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US bombers fly over South Korea after North missile test

The United States flew two supersonic bombers over the Korean Peninsula on Sunday in a show of force against North Korea following the country's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test.

The B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they performed a low-pass over an airbase near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the US Pacific Air Forces said in a statement, AP reported.

It said the mission was a response to North Korea's two ICBM tests this month. Analysts say flight data from the North's second test, conducted Friday night, showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

North Korea said it conducted another successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on Friday that proved its ability to strike America's mainland.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un personally supervised the midnight test launch of the missile on Friday night and said it was a "stern warning" for the United States that it would not be safe from destruction if it tries to attack.

"Diplomacy remains the lead. However, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario," said Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander.

"If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing," O'Shaughnessy said.

The United States often sends powerful warplanes in times of heightened tensions with North Korea. B-1 bombers have been sent to South Korea for flyovers several times this year in response to the North's banned missile tests, and also following the death of a US college student last month after he was released by North Korea in a coma.

The Hwasong-14 ICBM, which the North first tested on July 4, is the highlight of several new weapons systems Pyongyang launched this year. They include an intermediate range missile that North Korea says is capable of hitting Alaska and Hawaii, and a solid-fuel midrange missile, which analysts say can be fired faster and more secretly than liquid-fuel missiles.



Political Desk

Iran's Leader urges Saudi Arabia to ensure Hajj security

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday urged Saudi Arabia to ensure all Hajj pilgrims' security. "Ensuring security, dignity, welfare and comfort of all Hajj pilgrims, Iranians in particular, has always been a serious demand of the Islamic Republic, and this is upon the country [Saudi Arabia] which controls the two holy shrines [in Mecca and Medina]," Ayatollah Khamenei said in an address to a group of Iranian Hajj officials in Tehran, IRNA reported.

The speech came after the first group of Iranian pilgrims from the southern port city of Bandar Abbas left for the holy city of Medina early Sunday.

The Leader pointed to a deadly stampede and a crane crash during the 2015 Hajj pilgrimage, saying that "the pain left in the hearts of Iranians" due to the two tragic incidents is "unforgettable".

In September 2015, more than 110 pilgrims, among them 11 Iranians, lost their lives after the collapse of a massive construction crane into Mecca's Grand Mosque and some 4,700, including over 460 Iranians, were crushed to death in a stampede near the holy city.

Ayatollah Khamenei, however, noted that a security atmosphere should not be created in order to guarantee security.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the Hajj pilgrimage as "the epitome of grandeur, unity, integrity and power of the Islamic Ummah."

He called on Muslim nations to boost unity and avoid any moves that could contribute to the plots aimed at fomenting discord and feud among Muslims.

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Four Arab countries say ready for Qatar dialogue with conditions

Four Arab countries boycotting Qatar are ready for dialogue to ease the dispute if Doha agrees to certain demands, Bahrain's foreign minister said on Sunday after a meeting with his counterparts.

"The four countries are ready for dialogue with Qatar with the condition that it announces its sincere willingness to stop funding terrorism and extremism and its commitment to not interfere in other countries' foreign affairs and respond to the 13 demands," Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said.

On June 5, the Saudi-led bloc cut diplomatic and economic ties with Qatar - the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas - over allegations the emirate supported extremism and had close ties to Iran, Saudi Arabia's regional archrival.

The Saudi-led bloc recalled their ambassadors, ordered all Qatars to return home and banned Qatar from using their airspace. Qatar has denied the allegations and accuses the bloc of imposing a "blockade" on the tiny emirate.

Qatar has also rejected the bloc's demands - which include downgrading ties to Iran and closing both the Al Jazeera news channel and a Turkish military base in the country - as a violation of its sovereignty.

Bahrain's King Hamad on Saturday called for "the solidarity of all Arab countries in fighting terrorism and cutting off its financing... for the defense of our homelands" ahead of the meeting, which comes after the Saudi-led bloc held talks in Cairo earlier this month.

Kuwait is leading mediation efforts in the crisis, the worst to grip the region since the 1981 creation of the six-nation Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

Kuwait and Oman have not joined the Qatar boycott.

Iran, Iraq moving closer to constructing Kirkuk pipeline: Zanganeh

Iran and Iraq are moving closer to building a pipeline to transfer crude oil from the northern Iraqi fields of Kirkuk via Iran, said Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on Sunday following a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Jabbar al-Luaibi.

The two ministers also reached an agreement on an international company that will conduct feasibility study on the project, Zanganeh was quoted as saying by Shana. Iraq and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in February to study the construction of the pipeline.

Separately, Zanganeh said Iran would begin exporting gas to the Iraqi city of Basra in the coming months.

He said there had been some problems in receiving payments for current gas exports to Iraq via banks and that Iran was receiving cash payments.

Iran and Iraq have begun a new round of discussions to promote cooperation in the energy sector.

The discussions are headed by Zanganeh and al-Luaibi in Tehran.

Top on the agenda of their meeting included developing the oilfields that the two countries share, transferring Iraqi crude oil to Iranian refineries and returning refined products to Iraq and exporting natural gas from Iran to Basra.

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Venezuela holds vote for legislative assembly

Venezuela held a vote Sunday for a new, all-powerful "Constituent Assembly" to rewrite the constitution, as security forces broke up protest road blocks in the capital.

The election was taking place in an atmosphere of high tension, with the opposition calling for a boycott and mass demonstrations, and thousands of troops fanning out to confront any disruption, AFP reported.

In the western Caracas district of El Paraíso, security forces using armored vehicles cleared away protesters to the sound of gunfire, according to reports and witness accounts on Twitter.

The vote has been fiercely opposed by demonstrators at months of street protests that have left over 100 people dead.

Venezuela's opposition says it is a bid for President Nicolas Maduro to cling



to power by getting around the National Assembly, which the opposition controls. Maduro kicked off the vote by casting his ballot in a west Caracas polling station for the 545-member citizens' assembly that will be empowered to dissolve congress and change laws as it reforms the nation's charter.

"I'm the first voter in the country. I

ask God for his blessings so the people can freely exercise their democratic right to vote," the president said. He was accompanied by his wife, Cilia Flores, who is a candidate to sit on the new assembly.

The opposition said the vote was a move towards a Maduro "dictatorship" with the backing of the military.

These months of violent street protests against Maduro have exposed deep political divisions in this oil-rich nation reduced to economic ruin. Maduro decreed a ban on further protests during and after the vote, threatening prison terms of up to 10 years for anyone violating the order.

Maduro - who has described the Constituent Assembly as a "card that will win this game" - on Saturday called the vote "the most important election held in Venezuela's political system."

Trump threatens to end insurance payments if no health care bill

US President Donald Trump threatened to end government payments to health insurers if Congress does not pass a new health care bill and goaded them to not abandon their seven-year quest to replace the Obamacare law.

In a Twitter message on Saturday, Trump said "if a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!"

The tweet came a day after Senate Republicans failed to muster enough votes to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act, former president Barack Obama's signature health care bill commonly known as Obamacare, Reuters reported.



The first part of Trump's tweet appeared to be referring to the approximately \$8 billion in cost-sharing reduction subsidies the federal government pays to insurers to lower the price of health coverage for low-income Americans.

The second part appeared to be a threat to end the employer contribution for Congress members and their staffs, who were moved from the normal federal employee health care benefits program onto the Obamacare insurance exchanges as part of the 2010 health care law.

Trump has previously threatened to suspend the payments to insurers, which are determined by the Department of Health and Human Services. In April, he threatened to end the payments if Democrats refused to negotiate over the health care bill.

Responding to Saturday's tweet, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said that if the president carried out that threat, "every expert agrees that (insurance) premiums will go up and health care will be more expensive for millions of Americans."

"The president ought to stop playing politics with people's lives and health care, start leading and finally begin acting presidential," Schumer said in a statement. Trump later urged Senate Republicans to try again on a health care vote. The Senate is in session for another week before it is scheduled to begin an August recess.

"Unless the Republican Senators are total quitters, Repeal & Replace is not dead! Demand another vote before voting on any other bill!" Trump said in a subsequent tweet.

Many insurers have been waiting for an answer from Trump or lawmakers on whether they will continue to fund the annual government subsidies. Without assurances, many plan to raise rates an additional 20 percent by an Aug. 16 deadline for premium prices.

Baqeri: Pakistan stations guards in Iran border

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri said that Pakistan's Army has stationed border guard units in its border with Iran to ensure security in the area.

Iranian and Pakistani guards are working together to maintain security on their borders, Baqeri told reporters in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan Province on Sunday, IRNA reported.



MEHR NEWS AGENCY

He said that Iran's security forces, including Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces, border guards and intelligence forces have created good security conditions in the country's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan which borders Pakistan.

Tehran had repeatedly called on Islamabad to strengthen security on its borders to prevent cross-border attacks by terrorists operating from Pakistan's territory against Iran.

On July 16, terrorists based in Pakistan fired projectiles at Iran's border region of Saravan, killing two local workers.

In April, 11 Iranian border guards were killed and three others injured in clashes near the border town of Mirjaveh. The Pakistan-based Jaish ul-Adl terror group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tehran reacted by saying that it reserved the right to respond to the attack as it chose and warning that its patience was wearing thin with Pakistan's lack of cooperation.

Azerbaijani parliamentary delegation due in Iran

A delegation of Azerbaijani lawmakers and government officials plans to pay an official visit to Iran to boost Baku-Tehran relations in all spheres.

The Azerbaijani parliamentarians and officials will hold talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on a range of issues, including ways to deepen ties between the two neighboring countries, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The delegation is also slated to attend the swearing-in ceremony for President Hassan Rouhani, who won a second term by a landslide in May.

Parliament speakers from a number of countries are among foreign guests expected to attend the Iranian president's swearing-in ceremony.

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

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

After the swearing-in ceremony, the president will have two weeks to submit the list of his new cabinet to the Parliament to obtain a vote of confidence.



Mohammad Ali Rajdidi



Rouhani: US will suffer 'most losses' from anti-Iran measures



president.ir

Political Desk

President Hassan Rouhani hailed the Parliament for discussing a motion to reciprocate recent anti-Iran sanctions imposed by the United States, saying such penalties will backfire on Washington.

Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with Judiciary Chief Sadeq Larijani and Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani in Tehran on Sunday, IRNA reported.

On Saturday, 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.

The parliamentary move followed the recent sanctions imposed on Iran by the US Senate and the US Department of the Treasury.

Washington said the sanctions were in response to Iran's missile tests and launching of a satellite-carrying rocket. The Islamic Republic has always reiterated that such launches are aimed at boosting the country's defense and scientific purposes.

Rouhani said Americans should be aware that they will sustain the "most losses" from imposing sanctions adding that such measures will result in Washington's isolation in the world.

The Iranian president also threw his weight behind the country's armed forces, saying no one [foreign powers] will ever be able to undermine the might of the armed forces.

Since President Donald Trump assumed office in January, the US has intensified its hostile policy toward Iran, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

At the weekend, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) reported another provocation by US warships in the Persian Gulf.

The IRGC said the supercarrier USS Nimitz and its accompanying warship flew a helicopter near the Resalat oil and gas platform and approached the IRGC's ships.

A few days earlier, a US Navy ship sailed toward an IRGC Navy ship, which was patrolling in international waters, and fired two shots into the air.

Further in his remarks, Rouhani called for increasing efforts to attract foreign investment to cushion the impacts of anti-Iran sanctions. "Should we establish close economic ties with the world, the US will be unable to wield its sanctions tools [against Iran]..... even if Americans want to use sanctions they will be ineffective, he said.

Araqchi: Iran to honor nuclear deal as long as interests safeguarded

A senior official said Iran will live up to its commitments under the 2015 nuclear agreement as long as its interests are safeguarded as the US is imposing back-to-back sanctions on the country.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi told a TV program on Saturday night that the new US sanctions "have not completely endangered the Islamic Republic's interests" yet.

"Whenever our costs in the JCPOA become higher than our interests, we will not be bound to fulfill our obligations," Araqchi said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as the nuclear accord is known, Press TV reported.

His remarks came after both the US House of Representatives and Senate overwhelmingly voted earlier this week to levy new sanctions on Iran over its ballistic missile program, with President Donald Trump set to sign the bill into legislation.

