



Zarif: Iran ready to help probe into Khan Sheikhoun attack

IRAN DAILY



Iran crowned Asian sitting volleyball champion

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Parliament to debate bill against US sanctions

By Sadeq Dehqan

An Iranian lawmaker said on Sunday that a bill aimed at taking reciprocal measures against the recent anti-Iran congressional motion in the US will be submitted to the Parliament's Presiding Board for discussion.



In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, the spokesman of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, Hossein Naqavi-Hosseini, said the "comprehensive" bill seeks to counter "hostile" US measures and its anti-Iran sanctions. Last month, the Senate voted 98-2 for new sanctions on Iran

and Russia. The bill includes new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program and "continued support for terrorism." The anti-Iran sanctions came following two sets of sanctions that were rolled out in February and May by the US Treasury Department over Iran's missile program.

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Total to sign \$4.8b gas deal with Iran

President Hassan Rouhani says Iran should exercise such foreign policy which would rally the world behind it rather than behind the United States.

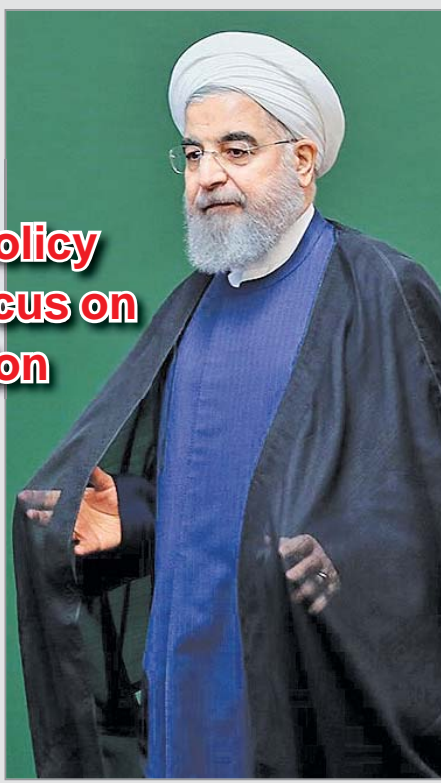
"We should not allow the US hand to expand and become powerful," he said on Sunday at a meeting convened by Iran's Judiciary.

Rouhani: Foreign policy should focus on US isolation

"Our foreign policy should be of such effect that would make powers condemn the US and reproach it should it choose to stand against us," he added. "Being revolutionary means isolating the United States and speaking to the world in such a language that it would comprehend and accept our discourse." The president said the US has become isolated in the international community because of its insistence to impose new sanctions against the Islamic Republic in breach of a nuclear accord.

He proceeded to cite examples of Washington's isolation on the world stage in its opposition against Iran. Rouhani recalled a Thursday plenary meeting of the United Nations Security Council held to address the implementation of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

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TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

French energy giant Total will finally sign a multibillion-dollar agreement to develop an Iranian offshore gas field on Monday, the Oil Ministry said, in the biggest foreign deal since sanctions were eased last year.

A ministry spokesman told AFP on Sunday, "The international agreement for the development of Phase 11 of South Pars will be signed on Monday in the presence of Oil Ministry officials and managers of Total, the Chinese company CNPC and Iranian company Petropars."

Total signed a preliminary deal with Iran in November, taking a 50.1 percent stake in the \$4.8 billion (€4.2 billion) project. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) will own 30 percent and Petropars 19.9 percent.

Total will put in an initial \$1 billion for the first stage of the 20-year project.

It was initially due to sign the contract in early 2017, but CEO Patrick Pouyanné said in February that it would wait to see whether the US administration of President Donald Trump would reimpose sanctions on Iran.

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Envoy: Brazil, Iran geographically far, culturally close

By Farzam Vanaki



AMIR RAJABPOUR DAILY

Although Brazil and Iran are geographically very far from each other, the two countries' people have a lot of cultural similarities, said the Brazilian ambassador to Iran.

Speaking to Iran Daily, Rodrigo de Azevedo Santos also touched on cooperation and relations between the two countries in the fields of culture, tourism, education and foreign policy.

Excerpts of the interview follow:

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Iran's exports to EU rise remarkably

Official figures show that Iran's non-oil exports to the European Union (EU) witnessed a huge increase in the first four months of 2017.

Based on the figures, the value of Iran's exports to the EU from January to April 2017 reached €3.4 billion, IRNA reported.

This was a fivefold increase compared to the amount for the same period last year when Iran's exports to the Union stood at around €0.7 billion.

Other figures showed that Iran's overall trade with the EU over the same period reached around €6.5 billion — an increase of around 127 percent compared to last year's figure when trade was recorded at below €3 billion.

To the same degree, EU's exports to Iran rose by 44 percent from January to April to stand at €3.1 billion. The figure for the same period in 2016 was €2.1 billion.

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Qatar rejects Arab states' demands

Demands made of Qatar by four other Arab states were designed to be rejected, Doha's foreign minister said on Saturday, explaining that their ultimatum was aimed not at tackling terrorism but at curtailing his country's sovereignty.

However Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, speaking to reporters in Rome, added Doha was still ready to sit down and discuss the grievances raised by its Arab neighbors, Reuters reported.

He was speaking ahead of a deadline set by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt for Doha to accept 13 demands. Officials say they are aimed at ending a rift that erupted last month over accusations that Qatar supports terrorism, charges it denies.

"This list of demands is made to be rejected. It's not meant to be accepted or ... to be negotiated," Sheikh Mohammed said, adding that Qatar was willing to engage in further dialogue given "the proper conditions".

The demands included severing ties with terrorist groups, closing down the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera satellite channel, downgrading ties with Iran and closing a Turkish air base in Qatar.

Arab states have said the demands are not negotiable and warned that further unspecified measures will follow if Qatar does not comply. But Sheikh Mohammed was adamant.

"Regarding the demands and our position, we have been from the beginning very clear on this. We are not going to accept anything that infringes on our sovereignty or anything that is imposed on Qatar," he said.

Qatari officials have repeatedly said the demands are so draconian that they suspect the four countries never seriously intended to negotiate on them and were instead seeking to hobble Doha's sovereignty.

Asked if he feared any military moves, he said his country was not afraid but believed that wisdom would prevail.

"International law should not be violated and there is a border which should not be crossed," he said.

He spoke after arriving from the United States. Washington is helping Kuwait, which has retained ties with Qatar, to mediate in the dispute.

Speaking to Reuters on the sidelines of the news conference, he said that the demand by the Arab states that Qatar close the Turkish air base was "out of the question."

NATO ally Turkey has backed Qatar in the dispute.

"We are not going to retreat from any agreement we have already signed. We really appreciate the relationship we have with Turkey," he said.

He also told the news conference that Qatar would not shut down Al-Jazeera, saying other Arab countries could start their own competing network if they wanted to.



AP

Nearly 20 killed in Damascus bomb attack

A car bomber pursued by security forces blew himself up in eastern Damascus on Sunday, killing at least 18 people in the deadliest attack to hit the Syrian capital in months.

Syrian state media and the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said security forces intercepted three car bombers on their way into the city early on Sunday morning, AFP reported.

State television said two of the vehicles were blown up on the outskirts of the city. A third managed to reach the eastern Tahrir Square district, where he was surrounded but able to detonate a bomb.

The observatory, a Britain-based monitor, said 18 people were killed in the bombing, including at least seven members of Syrian security forces and two civilians. It had not identified the remaining victims.

Syrian news agency SANA quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying two of the vehicles had been "destroyed" at a roundabout on the road to the city's airport.

The driver of the third blew himself up while being pursued, it said, "killing a number of civilians, injuring others, and causing material damage to public and private properties."

Damascus has been spared the large-scale bat-



Charred vehicles are seen on the site of a bomb attack in the Syrian capital's eastern Tahrir Square district on July 2, 2017.

ties that have devastated other major Syrian cities during the country's six-year war.

But dozens of people have been killed in bombings, particularly on the outskirts of the capital.

In mid-March, bomb attacks on a courthouse and restaurant in central Damascus killed 32

people. That rare assault in the heart of the city, which remains under government control, was claimed by the Daesh terrorist group.

That came days after two explosions that left 74 dead in the capital's Old City and were claimed by the Tahrir al-Sham coalition led by the terrorist Fateh al-Sham Front.

Italy urges EU ports to take migrants as pressure builds

Italy's interior minister called Sunday on other European countries to open their ports to rescue ships ahead of talks with France and Germany on tackling the migrant emergency.

Marco Minniti said in an interview with Il Messaggero daily that "we are under enormous pressure".

With arrivals in Italy up nearly 19 percent compared to the same period last year, Rome has threatened to close its ports to privately-funded aid boats or insist funding be cut to EU countries which fail to help with the crisis, AFP reported.

"There are NGO ships, Sophia and Frontex boats, Italian coastguard vessels" saving migrants in the Mediterranean, he said, referring to the aid boats as well as vessels deployed under EU border security missions.

"They are sailing under the flags of various European countries. If the only ports where refugees are taken to are Italian, something is not working. This is the heart of the question," he said.

"I am a europhile and I would be proud if even one vessel, instead of arriving in Italy, went to another European port. It would not resolve Italy's problem, but it would be an extraordinary signal" of support, he said.

Over 83,000 people rescued while attempting the perilous crossing from Libya have been brought to Italy so far this year, according to the UN, while more than 2,160 have died trying, the International Organization for Migration says.

Italy's Red Cross has warned the situation in the country's overcrowded reception centers is becoming critical.

Iran's UN envoy denounces Trump's travel ban

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshrou blasted as an irrational move the US President Donald Trump's travel ban against Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

"No travel ban can prevent a repetition of terrorist operations because its culprits are inside the US. On the other hand, 15 of the 19 people who carried out the September 11 terrorist operations were Saudi nationals. The same country whose leaders stood in a sword dance with Trump to celebrate the arms deal worth hundreds of billion dollars," Khoshrou said on Sunday, Fars News reported.



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

He stressed that the travel ban against the six Muslim nations is not aimed at guaranteeing US security but rooted in Washington's Islamophobia.

People from six Muslim-majority countries and all refugees now face tougher US entry due to Trump's controversial travel ban.

It means people without "close" family or business relationships in the US could be denied visas and barred entry.

Lawyers took up positions at US airports, offering free advice.

The executive order does not affect people who already have valid visas or green cards.

Rouhani: Foreign policy should focus on US isolation

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The event saw the UN, the European Union, and many major world countries all speaking appreciatively of Iran's commitment to the nuclear deal, while the United States alone cried foul.

Also, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which fights money laundering, extended last month a freeze on some of its restrictions against Iran after verifying the Islamic Republic's continued compliance with its directives. The decision came despite pressure from Washington not to do so.

"Does it suit us better for the US to remain alone on the international arena alongside Israel and Saudi Arabia [in its opposition to Iran], or should we act in such a way that would make Europe, China, and Russia stand behind the United States?" he asked.

Rouhani said the enemy was seeking to rob the Middle East of peace, stability, and development so it could both sell its arms and have an excuse to intervene.

"But we are seeking peace and stability in the region, cutting the enemy's hand short, and depriving it of excuses," he said.



Zarif: Iran ready to help probe into Khan Sheikhoun attack

Iran's foreign minister expressed Tehran's readiness to assist the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in investigations into use of chemical weapon agents in Syria's Khan Sheikhoun.

Iran, itself a victim of chemical attacks carried out by the regime of the then Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the imposed war of 1980s, is fundamentally against the employment of chemical weapons, Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a meeting with OPCW Director General Ahmet Uzumcu, held in Tehran on Sunday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized that no group is allowed to use chemical weapons in armed conflicts. This is while, sadly, the Daesh terrorist group has used chemical weapons in its war against the Syrian government," Zarif deplored.

He then called for detailed international investigations to discover the truth behind the use of chemical weapons in an April attack on Khan Sheikhoun in Syria's Idlib Province, expressing Iran's preparedness to cooperate with the OPCW in this process.

For his part, Uzumcu hailed Iran for its record of working with and supporting the OPCW, and thanked Zarif for offering help to the UN's chemical watchdog in probing into the Khan Sheikhoun attack.

He said the OPCW is currently investigating the incident and conducting a



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probe into the use of sarin nerve gas in the Syrian town.

On Thursday, an investigation by the OPCW confirmed that sarin nerve gas was used in a deadly April 4 attack, which left more than 90 people, in-

cluding women and children, dead and sparked international condemnation.

"Based on its work, the FFM (fact-finding mission) is able to conclude that a large number of people, some of whom died, were exposed to sarin or a sarin-

like substance," said a confidential report released on Thursday by the OPCW.

