



Iran Daily extends deep condolences on the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Ja'far Sadeq (PBUH), the sixth Shia Imam. Our next issue will be out on July 22, 2017.

IRAN DAILY



Nematzadeh inaugurates Iran's largest lead, zinc mine

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EU: JCPOA Joint Commission to meet in Vienna on July 21



Macron puts France top of 'soft power' rankings: Survey



Shishegaran designs poster for Iran's Mirzakhani

Separatists in eastern Ukraine unveil plan for new state

The separatists' leader of a breakaway region in eastern Ukraine announced proposals to abolish Ukraine and create a new state in its place on Tuesday, comments that could further undermine a 2015 peace deal that is already faltering. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko dismissed the idea, describing Alexander Zakharchenko, leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), as part of "a puppet show," with Russia pulling his strings in order to relay a message, Reuters reported.

Zakharchenko, who scarcely would have expected anything other than outright rejection from Kiev, said in a declaration that he and his allies were proposing a new state called Malorossiya (Little Russia) to be set up with its capital in Donetsk.

Malorossiya was the term used to describe swatches of modern-day Ukraine when they were part of the Russian Empire.

"We are proposing to residents of Ukraine a peaceful way out of a difficult situation without war. It's our last proposal," Zakharchenko said in a statement. The new state would be federal, with regions enjoying a large degree of autonomy.

He said the move was backed by delegates from different Ukrainian regions, though a statement from the neighboring separatist territory of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic said it had been unaware of the initiative.

His declaration cast a shadow over the faltering Minsk peace agreement between the separatists and the Ukrainian government which has failed to quell fighting between the two sides and has only been partially implemented since an uprising broke out in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's representative in talks on implementing the peace deal, told Ukrainian TV channel 112.ua that Zakharchenko's declaration would complicate negotiations and looked like a Russian attempt to sabotage the process.

France, which along with Germany has been closely involved in trying to resolve the Ukraine crisis, condemned the idea and demanded Russia do more to prevent further escalation.

A German government spokeswoman also criticized the move, calling it "totally unacceptable."

Ukraine's top military commander, Viktor Muzhenko, said on social media that the Ukrainian people would "bury" Malorossiya, calling the plan one of the separatists' "sick fantasies."

Trump again certifies Iran's compliance with JCPOA



Zarif: Iran may withdraw from deal in case of US violations

US President Donald Trump's administration on Monday declared that Iran was complying with its nuclear agreement with world powers.

It was the second time Trump certified Iranian compliance with the agreement since he took office in January 2016, despite criticizing it during the presidential campaign as "the worst deal ever," Reuters reported.

However, Trump claimed that Tehran was in default of the spirit of the accord and that Washington would look for ways to strengthen it.

Trump, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and "the entire administration judge that Iran is unquestionably in default of the spirit" of the agreement, one official said. That assessment carries no legal force, while Trump's certification that Iran is technically complying clears the way for sanctions to remain lifted.

The Trump administration notified Congress of Iran's compliance for the first time in April.

Under US law, the State Department must

notify Congress every 90 days of Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Trump had faced a congressionally mandated deadline of Monday to decide.

Zarif warns of US violation

Also on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warned that any major JCPOA violation on behalf of the US may result in Tehran's withdrawal from the nuclear deal signed between Iran, the US, France, Britain, Russia, China and Germany.

Zarif made the remark during an interview with The National Interest magazine.

"If it comes to a major violation, or what in the terms of the nuclear deal is called significant nonperformance, then Iran has other options available, including withdrawing from the deal," he said.

Zarif further stressed that the Islamic Republic wishes for the deal to serve as a solid foundation for all its parties and not

the ceiling.

"We wanted that agreement to be the foundation and not the ceiling. But in order for that to serve as a solid foundation, we want to make sure that the obligations by all sides have been fully and faithfully implemented," he added.

US shortcomings

Iran's top diplomat further noted that the US has shortcomings in commitments stipulated in the nuclear accord, while stressing that these shortcomings will be addressed by the joint commission to make sure they are remedied.

"This has been the subject of an ongoing debate within the joint commission, not only during the (US President Donald) Trump administration but also during the previous (Barack) Obama administration, when it took the United States, for instance, several months to clear the purchase of airplanes," he said in reference to the purchase of Airbus airplanes.

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Zarif: US must change its overall sanctions policy



Washington has to reassess its approach of issuing sanctions against other countries as they are a liability for the US, said Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

During a press conference held in New York with President of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard Haass on Monday, Zarif noted that the US will become the prisoner of its own sanctions if it does not alter its current policies, Press TV reported.

Zarif stressed that imposing sanctions on other countries usually does not yield a positive outcome. Last month, US Senate voted for a bill to impose new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program, alleged support for terrorism, and human rights violations. Iran's top diplomat criticized the US and its allies over their refusal to take part in a UN-organized summit aimed at banning the use of nuclear weapons.

Earlier in the month, the United States, along with Britain and France, announced that they would never become party to the global treaty that was endorsed by 122 countries at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Zarif noted that Iran would always remain dedicated to its vow over never producing nuclear weapons. "We believe that nuclear weapons do not augment anybody's security. Our objection to nuclear weapons does not recognize friend or foe. We simply believe that nuclear weapons are unacceptable and - in our view - illegal because of their consequences," he said.

The Iranian foreign minister also noted that despite differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the conflicts in Yemen and Syria, he hoped that Tehran and Riyadh could work together towards resolving the issues.

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Republican senators sink Trump's healthcare bill

Two more US Republican senators announced their opposition Monday to their party's efforts to revamp Obamacare, derailing the controversial legislation in its current form and potentially dealing a monumental setback to President Donald Trump.

Republican leaders are desperate for a major legislative victory this year - and keen to fulfill Trump's campaign pledge to dismantle the 2010 health care reforms of his predecessor Barack Obama, formally called the Affordable Care Act.

But they had no votes to spare.

Republicans control 52 of the chamber's 100 seats. Democrats are united against the controversial legislation, while Republicans Susan Collins and Rand Paul declared their opposition last week.

So when Senate conservatives Mike Lee and Jerry Moran an-



Jerry Moran

Mike Lee

nounced last Monday they could not support the bill, the news sent shockwaves across Washington.

"We should not put our stamp of approval on bad policy," Moran - who faced considerable opposition at home in Kansas to the measure - said in a statement, adding that the new bill "fails to repeal the Affordable Care Act or address health care's rising costs."

For Lee, "in addition to not repealing all of the Obamacare taxes, it doesn't go far enough in lowering premiums for middle class families; nor does it create enough free space from the most costly Obamacare regulations."

Their defections mean that the bill has no chance of even getting a vote on the Senate floor unless Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell decides to make significant changes to woo skeptics back into the fold.

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Mottaqian bags world para athletics silver

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Cairo: Qatar crisis will be resolved if Doha fulfills demands

Egypt ends visa-free entry for Qataris

Egypt is standing by the list of demands it and three Persian Gulf Arab countries made of Qatar and will keep sanctions against Doha in place, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told his Kuwaiti counterpart on Monday.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt imposed sanctions on Qatar on June 5, cutting diplomatic and transport ties with the tiny Persian Gulf monarchy, after accusing it of financing terrorist groups and close relations with Iran. Doha denies the accusations.

Kuwait has been leading mediation efforts between Qatar and the four Arab states boycotting it. Its top diplomat Sheikh Sabah al-

Khalid al-Sahab met Shoukry and President Abdel Fattah el Sisi in Cairo on Monday.

"The Foreign Minister affirmed to his Kuwaiti counterpart Egypt's commitment to the list of demands presented to the state of Qatar and the continuation of sanctions taken against it," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid said in a statement.

Shoukry told Sabah the only way the crisis would be resolved was if Qatar fulfilled the demands, which include curtailing its support for the Muslim Brotherhood, shutting down the pan-Arab Al Jazeera satellite TV channel, closing a Turkish military base, and downgrading its relations with Iran.

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Iran FM, UN chief discuss regional, global issues

Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif and the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres met in New York on Monday.

They discussed the latest developments in the region and world during their meeting, IRNA reported.

The Iranian minister has been in New York since July 14 to take part in a high-level UN meeting on sustainable development. He is expected to have meetings with UN officials as well as his counterparts from other countries.

Zarif's deputies, Abbas Araqchi and Majid Takht-Ravanchi, accompany him at UN events.

Government spokesman:

Iran will not hold direct talks with US

Government spokesman, Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht, said Iranian officials will not hold face-to-face talks with their US counterparts as long as Americans do not come to their senses.

"In view of the conditions of the US leader today, which is quite tangible for Europeans too, what makes it a necessity for Iranian foreign minister [Mohammad Javad Zarif] to meet [in person] with his American counterpart? We will not hold direct talks with these people unless they come to their senses and become eligible to hold negotiations with us. [Unless these preconditions are met] We will not sit with them at a table," said Nobakht in a press conference in Tehran on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Nobakht made the comment in response to a question on whether Iran had lodged any complaint against the US.

In an interview with CNN in New York on Sunday, Zarif said US President Donald Trump had violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), both in spirit and in content.

'Unparalleled' deal

Addressing the same conference, Nobakht praised the \$5 billion gas deal recently signed between Iran and France's energy giant Total, adding the investment project would be highly profitable for the country.

The project will generate \$85 billion in a 20-year period.

He added that \$12 billion of this income would go to foreign investors, and the rest would belong to Iran.

"This has been an unparalleled contract since [the going into effect of] the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and is highly praised."

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

The agreement was signed at a ceremony in Tehran attended by Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh, Total's CEO Patrick Pouyanné and senior officials from China's CNPC and Iran's Petropars.

Total has a 50.1-percent share in the South Pars project. This is while the state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation owns 30 percent of the project and Iran's Petropars holds 19.9 percent.

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

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



EU: JCPOA Joint Commission to meet in Vienna on July 21

A meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will be held on July 21 in Vienna, chaired by Deputy Secretary General of European External Action Service (EEAS) Helga Schmid.

The meeting will be held by the G5+1 (UK, US, Russia, China, France, plus Germany), EEAS, European Union's diplomatic service, reported on Tuesday.

The meeting provides the opportunity to address the issue of the implementation of the JCPOA with regard to nuclear and sanctions-related commitments.

It will be held while the US government announced on Monday that Iran has been living up to its JCPOA commitments, but claimed that Tehran has violated the spirit of the nuclear deal.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confirmed in a letter to Congress that Iran has been compliant with its commitments under the JCPOA.

According to US law, the State Department must notify Congress every 90 days on Iran's compliance under the JCPOA. It is the second time that such notification is being confirmed under US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly criticized the JCPOA, calling it the "worst deal ever."

He had even said during his presidential campaign that in case of being elected as US president, his "number-one priority" would be to "dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran."

However, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad



Zarif, who is currently in New York to attend the United Nations High Ranking Political Assembly, commented on the cases of the US' defiance of the landmark nuclear deal in an interview with the National Interest, stressing,

"If it comes to a major violation, or what in terms of the nuclear deal is called significant nonperformance, then Iran has other options available, including withdrawing from the deal."

In violation of int'l law, US targets Iran with new economic sanctions

The Trump administration on Tuesday in violation of international law unveiled new economic sanctions against Iran allegedly over its ballistic missile program and on the accusation of contributing to regional tensions.

The US Department of Treasury, in a statement, said it was targeting 16 entities and individuals for supporting what is claimed was "illicit Iranian actors or transnational criminal activity", Reuters reported.

Those sanctioned had backed Iran's military or Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) by developing drones and military equipment, producing and maintaining boats, and procuring electronic components, the



An Iranian national flag flutters during the opening ceremony of the 16th International Oil, Gas & Petrochemical Exhibition (IOGPE) in Tehran April 15, 2011.

US said.

Iran has said that it does not need to take permission from anybody to boost its military power, which is the natural right of every state. Iran has also said that its missiles and other military programs are defensive. Iran has never attacked or invaded any neighboring country during the past few centuries.

The US State Department had also designated two Iranian organizations involved in Iran's ballistic missile program, according to the Treasury Department.