Araqchi said the congressional vote was a hostile move which would elicit Iran's "decisive" response proportionate to the sanctions.

Araqchi said the Americans are mistaken in thinking that the JCPOA is Iran's only tool against US pressures, and thus provoking the Islamic Republic to leave the 2015 nuclear accord. Tehran, he said, has many instruments to respond to the new US measures.

"It's unreasonable that the Americans lay down such a harsh law against Iran and do not know that we will defend our power components because Iran is strong in the region and internationally and it has this power from the JCPOA," Araqchi said.

"America must know that we are not about to commit self-injury with regard to the JCPOA. Whenever the commitments of the opposite side are not fulfilled, it means that a flagrant violation has taken place and we will then continue our enrichment again," he added.

The nuclear agreement was inked between Iran and the P5+1 countries – namely the US, Russia, China, France, Britain, and Germany – in July 2015 and took effect in January 2016.

Under the deal, which was later endorsed by a United

Nations Security Council resolution, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the removal of all nuclear-related bans imposed on the Islamic Republic, among other things.

The Trump administration, which took over in January 2017, one year after the JCPOA came into force, has described it as a bad deal and pledged to "push back" against Iran.



TASNIM NEWS AGENCY

"The Americans are talking about the 'push-back policy' against Iran in their speeches," Araqchi said, adding the US wants to prevent Iran from growing stronger.

The senior nuclear negotiator said the US president and his administration are after scrapping the JCPOA, but they want Iran to pay the costs.

The US is trying to make Iran angry and take an emotional decision, "but we will definitely demonstrate a vigilant and well-considered reaction to their enmity," Araqchi said.

Araqchi said US sanctions have made Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) "stronger and self-reliant."

"The enemies have targeted the IRGC in order to weaken it, but they would die in frustration," he said.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said on Sunday that the US will certainly be the main loser after imposing sanctions on Iran and Russia.

Velayati made the comment in a meeting with the director of the Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Vitaly Naumkin, in Tehran on Sunday.

"The value of mutual relations between Iran and Russia will become more evident after the [imposition of] sanctions and these relations will become deeper and stronger," he said. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Velayati said the US had no right to unilaterally violate the landmark nuclear agreement.

If the US breaches the JCPOA, other signatories to the deal are duty-bound to counter it, Velayati said, adding, "What the Americans have so far carried out is definitely at odds with the letter and spirit of the JCPOA."

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"While billions of dollars are spent to create disunity, friction and hostility among Muslims, Muslims should be careful not to help this effort, because each Islamic nation that contributes to this plot will be a partner in the consequences of this great sin."

'United stance on Al-Aqsa'

The Leader said Muslims should use the Hajj rituals this year to take a united stance against Israeli efforts to control the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Tensions are still high at Islam's third holiest site in Beit-ul-Moqaddas, where Israel had deployed troops to restrict access to Palestinian worshippers but had to retreat amid fears that the standoff could turn to a large-scale revolt.

"The Zionists have become emboldened and rude, giving themselves the right to get tough with the owners of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and prevent them," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"Where can the Islamic Ummah find a better venue than Hajj to comment on the Al-Aqsa Mosque? Where is the place to take a position against the mischievous presence of America in the region? Hajj is the best venue," the Leader added.

He said the ritual of the "disavowal of disbelievers" which was always emphasized by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini is an opportunity to declare positions on the subjects on which there is consensus among the Islamic Ummah.

"One of these issues is the case of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds, which these days because of the insolence, brazenness and wickedness of the usurping and fake Zionist regime, has become the focus of attention more than before."

"The meddling and mischievous presence of America in the Islamic countries and the region and the creation of Takfiri terrorist groups are other important issues that Muslim nations should take a stance on during the Hajj," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"More mischievous and wicked than all terrorist groups is the American regime itself," the Leader added.

Home siege ends

Elite Kenyan security forces on Sunday killed a man at the home of Deputy President William Ruto, ending a 20-hour siege that began with an attack in which a policeman was injured, police said.

Pakistan to elect new prime minister on Tuesday

Pakistan's Parliament will meet on Tuesday to elect a new prime minister after the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif following an investigation into corruption allegations against his family.

The ruling party named Sharif's younger brother Shahbaz as his successor over the weekend, but he must first enter Parliament by contesting the seat left vacant by Sharif, AFP reported.

In the meantime the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which enjoys a majority in Parliament, has nominated ex-oil minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as interim prime minister.

The top court ousted Sharif Friday after an investigation into corruption allegations against him and his family, bringing his historic third term in power to an unceremonious end and briefly plunging the nuclear-armed nation into political instability.

Nawaz Sharif was the 15th prime minister in Pakistan's 70-year history — roughly half of which was under military rule — to be ousted before completing a full term.

"The nomination papers — shall be delivered to the Secretary, National Assembly by 2 p.m., on Monday," said a notification by the National Assembly Secretariat and seen by AFP.

It said the assembly would meet at 3 p.m. Tuesday (1000 GMT) to elect a prime minister.

The younger Sharif — who is chief minister of the country's most populous province of Punjab — has so far been unscathed by the corruption allegations engulfing his brother's family.



On Saturday the Election Commission said fresh elections would be held in Nawaz Sharif's former constituency, in the family's power base in Punjab, in a process that could take up to 45 days.

Abbasi is set to be rubber-stamped as placeholder in the parliamentary vote. The opposition could also field a candidate but has little chance of securing enough votes in the 342-seat house.

With corruption allegations engulfing the powerful Sharif family — a dominant force in the country's politics for the last three decades — Pakistan's main opposition leader Imran Khan is hoping to win support for his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

Khan himself faces graft allegations in court linked to the non-disclosure of assets and offshore companies — similar charges that brought down Sharif.

The case, brought by a member of Sharif's PML-N party, seeks to have Khan disqualified on the same contentious clause in the constitution that ousted Sharif — the requirement that Pakistani politicians be honest.

Khan's lawyers have denied all charges and say his wealth stems from his lucrative cricketing career.

Taiwan hit by second storm after Nesat injures over 110

Taiwan was hit Sunday by its second major storm in two days after Typhoon Nesat battered the island, leaving at least 111 injured while causing flooding and widespread power outages.

flights canceled or delayed during the weekend.

At least 111 people were injured, mostly by falling objects or car accidents while some slipped in the bad weather, according to the



Much of the island came to a standstill on Saturday after Nesat made landfall in the eastern county of Yilan, whipping up massive waves of over 49 feet (15 meters) and dumping up to 23 inches (58 centimeters) of rain in the southern region of Pingtung, AFP reported.

It moved away from Taiwan Sunday as Tropical Storm Haitang churned towards the south of the island and made landfall in Pingtung in late afternoon, said the Central Weather Bureau.

It is the first time in 50 years that Taiwan has issued warnings for two such storms together.

"Even though Haitang is gradually weakening, it is expected to bring heavy rain in central and southern Taiwan from tonight to tomorrow and we urge people to be on guard," said forecaster Lin Ting-i.

The storm was 50 kilometers (31 miles) northwest of Eluanbi, the southernmost tip of the island, at 6 p.m. (1000 GMT).

More than 12,000 people have been evacuated since Saturday, with nearly 9,000 soldiers deployed for disaster relief.

Most train services were suspended and around 500 domestic and international

central emergency operation center.

More than half a million households were without electricity as Nesat pounded the island with downpours and winds of up to 180 kilometers an hour.

Pingtung suffered the worst flooding as of Saturday night, with some 200 residents stranded but later rescued.

Images showed flooded homes and motorcyclists pushing their vehicles through water.

Around 60,000 households were still without electricity on Sunday though rail services had mostly resumed.

Two naval vessels anchored in the northern port of Keelung were damaged when they were rammed by a cruise ship whose mooring cable snapped in strong winds.

Nesat made landfall at Fuging city in China's southeastern province of Fujian early Sunday, according to state media, with authorities issuing a red typhoon alert — the highest in China's color-coded warning system.

Emergency response efforts have begun in neighboring Zhejiang Province, where more than 3,000 people have been evacuated, the China News Service reported.

AU troops ambushed in Somalia, Al-Shabab says 39 dead

Somalia's Al-Shabab terrorists and troops from the African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission clashed on Sunday, a senior military officer said, while the group said it had killed 39 soldiers.

The incident took place in Bulamareer district in Lower Shabelle region about 140 km southwest of Mogadishu, Reuters reported.

The terrorists ambushed a convoy carrying troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Col. Hassan Mohamed told Reuters.

"The ambush turned into a fierce fight between Al-Shabab and AMISOM," he told Reuters.

Abdiasis Abu Musab, Al-Shabab's spokesman, said: "We have in hand 39 dead bodies of AU soldiers including their commander."

The casualty figure could not be immediately independently verified. Government officials were not available for immediate comment.

Al-Shabab, which wants to force out the peacekeepers, oust the West-backed government has targeted the peacekeepers in the past.

Car bomb in capital

In the Somali capital Mogadishu, a car bomb explosion on Sunday killed six and wounded 20 others and the death toll was likely to rise, a police officer said.

It was not clear who was responsible for the blast.

The bomb went off on the busy Maka al Mukaram road, police said, while a Reuters witness said the blast was followed by big clouds of smoke visible in sky.



Vehicles burn at the scene of an explosion in Mogadishu, Somalia, on July 30, 2017.

"So far we know six civilians died and 20 others were injured. They were mostly pedestrians while others were shopping," the police officer said. "Death toll may rise. Most of the injured ones are very serious," Major Mohamed Hussein, a police officer, told Reuters.

Earlier, a Reuters reporter at the scene of the blast had counted four bodies lying on the ground. Photographs taken by Reuters showed three destroyed cars on the road, with two still burning.

Two dead, four wounded in German shooting

A gunman opened fire at a packed nightclub in southern Germany early Sunday, killing one and wounding four before being shot by police, authorities said, ruling out a terror attack.

The 34-year-old man, identified as an Iraqi national, "was critically injured in a shootout with police officers as he left the disco, and later succumbed to his wounds in hospital," police said in a statement.

"We're not assuming that this is an act of terrorist violence," police spokesman Fritz Bezikofer told rolling news channel NTV, according to AFP.

"The events in the disco and all the links are somewhat clearer and they actually rule out a terror background," he said, adding that the gunman was not an asylum seeker and has been living in Germany for some time.



Police investigators are seen at the entrance of a nightclub after a gunman killed one person and injured others in Konstanz, Germany on July 30, 2017.

Another police source said he could have been motivated by personal relationship issues.

Officers began receiving emergency calls from terrified clubbers at around 4:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) as the man began shooting in the nightclub heaving with "several hundred" people, said police. One person was killed on the spot and three others seriously wounded in the club called "Grey", located in an industrial zone in Konstanz, a city on the banks of the eponymous lake near the Swiss border.

Shortly after the gunman left the building, he was shot by police. One officer was also injured in the exchange of fire.

Terrified clubbers had either fled the building or found a place to hide, police said, adding that the danger was now over.

Helicopters were circling overhead and special forces were also deployed to secure the site.

A witness told national news agency DPA that the attacker was shooting randomly at clubbers around him.

"The club was jam-packed," added the unnamed man, who said he had seen the attacker and fled quickly with his friends.

A bouncer at the site had sought to stop the attacker, but was himself injured by the man, local broadcaster SWR said, also reporting witnesses saying that the gunman was armed with an automatic pistol.

Police was unable to confirm the type of weapon used, but Bezikofer said it was "not just a pistol, the talk is of a long weapon or an automatic pistol".

The shooting came just two days after Germany was shaken by a knife attack in the northern port city of Hamburg.

Germany has been on high alert about the threat of a terrorist attack, especially since last December's truck rampage through a Berlin Christmas market that claimed 12 lives. But it has also been hit by other assaults unrelated to the terrorist threat.

Nearly 180 smuggled migrants rescued from truck in Mexico

Scores of Central Americans being smuggled to the United States were rescued Saturday from an abandoned truck in Mexico, a near-tragedy with chilling similarities to a deadly incident last week in which 10 would-be migrants to the US perished.

