

TASNIM

Iran not after forming coalitions against others in region

Iran said on Sunday that it is not bound to set up coalitions against other countries but rather pursues a policy that would contribute to regional peace.

In an interview with Tasnim news agency, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi touched on the worrisome conflicts in the region, saying they originate from big mistakes made by world powers decades ago, among them an unconditional US support for Israel.

Asked whether Iran was open to the idea of forming a coalition with Iraq, Syria and Turkey to counter threats and solve crises in the region, Qassemi said what the Islamic Republic wants is to maintain peace and security.

"At the current juncture, the Islamic Republic, beside preserving its independence and creating necessary foundations for boosting and upgrading its position, has a positive outlook that would help security, peace and stability in the region," he said.

"We want peace and stability for all; therefore, there is no need to build such a coalition against others," Qassemi added.

For instance, "if our relations with

Turkey or Azerbaijan are good, they won't be against any other country," the spokesman said.

"There are differences of views and misunderstanding, but in a coalition, we have to decide whom we are for or against because we can't have dual behavior."

Iran, Egypt likely to step up ties

Qassemi touched on Iran's relations with other countries, including Egypt with which it has had no full diplomatic ties since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Bilateral cooperation between the two countries, he said, is at the level of interests sections, but they have exchanges of views and their foreign ministers have been in contact whenever necessary.

"It is possible to increase relations; we have special respect for the Egyptian people and its civilization," Qassemi said.

The official said there are "complexities" in bilateral ties between Tehran and Cairo which they have not been able yet to solve in "a desirable fashion," calling on Egypt to have "a more realistic look" at Iran.

"With prudence, Egypt can return to its past days and retake its superior place in the Islamic world," Qassemi said, adding "Egypt is different from many newly-born states in the region."

The official was apparently referring to Saudi Arabia's allies in the ongoing crisis with Qatar which is under a virtual blockade with the participation of Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain.

"Egypt is one of the most important countries in the region and the Islamic world which can play a more outstanding role in the Arab and Islamic world but unfortunately it has lost this standing to a great degree."

No communication channel with Trump

Asked about contacts with the administration of US President Donald Trump, Qassemi said Iran had discussions with Washington within the framework of the 2015 nuclear agreement and the Joint Commission monitoring the implementation of the deal.

"There is no communication channel between us and Mr. Trump's administration at this time," he said.

President Rouhani's brother detained



president.ir

Political Desk

Iran's judiciary said on Sunday that the younger brother of President Hassan Rouhani, Hossein Fereydoon, has been detained on financial crime charges.

"Yesterday, bail was issued for him but because he failed to secure it he was referred to prison," Deputy Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejeie said in a televised press conference in Tehran.

Ejeie, who is also the judiciary spokesman, added that Fereydoon would be "released once he provides the bail."

The spokesman did not give any details about the charges and the sum of the bail.

The arrest comes in the wake of President Rouhani's landslide victory in May presidential election in which he routed his conservative rivals.

Rouhani's supporters argue that the conservatives try to mount pressure on him by imprisoning his brother and take other measures against his policies.

"Multiple investigations have been conducted regarding this individual, also other people have been investigated, some of whom are in jail," Ejeie said.

Fereydoon has acted as a top aide and advisor to Rouhani, who changed his surname from Fereydoon years ago. He was also Rouhani's representative in Iran's negotiating team at marathon talks that resulted in a landmark nuclear agreement with world powers in 2015.

Conservatives have demanded Fereydoon be put on trial, accusing him of receiving zero-interest loans and influencing the appointment of a bank director who was dismissed for taking an enormous salary.

Continued on Page 2

Israel reopens Al-Aqsa Mosque

Israel reopened the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Beit-ul-Moqaddas Sunday closed after a gunfight that killed two Israeli policemen and three Palestinians, but Muslim worshippers refused to enter due to new security measures including metal detectors and cameras.

Crowds chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) as a number of initial visitors entered the Haram al-Sharif compound, AFP reported.

The flashpoint holy site includes the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

A call to prayer rang out from Al-Aqsa, but Muslim worshippers held midday prayers outside the site in protest at the new security measures.

Dozens of worshippers gathered to pray at an entrance to the compound next to the Lions' Gate entry to the Old City.

"We reject the changes imposed by the Israeli authorities," Sheikh Omar Kiswani, the Al-Aqsa director, told reporters outside.

"We will not enter through these metal detectors."

Some women waited and cried while telling people not to enter.

Three Palestinians engaged in a gun battle with Israeli police Friday in Beit-ul-Moqaddas' Old City before entering the compound, where they were shot dead by security forces.

Israeli authorities said the Palestinians had come from the flashpoint holy site to carry out an attack.

Israel took the highly unusual decision of closing the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound for Friday prayers, triggering anger from Muslims and Jordan, the holy site's custodian.

The site remained closed on Saturday, while parts of Beit-ul-Moqaddas' Old City were also under lockdown.

Israeli authorities said the closure was necessary to carry out security checks and announced they would reopen the compound Sunday.

Police said Sunday that so far two gates leading to the holy site had been opened, equipped with metal detectors, adding that more than 200 people had entered.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone with Jordan's King Abdullah II on Saturday night, a statement from Amman said.

Abdullah called on Netanyahu to reopen the Al-Aqsa compound and stressed the need to "avoid any escalation at the site."

Proposals to change security measures at the compound have sparked controversy in the past.

Turkey marks coup defeat with rallies, Erdogan warning to 'traitors'

Turkey marked one year since the defeat of the failed coup bid with mass nationwide rallies seeking to showcase national unity and a stern warning by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to "chop off the heads" of traitors.

The authorities declared July 15 an annual national holiday of "democracy and unity", billing the foiling of the putsch as a historic victory of Turkish democracy, AFP reported on Sunday.

In an intense program aiming to hammer home the anniversary's importance, Erdogan attended a special session of parliament in Ankara, spoke to a mass rally in Istanbul and then flew back to the capital for a rally outside parliament and a special event at the presidential palace in the early hours of the morning.

Speaking to hundreds of thousands by the bridge across the Bosphorus in Istanbul that was a fighting flashpoint, Erdogan warned Turkey could reintroduce capital punishment.

"First of all we will chop off the heads of those traitors," Erdogan said, reaffirming he would sign any passed by parliament bill on resuming executions.

Any move to restore capital punishment – which Turkey abolished in 2004 – would effectively end Ankara's European Union membership ambitions.

Erdogan also said the suspects being tried over the failed coup should wear uniform clothing like the notorious orange jumpsuits used at US military prison at Guantanamo Bay.

"When they appear in court, let's make them appear in uniform

suits like in Guantanamo," Erdogan said to cheers.

Supporters chanted "we are soldiers of Tayyip (Erdogan)", with some even brandishing nooses in a symbol of their support for the death penalty.

In the later speech to thousands outside parliament in Ankara which was bombed by warplanes that night, Erdogan declared "our nation showed the whole world what a nation we are on July 15."

The crowds later made their way to the palace where dozens had camped outside for the final official event during which Erdogan inaugurated a monument to the victims which has people hold up the crescent and star symbols of the Turkish flag.

Two hundred and forty nine people, not including the plotters, were killed when a disgruntled faction of the army sent tanks into the streets and war planes into the sky in a bid to overthrow Erdogan after one-and-a-half decades in power.

But they were thwarted within hours as the authorities re-

grouped and people poured into the streets in support of Erdogan, who blamed followers of his ally-turned-nemesis, the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen.

"Did my citizens have weapons? They had their flags like today but they had a more efficient weapon: their faith," Erdogan said in Istanbul.

In the wake of the failed coup bid, authorities embarked on the biggest purge in Turkey's history, arresting 50,000 people and sacking almost three times as many. Erdogan also shored up his position by winning a referendum on enhancing his powers earlier this year.

In the latest dismissals, another 7,563 police, soldiers and other state employees were fired late Friday under the state of emergency that has been in place since July 20 last year.

Erdogan said a decision would be made on Monday over whether to recommend extending the emergency by another three months.



AP

Terrorists kill two Iranian workers at Iran-Pakistan border

Terrorists based in Pakistan fired projectiles at Iran's border region of Saravan, killing two local workers, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement.

"On Saturday afternoon, a terrorist team associated with the global arrogance and foreign intelligence services fired at the Islamic Republic of Iran's borders in the Saravan region with indirect fire arms and light weaponry, martyring two native workers," an IRGC statement said.

"The members of the IRGC Ground Force at the Quds base reacted to the terrorist move, killing one of the terrorists and wounding two others," it added, Press TV reported.

The statement said other members of the terrorist group fled deeper into the Pakistani territory after facing retaliation from IRGC troops.

On Wednesday, IRGC Ground Force commander Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour said his forces would target terrorists anywhere they choose.

"We will target counter-revolutionary forces, outlaws and terror-



ists who are being trained and are planning and plotting to destabilize our border regions anywhere in the world," he said.

Tehran has frequently complained to Islamabad about foreign-backed terrorists who use the

Pakistani territory to launch attacks in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

In April, 11 Iranian border guards were killed and three others injured in clashes near the border town of Mirjaveh. The Pakistan-based Jaish

ul-Adl terror group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tehran reacted by saying that it reserved the right to respond to the attack as it chose and warning that its patience was wearing thin with Pakistan's lack of cooperation.

EDITORIAL

JCPOA, resounding triumph or Pyrrhic victory?

Two years ago on July 14, Iran's top diplomatic delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, reached an agreement with the representatives of the P5+1 after hours of face-to-face talks which led to the signing of a nuclear deal.

Known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the deal became a subject of considerable controversy in Iran once it was signed between Tehran and the six world powers. It was perceived by some as a resounding diplomatic triumph, promising a bright future for the country and its people, while others deemed it a Pyrrhic victory that could lead to dire consequences for the nation.

The proponents of the JCPOA maintained that the historic diplomatic breakthrough marked a turning point in the country's foreign relations which were strained in, at least, the past 11 years, as shown by pragmatic outcomes, and adduced a number of reasons for their claim – to be discussed in the following paragraphs. Some of the criticisms levelled by the opposing voices against the Rouhani administration and the nuclear negotiating team are: First, the deal led to acquiescing to open Iran's absolute right to having peaceful nuclear technology to debate. Secondly, the deal was unjust and made too many concessions. Thirdly, the negotiators trusted the US and overlooked the behavior displayed by Washington in similar situations and cases in the past. Let's put favoritism aside and take an unbiased look at pros and cons of the JCPOA two years and a few days after its conclusion.

Pros: Change in international community's attitude

Willy-nilly, the conclusion of the JCPOA has changed the world's outlook towards Iran. The international community has now believed that Tehran is willing to resolve its international issues and problems through dialogue. The international community has come to the conclusion that it is possible to settle an issue with the Middle Eastern country through negotiations.

Iran's consent to the terms and conditions stipulated in the JCPOA has shown the world that the country has not been and is not after nuclear weapon, nor is it seeking to stubbornly pursue any goal which endanger international peace and security.

As a result, except for the US and Israel, there is a palpable change in the tone of world leaders when addressing Iran. They do not see the country as a threat to the regional and international peace and stability. Foreign companies' increased interest to have a greater presence in Iran's 80-million strong market is another indication of the international community's changed attitude towards Tehran.

This, perhaps, is the greatest achievement of the implementation of the JCPOA for Iran as it entails other advantages for the country and its partners as well.

Removal of sanctions

Western sanctions against Iran intensified in 2012. They restricted, and, thus, harmed Iran's foreign trade and severed the country's banking ties with other states.

A few days ago, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, an Iranian lawmaker, said the nuclear accord has resulted in the removal of some 919 sorts of sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Prior to the intensification of the sanctions, Iran produced and exported close to 4 million barrels and 2.3 million barrels of oil per day, respectively, which plummeted to about less than 2.5 mbd and one mbd following the move by the West. For an economy heavily reliant on oil revenues, the drop was terrible. After the JCPOA came into effect in January 2016, the sanctions on Iran's oil sector were removed, which was followed by an increase in the country's oil production and exports. Currently, Iran's oil output and overseas sales stand at 3.8 mbd and two mbd. The country's oil production and exports are currently equal to their pre-sanction levels.

The embargoes had also prevented Iran from importing pharmaceuticals, aircraft and aircraft spare parts. In the pre-JCPOA era, finding certain drugs was a herculean task. It had adverse impacts on the health condition of many Iranian patients. Following the implementation of the JCPOA, the sanctions banning drugs exports to Iran were lifted and the situation improved. It is pertinent to mention that the sanctions had some positive impacts, including the ardent efforts to produce the needed commodities at home. Travelling by plane had become a perilous adventure for Iranians in the pre-JCPOA era, as the country's planes lacked spare parts and were dilapidated and old.

The conclusion of deals with Airbus and Boeing for the purchase of about 200 passenger planes, some of which have been delivered to Iran, is another impressive achievement Iran has made.

Moreover, the lifting of the sanctions has enabled Iran to resume its shipping activities in international waters, insure its cargo vessels, recommence cooperation with medium-sized international banks and sign a large number of contracts with leading international companies such as French oil giant Total and car makers Peugeot, Renault, Volkswagen.

Unfreezing of assets

Following the imposition of the sanctions, many foreign banks froze Iranian assets. With the inkling of the deal, however, a major part of the money was reimbursed to Iran in instalments. This process is still going on.

Exchange of visits

The JCPOA has also prepared the ground for the increased exchange of official visits between top Iranian officials and those of the developed countries. Since the clinching of the deal, President Rouhani has exchanged visits and held talks with the leaders of many European countries. Such visits have also been exchanged between other top officials.