The sanctions are politically motivated and aim to put pressure on Iran for its independent policies.

Parliament speaker lauds motion to counteract US adventurous measures

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani praised a motion passed by the Iranian Parliament to counteract Washington's adventurous and terrorist acts in the Middle East and described its approval as a sign of "the Iranian nation's determination" to counter the moves by the White House.

Addressing an open session of the Iranian Parliament on Tuesday after the MPs passed the motion unanimously, Larijani said, "The approval of the motion indicates the Iranian nation's determination to counteract the adventurous measures by the US," Tasnim News Agency reported.

He stressed that despite different opinions held by Iranian lawmakers on some political issues, the unanimous vote to approve the motion signals that they have a united voice on this subject.

Americans should be aware that their measures are against the Iranian nation and that the nation is firmly



Trump again certifies Iran's...

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Strengthening nuclear deal

A US official said on Monday that the US administration is looking at ways to strengthen the nuclear deal and to more strictly enforce it.

Under the deal, which took effect in

January last year, Iran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the termination of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against the Islamic Republic.

The United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) have warned that the US could not unilaterally rescind the multilateral agreement. They regard the

deal as a triumph for diplomacy and a major contributing factor to regional and international peace and stability.

"The nuclear deal doesn't belong to one country, it belongs to the international community," said the EU's High Representative Federica Mogherini last Tuesday. "We have the responsibility to make sure that this continues to be im-

plemented."

Scuttling the deal would put further distance between Trump and foreign leaders who are already upset over his move to withdraw from the Paris global climate change accord. Other powers that brokered the nuclear deal along with the US have said there's no appetite for renegotiating it.

Zarif: US must change its...

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The Iranian foreign minister also noted that despite differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the conflicts in Yemen and Syria, he hoped that Tehran and Riyadh could work together towards resolving the issues.

"If we don't agree with each other about the situation in Yemen or about the situation in Syria, we can still work with each other in order to bring those situations to an end. We believe nobody is gaining from the continuation of the conflict in Yemen," he added.

Saudi Arabia has been leading a destructive military campaign against Yemen since March 2015 to reinstate former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and crush the Houthi movement.

The campaign has seriously damaged the country's infrastructure. Local Yemeni sources have put the death toll from the Saudi war at over 12,000, including many women and children.

He also warned that a plan by Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region to hold an independence referendum would have negative consequences for the country.

"We believe that the referendum is not the right choice. We believe that it would bring about centrifugal tendencies in Iraq that would be disastrous for the country, and it would not be limited to the Kurdish population," Zarif said.

The president of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, Masoud Barzani, announced on Twitter in June that the northern territory would hold an independence referendum on September 25, not only in the three provinces that make up the Kurdish region, but also in the areas that were a bone of contention between the Iraqi Kurdistan

Region and the central government in Baghdad.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said on June 13 that the Kurdish minority's decision to hold an independence referendum was untimely.

"I believe the impact on Iraqi security would be disastrous, and the impact on regional security would be disastrous. So, we have advised our friends in Iraqi Kurdistan – and all of them are our friends, from Mr. Barzani to others in Iraq. We have advised all of them that this is the wrong choice and they should not make this choice," Zarif added.

Macron puts France top of 'soft power' rankings: Survey

Japan rises to sixth place



Tokyo Skytree: The World's largest Telecom Tower



Eiffel Tower

France has leapfrogged the United States and Britain as the world's top so-called soft power, helped by the election of President Emmanuel Macron, a study of countries' non-military global influence showed Tuesday.

While France has risen, Donald Trump's ascent to the White House has seen the US slip from the top last year to third place in the Soft Power 30 study, compiled by PR Company Portland Communications and the University of Southern California, according to AFP.

Japan has risen from sixth to seventh place.

Soft power measures a country's ability to secure international alliances and influence others through its attraction and appeal.

The study uses polling in 25 countries

and digital data to measure a country's influence.

It takes into account factors such as the ability of countries to attract foreign students to its universities and tourists, as well as its cultural allure.

France's rapid rise from fifth place last year, when it was in the doldrums under unpopular ex-president Francois Hollande, is partly due to the centrist Macron's election in May.

But the country's diplomatic reach also played a key role.

"France's greatest strength lies in its vast diplomatic network," the study says.

"It is unrivalled in terms of membership to multilateral and international organizations, as well as in its diplomatic cultural missions.

"With Macron having long cam-

paigned for cooperation and integration, it is not unreasonable to expect France's global engagement and influence to grow."

France also remains the world's top tourist destination, the report said.

The terror attacks that have cost the lives of more than 230 people since 2015 "have not stopped tourists flocking to France and enjoying its rich cultural offering, cuisine, and lifestyle," the report says.

The top five countries by order are France, Britain, US, Germany and Canada. Japan has risen to sixth place from seventh, Switzerland is seventh and Australia slips to eighth.

The survey attributes the US decline – it has slipped from first last year to third – to a deterioration of "global sentiment"

as a result of Trump's "America First" policy.

The US was still "unrivalled" in higher education, technological innovation and the production of film, music and TV, it pointed out.

Britain loses influence

Meanwhile, the report's authors warn that Britain's fall – it was top of the rankings last year – "should serve as a warning of what is likely to come for post-Brexit British influence."

With negotiations under way for Britain to leave the European Union within two years, the report says: "It is hard to imagine the direction of travel for British soft power... will be upwards in the future."

China's Xi pledges 'unremitting' efforts for Middle East peace

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged on Tuesday to make "unremitting" efforts toward promoting peace in the Middle East following a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as China steps up its diplomatic engagement with the region.

Palestinian officials have urged China, which supports an independent Palestinian state, to do more in the Middle East peace process, Reuters reported.

Chinese envoys occasionally visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories, though China has traditionally played little role in Middle East conflicts or diplomacy despite its reliance on the region for oil.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Abbas in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said the international community paid close attention to the Middle East peace process.

"As the Palestinian people's good friend, partner and brother, China hopes Palestine and Israel can achieve peace as soon as possible and live and work in peace. China will make unremitting ef-



forts for this," Xi said, after receiving a Palestinian medal of honor from Abbas. China has historically had a good relationship with the Palestinians.

The Middle East, however, is fraught

with risk for China, which has little experience navigating the religious and political tensions that frequently rack the region.

Deputy Chinese Foreign Minister

Zhang Ming later said Xi reiterated support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and also called for the security of both the Palestinians and Israelis to be protected.

Diplomats say that China is trying to play the role of "honest broker" in the Middle East, as it lacks the historical baggage of the Americans or the Europeans.

Xi told visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in March that peaceful coexistence between Israel and the Palestinians would be good for both parties and the region, and that it was favored by the international community.

Netanyahu's trip came just days after China hosted Saudi Arabia's King Salman and signed deals worth as much as \$65 billion with Riyadh.

More broadly, China hopes a peaceful Middle East will lessen the flow of ethnic Uighurs, a Muslim people from the far western Chinese region of Xinjiang, to Syria and Iraq to join up with militant groups there.

Lavrov calls US preconditions to return Russian property 'robbery'

US attempts to set preconditions for the return of Russian diplomatic property seized in New York and Maryland are "day-light robbery", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday, the RIA news agency reported.



SPUTNIK

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.

Moscow has said a lot will depend on the outcome of a meeting in Washington between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and US Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon who will discuss the continued diplomatic row.

Lavrov, on a visit to Belarus, was also cited as saying that "anti-Russian feeling" in the United States meant it was not certain that Moscow and Washington could agree on key global issues.

Lebanese PM says army to carry out operation at Syrian border

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri said on Tuesday the army would carry out an operation in an area of the border with Syria that has been a base of operations for terrorist groups.

Speaking in parliament, Hariri described the operation planned for the Jurood Aarsal area as carefully studied, the National News Agency reported. The government had given the army the "freedom" to act, he added, according to Reuters.

Jurood Aarsal, a barren area in the mountains between Syria and Lebanon, has been a base of operations for terrorists fighting in the Syria, including those from Daesh and the group formerly known as the Nusra Front.



Speculation has been building that the powerful Lebanese group Hezbollah and the Syrian military are set to mount a major operation against the terrorists on the Syrian side of the frontier.

Earlier this month, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said time was running out for Syrian terrorists along the border near Aarsal to reach deals with Syrian authorities, saying it was "high time to end the threat of militant groups in Aarsal".

Hariri however said "there is no coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian armies".

A security source said the Lebanese army, a recipient of US and British military aid, had increased its deployment in the Aarsal area in the last 24 hours.

The source said the terrorists in the Jurood Aarsal area were estimated to number around 3,000, two-thirds of them belonging to Daesh or the group formerly known as the Nusra Front, and the remainder members of other rebel groups.

In 2014, the Aarsal area was the scene of one of the most serious spillovers of the Syrian war into Lebanon, when terrorists briefly overran the town of Aarsal.

The Hezbollah has provided Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with crucial military support in the war.

Republican senators sink...

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"Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!" Trump tweeted after Lee and Moran made their opposition known.

In a statement McConnell acknowledged "regretfully" that his effort had failed. But he wasn't giving up.

Republican leaders are eager to notch a major victory for Trump in Congress as he nears the six-month mark of his presidency.

Congress could also address tax reform and infrastructure – but the Senate must first deal with a logjam of urgent business, including whether to raise the federal borrowing limit.

Cairo: Qatar crisis will be resolved if Doha fulfills demands

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End of visa-free entry

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also said on Monday Cairo will end visa-free entry for Qatari nationals with some exceptions, the latest measure taken against Doha.

"It does not make sense to keep making exceptions for Qatar and giving it privileges in light of its current positions," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid. Qatari nationals will now have to apply for a visa

in order to enter Egypt.

Qatari nationals with Egyptian mothers, those married to Egyptians, and Qataris studying in Egypt will be exempt from having to apply for a visa, he added.

Sources at Cairo International Airport told Reuters the decision would be implemented as of Thursday, July 20, which the Qatari Foreign Ministry later confirmed on Twitter.

Foreign workers make up around 1.6 million of Qatar's 2.5 million population, and hundreds of thousands of them are Egyptians, making them one of the biggest

foreign contingents in the country. So far no action has been taken against them.

Erdogan to visit Arab nations

Turkey's President Erdogan is planning to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar on July 23-24, the Turkish presidency said on Tuesday.

Erdogan has been a staunch ally of Qatar in its dispute with its Arab neighbors. He criticized the list of demands by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt to end sanctions they imposed on Doha.

PERSPECTIVE

Fourth industrial revolution

By Amir Ali Ramdani

Recently, the term 'fourth industrial revolution' has been used widely and is seen in newspapers, magazines, television and radio. Studying the history of the previous industrial revolutions, it is clear that the revolutions have always transformed the industry and production and the daily life of people.

The world has experienced three industrial revolutions so far: The first industrial revolution in 1784 when water and steam powers were used to launch machinery for mechanized production.

The second industrial revolution in 1870 when electricity was used for mass production.

The third industrial revolution in 1969 when electronics and information technology were used for automation of production.

And the fourth industrial revolution that is introduced currently and uses digital technology.

According to experts and researchers, this revolution will introduce bigger changes than earlier revolutions. Artificial intelligence is used more than devices and machinery. It is predicted that as the fourth industrial revolution takes place in the world, many changes will occur in different industries, especially in food industry, communication, automobile manufacturing, education, etc. For example:

In food industry, fruits are produced with no agricultural land. In education sector, courses are held in virtual environment and video conferences. In service sector, new tools are created to send shipments and mail orders. And small bird robots replace bike deliveries. In automotive industry, smart cars replace the current cars and they don't need fossil fuels.

There are many examples in this respect. This revolution will occur in the whole world and those societies are successful that are prepared from today. However, one question arises: Are you ready for this industrial revolution? Industrial revolution can be both an opportunity and a threat. It is an opportunity in societies that use the provided conditions well, and it is a threat in societies that are still involved in the previous industrial revolution. However, the important point is that if you lag behind this revolution, maybe you won't find an opportunity to keep up with advanced societies any more.

*Amir Ali Ramdani is a PhD student of industrial engineering.

