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## Rouhani: Iran's power stems from scientific progress



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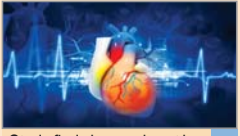
Iranian President Hassan Rouhani hailed the successful test-launch of his country's new satellite carrier, saying such scientific achievements boost the Islamic Republic's power and grandeur.

"Today, space science and technology are of great importance to us, and the more we push forward in these and other scientific fields, the more powerful and dignified we will be," Rouhani wrote in a message on his Instagram account on Thursday night, Press TV reported.

Earlier in the day, the president went to Iran's central province of Semnan to attend the opening ceremony of the Imam Khomeini Space Center (IKSC), which began its operations by firing off the indigenous Simorgh carrier.

Designed and developed with the latest standards in mind, Iran's new space rocket can carry satellites weighing up to 250 kilograms (550 pounds) about 500 kilometers (310 miles) away, well within the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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## Palestinians pray outside holy site after Israeli restrictions

Israel barred men under 50 from Friday prayers at a sensitive Beit-ul-Moqaddas holy site after two weeks of tensions and deadly unrest, leading thousands of Palestinians to hold mass prayers outside.

Thousands of others entered the Haram al-Sharif compound for prayers as other Palestinians ended a boycott of the site the previous day, AFP reported.

Despite fears of violent clashes around the compound, which includes Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the area was largely calm following Friday's midday prayers.

Dozens of young Palestinians shouted and protested near one entrance to the compound and minor scuffles broke out with police. Clashes did erupt between Israeli forces and Palestinians in parts of the occupied West Bank, including in Nablus, Bethlehem and Al-Khail, the Israeli military said.

A Palestinian also attempted to stab soldiers at a junction in the West Bank and was shot dead by Israeli forces, according to the Israeli military.

Tensions at the holy site were high even after thousands of worshippers returned to the compound on Thursday, ending a boycott over new restrictive measures that Israel eventually removed.

The outside prayers on Friday were due to the Israeli age restrictions and were not the start of a new boycott.

"It was a victory for you and for your beliefs," Grand Mufti of Beit-ul-Moqaddas Muhammad Ahmad Hussein told worshippers at Al-Aqsa of the boycott.



AFP

Israeli police said early in the day there were "indications that disturbances and demonstrations will take place today," prompting them to bar men under 50 from praying at Al-Aqsa. Roads around Beit-ul-Moqaddas' Old City, where the compound is located, were closed and some 3,500 Israeli police were deployed.

On Thursday, the Palestinian Red Crescent said 187 people were wounded inside the mosque compound and in adjacent areas of the Old City after clashes erupted, with police saying stones had been thrown at officers.

Amnesty International said Israeli forces fired "stun grenades, tear gas and sponge-tipped bullets into a peaceful crowd" at an entrance to the compound.

Some 120 people were detained, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club, adding that 21 were still in custody, including nine minors. The Prisoners Club alleged a number of them were beaten by police.

Thousands of worshippers had earlier Thursday streamed into the compound for afternoon prayers for the first time in two weeks, ending a boycott after Israel removed controversial new restrictive measures, installed after a July 14 gunfight that killed two Israeli policemen and three Palestinians.

Muslims had in previous days refused to enter the compound and prayed in the streets outside after Israel installed the new measures.

Palestinians viewed the move as Israel asserting further control over the site.

## Pakistan PM Sharif ousted in wealth probe

Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office on Friday over undeclared assets, plunging the nuclear-armed South Asian nation into political turmoil after a period of relative stability.

Sharif swiftly resigned but in a statement his spokesman said there were "serious reservations" about the judicial process after the court ordered a criminal probe into his family over corruption allegations stemming from the "Panama Papers" leaks of international offshore companies, Reuters reported.

Sharif's ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, which won a majority in Parliament in 2013, is expected to name a new prime minister to hold office until elections due next year.

Among allies mooted to replace Sharif are Defense Minister Asif Khawaja, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Petroleum Minister Shahid Abbasi.

The ouster of Sharif, 67, who has now served as premier on three separate occasions, also raises questions about Pakistan's fragile democracy. No prime minister

has completed a full term in power since independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

The court verdict marks a major political victory for opposition leader Imran Khan, a former cricket star who last year

Ishaq Dar, one of Sharif's closest allies, who has been credited with steering the economy to its fastest pace of growth in a decade. Earlier state-run TV and other media reported Dar had been disqualified.

Sharif alleged a conspiracy against him, although he has not named anyone. His allies, however, have privately spoken of elements in the judiciary and the military, with whom Sharif has strained relations, acting against him.

The Supreme Court's five-member panel ruled unanimously that Sharif should be disqualified after an investigative team alleged his family could not account for its vast wealth.

"He is no more eligible to be an honest member of the parliament, and he ceases to be holding the office of prime minister," Judge Ejaz Afzal Khan said



AP

threatened mass street protests unless Sharif's wealth was investigated. Khan had pounced on the leaking of the Panama Papers, which revealed Sharif's family had bought posh London apartments through offshore companies.

The court also ordered a criminal investigation into the assets of Finance Minister

in court.

The court said Sharif failed to declare income from a company in the United Arab Emirates ahead of his election in 2013. Prior to the decision, several cabinet ministers, including Sharif's closest allies, said the ruling party would respect the verdict.

## Russia hits back over sanctions, orders US diplomats to leave

Moscow flatly denies. The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday that the United States had until Sept. 1 to reduce its diplomatic staff in Russia to 455 people, the same number of Russian diplomats it said were left in the United States after Washington expelled 35 Russians in December.

It said in a statement that the decision by Congress to impose new sanctions confirmed "the extreme aggression of the United States in international affairs."

"Hiding behind its 'exceptionalism' the United States arrogantly ignores the positions and interests of other countries," said the ministry.

"Under the absolutely invented pretext of Russian interference in their domestic affairs the United States is aggressively pushing forward, one after another, crude anti-Russian actions. This all runs counter to the principles of international law."

It was not immediately clear how many US

diploamats and other workers would be forced to leave the country.

An official at the US Embassy in Moscow, who declined to be named because they were not allowed to speak to the media, said there were around 1,100 US diplomatic staff in Russia. That included Russian citizens and US citizens.

Most staff, including around 300 US citizens, work in the main embassy in Moscow with others based in outlying consulates.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it was also seizing a Moscow dacha compound used by US diplomats to relax from Aug. 1 as well as a US diplomatic warehouse in Moscow.

The outgoing Obama administration seized two Russian diplomatic compounds - one in New York and another in Maryland - at the same time as it expelled the Russian diplomats in December.

The Russian Foreign Ministry warned it would respond in kind if Washington decided to expel any Russian diplomats.

## Qatar refuses to 'outsource foreign policy'

Qatar refuses to bow to Saudi-led demands to "outsource" its foreign policy to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis, its government spokesman told AFP in an interview.

Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani, who holds ministerial rank, accused Doha's adversaries in the crisis - Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt - of meddling in Qatar's internal affairs.

"What's behind this crisis of course is Qatari sovereignty and independence to put it very simply. It is about... outsourcing our foreign policy so that decisions are not made in Qatar, and that is something that will never be acceptable," he said.

Sheikh Saif said the Saudi-led bloc had laid down a new "ultimatum" on Tuesday by publishing a list of individuals and "terrorist" entities allegedly linked to Doha. This "list, it's still an ultimatum, it's still something that is stalling resolving the crisis", the official said.

However, "we have said it from the start, we are open to dialogue, we are open to negotiating... The first step should be lifting the illegal blockade."

In the region's most diplomatic crisis in years, Saudi Arabia and allies have been boycotting Doha since June 5.

They have sealed the emirate's only land border, ordered its citizens to leave, and closed their airspace and waters to Qatari flights and shipping.

They are demanding that Qatar break its longstanding ties with the Muslim Brotherhood, blacklisted as a "terror group" by the four governments although not by the international community.

They also want Doha to close broadcasting giant Al Jazeera and a Turkish military base, and to fall in line with Saudi-led policy in the region.

Sheikh Saif insisted that "this crisis was again triggered by them not by us".

Qatar was prepared to discuss "anything openly" as long as it does not impinge on the country's sovereignty and independence, he said.

Sheikh Saif reiterated Qatar's outright denial of charges leveled by the Saudi-led bloc of links to terrorism.

"We do not support terrorism in any way. This is all false, we actually do the opposite and we actually do more than them when it comes to countering terrorism," he argued.

Sheikh Saif said Doha had proof that the UAE was behind the hacking of its national news agency, QNA, a key trigger of the diplomatic crisis.

The UAE was "the number one country involved in this incident and is the first country that gained from this incident", he said.

### Rouhani congratulates Indian counterpart for his election

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday sent a congratulatory message to his Indian counterpart Ram Nath Kovind for his election. President Rouhani expressed hope that the two countries witness development of ties in various fields during Kovind's tenure, IRNA reported.



Ram Nath Kovind Hassan Rouhani

The history of cordial cooperation between Iran and India as well as their rich cultures and age-old civilizations make the expansion of bilateral ties "a strategic necessity" in order to open a new chapter in the relations, Rouhani said.

Ram Nath Kovind took oath as the 14th president of India on Tuesday.

A former lawyer and state governor, 71-year-old Kovind was elected to the largely ceremonial position last week with more than 65 percent of the vote by members of India's Parliament and state assemblies.

### Quake injures eight west of Iran

An earthquake measuring 4.7 on Richter scale jolted a western Iranian county, injuring eight people.

The quake took place in Nahavand, western Iranian province of Hamedan, at 05:34 local time (0104 GMT) on Friday, IRNA reported.

Five of the victims sustained slight injuries, while the rest had to be hospitalized, said Habib Ma'soumi, the head of Hamedan Medical Sciences University's Center for Emergency Services.

The epicenter was about two kilometers (1.2 miles) to the town's east at a depth of two kilometers, said Mohammad-Taqi Shahbazi of the Seismological Center of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute.

Relief teams were dispatched to the site, examining its aged structures and Kouhani Village, which lies at the center of the affected area.

The tremor did not cause considerable material damage, Shahbazi added.

Two aftershocks followed, he said, noting that the magnitude of the original quake brought the distraught public onto the streets.

Nahavand lies on an earthquake-prone belt, and has been hit by relatively strong tremors over the past years.



# Iranians call on Muslims to reinforce unity



AFP

EPA TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

Iranian worshippers called on Muslims on Friday to reinforce their unity to counter global arrogant powers led by the United States.

During the rallies, held in the Iranian capital after the Friday prayers, the demonstrators expressed their outrage at the crimes committed against the Palestinian and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, Press TV reported.

The demonstrators issued a statement in condemnation of the Israeli regime's recent atrocities against the oppressed Palestinian people and the killing of worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as crimes by Myanmar's security forces against Rohingya Muslims.

Israel is afraid of the Palestinian people's resistance against this bogus regime and spares no efforts to take control of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the entire Palestine, the statement said.

However, it added, the arrogant powers and ignorant Israeli leaders must

know that the Palestinian people's resistance would continue until final victory.

It said Muslims and freedom-seeking people across the world would not remain silent in the face of any violation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque's sanctity and called for a firm stand against the Israeli regime's crimes.

The protesters also expressed regret over the "cruel and painful" killing of Muslims in Myanmar amid the silence of international bodies and so-called advocates of human rights and called for an end to the killings.

"The silence of international communities and organizations that claim to defend human rights and human values has added to the sorrow and grief of Muslims over the killing of defenseless people in Myanmar and Palestine," the statement read.

This silence once again showed the affiliation of these bodies to global he-

gemonic powers, it added.

It warned that Saudi-led Takfiri groups and Wahhabi movements seek to sow discord among Muslims and commit every possible crime with the support of the US and Israel to achieve their goal and emphasized that blood of the oppressed people would haunt the Takfiri terrorists and the Al Saud regime soon.

The occupied Palestinian territories have witnessed new tensions ever since Israeli forces introduced restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Beit-ul-Moqaddas in August 2015.

More than 300 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in the ongoing tensions since the beginning of October 2015.

The Tel Aviv regime has tried to change the demographic makeup of Beit-ul-Moqaddas over the past decades by constructing settlements, de-

stroying historical sites and expelling the local Palestinian population. Palestinians say the Israeli measures are aimed at paving the way for the Judaization of the city.

