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# IRAN DAILY



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Number 5691 • Sunday July 30, 2017 • Mordad 8, 1396 • Dhu al-Qadah 6, 1438 • Price 5,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.irandailyonline.ir



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## Iran, Russia sign MoU to develop oilfields

### Domestic Economy Desk

Iran and Russia signed an MoU to develop Azar and Changouleh oilfields which are located along the Iran-Iraq border in the western Iranian province of Ilam.

The MoU was signed between Iran's Oil Industries' Engineering and Construction (OIEC) and Russian Gazprom,

IRNA reported.

The two companies plan to pursue co-operation within the framework of Iran's new oil contracts (known as IPC).

Following the finalization of talks at the technical level, which had been underway for months, the managing directors of the two companies signed an MoU in Saint Petersburg last week (July 27), to collaborate in the fields' develop-

ment project.

In mid-March 2016, the OIEC initiated the implementation of the first phase of the project to begin early production (15,000 barrels per day) from Azar oilfield. Within two months from the onset of the project, cumulative production from the field reached one million barrels per day.

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Zarif: Actions show 'US bad faith'

## Iran: US sanctions hostile, reprehensible

Iran MPs approve anti-US draft bill

Iran on Saturday said it will press ahead with its missile program and condemned new US sanctions imposed for test firing missiles.

"We will continue with full power our missile program," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi told the national TV. "We consider the action by the US as hostile, reprehensible and unacceptable, and it's ultimately an effort to weaken the nuclear deal."

Qassemi was referring to a 2015 agreement, known as the JCPOA, between Iran and six world powers that lifted some sanctions on Tehran in return for curbs on its nuclear work.



"The military and missile fields... are our domestic policies and others have no right to intervene or comment on them," the spokesman said. The sanctions bill, which also targets Russia and North Korea, was passed by the US Senate on Thursday, two days after being approved by the House of Representatives.

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## Syrian civilians killed in new US-led airstrikes

At least 10 civilians have lost their lives and dozens more sustained injuries when the US-led coalition purportedly fighting the Daesh terrorist group carried out a string of airstrikes against Syria's eastern province of Deir Ezzor.

Local sources told Syria's official news agency, SANA, that the aerial attacks targeted the village of Tayibe in the eastern part of the province, located 450 kilometers northeast of the capital Damascus, on Saturday, killing at least ten people and destroying the civilian infrastructure there.

The sources added that seven of the victims were members of the same family, noting that five children were among the dead.

The airstrike came only two days after at least 18 people were killed and another 20 others wounded after US-led military aircraft bombed the same Syrian village.

On July 26, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that at least 29 people, including eight children, had been killed in a US-led strike against the Daesh-held northern Syrian city of Raqqah.



Tens of civilians were also killed or injured on July 24, when US-led airstrikes targeted al-Fansh crossroads in the city of Mayadin.

The US-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be Daesh targets inside Syria since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

The military alliance has repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians. It has also been largely incapable of fulfilling its declared aim of destroying Daesh.

The city of Raqqah, which lies on the northern bank of the Euphrates River, was overrun by Daesh terrorists in March 2013, and proclaimed the center for most of the Takfiris' administrative and control tasks the next year.



## North Korea: 'All US' within striking range

Kim Jong-un boasted of North Korea's ability to strike any target in the US after a second ICBM test that weapons experts said Saturday could even bring New York into range - in a potent challenge to President Donald Trump.

China condemned the test but US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Beijing and Moscow bore "unique responsibility" for the "growing threat" posed by the North, AFP reported.

Under Kim's leadership North Korea has accelerated its drive toward a credible nuclear strike capability, in defiance of multiple sets of UN sanctions.

Kim said the test "is meant to send a grave warning to the US" and demonstrated the North's ability to launch "at any place and time," the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The "leader said proudly the test also confirmed all the US mainland is within our striking range," it said.

Trump denounced the launch as "reckless and dangerous" and rejected Pyongyang's claims that such tests helped ensure its security.

"The United States will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of the American homeland and protect our allies in the region."

Weapons experts said the altitude and flight time of Friday's missile suggested it was significantly more powerful than the July 4 test, with a theoretical range of around 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles) meaning it might be able to reach east coast US cities like New York, depending on the payload size.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he held telephone talks with Tillerson and agreed on the need to put "the heaviest possible pressure" on North Korea.

In a standard response to the test, Beijing urged restraint by all sides, after the US and South Korea conducted a live-fire exercise using surface-to-surface missiles.

The heads of the US and South Korean militaries also discussed "military response options" after North Korea's launch, the Pentagon said.

South Korea said the test had prompted it to speed up deployment of a US missile defense system, despite consistent protests from China that the program would destabilize the region.

"The THAAD (missile defense) system deployment cannot solve South Korea's security concerns, nor can it solve the problems facing the Korean Peninsula," China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Saturday.

## Maduro presses on with Venezuela vote despite protests

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was pushing forward Saturday with a weekend vote, despite growing domestic political opposition, international condemnation and deadly street protests.

On Friday, security forces faced small groups of protesters defying a ban he had imposed on demonstrations against the election he has called Sunday to choose a new body to rewrite the constitution.

Blockades went up across a few roads in Caracas and in a border town with Colombia, San Cristobal as well as in Maracaibo and Guayana, but the scale was far less than the mass protests seen earlier this week before the ban took effect, AFP wrote.

the past four months, have led to 113 deaths - eight of them during a two-day general strike that ended Thursday.

The most recent reported fatality occurred Friday when an 18-year old protester was killed in San Cristobal.

Meanwhile, US Vice President Mike Pence spoke by telephone to a detained prominent Venezuelan opposition leader, Leopoldo Lopez, who early this month was moved from prison to house arrest.

In implicit support for the opposition, Pence praised Lopez's "courage."

He also called for the "unconditional release of all political prisoners in Venezuela, free and fair elections, restoration of the National Assembly, and respect

Colombia's President, Juan Manuel Santos, said his country would not recognize the results of Sunday's election in Venezuela, calling the basis of the Constituent Assembly "spurious."

Yet Maduro has remained determined to see through his plan, with backing from a loyal military.

"We have a card to play; a card that will win this game. And that card is the National Constituent Assembly," he said. He urged the opposition to stop its "insurrection" and hold talks instead. The leftist president has repeatedly accused the US of fomenting the unrest against him.

The new assembly would comprise 545 citizens cho-



Maduro on Thursday warned that anyone taking part in protests against his "Constituent Assembly" risked up to 10 years in prison.

The threat appeared to dampen public anti-government demonstrations of the sort that, in

for human rights in Venezuela," a statement from his office said.

The United States this week imposed sanctions on 13 current and former Venezuelan officials, including police and army chiefs, over Maduro's plan.

sen from across the country, and from societal sectors over which Maduro's government holds influence.

The opposition, which brands the election of the body a ploy to cling to power, has called for a boycott of the vote.



## MP: Iran will never let inspection of military sites

An Iranian lawmaker said that Iran will never let the US inspect its military headquarters or missile sites.

Qassem Jassemi, who is a member of Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the remarks on Friday in reaction to reports that the US president has called for inspection of Iran's military sites, IRNA reported.



Since the start of the nuclear talks in 2015, Iran has always reiterated that it has no plan to access nuclear weapons, therefore inspection of its military sites has no justification, Jassemi added.

The lawmaker noted that according to a bill approved by Iran's Parliament, Western countries are not authorized to check Iran's military headquarters.

US President Donald Trump is seeking a justification to violate Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he said, adding the European states should not ask either for inspection of Iran's military sites.

"Monitoring the implementation of the JCPOA is not more than an excuse for the US president and Trump has proposed the idea of visiting Iran's military centers while Washington has for many occasions breached the spirit of the international deal," the Iranian lawmaker added.

Trump has called the pact a "disaster" and "the worst deal ever negotiated," vowing to scrap or renegotiate it.

The nuclear deal, which was reached between Iran and world powers in 2015, put limits on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

The agreement is being reviewed by the US State Department every 90 days to declare whether Tehran is abiding by it.

All other parties to the deal – China, France, Germany, Russia, and Britain as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency – have so far confirmed that the deal is working as intended.

# Mogherini to attend Rouhani inauguration ceremony

The European Union foreign policy chief will travel to Tehran on August 5, in her capacity as chair of the Joint Commission of the Iran nuclear deal, to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Hassan Rouhani.

On this occasion Federica Mogherini will have bilateral meetings with Iranian dignitaries to review the state of implementation of the nuclear deal and to discuss issues of bilateral and regional relevance, ecas.europa.eu reported.

On July 20, she received the 2016 Hessian Peace Prize for her achievement as one of the negotiators and coordinators of the Iran nuclear agreement.

A member of Iran's Parliament's Presiding Board announced on Saturday the speakers of some foreign countries are scheduled to attend the president swearing-in ceremony, who was reelected for a second term in May, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Behrouz Nemati said arrangements have been made for the ceremony, which will be held in the Parliament building.

President Rouhani is slated to take the oath of office at an open session of the Parliament on August 5.

The inaugural ceremony will be held after the endorsement of Rouhani's presidency by leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Following the swearing-in ceremony,



the president will have two weeks to submit his new cabinet to the Parliament for

a vote of confidence.

In Iran's presidential election on May

19, Rouhani garnered more than 23 million votes.

## Iran decries US provocation in Persian Gulf

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) reported a second provocation by US warships in the Persian Gulf waters less than a week after a similar incident in the same region.

"At 4 p.m. local time (1130 GMT) on Friday, the supercarrier USS Nimitz and its accompanying warship, while being monitored by the IRGC Navy's missile frigates, flew a helicopter near the Resalat oil and gas platform and approached the IRGC's ships," the IRGC Navy said in a statement on Saturday, Press TV reported.

"The US made a provocative and unprofessional move by warning the Iranian vessels through firing flares," but the Iranian forces continued with their mission "in disregard of the unconventional and unusual behavior of American vessels" that later left the region, the statement read.

It came a few days after a similar incident in the

northern Persian Gulf, where a US Navy ship sailed toward an IRGC Navy ship, which was patrolling in international waters, and fired two shots into the air.

which was made "with the aim of provocation and intimidation."

Iran's IRGC says it frustrated a provocative move by a US Navy ship in the Persian Gulf.

Iranian naval forces are tasked with guaranteeing security within the country's maritime borders, where they have been involved in a series of face-offs with US vessels for intrusion into Iranian territorial waters.

Iran has repeatedly warned that any act of transgression into Iran's territorial waters would be met with an immediate and befitting response.

In recent years, Iran's Navy has increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers. It has also



VAHID SALEMI/AP

The IRGC said in a statement following Tuesday's incident that it had neutralized the US Navy move,

conducted major drills to enhance its defense capabilities.

## Iran: US sanctions hostile, reprehensible

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US President Donald Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

Separately on Friday, the US imposed new sanctions targeting Iran's missile program.

The US sanctions hit six Iranian subsidiaries of the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, described by the Treasury Department as "central" to Iran's ballistic missiles program.