Authorities said a total of 178 people were found in the tractor-trailer truck in the town of Tantania in Mexico's Veracruz state, AFP reported.

Officials said occupants of the truck on Saturday narrowly averted tragedy, realizing at some point that they had been abandoned by the traffickers. A few managed to escape the vehicle and enlist the aid of local residents who gave them food and water.

The Central Americans were then transported by police to a migration center, where they were given medical assistance before authorities began the process of returning them to their countries of origin. A Mexican military source told AFP that most of the migrants were adults, although there were also a handful of minors found in the truck.

Their rescue comes less than a week after the horrific suffocation deaths of 10 migrants who were trapped in an 18-wheel truck and discovered last Sunday in a Walmart parking lot in San Antonio, Texas.

Authorities said as many as 200 migrants may have been crammed into the trailer found in Texas, many of whom had to be hospitalized. Some survivors fled the parking lot in waiting cars, according to witness accounts.

US Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly in a statement called the "senseless" migrant deaths the result of a human trafficking "network of abuse and death."

Officials in the United States say fewer migrants are making the perilous overland journey to America from Central American and Mexico in recent months, in large part because of harsh, anti-immigrant rhetoric from US President Donald Trump, who came to power in January.

Migrants from Central America and Mexico willing to make the dangerous trip risk being victimized by thieves, criminal gangs and unscrupulous traffickers who sometimes take their money and abandon them in desperate conditions on either side of the US border.

SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

IME weekly trade tops \$205m

Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) announced that commodities valued at about \$206 million and weighing over 435,440 tons were traded in its domestic trading and exports halls in the past working week (July 22-27).

The exchange said its domestic and exports halls traded in over 337,627 tons of oil and petrochemical products, including 114,364 tons of bitumen, 55,964 tons of polymer products, 25,739 tons of chemical products, 14,960 tons of sulfur, 740 tons of insulation and 30 tons of argon valued at \$144.3 million during the period, Fars News Agency reported.



ime.ir

In addition, its agricultural trading hall also dealt in 6,600 tons of sugar, 9,632 tons of feed barley, 1,050 tons of rice and 1,570 tons of maize with total worth of \$16.5 million last week.

Also, the exchange conducted transactions in 57,068 tons of metal and mineral products, including 51,824 tons of steel products, 5,095 tons of copper, 140 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 1,460 tons of aluminum valued at \$45 million in the past week.

The IME was set up on September 20, 2007 in accordance with Article 95 of the new law of Securities Market of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the merger of agricultural and metal exchanges of Tehran. The merger marked a new chapter in Iran's capital market providing endless trading opportunities for customers both at home and abroad.

Economic and industrial sectors benefit from the exchange. The IME currently offers various services, including:

- Performing as the first market providing access to the initial offering of the listed commodities in the IME,
- Price discovery and price making for Iran's over-the-counter (OTC), secondary markets and end users,
- Providing venue for government sales and procurement purchases,

- Providing trading platform and user interface,
- Providing clearing and settlement services,
- Risk management,
- Technology services,
- Training market participants.

Iran, Croatia hold talks on rail cooperation

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran has held talks with Croatia to expand cooperation in manufacturing and equipping train wagons and attract Croatian investments to its railroad sector, said the managing director of Iranian Raja Rail Transportation Company.

Mohammad Rajabi had earlier visited Croatia as a member of a high-ranking economic delegation headed by Iran's Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Ali Rabiei. The team's visit to the Eastern European country was aimed at fostering economic collaborations between Tehran and Zagreb, Fars News Agency reported.



IRNA

Commenting on his trip, Rajabi said that during the visit, the Iranian delegation held numerous negotiations with Croatian wagon and locomotive manufacturing companies to convince them to invest in Iranian railroad sector and expand cooperation with their Iranian counterparts in the production of and equipping passenger wagons.

Rajabi added that during his trip, he had attended meetings between Rabiei and Croatian Minister of Environmental Protection and Energy Slaven Dobrović as well as Martina Dalić, the country's minister of economy, entrepreneurship and crafts.

He said he had also been present in the delegation's negotiations with the managers of a number of large European companies based in Croatia.

Rajabi listed the delegation's other programs during the three-day visit as undertaking a tour of train, locomotive and wagon manufacturing units, firms involved in producing equipment for selling ticket and electronic controlling and companies engaged in spot welding in railroad industries as well as holding talks with senior directors of these companies and units to start cooperation in railroad sector and transportation.

NPC: Petrochemical production record expected by next March

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran is geared to set an unprecedented record for the second consecutive year in the production of petrochemicals during the year to mid-March 2018, said a director of National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

Ali-Mohammad Bossaqzadeh, NPC's director for production control, added that during March 21-July 22, 2017, Iran produced 18 million tons of petrochemicals and polymeric products, Shana reported.

He said, "This year's figure witnessed a growth compared to that of the same period last year. The increase was achieved despite the major and periodic overhauls undertaken in Iran's large petrochemical complexes since three months ago. Undoubtedly, Iran's petrochemical output will witness a further rise following the completion of maintenance works."

In this duration, Iranian petrochemical companies exported 60 percent of their products and sold the remaining 40 percent domestically to meet the needs of processing industries.

Bosqaqzadeh said Iran's petrochemical output and production of polymeric materials are expected to amount to 56 million tons by mid-March 2018, adding in case this target is achieved, Iran will manage to set a fresh record which is unprecedented in the history of the



SHANA

country. Last year, he recalled, Iran produced 51 million tons of petrochemicals, adding, this year, domestic companies are expected to put 86 percent of the industry's installed capacity into operation.

IMIDRO: New gold, copper, iron ore reserves discovered since 2013

Domestic Economy Desk

A number of gold, copper, iron ore and lithium reserves have been discovered in Iran since the incumbent government took office (in 2013), said a director of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

IMIDRO's director for exploration affairs, added the private sector can convert these newly found reserves — the discovery of which is regarded as an achievement of the Iranian government thanks to the exploration activities carried out during its term in office — into national wealth, IRNA reported.



IRNA

Speaking at a conference in Tehran on Sunday, Ali Asgharzadeh,

He said as stipulated in Iran's Vision 2025, Iran is expected to in-

crease its steel, copper and cement production capacity to 55 million tons, 800 million tons and 120 million tons, respectively, within eight years, adding it would be impossible to achieve these targets without the supply of sufficient feedstock (minerals) to domestic mining companies.

"After the expiration of the lifespan of the country's present day mines, they are required to be replaced with new ones. To this end, exploration activities have been carried out by [the ministry of industry, mine and trade] in an area of 250,000 square kilometers to identify new mineral reserves."

He said studies show that global average lifespan of iron ore mines is between 12 years-13 years, adding in Iran, there are iron ore mines which are currently eight years old.

Asgharzadeh said that the lifespan of Sangan Iron Ore Mines (SIOM) in the eastern Iranian province of Khorasan Razavi is estimated to expire after 18 years.

He added, "Thus, we are required to draw up plans to be able to supply feedstock to the mining industries developed in the proximity of the mine in the after the termination of SIOM lifespan."

Iran, Iraq moving closer to constructing...

From Page 1

According to National Oil Company (NIOC), there are 23 joint hydrocarbon fields between Iran and Iraq. Most of those fields, including Azar, Azadegan and Yadavaran, have major prospects.

Iran is yet to start developing the oilfields that it shares with Iraq while its western neighbor has already started production from most of them.

The two countries are also working on a plan to pipe crude oil from Iraq to Tabriz and Kermanshah refineries. Iran would later return the refined products to Iraq.

Iran began the much-awaited project to export 7 to 8 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of natural gas to Baghdad in June. The exports are expected to reach 35 mcm/d in the near future.



SHANA

Gas exports to Iraq, which are meant to address the country's acute electricity shortfalls, started after two years of negotiations between Tehran and Baghdad.

Iran and Iraq initially signed an agreement in 2013 based on which the Islamic Republic would export natural gas to power stations around

Baghdad via a 270-kilometer pipeline.

Managing Director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hamidreza Araqi said on Thursday that Iraq has sought to increase natural gas imports from the Islamic Republic.

Tehran is looking into Baghdad's demand, he said, but added that any increase in gas exports would depend on whether the country could launch new projects in its South Pars energy zone.

Gas exports to Iraq, which are meant to address the Arab country's acute electricity shortfalls, started after two years of negotiations between the two countries. This was seen by the media as a sign that the two sides had overcome disputes over the financial terms of the project — which was holding up the launching of the project.

Iran, Uganda opt for expansion of relations

Iranian Ambassador to Uganda Morteza Mortazavi and Ugandan First Deputy Prime Minister Mussa Ali in a meeting in Kampala underlined the need to expand mutual cooperation.

During the meeting in the Ugandan capital, Mortazavi and Mussa Ali explored ways for bolstering and reinvigorating bilateral ties, Fars News Agency reported.



IRNA

Mortazavi pointed to Iranian companies' technical, engineering capabilities in the economic, industrial, agricultural, power plant and construction sectors, and underlined the importance of using the capacities to develop Uganda.

The Iranian envoy also invited senior Ugandan officials to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Rouhani slated for August 5.

Mussa Ali underlined the need to increase economic cooperation and development of ties with Iran.

The two sides also discussed developments in West Asia underlining the real fight against terrorism and creating unity and brotherhood among Muslim states.

In a relevant development in October 2015, former Iranian deputy foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Ugandan counterpart Nathanamb Ndoboli in a meeting in Kampala voiced their countries' eagerness to promote all-out ties.

During the meeting, Amir Abdollahian said the two countries have good potentials for increasing political, economic and cultural cooperation.

The Ugandan official expressed satisfaction over his talks with Iranian officials in the second meeting of the Joint Political Commission.

He voiced his country's readiness to expand ties with Iran.



EU migrants make up over 20% of British labor force

migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk

A unique and detailed analysis has revealed which sectors of the economy would suffer most from a radical reduction in EU migration to Britain. According to a study by the Office for National Statistics, in at least 18 specialist industries EU workers constitute more than 20 percent of the labor force. And many others would be left almost as bereft if their number declined, The Guardian reported.

The government insists EU workers living here will be able to stay post-Brexit. But there are fears that many will choose to leave when the drawbridge is raised in 2019 and that an eventual end of free movement will see future vacancies left unfilled.

Last week, it was announced that the independent Migration Advisory Committee will examine the economic and social contributions and costs of EU citizens in Britain.

Concerns over the impact on the NHS and residential care have been highlighted in recent months. But the ONS study reveals a reliance on EU workers across a broad range of industries, extending far beyond the caring professions.

It shows that nearly half — 47.6 percent — of employees in the fruit and vegetable "processing and preserving sector" are from EU countries. A similar proportion —

44.4 percent — are involved in meat processing. More than a third — 37.6 percent — of those processing fish, crustaceans and molluscs are EU migrants.

In agriculture, just under 35 percent of workers employed in what the ONS describes as the "growing of nonperennial crops" are EU citizens, along with more than a quarter of workers involved in the manufacture of prepared animal feed. And just under a quarter involved in the "manufacture of bakery and farinaceous [starch] products" are EU workers.

Many specialist sectors heavily reliant on people from other EU countries employ only a few thousand workers. Just over 1,000 EU nationals are employed in "the cutting, shaping and finishing stone industries". But they constitute 22 percent of the workforce.

Outside of manufacturing, entire industries rely on EU workers for a sizeable portion of their labor force. They make up almost 230,000 of the 1.7 million people working in the hotel and catering industry — 13.5 percent of the total.

Jude Brimble, national secretary for manufacturing at the GMB union, said, "Manufacturing is a real money-spinner for the economy."

"It provides good jobs and stimulates the supply chain in local communities, and, as these figures show, the

whole sector is heavily reliant on the work of EU nationals. Workers from both the EU and the UK, as well as companies themselves, are understandably worried about what lies ahead."

EU nationals comprise almost a third — 32 percent — of the 24,000 people employed in translation services. Roy Allkin, chair of the Association of Translation Companies, said the industry was worth £1.2 billion to the UK.

"At the moment the UK is a hub for internationalization and language services because of how free we have been in the movement of people and things like that, and because people trust us as a business center."

