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S. Korea offers talks on tension, family reunions with North

South Korea on Monday offered talks with North Korea to ease animosities along their tense border and resume reunions of families separated by their war in the 1950s.

It was unclear how North Korea will react since it remains suspicious of new South Korean President Moon Jae-in's outreach to it. But Moon's overture, the first formal offer of talks since his inauguration in May, indicates he wants to use dialogue to defuse the international standoff over North Korea's weapons programs, despite having condemned the North's first intercontinental ballistic missile test on July 4 and vowed a firm response, AP said.

If realized, the talks would be the first inter-Korean dialogue since December 2015. Ties between the Koreas have plunged over the North's expanding missile and nuclear programs and the hardline policies of Moon's conservative predecessors.

South Korean Vice Defense Minister Suh Choo Suk proposed on Monday that defense officials from the two Koreas hold talks at the border village of Panmunjom on Friday on how to end hostile activities along the border. South Korean acting Red Cross chief Kim Sun Hyang told a news conference that it wants separate talks at the border village on Aug. 1 to discuss family reunions.

North Korea's state media didn't immediately respond to South Korea's proposals. But analysts say North Korea may accept the defense talks because it wants the South Korean Army to halt loudspeaker broadcasts at the border that began after North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January 2016.

Prospects for talks on family reunions are less good because North Korea has previously demanded that South Korea repatriate some North Korean defectors living in the South before any reunions take place, according to the analysts.

Earlier this month, Moon said in a speech in Germany that he's willing to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un if certain conditions are met. Moon also said the two Koreas must halt hostile activities along the border, restart family reunions and cooperate on the 2018 Winter Olympics to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Moon has said he will use both dialogue and pressure to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. But he has achieved little progress, with North Korea test-firing a series of newly developed missiles.

Iran signs MoUs with Japan, Russia on oil, gas fields



Domestic Economy Desk

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with companies from Japan and Russia to develop oilfields.

Japan's Toyo Engineering Corporation on Monday signed an agreement with National Iranian Oil Company and Petropars to develop the offshore Salman oil and gas field in the Persian Gulf, IRNA reported.

The document was signed in Tehran on Monday by Deputy Managing Director of NIOC Ogholamreza Manouchehri, Petropars CEO Hamid Akbari and Hiroshi Sato, a senior executive of Toyo.

The agreement is aimed at increasing natural gas production and renovating the field's facilities.

Based on the agreement, Petropars, a subsidiary of NIOC, will finance the feasibility studies of Phase 1 while Toyo will bankroll operational costs of the project's Phase 2.

Salman field is located 142 kilometers south of Lavan Island off Hormozgan Province in the Persian Gulf. It extends to UAE territorial waters and contains several layers of crude oil as well as a gas layer.

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Zarif: US violating nuclear deal

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Islamic Republic has been abiding by its commitments under the historic nuclear deal with world powers, but the US has been violating the agreement.

In an exclusive interview with CNN on Sunday, Zarif said as per the agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the IAEA is the "only accepted body to monitor the implementation of the nuclear side of the deal," adding that the nuclear agency had repeatedly confirmed Iran's commitment to the deal.

"The IAEA has verified, I believe, seven times now since the implementation day that Iran has implemented the deal faithfully, fully and completely," Zarif said.

The Iranian foreign minister added that the same, however, cannot be said of the US concerning its commitment to the deal, adding, "The United States has failed to implement its part of the bargain."

When asked to specify an instance of US non-compliance with the deal, Zarif said, "For instance, when the White House made an announcement that President Trump used his presence in Hamburg during the G20 meeting in order to dissuade leaders from other countries from engaging in business with Iran, that is a violation of not [only] the spirit, [but also] of the letter of the JCPOA."

"I believe the United States needs to bring itself into compliance with its part of the obligations under the deal," he said.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia – plus Germany signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016.

Under the agreement, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of

would be a threat to our security rather than an asset for our security."

Trump's Mideast policy 'misplaced'

Answering a question about Donald Trump's Middle East policy and his effort to form an anti-Iran coalition, Zarif said, "All I can say is that it's a misplaced and misguided policy."

The Iranian foreign minister went on to note, "We know where the terrorists are coming from; we know those who attacked the World Trade Center were citizens of which countries in the region, and I can tell you that none of them came from Iran... Most of them came from US allies."

Zarif said, "I believe the ideology that is being spread, unfortunately, by our neighbors in Saudi Arabia throughout the world is responsible for hatred, for extremism, and fanaticism that is bringing ... people who have nothing to do with Islam into our region and even beyond our region."

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that none of terrorist groups such as Daesh, Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organization have anything to do with Iran.

"All of them receive not only their ideology, but their financial assistance, their weapons, [and] their arms from others who call themselves US allies," he noted.

Zarif is currently in New York to attend the UN high-level political forum on sustainable development on Friday.



CNN

all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

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

Referring to accusations leveled against Iran's nuclear program, Zarif said, "I think people want to basically engage in scaremongering. Iran has a very clear track record. Iran is a victim of chemical weapons. Iran never used chemical weapons. Iran has had the capability, but decided not to go in the direction of producing weapons of mass destruction, because we believe that not only are they against our ideology, but they do not augment our security. We believe that nuclear weapons

Muslims avoid entering Al-Aqsa over Israeli security measures

Muslims heeded calls Monday not to enter the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and protested outside after Israeli authorities installed metal detectors at entrances to the ultra-sensitive site following a gunfight that killed two Israeli policemen and three Palestinians.

The compound in East Beit-ul-Moqaddas was largely empty on Monday apart from tourists and Jewish visitors, with Muslims again praying and protesting outside the site instead of entering through the metal detectors, AFP reported.

The Haram al-Sharif compound also includes the Dome of the Rock. Several hundred people could be seen praying outside two different entrances to the site around midday on Monday.

There were protests after the prayer, with crowds shouting: "Aqsa mosque, we sacrifice our souls and our blood." Israeli forces later sought to move them back.

"We will not break the solidarity of the people," said Jamal Abdallah, a Palestinian who now lives in the US state of Arizona and was planning to visit Al-Aqsa, but changed his mind when he was told of the situation.

Israel installed the metal detectors after Friday's incident near the holy site that saw three Palestinians engaging in a gun battle with Israeli police. They then entered the compound, where they were shot dead by Israeli forces. Israel took the highly unusual decision of closing the 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. They began reopening it on Sunday, but with

metal detectors in place, while security cameras were also being installed in the area.

Al-Aqsa officials have refused to enter and have called on worshippers to do the same. Palestinians view the new measures as Israel asserting further control over the site. Crowds chanted "Allah-u Akbar" (God is the Greatest) as they gathered near the Lions Gate entrance to Beit-ul-Moqaddas' Old City on Sunday.

On Sunday night, skirmishes broke out between Israeli police and worshippers outside the entrance, with the Red Crescent reporting 17 people wounded.

The Haram al-Sharif is located in East Beit-ul-Moqaddas, occupied by Israel in 1967 and later annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.

It is considered the third holiest site in Islam.

Iran: Referendum in Kurdistan would weaken Iraq

Political Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council slammed the decision to hold an independence referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan region in September saying the move would eventually lead to the weakening of Iraq.

Ali Shamkhani added, although the issue sounds attractive, in fact, it would ostracize Iraqi Kurds, cause pressure on them to rise and eventually weaken the region and the entire country, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks on Monday in a meeting with the members of a high-ranking delegation dispatched by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) to Iran comprising PUK's Deputy Secretary General Kosrat Rasul, as its head, as well as Mala Bakhtiar and Mahmud Sangawi, the PUK's politburo members.

Commenting on the latest developments in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and the Middle East, Shamkhani said the Iraqi forces' victory over Daesh and the liberation of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from the terrorists promise a brighter future for an integrated Iraq which will help the Iraqi government foil foreign plots and seditious schemes aimed at dividing the country.

He added Iraq's greater stability, safety, security and unity will guarantee the country's sustainable development. All friendly and benevolent countries which have cordial relations with Iraq should back this strategy, Shamkhani stressed.

In April, the representatives of the two main parties in Iraq's Kurdistan discussed the issue of a separation referendum and decided to hold the vote this year.

He said holding an independence referendum is neither in line with the policies formulated by Iraqi authorities nor is it a



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (R) meets a high-ranking delegation of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the second largest party in Iraq's Kurdistan.

proper reflection of their prudence as it is a marginal issue and fails to address Iraqi nation's real need and priorities. It will also lead to the division of the country.

SNSC secretary added certain states within and outside the region seek to weaken Iraq and West Asia's major countries.

He noted that the outlandish colonialist plots, such as the "Greater Middle East", are required to be foiled by being cognizant and heedful of the national interests and those of the Muslim world.

Shamkhani said the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes greater security, accelerated and

sustainable economic development and improved welfare for the parties, groups and people in northern Iraq.

Achieving these goals is a main obstacle to the activities, formation and growth of terrorist groups.

Iran hailed

Speaking at the same meeting, Rasul presented a report on the latest developments and status quo in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and said Iran has always supported Iraq's Kurds.

He stressed that the bond between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan is historical and civilizational. "Iraqi Kurdistan region is proud of its friendship with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Praising the decisive role Iran played in support of the Iraq's Kurdistan and its people by ensuring their security at the time of Daesh's invasion, he said Iran was the only country that stood by the region's people, fought Daesh and prevented the occurrence of a security disaster in the region when the Takfiri terrorists were at the gates of Erbil.

OPINION

JCPOA: From national interests to partisan mudslinging

By Ali Khorram*

The second anniversary of the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal has been overshadowed by numerous debates in Iran, the US and Europe as well as regional nations.

These debates fall into two categories.

The first category pertains to experts' views. The second involves political inclinations.

Those who assess the JCPOA in terms of technical issues share similar views. They believe in the positive results of the accord and regard it as a win-win deal. Proponents of such a stance also consider the nuclear agreement a constructive cooperation between Iran and the international community and look forward to seeing its positive outcomes in political, economic and industrial fields.

However, some groups in Iran, the US and regional nations have adopted adverse political views toward the JCPOA. They have been dreaming of the failure of the Iran nuclear deal.

Such groups are aware that if the JCPOA had not been reached between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group, hawks in the US would have resorted to Article 42 of the UN Charter in a bid to lay sea and air blockades to Iran and pave the ground for expanding America's militarism in the Middle East.

Besides, Iran's refusal to settle the standoff over its peaceful nuclear program could have sparked a fierce controversy.

Undoubtedly, such an approach would have adversely impacted the world and could have provided Americans with an excuse to incur losses to the Islamic Republic through Article 42 of the UN Charter.

Presently, almost all international powers are involved in military confrontations and political challenges in the Middle East and North Africa. The victims of such interventionist policies are civilians.

A glance at crises in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Egypt and Libya shows that a rational approach can protect Iran against instability in the Middle East.