Iran to export 1m tons of wheat: Official

Iran expects to export one million tons of surplus wheat and its products in the year to mid-March 2018 — up 60 percent from a year ago — the country's trade regulator the Government Trading Company (GTC) said.

GTC Managing Director Yazdan Seif said the rise was "the result of the creation of necessary mechanisms and the increase in wheat production as well as guaranteed purchases of wheat, especially durum".

"Our exports will not exceed one million tons, and we will sell only the surplus wheat" purchased from Iranian farmers, Tasnim News Agency quoted him as saying.

The official said given a four percent rise in global prices of wheat, exports were set to help job creation and economic boom in the sector.

"Our goal is to export durum wheat, flour and flour products, and avoid exporting unprocessed and raw materials as much as possible," Seif said.

Iran always holds a carryover from the previous wheat crop as well as past stocks.

Last year, officials said state-sponsored purchases of wheat from domestic farmers reached 11 million tons — a rise of 30 percent on the year before. Former GTC head Ali Qanbari said then the country planned to export 300,000 tons of durum wheat.

Iran's wheat production has experienced a cycle of boom and bust. Largely self-sufficient in wheat a decade ago, the country has turned to one of the world's biggest importers. However, it bucked the trend last year, with officials saying it



had produced enough wheat to make the country self-sufficient amid a better harvest.

The Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, meanwhile, banned state imports of

wheat for the year which began on March 20, ordering officials to stop registering new purchase orders.

Wheat is part of the schedule for production of basic and strategic com-

modities under Iran's economy of resistance — the blueprint for which was proposed by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Nematzadeh inaugurates Iran's largest lead, zinc mine

Extraction from Iran's largest and the world's second largest lead and zinc reserve began on Tuesday at a ceremony attended by Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh.

According to Mehr News Agency, the Managing Director of Mahdiabad Lead and Zinc Mining Complex Amin Safari said, "The mine is located 116 kilometers southeast of Yazd city and contains over 160 million tons of lead and zinc with purities of 2.3 and 7.3 percent, respectively."

Barite reserves of the mine stands at over 10 million tons with specific gravity of 3.6 and the complex produces 4,000 tons of barite and 1,200 tons of lead and zinc per year, said the official.

He stated that a contract was inked with Mobin Trust Consortium based on which 185 million tons are expected to be recovered and an 800,000-ton zinc concentrate



unit for will be constructed within five years.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Nematzadeh said 4.5 million tons of steel were exported in the year to

March 20, 2017 while the target for the current year has been set at seven million tons.

He said 100 mining regions had been introduced to eager domestic and foreign investors and contracts to conduct feasibility studies have been inked for two-thirds of them.

Underlining the need for new explorations and discoveries in addition to extraction, the minister hoped that Mahdiabad Lead and Zinc Mining Complex will attain full output capacity within four years.

Referring to private sector involvement in the country's industrial development, Nematzadeh said that government's agenda includes support for private investments.

The minister called for export-oriented production asserting that the objective could not be attained unless investments were made to export to major global markets.

Jahangiri inaugurates airport, harbor on Hendurabi Island

Iran's First Vice President Es'hag Jahangiri officially opened the airport and harbor of Hendurabi Island in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday morning.

Hendurabi airport can handle aircraft such as Fokker 50, Fokker 100 and ATR 72 thanks to its 1,485-meter long and 30-meter wide runway with a 7.5-meter shoulder on each side, Mehr News Agency reported.

Jahangiri arrived on Kish Island on Monday for a two-day visit to the region to inaugurate several development projects.

The first test flight to Hendurabi airport was conducted successfully last February when a Harbin Y-12 aircraft with 18 passengers left Kish Island and successfully landed in the Persian Gulf Island after a 12-minute flight. The airport also has two separate helipads.

With the official operation of the airport, it will now be possible for Iranian and foreign tourists to visit the island.

Jahangiri also attended the inauguration ceremony for the harbor in Hendurabi Island whose pond covers 20 hectares. Cruise passenger boats with a length of 150 meters can moor at the harbor which also benefits from a floating berth post.

A floating deck with a capacity of 400,000 passengers per year has been constructed at the new harbor. The creation of a 5,000-ton fuel jetty and diesel, gasoline and mazut tanks are among other features of the facility.

Hendurabi is an Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, Hormuzgan Province, west of the Kish Island.

Iranian state holding's iron ore, steel output up year on year

Mineral companies affiliated to Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIRDO), produced 9.49 million tons of iron ore concentrate during March 21-June 21 — up 37.6 percent year on year, an informed source at the holding told S&P Global Platts on Tuesday.

Some 7.79 million tons of iron ore pellet — a 22.3-percent increase on the year — was produced in the same period, as well as 4.78 million tons of direct reduced iron, a 12.6 percent rise.

Crude steel output also increased sharply. Some 4.14 million tons of crude steel was produced by Iran's major mills, up 11.9 percent.

Of national total, Mobarakeh Steel Co. produced 2.19 million tons (a 14.5-percent increase), Khuzestan Steel Co. 944,151 tons (a 1.84-percent increase) and Esfahan Steel Co (ESCO) 529,953 tons which is 14.82 percent less on the year.

Some 1.359 million tons of crude steel was produced in the month which ended on June 21, 2017, which is 13.41 percent more than the same month a year earlier.

Iran hopes to boost steel production capacity to 55 million tons per year by 2025 and aims to attract some \$30 billion in foreign investment, IMIRDO Chairman Mehdi Karbasian told Iranian news agencies in June.

Iran-Pakistan cargo train services up as trade grows: Pakistani official



Trade between Iran and Pakistan has increased with more cargo trains plying between the two neighboring states, said a Pakistani railway official from Baluchistan Province.

Station Master of Quetta Railway Station, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal told IRNA that right now there are seven scheduled cargo trains operating between Iran and Pakistan in a month.

Compared to past years, there is a big increase in the number of cargo trains operating between the two countries which also means that bilateral trade is growing rapidly, he said.

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

He added that rail track between Quetta to Taftan border point is damaged and needs urgent repairs.

The official said that Iran sends mostly chemicals and cement while rice and other agricultural goods are transported from Pakistan through the rail road.

Zafar Iqbal said that Pakistan is interested in upgrading the railway track on its side but it would need the support of Iranian railways in this respect.

He said that if the track is upgraded, the two countries can also operate passenger train services for Pakistani pilgrims and other tourists going to Iran.

The official noted that there is absolutely no security problem along Quetta-Zahedan rail track and the trains run on this track even during nighttime.

He said that due to the slow train service, people prefer road trips between Iran and Pakistan. "In past we used to

run three passenger trains between the two countries in a month," he said.

Last week an Iranian railways delegation visited Pakistan to participate in the 9th high level working group meeting of ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route.

In a meeting with Pakistan's Secretary of Railways Parveen Agha, the Iranian delegation also urged Pakistan to give extra attention to Quetta-Taftan railway line which is an important section of Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Container Train Corridor project.

There are only 14 railway stations in the last 553km

section of the track. The total length of track from Quetta to Zahedan is 732km with the last 100km section being in Iran.

Earlier Pakistan's Minister for Railways had said that Pakistan Railway is working on a master plan to upgrade its three main arteries including Quetta to Taftan railway line which will improve connectivity among ECO states.

In 2004, Pakistan and Iran signed the preferential trade agreement (PTA) which came into effect in 2006. As per data from International Trade Center, Trade Maps, Pakistan's trade with Iran increased from \$622 million in 2006 to \$1.2 billion in 2009, a 194 percent jump post PTA implementation.

Despite the increase in trade, bilateral trade with Iran composed of just 2.5 percent of Pakistan's exports in 2009, with exports to Iran constituting just 1.4 percent of Pakistan's total exports. The only significant export to Iran was that of rice with 12 percent of Pakistan's exports finding a market in Iran.

The highest potential of increase in trade is rice exports to Iran. At the peak of Pakistan's exports in 2009, the top export to Iran was \$200 million of rice which made up nearly 80 percent of Pakistan's exports to Iran.

Pakistan produces roughly 700,000 tons of rice annually and is a leading producer of Basmati and non-Basmati rice regionally. While Basmati rice is considered a premium high-end rice thereby enabling Pakistan to earn more forex, Iran is also a market for non-Basmati rice. Since the decline in non-Basmati variety has caused some concern, the Pakistan-Iran FTA in the works may give it the much needed boost.

Bangladesh imports surge

Bangladesh's imports surged 11.83 percent to some \$41 billion in the first 11 months of the just concluded 2016-17 fiscal year (July 2016-June 2017) on increased importation of staple food, officials said.

Extreme global cyberattack could cost as much as \$121b



BBC

A major cyberattack could potentially trigger up to \$121 billion losses in the global economy, comparatively bigger than the damage caused by the US catastrophic natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

Lloyd's of London, in a joint research with risk-modelling firm Cyence, studied two scenarios and their potential economic impact: A malicious hack that takes down a cloud service provider, and cyberattacks on computer operating systems run by major businesses around the world.

"For the cloud service disruption scenario, average economic losses range from \$4.6 billion from a large event to \$53 billion for an extreme event," the world's oldest insurer said in its 56-page report, Arab News wrote.

"Because of the uncertainty around aggregating cyber losses this figure could be as high as \$121 billion or

as low as \$15 billion," depending on factors such as the different organizations involved and how long the cloud service disruption continues.

Lloyd's said economic damage from a massive cyber-attack would be higher than the \$108 billion caused by hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the \$70 billion in losses from hurricane Sandy in 2012.

In comparison, the WannaCry ransomware attack in May, which infected more than 230,000 computers in over 150 countries, was estimated to have cost the global economy at least \$4 billion.

Inga Beale, chief executive of Lloyd's, said: "Just like some of the worst natural catastrophes, cyber events can cause a severe impact on businesses and economies, trigger multiple claims and dramatically increase insurers' claims costs. Underwriters need to consider cyber cover in this way and ensure that premium calculations keep pace with the cyber threat reality."

In 2016, cyber-attacks were estimated to cost businesses as much as \$450 billion a year.

Lloyd's has estimated that the uninsured gap could be as much as \$45 billion for the cloud services scenario, meaning that less than a fifth of the economic losses are actually covered by insurance.

Meanwhile, the insurance gap could be as high as \$26 billion for the mass vulnerability scenario, meaning that just seven percent of economic losses are covered.

Cyber cover is a relatively new type of insurance that has emerged in the last few years, of which Lloyd's accounts for about a quarter of global premiums, and is harder to model and understand than natural catastrophe cover.

Consulting firm PwC estimates that annual gross written premiums are to increase from around \$2.5 billion today to about \$7.5 billion by the end of the decade.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	79756.9	(26.7)	(0.03)
Industry Index	68644.4	(9.2)	(0.01)
Free Float Index	87472.3	(19)	(0.02)
First Market Index	55291.0	(31.7)	(0.06)
Second Market Index	177102.3	15.3	0.01

Overall Index details on 20170718

First	79692.9	Change end of year(%)	887.04%
High	79792.7	Historical highest	89500.6 (2014/01/05)
Low	79733.3	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	79756.9	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(26.7)		

Industry Index details on 20170718

First	68583.1	Change end of year(%)	996.81%
Max Value	68671.5	Historical highest	75181.9 (2014/01/05)
Max Value	67696.8	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	68644.4	Base Value	
Closing	(9.2)		

Free Float Index details on 20170718

First	87293.5	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85854	Historical highest	105040 (2014/01/05)
Max Value	85767.2	Historical lowest	
Closing	87472.3	Base Value	
Closing	(19)		

Main Board Index details on 20170718

First	55186.4	Change end of year(%)	749.85%
Max Value	55293.8	Historical highest	67441.4 (2014/01/05)
Max Value	54241.5	Historical lowest	
Closing	55291.0	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(31.7)		

Secondary Index details on 20170718

First	177302.7	Change end of year(%)	1301.54%
Max Value	177498.3	Historical highest	181353 (2017/05/22)
Max Value	176073.1	Historical lowest	
Closing	177102.3	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	15.3		

Eurozone inflation softens to 1.3%

Inflation in the eurozone slipped back in June, official data confirmed, as investors get ready to scrutinize comments from European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi on the central bank's stimulus measures later this week.