Cons

During his stump speeches, Trump called the JCPOA a "bad deal" and after coming into power as the US president, he has made considerable efforts to rescind it – in addition to his other anti-Iran conspiracies in the region. Although Iran has fulfilled all its JCPOA commitments and put limits on its nuclear program in return for the removal of all the embargoes, Falahatpisheh said some 245 other sanctions are still in place. This comes as over the past few months, the Trump administration has passed new sanctions against Iran. The US and the UK have also failed to live up to their promises under the deal, violating its terms and conditions every now and then.

What to call it?

As is the case with any other event or affair in life, no absolute verdict can be given on whether the nuclear deal was fully in favor of the country or has completely worked to its detriment. The deal is a combination of cons and pros. While the US is not honoring its pledges on the deal, other signatories have voiced their supports for and commitment to the JCPOA. A few days ago (July 11), the European Union's foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini said that the nuclear deal with Iran is an international agreement endorsed by the United Nations, adding it "doesn't belong to one country, it belongs to the international community".

Also on Saturday (July 15), the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres stressed the importance of "sustained commitment" of all parties to the obligations under the nuclear agreement.

The US is only one country with one vote to cast on the JCPOA. There are six other signatories to the deal that are all willing to carry on with its implementation.

They say better the devil you know than the devil you don't know. In case Iran had not entered into talks on its nuclear program and had not agreed with the leaders of the P5+1, it neither could have learned about their opinions nor adopted effective strategies for the future of its nuclear program. Fighting an enemy in the darkness or with closed eyes is quite difficult.

Iran will always have the option and freedom of will to bring back the level of its nuclear activities to what it was in the pre-JCPOA era. Thus, in case the Establishment realizes that the JCPOA is violated by the United States or any other signatory, it will not hesitate to make other decisions about it although Iranian officials have repeatedly said Tehran is willing to continue with the deal.

Nevertheless, a prudent and sensible way to decide about the effectiveness of things is to see whether their advantages outweigh their disadvantages. Moreover, it is always possible to turn challenges and problems into opportunities in case of remaining cautious and creative.

Iran mourns death of eminent mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani

Iranian media have hailed trail-blazing Iran-born mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani following her death from cancer, with her image blazoned across newspaper front pages on Sunday.

Mirzakhani, the first woman to win the coveted Fields Medal, died aged 40 on Saturday in a US hospital after the breast cancer she had been battling for four years spread to her bone marrow, AFP reported.

Mirzakhani was born and studied in Iran before leaving to pursue her career in the United States.

She won the Fields Medal – the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for mathematics – in 2014.

There was an outpouring of grief from Iranians over her passing.

"Her work and her scientific achievements are clearly beyond

my understanding but from the little knowledge I have, I can see

portrait of Mirzakhani following her Fields Medal win.



how immense her intelligence and works are," said Nima Zaare, a Tehran-based artist who drew a

"Normally I don't do portraits, but I was greatly honored to draw such a genius. I was truly devas-

tated when I heard the news of her death yesterday," he added.

Messages of grief also poured in on social media, including from senior officials.

President Hassan Rouhani was among the first to react following news of her death, posting a recent picture of Mirzakhani on Instagram.

Writing in Shargh, reformist Azar Mansouri urged Rouhani to pick female ministers to his new cabinet which will be formed in the coming weeks, following his reelection in May.

"Appreciating the likes of Mirzakhani" is only possible by "establishing equal opportunities for them," she wrote.

Rouhani currently has three female deputies but no woman ministers.

Zarif: Use of WMDs against Iran's ideology

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) including nuclear weapons is against Islamic Republic of Iran's ideology. Speaking to Faraed Zakaria "One On One" talk show on CNN, Zarif referred to the use of chemical weapons by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein against Iranian nation during the eight-year imposed war (1980-88) and said Iran is a victim of use of chemical weapons, IRNA reported.

The peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program has been confirmed several times by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Zarif said. Friday marked the second anniversary of Iran's nuclear agreement, one of the major multilateral diplomatic achievements in recent years.

Being the fruit of a series of difficult and lengthy negotiations between Iran and world's major powers, the nuclear agreement was finally signed on July 14, 2015 in Vienna.

President Rouhani's..

From Page 1

He was previously accused of having links with the officials at the center of a scandal involving inflated salaries for managers at the state insurance firm. He has always denied any wrongdoing.

A couple of weeks ago Fereydon lodged a complaint to a board supervising the conduct of lawmakers against an MP, who had accused him of having a role in some economic and banking issues.

After hearing the MP's arguments, the board was not convinced and asked the legislator to be accountable to the judicial officials.



OPINION

G20 and US failed to isolate Iran

By Afsaneh Reshad *

The G20 summit was held in Hamburg, Germany on July 7-8. The summit brought together leaders from 19 countries and the European Union. The largest world economies, the most populous countries and major international institutions took part in the summit. They discussed economic, financial and the most important issues of the world under intentional tensions, economic and political differences as well as terror threats.

The G20 took place amid protests in Hamburg over the policies adopted by major states in different fields, including climate change as well as economic and trade policies. Climate change, the Syria and North Korea crises, free trade, the UN's sustainable development plans, the migrant crisis and terrorist attacks were among main issues discussed in the summit.

The G20 leaders and protesters in the streets of Hamburg criticized the unconventional attitudes of US President Donald Trump over topics such as climate change. Such differences led to the defeat of the G20 summit and the isolation of the United States.

The Hamburg summit indicated that analysis about the collapse of the American-style globalization is true.

In fact, emerging powers as well as the infrastructural and ideological flaws in the US establishment resulted in the collapse of the new world order doctrines led by the US.

Presently, the US is not a hegemonic power. It is unable to maintain itself as a super-power among emerging global powers. Such views are held not only by Washington's rivals but also by American politicians, authors and pundits inside and outside the US.

The majority of thinkers believe that the new world order led by the US is suffering a setback, adding that such a move is not tactical because signs of the collapse of US hegemony has been tangible since 2008. Alfred William McCoy believes at a midpoint on the spectrum of possible futures, a new global oligopoly might emerge between 2020 and 2040, with rising powers China, Russia, India, and Brazil collaborating with receding powers like Britain, Germany, Japan, and the United States to enforce an ad hoc global domination. McCoy says a neo-Westphalian world order might also be established which would create regional hegemonies to dominate their own regions.

For instance, Brazil would establish a hegemony in South America, the US in North America, China in south Asia, Russia in the Caucasus and South Africa in Africa.

In such an ambience, the US will lose its control and new world societies will be formed.

Key points from the final statement of the G20

Widening gap between the US and Europe

The G20 ended a few days ago while highlighting the differences between the US, Germany and other European powers rather than their joint stances.

The differences were so large that Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel was worried that the G20 countries would leave the summit without any clear achievements. She was also concerned that these differences would undermine her status ahead of Germany's federal election in September.

Ample evidence indicates that a big gap has emerged between the US and other G20 members which could undermine relations between them.

Public protests in Hamburg

Huge protests against the G20 summit indicated that not only are many countries not satisfied with the world economic and political order, but a large number of people are disgruntled about the unfair order in Western societies.

The Hamburg demonstrators included opponents of globalization, Washington's critics, labor unions as well as opponents of free trade between Europe, Canada and the US. Despite police attempts to limit protests, thousands of people entered Hamburg to stage rallies. Likewise, organizations supporting human rights and the environment had called for staging demonstrations.

Confronting terrorism main topic of G20

A glance at the G20 summit shows that combating terrorism was at the top of the agenda. Most nations are worried about the threat of terrorism. Hence, in addition to the G20, other countries should avoid double-standard policies and join anti-terrorism campaigns.

The first measure should be the battle against Daesh. As a result, all participants in the G20 summit called for boosting anti-terror measures and condemned terror attacks in the world. They also demanded that efforts aimed at preventing the gloomy phenomenon of terrorism be expanded.

The participants in the G20 summit also stressed that anti-terror methods should be shared. They said terrorism is an international controversy which needs to be quelled and the sanctuaries of terrorists must be annihilated.

The inconclusiveness of G20 efforts in combating terrorism stems from the fact that it does not have a clear method in fighting terrorism.

Western governments have adopted a double-standard toward terrorism.

On the one hand, they have enlisted the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, and the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas as terrorist groups although they are defending their countries against Israel. On the other hand, they support terror groups which fight against the Syrian government. The prevalence of war and bloodshed in Syria is due to the West's double-standard policies against terror groups.

US attempts to isolate Iran

During the G20 summit, Saudi Arabia, through Washington's support, attempted to brand Iran as the main sponsor of terrorism. However, such a plot backfired and isolated Washington and Riyadh. This is because many European nations, in their talks with the US and Saudi Arabia, introduced Iran as a country which has been fighting against the Daesh terror group and criticized anti-Iran policies pursued by these two nations.

Washington's anti-Iran measures in FATF

One of the articles of the G20 statement calls for promoting international cooperation and transferring information to confront terrorism financing.

All participants reaffirmed their commitment to oppose measures which contribute to financing terror groups. They also called for the rapid implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The FATF stressed that countries must comply with international standards in an effort to confront terrorism financing.

Meanwhile, during the FATF meeting in Spain, the Trump administration attempted to take measures against Iran through the support of some regional nations.

But Tehran initiated activities to interact with FATF which promoted the country's status in the body's ranking. A large number of countries, particularly EU members, are satisfied with Iran's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

However, hawks in the US administration are seeking to follow up fresh measures against the Islamic Republic to isolate Iran.

* Reshad is a lecturer at Tehran's Islamic Azad University.

Poll: Trump losing public support

Public support for President Donald Trump is dropping, a poll showed Sunday, as the US president faces multiple setbacks over his stalled agenda and efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare.

Nearly six months since he took office, Trump is facing a declining approval rating that has dropped from 42 percent in April to 36 percent, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll of 1,001 adults. Similarly, his disapproval rating has jumped five points to 58 percent, AFP reported.

A total of 48 percent of respondents said they "disapprove strongly" of the president's performance in office – a low threshold never reached by ex-presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, both Democrats, and only reached once by George W. Bush, during his second term.

And 48 percent also see American global leadership weakening since Trump entered the White House, while 27 percent said it is stronger.

Most respondents (66 percent) said they do not or only somewhat trust Trump in negotiating with foreign leaders, especially with Russian President Vladimir Putin (also 66 percent). Of those, 48 percent said they do not trust Trump "at all" in negotiations with Putin.

Opinions over Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and



whether the Trump campaign colluded with Moscow – a subject of multiple investigations – divided sharply along partisan lines.

Only 33 percent of Republicans polled said Russia tried to influence

the election, compared with 80 percent of Democrats. Overall, 60 percent of all American adults said Russia tried to tilt the elections, a slight increase from 56 percent in April.

Just seven percent of Republicans

said the Trump campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts, compared with 65 percent of Democrats.

The poll, conducted July 10-13, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Venezuelans cast ballots in opposition vote

Venezuelans went to the polls Sunday in a vote organized by the opposition aimed at gauging public support for Maduro's plan to rewrite the constitution, against a backdrop of worsening political violence.

With authorities refusing to greenlight a vote presented as an act of civil disobedience and supporters of President Nicolas Maduro boycotting it, voters seemed set to reject the president's controversial scheme, AFP reported.

The symbolic "plebiscite" comes two weeks ahead of a Maduro-backed vote to elect a citizens' body that would revise the constitution. The opposition has told its supporters to stay away.

The cross-purpose initiatives have given rise to international worries – voiced by the Catholic Church and the head of the UN, Antonio Guterres – that the chances of bringing both sides together for dialogue has become more remote.



People take part in a protest in Caracas on the eve of the symbolic plebiscite called by the government's opposition.

That, in turn, is stoking fears of more protests and running street battles with police, which have been persistent for the past three and a half months. Nearly 100 people have died in the unrest since the beginning of April.

The opposition, which accuses Maduro of trying to gather dictatorial powers with the consti-

tutional rewrite and other steps, said all was prepared for Sunday's vote.

But Maduro, giving a national radio and TV broadcast, portrayed the vote as merely an "internal consultation by the opposition parties" with no electoral legitimacy.

"I call on all Venezuelans to participate peacefully in political events tomorrow, with respect for others' ideas, with no incidents. Peace is what I ask," he said.

He directed his followers instead towards a rival poll exercise that, unlike that of the opposition, has been approved by electoral authorities to take place on July 30. He also repeated claims the opposition was tied to foreign powers – implied to be the "imperialist" United States – with the aim of toppling his government.

The international media, he railed, was covering the opposition vote in a way to justify foreign intervention.

Head of Libya's UN-backed government calls for polls in March

The head of Libya's UN-backed government called for parliamentary and presidential elections in March 2018, although his proposals will likely have to compete with other Libyan and international efforts to bring an end to the country's conflict.

Fayez Seraj, prime minister of the Government of National Accord (GNA), also called for a national cease-fire and the gradual merging of rival parliamentary bodies based in Tripoli and eastern Libya in a speech released late on Saturday, Reuters reported.

Seraj said he was putting forward the roadmap because of his "determination to escape the current crisis and unify Libyans".

"I am confident that the national spirit will overcome the narrow personal interests, and invite everyone to offer compromise even if it's painful to do so," he said.

Agreeing on an election plan and holding nationwide polls would be a major challenge due to Libya's political divisions, continuing insecurity and bouts of fighting, and deteriorating infrastructure.

Libya slid into conflict after the uprising that toppled long-time Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi six years ago.

The country's previous elections, in 2014, led to the formation of rival governments and parliaments in Tripoli and the east, both backed by loose alliances of armed groups.

The GNA is the result of a UN-brokered deal to stabilize and unite the country that was signed in late 2015 with only partial support from political and armed factions.

