crisis that has dragged on for more than a month.

In early June, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar and moved to isolate the small, but wealthy Persian Gulf nation, canceling air routes between their capitals and Qatar's and closing their airspace to Qatari flights. Saudi Arabia also sealed Qatar's only land border, impacting a key source of food imports in the mostly desert nation, AP reported.

The four countries also expelled all Qatari nationals, impacting mixed-nationality families in the Persian Gulf, students and people seeking medical treatment abroad, among others. Prior to the dispute, Qataris could travel visa-free between the Persian Gulf countries.

The French foreign minister said such punitive measures should end.

"France is calling for these measures to be lifted, especially ones that affect the (Qatari) population, specifically measures that impact bi-national families that have been separated," Le Drian said.

He was speaking to reporters in Qatar alongside Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who said he welcomed mediation efforts and possible negotiations so long as they are founded on respect for "sovereignty."

The Arab quartet has demanded Qatar to end its support of extremist groups, but also its support of Islamist political dissidents they brand as terrorists, but which many Western allies do not. Other demands include shutting down Qatar's flagship Al Jazeera network, curbing ties with Iran and expelling Turkish troops stationed in Qatar.

Qatar has rejected the demands, saying that the list in its entirety infringes on national sovereignty. Qatar also rejects allegations it has supported terror groups.

Despite the blockade by the four Arab countries, life has not been impacted significantly in Qatar. The government has stepped in to help pay additional costs of shipping and has looked to its allies, like Turkey and Iran, for food imports.

## Emirati caution

With Qatar holding firm to its position, a top Emirati diplomat cautioned that the diplomatic standoff could be prolonged.

"We are heading toward a long estrangement," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Relations Anwar al-Gargash wrote on Twitter.

"The reality is we are far from a political solution that changes Qatar's course. In light of that, nothing will change and we must look to a different mode in relations," he added.

Earlier in the week, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was in the Persian Gulf, meeting separately with officials in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which is trying to mediate the dispute. In Qatar, he secured an agreement to enhance cooperation on combatting terrorism and terror financing.

Saudi commentators criticized the result of Tillerson's visit to Qatar, saying the signed counterterrorism agreement fell far short of the demands made for Qatar to change its policy of supporting terrorists. Tillerson, however, said the discussions had been "helpful" and that the US planned to keep at it.

Qatar's Foreign Minister told reporters in Turkey on Friday that it would be unfair to describe Tillerson's visit to the Persian Gulf as a failure, insisting that the crisis "cannot be solved in a day."

Qatar hosts Al-Udeid Air Base, the largest US military installation in the Middle East and hub for US-led operations against the Daesh terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar are among the world's biggest military spenders, purchasing billions of dollars in equipment from the US and Europe to beef up their militaries. All three are considered allies of many Western nations.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Qatar attended an international meeting on countering Daesh financing on Friday. After the meeting, Qatar said a united front is required.

"We must not be distracted from our campaign to root out Daesh and cut off their flow of funds," said a statement distributed by Qatar's government communication office.



## Merkel: 'Brexit, French poll changed my view on Europe'

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told voters on Saturday that Britain's decision to leave the European Union and France's election of President Emmanuel Macron had changed her view on the bloc, adding it was worth fighting for a stronger Europe.

Merkel's comments, made in a speech in the Baltic Sea resort town of Zingst two months before a federal election, underline her personal determination to deepen European integration if she is re-elected for a fourth term, Reuters reported.

Calling European Union membership one of Germany's biggest strengths, Merkel said last year's Brexit decision and elections in France and the Netherlands, in which pro-European parties defeated populist candidates, had changed her perspective.

The center-right chancellor admitted that the EU was far from perfect and that Brussels sometimes was too

bureaucratic.

"But we have realized in the past few months that Europe is more than just bureaucracy and economic regulation, that Europe and living together in the European Union have something to do with war and peace,



communist East Germany.

"You don't have all this in many parts of the world. And that's why it is worth fighting for this Europe," Merkel said. "That's why one of our election placards is saying: If Europe is stronger, then Germany will be stronger. This is directly related."

## Singapore protest calls for inquiry over PM's alleged abuse of power

Around 400 protesters gathered at Singapore's Speakers' Corner on Saturday calling for an independent inquiry into whether Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong abused his power in a battle with his siblings over what to do with their late father's house.

The heirs of Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's long-serving first prime minister who died in 2015, are bitterly divided over whether to demolish the family home at 38 Oxley Road, or allow the government to decide if it should become a heritage site, Reuters reported.

The public row in a family that stands at the heart of Singapore's establishment raised uncomfortable questions in a city-state that prides itself on being a rock of stability in Southeast Asia.

Displays of dissent are rare, but the issue gave some people at Saturday's rally ammunition to vent frustration over a family that has supplied two of Singapore's three leaders since independence in 1965.

"Singapore belongs to Singaporeans, and not to the FamilyLee", read a large banner on the stage for the protest at Speaker's Corner, a designated venue for people to air their views, located in a park near the city's financial district.

By Singapore's standards, the crowd of around 400 mostly middle-aged people was

unusually large for an anti-government protest. The rally required the authorities' permission to take place, but there was no visible police presence.

The mainstream opposition, which only holds a handful of seats in Parliament, has made little political capital out of a controversy that has riveted Singaporeans since it erupted in mid-June.

But organizers of Saturday's demonstration regarded a parliamentary debate earlier this month as a whitewash, after the prime minister declared that it had found no substantiated evidence to support his siblings' allegations that he had abused his power.

The organizers want Singapore's president to commission an independent inquiry, and some of the later speakers switched focus to an upcoming election for the presidency.

The government has reserved the election for candidates from the country's ethnic Malay minority this time as none have held the post for decades. Critics say the move was designed to sideline anti-establishment candidates from the Chinese majority.

Singaporeans can speak on "any issue," a police spokesperson told Reuters. "As long as the event does not cause racial or religious enmity or pose any law and order risks."

For now, Lee and his siblings have called a



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truce, in a fresh bid to settle the matter privately, though in their last public statement the siblings said they would divulge more evidence of abuse of power to an independent inquiry, if one was ever set up.

The younger brother Lee Hsien Yang, who owns the property, and sister Lee Wei Ling, who still lives there, want the house to be demolished in accordance with their father's wishes, rather than become a shrine to a political dynasty.

## UN ends round of Syria talks with focus on fight against terrorism

Compiled from Dispatches

UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura put emphasis on the international fight against terrorism on Friday as he wrapped up a round of Syria peace talks at which there was "no breakthrough, no breakdown and no one walking out".

Speaking at a news conference after briefing the UN Security Council by video, de Mistura said he felt the UN was expected to say where it stood on the fight against terrorism, which he said was "becoming the main issue being discussed at the highest possible level elsewhere," Reuters reported.

According to AP, the UN envoy said he plans to convene in September an eighth round of indirect peace talks.

De Mistura wrapped up the seventh round of talks, saying he has asked President Assad's envoys "to be ready to address the political process" in the next session in Geneva.

De Mistura also noted progress through international diplomacy, such as a temporary truce in parts of southern Syria that was brokered by Jordan, Russia and the United States.

The envoy also said "I warmly welcome" a call by French President Emmanuel Macron for the creation of a "contact group" that would support a political road map for Syria after its six-year war ends one day.

Referring to the upcoming September round, de Mistura said "we will see whether by that time the international momentum ... may be able to actually push all sides to finally sit in the same room and start talking about substance."

The sides have been meeting separately with de Mistura and his team, but never speaking face-to-face.

Discussion of terrorism has been a constant demand of the Syrian government since the series of talks began early last year, and it was added to the formal agenda earlier this year, along with talks about a new constitution, reformed governance and fresh elections.

The main group, the High Negotiations Committee, wants a focus on political transition, meaning an end to the rule of legally expelled President Bashar al-Assad.

De Mistura said Assad's negotiators had not given any indication that they were willing to discuss transition, Reuters said.

The Syrian government's top envoy to the UN-mediated peace talks in Geneva says his team has not been asked to meet face-to-face with the opposing groups.

Bashar al-Ja'afari spoke to reporters after his final meeting with the UN envoy as this seventh round of indirect talks involving the warring sides since early last year was coming to a close on Friday, the AP report added.

Ja'afari alluded to foreign backers of the main opposition, like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, as well as smaller opposition factions.

He says that the "most important thing is for us (government) to have a national partner, and not a client for foreign agendas."

A day earlier, de Mistura acknowledged that he was not "pushing" for the opposition and government delegations to meet directly until they could engage in "real" talks. Laying out his understanding of the fight against terrorism, de Mistura said it only related to groups identified by the UN Security Council as terrorists, and it must be done in accordance with humanitarian law and human rights law.

Implementation of UN resolutions on arming and financing terrorists and the movement of foreign armed groups had been very slow, he said, and he expected to see increased efforts against UN-listed groups and coordinated action wherever possible.

Such efforts were already being undertaken against Daesh in Raqqa and by the Syrian government and its allies in areas around the cities of Aleppo, Homs and Hama, he said.

The best guarantee against terrorism was a political agreement achieved through a UN-led transitional process.

"Otherwise in three months time, after Raqqa, there will be a new entity coming up and they will be calling themselves differently and we will be back to that."

## PERSPECTIVE

## Iran preparing for another winter without Turkmen gas

By Dalga Khatinoglu\*

Iran is preparing for the second winter after Turkmenistan cut the supply of gas to the Islamic Republic in January 1, 2017.

It is preparing to complete a pipeline to the northeast region, increasing underground gas storage facilities capacity as well as developing new fields in area, Trend News Agency reported.

Mohammad Mambeigi, the head of East Oil and Gas Production Company (EOGPC), a subsidiary of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC), said that the company is preparing to develop Tows field to produce 3-5 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of gas.

The field contains 60 bcm of gas reserves, of which 75-80 percent is recoverable.

However, the field wouldn't add to gross gas production level of EOGPC, which stood at 15.8 bcm during the last fiscal year (ended March 20).