The OPCW-UN joint investigative mechanism (JIM) has already determined that Daesh used mustard gas in Syria in 2015.

Commander: Navy to test new weapons in Caspian Sea drills

Deputy Commander of Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi said that naval forces are to test the country's new weapons and military equipment in the ongoing military drills in northern Iran.

systems, diving teams, health-care, intelligence systems, and commando units specialized in marine warfare have been deployed to the drills, he noted.

The commander further

Some of the army's fighter jets and air defense systems have also been deployed to the area to ensure the security of the drills.

Over the past few years, the Iranian naval forces have



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

The wargame, code-named "Sustainable Security and Power 96," is part of annual exercises of the navy in the Caspian Sea, Admiral Mousavi said in a press conference on Sunday, as reported by Tasnim News Agency.

Sea and air units of the navy, shore-to-sea missile

emphasized that ensuring the security of the northern and southern waters has always been among the main goals of the Islamic Republic.

During the five-day drill, new weapons, military systems, and equipment are going to be tested by the navy, he said.

held several military drills in the southern and northern waters.

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly assured other nations, especially its neighbors, that its military might poses no threat to other countries, stating that its defense doctrine is based on deterrence.

Parliament to debate bill against...

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Iran's defensive ballistic missile program has been a bone of contention with the US. Tehran says its missile tests do not breach UN resolutions because they are solely for defensive purposes and not designed to carry nuclear warheads.

Nagavi-Hosseini said the bill had been scheduled to be submitted to the Presiding Board on Sunday (July 2), adding that it was delayed for a week.

He noted that the bill will appropriate about one trillion to-

mans (\$270 million) to the country's missile activities. The lawmaker added that the same amount will be earmarked for combating terrorism.

On June 18, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired six medium-range ballistic missiles at Daesh targets in the northeastern Syrian province of Deir Ezzor in response to a June 7 terrorist attack in Tehran, which killed 18 people and injured over 50 others.

Iranian officials hailed the IRGC move, calling for all-out effort to help the country's armed forces press ahead with anti-terror operations.

Nagavi-Hosseini said Washington has continued its "hostile" approaches and sanctions against Tehran even after the conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, France,

Britain, Russia and China — plus Germany signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program in July 2015 and began implementing it in January 2016.

Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran.

The lawmaker said Washington has intensified anti-Iran threats and pressures after the JCPOA. "These US measures run counter to the JCPOA. It seems that Americans have circumvented the JCPOA; it is not important to them anymore and they have resorted to imposing non-nuclear sanctions against Iran."

Nagavi-Hosseini concluded that Iran must take countermeasures against Washington as it is continuing "hostile" measures against Tehran.

Envoy: UN team to visit Iran to assess status of refugees

A delegation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will visit Iran next month to make an assessment of the situation of refugees, especially Afghans, said the UNHCR representative in Iran.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad, Sivkhan Dhanapala said the UN delegation will be comprised of envoys and representatives of UNHCR member states.

The delegation will carry out an evaluation of the conditions of refugees in Iran, particularly the Afghan refugees, and is also planned to pay a visit to Mashhad due to the large number of Afghans the city is hosting, he explained. The upcoming trip could greatly help attract international support for refugees in Iran, Dhanapala noted.

The envoy further rejected claims that the UNHCR has in recent years shifted its attention away from Afghan refugees because of other regional conflicts, arguing that the conditions of Afghans may have been overshadowed by other developments in the media, but the UN has not forgotten the Afghan people.

While over 800,000 registered Afghans reside in Iran, the country has done its utmost to make them feel comfortable in the past decades.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has already issued an order stressing that all Afghan children, even children of undocumented immigrants living in the country illegally, have the right to register and study in Iranian schools.

In May 2014, UN resident coordinator in Iran, Garry Lewis, said he appreciated measures adopted by the Islamic Republic in hosting foreign nationals, and that Iran is the world's second biggest country accepting foreign refugees.

"Iran has very well hosted the refugees over the past three decades," he said, adding that, preceded by Pakistan, Iran is the second country in the world accepting the highest number of refugees.

Out of a total of 880,000 registered refugees in Iran, Lewis explained, 840,000 are Afghans while the rest come from Iraq.

He also pointed to the living conditions of foreign nationals in Iran, saying 97 percent of refugees reside in cities, while only three percent are located in refugee camps.

The high rate of Afghans living in cities is a sign that Iran has taken valuable measures for the refugees' health and occupation, Lewis noted.

Report: US deaths by police gunfire on track to reach 1,000 in 2017

Police officers across the United States shot 492 people dead in the first half of 2017, on track to approach 1,000 such incidents for the third year in a row, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

The Post, which has been tracking all fatal shootings by police since 2015, said the tally on June 16 of this year was identical to last year's count. The paper said that since 2015 it had found twice as many police shootings than those recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"These numbers show us that officer-involved shootings are constant over time," Geoffrey Alpert, a criminologist at the University of South Carolina, told the paper.

"Some places go up, some go down, but it's averaging out. This is our society in the 21st century."

The Post began its tracking project following the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in August 2014.

Brown is one of a series of black men killed by law enforcement over the past three years that have sparked a national debate over racial bias in the US criminal justice system.



A shell casing from a bullet fired at Philando Castile lies outside his car, in an evidence photo taken after he was fatally shot by St. Anthony Police Department officer Jeronimo Yanez during a traffic stop in July 2016. Picture was released June 20, 2017.

Two officials, over a dozen attackers killed in Turkey

Kurdish militants shot and killed two officials from the ruling AK Party in southeast Turkey over the weekend, while the Turkish military killed more than a dozen militants in airstrikes, state authorities said on Sunday.



AFP

Orhan Mercan, the AKP's deputy head in the Lice district of Diyarbakir Province, was shot in front of his home on Friday night and died of his wounds in hospital, the provincial governor's office said, Reuters reported.

Militants killed Aydin Ahi, deputy head of the AKP in the Ozalp district of Van Province on Saturday night, the governor's office said.

Security sources said the gunmen seized Ahi from his home at gunpoint and killed him nearby.

Energy Minister Berat Albayrak wrote on Twitter that Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants had killed both men.

There was no immediate comment on the attacks from the party in the past.

The PKK launched a separatist insurgency against the state in 1984 and more than 40,000 people, mostly Kurds, have been killed in the conflict.

It is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union.

A cease-fire between the Turkish state and the militants broke down in July 2015 and the southeast region of the country, where the PKK is strongest, subsequently saw some of the worst violence since the insurgency began.

Violence flared across the region on Saturday.

In an airstrike in the southeastern province of Mardin, the Turkish military killed five PKK militants preparing an attack on an army base, a general staff statement said.

In separate airstrikes on Saturday, the army also killed five PKK members in southeast Turkey's Bingol Province and another four militants in the Metina region of northern Iraq, the army said.

It said another three PKK militants were killed in clashes on Saturday in the southeastern provinces of Diyarbakir, Hakkari and Simak.

Japan PM's party suffers defeat in Tokyo poll

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party suffered a historic defeat in an election in the Japanese capital on Sunday, signaling trouble ahead for the premier, who has suffered from slumping support.

On the surface, the Tokyo Metropolitan assembly election was a referendum on Governor Yuriko Koike's year in office, but the dismal showing for Abe's party is also a stinging rebuke of his 4-1/2-year-old administration, Reuters reported.

Koike's Tokyo Citizens First party and its allies were on track for between 73 and 85 seats in the 127-seat assembly, according to exit polls by NHK public TV.

Later vote counts showed the LDP was certain to post its worst-ever result, winning at most 37 seats compared with 57 before the election, NHK said, while Koike's party and allies were assured a majority.

"We must recognize this as an historic defeat," former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba was quoted by NHK as saying.

"Rather than a victory for Tokyo Citizens First, this is a defeat for the LDP," said Ishiba, who is widely seen as an Abe rival within the ruling party.

late 2018.

Koike, a media-savvy ex-defense minister and former LDP member, took office a year ago as the first female governor in



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

REUTERS

Past Tokyo elections have been bellwethers for national trends.

A 2009 Tokyo poll in which the LDP won just 38 seats was followed by its defeat in a general election that year, although this time no lower house poll need be held until

the capital, defying the local LDP chapter to run and promising to reform governance of a megacity with a population of 13.7 million and an economy bigger than Holland's. Among her allies is the Komeito party, the LDP's national coalition partner.

Observer: Cabinet ministers tell May to end austerity

Prime Minister Theresa May is under pressure from her ministers to end the government's policy of economic austerity as a new poll shows her popularity

has slumped.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt wants the government to drop a cap on public sector pay rises of a below-inflation one percent for nurses, while Education Secretary Justine Greening wants more money for schools, according to the Observer.

Despite her party's expectations of a landslide victory, May lost her majority in parliament in last month's election, pushing her into a deal with a small eurosceptic Northern Irish Protestant party.

The Labour Party fared better than expected in last month's election with its promises of measures such as the end to a one percent cap on public sector pay increases.

May's approval rating is now at minus 20 percentage points against a positive rating of 21 percentage points in April, according to a new Opinion survey for the Observer.

Agriculture secretary Michael Gove told the Sunday Times newspaper that the government should accept the findings of any future public sector pay reviews.



TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS
Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves after attending the annual Henley Royal Regatta rowing festival in Henley-on-Thames, Britain, on June 30, 2017.

OPINION

President Trump melting under criticism

Maybe we should all take a moment to feel a little sorry for Donald Trump, who reacted to criticism on Thursday by tweeting a stream of coarse insults at the television journalist Mika Brzezinski.

After all, he so clearly lacks the toughness of George Washington, who once privately observed that his critics "arrows ... never can reach the most vulnerable part of me." He lacks the confidence of Dwight Eisenhower, who said, when asked if he thought his press coverage was fair, "Well, when you come down to it, I don't see what a reporter could do much to a president, do you?"

And — are we really about to write this sentence? — Mr. Trump lacks the grace Richard Nixon showed, at least in public. At the height of Watergate in late 1973, Mr. Nixon blurted at a news conference, "I have never heard or seen such outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting in 27 years of public life." Yet he added, "I am not blaming anybody for that. Perhaps what happened is that what we did brought it about."

Mr. Trump may be a more tender soul, or less resilient. In any case, he can't seem to take the heat.

Probably no one in the world draws as much scrutiny and criticism — even mockery — as an American president, and each president understandably chafes. But for Mr. Trump, every barb seems to hit home, and he venomously attacks his tormentors in full view of the world.

He does not appear to realize that he is embarrassing himself. This is what both Republicans and Democrats have been trying to tell Mr. Trump since his tweeted attacks on the MSNBC co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Ms. Brzezinski, which were capped by the claim that he refused to spend New Year's Eve at Mar-a-Lago with Ms. Brzezinski, who was "bleeding badly from a face-lift."

"People may say things during a campaign, but it's different when you become a public servant," Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, told The Times. "I see it as embarrassing to our country," Senator James Lankford, Republican of Oklahoma, said Mr. Trump's tweets "do not provide a positive role model."

Add to the nastiness of the attack its creepy misogyny. Here again was Mr. Trump, whose casual boasting of sexual assault nearly upended his candidacy, denigrating women with references to "bleeding." "This is not okay," Representative Lynn Jenkins, Republican of Kansas, said on Twitter. "As a female in politics I am often criticized for my looks. We should be working to empower women."

Mr. Trump's advocates are trying, implausibly, to present his online demonstrations of self-pity as feats of macho toughness.

The spokeswoman for Melania Trump (who has named anti-cyberbullying as a potential advocacy project) said the tweets showed that "when her husband gets attacked, he will punch back 10 times harder." Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the deputy White House press secretary, said Mr. Trump was "fighting fire with fire."

Mr. Trump's behavior sabotaged a day that included critical talks on the Senate health care bill, a speech on energy policy and the arrival of South Korean President Moon Jae-in for talks on the North Korean nuclear threat. Thursday ended with Mr. Trump awkwardly awaiting Mr. Moon's motorcade, as reporters shouted, "Mr. President, do you regret your tweets this morning?"

The big question for all of us is whether with his foot-stamping and his vulgarity Mr. Trump, in defiance of all his predecessors, is creating a new model for future presidential behavior. Can the etiquette of professional wrestling and reality television truly pass as acceptable for the Oval Office? The breadth and depth of bipartisan repugnance for this president's insults suggests, thankfully, that the answer may prove to be no.

The above article appeared as an editorial in The New York Times.