Iran has at times exercised restraint vis-à-vis problems pertaining to the implementation of the JCPOA in order to preserve national interests, the nuclear industry and the country's economy and industry.

Iran's adversaries would be walking on air these days if Tehran had not adopted a rational policy toward the nuclear deal.

The majority of Iranians in the presidential, parliamentary and city council elections voted in favor of such a rational policy. Their votes conveyed the message that they call for constructive cooperation with the world and the pursuit of diplomatic methods to settle political differences with other countries.

Opponents of President Hassan Rouhani should refrain from approaches which pose challenges to the Islamic establishment. They can promote their capabilities rather than tarnish the Rouhani administration's image to appeal to voters.

Nowadays, Iranians are comparing their country with China and South Korea which have turned into Washington's rivals through developing their economies and reviving their industries.

The two Asian nations have managed to stand against the US via their economic power, while benefiting from investment opportunities.

Attempts made to undermine the JCPOA by some political groups inside Iran will tarnish the deal's image among Europeans.

When these political groups launch propaganda against the nuclear deal, European investors, industrialists and bankers become reluctant to invest in Iran.

We cannot expect the JCPOA to bring great achievements when we question the deal ourselves.

Meanwhile, despite the irrational policies of US President Donald Trump toward the JCPOA, the deal is still in place.

Trump cannot revoke the accord while other members of the P5+1 group are strongly supporting it.

If the White House withdraws from the deal, Iran will be provided with an opportunity to form an international consensus against the US.

Such a consensus against Washington would encourage countries to expand their industrial and economic ties with Iran.

Moderate US politicians are fully aware of the consequences of discarding the JCPOA. Hence, it seems unlikely that the US will pull out of the deal.

*Ali Khorram is an international affairs analyst.

Iran warns US of 'big risk' if it blacklists IRGC

Iran's top military official warned the US of repercussions which Washington's branding of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization would have.

Last month, US senators passed a bill of sanctions that target Iranian individuals and entities after they called on the State Department to designate IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization, Press TV reported.

"Tagging the Guards along with terrorist groups and imposing similar sanctions is a big risk for the Americans, their bases and their forces in the region," Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Monday.

The bipartisan US Senate vote, which is now to

go to the House, is demanding major action from the Trump administration against the IRGC.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson recently stated that Washington would support a "peaceful" regime change in Iran, and that the overall Iran policy was under development.

Baqeri warned the United States against "wrong calculations" regarding the Islamic Republic, including its planned sanctions and possible blacklisting of the IRGC.

"American officials are advised to talk somewhat wiser, more measured and mature to other countries, especially a country like Iran that has stood against all conspiracies with pride and strength, and no longer play with their honor."

The US says the new sanctions target Iran over its missile program, the country's support for resistance groups such as Hezbollah and its alleged human rights violations.

Baqeri stressed that Iran's "missile power is defensive and not subject to bargaining and negotiation at any level."

"The Iranian nation has always stood up to the system of domination and arrogance, especially America, and become more firmly established; hence, further sanctions will provide an opportunity for growth, self-reliance and attention to the indigenous and domestic capacities of the country," he said.

Baqeri said Iran, which has weath-



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

ered "about four decades of conspiracies and threats as well as an intensified anti-Iranian investment by the regional extras of America and the Zionist regime," is facing new threats.

"The emergence of new security threats, which with the design and endeavors of the arrogant powers and reactionary regimes of the region and the negligence of some neighbors has targeted the Islamic Republic with the aim of moving the threats inside Iran, calls for more vigilance and readiness in order to counteract and neutralize them," he added.

Baqeri was apparently referring to Saudi Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman's vague remarks in April that Riyadh would work to move "the battle" to Iran.

The Iranian official touched on the ongoing conflicts in the region, saying they were the result of "interference by arrogant powers, Zionist plots and the stupidity and treachery of some unpopular and oppressive regimes of the region."

Sandstorm sends hundreds to hospital in southeastern Iran

More than 5,000 local residents in Iran's southeastern Sistan region received medical treatment in hospitals as a persistent sandstorm, part of annual 120-day winds, is tearing through the area.

Layers of dust on cars, streets and just about everything else outside are a common scene that people in Sistan have seen every day in recent weeks as the dust storm is roaring through the region, Tasnim News Agency reported.

While sandstorms, a result of 120-day winds, are not uncommon in the Sistan-Baluchestan Province, the speed of the recent one and the sheer amount of dust it raised have been highly unusual.

Dust particles were driven by winds

gusts of 90 km/h in Sistan on Monday morning, grounding airplanes and causing respiratory problems across the region.

A flight from Tehran to the city of Zabol was canceled this morning as visibility was reduced to below 700 meters.

Gholam-Ali Rafa'at, the head of the Emergency Medical Service Department in Zabol, told reporters that more than 5,000 people have been admitted to medical centers in recent days for respiratory and ocular problems.

Meteorologists have warned residents to avoid staying outdoors, predicting that the strong winds and dust picked up by them will continue in the next three to four days.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY



UN: Afghan civilian deaths hit new high

The people of war-torn Afghanistan continue to bear the brunt of the grinding conflict with civilian deaths at their worst since records began, the United Nations said Monday.

Deaths in the capital Kabul accounted for nearly 20 percent of the toll, according to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) report, which covers the first half of the year, AFP reported.

The majority of the victims were killed by anti-government forces – including the Taliban and in attacks claimed by the Daesh terrorist group, the report said, underscoring spiraling insecurity in the country nearly 16 years after the US invasion.

The UN has documented civilian casualties in the war-torn country since 2009.

The first six months of the year have seen a significant rise in the number of civilian lives lost in highly coordinated attacks involving more than one perpetrator, with 259 killed and 892 injured – a 15 percent increase on the same period last year.

Many of those deaths happened in a single attack in Kabul in late May when a truck bomb exploded during the morning rush hour, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds.

UNAMA put the civilian death toll at 92, saying it was the deadliest incident to hit the country since 2001.

The UN's Special Envoy to Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto said the human cost of the conflict remains "far too high".

"The continued use of indiscriminate, disproportionate and illegal improvised explosive devices is particularly appalling and must be immediately stop," he added in a statement.

The bloody toll of the first six months of 2017 has unsettled the government of President Ashraf Ghani, who has come under increasing pressure since the May attack in Kabul.

Protests and deadly street clashes hit the Afghan capital in the wake of the attack as people incensed by security failures called for his government's resignation.

'Psychological trauma'

Women and children have borne the brunt of the increase in civilian casualties, with UNAMA blaming the use of IEDs and aerial operations in populated areas for the jump.

A total of 174 women were killed and 462 injured – an overall rise in casualties of 23 percent on last year – while 436 children were killed in the same period, representing a nine percent increase.

"The statistics in this report, horrifying though they are, can never fully convey the sheer human suffering of the people of Afghanistan," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini in a statement.

"Many Afghan civilians are suffering psychological trauma, having lost family and friends, and are living in fear knowing the risks they face as they go about their daily lives."

Nearly half of Afghanistan's 34 provinces have seen an increase in civilian deaths in the first six months of the year, mainly due to the rise in attacks by anti-government forces.

The ground offensives by Afghan security forces are the second leading cause of civilian casualties, though UNAMA said there had been a 10 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2016.

NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan ended three years ago, handing sole responsibility to the country's security forces.

Back in May, the office of the US government's Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction described casualties among the security forces themselves as "shockingly high".

In the first two months of the year, 807 troops from the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces were killed with 1,320 injured.

According to the UN's figures, more than 26,500 civilians have died and nearly 49,000 injured as a result of armed conflict in Afghanistan since January 2009.



Over 7m Venezuelans vote in anti-Maduro referendum

President calls on opposition to return to peace

Foes of President Nicolas Maduro said more than seven million Venezuelans cast symbolic votes rejecting his plan to retool the constitution in a strong but not overwhelming showing that left the opposition facing tough choices two weeks before the socialist leader seeks to reshape the political system.

The vote was marred by violence when a 61-year-old woman was killed and four people wounded by gunfire after government supporters on motorcycles swarmed an opposition polling site in Caracas, AP reported.

Analysts said the 7,186,170 ballots the opposition says were cast across Venezuela and around the world on Sunday was an impressive show of support. However, it fell short of the opposition's 7.7 million-vote showing in 2015 legislative elections and the 7.5 million votes that brought Maduro to power in 2013. Opposition leaders said that was because it was only able to set up 2,000 polling places in a symbolic exercise the government labeled as illegitimate.

Still, some supporters said they were disappointed. David Smilde, a Tulane University expert on Venezuela, said the result would likely rally the international community even more strongly against the July 30 vote Maduro has called to elect members of the assembly that will rewrite Venezuela's 1999 constitution. The opposition says that vote has been structured to pack the constitutional assembly with government supporters and allow Maduro to eliminate the few remaining checks on his power, creating a Cuba-style system dominated by his Socialist party. Inside Venezuela, Smilde said leaders of the 20-odd groups in the Democratic Unity opposition coalition were now faced with choosing between tactics ranging from calling a general strike to forming a parallel government to simply working to

rally international condemnation of Maduro's plans.

Canada and Mexico were among the countries that issued statements Sunday evening lauding the opposition exercise.

Late Sunday, Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada said on Twitter that he was declaring former Mexican president Vicente Fox persona non grata and banning him from the country for conspiring to promote violence and foreign intervention. Fox traveled to Venezuela Saturday with a group of Latin American former presidents to show support for the referendum. Moncada offered no evidence to support his accusations. The opposition released only turnout numbers Sunday night, not tallies of responses to those questions, although virtually all who voted were believed to have answered "yes" to the central rejection of the constitutional rewrite.

Pro-government paramilitary groups attacked voters outside the Our Lady of Carmen Church around 3 p.m., according to the opposition mayor of the Caracas borough of Sucre, Carlos Ocaiz. The chief prosecutor's office said Xiomara Soledad Scott, a nurse, had been killed and four others wounded in the incident. Maduro called for an end to violence that he blamed on the opposition. "I'm calling on the opposition to return to peace, to respect for the constitution, to sit and talk," Maduro said. "Let's start a new round of talks, of dialogue for peace."

Maduro and the military dominate most state institutions but the opposition controls the congress and holds three of 23 governorships. The country's chief prosecutor has recently broken with the ruling party. The government blames the crisis on an economic war waged by its opponents and outside backers. Clashes between protesters and police have left at least 93 people dead, 1,500 wounded and more than 500 behind bars.



FEDERICO PARRA/AFP

Canada fires drive thousands more out of homes



Thousands of people fled their homes in western Canada as strong winds fanned forest fires. REUTERS

Thousands of people fled their homes in western Canada over the weekend as strong winds fanned forest fires that have ravaged British Columbia Province for more than a week.