The sanctions came a day after Iran successfully launched its most advanced satellite-carrying rocket into space, in what was likely a major advancement for the country's space program.

The "Simorgh" rocket is capable of carrying a satellite weighing 550 pounds (250 kilograms).

In a joint statement, Britain, France, Germany and the US said the test was in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the nuclear deal. The grouping represented all of the Western nations that are part of the nuclear deal, which also includes Russia, China and the European Union known as the P5+1 group.

"We call on Iran not to conduct any further ballistic missile launches and related activities," they said.

Notably, the nations stopped short of saying the launch had "violated" the UN resolution, saying only that it was "inconsistent" with Resolution 2231. That's because the resolution calls upon, but doesn't oblige, Iran to refrain from ballistic missile development.

Iran insists it has "proven its compliance with the nuclear deal" as repeatedly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Iran does not recognize any limits to its scientific and technological progress and will not wait for the approval or permission of any country regarding the activities of its scientists and experts," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

US 'bad faith'

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pushed back on any suggestion Iran had done anything wrong by launching the satellite into space. He said Friday that Iran is complying with the nuclear deal and drew a con-

trast with the US, accusing Washington of not complying with "the letter and spirit" of the deal.

"Rhetoric and actions from the US show bad faith," Zarif said.

He also rejected the notion that Iran was working to develop missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead.

"Iran is not and will not be developing nuclear weapons; so by definition cannot develop anything designed to be capable of delivering them," Zarif wrote on Twitter.

Anti-US draft bill

Meanwhile, the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee passed the general outlines of a motion to counter the terrorist and adventurous US measures in the region.

All members of the key committee on Saturday voted in favor of the motion's general outlines during an extraordinary session, which was also attended by deputy foreign ministers Abbas Araqchi and Hassan Qashqavi.

The committee is likely to discuss the motion's details next week.

Speaking to reporters, Araqchi stressed the importance of adopting an appropriate measure in response to the "hostile and malicious" US moves given their adverse consequences on the implementation of the landmark nuclear agreement.

There was a consensus among the members of the committee about the motion, he said and added that upon its final approval, the Islamic Republic would give a "firm and comprehensive" response to the US moves.

During the eighth meeting of the Iran-P5+1 Joint Commission, which oversees the implementation of the JCPOA, in the Austrian capital of Vienna late in July, Iran informed the participants about the cases of the US violation of the deal, Araqchi said.

He emphasized that the parliamentary committee's motion includes Iran's reciprocal measures in the face of the US moves against the Islamic Republic.

It also envisages measures to support the Iranian Armed Forces and security forces as well as the country's people who would be harmed by the US actions, the diplomat said.





# EU starts action against Poland over judiciary reforms

The European Commission launched legal action on Saturday against what it sees as Polish government attempts to undermine the independence of judges.

It gave Warsaw a month to respond, according to Reuters.

EU commissioners decided to launch the "infringement procedure" for violating European Union law at a meeting on Wednesday, the first step in a legal process that may end at the bloc's top court, pending publication of Poland's new law.

The commission is concerned about discretionary power given to Poland's minister of justice to prolong the mandates of judges who reach retirement age, as well as to dismiss and appoint court presidents.

"The new rules allow the minister of justice to exert influence on individual ordinary judges through, in particular, the vague criteria for the prolongation of their mandates thereby undermining the principle of irremovability of judges," the European Commission said in a statement on Saturday.

It said a key legal concern was the introduction of different retirement ages for female judges (60) and male judges (65).

Polish President Andrzej Duda on Tuesday signed into law the bill on ordinary courts, but in a move welcomed by Brussels, blocked two other bills that would have empowered the government and parliament to replace Supreme Court judges.

Poland's eurosceptic, nationalist



AFP

government has rejected Brussels' objections as "blackmail" and unjustified criticism, but has said Warsaw was open to talks to resolve the dispute.

Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans sent a letter on Friday to Poland's foreign minister re-

iterating an invitation to him and the justice minister to meet in Brussels to relaunch dialogue.

He said on Wednesday that the commission could trigger Article 7, a legal process of suspending Poland's EU voting rights, if Warsaw went ahead with

plans to undermine the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

The European Commission also this week gave Poland a month to respond to concerns for the rule of law raised by the EU executive in an unprecedented process launched last year.

## Embattled Trump replaces chief of staff

US President Donald Trump ousted his beleaguered chief of staff Reince Priebus on Friday, replacing him with Homeland Security Secretary and retired general John Kelly after vicious White House infighting spilled into the open.

Only hours after a humiliating defeat on health care reform had underlined his tenuous control over his party in Congress, Trump announced a second shakeup of his inner circle in barely a week, AFP reported.

Since entering the White House six months ago, Trump has parted company with his national security advisor, deputy national security advisor, FBI director, press secretary, communications director, acting attorney general, deputy chief of staff and now chief of staff, a turnover of top officials that is unparalleled in US political history.



Reince Priebus

John F. Kelly

Priebus has been under fire for months, seeing one White House ally after another resign or leave, culminating in the departure of press secretary Sean Spicer a week ago.

His exit appeared inevitable when Trump did not intervene as his new communications director Anthony Scaramucci publicly described Priebus as a "paranoid schizophrenic" in a foul-mouthed tirade that also saw him savage another top Trump aide.

Trump announced the switch on Twitter as he landed in Washington after a day trip, on which he was accompanied by both Priebus and Scaramucci.

"I am pleased to inform you that I have just named General/Secretary John F. Kelly as White House Chief of Staff," Trump tweeted.

"He is a Great American... and a Great Leader. John has also done a spectacular job at Homeland Security. He has been a true star of my Administration."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said discussions about Priebus's departure had been taking place for weeks. Priebus later said he resigned on Thursday, but referring to his departure admitted that he and Trump "talked all the time about this subject."

Kelly will be sworn in to his new post Monday.

His Department of Homeland Security is responsible for enforcing border security and has taken a tough line on immigrants inside the United States. The move likely signals a greater focus on law and order issues and will put further strain on relations between Trump and the Republican establishment.

Both Priebus and Spicer were part of the Republican National Committee, and the bridge that linked the party to Trump.

The announcement of Priebus's departure came after three Republican senators defied White House pressure to vote against health care reforms, which experts predicted would have left millions more Americans without coverage.

The party rebellion – led by Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and John McCain – is a deeply ominous sign for Trump, whose political brand is defined by his dealmaking acumen and a take-no-prisoners approach to politics.

There are growing signs that Trump's threats against skeptical Republicans are losing potency, when Republicans not only killed efforts to dismantle Obamacare, but joined Democrats in supporting a new sanctions regime against Russia.

## Gunmen attack Kenya deputy president residence

Unidentified gunmen attacked Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto's residence in the western town of Eldoret on Saturday when Ruto and his family were absent, local television stations reported.

A police officer guarding the residence was wounded, KTN News reported.



William Ruto

EPA

NTV News also showed footage of heavily armed officers at the scene responding to the attack. Reuters reported.

Police and officials from Ruto's office were not available for immediate comment. The incident comes some 10 days before Kenya's presidential, legislative and regional county representative elections on Aug. 8.

Ruto's is President Uhuru Kenyatta's running mate. Kenyatta is seeking a second and final term in office.

The motive of the attack was unclear. Typically the deputy president's residences are heavily guarded by an elite paramilitary police unit.

## WHO: Cholera kills over 1,990 people in Yemen

A total of 1,992 people have been killed by a cholera epidemic in war-torn Yemen since late April, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Saturday.

In a statement, the WHO said 419,804 suspected cases of cholera have been recorded in the country since April 27, Anadolu Agency reported.

The UN agency said the highest number of fatalities was recorded in the northwestern Hajjah Province and in Hudaida in western Yemen.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had expected the number of suspected cholera cases in Yemen to double by year's end to over 600,000.

Impoverished Yemen has remained in a state of conflict since 2014. The conflict escalated when Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies launched a massive air campaign in 2015.

According to the ICRC, over three million people have fled their homes since the onset of the Yemen conflict, and more than 20 million throughout the country are in need of humanitarian assistance. Riyadh has been incessantly pounding Yemen since 2015 in a bid to reinstall the country's ex-government and crush the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

Cholera, a diarrheal disease spread by ingestion of food or water tainted with human faeces, can kill within hours if untreated. It has been largely eradicated in developed countries equipped with sanitation systems and water treatment.



ANADOLU AGENCY

## Kidnapped oil workers speak on Boko Haram video

Boko Haram terrorist group published a video showing three kidnapped members of an oil exploration team, after an ambush in northeast Nigeria earlier this week that killed at least 50.

In the four-minute video, the trio identify themselves as being from the University of Maiduguri and call on the government to meet the group's demands in exchange for their safe return.

The men were part of a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) team on a mission to find commercial quantities of oil in the Lake Chad basin when they came under attack on Tuesday.

"I want to call on the acting president, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, to come to our rescue to meet the demand," one of the men says in the video, which he said was shot on Friday.

He attributed the attack to the Daesh-supported Boko Haram faction headed by Abu Mus'ab al-Barnawi, which has promised to hit military and government targets.

"They have promised us that if their demands are met they will release us immediately to go back to the work we were caught doing," the man added.

There was no indication of where the video was shot but the convoy came under attack near Magumeri, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) by road northwest of Maiduguri. Most of the victims were soldiers and civilian militia members providing security.

Five members of staff from the university – two lecturers, two technol-

ogists and a driver – were also killed, vice chancellor Ibrahim Njodi said on Friday.

University of Maiduguri spokesman Danjuma Gambo confirmed the identities of the three kidnapped men in the video.

"They are our staff but one more is yet to be accounted for," he told AFP.

Nigeria is searching for oil in the northeast to try to reduce its reliance on supplies from the Niger delta, where attacks have slashed production and deepened the country's worst recession in decades.

The military gave the NNPC the green light to continue exploration in November 2016, according to Nigeria's junior oil minister Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu.

The University of Maiduguri's vice chancellor told reporters on Friday the university had been hesitant to send staff with the NNPC team but had been assured about security.

Kidnapping has been a feature of the eight-year Boko Haram insurgency, which has killed at least 20,000 people, displaced more than 2.6 million others and left millions of others on the brink of famine.



AFP

Nigerian soldiers prepare to head off in search of Boko Haram terrorists outside Maiduguri in northeast Nigeria in March 2016.



## SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

## Iran 18th biggest car producer worldwide: OICA

Iran became the world's 18th largest car manufacturer, according to latest figures released by International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' (OICA).

The figures show that Iran manufactured 1,164,710 cars during 2016, which indicate an 18.6-percent growth, compared to the figure for 2015, Trend News Agency reported.



IRNA

China, US and Japan with 28.11 million, 12.19 million and 9.2 million vehicle were global leaders in car production. Industry, Mine and Trade Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh said on July 25 that Iran manufactured 420,000 cars during the four months to July 22, 2017 indicating a 20-percent growth.

He added that production of 1.6 million cars is expected for the year to mid-March 2018.