Three killed in Lebanon's refugee camp fire

A big fire tore through a camp for Syrian refugees in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Sunday, killing three people, Lebanese media reported. Flames and thick clouds of black smoke rose from the site near the town of Qab Elias, around an hour's drive east of Beirut, and at least one explosion was seen in footage broadcast by Lebanon's MTV, Reuters reported.



MNA

A security source said the cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Lebanon is hosting at least one million registered Syrian refugees, many of them living in informal tented settlements scattered around the country. The government says there are some 1.5 million Syrians in the country.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Hojjati to attend FAO meeting in Rome

Iran's Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati arrived in Rome on Sunday to take part in the 40th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Hojjati will address the six-day gathering which will start today, IRNA reported.



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The conference is the organization's highest governing body and sessions are held every two years with the participation of presidents, ministers and officials from 194 countries.

At the 40th session, participants will discuss pressing issues such as how to turn commitment into action to achieve the Global Goal of Zero Hunger, water scarcity, food security and a changing climate in the Near East and North Africa.

It will also look into sustainable solutions to prevent famine in conflict-affected countries, an action plan on food security and nutrition for small island developing states and the role of rural development in mitigating pressures that drive migration.

Iran's annual agricultural trade experienced an \$8.1-billion deficit in the fiscal March 2013-14, which narrowed down to \$1.5 billion in the year which ended on March 20, 2017.

A record high of 14 million tons of wheat was produced in Iran last year resulting in complete self-sufficiency for the first time in history.

Guaranteed price of wheat purchases showed a 17-fold increase since 2013, more specifically from 4,200 rials (10 cents) in the fiscal March 2012-13 to 12,710 rials (30 cents) last year.

The total value of wheat purchases showed a 17-fold increase, rising from 8,820 billion rials (\$234.4 million) in the fiscal March 2012-13 to 147 billion rials (\$3.9 million) last year.

As a result, wheat reserves were boosted by 4,300 tons, increasing from 1,800 tons to 7,781,000 tons during the period.

Wheat purchases witnessed a 5.6 percent rise during the period, growing from 2,044 million tons to 11,520 million tons.

There have been no wheat imports since 2013 when President Hassan Rouhani took office whereas Iran imported 5.7 million tons of wheat the year before Rouhani took office.

According to Food and Agriculture Organization, Iran is the 11th biggest wheat producer in the world.

Every year, the government buys strategic crops, including wheat, from local farmers at guaranteed prices to build up its strategic reserves and control prices in the domestic market.

Iran's exports to EU rise remarkably

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Earlier reports said industrial goods such as hot-rolled non-alloy iron, steel, non-alloy iron and steel in forms other than ingots top the list of Iran's exports to the EU. Other products in demand were condensate, light oils and methanol.

Key consumers of Iranian goods are traditionally Spain, France, Greece and Italy.

The main items on the list of EU exports to Iran include machineries, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, transportation equipment and plastics.



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EU's statistical service Eurostat announced that trade between Iran and Italy in the first three months of 2017 stood at €2 billion, making Italy the top trading partner of Iran in the European Union during the period.

According to the report, Italy was followed by France and Germany.

Iran's exports to Italy accounted for about €800 million of the total sum, while Italy's exports to Iran stood at €400 million, indicating a turning point as bilateral trade balance tilted in Iran's favor for the first time in 10 years.

VDW: Iran-Germany industrial ties growing

Economic cooperation in the industrial sector between Iran and Germany has witnessed a rise since the two countries resumed their traditional relations following the removal of sanctions against Iran, observed a German industrial figure.

Speaking to Trend News Agency, Wilfried Schafer, the executive director of the German Machine Tool Builders' Association (VDW) further said, "Regional banks, in cooperation with the European-Iranian bank (Europäisch-Iranische Handelsbank AG) are supporting the companies exporting to Iran. So, this is going to develop continuously."

He noted, "We are of course discussing continuously with the Ministry of Economics and the Export Control Administration of Germany to do their best to reduce the requirements and to support exports to Iran."

Schafer further announced that an EMO Hannover metalworking exhibition will be held in Tehran from September 18 to 23.

On June 27, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said during a visit to Germany that his country favored deeper trade ties with the European economic power.

In a meeting with German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries, Zarif said that Iran would be a proper partner for the European country in the joint producing of goods for export.

Annual trade turnover between Iran and Germany stands at about \$3 billion. Germany used to be Iran's number one economic partner before sanctions hit the Islamic Republic in the early 2010s. Germany was the first country to send a large economic delegation to Iran after the 2015 nuclear deal that paved the way for removing the sanctions.

In October 2016, German firms signed 10 business agreements with Ira-



IRNA

nian partners during the fifth session of Iran-Germany Economic Commission in Tehran.

German Mittelstand firms ranging from small- to medium-sized companies which form the backbone of its economy, signed deals with Iranian partners, including SMS group, a builder of steel-making plants and INTRA industrial solutions, Reuters cited German Economy Ministry as saying.

Mitsubishi Germany signed a contract to modernize a gas-fired plant, while plant constructor Keller HCW wants to

build a brickyard in Iran.

Both countries' central banks have also agreed on a technical cooperation deal. There was no detail on the size of the agreed deals.

Industrial giant Siemens AG and automaker Daimler will be among the first German firms to benefit from opportunities in Iran, but they are proceeding cautiously and only after legal reviews.

The German banking sector has been reluctant to underwrite business deals for fear of falling foul with remaining US sanctions over non-nuclear issues.

Managing Director of Iran-Germany Chamber of Industry and Commerce Rene Harum said in October that trade between the two countries is expected to reach €5 billion in 2017 and €10 billion in the coming years.

Speaking at the first meeting of the joint chamber in Tehran, Harum said bilateral trade stood at €2.5 billion in 2015.

He said Germany is willing to become Iran's top trading partner, replacing China whose trade with Iran topped \$22 billion in the year to March 2016.

Iran, South Korea agree to launch direct flights

Senior aviation officials from Iran and South Korea have agreed to launch direct flights between the capitals of the two countries, said a senior lawmaker.

According to Fars News Agency, Head of Iran-South Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group Asadollah Abbasi said on Sunday that the South Koreans have approved direct flights between Tehran and Seoul.

He underlined that the South Koreans are interested in Iran's natural and historical tourism.

Officials of Civil Aviation Organization of Iran (CAO) and national flag-carrier Iran Air will hold joint sessions with their South Korean counterparts.

In mid-June, media reports said that South Korean financial officials were in talks with their Iranian counterparts to open a 13-billion-dollar credit line for investment in Iran.

Korea Eximbank (KEXIM) will provide the



lion share of the \$8-billion loan to Iran. The rest of the funds, \$5 billion, will be provided by Korea Trade Insurance Corporation in the coming weeks, the Persian-language newspaper Sharq reported.

Iran and South Korea have also agreed on the construction of a hospital.

The allocation of the \$13-billion credit line by South Korea to Iran would open the way for operations by Japanese and European banks.

South Korea announced in May that it had drawn up a package of loans worth a total of \$25 billion for the development of Iran's infrastructure projects.

The announcement was made during a visit to Tehran by South Korea's former president Park Geun-hye.

During her stay in Tehran, Park oversaw the signing of over a dozen agreements between Iran and South Korea to boost cooperation in the energy, power, auto industry and railway sectors.

Total to sign \$4.8b gas...

From Page 1

During his campaign Trump threatened to tear up the landmark accord between Iran and six world powers that came into force in January 2016 easing sanctions in exchange for modifications to Tehran's nuclear program.

However, the White House has kept the nuclear deal alive, continuing to waive the relevant sanctions every few months as required under the agreement.

It is in the midst of a 90-day review on whether to stick with the nuclear deal, although any move to abandon it will be strongly opposed by other signatories: Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

Return to Iran

Today's signing will mark Total's return to Iran, which has the largest gas reserves and the fourth largest oil reserves in the world.

The French firm led the development of phases two and three of South Pars in

the 1990s, but effectively left Iran in 2012 when France joined European Union partners in imposing sanctions, including an oil embargo.

"We're the first Western major to return to Iran. We're very happy," Pouyenne told AFP when the initial deal was signed in November.

Iran's oil officials have been keen to attract Western investment and know-how to improve the outdated energy infrastructure.

Preliminary agreements were also signed in December by Shell and Russia's Gazprom to develop oil and gas projects.

The first stage of the new 20-year project at South Pars will cost around \$2 billion and consist of 30 wells and two well-head platforms connected to existing onshore treatment facilities.

The site will eventually pump 50.9 million cubic meters (1.8 billion cubic feet) of gas per day into Iran's national grid.

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 over 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 Khuzestan.

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 Chahuleh 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.

IMF to participate for 'last time' in Greek bailout: Schäuble



kontrane.ws.gr

The International Monetary Fund, a key creditor in Greece's bailout, will not participate in any further rescues of the debt-ravaged country, Germany's finance minister told a Greek newspaper.

"We have all acknowledged (eurozone and the IMF) that the third Greek (bailout) payment will be the last with the participation of the IMF," Wolfgang Schäuble told Greek daily Ta Nea.

The German finance chief has been inflexible on the issue of Greek debt relief, in opposition to the IMF, which said it needs to be done to breathe new life into Greece's floundering economy, according to AFP.

An agreement was reached last month to pay the third tranche of Greece's €86 billion (\$97 billion) bailout, after being held up for months by a row over its need for debt relief which has pitted bailout-weary Germany against the IMF.

After participating in two previous international loans

to save Greece from bankruptcy, the IMF is still set to take part in a third bailout. But for the moment, it has held back its contribution over the issue of whether the eurozone will decide to ease Greek debt — currently at 180 percent of gross domestic product.

Since 2010, the international bailouts accompanied by tough austerity measures "have obtained some results but have not resolved the problem", said Schäuble, who hopes a solution can be reached by the end of the current program in 2018.

Under pressure especially from Berlin, Greece's 18 other euro partners have not yet broached the issue of debt relief, preferring to push that hot-button topic to next year.

But IMF chief Christine Lagarde has warned that Greece's debt is not sustainable and that the country requires significant debt relief from Europe.

In the interview, Schäuble pointed to the European

Stability Mechanism (ESM) — a bailout fund for eurozone countries — as a way to respond to the future needs of countries sharing the single currency.

Meanwhile, in another Greek newspaper, ESM chief Klaus Regling appeared to share that view, saying there is "a discussion in Europe on reinforcing the monetary union".

Speaking to the Efimerida ton syntakton (Journal of Editors), Regling said the eurozone had to become "less vulnerable" and that he was certain that "the ESM will play a very important role" if a new financial crisis arises.

"We can assume some of the responsibilities the IMF has undertaken over these past few years and I think there is a wide consensus for that in the future," he said. "If the reforms continue over the next 14 months, Greece will be able to return to the international markets," he added.

Japan, EU on cusp of free trade agreement after US TPP rebuff

Japan and the European Union are on the cusp of a wide-ranging free trade agreement that could help blunt the forces of protectionism sparked by US President Donald Trump's trade policies.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström said she was "quite confident" that a broad agreement can be announced at a summit on July 6 with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as both sides finalize the reduction of tariffs on autos and agricultural goods, Reuters wrote.

Clinching a deal would offer Japan and Europe an important political victory and could raise questions about the US government's influence on the agenda for the global economy.

"You can do good, fair, transparent and sustainable trade agreements where you win and I win, and not the American view, which seems to be, 'You lose and I win,'" Malmström told reporters.

pushing for a reduction in Japanese tariffs on cheese and agriculture imports that are as high as 30 percent in return for phasing out tariffs on Japanese autos and auto parts.

This tradeoff initially met strong resistance, because some politicians want to protect Japan's dwindling dairy industry. However, Malmström expressed confidence that both sides have overcome this problem and can reach a deal.

"We've made meaningful progress, but there are still important points remaining," Kishida told reporters.

"Since we are trying to reach a broad agreement in time for the summit, I am planning to travel to Brussels to make this happen."

Kishida added that his visit would occur before Abe's participation in a Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, on July 8.

Japan and the EU have been negotiating a trade deal since 2013. The

OECD report underscores China's structural reform success

A recently released OECD report highlighted the achievements of China's structural reform, including the continued growth of per capita income, narrowed rural-urban inequality and streamlined administrative procedures.

growth rate of over 10 percent, according to the report.

Meanwhile, it observed that barriers to entry in the country have eased significantly as reforms to simplify administrative procedures in the past couple



cnn.com

The growth of China's income per capita remains high, said the OECD Technical Report on Progress on Structural Reform Under the G20 Enhanced Structural Reform Agenda, Xinhua reported.

GDP growth in the country largely followed developments in labor productivity with the employment ratio being stable at a relatively high level, said the report measuring performance of G20 structural reform as a collective.