"If those advantages are taken away from us, where is that business going to go? At my own company, Wolfestone, we have about 35 employees, and I would say that probably at least 40 to 45 percent of the employees are from the EU. If free movement is restricted, that could hit us massively."

Amid concerns from business about the impact that Brexit will have on the labor market, Home Secretary Amber Rudd has said that the government would be seeking a transitional arrangement, which may involve the continuation of free movement, to ensure there would be no "cliff edge" for employers.

France shows Germany how to do investment banking

BNP Paribas SA is showing it's still possible to build a big investment bank franchise from Europe.

France's largest lender outshone Germany's Deutsche Bank AG and much of Wall Street for another quarter, posting a standout performance in equity derivatives to help drive better-than-expected profit. Among bright spots: Equity and prime services re-

The shares fell 0.6 percent to €55.62 as of 10:31 a.m. in Paris and have gained about 8.4 percent this year. Deutsche Bank is little changed this year, and London-based Barclays Plc is down about seven percent.

Investment banking "has been doing very well", Chief Financial Officer Lars Machenil told Bloomberg Television. "It is good results and which allowed



BLOOMBERG

venue jumped 26 percent amid surging demand for derivative products, according to Bloomberg.

Jean-Laurent Bonnafe, BNP Paribas's chief executive officer, is one of the few European bosses investing to build investment-bank revenue as he aims to make France's largest lender one of the top three trading and corporate-banking players across the continent.

Long a leader in equity derivatives and structured products, BNP is targeting Deutsche Bank's home turf in Germany, as well as the UK, US and Asia.

Second-quarter profit was €2.4 billion (\$2.8 billion), the Paris-based bank said, surpassing the 1.91 billion-euro average estimate of six analysts compiled by Bloomberg. Provisions for bad debt fell.

us to continue to capture market share." Fixed-income, commodities and currencies revenue fell 16 percent from the year-earlier quarter, BNP said, citing "low business activity in all the segments" compared to more favorable environment a year earlier. But, thanks to the performance in equity derivatives, overall revenue from BNP's global markets division fell only 2.3 percent to €1.52 billion, just above the €1.47 billion average of analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News.

That's a stark contrast with Wall Street firms and Deutsche Bank, Europe's largest investment bank by revenue. Trading income at the US top five investment banks in the second quarter fell nearly 10 percent in aggregate from a year ago, based on data collected by Bloomberg Intelligence.

Sri Lanka seals \$1b port deal with China

Sri Lanka sealed a billion-dollar deal to let a Chinese state firm take over a loss-making port in a move that has been opposed by unions and worries the island's neighbors.

The long-delayed \$1.1 billion sale of a 70-percent stake in Hambantota Port, which straddles the island's busiest east-west shipping route, was confirmed by Sri Lanka's Ports Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe, AFP wrote.

The government used tough laws against industrial action to stop workers going on strike this week to oppose the sale to China Merchants Port Holdings. India is nervous about China's infrastructure moves into its traditional sphere of influence.

"We have addressed geopolitical concerns," the minister said at a sign-

several countries had raised fears about the sale. India and the US are known to be concerned that China getting a foothold at the deep-sea port could give it a military naval advantage in the Indian Ocean.

Samarasinghe said that Hambantota, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south of Colombo, will not be a military base for any country.

China Merchants operates Sri Lanka's only major deep-sea terminal in Colombo, which can accommodate the world's largest container carriers.

Executive Vice President Hu Jianhua said the company wanted to make Hambantota the gateway to expanding economies in South Asia and Africa where it has similar port operations.

"Sri Lanka will be well positioned to



scmp.com

ing ceremony in Colombo. "China has accepted that everything in this agreement will operate under Sri Lankan law."

Negotiations over the deal were held up for months amid opposition from trade unions and political parties.

The minister said this week that

play a strategic role in the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative of the government of the People's Republic of China," Hu said.

Sri Lanka has signed up to President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy initiative, which aims to strengthen China's land and sea trade routes.

Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	81635.0	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	70322.5	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	89703.4	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57167.1	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	178120.6	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170730

First	\$1441.0	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	\$1576.1	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	\$1438.5	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	\$1635.0	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170730

First	70202.5	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	70342.5	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	69718.1	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	70322.5	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170730

First	89934	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	89703.4	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170730

First	\$7021.4	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	\$7110.0	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	\$6380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	\$7167.1	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170730

First	177731.5	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	178136.8	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	178120.6	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2030.5		

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

EU court orders Poland to stop logging in Białowieża Forest

The European Union's top court has ordered Poland to immediately halt large-scale logging in an ancient protected forest — one of many cases that has pitted the government in Warsaw against the bloc.

The EU's executive commission earlier this year sued Poland at the European Court of Justice (ECJ) over logging in the Białowieża Forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Straddling the border between Poland and Belarus, it is one of Europe's last primeval forests and home to its largest herd of European bison as well as unique birds and insects.



KACPER PEMPEL/REUTERS

In an interim decision, the ECJ said the logging should stop immediately as it could cause 'serious and irreversible damage' to the forest. The main case filed by the commission against Warsaw at the ECJ could take years to conclude.

The commission has said the logging violates the bloc's wildlife protection laws. Poland's environment ministry, which declined to comment on the ECJ announcement, said it is needed to protect the forest from an invasion of beetles.

The ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) has also tripled the quota of wood that can be harvested in Białowieża. Environmentalists said the vast majority of trees felled so far were not affected by the beetles. They have been holding regular protests to try to halt the logging and UNESCO has also appealed to Poland to stop cutting down the trees.

Agata Szafrański, a lawyer at ClientEarth, an environmentalist group, said, "If Polish authorities do not respect the (ECJ) decision, it will be in serious conflict with EU law."

Over \$466,000 allocated for renovating churches Qara Kelisa holds Badarak ceremony

Cultural Heritage Desk

Some 14 billion rials (\$466,666) has been allocated for renovating globally registered churches across Iran, said deputy head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

Speaking during the annual Armenian religious ceremony, known as 'Badarak' at Qara Kelisa Church (meaning Black Church) in Chaldoran, West Azarbaijan Province, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian further said that the identity of historical churches should be safeguarded.

He said Chaldoran has good cultural and historical potentials. Talebian added that Qara Kelisa is the ninth Iranian monument registered on UNESCO World Heritage List.

Holding rituals in churches is indicative of the attention given by Islamic Republic of Iran to various religious and ethnic groups, he said.

Iran has an amicable and peaceful attitude toward other religious and ethnic groups, he added.

Followers of various religions and faiths co-exist peacefully in Iran, he said, adding they perform their rituals in a peaceful and secure environment.

Presence of tourists, including

Armenians from countries such as Armenia, Georgia, Italy and Germany, in Chaldoran shows the security and freedom within the framework of law in Iran.

Qara Kelisa hosted annual religious ceremony of the Armenians known as 'Badarak' during July 27-29.

The occasion was observed to mark the martyrdom anniversary of Saint Thaddeus — one of the apostles of Jesus Christ (Peace Be Upon Him).

During the ceremony, the worshippers performed religious rites, including sacrificing sheep, lighting candles, baptism of infants, etc.

There are 400 churches across Iran such as Saint Tadeous Cathedral, Qara Kelisa, St. Stepanos Church and St. Mary Church.

Iran boasts hundreds of churches, of which 172 have been registered on the National Heritage List and one on UNESCO World Heritage List.

Qara Kelisa (Black Church) or Thaddeus Church is known among the Armenians as Saint Thaddeus. The church is the oldest in the Christian world and dates back to the 7th and 12th centuries.

Chaldoran is situated 220km north of Orumiye, the provincial capital of West Azarbaijan.



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در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم

Combating antibiotic resistance

Antibiotic resistance is a problem that has plagued researchers for years, but now researchers have developed a tool to combat antibiotic resistance.



bestteasforweightloss.org

Green tea may cut cognitive impairment

A study published in The FASEB Journal, involving mice, suggested that Epigallocatechin Gallate (EGCG), the most abundant catechin and biologically active component in green tea, could alleviate high-fat and high-fructose (HFFD)-induced insulin resistance

and cognitive impairment.

Previous research pointed to the potential of EGCG to treat a variety of human diseases, yet until now, EGCG's impact on insulin resistance and cognitive deficits triggered in the brain by a Western diet remained unclear, according to sciencedaily.com.

Xuebo Liu, PhD, a researcher at the College of Food Science and Engineering, Northwest A&F University, in China, said, "Green tea is the second most consumed beverage in the world after water, and is grown in at least 30 countries.

"The ancient habit of drinking

green tea may be a more acceptable alternative to medicine when it comes to combatting obesity, insulin resistance and memory impairment."

Liu and colleagues divided three-month-old male C57BL/6J mice into three groups based on diet: 1) a control group fed with a standard diet, 2) a group fed with an HFFD diet and 3) a group fed with an HFFD diet and two grams of EGCG per liter of drinking water.

For 16 weeks, researchers monitored the mice and found that those fed with HFFD had a higher final body weight than the control mice and a significantly higher final body weight than the HFFD-EGCG mice.

In performing a Morris water maze test, researchers found that mice in the HFFD group took longer to find the platform compared to mice in the control group.

The HFFD-EGCG group had a significantly lower escape latency and escape distance than the HFFD group on each test day.

When the hidden platform was removed to perform a probe trial, HFFD-treated mice spent less time in the target quadrant when compared with control mice, with fewer platform crossings.

The HFFD-EGCG group exhibited a significant increase in the average time spent in the target quadrant and had greater numbers of platform crossings, showing that EGCG could improve HFFD-induced memory impairment.

Thoru Pederson, PhD, editor-in-chief of The FASEB Journal, said, "Many reports, anecdotal and to some extent research-based, are now greatly strengthened by this more penetrating study."

New breakthrough could help patients with impaired hand dexterity

US researchers have successfully genetically altered mice with enhanced manual dexterity that grab and eat food much faster than wild ones in a breakthrough they hope could someday help treat patients with motor disabilities.



ibtimes.com

In a study published in the US journal Science, researchers at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center reported that the brain-to-limb nerve connections that endow humans with great hand dexterity are also present in mice at birth, but are suppressed shortly afterward, news.xinhuanet.com wrote.

A protein called PlexA1 is to blame, according to the study led by Yutaka Yoshida of the Division of Developmental Biology at Cincinnati Children's.

Genetically altered mice lacking PlexA1 in corticospinal neurons develop and maintain the so-called cortico-motoneuronal (CM) connections into adulthood, it found.

In a test examining whether CM connections affect hand dexterity, PlexA1 mutant mice were found significantly more skilled and faster than normal mice at grabbing and eating food.

In early human development, expression of PlexA1 is weak in the layer of the brain responsible for the nerve connections, the researchers said, but not in mice during the equivalent period of postnatal growth.

First author Zirong Gu, postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University, said, "In this paper, we uncover the developmental, cellular and molecular pathways that give rise to CM connections and show the impact of CM connections on hand dexterity."

"This data represents a major breakthrough in our understanding of how species-specific corticospinal circuits develop in different mammals."

"It is our hope that it will facilitate the development of future therapies to treat children struggling with fine motor deficits."

Yoshida noted more research is needed to explore the evolution of the mammalian corticospinal system that leads to greater fine motor control in higher primates including people.

Yoshida said, "It's possible that some patients with motor disabilities have upregulated expression of PlexA1 or activated PlexA1 signaling that diminish cortico-motor-neuron connections and fine motor skills."

"Inhibition of PlexA1 signaling during childhood might be a way to restore these skills."

Arthritis symptoms: Being hypermobile a sign of EDS

Arthritis symptoms normally include joint pain and stiffness, however for one rare type — Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) — there are some more unusual signs.

There are over a hundred types of arthritis, of which EDS is one, reported express.co.uk.



health.com

It is a group of rare inherited conditions that affect connective tissue, according to the National Health Service (NHS).

Connective tissues are essential for supporting the tendons, blood, skin, ligaments, vessels, bones and internal organs.

Symptoms of EDS include stretchy skin, fragile skin that breaks or bruises easily and hypermobility.

Hypermobility — also known as being 'double-jointed' — is an increased range of joint movement.

According to the NHS, it's often hereditary.