It has limited authority, and has been rejected by eastern-based factions aligned with military commander Khalifa Haftar.

NATO chief phoned Turkish, German FM's over airbase row

NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg spoke to the Turkish and German foreign ministers last week to urge them to resolve their differences over visits to Turkish airbases, part of a wider row between the two allies, Reuters reported on Sunday.



REUTERS

Germany has refused to extradite asylum seekers Turkey says were involved in last year's coup attempt. Berlin is demanding the release of a Turkish-German journalist and Ankara has refused to let German lawmakers visit soldiers at two airbases.

German soldiers contribute to a NATO air surveillance mission at Kon-ya, 250 km (155 miles) south of the Turkish capital Ankara, and its troops stationed at another airbase, in Incirlik, have already been moved to Jordan.

NATO said Jens Stoltenberg had called Sigmar Gabriel and Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday to ask them to settle the disputes.

"We hope that Germany and Turkey are able to find a mutually acceptable date for a visit," a NATO spokesman said.

Germany's armed forces are under parliamentary control and Berlin says the lawmakers must have access to its soldiers.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Chinese firm eyes investment in Iran iron mines

Many Chinese firms are keen on investing in Iranian iron mines to produce iron ore and concentrates, the Middle East Manager of China Huadong company said.

Shi Ling Ren made the remarks in a meeting with member of Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Morteza Saffari Natanzi, IRNA reported.

Ling Ren hoped continued consultations will take place to remove barriers on investment mode.

Speaking in the meeting, Natanzi said that the Iranian Parliament supports developing economic relation with China.

He described the law approved in the Parliament to support foreign investment as a positive step.

Meanwhile, auto manufacturer Luxgen Motor Company from Chinese Taiwan announced that it plans to bring two models to Iran.

The Iranian company Arman Motor Kavir has signed a representation deal with the Luxgen Motor.

"The two companies are studying the possibility of joint local production, however, no decision has yet been made," CEO of Arman Motor Farzin Torkipour said.

"In the first stage of collaboration, Luxgen cars will be imported," Torkipour added.

The two models which will be brought to Iran are Luxgen U6 compact crossover and S3 sedan, said Aqil Mostafai, sales manager of the Iranian company.

"The U6 will be offered with a price ranging between 1 and 1.5 billion rials (\$26,000 to \$40,000) while S3 will cost less than 1 billion rials (\$26,000)," he said.

Sales of these cars are expected to start by March 2018, according to the report.

Several Chinese cars, including Chery, Lifan, JAC, Haima, Changan and Brilliance, have been in the Iranian market since a decade ago.

IME weekly trade exceeds \$330m

Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) announced that commodities valued at about \$333.8 million and weighing over 572,768 tons were traded in its domestic trading and exports halls in the past working week (July 8-13).

The exchange said its domestic and exports halls traded in oil and petrochemical products weighing over 293,201 tons which included 104,427 tons of bitumen, 61,343 tons of polymer products, 25,915 tons of chemical products, 12,630 tons of sulfur, 960 tons of insulation and 50 tons of argon valued at \$139 million during the period, Fars News Agency reported.

In addition, its agricultural trading hall dealt in 10,575 tons of sugar, 44,860 tons of feed barley, 900 tons of rice and 800 tons of maize worth \$28.9 million in total last week.

Also, the exchange conducted transactions in 191,033 tons of metal and mineral products, including 178,488 tons of steel products, 5,125 tons of copper, 140 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 120 tons of aluminum valued at \$165.4 million in the past week.

The IME was established on September 20, 2007 in accordance with Article 95 of the new law on Securities Market of the Islamic Republic of Iran and following the merger of the agricultural and metal exchanges of Tehran. The merger marked a new chapter in Iran capital market providing endless trading opportunities for the clients in and out of the country.

Various sectors of economy and national industry benefit from the exchange operation. The IME currently offers various services, including:

- Performing as the first market providing access to the initial offering of the listed commodities in the IME,
- Price discovery and price making for Iran's Over the Counter (OTC), secondary markets and the end users,
- Providing venue for government sales and procurement purchases,
- Providing Trading platform and user interface,
- Providing Clearing and Settlement services
- Risk management,
- Technology services,
- Training and education of market participants.

Foreign companies investing in Alborz Province

The presence of foreign delegations in Alborz Province and the conclusion of 22 contracts and memoranda of understanding with them indicates Iran's stability and security, said Alborz Province governor general on Sunday.

According to IRNA, Hamid Tahaei noted, "One of the big oil companies, which has confidence in investing in Iran, has recently started its activity in our country delivering this message to other countries that Iran is a stable and secure country to bring their financial assets to."

He added, "A country famous for the latest technology in various realms has recently announced its readiness to share all its scientific achievements with Iran."

After the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and the world major powers and the European Union (P5+1-EU) on July 14, 2015 which recently passed its second anniversary, the willingness for investment in Iran has increased and several foreign companies have expressed their readiness to start working in Iran while many others have already started operations.

Raw steel exports up 45%

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran's raw steel exports during mid-March-mid-May witnessed a 45-percent growth compared to the figure for the same two months of last year.

During this period, Iran exported 1.84 million tons of raw steel whereas the figure for the same two-month period in 2016 was 748,000 tons, IRNA reported.

Of this year's total exports, 457,000 tons pertained to billet and bloom. Last year, the figure stood at 516,000 tons which is 11 percent higher than the figure for the current year.

Slab exports during March 21-May 21, amounted to 627,000 tons indicating a 170-percent growth compared to the amount for the same period of last year, which was 232,000 tons.

In addition, exports of steel products in the same time-span in the current year, reached 180,000 tons, down 65 percent from the figure for the same duration of last year, which was 509,000 tons.

In this period, coiled round bar exports, standing at 34,000 tons, accounted for the biggest part of Iran's overseas sales of steel products. The figure stood at 9,000 tons in the same period last year which is 278 percent lower than the amount for the current year.

During the 62 day-period of this year, round bar exports amounted to 83,000 tons, indicating a 66-percent growth compared to the figure for the same period a year ago.

In the two-month period in 2017, Iran exported 15,000 tons and 2,000 tons of three-millimeter and below three-millimeter hot roll sheets respectively. The figures are both 96 percent lower than last year's which were 357,000 tons and 45,000 tons.



In the 62-day period ending May 21, Iran sold 12,000 tons of other steel products in foreign markets, which showed a 50-percent rise compared to the figure for the same duration ending May 20, 2016, which was 8,000 tons.

Also, in the same time-span last year, raw steel imports stood at 30,000 tons indicating an 81-percent decline to 6,000 tons in the same duration this year.

During March 21-May 21, 2017, Iran imported 351,000 tons of steel products

— down by 29 percent year-on-year.

Last year, the country imported 496,000 of steel products.

Iran's steel exports are expected to reach 8 million tons and 15 million tons by March 2018 and 2025, respectively.

Iran-Vietnam economic ties grow 120% over past four years: Minister

Iran has experienced a 120-percent growth in its economic relations with Vietnam in the past four years, said Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammadreza Nematzadeh on Sunday.

He made the remarks at a meeting of the Iran-Vietnam joint economic commission in Tehran, IRNA reported.

"After the [1979] Islamic Revolution, Iran faced eight years of imposed war and 10 years of severe economic and political sanctions, but the country managed to score major advancements," he said.

Referring to Iran-Vietnam economic ties, he said, "Today after four years, we are witnessing the re-launching of the two countries' joint economic commission."

He added, "Economic exchanges between Iran and Vietnam should reach at least \$2 billion annually."

Reciprocal visits of the presidents of Iran and Vietnam in the past few months show the profound level of co-operation between the two countries, the minister noted.

On Saturday, the First Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri said that Iran has no limit in developing ties with Vietnam.

Jahangiri further told visiting Vietnam's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Huong that Tehran seeks an increase in trade exchanges with Hanoi.

The official said Vietnam has special position in Iran's foreign policy and Tehran has no limit on promoting co-operation with Hanoi.

He evaluated political relations between Iran and Vietnam as 'positive and satisfactory'. He pointed to



constructive cooperation between the two countries at the international level and said Tehran-Hanoi political cooperation in the past four decades kept growing and increased day by day.

The official expressed pleasure with holding joint co-operation commission meeting in Tehran and said unfortunately the meeting was disrupted for several years and hoped that it could be held regularly.

Jahangiri said the two countries have plenty of capacities and capabilities and the level of economic relations may increase noticeably.

He pointed to emphasis of both Iranian and Vietnamese

presidents and to the agreements reached between the two sides to increase trade and economic exchanges to \$2 billion annually.

He said one of the prerequisites to achieving this objective is to expand banking cooperation.

The official expressed Iran's readiness to meet Vietnam's needs in oil, gas, engineering and technical services as well as polymer materials noting that in the upcoming commission meeting the two countries could reach good agreements to promote economic relations.

The two countries may also cooperate in other fields such as culture, campaign against terrorism, drugs trafficking and money laundering.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam described political relations between the two countries 'desirable' and said the two countries should try to increase economic and trade relations in tandem.

Xuan Huong pointed to 40 years of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries and added that the ties grew in all those years.

He expressed his interest in accessing Central Asian markets through Iran.

The Vietnamese minister stressed that Iran has high capacities in economic and trade domains such as oil, gas, petrochemicals, minerals and agricultural products and Vietnam is interested to supply its needs from the market.

He also presented a report on the working groups' decisions for cooperation in the banking, economic, trade, agricultural and cultural domains.

Iran provides further details of gas deal with Total

Iran has given further details of a \$4.8-billion deal with a consortium, headed by France's Total.

Deputy Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for Engineering and Development Affairs Gholamreza Manouchehri said that the interest rate of Total-lead consortium's investment is 2.5 percent, while the ratio, offered by National Development Fund is 7-8 percent, Trend News Agency reported.

"In total, about \$1 billion would be paid as tax to Iranian government, based on agreement as well," he said adding that investment return for the deal is 10 years starting after the inauguration of the first stage.

The first and second stages of the project would become operational in 40 months and 60 months respectively.

The project's first stage will cost \$2.479 billion, said Zanganeh on July 12, adding that the project will include the drilling of 30 wells, construction of two 1,500-ton platforms, as well as laying a 250-km underwater pipeline.

The second stage involves the construction of a



20,000-ton platform and its installation at Phase 11 to prevent a decline in gas output level after falling

reservoir pressure in 2023.

He said that the period of investment return of the second stage would also be 10-year after the commissioning of heavy platform (2023-33).

According to the \$4.8-billion deal, some 335 bcm of methane, 290 mbd of gas condensate, 26 million tons of ethane, propane and butane, as well as 2 million tons of sulphur are expected to be produced from Phase 11, totaling \$84 billion based on a price of \$50 per barrel of oil, of which 15 percent or \$12 billion is expected to be paid to the consortium in 20 years.

Total has a 51-percent share in the project, while China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and local Petropars Ltd. owns 30 percent and 19.9 percent, respectively.

Manouchehri said that Total should invest \$500 million in two years and in case it wants to withdraw from the project due to possible sanctions or other problems, Iran will only pay the principal gradually after the project becomes operational without taking into account any interest or profits.

End game for diesel as more drivers plan to go green



thesun.co.uk

The number of diesel cars on the road could halve in a little over a decade as green vehicles overtake traditional forms to become the dominant mode of transport.

The number of diesel cars sold each year in Europe is expected to collapse from 9.5 million out of a total of almost 19 million currently to just 2.1 million by 2030, while 15 million of the 24 million cars sold by then will be hybrid or electric vehicles, according to The Telegraph.

The shock findings, which suggest the car industry is on the brink of being turned upside down come in a new study from consultancy AlixPartners. The prediction will cause alarm at carmakers

which have been slow to embrace the electric revolution.

Andrew Bergham, managing director for automotive at AlixPartners, said: "The end of the internal combustion engine is now a reality, with Volvo's announcement that all new models would be electric or hybrid within two years and the French government's decision to ban internal combustion engines from 2040."

Petrol-powered vehicles fare better than diesel, but their market share is still expected to almost halve from 44 percent to 25 percent over the same time frame.

The dominant form of power will be hybrid vehicles. Combining small engines and electric power systems, they

will represent almost 30 percent of the market.

At the moment hybrid and electric vehicles account for less than five percent of sales globally Alix predicts that hybrid, together with battery-powered vehicles will represent more than 65 percent of all new vehicles sold in 2030.

The research also found that Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) leads the race in green vehicle investment. Last year JLR sunk £7.317 (£6,429) in capital expenditure and R&D into each vehicle, ahead of BMW and Daimler at about £4,500 per vehicle.

This is despite JLR producing about 500,000 vehicles a year, a quarter of the

amount of its German competitors, VW, GM and Toyota, which each produce nearly 10 million cars a year, put between £2,524 and £3,489 into each car.

The rise of electric vehicles will be fueled by lower assembly costs, Alix's research shows that electric vehicles which do not need complex gearboxes and drivetrains — can be assembled in just 3.7 hours, compared with 6.2 hours for a traditional engine.

Manufacturers will face a productivity puzzle with hybrid engines though, which despite their popularity take 9.3 hours to build because of the complexity of combining both electric and internal combustion technologies.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79679.0	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68577.8	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	87293.9	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	55133.2	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177519.7	15.3	0.01

Overall Index details on 20170716

First	79658.9	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79699.9	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79669.0	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79679.0	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

Industry Index details on 20170716

First	68566.3	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68600.5	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68577.8	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

Free Float Index details on 20170716

First	87033.8	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	87293.9	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

Main Board Index details on 20170716

First	55115.2	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	55144.1	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55133.2	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

Secondary Index details on 20170716

First	177497.8	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177609.9	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177519.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

Britons face lifetime of debt as BoE warns over mortgages

British families are signing up for a lifetime of debt with almost one in seven borrowers now taking out mortgages of 35 years or more, official figures showed.