The inferno's progress prompted authorities to take new emergency measures, ordering the evacuation of 24,000 people in the region including the town of Williams Lake which is home to some 11,000 people, reported public broadcaster CBC, AFP reported.

Some 60 percent of affected residents have already left their homes.

The province's transport minister, Todd Stone, told a news

conference Sunday that between 36,000 and 37,000 people have so far been forced from their homes since the wild fires sparked by hot dry weather prompted a state of emergency to be declared on July 7.

Local authorities said there were currently 162 wildfires active as of Sunday, including around 15 that posed a threat to residential areas. Some 3,000 firefighters, including 415 sent from surrounding provinces, were battling the flames.

A firefighting helicopter crashed in the region on Saturday, and its pilot – who was alone on board – was being treated in hos-

pital.

Further to the south, fire crews equipped with aircraft in the US state of California were making steady progress against 11 active blazes fueled by searing temperatures and high winds.

"Great news! All evacuation warnings for the #AlamoFire have been lifted. There is fire equipment still in the area working – use caution," the official account for Cal Fire tweeted.

The Whittier fire, which began on July 8 and stretched across 18,015 acres and has burned down almost 2,000 structures was 36 percent contained, according to the agency.

Turkish gov't seeks three-month extension to emergency rule

The Turkish government asked Parliament on Monday to extend emergency rule for another three months, almost a year after it was imposed in the wake of last July's failed military coup.

The request is expected to be approved by Parliament, where President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party has a comfortable majority. It followed weekend ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the abortive coup in which around 250 people were killed, Reuters reported.



Since emergency rule was imposed on July 20 last year, more than 50,000 people have been arrested and 150,000 people have been suspended in a crackdown which Erdogan's opponents say has pushed Turkey on a path to greater authoritarianism.

The government says the purge is necessary to confront security challenges facing Turkey and to root out supporters of the US-based political figure Fetullah Gulen who it says was behind the coup attempt. Gulen has denied any involvement.

In a series of public ceremonies to mourn people killed in the coup attempt and celebrate those who thwarted it, Erdogan defiantly stepped up his condemnation of the European Union and said he would bring back the death penalty if Parliament approved it.

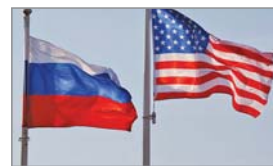
Ties with the West were strained when European governments voiced alarm at the scale of the crackdown, which continues. Another 7,000 police, civil servants and academics were dismissed last week according to a decree published on Friday.

A statement from Prime Minister Binali Yildirim's office said the cabinet requested that Parliament extend emergency rule by three months from Wednesday.

Kremlin hopes US finds 'political wisdom' to solve row

The Kremlin said on Monday it hoped the Trump administration would find the political wisdom to solve a diplomatic dispute with Moscow over the seizure of Russian diplomatic property in the United States.

Barack Obama, then US president, ordered the seizure of two Russian diplomatic compounds and the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats in December over what he said was their involvement in hacking the 2016 US presidential election campaign, something Russia flatly denies, according to Reuters.



MAXIM SHEMETOV/REUTERS

Russia has said too many American spies operate in Moscow under diplomatic cover and has said it might expel some of them to retaliate over the incident.

"We still hope that our American colleagues will demonstrate a certain political wisdom and political will," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters when asked about the dispute.

Peskov said any US preconditions to return the property would be unacceptable for Moscow and said Washington's failure to hand back the compounds ran counter to international law.

He declined to discuss what steps Russia would take if the meeting between Ryabkov and Shannon failed to resolve the row.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Over 1.4m cars sold in Iran market in 2016

Over 1.448 million new vehicles were sold in Iran's market during 2016, according to the latest report by International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA).

The figure indicates a growth of 18.5 percent year-on-year, however it is still less than 1.688 million vehicles sold in the country in 2011, Trend News Agency reported.



IRNA

The OICA report indicated that more than 93.85 million new vehicles were sold in global markets in 2016 against 89.68 million in 2015.

The number of cars on Iran's roads surpassed 14.13 million in 2015, according to the OICA. The figure includes 12.7 million passenger cars and 1.43 million commercial vehicles.

The number of vehicles in use in Iran stood at 13.36 and 12.679 million in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

The motorization rate increased from 171 in 2014 to 179 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants in 2015 in Iran, according to the report.

The average global motorization rate was 182 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants in 2015.

The report further said that 1.282 billion cars were in use in the world in 2015.

The figure stood at 1.234 billion in 2014.

Iran's car output reached 1.165 million units in 2016, according to the OICA. The figure indicated an 18.6-percent rise compared to the figure for 2015, which is the highest output growth rate among car manufacturers in the world.

The Islamic Republic was the world's 18th biggest car manufacturer in 2016.

Iran's oil exports to EU stand at 1 mbd

Iran's crude oil and condensate exports to Europe have reached one million barrels per day.

Iran sells crude oil to European companies within the framework of long-term deals and spot cargo, however the volume of spot cargo is higher, an informed source told Fars News Agency.

Iran still encounters problems in receiving payments due to banking issues, the source said, adding that central bank officials are seeking ways to expedite the process.

The source said that Iran also faces the same problem in oil export to Asian countries as banking sanctions still remain in place, the source said.

Iran was exporting 2.5 mbd of crude oil and gas condensate prior to the sanctions which were imposed in 2012, of which 18 percent was supplied to the EU.

After 2012, the EU cut Iran oil purchase while Asian countries had to decrease Iranian oil import gradually, which led to a decline in Iranian oil and gas condensate exports to 1.2 mbd in 2015.

After the removal of sanctions in 2016, based on nuclear agreement, Iran resumed its oil exports.

India willing to use capacities of Iranian FTZs: Envoy

India is seeking to establish direct ties between Anzali and Chabahar free trade zones to benefit from their capacities, said India's ambassador to Iran.

Saurabh Kumar further said in a meeting with Managing Director of Anzali Free Zone Reza Masroui that Iran and India are historically very close and the two countries should try to update ties, IRNA reported.

Kumar added that India seeks access to and establish relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and West Asia because New Delhi considers them as neighboring countries. He added that the two Iranian FTZs play a vital role in helping India achieve this objective.

Anzali is an Iranian harbor town in northern Gilan Province located along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Bandar-e Anzali is one of the most important seaports in the north of Iran and a FTZ.

Chabahar is a city and a Free Trade Zone in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province lying on the northern coast of the Gulf of Oman.

The Managing Director of Anzali Free Zone said in the meeting that relying on the capabilities of Anzali FTZ, Indian investors can make a good use of CIS economic opportunities through legal exemptions and Iran can help them by establishing joint companies between Iranian and Indian private sectors.

London-based hotel brand planning to expand into Iran

A London-based hotel brand announced plans to open branches in Iran and Sri Lanka, with an anticipated 500 rooms in Iran alone.

The 'super budget' hotel, easyHotel, said on Monday it has signed deals with British companies 3SV Limited and MHA Hatfield Limited for developments in the two countries, which will comprise a combination of new-built hotels and takeovers, easyGroup, the holding company for budget airline easyJet, holds a 34.6 percent stake in easyHotel, businessinsider.com reported.

In addition to the 500 planned rooms in Iran, the company expects to open over 200 rooms in Sri Lanka, 100 of which should be ready by 2022.

"easyHotel has made good progress over the last year against its plans for the international expansion of the brand," said Guy Parsons, CEO of easyHotel.

"I am pleased to announce a further extension of our franchise network, enabling us to establish the brand's presence in new territories where there is growing demand from cost conscious consumers for value hotel accommodation," he said.

The Iranian government is trying to develop its tourism industry and hopes to attract more than 20 million tourists by 2025. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka attracted over two million visitors in 2016 alone, easyJet does not currently fly to Iran or Sri Lanka, although is partnered with Emirates Iran.

easyHotel's core markets are the UK and Europe and it currently owns five



businessinsider.com

hotels in the UK, with an additional 20 franchised hotels in the UK and abroad,

including in Dubai and Kathmandu. It hopes to expand into 'existing new mar-

kets', said Parsons, and has 1,936 rooms in development.

Following renewed push into Iran, Renault sales rise 10.4%

French carmaker Renault posted record vehicle sales for the first half as a sustained product offensive lifted global deliveries by 10.4 percent — with a well-timed China SUV launch and a renewed push into Iran both contributing.

Sales advanced to 1.88 million light vehicles in January-June, Renault said on Monday, at four times the rate of the global auto market's 2.6 percent expansion, Reuters reported.

Renault, based in the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt, is reaping the rewards of a comprehensive overhaul of its lineup under chief designer Laurens van den Acker, who joined the company eight years ago.

Sales have also benefited from a surge in European demand for the group's no-frills Dacia brand and more recently from the success of its Captur mini-SUV.

"Our strategy of range renewal and geographical expansion continues to produce results," sales chief Thierry Koskas said.

Renault shares were up 1.7 percent in early session



REUTERS

trading. The group's upbeat sales numbers contrasted with a weaker first-half showing from domestic rival PSA Group, the maker of Peugeot, Citroen and DS cars.

100,452 vehicles in the first half, Renault said, helped by demand for its new Koleos SUV in China, where sales more than tripled to almost 36,000 vehicles.

Iran signs MoUs with Japan, Russia on oil, gas fields

From Page 1

Iran is currently pumping 60,000 barrels per day of crude and a little over 2.2 million cubic meters of gas from the field, according to the latest production data.

In comparison, the country draws more than 50 mcm/d of gas from a standard phase of South Pars, the world's largest gas field shared by Iran and Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Salman's recoverable crude oil reserves are estimated at around 500 million barrels.

Established in 1961, Toyo is a Japanese engineering, procurement and construction company operating mainly in oil, gas and petrochemical sectors. Most of the company's operations are based outside Japan, including in China, India, Indonesia, Iran and Russia.

Toyo offers wide-ranging services, including design, engineering, equipment procurement, construction, test operations and technical guidance in the fields of chemicals, petrochemicals, oil refinement, natural gas, electric and nuclear power, medical facilities and biotechnology.

The agreement with Toyo marks the second deal signed by Petropars



SHANA

this month on developing oil and gas fields.

Hailed as the largest Iranian exploration and production company, Petropars signed a deal on July 3 to develop Phase 11 of South Pars Gas Field alongside French energy major Total and China's state-controlled CNPC. Petropars is a minority stakeholder in the gas venture.

The first crude oil production from Salman dates back to over 50 years. Output reached a peak of 234,000 barrels per day during 1973-78 but production gradually declined, as the field continued to age.

However efforts to raise the recovery factor at Salman oil and gas field have largely been futile since early 2000s.

According to an NIOC report, Iran

has failed to boost production from the joint reserves due to a mix of factors, including financial constraints, failure of contractors to meet ends as well as sanctions that stripped Iran of cash and know-how to develop the field.

Russia deal

Meanwhile, NISOC and Russia's Zarubezhneft on Monday signed a new MoU for oilfield study in Iran.