Annual consumer prices in the eurozone rose 1.3 percent in June, according to a second reading from Eurostat which came in line with an initial estimate. Inflation fell back from 1.4 percent in May having spiked at a three-year high of 1.9 percent in April, according to FT.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile components and is seen as a more reliable gauge of inflationary pressures, rose from 0.9 percent to 1.1 percent in June.

Policymakers at the ECB are due to make their latest decision on interest rates and QE. It will be the first time Draghi will be addressing journalists following bullish remarks on the state of the eurozone's recovery last month, which drove the euro to a



FT.com

seven-month high and sparked a 'mini taper tantrum' in the bond market.

Still, ECB-watchers are split on whether the central bank will be delivering more hints about the timing of any scaling back in its bond buying program this month. A survey of 58 economists

by Bloomberg suggests Draghi will hold back on revealing any taper moves until its September 7 meeting, when the ECB will also be releasing its new staff inflation and GDP forecasts.

The ECB is currently buying €50 billion of mainly government debt each

month as part of its efforts to lift growth and inflation in the bloc.

Richard McGuire at Rabobank said, "There is simply not enough evidence that inflation is picking up and so a change to the inflation risk assessment by the ECB cannot be justified."

Despite the strength of the eurozone's recovery — where growth has accelerated and unemployment is at an eight-year low — ECB doves are looking for more signs the rise in inflation can be sustained without monetary stimulus.

Peter Praet, the bank's chief economist, has warned it is too early for the ECB to declare "mission accomplished" on the recovery. The future path of wage growth is likely to be key in any determination on how to ease back on the aggressive stimulus policies put in place two years ago.

"We need to be patient, because inflation convergence needs more time to show through convincingly in the data," Praet said earlier this month.

Brazil's shipyards, victims of a failed reindustrialization process

Edson Rocha, a direct witness since the 1970s of the ups and downs of a sector where nationalist feelings run high, said, "I have lived through three good periods and two bad ones," prior to the present crisis in the Brazilian shipping industry.

Now, as the president of the Niteroi Metalworkers Union in this city near Rio de Janeiro, he has to battle with mass unemployment of shipyard workers, bearing a collective responsibility that he had not faced in previous shipyard crises, IPS reported.

"Out of the 14,500 people employed directly by the shipbuilding sector in 2014, only around 1,500 are left," the union leader added. He estimates that 2,500 indirect jobs, beyond the union's control, have been lost out of a total of 4,000 such jobs in that year.

For a city of half a million people and few alternative employment opportunities, the impact has been devastating.

"This time the decline was abrupt," with thousands of workers suddenly being made redundant at the 10 large and medium-sized local shipyards when construction of

ships and other oil industry equipment stopped.

Rocha joined the shipbuilding sector when it was at its peak in the 1970s, when strong government stimulus policies promoted the production of dozens of ships, mainly for the export of Brazilian iron ore.

Then in the 1980s the industry went broke during



MARIO OSAVA/IPS

the 'lost decade' of foreign debt. It recovered slightly in 1993-1994, only to practically disappear in the years that followed.

But it made a strong recovery after 2002, based on the big increase in offshore oil production, Rocha, a qualified project design technician, told IPS.

The discovery in 2006 of vast pre-salt oil deposits in deep Atlantic ocean waters, some 200 kilometers off the Brazilian coast, accelerated national plans to become a new oil superpower.

The dream of reactivating and expanding the shipbuilding industry was consequently renewed. The industry depends on domestic demand because its costs are too high to compete internationally.

Large shipyards were built at various points on the Atlantic coast, joining dozens already in existence and under expansion, to provide the ships and equipment needed for exploration, production and transport of fossil fuels.

There was plenty of finance available, as well as a protectionist policy requiring at least 60 percent national content in such equipment.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2832	Chinese Yuan	0.1479
Euro	1.1516	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3099	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3030
Australian Dollar	0.7910	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$45.90	Silver	\$16.07
Gold	\$1234.60	Platinum	\$925.20
Copper	\$2.72	Wheat	\$512.00

Tiny particles increase

The concentration of ultrafine particles less than 50 nanometers in diameter rose by one-third in the air of São Paulo, Brazil, when higher ethanol prices induced drivers to switch from ethanol to gasoline.

China urges quicker launch of pollution source survey

China is urging local authorities to speed up the launch of the country's second nationwide general survey of pollution source by establishing local investigation institutes by the end of July, showed a document published by Ministry of Environmental Protection.



REUTERS

The general survey will target entities and individual business operators who emit contaminations in industrial, agricultural and household sectors or own facilities that release waste, according to a document published by the State Council in October last year, Reuters wrote.

Led by the State Council, the survey will be funded by both central and local finance.

The survey will be fully conducted in 2018 after the investigation scheme is completed by the end of this year.

China carried out its first nationwide general survey of pollution source in 2007.

Climate impacts of super-giant oilfields go up with age

Even oilfields aren't immune to the ravages of time. A new study finds that as some of the world's largest oilfields age, the energy required to keep them operating can rise dramatically even as the amount of petroleum they produce drops.

Failing to take the changing energy requirements of oilfields into account can cause oilfield managers or policymakers to underestimate the true climate impacts, Stanford scientists warned, according to phys.org.

The new findings, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, have implications for long-term emissions and climate modeling, as well as climate policy.

Study coauthor Adam Brandt, an assistant professor of energy resources engineering at Stanford's School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences, said, "Current climate and energy system models typically don't explore the impacts of oil reservoir depletion in any detail. As oilfields run low, emissions per unit of oil increase. This should be accounted for in future modeling efforts."



ytmimg.com

In the new study, Stanford postdoctoral researcher Mohammad Masnadi worked with Brandt to apply a new software tool

developed at Stanford for calculating greenhouse gas emissions to oilfields around the world that have produced more than one

billion barrels of oil over their lifetimes, sometimes called 'super-giant' oilfields.

Conventional greenhouse gas estimates calculate emissions through a kind of economic reverse engineering, whereby an economic index is used to convert the monetary value of an oilfield's final products — whether it be processed oil, natural gas or petroleum-based products — into greenhouse gas emissions.

"This top-down approach for converting economic values into environmental and energetic costs misses a lot of underlying information," Masnadi said.

What's more, many studies look at data from only a single point in time, and as a result capture only a snapshot of an oilfield's greenhouse gas emissions.

But the Stanford scientists argue that in order to paint the most accurate picture of an oilfield's true climate impacts — and also have the best chance of reducing those impacts — it's necessary to assess the energy costs associated with every stage of the petroleum production process, and to do so for the oilfield's entire lifetime.

Global hotspots for potential water conflict identified

More than 1,400 new dams or water diversion projects are planned or already under construction and many of them are on rivers flowing through multiple nations, fueling the potential for increased water conflict between some countries.

A new analysis commissioned by the United Nations uses a comprehensive combination of social, economic, political and environmental factors to identify areas around the world most at-risk for "hydro-political" strife. This river basins study was part of the UN's

Transboundary Waters Assessment Program, Science Daily reported.

Researchers from the United States, Spain and Chile took part in the analysis, which has been recommended by the UN Economic Commission for Europe as an indicator for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for water cooperation.

Results of the study have just been published in the journal Global Environment Change.

The analysis suggests that risks for conflict are projected to increase over the next 15 to 30 years in four hotspot regions — the

Middle East, Central Asia, the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basin, and the Orange and Limpopo basins in southern Africa.

Additionally, the Nile River in Africa, much of southern Asia, the Balkans in southeastern Europe, and upper South America are all areas where new dams are under construction and neighboring countries face increasing water demand, may lack workable treaties, or worse, haven't even discussed the issue.

Eric Sproles, an Oregon State University hydrologist and a coauthor on the study,



GEORGE HODAN/PUBLIC DOMAIN

said, "If two countries have agreed on water flow and distribution when there's a dam upstream, there usually is no conflict."

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جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمپانی‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Artificial sweeteners increase obesity risk

Artificial sweeteners may be less helpful than many believe in helping people lose weight and avoid health problems associated with extra pounds, a new evidence review suggested.

According to UPI, Meghan Azad, an assistant professor of pediatrics with the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada, said, "Aspartame, saccharin, sucralose and other artificial sweeteners did not lead to any significant weight loss in more than 1,000 participants in seven clinical trials.

"Clinical trials are considered the gold standard of medical research."

At the same time, the combined data from 30 observational studies involving more than 400,000 participants showed that artificial sweeteners are associated with obesity, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and heart health problems.

Observational studies cannot prove a cause-and-effect relationship, however.

Azad said, "These results are kind of the opposite of what these products are intended for."

"It should make people think and question whether they really need to be eating these artificial sweeteners."

However, it's possible this evidence review is blaming artificial sweeteners for health problems attributable to an otherwise poor diet or other unhealthy lifestyle choices, countered the Calorie Control Council.

The group represents the low- and reduced-calorie food and beverage industry.

Council president Robert Rankin said, "Low-calorie sweeteners are a tool to help provide sweet taste



healthline.com

without calories, to address one aspect of calorie intake.

"Taste preferences are an important component of dietary habits, but successful weight management requires a well-rounded strategy."

"Such strategies should address not only dietary preferences, but also physical activity and medical considerations."

For their review, Azad and her colleagues weeded through more than 11,000 published studies, narrowing their review down to seven clinical trials and 30 long-term studies.

The combined seven clinical trials showed that artificial sweeteners had no impact on a person's body mass index (BMI), the researchers reported.

BMI is a measurement of body fat, based on height and weight.

At the same time, the 30 observational studies showed that over an average follow-up of 10 years, people regularly using artificial sweeteners

tended to develop health problems associated with excess weight.

Azad said, "Right now, sugar is so much in the spotlight as the bad guy causing obesity, causing diabetes."

"Theories about why artificial sweeteners might not help weight loss tend to revolve around two schools of thought."

"One school holds that the sweeteners might influence dieters' behavior in unhealthy ways."

"For example, a person drinking a no-calorie soda might feel free to eat calorie-laden foods."

"Artificial sweeteners also might sharpen the person's sweet tooth, making them more likely to indulge in sugary foods."

"The other school holds that artificial sweeteners might influence the body itself in some as-yet-unknown way."

The sweeteners could alter the way that gut microbes function in the

digestion of food, or possibly change the body's metabolism over time by sending repeated false signals that something sweet has been ingested.

However, Azad agreed there are limitations in the studies linking artificial sweeteners to health problems.

She said, "We need more research, because there isn't a lot of evidence on the long-term effects."

Lauri Wright is an assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics with the University of North Florida.

She said the studies may have neglected other things that influence weight, such as exercise or overall diet.

Wright, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, said, "I don't think in dietetics practice we ever figure that switching to sugar substitutes is going to give you a significant weight loss alone."

"It's many factors together that make up a healthy diet and lifestyle. Just drinking diet soda instead of regular soda for most people isn't going to do the trick."

In addition, many people start using artificial sweeteners because they are already overweight and may already have developed diabetes, Wright added. "Those kind of factors confound what we are seeing in these observational studies."

"There's no evidence that artificial sweeteners alter the way the body processes sugar and some research has shown that sugar substitutes do not make a person crave sweets more."

"I do not tell my patients to stay away from diet sodas. I feel like they've been well-tested and I don't worry about normal consumption."

The study was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Rare disease clues found in cell's recycling system

Researchers with the National Institutes of Health uncovered a compound in a cell's recycling system that could lead to a treatment for a rare genetic disease.

Niemann-Pick type C1, or NPC1, is a rare, fatal genetic disease that occurs when a faulty gene prevents the removal of cholesterol and other lipids from cells causing them to accumulate in the spleen, liver and brain, UPI wrote.

NPC1 causes impaired movement, slurred speech, seizures and dementia and patients with the disease often die in their teens.

The study, published in *Autophagy*, found that a closely-related compound can activate an enzyme called AMPK to trigger a cellular recycling system to help reduce elevated cholesterol and other fats from accumulating in the brains and livers of NPC1 patients.