Rapid house price growth has encouraged borrowers to sign longer mortgage deals as a way of reducing monthly payments and easing affordability pressures, wrote The Telegraph.

Bank of England (BoE) data showed 15.75 percent of all new mortgages taken out in the first quarter of 2017 were for terms of 35 years or more.

While this is slightly down from the record high of 16.36 percent at the end of 2016, it has climbed from just 2.7 percent when records began in 2005.

The steady rise has triggered alarm bells at the bank, prompting regulators to warn



PA

that the trend risks storing up "problem[s] for the future" if lenders ignore the growing share of households prepared to borrow into retirement.

Several lenders including Halifax, the UK's biggest mortgage provider, and Nationwide have raised their borrowing age

limits to 80 and 85 over the past year.

Bank figures show one in five mortgages are taken out for terms of between 30 and 35 years, from below eight percent in 2005, as the traditional 25-year mortgage becomes less popular.

David Hollingworth, a director at mortgage broker London and Country, said the trend showed that an increasing share of borrowers were "struggling with affordability pressures, and deciding that lengthening the term will offer leeway" as house price growth continues to outpace pay rises.

However, he said most borrowers were unlikely to stick with the same deal, with "most having a desire to review that later and potentially peg [the extra interest costs] back".

Hollingworth added that longer mortgage terms were also better than interest-only deals that were prevalent before the credit crunch.

The bank noted in its latest financial stability report that there was little evidence that borrowers were signing up for

longer mortgage deals to circumvent tougher borrowing tests for homeowners introduced in 2014.

Sam Woods, the chief executive of the Prudential Regulation Authority, has said policymakers were watching developments closely.

"If lenders become too narrowly preoccupied with the profile of the loan in the first five years" and not look at the entire profile of the loan when assessing affordability "this could store up a problem for the future", he said in a speech.

Inflation figures this week are expected to show prices rose by 2.9 percent in the year to June, unchanged from May. Most economists expect inflation to jump above three percent in the coming months.

Brazil's economic indicators show recovery



egospodarka.pl

Brazil's most recent economic indicators showed that the country is recovering from a two-year-long recession, Finance Minister Henrique Meirelles said.

"At the moment, there is no sign the growth path has been reversed. Several June indicators show advances, like energy consumption and vehicle production," he said, adding that the Brazilian institutions are solid, Xinhua reported.

"The economic team is focused on the economic reform, working day and night to ensure the country will resume growing," Meirelles said.

Though Brazil's most recent GDP figures were positive, showing a mild growth of the economy, the country is still under the effects of a long economic crisis.

Brazilian economists said last month that it was too soon to declare the country's two-year recession over, despite positive first quarter results.

Libyan oil revenues unable to cover salaries for 2017

Libya's central bank predicted that this year's oil and gas revenues will not cover the salaries of government employees.

"The total income expected from oil and gas exports in 2017 is 16.6 billion dinars (\$11.9 billion). However, this sum does not cover the salaries for the year 2017, estimated at 21 billion dinars (\$15.1 billion)," Xinhua quoted the bank as saying.

The bank said it is cooperating with a number of government bodies and experts "to develop a comprehensive economic reform program for financial, trade and monetary policies", according to the statement.

Libya has been suffering a financial



cloudfront.net

and economic crisis for years due to a reduction of oil revenues since the closure of major oil ports by armed militias.

The militias have now been expelled and current oil production has been increased to one million barrels per day since Military Commander Khalifa Haftar's forces took over the oil ports last year.

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

Mountain forests don't need humans, but we need them

Forests in the mountain regions of our planet are fragile ecosystems, suffering from the impact of climate change. However, to survive in the long-term, these ecosystems do not need human intervention. It is rather the humans in the mountain regions who depend on healthy forests and the protection they provide.

Should we, for example, plant genetically-modified tree species that are particularly resistant to drought, to ensure that mountain forests thrive in the future? This is no joke, but one of the many ideas on how mountain forests should be managed in future was hotly debated at the latest ETH Sustainability Summer School. Thirty-two students from 17 countries and 14 disciplines took an in-depth look at suggestions such as these, which may seem absurd at first glance, phys.org wrote.

Mountain forests are more than just a random collection of trees growing on steep slopes.



ETH

Humans benefit from their many ecosystem services. On a global scale, mountain forests regulate the climate by storing CO₂ and water.

At the local level, forests protect the surrounding area from natural hazards such as avalanches, landslides and rock fall.

In addition, they are important for biodiversity, they provide timber for building and bioenergy, and they supply food such as game,



housatonicheritage.org

mushrooms and herbs. Forests also enhance the landscape aesthetically, which is invaluable for tourism.

Lastly but significantly, mountain forests shape the lowlands: Erosion and flooding originate in mountain regions, but they have devastating effect mainly on the low-lying regions.

The human-induced rise in temperature is twice as high in the mountains as in the



wallpaperswide.com

lowlands. And, as the reasons for this relate to physics, the trend will likely be the same in future.

Hence, mountain regions are particularly affected by climate change; what then are the implications?

The simplest scenario is that a rise in temperature of four to five degrees Celsius by the year 2100 will shift the vegetation zones by

800 to 1,000 meters in elevation. Trees such as beech, cherry or lime, which today thrive at 500 meters above sea level in Zurich, for example, will in future flourish in Davos at 1,500 meters.

And those species, such as Norway spruce, which today grow well in Davos, will find optimal conditions at 2,500 meters, far above the current tree line.

Rising climate risk threatens vital crops

Governments may be seriously underestimating the risks of crop disasters occurring in major farming regions around the world, a study by British researchers found.

The newly published research, by Met Office scientists, used advanced climate modelling to show that extreme weather events could devastate food production if they occurred in several key areas at the same time. Such an outcome could trigger widespread famine, according to The Guardian.

The scientists, led by Chris Kent, of the Met Office, focused



REUTERS

their initial efforts on how extreme weather would affect maize — one

of the world's most widely grown crops. Heat and drought were the

prime risks, although flooding was also included in the analysis.

The group found there is a six percent chance every decade that a simultaneous failure in maize production could occur in China and the US — the world's main growers — which would result in widespread misery, particularly in Africa and South Asia, where maize is consumed directly as food.

"The impact would be felt at a global scale," Kent told the Observer. "This is the first time we have been able to quantify the risk."

It hasn't been observed in the last 30 years, but the indications are that it is possible in the current climate."

An example of the kind of disaster that could occur is provided by the maize harvests that failed last year in Africa. Communities in Zambia, Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Madagascar were affected and six million people were left on the brink of starvation.

A joint failure of China and America's maize harvest would have a far greater impact.

Avocado Sushi Bar

Seafood, Sushi, Grill

Park Prince Complex, next to Bank Pasargad, Hakim Azam Alley, North Shiraz Street, Mollasadra Street, Vanak

Avocado_Sushibar

Sending to All Parts of Tehran
Delivery
Please reserve a table by phone numbers:
021-88212105-6

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

New Apt in Elahieh
10th floor, 230 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.,
equipped kitchen, spj, gym,
lobby, **\$5500**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Luxury Apt near to
French School
Apts between 150 sq.m to 250
sq.m, 2 or 3 Bdrs., excellent
view, the best quality, lobby,
garden, furn & unfurn, parking,
spj, & gym saloon
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Zafaraniéh
5th floor, 320 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., fully
furn, excellent view, spj, nice
balcony with flower boxes
\$6500
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Several Apts in Garden
Tower in Elahieh
New, from 150 sq.m to 250
sq.m Apts, 3 Bdrs., garden,
spj, equipped kitchen, could
be fully furn and new brand,
lobby, opposite to French school,
good access to Sadr highway,
Reasonable Price
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Superlux villa in
Zafaraniéh
2 Bdrs., fully furn, green
garden, outdoor pool, parking
\$4500
Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Shahrak Qarb
800 sq.m Built up, 5 Bdrs.,
duplex, renovated, semi furn,
nice & cozy, garden, pool,
Parking
**Suitable for
Residency or Embassy**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Mahmoodieh
duplex, 600 sq.m built up, 5
Bdrs., small garden, parking
**Suitable for small Companies
& small Embassy**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Shahrak Qarb
duplex villa, 630 Sq.m, 5
Bdrs., one extra Suit with
300 sq.m apt with 3 Bdrs.,
Garden, outdoor pool,
renovated, too many parking
spaces, Security, furn &
unfurn, **\$15000**
**Suitable for
Residency & Embassy**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001 :2008
ISO 10004 :2012
ISO 10002 :2014

From Oxford Cert Universal
Best Consultation,

Best Services, Best Result

Section Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141

info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Whole Building in
Farmanieh
20 units, 60 Bdrs., several
parking, semi furn, suitable
for residency of big companies,
renovated
Price negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Luxury Office in
Valiasr Jordan
100 sq.m to 230 sq.m, almost
new, lobby, guest parking,
good access to highway, full of
foreign company
Price per each sq \$40
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Legal registered Offices in
North & North-West
available from 1400 sq.m each
floor up to 800 sq.m, flat, open
space
**Suitable for
International Companies**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Whole Building in
Zafaraniéh
2th floor, 4 Apts, each floor 160
sq.m with 3 Bdrs., garden,
outdoor pool, parking,
renovated
**Suitable for Embassy
\$13000**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal offers

Super luxury new Apt
in Elahieh
2th floor, 140 sq.m, 2 Master
rooms, nice view, full of
diplomats, spj, gym saloon,
lobby, green garden, furn/
unfurn, parking, **\$4200**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Office in Jordan
110 sq.m to 240 sq.m, full of
foreign companies, could
be flat, Parking lot with
extra visitors parking, lobby,
security, renovated, almost new
Price per each sq \$40
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Gheytharieh
120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., view of
Park, parking, full furn,
diplomatic building
\$1200
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Zafaraniéh
260 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., nice furn,
quit & cozy, parking
\$3300
Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم
ویلاي شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت
مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

New diabetes treatment teaches rogue immune cells to behave

A treatment targeting wayward immune cells in people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes may help even years later, a new study found.

For the treatment, researchers take blood from a person with diabetes and separate out the immune system cells (lymphocytes), UPI reported.

They briefly expose those cells to stem cells from umbilical cord blood from an unrelated infant. Then they return the lymphocytes to the patient's body.

The researchers have dubbed this treatment stem cell educator therapy, because when exposed to the stem cells, the errant lymphocytes seem to re-learn how they should behave.

The study's lead author, Dr. Yong Zhao, an associate scientist at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, said, "Stem cell educator therapy is a safe approach with long-term effectiveness."

Type 1 diabetes — an autoimmune disease — occurs when the body's immune system cells mistakenly attack the insulin-producing, or beta, cells in the pancreas.

This leaves people with type 1 diabetes with little to no insulin. They need insulin injections to survive.

Researchers have long thought that any cure for type 1 diabetes would have to stop the autoimmune attack, while regenerating or transplanting beta cells.

But Zhao and his team developed a new approach to the problem — educating the immune cells that had been destroying beta cells so they stop attacking.

In type 2 diabetes, Zhao said that immune cell dysfunction is



UPI

responsible for chronic inflammation that causes insulin resistance.

When someone is insulin resistant, their body's cells can't properly use insulin to usher sugar from foods into cells for use as energy. Instead, the sugar builds up in the blood.

The researchers hoped the stem cell educator would help decrease insulin resistance for people with type 2 diabetes.

In earlier trials, the treatment showed significant promise with up to a year of data. The researchers also showed that the treatment was safe.

The current study looked at four years of data on nine type 1 diabetes patients in China.

To see how well the treatment works, the researchers measured C-peptide, a protein fragment that's a

byproduct of insulin production.

Two people with type 1 diabetes who received a stem cell educator treatment shortly after diagnosis (five and eight months later) still had normal C-peptide production and didn't need insulin four years after a single treatment.

Another type 1 patient had had the disease for four years when she got a treatment.

She still had improvements in her C-peptide levels, but wasn't considered in remission. The remaining six people with type 1 saw decreases in their C-peptide levels over time.

The study authors said this suggested more than one treatment might be needed.

Zhao said, "Because this was a first trial, patients just got one treatment.

Now we know it's very safe so patients can receive two or three treatments."

Researchers also looked at six patients with severe, long-standing — 15-24 years — type 2 diabetes.

They found that one treatment helped four patients achieve normal C-peptide levels and maintain them over the four-year follow-up.

Zhao said, "For the four type 2 patients, their C-peptide is very stable after one treatment."

In addition to helping people with diabetes, Zhao said that the treatment could help with other autoimmune diseases, too.

He said, "These might include alopecia areata, which causes significant and sudden hair loss, lupus, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, and Sjogren's syndrome."

Julia Greenstein is vice president of discovery research at JDRF, formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

She said Zhao and his team have shown that the platelets seem to be having a direct effect on the beta cells, boosting the beta cells somewhat.

She said, "This research is intriguing, but it needs to be reproduced."

Both Zhao and Greenstein noted that diabetes seems to differ slightly in Chinese populations from Western ones.

So, it's not yet clear if this treatment would be as beneficial for people of European descent.

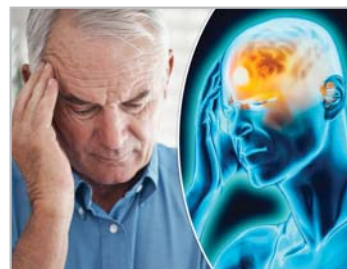
To find out, Zhao plans to conduct a clinical trial of the new treatment with people with type 1 diabetes at Hackensack Medical Center.