"Inequality, as measured by the Gini index, decreased since 2007 and the gap between rural and urban populations has narrowed," said an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report.

The report observed a steady rise in total spending on research and development (R&D) in China since the early 2000s and a gradual increase on national education expenses in the meantime.

In 2015, total national education expenses in China amounted to 3.6 trillion RMB, or \$530 billion, with an annual

of years have substantially reduced the burden for new entrants and increased overall efficiency.

"The unification of three licenses in the registration process has substantially reduced the burden on start-ups, be it firms or sole proprietorships," it said.

The report mentioned the Jiangxi

Province as a pilot in achieving a one-stop shop for start-ups. By undertaking supply-side structural reforms, the Chinese government will continue to streamline administration, said Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2017, or Summer Davos, in Dalian, China.

"It will continue to delegate its power, widen market access and enhance compliance oversight to create a level playing field," he said.

"We will ease corporate burdens by reducing taxes and administrative fees to unleash the vitality of the market," said the premier.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	78765.3	(2419.9)	(3.07)
Industry Index	67799.6	(1929.3)	(2.85)
Free Float Index	85988.7	(2811.8)	(3.28)
First Market Index	54323.5	(1778.7)	(3.28)
Second Market Index	176494.6	(4796.5)	(2.72)

Overall Index details on 20170702

First	78799.7	Change end of year(%)	887.94%
High	78821.2	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	78765.3	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	78765.3	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	(2419.9)		

Industry Index details on 20170702

First	67799.6	Change end of year(%)	996.78%
Max Value	67818.3	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	67694	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	67786.8	Base Value	
Closing	(1929.3)		

Free Float Index details on 20170702

First	85830.6	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	85880.1	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	85749.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	85988.7	Base Value	
Closing	(2811.8)		

Main Board Index details on 20170702

First	54343.9	Change end of year(%)	749.77%
Max Value	54371.9	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	54216	Historical lowest	
Closing	54323.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(1778.7)		

Secondary Index details on 20170702

First	176590.6	Change end of year(%)	1305.31%
Max Value	176614.6	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	176550.6	Historical lowest	
Closing	176494.6	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	(4796.5)		

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2839	Chinese Yuan	0.1475
Euro	1.1428	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3025	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2960
Australian Dollar	0.7692	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0089	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$46.33	Silver	\$16.62
Gold	\$1241.40	Platinum	\$928.70
Copper	\$2.70	Wheat	\$525.70



reutersmedia.net

Malmström spoke after two days of meetings with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo about a deal that would eliminate a broad range of trade barriers.

European officials have been

talks have taken on a greater sense of urgency since Trump walked away from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), leaving the other 11 members of the Pacific Rim trading bloc, including Japan, in limbo.

Works on Rome's new underground network has led to unearthing the charred ruins of an early third-century building and an 1,800-year-old skeleton of a crouching dog.

Greater Caribbean raises funds to protect sandy coasts



JORGE LUIS BOLAÑOS/IPS

Almost no Caribbean beach escapes erosion, a problem that scientific sources describe as extensive and irreversible in these ecosystems of high economic interest, that work as protective barriers for life inland.

"The phenomenon of erosion is widespread in the Caribbean," geographer Luis Juanes, a researcher at the recently created state Marine Science Institute of Cuba, who participated in the scientific coordination of a project of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to protect sandy coasts from the effects of global

warming, told IPS.

The regional initiative 'Impact of climate change on the sandy coasts of the Caribbean: Alternatives for its control and resilience' could begin to be implemented this year, after negotiations between the ACS and the main donor for the project: The International Cooperation Agency of South Korea.

"Caribbean beaches have an irreversible tendency to erosion," said Juanes in an interview with IPS, referring to a problem "whose main causes are associated with misguided human action in coastal areas, such as the extraction of

sand for the construction industry and the building of tourism installations on dunes".

However, the scientist pointed out that research from local and foreign authors found this kind of deterioration even in pristine beaches on uninhabited keys, which can only be explained by the rising sea levels and other consequences of global warming.

For this reason, the ACS, founded in 1994, which groups 25 countries of the Greater Caribbean region, initially approved in 2016 and ratified in a summit in March this year this proposal set forth by Cuba, within a broader program of

adaptation to climate change.

This program also includes projects against the invasion by Sargassum seaweed and exotic species such as the lionfish.

To finance the program, the ACS raises cooperation funds to mitigate and adapt to the new climate scenario in this diverse region of highly vulnerable small islands and mainland countries that have in common developing economies with limited resources for environmental preservation.

So far, the project against erosion of the sandy coasts has received around a quarter

of a million dollars from the Netherlands and Turkey, said Juanes. And a contribution of \$4.5 million from South Korea is foreseen to achieve the targets set out during its four years of implementation.

In addition, each country member of the ACS that confirms its participation will contribute funds and a logistic base.

The initiative's coordination has already attracted the interest of Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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UK to withdraw from international fishing arrangement

The government is to end an arrangement that allows other countries to fish in UK waters, it has been announced.

The convention allows Irish, Dutch, French, German and Belgian vessels to fish within six and 12 nautical miles of UK coastline, BBC reported.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove said the move would help take back control of fishing access to UK waters.

But Greenpeace said ending the arrangement would not alone improve the future of the UK's fishing industry.



PRESS EYE

The London Fisheries Convention sits alongside the EU Common Fisheries

Policy, which allows all European countries access between 12 and 200 nautical miles of the UK and sets quotas for how much fish nations can catch.

Withdrawal from the convention, which was signed in 1964 before the UK joined what became the EU, means UK vessels will also lose the right to fish in waters six to 12 nautical miles offshore of other countries.

Gove said leaving the convention meant "for the first time in more than 50 years we will be able to decide who can access our waters". He added: "This is an historic first step

towards building a new domestic fishing policy as we leave the European Union — one which leads to a more competitive, profitable and sustainable industry for the whole of the UK."

The industry body, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organizations, welcomed the decision.

Chief Executive Barrie Deas said: "This is welcome news and an important part of establishing the UK as an independent coastal state with sovereignty over its own exclusive economic zone."

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 جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
 و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم

Being active may reduce risk of chronic low back pain

Regularly engaging in physical activity, from walking to intense exercise, may help to reduce the risk of chronic low back pain by as much as 16 percent, according to a new review of previous studies.

In the past, it hasn't been clear whether physical activity staves off low back pain, or people without back pain are more likely to be active, the researchers write in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, reuters.com reported.

To help determine which comes first, the review team analyzed data from 36 studies that followed nearly 160,000 people over time who didn't have back pain at the start.

Lead author Dr. Rhaman Shiri, a researcher with Finnish Institute of Occupational Health in Helsinki, said, "Systematic reviews of clinical trials suggest that exercise reduces low back pain intensity and its recurrence."

"In addition, the current review suggested that exercise or other leisure time activity also protects against developing chronic low back pain."

To standardize definitions from the various studies, Shiri and a colleague counted any non-work-related physical effort, including walking and climbing stairs, as physical activity in addition to sports or other forms of intentional exercise.

People were considered active if they engaged in such physical activity at least once or twice a week for at least 30 to 60 minutes, or if they were in the middle or high end of total physical activity within their study group.

The researchers found that for moderately or highly active people, the risk of developing chronic low back pain was 14 percent and 16 percent, respectively, lower compared with people in the least-active category.

Chronic low back pain was defined as pain that lasts for three months or more, or pain for more than 30 days within the previous 12 months.

For acute or occasional low back pain, however, physical activity levels didn't seem to make a difference in risk. The same was true of hospitalizations or disability leave related to low back pain.



health.harvard.edu

Limitations of the review, the authors noted, include the fact that some studies did not account for factors that might influence the results, such as work-related physical exertion, depression or smoking — all of which are associated with both lack of physical activity and risk of low back pain.

There were also too few elderly or very young adults to determine whether the apparent protective effect of physical activity is true for all age groups.

Older people are more likely to be inactive as a result of back pain, for example, the authors said.

Dr. Joel Press, who is physiatrist-in-chief at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, said, "People are becoming more and more aware of the need for activity."

"We were meant to move. We were not meant to be stagnant in any way, so I think this study does confirm that. It's a big study where they looked at a lot of people."

Usually, Press tells people who already have back pain to cut down on the sitting and increase

movement with low-impact activities such as walking.

Press added, "Generally lower impact, walking type things are probably the starting point."

"Swimming is another low impact activity that puts less load on your back, but you're still getting a lot of cardiovascular fitness and movement with it."

"It may be best to avoid starting out with sports that have a lot of twisting and turning, such as golf, baseball and tennis unless you take precautions to try not to get into a position where you're going to make it worse."

"I think the biggest thing is, if you're doing an activity and every time you're doing it the pain intensifies while you're doing the activity, or even afterward, you're worse off than you were before. If somebody does an exercise and they're a little sore right afterward, but by later that day they feel fine, and the next day they're no worse, they feel fine, that's a green light — go ahead, you're doing okay."

Test able to identify breast cancer patients with lowest risk of death

A new clinical study indicates that molecular test can pinpoint which patients will have a very low risk of death from breast cancer and that these "ultralow" risk patients could be treated less aggressively, leading to fewer toxic effects.

The medical community has focused on identifying cancer early so that it can be cured or more easily treated, news.xinhuanet.com wrote.

While this can benefit some patients, screening also can detect cancers that are extremely low risk and not life-threatening, which could lead to patients being overtreated.

The issue is compounded because breast cancer can recur many years after diagnosis.

Until now, tools that could reliably identify ultralow risk tumors at the time of diagnosis have not been available because physicians lacked the assurance that late recurrence could truly be avoided.

Detailed in a paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Oncology, or JAMA Oncology, the new study sought to determine whether a 70-gene test could accurately and reliably identify tumors with indolent, or slow-growing, behavior to assess the risk of cancer recurrence up to 20 years after diagnosis.

The same test had shown last year that nearly half of early-stage breast cancer patients, who met traditional criteria for high risk, could safely skip chemotherapy based on the biological makeup of their tumors.

The test, called MammaPrint, was devised by University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), cancer researcher Laura van't Veer, a coauthor on the new study and co-leader of the breast oncology program at the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (HDFCCC).

In the new analysis, the UCSF researchers collaborated with the Stockholm breast cancer study group (STO) in Sweden, to evaluate patients who have been tracked for decades and were part of a randomized clinical trial of tamoxifen vs no systemic therapy and to find cancers with no- or almost no-risk for metastatic progression.

The STO-3 low-risk trial included 1,780 lymph-node-negative patients with tumors less than or equal to three centimeters in diameter, randomized to two years of adjuvant tamoxifen (40mg daily) versus no adjuvant treatment.

Adjuvant therapy is a treatment provided after the initial surgery or treatment, with the intent to suppress recurrent tumor formation.

All the women had tumors detected in the era prior to the use of screening mammography, and had their tumors surgically removed.

The researchers used the removed tissues to profile a total of 652 women, of whom 311 had received tamoxifen, and 339 had not received adjuvant systemic therapy.

The multigene test classified 42 percent of the patients as high-risk, and 58 percent as low-risk.

The researchers found that low-risk patients had a 95 percent survival rate at five years, but many later died from their disease.

The test classified 15 percent (98) of the cases as ultralow risk, showing that such tumors are an inherent part of the spectrum of breast cancers, even in the era before screening.

However, according to the authors of the study, not all low-risk tumors were ultralow risk.

In fact, only a quarter met the molecular definition. The women with ultralow risk tumors had an excellent prognosis, whether or not they used tamoxifen for two years.



men.health.harvard.edu

Predicting hair loss no matter your gender

Whether you'd like to admit it or not, your appearance has a great effect on your everyday life.

If your hair starts thinning or balding noticeably, you may find yourself uneasy in public and lacking confidence, according to foxnews.com.

Thankfully, there is a way to predict hair loss regardless of your gender and get treatment before your condition worsens.

The cause of hair loss

Hair loss can happen for a variety of reasons, but it holds a close link to your inherited genes.

In fact, your hair loss can come from genes on both sides of your family, resulting in a hair situation that is hard to predict.

Doctors warn against placenta pills after baby's illness.

One important hormone does play a big role in the condition, however, and that hormone is dihydrotestosterone (DHT).

DHT actually aids in the development of men's organs but is found in

smaller amounts in women.

According to Dr. Alan J. Bauman, who founded Bauman Medical, hair loss occurs due to a heightened sensitivity to DHT, not directly because of the hormone.

One of the main reasons for this extra sensitivity is your genes. Since Bauman attests that around 200 genes affect your hair growth, you can see why pinpointing the exact combination for hair loss proves so difficult.