Meanwhile, Myanmarese troops and police are accused of killing and raping Rohingya Muslims, who are denied citizenship in Myanmar and widely viewed as outsiders by the majority Buddhists.

The more than one million Rohingya Muslims have been suffering widely-reported aggression for years in Myanmar's western state of Rakhine, which has also been under a military lockdown since October 2016.

Since then, the military has banned journalists and aid workers from entering the area.

Hundreds have been killed and more than 1,000 houses burned down. Some 75,000 Rohingya Muslims have already been forced to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

## US Senate approves sanctions; Iran says will give proportionate response

The US Senate approved a new package of financial sanctions against Iran, Russia and North Korea.

Senators voted 98-2 to pass the sanctions bill, two days after the House cleared the legislation overwhelmingly, 419-3, AP reported.

Sanctions target North Korea and Iran over their ballistic missile programs as well as Russia concerning its alleged meddling in the 2016 US election and the reunification of the Black Sea Crimean Peninsula.

The legislation heads to President Donald Trump. He's expected to sign the measure into law even though the bill includes provisions that bar him from easing the penalties on Russia without first getting permission from Congress.

Trump has privately expressed frustration over Congress' ability to limit or override power of the president on national security matters. But he has lit-



tle choice but to sign the bill due to the enormous support for the measure on Capitol Hill.

It is the first major foreign policy legislation approved by Congress

under Trump, who has struggled to advance his domestic agenda despite Republicans controlling the Senate and House of Representatives.

The anti-Iran sanction bill - Rus-

sia sanctions were attached to it - was first passed in a 98-2 vote in mid-June, but was held up in the House after Republicans proposed that North Korea sanctions be included in the bill.

On Wednesday, President Hassan Rouhani denounced the US House of Representatives' approval of a draft law on fresh sanctions against Iran, saying the Islamic Republic would "definitely" give a proportionate response to the hostile move, Press TV reported.

Rouhani said, the Iranian Parliament would adopt reciprocal measures in response to the US sanctions.

"And we will take any step that we deem necessary in line with the interests of our country, and we would continue our path without paying attention to their (Americans') sanctions and policies," stressed the Iranian chief executive.

Rouhani's remarks came a day after the House voted for the anti-Iran bill.

## Rouhani: Iran's power stems from scientific progress

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The rocket, Iran's largest to date, will be used to launch the domestically-built Earth observation satellite Tolou (Sunrise) in the near future.

Rouhani said the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which led to the removal of Western sanctions, had ushered in a new opportunity for progress.

"In the post-JCPOA era, we have the opportunity to take note from others' experience while relying on the hard work of our own experts and scientists to earn achievements that ultimately boost national development," the president wrote.

Meanwhile, Iran's Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan, who accompanied Rouhani at the IKSC, told reporters that the spacecraft acted as a "command and control site" that could track and control satellites at all times.

He noted that the center was already capable of launching satellites to higher orbits of up to 1,000 kilometers.

Iran launched its first locally-built satellite, Omid (Hope), in 2009. The country also sent its first bio-capsule containing living creatures into space in February 2010, using Kavoshgar-3 (Explorer-3) carrier.

In February 2015, Iran placed the domestically-made Fajr (Dawn) satellite into orbit. The satellite is capable of taking and transmitting high-quality

and accurate pictures to stations on Earth.

Simorgh's launch came days after the US Congress passed new sanctions against Iran over its development of missiles for defensive purposes. The bill, which also includes sanctions against Russia and North Korea, awaits US President Donald Trump's approval.

Iran has made it clear that it will continue to strengthen its missile prowess as part of its defense doctrine.

A commuter train slammed into the end of the platform during the morning rush hour at a busy station in Barcelona on Friday, leaving 54 people injured, emergency services said.

# Senate health bill collapses in bitter blow to Trump

US Republicans failed spectacularly Friday in their latest effort to dismantle Obamacare, leaving the party shocked and in disarray and signaling the potential death knell for President Donald Trump's dream of repealing his predecessor's health reforms.

The vote – held in the dead of night – came down to the wire, with the decisive moment resting with Senator John McCain, recently diagnosed with brain cancer, who sided with two moderate Republicans and all Democrats in opposing the legislation, AFP reported.

"This was a disappointment, a disappointment indeed," Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell told colleagues after one of the most tense votes in years on the Senate floor.

"I regret that our efforts were simply not enough this time."

The collapse marks a major setback for Republican leadership and for Trump, who had campaigned relentlessly on a pledge to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act that passed into law under his predecessor Barack Obama in 2010.

Friday's vote, which capped a series of failed efforts in recent months to get an Obamacare repeal measure over the line, was on a so-called "skinny repeal" bill that would have rolled back only parts of Obamacare but kept the bulk of the law intact.

It crashed to defeat, 49-51, leaving Trump's singular legislative initiative, and Republicans' seven-year pledge to rip out the health care law, in tatters.

Trump, who had long cajoled and strong-armed Republicans in a bid to get them into line, swiftly spoke out about the failure, apparently unmoved by Democratic pleas for the parties to work together and improve the existing law.

"3 Republicans and 48 Democrats let the American people down," Trump tweeted. "As I said from the beginning, let Obamacare implode, then deal."

Senate leadership had never intended



Senator John McCain of Arizona leaves the Senate chamber early Friday after casting the vote that ensured the measure's defeat. GABRIELLA DEMCZUK/THE NEW YORK TIMES

"skinny repeal" to become law; they saw it as merely a vehicle for joining forces with House Republicans to craft a broader repeal-and-replace plan.

But some Republicans including McCain blasted the bill as terrible policy, and grew nervous that the House of Representatives might turn around and pass the bill instead of going to conference with the Senate.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office analyzed the bill, and concluded that insurance premiums would spike by 20 percent per year and 16 million people would lose insurance

if it became law.

House Speaker Paul Ryan later said his side was willing to negotiate with the Senate, but that failed to placate McCain.

Vice President Mike Pence was brought to the chamber around midnight, in case he would be needed to break a 50-50 tie.

But he never got the opportunity, as McCain, whose war hero status was mocked by Trump in 2015, refused to cave to pressure to get on board, despite extraordinary scenes on the Senate floor where a grim-faced Pence

huddled with McCain for several minutes.

"We must now return to the correct way of legislating and send the bill back to committee, hold hearings, receive input from both sides of aisle, heed the recommendations of nation's governors, and produce a bill that finally delivers affordable health care for the American people," McCain said in a statement.

While several Democrats clapped when McCain cast his "no" vote, the mood remained somber in the chamber after the defeat.

## Japan defense chief resignation blow to PM

Japan's defense minister resigned Friday over a long-brewing scandal involving the handling of military documents, in a major political blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Abe, who has seen his popularity plummet in recent weeks over several controversies, apologized for the saga, AFP reported.

"I apologize from the bottom of my heart to the people for this situation in which a minister resigns," Abe told reporters after Tomomi Inada quit.

Abe added he "must seriously accept the people's severe criticism".



Tomomi Inada

Inada's nearly year-long stint was characterized by controversy, but she resigned over criticism of her ministry's handling of log reports filed by Japanese peacekeepers in South Sudan showing worsening security. Inada told a press conference where she announced her resignation: "I feel a keen responsibility."

The prime minister this week dodged opposition questioning in parliament over claims of favoritism in a business deal, an accusation he has vigorously denied.

His government's public support ratings have fallen precipitously over the summer, with voters punishing the LDP in local Tokyo elections early this month.

The party suffered a drubbing in the vote for Tokyo's municipal assembly that media and analysts chalked up to a growing perception of "arrogance" on the part of his government.

It lost more than half its seats, with the result seen as a bellwether for national political sentiment.

The chief of staff of Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force, the army, also resigned, as did the top ranking civil servant in the Defense Ministry. The shakeup in the top echelon of Japan's defense establishment comes as the country remains on alert over possible further North Korean missile launches.

Abe said that Fumio Kishida, the foreign minister, will also serve as interim defense chief until a replacement for Tomomi Inada is named. "We have not a moment to lose in security issues," the prime minister said.

Abe, who became prime minister for a second time in December 2012 with a vow to rejuvenate Japan's economy, will reportedly revamp his cabinet next week in a bid to reboot the government, but he faces an uphill climb.

### 'Heavy blow to Abe'

"Inada's resignation has dealt a heavy blow to Abe," said Shin-ichi Nishikawa, professor of political science at Meiji University. "Three months ago, Abe was expected to stay in power until 2021 but the situation has changed greatly," Nishikawa told AFP. "He used to face no rivals within the LDP but his position now appears shaken."

Inada, a close confidante of Abe who shares his staunchly nationalist views, was appointed defense minister in August 2016, a time when she was touted as a possible future leader.

During her tenure, Inada delighted conservatives but drew domestic and international criticism in December when she played at a controversial war shrine in Tokyo – the day after accompanying Abe on a symbolic visit of reconciliation to Pearl Harbor in the United States. Yasukuni Shrine honors millions of mostly Japanese war dead, but is contentious for lionizing senior military and political figures convicted of war crimes by an international tribunal.

## Polish liberal opposition ahead of ruling party in newest poll

An opinion poll conducted after the Polish president vetoed judicial reforms gives the ruling party Law and Justice (PiS) 32 percent support, with the liberal opposition parties Civic Platform (PO) and Nowoczesna together on 35 percent, Rzeczpospolita daily said.



KACPER PEMPEL/REUTERS People attend a protest against judicial reforms in front of the Supreme Court in Warsaw, Poland, on July 27, 2017.

The poll conducted on July 25 by Kantar Public and released by Rzeczpospolita on its website on Friday measured the combined support for the PiS-led coalition of three parties, and the combined support for PO and Nowoczesna. Reuters reported.

The anti-establishment party Kukiz'15 had 13 percent support. Kukiz'15 supported President Andrzej Duda's veto of the reforms.

## Report: Syrian Army at gates of Daesh-held town

The Syrian Army has reached the last Daesh-held town on the road to its besieged garrison in the east, a monitoring group said on Friday.

Government forces are on the outskirts of Al-Sukhna, some 70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of the famed ancient city of Palmyra, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The town is the last on the desert road to the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, where a government garrison has held out under siege by the Daesh terror group since early 2015, AFP reported.

Al-Sukhna and the oil and gas fields in the surrounding countryside have been held by Daesh since 2015.

"Heavy fighting is ongoing between the two sides, with regime artillery and rocket



REUTERS

fire," observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said.

He said Russian warplanes were supporting the government advance.

Daesh commanders fled into the surrounding mountains as the army neared the town, he added.

Since May, the army has been conducting a broad military campaign to recapture the vast desert that separates the capital Damascus from Deir Ezzor and other towns along the Euphrates Valley.

Already defeated in its Iraqi bastion of Mosul, Daesh is facing multiple assaults in Syria.

The US-backed Syrian Defense Forces now control more than half of its most important remaining stronghold Raqqa.

## Floods kill 120 in India's Gujarat

Widespread flooding in India's western industrial state of Gujarat has killed more than 120 people and paralyzed infrastructure, officials said on Friday, with tens of thousands of cotton farmers also suffering heavy damage.

Torrential monsoon rain and flooding in recent weeks have killed at least 300 people in western and eastern states, an official in the National Disaster Management Authority told Reuters in New Delhi.

"Our teams are working in different parts of India with soldiers to ease the situation," said Deepak Ghai, an emergency room control officer.

More than a million households had been affected and losses to farmlands were being assessed.

Fire officials evacuate people from a flooded neighborhood after heavy rains in Ahmedabad.

The airport in Ahmedabad, the main commercial hub of Gujarat, was partially flooded, forcing airlines to divert flights. More than 150 factories were forced to shut down, said A.R. Raval, a district administrator.

The floods have come at a particularly bad time for cotton farmers in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state. Raval said more than 50,000 were struggling to drain water from their land and homes.

Recent downpours have hit cotton and millet in Gujarat and Rajasthan, where farm experts now fear pest infestations.

"Cotton and millet harvests are expected to suffer in about three districts each in Gujarat and Rajasthan, but the biggest worry is that the extra moisture could lead to pest attacks in these areas," Devinder Sharma, an independent farm expert, said. Rains have been four per-



REUTERS

cent above average since the four-month monsoon season began in June, according

to the state-run India Meteorological Department.

## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Iran says Iraq seeking to raise gas imports

Iran says it is looking into Iraq's request to increase natural gas exports to the country.

This was announced by the Managing Director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hamidreza Araqi, who pointed out that Iraq was currently importing 7 to 8 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d), IRNA reported.



SHANA

He further underlined that any increase in Iran's gas exports would depend on whether Iran could launch new projects in its South Pars energy zone.

Iran started a much-awaited project to export natural gas to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad in June.

Exports are expected to reach as 35 mcm/d in the near future.

Gas exports to Iraq — which are intended to address the country's acute electricity shortfalls — started after two years of negotiations between Tehran and Baghdad. This was seen by the media as a sign that both sides had overcome disputes over the financial terms of the project which was so far preventing the project.

Iran and Iraq initially signed an agreement in 2013 based on which the Islamic Republic would export natural gas to power stations around Baghdad via a 270-kilometer pipeline.

Although the related pipeline for the project was constructed, the gas did not reach Baghdad in what officials said was a result of disputes over certain financial terms as well as the insecurity in Iraq.

Iran has also signed another contract to export around 50 mcm/d of gas to Iraq's southern port city of Basra.

Once the Basra pipeline is made operational, Iraq's total gas imports from Iran would reach around 80 mcm/d.

Iran's biggest gas importer is currently Turkey which is importing around 30 mcm/d based on a signed by the two countries in 1996.

## Iran considers further development of South Pars oil layer

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) reservoir advisor committee has reviewed a proposed plan by Maersk Oil to further develop South Pars oil layer in the Persian Gulf.

The meeting reviewed reservoir specifications, development projects in three phases and possible scenarios for enhancing production from the layer, Shana reported.

Maersk has been producing oil from the field's oil layer in the Persian Gulf waters for close to 25 years, applying techniques for drilling very long horizontal wells, flushing with gas, water injection, water and gas injection on the field.

Most of Iran's gas output comes from the joint South Pars Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.

Iran has signed a flurry of deals with Western companies over the past year since the easing of international sanctions on Tehran after an accord was reached over its nuclear program.

Iran needs foreign investment to repair and upgrade its oil and gas fields. It also seeks the transfer of technology to its oil industry after a decade of sanctions.

Iran has named 34 companies from more than a dozen countries as being eligible to bid for oil and gas projects using the new, less restrictive contract model.

The firms include Shell, France's Total, Italy's Eni, Malaysia's Petronas and Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, as well as companies from China, Austria, Japan and other countries.

Russia's Zarubezhneft signed an MoU to conduct feasibility studies on two joint fields in the west of the country.

Norway's International Aker Solutions Company signed an MoU to modernize Iran's oil industry.

In May 2016, Austria's OMV signed an MoU for projects in the Zagros area in western Iran and the Fars field in the south.

South Korean Daewoo Engineering and Construction (Daewoo E&C) signed an MoU to construct an oil refinery in Bandar Jask, on the southern coast of Iran.

Italy's Saipem signed MoUs to cooperate on pipeline projects, upgrading of refineries and development of Tous gas field in the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi.

Norwegian oil and gas company DNO said it was the second Western energy company after Total to sign a deal with Iran under which it agreed to study the development of the Changuleh oilfield in western Iran.

Lukoil, Russia's second biggest oil producer, hopes to reach a decision on developing two new oilfields in Iran.

Germany's Siemens AG signed an MoU in May to overhaul equipment and facilities at Iran's oil operations and refineries.

BASF's Wintershall oil and gas exploration subsidiary signed an MoU with the National Iranian Oil Company in April 2016.

## Annual inflation rate reached 10.3% in late July

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran's inflation rate during July 22, 2016-July 22, 2017, stood at 10.3 percent, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

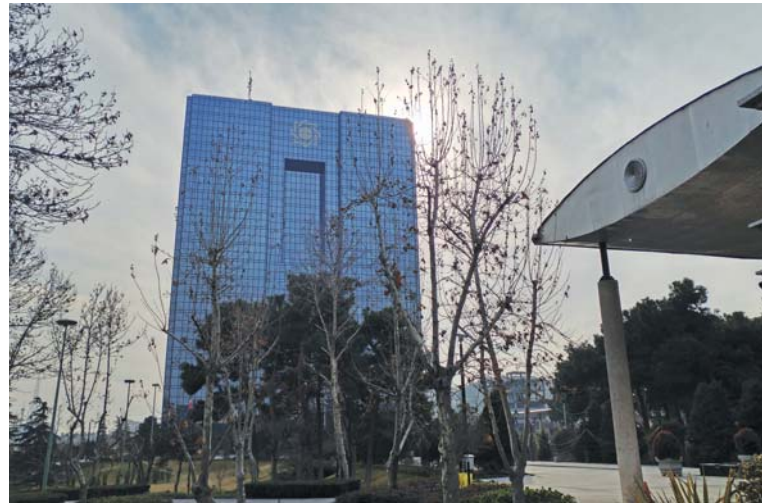
The CBI said during the 12-month period ending June 21, 2017, inflation rate reached 10.2 percent, to jump to a double-digit figure after a year of remaining single digit, IRNA reported.

However, the CBI report shows that during June 22-July 22, 2017, Iran's point-to-point inflation, once again, dropped to single digit.

According to the CBI figures, the index price of consumer goods and services in Iran's urban areas during June 22-July 22, 2017, stood at 266.9 indicating a drop of 0.1 percent compared to the figure for one month earlier.

Iran's inflation rate in the 30-day period ending July 22, 2017 was 9.9 percent higher than the figure for the same period a year ago.

During June 22-July 22, 2017, the price of foodstuff and beverages and various kinds of cigarettes dropped 1.5 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively. This is while, the prices of the following items increased in the same duration: Shoes and clothing (0.2 percent), housing, water, electricity, gas and different types of fuels (0.5 percent), furniture as well as home appliances and services (0.6 percent), healthcare and treatment services (0.4 percent), public transportation services (0.7 percent), telecommunication service (0.1 percent), entertainment and cultural services (0.7 percent), education (0.2 percent), hotel room and eating at a



IRAN DAILY

restaurant (1.4 percent) and other goods and services (0.7 percent).

## Annual changes

A glance at the price changes during the 12-month period ending June 22, 2017, shows that the prices of the

abovementioned goods and services increased as follows: Foodstuff and beverages (6.4 percent), different kinds of cigarettes (0.2 percent), shoes and clothing (6.7 percent), housing, water, electricity, gas and different types of fuels (8.9 percent), furniture as well as home appliances and services (8.2 percent),

healthcare and treatment services (10.1 percent), public transportation services (13.5 percent), telecommunication services (6.4 percent), entertainment and cultural services (7.9 percent), education (10.9 percent), hotel room and eating at a restaurants (10.9 percent) and other goods and services (8.5 percent).

## Akhoundi discusses imports of express rail equipment, airport radars in Germany

Domestic Economy Desk

Minister of Roads and Urban Development Abbas Akhoundi held talks with a German company on imports of express rail equipment and airport radars.

In a meeting with senior officials of Thales Transportation Systems GmbH, Akhoundi discussed the development of Iran's transportation system and renovating its technology, IRNA reported.

The minister and his delegation also discussed air and shipping cooperation with German officials.

As trade ties between Iran and Europe are strengthening following the removal of nuclear sanctions, plans are underway to shift part of the shipment of commercial exchanges to railroads.

A board member of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Hossein Ashouri said on July 10 that Iran is planning to launch multiple rail corridors to Europe to take advantage of growing trade relations.

"The planned corridors include a route from Azerbaijan and Russia, another from Georgia and Black Sea, and a third via Turkey, which has recently been negotiated," the official said.

"We have been discussing parallel routes with German companies and the officials of participating states."

German firms DHL, DB Cargo and DB Schenker are among the companies involved. Islamic Republic of Iran Railways held multilateral meetings with these companies and the authorities in Turkey last month to discuss rail corridors using existing infrastructures. IRIR hopes the negotiations will come to fruition in the coming months.

A division of the German national rail-



IRNA

road company Deutsche Bahn AG, DB Schenker focuses on logistics. The company is active in air, land, and sea freight; and a rail division made up from European air freight companies.

DB Schenker, which comprises DB Schenker Rail and DB Schenker Logistics, is in charge of various modes of transport and logistical activities of Deutsche Bahn in some 2,000 locations in 140 countries. It is the biggest freight operator in the UK after buying out English Welsh and Scottish.

DB Cargo is also a subsidiary of DB Schenker. It is a German railroad cargo carrier operating across Europe, as well as in Central Eastern Asia.

On its map of globally operating logistics routes, DB Cargo has already specified a route to Tehran, via Hungary, Romania, the Black Sea, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Iran is also considering other routes via Azerbaijan as well, including one through Russia.

All the routes passing through Azerbaijan will depend on the completion of railroads from the Iranian-Azeri border to the city of Qazvin. These rail infrastructures will need a few years to become fully

operational. But Iran is keen to activate the planned corridors through a road-rail multimodal network.

"The Iran-Turkey railroad is currently in operation. Last year, some 350,000 tons of goods were transported through the Razi border crossing where the railroad passes," Ashouri said.

The official noted that IRIR is planning to increase the 350,000 figure to one million tons this year.

"Once the Germany-Iran corridor becomes operational, the figure could reach three million tons next year," he said.

Nuclear sanctions were lifted in January 2016, as part of a landmark deal Tehran signed with world powers in July 2015.

Ever since the sanctions removal, European companies have been flocking to Iran, some with the aim of regaining their pre-sanctions stature and others to establish new trade connections with the emerging Iranian market of 80 million, which has 400 million consumers in its neighborhood.

Iran's trade with the European Union stood at €3.3 billion in the first quarter of 2017 — rising 163 percent over the similar period of a year before.

Iran exported €2.77 billion to EU, registering a sixfold rise year-on-year. Italy was the biggest importer from Iran among all the European states, as it bought €807.4 million worth of Iranian goods during the period. France, the Netherlands, Spain and Greece with €14.6 million, €56.3 million, €29.6 million and €30 million worth of imports respectively came next.

Iran imported €2.52 billion worth of commodities from the European Union

## Iran starts building Mideast's largest solar farm

Iran inaugurated a project to build the largest solar power plant in the Middle East.

The construction of the power plant kicked off on Thursday in a ceremony attended by Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian in the southern province of Kerman, Tasnim News Agency

reported.

The 100-megawatt solar power plant, which is located between the cities of Kerman and Bam, calls for an investment of \$140 million.

In April, Iran launched its biggest solar plant near the central city of Isfahan. The project, which took seven months

to complete, was constructed jointly by Iran's Ghadir Electricity and Energy Company and Greece's Metka engineering firm.

Iran is heavily dependent on natural gas and oil to generate power and one of the most energy-intensive countries in the world because government sub-

sidies for fossil fuels encourage inefficient energy use.

Iran is seeking 5,000 MW of renewable energy by 2020, with more than 4,000 MW expected to come from wind power. The country has approximately 141 MW of installed wind power.

**French consumer spending**  
Consumer spending in France, the eurozone's second largest economy, contracted sharply a month after the country's presidential election, raising concerns about the sustainability of the country's rising economic momentum.

## Japan labor shortage hits new extreme

Labor shortages in Japan have reached a new level of severity, with more permanent jobs open than applicants for the first time on record.

The ratio of regular job openings to applicants reached 1.01 to 1 in June, the first time it has risen above parity since records began in 2004. The overall ratio of open jobs to applicants hit a 43-year high of 1.51 to 1, I.T.com reported.

The data suggested labor shortages are spreading from casual part-time staff to the regular, salaried employees who are the backbone of the Japanese workforce. After a decades-long shift towards insecure contract work and a two-tier labor market, companies are having to offer permanent jobs in order to secure staff.

Increased competition for regular workers could lead to higher wage growth. It could also spur consumption, because workers with the security of a permanent job are more likely to spend.

Wages and inflation remain subdued for now, however, with the headline consumer price index up by just 0.4 percent compared with a year ago. The Bank of Japan's preferred measure — which excludes energy and fresh food — was unchanged.