Over 1.35 million cars were produced in Iran in the last fiscal year, according to official statistics.

Iran plans to increase annual auto production to three million in the next five years.

On Thursday, Nematzadeh opened a new line of auto parts production at a local company, Marpich Bakhtar, in Kermanshah Province.

While touring the production line, the minister said he expects the western region to become a major auto hub in the next few years.

Marpich Bakhtar officials estimate that the new production line for Peugeot parts will help increase the carmaker's annual output to 1.4 million units.

Nematzadeh, while admitting the poor state of the auto parts industry, said when he took office in 2013 several parts makers had to shut down due to unpaid debts by struggling car manufacturers inside the country.

"The government has been able to assist several companies in restarting," Nematzadeh said without elaborating.

In addition to Marpich Bakhtar, the minister launched the production plants of a subsidiary of Iran Khodro in the same city. It will produce the Peugeot 405.

With 300 workers, the factory will produce 30,000 vehicles a year, according to the minister.

Earlier this month, IKCO opened another production center in the province for Peugeot Pars model.

The factory in the city of Sahneh has 200 workers, Mehdi Maleki, CEO of the IKCO Kermanshah said in May.

Annual production at the plant is expected to reach 15,000 units and meet the demand of the western regions including Kurdistan and Kermanshah.

He said 570 \$15.2 million has been invested in the production line of which 79 percent was made by Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, and the rest by IKCO.

## Germany to supply rescue helicopters to Iran

Germany is to supply state-of-the-art helicopters to Iran for use in relief and rescue missions, announced an Iranian official. According to Fars News Agency, Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) Amir Mohsen Ziaei said, "During a recent meeting I had with German Ambassador to Tehran Michael Klor-Berchold, he expressed his country's willingness to provide rescue helicopters to Iran."

Ziaei added, "Given the scope of the humanitarian organizations in Germany, we are after cooperation to prepare air rescue equipment and 150 rescue vehicles of German car makers."

The official recalled that the Iranian body has signed a memorandum of understanding with Germany's Red Cross and the two organizations have agreed to cooperate in education, training rescue dogs and mountain rescue operations.

He underlined that the German ambassador had assured the Iranian side that he would do his best to join the links between the Iranian and German providers of rescue equipment.

In relevant remarks in May, a senior German trade official called for broadening cooperation with Iran in various economic fields.

"Iran and Germany have many capacities to deepen trade relations," Managing Director of Bavaria's Business and Industries Association Bertram Brossardt said in a meeting with Iranian trade officials. Brossardt noted that Bavaria's export to Iran has increased significantly compared to the level before the JCPOA implementation.

Secretary General of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIM) Bahman Eshqi, for his part, said that visits by senior officials of the two countries over past two years indicates the determination of both sides to take firm steps in developing fruitful cooperation.

A 16-member delegation from Germany's Bavaria State met TCCIM officials in Tehran.

Reports released by Iran's Customs Administration revealed that Germany ranks fifth among countries exporting to Iran.

## Crude extraction from SP oil layer to reach 140,000 bpd

Domestic Economy Desk

Crude extraction from the oil layer of South Pars (SP) Gas Field in the southern Iranian province of Bushehr is expected to reach 120,000-140,000 barrels per day (bpd), said the deputy head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for engineering and development affairs.

Gholamreza Manouchchri added the estimate is based on feasibility studies conducted by Denmark's Maersk in the giant gas field, Fars News Agency reported.

Commenting on the latest developments in talks between NIOC and the Danish company on developing the oil layer of the SP Gas Field, Manouchchri said Maersk had cooperated with Qatar for 20 years in the development project of the same gas field.

He added thus, the company has considerable experience in crude extraction from the gas field's oil layer.

Nevertheless, in the new tender held in Qatar to decide about the future contractor of a number of other development projects in the giant gas field—known as "North Dome" in Qatar—the Danish firm unexpectedly lost the bid to the French energy giant Total and, currently, is not involved in any operations in the Qatari section of the gas field.

He added this has increased the Danish firm's motivation to continue



SHANA

its activities in the Iranian sector of the field.

Manouchchri underlined that both sides of the gas field has extremely similar characteristics, adding, "In the past, we thought that the gas field's oil layer situated in the Iranian territory is not as vast as that located in the field's Qatari sector. This is while, preliminary feasibility

studies showed that the Iranian section of the field is home to a six reserves of oil layers and which lie along a vast geographical stretch. We thought that we could extract only 30,000 barrels of oil per day from the layer."

He put the present amount of crude extraction from the SP Gas Field's oil layer at 25,000 barrels per day, adding the fig-

ure is subject to periodic fluctuations due to drops in extraction pressure.

"Given the heaviness of the oil extracted from the gas field's oil layer, which stands at API19 and API20, we are faced with very quick falls in the pressure of the extraction. To resolve this problem, we are required to inject water into the layer."

## Report: Iran signs deals to develop several oil, gas fields



SHANA

as well as the Iranian Tenco firm.

Iran is looking to increase crude output, and with 37 billion barrels of oil, Azadegan oilfield, which is shared with neighboring Iraq, is the country's largest.

The Islamic Republic discovered the Azadegan oilfield in 1999 in what was Iran's biggest oil find in decades.

The NIOC later divided the project into South Azadegan and North Azadegan.

The report said all companies except Tenco have submitted the outcome of their studies and preparations are afoot to hold the tender.

## Yaran oilfield

The NIOC has signed a deal with Persia Oil and Gas Development Company to conduct feasibility studies on Yaran oilfield and received the results of the studies.

It is estimated that a consortium led by Persia will take over responsibility to develop the oilfield.

## Darkhovin oilfield

Two phases of the development projects of Darkhovin

oilfield have been completed. An MoU has been signed with an Italian and a Philippine company as well as an Iranian firm to develop its third phase.

## Kish gas field

An Italian a Dutch-British and an Iranian company have expressed their readiness to develop Kish gas field. They have reached deals to conduct feasibility studies on the field. The development of the gas field will be implemented in several phases.

The NIOC also has signed three MoUs with Russia's Gazprom, Thailand's PTTEP and Norway's DNO to conduct studies on developing the Changulheh field.

The Azar field is a joint and complex field which is currently producing 30,000 barrels of oil per day. It is set to be expanded through new oil deals by an Iranian company.

A deal to conduct feasibility studies in Yadavaran field has also been signed with a Dutch-British company.

An Austrian company has come to an agreement with the NIOC to undertake feasibility studies on developing Bandar Karkheh field.

## CEO: Embraer seeking US approval to sell planes to Iran

Brazilian plane-maker Embraer SA is awaiting approval from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control for sales of planes to Iran.

Announcing this, Chief Executive Paulo Cesar Silva said that Embraer is seeing strong demand across its commercial, executive and defense aviation divisions, which should support earnings next year, Reuters reported.

Although he declined to give concrete performance estimates, Silva said there is still time for airlines to fill the order book for deliveries next year.

He also cited interest in defense aircraft and the improving profitability of Embraer's business jets as positive factors in his 2018 outlook.



REUTERS

In May, Iran's ATA Airlines reached an agreement with Embraer to purchase 10 new passenger planes.

ATA Managing Director Mohammadreza Zomouri said that the 50-seat planes will be delivered within the next six months.

ATA operates 80 flights per day, making it the fourth busiest Iranian airline after Iran Air, Mahan and Aseman.

Embraer competes internationally with Canadian rival Bombardier for the title of third-largest airplane maker after Airbus and Boeing.

The plane-maker has operated two demonstration flights around Tehran using an Embraer E190 model—a double-engine 100-seat capacity regional jet.

## Iran, Russia sign MoU to...

From Page 1

The second phase of this project became operational in mid-May, with the aim of increasing the field's production capacity to 30,000 barrels per day.

Based on the target set by the Iranian Oil Ministry, 65,000 barrels of oil per day are expected to be extracted from the field in the year to mid-March 2019.

The two oilfields are located between the cities of Mehran and Dehloran in west Iran.

The two hydrocarbon fields are among the most complicated of their kind worldwide, in terms of drilling as well as develop-

ment operations.

OIEC is an Iranian company involved in production and exploration activities.

Gazprom is also among the international companies whose eligibility has been confirmed by National Iranian Oil Company and can thus cooperate in the development of Iranian hydrocarbon fields.

Following the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action between Iran and the P5+1 (July 14 2015) which went into effect in January 2016, the Iranian government accelerated the development of and increased production from oil and gas fields which Iran shares with its neighbors.



## Indonesia to boost exports

The Indonesian government has taken steps to accelerate the growth of export and investment amid rising oil prices and a better prospect of business in the country.

## Advanced economies increasingly to blame for global imbalances



GETTY IMAGES

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that advanced economies are increasingly responsible for imbalances in the global economy, with Germany having overtaken China as the world's leading saver.

New data from the fund unveiled on Friday also showed the US has maintained its long-term hold on the largest current-account deficit, FT wrote.

While the mismatch between global savings and spending posed less of a threat to the world than it did before the 2008 financial crisis, the IMF said, it also warned that it risked feeding new demands for protectionism.

The news plays to US President Donald Trump's anger at Berlin and the US trade deficit with Europe's largest economy which he inherited. The Trump administration, which has made reducing the US deficit with the world one of its economic priorities, has applied pressure on the IMF to do more to highlight global imbalances.

But the fund also offered a thinly-veiled rebuke to the Trump administration by publishing the results of an internal exercise showing that imposing tariffs and other trade barriers — as Trump has threatened to do — would do little to address the current-account deficit and hurt both the US and the global economy.

Luis Ceballos, lead author of the IMF's annual report on global imbalances, said, "Protectionist measures should be avoided at all costs. They are unlikely

to meaningfully alter imbalances and they are likely to be harmful to domestic growth and global growth."

According to the IMF data, Germany ran a current-account surplus of \$289 billion, or 8.3 percent of gross domestic product, in 2016 while China's fell to \$196.4 billion, or 1.7 percent of GDP.

The US, meanwhile, had a current-account deficit of \$451.7 billion in 2016, or 2.4 percent of GDP, almost four times the UK's deficit, which at \$114.5 billion was the world's second-biggest in 2016. The figure for the UK is more than twice the size of the third-largest — the \$50.5 billion deficit in Canada.

The data point to an increasing concentration of global imbalances in a few important economies and the new risks that this poses.

The scale of global imbalances have fallen significantly from the days before the 2008 financial crisis when a global savings glut fed largely by China and other emerging economies led to an influx of capital — and growing current-account deficits — in places such as the US.

While that risk has been reduced with the US deficit cut from a pre-crisis peak of six percent of GDP, the IMF said it was still concerned that the concentration would lead to rising tensions between the advanced economies and growing calls within deficit countries for governments to respond with protectionist policies.

The IMF listed that risk as if it lay ahead and said there was still significant uncertainty about the

direction of US policies and the UK's negotiations to leave the EU.

But there is little doubt that Trump's arrival in Washington following a campaign built around suspicions of globalization and trade has already caused some of this to come true.