It would compensate and replace the gas fall in the old Mozduran field — a field with 3.5 percent sulphur and 6.5 percent Co<sub>2</sub> content. The demand of northeast region is above 25 bcm of sweet gas.

The other problem of EOGPC is that, according to Mambeigi, the gas reserves of the fields under its operation area contained 647 bcm of which 347 bcm was extracted.

Mozdoran and North Gonbad fields are very close to becoming non-operational, while Khangiran field is in its second half life.

Iran imported about 5.86 bcm gas from Turkmenistan during the last fiscal year — about 53 percent less than the previous year.

EOGPC operates four fields close to border with Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, of which about 95 percent came from Khangiran field.

Iran also decided to conduct exploration operation in Kopet Dag located on the border with Turkmenistan, but no information has been released about the project yet.

Iran has also accelerated the construction of Neka-Damghan pipeline to supply gas to north and northeast, Hamidreza Araqi, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company told Mehr News Agency on June 6.

Iran has completed 110km and would be going 150km further. Araqi said that the pipeline would become operational in one or two months.

It is not clear how much the pipeline would transit gas to the mentioned region because Iran only relies on increasing the gas compressor stations capacity instead of construction new cross-country pipelines, to transit South Pars Gas Field to north regions.

Iran has kept its focus on the South Pars Gas Field and increased its nominal output capacity from 285 mcm/d in 2013 to 515 mcm/d currently.

Iran also continues the development of the field to increase the production capacity to 720 mcm/d by early 2020.

Further, Iran has defined a project for building a cross-country pipeline (IGAT 11) worth \$4.3 billion, but it hasn't started the construction.

The capacity of the pipeline is 110 mcm/year, aimed to transit gas from South Pars to the northeast.

On the other hand, Iran plans to invest \$3 billion to increase the underground gas storage capacity at five plants from the current 3 bcm to about 11.5 bcm by 2018.

All of these storage facilities — Sarajeh, Shourijeh, Yurtesha, Nasrabad and Ghezel Tapeh — are in the north and northeast, according to an official document, prepared by Iran's Oil Ministry.

Iran injected 2.145 bcm of gas to Sarajeh, Shourijeh during the warm months of the last fiscal year, of which 2.071 bcm was re-extracted in winter, according to another document, prepared by National Iranian Gas Company.

The gas storage capacity in the north region is important, because Iran's housing sector's demands three times more gas during winter. Last year, this sector consumed 98.08 bcm of gas, or about 48 percent of Iran's total refined gas production.

According to an agreement, revised in late 2007, Iran should have imported 14 bcm/year of Turkmen gas, after launching the second gas delivery route to Iran in 2010, named the Daulatabad-Sarakhs-Khangiran pipeline, which increased the gas transit capacity from 8 bcm/year to above 14 bcm/year.

However, according to official statistics of Iran's Oil Ministry, Iran has imported only average of 6.88 bcm/year during 2006-16.

Iran has prepared documents to sue Turkmenistan for cutting gas export to Iran, Araqi said on May 8.

However he added that "if Turkmen gas and NIGC reach a common point in gas dispute, the suit won't follow". It refers to continuance of Iran's reliance on Turkmen gas import.

According to him, Iran would sue Turkmenistan for three disputes: Gas price, damage from sudden gas export cut to Iran as well as the quality of gas.

\*Dalga Khatinoglu is an expert on Iran's energy issues at Natural Gas World.

## IDRO plans to develop major oilfield

Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) said it plans to develop the Susangerd oilfield in the country's southwest in partnership with a reputable international company.

IDRO received an Oil Ministry permit to conduct studies on the field in May, its Managing Director Mansour Moazzami told Fars News Agency.

"We have chosen a reputable international partner for this job and after studies, we will have the development and exploration contract," he added.

Moazzami put the investment plateau for the field at \$800 million to \$900 million but did not reveal the name of the company which IDRO is about to partner with.

Susangerd oilfield, which was discovered in 2009, is estimated to hold more than five billion barrels of in-situ oil reserves, according to officials.

IDRO, one of the largest companies in Iran, established before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The company has total assets of more than \$45 billion.

Iran's \$5-billion gas deal with France's Total early this month has added fresh impetus its bid to boost oil and gas output after years of under-investment.

Asian and European companies have been negotiating participation in Iran's oil and gas development projects which require investment to the tune of \$200 billion, according to Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

Officials say the deal with Total has set the ball rolling for the conclusion of more contracts with international companies.



SHANA

Deputy Minister of Oil for International Affairs Amir Hossein Zamani-Nia has cited BP, Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, and Malaysia's Petronas as among the international companies which were in discussions with the country.

Iran is trying to ramp up oil and gas

production after years of US-led sanctions. Zamani-Nia told an energy conference in Istanbul on Wednesday that Iran's oil output would rise to around 4 million barrels per day by the end of the year.

The country has been producing around 3.8 mbd in recent months.

Iran's crude oil customers are mainly in Asia, but the country has also brought exports to Europe close to pre-sanction levels as part of its bid to regain market share. Exports to Europe in May surged to their highest level since the lifting of sanctions in early 2016 to 1.1 mbd.

## Iraq will need Iranian gas for power generation

Iraq will need Iranian natural gas supplies to feed its power-generation plants over the next seven years because domestic gas output will not be enough, said Iraq's minister of electricity.

According to Iraqi News, Qasim Al-Fahdawi said, "New stations are entering into service soon, hence the country needs for gas imports."

Natural gas output from Iraq's southern fields in the Basra Province will not be enough to meet the demand for powering electricity generation, said the minister.

However, Iraq's need for gas imports could lessen in the future, after planned fields for producing non-associated gas come on stream, such as Siba, Mansouriya, and Western Anbar, the Iraqi minister said.

Last month, Iran finally started exporting natural gas to its neighbor Iraq, after a four-year delay due to the challenging security situation in war-torn Iraq.

The exports started at a daily rate of 7 mcm, according



IRNA

to a deputy oil minister who spoke to IRNA, but should reach 35 million cu m at an unspecified point in the future.

The gas will be supplied under two contracts — one for exports to Baghdad power plants, and the other to Basra. Iran already supplies electricity to its energy-hungry neighbor.

Iran signed earlier this month its first Iranian Petroleum Contract (IPC) with a Western major since most sanctions on Iran were lifted.

France's energy major Total SA signed a contract to develop phase 11 of the South Pars Gas Field in Iran — the world's biggest gas field. Phase 11 of the South Pars project will have a production capacity of two billion cubic feet per day or 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day including condensate. The gas produced from the project will supply the Iranian domestic market starting in 2021, Total said on July 3.

## Total agreement shows opportunities in Iran outweigh sanction risks

The contract between Iran and the French giant oil company, TOTAL, shows that the opportunities in Iran outweigh risks of sanctions being restored, said a former British ambassador to the UN.

Lord David Hannay told IRNA, "I think people will take heart from that. 'Total' has decided clearly that the opportunities in Iran outweigh the risks of sanctions being restored, because if they went in there with their investment and the Iran started its nuclear program again then the sanction of course will be restored and Total would lose lots of money."

"So we have to assume that Total has taken the view that this is not going to happen. That's very good if

they have taken that view and I think it could have a knock on effect with other companies; so hopefully there would be more investment in Iran. I think there could be a lot more trade."

"Iran after all is a seriously large market of 80 million people, this is not peanuts and it should be possible to do a lot more trade and investment. I hope that it will happen."

"The banking aspect is very tricky because of the US sanctions; It's not easy to get around that but I think some people would be probably starting to find ways around it. Given that we are no longer imposing sanctions ourselves."



SHANA

## South Korea's June oil imports...

From Page 1

Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is exempt from the oil producer club's commitment to cut production to clear a global glut.

Iran has been pumping around 3.8 mbd in recent months and expects its oil output to rise to about 4 mbd by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, South Korea's imports from Kuwait declined 13.2 percent in June from a year ago to 1.53 million tons — or 374,010 bpd — according to the data.

However, Kuwait regained No.2 position in the first six months of 2017 with almost 11 million tons of crude shipment in the Jan-June period of 2017, or 445,123 bpd

— up 2.9 percent from the same time last year.

In June, oil supplies from Saudi Arabia rose 13.7 percent to 3.48 million tons, or 849,772 bpd, a year ago, the data noted. South Korea's oil imports from the world's top exporter climbed 4.2 percent to 21.71 million tons in the first half of 2017.

Overall, the world's fifth-biggest crude importer brought in 11.61 million tons of oil last month, or 2.84 million bpd — up 3.2 percent from 11.26 million tons a year ago.

In the first six months of 2017, South Korea imported 72.24 million tons of crude, or 2.93 million bpd, up 1.8 percent from nearly 71 million tonnes over the same period last year.

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



The Irish economy contracted in first quarter of this year, but still achieved an increase of 6.1 percent in gross domestic product in real terms on a yearly basis, according to official figures.

# Chinese economy slows in second quarter

China's economy lost momentum in the second quarter, a survey showed, as Beijing's efforts to curb risky lending and investment took a toll on the Asian powerhouse.

The world's second-largest economy expanded by 6.8 percent in the April-June period, compared with a year ago, according to the median forecast of 12 analysts polled by AFP.

That follows a better-than-expected increase of 6.9 percent in the first three months of the year.

The estimate comes ahead of the official release on Monday of China's closely-watched GDP growth data for the second quarter.

Debt-fueled investment in infrastructure and real estate has underpinned China's growth for years but warnings of a potential financial crisis have spurred Beijing to clamp down.

In the latest alert, Fitch Ratings said China's growing debt could trigger "economic and financial shocks" even as it maintained its A-plus rating on the country.