Researchers are testing the investigational drug 2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin in a Phase 3 clinical trial of patients with NPC-1.

Previous research suggested the drug has the potential to reduce cholesterol and other lipids in cells, which delays the onset of the disease and lessens some symptoms.



makinresearch.com

Wei Zheng, scientist, NCATS Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases Program, Division of Pre-Clinical Innovation, said, "We've shown that a compound very similar to the repurposed drug currently in clinical testing in patients actually turns on an enzyme that jump starts the cell's waste disposal system to reduce cholesterol in cells."

"This process, called autophagy, is what cells use to recycle their trash. The process malfunctions in NPC1 and a number of neurodegenerative diseases, making the AMPK enzyme a potential target for future drugs."

In pre-clinical tests of cells from NPC1 patients, researchers found the compound could bind to AMPK to turn on its activity and the autophagy process reducing the amount of accumulated cholesterol in NPC1 cells.

Juan Marugan, acting branch chief of the NCATS Chemical Genomics Center, said, "Our findings provide important new insights into the mechanism of action by which cyclodextrin reduces cholesterol buildup in NPC1 cells and eventually restores a balance."

More than a third of Americans don't get enough sleep and growing evidence suggests it's not only taking a toll on their physical health through heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and/or other conditions, but hurting their mental health as well.

According to a recent study led by Postdoctoral Fellow Ivan Vargas, PhD, in the journal *Cognitive Therapy and Research*, those who are sleep deprived lose some of their ability to be positive-minded people, sciencedaily.com wrote.

It may not sound serious, but medical experts said an inability to think positively is a serious symptom of depression that could be dangerous if left unaddressed.

An estimated 16.1 million adults experienced a major depressive episode in 2014. Vargas said, "In general, we have a tendency to notice positive stimuli in our environment."

"We tend to focus on positive things more than anything else, but now we're seeing that sleep deprivation may reverse that bias."

In their study, Vargas and his team took 40 healthy adults and randomized them to either 28 consecutive hours awake, or a full eight hours of sleep.

All participants took part in a computer test to measure their accuracy and response time at identifying happy, sad and neutral faces to assess how they pay attention to positive or negative

You're not yourself when you're sleepy

information.

The team found that those who were acutely sleep deprived were less likely to focus on the happy faces.

They didn't necessarily focus more on the negative, but were less likely to focus on the positive.

The study may have implications.



Poor sleep is associated with a particularly serious sign of depression, suggested new research. sciencedaily.com

cations for those experiencing depression and/or anxiety.

There are many symptoms of depression — including feeling sad and no longer being able to enjoy things you typically would, but poor sleep is associated with a particularly serious sign of the condition.

Vargas said, "Depression is typically characterized as

the tendency to think and feel more negatively or sad, but more than that, depression is associated with feeling less positive, less able to feel happy."

"Similarly, if you don't get enough sleep, it reduces your ability to attend to positive things, which over time may

the effect of sleep loss.

Vargas and colleagues recently presented a related study at SLEEP 2017, the 31st Annual Meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies LLC, on the association of insomnia and suicide, finding that people who suffer from insomnia are three times more likely to report thoughts of suicide and death during the past 30 days than those without the condition.

The study comes amid a growing body of knowledge associating sleep disorders and depression.

For example, ongoing research presented this year at SLEEP 2017 from a multi-center NIH-sponsored "Treatment of Insomnia and Depression" study suggested that cognitive-behavioral therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) may help achieve depression remission in those suffering from both depression and insomnia who sleep at least seven hours each night.

A clinical practice guideline published in 2016 in *Annals of Internal Medicine* recommends CBT-I (not sleep medications) as the initial treatment for chronic insomnia.

Additionally, a new study in the journal *Child Development* further our understanding of the connection between late night cell phone use, mental health, and disrupted sleep, finding that using a cell phone at night can increase depression in teenagers and lower their self-esteem.

The authors believe this might be because those with a history of insomnia symptoms were less sensitive to the effects of the sleep loss. The authors believe this might be because those with a history of insomnia symptoms have more experience being in sleep-deprived conditions and have developed coping methods to modulate

the effect of sleep loss.

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Being single or widowed raises dementia risk

Being single or widowed increases the risk of dementia, a study found.

Compared with married people, singles had a 42-percent higher risk of the devastating brain disease, express.co.uk reported.

People who had lost a spouse saw their chance of developing dementia go up by a quarter.

But there was no extra risk for divorcees, experts from University College London and Camden and Islington the National Health

Service (NHS) Foundation Trust found.

Dr. Laura Phipps, from Alzheimer's Research UK, said, "Spouses may help to encourage healthy habits, look out for their partner's health and provide social support."

"Social interaction can help to build a mental resilience that allows people to function longer with a disease like Alzheimer's before showing symptoms."

She said levels of fitness and education were behind much of the differences in risk between single, married and widowed people.

She added, "Staying physically, mentally and socially active are things everyone, regardless of their marital status, can work towards."

The review of 14 studies was presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London.

Vegetarian diets can lead to higher heart disease risk

Vegetarian food has been widely proclaimed to be healthier than a traditional 'meat and two veg' diet.

However, cardiologists have warned some vegetarian food can be just as bad for you after a study found eating a lot of sweet food and drink, refined grains and potatoes was linked to a higher risk of heart disease, independent.co.uk reported.

Writing in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, the researchers described how they had looked at information on the diet and health of tens of thousands of medical professionals who took part in regular surveys.

They examined the effects of three different types of 'vegetarian' diets: One which emphasized plants but included some meat, a healthy vegetarian diet consisting of whole grains, fresh fruit and vegetables and an unhealthy version.

Dr. Ambika Satija, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, said, "When we examined the associations of the three food categories with heart disease risk, we found that healthy plant foods were associated with lower risk, whereas less healthy plant foods and

animal foods were associated with higher risk.

"It's apparent that there is a wide variation in the nutritional quality of plant foods, making it crucial to take into consideration the quality of foods in a plant-based diet."

The researchers noted that previous studies about the effect of vegetarian diets on health had tended to treat all plant-based food equally.

In an editorial in the journal, *Dr. Kim Allan Williams*, of the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, said, "The research added to the evidence that plant-based diets with whole grains, unsaturated fats and an abundance of fruits and vegetables deserve more emphasis in dietary recommendations."

However, the researchers said that people should perhaps not try to do too much too quickly because of the risk they might find it difficult to maintain.

They said, "Just as physical activity is a continuum, perhaps an emphasis on starting with smaller dietary tweaks rather than major changes would be more encouraging and sustainable."



independent.co.uk

Daily crossword puzzling may guard against cognitive decline

If you took a break from your morning crossword routine to read this story, congratulations, you're likely to stay sharper than your peers as you age — new research suggested daily crossword puzzling can help guard against cognitive decline.



UPI

When researchers in England had 17,000 healthy participants, all 50 years and older, complete an online survey and series of tests, they found those who reported regularly completing crossword puzzles scored higher on assessments of attention, reasoning and memory, UPI wrote.

Regular crossword puzzlers showcased grammatical reasoning speed and short term memory accuracy equivalent to test-takers ten years younger.

Keith Wesnes, a professor of cognitive neuroscience at the University of Exeter Medical School, said, "We found direct relationships between the frequency of word puzzle use and the speed and accuracy of performance on nine cognitive tasks assessing a range of aspects of function including attention, reasoning and memory."

"Performance was consistently better in those who reported engaging in puzzles and generally improved incrementally with the frequency of puzzle use."

Wesnes and his colleagues now plan to test the cognitive benefits of crossword puzzling in a clinical trial.

Doug Brown, director of research at the Alzheimer's Society, said, "This new research does reveal a link between word puzzles, like crosswords, and memory and thinking skills, but we can't say definitively that regular 'puzzling' improves these skills."

"To be able to say for sure, the crucial next step is to test if there are benefits in people who take up word puzzles."

The team of neuroscientists recruited test-takers from the PROTECT online platform, a group of 22,000 study participants managed by researchers at the University of Exeter and Kings College London. Members of the online platform are all healthy individuals between the ages of 50 and 96.

Researchers meet annually with members to maintain accurate records and ensure cognitive trajectories are properly tracked. However, most studies utilizing the platform are conducted online.

Despite the latest findings, Brown and other dementia researcher said the most definitive ways to prevent cognitive decline are staying physically active, avoiding smoking and eating healthy.



The cheetah has a recorded speed of 68-75 mph.

bbc.com

Why the cheetah is a champion sprinter

They're the sprinters of the animal world — cheetahs on land, falcons in the air and marlins in the sea.

But, why are they so fast when bigger, more muscular animals might be expected to outpace them?

Now, scientists have come up with a new theory to explain the gold medal-winning performance of animal athletes, bbc.com reported.

It appears it is all down to the energy required to get off the starting blocks.

Professor Walter Jetz, from the US's Yale University, said, "Scientists have long struggled with the fact that the largest animals are not the fastest."

"In our work, we explain this with the simple fact that animals run out of readily mobilized energy before they are able to get their bodies to the maximum possible speed."

"So, while the largest animals in theory could be the fastest, the energy and time required to accelerate their larger bodies keep them from ever attaining it."

The theory, outlined in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, explains why lean, medium-sized animals are generally built for speed.

It applies to animals from fruit flies to blue whales and could even help predict the maximum running speed of animals that have long disappeared.

Results from the model were compared with data on hundreds of animal species, from flying animals to whales.

Researchers found the data generally fits with their predictions that maximum speed drops off sharply as animals grow beyond medium sizes.

Jetz, who worked on the study with colleagues at the EcoNetLab in Germany, said, "The theory is able to explain the maximum speeds of over 450 terrestrial, aerial and aquatic species varying from less than a gram to 10 tons in size."

"It is also able to predict maximum speeds of long extinct species such as birds and dinosaurs."

Speedy animals like the cheetah have evolved bodies primed to catch prey. They are the optimal size for maximum speed.

Accelerating takes a lot of energy and muscles can only function at such intensity for a short time.

Thus, an elephant will never be able to overtake a cheetah because the fuel for acceleration (involving anaerobic respiration) will run out before it has reached its maximum (theoretical) speed.

The information will help scientists understand more about the ecology and behavior of a species, including diet, hunting, migration and the search for a mate.

Australian scientists Peter Bishop and Christopher Clemente in a commentary in the journal said, "The exciting part of this proposal is that it applies equally well to animals on land, in the air and in water."

"With this refined explanation of why animals move as fast as they do (or don't), we can expect to gain further insight into how locomotion and ecology has evolved in various groups throughout the history of life."

There are a few finer differences to iron out, however, including our own performance.

Humans fall short of the capability of our animal cousins of a similar size.

Jetz said, "In body mass, we humans are actually not too far from cheetahs, but we're much slower."

"But obviously, being primates rather than part of the cat family, our body type has not, over millions of years, adapted to outrun fast prey."

"Our limbs and bipedal movement instead signal a less specialized diet and many other trade-offs that ultimately have us readily overtaken — or worse — by a lion or cheetah, whose body types are fully optimized for speed."

Space station crystals to aid search for better antidotes for chemical agents

Scientists are utilizing the International Space Station's microgravity in the search for improved antidotes for chemical agents like sarin and VX.

According to UPI, David A. Jetz, director of the CounterACT program at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), said, "With increasing worldwide concern about the use of chemical weapons, there is significant interest in developing better counteragents."

The toxic nerve agents sarin and VX are part of a group of chemicals called organophosphates, which disrupt the activity of acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme that helps muscles relax after they're stimulated by the nervous system.

When AChE activity is blocked, muscles can't relax, resulting in paralysis and death.

Scientists at NINDS have recruited astronauts aboard the International Space



UPI

Station to help them grow crystals of the AChE enzyme.

On Earth, gravity disrupts the crystallization process. Under microgravity conditions, crystals of the pure enzyme can grow to much larger sizes.

Andrey Kovalevsky, a researcher at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said, "By taking advantage of the microgravity conditions of the International Space Station, we hope to grow better, more uniform crystals that

we are unable to grow on Earth."