Similarly, EDS is due to an inherited faulty gene, however sometimes it can develop in a person for the first time.

For some people symptoms can be fairly mild, while for others they can be severe and even life-threatening. There are a number of types of EDS.

These include the most common, hypermobile EDS, as well as classical EDS, vascular EDS and kyphoscoliotic EDS.

However, if you are hypermobile it does not necessarily mean you have EDS.

Many healthy people have it without any other symptoms. There's no specific treatment, but there are a number of ways symptoms can be managed.

According to the NHS, these include avoiding certain activities like heavy lifting and contact sports, doing Pilates and swimming, seeing a physiotherapist and having counselling.

Indeed, a 2016 study found that people with EDS are at an increased risk for depression and other psychiatric disorders.

This is due to the intense, long-term pain that can come with the condition.



express.co.uk

Why you should never share razors or toothbrushes

Hepatitis is the term for inflammation of the liver and it has a number of types.

While many tend to be picked up abroad, hepatitis C is the most common in the UK, and it can be passed on through sharing everyday bathroom items, such as toothbrushes and razors, express.co.uk wrote.

It's caused by the hepatitis C virus, and affects 215,000 people in the UK.

According to the National Health Service (NHS), it's spread through blood-to-blood contact with an infected person.

In this country it tends to be spread through sharing needles for injecting drugs.

In other countries, it's often due to poor healthcare practices.

Worryingly, hepatitis C doesn't tend to cause any noticeable symptoms, until there's been significant liver damage.

It can often be mistaken for flu — such as muscle aches and a high

temperature — meaning sufferers are unaware they have it.

Signs can also include feeling tired all the time, losing your appetite, tummy

pain and feeling or being sick.

According to the NHS, one in four people will fight off the infection and no longer have to live with the virus —

mostly having a normal life expectancy.

For others, it will remain in the body for years and could lead to cirrhosis and liver failure.

These can be life-threatening, if the liver stops working or loses most of its functions.

Other types of hepatitis can be caused by contaminated food or the immune system.

Symptoms of these other types can include dark urine, grey-colored poo, itchy skin and jaundice.

While hepatitis C is the most common type in the UK, others can be caught when you travel abroad.

For instance it is advised you get vaccinated against hepatitis A — which can be passed on via food and drink contaminated with the poo of an infected person — if you're going to the Indian subcontinent, Africa, Central and South America, the Far East and Eastern Europe.

New IVF treatment brings hope

One of the most commonly treated infertility-related conditions in the US is diminished ovarian reserve, also known as low-egg-count.

In these patients, despite maximum amount of IVF medications, their ovaries produce few if any usable eggs for IVF, foxnews.com reported.

Since these patients tend to have the same ovarian response to maximal doses of medications as they do to minimal doses of medications, there has been a new trend of using minimal stimulation for both older patients and those with poor ovarian reserve.

In 2013, Dr. Sherman J. Silber

of the Infertility Center of St. Louis found that minimal stimulation gave similar results to conventional IVF at half the cost and literally no side effects.

"For older women and those with very low ovarian reserve, it was actually superior to conventional IVF."

The results of this study were likely due to the thought that high doses of fertility drugs may actually lead to abnormal egg development in women with poor reserve.

Therefore, gentler medical treatments leads to gentler growth of these delicate eggs and better outcomes.

When counseling a patient



foxnews.com

about conventional IVF vs. minimal stimulation IVF, it is important to note that if the patient

is not a poor-responder (as a result of a low egg count), underdosing her medications could

cause worse outcomes.

This is due to the fact that fewer eggs are retrieved, therefore less will fertilize and potentially fewer embryos will be available for transfer. This

is also a rather new approach, therefore there is still a lack of long-term data on success rates and potential outcomes.

However, the risks of hyperstimulation, which can be life-threatening, and the number of total injections are dramatically reduced so the overall patient satisfaction is much higher.

Furthermore, the cost is dramatically reduced, since not only is less medicine being used, but since fewer eggs are retrieved, less laboratory processing services are required.

Taken together, minimal stimulation IVF is a promising new tool for treating older patients and those with low egg counts.

Sensor-equipped glasses let you do things in blink of an eye

Just imagine blinking your eyes to get all things done.

Chinese researchers have designed a new sensor that, when attached to a pair of glasses, can detect the motion of an intentionally closing eye, enabling a range of hands-free tasks, including typing or turning a light on and off, according to news.xinhuanet.com.

Professor Chenguo Hu of Chongqing University, one of the study authors, said, "The technique can be considered as having a third hand."



cmajblogs.com

"The newly designed sensor may one day help people with locked-in syndrome, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, and other disabilities, to communicate and perform everyday tasks."

"Past approaches to detect eye movement have largely relied on body surface bioelectrical signals, which are very weak and unreliable."

In the new study, Hu and colleagues designed a sensor based on the so-called triboelectric nanogenerator, or TENG, to detect the motion of the skin around the corners of eyes, which she said that has never been considered as a good trigger signal source.

"When the TENG sensor is attached to the inside of an eyeglass frame, the minuscule muscle movement of a closing eye momentarily pushes the sensor's layers together, generating an electrical signal that can be reliably measured."

"Compared to past approaches, the new sensors achieve impressive sensitivity in low-cost, highly adaptive devices that can be fabricated in a variety of forms."

The study said, "Importantly, the sensor can distinguish between unintentional blinks and deliberate one."

"When the glasses are connected to a computer screen, the wearer can blink as a cursor passes over different keys, typing out a message like 'Hello TENG'."

"Excellent performance of this system could be proof for the mTENG (sensor) as a supersensitive sensor to be applied in computer control."

Hu said, "We believe that on the basis of the mTENG, many kinds of mechnosensational computer games will spring out to make life more fascinating."

The researchers also designed their sensor-equipped glasses to initiate other daily tasks, such as turning a light on and off and switching on a fan.

Hu added, "Our work makes it possible to get a novel design concept of controlling electronic devices via eye blinks out of the lab to become part of our daily lives."

Fundamental breakthrough in future of designing materials

A team of researchers from AMBER, the Science Foundation Ireland funded materials science center based in Trinity College Dublin, have made a breakthrough in the area of material design — one that challenges the commonly held view on how the fundamental building blocks of matter come together to form materials.

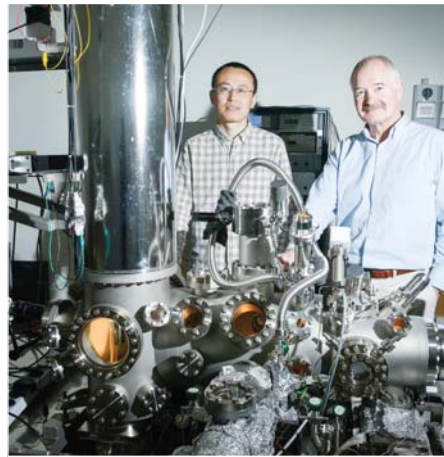
Professor John Boland, principal investigator in AMBER and Trinity's School of Chemistry, Researcher Dr. Xiaopu Zhang, with professors Adrian Sutton and David Srolovitz from Imperial College London and University of Pennsylvania, have shown that the granular building blocks in copper can never fit together perfectly, but are rotated causing an unexpected level of misalignment and surface roughness, sciencedaily.com reported.

This behavior, which was previously undetected, applies to many materials beyond copper and will have important implications for how materials are used and designed in the future.

The research was published in the journal, Science. The Intel Corp. Components Research Group also collaborated on the publication.

Electrical, thermal and mechanical properties are controlled by how the grains in a material are connected to each other.

Until now, it was thought that grains, which are made up of millions



Dr. Xiaopu Zhang (L) and Professor John Boland.

sciencedaily.com

of atoms, simply pack together like blocks on a table top, with small gaps here and there.

Boland and his team have shown for the first time that nano-sized grains in copper actually tilt up and down to create ridges and valleys within the material.

Nanocrystalline metals such as copper are widely used as electrical contacts and interconnects within integrated circuits.

This new understanding at the nanoscale will impact how these materials are designed, ultimately enabling more efficient devices, by

reducing resistance to current flow and increasing battery life in hand-held devices.

Boland, principal investigator in AMBER and Trinity's School of Chemistry, said, "Our research has demonstrated that it is impossible to form perfectly flat nanoscale films of copper and other metals."

"The boundary between the grains in these materials have always been assumed to be perpendicular to the surface."

"Our results show that in many instances these boundaries prefer to be at an angle, which forces the grains to rotate, resulting in unavoidable roughening."

"This surprising result relied on our use of scanning tunneling microscopy which allowed us to measure for the first time the three-dimensional structure of grain boundaries, including the precise angles between adjacent grains."

"More importantly, we now have a blueprint for what should happen in a wide range of materials and we are developing strategies to control the level of grain rotation."

"If successful we will have the capacity to manipulate material properties at an unprecedented level, impacting not only consumer electronics but other areas such as medical implants and diagnostics."

"This research places Ireland yet again at the forefront of material innovation and design."

Computer models provide new understanding of sickle cell disease

Computer models developed by Brown University mathematicians show new details of what happens inside a red blood cell affected by sickle cell disease.

The researchers said they hope their models, described in an article in the Biophysical Journal, will help in assessing drug strategies to combat the genetic blood disorder, which affects millions of people worldwide, phys.org reported.

Sickle cell disease affects hemoglobin, molecules within red blood cells responsible for transporting oxygen.

In normal red blood cells, hemoglobin is dispersed evenly throughout the cell.

In sickle red blood cells, mutated hemoglobin can polymerize when deprived of oxygen, assembling themselves into long polymer fibers that push against the membranes of the cells, forcing them out of shape.

The stiff, ill-shaped cells can become lodged in small capillaries throughout the body, leading to painful episodes known as sickle cell crisis.

Dr. Qing Lu, a PhD student in Brown Division of Applied Mathematics and the study's lead author, said, "The goal of our work is to model both how these sickle hemoglobin fibers form as well as the mechanical properties of those fibers."

"There had been separate models for each of these things individually developed by us, but this brings those together into one comprehensive model."

The model uses detailed biomechanical data on how sickle hemoglobin molecules behave and bind with each other to simulate the assembly of a polymer fiber.

Prior to this work, the problem had been that as the fiber grows, so does the amount of data the model must crunch.

Modeling an entire polymer fiber at cellular scale using the details of each molecule was simply too computationally expensive.

George Karniadakis, professor of applied math at Brown and the paper's senior author, added, "Even the world's fastest supercomputers wouldn't be able to handle it."

"There's just too much happening and no way to capture it all computationally. That's what we were able to overcome with this work."

The researchers' solution was to apply what they call a mesoscopic adaptive resolution scheme or MARS.

The MARS model calculates the detailed dynamics of each individual hemoglobin molecule only at the each end of polymer fibers, where new molecules are being recruited into the fiber.

Once four layers of a fiber have been established, the model automatically dials back the resolution at which it represents that section.

The model retains the important information about how the fiber behaves mechanically, but glosses over the fine details of each constituent molecule.

Karniadakis said, "By eliminating the fine details where we don't need them, we develop a model that can simulate this whole process and its effects on a red blood cell."

Using the new MARS simulations, the researchers were able to show how different configurations of growing polymer fibers are able to produce cells with different shapes.

Though the disease gets its name because it causes many red blood cells take on a sickle-like shape, there are actually a variety of abnormal cell shapes present.

This new modeling approach showed new details about how different fiber structures inside the cell produce different cell shapes.

Karniadakis said, "We are able to produce a polymerization profile for each of the cell types associated with the disease."

"Now the goal is to use these models to look for ways of preventing the disease onset."

"There is only one drug on the market that has been approved by the FDA for treating sickle cell."

That drug, called hydroxyurea, is thought to work by boosting the amount of fetal hemoglobin — the kind of hemoglobin that babies are born with — in a patient's blood.

Fetal hemoglobin is resistant to polymerization and, when present in sufficient quantity, is thought to disrupt the polymerization of sickle cell hemoglobin.

Using these new models, Karniadakis and his colleagues can now run simulations that include fetal hemoglobin.