Trump and his top advisers have accused Germany of exploiting a weak euro to its trade benefit while threatening to impose tariffs and other restrictions on imports of things such as aluminum and steel from the likes of China, Germany and South Korea.

He has also launched efforts to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico and a separate trade pact with South Korea, with reducing the US deficit with those countries and bringing manufacturing jobs back to the US the primary stated goal.

Rather than impose trade barriers, the IMF said, the US should focus on carefully reducing government debt and doing more to improve its competitiveness and productivity through better education and training programs.

While the IMF's concerns with the US have grown so too have its calls for Germany to do more to tackle its surplus. Investing more at home in things such as infrastructure would help boost Germany's potential growth and address issues such as the lagging productivity that it and many other advanced economies face.

## Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	81441.0	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	70202.5	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	89934.0	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57021.4	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	177731.5	2030.5	1.14

## Overall Index details on 20170729

First	81585.3	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	81572.0	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	81351.1	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	81441.0	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

## Industry Index details on 20170729

First	70414.5	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	70360.3	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69718.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	70202.5	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

## Free Float Index details on 20170729

First	89612.2	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	89934	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

## Main Board Index details on 20170729

First	57086.0	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57081.8	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57021.4	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

## Secondary Index details on 20170729

First	178265.3	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	178208.2	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	177731.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2030.5		

## UK must address giant trade deficit, IMF warns

Britain needs to save more, train up its workers and become a more competitive economy to try to bring down its very large current account deficit, the International Monetary Fund has warned.

Analysts studied 28 of the world's largest economies and found the UK has the biggest deficit, running at 4.4 percent of GDP, according to The Telegraph.

The IMF fears that large imbalances between economies could lead to dangerous corrections in future, as well as dangerous political demands to reduce imports.

"A greater concentration of excess deficits in advanced debtor economies may engender protectionist sentiment and raise the risk of disruptive corrections down the road," the fund said.

"Excess deficit countries should move forward with fiscal consolidation, while gradually normalizing monetary policy in tandem with inflation developments and focusing on structural policies that strengthen competitiveness and overall saving. Protectionist policies should be avoided as they are unlikely to reduce external imbalances and are detrimental to



IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde

REUTERS

domestic and global growth."

The current account deficit is made up of the trade deficit — as the UK imports more than it exports — combined with the balance of the flows into the economy from overseas investments, and out of the UK to foreign investors.

Britain's deficit of 4.4 percent is the largest, followed by Turkey's at 3.7

percent of GDP, Mexico's 2.7 percent and Australia's 2.6 percent. The US's deficit has dropped sharply to 2.4 percent of GDP, from more than 6 percent in the pre-crisis years.

UK "structural reforms focused on broadening the skill base and investing in public infrastructure should boost productivity, improving the competitiveness

of the economy", the IMF said.

"Maintaining financial stability through macroprudential policies should also support private-sector saving. These efforts are particularly important in light of expectations that access to the EU market will become more restrictive."

Britain should also get some help from the weaker sterling which makes imports more expensive but should boost exports, and also increases the sterling value of earnings on foreign investments.

The IMF also said that countries with high current account surpluses should work harder to reduce them, stimulating demand and increasing spending to suck in more imports and boost the flow of earnings outward to foreign investors.

"Excess surplus countries with fiscal space should allow for greater fiscal stimulus, while advancing structural reforms that support domestic demand and foster competition," the IMF said.

Singapore's surplus of 19 percent is the largest, followed by Thailand's 11.5 percent and Switzerland's 10.7 percent. Germany's stands at 8.3 percent.

## Spanish economy grows in Q2

The Spanish economy grew by 0.9 percent in the second quarter of the year, according to advanced data published by Spain's Statistical Office (INE).

The figure is 0.1 percentage point higher than that of the previous quarter and it is the highest since the third quarter of 2015. So far, Spain's economy has been growing for 15 consecutive quarters, Xinhua reported.

On a year-on-year basis, the country's economy grew by 3.1 percent, the INE said, which will confirm this data and provide more detailed information about Spain's economic growth on August 24.

Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said that the Spanish economy would 'probably' grow by 'at least three percent' this year.

He said that, given this data, it could be possible for Spain to reach the 20 million employed people by 2020. Rajoy highlighted that Spain has been growing for four years and emphasized that thanks to the reforms carried out by the government the country was "more competitive, dynamic and stronger".

"We have problems and some of them are serious, but we can deal with them with a stronger and more recovered country," he said.



euro.com

## Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2833	Chinese Yuan	0.1484
Euro	1.1751	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.1312	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3058
Australian Dollar	0.7989	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0090	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

## Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$49.79	Silver	\$16.74
Gold	\$1269.00	Platinum	\$938.00
Copper	\$2.88	Wheat	\$481.50



## Copper, stone era site found in western Iran

Excavations in Tappeh Qeshlaq of Talvar Dam in the city of Bijar, Kurdistan Province, have led to the discovery of a site dating back to the copper and stone eras, said the head of the archaeological explorations team at Tappeh Qeshlaq.

Mahnaz Sharifi, who was speaking in a meeting at the Research Institute of Archeology, further said that cultural contacts between the inhabitants of eastern regions of Central Zagros and the southern area of Orumieh Lake were obvious in archeological studies but no information was available on their immediate location, IRNA wrote.



IRNA

According to the Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICH-ITO), in the entire copper and stone eras, a large number of artifacts had been obtained from the copper and stone eras which were shaped in spherical, conical, elliptical, disc, elliptical, hyperbolic and certain other geometric forms, Sharifi said.

She noted that the archeological data indicates that ancient inhabitants of the area mostly relied on livestock breeding, hunting wild animals and fishing rather than farming as their means of livelihood.

The archeologist pointed out that the preliminary objective of the study was to determine the exact date of the settlements based on the cultural layers of the area, survey the trend of cultural interactions in Talvar Valley, study of the impact of natural and local components of the area on cultural features of the copper and stone eras and trend of economic-social-cultural exchanges between the residents of the area in different eras.

The use of open space at certain times of the year, construction of underground storages and the use of plaster mixture and making the entries compatible with geographical conditions were among its characteristics, the archeologist added.

## Climate change will feed wildfires



cloudfront.net

A car and house were engulfed in flames as a wildfire burnt through a residential area in Oroville, California, earlier this month as the region was gripped by a record-breaking heatwave.

Out-of-control wildfires like the ones that brought destruction to southern Europe, North America and parts of South Africa in recent weeks will likely become more frequent as climate temperatures soar under climate change, experts said, phys.org wrote.

More than 10,000 people had to flee raging fires in southern France this week, and several villages were evacuated in Portugal just weeks after another blaze killed more than 60 people there.

In South Africa in June, nine people died and some 10,000 people were evacuated from their homes as fires raged through the drought-stricken Western Cape region, while this month some 40,000 people have had to flee wildfires in western Canada, where officials declared a state of emergency.

In California, some 8,000 people were evacuated last week ahead of fires that razed vast swathes of forest.

### What causes wildfires?

Long periods of heat cause vegetation to become dry and inflammable, easily set alight by lightning, spontaneous combustion, or fires lit by

humans.

The more the mercury climbs, the higher the risk for more, and more intense, wildfires.

Scientists say the average global temperature has risen by 1°C (1.8°F) since the Industrial Revolution, when mankind started emitting heat-trapping greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels into the atmosphere.

Most of the world's nations agreed in Paris in 2015 to limit overall warming to 2°C.

But experts say this will not be enough, and severe heatwaves and drought will grow worse regardless.

And it is not just heat to blame for fires.

A recent study showed that extreme thunderstorms formed

due to higher temperatures, and were the main driver for massive fires in Alaska and Canada in recent years. More storms mean more lightning to ignite fires.

Over 10,000 people, including thousands of holidaymakers, have been evacuated from campsites and homes in southern France as firefighters have battled a string of huge blazes in recent days.

### Why?

According to NASA, 'a warming and drying climate', was to blame.

'Climate change has increased fire risk in many regions,' according to the space agency.

The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said last month that parts of Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the southwestern United States experienced extremely high May and June temperatures.

Globally, surface temperatures over land and sea were the second highest on record for January to May.

Italy, Portugal and most of France had winter rainfall 20-30 percent under the seasonal norm, according to French climatologist Michele Blanchard.

Almost three-quarters of Portugal, where 75,000 hectares of forest have burnt since January, has been battling a severe drought since June.

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و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم

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ساختمان در دست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم



## HER2 breast cancer driver

A study by the University of Colorado Cancer Center found approximately three percent of lung cancer patients are found to have the HER2 breast cancer driver gene.

## Does sugar make you sad?

By Anika Knüppel\*

The thought of a cupcake, skillfully frosted with fluffy vanilla icing, may put a smile on your face, but research suggested that, in the long term, a sweet tooth may turn that smile into a frown — but not for the reasons you think.

In a new study, published in *Scientific Reports*, my colleagues and I found a link between a diet high in sugar and common mental disorders, UPI reported.

World Health Organization recommends that people reduce their daily intake of added sugars (that is, all sugar, excluding the sugar that is naturally found in fruit, vegetables and milk) to less than five percent of their total energy intake.

However, people in the UK consume double — in the US triple — that amount of sugar.

Three-quarters of these added sugars come from sweet food, such as cakes and soft drinks. The rest come from other processed foods, such as ketchup.

At the same time, one in six people worldwide suffers from a common mental disorder, such as a mood or anxiety disorder.

Could there be a link between high sugar consumption and common mental disorders?

Earlier research, published in 2002, examined the link between depression and sugar consumption in six countries.

The researchers, from Baylor College, found that higher rates of refined sugar consumption were associated with higher rates of depression.

Since then, a handful of studies have investigated the link between added sugar consumption and subsequent depression.

In 2011, researchers in Spain found that when they grouped participants based on their commercial baked food consumption, those who ate the

most baked food had a 38-percent increased chance of developing depression compared with those in the group with the lowest intake.

### Trying to explain the link

Researchers are still not sure what causes depression, but some researchers believe that biological changes are at the root of it.

Some of these changes could be influenced by sugar and sweet taste. For

mood disorder, the symptoms that keep us in bed with a cold are much closer, such as low energy and being unable to concentrate.

Ongoing research suggested that mood disorders could be linked with inflammation, at least in some cases.

Finally, sugar intake could be associated with other factors, such as obesity, which itself is related to mood.

But these associations could also reflect a reverse phenomenon: Low mood could make people change

and I put the reverse association idea to the test. We used sugar intake from sweet food and drinks to predict new and recurrent mood disorders in a group of British civil servants.

We also investigated whether having a mood disorder would make people more inclined to choose sweet foods and drinks.

We found that men without a mood disorder who consumed over 67g of sugar had a 23-percent increased risk of suffering from a mood disorder five years later, compared with those who ate less than 40g.

This effect was independent of the men's socioeconomic status, physical activity, smoking, other eating habits, body fat and physical health.