The study was recently published in Stem Cells Translational Medicine.

You soon be able to predict next migraine attack

Headaches when they become severe are known as migraines and there are 190,000 attacks every day in the UK.

There are six million people who regularly suffer, while three times as many women endure them as men, according to express.co.uk.



express.co.uk

According to the National Health System (NHS), it usually appears as a throbbing pain on one side of the head.

But many people also have symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and increased sensitivity to light or sound.

However, it may soon be possible to predict when a future migraine attack might happen.

Research published in the journal Headache found they could be forecast by analyzing stress.

The study authors have developed a new model based on measuring stress from daily hassles.

They believe it may be possible to tell whether it will occur tomorrow based on today's stress levels.

This is particularly aimed at those who suffer from migraines a lot.

Dr. Tim Houle, lead author from Massachusetts General Hospital, said, "We know that certain people are at greater risk of having an attack over other people, but within a person, we have not been able to predict increased risk for an attack with any level of accuracy."

"This study demonstrates that it is quite possible to forecast the occurrence of a headache attack within an individual headache sufferer."

In the study they looked at 95 people and 4,195 days of diary data. Participants experienced a headache attack on 38.5 percent of days.

The researchers discovered that stress was greater on days preceding a headache.

They believe the findings will allow pre-emptive treatment of migraine attacks.

Houle added, "The model we developed in this study is a very good start to helping people forecast the chances they will experience a headache attack, but work is needed to make the prediction models more accurate before they will be of widespread clinical use."

According to the NHS, known causes of a migraine include starting your period if a woman, stress, tiredness and certain foods or drink.



medicalxpress.com

Tomato-rich diet cuts skin cancer in half in mice

Daily tomato consumption appeared to cut the development of skin cancer tumors by half in a mouse study at The Ohio State University.

The new study of how nutritional interventions can alter the risk for skin cancers appeared online in the journal Scientific Reports, medicalxpress.com wrote.

It found that male mice fed a diet of 10 percent tomato powder daily for 35 weeks, then exposed to ultraviolet light, experienced, on average, a 50-percent decrease in skin cancer tumors compared to mice that ate no dehydrated tomato.

Jessica Cooperstone, coauthor of the study and a research scientist in the Department of Food Science and Technology in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State, said, "The theory behind the relationship between tomatoes and cancer is that dietary carotenoids, the pigmenting compounds that give tomatoes their color, may protect skin against UV

light damage."

There were no significant differences in tumor number for the female mice in the study.

Previous research has shown that male mice develop tumors earlier after UV exposure and that their tumors are more numerous, larger and more aggressive.

The study's senior author, Tatiana Oberyszyn, a professor of pathology and member of Ohio State's Comprehensive Cancer Center, added, "This study showed us that we do need to consider sex when exploring different preventive strategies."

"What works in men may not always work equally well in women and vice versa."

Cooperstone added, "Previous human clinical trials suggest that eating tomato paste over time can dampen sunburns, perhaps thanks to carotenoids from the plants that are deposited in the skin of humans after eating, and may be able to

protect against UV light damage.

"Lycopene, the primary carotenoid in tomatoes, has been shown to be the most effective antioxidant of these pigments."

"However, when comparing lycopene administered from a whole food (tomato) or a synthesized supplement, tomatoes appear more effective in preventing redness after UV exposure, suggesting other compounds in tomatoes may also be at play."

In the new study, the Ohio State researchers found that only male mice fed dehydrated red tomatoes had reductions in tumor growth.

Those fed diets with tangerine tomatoes, which have been shown to be higher in bioavailable lycopene in previous research, had fewer tumors than the control group, but the difference was not statistically significant.

Cooperstone is currently researching tomato compounds other than lycopene that may impart health benefits.

Non-melanoma skin cancers are the most common of all cancers, with more new cases — 5.4 million in 2012 — each year than breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined, according to the American Cancer Society.

Despite a low mortality rate, these cancers are costly, disfiguring and their rates are increasing, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Cooperstone said, "Alternative methods for systemic protection, possibly through nutritional interventions to modulate risk for skin-related diseases, could provide a significant benefit."

"Foods are not drugs, but they can possibly, over the lifetime of consumption, alter the development of certain diseases."

Testing a soft artificial heart

It looks like a real heart. And this is the goal of the first entirely soft artificial heart: To mimic its natural model as closely as possible.

The silicone heart has been developed by Nicholas Cohrs, a doctoral student in the group led by Wendelin Stark, professor of functional materials engineering at a science, technology, engineering and mathematics university in the city of Zurich, sciencedaily.com wrote.

The reasoning why nature should be used as a model is clear. Currently used blood pumps have many disadvantages: Their mechanical parts are susceptible to complications while the patient lacks a physiological pulse, which is assumed to have some consequences for the patient.

Cohrs said, "Therefore, our goal is to develop an artificial heart that is roughly the same size as the patient's own one and which imitates the human heart as closely as possible in form and function."

A well-functioning artificial heart is a real necessity: About 26 million people worldwide suffer from heart failure while there is a shortage of donor hearts.

The soft artificial heart was created from silicone using a 3D printing, lost-wax casting technique; it weighs 390 grams and has a volume of 679cm³.

Cohrs said, "It is a silicone monoblock with complex inner structure."

This artificial heart has a right and a left ventricle, just like a real human heart, though they are not separated by a septum but by an additional chamber.

This chamber is in- and deflated by pressurized air and is required to pump fluid from the blood chambers, thus replacing the muscle contraction of the human heart.

Thinking in a new direction

Anastasios Petrou, a doctoral student of the Product Development Group Zurich, led by Professor Mirko Meboldt evaluated the performance of this soft artificial heart.

The young researchers have just published the results of the experiments in the scientific journal Artificial Organs.

They proved that the soft artificial heart fundamentally works and moves in a similar way to a human heart. How-

have to be enhanced significantly.

Zurich Heart brings researchers together

Cohrs and Petrou met in the Zurich Heart Project, a flagship project of University Medicine Zurich that brings together 20 research groups from various disciplines and institutions in Zurich and Berlin.

Part of the research focuses on improvements on existing blood pumps, such as how to reduce blood damage induced from the mechanical parts of the pump, while others explore extremely elastic membranes or more biocompatible surfaces. This is done in close collaboration with the clinicians in Zurich and Berlin.

The lively exchanges among the researchers also helped this Zurich Heart sub-project.

Doctoral students of Product Development Group Zurich, who are working on new technologies for blood pumps, have developed a testing environment with which they can simulate the human cardiovascular system.

The researchers of the silicone heart made use of this testing environment for their development process which also included the use of a fluid with comparable viscosity as human blood.

Petrou said, "Currently, our system is probably one of the best in the world." Researching the heart is an appealing task, and Cohrs and Petrou would both like to remain in this research field.

Petrou added, "As a mechanical engineer, I would never have thought that I would ever hold a soft heart in my hands."

"I'm now so fascinated by this research that I would very much like to continue working on the development of artificial hearts."



sciencedaily.com

The soft artificial heart resembles the human heart in appearance and function.

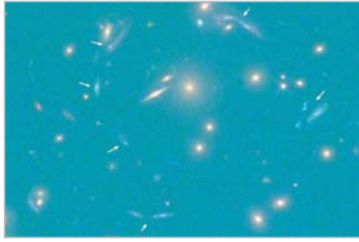
ever, it still has one problem: It currently lasts for about only 3,000 beats, which corresponds to a lifetime of half to three quarters of an hour.

After that, the material can no longer withstand the strain.

Cohrs said, "This was simply a feasibility test. Our goal was not to present a heart ready for implantation, but to think about a new direction for the development of artificial hearts."

Of course, the tensile strength of the material and the performance would

Gravitational lens reveals one of the cosmos' brightest known galaxies



White arrows reveal multiple iterations of the distant galaxy's light. Lensing yields multiple images of the galaxy, organized in a ring around the intermediary source of light-warping gravity.

Scientists in Spain have discovered one of the brightest galaxies in the Universe with the help of a gravitational lens.

Located some 10 thousand million light-years from Earth, the newly discovered galaxy is a thousand times brighter than the Milky Way, UPI reported.

The galaxy's light is bent by the gravity of a galactic cluster situated closer to Earth, a phenomenon known as gravitational lensing.

The effect magnifies the distant galaxy without distorting the spectral qualities of the light, allowing astronomers to study the galaxy in detail.

Gravitational lensing causes the newly discovered galaxy to appear 11 times bigger and brighter than it is in reality.

Lensing also reveals multiple images of the distant galaxy, organized in a ring around the intermediary source of light-warping gravity.

The galaxy is the brightest known submillimeter galaxy — a group of galaxies named for their extreme luminosity in the far infrared portion of the spectrum.

Researchers at the Technical University of Cartagena and the Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary (IAC) Islands used telescopes at the Roque de los Muchachos Observatory to survey the submillimeter galaxy.

The latest survey, published in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, suggested the bright, distant galaxy is a prodigious star-maker, generating 1000 solar masses per year.

The Milky Way, by comparison, generates just two solar masses per year.

Susana Iglesias-Groth, an IAC astrophysicist, said, "This type of objects harbor the most powerful star forming regions known in the Universe."

"The next step will be to study their molecular content."

Researchers hope new, more powerful telescopes and interferometers will render bright, faraway galaxies in even greater detail, revealing their chemical contents.

World's most indestructible creature will be alive on Earth until Sun dies

The tiny tardigrade has been named the world's most indestructible species after scientists discovered it is the only creature that will survive until the Sun dies.

Although cockroaches are traditionally seen as Earth's most resilient species, the eight-legged microbeasts are actually far harder and will continue to thrive for around 10 billion years, come hell or high water, Oxford University has found, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

Tardigrades, which are also known as space bears or moss piglets, are able to survive for up to 30 years without food or water and endure temperature extremes of up to 150°C, the deep sea and the frozen vacuum of space.

Researchers from Oxford and Harvard University, found that their astonishing abilities would protect them from calamities which would wipe out all life on Earth.

In fact the only forces capable of harming tardigrades, such as a gigantic asteroid, an exploding star or a deadly gamma ray burst will not happen before our own Sun dies.

Not only does it suggest that tardigrades will survive long after humans have died out, but it gives hope that life could exist on even the most barren and hostile planets.

Dr. Rafael Alves Batista, of the Department of Physics at Oxford University, said, "Life on this planet can continue long after humans are gone."

"Tardigrades are as close to indestructible as it gets on Earth, but it is possible that there are other resilient

species examples elsewhere in the Universe.

"In this context there is a real case for looking for life on Mars and in other areas of the solar system in general. If Tardigrades are Earth's most

asteroids and dwarf planets with enough mass to cause the oceans to boil if they struck the Earth and none are on a collision course with our planet, smaller space rocks would not harm tardigrades.



The tardigrade can survive 30 years without food — half its lifetime.

resilient species, who knows what else is out there."

The water-dwelling micro animals can live for up to 60 years, and grow to a maximum size of 0.5mm.

The only real threat to their existence would be from an apocalyptic event which would cause Earth's oceans to boil away.

But the scientists discovered that there are only a dozen known

Likewise in order of an exploding star to boil away the oceans it would be 0.14 light-years away but the nearest star to the Sun is four light years away, so even if it exploded in a supernova it would not harm tardigrades.

Destructive explosions of electromagnetic energy known as gamma-ray bursts which are thought to be caused by neutron stars colliding or

the formation of black holes could also be a threat to the little creatures, but again none could occur close enough to wipe out the species.

Dr. David Sloan, coauthor and post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Physics at Oxford University, said, "To our surprise we found that although nearby supernovae or large asteroid impacts would be catastrophic for people, tardigrades could be unaffected."

"Therefore it seems that life, once it gets going, is hard to wipe out entirely."

"Huge numbers of species, or even entire genera may become extinct, but life as a whole will go on."

In highlighting the resilience of life in general, the research broadens the scope of life beyond Earth, within and outside of this solar system.

Professor Abraham Loeb, coauthor and chair of the Astronomy Department at Harvard University, said that it proved that life could survive in even the harshest environments, such as beneath the surface of Mars, or on the moons of Europa and Enceladus.

Loeb added, "Organisms with similar tolerances to radiation and temperature as tardigrades could survive long-term below the surface in these conditions."

"The subsurface oceans that are believed to exist on Europa and Enceladus, would have conditions similar to the deep oceans of Earth where tardigrades are found, volcanic vents providing heat in an environment devoid of light."

The research was published in the *Scientific Reports*.

Will the Sun put the brakes on global warming?

The Sun is like a teenager that cycles through mood swings — from dramatic to chill and back again — roughly every eleven years.

But this time it's different. It now appears the Sun is heading for a rare, super-chill period that threatens to add some unexpected drama to today's climate change discussion, according to foxnews.com.

For most of its history, science believed the Sun's output was constant. It was wrong.

Today, we realize that lots of things about the Sun wax and wane every eleven years, most notably its brightness and the number of explosive disturbances on its surface called sunspots and faculae.

That's not all. The eleven-year cycle itself snakes up and down like a roller coaster, reaching 'grand maxima' and 'grand minima' every 100-200 years.

The last grand maximum peaked circa 1958, after which the Sun has been steadily quieting down. Today, the drop in activity is at its steepest in 9,300 years.

Is the Sun headed for a grand minimum? If so, it immediately calls to mind the famous Maunder Minimum, during which the Sun languished for seventy years.

From 1645 to 1715 the Sun's brightness dimmed by a fraction of one percent and the number of sunspots and faculae plummeted to nearly zero.