According to the agreement, Zarubezhneft company will study two Iranian oilfields of Shadegan and Rag-e Sefid in the southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Based on the agreement, Russia's Zarubezhneft is committed to present its proposal for development of the two Iranian oil fields in a maximum of nine months.

The MoU on the study of Shadegan and Rag-e Sefid oilfields is the eighth agreement signed between National Iranian South Oilfields Company and Russia's Zarubezhneft.

Two other Russian companies of Gazprom and Rosneft have already inked agreement with Iran for oilfield study, but they have not reached a final deal yet.

The number of people who run small businesses without any employees in the retail sector declined this year, data showed on Monday, amid a prolonged slump due to lukewarm private consumption in South Korea.

Chinese economy posts steady growth but risks remain

China posted better-than-expected second quarter growth on Monday, but analysts warned that the momentum will not last as authorities clamp down on rising debt.

The economy expanded 6.9 percent in April-June, the same as the previous three months and better than the 6.8 percent tipped in an AFP survey.

National statistics bureau spokesman Xing Zhihong said, "The national economy has maintained the momentum of steady and sound development in the first half of 2017, laying a solid foundation for achieving the annual target and better performance."

"However, we must be aware that there are still many unstable and uncertain factors abroad and long-term structural contradictions remain prominent at home," Xing told reporters.

Industrial production grew 7.6 percent in June while retail sales were up 11 percent, both better than the previous month, according to the official data.

But analysts expect a deceleration of the overall economy.

Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics, said in a note, "China's strong first half to the year won't last."

"The recent crackdown on financial risks has driven a slowdown in credit growth, which will weigh on the economy during the second half of this year."

Debt-fueled investment in infrastructure and real estate has underpinned China's growth for years but Beijing has launched a crackdown over fears of a potential financial crisis.

Fitch Ratings maintained its A-plus rating for the country for China but said its growing debt could trigger 'economic and financial shocks'.

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

President Xi Jinping called for tougher regulations to crack down on financial risks during a weekend National Financial Work Conference, which sets the



nanzhuang.com

tone for reforms, according to state media.

The government will continue to deleverage the economy through prudent monetary policy and by reducing leverage in state-owned enterprises, Xi said.

ANZ's China economist Raymond Yeung said in a note the conference showed that authorities will intensify financial regulation "unprecedentedly, through a much more centralized and empowered organizational set-up".

"Debt reduction will become an important consideration in monetary policy," Yeung said, predicting more corporate defaults and a tightening of credit policy among banks.

Despite the economic deleveraging, however, "we do not think this event will

trigger an immediate monetary tightening".

Analysts expect tighter restrictions on property purchases and bank lending will continue to weigh on the economy in the months ahead.

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

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

The government has trimmed its 2017 growth target to around 6.5 percent,

after it expanded 6.7 percent in 2016 — its slowest rate in more than a quarter of a century.

While the Nomura Group raised its 2017 growth forecast from 6.7 percent to 6.8 percent, the Tokyo-based financial firm said in a note that it still expects a 'gradual slowdown' as the property sector appears set to 'lose steam' in the second half.

Premier Li Keqiang said last month that the country could reach this year's economic growth targets.

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

City envoy: France wants 'disruptive' Brexit

France hopes that Brexit will weaken Britain and London's role as a financial center, according to the City of London's envoy to the EU.

In a leaked memorandum, Jeremy Browne said French authorities were seeking 'disruption', according to BBC.

"They are in favor of the hardest Brexit," he wrote.

"They are crystal clear about their underlying objective: The weakening of Britain, the ongoing degradation of the City of London."

Browne, a former Liberal Democrat minister and since 2015 the City's special representative to the EU, attended talks with various French authorities earlier this month.

The memorandum, which was leaked to the Mail, summarized for ministers Browne's impressions following those talks and others in Luxembourg, where he said the tone was more cooperative.

"The meeting with the French Central Bank was the worst I have had anywhere in the EU," he wrote.

He acknowledged that the French were



Former minister Jeremy Browne

DAVID JONES/PA

possibly simply taking tough negotiating positions, the 'bad cop' approach, but said that "nevertheless, France sees Britain and the City of London as adversaries, not partners".

"Every country, not unreasonably, is alive to the opportunities that Brexit

provides, but the French go further, making a virtue of rejecting a partnership model with Britain and seemingly happy to see outcomes detrimental to the City of London even if Paris is not the beneficiary."

Browne said the mood in France was 'more giddy and more assertive' since

Emmanuel Macron was elected president in May and that "French representatives [were] currently crashing conspicuously around London, making heroic relocation promises".

Several European cities, including Frankfurt, Dublin and Brussels as well as Paris are vying to attract business that may shift out of London following the UK's departure from the EU.

Financial institutions are drawing up contingency plans to open new subsidiaries within the rest of the EU to ensure they can continue to do business-as-usual post-Brexit.

Browne suggested that France's adversarial tone was jarring with other EU member states, aiming for a more conciliatory approach.

"There is plenty of anxiety elsewhere in the EU about the French throwing their weight around so aggressively, but their destructive impulses are not being confined, and other EU countries that want a friendly relationship with Britain and the City of London are being marginalized," he wrote.

Singapore exports firm in June

Singapore's non-oil domestic exports grew at a faster pace than forecast in June as outbound shipments of petrochemicals rose.

Non-oil domestic exports rose 8.2 percent year on year, according to International Enterprise Singapore. A median of economist forecasts compiled by Bloomberg predicted a five percent increase. The figure for May was revised to 0.4 percent growth in exports (previously a 1.2 percent fall), FT wrote.

Outbound shipments of electronics grew 5.4 percent year on year in June, coming in well below the previous month's growth of 28.9 percent.

Exports of non-electronic products grew 9.3 percent

year on year, snapping two months of contraction, with shipments of petrochemicals increasing by 13.7 percent.

Exports to South Korea saw the sharpest year-on-year rise, up 56.9 percent for June, while those to China jumped 48.9 percent and shipments to Japan increased by 26.7 percent. Shipments to the EU and US slipped 3.3 percent and 5.7 percent respectively.

An initial reading of Singapore's gross domestic product for the second quarter released on Friday showed the country's economy grew 2.5 percent, falling short of a median forecast of 2.8 percent growth.



todayonline.com

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79692.9	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68583.1	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	87293.5	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	55186.4	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177302.7	15.3	0.01

Overall Index details on 20170717

First	79679.0	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79705.5	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	79628.7	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79692.9	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

Industry Index details on 20170717

First	68577.8	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68587.0	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68583.1	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

Free Float Index details on 20170717

First	87293.9	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	87293.5	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

Main Board Index details on 20170717

First	55133.2	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	55186.5	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55186.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

Secondary Index details on 20170717

First	177519.7	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177764.6	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177302.7	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2827	Chinese Yuan	0.1477
Euro	1.1447	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3072	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3013
Australian Dollar	0.7809	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0088	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

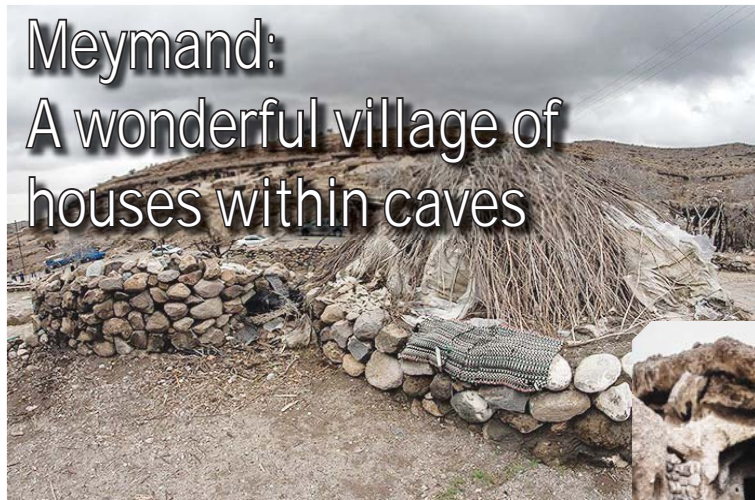
Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$46.71	Silver	\$15.96
Gold	\$1229.50	Platinum	\$925.40
Copper	\$2.71	Wheat	\$505.25

Deep-sea Pacific coral reefs

Scientists have long believed that waters in central and northeast Pacific Ocean were inhospitable to deep-sea scleractinian coral, but a discovery suggested mysteries about the coral colonies are yet to be uncovered.

Meymand: A wonderful village of houses within caves



EHSAN KAMALITASIM

EHSAN KAMALITASIM

Meymand (also spelled 'Maymand' and 'Meimand') is a village of troglodytes — cave dwellers — located in the southeastern Iranian province of Kerman. Meymand village has been continuously inhabited for 2,000 to 3,000 years making it one of Iran's four oldest surviving villages, according to Tasnim News Agency. Some claim that Meymand Village has been inhabited for 12,000 years, that is, since the 'middle stone ages', making it a Mesolithic village.

Reportedly, 10,000-year-old stone engravings and 6,000-year-old potteries have been discovered at the site. The village is a UNESCO world heritage site and was awarded UNESCO's 2005 Melina Mercouri prize.

Meymand Village is located some 35 kilometers northeast of the town of Shahr-e Babak — a Kermani town on the road that runs between Tehran in the north and the port of Bandar Abbas in the south.

Shahr-e Babak means Babak's city and Shahr-e Babak is

said to be the birthplace of the founder of Sassanid dynasty. The road from Shahr-e Babak rises into the surrounding mountains until it reaches Meymand at an elevation of 2,240 meters.

Meymand, as one of the districts of Shahr-e Babak, is one of the spectacular villages of Iran. There are a mass of crypts with 15 stony, circular and roof-less chambers in the village.

The same covers an area of approximately 400sq.m. This vicinity seems to be a place of burial, as skeleton bones and other articles have been found.

The stony mosque of Meymand is yet another interesting site in this village. The ancient houses in this rural settlement resemble minarets constructed in the heart of these hard-stone mountains.

In this minaret-shaped dwellings which are very strong and durable, are chambers, corridors and pillars displaying an intriguing architecture.

Rock art can be found in and around Meymand. Also, three kilometers northeast of Meymand, beside a gravel road that

runs towards the Tela Valley, lies a hill called 'Mar Khazineh' (Mar means hill in the local dialect).

A 350-meter climb down the hill brings one to an estodan (ossuary) plot filled with scattered pieces of maliciously-decorated ossuaries decorated with rock art. Locals say that these and other ossuaries are from the Zoroastrian-Sassanid era.

Due to the incline of the surrounding valley, these dwellings are placed in a terraced fashion, in four or five steps one after another.

Their height is two meters and are nearly 16-20 sq.m. in area, and are devoid of windows or chimneys. In the center of each chamber is a stove that was used for cooking purposes as well as warming the dwellings.