We also found that men and women with a mood disorder and a high intake of sugar from sweet food and drinks were at higher risk of becoming depressed again five years later, compared with those who consumed less sugar. But this association was partly explained by their overall diet.

We found no evidence for a potential reverse effect: Participants did not change their sugar intake after suffering from mood disorders.

Despite our findings, a number of questions remain about whether sugar makes us sad, whether it affects men more than women and whether it is sweetness, rather than sugar itself, that explains the observed associations.

What is certain, though, is that sugar is associated with a number of health problems, including tooth decay, type 2 diabetes and obesity.

So cutting down on sugar is probably a good idea, regardless of whether it causes mood disorders or not.

*\*Anika Knüppel is a PhD candidate in epidemiology and public health at the University College London.*

their diet. Sweet foods could be used to soothe bad feelings by providing a short-term mood boost.

And low mood and anxiety could make simple tasks, such as grocery shopping or cooking, so difficult and exhausting for the sufferer that they might start to avoid them.

Instead, they might opt for junk food, takeout and ready meals — all of which have a high sugar content.

### What study adds to the debate

For our latest study, my colleagues



UPI

## Diabetic children face higher risk of celiac disease

Celiac disease (CD) is more common in young people with type 1 diabetes than in diabetes-free kids, although how often the two conditions occur together varies in different countries, a new study found.

According to reuters.com, the study's lead author Dr. Maria Craig, from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia, said, "Celiac disease is not uncommon in type 1 diabetes, and regular screening is important."

"Shared genetic risk is the major reason why CD is more common in type 1 diabetes patients."

In type 1 diabetes, a chronic autoimmune condition typically diagnosed in children and young adults, the pancreas produces little or no insulin, a hormone the body needs to help convert blood sugar into energy for cells.

In CD, which is also an autoimmune disorder, consuming the protein gluten in wheat, barley or rye leads to damage of the small intestine that interferes with absorption of nutrients from food.

Craig said, "About five percent of people with type 1 diabetes have CD, compared to about one percent of the overall population."

To see if this is true uniformly around the world, they looked at the prevalence of CD in four different registries of type 1 diabetes patients in Germany/Austria, the US, the UK and Australasia.

The analysis included data from 2013 and 2014 on 52,721 children and teens under the age of 18.

Overall, 3.5 percent of the young people with diabetes in the study had CD and the prevalence ranged from 1.9 percent in the US to 7.7 percent in Australasia.

Girls were more likely to have CD than boys, at 4.3 percent versus 2.7 percent, respectively.

On average, the children who had CD had been diagnosed with diabetes when they were five years and five months old, compared to diagnosis at the age of seven for children without CD.

While blood sugar control was just as good for the children with CD as for those without CD, the study found that children with CD were likely to be shorter.

Craig said, "While the overall difference was modest, some children demonstrated important differences in height, highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and treatment."



evidencenetwork.ca

## Heart failure deaths could be predicted by changes in weather

Heart failure occurs when the heart is not pumping enough blood around the body as it used to.

However, risk of hospitalization and even death could be predicted by changes in the weather, express.co.uk wrote.

According to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), around 900,000 people in the UK have heart failure.

It currently has a poor prognosis, with up to 40 percent of patients who are diagnosed dying within a year.

However, a new study has revealed the warning sign that heart failure sufferers could soon experience a negative outcome.

Recent research published in the journal *Environment International* has revealed a link between heart failure and a sudden change in the weather.



express.co.uk

Indeed, scientists discovered an increased risk of hospitalization and death with a decrease in temperature.

The results suggested that a drop of 10°C in the average temperature over seven days was associated with a seven percent greater likelihood.

Thanks to climate change, the UK is already experiencing changes in temperature, as the series of recent heatwaves have shown.

There is also sometimes a dramatic change in temperature with the seasons.

In the Canadian study, they looked at elderly people with the condition over a ten year period — of the 112,793 diagnosed, 18,309 were hospitalized and 4,297 died.

The effects of temperature, relative humidity, atmospheric pressure and fine particulate matter were looked at.

The study authors recommend that elderly people diagnosed with heart failure are protected from such temperature changes as a preventative measure.

As well as heart failure, the weather can impact on people's health in other ways.

A drop in daily temperature by just one degree was associated with an additional 200 heart attacks, according to a study published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Fast-dropping temperatures can exacerbate asthma symptoms.

The barometric pressure before a storm can trigger arthritis pain, headaches and sleep apnea.

A Yale study also found cold weather means you're more likely to suffer a cold since the cold virus can replicate more rapidly at cooler temperatures.

US researchers have created a lightweight, soft robotic ankle support that could help stroke patients walk more easily, according to a study.

Quoting the study published in the *US Journal Science Translational Medicine*, news.xinhuanet.com wrote, "In about 80 percent of patients post-stroke, it is typical that one limb loses its ability to function normally — a clinical phenomenon called hemiparesis."

"And even patients who recover walking mobility during rehabilitation retain abnormalities in their gait that hinder them from participating in many activities, pose risks of falls and because they impose a more sedentary lifestyle, can lead to secondary health problems."

To help stroke patients regain their walking abilities, various robotics groups from industry and academia are developing powered wearable devices known as exoskeletons, but most of which are rigid, bulky products that are impractical for people to wear during everyday



indianexpress.com

## Soft robotic ankle support improves walking in stroke patients

activities.

In search of a better alternative, researchers at Harvard University's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering and Boston University's College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences developed a soft robotic ankle-support system weighing 0.9kg, roughly twice as heavy as a soccer ball, to be worn on one side of the body.

Their system consists of a close-fitting waist belt and leg straps connected to a calf sleeve where small robotic actuators exerted force on a shoe insole to provide forward propulsion and correct problems with ankle dorsiflexion, commonly referred to as 'drop foot', which affects roughly 20 percent of stroke survivors.

Over two days of testing,

nine subjects ranging from 30 to 67 years old who were undergoing rehabilitation after strokes all showed more efficient and less asymmetrical strides when wearing the device, both when walking on a treadmill in the lab and over ground in a real-world environment.

What's more, the researchers observed the most pronounced improvements among the

individuals who had the slowest unassisted walking speeds.

The team was now looking to further personalize its system to specific gait abnormalities, investigate assistance at other joints such as the hip and knee, and assess longer-term therapeutic effects of their technology.

Wyss Institute Founding Director Donald Ingber, who was not involved in the study, said, "This study provides a glimpse of a new future where much of patient care will be carried out at home with the help of human-friendly robots, which look nothing like the robots we see in television and movies."

"This exosuit looks more like sports clothing than R2D2, yet it is equally programmable and carries out tasks on command; however, the exosuit is lightweight, flexible, virtually invisible to others, and individualizes itself for each patient."

"We hope that it will soon enter clinical use where it undoubtedly could transform the lives of stroke patients for the better."

## Large-mouthed fish dominated the seas following mass extinction

A team of American and Swiss paleontologists have identified one of the earliest large predatory fish species from the Triassic period. Scientists suggested the large-mouthed fish dominated the seas in the aftermath of the Permian-Triassic extinction event, UPI reported.



Paleontologists said the newly discovered species hunted like great white sharks, biting their prey before swallowing them whole.

The extinction event separating the Permian and Triassic periods occurred 252 million years ago.

It was the most devastating extinction event in the planet's history. Roughly nine out of every ten marine species perished. But the latest discovery proves at least one sizable fish predator survived.

The remains of *Birgeria americana* were found in Nevada. During the Triassic, Nevada and its neighbors were underwater.

Only a handful of vertebrate fossils hailing from the Early Triassic epoch have been recovered in the region.

Researchers described their novel discovery this week in the *Journal of Paleontology*.

Lead study author Carlo Romano said, "The surprising find from Elko County in northeastern Nevada is one of the most completely preserved vertebrate remains from this time period ever discovered in the US."

*Birgeria* species hunt like great white sharks, biting prey before swallowing them whole.

Scientists assumed the tops and bottoms of food chains were the most harmed by mass extinction events, but the latest discovery suggested large predators were capable of surviving the catastrophe.

Researchers also assumed equatorial seas were too hot for bony fish during the Early Triassic.

Bony fish can't lay eggs in waters warmer than 36°C. The latest discovery suggested the equatorial seas were cooler than previously estimated.

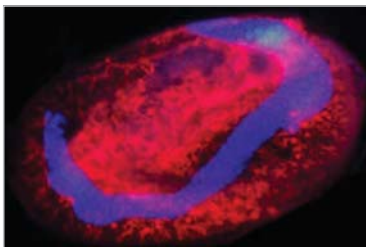
Romano said, "The vertebrates from Nevada show that previous interpretations of past biotic crises and associated global changes were too simplistic."

## For some microorganisms, symbiosis is more of a hostage situation

New analysis of common freshwater bacteria suggested some symbiotic relationships are marred by coercion — more hostage situation than free exchange.

Polynucleobacter is a genus of freshwater bacteria whose species are typically found living inside euplotid ciliates, a group of single-celled protozoa, UPI reported.

Vittorio Boscaro, a biologist at the University of British Columbia, said, "Most people think symbiosis means there is an evolution toward harmony, a perfect balance of the two partners."



The bacteria, stained red, is snatched up by the nuclei of the protozoan host, stained blue.

"But although the host needs the bacterium to survive, the bacterium doesn't gain any advantage in this relationship."

Researchers found protozoa snatch up bacteria and host them for a finite period of time before discarding the bacterium and finding a fresh replacement.

Patrick Keeling, a microbiologist at University of British Columbia (UBC), said, "They're being replaced, just like you change your clothes."

"You take advantage of your symbiont until it's no longer useful and then you get a new one."

When Boscaro and his colleagues sequenced the genome of bacteria living inside euplotids, they found captured bacteria alter their genes haphazardly.

They don't evolve to adapt inside the protozoan host; instead, they become genetically corrupted.

Simply put, the bacteria are in an unhealthy relationship. And they don't appear to have the power to leave.

Keeling said, "I like to think of the relationship being more like death row than cooperation — sure the symbiont is kept safe and well-fed in the short term, but ultimately it's not a good place to be."

The researchers detailed the bacteria-protozoa relationship in a paper published in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

# Breakthrough Starshot successfully launch world's smallest spacecraft

The smallest spacecraft ever launched are successfully traveling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth, scientists announced.

Known as 'Sprites', the miniature satellites are just 3.5cmx3.5cm and carry radios, sensors and computers, with each device powered by sunlight and weighing just four grams, according to theguardian.com.

While nanosatellites known as CubeSats have previously been sent into space, such systems have a mass thousands of times that of the Sprites, weighing more than 1kg.

Scientists said the latest development is an important precursor to an ambitious attempt to send space probes to planets beyond our solar system, dubbed Breakthrough Starshot.

Professor Avi Loeb of Harvard University, chair of the advisory committee for the Breakthrough Starshot Initiative, said, "This is a new frontier of tiny, gram-scale spacecraft."

"The Sprites are also cheap. Each of them is only tens of dollars in cost."