On top of that, the Maunder Minimum occurred precisely during the coldest part of the centuries-long Little Ice Age, when the average temperature of the northern hemisphere dropped by about -17°C.

Was it a coincidence? Or did the Maunder Minimum help drive the Ice Age? Here's where the story about today's apparent plunge toward a solar grand minimum really heats up.

According to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Earth's



foxnews.com

temperature has increased by about -17°C since 1880, roughly the end of the Little Ice Age.

The worst warming is yet to come, most scientists claim, and not even a grand solar minimum will prevent it.

Using computer simulations, scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, estimate that a grand solar minimum in the middle of the 21st century would slow down human-caused global warming and reduce the relative increase of surface temperatures by several tenths of a degree Celsius.

But at the end of the grand minimum, they say, the warming would simply pick up where it left off.

"Therefore... a grand solar minimum would slow down and somewhat delay, but not stop, human-caused global warming."

But the Sun's dramatic quiescence comes with a surprising complication: Cosmic rays.

They are subatomic particles — mainly protons and helium nuclei — that originate from somewhere deep within our galaxy. Their source is still a mystery.

Usually, the Sun's powerful magnetic field and radioactive winds keep cosmic

rays away from our neighborhood.

But when the Sun weakens, the cosmic rays are freer to move in and bombard Earth. New research shows that upon striking the atmosphere, cosmic rays produce showers of particles and ions that seed clouds with extraordinary efficiency. The increased cloudiness shades Earth from the Sun.

Recently, a team of Russian scientists compared the cosmic-ray cooling mechanism to two other well-known drivers of climate change — the Sun's inconsistent brightness and greenhouse gases.

Publishing in the *Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Physics*, they maintain the cosmic-ray cooling phenomenon will dominate everything else in the coming decades and actually force a period of global cooling.

It is a radical hypothesis, to be sure, but even mainstream scientists monitoring the Sun's rapidly flagging behavior agree the growing likelihood of a grand minimum is stirring up a grand maximum of uncertainty and excitement.

Yvonne Elsworth, a solar physicist at England's University of Birmingham, said, "We are not quite sure what the consequences of this will be, but it's clear that we are in unusual times."

First laboratory generation of astrophysical shock waves created

Throughout the Universe, supersonic shock waves propel cosmic rays and supernova particles to velocities near the speed of light.

The most high-energy of these astrophysical shocks occur far outside the solar system to be studied in detail and have long puzzled astrophysicists, sciencedaily.com reported.

Shocks closer to Earth can be detected by spacecraft, but they fly by too quickly to probe a wave's formation.

Opening the door to new understanding

Now a team of scientists has generated the first high-energy shock waves in a laboratory setting, opening the door to new understanding of these mysterious processes.

Derek Schaeffer, a physicist at Princeton University and the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) and lead author of a July paper in *Physical Review Letters* that outlines the experiments, said, "We have for the first time developed a platform for studying highly energetic shocks with greater flexibility and control than is possible with spacecraft."

Schaeffer and colleagues conducted their research on the Omega EP laser facility at the University of Rochester Laboratory for Laser Energetics.

Collaborating on the project was PPPL physicist Will Fox, who designed the experiment, and researchers from Rochester and the universities of Michigan and New Hampshire.

Fox said, "This lets you understand the evolution of the physical processes going on inside shock waves."

To produce the wave, scientists used a laser to create a high-energy plasma — a form of matter composed of atoms and charged atomic particles — that expanded into a pre-existing magnetized plasma.

The interaction created, within a few billionths of a second, a magnetized shock wave that expanded at a rate of more than one million miles per hour, congruent with shocks beyond the solar system.

The rapid velocity represented a high 'magnetosonic Mach number' and the wave was 'collisionless', emulating shocks that occur in outer space where particles are too far apart to frequently collide.

Discovery by accident

Discovery of this method of generating shock waves actually came about by accident.

The physicists had been studying magnetic reconnection, the process in which the magnetic field lines in plasma converge, separate and energetically reconnect.

To investigate the flow of plasma in the experiment, researchers installed a new diagnostic on the Rochester laser facility.

To their surprise, the diagnostic revealed a sharp steepening of the density of the plasma, which signaled the formation of a high Mach number shock wave.

To simulate the findings, the researchers ran a computer code called 'PSC' on the Titan supercomputer, the most powerful US computer, housed at the DOE's Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility.

The simulation utilized data derived from the experiments and results of the model agreed well with diagnostic images of the shock formation.

Going forward, the laboratory platform will enable new studies of the relationship between collisionless shocks and the acceleration of astrophysical particles.

The authors wrote, "The platform complements present remote sensing and spacecraft observations and opens the way for controlled laboratory investigations of high-Mach number shocks."



Physicist Derek Schaeffer

sciencedaily.com

Children who struggle to focus in class should be given 'prescription video games'



pinimg.com

Children who struggle to concentrate in the classroom should be given a 'personalized prescription' of video games to boost their performance, a leading neuroscientist has claimed.

Adam Gazzaley, a neuroscientist at the University of California, said that concentrated doses of gaming can improve memory and multi-tasking and should be used by schools to assist children with attention-deficit disorders, The Telegraph wrote.

He added that "first person shooter" games, such as 'Call of Duty', have been shown to have a 'benefit on high cognitive abilities' including focusing for long periods and multi-tasking.

His calls come on the back of years of research, including a study coauthored by Dr. Gazzaley in 2016, which found that children enrolled onto a training

program comprised of 25 online cognitive exercises exhibited significant improvements in focus.

However, his claims are likely to divide opinion in the education sector, amid growing concern that excessive exposure to the Internet and television could be contributing to children being diagnosed with attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Speaking at an education technology summit in Salt Lake City, he said: "Now some of you might be thinking, and this is just a popular notion of video games, that they're just another manifestation of human mania — the enduring human quality of just going after something relentlessly, after pointless goals."

"But even consumer level video games... the most controversial due to their high levels of violent content, the first person shooters, have been shown to have a

benefit on high cognitive abilities — attention, working memory, task-switching — in the young people that play them."

"Whether you take them and compare them to people who don't play them, or compare them to naive young people and have them play these games, you see the effects."

Gazzaley, whose 2008 video game, NeuroRacer, may soon be used to treat types of brain such as Alzheimer's in the US, added that certain games can improve the 'brain's plasticity' — its ability to repair and improve under certain conditions.

"If these [games] could be used to improve the functions of the brain, both as an alternative approach to education as well as a clinical approach to medicine, we could really make a big difference," he continued.

"What you should be getting

is a personalized prescription, whether it be educationally or medically, which is specifically targeted at you depending on how you are presented on day one, and which gradually develop and change with you over time."

"Using this technology we could create very powerful targeted experiences, and experiences are the gateway to the brain's plasticity. You're playing a game... that leads to performance metrics, which can be recorded by the game engine in real time."

"We can use this to give real time feedback and to give rewards. We could take new technology and use motion capture... psychological recordings. You could feed all this data into the game engine. We could use virtual and augmented reality to create more real world, more immersive

experiences."

"What we wind up with is a truly integrated, multi-modal, close-looped system. This is the future of using technology to create these powerful targeted and adaptive tools to help improve brain function, for people who are healthy and those that are impaired."

However, his claims are disputed by other academics, who believe that children suffering from ADHD and similar disorders are more vulnerable to becoming addicted to video games and other forms of entertainment technology.

Among them are Dr. Philip A. Chan and Professor Terry Rabbinowitz, whose analysis of video games concluded that adolescents who spend lengthy periods using the Internet or playing games are more likely to suffer from reduced attention spans.

Student's mobile phones

Australian schools are tracking what students do on their mobile phones using technology that can also disable their cameras.

Take from rich mothers to help poor

Rich working mothers should have their maternity pay cut in order to fund higher payments to the poorest parents, according to a new commission backed by three former Tory cabinet ministers.

The measure is among proposals to improve parental rights drawn up by the Bright Blue thinktank, which champions liberal Conservatism. The plan would change current rules that give high-paid mothers 90 percent of their weekly salary for the first six weeks after their child's birth, The Guardian wrote.

The savings from lowering the 90 percent entitlement should be spent on increasing the minimum weekly amount given to low-paid workers after the first six weeks off work. They are currently paid the lower of £140.98 a week or 90 percent of their average weekly wage for up to 33 weeks.



forbes.com

While employers pay statutory maternity pay, they claim all or most of the money back from the taxman. Former cabinet ministers Dominic Grieve, Maria Miller and Caroline Spelman were all on the commission that backed the measure.

Miller, the former culture secretary and equalities minister, said: "Workplace changes over the past decade have not always translated into improvements for British mums."

Over the past 10 years, levels of maternity-related discrimination have doubled, and some pregnant working women now don't even have the right to paid leave to attend antenatal medical appointments to safeguard their baby's health.

"These recommendations from Bright Blue could help reshape attitudes toward pregnant women at work and create a long overdue culture change which better reflects this country's laws, values and beliefs."

The year-long Bright Blue commission is proposing dozens of policies covering human rights and discrimination. Other proposals to help new parents include a radical plan for university-style loans to pay for childcare. It would see poorer parents given a government-backed loan for formal childcare for under-fives. Parents would pay their childcare loans back only when they are working and earning above a certain income.

Bright Blue also backs the right to request flexible working for new employees. Under current rules, they must have worked for 26 continuous weeks with their current employer.

It also calls on the government to force all companies to keep track of the gender pay gap, with the data kept anonymous and released to researchers so that a greater evidence base can be built. The commission also backs the abolition of employment tribunal fees for all basic-rate taxpayers.

Trump wants to spend millions more on school vouchers

The US Congress dedicates \$15 million a year to a program that helps low-income DC students pay tuition at private schools, but it's impossible for taxpayers to find out where their money goes: The administrator of the DC voucher program refuses to say how many students attend each school or how many public dollars they receive.

It's also not clear how students are performing in each school. When Congress created the program in 2004, it did not require individual private schools to disclose anything about student performance. And private schools can continue receiving voucher dollars no matter how poorly their students fare, according to washingtonpost.com.

President Trump has said the DC voucher program is "what winning for young children and kids from all over the country looks like," and he has freed up millions of dollars in federal funds to expand it, allowing nearly triple the number of students to participate by next school year.

He and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have also pledged to expand private-school choice programs across the country, many of which now make it difficult to track how tax dollars are spent and whether they're improving student achievement.

For DeVos, who has spent three decades supporting the expansion of state-level voucher programs, it's more important for parents to have choices than it is for the public to have data.

"Parents know — or can figure out — what learning environment is best for their child, and we must give them the right to choose where that may be," DeVos said in May.

Every school receiving public money should be held accountable, she said, "but they should be directly accountable to parents and communities, not to Washington, DC, bureaucrats."

Of the ten largest private-school choice programs in the nation, at least three do not publish information about how many students are served at each school or how much money those schools receive, according to a Washington Post review.

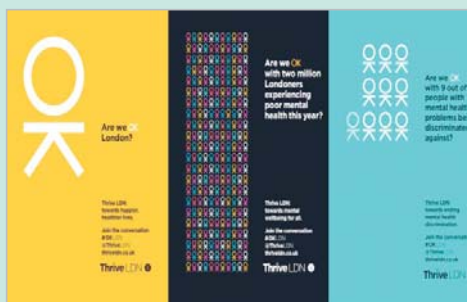
Seven of the programs either don't require that voucher students take standardized tests to make it possible to compare their performance with that of peers at public schools, or, if they do, they do not require schools to make those scores public.

And at least eight have no minimum performance requirements, meaning that a school can do exceedingly poorly and continue to receive taxpayer funds.

Asked to comment on whether DeVos views the lack of public information as a problem, Liz Hill, her spokeswoman, wrote that parents don't need "more data sets, they need more options."

"A child's progress — or lack thereof — is fully transparent to his or her parents," Hill said.

"When a robust choice program exists and students are no longer stuck in a mandated system, the ultimate accountability for schools is whether or not parents choose to send their children there."



wordpress.com

Campaign launched to improve mental health of Londoners

A new campaign to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Londoners launched posters with TIL (Transport for London) across London.

Thrive LDN is a campaign led by the London Health Board in partnership with Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, the UK's National Health System (NHS), and London councils to strive for happier, healthier lives in the capital, metro.co.uk wrote.

The campaign put up posters on London transport asking, 'are we OK London?' — encouraging people to join in the conversation under the hashtag #OKLDN.

Dan Barrett and Una Carney from Thrive LDN told metro.co.uk: "Although mental health affects everyone it does not do so equally and poor mental health is both a cause and consequence of inequality."

"Inequality is often worse in densely populated areas, such as London."

"Poverty and socio-economic disadvantage are key risk factors for developing poor mental health. Poverty can be both a risk factor and consequence of poor mental health in individuals, families and communities."

"We know that two million Londoners experience poor mental health every year and that Londoners report lower levels of life satisfaction and feelings of self-worth than the national average, and that almost half of Londoners report feeling anxious."

"There are clearly particular factors at play in London that are leading to fewer

people enjoying their life and feeling of value. And that's really the main intention of the movement — Are we OK London?"

One of the main challenges facing all people with mental health problems is stigma and discrimination.

Thrive LDN said: "Never forget to ask your friends, family, colleagues — whoever you care about — if they are OK."

"Members of the Thrive LDN team have lived experience of mental health problems and we know first-hand how hard it can be to be open and honest when things are tough."

"We all need to make it OK to not be OK, look out for each other and make it easier for people to talk about their mental health and wellbeing."

Thrive LDN is developing citywide actions to improve people's understanding of mental health, and having the mayor at the helm of the movement has been a positive first step for galvanizing change in this area.