A test for baldness

Despite the difficulty, researchers have found a way to predict hair loss. Doctors can perform a genetic test on both men and women, since the test is designed to identify people with a tendency for androgen alopecia.

Most women experience hair loss because of this condition.

Doctors perform this test, called HairDX, by simply swabbing the inside of the cheek.

They then use the DNA from the test to predict your propensity for baldness.

According to Men's Health, if a man tests positive with this genetic test, he will have a six in 10 chance of going bald before the age of 40.

HairDX can also test for a genetic variant. Eighty-five percent of men with the variant will not go bald by the age of 40, helping these men rest more easily.

While the test is not certain, you can get a good idea of your genetic disposition by taking the test, no matter your gender.

If you do test positive, you can start treatment immediately, typically with Propecia (for men only) or Rogaine.

These treatments are topical and may slow down the hair loss or encourage new growth. If you stop these treatments, the hair loss will continue.

These two medications are the only FDA-approved treatments for alopecia.

Hair loss in men

As you have probably guessed, men have a much higher tendency for significant hair loss than women.

The American Hair Loss Association states that nearly 5% of men will experience some type of hair loss by the age of 35.

Juice cleanses: Do they live up to the hype?

At the same time, this condition can affect men of any age, starting at the end of puberty. Many men in their early 20s have high amounts of hair loss, and they accept it as a normal part of their lives.

Typically, when a man starts losing his hair, he will first see the hair line in the front start to recede.

As time goes on, the hair on top of the head will thin out and stop growing altogether. Many times, the hair close to the ears and neck do not get affected in the same way, and researchers don't currently understand why.

Observer view on a crisis in mental health

Anxiety can be good for you. It is part of the "fight or flight" reflex triggered in the presence of danger.

The amygdala, the brain's alarm system, is responsible for generating negative emotions, theguardian.com wrote.

To prevent them flooding the brain, this part of the limbic system must be quiet.

Working hard on non-emotional mental tasks inhibits the amygdala which is why keeping busy is often said to be one source of happiness.

Keeping busy is not what the anxious and depressed can do — and so a cycle of misery is locked into place.

In England, new figures released last week revealed that misery appears to be escalating at an alarming scale.

Prescriptions for 64.7 million items of antidepressants — an all-time high — were dispensed in 2016, the most recent annual data from the National Health Service (NHS) Digital showed.

This is a staggering 108.5 percent increase on the 31 million antidepressants dispensed 10 years earlier.

Is the scale of the rise a welcome sign of progress — more people coming forward for help?

Or does it also flag up a rising tide of insecurity and distress, beginning in the very young, that requires a more profound change in society as a whole than individual GPs repeatedly reaching for the prescription pad?

Helen Stokes-Lampard, chair of the Royal College of GPs, said, "The rise could be indicative of better identification and diagnosis of mental health conditions across healthcare and reducing stigma. Nevertheless, no doctor wants their patient to be reliant on medication and where possible we will always explore alternative treatments, such as talking therapies."

Talking therapies in desperately short supply

She urged National Health Service (NHS) England to meet its commitment to have 3,000 new mental health therapists based in GP surgeries.

Kate Lovett, dean of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said, talking therapies have their place but for people who have recurrent episodes of depression, longer use of antidepressants reduces incidence of relapse.

The theory that more people may be coming forward for help is positive news — but, for many, that is still not early

enough.

One study followed a large cohort of children through to adulthood and found that half of the adults who had a psychiatric disorder at 26 first had problems before the age of 15.

While the young have never been better behaved and smoking less, their levels of anxiety and depression are rising and the chances of even the most chronic cases receiving adequate help are still shamefully slim.

Scott Stossel explained how as a child he had separation anxiety then he developed phobias about flying, fainting, speaking in public, closed places, germs, vomiting and cheese. Antidepressants and therapy have not provided relief.

He wrote, "To grapple with understanding anxiety is in some sense to grapple with and understand the human condition."

The human condition today is ever more complex in an era of the Internet, social media and the focus on status, appearance and material success.

However, more is required as an antidote than early intervention, self-help and medication alone.

As Richard Layard rightly argues in Happiness: Lessons from a New Science, a boost to serotonin and dopamine, both associated with mental wellbeing, is also provided by public policy that is judged on how it increases human happiness and reduces misery.

What might that mean in practice? A real living wage, a living rent related to local income levels, an end to the gig economy, affordable housing, investment in training and skills, an end to the freeze in benefits, proper pay for public sector workers and an increase in spending on the NHS.

According to the Nuffield Trust, the NHS in England is currently receiving an annual increase of less than one percent compared with four percent over its history.

Children born today, according to the Office for National Statistics, are likely to spend at least 20 percent of their lives in poorer health — a disgrace in a rich country such as this.

World Health Organization defines mental health as a state of wellbeing in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to his or her own community.

It is also a definition of the common good that is the kind of medicine we all need.



theguardian.com
The number of antidepressants prescribed to patients has more than doubled in a decade.

Vaquita porpoise: Dolphins deployed to save rare species

Mexico's government said it plans to use dolphins trained by the US Navy to try to save the world's most endangered marine species, the vaquita porpoise.

Environment Minister Rafael Pacchiano said that the dolphins would be deployed to locate and herd vaquitas into a marine refuge, [bbc.com](#) reported.

Mexico also permanently banned fishing nets blamed for the vaquitas' decline.



Latest ban on gillnets could make a difference in saving vaquita porpoise. [bbc.com](#)

Scientists estimate that fewer than 40 of the mammals are still alive in their habitat, in the Gulf of California.

Pacchiano said, "The dolphin project would begin in September.

"We've spent the past year working alongside the US Navy with a group of dolphins they had trained to search for missing scuba divers.

"We've been training them to locate the vaquitas. We have to guarantee we capture the largest possible number of vaquitas to have an opportunity to save them."

The Mexican government also said that it was imposing a permanent ban on gillnets, used to catch totaba, which are highly valued in Chinese traditional medicine.

The nets are designed to trap the heads of fish but not their bodies, but are blamed for trapping and killing the porpoises as well.

Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio, who has campaigned to save the vaquitas, tweeted that the ban was great news, thanking President Enrique Peña Nieto and environmental group World Wide Fund (WWF).

A temporary ban which had previously been in place since 2015 was seen as ineffective, leading the WWF to call for it to be extended and properly enforced.

Researchers create tiny sensor using 'white graphene'

Researchers have developed a new method for creating tiny mechanical sensors using 'white graphene'.

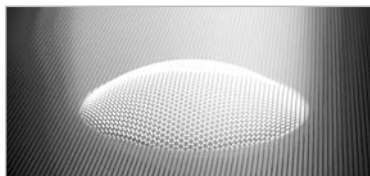
The sensor is made by placing white graphene — a 2D atomic sheet of hexagonal boron nitride — over the minuscule holes in a silicon substrate, [UPI](#) wrote.

Scientists said the material could serve as tiny gas and pressure sensors inside electronics.

The hexagonal structure of white graphene is similar to that of regular graphene, but the atomic layer is made up of boron nitride — the compound of boron and nitrogen — instead of carbon.

Graphene is prized for its conductive qualities, but hexagonal boron nitride, or h-BN, works as an insulator.

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



[UPI](#)

Until, scientists have struggled to develop a scaleable way to make 2D layers of h-BN. Layers of graphene are easily exfoliated from graphite, but h-BN layers stick to one another.

Lead researcher Santiago J. Cartamil-Bueno said, "There are only two or three institutions in the world that can produce single, two-dimensional layers of white graphite, and the University of Cambridge is one of them."

"This project is a success thanks to our effective collaboration with them."

Cambridge scientists used a method called chemical vapor deposition to deposit single layers of hexagonal boron nitride on a sheet of iron foil.

Scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands used the white graphene layers from Cambridge to build the miniature sensors.

By placing the white graphene over tiny cavities in a silicon substrate, researchers created tiny drums that work like mechanical resonators.

During the sensor-production process, scientists realized the drums were being contaminated by the polymer, making each drum-turned-sensor behave slightly differently.

Precision and consistency are essential to mechanical sensors. Researchers found that by treating the drums with ozone, they could rid the sensors of imperfections.

Cartamil-Bueno said, "Fortunately, this problem can be solved by only using organic substrates while transferring the sheet of white graphite onto the cavities."

Researchers detailed their breakthrough in the journal *Nature*. The next step is for scientist to incorporate the tiny sensors into actual electronics.

Optical nanomotors: Tiny motors are driven by light

Science fiction is full of fanciful devices that allow light to interact forcefully with matter, from light sabers to photon-drive rockets.

In recent years, science has begun to catch up; some results hint at interesting real-world interactions between light and matter at atomic scales and researchers have produced devices such as optical tractor beams, tweezers and vortex beams, according to [phys.org](#).

Now, a team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and elsewhere has pushed through another boundary in the quest for such exotic contraptions, by creating in simulations the first system in which particles — ranging from roughly molecule- to bacteria-sized — can be manipulated by a beam of ordinary light rather than the expensive specialized light sources required by other systems.

The findings are reported in the journal *Science Advances*, by MIT post-docs Ognjen Ilic, PhD, Ido Kaminer, and Bo Zhen; professor of physics Marin Soljačić and two others.

Most research that attempts to manipulate matter with light, whether by pushing away individual atoms or small particles, attracting them, or spinning them around, involves the use of sophisticated laser beams or other specialized equipment that severely limits the kinds of uses of such systems can be applied to.

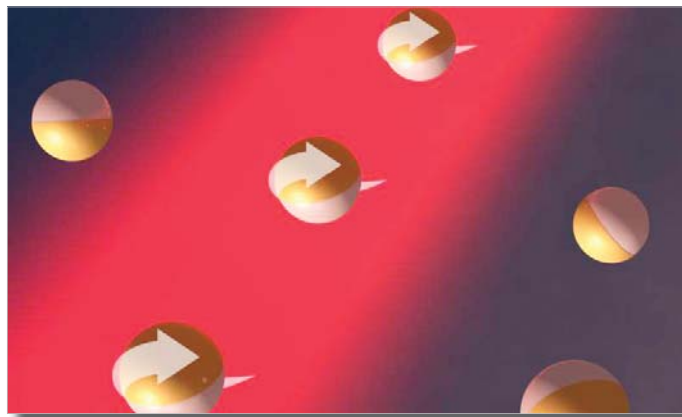
Ilic said, "Our approach is to look at whether we can get all these interesting mechanical effects, but with very simple light."

The team decided to work on engineering the particles themselves, rather than the light beams, to get them to respond to ordinary light in particular ways.

As their initial test, the researchers created simulated asymmetrical particles, called Janus (two-faced) particles, just a micrometer in diameter — one-hundredth the width of a human hair.

These tiny spheres were composed of a silica core coated on side with a thin layer of gold.

When exposed to a beam of light, the two-sided configuration of these particles causes an interaction that shifts their axes of symmetry relative to the



Researchers have created simulations of the first system in which particles can be manipulated by a beam of ordinary light rather than the expensive specialized light sources required by other systems. [phys.org](#)

orientation of the beam, the researchers found.

At the same time, this interaction creates forces that set the particles spinning uniformly.

Multiple particles can all be affected at once by the same beam. And the rate of spin can be changed by just changing the color of the light.

The same kind of system, the researchers said, could be applied to producing different kinds of manipulations, such as moving the positions of the particles.

Ultimately, this new principle might be applied to moving particles around inside a body, using light to control their position and activity, for new medical treatments. It might also find uses in optically based nanomachinery.

About the growing number of approaches to controlling interactions between light and material objects, Kaminer said, "I think about this as a new tool in the arsenal and a very significant one."

Ilic added that the study enables

dynamics that may not be achieved by the conventional approach of shaping the beam of light and could make possible a wide range of applications that are hard to foresee at this point.

For example, in many potential applications, such as biological uses, nanoparticles may be moving in an incredibly complex, changing environment that would distort and scatter the beams needed for other kinds of particle manipulation.

But these conditions would not matter to the simple light beams needed to activate the team's asymmetric particles.

Ilic said, "Because our approach does not require shaping of the light field, a single beam of light can simultaneously actuate a large number of particles."

"Achieving this type of behavior would be of considerable interest to the community of scientists studying optical manipulation of nanoparticles and molecular machines."

Kaminer added, "There's an advantage in controlling large numbers of particles at once. It's a unique opportunity we have here."

Soljačić noted this work fits into the area of topological physics — a burgeoning area of research that also led to last year's Nobel Prize in physics.