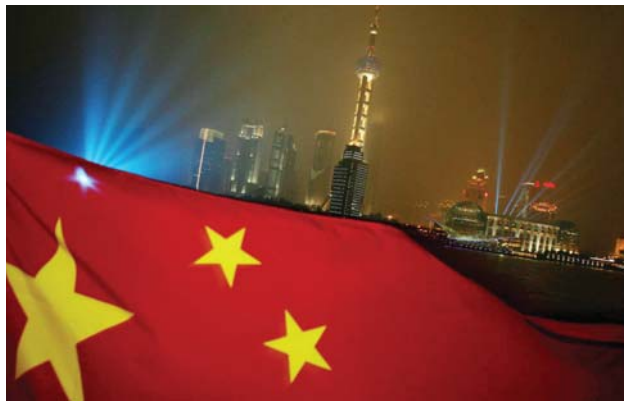
That follows Moody's decision in May to downgrade China for the first time in almost three decades on concerns over its ballooning credit and slowing growth.

Tighter restrictions on property purchases and bank lending will continue to weigh on the economy in the months ahead, said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Group.

"We expect GDP growth to trend down in the second half of 2017 on slowing property sales and tight liquidity," he said.

The economy is likely to face further headwinds as consumption also comes under pressure from slowing economic growth, said Fan Zhang, senior China economist at RHB Bank.

UBS chief China economist Tao Wang said "higher funding costs due to supervisory tightening" will impact fixed-asset investment — which measures spending on



abc.net.au

real estate, roads and bridges.

But a sharp slowdown in the second half is unlikely as policymakers prepare for an important Communist Party congress later this year that will likely make President Xi Jinping the most powerful leader in a generation.

"It is therefore highly probable that authorities will use the resources and policy tools at their disposal to ensure a positive economic outcome," Citibank said.

The government has trimmed its 2017 GDP growth target to around 6.5 percent, after it expanded by 6.7

percent in 2016 — its slowest rate in more than a quarter of a century.

Despite growing concerns about China's financial risks, Premier Li Keqiang said last month that the country could reach this year's economic growth targets.

Last quarter's growth momentum had continued into the current one, he said, noting that traditional economic indicators such as power generation and consumption, and new business orders had increased 'significantly'.

## Bank of Italy sees better-than-expected growth

The Bank of Italy revised its 2017 gross domestic product forecast upwards, from 0.9 percent to 1.4 percent, the central bank said in its third economic bulletin out.

Italy's economy should grow by 1.3 percent in 2018 and by 1.2 percent the following year, according to the bulletin, Xinhua reported.

In January, the Bank of Italy estimated GDP growth of 0.9 percent in 2017 and 1.1 percent in 2018 and 2019.

The central bank cited "an acceleration in economic activity at the beginning of the year, as well as more favorable developments in foreign demand and in the market for energy raw materials" as reasons for its positive outlook.

Italian GDP grew an estimated 0.4 percent in the second quarter, as it did in the first quarter, due to favorable trends in the service and industrial sectors, the



yimg.com

economic bulletin said.

The employment rate is continuing to expand in spite of the end of government

tax incentives to companies that hire on a permanent basis, while credit to families posted 'modest' growth, the Bank of Italy

said.

Uncertainty linked to financial markets and to "the evolution of global economic and trade policies" could drag these growth projections downwards, the economic bulletin added.

The International Monetary Fund in June revised upwards its economic growth forecast for Italy, from 1 percent to 1.3 percent this year.

Also on Friday, the Italian central bank said national debt grew to just over €2.278 trillion (just over \$2.6 trillion) in May 2017, up from about €2.251 trillion in June 2016.

Italy's GDP shrank seven percent and industrial production plunged 25 percent during the economic crisis of 2007-12, according to the Bank of Italy.

The country has been experiencing a weak economic recovery ever since.

## IMF approves second tranche of Egypt loan



images.al-monitor.com

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the second tranche of a \$12-billion loan to Egypt, praising the country's tough economic reforms that have fueled inflation.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the approval of the roughly \$1.25 billion tranche showed "the IMF's strong support for Egypt in these efforts".

The IMF and Egypt had agreed on the loan last November, as the North African country devalued the pound and after it introduced a value-added tax (VAT) in a bid to boost government finances and its foreign reserves, according to AFP.

Egypt has also slashed fuel subsidies, most recently last month. "We believe that these efforts will yield results," Lagarde said in the statement.

But concerns remained about inflation, which hit 32.9 percent in April before declining slightly in May.

David Lipton, the IMF's acting chair, said in a statement: "The authorities' immediate priority is to reduce inflation, which poses a risk to macroeconomic stability and hurts the poor. The Central Bank of Egypt has taken significant steps to reduce inflation by raising policy interest rates and absorbing excess liquidity."

The government in June announced an increase in fuel prices of up to 55 percent, the second since November when it also floated the currency.

Analysts believe the fuel price rises will further increase inflation.

The pound has also continued to trade at a rate that is lower than was expected before the flotation.

## Extreme weather wiping out hard-won GDP gains in hours

With Antigua and Barbuda joining St. Kitts and Nevis as the two eastern Caribbean nations to attain middle-income country status, a senior diplomat has identified climate change as a major factor preventing other nations in the grouping from taking the same step forward.



KENTON X. CHANCE/IPS

According to the World Bank, a middle-income economy is one with a gross national income per capita of between 1,026 and 12,475 dollars in 2016, calculated according to the Atlas method — a formula used by the World Bank to estimate the size of economies in terms of gross national income in US dollars, IPS reported.

Sharlene Shillingford-McKinnon, charg   d'affaires at the Eastern

Caribbean States Embassy to Belgium and Mission to the European Union, said: "What I do want to say is that the other countries, the independent ones in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) like Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, all of them are exposed to climate events annually and

the climate events are devastating for us and you could have situations where 90 percent of our GDP is wiped out in 22 hours, 23 hours, 15 hours, depending on how long a tropical storm sits on you."

She was speaking to Caribbean journalists on a tour of the European Union Headquarters as part of activities to mark the 40th anniversary of the European Union Mission to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79658.9	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68566.3	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	87033.8	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	55115.2	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177497.8	15.3	0.01

## Overall Index details on 20170715

First	79554.8	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79684.0	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79530.5	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79658.9	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

## Industry Index details on 20170715

First	68568.7	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68588.7	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68566.3	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

## Free Float Index details on 20170715

First	86887.4	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	87033.8	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

## Main Board Index details on 20170715

First	54939.5	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	55115.2	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55115.2	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

## Secondary Index details on 20170715

First	177859.4	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177695.7	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177497.8	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2825	Chinese Yuan	0.1476
Euro	1.1465	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3092	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3002
Australian Dollar	0.7835	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0088	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$46.68	Silver	\$15.94
Gold	\$1228.00	Platinum	\$923.0
Copper	\$2.69	Wheat	\$512.75

## UK butterfly numbers facing 'vital' period



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION/BBC

Butterflies in the UK are facing 'a vital' period following a worrying decline in their numbers, naturalist Sir David Attenborough has warned.

The TV broadcaster said some of the UK's most common species have suffered 'significant declines' in recent years, BBC reported.

Many have experienced 'several poor years', he added, due to cold weather and with their habitats under threat.

Warm weather this year has given some species, such as the meadow brown and red admiral 'a good start', he said.

More than three quarters of the UK's butterflies have declined in the last 40 years, with numbers falling quicker in towns and cities, experts said.

Sir David, president of Butterfly Conservation, said that despite a warm summer last year, species like the small tortoiseshell, peacock, meadow brown and gatekeeper had seen numbers fall due to a warm winter and a subsequent cold spring.

## Climate change to have devastating effect in Asia

Climate change would bring devastating consequences to countries in the Pacific and Asia, a new report has warned and said Southern India may witness a decline in rice yields by five percent in 2030s.

Unabated climate change could severely affect the future growth of these countries, reverse current development gains, and degrade quality of life, the report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) claimed, [indiatimes.com](http://indiatimes.com) wrote.

According to the report, Asia has the highest number of people exposed to flooding from possible storm surge events, particularly in the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

It said meanwhile, 130 million people in low-elevation coastal zones in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, are at risk of being displaced by the end of the century in worst-case scenarios.

"While rice yields could potentially increase in the northern states of India, rice yields may decline by five percent in the 2030s, 14.5 percent in the 2050s and 17 percent in the 2080s in the southern states,"



japantimes.co.jp

it said.

The report, titled 'A region at risk: The human dimensions of climate change in Asia and the Pacific', also said different modeling approaches are relatively consistent in terms of projecting a yield reduction in wheat production of eight percent in India.

Flood exposure is apparently increasing in coastal cities due to growing populations and assets and subsidence, it said.

"Studying the 136 largest coastal cities, the authors estimate that the average global flood losses in 2005 were approximately \$6 billion per year and will increase to \$52 billion by 2050.

"Of the top 20 cities with the largest increase of annual losses between 2005 and



jakpost.net



static01.nytimes.com

2050, 13 are located in Asia — Guangzhou (PRC), Mumbai, Kolkata, Shenzhen (PRC), Tianjin (PRC), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), Jakarta (Indonesia), Chennai, Surat (both in India), Zhanjiang (PRC), Bangkok (Thailand), Xiamen (PRC) and Nagoya (Japan)," it said.

The report said recent studies reveal that flood risk is projected to increase significantly in Southeast Asia and India under global warming.

"The global climate crisis is arguably the biggest challenge human civilization faces in the 21st century, with the Asia and Pacific region at the heart of it all," said Bambang Susantono, ADB vice president for knowledge management and sustainable



farm9.staticflickr.com

development.

Professor Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, PIK director said that the Asian countries hold Earth's future in their hands.

Noting that the challenge is twofold, he said Asian greenhouse-gas emissions have to be reduced in a way that the global community can limit planetary warming to well below 2°C, as agreed in Paris 2015 while on the other.

"Yet even adapting to 1.5°C temperature rise is a major task."

"So, on the other hand, Asian countries have to find strategies for ensuring prosperity and security under unavoidable climate change within a healthy global development," he said.