Tardigrades aren't champion gene swappers after all

A peek at tardigrades' genetic diaries may dispel a rumor about an amazing feat the tiny creatures were supposed to perform: Borrowing large numbers of genes from other organisms.

Tardigrades — also known as water bears and moss piglets — hardly ever borrow DNA from other creatures, sciencenews.org wrote.

New analyses of DNA from two species of water bear, *Hypsibius djardini* and *Ramazzottius varicornis*, also reveal some of the extreme survival strategies that make the creatures so tough, such as how they produce proteins that allow them to dry out.

Dry tardigrades can famously survive extreme temperatures, being bombarded with radiation and even a trip to the vacuum of space.

What's more, some assertions in the study may even reignite debate about tardigrades' proper place in the tree of life.

These glimpses of tardigrade biology stem in large part from a new detailed reconstruction of *H. djardini*'s genome, or complete set of genetic instructions, based on comparisons of three attempts to crack the tardigrade genome.

Two of those genomes were assembled by the labs of two of the new study's coauthors: Evolutionary geneticist Mark Blaxter of the University of Edinburgh and molecular biologist Kazuharu Arakawa of Keio University in Kanagawa, Japan.

Blaxter and Arakawa compared their teams' work with a version of the tardigrade

genome published by tardigrade biologist Bob Goldstein of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and colleagues.

Goldstein, who was not involved in the study, said, "The new genome appears to be very accurate and complete."

"This is a big step toward further understanding these interesting organisms and toward understanding how life can survive extremes."

Goldstein's first draft of the tardigrade genome wasn't a complete instruction manual.



Genetic analysis of tardigrades like this *Ramazzottius varicornis* makes the tough little creatures tick.

It was chopped in more than 16,175 pieces, typically about 13,000 base pairs long — more like notes on a stack of index cards than a coherent story.

Base pairs are the information-carrying chemical units of DNA and are often represented by the letters A, T, C and G. Much of the information contained in that first draft has since proven to be contamination.

The new work is also an incomplete draft, but is more like an anthology of 1,421 genetic short stories, averaging

about 73,000 base pairs long.

The longest piece is akin to a novella more than 2.1 million base pairs long and the shortest is only 1,000 base pairs, the genetic equivalent of a Twitter message.

Goldstein and colleagues had reported that tardigrades imported about 17 percent of their genes from foreign sources using a type of DNA swapping known as horizontal gene transfer.

But Blaxter and colleagues soon called that assertion into question, as their tardigrade genome showed hardly any

contamination and real horizontal gene transfer.

"Presumably the contamination would be different in each sample, but the tardigrade DNA would be the same. So that gives you a big clue."

Even Goldstein is now convinced that tardigrades aren't super DNA-swappers.

He added, "The authors' analysis methods and their methods for getting clean DNA, are certainly an improvement over our own earlier methods."

Some of the new conclusions are more controversial. For instance, the researchers present evidence that tardigrades are close cousins, or a sister group, to worms called nematodes.

Rosa Fernandez, an evolutionary biologist at the Center for Genomic Regulation in Barcelona, said, "I am not convinced."

"It has been a recalcitrant question exactly how tardigrades are related to seven other phyla of molting animals known as ecdysozoans — a group that includes both arthropods and nematodes."

"Because water bears have body segments and multiple legs, they have traditionally been considered close relatives of arthropods, such as spiders."

"This study can't rule out coincidence or other biases in the analysis methods as the reason tardigrades and nematodes appear to be closely related."

She and Telford both think tardigrades belong with arthropods, but, Telford said that it's still an open question.

As the UK plans to phase out petrol cars, is Australia being left behind?

It is only a matter of time until every Australian car is all-electric. But while other countries are speeding up the transition, with plans to ban petrol cars within a couple of decades, Australia is stuck debating even modest cuts to vehicle emissions, let alone policies to encourage zero-emissions cars.

But as the UK, France, India and other countries move quickly towards getting all-petrol cars off the roads, could Australia's fleet be caught up in the winds of change?

According to Michael Bradley, chief executive of the Australian Automobile Association, Australia should be cautious in embracing all-electric cars, reported The Guardian.

"All the signs point to electric vehicles making up a significant proportion of the global fleet but in Australia we have some unique challenges," he said.

He added that the distances Australians travel and the reliance of our electricity grid on coal means electric cars are neither convenient for consumers, nor a solution to climate change.

Recently, Stanford University economist Tony Seba made headlines with modelling suggesting no petrol or diesel cars would be sold anywhere in the world by 2025. He argued that once the shift starts — which it already has — "internal combustion engine vehicles will enter a vicious cycle of increasing costs".

He argued the combination of automation and electrification would turn the industry upside down, increasing safety, lowering maintenance and insurance costs, and leading to a world where few people owned cars, with most relying on robot electric cars hailed with apps such as Uber.

But other more conservative projections also see the transition happening quickly, if not so suddenly.

Projections by the Australian Energy Market Operator suggest as many as 45



guim.co.uk

percent of new cars will be electric by 2036. Other projections from the CSIRO, Australian National University, the Department of Environment and Energy and others put the number at between 15 percent and 100 percent.

According to Behzad Jafari, chief executive of the Electric Vehicle Association, the one thing that's clear is even the more optimistic projections need to be ramped up year after year.

"We saw this with the uptake of roof-top solar panels too," said Jafari.

"The people who came closest with their projections but still fell short were Greenpeace — they were laughed at for their projections."

But Jafari said the moves in the UK, France, India and elsewhere will drive changes in the automotive industry that will affect Australia regardless of policy settings here.

Jafari said moves in the UK, which is one of the few other right-hand-drive markets in the world, will have a strong impact.

"As a major right-hand-drive market, auto manufacturers, particularly those based in Europe and the US do their product planning based on the needs of the UK market first, and then off the back of that they look at which models they will bring to Australia," said Jafari.

"With the UK moving away [from

internal combustion engines] by 2040, that sends a signal starting today that the investments and the advancements in technology are required."

But so far, Australia is trailing the world with its takeup. In 2016 there were 1,369 electric vehicles sold — just 0.1 percent of the sales — a drop from the 2015 figure of 1,771. Fewer than half of those cars were all-electric, with the rest being plug-in hybrids.

Globally, one of the biggest concerns consumers have about electric cars is the distance they can travel between charges — and the availability of public charging stations. The concern has been labelled "range anxiety".

India sets up check-up camps for women

In a bid to educate and motivate Indian women regarding early screening of diseases, the district medical and health department is conducting comprehensive medical check-up camps in rural and tribal areas. Early screening for diabetes, hypertension, gynecological problems, thyroid and cancer will be covered under the initiative.

Screening for diabetes and hypertension have already started under the Mahila Master Health Check-up program by the medical and health department. Women above 30 years of age are also being educated about the symptoms and self-examination, indian-times.com reported.



indiatimes.com

Describing the initiative, Dr. G. Chaintanya, epidemiologist with the non-communicable disease (NCD) cell of district medical and health office, said, "Training of auxiliary nurse midwife (ANMs) and other health workers has been completed. They have been provided with glucometers and blood pressure measuring apparatus. Part of the screening and diagnosis would be based on clinical examination and patient's medical and family history. Women would also be told about the symptoms to be wary of and taught self-examination to detect breast cancer."

Screenings are being conducted at the primary health center (PHC) and sub-center level. Based on the cases, the patients are to be treated at the PHC or referred to tertiary centers like King George Hospital (KGH).

As part of the program, tabs have been provided to all health workers where they can digitally store the details of the medical history of the patients since their registration as well as reports of screening.

Spending money to save time reduces stress

A study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, asserts that happiness can be improved by spending some extra dollars to save some time for those people who don't have a lot of time to spare.



cmgdigital.com

Ashley Whillans, an assistant professor at the Harvard Business School and lead author of the study, told The New York Times: "People who spent money to buy themselves time, such as by outsourcing disliked tasks, reported greater overall life satisfaction."

According to fox25boston.com, the study was based on a series of surveys from several countries. Researchers did not see the same effect when people used the money for material goods.

In the study, nearly 4,500 people were surveyed in the United States, Canada, Denmark and the Netherlands. They were asked about time-saving purchases such as ordering takeout food, taking a taxi cab, hiring household help or paying someone to run an errand.

In a second round, using a broader definition of those purchases, the panel surveyed nearly 1,800 Americans.

About 28 percent of those in the first round and half in the second reported spending money to save time.

In both cases, those who made such purchases reported greater life satisfaction than those who did not.

South Korean newborns estimated at 360,000 for 2017

The number of newborn babies in South Korea is expected to be around 360,000 for all of 2017, data showed, marking the first time for the figure to fall below 400,000.

According to the data compiled by the country's Health Ministry and statistics agency, the number of newborn babies came to 159,600 over the January-May period, down 12.4 percent on-year to post a record low, Yonhap wrote.

The number of newborn babies fell for the 18th consecutive month in May. The last time the figure increased was in November 2015, when it managed to inch up 3.4 percent on-year.

While the combined figure came to a record low of 406,300, experts said the number will further decrease down the road below the psychological significant level of 400,000.

South Korea's average birth of babies hovered around one million in the 1970s but quickly lost ground to reach 490,000 in 2002. While the average birth rate was estimated at 4.54 in 1971, it lost ground to reach 1.17 last year.

Experts said the latest decrease is attributable to the rising unemployment among the younger generation, along with the burden of costs.

Call for collaborative efforts to prevent hepatitis in Pakistan

The scale of hepatitis prevalence in Punjab, Pakistan calls for all sections of society to come forward and synergize efforts for control and prevention of the disease, said experts on at an awareness seminar to mark the World Hepatitis Day.

Dr. Zahida Sarwar of the Punjab Hepatitis Control Program said that 101 dedicated hepatitis filter clinics were being established in the province. She said that the Punjab Hepatitis Control Program had so far registered 40,000 barbers and hair dressers in the province, while safety kits were being provided to them along with training, dailytimes.com.pk reported.

She said more than seven million people in Punjab were estimated to be suffering from hepatitis B and C, the blood borne viral infection.

"If we have to eliminate hepatitis from Punjab, we have to treat 0.8 to 0.9 million people annually in Punjab, which shows how big a challenge we are facing. We have to treat a large



dailytimes.com.pk

number of patients and reduce the infectious pool if we are to eliminate hepatitis from the province. The presence of a large infectious pool means there is a potent threat of the disease spreading in the province," Sarwar added.

She said that the government had enhanced the budget for hep-

atitis control program, which currently has the capacity to treat more than 80,000 patients in the province. "Treatment is not the only area we are focusing on. A renewed emphasis has been laid on awareness and prevention and communication vis-à-vis health education is being specially focused."

Thinking you're less active could shorten your life

Thinking that you're less active than others may increase your risk of dying at a younger age, a new study claimed.

According to UPI, study coauthor Alia Crum, an assistant professor of psychology at Stanford University, said, "Our findings fall in line with a growing body of research suggesting that our mindsets — in this case, beliefs about how much exercise we are getting relative to others — can play a crucial role in our health."

Crum added in a university news release, "So much effort, notably in public health campaigns, is geared toward motivating people to change their behavior: Eat healthier, exercise more and stress less."

"But an important variable is being left out of the equation: People's mindsets about those healthy behaviors."

The study included more than 60,000 adults in the United States who were followed for 21 years.



machottips.com

Those who believed they were less physically active than others in the same age group were up to 71 percent more likely to die during the follow-up period than those who

believed that they were more active — even if their actual activity levels were similar.

But the study did not prove that thinking one was less active caused early death risk to rise; it only showed an association.

The study was published in the journal Health Psychology.

The researchers said the findings showed that along with being physically active, it's also important for people to feel good about activities they do every day, such as taking the stairs, walking or biking to work, or cleaning the house.

"It's time that we start taking the role of mindsets in health more seriously," Crum said.

"In the pursuit of health and longevity, it is important to adopt not only healthy behaviors, but also healthy thoughts."

Bermuda Triangle's secrets revealed



It is the place where ships, people and planes simply disappear.

The Bermuda Triangle is believed to have claimed more than 300 ships in its murky waters — including the immense US cargo ship Cyclops — as well as up to 75 aircraft.

No one knows exactly why the Bermuda Triangle causes

these crafts to disappear — and many of the wrecks have never been recovered, mirror.co.uk wrote.