"While the labor market is very tight, a shift into part-time work and rising share of workers outside of traditional working years continues to hold down wage growth," said Bill Adams, senior international economist at PNC Financial in Pittsburgh.

"There's no sign that the BoJ will be pushed to withdraw monetary stimulus any time soon in this data."

Employment was 0.9 percent higher than a year ago, with more people in older age groups staying in work. The unemployment rate fell back to 2.8 percent from 3.1 percent and the rising level of open jobs to applicants suggests it will drop further in the months ahead.



ft.com

There was also encouraging news on household spending, up 2.3 percent on a year ago in June, the first increase for 16 months. Retail sales in June rose 0.2 percent over the previous month.

The figures suggested Japan is on track to report solid economic growth for the second quarter of 2017, with exports doing well and consumption starting to accelerate.

## Digital currency start-ups shrug off SEC warning on fund raising

Technology companies looking to raise money by issuing digital coins are moving forward with their plans despite a US regulator's decision that their offerings may be subject to tough securities laws.

Such initial coin offerings, or ICOs, have allowed startups to raise \$1 billion so far this year, but until this week it was unclear how the US Securities and Exchange Commission would treat the transactions, reported Reuters.

On Tuesday, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) decided that tokens issued through the ICOs can be considered securities, meaning they would fall under laws that require disclosures and are subject to regulatory scrutiny to protect investors, unless a "valid exemption" applies.

Some industry participants and analysts had thought such a decision would have a chilling effect on the ICO market. But 20 new ICOs were announced since the SEC's decision, with more than 120 scheduled to launch this year, according to ICO tracker tokenadata.io.

Representatives of Rivez and ICOBox, which plan to launch tokens over the next few weeks, told Reuters they are pushing through with their offerings.

During an ICO, contributors typically send digital currencies like Bitcoin and receive new tokens in return. Those tokens are then listed on cryptocurrency exchanges where they can be traded for other types of tokens.

Even as some ICOs have been criticized for failing to disclose information about underlying businesses and the way tokens are distributed, the frenzy surrounding the events has drawn backing from prominent venture capitalists and celebrities.

Boxing champion Floyd Mayweather took to Facebook on Thursday to say he was participating in the ICO of a company called STX technologies Ltd. next week.

# Asian financial crisis: Lessons learned and unlearned



ipsnews.net

Debates are taking place on whether there will be another financial crisis, whether in some part of the world or that is global in scope.

Governments draw lessons from financial crises to address the root causes of the last crisis but not the next one. More importantly, they can actually become the new sources of instability and crisis, Ipsnews reported.

Much of what has recently been written about the Asian crisis on the occasion of its 20th anniversary praises the lessons drawn and the measures implemented thereupon. But they often fail to appreciate that while these might have been effective in preventing the crisis in 1997, they may be inadequate and even counterproductive today because they entail deeper integration into global finance.

An immediate step taken in Asia was to abandon currency pegs and move to flexible exchange rates in order to facilitate external adjustment and prevent one-way bets for speculators. This has a lot to commend it, but its effects depend on how capital flows are managed.

Under free capital mobility no regime can guarantee stable rates. Currency crises can occur under flexible exchange rates as under fixed exchange rates.

Unlike fixed pegs, floating at times of strong inflows can cause nominal appreciations and encourage even more short-term inflows. Indeed nominal appreciations have been quite widespread during the surges in capital inflows in the wide millennium, including in some East Asian economies.

Second, most emerging economies, including those

in Asia, have liberalized foreign direct investment regimes and opened up equity markets to foreigners on the grounds that equity liabilities are less risky and more stable than external debt. As a result, non-resident holdings as a percent of market capitalization have reached unprecedented levels, ranging between 20 and 50 percent compared to 15 percent in the US.

This has made the emerging economies highly susceptible to conditions in mature markets. Since emerging economies lack a strong local investor base, the entry and exit of even relatively small amounts of foreign investment now result in large price swings.

Third, they have also sought to reduce currency mismatches in balance sheets and exposure to exchange rate risk by opening domestic bond markets to foreigners and borrowing in their own currencies. As a result sovereign debt in many emerging economies is now internationalized to a greater extent than that in reserve-currency countries.

Whereas about one-third of US treasuries are held by non-residents, this proportion is much higher in many emerging economies, including in Asia. Unlike US treasuries this debt is not in the hands of foreign central banks but in the portfolios of fickle investors.

Although opening bond markets has allowed the sovereign to pass the currency risk to lenders, it has led to loss of autonomy over domestic long-term rates and entailed a significant exposure to interest rate shocks from the US. This could prove equally and even more damaging than currency exposure in the transition of the US Fed from low-interest to high-interest regime and normalization of its balance sheet.

Fourth, there has been extensive liberalization of the capital account for residents. Corporations have been encouraged to become global players by borrowing and investing abroad, resulting in a massive accumulation of debt in low-interest reserve currencies since 2008.

They have also borrowed through foreign subsidiaries. These are not always repatriated and registered as capital inflows and external debt, but they have a similar impact on corporate fragility. Hence the reduction in currency mismatches is largely limited to the sovereign while private corporations carry significant exchange rate risks.

Fifth, limits on the acquisition of foreign securities, real estate assets and deposits by resident individuals and institutional investors have been raised or abolished. A main motive was to relieve upward pressures on currencies from the surge in capital inflows. Thus, liberalization of resident outflows was used as a substitute to restrictions over non-resident inflows. Although this has led to accumulation of private assets abroad, these would not be readily available at times of capital flight.

Sixth, banking regulations and supervision have no doubt improved, restricting currency and maturity mismatches in bank balance sheets. However, banks now play a much less prominent role in the intermediation of international capital flows than in the 1990s. International bond issues by corporations have grown much faster than cross-border bank lending directly or through local banks and a very large part of capital inflows now goes directly into the securities market.

US corporate acquisitions in China collapsed to their lowest level for 14 years in the first half of this year, as trade tensions between the two countries and uncertainty about Chinese government regulations took a toll on deal making.

The value of mergers and acquisitions involving American companies in China dropped 32 percent to just \$523 million in the six months to June 30 from \$771 million in the same period last year, and were down 87 percent from \$4 billion in the first six months of 2015, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Bankers and lawyers involved in deal making say that increasing signs of trade friction between Washington and Beijing are acting as a deterrent. The tensions were reflected at a meeting earlier this month when officials from the two countries failed to agree on major new steps to reduce the US trade deficit with China.

American companies do not want to make acquisitions in an environment where they could get caught in cross-fire between the two governments, these sources said. That could happen if, for example, US President Donald Trump's administration imposed punitive tariffs on Chinese steel and other products and Beijing retaliated with its own action against American goods or entities.

That in turn leads to the danger that American companies won't be able



## Value of US deals in China sinks

etimg.com

to take full advantage of China's still buoyant economic growth of just under seven percent a year, adding further to the stresses in the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.

"The new norm for China and the US is to be at odds on trade issues. As of now, they are having huge differences with regards to the steel industry, huge differences with regards to trade imbalance," said Roy Zou, a Beijing partner at

law firm Hogan Lovells.

"I don't see a big increase in US investments in China."

China's Ministry of Commerce did not respond to Reuters faxed request for comment on the drop in US acquisitions. The decline is happening at a time when Chinese deals in the US are still rising, though opposition in Washington to certain kinds of Chinese purchases on national security grounds is also increasing and could add to tensions.

European companies' deal making has also been declining but at a slower pace. Their acquisitions in China in the first half of this year were worth \$223 million, against \$268 million in the same period last year.

Foreign firms have complained for some time about not being offered a level playing field in China. Among their concerns are restrictions on foreign ownership in key sectors — including finance and technology — and various regulations that favor domestic firms over foreign rivals.

And all of this can make them twice about pulling the trigger on a major acquisition, trade experts said. "Foreign investors face explicit and implicit ownership restrictions in the most attractive sectors, and they are also not able to participate in the restructuring and consolidation of ailing industries," said Rhodium Group economist Thilo Hanemann, who analyses China's international investment position.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai said in its annual China Business Report published on July 12 that the Chinese government needed to halt policies and regulations that favor domestic firms over foreign businesses. The lobby group complained of long-established "systemic inequities," in the report, which was based on responses from 426 A-Cham member companies in China.

### Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2831	Chinese Yuan	0.1483
Euro	1.1703	UAE Dirham	0.2722
British Pound	1.3077	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3087
Australian Dollar	0.7966	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2666

### Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$48.98	Silver	\$16.56
Gold	\$1258.80	Platinum	\$928.70
Copper	\$2.865	Wheat	\$480.75

A new study found that Caribbean staghorn corals (*Acropora cervicornis*) are benefiting from 'coral gardening' — the process of restoring coral populations by planting laboratory-raised coral fragments on reefs.

## Kavir National Park

### Cultural Heritage Desk

Kavir National Park is a protected ecological zone in northern Iran. The park is located 120 kilometers from Tehran and 100 kilometers from Qom.



TASNIM

The park includes flat to undulating desert and steppe landscapes, reminiscent of those in parts of Africa or Australia.

Siahkoo, a large semi-circular rocky outcrop, is roughly at the center, and presents a sanctuary for wild ungulates and carnivores.

Kavir National Park, in Semnan Province, spreads over an area of 440,000 hectares.

Cultural and historical monuments such as Qasr-e Bahram Caravanserai, Nahr-e Sangi and Sangfarsh are also located there.

This park is among the

biosphere reserves of the world due to its unique features. Mainly, there is no human habitat in the park.

Kavir National Park is home to important wildlife species such as Persian onager, Asiatic cheetah, leopard,

striped hyena, caracal, beech marten, flamingo and even ruddy shelduck.

This protected ecological zone — also known as the Little Africa — has below the minimum rainfall in the country. Therefore, its rare vegetation is adapted to the drought.

Namak Lake (Salt Lake) sits outside the park's boundaries. This is actually a salt marsh and water flows into the lake from the north from Qom River, which also flows through the northern part of Kavir National Park. Qom River is one of the very few perennial rivers in the entire desert expanse in Iran.

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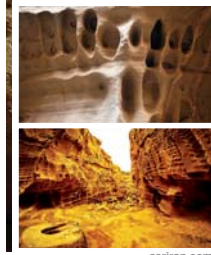
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## Chahkooch Valley, a gem on Qeshm Island's natural beauty



asriran.com

Chahkooch Valley is an excellent valley to visit, particularly for those interested in geotourism sites and pleasant landscapes.

Chahkooch Valley is located 15km from Tabl Village in southeast of the eastern Chahoo Village on Qeshm Island, Hormuzgan Province, south of Iran, Tasnim News Agency wrote.

There are two valleys plumed on each other vertically. Heavy rainstorms (that are also rare) quickly flush water through

geological structures.

Erosion has been a secondary factor in forming this beautiful valley. In fact, it has primarily been affected by the Salt Dome and an anticline.

An anticline is a ridge-shaped fold of stratified rock in which the strata slope downward from the crest. While under pressure, these arch-like structures may break in areas that are weaker, forming grooves on the walls.

Chahkooch was initially formed by these

geological phenomena. Vertical to the main valley axis, there is a second valley, which was also formed through tectonic pressures. In general, anticlines and areas around them could be counted as 'unstable'.

The presence of concave and round structures or linear and oval structures on the walls of the valley is the result of erosion by water. One of the main features of geological formation of this geosite is its impermeability to water, which keeps the water in holes and grooves — causing further erosion.

The locals have taken advantage of this structure by digging wells inside the main axis of the valley to act as water reservoirs.

Considering the low level of rainfall on the island and the scarcity of freshwater, this was a very innovative way to gather water from rainstorms and use it during dry seasons.

Chahkooch is aesthetically very attractive. It is very important to warn the visitors against writing any graffiti on Chahkooch walls.

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا  
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

مالکین محترم  
ساختمان دربیست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

Three cases of locally transmitted Zika virus infection have been confirmed in Singapore, the National Environment Agency (NEA) said.

# Study finds human heart has multiple battery back-ups

Researchers at Ohio State University in the US have discovered that the human heart's natural pacemaker has multiple battery back-up systems.

More than 200,000 people in the US have a pacemaker implanted each year, which translates to an average of an implant about every two and a half minutes, UPI wrote.

The study, published today in Science Translational Medicine, researchers at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center have found that the human heart actually has a fail-safe, backup 'battery' system that regulates heartbeats.