Once the AChE crystals are fully formed, the enzyme samples will be returned from space to the researchers at NINDS.

Once the samples are back in the lab, scientists will use an imaging technique called neutron diffraction to analyze the enzyme's atomic-scale structures.

In order to create effective antidotes to organophosphates, researchers need to better understand the molecular structure of acetylcholinesterase.

Zoran Radić, a researcher at the University of California, San Diego, said, "We will be able to get a closer look at how the enzyme interacts with pesticides and nerve agents and learn about how the bond between the two can be chemically reversed."

"This method would not work on the smaller enzyme crystals that can be grown here."

3D digital technology helps reveal face of Bronze Age farmer

Academic 'time detectives' from Liverpool have used 3D digital technology to reveal the face of a Bronze Age farmer who lived in middle England 4,000 years ago.

Experts from Face Lab at Liverpool John Moores University used the technology based on the study of the man's skull, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

The man's skeleton were found in an ancient burial ground in the county of Derbyshire in the 1930s.

For the past 30 years the remains have been part of a collection at Derbyshire's

Buxton Museum in a scenic area of Britain known as the Peak District.

But until now nobody has been able to imagine what the man looked like in life.

The project is part of a heritage effort to connect Buxton Museum's collections to the surrounding landscape.

Joe Perry, assistant collections officer at the museum, said that it was important to put a face to the Bronze Age remains.

Caroline Wilkinson from Face Lab said that clay was used in the technique to help build the face.

"It was always a thrill to see the process work on ancient people. It's a surprise to people when they look like us, it creates more empathy."

The skull of the man was found damaged inside a stone box at the old burial ground known as Liff's Low.

A type of beaker and a stone pendant were found along with the human remains.

Perry said that there was a need for humanity with their Liff's Low skeleton.

He said, "We need to make people think about the skeleton as a person who lived and

worked in Derbyshire."

"We have a duty of care to the deceased, we wanted to emphasize that these are people."

Perry believes the Liff's Low man could be about 35 when he died and spent his life farming within the Peak District.

It is believed the stone box he was buried in collapsed, causing damage to the front of his skull.

The remains, along with the image of the Peak District's most famous farmer, will go on public display when the museum reopens in September.

New species of dinosaur named after Canadian icon

Scientists from the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum have identified and named a new species of dinosaur in honor of renowned Canadian paleontologist Dr. Philip J. Currie.

Albertavenator curriei, meaning 'Currie's Alberta hunter', it stalked Alberta, Canada, about 71 million years ago in what is now the famous Red Deer River Valley, sciencedaily.com reported.

The find recognizes Currie for his decades of work on predatory dinosaurs of Alberta. Research on the new species is published in the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*.

Paleontologists initially thought that the bones of Albertavenator belonged to its close relative Troodon, which lived around 76 million years ago — five million years before Albertavenator.

Both dinosaurs walked on two legs, were covered in feathers and were about the size of a person.

New comparisons of bones forming the top of the head reveal that Albertavenator had a distinctively shorter and more robust skull than Troodon, its famously brainy relative.

Dr. David Evans, Temerty chair and senior curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Royal Ontario Museum, and leader of the project, said, "The delicate bones of these small feathered dinosaurs are very rare."

"We were lucky to have a critical piece of the skull that allowed us to distinguish Albertavenator as a new species."

"We hope to find a more complete skeleton of Albertavenator in the future, as this would tell us so much more about this fascinating animal."

Identifying new species from fragmentary fossils is a challenge. Complicating matters of this new find are the hundreds of isolated teeth that have been found in Alberta and previously attributed to Troodon.

Teeth from a jaw that



This is a life recreation of Albertavenator curriei.

latest Cretaceous of North America is likely underestimated due to the difficulty of identifying species from fragmentary fossils.

Thomas Cullen, a PhD student of Evans at the University of Toronto and coauthor of the study, said, "It was only through our detailed anatomical and statistical comparisons of the skull bones that we were able to distinguish between Albertavenator and Troodon."

The bones of Albertavenator were found in the badlands surrounding the Royal Tyrrell Museum, in which Currie played a key role in establishing in the early 1980s.

The rocks around the museum are the same age as some of the most fossiliferous rocks in the area of the newly erected Philip J. Currie Museum, also named in Currie's honor.

Although Currie has also had several dinosaurs named after him, this is only the second one from Alberta, where he has made his biggest impact.

The fossils of Albertavenator studied by Evans and his team are housed in the collections of the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

This is another example of a new species of dinosaur being discovered by re-examining museum research collections, which continually add to our understanding of the evolution of life on Earth.

This study suggested that more detailed studies of fragmentary fossils may reveal additional, currently unrecognized, species.

Rise in UK life expectancy has stalled since 2010



experthomecare.com

A century-long rise in life expectancy in the UK has stalled since 2010 when austerity brought about deep cuts in National Health System (NHS) and social care spending, according to research by a former government adviser on the links between poverty and ill-health.

Life expectancy at birth had been going up so fast that women were gaining an extra year of life every five years and men an additional 12 months every three-and-a-half years, BBC wrote.

But those trends have almost halved since ministers made a 'political decision' in 2010 to reduce the amount of money it put into the public sector, said Sir Michael Marmot.

The upward trend in longer life that began in Britain just after the First World War has slowed so dramatically that women now only gain an extra year after a decade while for men the same gain now takes six years to arrive.

The rate of increase was 'pretty close to having ground to a halt', Marmot said.

"I am deeply concerned with the levelling off. I expected it to just keep getting better. Since 2009-2015 it's pretty flat, whereas we are used to it getting better and better all the time," added Marmot, who published a major review of health inequalities for Gordon Brown's Labor government in early 2010.

In 1919 men lived for an average of 52.5 years and women for 56.1 years. That rose to 64.1 years and 68.7 years respectively by 1946.

Life expectancy then rose in an almost unbroken gradual upward curve to 77.1 years for men and 81.4 years for women in 2005 and again to 78.7 and 82.6 in 2010, the year David Cameron's Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition took office.

Since then life expectancy has continued to creep upwards, but at a slower rate, according to Marmot's latest analysis.

In 2015, average life expectancy in Britain was 79.6 years for men and 83.1 years for women, according to the latest Office for National Statistics data.

Marmot, who is the director of the Institute of Health Equity at University College London, denied the rise had stalled because there was a natural limit to how much life expectancy can increase. "It is not inevitable that it should have levelled off," he said.

There is no reason why the UK could not emulate Hong Kong, where life expectancy for men is 81.1 years for men and 87.3 for women — the highest in the world — Marmot added. Hong Kong has overtaken Japan in terms of how long citizens can expect to live.

Marmot, who has also advised the World Health Organization, did not claim that the introduction of austerity had led directly to life expectancy stagnating. But he highlighted that 'miserly' levels of spending on health and social care in recent years — at a time of rising health need linked to the aging population — had affected the amount and quality of care older people receive.

The long-term trend for NHS budget increases is 3.8 percent a year, with rises of 1.1 percent a year since 2010.

"If we don't spend appropriately on social care, if we don't spend appropriately on healthcare, the quality of life will get worse for older people and maybe the length of life, too," he added.

Marmot cited the growing numbers of deaths among the over-75s and over-85s and continuing high death rates from heart disease as other key potential factors in the stalling rise in life expectancy.

A spokesman for the charity Age UK said, "Life expectancy has been increasing year on year for a generation, to the extent that we had begun to take it for granted as inevitable. But this authoritative analysis suggests this long period of improvement may now be coming to an end, with big implications for us all."

Polluted air 'poisoning thousands' across north of England



theguardian.com

Dangerous levels of air pollution in towns and cities across the north of England are threatening the health of hundreds of thousands of people and stifling economic growth, according to a new report.

The analysis by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) North describes air pollution as 'the tobacco of the 21st century' and said that while there has been a growing concern about the problem in London, many residents in regional towns and cities are unaware of the threat to their health, theguardian.com wrote.

Darren Baxter, researcher at IPPR North, said it was time the government took radical action.

"Too often the attention focuses on unclean air in the capital, but the reality is that it's poisoning thousands in our regional cities too," said Baxter.

"Michael Gove (the new environment secretary) must show that the government is not prepared to sit on its hands while up to 40,000 people are killed every year from dirty air. We need to see radical plans to ditch diesel, introduce incentives for electric cars and bring

in clean air zones in our major cities."

The government has suffered two legal defeats over its plans to improve air quality in the UK after judges ruled they were so poor as to be unlawful. The courts have given ministers until July 31 to publish a new plan.

Campaigners want government to introduce a range of measures including charging

clean air zones in the worst hit areas and a diesel scrappage scheme to compensate drivers who bought diesel cars after being told they were better for the environment.

The government's own figures show that although London has by far the highest level of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution, many urban areas — including large swaths of the Midlands, the north-west, West Yorkshire

and the northeast — suffer dangerous levels of pollution.

The scale of the air pollution crisis was revealed in a joint Guardian-Greenpeace investigation earlier this year, showing hundreds of thousands of children were being educated

within 150 meters of a road where levels of NO₂ from diesel traffic breached legal limits.

Figures obtained by Labor showed that more than 38 mil-

lion people, representing 59.3 percent of the UK population, were living in areas where levels of NO₂ pollution were above legal limits.

Baxter said: "This is the tobacco of the 21st century, and every single preventable death is a failure of government action. Gove must get a grip on this crisis which is killing literally thousands of children and adults a year."

Tuesday's report estimates that congestion in the north of England will increase by three percent annually. Estimates put the cost of congestion in Manchester and Liverpool alone at £2 billion in 2015.

The study is the latest from IPPR North's Northern Energy Taskforce, which has identified the energy sector as one of four key priority areas for the economy in northern England, along with manufacturing, health and digital.

"By taking the killer air crisis seriously, we can prevent many unnecessary deaths and ill-health, especially in our children, while preparing the way for a Northern green jobs revolution," said Baxter.

More US children living in high-poverty neighborhoods

More children are living in high-poverty neighborhoods in the US following the Great Recession — a troubling shift because children in these neighborhoods are a year behind academically, according to new research from researchers at Rice University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Wisconsin.

"Family Poverty and Neighborhood Poverty: Links With Children's School Readiness Before and After the Great Recession" examines how neighborhood and family poverty predict children's academic skills and classroom behavior when they start school, and whether associations have changed over a period of 12 years that included the 2008 recession, sciencedaily.com wrote.

The researchers used data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study and examined cohorts of kindergartners from across the US in 1998 and 2010.

The research revealed that more children whose parents were not already poor were living in high-poverty neighborhoods following the Great Recession.

In 1998, 36 percent of children lived in moderate-low, moderate-high and high-poverty neighborhoods. In 2010, the number rose to 43.9 percent.

The researchers defined a high-poverty neighborhood as one where 40 percent or more of residents live below the poverty line.

A moderate-high-poverty neighborhood was defined as having poverty rates of 20-39.9 percent, moderate-low, 14-19.9 percent, and low, 13.9 percent or less.

When broken down by race, non-Hispanic white children had the largest change in terms of living in high-poverty neighborhoods.

In 2010, they were 13.2 percentage points more likely to live in moderate-low-, moderate-high- and high-poverty neighborhoods than in 1998.

In contrast, in 2010 non-Hispanic black children were only 4.1 percentage points more likely to live in a moderate-high-poverty neighborhood. Hispanic children were 5 percentage points more likely to live in a high-poverty neighborhood in 2010.

Rachel Kimbro, a professor of sociology in Rice's School of Social Sciences and founding director of the Kinder Institute's Urban Health Program, cautioned that these numbers do not mean that things got better for minority groups; it meant that things got worse for non-Hispanic whites.

"Although post-recession, more white kids were living in higher poverty neighborhoods, minority children are still significantly more likely overall to live in higher poverty neighborhoods," she said.

Kimbro said she and her fellow authors are uncertain whether this shift is because higher-income families moved into high-poverty neighborhoods due to home foreclosure or other factors, or families within moderate-poverty neighborhoods losing income and becoming poorer (thus increasing the number of poor residents).