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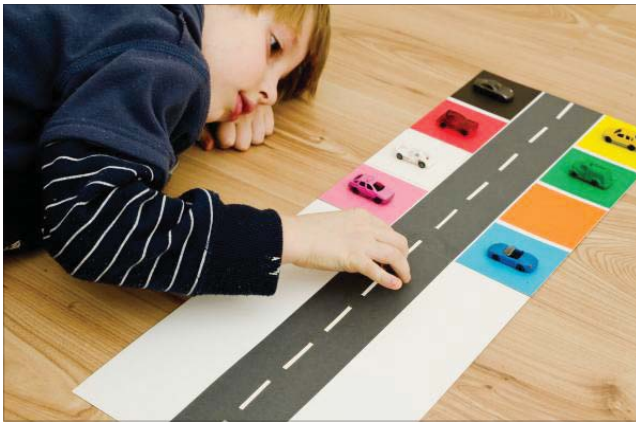
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و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

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جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم

## Maternal obesity in pregnancy

A study by the University of California, Berkeley, suggested maternal obesity in pregnancy is associated with a higher risk of behavior problems in male offspring.

# Oxytocin helps social behavior of autistic kids



UPI

Research from Stanford University School of Medicine found autistic children treated with oxytocin showed improved social behavior.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found children with autism spectrum disorder with low oxytocin levels benefit from treatment with oxytocin, UPI reported.

Karen Parker, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford, said, "Our results suggest that some children with autism will benefit from oxytocin treatment more than others

and that blood oxytocin levels might be a biological sign that will allow us to predict if a child will respond maximally or not."

The study consisted of 32 children with autism randomly assigned to receive an intranasal spray of oxytocin or a placebo spray, twice a day for four weeks.

Results showed children who received the oxytocin who had the lowest levels of the brain hormone at the beginning of the trial had the greatest improvements in social behavior.

A larger trial of the effects of oxytocin is currently underway at several sites throughout the U.S.

Dr. Antonio Hardan, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford, said, "If our findings are replicated in the large NIH-funded trial, then I might consider doing baseline oxytocin measurements as part of my clinical practice to try to determine if specific patients will respond."

"Hopefully, this is a first step to identifying the characteristics of people with autism who respond to specific treatments."

"Because of the heterogeneity of the disorder, we need to start doing clinical trials not to see if there will be a response, but more to see who will respond to possible treatments."

## Teeth-grinding in teens a sign of being bullied

Teeth-grinding in teenagers could be a sign they are being bullied at school, research suggested.

An oral health charity said parents and schools should be aware of the problem, which can also affect adults who are stressed and anxious, according to bbc.com.

Teeth-grinding can lead to headaches, worn-down teeth and disrupted sleep, and it appears to be on the rise.

The sound of grinding has been compared to the noise from a circular saw.

A study published in the Journal of Oral Rehabilitation found that 13 to 15-year-olds who experienced verbal bullying at school were nearly four times as likely to suffer from teeth-grinding at night, or sleep bruxism, than other teenagers.



bbc.com

That equated to 65 percent among the bullied students, compared to 17 percent among the others.

The research looked at the experiences of more than 300 adolescents in Brazil.

Dr. Nigel Carter, from the Oral Health Foundation, said bruxism was also something to look out for in the UK.

"Grinding teeth may not sound like a priority within the wider picture, but it could prove to give a vital insight into a child's state of mind and could be an important sign for us to identify bullying at an earlier stage."

He said sleep bruxism could be particularly damaging — but people were often unaware they were doing it.

Carter said, "The first people know of it is usually when they wake up their sleeping partner."

The grinding together of the upper and lower teeth can lead to serious dental problems, such as sensitive and worn teeth, chipped or cracked teeth, the loss of teeth as well as pain in the face and jaw.

Carter added, "Teeth-grinding is around 40 times more powerful than chewing."

"I've seen a man who had worn his teeth right down to the gums." In most cases, grinders end up with flat areas on their teeth and frayed edges as the teeth start to become very thin.

And a tell-tale sign is a constant headache or sore jaw when waking up.

### Calm down

But the good news is that there are potential treatments.

Dentists can fit you with a dental appliance called a guard or splint, made of hard plastic, which specially fits your teeth and stops them grinding together.

The aim is to try and make the teeth sit comfortably together. When using the appliance, chewing is smooth and the teeth are protected.

Lifestyle changes, such as giving up smoking, cutting back and managing stress, are also advised to help improve the problem.

## CT scans might help gauge heart attack risk

A new CT scan analysis may allow doctors to identify blood vessel inflammation before heart problems actually crop up, researchers reported.

Detecting inflammation before it hardens into irreversible plaque could potentially help cardiologists prevent heart attacks, UPI wrote.

Lead researcher Dr. Charalambos Antoniades said, "Currently, CT only tells you whether there are narrowings in the arteries of the heart, but there is no imaging to tell you which one of these narrowings is prone to rupture, a process that would lead to heart attacks."

"The vulnerable narrowings, or plaques, are the highly inflamed ones."

"Detecting inflammation would allow detection of vulnerable patients prone to have heart attacks."

Antoniades and his colleagues developed the diagnostic tool for use with routine computerized tomography (CT) scans.

The measurement — called the CT fat attenuation index (FAI) — is based on changes in the size of fat cells.

Antoniades said, "The new method relies on our discovery that the fat surrounding our heart arteries senses inflammation in the neighboring artery, which results in changes in the fat."

"Half of heart attacks happen following rupture of minor plaques in heart vessels that are highly inflamed but not significantly narrowed."

"No currently available test identifies this problem."

"Now we can detect these people, and if we treat them with aggressive prevention therapies, such as statins, we will be able to prevent heart attacks."

Results of his team's study were published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

About 750,000 Americans have a heart attack every year and heart disease causes one in every four deaths in the US, according to a journal news release.

Dr. Byron Lee is director of the electrophysiology laboratories at the University of California, San Francisco.



suncityer.com

versity of California, San Francisco.

He said, "Contrary to popular belief, it's typically not the tight lesions in our coronary arteries that lead to the severe and deadly heart attacks."

"Rather, it's the unstable lesions, which previously could only be identified with an invasive or expensive test."

"This study shows that unstable plaque can be identified with a simple CT scan."

"We might now be able to prevent even more heart attacks by intensifying therapy when these unstable lesions are found."

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, a spokesman for the American Heart Association, said, "But before the technology can move to clinical practice, the test's value must be proven in further studies."

"Additional studies will be required to evaluate the validity, reproducibility, and any potential clinical utility of this index."

"CT scans are already commonly ordered for patients with chest pain. So using them for patients at risk for heart attacks would add only a minimal cost to their treatment."

His team tested the index in samples from more than 450 patients undergoing cardiac surgery.

In addition, 40 patients underwent a more expensive positron emission tomography (PET) scan.

Antoniades said, "These scans showed that an increased attenuation index was tied to a striking amount of blood vessel inflammation."

Working with 270 additional patients with and without significant coronary plaques, the researchers said the index changed dramatically around damaged vessels in five heart attack survivors.

Antoniades explained that this index is different from tests that measure calcium buildup in blood vessels.

The coronary calcification score only detects hardened arteries when damage has become irreversible.

He said, "It doesn't change with treatment and it can't distinguish which blood vessel plaques are most likely to rupture."

"Calcium measures can be combined with the index, providing additional information and possibly better risk stratification."

Antoniades said he expects an ongoing trial of 2,000 people who have had coronary CT scans will confirm the ability of the method to predict who will die from a heart attack.

## Scientists develop experimental vaccines protecting unborn from Zika virus

Two experimental vaccines being developed with the help of Brazilian scientists have been shown to protect the fetus of mice from being infected by the Zika virus.

Scientists from Brazil's Evandro Chagas Institute, in the northern state of Para, have participated in the research, whose results were published by the specialized magazine 'Cell', news.xinhuanet.com wrote.

Since late 2015, Brazil has been grappling with a Zika epidemic, now waning, that was linked to birth defects in infants born to mothers bitten by



nbcnews.com

the carrier mosquito during pregnancy.

Cases of microcephaly, or babies born with abnormally small heads, rose significantly in Brazil following the spread of the mosquito-borne virus.

The vaccine research also involves scientific teams from the University of Washington, the University of Texas and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The vaccines appear to effectively block the transmission of the Zika virus to the fetus, the magazine said.

## Less stress might mean lower blood sugar for overweight women

An eight-week mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) program not only reduces stress, but could also lower blood sugar, researchers said.

According to Reuters, lead author Dr. Nazia Raja-Khan from Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania, said, "Our study suggested that MBSR could be a useful tool for preventing or treating diabetes in patients with overweight or obesity."

MBSR, an intensive instructor-led training program, incorporates meditation, body awareness and other anxiety-reducing techniques.

It was originally developed decades ago at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester to help patients manage pain and stress while being treated for cancer and other serious illnesses, but the course is now offered in a wide variety of settings nationwide.

MBSR training has been shown to reduce stress and therefore might reduce the risk of heart disease in overweight or obese individuals, though this has yet to be proven, Raja-Khan's team wrote in the journal Obesity.

The researchers assigned 86 women to eight weeks of either MBSR training or a health education program focusing on diet and exercise.

They told both groups that the main focus of the study was stress reduction.

After eight weeks and again after 16 weeks, they compared changes in stress levels, mood, quality-of-life, sleep quality, blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and other measures.

Not surprisingly, after eight weeks, the MBSR group had a greater improvement in mindfulness and a greater decrease in feelings of stress, compared with the health education group.

Perceived stress remained lower in the MBSR group after 16 weeks.

Women in the MBSR group also had lower blood sugar — by about nine milligrams per deciliter of blood — after eight and 16 weeks compared to before the training, while women in the health education group had no change in blood sugar.

After MBSR or health education, both groups had less overall psychological stress, less anxiety and better sleep, but neither group had lost weight, lowered their inflammation or cholesterol levels or improved their responses to insulin, the hormone that controls blood sugar.

Raja-Khan said, "Further studies are needed to determine more long-term benefits of MBSR in overweight/obesity and to confirm the role of MBSR in diabetes prevention and treatment."

Indian astronomers have surveyed a giant galactic supercluster located four million light-years from Earth.