The area is steeped in mystery and even the Mary Celeste — the mystery ship found adrift without a single member of crew on board years after going missing — is believed to have got entangled in this

dangerous web.

Some claim the disappearances in this area of the Atlantic Ocean, branded 'Isle of the Devil', are caused by huge freak waves, swallowing up everything in their path — while others point to the legends of ferociously strong whirlpools, mercilessly sucking down ships that get caught

in them.

A documentary has attempted to investigate the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle, which covers a huge — and loosely defined — 270,000 square mile section between Bermuda, Florida and Puerto Rico and attempt to solve some of the mysteries of the missing objects.

USS Cyclops

On March 4, 1918, the USS Cyclops was last seen as it sailed towards the Bermuda Triangle carrying more than 10,000 tons of manganese ore, supplying fuel to the American fleet.



GETTY

But the ship, and the 309 crew on board, suddenly vanished without a trace.

No distress call is believed to have been made and Cyclops is thought to have been sailing through the Bermuda Triangle on a relatively calm day.

There are numerous theories about what may have happened to Cyclops — including that it could have been overtaken by pirates, targeted by German submarines or simply overwhelmed by a giant octopus. Two of the Cyclops' sister ships are believed to also have vanished in the same area.

Dive teams are still searching for the wreckage beneath the ocean.



Montana

A 236ft long paddle steamer, Montana was intended for use during the American Civil War of the 1860s.

The ship set out to travel from England to America carrying cargo.

However when the captain tried to steer out of stormy conditions, the ship hit a reef. This ended up being disastrous and sent the ship to the bottom of the sea bed.

Montana sunk off the coast of Bermuda.

Flight 19

On December 5, 1945, five Avenger torpedo bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale air station in Florida. Flight 19 was a routine navigation training mission across the Florida Coast, with experienced

Lieutenant Charles Taylor in command. Midway through the mission, Taylor reported trouble with his compass and deteriorating weather conditions.

A Martin Mariner flying boat was sent out to find Flight 19 and bring the 14 airmen on the five planes home — but after sending out one message it also disappeared and was never heard from again. No evidence of the wreckage of Flight 19 or the Mariner were ever recovered.

All 14 crew from Flight 19 and 13 on the Martin Mariner Flying Boat were never seen again.



GETTY

The theories



Atlantic, the volcano growing bigger and bigger until it towered above the ocean's surface. When the volcano became extinct 30 million years ago, wind and rain

eroded it down to a flat plateau, and as sea levels rose following the Ice Age, Bermuda was left as a small island atop an isolated sea mountain.

Sonar mapping shows that Bermuda is now surrounded by reefs which have evolved to become a deadly facet of the Triangle.

These reefs have developed to become 'boilers or breakers', formed by the accumulation of rocky algae and the shells of millions of tiny mollusks.

As these fuse together and accumulate, the formations develop into huge limestone structures which can grow up to 12 meters from the sea bed and sometimes break the surface at low tide.

Daredevil walks 100ft along a cabin wire in Alps



Hanging around for public transport can drive us all a little crazy.

But this daredevil didn't get tired of waiting for the next cable car — he is walking along a wire slung between two moving cars... just for the fun of it.

Slackliner Sam Volery has been dreaming of attempting the stunt for years. And he finally got his chance when permission was granted by authorities at Moleson sur Gruyeres in the Swiss Alps, dailymail.co.uk reported.



Swiss-born Volery, 33, successfully completed the 100ft walk between the cabins as they ascended the 6,000ft Le Moleson peak.

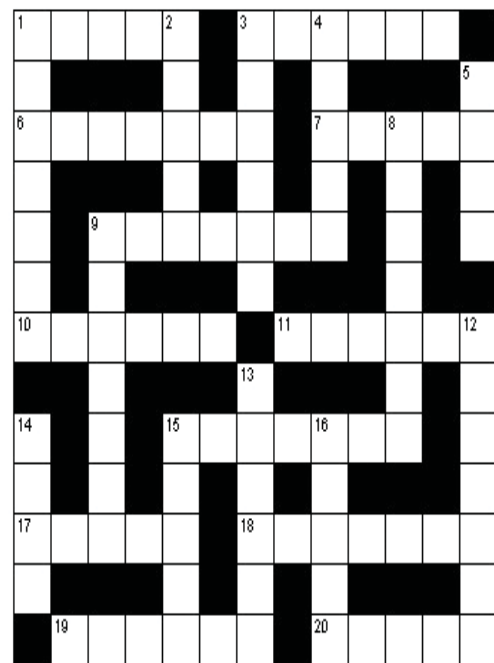
Volery, who was wearing a safety harness as he teetered 300ft above the mountainside, insisted: "There has not been a serious accident in years, so this sport is not considered very dangerous. It was great fun."

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Filmgoers watch an open-air screening of 'The Lego Movie' at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Movies with a view takes place every Thursday in July and August, New York, the US.

Themed Crossword



DOWN

1. Young swans (7)
2. Nocturnal ungulate with fleshy snout (5)
3. Chelonian reptile (6)
4. South American animal (5)
5. Amphibian (4)
6. Variety of small toothed whale (7)
9. Tallest living quadruped (7)
12. Adult male chicken (7)
13. Part of a crab's claw (6)
14. Domesticated ox (4)
15. Dromedary or Bactrian (5)
16. Major food source for baleen whales (5)

ACROSS

1. Catlike mammal (5)
3. Claws (6)
6. Deep sea bass (7)
7. Viper (5)
9. Great ape (7)
10. Edible decapod crustacean (6)
11. Burrowing rodent (6)
15. Domestic fowl (7)
17. Percoid fish (5)
18. Chirping insect (7)
19. Deer horn (6)
20. Arboreal prosimian with long furry tail (5)

Yesterday's solution



Sudoku

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

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

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

Caleb Dressel of the US made the history as he became the first swimmer to win three gold medals in a single evening at the World Swimming Championships in Hungary on Saturday.

Conte eager to avoid 'Mourinho season'

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte said that he must avoid "a Mourinho season" as the champion attempts to defend its Premier League title.

Jose Mourinho won the league with Chelsea in 2015 but was sacked the next season with the club in 16th place, BBC reported.

"Two years ago Chelsea finished 10th; that cannot happen again," Conte said. The last team to win back-to-back Premier League titles was Manchester United, who completed a hat-trick of successive wins in 2008-09.

"We know the difficulty and for sure we want to avoid the Mourinho season with Chelsea," Conte added.



THANANUWAT SHIRASANT/GETTY IMAGES
Antonio Conte is the fourth Italian manager to win the Premier League.

"The coaches of the previous two champions [Chelsea and Leicester] both lost their jobs [the next season] and we are working very well to find the best solutions and use them," Conte said.

"We have a lot of young players and it is necessary to try and develop them."

Chelsea continued its preseason with a 2-1 defeat to Inter Milan in Singapore, in a game featuring an amazing own goal by Inter's Geoffrey Kondogbia.

Kondogbia lobbed a bizarre back pass into his own net from 40 yards, but the Italians won thanks to goals from Stevan Jovetic and reported Manchester United target Ivan Perisic.

Chelsea's club record £60 million signing Alvaro Morata was quiet on his first start but got an hour under his belt before being replaced.



Amin Esmailnejad (C) chipped in 22 points as Iran was beaten by Indonesia 3-2 in the quarterfinals of the Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship.

Iran's U-23 volleyballers fail to reach semis in Asian senior tourney

Sports Desk

Iran's U-23 side failed to reach the semifinal round of the Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship after Indonesia, unbelievably, came from two sets behind to defeat Iranians 3-2 (18-25, 18-25, 25-23, 26-24, 15-11).

Having won the first two sets easily with the same scoreline, Iranians had begun to dream of an untroubled advancement to the semifinals, when, in the third set, the game was subject to a dramatic change of events, with Indonesians managing to outscore Iranians in a thrilling set.

This was the beginning of a horrible nightmare for Iran's U-23 volleyballers who had put in an awe-inspiring performance in their previous matches in the tournament.

They had headed into quarterfinals as the Pool F winner after defeating Australia 3-1 in their fifth match.

Prior to that, Iran had surprisingly beaten Iraq, Pakistan and Chinese Taipei and conceded a single defeat to China.

In their sixth fixture, however, when they needed a victory more than ever in the tournament to make the history by going through to the semifinal round as an U-23 side among senior teams, they came short of a win in the third set which was followed by Indonesians, craving for points, winning three consecutive sets.

The Indonesia defeat sent Iranians to Australia re-entry, to be held today, in the 5-8 place playoffs.

Japan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and South Korea will hold the semifinal-round matches on the same day.

Bluewave Chonburi beats Giti Pasand in Asian futsal final – again

Giti Pasand failed to win its second Asian trophy as the Iranian side was beaten by Thailand's Bluewave Chonburi 3-2 in the final of the 2017 Asian Futsal Club Championship in Vietnam.

On Sunday, both sides went into the final in Ho Chi Minh City hoping to clinch their second title. It was a repeat of 2013 final in Japan where the Thai side won it after emerging victorious in the penalty shootouts.

A couple of goals inside one minute gave Bluewave Chonburi a commanding lead before the interval.

Suphawut Thueanklang squeezed in the first goal from close range before he doubled the lead from the second penalty spot.

Iran's champion managed to bounce back in the second half through two Iranian internationals as Ahmad Esmailpour put the ball in after Chonburi's goalkeeper misjudged a back-pass and Ali-Asghar Hasanzadeh then made it 2-2 as his fizzling shot found the back of the net.



the-afc.com
Suphawut Thueanklang scored a hat-trick as Bluewave Chonburi beat Giti Pasand 3-2 in the final of the 2017 Asian Futsal Club Championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on July 30, 2017.

Chonburi went ahead again after Thueanklang scored his hat-trick to make it 3-2.

Giti Pasand's players put all their last-ditch efforts to take it back on the level terms, however some power play in the closing minutes did not pay off as the Thai side held on to its lead to be crowned champion for the second time.

Japan's Nagoya Oceans remains the competition's most decorated side with three titles in 2011, 2014 and 2016.

Citizens back on FFP watch list

Manchester City is back on UEFA's financial watch list after their £220 million spending spree this summer.

City and Paris Saint-Germain were fined for breaching UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules three years ago and the two clubs' activity in this summer's window is now being scrutinized again, the Telegraph reported.

Pep Guardiola could take his spending to around the £300 million mark if he manages to sign £60 million rated Chile forward Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal and bring in another center-half.

But the French club is prepared to break the world transfer record by meeting the £196 million release clause in Brazilian forward Neymar's contract with Barcelona. Both City and PSG have to tread carefully because a second breach of FFP would leave them open to more severe punishment from UEFA, including a ban from European competitions. City, which spent more than £170 million in the transfer market last summer, recorded a £20.5 million profit on record revenues of £391.8 million for the 2015/2016 season.

work to do because probably there are some strategies of disguise."

"We don't make a distinction, all clubs are treated in the same way," said Andrea Traverso, who heads up FFP. PSG and Manchester City have been punished, but I can tell you Inter Milan and Roma have been restricted too.

"It's been a long time since 2014 when the rules had just been introduced. Now, everyone knows them well. PSG is no longer under those restrictions, but that doesn't mean they can start to do what they want. "They must respect financial fair play regulations, just like everyone else in Europe. They must show they can have losses that do not go beyond €10 million (£26.8 million) over three years."

"I'm convinced that everything will be done within the rules. But I understand very well that some people are asking themselves questions."

Guardiola had ridiculed reports in March that City could sign at least six players this summer and more than a dozen leave the club by saying "I am going to assure you it's impossible to do that".

But that is exactly what is materializing during a summer of huge upheaval at the Etihad Stadium that could eventually result in a turnover of up to 25 players. City has made six signings so far with goalkeeper Ederson Moraes, defenders Kyle Walker, Benjamin Mendy and Danilo and midfielders Bernardo Silva and Douglas Luiz and wants to bring in at least two more. Ten players have been sold or released for a combined sum of £42 million while Joe Hart has been loaned to West Ham United and the number of departures could swell to 18 if Eliaquim Mangala, Wilfried Bony, Fabian Delph, Fernando, Samir Nasri, Kechi Iheanacho and Jason Denayer all go as expected as City pushes hard over the next few weeks to shed the deadwood.