Most such work, though, has been focused on fairly specialized conditions that can exist in certain exotic materials called periodic media.

He said, "In contrast, our work investigates topological phenomena in particles."

And this is just the start, the team suggested. This initial set of simulations only addressed the effects with a very simple two-sided particle.

Kaminer said, "I think the most exciting thing for us is there's an enormous field of opportunities here."

"With such a simple particle showing such complex dynamics, it's hard to imagine what will be possible with an enormous range of particles and shapes and structures we can explore."

Scientists find wave's 'sweet spot'

A team of researchers in California have identified a wave's sweet spot.

The sweet spot is a wave's most powerful point. When riding a wave, surfers are often searching for the sweet spot, [UPI](#) reported.

Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) used a combination of math, physics and fluid dynamics to determine where a wave's energy is most efficiently transferred to a particle or object — like a surfer — on the ocean surface.

Lead researcher Nick Pizzo, a UCSD postdoctoral researcher and avid surfer, said, "Based upon the speed and geometry of the wave, you can determine the conditions to surf a wave and also where on the wave the maximum acceleration, or 'sweet spot', will be located."



[UPI](#)

A wave's sweet spot, as revealed in the *Journal of Fluid Dynamics*, is located right inside the curl.

Pizzo and his colleagues are studying the physics of breaking waves to better understand how exchanges

between the oceans and atmosphere influence climate and weather.

Sea spray ejected into the air by crashing waves are seemingly small but critical components in weather and climate systems.

Improved modeling of this small-scale process can help scientists better predict storm systems.

Pizzo said, "The study was motivated by important scientific questions that lead to a better description of the upper ocean to be used in weather and climate models."

"By studying the acceleration of a theoretical surfer on a wave, we can provide a better description of the currents generated by breaking waves, leading to an improved understanding of the momentum and energy budget between the atmosphere and ocean."

Earth-based telescope helping guide Juno spacecraft through Jupiter exploration

Researchers are using the Earth-bound Gemini North telescope to provide high-resolution images to help guide the Juno spacecraft's exploration of Jupiter.

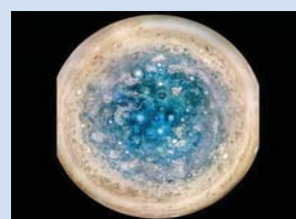
Michael Wong of the University of California (UC), Berkeley, said about his work to use a longer-wavelength filter on the telescope on Maunakea in Hawaii to look at cloud opacity on the giant planet, [news.xinhuanet.com](#) wrote.

"These observations trace vertical flows that cannot be measured any other way,

illuminating the weather, climate and general circulation in Jupiter's atmosphere."

Being supported by Earth-based observations, according to a news release from UC Berkeley, the Juno spacecraft, of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), is currently looping around Jupiter.

Glenn Orton, the principal investigator for this Gemini adaptive optics investigation and coordinator for Earth-based observations supporting the Juno project at Caltech's



[article.wn.com](#)

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said, "Using adaptive optics that removes atmospheric blur, astronomers at the Gemini

North telescope are revealing a treasure-trove of fascinating events in Jupiter's atmosphere."

The observations have produced a composite color infrared image of Jupiter showing haze particles over a range of altitudes.

Orton added, "Events like this show that there's still much to learn about Jupiter's atmosphere."

"The combination of Earth-based and spacecraft observations is a powerful one-two punch in exploring Jupiter."

No upper limit to how long humans can live

There is no upper limit to extending our lifespan, said scientists who contradict existing theories which suggested that the maximum human age is peaking at around 115 years.

Emma Morano passed away last April. At 117 years old, the Italian woman was the oldest known living human being.

According to ptnews.com, super-centenarians, such as Morano and Jeanne Calment of France, who famously lived to be 122 years old, continue to fascinate scientists and have led them to wonder just how long humans can live. Earlier studies have concluded that the upper limit of human age is peaking at around 115 years.

Researchers from the McGill University in Canada analyzed the lifespan of the longest-living individuals from the US, the UK, France and Japan for each year since 1968, and found no evidence for such a limit. If such a maximum exists, it has yet to be reached or identified, researchers said.

"We just don't know what the age limit might be. In fact, by extending trend lines, we can show that maximum and average lifespans, could continue to increase far into the foreseeable future," said Siegfried Hekimi, from McGill University.

Many people are aware of what has happened with average lifespans. In



thesun.co.uk

1920, for example, the average newborn Canadian could expect to live 60 years; a Canadian born in 1980 could expect 76 years, and today, life expectancy has jumped to 82 years. Maximum lifespan seems to follow the same trend.

It is impossible to predict what future lifespans in humans might look like, Hekimi said. Some scientists argue that technology, medical interventions, and improvements in living conditions could all push back the upper limit.

"Three hundred years ago, many people lived only short lives. If we would have told them that one day most humans might live up to 100, they would have said we were crazy," said Hekimi.

Stressed teachers at a chain of academies in the UK are being offered electric shock therapy to combat anxiety and depression.

Already used by the British Army and US military to treat post traumatic stress, the gadget works by stimulating the brain with a mild shock, telegraph.co.uk reported.

Now it is being used in primary and secondary schools to help teachers cope with what is recognized as a nationwide problem.

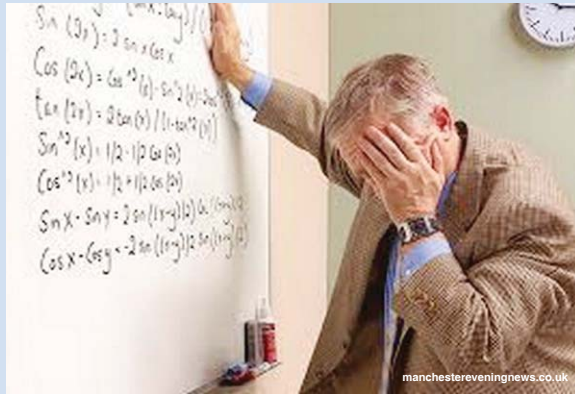
School bosses have successfully tested the device and are now offering the treatment at seven secondary schools, seven primary schools and a special educational needs school in Kent.

After running a pilot scheme, the Leigh Academies Trust said the device has had a positive impact on levels of anxiety, depression and sleep disorder—all symptoms of stress among its staff.

Trust HR Director Richard Taylor said the devices are now being made available to all the Trust's teachers to augment existing strategies to deal with stress.

He said: "The results from these trials were extremely encouraging and we saw a positive impact on the quality of life scores for nearly all those using the device."

"In light of the results, we are now rolling the scheme out



manchestereveningnews.co.uk

Stressed teachers offered electric shock therapy

so that it is available to all staff in the Trust.

"Whilst this is not the sole solution to improve teacher wellbeing, it is a fantastic tool to help staff maintain positive mental health."

"Leigh Academies Trust believes that teacher wellbeing is one of the most important

issues currently in education and, as a result, we have been exploring ways to help teachers maintain positive mental health including mindfulness sessions and examining the workload of staff."

The Alpha-Stim device is the size of a mobile phone and sends micro-currents of

electricity to increase a patient's naturally occurring 'alpha waves' that are said to create a more relaxed state of mind.

The drug-free treatment, which takes around 20 minutes a day, involves two electrodes being clipped to the earlobes with wires running to the

machine, giving the impression the patient is simply wearing headphones.

The hands-free device delivers a tiny, painless electrical current, measuring less than one milliampere, to the brain.

It is believed to have a therapeutic effect that can also help insomnia.

The Trust's educational psychologist Jo Buttle, added: "The Trust's dynamic and forward thinking approach enabled us to adopt a creative strategy in helping reduce the symptoms of anxiety, depression and sleep difficulties amongst staff."

"The results are excellent and suggest this is something schools and academies should consider as part of their staff support strategy."

The National Union of Teachers has warned that 90 percent of staff consider quitting because of workload and stress with teaching among the top three most stressful occupations.

And a recent study by the National Foundation for Educational Research found that maths, science and computing teachers are leaving the classroom in droves because of stress and poor pay.

It found that about 10.4 percent of science teachers left the profession each year, compared with 10.3 percent for maths, 10.2 percent for languages and 10 percent for technology.

WHO: Yemen's cholera death toll rises to 1,500

Death toll from a major cholera outbreak in Yemen has risen to 1,500, Nevio Zagaria, the World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Yemen, said while appealing for more help to put an end to the epidemic.

Yemen has been devastated by a Saudi Arabia's 27-month-old war on Yemen, making it a breeding ground for the disease, which spreads by feces getting into food or water and thrives in places with poor sanitation, according to Reuters.

Speaking at a joint news conference with representatives of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank, Zagaria said that there had been some 246,000 suspected cases in the period to June 30.

WHO said this week that the outbreak had reached the halfway mark at 218,798 cases as a massive emergency response has begun to curb its spread two months into the epidemic.

Although most of Yemen's health infrastructure has broken down and health workers have not been paid for more than six months, WHO is paying 'incentives' to doctors, nurses, cleaners and paramedics to staff an emergency cholera network.

With funding from the World Bank, WHO is setting up treatment centers with 50-60 beds each, overseen by shifts of about 14 staff working around the clock. The aim is to reach 5,000 beds in total.

Opioid addiction diagnoses surging since 2010

One in five people in the US who gets commercial health insurance from Blue Cross and Blue Shield filled at least one prescription for an opioid painkiller in 2015, a new study found.

The research also found that the number of members diagnosed with an opioid use disorder rose almost fivefold from 2010 to 2016, UPI reported.

That increase is far higher than the 65 percent increase in the use of medication-assisted treatments, according to the study by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA).

States with the largest increases in the use of medication-assisted treatments are not necessarily the ones most affected by opioid use disorders. High rates of treatment relative to opioid use disorder were found in New England, while lower rates were found in the South and parts of the Midwest.

Among people 45 and older, women have higher rates of opioid use disorder than do men. Among people younger than 45, men have higher rates than women. In all age groups, women fill more opioid prescriptions than men, the study authors said.



upi.com

The highest rates of long-term prescription opioid use and opioid use disorder are in the South and the Appalachian region, the research revealed.

Whether it's short- or long-term use, patients with high-dose opioid prescriptions have much higher rates of opioid use disorder than those with low-dose prescriptions, the study showed.

"Opioid use disorder is a complex issue, and there is no single approach to solving it," Dr. Trent Haywood, senior vice president and chief medical officer for BCBSA, said in an association news release.

"It will take a collaborative effort among medical professionals, insurers, employers, communities and all levels of government working together to develop solutions that effectively meet community needs," he added.

First ever anti-poverty festival held in Jacksonville

A Jacksonville-based non-profit is working to reduce poverty statistics in North Carolina, the US, by connecting citizens with local job opportunities.

The Eastern Carolina Human Services Agency (ECHSA) held its first ever anti-poverty festival on Saturday, witn.com wrote.

Statistics from the North Carolina Justice Center show the state still has a poverty rate 15 percent higher than before the Great Recession hit in 2007.

That's why more than 70 businesses, groups and organizations came together for a festival that organizers said took more than two years to plan.

"One of the things that I think is missing in this world today is communication. This gives us the opportunity to communicate with another vendor or someone we didn't even know existed," said Executive Director Daphany Hill.

Hill said the ECHSA has more than 1,000 clients whom they help find affordable housing, build resumes and secure jobs.

She said the organization exists to give people a hand-up, not a handout.

While adults collected job opportunity information, kids were able to play basketball, corn-hole and enjoy face-painting.

Ryan Johnson said he's looking to make a change in his life, so he came out to meet new people in the community and apply for jobs.

"I just shot ball, filled out applications, bought from vendors. Everybody needs that support so I was here to support everybody in every aspect," he said.

Hill hoped to make the festival an annual event to continue showing people some of the different resources available.

Time to ban smoking in all eateries

Isn't it time to ban smoking in all eateries in Malaysia? Health experts say yes, but coffee shop and restaurant operators warn of serious impact on business if smoking ban first proposed two years ago, is implemented.

In 2015, the country's Health Ministry said it would ban smoking in all eateries, including open air premises like coffee shops, food courts and mamak stalls, a move which coffee shop and restaurant operators were concerned would affect their business, freemalaysiatoday.com wrote.

Two years on, the move has yet to materialize, but the debate over the banning of smoking in public spaces, including eateries continues on social media, which isn't surprising given the findings of the 2011 Global Adult Tobacco survey which found that a majority of respondents wanted all public places to be smoke free.

Health Minister Dr. S. Subramaniam said the gazetting of open air eateries will be done in stages.

Every year, he said, the government tries to expand places in which smoking is prohibited, though there would always be some resistance when the government tried to do anything new.