Indeed we can say that Meymand is parallel to history and is the head of history.

Seeing Meymand means seeing history and the ordinary life of people for who are interested in history, past and its issues.

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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

Children exercise less as they get older

The number of children doing an hour of exercise a day falls by nearly 40 percent between the ages of five and 12.

Figures suggest that by the final year of primary school, just 17 percent of pupils are doing the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day, according to bbc.com.

A spokesman for Public Health England described the drop in activity levels as concerning.

More than a third of children in England are overweight by the time they leave primary school.

A new survey from Public Health England and Disney looked at the effects of physical activity on children's

emotional wellbeing.

More than 1,000 children aged five to 11 were questioned, with their parents acknowledging that being active made their children feel happier (79 percent), more confident (72 percent), and more sociable (74 percent).

But the survey also found that children's overall happiness declined with age, with 64 percent of five- and six-year-olds saying they always felt happy, compared with just 48 percent of 11-year-olds.

Public Health England's Eustace de Sousa said, "Children's physical activity levels in England are alarmingly low, and the drop in activity from the ages of five to 12 is concerning."

"Children who get enough physical activity are mentally and physically healthier, and have all-round better development into adulthood — getting into the habit of doing short bursts of activity early can deliver lifelong benefits."

Currently, just 23 percent of boys and 20 percent of girls, between the ages of five and 15, meet the national recommended level of activity, according to an the National Health Service (NHS) report published last December.

Not being very good was cited by many children as the reason they did not take part in some physical activities, with older children more likely to

be self-conscious than their younger counterparts: 29 percent of 11-year-olds compared with 17 percent of five-year-olds.

As part of the Change4Life campaign, Sport England and Disney have joined forces to launch a 10 Minute Shake Ups program, encouraging children to take part in accessible activities across the school holidays.

Olympic marathon swimmer Kerianne Payne, who is backing the campaign, said, "The 10 Minute Shake Ups provide a load of fun activities to get kids moving more."

"Being active is not just for Olympians, it's for everyone."

Spinach could cause kidney problems if eaten raw

Kidney stones can develop in one or both kidneys and tend to affect people between the ages of 30 and 60.

While most are small and pass out painlessly when you urinate, some can be more serious, express.co.uk wrote.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), they can cause a kidney infection with unpleasant symptoms such as a high temperature, chills and diarrhea — and even sepsis.

They're usually caused by a build-up of particular chemicals in the body.

One of these is oxalic acid which can be found in spinach — a popular food for many a healthy dieter.

Sandra Greenbank, a nutritional therapist, said, "Raw spinach contains oxalic acid, which has the ability to bind to minerals in our intestines to form oxalates — or insoluble salts."

"Oxalates are found in kidney stones and some people who are genetically predisposed to kidney stone formation may need to be careful with consuming too many foods high in oxalic acid."

What's more, oxalic acid is also said by experts to block absorption of spinach's rich amounts of iron, potassium, vitamin A and calcium.

It's attributed as the reason for why studies have shown that as little as two percent of the iron from spinach is actually absorbed by the body.

However, spinach isn't the only food to contain oxalic acid.

Greenbank explained, "As well as green vegetables, Swiss chard, beetroot tops and parsley have high amounts too."

"As can almonds, cashews, buckwheat, tea, coffee and chocolate."

If you're keen to keep spinach in your salad, Greenbank recommends choosing baby spinach.

She explained, "Young vegetables are less likely to have as much as it tends to increase as foods mature."

Fortunately, oxalic acid can be destroyed by using heat, such as steaming.

However, Greenbank highlights another reason why you may want to always cook your spinach.

She said, "The other potential problem with raw spinach is the possible contamination of Listeria, Salmonella or E. Coli bacteria, which can cause serious disease."

"They can be killed by cooking — steam spinach for about four minutes before eating it."

"While it poses a low risk of infection, pregnant women, the elderly, small children and those with a suppressed immune system could be at risk of potentially serious illness."



express.co.uk

Source of cell-specific change in Alzheimer's

Researchers led by Arizona State University (ASU) and the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) have identified altered expression of a gene called ANK1, which only recently has been associated with memory robbing Alzheimer's disease, in specific cells in the brain.

Using an extremely precise method of isolating cells called "laser capture microdissection", researchers looked at three specific cell types — microglia, astrocytes and neurons — in the brain tissue of individuals with a pathological diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and compared them to brain samples from healthy individuals and those with Parkinson's disease, according to science-daily.com.

Following sequencing of each of these cell types, the ASU-TGen led team found that altered ANK1 expression originates in microglia, a type of immune cell found in the brain and central nervous system.

Dr. Diego Mastroeni, the study's lead author, said, "Although previous genetic and epigenetic-wide association studies had shown a significant association between ANK1 and AD, they were unable to identify the class of cells that may be responsible for such association because of the use of brain homogenates."

"Here, we provide evidence that microglia are the

source of the previously observed differential expression patterns in the ANK1 gene in Alzheimer's disease."

All three of the cell types in this study were derived from the hippocampus, a small looping structure shaped like a seahorse (its name derives from the Greek words for horse and sea monster).

The hippocampus resides deep inside the human brain and plays important roles in the consolidation of both short-term and long-term

new memories.

Dr. Winnie Liang, the director of TGen's Collaborative Sequencing Center, said, "Using our unique data set, we show that in the hippocampus, ANK1 is significantly increased fourfold in Alzheimer's disease microglia, but not in neurons or astrocytes from the same individuals."

"These findings emphasize that expression analysis of defined classes of cells is required to understand what

alterations in ANK1, at least in microglia, may not be disease specific, but rather a response, or phenotype associated with neurodegeneration ... more specifically, neuroinflammation."

More than five million Americans have Alzheimer's — an irreversible and progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory, thinking skills and eventually the ability to conduct even the simplest of tasks.

For most patients, symptoms first appear in the mid-60s. For older Americans, it is the third leading cause of death, following heart disease and cancer.

Dr. Paul Coleman, the study's senior author, said, "The success of this, and many other studies, owes a great deal to the support and collaborative nature of the people of the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium."

"The results obtained in this work emphasize the importance of methods that enable us to characterize the molecular profile of defined cells, either as a group or as single cells that have been defined by any of several means."

Dr. Eric Reiman, clinical director of Neurogenetics at TGen, said: "This study demonstrates the value of bringing together talented researchers from different disciplines and organizations to advance the scientific fight against Alzheimer's disease."



enhancedhomecare.com

memory and in the spatial memory that enables the body to navigate.

In Alzheimer's disease — and other forms of dementia — the hippocampus is one of the first regions of the brain to suffer damage, resulting in short-term memory loss and disorientation.

Individuals with extensive damage to the hippocampus are unable to form and retain

genes and pathways are dysregulated in Alzheimer's."

Alzheimer's features many signs of chronic inflammation and microglia are key regulators of the inflammatory cascade, proposed as an early event in the development of Alzheimer's, the study said.

Because the study found that ANK1 also was increased two-fold in Parkinson's disease, these data suggest that

Natural substance could prevent deadly episode

Heart attacks are medical emergencies, which occur when the supply of blood to the heart is blocked — usually by a blood clot.

A lack of blood flow to the heart can damage the muscle and can be deadly, express.co.uk reported.

However, now experts have found a naturally occurring substance could prevent the build up of fatty deposits in the arteries — a process called atherosclerosis — which stops the blood supply.

A naturally occurring protein, dickkopf-related protein 3 (DKK3), could hold the key to protecting against heart attacks and strokes caused by atherosclerosis, according to new research funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The study suggested that the protein could be used to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Researchers from King's College London measured the level of DKK3 in blood samples collected from 574 people over five years.

They found that those people with higher levels of DKK3 were less likely to develop atherosclerosis over the course of the five year period and were also less likely to die from a heart attack or stroke.

This correlation was independent of other atherosclerosis risk factors such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Atherosclerosis is the build-up of fatty material inside the arteries.

When this material breaks down a blood clot can form blocking the blood supply to the heart or brain,



health.clevelandclinic.org

causing a heart attack or stroke.

Mice bred to be genetically deficient in the DKK3 protein also developed larger, less stable atherosclerotic plaques than those who could produce the protein.

DKK3 deficient mice were also less able to regrow the endothelial lining coating their blood vessels after it had been damaged.

This suggested that DKK3 is able to protect against atherosclerosis by helping the endothelial lining repair itself at the first sign of damage, before any fatty deposits can build up.

Professor Qingbo Xu, John Parker chair of cardiovascular sciences at the BHF Center of Research Excellence, King's College London, said, "Our work suggested that we could use a simple blood test to find seemingly healthy people who are at risk of

heart attack, and would not routinely be identified as at risk by their GP."

"Ultimately it may also be possible to boost DKK3 levels and protect people against the fatty build up which can cause a heart attack or stroke."

Professor Jeremy Pearson, associate medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said, "Each year in the UK there are around 200,000 hospital visits due to heart attacks."

This research shows that it might be possible to treat the root cause of this devastating disease, ultimately saving lives."

"By identifying a new protective molecule this research may lead to new medicines to further reduce the risk of a heart attack."

The study was published in the journal Circulation.

Iranian math genius Mirzakhani

impact will live on

Stanford mathematics Professor Maryam Mirzakhani, the first and to-date only female winner of the Fields Medal since its inception in 1936, died on July 14.

She had been battling cancer since 2013, the disease spread to her liver and bones in 2016. Mirzakhani was 40 years old, news.stanford.edu wrote.

The quadrennial Fields Medal, which Mirzakhani won in 2014, is the most prestigious award in mathematics, often equated in stature with the Nobel Prize.

Mirzakhani specialized in theoretical mathematics that read like a foreign language by those outside of mathematics: Moduli spaces, Teichmüller theory, hyperbolic geometry, Ergodic theory and symplectic geometry.

Mastering these approaches allowed Mirzakhani to pursue her fascination for describing the geometric and dynamic complexities of curved surfaces — spheres, doughnut shapes and even amoebas — in as great detail as possible.

Her work was highly theoretical in nature, but it could have impacts concerning the theoretical physics of how the universe came to exist and, because it could inform quantum field theory, secondary applications to engineering and material science.

Within mathematics, it has implications for the study of prime numbers and cryptography.

Mirzakhani joined the faculty of Stanford University in 2008, where she served as a professor of mathematics until her death.

Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne said, "Maryam is gone far too soon, but her impact will live on for the thousands of women she inspired to pursue math and science."

"Maryam was a brilliant mathematical theorist, and also a humble person who accepted honors only with the hope that it might encourage others to follow her path."

"Her contributions as both a scholar and a role model are significant and enduring and she will be dearly missed here at Stanford and around the world."

Despite the breadth of applications of her work, Mirzakhani said she enjoyed pure mathematics because of the elegance and longevity of the questions she studied.