In response to the latest figures showing that 1 in 4 Londoners will suffer from mental health problems Sadiq Khan commented: "This means in nearly every household across our city, you will find a home that includes or knows

someone dealing with poor mental health."

"For some groups in our communities — in particular young BAME and LGBT+ communities — the risk of developing poor mental health is even higher."

"Yet even though we are all touched by mental health, there's still a stigma attached and many outdated attitudes that linger. As a society, we are still not comfortable talking about mental health in the way we should."

Thrive LDN is developing targeted actions with marginalized communities through partnerships with organizations such as Black Thrive and Stonewall to ensure specific mental health difficulties are addressed.

Thrive LDN has run Problem Solving Booths (PSBs) around London throughout July in various locations including Camden Market, City Hall, Pride, and on the tube.

The movement described PSBs as the 'hyper-local arm' of Thrive LDN that give strangers the opportunity or 'permission' to have conversations with one another about mental health in a way that is open, inclusive, insightful and fun.

The booths consist simply of two chairs and some signage.

They encourage members of the public to sit and take the role of either the 'helper' or 'helped' and have a conversation about their mental health and anything that they would like advice on.

Lorry driver drops into the ocean from a Cadiz bridge

This is the heart-stopping moment a pick-up lorry flew off a bridge into the sea below but the driver lived to tell the tale thanks to a series of coincidences.

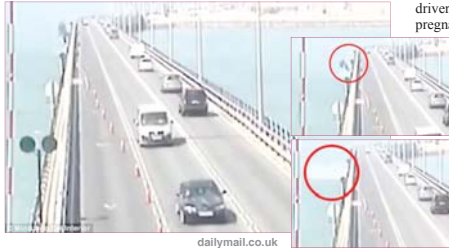
The horrific accident happened in Cadiz, Spain, after the tow truck carrying a car veered to the right to avoid smashing into two vehicles which had already hit each other, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

Although the driver heroically managed to avoid a mass pile-up, he could not stop his heavy truck from flying across the carriageway, smashing through the bridge barriers and plummeting into the ocean below.

He was then saved from drowning thanks to the swift actions of an off-duty police officer.

The dramatic scene was captured on CCTV by the Spanish traffic department and was described by witnesses as 'something straight out of a movie!'

The driver was able to get out



dailymail.co.uk

of his cab through a half-open window after his lorry hit the water and started to sink. He later revealed the window was only open because the air conditioning was broken.

By sheer chance, an off-duty police officer, Miguel Angel Comesaña saw the accident and stopped to help the other injured drivers.

He then looked over the bridge and saw the man in the water and knew he 'had to act

very quickly'.

He drove to the port where he asked to borrow an inflatable dinghy and he and two sailing instructors rowed to the scene.

"I didn't know what I was going to find," he told the Spanish press afterwards. "It took five minutes but we found the driver clinging to a pillar of the bridge like it was a tree."

The officer added: "Without doubt, he has been born again." Comesaña also said that the

driver told him that his partner is pregnant and that he didn't want to discuss the incident with her immediately after the event.

The drama happened on the Carranza Bridge at the entrance to Cadiz and started when two cars crashed head-on.

The driver of the pick-up truck said he managed to get his seat-belt off as the cab started to fill with water.

Part of the bridge was closed for the rest of the day and night and there will continue to be diversions until the barrier is repaired.

One of the drivers of the two cars involved was slightly injured and the other had to be cut free from the wreckage by firemen.

A full investigation is now underway and efforts will start today to try and retrieve both the pick-up truck and the car it had on board which are both sitting on the seabed.

Pilot reveals how to overcome fear of scary plane turbulence

You don't have to be a nervous flyer to be rendered extremely tense and anxious by a bout of plane turbulence.

Being rattled around a pressurized cabin flying at 30,000 feet — a totally bizarre environment, when you think about it — can be extremely terrifying, and there's often not much you can do to calm your fears, mirror.co.uk wrote.

It's not as if the cabin crew are still serving the stiff drink you so badly need — and even if they were, you'd probably regurgitate it with all the jerky movements.

Turbulence is rarely a real cause for concern, but it can still be helpful to have a calming technique up your sleeve.

Fortunately there is one — and it's very simple.

It also doesn't involve



DAILY EXPRESS

popping a tranquilizer or repeating affirmations over and over to yourself.

A method tested on The Today Show on NBC News examined how to distract the brain from any perceived danger in a turbulence simulator at a facility built for nervous fliers.

Captain Ron Nielsen who helped with the experiment had an interesting piece of advice.

The pilot of 40 years instructed a volunteer with a severe fear of flying to take a pen in the opposite hand to which she writes with and write her name over and over again.

Italian mayor bans dogs from being wedding ring bearers

An Italian mayor has banned dogs from being ring bearers in her town, arguing that "marriage is an important, serious thing".

Gigliola Breviaro, the mayor of the Pontirolo Novo in northern Italy, thought it was a step too far when a couple requested that two Bullmastiffs take on the role for their big day, dailymail.co.uk reported.

Breviaro told local newspaper Eco di Bergamo, "I would have been willing to accept dogs in the hall, on a leash and muzzled."

But the traditionalist mayor refused the couple's wishes, meaning the couple had to drop their three and four-year-old pups from the guest list.

While the local politician accepted that dogs were 'important', she insisted that "marriage is an important, serious thing".

The disappointed couple are said to be looking for an alternative, dog-friendly venue to Pontirolo Nuovo town hall.



dailymail.co.uk

At least 92 percent of the Italian population who own pets consider dogs as part of the family.

One of four even allow their precious pooches to slumber next to them in bed.

It comes after a priest in Genzano, near Rome, told a member of his congregation to take her dog outside — sparking protests from animal rights activists.

Police were called in to disperse the group of around 12 campaigners who had gate-crashed a Sunday Mass at the church.

The protesters may even be banged up for two years in prison because it is illegal under Italian law to disrupt religious worship.



Artist creates miniature people from avocado stones



Avocados are a versatile foodstuff. Well regarded as a superfood, they can be used in a variety of ways in the kitchen, from salads to sandwiches and everything in between.

They can be a little dangerous too if you don't take care when preparing them. Some clumsy avocados have ended up in hospital, dailymail.co.uk reported.

So you'd think that avocado is not to be played with, but Irish artist Jan Campbell isn't paying any attention to that.

She's the woman behind the incredible Avocado Stone Faces Instagram page, which is dedicated to her genuinely astonishing carvings of fruit's internal seed.

After deciding that the stone was essentially blank canvas with "a lot of potential" on which to show off her amazing talent, Campbell has set about creating a series of remarkable mythical-like creature carvings.

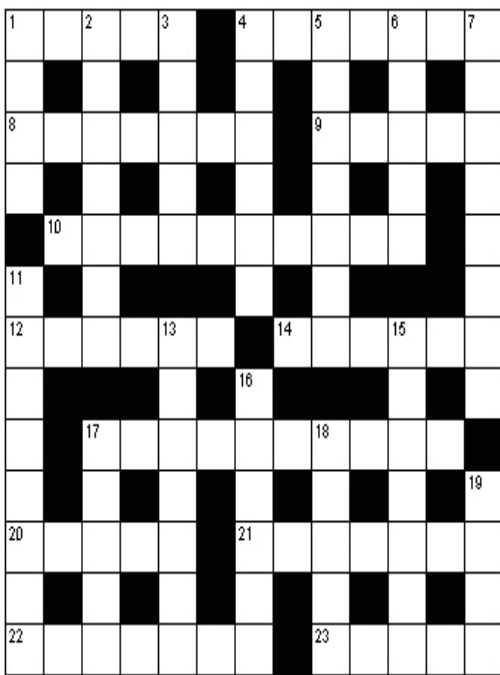
We already feel bad for throwing our distinctly less impressive avocado seeds in the food bin.

Now, the big question: Fancy giving it a go



PA

True or False Crossword



DOWN

- Immense / Small (4)
- Article of clothing / Wading bird (7)
- Command / Request (5)
- Placed in front of a word / Placed at the end of a word (6)
- Flexible / Inflexible (7)
- Pleased / Annoyed (5)
- Large animal / Large insect (8)
- Amaze / Bore (8)
- Male chicken / Female chicken (7)
- Skilled artist / Novice (7)
- Often / Not often (6)
- Dairy product / Vegetable (5)
- Book of verse / Book of maps (5)
- Border / Middle (4)

ACROSS

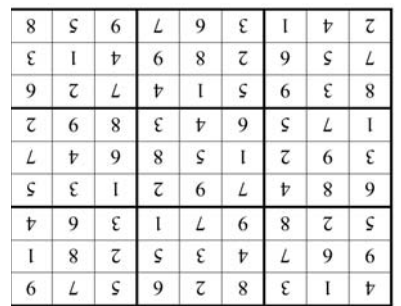
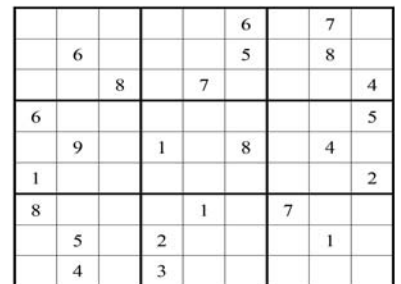
- Defined / Undefined (5)
- Exact / Inexact (7)
- Small fish / Large bird (7)
- Part of the arm / Part of the leg (5)
- Limited / Unlimited (10)
- Planet / Star (6)
- Shrewdness / Inexperience (6)
- Works with / Works against (10)
- Elegant / Awkward (5)
- Concentrated / Watered down (7)
- Stimulating / Monotonous (7)
- Push / Pull (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.



Eight people died and at least 49 were injured after a wall collapsed at the end of the League Cup final between Stade de Mbour and Union Sportive Ouakam in the Demba Diop stadium in Dakar, Senegal.

Iran claims top spot in Asian karate meet



Iran men's kumite team claimed the gold medal at the Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships. ikf.ir

Sports Desk

Iran was crowned champion at the 14th Asian Karate Federation (AKF) Senior Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, claiming ten medals including four golds.

On Sunday, the final day of the competitions, Iran women's kumite team, which had Hamideh Abbas-Ali and Fatemeh Chahkhalaki in its lineup, beat Chinese Taipei 2-0 in the final contest to win the gold medal.

Iran also won the men's kumite team gold by overpowering Saudi Arabia in the final 3-0. The Iranian team consisted of

Zabihollah Pourshib, Mehdi Khodabakhshi, Sajjad Ganjzadeh and Bahman Asgari.

Iran's Bahman Asgari (-75kg) and Amir Mahdizadeh (-60kg) also clinched two kumite golds after outmuscling opponents from Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan in the final bouts, respectively.

Majid Hasan-Nia, who had initially overcome his Kazak opponent in the men's -55kg kumite final, was handed silver after the officiating team changed the referee's last-second decision in favor of the Iranian Karateka's opponent based on a video review requested by the Kazak rival's coaching staff.

Sajjad Ganjzadeh also had to settle for the silver medal after he suffered a defeat against Saudi Arabia's competitor in the men's +84kg kumite final.

Also, both Iran men's and women's kata teams took the silver medals.

On Saturday, Mehdi Khodabakhshi and Mobina Kavianian had clinched two bronze medals in the women's -68kg and men's -84kg kumite contests, respectively.

On Friday, Iran's karate teams managed to win the title in the 16th AKF Cadet, Junior, U-21 in the Kazak capital of Astana.

Muguruza beats V. Williams to claim first Wimbledon title

A delighted Garbine Muguruza hailed her fighting spirit after coming through a tricky opening set against Venus Williams before running away with the second to claim her first Wimbledon women's singles title on Saturday afternoon.

The 23-year-old Spaniard – runner up against Williams's sister Serena in 2015 – faced two set points at 4-5 in the first set but confidently saw them out before taking nine games running to come through 7-5, 6-0 in 77 minutes. Afterwards she confessed that, though she had been nervous, she was always confident of a triumph, the Guardian reported.

"I was expecting the best Venus, because she was playing very good and I knew she was going to make me suffer for it," she said. "I was very nervous and tense. I wanted it to go my way."

"But when I had those set points against me, I'm like: 'Hey, it's normal. I'm playing Venus here.' So I just kept fighting. And I knew I was going to eventually have an opportunity."

Williams might have been the sentimental favorite at 37 but Muguruza insisted she had been looking forward to playing the American – even though she was someone she looked up to when

growing up. "You know, she has won here five times, so she knows how to play," she said. "I was so excited to go out there and win, especially over a role model." Muguruza also admitted that when she started playing on grass she had hated the surface – something the packed Centre Court crowd would never have known given the way she played in ending Williams's hopes of a sixth Wimbledon title. "It was rough at the beginning," said Muguruza. "I didn't like grass. For sure I suffered. It took me a while actually to calm down, to say, 'Hey, it's grass, you have to adapt to the surface.'"

"Once I got to the Wimbledon final against Serena Williams two years ago, everything changed for me because I felt like, 'Stop complaining.' Since that moment I've liked grass and looked in a positive way. It made a big difference."

A disappointed Williams, who hinted that she would be back next year, admitted it had not been her day. "I definitely would have loved to have converted some of those break points," she said. "But she competed really well. So credit to her. She just dug in there and managed to play better. I've had a great two weeks. I'm looking forward to the rest of the summer."

Mou: Ronaldo to United is 'mission impossible'

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho ruled out signing Cristiano Ronaldo back from Real Madrid.

BBC Sport reported in June that Ronaldo was left upset after being accused of tax fraud and wants to leave Spain.

A move back to United, whom he left for a then world record £80 million in 2009, has been mentioned as a possibility.

However, when asked about the likelihood of the move, Mourinho said it cannot happen due to the "economic difficulty" of doing the deal.