## Iran lands third at Int'l Chemistry Olympiad



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

High school students of Iran won four medals to finish third at the 2017 International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) in Thailand.

The event, which had attracted 297 students from 76 countries, saw the Iranian squad collecting one silver and three gold medals, Mehr News Agency wrote.

Teams from Taiwan and the US took the top two positions followed by Iran which ranked third overall.

Iran's sweeping success at the 49th International Chemistry Olympiad (ICHO) in Nakhon Pathom of

Thailand was scored by Amirhossein Behnoud, Parsa Pirouz, Amirabbas Kazemini who garnered gold trophies as well as Soroush Baniani who bagged a silver medal.

The team received the four medals in the ICHO closing and award presentation ceremony on Friday in Nakhon Pathom, a central province of Thailand.

The annual Chemistry Olympiad is an international chemistry competition for teams of four young people from around the world. Thailand hosted the 2017 Olympiad which was the 49th edition of the event.

In total, 297 students from 76 countries participated in the week-long competition. The ICHO committee awarded 36 gold medals, 65 silver medals and 95 bronze medals.

The competition consisted of a five-hour theoretical exam plus a five-hour practical laboratory exam.

In the practical exam, students were asked to complete an organic synthesis, deduce pH using spectroscopy methods, and do titrations of saturated salt solutions to figure out the concentration of ions in an unknown solution.

## Flourine lends white graphene new qualities

With just a bit of fluorine, white graphene becomes a wide-bandgap semiconductor with magnetic properties.

The new material could be used in electronics designed to perform under extreme conditions, UPI reported.

White graphene is a two-dimensional atomic sheet of hexagonal boron nitride.

Its hexagonal structure is similar to that of regular graphene, but the atomic layer is made up of boron nitride — a combination of boron and nitrogen atoms — instead of carbon.

Although graphene is more chemically and electrically stable than graphene, allowing it to function under more extreme circumstances, like in space.

But the material is typically employed as an insulator, not a semiconductor.

Pulickel Ajayan, a material scientist at Rice University, said, "Boron nitride is a stable insulator and commercially very useful as a protective coating, even in cosmetics, because it absorbs ultraviolet light."

"There has been a lot of effort to try to modify its electronic structure, but we didn't think it could become both a semiconductor and a magnetic material."

By adding a small amount of fluorine, scientists at Rice were able to decrease white graphene's bandgap enough to turn the material into a semiconductor.

Bandgap describes the amount of energy required to generate an electric current.

Rice postdoctoral researcher Chandra Sekhar Tiwary said, "We saw that the gap decreases at about five percent fluorination."

"Controlling the precise fluorination is something we need to work on."

"We can get ranges but we don't have perfect control yet. Because the material is atomically thin, one atom less or more changes quite a bit."

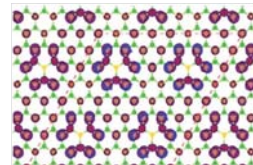
Scientists hope further tests will enable them to fine tune the fluorination.

Surprisingly, researchers also found the addition of fluorine altered the spin of electrons in the material's nitrogen atoms, lending white graphene magnetic properties.

Rice graduate student Sruthi Radhakrishnan said, "We see angle-oriented spins, which are very unconventional for 2D materials."

Researchers described the new material in the journal Science Advances.

Scientists in England recently used white graphene to create a tiny, low-energy sensor.



An illustration shows the unique atomic structure of fluorinated white graphene.

UPI

## Nickel key to Earth's magnetic field

New research suggested nickel is essential to the Earth's magnetic field. Earth's magnetic field is generated by what's called the 'dynamo effect', a unique combination of a geophysical factors, UPI wrote.

Of these factors, the convection currents of Earth's conductive, molten core and Earth's constant rotation are the most important.

Earth's core is made primarily of melted iron, but new research suggested iron alone can't account for the power of the dynamo effect.

Nickel, which makes up 20 percent of Earth's core, is essential. The extreme temperatures and pressures found deep inside Earth account for the core's unique characteristics.

Karsten Held, a physicist at Technische Universität (TU) Wien in Austria, said, "Under these extreme conditions, materials behave in a way which may be quite different from what we are used to."

"It is hardly possible to recreate these conditions in a lab, but with sophisticated computer simulations, we are able to calculate the behavior of metals in the Earth's core on a quantum mechanical level."

Convection currents, created by the forces of escaping thermal energy, combine with the Coriolis forces generated by the rotation of the Earth to form unique cycles of extremely hot material.

Researcher Alessandro Toschi said, "When electrical currents are created in such a system of flows, they can cause a magnetic field which in turn increases the electrical current and so forth — and finally the magnetic field becomes so strong that we can measure it on the surface of the Earth."

Until now, scientists weren't sure why convection currents are generated. Iron is very conductive and the metal's atoms should be able to carry electric flows and dissipate heat without forming currents.

But nickel is much less conductive, and its atoms scatter under high pressure.

Toschi said, "As a consequence, the thermal conductivity of nickel and, thus, the thermal conductivity of the Earth's core is much lower than it would be in a core consisting only of iron."

The addition of nickel means heat cannot escape toward Earth's surface via electron alone, and thus, convection currents are generated.

The improved understanding of Earth's core was made possible with large-scale computer simulations.

Held added, "We did not only have a look at iron and nickel, but also at alloys of these two materials."

"We also had to take imperfections and irregularities into account, which made the computer simulations even more challenging."

The models, detailed in the journal Nature Communications, offered scientists a new understanding of electronic scattering within different materials.

Toschi said, "Soon, these improvements of computational material algorithms will also lead to exciting forefront applications in chemistry, biology, industry and technology."

Autonomous robots can inspect nuclear power plants, clean up oil spills in the ocean, accompany fighter planes into combat and explore the surface of Mars. Yet for all their talents, robots still can't make a cup of tea, according to phys.org.

That's because tasks such as turning the stove on, fetching the kettle and finding the milk and sugar require perceptual abilities that, for most machines, are still a fantasy.

Among them is the ability to make sense of 3D objects. While it's relatively straightforward for robots to 'see' objects with cameras and other sensors, interpreting what they see, from a single glimpse, is more difficult.

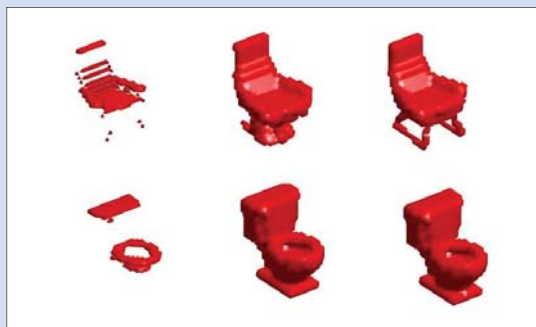
Duke University graduate student Ben Burchfiel said that the most sophisticated robots in the world can't yet do what most children do automatically, but he and his colleagues may be closer to a solution.

Burchfiel and his thesis advisor George Konidaris, now an assistant professor of computer science at Brown University, have developed new technology that enables machines to make sense of 3D objects in a richer and more human-like way.

A robot that clears dishes off a table, for example, must be able to adapt to an enormous variety of bowls, platters and plates in different sizes and shapes, left in disarray on a cluttered surface.

Humans can glance at a new object and intuitively know what it is, whether it is right side up, upside down or sideways, in full view or partially obscured by other objects.

Even when an object is partially hidden, we mentally fill in the parts we can't see.



When fed 3D models of household items in bird's-eye view (L), a new algorithm is able to guess what the objects are, and what their overall 3D shapes should be. This image shows the guess in the center and the actual 3D model on the right.

phys.org

## Helping robots learn to see in 3D

Their robot perception algorithm can simultaneously guess what a new object is and how it's oriented, without examining it from multiple angles first. It can also 'imagine' any parts that are out of view.

A robot with this technology wouldn't need to see every side of a teapot, for example, to know that it probably has a handle, a lid and a spout, and whether it is sitting upright or off-kilter on the stove.

The researchers said their approach, which they presented July 12 at the 2017 Robotics: Science and Systems Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is three times faster than the best current methods.

Burchfiel said, "This is an important step toward robots that function alongside humans in homes and other real-world settings, which are less orderly and predictable than the highly controlled environment of the lab or the factory floor."

"With their framework, the robot is given a limited number of training examples, and uses them to generalize to new objects."

The researchers trained their algorithm on a dataset of roughly 4,000 complete 3D scans of common household objects: An assortment of bathtubs, beds, chairs, desks, dressers, monitors, nightstands, sofas, tables and toilets.

Each 3D scan was converted into tens of thousands of little cubes, or voxels, stacked on top of each other like LEGO blocks to make them easier to process.

The algorithm learned

categories of objects by combining through examples of each one and figuring out how they vary and how they stay the same, using a version of a technique called probabilistic principal component analysis.

When a robot spots something new — said, a bunk bed — it doesn't have to sift through its entire mental catalogue for a match. It learns, from prior examples, what characteristics beds tend to have.

Based on that prior knowledge, it has the power to generalize like a person would — to understand that two objects may be different, yet share properties that make them both a particular type of furniture.

To test the approach, the researchers fed the algorithm 908 new 3D examples of the same 10 kinds of household items, viewed from the top.

From this single vantage point, the algorithm correctly guessed what most objects were, and what their overall 3D shapes should be, including the concealed parts, about 75 percent of the time — compared with just over 50 percent for the state-of-the-art alternative.

It was also capable of recognizing objects that were rotated in various ways, which the best competing approaches can't do.

Burchfiel said, "While the system is reasonably fast — the whole process takes about a second — it is still a far cry from human vision."

For one, both their algorithm and previous methods were easily fooled by objects that, from certain perspectives, look similar in shape.

They might see a table from above, and mistake it for a dresser.

Burchfiel added, "Overall, we make a mistake a little less than 25 percent of the time, and the best alternative makes a mistake almost half the time, so it is a big improvement."

"But it still isn't ready to move into your house. You don't want it putting a pillow in the dishwasher."

Now the team is working on scaling up their approach to enable robots to distinguish between thousands of types of objects at a time.