A self-professed "slow" mathematician, Mirzakhani's colleagues describe her as ambitious, resolute and fearless in the face of problems others would not, or could not, tackle.

She denied herself the easy path, choosing instead to tackle thornier issues. Her preferred method of working on a problem was to doodle on large sheets of white paper, scribbling formulas on the periphery of her drawings.

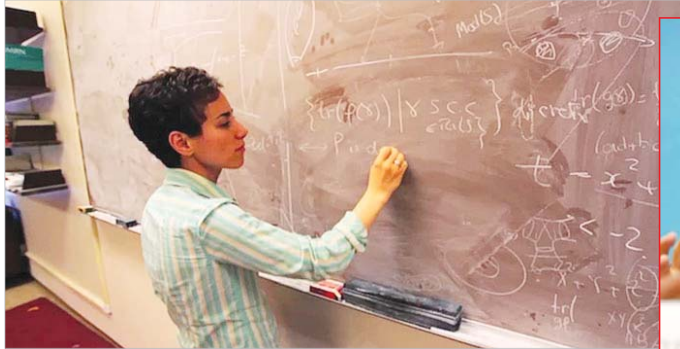
Her young daughter described her mother at work as "painting".

She told one reporter, "You have to spend some energy and effort to see the beauty of math."

In another interview, she said of her process, "I don't have any particular recipe [for developing new proofs]. ... It is like being lost in a jungle and trying to use all the knowledge that you can gather to come up with some new tricks, and with some luck you might find a way out."

Biography

Mirzakhani was born in Tehran, Iran. She dreamed of becoming a writer, but mathematics eventually



1nsaat.biz



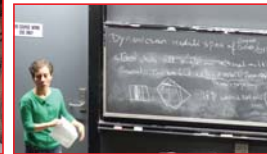
sfgate.com



1pezeshk.com



starsunfolded.com



meh.codes

Sublime Iranian scientist disgraces Trump's travel ban

The American news channel CBS in a report on Saturday about the sad demise of Iranian math genius Maryam Mirzakhani referred to her as an instance of US President Donald Trump's Travel Ban idiocy.

Quoting US news channel, IRNA reported, "In recent month, her name was often invoked as an example of folly of President Trump's Travel Ban."

Mirzakhani — the first Iranian and also the first woman to win the Fields Medal which is known as the Nobel Prize of mathematics — was a 40-year-old professor of the Stanford University when she succumbed to cancer in a US hospital on Saturday.

In a report about Mirzakhani's great achievements and her magnificent talents in mathematics, CBS mentioned the discriminatory Travel Ban by President Trump which has taken effect since June 29.

The new rules tighten visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim majority nations: Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Iran.

People from those countries who need new visas will now have to prove a close family relationship or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or a business in the US.

In 1994, Mirzakhani was the first female Iranian student to have received a gold medal in mathematics.

In the 1995 Toronto International Mathematical Olympiad, she became the first Iranian student to receive a perfect score and win two gold medals.

Iranians who live in America are among the highest educated people in the US. They have historically excelled in business, academia, the sciences, arts, and entertainment.

According to Boston Globe newspaper, in a very recent instance of the US government applying the discriminatory Travel Ban rule, an Iranian cancer researcher traveling to the US to work as a visiting scholar at Boston Children's Hospital was detained, along with his wife and three children, aged six, three and seven months, upon entering Boston Logan International Airport, despite having a valid visiting work visa that was issued in May.

It is obvious that the world of science will suffer from such actions by the US government and the world cannot benefit from the major and magnificent scientists such as late Mirzakhani for the betterment of humanity.



wired.com

A street in Tehran to be named after Mirzakhani



zyymat.com

Head of Tehran City's "Planning and Study Center" Babak Negahdari said he had suggested that Tehran Municipality name one of the streets of Tehran or a place after the late mathematics genius Maryam Mirzakhani.

According to IRNA, he added, "Naming a place or one of the streets of the capital after the late Iranian scientist can help the young generation remember the winner of Fields Medal which is known as the Nobel Prize in mathematics."

The official said naming one of the streets after Mirzakhani can promote national confidence and encourage the spirit of research among Iranian youth.

Mirzakhani, the first Iranian and also the first woman who won the Fields Medal which is known as the Nobel Prize in

mathematics, was a 40-year-old professor of Stanford University when she succumbed to cancer in a US hospital on Saturday.

In 1994, Mirzakhani won a gold medal in the Hong Kong International Mathematical Olympiad, making her the first female Iranian student to receive a gold medal in mathematics.

In the 1995 Toronto International Mathematical Olympiad, she became the first Iranian student to receive a perfect score and win two gold medals.

The late Mirzakhani obtained her BS in mathematics (1999) from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran. She went to the US and received a PhD from Harvard University in 2004.

She was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 — a year before she set the record of the first ever woman to win the prestigious Fields Medal.

McMullen, a fellow Fields Medal winner.

At Harvard, Mirzakhani was distinguished by her determination and relentless questioning, despite the language barrier.

She peppered her professors with questions in English. She jotted her notes in Persian.

McMullen described Mirzakhani as filled with "fearless ambition".

Her 2004 dissertation was a masterpiece. In it, she solved two long-standing problems. Either solution would have been newsworthy in its own right, according to Benson Farb, a mathematician at the University of Chicago, but then Mirzakhani connected the two into a thesis described as "truly spectacular".

It yielded papers in each of the top three mathematics journals.

Farb said, "The majority of mathematicians will never produce something as good. And that's what she did in her thesis."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that the unprecedented brilliance of this creative scientist and modest human being, who made Iran's name resonate in the world's scientific forums, was a turning point in showing the great will of Iranian women and young people on the path towards reaching the peaks of glory ... in various international arenas.

Steven Kerckhoff, a professor at Stanford who works in the same area of mathematics, said, "What's so special about Maryam, the thing that really separates her, is the originality in how she puts together these disparate pieces."

"That was the case starting with her thesis work, which generated several papers in all the top journals. The novelty of her approach made it a real tour de force."

After her doctorate at Harvard, Mirzakhani accepted a position as assistant professor at Princeton University and as a research fellow at the Clay Mathematics Institute before joining the Stanford faculty.

Ralph L. Cohen, the Barbara Kimball Browning professor of mathematics at Stanford, said, "Maryam was a wonderful colleague."

"She not only was a brilliant and fearless researcher, but she was also a great teacher and terrific PhD adviser."

"Maryam embodied what being a mathematician or scientist is all about: The attempt to solve a problem that hadn't been solved before, or to understand something that hadn't been understood before."

"This is driven by a deep intellectual curiosity and there is great joy and satisfaction with every bit of success."

"Maryam had one of the great intellects of our time, and she was a wonderful person. She will be tremendously missed."

In recent years, she collaborated with Alex Eskin at the University of Chicago to answer a mathematical challenge that physicists have struggled with for a century: The trajectory of a billiard ball around a polygonal table.

That investigation into this seemingly simple action led to a 200-page paper which, when it was published in 2013, was hailed as the beginning of a new era in mathematics and a titanic work.

Mirzakhani is survived by her husband, Jan Vondrák and a daughter, Anahita.

The university will organize a memorial service and an academic symposium in her honor in the fall, when students and faculty have returned to campus.

swept her away.

She attended an all-girls high school in Tehran, led by a principal unbowed by the fact that no girl had

ever competed for Iran's International Mathematical Olympiad team.

Mirzakhani first gained international recognition during the 1994

and 1995 competitions. In 1994, she earned a gold medal. In 1995, she notched a perfect score and another gold medal.

After graduating college at Sharif University in Tehran, she headed to graduate school at Harvard University, where she was guided by Curtis

Poverty impeding Global Sustainable Development

While nearly 1.1 billion people escaped extreme poverty between 1990 and 2013 because of strong economic growth that benefited the world's poorest, "the number of people living in extreme poverty remains unacceptably high, with nearly 800 million living on or below \$1.90 per day", according to a new UN document.

In view of this, "the road to 2030 will not be easy because economic growth alone will not be sufficient to help those remaining in extreme poverty to move out", warns the document prepared for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development which kicked off on July 19 and concludes on July 19 after the three-day ministerial meeting, indepthnews.net reported.

The warning is significant particularly as the Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the strong commitment of UN Member States and the international community to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force on January 2016.

The document, titled '2017 HLPF Thematic Review of SDG 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere' noted that poverty reduction has been 'deeply uneven between regions and countries' and that poverty today is 'predominantly rural'. 80 percent of the extreme poor live in rural areas; 65 percent work in agriculture.

Besides, children are more likely to be poor than adults: Around half of those living in extremely poor households are under the age of 18.

As such, child poverty threatens not only the individual child, but is likely to be passed on to future generations, creating and sustaining intergenerational cycles of poverty.

About two-thirds of children in sub-Saharan Africa are deprived in two or more dimensions critical to survival and development, warns the document.

"Moreover, some 76.5 million children are living in relative poverty in the world's richest countries, showing that poverty remains a universal issue of global



commondreams.org

importance. Children, youth, women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants and ethnic and linguistic minorities are disproportionately affected by poverty."

Highlighting yet another important aspect, the document said: While there have been impressive gains in reducing global extreme poverty over the last three decades, 1.6 billion people still live in "multidimensional poverty".

According to the document, it is becoming even more difficult to reach those remaining in extreme poverty, who often live in fragile contexts and remote areas. Access to adequate education, healthcare, electricity, safe drinking water and other critical services remains

elusive for many people, often determined by socioeconomic status, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location.

Moreover, for those who have been able to climb out of poverty, progress is often temporary: Persistent economic slowdown, food insecurity and climate change threaten to rob them of their hard-won gains and force them back into cycle of poverty.

"Decent work remains one of the best routes to get out and stay out of poverty," noted the document.

"Yet, the global economy has not managed to create a sufficient number of decent jobs to meet labor market demands. Every year the global labor market grows by roughly 50 million people, with the majority of increases in developing countries."

Social media requires responsibility from parents, teens

With the simple swipe of a finger, your child could unlock the darker side of social media.

Hub of Hope is an organization dedicated to helping victims of cyber bullying and sex-trafficking who were targeted through social media. Founder Jenny Sorey said the issue with social media is that teens sometimes have trouble separating reality from the world they encounter online, arkansasmatters.com wrote.

"Not everything they see there is reality, but I think with a child or teen what they are seeing they don't realize that's not necessarily reality for them," Sorey said.



socialmoms.com

According to a 2015 Pew Research Center study, 73 percent of teens have access to a smart phone. Many of those phones have apps like Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

Social media "plays a big part I think in the just judgment of themselves," Sorey said. "I think there is an emotion identity that's attached there."

Sorey said she thinks the technology-driven world we live in has a negative effect on today's children, creating potential dangers every time they swipe, message, follow or post. Ron Warren is an associate professor of communication at the University of Arkansas, who said the constant availability of interaction across social channels is a part of what makes the media unique to today's teens.