He added that parks and covered walk ways in the Federal Territories are among the more recent places where smoking has been banned.

"Some special areas with open air eateries, like those at Rest and Relaxation (R&R) stops have been made smoke free, with the assistance of highway operators like PLUS," Subramaniam said, adding that in such areas, those who wanted to light up could only do so outside.

As far as eateries go, he said the government wants to ensure that the ban on smoking in air-conditioned restaurants, which was already in place was in full force.

Veteran doctor H. Krishna Kumar said that the government needs to ban smoking from eateries, as second hand smoke was harmful, especially to the young whose lungs haven't fully developed or the old who may be suffering from lung disease.

Krishna, who is the chairman of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Representative Committee noted that most first world countries already banned smoking in public.

He added that where eateries are concerned, there



freemalaysiatoday.com

should be designated smoking areas outside the restaurant rather than smoking sections inside the premises.

"In cold countries, even in the middle of winter, people who hang out at pubs are willing to step outside for a smoke," he told FMT.

"If people want to kill themselves by smoking that's their right, but they shouldn't go around killing others (non-smokers)."

The Health Ministry estimates that 100,000 Malaysians die of smoke-related illnesses every year.

Couple married for nearly 70 years die 24 hours apart as family say 'they couldn't cope without each other'

A loving couple who were married for nearly 70 years died within 24 hours of each other after facing the heartbreaking prospect of being apart, their family say.

Hilda and Roy Moss tied the knot in their early twenties after a blossoming relationship began when they first met working on the London buses as conductors, according to mirror.co.uk.

Fearing for her husband's health in the days before their death, 85-year-old Hilda stopped eating and drinking — dying one day before her partner in the Swindon care home where they lived for one year.

In their old age, the couple sadly suffered from ill health and Roy struggled to cope with Hilda's dementia.

They moved into a care home where they had a bedroom and a sitting room and were visited daily by family members.

Daughter Lynne Kellow, 53, believed the mother-of-three was aware her husband was dying after he was treated at the care home rather than taken to hospital.

Kellow, 53, said: "We'd been told Dad was at the end of his



life, and Mum hadn't been eating and drinking.

"We felt that once Dad went she wouldn't survive — but she felt she would go before him. I think she was aware of what was happening."

Hilda died on June 18, and the following day Roy died aged 89.

Despite the medical condition which worsened her memory, Hilda "knew who everybody was, and what was happening", her daughter said.

Kellow added: "She knew he was poorly as he started to be cared for at home and not in a hospital."



SWNS

A few years after they wed, Roy and Hilda moved to Swindon where they raised their three children, Lynne, Christine and Stephen.

Roy worked as a milkman and drove a minibus in his old age. Hilda worked as a tea lady in the town's civic offices, as well as for BT.

But their greatest joy was spending time with family — including two grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild and five step-great-grandchildren.

Kellow said: "They had a happy, long life with their

family. All we can say is we are sad but glad.

"While they were both poorly towards the end, at least they are together. I don't think either would have coped without the other."

She praised the Orchid Care Home, Haydon Wick, where the couple spent their last year together.

She added: "Mostly they enjoyed being with family, going on family holidays, stuff like that."

"I suppose they just looked after each other. It was give and take, that's what they'd say."

Brother and sister who hadn't seen each other since 1963 reunited after daughter posted an old photo on Facebook

A brother and sister have finally been reunited following 54 years apart — after an old photograph was posted on Facebook.

And stunned Dennis Whiting, 81, and younger sister Betty Glenville, 79, discovered they had been living just ten miles away from each other for the last 22 years, dailymail.co.uk wrote.

Dennis and Betty Glenville, 79, last saw each other in 1963 — the same year as The Great Train Robbery and assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The siblings first lost touch after their mother died 54 years ago when Dennis was working as a

trawler skipper on a fishing boat, where he would spend weeks at sea.

The pair eventually lost contact altogether when Betty, from Hull, East Yorkshire married a soldier and moved to Ireland, Africa and then Germany. Both assumed the other had died.

For the past 22 years, Betty has lived in Ireland and Dennis has lived in west Hull — just 10 miles apart.

They were reunited when Dennis's daughter Janet Thompson snapped a photo of her dad proudly posing alongside a Hull fishing memorial.

She merged the photo with one of him stood next to the same memorial taken when he was 24-years-old and uploaded it to a local history page on Facebook.

The mother-of-three Janet, from Hesse, East Yorkshire said she was shocked to receive a message from Betty's niece Elaine, who had stumbled across the photo, telling her they were cousins.

The cousins arranged for their parents, Dennis

and Betty, to be reunited for the first time since 1963 — when Dennis was 27 and Betty, 25.

Janet said: "My dad was one of four siblings — a brother and two sisters. They lost contact after their mum died 54 years ago."

"My dad assumed all of his siblings were dead. He and his youngest sister Betty were the closest growing up, with only two years between them."

"She lived in Kenya when their mum died and by the time she came home my dad had moved house and his telephone was always ex-directory."

"When Betty was shown the photograph of her 81-year-old brother she said it wasn't him, but shown the photograph of him aged 24, she knew it was."

"She used to knit all of his jumpers for sea."

Dennis' daughter, two granddaughters and Betty's daughter and niece met at the Village Hotel in west Hull.

They have since met again for lunch with more family members and spent hours talking to each other on the phone.

Dennis said: "I am amazed how this has happened. I thought she was dead and she thought I was dead."

"I couldn't believe how much she was like our mother. She's a lot fitter than I am and could remember a lot from when we were younger."

"I was just so surprised, it's unbelievable. I'm so pleased."

"When I went to pick her up I put her address in my sat-nav and it's exactly 10 miles between us and we never knew."



dailymail.co.uk

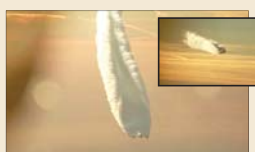
Incredible close-up footage of Boeing 787 leaving huge vapor trail through the sky

Incredible close-up footage of a passenger plane leaving a huge vapor trail through the sky while flying over Russia has emerged online.

The stunning video shot from another plane shows the long trail left behind by a Boeing 787, according to mirror.co.uk.

The plane was flying over the east coast of Russia at the time and perfectly shows a condensation trail forming at 33,000 feet in the air. The person who filmed the video wrote online: "This contrail looks dark against the rising Sun."

He went on to explain that the trails are the result of hot exhaust mixing with cold air with a high moisture content.



NEWSFLARE

The new Boeing 787 Dreamliner's are seen as a revolutionary new 'greener', 'jet lag-busting' passenger plane, Mirror Online reported earlier this year.

It is seen as the greatest advance in

aviation since Concorde and this week was on the UK leg of a world tour which took in Heathrow, Manchester and Gatwick airports. It also emerged last month that high levels of air pollution could be blamed for a bad night's sleep.

People living in areas with raised nitrogen dioxide were found to be up to 60 percent more likely to suffer from sleep deprivation than those living in areas with lower pollution levels, according to research.

A study, involving 1,863 people, suggests the impact of air pollution on the respiratory and central nervous system ultimately has an effect on how well people sleep.

The fisherman and the little fish

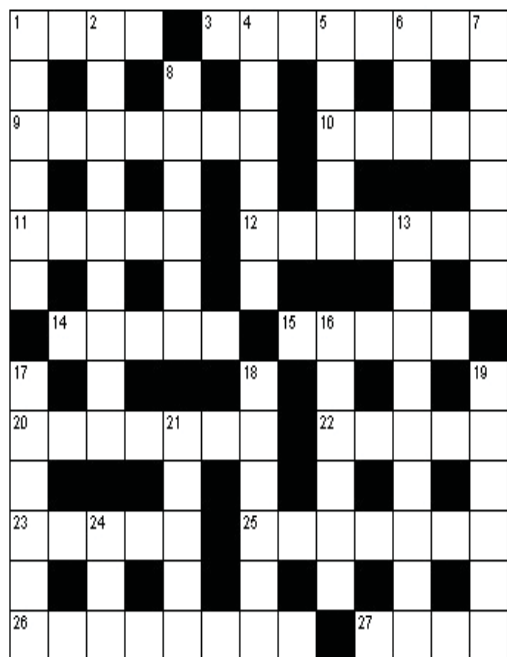
A fisherman who lived on the produce of his nets, one day caught a single small fish as the result of his day's labor. The fish, panting convulsively, thus entreated for his life: "O sir, what good can I be to you, and how little am I worth? I am not yet come to my full size. Pray spare my life, and put me back into the sea."

I shall soon become a large fish fit for the tables of the rich, and then you can catch me again and make a handsome profit of me."

The fisherman replied, "I should indeed be a very simple fellow if, for the chance of a greater uncertain profit, I were to forego my present certain gain."



True or False Crossword



DOWN

- Depending on chance / Orderly (6)
- Small church / Large church (9)
- Present / Not present (6)
- Internal organ / External organ (5)
- Road sign / Star sign (3)
- Accept / Decline (6)
- Classical composer / Musical instrument (6)
- Appearing / Disappearing (9)
- Men / Women (6)
- Look up to / Despise (6)
- Type of bird / Type of fish (6)
- Valuable / Debts (6)
- Tooth / Shoe (5)
- Start / Finish (3)

ACROSS

- Poor / Wealthy (4)
- Unmarried man / Unmarried woman (8)
- Countries / Cities (7)
- Engaging / Distant in manner (5)
- First or last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- Local inhabitants / Tourists (7)
- Laughter / Anger (5)
- Diplomatic / Candid (5)
- Easy decision / Quandary (7)
- Kitchen tables / Writing tables (5)
- Paragon / Bad example (5)
- Cranny / Canyon (7)
- Transient / Lasting (8)
- A short time / A long time (4)

Yesterday's solution



Sudoku

Sudoku was inspired by the table devised by Iranian mathematician Khwarazmi. Fill 9x9 grid with digits so that each column, each row and each of the nine 3x3 sub-grids that compose the grid, contains all of the digits from 1 to 9.

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

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

Teacher's triumph

Former schoolteacher Jeff Horn stunned champion Manny Pacquiao to win the WBO world welterweight title with a unanimous points decision in Brisbane, Australia, on Saturday night.

Iran crowned Asian sitting volleyball champion



Iranian men's sitting volleyball team captured the title at the 2017 Para-Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Championships in China following an emphatic win over Kazakhstan in the final showdown of the continental competition.

On Sunday, Iran overcame its Central Asian counterparts 3-0 (25-15, 25-19, 25-12) at the end of a fixture staged in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou, presstv.com reported.

The champion had beaten Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan and Iraq en route to the final.

Earlier in the competition, Iranian women had defeated the Kazakh squad

3-0 (25-10, 25-13, 25-13) in a third-place playoff to book their place in the 2018 Sitting Volleyball World Championships which is to take place in Netherlands next year.

The 2017 Para-Volley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Championships took place in Hangzhou, China, from June 27-July 3.

The tournament brought together national men's sitting volleyball teams from China, Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka.

National men's sitting volleyball teams from China, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia were in action as well.



USA eases past Iran in FIBA U19 opener

Iran's Amir-Hossein Khandanpour (L) scored 10 points for Iran against USA at the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on July 1, 2017.

Sports Desk

Iran started its campaign at the FIBA U19 World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, with a defeat against USA by a 108-48 score line.

On Saturday night, Iran and the defending champion squared off in their opener of the Group D fixtures of the

competition in the Cairo Stadium Indoor Hall 1. The Asian side did not really have much to offer against the tournament favorite and was comprehensively beaten in all four quarters 18-6, 28-18, 30-13 and 32-11, respectively.

Ehsan Samadi and Amir-Hossein Khandanpour were the best scorers in

Iranian outfit with 11 and 10 points, respectively. However Mohammad-Reza Bahramzad was the overall top performer for Iran with 7 pts, 5 rebounds and 3 assists.

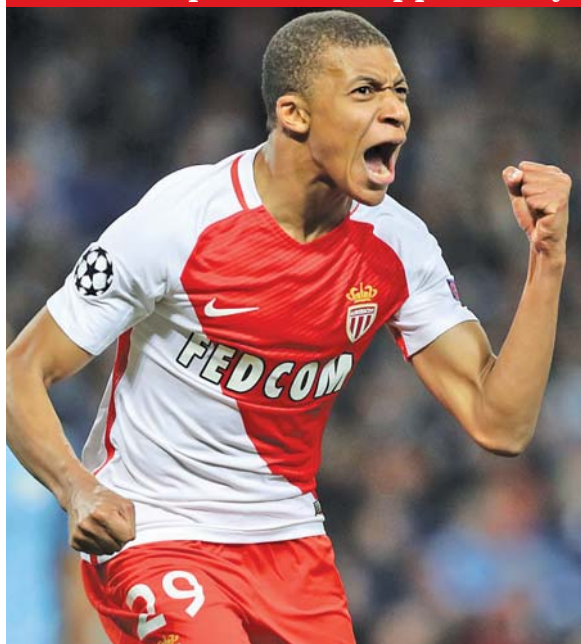
The Americans are yet to lose a game in the competition since 2011, when they were last beaten by Russia at the quarterfinals of the tournament

in Latvia. They won back-to-back titles in 2013 and 2015.