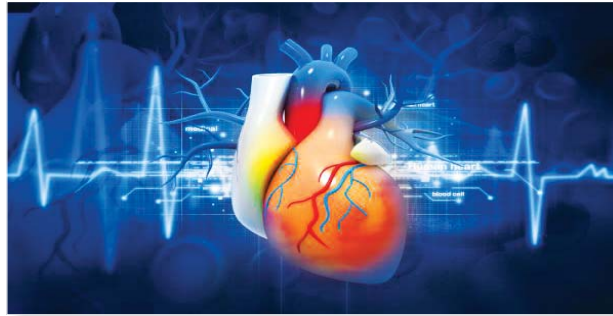
The heart's natural pacemaker, known as the sinoatrial node, or SAN, consists of a battery back-up system with three diverse regions of pacemakers acting as batteries and up to five conduction pathways that act as wires to connect the signal to the heart atria.

The findings could help significantly reduce the number of people who require mechanical pacemakers.

Vadim Fedorov, an associate professor in Ohio State's Department of Physiology and Cell Biology, said, "It's been challenging because our human SAN differs greatly from well-studied animal models, and clinical electrode recordings only capture what's on the surface."

Researchers applied optical mapping, 3D structural imaging and molecular mapping to 21 donated human hearts to define the internal function of the SAN.

They then placed the hearts in a glass chamber filled with an oxygenated solution at body temperature and supplied the coronary arteries with



UPI

warm, oxygenated solution that stimulates blood flow, resuscitating the hearts and allowing the SAN to beat again with the same rhythm it had prior.

Researchers surrounded the chamber with four highly-sensitive infrared cameras before a fluorescent dye was injected to visualize spontaneous electrical activity moving within the human SAN in 3D.

Fedorov said, "We observed that all three intranodal pacemakers are used, depending on the heart's needs at rest, or during normal or high exertion."

"The central pacemaker was most affected, as it is highly sensitive to adenosine. The head and tail pacemakers were able to maintain a slower rhythm and prevent complete cardiac arrest."

"We saw similar shifts in the preferred conduction pathways. Total cardiac arrest occurs only when all pacemakers or conduction pathways fail, whether due to disease or age."

If there is a problem with SAN pacing or conduction, doctors can implant an electronic pacemaker to prevent cardiac arrest.

Dr. John Hummel, a cardiologist and clinical researcher at Ohio State, added, "I think this work can fundamentally change the way we diagnose disease of the heart's natural pacemaker."

"In some patients, it can be incredibly challenging and these insights may allow us to diagnose those challenging patients more effectively."

## New genetic markers shortening lifespan discovered

Researchers at the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, or SIB, report in a new study that they have identified 16 new genetic markers that can negatively impact a person's lifespan.



npr.org

Changes in locations in the DNA sequence, like single-nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, may hold the key to the length of a person's lifespan, UPI reported.

The study, analyzed data from 116,279 individuals and 2.3 million human SNPs using a computational method.

Researchers found 16 SNPs associated with lifespan, 14 of which are new to science.

Previous studies had only identified two genetic markers related to lifespan.

According to Zoltan Kutalik, group leader at SIB and assistant professor at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, the discovery is the largest set of life-span-associated genetic markers ever found.

The study prioritized changes in DNA linked to age-related diseases to scan the genome more efficiently.

Researchers were able to determine how the DNA changes affected lifespan in a holistic way because most SNPs had an effect on lifespan by impacting more than a single disease or risk factor.

The study also found that the new SNPs, combined with gene expression data, show lower brain expression of three genes adjacent to the SNPs that were linked to increased lifespan. The three genes can act as biomarkers of longevity.

Prof. Marc Robinson-Rechavi, SIB group leader and professor at the University of Lausanne, said, "Interestingly, the gene expression impact of some of these SNPs in humans is analogous to the consequence of a low-calorie diet in mice, which is known to have positive effects on lifespan."

## Should you finish a course of antibiotics?

It is time to reconsider the widespread advice that people should always complete an entire course of antibiotics, experts in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) said.

They argue there is not enough evidence to back the idea that stopping pills early encourages antibiotic resistance, according to BBC.

Instead, they suggested, more studies need to be done to see if stopping once feeling better can help

### Short and tailored

The opinion piece, by a team of researchers from across England, argued that reducing the use of antibiotics is essential to help combat the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.

Prof. Martin Llewellyn, of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, together with colleagues, said that using antibiotics for longer than necessary

a few exceptions — for example, giving just one type of antibiotic for TB infections — which is known to lead to rapid resistance.

But the team said it is important to move away from blanket prescriptions and, with more research, give antibiotic prescriptions that are tailored to each infection and each person.

The study acknowledges that hospitals are increasingly reviewing the need

into account, she cannot advocate widespread behavior change on the results of just one study.

"Recommended courses of antibiotics are 'not random' but tailored to individual conditions and in many cases courses are quite short."

"We are concerned about the concept of patients stopping taking their medication mid-way through a course once they 'feel better', because improvement in symptoms does not necessarily mean the infection has been completely eradicated."

Meanwhile, Kieran Hand, spokesman for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, said, "This opinion article from respected the National Health Service (NHS) infection experts is a welcome opening of the debate in the UK on the relationship between the length of a course of antibiotics, efficacy and resistance."

"As researchers have pointed out, further research is needed before the 'Finish the course' mantra for antibiotics is changed for antibiotics in many and any alternative message, such as, 'Stop when you feel better', can be confidently advocated."

"The ideal future scenario would be that the right length of treatment for a specific infection for patients is identified from clinical trials and the exact quantity prescribed and dispensed."

Public Health England said patients should continue to follow their health professional's advice about using antibiotics.



BBC

cut antibiotic use.

But GPs urge people not to change their behavior in the face of one study.

Prof. Helen Stokes-Lampard, leader of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said, "An improvement in symptoms did not necessarily mean the infection had been completely eradicated."

"It's important that patients have clear messages, and the mantra to always take the full course of antibiotics is well known — changing this will simply confuse people."

can increase the risk of resistance.

He suggested traditional long prescriptions for antibiotics were based on the outdated idea that resistance to an antibiotic could develop when a drug was not taken for a lengthy time and an infection was under-treated.

Instead, he said, there is now growing evidence that short courses of antibiotics — lasting three to five days, for example — work just as well to treat many bugs.

He accepted there are

for antibiotics from day to day and that there is a growing trend towards shorter courses of drugs.

But it questions whether advice such as stopping once feeling better would be beneficial — particularly when patients do not get the opportunity to be reviewed in the hospital every day.

They accept this idea would need more research.

Prof. Helen Stokes-Lampard, leader of the Royal College of General Practitioners, said that while it is important to take new

## Four foods giving you tummy discomfort

Stomach bloating is a common digestive problem and can be triggered by health conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or even ovarian cancer. Most commonly, however, it's down to diet.

Bloating is abnormal swelling and a feeling of tightness around the abdominal area, express.co.uk reported.

It's caused when the gastrointestinal tract is filled with gas or air. Often it's accompanied by excess wind and indigestion.

It usually goes down after a short period of time. If it doesn't it could be a sign of something more serious.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), one of the symptoms of ovarian cancer is being bloated for the majority of the time over the last three weeks — you should see your GP if this is the case.

For temporary bloating,

while it's difficult to know the exact cause eating certain foods could be to blame.

### Bread

Along with pasta, biscuits and other wheat products, most bread contains gluten.

It's a protein that people

cause bloating, along with diarrhea and headaches.

### Milk

Around 33 percent of people are diagnosed as lactose intolerant — meaning you can't digest a sugar, lactase, in dairy products — but up to 75 percent of



rd.com

with coeliac disease cannot tolerate, however research has found many people have some degree of sensitivity to gluten.

Known as non-coeliac gluten sensitivity, it can

people are thought to have decreased lactase activity.

This means that when many people consume milk, cheese, yoghurt and butter they suffer bloating, gas, cramping and diarrhea.

### Apples

They contain fructose, which is a type of FODMAP — short-chain carbohydrates that escape digestion and are then fermented by gut bacteria in the colon — which should be easily digested by healthy people.

However, if you suffer from IBS, eating FODMAP foods can cause bloating, flatulence, cramping and diarrhea.

Other FODMAP foods include lentils and broccoli.

Apples also contain a lot of fiber, which is also known to cause gas and bloating in some people.

### Onions

They contain fructans — soluble fibers that can cause bloating.

It's also found in wheat, and together they contribute 95 percent of fructans.

## How brain's 'helper cells' could contribute to schizophrenia

Problems with the brain's helper cells may contribute to schizophrenia, a new study in mice suggested.

The study focused on glial cells, which provide support for the neurons that do the 'signaling' within the brain, foxnews.com wrote.

For instance, glial cells help organize the connections among neurons and produce myelin, which acts as insulation around the brain's nerve fibers.

To see if glial cells contribute to schizophrenia, the researchers first took samples of skin cells from people who developed schizophrenia in childhood, before the age of 13.

Then, the scientists used a technique to reprogram these skin cells to make them into cells called induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which have the potential to become any cell type in the body.

iPSCs so they turned into glial progenitor cells, or the cells in the body that give rise to glial cells.

The researchers transplanted the glial progenitor cells into the brains of young mice.

This resulted in 'chimeric' mice, meaning they had regular mouse neurons but human glial progenitor cells.

The study showed that the glial cells from the people with schizophrenia were highly dysfunctional; for example, the cells did not give rise to enough myelin-producing cells, so transmission between neurons was impaired.

In addition, a type of glial cells called astrocytes did not mature properly and weren't able to fully support the neurons.

The mice with these faulty cells also exhibited anti-social and anxious behaviors, similar to the behaviors seen in people with schizophrenia.

Dr. Steve Goldman, co-director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience at the University of Rochester Medical Center and lead author of the study, said, "The findings of this study argue that glial cell dysfunction may be the basis of childhood-onset schizophrenia."

However, because the study was conducted in mice, more research is needed to determine if the same effects are also seen in humans.

But the authors said the chimeric mice that were developed in this study could be used in the future to test new treatments for schizophrenia and thus speed up the process of finding new therapies for the disease.

In addition, the study identified chemical imbalances that disrupt communication among brain cells and these imbalances could be a target for new therapies, the authors said.

## Researchers crack the smile, describing three types by muscle movement



hislife.style

The smile may be the most common and flexible expression, used to reveal some emotions, cover others and manage social interactions that have kept communities secure and organized for millennia.

But how do we tell one kind of smile from another? Quoting to Paula Niedenthal, a psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, medicalxpress.com wrote, "When distinguishing among smiles, both scientists and laypeople have tended to focus on true and false smiles."

"The belief is that if you smile when you're not happy, the smile is false."

"But people smile in many different circumstances and during many emotional states."

"So asserting that only smiles that result from states of happiness are 'true' smiles limits our understanding of this important facial expression."

Niedenthal and colleagues from Cardiff University and the University of Glasgow published a set of experiments that seek to expand our understanding of the human smile in the journal *Psychological Science*, showing three distinct, reliably recognized expressions — smiles of reward, affiliation and dominance — and describing the facial muscle combinations that make them.

Each smile hinges on an anatomical feature known as the zygomaticus major, straps of facial muscle below the cheekbones that pull up the corners of the mouth. But it's not the only muscle at work.

Participants in the study looked at thousands of computer-generated expressions with random combinations of facial muscles activated — with one exception.

Magdalena Rychlowska, a postdoctoral researcher at Cardiff, said, "We varied everything that could be varied in an expression, but our stimuli included some action from the smile muscle, the zygomaticus."

"We asked participants to tell us when they see a reward or affiliative or a dominance smile and when the expression is not a smile."

The researchers turned their participant-sorted smiles back on two more sets of observers, checking recognition and social messages until they had recipes for each smile.

Niedenthal said, "For example, a reward smile — probably the most intuitive. The kind of smile you would use with a baby, so he will smile back or do things you like — is a symmetrical hoist of zygomaticus muscles plus a dash of eyebrow lift and some sharp lip pulling."

Affiliative smiles — used to communicate tolerance,

acknowledgment, or a bond and show that you're not a threat — come with a similar symmetrical upturn to the mouth, but spread wider and thinner with pressed lips and no exposed teeth.