"The biggest change that their parents' generation would live in has a negative effect on today's children, creating potential dangers every time they swipe, message, follow or post. Ron Warren is an associate professor of communication at the University of Arkansas, who said the constant availability of interaction across social channels is a part of what makes the media unique to today's teens."

Warren said the primary issue he sees with social media is that kids do not know how to disconnect from their devices. He said that though social media may have dangers, the threat of serious harassment is not as big as it seems.

"The best thing to remember is that it doesn't happen to all the kids. The numbers vary, but it's usually a pretty small percentage of kids," Warren said.

He also said it's important for parents to be involved in what children are doing online. Parents need to be informed on what kinds of content children can encounter on social media.

Melissa Fink, the principal at Jones Elementary, said she takes it as part of her responsibility to ensure the safety of her students online.

"Kids are having devices at a much younger age and with that comes a lot of responsibility — and it's not a responsibility that kids just know how to do," Fink said.

Fink decided she could most effectively help the kids at her school by being a part of helping their parents. She decided to host a free Internet safety class during the school year.

"We just drilled down and got very specific about Snapchat and Instagram, we got very specific about cyber bullying," Fink said.

Many of the parents present at the meetings admitted to not being social media savvy.

The workshop was intended to give parents a greater base of understanding for social media, especially through awareness about the kind of dangers a child can stumble upon online.

Half of disabled children do not feel comfortable taking part in sport

Half of all disabled children do not feel comfortable taking part in sport, a charity report found.

More than a third — 36 percent — of parents surveyed said a major barrier to their disabled child participating in sports is social stigma. The Independent wrote.

The second major barrier was costs, with 76 percent of Special Educational Needs schools saying facilities were inadequate for disabled children.

The report, commissioned by children's charity Variety, identified a number of barriers that make it more difficult for disabled children to participate, leading to an increased risk of social isolation and lack of confidence.

Miriam Stoppard said barriers to exercise could make disabled children more vulnerable to obesity and health problems.

"I believe every child, including those with disabilities, have the right to optimize their physical capabilities and through that their overall wellbeing," she said.

"In addition, all children, even those with lower levels of fitness, have the right to join in recreational activities with other children and build teamwork and sociability. This isn't always easy for children with disabilities who are more likely than others to be sedentary, making them more vulnerable to obesity and its attendant health hazards."

"The participation of children with disabilities in any physical activity can minimize the complications of immobility. Not only does it keep them physically and mentally fit, it also fosters independence, coping abilities and working with other team members."

Variety Chief Executive Sarah Nancollas said she was disappointed by the lack of opportunities for disabled children and hoped the report would help to shine a light on the issue.

"Whether it's kicking a ball with your friends or participating in competitive sports for your school, all children deserve to have the opportunity to take part in sports," she said.

"Sadly, this isn't the case for many children with disabilities. Whilst we were aware that many of these children faced barriers accessing sports, I am disappointed at how extensive this issue is."

Stress, poverty may explain high rates of dementia in African-Americans

New research found that African-Americans who grow up in harsh environments and endure stressful experiences are much more likely to develop Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia.

Harsh life experiences appear to leave African-Americans vulnerable to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, researchers reported at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London, npr.org wrote.

Several teams presented evidence that poverty, disadvantage and stressful life events are strongly associated with cognitive problems in middle age and dementia later in life among African-Americans.

The findings could help explain why African-Americans are twice as likely as white Americans to develop dementia. And the research suggested genetic factors are not a major contributor.

Megan Zuelsdorff, a postdoctoral fellow in the Health Disparities Research Scholars Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said, "The increased risk seems to be a matter of experience rather than ancestry."

Scientists have struggled to understand why African-Americans are so likely to develop dementia.



fourvoicemag.com

They are more likely to have conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes, which can affect the brain. And previous research has found some evidence that African-Americans are more likely to carry genes that raise the risk.

Rachel Whitmer, an epidemiologist with Kaiser Permanente's Division of Research in Northern California, said but more recent studies suggested those explanations are incomplete.

Whitmer has been involved in several

studies that accounted for genetic and disease risks when comparing dementia in white and black Americans.

"And we still saw these [racial] differences," she said. "So there is still something there that we are trying to get at."

The research presented at the Alzheimer's conference suggested the missing factors involve adverse life experiences beginning in childhood. These experiences have already been linked to a range of diseases, including heart

disease and cancer.

"We're starting to understand how early life stress and early life deprivation can increase your risk of a number of health outcomes in late life," Whitmer said. "And the latest thing is understanding how and why that might affect the brain."

Whitmer was part of a team that presented results of a study of more than 6,000 Kaiser Permanente health plan members, most born in the 1920s.

The team wanted to know whether people who grew up in harsher conditions were more likely to develop dementia. So they looked at people who'd been born in states with high infant mortality rates — an indicator of social problems like poverty and limited access to medical care.

White people's risk of dementia wasn't affected by their place of birth. But black people were 40 percent more likely to develop dementia if they'd been born in a state with high infant mortality.

"These people left the state and subsequently moved to northern California, yet there was still this very robust association between being born in a state with high infant mortality and increased risk of dementia," Whitmer said.

Women still carry most of the world's water

Imagine going through your day without access to clean, safe water in your home for drinking, cooking, washing or bathing whenever you need it.

According to a new report from UNICEF and the World Health Organization, 2.1 billion people around the world face that challenge every day. And the task of providing water for households falls disproportionately to women and girls, especially in rural areas, theconversation.com.

Water, a human right, is critical for human survival and development. A sufficient supply of biologically and chemically safe water is necessary for drinking and personal hygiene to prevent diarrheal diseases, trachoma, intestinal worm infections, stunted growth among children and numerous other deleterious outcomes from chemical contaminants like arsenic and lead.

Researches have been carried out in India, Bolivia and Kenya on the water and sanitation challenges that women and girls confront and how these experiences influence their lives.

An insufficient supply of safe and accessible water poses extra risks and challenges for women and girls. Without recognizing the uneven burden of water work that women bear, well-intentioned programs to bring water to places in need will continue to fail to meet their goals.

Collecting water takes time. Simply to get water for drinking, bathing, cooking and other household needs, millions of women and girls spend hours every day traveling to water sources, waiting in line and carrying heavy loads — often several times a day.

The new UNICEF/WHO report states that 263 million people worldwide have access to water sources that are considered safe, but need to spend at least 30 minutes walking or queuing to collect their water.

Another 159 million get their water from surface sources that are considered to be the most unsafe, such as rivers, streams and ponds. Water from these sources is even more likely to require over 30 minutes to collect.

In a study of 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF estimated that women there spent 16 million hours collecting water each day.

Women in a recent study in Kenya reported spending an average of 4½ hours fetching water per week, causing 77 percent to worry about their safety while fetching and preventing 24 percent from caring for their children.

Surgeons discover 27 contact lenses in woman's eye



ladbible.com

A total of 27 contact lenses were discovered in the eye of an elderly patient scheduled for cataract surgery.

A 'blueish mass' of 17 contact lenses were initially discovered in one of the 67-year-old's eyes, with another 10 found following further examination at Solihull Hospital, near Birmingham, the UK, ladbible.com wrote.

The case was recently reported in the British Medical Journal, having happened in November last year.

Specialist trainee ophthalmologist, Rupal Morjaria, who dealt with the case at Solihull Hospital near Birmingham, told Optometry Today: "None of us have ever seen this before."

"It was such a large mass. All the 17 contact lenses were stuck together. We were really surprised that the patient didn't notice it because it would cause quite a lot of irritation while it was sitting there."

The cataract surgery was postponed following the

discovery as it increased the risk of endophthalmitis.

"Because she had harbored these contact lenses in her eye for an unknown length of time, if we had operated she would have had a lot of bacteria around her conjunctiva," said Morjaria.

The patient had been wearing monthly disposable contact lenses for 35 years but had not attended regular appointments.

Morjaria said that reporting the case was a matter of public awareness.

"In this day and age, when it is so easy to purchase contact lenses online, people become lax about having regular check ups," she added.

"Contact lenses are used all the time, but if they are not appropriately monitored we see people with serious eye infections that can cause them to lose their sight."

For anybody wondering the right way to put in and take out contact lenses, there are a number of online tutorial videos.

Wild lioness spotted nursing a baby leopard



JOOP VAN DER LINDE/NDUTU LODGE

For the first time, a wild lioness has been photographed nursing a baby leopard.

Interspecies suckling has been documented among captive animals, but this sighting is pretty much mind-blowing to lion experts. Typically, a lioness would kill a baby leopard, sunnyskyz.com reported.

Luke Hunter, president and chief conservation officer of the global wild cat organization Panthera, told The Washington Post, "It's unprecedented. It's an once-in-a-lifetime event."

The photos were taken by a guest at the Ndutu Lodge, a conservation area in Tanzania.

The wolf and the sheep



A wolf, sorely wounded and bitten by dogs, lay sick and maimed in his lair. Being in want of food, he called to a sheep who was passing, and asked him to fetch some water from a stream flowing close beside him.

"For," he said, "if you will bring me drink, I will find means to provide myself with meat."

"Yes," said the sheep, "if I should bring you the draught, you would doubtless make me provide the meat also."

Hypocritical speeches are easily seen through.

Eight people killed in stampede at Senegalese football match

At least eight people were killed in a stampede at Senegalese football match.

Violence erupted between rivals fans at the cup final in Dakar.

A wall collapsed at Demba Diop stadium as people attempted to leave after the game between local teams Ouakam and Stade de Mbour, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

Police fired tear gas at clashing supporters from both teams who were throwing projectiles and panic



@PETITBATE

spread in the stadium leading to a crush.

At least 49 were seriously injured in the confusion, while

firefighters were on the scene along with large numbers of ambulances.

Senegal's safety record at large gatherings has been heavily criticized this year after the death of dozens of people at a religious retreat in April when a fire ripped through makeshift shelters.

Deadly stampedes at football matches have been common in Africa, where safety standards are low.

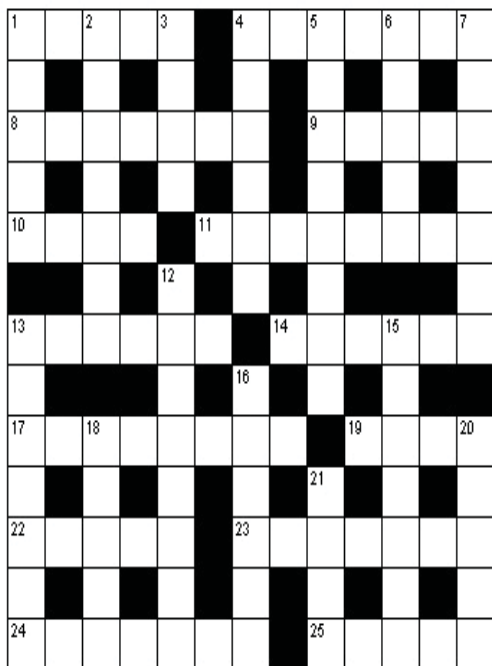
At least 17 people died and scores were injured in a stampede in a match in Angola in last February, when hundreds of supporters stormed the stadium.