The Group D of the tournament sees Iran, USA, Italy and Angola playing each other.

The FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup 2017 started on July 1 in the Egyptian capital of Cairo as the final game is set to be played on July 9.

Jardim hopeful of Mbappe to stay



PA IMAGES

Mbappe is on the top-European clubs' radar, namely Real Madrid and Arsenal.

Monaco boss Leonardo Jardim said Kylian Mbappe is aware of the club's desire to keep the striker, but he has conceded that more players could be heading for the exit door.

Reports suggest Arsenal is preparing a £125 million bid for Mbappe, while Real Madrid remains favorite to land the Frenchman, eurosport.com reported.

Bernardo Silva has already left the Ligue 1 champion to join Manchester City, while Thomas Lemar, Fabinho, Tiemoue Bakayoko and Benjamin Mendy have all been linked with moves to the Premier League.

Jardim told RMC: "I have not spoken to him [Mbappe], because he knows how we work, that we want to keep him."

"I think the club and he will make the best decision."

Nabil Dirar and Valere Germain have also left Monaco this summer, and Jardim is faced with the task of holding onto the remainder of his prize assets.

However, due to the club's business model, Jardim admitted more departures could follow.

"I hope to keep the right players," he said. "It is not just me, all the coaches of the world [would] like to keep the

best players.

"But with the Monaco project, maybe it's not possible to always keep the best. We're going to look at what's going to happen."

"Three players left. Other players could leave us. Everyone knows our project. It did not change even if we have won the title. The project is the same. The goal is still win. Nothing changed."

"It's very important for us. What matters is the training of the young players and the quality of our game. The only thing that changes is that we are going to start the season being the defending champion."

Federer wary of 'Big Four'

Roger Federer said 'Big Four' rivals Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal will still pose a major threat to his Wimbledon hopes, despite questions around each of them.

The Swiss, 35, is the bookmakers' favorite to regain the title he last won in 2012, BBC reported.

Defending champion Murray is struggling to recover from a hip injury.

"If he's anything close to 100 percent physically, I consider him one of the big favorites," said Federer.

"It's that simple. It's the same for Novak and the same for Rafa."

Djokovic, a three-time champion, won only his second title of the year in Eastbourne on Saturday after a poor 12 months by his standards.

Federer.

"Everybody has their own little story right now."

"For me, everything that happened sort of before - Queen's for Andy, whatever - doesn't matter so much."

"I feel like Andy's one of the best players in the first week at Wimbledon. He can play himself into shape hopefully for week two."

"Novak is just coming back from winning Eastbourne now. Rafa is coming in red hot from the clay."

"So I see it positive for them rather than negative in some shape, which I'm sure people will try to see that way."

Nadal, 31, has not been past the fourth round at Wimbledon since 2011 and won the last of his two titles in 2010, but arrives ful-

playing well since the beginning of the season, so let's see."

Kerber's top spot at stake

Angelique Kerber has replaced Serena Williams as the world number one since reaching last year's final, but her form has slumped in 2017 and she is in danger of losing top spot after Wimbledon.

The German, 29, plays Irina Falconi of the US in her opening match.

"I'm starting from zero here," said Kerber. "My mind is just day by day here, like last year."

"I will not put the pressure too high. I'm already so long the number one, I will try, of course, to keep it."

"But at the end, I am here to play round by round and focusing only on my matches, not about the numbers or the rankings, the points I have to defend, or whatever."

Two-time champion Petra Kvitová will be the center of much attention as she continues her remarkable comeback following a knife attack in December.

The Czech, 27, suffered lacerations to her playing hand and it was feared she might never play again.

On the contrary, Kvitová returned ahead of schedule at the French Open, and then won only the second tournament she played since her comeback, on the Birmingham grass last week.

"I'm not sure if it is the result of what happened, but maybe I feel a bit fearless because of what happened," said Kvitová, who opens against Johanna Larsson of Sweden.

"I find out what's important and what is not. Sometimes I'm thinking on the court that I already won the biggest fight, and if I fight in the match, it doesn't matter if I win the last point or lost. I will still be happy to play."



Roger Federer (L) is highly tipped to regain the Wimbledon title which he last won in 2012 after he beat Andy Murray in the final.

Nadal returns to Wimbledon for the first time since 2015, after missing last year through injury.

Murray heads into the tournament without a win on grass this year after losing in the first round at Queen's Club, and was hobbling during practice sessions at the All England Club on Friday and Saturday.

"I think it's very even when we put it all out on the line," said seven-time champion

ly fit and having just clinched a record 10th French Open.

"I am excited to be playing here again, in a tournament that I really love. I really enjoy playing," said the Spaniard, who plays Australian John Millman today.

"At the same time, I tell you, it's a tournament that you can go out of very early."

"But if I am able to go through at the beginning, I think I am with confidence. I am

Confucius:

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

Iran photo collection

stands top in Int'l China Festival

A photo collection of anthropological research and documentation of indigenous silk knowledge in Iran has been included in the list of 100 top collections.

According to the Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), the list was selected by the panel of jury at the Humanity Photo Awards (HPA) in China.

The photo collection which was arranged by Babak Saddiqi in cooperation with the Research Institute of Anthropology and ICHHTO Research Institute was selected from among 7,848 collections.

The HPA Festival is the most prestigious international photo festival in the world in the cultural field which is held biennially.

Photos of the research work had earlier been awarded a plaque of honor at the Tokyo International Foto Awards (TIFA).

Persian language taught in 340 universities worldwide

Art & Culture Desk

Persian language is being taught in 340 universities in the world, according to Sa'di Foundation, a community based, non-profit body.

The head of Sa'di Foundation told the 84th Persian Language and Literature Refresher Course that 70 Iranian cultural centers are also offering courses in Persian language, IRNA reported.

Gholamali Haddad-Adel added that Persian language is a prerequisite for some courses while it is not obligatory in others.

Persian language is being taught at the bachelors, masters of art and PhD levels whereas in countries such as Lebanon, Serbia, Armenia, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, it is taught in high schools.

Efforts are also underway to hold such classes for children of Iranians expatriates in the US, Australia, the UK and Austria.

The foundation's main responsibility is to develop Persian language and literature abroad and to synchronize and integrate the activities with the aim of making optimal use of the capacities available in Iran and abroad.

7th Islamic Film Market kicks off in Mashhad

The Seventh Islamic Film Market began in the Iranian holy city of Mashhad with the participation of managers of networks and stations of Islamic radio and television union.

Mashhad is hosting the ninth meeting of General Assembly of the Islamic radio and television union, the seventh edition of the Islamic Film Market and the sixth exhibition of equipment and technology media, ISNA wrote.



ISNA

Over 800 new TV shows from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Italy, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Pakistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Oman, Kuwait, the UK and India are being presented in the market.

The Islamic Film Market aims to introduce cinema and television productions from Islamic countries.

Iranian radio and TV channels and institutes, including Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Farabi Cinema Foundation, the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IDCYA), and the Documentary and Experimental Film Center (DEFC) are presenting their latest productions in the market to help increase the international exposure of their productions.

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REZA QADERVIRNA

Felt-making is an ancient Iranian art which includes making woolen rugs. Its origin is believed to go back to the Neolithic period, predating weaving. The use of felt is concentrated between the Balkans and eastern Mongolia, where it played an important role in the lives of nomadic peoples. It was, and in some regions still is, used for tent covering, clothing, blankets, rugs and votive images.



Envoy: Brazil, Iran geographically far, culturally close

From Page 1

IRAN DAILY: What are the similarities between Brazilian and Iranian people?

RODRIGO DE AZEREDO SANTOS: Although Brazil and Iran are geographically very far from each other, the people of the two countries have a lot of similarities in terms of their cultures and the way they react to foreigners. They are very hospitable, nice and easygoing.

Upon meeting each other, Brazilians and Iranians feel their remarkable similarities.

Brazilians and Iranians are very family-oriented compared to other countries in other regions. Unfortunately, they do not know a lot about each other. That is why efforts are underway by us to increase Iranians' knowledge of Brazil.

We would like to present all the aspects of Brazilian culture, such as literature and art, to Iranians.

Iran has a fantastic cinema. Plans are underway by the Brazilian Embassy in Iran to hold a week of the Brazilian cinema in the Iranian capital of Tehran. We have invited a very famous Brazilian director, Carlos Diegues — also known as Cacá Diegues — to come to Iran and take part in the event. Diegues, known as the father of modern Brazilian cinema and a member of the Cinema Novo movement, has accepted the invitation.

During the week a number of seminars and discussions are planned. We also intend to show some of the movies by the director and hold meetings between him and Iranian cineastes.

Brazilians and Iranians are also very creative. Street art in Iranian cities is really great. There are a large number of

paintings and graffiti, by Iranian artists, on the walls in Tehran's streets and alleys. We also intend to bring Brazilian graffiti artists to Iran and provide them with the opportunity to meet their Iranian counterparts and perhaps begin cooperation in a project here. This, however, should be discussed with Tehran's municipality in advance.

The Brazilian cuisine is also very nice. We would also like to invite Brazilian chefs to have a week in restaurants in Tehran.

Would you please talk about tourism cooperation between the two states?

We would also like to encourage Iranians to go to Brazil. The visa application is very easy. The number of tourists to Brazil is increasing daily. Over the past few years, Brazil hosted the World Cup and Olympics. This helped increase the number of foreign tourists, especially from Iran, to the country.

We are in contact with tourism companies and agents in Brazil that would like to bring Brazilian tourists to Iran. Brazilian visitors are showing clear and avid interest in traveling to Iran. They know about Persian culture and tradition, Iran's history, Persepolis [in Fars province] and Isfahan.

We would love to have a direct flight between Brazil and Iran. Talks are underway in this regard.

What are the barriers to expanding cultural cooperation between the two sides?

The barriers are mostly financial such as meeting the expenses involved in bringing people from Brazil to Iran.



AMIR RAJABPOUR, IRANIAN DAILY

What about the two countries' collaboration in the field education?

In the framework of a project financed by the Brazilian Ministry of Education, the country's universities are offering graduation and post-graduation courses for foreign students, particularly those from Iran. Iran is on our priority list. We would like to see Iranian students going to Brazil. Iranian students' placement in Brazilian universities is guaranteed. Prior to entering the university and taking the courses, in case needed, the students are offered six-month Portuguese courses. They can study whatever they like. We plan to bring a number of Brazilian professors to Tehran to teach Portuguese here.

We offer scholarships in post-graduation course. This project is aimed at establishing long-term and lasting relationships between Iranian students and Brazilian universities.

What do Brazilians know about Iran? What are their frequently-asked questions about Iran?

Some business people know about the

potentials of Iran's economy. They know that the country is a big market.

I always tell my people that there are a lot of things that they should know about Iran.

However, when they see me, Brazilians mostly ask me questions about security in Iran, the way Iranian men and women dress in public places and the best places to visit.

How do you evaluate security in Iran?

Despite the ongoing crises and instabilities in the region, Iran is a very secure country. I have always told Brazilians that there are not any security problems in Iran. Tehran is absolutely secure. The security of the Iranian capital is far greater than that of regional metropolises and some of the European capitals in terms of terrorism and urban violence.

How do you see the role of Iranian women in the society?

Compared to women in other countries of the region, Iranian women play a very important role in the society. Iranian women are involved in a wide array of social activities.

Would you please comment on Iran's foreign policy?

We are paying great attention to the good developments of Iran's foreign policy. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif are actively seeking to solve the country's problems through diplomacy and holding dialogue. Brazilian diplomacy in foreign policy is also very similar to that of Iran.

Like Brazil in Latin America, Iran is also a regional power. We [Brazil and Iran] have legitimate interests and concerns in our regions which should be recognized by other countries.

» Weather



35 26

Amol



41 28

Jiroft



32 26

Ramsar



38 24

Shahriar



38 21

Shiraz



37 24

Tehran



37 23

Dushanbe



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Mecca



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Tokyo



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Toronto