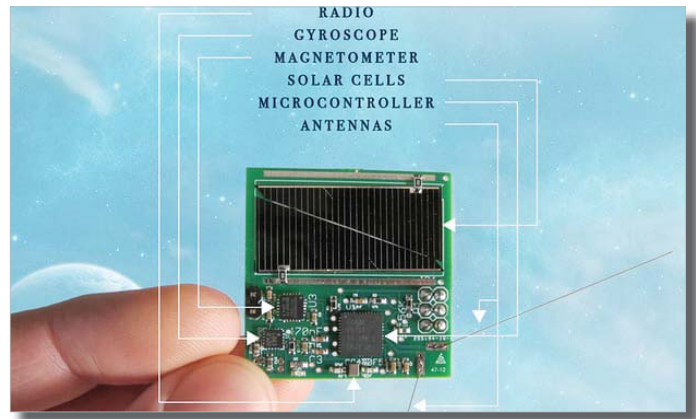
Announced last year by Stephen Hawking and Russian entrepreneur Yuri Milner, who has put \$100 million into funding the first five years of the project, Breakthrough Starshot's goal is to develop chips with a weight of roughly one gram and fit them to a lightweight sail before propelling them through space with a 100-billion watt laser.

Loeb said, "The reason one needs to push the weight down is because in order to reach the nearest stars within our lifetime, the spacecraft needs to move at a fraction of the speed of light — a fifth of the speed of light or so."

While Sprites have previously been carried on board the International Space Station, this is the first demonstration that it is possible to launch such a lightweight miniaturized satellite into space and communicate with it.

The Sprite project is led by Zac Manchester, now a researcher working with Loeb at Harvard University, who began work on the spacecraft almost a decade ago, before the project became part of the Breakthrough Starshot effort.

Two Sprites are currently glued to the outside of the Latvian Venta satellite and the Italian Max Valier satellite, small systems built by the



The Sprites carry solar panels, computers, sensors and radios.

theguardian.com

Germany-based company OHB System AG and launched together in June. Manchester said, "I actually ended up flying to Germany with these things in my carry-on."

Four Sprites are also traveling inside the Max Valier satellite and are designed to be released into space — although that plan is up in the air given a technical hitch in communication with the Italian satellite.

Michael Garrett, director of Jodrell Bank Center for Astrophysics, welcomed the success of the Sprites.

He said, "I find it quite surprising but exciting as well."

"The Sprites show such chips are stable in space, can harness solar energy, and are able to communicate."

"Normally this is happening with satellites which are the size of a big mini-van, or even bigger than that."

The Breakthrough Starshot project relies on the miniaturization of technology, and plans to use a tiny chip to host a number of instruments, including navigation equipment and a camera.

However, the communication system on the device will be laser-based, rather than relying on radio-waves as

the Sprites do.

Garrett said, "If someone had talked to me two years about sending anything to the nearest star I would have thought that was a bit of a joke to be honest."

"I suppose I had never really grasped the concept that nowadays we can put lots and lots of complexity onto just a computer chip that weighs hardly anything."

The idea is that by sending such tiny spacecraft to planets orbiting nearby stars, it will be possible to collect data which could help to shed light on the possibility of life beyond Earth.

The top destination for such a mission is our nearest star system, Alpha Centauri, within which is the star Proxima Centauri which is orbited by the planet Proxima b.

Not only is Proxima b thought to be a rocky planet, but it is also within the so-called 'habitable zone', the distance from a star at which liquid water might exist, which has caused much excitement in the search for extraterrestrial life.

Martin Rees, astronomer royal and emeritus professor of cosmology and astrophysics at the University of

Cambridge, described the success of the Sprites as a huge development for miniaturized spacecraft.

He said, "While Rees believes sending tiny space probes to nearby star systems is very futuristic, the satellites could open the door to new miniature devices to probe our own planet — and the solar system."

"You [could] have very large numbers of tiny probes monitoring Saturn and its moon, etc, in more detail than we have done up till now, simply because of the advances we are familiar with every day from mobile phones."

"The technology on board the Cassini spacecraft currently studying the planet is decades old."

Loeb believes it will take 20 years for the Breakthrough Starshot space probes to be developed, and another 20 for them to reach the Alpha Centauri system, but he said the wait will be worth it.

He added, "You can think of it as the modern incarnation of building the pyramids."

"My personal hope is that once we have a spacecraft leaving the solar system we get a message back saying 'welcome to the interstellar club'."

A team of Columbia University astronomers believe that they have discovered the very first ever exomoon — a moon orbiting a planet besides one of the eight in our solar system.

In 1991, the first ever exoplanet was confirmed: HD 114762 b, also called 'Latham's Planet', sputniknews.com wrote.

Since then, 3,621 exoplanets have been confirmed to exist.

However, astronomers had yet to confirm the existence of an exomoon: A moon that orbits an exoplanet.

This is an artist's impression of a white dwarf (burned-out) star accreting rocky debris left behind by the star's surviving planetary system.

It was observed by Hubble in the Hyades star cluster.

David Kipping and his team may have changed that. They were studying Kepler-1625, a star so named because it was discovered by NASA's Kepler telescope in 2016.

That same year, a planet (Kepler-1625b) roughly the same size as Jupiter was discovered orbiting Kepler-1625.

Exoplanets can be found with a variety of techniques, but the most common one is known as

planetary transit.

When a planet passes between its star and a telescope, the star's light becomes somewhat dimmer. The telescope then images the star to find the planet.

A moon would be found with the same basic technique —

at Villanova University, said, "Exomoons are hard to detect because moons are typically much smaller than their host planets and thus typically don't affect the transit eclipse light changes, except if the moon is large as in the case of this system."

"After our largest survey to date, we have recently detected a strong candidate moon signal in the light curve of Kepler-1625b," the team wrote in a public request to observe the planet with the Hubble Space Telescope.

"The planet exhibits three

## Astronomers discover a moon outside the solar system



astronomy.com

At lower right, an asteroid can be seen falling toward a Saturn-like disk of dust that is encircling the dead star. Infalling asteroids pollute the white dwarf's atmosphere with silicon.

waiting for it to pass between the telescope and the planet it orbits.

The central issue with this is relative brightness — planets are usually hundreds of millions of times dimmer than the stars they orbit.

Edward Guinan, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics

But Kepler-1625b is already 4,000 miles away from Earth in the Cygnus constellation — meaning it's already extremely dim.

Kipping's team observed three instances of 1625b darkening that they believe are evidence of the planet's moon making a transit.

transits in the Kepler data (P=287 days), in which we detect out-of-transit flux dips consistent with the presence of a large moon."

Kipping's team said that they were over 99.38 percent confident that the object they had observed was an exomoon.

The remaining 0.62 percent

consists of flukes in the data, such as an observational error or some other spurious factor.

But they urge that they only think that they've discovered an exomoon.

Speaking to Nature, Kipping urged caution to media outlets reporting the find.

He said, "It wasn't something we were planning on announcing, because at this point it's only a candidate."

"It really only takes the slightest misstep in our language to miscommunicate the reality of what we have."

"For the moon to be large enough to cause a dimming that Kepler can detect, it must be extremely large — to the tune of the size of Neptune, four times the size of Earth."

"This would make 1625b's hypothetical moon by far the largest moon ever discovered, nine or 10 times the size of current record holder Ganymede (in orbit around Jupiter)."

In October 2017, Kepler-1625b will transit in front of its star once more. This time, it will be observed by the Hubble Space Telescope.

Kipping hoped that this new data will validate his theory, but it could also debunk it.



# No access to justice for migrant workers in Southeast Asia

Access to justice is often out of reach for migrant workers in Southeast Asia, the United Nations labor agency reported in a study that shows that non-governmental organizations are assisting more often than government officials or trade unions.

Migrant workers continue to face major obstacles to lodging and resolving complaints, the UN International Labor Organization's (ILO) found in a new study on Access to justice for migrant workers in Southeast Asia, Ipsnews reported.

The results show that some progress has been achieved in increasing access to justice for migrant workers in recent years. Remedies awarded to migrants in the cases resolved by the Migrant Worker Resource Centers included \$1.62 million in compensation.

Tomoko Nishimoto, ILO assistant director general and regional director for Asia and the Pacific, said, "Barriers to accessing formal assistance are one of the key reasons why migrant workers are vulnerable to labor rights violations during recruitment and employment."

The report found that while the estimated 20.2 million migrant workers originating from Southeast Asia have equal access to labor rights and social protections in the countries in which they work, "they frequently experience unequal and discriminatory treatment in practice."

Lack of written evidence, high cost of legal assistance, fear of retaliation and language barriers are among the challenges to accessing justice noted in the report, which has been released ahead of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, marked annually on July 30.

The report authors argued that there is a substantial and largely unmet demand for fair and responsive remedies in the countries surveyed.

The study is based on complaint case data gathered by Migrant Worker Resource Centers from 2011 to 2015.

Detailed information on over 1,000 cases involving more than 7,000 women and men migrant workers was documented in Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand



ipsnews.net

and Vietnam, establishing the largest regional dataset of migrant complaints compiled within Southeast Asia, according to the UN labor agency.

Ben Harkins, technical officer for the ILO TRIANGLE in ASEAN program and lead author of the report, said, "Migrant workers' vulnerability to exploitation is exacerbated by the absence of fair, efficient and accessible means to resolve grievances when they occur."

The report underlined the important link between the lack of effective channels for migrants to denounce abuses

and cases of forced labor and human trafficking.

"Most migrant workers who are faced with situations of exploitation and abuse seek practical resolutions, such as disbursement of unpaid wages, deployment to destination countries and return of identification documents."

"It is clear that these demands are not adequately met through enforcement of labor and human trafficking laws currently and that greater efforts are needed to ensure that migrant workers are provided with just remedies," said Harkins.

## Lonely? Volunteering just two hours a week may help

Volunteering at least two hours a week may go a long way toward helping to ease feelings of loneliness and social isolation, a study of recent widows suggested.

Loneliness is a serious medical problem for many older adults; previous research links it to declines in physical and mental health as well as premature death, researchers note in the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

Because strong marriages, friendships and social networks can keep loneliness at bay, researchers wanted to see if becoming more involved in the community through volunteer work might make loneliness less common for an especially vulnerable group: recent widows, reported Reuters.

They found, as expected, that feelings of loneliness were much more intense among recent widows than married people. But the recent widows who started volunteering at least two hours a week developed lower levels of loneliness on par with married people who spend similar amounts of time giving back to their communities.

Lead study author Dawn Carr of the Pepper Institute



icsmsu.com

on Aging and Public Policy at Florida State University in Tallahassee said. "This offers fresh insight into how much of a 'dose' of volunteering might be needed to offset loneliness at widowhood."

"We do not know exactly how volunteering 'gets under our skin', but there is some speculation that it is beneficial because it tends to require us to use our mind, it requires us to be more physically active, and it almost always requires us to

interact with others," Carr said by email.