France defender Mangala has turned down a move to Spartak Moscow but midfielder Fernando should complete a £4.5 million move to Galatasaray next week and Delph and Bony could join Stoke and Swansea, respectively. Iheanacho is expected to move to Leicester for £25 million.

Barcelona drew first blood against Real Madrid ahead of the new season with a 3-2 victory in a pulsating Clasico friendly on Saturday in Miami.

The historic rivals will meet again twice in August in the Spanish Super Cup and this International Champions Cup match set the entertainment bar high, with Barcelona maintaining its 100 percent record in preseason, the Guardian reported.

"Physically we are in good shape, the team is winning, we just have to correct our errors," Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets told Premier Sports.

Win gives Barca bragging rights

"We're happy for the win, it was a lot of fun for the fans because there were a lot of chances, although the players suffered in the heat and humidity."

While Barcelona beat Juventus and Manchester United, Madrid's defeat means European champion ends its preseason tour of the United States without a victory.

"I don't care much about the defeat, it always hurts but right now it's not the important thing," said Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

"It's preseason. The results haven't gone as hoped for but it will not change anything. The important thing is to be ready for August 8 (when Madrid faces Manchester United in the European Super Cup)."

Madrid missed Cristiano Ronaldo, still on holiday, but both teams were close to full strength.

Ernesto Valverde, getting a taste of Clasico drama early in his career as Barcelona manager, selected Neymar despite speculation swirling over the Brazilian's future at the club.

However, it was stalwart Lionel Messi who opened the scoring after just three minutes, firing home with the help of a deflection, before Ivan Rakitic doubled the lead with a powerful drive from



DAVE WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
Neymar (R) and Ivan Rakitic celebrate a Barcelona goal during the 3-2 victory over Real Madrid in a friendly in Miami, the US, on July 29, 2017.

Neymar's low pass.

The sellout crowd at the Hard Rock Stadium were in for a thrilling night and Madrid fought its way back into the game with Mateo Kovacic drilling home expertly, before Marco Asensio equalized in the 36th minute after a lightning break.

Gerard Pique sent Barcelona ahead again in the 50th minute by flicking home Neymar's curling free-kick, and it proved to be the match-winning goal.

It was the first time the teams met in a friendly since 1991 and only the second time outside of Spain. Given its success, the spectacle is likely to be repeated.

Barcelona lifted a trophy after the game but Valverde will be focused on ensuring Barca can impose itself in the same way when these teams meet in two weeks at Camp Nou, this time with real silverware at stake.

Meanwhile, Paris St-Germain is trying to buy Neymar and the former Barcelona defender Dani Alves has advised the Brazilian to be brave. "It's an important decision for him and it's the kind of decision men have to make," Alves was quoted by Marca. "He's one of my best friends and I'll always want him by my side, but I cannot interfere."

"I helped him come to Barcelona, I did not make the decision for him, but I told him what Barcelona was like and he decided to move there. Decisions are for the brave and I am the bravest of all. I just want my friend to be happy wherever he is, although obviously if he were here that would be much better. It's a decision you have to make carefully but you have to be selfish. If I could advise one thing it would be: be brave, the world belongs to the brave."



REUTERS
Pep Guardiola (3rd L) has impressively improved his defense ahead of next season.

City is also prepared to rival Real Madrid for the £161 million purchase of Monaco striker Kylian Mbappe in the event the Citizens cannot persuade Arsenal to sell Sanchez, a move that would push the club's spending closer to £400 million.

PSG has spent only £13.5 million so far on left-back Yuri Berchiche from Real Sociedad and bought right-back Dani Alves in on a free transfer from Ju-

ventus. But the French club is prepared to break the world transfer record by meeting the £196 million release clause in Brazilian forward Neymar's contract with Barcelona. Both City and PSG have to tread carefully because a second breach of FFP would leave them open to more severe punishment from UEFA, including a ban from European competitions. City, which spent more than £170 million in the transfer market last summer, recorded a £20.5 million profit on record revenues of £391.8 million for the 2015/2016 season.

This week, Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho called on UEFA to get tough and claimed FFP had "big

Stephen Hawking:

People won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining.

Indian artist molds teachings of Rumi, Buddha in clay

A Bengaluru-based artist is breaking new ground with a unique form of art that combines pottery and poetry — molding clay to give physical shape to the soul-searching poetry of Rumi and teachings of Buddha.

Shilpy Gupta, a 41-year-old potter and artist, depicts her visualizations of poetry on ceramic platters and bowls that she creates, timesofindia.indiatimes.com wrote.

Poetry in itself is a powerful medium of expression that compels the reader to spin beautiful images in their mind's eye. And Gupta, with careful strokes and bold colors, brings her imagination to life through her project 'Ceramic Trail'.

"My first influence was the traditional Indian potter. I saw them in my hometown and was fascinated by how they were able to turn a ball of clay into a beautiful urn. The magic of that moment stayed with me and eventually drove me to practice the art myself," Gupta said.

"Any kind of poetry lends itself to various forms of interpretations and I thought of creating my own reflections in the form of pottery and art," she said.

A former student of Tata Institute of Social Science, Gupta learnt pottery at a studio in the US.

"Once I learnt pottery, I discovered the thrill of creating my own canvas as part of my art pieces," she said.

She has now set up a fully equipped studio in Bengaluru, where she has been creating art pieces for the last 15 years.

The process of turning clay into a form of art involves multiple steps, each of which may make or break the creation.

When a piece of pottery is taken off the wheel, the artist has to be careful about how it is dried. Under drying or over drying can ruin the finish, making the brush work on it difficult.

The brush work too requires precision as each stroke shows after the final firing, leaving no space for error.

During the final round of firing also, the pieces may get warped or de-shaped, ruining the entire effort.

Gupta says the most enticing part of the process is the fact that despite her long association with clay, wheel, brush and the kiln, it is impossible to predict the final outcome of each piece.

One of her most eye-catching pieces is a ceramic platter depicting three whirling dervishes, dancing with their hands outstretched against the backdrop of the tomb 13th-century Persian poet Rumi.

Accompanying it is Rumi's poem: "Both light and shadow are the dance of love."

Gupta added, "The first whirling dervish platter that I created is my most memory piece. It was perhaps the first piece that conveyed the emotion clearly for me."

Gupta has also given form to the inspiring teachings of Buddha and Ibn Battuta. She recently displayed her work at an exhibition in New Delhi, and is planning to showcase two new collections this September in Chennai.

400-year-old Persian oasis in India may get world heritage site status

A 400-year-old water management facility in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, famously known as the Persian oasis of Central India for supplying clean drinking water to historical city of Burhanpur uninterrupted since early 16th century, may now get world heritage site status.

A UNESCO team visited the district headquarters town of Burhanpur to study the medieval period facility, still functional as a perennial drinking water supply channel, to examine if it qualifies to be declared as world heritage site, asianage.com reported.

"The team has made some recommendations to meet before according the status of world heritage site," local convenor of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Hosang Havaldar said.

Designed and developed by a Persian geologist in 1615 AD to draw ground water from Satpur hills to supply to the erstwhile garrison town of Burhanpur, the facility has been found functional till date. It was built during the Mughal era and includes a 3.9km-long underground marble tunnel with 103 huge air vents.

"The system caters to the drinking water needs of at least 50,000 people, one fourth of the total population of Burhanpur city, by harvesting ground water in Satpur hills. Around 2.5 lakh (250,000) gallons of water have been supplied every day after habitation came up along the system," Havaldar said.

"The medieval water management facility is perhaps the most advanced Karez system, a subterranean water channel that works on the basis of law of gravitation, found in India till date.

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Zoroastrian Ossuaries discovered in SE Iran

Zoroastrian ossuaries were discovered in the Tower of Silence in Torkabad, Yazd, during the first season of archeological excavations.

According to the Research Institute of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), the first season of archeological excavations in Torkabad's Tower of Silence (Dakhma) were conducted over a one-month period (April 21-May 21) this year with the aim of studying the authenticity of placing the dead bodies for buzzards.

Archaeologists, bone specialists, topographers, photographers, designers and restorers were involved in the study, the head of the first season of excavations in the Tower of Silence said.

Mehdi Rahbar added Torkabad's Dakhma is in the shape of a circle with a diameter of 34 meters, its walls are made in strata and the entrance of the Dakhma is on the eastern side which had been blocked with adobe structures in the final stage, he pointed out.

He said studies show that each of the rooms served as an ossuary where the bones were placed in an irregular shape in two or three layers and covered with soft soil.

Over 12 large boxes of bones such as skulls, leg and arm bones were collected from the six rooms, he added.

The large amount of bones found in Zoroastrian ossuaries in Torkabad indicated that the Zoroastrians extensively inhabited the area during the Ilkhanid era, he noted.

It is believed that Zoroastrians placed the dead bodies in circular environments on the highest point far from the city so that buzzards would eat the flesh and then they would collect the stones and put them in a place called ossuary (a place for putting the bones).

"Our studies show that placing the dead bodies for the buzzards was not related to Zoroastrian religion rather it was the ritual of ancient Iranians," he pointed out.

The archaeologist noted that the Zoroastrians had been highly vulnerable and were looked for supporters to assist them both spiritually and materially and there are also evidence that in the 8th century correspondences had been made between the Zoroastrians of Torkabad and the Persians in India.



ISNA

Pity of Mirzakhani's death will be felt by poets, mathematicians

By Howard Jacobson*

Mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani died two weeks ago. She was 40. I had never heard of her before reading about her death in the papers. It's a piercingly sad story: Iranian-born, and latterly a professor at Stanford University, Mirzakhani was the only woman to have won the Fields medal, the equivalent for a mathematician of the Nobel prize, and is survived, in newspaper-speak, by a husband and a daughter.

I always find the locution 'survived by' too cruel to bear. So final the rupture, no room for error: She's gone, they're left. And, in this case, how young the mother and the wife, the guardian.com reported.

the word 'creative' has much to answer for. Among the freedoms it sometimes gave us was the freedom from structure, knowledge and the obligation to convince.

Mirzakhani, it is said, considered being a writer before turning to mathematics. It is unlikely she believed she'd made a choice in favor of an inferior, or less artistic, discipline. And she expressed her immersion in mathematics in language every writer will recognize — "like being lost in a jungle and trying to use all the knowledge you can gather to come up with some new tricks, and with luck you might find a way out".

The luck, of course, is no such thing. It's the mystery Keats called 'negative capability', the trust that the work will



theguardian.com

It is a sad story for other reasons, too, not least the intensity of Mirzakhani's expression in the photograph most of the papers used. There is a beauty that can only be described as that of the mind's migration to the face, the transfiguring beauty of exceptional intelligence. So it's a double loss: The premature loss of a person and the premature loss of her genius.

I remember there being an unspoken qualitative distinction at school between those who were good at math and science — the priests of numbers and symbols — and the more poetical of us, whose medium, as Wordsworth had it, was the language of men talking to men. The assumption, at least on the part of us Wordsworthians, was that creativity was all on our side. I have since come to think

do itself if only we dare to plunge without irritability or insistence into the dark, not sure we will find a way out at all. The best writing happens in this way, unintended, unknowing, grateful and surprised.

Such abnegation of will is what we mean by creativity. So the mathematician and the artist are companioned in the same dark, and do obedience to the same gods. The pity of Mirzakhani's death will be felt by poets as well as mathematicians.

*Howard Jacobson is a British novelist and journalist. He is known for writing comic novels that often revolve around the dilemmas of British Jewish characters. He is a Man Booker Prize winner.



An art exhibition titled 'Process' (second series) is underway at Tehran's A Gallery until August 4, 2017.



MOJTABA ARABZADEH/nonaronline.ir

Weather



33 24

Amol



40 28

Jiroft



31 25

Ramsar



38 22

Shahriar



38 22

Shiraz



37 24

Tehran



41 24

Dushanbe



41 30

Mecca



26 15

Saint Petersburg



34 25

Tokyo



26 19

Toronto