Regardless, the results are worrying, she said, because children who live in poor neighborhoods are, on average, a year behind academically, according to standardized math, reading and writing assessment tests of the students.

Young children out alone are wake-up call for other parents

After two young children were found wandering alone in Jacksonville in the US within a week, child safety experts are reminding parents and guardians to watch those in their care closely.

Two brothers were charged with child abuse and neglect after their three-year-old nephew was found unsupervised, wandering around a Jacksonville neighborhood, news4jax.com wrote.



nspcc.org.uk

Police said Julian Stephens, 20, and Joseph Salters, 17, were playing video games while they were babysitting and didn't notice the boy had left the house. It took about four hours after the child was spotted by police for officers to locate the mother, Josephine Salters, who was at work at the time.

She said she was upset that her child was out on his own and plans to make some changes.

"I have the responsibility over watching him. I'll have to keep watching him on my own because I can't have babysitters or any of that because you can't even trust everybody," Salters said.

Another child found alone last Monday was identified after police posted his photo of Facebook.

"It was somewhat unbelievable," said Faye Johnson, CEO of the Northeast Florida Health Start Coalition.

Johnson's reaction was similar to thousands of people who saw the story on social media Saturday.

Johnson and other organizations are using the instances to remind parents they need to keep an eye on their children.

"I think more parents go back to work and they're having to rely on relatives to take care of their children because they can't afford day care," Johnson said.

Johnson said the boys are lucky to be alright and the incidents should be a wake-up call for all parents.

"Once they start walking, they're curious. They hear sounds, they want to see outdoors," Johnson said.

"There is a conversation that needs to be had, because you shouldn't just assume that because someone's watching your child (that) they know these things."

Schools should draw up 'homework contracts' with parents

Schools should draw up 'homework contracts' with parents to make sure work is completed at home, a new report recommended.

Parents would commit to ensuring their children finish their homework, whilst teachers would agree on setting 'high quality' homework and providing 'regular contact' and necessary support to parents, telegraph.co.uk reported.

The report, published by The Social Market Foundation's commission on inequality in education, found that pupils with parents who make sure they complete their homework before they do other activities, like watching TV, score almost two points (1.93) higher in verbal reasoning tests aged 11.

The report recommended that contracts should be signed in the early weeks of first attending school and then renewed annually with each year's teachers as the child progresses through the school.

The commission, headed by former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, criticized the homework produced by some schools, and found that "poor quality homework is likely to lead only to a downward spiral of engagement."

A recent survey of school leaders and pupils for Ofsted found that 50 percent of children said that their homework never, or only some of the time, helped them to make progress.

A fifth of the 100 senior leaders interviewed for the



scholastic.com

survey acknowledged that the monitoring and evaluation of homework was an area that needed to be improved in their schools.

Couple becomes the first to marry in British Antarctic Territory after law change

A couple has made history by becoming the first to tie the knot in the British Antarctic Territory.

Polar field guides Julie Baum and Tom Sylvester said their vows at the Rothera Research Station, which is almost 2,000 miles from the Falkland Islands, at the weekend, news.sky.com reported.

The happy couple celebrated with 20 fellow 'overwinterers' — the nickname used for those who spend winter in Antarctica — while temperatures were well below freezing.

The pair are both experienced mountaineers working as mountain instructors and expedition leaders.

Baum, from Yoxall, Staffordshire, said: "Getting married in Antarctica feels like it was meant to be. There is no better place really — I love snowy



BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY
Temperatures were well below freezing for the wedding.

mountains and spending time in amazing places with awesome people."

With the help of some of the women at the station, Baum made her own dress and sewed

in part of an old orange pyramid tent for her 'something old' requirement.

Sylvester, from Sheffield, said: "We have always wanted to have a small personal

wedding but never imagined we'd be able to get married in one of the most remote places on Earth."

Rothera Research Station leader Paul Samways, who is also British Antarctic Territory (BAT) Magistrate, conducted the ceremony while the station chef prepared the wedding menu.

Samways said: "Having spent time with Julie and Tom over the Antarctic summer and half of the Antarctic winter I feel amazingly privileged to be able to be part of their story."

"They are amazing people, and being responsible for joining them in marriage is an incredible honor."

It is the first wedding since the British Antarctic Territory marriage law was reformed in 2016. The changes made it easier for marriages to be arranged there.

The wedding has been registered with the BAT Government and is valid in the UK.

Dog swims into Long Island Sound to rescue baby deer

A New York state man captured video of his dog swimming out into the Long Island Sound to drag a struggling baby deer to safety.

Mark Freeley said he was walking with his golden retriever, Storm, and his other dog, Sara, when Storm ran out into the water and started swimming toward something, UPI wrote.

Freeley's video, posted to YouTube, shows Storm drag a deer fawn that had been struggling to swim back to shore.

"Storm just plunged into the water and started swimming out to the fawn, grabbed it by the neck, and started swimming to shore," Freeley told CBS New York.

Freeley said Storm plopped down next to the baby deer once they reached shore.

"And then he started nudging it, and started pulling it to make sure she was going to be OK I guess," Freeley said.

Freeley called in rescuers and waited with the fawn on the beach, but he said the deer ran back

into the water as soon as the rescuers arrived.

Freeley and Frank Florida of Strong Island Rescue waded out into the water to get a lasso around the deer.

Florida said his partner, Erica Kutzing, ran about a mile on the beach to help with the rescue. "I don't think I could've done it without the help of my partner. I was exhausted at the point my knee blew out, and I collapsed on the beach," he said.

Kutzing carried the deer to the rescue van and it was transported to a local animal rescue, where it is recovering from some ticks and an eye injury.



UPI

Charity to reintroduce lynx into Britain after 1,300 years

A charity has launched plans that would see wild lynx in the British countryside for the first time in more than 1,000 years.

The Lynx UK Trust has submitted an application to Natural England to release six Eurasian lynxes in the Kielder Forest region of Northumberland, according to dailymail.co.uk.

The cats would be released for a five-year trial period while equipped with movement-tracking collars.

Dr. Paul O'Donoghue, the chief scientific adviser on the project, said it is 'potentially the first return of an extinct predator in the UK, after the British lynx was wiped out around



dailymail.co.uk

1,300 years ago by fur hunters.

He said, "We have now reached a point



where we feel every piece of research has been done ... The only way to move truly forward is with an intensively monitored trial."

The lynx has been reintroduced in Germany, France and Switzerland, and there are now more than 10,000 in Europe.

Natural England would have to approve the plan. However, Scottish authorities are also being consulted in case the cats cross the border, and Scotland's Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said there were 'serious concerns' about the proposals.

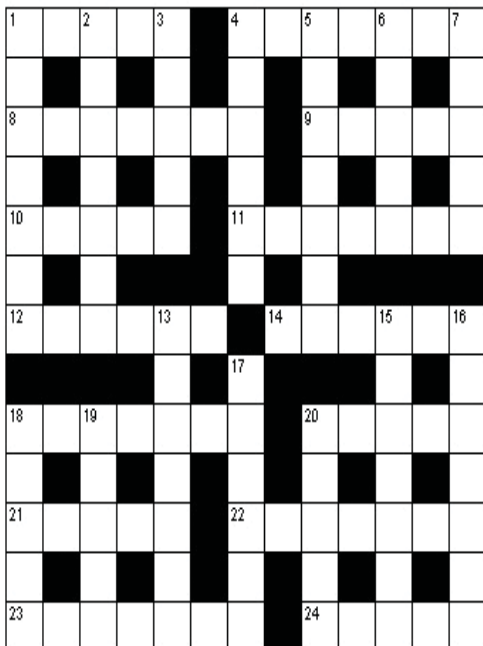
PICTURE OF THE DAY



Tourists walk on a plank road on the cliff of Shaohua Mountain in Shaanxi Province, northwest China.

LIU XIAO/XINHUA

True or False Crossword



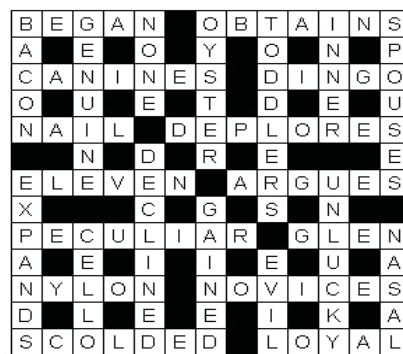
DOWN

1. First name / Second name (7)
2. Buying / Selling (7)
3. Worldly / Callow (5)
4. Month / Day of the week (6)
5. Clear / Unclear (7)
6. Mindful / Oblivious (5)
7. Young bird / Young animal (5)
13. Sincere / Insincere (7)
15. Aggravate / Alleviate (7)
16. Put up / Took down (7)
17. Clergyman / Policeman (6)
18. Citrus fruit / Fruit of the Malus (5)
19. Spendthrift / Skinflint (5)
20. Destined / Unlikely (5)

ACROSS

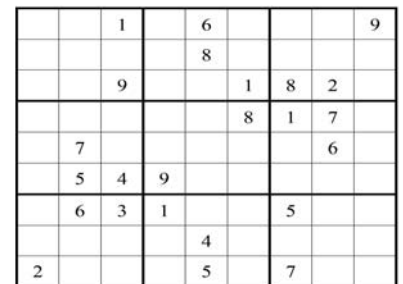
1. Even number / Odd number (5)
4. Fruit / Vegetable (7)
8. Raving / Whispering (7)
9. Huge / Tiny (5)
10. Similar / Dissimilar (5)
11. Teacher / Pupil (7)
12. Predatory fish / Birds of prey (6)
14. Unit of weight / Unit of temperature (6)
18. Fleet commander / Army officer (7)
20. True / Untrue (5)
21. In fashion / Out of fashion (5)
22. Go forward / Go back (7)
23. Steady / Fickle (7)
24. Love / Fear (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.



Mottaqian bags world para athletics silver



Hashemiyeh Mottaqian clinched the silver in the women's javelin throw F56 class at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in London, England.

Iran's Hashemiyeh Mottaqian exceeded expectations at the ongoing 2017 World Para Athletics Championships in England, and was awarded the silver medal.

In the women's javelin throw F56 class, the 31-year-old Iranian pitcher claimed the silver medal with her best attempt of 20.66m at the Olym-

pic Stadium in London on Monday evening to take Iran's overall tally to seven medals in the competitions, Press TV reported.

Latvian contestant Diana Dadzite won the gold medal with a throw of 27.07m and Martina Willing from Germany earned the bronze with 20.57m. Earlier in the competitions, Javad

Hardani, Mohsen Kaedi, Ali Mohammad-Yari and Mehran Nekoci-Majid had claimed four silver medals.

Mohsen Majidi and Ali-Asghar Javanmardi had also garnered two bronzes.

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

Iran's Farzin sets para power lifting record

Majid Farzin set a new world record of 238kg in the 88kg weight class, securing a gold medal at the 24th edition of Iran's National Para Powerlifting Competitions.

Hany Abdelhady from Egypt had set the previous record of 233kg in Dubai, the UAE, on February 18,

2016, Press TV reported.

Seyyed Hamed Solhi-pour also lifted 230kg at the Iran's National Para Powerlifting Competitions on Monday and won silver. Omid Hobab collected the bronze with a lift of 185kg.

Farzin had clinched the gold medal at the men's 80kg powerlifting contest of the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The 24th edition of Iran's National Para Powerlifting Competitions was held in the Iranian capital city of Tehran on July 16-18.

Spanish football chief arrested

The president of the Spanish Football Federation and his son were taken into custody as part of a corruption investigation, police in Spain said.

Angel Maria Villar Llona was arrested on suspicion of embezzling funds, BBC reported.

Mr. Villar, a former Spain international footballer, has been president of the association since 1988.

international football matches.

There has been no comment yet from Mr. Villar, 67, or his lawyers.

In Villar's time as president of the federation, Spain's men's football team has won two European championships as well as the 2010 World Cup, becoming one of football's dominant forces.

He has also served on the council

Richard Conway, the BBC's sports news correspondent, said the Spaniard's arrest is significant and a clear signal that the many issues surrounding officials who presided over world football in recent decades continue.