Dominance smiles are used to signify status and manage social hierarchies.

They dispense with the symmetry, pairing a bit of lopsided sneer with the raised brows and lifted cheeks typically associated with expressing enjoyment.

Niedenthal said, "This facial expression has evolved to solve basic tasks of human living in social groups: Thanks, I like this. Don't worry, I'm not going to hurt you. Hey, I'm in charge here."

"There are so many words people use to describe different smiles, but we see them as describing subtypes of a reward situation or an affiliative situation or a situation of negotiating hierarchy and having disdain for someone else."

With precise physical descriptions of smile types, researchers can better classify subtypes and study the use and effects of smiles in pivotal human interactions.

Rychlowska said, "We now know which movements we should look for when we describe smiles from real life."

"We can treat smiles as a set of mathematical parameters, create models of people using different types of

smiles, and use them in new studies."

Rychlowska and collaborators are already digging into the way affiliative and dominance smiles can shift the outcome of games and negotiations.

Niedenthal is working with surgeons who repair and reconstruct facial bones and muscles.

Niedenthal said, "They may have to make choices that will affect a patient's expression for the rest of their life."

"It's useful for them to know how different kinds of smiles are used in the world, and which muscles are involved in making them."

Better definitions of smile types should also help people navigate intercultural communication.

Previous research has shown Niedenthal that while the types of smiles used vary from country to country, there is plenty of variation in how often they are used.

She said, "Americans smile so much that people from other countries are taught to smile more when they interact with us."

"The problem is, they're almost always taught one kind of smile, and that can cause confusion."

"Simply teaching people about the existence of different types of 'true' smiles can help people pay more attention and avoid some of those misunderstandings."

## Scientists working on centralized control over autonomous cars, drones

A team of scientists at Stanford University are developing the infrastructure to centrally manage autonomous cars and drones.

Believing that autonomous cars and drones will be managed centrally, using applications running in large datacenters, members of the team have formed a new laboratory, called the Platform Lab, to work on infrastructure for new 'Big Control' applications, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

John Ousterhout, faculty director of the lab, said, "We think all these self-driving cars and drones will be controlled not individually, but centrally, in a coordinated fashion."

"This has the potential to change how society functions on a daily basis."

Most current research into autonomous vehicles assumes a distributed model, namely relatively autonomous devices, controlled in a peer-to-peer fashion with each machine doing its own calculations.

The concentrated model under study in Stanford is expected to work much the way the cloud centralized big data.

In the centralized model, the vehicle is merely a tool, or a relatively dumb device fitted with equipment by which to see the road and the skies ahead, to detect obstacles and other vehicles in the way, to provide geolocation

distributed model is difficult, since each device has limited information about the state of the world.

With the centralized approach, data from all the devices is collected in one place, providing a big-picture view of the



of powerful machine learning algorithms, which allow the control system to learn and improve its behavior.

However, not all functions are suited to the centralized model. The Platform Lab foresees that devices will retain local control for things like device stability and near-term collision avoidance.

Such control needs microsecond or sub-millisecond response time and must happen on the device.

About possible applications, the team believes that a flock of autonomous drones could be dispatched to assess the situation in a community devastated by earthquake, fire or flood, allowing emergency management to triage from afar; and that in a massive warehouse, 10,000 or more drones could operate indoors, all watched over by cameras and sensors, to monitor, organize and move millions of packages each day.

Ousterhout said, "From a technology standpoint, it is attractive and easiest to centralize control — to amass data, plan and then disseminate a singular view to all devices."

Shannon Rupert, principal investigator of the mission and

director of the Mars Desert Research Station, said, "The advantage of our simulations is they're done in real Mars analogs where you can do real field science that you can't do in a building."

"What's unique about this mission is it's comparing one analog to another analog. A twin study like this has never been done where the same people do the same investigations in two separate Mars analogs."

The Arctic also offers unusual landscapes similar to ones seen

## Portals to new worlds: Martian exploration near the North Pole

Perched on the edge of a 39-million-year-old crater is a white circular hut. It sticks out on the rocky, lichen-dotted landscape of Devon Island in Nunavut, Canada.

Known as 'the Hab', this 26-foot diameter structure is home to six scientists and researchers who just moved in for a 12-week mission to simulate life on Mars, UPI wrote.

The Arctic has long been a frontier for exploration, and now it's being used to open horizons on other planets.

Last week, the Mars 160 mission launched phase two of its program, sending an international team to the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station.

Initially, the mission was set for three months of immersive study, but poor weather conditions may cause the mission to be cut to half its original length.

While at the station, the team will test equipment and undertake a suite of geological, microbiological and paleontological experiments to prepare future astronauts for exploration on the red planet.

The mission is run by the Mars Society — a space advocacy organization preparing for human exploration and settlement on the red planet.

The first phase of the mission was conducted from a research base in the desert of southern Utah in the fall of 2016.

The conditions of the barren, Mars-like landscape of the Arctic North will serve to test the conclusions of the desert-based research and see if the more costly Arctic simulations can provide equally valuable payoffs.

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The Arctic also offers unusual landscapes similar to ones seen



UPI  
Members of the Mars 160 expedition stand in front of the Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station on Devon Island in Nunavut, Canada.

On Mars, one team member, Paul Knightly, is studying Arctic polygons — honeycombed soil structures formed by the freeze and thaw of the permafrost.

Rupert said, "We know Mars has Arctic-like polygons in permafrost."

"So we know there's a process in the Arctic that we're seeing on Mars, and we can conduct tests about it from our station."

The inhospitable conditions of the Arctic have long held interest to scientists studying life on other

planets and indeed the Hab isn't the first outpost on Devon Island — the Houghton Mars Project run by the Mars Institute has been conducting studies from the crater annually for two decades.

Other teams of astrobiologists have also tested experiments in Arctic lakes that could some day be used for looking for cellular life on water worlds like Europa and geologists have scoured northern ice fields in search of meteorites that hold clues to how our solar system formed.

The six crew members come from four continents and their expertise spans a range of disciplines from geology to biology to engineering.

The diversity is intentional, as part of the mission goal is to better understand team dynamics in isolated environments.

Rupert said, "Not only do they come from different backgrounds and speak different languages, their perceptions of things based on their experiences are very different."

"Whenever we do go to Mars, we're going to have to look at how you take the best people from diverse backgrounds and throw them into a mission and make them successful at that mission."

"This team has really proven that, regardless of where you're from and what your background is, it's possible to come together and pull as a team."

Though the team keeps busy with lab work and writing, in their spare time they relax like any Earth-bound human — reading books, baking, exercising on a stationary bike and watching movies (the team is currently working of the television show 'The Expanse' — a sci-fi show depicting future colonization of Mars).

Power is supplied to the Hab by generators, and all food supplies were brought in on arrival.

For the duration of the mission, the team works in isolation, connected to the rest of the planet only through emails sent over a satellite phone.



## Women, men report similar levels of work-family conflicts

Contrary to public perception and many media accounts, women and men report similar levels of work-family conflicts, both in the form of work interfering with family and family interfering with work, according to research published by the American Psychological Association.

Researchers spent several years examining the findings from more than 350 studies conducted over three decades that included more than 250,000 participants from across the world. The results were surprising, said lead researcher Kristen Shockley, PhD, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Georgia. The research was published online in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, sciencedaily.com wrote.

"We essentially found very little evidence of differences between women and men as far as the level of work-family conflict they report," she said.

"This is quite contrary to the common public perception. The way this issue is presented in the media frames the way we think about it, and it creates a perpetual cycle. Women hear that other women are struggling with this issue, so they expect they will experience greater work-family conflict. There also is some socialization for it being OK for women to talk more about it than men."

Some previous research has found that men often do not feel comfortable discussing work-family concerns because of fears of being stigmatized, threats to their masculinity or negative career repercussions. But men may feel more open discussing those conflicts in anonymous, confidential surveys, such as those included in the studies that this research was based on, Shockley said.

"I do think it's harming men, who are silently struggling and are experiencing the same amount of work-family conflict, but no one is acknowledging it," she said.

In recent years, men also have increasingly become primary caregivers for young children, and fathers on average are spending more time caring for their children and completing household chores, although women still spend more time on both tasks.

A study by the Pew Research Center found that fathers



iresearchnet.com

were just as likely as mothers to say that parenting is extremely important to their identity. Women also may face career penalties because of stereotypes that they are more family-oriented and less committed to their careers.

Approximately half of the studies included in the meta-analysis were conducted in the United States, while the remainder were spread mostly across countries in Europe and Asia. The researchers also examined ratings of gender equality for the countries where the studies were conducted, and they were surprised to find that men and women reported similar levels of work-family

conflict regardless of the level of gender equality in their country. However, few studies on work-family conflicts have been conducted in the Middle East, where vast gender inequality is common, which could produce different findings there, Shockley said.

Some minor differences were detected between men and women about work-family conflict when the data were divided into different subgroups, but none of them were large in magnitude, Shockley said.

Mothers reported slightly greater family interference with work than fathers, as did women in dual-earner couples.



dreamstime.com

## Poverty 'driving people to choose between eating or keeping clean'

Growing numbers of people in the UK are facing hygiene poverty, where they are unable to afford essential products such as shampoo and deodorant, and are having to choose between eating and keeping clean, a charity has found.

A report from In Kind Direct said thousands of people are seeking help and describes the issue as a 'hidden crisis'. Last year the charity distributed a record £20.2 million of hygiene products, a rise of 67 percent on £12.1 million the year before, theguardian.com wrote.

Robin Boles, chief executive of In Kind Direct, said: "This is hitting families hard. The fact that last year was our busiest year ever, distributing products to charities and the people they help, highlights the stark choices people are facing."

The study has prompted campaigners

to call for the government to do more to alleviate poverty. They said cuts to working benefits coupled with rising inflation have left families struggling.

Samantha Stapley, operations manager for England at the Trussell Trust food bank network, described the report as 'very concerning'.

She added: "When people are referred to food banks with no money for food, they're often struggling to afford other basic essentials too."

The report showed 82 percent of 948

charities have seen an increase in demand over the past year from people who cannot afford essential items.

A further poll of 1,000 people, conducted by In Kind Direct, found that 37 percent of those surveyed, and 56 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds, have had to go without hygiene or grooming products, or cut down on them, owing to low

finances.

Stapley said Trussell Trust research with the University of Oxford had found that more than half of the households visiting the network's food banks were struggling to afford toiletries.

She added that voluntary organizations alone could not resolve the problem and the underlying causes of poverty needed to be addressed.

"Making work more secure, tackling the high cost of living and working to reduce the issues people experience with benefit payments would all make a difference," she said.

Her words were echoed by Alison Garnham, chief executive of the Child Poverty Action Group, who said: "To tackle it we first need to ensure that benefits once again reflect families' needs and so rise with inflation. No one should have to suffer the indignity of living

without basic sanitary products."

Andrew Barr, manager of the Trussell Trust food bank in Oldham, said: "People are not able to afford the things that they need, not want, and that is a worry."

Barr noted a rise in people coming to the service. "There is certainly an increase in demand for them [hygiene products] and it's something we try and get people to donate to us," he said.

The In Kind Direct report cites the case of Rucksana Begum, 32, who gets products from her local charity in Tyneside, Crest, the UK.

She said: "I'm a new mum, not working, so I struggle to pay household bills. Not having to worry about buying sanitary towels, shaving gel and products, which I wouldn't be able to afford, is a big help. I feel better about myself and it helps my mental wellbeing."

## Education inequality in US starts early

Upper-middle-class American professionals spend a lot on their children's education and development. That fact — hardly news to anyone who has spent time with such parents — has gotten a lot of media attention lately, thanks to a new book by Brookings scholar Richard Reeves and a David Brooks column.

Reeves' contention — that affluent professionals' investments in their kids serve to entrench a system of education-based privilege that makes it very hard for children from less advantaged backgrounds to advance up the socioeconomic ladder — has spurred heated debates on mainstream and social media, usnews.com wrote.

These debates, however, often overlook just how early disparities in learning begin. Abundant research also showed that children's earliest learning experiences and outcomes also vary considerably based on their parents' incomes and education. The famous Hart and Risley study showed that children of professional parents are exposed to 30 million more words before age three than children from families in poverty, with significant consequences for language and cognitive development. Middle-class children are also more likely to be read to or exposed to educational and cultural opportunities, such as museums, zoos and libraries, than children in poverty.