Burchfiel said, "Researchers have been teaching robots to recognize 3D objects for a while now."

What's new, he explained, is the ability to both recognize something and fill in the blind spots in its field of vision, to reconstruct the parts it can't see.

"That has the potential to be invaluable in a lot of robotic applications."

# 40m Iranians brought under SSO insurance coverage



selakleb.com

## Society Desk

About 40 million people benefit from the insurance and medical services provided by Iran's Social Security Organization (SSO), said deputy head of SSOI for technical and revenues affairs.

Mohammad Hassan Zoda said SSO is not a state-run organization, therefore any decision it takes can be implemented swiftly.

He put the SSO's budget in the year to mid-March 2017 at \$27.66 billion, which is equal to one-third of the total state budget during the period.

Pointing to the naming of the year to mid-March 2018 as the 'Year of Economic Resistance, Production and Employment', he said that SSO is determined not only to support active workers but also generate new job opportunities nationwide during the year.

Zoda added that SSO is to make Social Security Investment Company the engine of the national economy, hoping that the objective will be materialized.

The official added SSO will hold ground-breaking or inaugural ceremonies for 62 treatment and insurance projects during Social Security Week (July 10-16).

"About \$3.06 million of the government's debts to SSO have so far been settled."

Zoda said for the first time, the SSO's insurance services have been extended to Iranian expats whose family members reside in Iran.

"The SSO, which intensely supported the implementation of Health Overhaul Plan, unveiled 60 new drugs and provided insurance coverage for infertility and rheumatism drugs during the past four years."

## Fewer US hospitals can care for children



akamaized.net

over the 10 years, the study found.

The findings could be interpreted to mean that children now get better medical care in more specialized sites. But many of the children moved from one hospital to another were treated for conditions as common as broken limbs, or asthma.

Mohr said the consolidation of hospital care is a well-known factor for both adults and children these days.

"At the same time we have hospitals in some parts of the country closing, tertiary care centers are bursting at the seams," he said.

"It's striking that both of these things are happening at the same time."

"If quality of care is no better, then we're looking at an unsupported practice that's increasing cost and waste. The big glaring question is whether regionalized care is better," he said.

The new study can't answer the question.

A previous study showed that almost a quarter of American children were transferred from one hospital to another for minor conditions and then discharged directly home, while another 17 percent were released in less than 24 hours.

McManus is conducting additional research to explore the myriad of possible reasons for consolidation of pediatric hospital care.

In the meantime, he said, his study's findings illustrate "how pediatric systems of care are very different from adult systems and need to be considered separately in public health and health policy discussions".

a transfer fell by 11 percent, the study found.

Dr. Nicholas Mohr, a professor at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City, said doctors have seen the trend in hospitals throughout the US. But the number of children transferred between Massachusetts hospitals surprised him.

"Fewer children are being cared for in community hospitals," he said in a phone interview. "The big question is whether that's good or bad."

Mohr, who was not involved in the study added, "We don't know what the

outcome differences are. That's the million-dollar question."

Altogether, the researchers analyzed more than 34 million emergency department as well as inpatient and observation admissions, using data from every acute-care hospital in Massachusetts for 10 years.

Transfer from a hospital generally indicates that it lacked the capability to treat the patient, the authors wrote.

Although pediatric emergency department visits decreased nearly three percent and admissions fell 15 percent, pediatric transfers increased 36 percent

In Massachusetts, a child who winds up in an emergency room — whether for a routine or a serious problem — is likely to be transferred to a second hospital for care, a "potentially concerning" trend that's being reported by physicians throughout the United States, researchers said.

At the root, they maintain, is the disappearance of pediatric community hospital care, Reuters reported.

The number of children transferred from one hospital to another increased by more than 36 percent in Massachusetts from 2004 to 2014, and only about 20 percent of the state's 66 hospitals completed care for more than half of their pediatric patients without transferring them, the research team reports in JAMA Pediatrics.

Senior author Dr. Michael McManus, a pediatrician and professor at Harvard Medical School in Boston, said: "Pediatric hospital care is less available than it used to be, mostly because community hospitals are increasingly transferring children to larger centers."

"Transfer can greatly improve care for some conditions," he said in an email, "but can delay and potentially worsen care for others."

The research showed consolidation of care into regional centers for both adults and children over the decade studied. But the move to regional care for children far outpaced that for adults.

The likelihood of a hospital completing a child's care without a transfer dropped by 65 percent from 2004 to 2014, while the likelihood of a hospital completing an adult's care without

## Who learns foreign language better?

Extravert Chinese students learning English as a second language are likely to perform better in speaking and reading, but less proficient in listening than their introvert counterparts, according to a study published in *Persitika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (JSSH)*.

In Chinese culture, students are expected to listen to their teachers attentively, as opposed to Western culture where class participation is encouraged. The Chinese culture is influenced by Confucian values, including collectivism, socialization for achievement and high acceptance of power and authority. Some studies have suggested that such introversion hinders Chinese students' ability to learn English as a second language, reported phys.org.

However, it is unclear if a relationship exists between extraversion-introversion traits and English language proficiency for nonnative speakers.

In an ongoing debate, psychologists argue introverts are less susceptible to distraction and have better long-term memory, while linguists claim the extraverts' 'social and outgoing attitudes, as well as their high tolerance to risk, help with learning a foreign language.

Study of this topic that involves Chinese students based in Asia is lacking, explained Assistant Professor



chinasnaprogram.net

Shahclia Zarfar at the University of Central Punjab, India.

Zarfar and colleagues examined whether Chinese students are introverted by nature, whether extravert-introvert tendencies affected English language proficiency among Chinese students in India, and how these traits influenced language learning.

The researchers analyzed the data from 145 Chinese exchange students aged between 18 and 21 at VIT University, Vellore, India.

The data comprised of English language test scores

and two types of questionnaires — one asked about personality and linguistic information, and the other only about their personality.

They found the majority of the students were introverts (47 percent), followed by extroverts (35 percent), and "no tendency towards the extroversion-introversion traits" (18 percent).

The team confirmed a significant relationship between the two personality traits and English language proficiency, with higher scores in speaking, reading and overall language proficiency for extravert students. There was little difference in writing between the two groups.

However, surprisingly, the researchers found introvert students were better listeners than extravert students, contradicting some claims that academic excellence relies solely on the extravert tendency. They speculate that this might indicate introverts' ability to focus more effectively on listening than extraverts.

The researchers suggest that instructors should adjust their teaching strategies depending on different personality traits among students learning English as a second language.

Further studies should involve a bigger sample group, and investigate why introvert students perform better than their peers in some conditions.

## Scholars examine ecological underpinnings of rural poverty

Deep in landlocked Africa, a miracle is unfolding. Less than a generation after a genocidal civil war left it in ruins, Rwanda is defying poverty traps that ensnare many other natural resource-dependent developing countries.

The 'land of a thousand hills' today has one of the continent's strongest economies and healthiest populations. This success story is borne out by a newly developed method for modeling rural poverty that could inform interventions to improve economies, health and ecosystems, phys.org wrote.

Cofounder Matthew Bonds, a visiting assistant professor of medicine at Stanford, said: "The livelihoods of the rural poor are literally consumed by other organisms in complex ecological systems."

"The environment's influence on poor rural economies makes them fundamentally different from the economies of more developed countries."

Of the one billion people living below the international poverty line, most live in rural communities where the natural resources around them present a double-edged sword.

Ecological systems provide subsistence, but also spread high rates of infectious diseases through pathogens carried by agricultural pests, rodents, parasites and other vectors.

Cofounder Giulio De Leo, a professor of biology at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station, said: "These natural enemies compete with the rural poor for resources."

"They consume biological capital in the form of human health or crops, livestock, forests, wildlife, soils and fisheries, thus eroding people's livelihood and well-being."

The picture is further complicated by the need to balance nutrition and healthcare with investments in land, livestock and crops.

This complex web of interactions leads to grim statistics: More than 75 percent of rural poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia die from infectious diseases. It also leads to a poverty trap — the inability to earn enough to save and invest in future earnings. If a farmer or their livestock become unhealthy, income suffers.

The study, published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, takes a significant step toward understanding persistent poverty and finding solutions for long-term sustainable development.

It presents a first-of-its-kind general theoretical framework for modeling subsistence and health of the rural poor by analyzing ecological, economic and epidemiological factors.

For lead author Calistus Ngonhala, a mathematician at the University of Florida, the work hits close to home.

"Growing up in rural Cameroon, my family and friends had subsistence lifestyles and my community suffered from a continuous burden of deadly diseases such as malaria and HIV," Ngonhala said.

The study's models show that disease transmission and recovery rates are the most consistently important determinants of long-term health and wealth dynamics.

The framework also highlights feedbacks, processes and parameters that are important to measure in future studies of rural poverty. They could help identify effective pathways to sustainable development and better predict countries' resilience to economic, health and environmental shocks.

## Second-born kids more likely to be delinquent

First-borns have a new study to lord over their siblings. A study found that second-born children, especially boys, are more likely to get in trouble.



essentialkids.com.au

An MIT economist studied how birth order affects whether a child, particularly a boy, exhibits 'delinquency behavior', compared to first-borns in the same family. Joseph Doyle and his colleagues defined delinquency in terms of "disciplinary actions and truancy at school, juvenile delinquency, and adult crime and imprisonment".

According to abc7chicago.com, the researchers looked at sets of data involving tens of thousands of brothers in two different settings: Denmark and Florida.

"In families with two or more children, second-born boys are on the order of 20 to 40 percent more likely to be disciplined in school and enter the criminal justice system compared to first-born boys even when we compare siblings," the study read.

Doyle told NPR this may be caused by a number of factors, including the second child's need to compete for attention, and the presence of such a young role model in the second-born child's life.

"The first-born has role models, who are adults. And the second, later-born children have role models who are slightly irrational two-year-olds, you know, their older siblings," he said.

The study mainly focused on differences in second-born boys and their siblings, and found a less significant difference among girls and their siblings.