For the study, researchers examined data collected from 2006 to 2014 on 5,882 adults aged 51 and older. All of the participants were married at the start of the study, but 667 had become widows by the end.

People widowed during the study were more likely to be women, black, older, sicker, depressed, and experiencing cognitive decline. They were

also more likely to have had a spouse who was disabled or suffering from memory loss.

At the start of the study, roughly half of the participants did some volunteer work. People were more likely to start volunteering during the study if they became widowed, and widows were also more likely to devote lots of hours to volunteer work.

During the study, about 1.5 percent of the participants

started volunteering at least 100 hours a year, and another 6.3 percent began volunteering, but less often.

To assess loneliness, researchers examined data from questionnaires that asked how often people felt isolated, left out, or that they lacked companionship.

One limitation is the possibility that less lonely people might be more apt to venture out to volunteer, rather than volunteering being responsible for any reduction in loneliness, the authors noted.

Even so, the findings offer fresh evidence of the health benefits of regular social interactions, said Dr. Guohua Li, director of the Center for Injury Epidemiology and Prevention at Columbia University in New York City.

"Volunteering in particular is an activity that facilitates older adults' social engagement and the formation of meaningful relationships with others," Li, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

"Volunteering may also increase older persons' self-esteem and give them a sense of community, decreasing their feelings of loneliness after the loss of a spouse."

## Regret 'improves children's decision-making'

A new study found regret plays a 'crucial role in helping children to make better decisions'. The research involved 326 Northern Ireland schoolchildren.

According to BBC, this study is titled: Do children who experience regret make better decisions? A developmental study of the behavioral consequences of regret.

It found that by the age of six, only some children are able to experience regret, but those who do learn to make better decisions.

The research was led by Dr. Aidan Feeney, a senior lecturer at Queen's School of Psychology.

"It's a much-maligned emotion but our study suggested that developing the ability to experience regret may be important," he said.

"It could have significant value to children's development because of its role in decision-making."

"We're not saying teachers and parents should deliberately expose children to serious regret."

"But showing them how things would have turned out differently if they'd made an alternative choice could benefit them."

One of the experiments had some echoes of the Deal or No Deal game show, as each child was invited to open one of two closed boxes.

Both boxes contained stickers, but one had more than the other.

The children were asked to rate their feelings and those who felt worse about having picked the box with fewer stickers were said by the researchers to have experienced regret.

They were offered exactly the same choice the next day and the study found that the children who regretted their previous decision were more likely to remember the outcome and switch to the other box that had more stickers.

"Adults know to switch their behavior the next time when a different decision would have led to a better outcome," said Feeney.

"They learn not to press the snooze button on their alarm, for example, because this has made them late for work before."

"However, less is known about how and when children experience regret, and how they learn from this emotion."



bbc.com

Feeney said more research was needed to understand how anticipating regret influences decision-making in older children and adolescents.

"We don't want teenagers to experience regret by making decisions with very serious consequences."

"Instead, we need to understand how learning about other people's regrets might help them anticipate feeling the emotion themselves and therefore choose more wisely," he added.

There were four experiments involved in producing the research paper.

In the first study, 78 children aged between five and nine years old took part.

On the basis of the results of that study, the researchers focused on six and seven year olds for the remaining experiments.

The children who took part were said to be from 'predominantly from lower-to-middle-class backgrounds and of Caucasian origin'.

## FDA moves to lower nicotine levels in cigarettes

The US Food and Drug Administration will focus on reducing nicotine levels in cigarettes to make them less addictive, while also making other nicotine products — including patches and gum — safer, agency officials said.

In addition, the FDA is delaying implementation of last year's rules on cigars and e-cigarettes currently on the market until 2021 and 2022, respectively. That will allow time to ensure the regulatory standards are appropriate, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said at a morning media briefing, according to UPI.

"We want to make sure those products, particularly the e-cigarettes, go through an appropriate set of regulatory dates to make sure they're safe, make sure they are meeting standards," he said.

Central to the FDA's new approach to tobacco control is the belief that products such as e-cigarettes and cigars should not be used by kids. Rules are needed to deal with 'kid-appealing' flavors, Gottlieb said.

Patricia Folan, director of Northwell Health's Center for Tobacco Control in Great Neck, NY, applauded the FDA's attention to teen smoking.

"Addressing the detrimental role of flavors, including menthol, in the initiation of tobacco use will be a very significant step in reducing tobacco use among our youth," she said.

"Not only are flavors attractive to youth, but are also harmful to lung health."

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Studies have shown that most cigarette smokers start as teens, and the FDA wants to prevent them from getting hooked in the first place, potentially stemming rates of lung disease.

But the American Lung Association believes kids will suffer if the FDA delays implementation of the e-cigarette and cigar rules.

Erika Sward, the association's vice president for national advocacy, said, "The Lung Association is concerned."

"What we are seeing here is that FDA, under the framing of a new approach, is weakening public health protection for e-cigarettes and cigars, and they are punting protection for kids down the road for five years."

## 17m UK pensioners filed a tax return in 2016

Around 1.7 million pensioners in the UK had to file a tax return last year, according to new research.

Former pensions minister Sir Steve Webb said retirement "does not mean freedom from the misery of the annual tax return", with more than 250,000 of those submitting tax returns aged 80 or over, aol.co.uk reported.

Pensioners also make up a much higher proportion of taxpayers now compared to the early 1990s, further research by Royal London suggests.

Analysis of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) data showed that around one in five taxpayers this year will be over 65, compared to around one in nine in the early 1990s.

Sir Steve, a former Liberal Democrat MP who is now

Royal London's director of policy, said: "It is clear that even retirement does not mean freedom from the misery of the annual tax return."

"It is shocking that over 250,000 people aged over 80 are still being asked to deal with this paperwork each year."

"The pledge to do away with tax returns altogether cannot come too soon for this group."

More than 10 million people submitted a tax return in 2015-16, according to a freedom of information request by Royal London, an increase of around 750,000 on five years earlier.

HMRC's goal is to make individual tax assessment largely digital by 2020.



aol.co.uk



## 88-year-old 'crazy granny' crosses skydiving off bucket list

A self-proclaimed Canadian 'crazy granny' went skydiving as part of her ongoing quest to cross items off her bucket list.

Maire Hollo, 88, leapt out of a tiny plane at the Parachute School of Toronto after heavy rain on a hot and muggy day nearly derailed her plans, UPI wrote.

Hollo said, "If you're afraid, you only live half a life."

Hollo, who had been looking forward to the experience for years, completed the jump after the sun pushed through the clouds and said the experience was definitely worth it.

"It was wonderful, just so peaceful and beautiful up there," she told Inside Edition. "I had it in my mind [to do it] a long time ago."

Hollo has spent four years



CAPTURE/INSIDE EDITION/INFORM INC  
Maire Hollo, an 88-year-old 'crazy granny', went skydiving as part of a quest to cross a number of daring stunts off her bucket list.

completing daring stunts to cross items off her bucket list, beginning by hanging along the edge of Toronto's CN Tower.

Hollo's daughter, Susan Hollo, said, "My mother's

fearless and she was just so thrilled to be able to do something that challenged her and I was really happy for her to have the experience."

Hollo has always lived to

subvert expectations, getting a driver's license against her husband's wishes and becoming the first woman on her street to wear pants.

She never remarried after her

husband died 30 years ago, instead enjoying her life alone. "I don't need a

man," she said. "I enjoy my life. I can watch whatever I want on TV."

Hollo's future bucket list plans include driving a race car and having rapper Pitbull sing to her on her 90th birthday.

"You're never too old to do the things you want to do," she said.

**'If you're afraid, you only live half a life.'**

## World-record 456 hot air balloons take flight at French festival

Hundreds of hot air balloons took to the skies in pursuit of two world records at a biannual festival in France.

A total of 456 balloons simultaneously floated in a line during the Mondial Air Ballons festival at an airbase in Chambly-Bussières, UPI wrote.

Poor weather in the area postponed the record attempt twice throughout the week until the colorful balloons representing pilots from 45 different nations successfully launched at about 9 a.m., the Local reported.

It took about 45 minutes for all of the balloons to rise into the formation as they attempted to set records for number of balloons aligned and number of Clodhoppers,

or one-person hot air balloons.

The team successfully broke the record they set at the festival two years ago, when they launched 433 balloons.

Event organizer Philippe Buron-Pilatre said, "We are constantly progressing; it is of great pride, because we've held this record many times."



AFP  
A total of 456 hot air balloons launched into the air in a linear formation to claim two world records at the biannual Mondial Air Ballons festival in France.

## Motivational Michael Jordan quotes

them.

\*\*\*

To be successful you have to be selfish, or else you never achieve. And once you get to your highest level, then you have to be unselfish. Stay reachable. Stay in touch. Don't isolate.

\*\*\*

Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.

\*\*\*

If you quit once it becomes a habit. Never quit!

\*\*\*

Always turn a negative situation into a positive situation.

\*\*\*

Everybody has talent, but ability takes hard work.

\*\*\*

To learn to succeed, you must first learn to fail.

\*\*\*

Never say never, because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion.

\*\*\*

Don't let them drag you down by rumors just go with what you believe in.

\*\*\*

If you do the work you get rewarded. There are no shortcuts in life.

\*\*\*

I've failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed.

\*\*\*

Once I made a decision, I never thought about it again.

\*\*\*

The key to success is failure.

\*\*\*

Learning's a gift, even when pain is your teacher.

\*\*\*

Failure is acceptable. But not

trying is a whole different ball park.

\*\*\*

I play to win, whether during practice or a real game.

\*\*\*

You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.

\*\*\*

Every time I feel tired while I am exercising and training, I close my eyes to see that picture, to see that list with my name. This usually motivates me to work again.

\*\*\*

I never looked at the consequences of missing a big shot... When you think about the consequences you will always think of the negative result.

Michael Jordan is a basketball legend. He has unparalleled accomplishments including six NBA championships, five-time Most Valuable Player, six-time Finals Most Valuable Player, 10-time All-NBA First Team, NBA Rookie of the Year, two-time Olympic Gold Medal Winner and a NCAA National Championship, just to name a few.

Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player that has ever played the game.

Here are some motivational Michael Jordan quotes:

Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.

\*\*\*

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

\*\*\*

Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.

\*\*\*

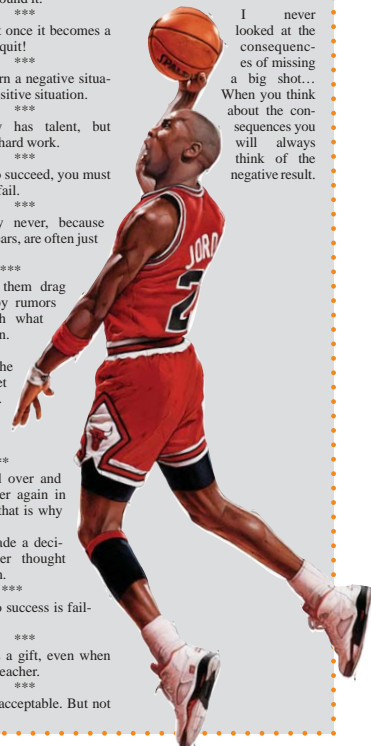
I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.