As a result, by the time they enter kindergarten, children from the lowest socioeconomic backgrounds are already far behind their peers in the highest quartile of socioeconomic status on measures of early reading and math skills.

Early social-emotional skills, not academics, may be more essential to long-term success.



wikimedia.org

High-quality early childhood education programs can prevent or mitigate these disparities, but current early care and education arrangements in the US often exacerbate them instead. With 65 percent of mothers of young children working, most families need some type of child care for their children while mom is at work, but families' ability to access quality care varies based on income.

Paying for care is a big challenge for low-income families: Census data indicates that poor families who pay for childcare spend 30 percent of their incomes on care, compared to 8 percent for families not in poverty. This means that lower-income families are less likely to send their children to formal child care at all, instead relying on a patchwork of informal arrangements. But such unstable arrangements don't support children's development or their parents' ability to maintain stable employment.

For low-income families who do use formal child care, the high percentage of income going to care means less money for other investments in children's learning and development, such as books, museum trips or college savings.

## Kids need structure more than warmth from their parents

Children need both affection and structure in order to develop into secure, happy adults.

But if parents can only provide one, it should be structure, said Lisa Damour, a psychologist who specializes in adolescent girls, and the author of 'Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions Into Adulthood,' gz.com wrote.

"They can get warmth from their teachers, from their friends' parents, but they can only get structure from parents," Damour said in a conversation with Kevin Delaney, Quartz's editor-in-chief, at Quartz's New York office on July 26.

That contradicts many of the messages parents are sent through popular culture and parenting guides. But Damour, who also writes for the New York Times, said studies prove it out. Children who are raised in a stem, business-like way may be less happy as adults, but they'll have the tools they need to function. Children raised without discipline or rules can be stunted and ill-equipped for adulthood.

The worst outcomes come when children are raised without either, and they run the risk of delinquency, she said. It's far better to make sure children have both.

"They need to feel loved, and they need to know the rules," she said. "That's your job" as parents, she added.

Adolescents actually want structure from their parents, despite their protestations to the contrary. Permissiveness and inconsistency from parents can be unsettling and provoke anxiety, she said.

"Being a teenager feels like you're out of control and you're surrounded by people who are out of control," she said. "You don't want parents to be out of control."

Damour — the mother of her own teenage daughter — said she gives parents few hard-and-fast rules in her practice. But she does offer some advice on how to raise teens:

- Frame rules around safety. Kids are more apt to follow guidelines if they understand the rules' purpose is to keep them safe. Insisting they obey for reasons of morality or hierarchy (eg 'because I'm your father!') is more likely to backfire.

- Don't underestimate the power of apologizing. It tells teenagers they're respected, and it helps build trust.
- Stress is normal part of growing up, and it helps teens grow and become resilient. It becomes a problem when they have no downtime, or opportunities to relax.

- Technology should be introduced to kids as late as possible, and be kept out of their bedrooms. Videogames, social media and the Internet demand their attention — which makes technology the enemy of the sleep which is critical for teens' health, Damour said.

## Child abuse and neglect linked to gender inequality

Children growing up in societies that experience high levels of gender inequality — irrespective of whether they are developed or developing countries — are more likely to be maltreated.

This is according to a cross-national analysis of data from 57 countries worldwide, conducted by Joanne Klevens and Katie Ports of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US. The results are published in *Springer's Journal of Family Violence*, phy.org wrote.

Klevens and Ports analyzed data about severe physical discipline of children, such as being hit, slapped or repeatedly beaten, or child neglect (being left without the supervision of an adult). The source of the data was surveys conducted by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Demographic and Health Surveys conducted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from 2011 to 2015. Face-to-face questionnaires were

completed by adult caregivers; they were asked about an index child in the household aged between 1 and 14, and about the levels of discipline this child was subjected to.

The researchers considered three country-based indices of gender inequality to investigate gender-based gaps. These were the Social and Institutional Gender Index or SIGI (which measures discrimination against women), the Gender Inequality Index or GII (which measures health economic and power inequities), and the Gender Gap Index or GGI (a measure of economic, education, health and political power).

Forty-four percent of the countries included in the analysis are considered to have a high or very high level of human development, while a third is seen as having low human development. The sample did not include countries in the European Union or highly populated countries such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia or the USA.

Klevens and Ports' analysis showed that the rate of physical abuse of children varied between 1 and 43 percent, while child neglect rates stood between 0.8 and 49 percent. Rates of discrimination against women substantially influence the levels of child physical abuse and child neglect.

The researchers found all three gender inequality indices to be significantly associated with physical abuse and two of the three to be significantly associated with neglect, after controlling for country-level development.

Specifically, higher scores indicating greater levels of discrimination against women on the SIGI, greater gender inequality on the GII, and lower scores on the GGI indicating greater gender gaps are associated with higher rates of child physical abuse and child neglect.

The authors conclude that based on these findings, efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect might benefit from reducing gender inequality.

## First evers in photography



GRANGER/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

### When was the first photo taken? And what was it of?

This is the oldest existing photograph in the world. Amazing, right?  
The creation of camera phones means we take photos every day, which makes it hard to realize just how rare photographs were until fairly recently, according to metro.co.uk.  
So, what is the oldest existing photograph of?  
You'll have to forgive the grainy resolution — it is 190 years old.  
The photo, taken by French inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827, captures the view outside his window in Burgundy.  
He snapped the shot with a camera obscura by focusing it onto a pewter plate, with the whole process taking him about eight hours.  
What are some of the other firsts in photography?



EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP  
Yep, that's the most expensive photo ever sold.

### The most expensive photograph ever sold

The man in the above image is enjoying the most expensive photo ever sold.  
Want to take a guess as to how much it went for?  
Well, Rhein II by German visual artist Andreas Gursky was sold at auction in 2011 for \$4.3 million.  
That's £2.7 million. For a photo. A photo of a landscape. £2.7 million.

### The first ever selfie

American photographer Robert Cornelius took the first ever portrait photograph of a person in 1839.  
He removed the lens cap, ran into the frame and stood still for ten minutes, before returning the cap to its position.  
While he simply wanted to capture the image of a human, Cornelius couldn't have been aware that he was pioneering a technique that would be perfected by millennials 170 years later — the selfie.



The first photograph to feature a person

### The first photo, but what is it?

Each day 60 million pictures are uploaded to Instagram.



Granger/REX/Shutterstock  
Shoe shining their way into history.

But this is nothing compared to the 350 million that get put on Facebook every day!  
This image, taken by Louis Daguerre in 1838, features the first human beings ever captured on camera.  
Due to the 10-minute exposure time nobody walking along the Boulevard du Temple in Paris could be captured, apart from two men in the bottom left corner.  
It is believed one is shining the shoes of the other — with both of them seemingly unaware they were becoming part of history.



BYRON COMPANY/MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK/GETTY IMAGES

'OK guys, now let's do a silly one'. A 'making of' image of the men during the photography session.

### The first group selfie

What Robert Cornelius started, this group took to the next level.  
By the time this photo was taken in 1920, cameras had almost become hand-held devices, allowing this crew to take the earliest known group selfie in the classic 'arms outstretched, everyone look happy' style.  
The men featured in the image are (from left to right) Joseph Byron, Pirie MacDonald, Colonel Marceau, Pop Core and Ben Falk.  
Presumably they didn't shout 'OMG, get that up on Insta now!' after they finished.



CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

## Panda keepers probably have the best job

Tired of working nine to five and looking for something a little more inspiring to get you out of bed on Monday morning?

Well, these zookeepers also known as professional panda coddlers — might be all the motivation you need, metro.co.uk wrote.  
The job essentially involves dressing as a panda and then playing with the cubs to help prepare them for a life in the wild.  
The pandas at Wolong National Nature

Reserve in southwest China are set to be released but must learn not to rely on humans first.  
With this in mind, zookeepers pretend to be pandas when they interact with the young cubs knowing that human attachment might hinder their chances of survival.  
It also helps to protect the panda cubs from getting stressed while they are away from their mothers. There, of course, is a downside to everything and, in this instance, it could be having to smear panda urine and faces on the costume to mask your human smell.  
However, as this video proves, if you can put up with that your days will be spent cuddling and playing with pandas.

## The fisherman and his nets

A fisherman, engaged in his calling, made a very successful cast and captured a great haul of fish.  
He managed by a skillful handling of his net to retain all the large fish and draw them to the shore; but he could not prevent the smaller fish from falling back through the meshes of the net



into the sea.  
*Insignificance can sometimes contribute towards safety.*

### Themed Crossword

1				2			3			4				5
6							7							
8		9								10			11	
12										13		14		
16							17			18				19
20														
22										23				

### DOWN

- Capital of Ghana (5)
- Capital of Kenya (7)
- Biblical Mount (6)
- San Antonio mission (5)
- Falls (7)
- Asian country (5)
- Australian town, \_\_\_ Springs (5)
- French wind (7)
- State capital of Maine (7)
- Topeka is the state capital (6)
- Currency of Nigeria (5)
- French river (5)

### ACROSS

- State capital of Georgia (7)
- Egyptian dam (5)
- Italian isle (5)
- Montgomery is the state capital (7)
- Grand Canyon State (7)
- Japanese city (5)
- Capital of 16 across (6)
- Capital of the Philippines (6)
- European country (5)
- Capital of Algeria (7)
- North American mountain range (7)
- Egyptian desert (5)
- Tripoli is the capital (5)
- Washington city (7)

### Thursday's solution

M	O	N	K	E	Y	S	C	R	A	B	T
U	S	T	O	R	K	H	A	M	S	T	E
S	S	A	A	T							
E	T	A	P	I	R	C	A	M	E	L	
L	R	K	A	A	E						
T	I	G	E	R	S	W	I	N	E		
S	C	I	M	A	I						
A	P	H	I	D	O	W	L	E	T	M	
L	E	T	E	P							
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	H	Y	E	N	A
O	A	S	O	L							
N	G	U	L	L	I	G	U	A	N	A	

## 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.

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

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

# Iranians clinch five karate medals at World Games

## Sports Desk

Iranians claimed five medals at the karate competitions of the 2017 World Games in Poland including one gold.

On Wednesday, Zabihollah Pourshib outpointed his Japanese opponent Ryutarō Araga 2-1 in the final to seal the gold medal in men's 84kg kumite contests. This was the eighth meeting between the two Asians with the Japanese having emerged victorious on all previous seven occasions.

Pourshib had outmuscled opponents from Georgia, Turkey, and New Zealand en route to the final bout.

In the women's contests, Hamideh Abbas-Ali overcame contestants from Slovakia, Brazil and France to reach the final showdown of the +68kg kumite competitions only to suffer a defeat against her Japanese counterpart and settled for silver.

Ali-Asghar Asiabari (75kg) and



Zabihollah Pourshib beat Japan's Ryutarō Araga in the final to win the gold medal in men's 84kg kumite contests of the 2017 World Games.

Sajjad Ganjzadeh (+84kg) also claimed two silver medals after they were beaten by athletes from Ukraine and Japan, respectively, in the men's kumite final bouts.

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran's Amir Mahdizadeh had finished second in men's -60kg kumite competitions after he failed to beat his European-champion rival from Azerbaijan in the final.

This was yet Iran's best ever result in the karate contests of the World Games as a total of one gold and four silvers put Iran in the third place in the competitions.

Japan won four golds, two silvers and one bronze to finish first followed by France which grabbed two golds and two bronzes.

The 2017 World Games is a major international multi-sport event, meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport that are not contested in the Olympic Games, held in Wrocław, Poland, on July 20-30.

## Giti Pasand books Asian futsal club final spot

### Sports Desk

Iran's Sanaye' Giti Pasand booked its place in the 2017 AFC Futsal Club Championship final as the Iranians overcame Qatar's Al Rayyan 4-2 in the semifinal.

Two first-half goals by Ahmad Esmailpour and Abloqasem Orojput put the Iran's champion in the driving seat through to the final, however the Qatari side bounced back as the Brazilian Flavio scored a brace to take it level on the back terms.