Mr. Villar was acting president of UEFA, Europe's footballing body, while its chief Michel Platini was under investigation. He lost out on the presi-



Angel Maria Villar Llona the president of Spanish Football Federation was detained by police on Tuesday morning.

His son Gorka was among a number of other people also arrested during a number of raids early on Tuesday.

Spain's High Court told Reuters that one of its investigating magistrates and anti-corruption prosecutors were leading the probe.

Spanish media reported that the allegations center on the falsification of documents and skimming profits from

of football's world governing body FIFA for the past 29 years, but was reprimanded by FIFA for failing to comply with its internal inquiry into the 2018/22 World Cup bidding process.

Michael Garcia, who conducted the investigation, wrote that Mr. Villar demanded Mr. Garcia drop the case "for your own good".

dency in an election last year.

UEFA and FIFA said they were aware of the reports.

Gorka Villar served as the director-general of the South American football confederation Conmebol before standing down last year.

Before standing down, he had been accused of extortion by a number of Uruguayan football clubs.

Ancelotti: Rodriguez not to replace Mueller

Bayern Munich coach Carlo Ancelotti rubbished suggestions on Tuesday that James Rodriguez was signed to replace misfiring German international Thomas Mueller.

The Colombian last week joined the Bundesliga champion from Real Madrid on a two-year loan that some have interpreted as a threat to Mueller, who is coming off the back of a poor season by his high standards, AFP reported.

But speaking in Shanghai on the eve of a preseason glamour friendly with Arsenal and with Mueller next to him, Ancelotti told a press conference, "Of course we did not buy James to replace Thomas Mueller."

"It's clear because if we think this, we also think James can replace Thiago (Alcantara) because James can play in offensive midfield, and we think because James can play on the right, that he can replace (Arjen)

does not deserve to play, he does not play."

The capture of James has not gone down well in some quarters among Bayern fans because, despite his struggles last season in front of goal, Mueller remains hugely popular.

The 27-year-old, who like Rodriguez can play in several forward positions, shrugged off the increased pressure for places.

"We are here and James is here



James Rodriguez (R) joined his former manager Carlo Ancelotti at Bayern Munich on a two-year loan deal.

GETTY IMAGES

Rodriguez too has something to prove after losing his place at Real, and Ancelotti - who managed him in Spain - expects the 26-year-old to hit the ground running.

Rodriguez gives the Italian coach a broad range of options in midfield and attack.

Robben and (Franck) Ribery.

"James can also play on the left and as a midfielder... we did not buy James to replace anyone. We bought James to have a better team and with James we have a team with better quality."

"But James also knows that if he

to break the rumors and he gives the team more options, and I am sure the coach is happy to have him here and have more options in the future," said Mueller, smiling broadly.

"James is a very good player who will help us improve the team."

Wenger: Sanchez not for sale this summer



Alexis Sanchez earlier in the week expressed his desire of playing in the Champions League next season.

REUTERS

Arsene Wenger made his most emphatic statement yet on Alexis Sanchez and promised that his star striker will not be sold this summer regardless of whether he extends his contract.

With Monaco having already refused two offers from Arsenal for Thomas Lemar, Wenger said that a decision had now collectively been reached over Sanchez and that it is for the 28-year-old to help get Arsenal back into the Champions League. "The decision has been made and we will stick to that - the decision is not to sell," said Wenger, the Telegraph reported.

Arsenal's stance comes amid renewed interest in Sanchez from Paris Saint Germain and the ongoing desire of Pep Guardiola to sign him for Manchester City.

Wenger's comments are certain to attract some skepticism - given how he did previously sell Samir Nasri and Robin van Persie rather than let them enter the final year of their contracts - but he is adamant that the Sanchez

situation is different.

Arsenal's greater financial strength now certainly makes it easier to say "no" but Wenger also pointed to Sanchez's age and how he is several years younger than Van Persie in 2012. "Every case is different. Van Persie was going from 30 to 31, when he left he had one year on his contract. Sanchez is younger," he said.

Sanchez had said on Saturday that he wanted to play in the Champions League, a comment that again supported the clear impression of a player who wants to leave. Wenger, though, still holds out hope that a strong start to the new season might prompt Sanchez to rethink and commit his future during the 2017-18 campaign.

Arsenal's current stance is likely also to have been influenced by difficulties in advancing any negotiations with Monaco over Lemar or Kylian Mbappe. Although Wenger has signed Alexandre Lacazette from Lyon, he is more likely to replace Lucas Perez or Olivier Giroud among the main

central strikers. Wenger has been in contact with Sanchez via text message since his involvement in the Confederations Cup with Chile and is ignoring his most recent interview.

"I don't give too much importance to things that are translated, you know," said Wenger. "The whole interview that I got didn't really mean that. The main focus for us is to concentrate on the Premier League and the Premier League for me today is more important than the Champions League."

"We rested sometimes players in the group stages of the Champions League for the Premier League so that's become the biggest importance for us. We played 20 years in the Champions League, that's 17 years before Sanchez arrived and three years with him so he can get us back in there."

There must be a concern, though, at how an unhappy Sanchez might influence the training ground environment, especially after his public shows of frustration last season.

Helen Keller:

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

Landseer 'Bronte sisters' painting auctioned for £40,000

A painting claimed to be a previously unknown portrait of the three Bronte sisters sold for more than £40,000 at auction.

The watercolor, attributed to Queen Victoria's favorite artist Sir Edwin Landseer, was sold by J.P. Humbert of Whitlebury, Northamptonshire, BBC wrote.

The painting has attracted both firm supporters and those who doubt whether it does depict the Brontes. It was sold to a collector who plans to do more research and resell it.

Bidding took off just 15 minutes before the end of the 'timed' online auction with the painting sold for £40,550 hammer price (£50,038 including buyers premium) to an private investor believed to be based in the UK.

'Apathy and negativity'

Auctioneer Jonathan Humbert said: "We are very pleased our theory has been accepted and endorsed by the establishment."

"The evidence was compelling that this is the Brontes as painted by Landseer and its successful sale has proved that research and factual evidence will overcome apathy and negativity."

Humbert had decided to pull the picture, which he believes to be of 'national importance', from an auction in 2012 so more research could be done.

Landseer was a popular Victorian painter best known for his animal portraits and designing the bronze lions in London's Trafalgar Square.

The Bronte family moved to Haworth, West Yorkshire, in 1820 where the Reverend Patrick Bronte was appointed Curate of Haworth.

They lived at the Haworth Parsonage from 1820 to 1861, which is now the Bronte Parsonage Museum.



BBC

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Shishegaran designs poster for Iran's Mirzakhani



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian graphic artist Behzad Shishegaran designed a poster in remembrance of the Iranian mathematician genius, Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman to receive the prestigious Fields Medal for mathematics, who died on Saturday following a long battle with breast cancer.

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

Shishegaran designed several cultural and social posters on different occasions, Mehr News Agency reported.

He said he created the poster to appreciate the great Iranian mathematician.

Shishegaran was born 1952 in Tehran. He graduated from Tehran School of Fine Arts with a diploma in painting. He went on to earn a BA in graphic design from Tehran University of Art.

He has created 18 collections of artworks since 1971 as well as designing numerous political, social and cultural posters.

180 female Iranian filmmakers to compete in int'l festival

A record-breaking number of Iranian female filmmakers are set to take part in various sections of an international film festival due to be held within the next two weeks.

According to ifnews.com, more than 180 female filmmakers have already applied for participating in Feature, Lengthy Feature, Mid-length Film, Short Film, Documentary, Mid-length Documentary, Short Documentary, Animation and Neighborhood sections of International Shahr Film Festival.

This establishes a record in terms of the attendance of Iranian women filmmakers in an international film festival. The women's participation in the mid-length feature section is of particular significance.

Nearly 50 Iranian women filmmakers have applied to take part in Mid-length Feature and Short Film sections. On the other hand, in each of the Animation and Neighborhood Section, 39 women filmmakers have already applied for participation.

In Short and Mid-length Documentary sections, 36 Iranian women are present. In the Feature section, 10 filmmakers and in Lengthy Feature and Documentary, 7 filmmakers are going to take part.

Among the leading Iranian women filmmakers participating in the festival are Pouran Derakhshandeh with 'Under the Smoky Roof', Negar Azarbaijani with 'Narges Season', Monir Qeidi with 'Vilaieha', Majan Ashrafzadeh with 'Sis', Soheila Golestani with 'Two', Pegah Agharani with 'Men of Arab Jamsheed'.

The sixth edition of International Shahr Film Festival will be held in Tehran from July 31 to August 5.



MOSLEH MIR-KHEZRAIAN/IRNA

A UNESCO delegation visited Iran's western city of Marivan, Kurdistan Province, which is well-known for its *klash*—hand-made Kurdish shoes. The art of people in Marivan is in the final stage of registration on the UNESCO Heritage List.



Artist Sodi's works on display at Nat'l Museum of Art in Mexico City

An art exhibition titled 'Through the Centuries of Centuries' featuring the 21 works of art produced by the prominent contemporary artist Bosco Sodi (Mexico City, 1970) is underway at National Museum of Art (Munal).

The event, which was organized with the support of the National Institute of Fine Arts in synthesis with the Secretariat of Culture, will continue through November 5, 2017 on the first and second floor, artdaily.com reported.

The works of art intend to highlight through 'dialogues' the formal qualities ranging from texture and color to the materials and customs that comprise the Munal's permanent collection which is conformed of pieces from the vice-royal period to some from the 20th Century and Sodi's use of matter, materials and color that are site specific for their relationship to the pieces they interchange with.



artdaily.com

Gabriela Baz, the director of the Munal, stated that exhibit stands out for its attractive exploration of matter, unique in its support of two-dimensional and three-dimensional pieces, that permit new ways to see the museum's collection through a 'trans-historic dialogue'.

Sodi said, "Without a doubt this will be the most important exposition in which I have participated in Mexico. It is an honor for me to be able to share space and dialogues with works of art by artists of such renowned standing."

Sodi stands out in contemporary genres for creating an esthetic proposition that explores the areas in which nature and humanity combine. Each of his pieces give a sense of spirituality through their material, color, juxtaposition, relationship and positioning with the pieces they are associated with.

Venice Film Festival to honor Jane Fonda, Robert Redford

Jane Fonda and Robert Redford will be awarded the Golden Lion for lifetime achievement at the 74th Venice International Film Festival (August 30-September 9).



news-vids.net

They will collect the prizes before the world premiere of their new Netflix original film 'Our Souls at Night' on September 1 in the Sala Grande of the Palazzo del Cinema (Lido di Venezia), screendaily.com reported.

The film is directed Ritesh

Batra, stars Fonda and Redford and is produced by Redford's company Wildwood Enterprises, Inc.

It is based on the novel by Kent Haruf and is adapted for the screen by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber ('The Fault in Our Stars'). It will launch globally on Netflix later this year.

Director of the Venice Film Festival, Alberto Barbera, said: "Few Hollywood legends have demonstrated such determination and courage over the course of their professional career as Jane Fonda. Her life has been marked by intense passion in her pursuit of freedom from every type of conformism, with a touching and vulnerable generosity. At times a political and social activist, a writer, a feminist icon, a producer, and a prophet of physical fitness, but above all an extraordinarily successful and talented actress, Jane Fonda is one of the great protagonists of contemporary international cinema."

He continued: "Actor, director, producer, environmentalist, founder and soul of that brilliant experiment in film called Sundance whether in front or behind the camera, advocating for the cause of independent cinema or the cause of our planet, Robert Redford has led us through almost five decades of compelling film."



cdn1.bbr.com

making and advocacy with a combination of rigor, intelligence and grace that is virtually unsurpassed."

Earlier this month US actress Annette Bening was named president of the international jury for this year's Venice International Film Festival.

Weather



33 16

Arak



31 26

Astara



33 17

Birjand



37 19

Qazvin



32 18

Mashhad



35^ v23

Tehran



33 19

Kabul



22 11

Minsk



21 10

Stockholm



37 19

Tashkent



32 23

Tripoli