A separate study earlier this year found that the extra attention first-born siblings receive could lead to a higher IQ.

## Italian musician performs the 'world's highest piano concert

An Italian musician and mountaineer performed what she is calling the world's highest piano concert after scaling a 14,000ft peak in the Alps.

Elisa Tomellini made her way up the Monte Rosa, which straddles Italy and Switzerland, while her grand piano was carried to the top by a helicopter, [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) wrote.

With temperatures plunging as low as -15°C and with a bitter wind sweeping across the summit, she was reunited with her instrument and started tickling the ivories in thick gloves.

Tomellini said she wanted to combine her two passions — climbing and piano playing — so decided to embark on her mission.

Talking to The Local, she



[dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk)

the beauty of the world.

"I also wanted to bring music and the mountain into people's hearts, and to help people in doing so."

She decided to donate proceeds from the concert to charity — a Nepalese children's home. The scale of the mission made

her feel small, Tomellini said, and added: "Every so often it's important to realize the proportion of things."

"I was cold and scared of not being able to finish; I'm still very emotional and happy to have arrived on my own feet and to have played with my hands."

## Three of the four lions that escaped South Africa's Kruger Park shot dead

Three male lions that escaped from South Africa's Kruger National Park have been shot dead after a farmer found them eating his cattle, officials said.

The farmer shot one dead and wounded another, which had escaped from the National Park over the weekend, [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) reported.

Parks authorities armed with rifles then used a helicopter to track down the injured animal and the third lion.

South African national parks spokeswoman Janine Rafteropoulos said: "We had to obviously kill the wounded lion because it becomes very dangerous."

"With the last one remaining, because he had come into contact with the farmer's livestock, we assessed the situation and the decision was taken to put (him) down."



FILE PHOTOS



Kruger Park, which borders Zimbabwe and Mozambique, is home to about 1,500 lions, and nearly the size of Belgium.

Animals sometimes slip past the barrier fences, especially during the dry winter season.

Two months ago, five other lions escaped from the park. Four were recaptured in neighboring farms and one is still on the loose.

Officials said animals usually escaped through dry river beds or holes along the fence.

She said that if the lion had been returned to the park, it would have tried to escape again and would be a threat to humans and livestock.

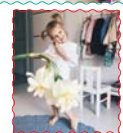
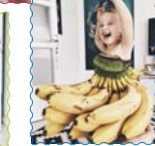
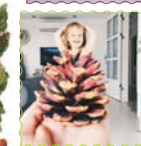
Four lions were first reported to have escaped.

## Daughter dresses using food, flowers

The daughter does edible antics has made a fashion Instagram sensation, with over 28,000 followers already anticipating each new outfit she sports.



[geekeve.com](http://geekeve.com)



## The oak and the reeds

A very large oak was uprooted by the wind and thrown across a stream. It fell among some reeds, which it thus addressed: "I wonder how you, who are so light and weak, are not entirely crushed by these strong winds."

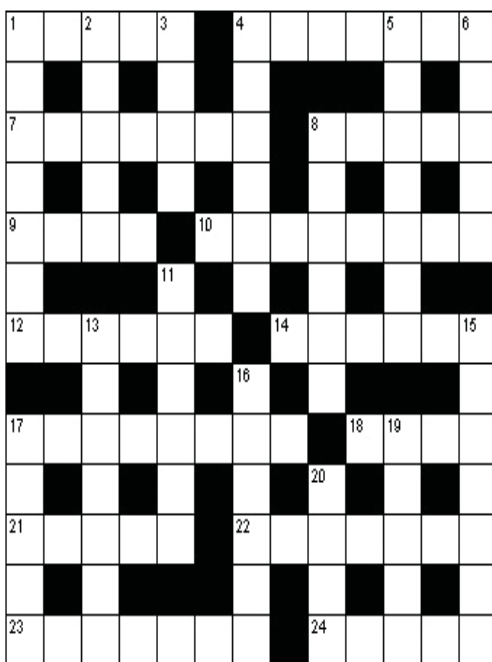
They replied, "You fight and

contend with the wind, and consequently you are destroyed; while we on the contrary bend before the least breeze of air, and therefore remain unbroken, and escape."

**Stoop to conquer.**



## True or False Crossword



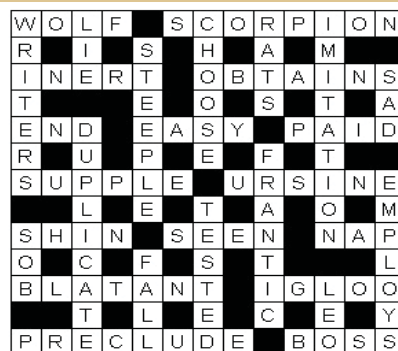
### DOWN

1. Considerate / Inconsiderate (7)
2. Of the Sun / Of the Moon (5)
3. Type of metal / Type of wood (4)
4. Present / Not present (6)
5. Easy to catch / Difficult to catch (7)
6. Coarse fabric / Smooth fabric (5)
8. Abundance / Shortage (6)
11. Opening move / Closing move (6)
13. Trickle / Downpour (7)
15. Cold-blooded creatures / Warm-blooded creatures (7)
16. Fortright / Mealy-mouthed (6)
17. Near / Far (5)
19. Forbid entry / Allow entry (5)
20. Happy / Gloomy (4)

### ACROSS

1. Bulbous plant / Weed (5)
4. Male performer / Female performer (7)
7. Cats / Dogs (7)
8. Certainty / Uncertainty (5)
9. Flame / Ice (4)
10. Incursion / Retreat (8)
12. Harmless / Deadly (6)
14. Watercourse / Racecourse (6)
17. Relating to the brain / Relating to the foot (8)
18. Tranquil / Tempestuous (4)
21. Open / Secret (5)
22. Easy choice / Difficult choice (7)
23. Went in / Went out (7)
24. Hoofed mammals / Nocturnal insects (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.

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

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

# Iran's Hardani claims world para athletics silver



Iran's Javad Hardani collected a silver medal at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in London, England, winning the first medal of the prestigious track and field meet for the Islamic Republic delegation.

On Friday evening, Hardani competed in the men's shot put F38 category at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, and finished second with the best throw of 14.13m, pressstv.com reported.

Australian athlete Cameron Crombie exhibited an inspiring display at the sporting event, and made the best effort of 15.95m to snatch gold, and smash the previous record mark by 37 centimeters.

The bronze went to Victor Svaneshon from Sweden with the best attempt of 13.63m.

The 2017 World Para Athletics Championships started in London on July 14, and will continue until July 23.

It is the 8th edition of the event, which was formerly known as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics World Championship prior to 2017, and features 213 medal events.

## Barcelona signs Nelson Semedo for €30m

Benfica right-back Nelson Semedo completed his €30 million move to Barcelona following a successful medical on Friday.

The 23-year-old became a priority target for Barcelona this month after it became clear that the Spanish side couldn't get Arsenal's Hector Bellerin, goal.com reported.

Barcelona announced on Thursday that it had reached a deal for Semedo after Barca's transfer chief flew to Lisbon to negotiate the Portuguese club's officials down from their steep €50 million valuation.

It is understood the Catalunya club will pay €30 million up front with €5 million bonuses across a five-year contract.

Semedo is new coach Ernesto Valverde's third signing of the transfer window, following the return of Gerard Deulofeu and arrival of young center-back Marlon.

President Josep Maria Bartomeu stated this week that the club hopes to complete "two or three" deals before the window closes next month.

Last season's La Liga runner up has also been linked with Brazilian midfielder Paulinho.

Barcelona faces the first match of the new season on June 22 when Blaugrana plays Juventus in the International Champions Cup, a preseason tournament taking place across the globe.



Semedo is Barcelona's third signing of the transfer window, following the return of Gerard Deulofeu and arrival of young center-back Marlon.

## Federer to play in 11th Wimbledon final

Roger Federer is one win from a historic eighth Wimbledon title after beating Czech 11th seed Tomas Berdych in straight sets in the semifinal.

The Swiss, 35, won 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 to reach his 11th Wimbledon final, having last won the title in 2012, BBC reported.

He will face Croatia's Marin Cilic in today's men's final after the seventh seed beat American 24th seed Sam Querrey 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 7-6 (7-3), 7-5.

Cilic, 28, is into his second major final after winning the 2014 US Open.

"It's unbelievable," said Cilic, the second Croat to reach the men's final after Goran Ivanisevic won in 2001.

"I've been playing really great tennis."

Federer has already added to his lengthy list of achievements by reaching a record 29th Grand Slam final, becoming the second-oldest man to do so after the 39-year-old Ken Rosewall reached the 1974 Wimbledon final.

Having waited five years to win his 18th major title at this year's Australian Open, Federer could make it 19 only six months later.

"I feel very privileged to be in another final," he said.

"I've got the pleasure to play on Centre Court another time. I can't believe it's almost true again. I'm happy to have a day off to reflect on what I've done at the tournament."

Federer had won his past seven matches against Berdych, and 18 of 24 in all, but the Czech made him work for number 19.

There were just three breaks of serve over two hours and 18 minutes, two for Federer, who hit 53 winners to Berdych's 31 in a high-quality contest. Federer saved a match point on his way to beat-

ing Cilic in last year's quarterfinals, and said, "Last time we had a brutal match - I was two sets down. I had to get lucky to win."

"Marin is a great guy. He's a lovely guy, in his first Wimbledon final."

"He crushed me at the US Open a few years ago. I hope he doesn't play that good."

### Cilic return gives him the edge

Querrey, 29, had played three successive five-set matches to reach his first Grand Slam semifinal, and almost forced a fourth before Cilic finally saw off the American's challenge.

Both men had more than 100 aces to their name heading into the semifinals, and it was the Croat who had more success in breaking down the big serve.

Cilic won more than twice as many points on return and earned 14 break points to Querrey's three, but the American saved 10 and was two service holds from taking it to a fifth set.