Esmailpour scored his second of the game to give Giti Pasand a last-gasp 3-2 lead before the interval.

Giti Pasand's Vitor Hugo was shown a red card before the two teams headed into the locker room.

The Iranian side managed to hold to its lead in the second half and a last minute penalty from the second spot by Ali-Asghar Hasanazadeh put the icing on the cake as the Iranians set foot in the final showpiece.

Giti Pasand will play Thailand's Bluewave Chonburi in Sunday's final.

The Thai side outperformed the host's Thai Son Nam 6-0 in the other semifinal to book its final berth.



sgcco-club.com

## Bale's agent: Real exit talk ridiculous

Speculation linking Gareth Bale with a move away from Real Madrid is "ridiculous" and "stupid", according to the Wales forward's agent.

Real manager Zinedine Zidane has said he cannot guarantee Bale, Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema will stay at the Bernabeu this summer.

That has prompted reports Manchester United could rekindle their long-standing interest in the 28-year-old.

but anything can happen right up until 31 August.

### Prolonged interest from Old Trafford

United first tried to sign Bale before he joined Tottenham from Southampton in 2007 and reignited their interest before his move to Spain four years ago.

Instead, though, the Welshman joined Real from Tottenham for a then world record fee of

## China stuns Iran in Asian tourney

### Sports Desk

Iran's U-23 team conceded its first defeat at the 2017 Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship against China.

Having won the Pool B of the competition with three straight-set victories against Iraq, Pakistan and Chinese Taipei, Iran's U-23 side started its second round campaign against one of the tournament favorites, China and it was the Far East Asian side which emerged victorious 3-0 (27-25, 25-19, 25-20) in the Pool F of the competition.

Salim Chaparali was the best performer in the Iranian outfit 12 points followed by Amin Esmacelnejad who chipped in 10 points. Iran's coach Juan Manuel Cichello cited his team's inexperience as the key factor behind the loss, saying, "We lost today because China was the better team and we made too many mistakes. We lost due to our lack of experience. We had the chance to win the first set but a series of mistakes made it difficult for us and we eventually lost it."

Next for Iran is an encounter against Australia later today.

The 19th edition of the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship started in Surabaya, Indonesia on July 24 and continue until August 1.



PARISA POURTAHERIAN/volleyball.ir  
Salim Cheperli (L) chipped in 12 points as Iran suffered a 3-0 defeat against China in the 2017 Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Surabaya, Indonesia, on July 27, 2017.

## Pep may extend Man City stay

Pep Guardiola hinted he may be prepared to extend his stay at Manchester City beyond his existing contract after seeing his side thrash Real Madrid 4-1 in the club's latest preseason friendly in front of a record crowd at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Kevin De Bruyne was outstanding for City, providing three assists and also hitting the woodwork with a free-kick, the Guardian reported.

"It is difficult to find a player with his quality, this is a guy who fights, passes, does many things," Guardiola said. "The result is not so important but the way we fought for each other is, I'm proud of the way my team fought together."

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach signed a three-year contract last summer after arriving at the Etihad Stadium following a three-year stay in Bavaria. He has already spent more than £200 million on recruits since the end of last season but admitted his future will "depend on results".

"I will try to remain as long as possible to help, to help City keep moving forward and stay high," Guardiola said.

"I think the club has to work and listen to the manager in the right moment, but also take their own decisions in the future. Nobody knows what will happen. For all the managers in the world

it depends on the results."

Daniilo made his first appearance since completing his move from Real Madrid last week, with the Brazilian joining goalkeeper Ederson, Bernardo Silva, Kyle

he added. "Good enough that it doesn't matter who the manager will be for Manchester City that is the most important thing."

"The new players have come in and we know the kind of energy

are so, so young, so for the next five, six or seven years they will be here. And as soon as possible we want to be involved in the title."

However, he denied that the failure to win a trophy in the Catalan's first season in English football had added to the pressure. "The pressure is completely



Pep Guardiola praised Kevin de Bruyne after the 4-1 friendly win over Real Madrid in Los Angeles.

MATTHEW ASHTON/GETTY IMAGES

they have to give us a really good chance to fight for the titles. We were not good enough and we haven't changed for the short period.

"Bernardo Silva is 23-24 years old. Ederson is 23-24 years old.

"All the players' averages

the same as my first year in Barcelona B, Barcelona and Bayern Munich and now," Guardiola said.

"So no change at all. The guys are going to help us to be strong. The ambition is the same as last season."



Gareth Bale extended his contract in October 2016, committing him to Real Madrid until 2022.

REUTERS

"It's a ridiculous, stupid story," agent Jonathan Barnett told BBC Sport.

Bale was hampered by injury last season and lost his place to Isco, but previously flourished under Zidane and was rewarded with a place on the 30-man shortlist for the 2016 Ballon d'Or.

However, with Real linked with a 180m euros (£160m) move for 18-year-old Monaco forward Kylian Mbappe, there have been reports that they will look to move on one of Bale, Ronaldo or Benzema.

Asked about the trio on Thursday, Zidane said: "I want everyone who is here now to stay

£85m.

He extended his contract in October 2016, committing him to the Bernabeu club until 2022 and on improved terms reportedly worth £600,000 per week, £350,000 after tax.

Despite helping Real win three Champions League titles in four years - scoring in the 2014 final win over rivals Atletico Madrid - Bale's time in Spain has been mixed.

During his second season, he struggled with calf injuries, was jeered by some Real supporters and faced criticism from sections of the Spanish media as Carlo Ancelotti's side failed to win a trophy.

Art & Culture

Sklar, pioneering Disney Imagineer, architect of Disneyland, dies at 83

Marty Sklar, the pioneering Disney Imagineer who worked closely with Walt Disney to bring his bold vision of the original Disneyland theme park to life, died at his Hollywood Hills home. He was 83.

Sklar spent more than a half-century working for Walt Disney Co. He was one of a few people in the world to have attended the opening of every Disney theme park, from Disneyland in 1955 through last year's debut of Shanghai Disney Resort. Sklar was named a Disney Legend in 2001. He received the ultimate Disney tribute upon his retirement from the company in 2009, when his name was added to a window on Disneyland's City Hall, Variety reported.



"Everything about Marty was legendary — his achievements, his spirit, his career," said Disney chairman-CEO Bob Iger. "He embodied the very best of Disney, from his bold originality to his joyful optimism and relentless drive for excellence. He was also a powerful connection to Walt himself. No one was more passionate about Disney than Marty and we'll miss his enthusiasm, his grace, and his indomitable spirit." Even after his retirement, Sklar remained active as a booster of all things Disney. He was one of the last links to the generation of Disney employees who worked directly with the company's legendary founder. Sklar was on hand just two weeks ago at Disneyland, greeting fans at the company's biennial D23 Expo in Anaheim, Calif. He was well-known to Disney superfans for his wide smile and sunny disposition. "Marty was the ultimate Disney Imagineer and Cast Member. From his days working as an intern with Walt to just two weeks ago engaging with fans at D23 Expo, Marty left an indelible mark on Disney Parks around the globe and on all of the guests who make memories every day with us," said Bob Chapek, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

Trump animated series from Stephen Colbert headed to Showtime

Showtime greenlit an animated satirical series centered on the Trump White House. The show hails from executive producer Stephen Colbert.

The untitled series will span 10 episodes, and will be aired this fall. Production will ramp up quickly and wrap close to the premiere date, in order to enable the show to stay relevant with current events and Trump's continuing antics, Variety wrote.

The series will revolve around the two-dimensional avatars of President Donald Trump and his family members. Described as a "fresh, cutting-edge comedy", the series will present the "tru-ish adventures of Trump's confidants and bon vivants — family, top associates, heads of government, golf pros, and anyone else straying into his orbit — in intrepidly exploring their histories and their psyches, revealing insights into what makes them so definitively Trumpian."

According to Showtime, "It's a workplace comedy where the office happens to be oval; it's a character study in search of character, as seen through the eyes of an imaginary documentary crew." "I know a lot of people wanted to do this, and I'm honored that the Cartoon President invited our documentary crew into his private world. I've seen some of the footage, and I look forward to sharing the man behind the MAGA," Colbert said in jest.

"Stephen and Chris have an uncanny genius for deconstructing the world of President Trump, and this series opens a new realm for them," said Showtime president and CEO David Nevins.

"Their vision will produce a comedy that makes waves, gets attention, and plays great on our networks, including our streaming service."

Colbert has made strides over the past year throughout the election season and Trump's presidency, becoming the buzziest political host in the late-night genre with his comedic Trump coverage on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert".



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Two Iranian flicks in Venice festival lineup

Art & Culture Desk

Two Iranian films are included in the lineup for Horizons section of the 74th Venice Film Festival.

Organizers of the festival have announced the first lineup of movies slated to compete in the world's oldest film festival.

'Disappearance' by Ali Asgari and 'No Date, No Signature' by Valid Jalilvand are the Iranian cinematic products which will go on silver screen at the festival.

Prominent Iranian filmmaker Rakhshan Banietemad will serve as a member of the jury in the Horizons section of the event which is to be held from August 30 to September 9.

Barbera, unveiled on Friday the lineup for the 74th running of the Italian festival.

After announcing the lineup, Barbera pronounced himself "97 percent satisfied in the sense that there are only maybe two or three films that we wanted to have for the festival, and we couldn't because they will go to other festivals".

As is often the case, many of the English-language entries at Venice will also be screened in Toronto and Telluride. However, Venice and Telluride are likely to be sharing as many as eight titles this



فیلمها از وحید جلیلوند، نوه تند: علی جلیلوند

Clooney and Guillermo del Toro will world premiere at the Italian festival, along with hotly anticipated titles from directors such as France's Abdellatif Kechiche and Spain's Fernando León de Aranoa.

Aronofsky's 'Mother', which stars Jennifer Lawrence, had not been expected to go the festival route "because Paramount was [initially] afraid of spoilers", Venice artistic director Alberto Barbera said at a press conference on Thursday. The horror film is scheduled for release in the US on September 15.

As previously reported by Variety, Clooney's 'Suburbicon' — a black comedy starring Matt Damon, Julianne Moore, Josh Brolin, and Oscar Isaac — will launch from the Lido. The film is one of three Paramount titles destined for competition in Venice, along with 'Mother' and festival opener 'Downsizing' by Alexander Payne. All three movies will also be screened in Toronto.

Fox Searchlight will also launch two Golden Lion hopefuls from the Lido, where they are in the main competition: Del Toro's Cold War-era fantasy 'The Shape of Water' and dark thriller 'Three

Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri', directed by Martin McDonagh ('In Bruges'), which stars Frances McDormand as a feisty middle-aged mother who challenges a small-town police chief, played by Woody Harrelson, after her daughter is murdered and the killer can't be found.

Universal International will bow 'Victoria & Abdul' — a period piece by director Stephen Frears about the real-life friendship between a young Indian Muslim clerk and Queen Victoria, played by Judi Dench. Frears and Dench also collaborated on Oscar-nominated 'Philonica', which was launched from Venice in 2013. 'Victoria & Abdul' is playing out of competition.

The world's oldest film festival features a competition section (Horizons) as well as other sections, including Out of Competition Fiction, Out of Competition Documentaries, Out of Competition Special Events, Cinema in the Garden, Special Documentary Screenings, Biennale College and Venice Classics (Documentary).



VARIETY

She was awarded the Best Screenplay prize for her film 'Tales' at the 71st edition of the festival in 2014. Venice Film Festival chief, Alberto

year — which is unprecedented. Most, if not all, of these will screen in Venice first. Darren Aronofsky's horror thriller 'Mother!' and new films by George



Italian maestro Enrico Gerola (2nd R) had an open-air performance in Niavaran Cultural Complex in Tehran accompanied by Iranian vocalist Parvaz Homay and members of his ensemble Mastan on July 26 and 27, 2017. Earlier last year, Gerola and Homay had a joint tour of the US and they also held some performances in Iran.

Weather

Table with weather icons and temperatures for various cities: Amol (39, 27), Jiroft (40, 28), Ramsar (34, 27), Shahriar (41, 27), Shiraz (39, 22), Tehran (39^, 27 v), Dushanbe (40, 24), Mecca (46, 33), Saint Petersburg (21, 14), Tokyo (31, 26), Toronto (24, 17).