A family of shepherds pauses to have their portrait taken near La Paz, Bolivia.

OSCAR LEIVA, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC YOUR SHOT

True or False Crossword



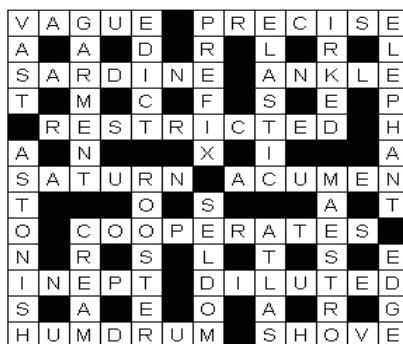
DOWN

1. Kind of meat / Kind of fish (5)
2. The real thing / Counterfeit (7)
3. Some / Not any (4)
4. Found in the sea / Found in a tree (6)
5. Youngsters / Senior citizens (8)
6. On the outside / On the inside (5)
7. Husbands and wives / Brothers and sisters (7)
12. Accepted / Refused (8)
13. Inflates / Deflates (7)
15. Fortunate / Unfortunate (7)
16. Profited / Lost (6)
18. Brass instrument / Stringed instrument (5)
20. Of the nose / Of the ear (5)
21. Benevolent / Malevolent (4)

ACROSS

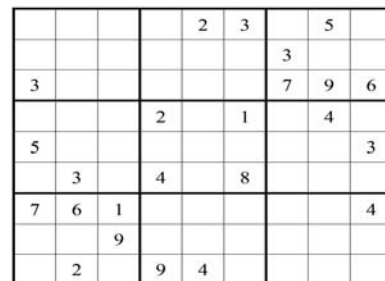
1. Started / Finished (5)
4. Gets / Gives (7)
8. Cats / Dogs (7)
9. Australian animal / African animal (5)
10. Part of the finger / Part of the eye (4)
11. Approves / Disapproves (8)
13. More than a dozen / Less than a dozen (6)
14. Agrees / Disagrees (6)
17. Usual / Unusual (8)
19. Scottish valley / Scottish stream (4)
22. Natural material / Synthetic material (5)
23. Beginners / Experts (7)
24. Rebuked / Praised (7)
25. Faithful / Unfaithful (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.



Iranians collect world para athletics medals



Mohsen Kaedi claimed the silver medal in men's shot put F34 category with a throw of 10.93m at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships.



Ali Mohammad-Yari finished second in the men's discus throw F56 class with his personal best throw of 43.53m at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships.

Iranian athletes continued to put in great performances at the ongoing 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in England, and earned four more medals to lift the country's overall tally to six medals at the competitions. On Sunday evening, Iran's Mohsen Kaedi vied for the top honor in the men's shot put F34 category at the Olympic Stadium in London, and managed to pocket the silver medal with a best throw of 10.93m, presstv.com reported.

Qatari competitor threw 11.38m to receive the gold.

Colombian athlete snatched bronze in this category, registering 10.89m.

Separately, Iran's 34-year-old Ali Mohammad-

Yari claimed the silver medal in the men's discus throw F56 class, with his personal best throw of 43.53m.

Cuban representative clinched the gold medal with 45.47m, while the Egyptian contestant threw the discus 37.75m to settle for bronze.

Furthermore, Chinese Paralympian athlete registered 15.30m in the men's shot put F35 final, and collected the gold medal.

Iranian shot putter Mehran Nikoci-Majd stood on the silver podium with the best throw of 15.15m.

Seyyed Ali-Asghar Javanmardi, another representative from Iran, threw 15.13m and scooped the bronze medal.

On Saturday, Iran's Paralympic discus thrower Mohsen Majidi Jamal-Abadi recorded a throw of 52.75m in his final attempt at the men's discus throw F37 category competitions and earned a bronze medal.

On first day of the tournament, Iran's Javad Hardani snatched a silver medal in the F38 shot put section after throwing 52.75 meters.

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

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

Fake news claim Qatar 2022 boycott

A fake news story claiming Arab nations had demanded that FIFA strips Qatar of the 2022 World Cup appeared on a website designed to look like a credible Swiss news publication.

The story appeared to surface on 'The Local' website and said six nations called Qatar 'the base of terrorism', BBC reported.

FIFA dismissed quotes that were accredited to its president Gianni Infantino.

The story was then widely reported by several major news organizations.

The Local said that it was a copycat website and it 'neither wrote, posted nor removed that article'.

The story first appeared on Saturday night and claimed that Infantino had told The Local that Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Mauritania, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt wrote to FIFA to ask that the world football's governing body removes Qatar as host.

FIFA denied receiving any correspondence



Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter revealed Qatar had beaten Australia, Japan, South Korea and the United States in their bid to host the 2022 World Cup.

from the Arab countries. A spokesman said: "The FIFA president has never received such a letter and he has not made any comment on that."

"As already said, FIFA is in regular contact with the Qatar 2022 Local Organizing Com-

mittee and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy handling matters relating to the 2022 FIFA World Cup."

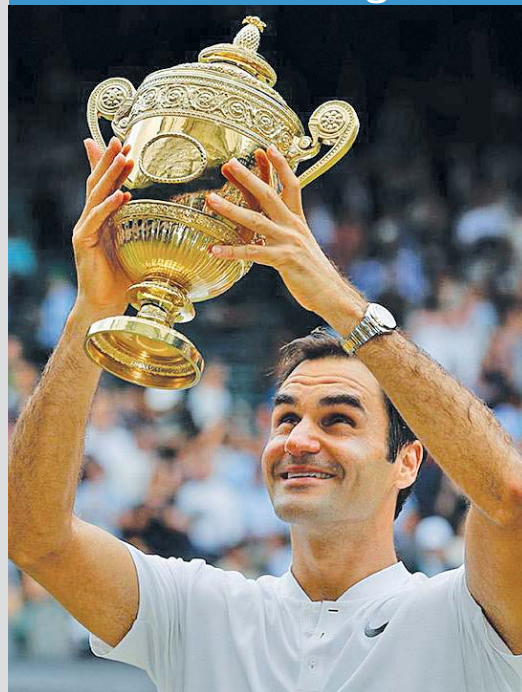
The fake website, posing as The Local had quoted Infantino as saying, "The countries warned FIFA of the risks threatening fan and player security in a country that is 'the base and the castle of terrorism'."

An earlier statement from the real Local website read: "We have neither seen the letter referred to in the article, nor sought nor received comment from any representative of FIFA on the issue."

A further statement from publication added: "The article appeared on a fake site designed to look like The Local's own site."

"There is no trace of it in our systems, nor any evidence that anyone tried to access our content management system" The website where the false report appeared was registered last week to an address in Hawaii, however the personal details appear to be fictitious.

Federer 'always believed' he could win again



Roger Federer holds aloft his eighth Wimbledon trophy after beating Marin Cilic in straight sets in the men's singles final on July 16, 2017.

Roger Federer said he always believed he could win Wimbledon again, after ending a five-year wait for his eighth title with victory over Marin Cilic.

The Swiss, 35, won 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 to become the most successful man in Wimbledon singles history, and claim a 19th Grand Slam title, BBC reported.

Federer's previous triumph at the All England Club was in 2012, and he has since lost in the 2014 and 2015 finals.

"It's special, Wimbledon was always my favorite tournament," he said.

"I truly believed. For me, it was also important that my team believed it, as well."

"My heroes walked the grounds here and walked the courts here. Because of them, I think I became a better player too."

"To make history here at Wimbledon really means a lot to me just because of all that really. It's that simple."

Fourteen years after his first Wimbledon triumph, Federer added to his lengthy list of achievements:

- He became the first man to win Wimbledon eight times, surpassing Pete Sampras (2000) and William Renshaw (1889).
- He is the oldest man to win Wimbledon since the Open era began in 1968.
- He extended his record to 19 Grand Slam titles, ahead of Rafael Nadal on 15.
- He stands joint-fourth on the all-time

Grand Slam list with Helen Wills Moody, five behind Margaret Court.

Federer has lost just two matches in 2017, and held match points in both of those, collecting titles at the Australian Open, Indian Wells, Miami Masters, Halle and now Wimbledon.

His success is all the more remarkable after he left the All England Club 12 months ago and chose to miss the rest of 2016 to fully recover from a knee injury.

The Swiss returned to win his 18th major title in Melbourne, sparking a superb run of form, but then skipped the clay-court season and took a 10-week break.

"Honestly, I'm incredibly surprised how well this year is going, how well I'm feeling," said Federer.

"I knew I could do great again maybe one day, but not at this level. I guess you would have laughed, too, if I told you I was going to win two Slams this year. People wouldn't believe me if I said that."

"I also didn't believe that I was going to win two this year. It's incredible."

Federer rose to third in the world rankings on Monday, and plans to play more in the second half of the season than the first.

He also expects to try for a ninth Wimbledon title in 2018, aged 36.

"The goal is definitely to be here again next year to try to defend," he said.

Neymar 'Uncomfortable' under Messi's 'Shadow'



TORU YAMANAKA/GETTY IMAGES

Neymar has spent the majority of his time at Barcelona playing under the shadow of club's talisman, Lionel Messi.

Barcelona star Neymar is reportedly unhappy at the Nou Camp and that could pave the way for a sensational move to either Manchester United or Real Madrid.

Neymar is entering his fifth season at Barcelona and has won every major trophy since arriving from Santos in 2013, express.co.uk reported.

The Brazil international is regarded as one of the best players in world football and, as a result, the European elite would love to sign him.

Neymar has spent the majority of his time at Barcelona playing second fiddle to Lionel Messi, who is the club's talisman.

And the decision to hand the Argentina international a bumper new wage of £500,000-a-week means that situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

As a result, talk has been rife that Neymar could quit the Nou Camp.

And Catalan newspaper Sport claimed the 25-year-old is unsettled in his current surroundings. He is supposedly being advised to leave Barcelona so he can move out of Messi's shadow and forge a reputation for himself away from the Argentinian.

It is said that Manchester United and Real Madrid – as well as Paris Saint-Germain – would love to

snap him up.

United is still looking for a marquee name to fill the void left by Zlatan Ibrahimovic's departure, and though the Red Devils spent £75million on Romelu Lukaku the Belgium international has not secured superstar status just yet.

Real, meanwhile, would love to poach the star from fierce rival Barcelona 16 years after the Madrid side did the same with Luis Figo.

It is said Neymar is listening to all offers from clubs and his current team is worried he could opt to leave for a new challenge elsewhere.