The match was over two hours old before two loose shots from Querrey - a backhand error followed by a forehand into the net - separated the pair in the third set tiebreak.

The pair's previous meeting at Wimbledon in 2012 lasted over five hours and finished 17-15 to Cilic in the fifth set, and when a wayward Cilic smash helped Querrey move ahead in the fourth, another final set seemed inevitable.

"Sam was playing high-level tennis, especially in the first set," said Cilic.

"I was 4-1 up in the tiebreak and didn't convert. After that I was better in the return games. The level was really high."

## Mourinho open to re-signing Zlatan

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said it is "possible" that out-of-contract striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic could sign a new deal.

The former Sweden international, 35, was released in June after not being offered a new contract, BBC reported.

He has been recovering from knee surgery at United's training ground.

Mourinho said, "If the decision is to stay and wait until December - he can't be back until then - why not wait? We are speaking and changing ideas."

Ibrahimovic signed a one-year deal in July 2016, but an extension was not triggered after he suffered a season-

### 'We need a number nine'

Instead, United paid Everton £75 million for Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku with manager Mourinho saying his side need a "target man".

"We are not speaking about a multi-functional player. He is a striker," said Mourinho, who confirmed his only involvement in the deal came when it was close to completion.

"He is not a player who participates a lot in the buildup. We need a target man, which is not Martial or Rashford."

"We have good players but we need a number nine. We thought Romelu would be a good option for us."



Zlatan Ibrahimovic is still recuperating after the injury he picked up in the Europa League and in the meantime his Manchester United contract has elapsed.

ending knee ligament injury in April. He scored 28 times in 46 games in all competitions for United.

Mourinho also said he wants to sign "one or two" more players this summer.

United has spent a combined £106 million on Benfica defender Victor Lindhof and Everton striker Romelu Lukaku during the transfer window, and has been linked with three midfielders - Chelsea's Nemanja Matic, Ivan Perisic from Inter Milan and Tottenham's Eric Dier.

Mourinho said, "I can't say any word about a Chelsea player." However, he added that United "don't have our door closed".

"We need more," he said. "We want four - 50 percent of the job is done. We need two more players, at least one. Everything is so difficult."

Mourinho confirmed that United tried to sign 24-year-old Spain striker Alvaro Morata last month but could not agree a fee with Real Madrid.

### 'Zlatan didn't want to hide behind the injury'

Ibrahimovic's agent Mino Raiola said the striker will stay in Europe.

But both Los Angeles-based Major League Soccer clubs - LA Galaxy and Los Angeles FC - are interested in signing him if he decides to end his career elsewhere.

Ibrahimovic said he will make a "big announcement" about his future soon. Mourinho added, "We wanted to let him make a decision - space and time to think and decide."

"He didn't want to hide behind an amazing injury. That would be easy."

"He was not happy in the way he finished the season. He made the challenge for himself to want to keep playing at highest level."

"We opened the door for him to recover with our people and be one of us. It is [executive vice chairman] Mr. Woodward and Zlatan's agent who will deal with it."



Roger Federer celebrates his semifinal triumph over Tomas Berdych on July 14, 2017 en route to a record eighth Wimbledon title.

## William Hazlitt:

A gentle word, a kind look, a good-natured smile can work wonders and accomplish miracles.

## Cultural MoU: An important diplomatic tool for protecting heritage

As the world's largest art market, the US is the premier destination for the legitimate trade in art and antiquities — but also for its darker counterpart — the illicit trade.

Since the Arab Spring triggered organized looting and trafficking throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco and others have voiced their frustration over the unregulated sale of their heritage in the US and the difficulty in halting this illicit trade, huffingtonpost.com reported.

Fortunately, the US State Department has now taken a proactive approach to educating countries about what steps they can take to better ensure that looted antiquities do not enter the United States.

The best tool in their diplomatic arsenal is the cultural memorandum of understanding (MoU). The United States has the authority to enter such agreements imposing import restrictions on designated archaeological and ethnological material coming into the country through the 1983 Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, which is based on the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. These MoUs have benefits for all parties.

Despite their heritage being under siege since 2011, only one MENA country has signed a cultural heritage agreement with the United States — the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The government of Libya has submitted a request for the US government to restrict imports of their patrimony. The Cultural Property Advisory Committee — which counsels the State Department on matters of heritage — will hear arguments on July 19-20 regarding whether the Libyans' request holds merit.

These agreements are an effective tool in limiting the illegal trade while promoting cultural exchanges. And given the crisis that Libya is facing, we urge the Committee to make an expeditious decision.

The recent case against arts and crafts chain Hobby Lobby for the illegal import of over 5,000 ancient artifacts from Iraq is just one high profile example of why these agreements are needed.

While technically not a MoU, after the looting of the Baghdad Museum in 2003, Congress passed legislation for Iraq to provide protections similar to those a cultural agreement would grant. Could it be because of these import restrictions that Hobby Lobby falsified their shipping documents to indicate that the country of origin was Turkey — with whom we do not have an agreement? For a company with significant experience in importing products for its craft business, it seems like more than a 'rookie mistake'.

The intent of these agreements is not to halt the legitimate trade. As long as the importer or the purchaser has a viable export license from the country of origin, or proof that an artifact left it before the import restrictions were implemented, and then declares the import on shipping documents appropriately, the artifact may be brought into the country legally.

But with violent extremist organizations increasingly using conflict antiquities to fund terrorism, the US government should be aggressively enforcing its existing rules and regulations to ensure that our market is not a source of financing for these deadly acts.

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## Payne's 'Downsizing' to open Venice Film Festival

Alexander Payne's 'Downsizing' was tapped to be the opening-night film at the upcoming Venice Film Festival. Sources have confirmed the news about the pic — social satire that stars Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Kristen Wiig, Jason Sudeikis, Alec Baldwin and Neil Patrick Harris.



This year's Venice fest, runs from August 30 to September 9 and is part of the key fall festival circuit that includes Telluride and Toronto. 'Downsizing' will bow in US theaters on December 22, deadline.com wrote.

Paramount made 'Downsizing' the focus of its recent presentation for international exhibitors at CineEurope in Barcelona, showing about 20 minutes of the film. Damon and Wiig star in a story about people choosing to shrink down to five inches tall in search of a better life.

Paramount picked up 'Downsizing' from Fox in fall 2015 and then slated it to open wide theatrically during the Christmas four-day holiday — a key awards slot. It has had major aspirations for the pic that reteams the studio with Payne, who made Nebraska there.

This will be Payne's first trip to Venice, which has become a major launchpad for movie award season. 'La La Land' last year, 'Birdman' and 'Gravity' are among previous major Oscar players to have opened at the Italian fest. Oscar Best Picture winner Spotlight also world premiered there though it was not an opening-night film.

## 'Immortality' to make 10th global appearance in US

### Art & Culture Desk

Iranian movie 'Immortality', directed by Mehdi Fard-Qaderi, will be screened in the competition section of the Third Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in the US which is scheduled to run from August 24 to 27.

The flick will experience its 10th appearance at the international level, IRNA reported.

'Immortality' recently won the best film award at the Ischia International Film Festival in Italy.

The 145-minute plan sequence is Fard-Qaderi's first feature film that depicts events on a train during a rainy night. It chronicles six families on different cars of the train, gradually unfolding their stories.

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is all about the work of first and second time filmmakers. It's our single minded focus. The event takes place in scenic Middlebury, Vermont in late August each year.

MNFF2 was a huge success with filmmakers and audiences alike. More than 45 filmmakers from around the world joined us in Middlebury for the Festival and nearly 3,000 people attended the films, special events, panels and parties.



## DiCaprio, Scorsese teaming up again for new movie

Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio are developing a film adaptation of true-crime thriller 'Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI' as the director's next project after 'The Irishman'.

Scorsese's longtime production designer, Dante Ferretti, told Variety that Scorsese hoped to start shooting 'Flower Moon' in the spring of next year. The project is based on the bestselling book by David Grann, a staff writer for the New Yorker and author of 'The Lost City of Z'.

Rights to 'Flower Moon' were snapped up by Imperative last year for a reported \$5 million, and a script has reportedly been drafted by veteran Oscar-winning scribe Eric Roth ('Forrest Gump', 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button').

Ferretti, who has worked with Scorsese on nine movies from 'The Age of Innocence' through 'Silence', said he was going to 'go to Oklahoma' to do preliminary location scouting for 'Flower Moon'.

The story, set in the 1920s, focuses

on a string of murders of members of the Osage nation in Oklahoma after oil was discovered beneath their land. The chilling series of slayings was one of the fledgling FBI's first major homicide investigations.



Scorsese and DiCaprio have been eying the project for months, and are developing it together with Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas, co-founders of Imperative Entertainment.

John Atwood, Imperative's chief financial officer, said in an e-mail that 'we are currently conducting

preliminary research on the film, but there are no formal attachments nor confirmed start date at this time."

Ferretti said that "the whole 1920s world of the Indians who lived there needs to be reconstructed" for 'Flower Moon', adding that he expects to start preparing this film in September, because Scorsese will shoot it immediately after finishing 'The Irishman'.

Scorsese is currently getting ready for an early September shoot on 'The Irishman', a gangster movie centered on the life of mob hit-man Frank 'The Irishman' Sheeran, played by Robert De Niro. Several sources have confirmed that 'The Irishman' will be financed by Netflix, though the deal has yet to be officially announced.

There is no word whether Netflix would give 'The Irishman' a wide theatrical release, but "I don't think Martin would accept the fact that one of his movies would just be seen on a small screen and not in movie theaters," said Ferretti, who is not working on the film.



RAMONA MIRIAN/honaronline.ir

Mahnaz Bahram-Nia is holding a painting exhibition titled 'Eternal Village' at Tehran's Negar Gallery.

### Weather

31 23	36 18	39 32	33 23	39 24	36 <sup>^</sup> v26	33 21	43 28	23 12	35 19	31 24
Bandar Anzali	Isfahan	Kish Island	Sari	Yazd	Tehran	Kabul	Mecca	Stockholm	Tashkent	Tripoli