Mourinho was asked about signing Portugal captain Ronaldo after his side had beaten LA Galaxy 5-2 in the first match of its preseason tour of the US on Sunday.

"I am not going to get my club to waste time on players who are mission impossible."

"Ronaldo is such an important player for his club. A player of great economic power. We have not been able to find any reason that could have made us think that Ronaldo could leave."

Mourinho added that he did not believe another Real Madrid player, striker Alvaro Morata, will end up at Old Trafford either.

"It is a shame," he said.

"He is a player who made it to the first team with me and I have a special liking for. I enjoyed watching his evolution in Ju-



Cristiano Ronaldo scored two goals as Real Madrid beat Juventus in last month's Champions League final. REUTERS

ventus and Madrid.

"But we have not reached an agreement

with his club and I don't think he can end with us."

Chelsea signs Bakayoko from Monaco



Timoué Bakayoko becomes Chelsea's second major summer signing after the Blues brought in defender Antonio Rudiger from Roma. DARREN WALSH/GETTY IMAGES

Chelsea signed midfielder Timoué Bakayoko from French champion Monaco in a reported £40 million deal.

The 22-year-old France international signed a five-year deal with the Premier League champion, BBC reported.

He becomes Chelsea's second major summer signing after the Blues brought in defender Antonio Rudiger from Roma.

Bakayoko joined Monaco from Ligue 1 rival Rennes in 2014 and made his France debut in a friendly defeat by Spain in March this year.

He was part of the Monaco

squad that reached the Champions League semifinals last season, going out of the competition to Juventus.

Bakayoko, who will wear the number 14 shirt at Chelsea, said, "I am very happy to be here and to join this great team."

"I have grown up watching Chelsea. Signing was the natural thing for me because it is a club I loved very much in my childhood."

"I am now looking forward to evolving under this fantastic coach [Antonio Conte] and alongside so many great teammates."

"Timoué was outstanding

as Monaco emerged as one of Europe's best sides last season and we are delighted to welcome him to Chelsea," said Michael Emenalo, the club's technical director. "Despite his young age he already has plenty of experience as a French title winner and having competed in the latter stages of the Champions League, we believe he will add considerable quality to our squad."

While the pursuit of a new striker to replace Diego Costa continues, there will be relief at Chelsea having secured two key targets for Conte in quick succession.

Chinese transfers curbed by tax rules

Wayne Rooney led the big names linked with a move to China but in the end the only arrivals were striker Anthony Modeste and a cast mostly of freebies, loanees and has-beens.

Experts and insiders say a 100 percent tax on foreign imports and baffling last-minute changes to Chinese transfer rules ensured the transfer window in the country fizzled to a close on Friday, AFP reported.

A source close to talks to bring an English Premier League star to China said that confusion over the rules had greatly complicated the move and negotiations eventually broke down.

Chinese Super League (CSL) clubs shelled out record-breaking sums in the winter transfer window, heralding the arrival of £60 million (\$69 million) of Brazilian Oscar to Shanghai SIPG.

Carlos Tevez joined Shanghai Shenhua on similarly world-leading wages, while Belgian international Axel Witsel, Brazilian forward Alexandre Pato and the Nigerian John Obi Mikel all left European football for China on handsome contracts.

But the Beijing government and Chinese Football Association (CFA), fearing that domestic players were being squeezed out, in May proposed a prohibitive rule that every time a club in debt spent on an import, it would have to pay the same amount again to a fund for developing the local game.

Even as the summer transfer window opened on June 19, the CFA was tweaking its policy, saying that the 100 percent levy would kick in on foreign players costing more than 45 million yuan (\$6.6 million, £5.8 million) and Chinese over 20 million yuan.

Tianjin Quanjian, strongly linked in the winter with Chelsea striker Diego Costa, seemed determined to snare a forward.

The Chinese club got its man in French marksman Modeste and appeared to get round the transfer rules by signing him on what German daily Bild said was a two-year loan for about €6 million,



Carlos Tevez became the world's highest-paid footballer with a £915,000-a-week deal, earning more than both Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, when he joined Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua in January 2017. EPA

with an option to buy for €29 million.

Rooney left Manchester United but instead of China returned to Everton, while Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang – also rumored to be off to China – remains at Borussia Dortmund.

'Taxes killed the market'

Simon Chadwick, professor of sports enterprise at University of Salford in Manchester, said the transfer tax and limits on the number of foreign players to three a match "killed" the market.

Chinese clubs were under heavy pressure from the government – which has made improving the national side's fortunes a priority and at the same time is concerned about capital flight – to stop spending on foreign talent, he said.

"Clubs have erred on the side of caution and desisted from making the kind of high-profile, high-value signings that we have seen over the last few years," Chadwick said.

"The state has effectively spoken and when the (Chinese) state speaks, people in organizations are expected to listen."

"This transfer window has been characterized by people moderating their activities in response to state concerns about spiraling transfer values."

Paulinho stays

Aside from Modeste, Chinese clubs did limited business during the four-week transfer window, taking players on loan, for free or for relatively meagre fees.

Jiangsu Suning, managed by Italian Fabio Capello, snapped up Cameroon forward Benjamin Moukandjo for a reported £5.5 million – just avoiding the 100 percent charge.

CSL champion Guangzhou Evergrande re-signed Brazilian journeyman Muriqui on a free transfer but its best business was holding on to midfielder Paulinho with Barcelona sniffing around.

Slovenian international Kevin Kampl's move from German side Bayer Leverkusen to Beijing Guoan fell through at the last minute after the clubs failed to agree over terms of payment.

Chadwick said that after two contrasting transfer windows in the winter and this time, Chinese football faced a major challenge to identify the middle ground.

"They've veered from excess to austerity in the space of one year," he said.

"So they've gone from a situation where everyone was talking about the Super League because of the big-name signings to a situation where now nobody is talking about it because there are no big-name signings."

World tourism witnesses 6% growth in four months

International tourist arrivals worldwide grew by six percent in January-April of 2017 compared to the figure for the same period last year, with business confidence reaching its highest levels in a decade. Sustained growth in most major destinations and a steady rebound in others drove results. Prospects for May-August 2017 remain high.

Destinations worldwide received 369 million international tourists (overnight visitors) in the first four months of the year, 21 million more than in the same months of 2016 (+6 percent), according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer.

The January-April period usually represents some 28 percent of the yearly total and covers the winter season of the Northern Hemisphere and the summer season of the Southern Hemisphere, as well as the Chinese New Year and Easter holidays, among others.

International arrivals reported by destinations around the world were positive overall, with very few exceptions. Most of 2016's strong performers maintained momentum, while destinations that struggled in previous years continued to rebound in the first part of 2017. This is especially reflected in the better results of the Middle East (+10 percent), Africa (+8 percent) and Europe (+6 percent). Asia and the Pacific (6 percent) and the Americas (+4 percent) continued to enjoy robust growth.

"Destinations that were affected by negative events during 2016 are showing clear signs of recovery in a very short period of time, and this is very welcome news for all, but particularly for those whose livelihoods depend on tourism in these destinations," said UNWTO Secretary General Taleb Rifai.

"As we celebrate 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we welcome the continued development of tourism and recall that with growth comes increased responsibility to ensure tourism can contribute to sustainability in all its three pillars — economic, social and environmental. Growth is never the enemy and it is our responsibility to manage it in a sustainable manner," he added.

Regional results

International arrivals in Europe (+6 percent) rebounded in January-April after mixed results last year, as confidence returned to some destinations that were impacted by security incidents, while others continued to grow strongly. Results improved particularly in Southern Mediterranean Europe (+9 percent as compared to +1 percent in 2016) and Western Europe (+4 percent as opposed to +0 percent in 2016). Northern Europe (+9 percent) continued to record strong growth, while Central and Eastern Europe recorded 4 percent more international arrivals, in line with results of last year.

In Asia and the Pacific, international arrivals were up six percent through April with sound results across all four sub-regions. South Asia (+14 percent) led growth, followed by Oceania (+7 percent), Southeast Asia (+6 percent) and Northeast Asia (+5 percent).

International arrivals in the Americas were up four percent with strong results in South America and Central America (both +7 percent), while arrivals in North America grew by three percent and in the Caribbean by two percent.

Limited data available for Africa points to an eight percent increase in international arrivals, with North Africa (+18 percent) recovering strongly. International arrivals in the Middle East rebounded by an estimated 10 percent following a four-percent decline in 2016.

IRAN DAILY

Add: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

Iran Daily has no responsibility whatsoever for the advertisements and promotional material printed in the newspaper.

» License Holder:
» Managing Director:
» Editor-in-Chief:
» Editorial Dept. Tel:
» Editorial Dept. Fax:
» Subscription Dept. Tel:
» ICPI Publisher:
» Advertising Dept. Tel & Email:
» Website:
» Email:
» Printing House:

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Sadroddin Moosavi
Kambakhsh Khalaji
+98 21 88755761-2
+98 21 88761869
+98 21 985521954, +98 21 98748800
+98 21 88548892, 5
+98 21 8850067 - irandaily@iranagahi.com
http://www.irandailyonline.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Globetrotting 'The Servant' adds US, Mexico awards to its asset

Art & Culture Desk

An Iranian animated piece 'The Servant' won two awards at US and Mexican festivals.

Farnoush Abedi's flick received the second Best Animation Award at the 20th San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) in the US and the Best Short Animation award at Querétaro International Film Festival in Mexico.

The 20th San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) announced Abedi's highly-acclaimed animation 'The Servant' as runner up in the best animation category of the American film festival. The first prize went to 'Abina and the Important Men' by Soumya Behrens.

San Francisco Black Film Festival was founded to celebrate African American cinema and provide a platform for Black filmmakers, screenwriters and actors to present their art.

It was later expanded to include a global perspective, accepting films worldwide from filmmakers and screenwriters who are of African descent among others.

The 20th San Francisco Black Film Festival (SFBFF) was held from June 15 to 18, 2017 in California, the US.

Querétaro International Film Festival which was held from July 9 to 13 is proposed as an inclusive meeting point for the public, filmmakers, theorists and other professionals of film industry. It seeks to become a forum with global presence and stimulate film culture becoming a showcase to spread contemporary proposals from emerging and consecrated



filmmakers. According to the director, 'The Servant' narrates the familiar story of a master and his servant, the story of a writer's encounter with a giant insect. A cockroach. The cockroach becomes a servant but gradually begins to realize that it deserves better conditions, so it tries to turn the table around and change the game in

its own favor. The man, however, attempts to preserve the status quo but soon realizes that the game has no rules.

Abedi's film has also recently won the 2017 Silver Scream Festival in California and the Audience award at 13th International Fantastic Film Festival of Porto Alegre (Fantaspoa) in Brazil.

Qur'an copy written by slave in US on display in Beirut

A copy of the Holy Qur'an written by an African slave in the US is on show at an exhibition in Beirut, Lebanon.

Rami al-Nimr, a Palestinian merchant living in Beirut, has mounted the exhibit, which features the art of Arabic calligraphy and includes old Arabic manuscripts, according to MOnline.

The event began in April and will continue until October, according to Al-Nimr.



IQINA

The items on display are from Nimr's personal collection purchased from various individuals in different countries, he said.

One of the rare items is the copy of the Qur'an written in 1740s by an African slave.

The young slave had been sold to a family in the US state of Pennsylvania.

He managed to escape but was arrested and put in jail and wrote the copy while in prison, Nimr said.

The young slave had also drawn a portrait of himself on the first page of the book.

Author Grippando wins Harper Lee Prize

A best-selling suspense author from Florida is this year's winner of an award named for the late Alabama novelist Harper Lee.

According to AP, the University of Alabama Law School and the American Bar Association Journal announced that James Grippando will receive the 2017 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction for his book 'Gone Again'.

The prize recognizes fictional books that best depict the role of attorneys in bringing about change in society.

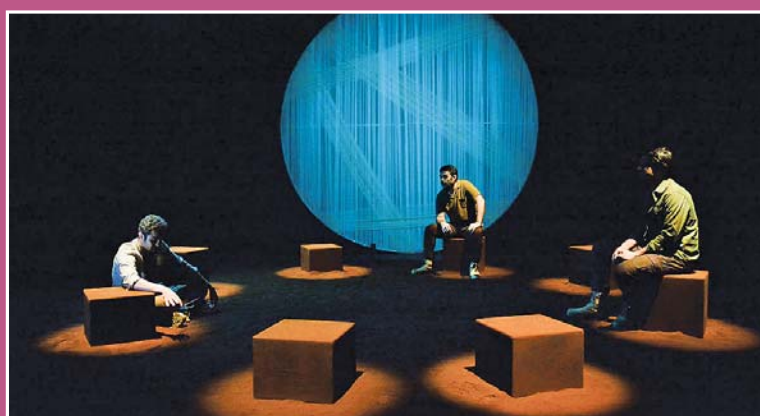
Grippando is a Fort Lauderdale attorney and author who writes about the fictional attorney Jack Swyteck, who is dedicated to bringing about social



AP

justice. Grippando says winning the Harper Lee Prize is the proudest moment of his dual career.

The award started seven years ago to mark the 50th anniversary of Lee's landmark novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.



ALIREZA FARAHANI/honaronline.ir



Golchehr Damghani is staging 'Petit déjeuner au crépuscule' ('Breakfast at Twilight') at Tehran's City Theater until July 21, 2017.

» Weather



32 23
Amol



39 26
Jiroft



30 24
Ramsar



36 23
Shahriar



37 22
Shiraz

36[^]
v25

Tehran



35 21
Dushanbe



43 28
Mecca



21 12
Saint Petersburg



36 27
Tokyo



23 18
Toronto