\*\*\*

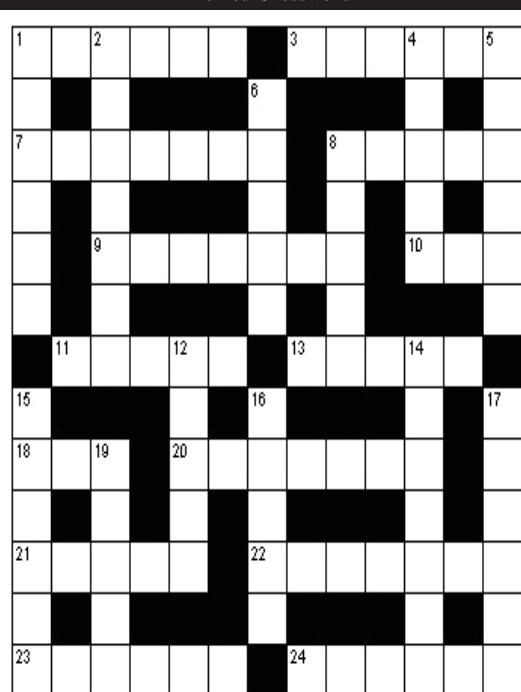
My attitude is that if you push me towards something that you think is a weakness, then I will turn that perceived weakness into a strength.

\*\*\*

You must expect great things of yourself before you can do



### Themed Crossword



### DOWN

- Monarchy on the French Riviera (6)
- Saltwater lake (4,3)
- Italian isle (5)
- Texas city (6)
- Island country south of Sicily (5)
- Famous fountain in Rome (5)
- Currency of Nigeria (5)
- Funchal is the capital of this Atlantic island (7)
- Riga is the capital of this Baltic country (6)
- Tenerife's volcanic peak (5)
- Capital of the Czech Republic (6)
- City in northeastern Oklahoma (5)

### ACROSS

- Capital of Spain (6)
- New York lake, sounds tranquil (6)
- Falls and honeymoon resort (7)
- Austrian province (5)
- Washington's largest city (7)
- Country, initially (3)
- Augusta is the state capital (5)
- Florida resort (5)
- Australian capital, initially (3)
- Reykjavik is the capital (7)
- Europe's longest river (5)
- Australian river (7)
- South American river (6)
- Capital of Zimbabwe (6)

### 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.

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

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



## Pep promise

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said the Citizens will try to sign a central defender this summer, adding to the club's summer spending of more than £200 million.



volleyball.ir

## Iran outclasses Aussies in Asian volleyball showpiece

## Sports Desk

Iran's U-23 side outplayed Australia 3-1 (25-11, 25-19, 22-25, 27-25) in the 2017 Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Indonesia.

Iran and Australia went into their second fixture of the Pool F of the competition on the back of defeats at the hands of China and Chinese Taipei, respectively.

A 16-7 lead, going into the second technical time-out, and a perfect defensive display, resulting in seven consecutive

points, gave Iranians a commanding lead in the first set as Iranians eventually dominated the set by a 25-11 score line.

It was pretty much the same in the second set as Iran headed into the technical time-outs leading 8-4 and 16-9. A 25-19 win in the second set put the Asian side in the driving seat, however the Aussies bounced back to notch up a 25-22 victory in the third set.

It turned out to be a point-for-point thriller in the fourth set as Australians put their last-ditch efforts to push the game

into a tie-break but it was the Iranians who claimed a last-gasp 27-25 victory to take the set and the match.

In the other match of the group Chinese Taipei overcame China 3-1 (25-22, 19-25, 27-25, 25-20). The final day results gave Iran a Pool F top finish marching through today's quarterfinal knock-out stage.

Chipping in 17 points, Amin Esmailnejad made the biggest contribution to Iran's victory followed by Salim Cheperli who scored 14.

## Pochettino wants 'respect' from rivals

Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino wants fellow Premier League managers to show respect by not talking about his club.

Chelsea's Antonio Conte and Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho have both spoken about Tottenham this week, BBC reported.

Conte said Spurs' expectations were not as high as elsewhere, while Mourinho believes Pochettino has had a good summer having sold only Kyle Walker.

"I am not a manager who likes to speak about another club, another manager," said Pochettino.

"I like to show respect. I expect the same from the people who compete with us."

Tottenham has not won the league title since 1961, with its last major trophy being the League Cup in 2008.

This summer, the London club is still to buy a player while Chelsea, Manchester City and Manchester United have each spent in excess of £100 million.

Pochettino said, "For different clubs who have spent a lot of money, the expectation and pressure is massive. For us it is the same. It is our own pressure and ambition."

### 'We will move when the moment is right'

Pochettino refused to confirm he was interested in signing Everton's England midfielder Ross Barkley, 23.

He said Tottenham would eventually be active, and said the club's fans should not be concerned about their lack of activity.

He said, "Our moment will arrive. We are calm because our squad is competitive. We

have a plan. We have a very clear idea of what we want.

"There are a lot of rumors about the big sides spending money and it looks like Tottenham is not ambitious.

"I want to tell our fans 'don't be worried'

are not trying to sell him. He is an important player for us."

### 'Mbappe is worth the money'

Away from White Hart Lane, France for-



Mauricio Pochettino (R) promised Spurs' fans that the club will move for the right player at the right time.

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because we will move in the market."

### Dier is here 'at the moment'

Spurs midfielder Eric Dier has been heavily linked with a move to Manchester United this summer.

Red Devils boss Mourinho said on Tuesday he was trying to sign a defensive midfielder player.

Pochettino would not talk about United's apparent interest in 23-year-old Dier, but did say "the idea" was not to sell the England international.

He said, "Today Dier is our player. We

ward Kylian Mbappe has been linked with a world record £160 million move from Monaco this summer.

Real Madrid and Manchester City are both keen on the 18-year-old.

The mooted fee would shatter the record £89 million Manchester United paid Juventus for midfielder Paul Pogba 12 months ago.

Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris, an international teammate of Mbappe, thinks the teenager is worth the money.

Lloris said: "I spent some time with him during the international break. He is very, very talented. He is very young but he has great potential."

## Giti Pasand's Afzal eyes historic second title

In a repeat of the 2013 final, Sanaye' Giti Pasand will face Bluewave Chonburi in the 2017 AFC Futsal Club Championship final in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, today.

In the captivating final in Nagoya, Japan, four years ago, the night belonged to the Thais as they beat their opponent 4-1 on penalties, the-afc.com reported.

When quizzed on the learning lessons from that September night, Giti Pasand's head coach Alireza Afzal was ardent in his response.

"I am not thinking about what happened four years ago. That is history. Tomorrow is a different game," said Afzal, before sending a reminder that his side won the title in 2012.

After 11 days of grueling competition, Bluewave Chonburi enters the final boasting the competition's best offensive and defensive record. The Thai side has scored an astonishing 24, five more than the competition's second best goal scorers - Thai Son Nam - and that is despite playing a game less in the group stage.

"Yes, that is their strength. They are a much disciplined team, with a good defense and can pose a threat in attack through their patient play. But we are confident of our own abilities."

Similar to his opposite number, the 43-year-old also said that his in-depth knowledge and assessment of his team's opponent will work to Giti Pasand's advantage.

"We know them very well. I have personally worked with their foreign player who used to play for Giti Pasand when we won the title in 2012," added Afzal, referring to Brazilian Rudimar Venancio (Xapa).

Giti Pasand will also have to be wary of Jirawat Somwichian, who hit a hat-trick in the 6-0 win over home favorites Thai Son Nam in the semifinal on Friday.

"We have been analyzing them for some time now, and we believe that we have done enough home-

work to get the victory.

"As I said right from the start of the competition, we came here with only one intention, and that is to win the title. We are a big club and it is important for us, for Iranian futsal, that we become champion for the second time. We will be the only Iranian club to achieve this so it will be history for us."

### 'Competition level improving'

The 28-year-old Ahmad Esmailpour elevated his continental caliber to world stardom when he added the FIFA Futsal World Cup Bronze Ball award to his glistening trophy cabinet.

Eight months later, from Co-

Success never comes easy. I know I have to work hard to be at my best every single time."

There are few in the competition who can match Ahmad Esmailpour's pristine record. Beginning with the competition's inaugural final in 2010, the Iranian rallied to an impressive streak of four successive finals, winning two titles, first with Foolad Mahan in 2010, before clinching Giti Pasand's solitary title in 2012 where he finished as the tournament's top-scorer.

"Yes, I still remember that year. It was a very special moment and competition, one that ranks in my all-time best memories. Everything was perfect, the



the-afc.com

Ahmad Esmailpour (L) grabbed a brace to steer Giti Pasand to a 4-2 victory over Qatar's Al Rayyan in the 2017 AFC Futsal Club Championship semifinal in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on July 28, 2017.

lombia to Vietnam, Giti Pasand's No.10 still possesses the same steely focus and determination, as he grabbed a brace to steer his side to a 4-2 victory over Qatar's Al Rayyan in the semifinals on Friday.

"It was not an easy match. Some people might say we are favorites but the level of competition is improving every single year, which means it gets harder every year. But for me, I welcome this challenge.

team were excellent, the atmosphere, the results. I still remember it very clearly like it was yesterday," said the towering figure with a big grin.

"But 2012 is a very long time ago. Our fans have been very patient with us. This is the time, now is the time to win this competition again. Having played in a championship team, I rate this group of current teammates up there with the best."

## PSG to offer Di Maria for Neymar plus £195m

Paris Saint-Germain wants to send Angel Di Maria to Barcelona, as well as £195 million (€20 million), in order to close the record breaking deal for Neymar.

Diario AS reported on Friday that the former Manchester United player could be used as part of the deal.

The French club sees it as a way of avoiding paying Neymar's transfer buy-out clause to the Spanish league and incurring a tax bill of over £62 million, the Daily Mail reported.

Paying the buyout clause means PSG pays Neymar £195 million and he then deposits the sum with the league to free him from his contract.

This method of payment could drag PSG into a dispute with the French taxman who could class the passing of the money by PSG to Neymar as taxable income, although the player could count the money as a gain in assets that he could subsequently offset as a loss when he then pays it to the league.

It also means all the money would have to be paid up-front whereas a more orthodox transfer could see the French side pay in stages.

PSG is keen to persuade Barcelona to treat the deal as a normal transfer and in order to persuade the Spaniards to cooperate PSG is willing to offer Barce-



Neymar has put in some brilliant performances in Barcelona's friendly fixtures in the club's tour of the US.

SPLASH NEWS

lona a player.

Diario AS revealed on Friday evening that of a short-list of players Ligue 1 runner-up is prepared to include in the deal Di Maria is the one that most appeals.

Despite an interest in Di Maria Barcelona has so far said it will not negotiate and only accept the full buy-out clause paid to the league.



