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Zarif says JCPOA fetches billions of dollars, vows to activate economic diplomacy

Mohammad Javad Zarif, who has been nominated to continue to serve as foreign minister in President Hassan Rouhani's second term, said on Saturday economic diplomacy and the boosting of ties with neighboring countries will be the Foreign Ministry's top two priorities in the next four years.

"In the foreign policy area, we stress economic diplomacy as we believe that the Foreign Ministry should serve economic progress and people's livelihoods," Zarif told a group of lawmakers in Tehran, IRNA reported.

"Secondly," he said, "relations with neighbors have to be upgraded."

He cited "resistance economy" as an important priority for the Foreign Ministry, especially in terms of expanding non-oil exports and attracting capital and technology into Iran.

Zarif further noted that the ministry would follow the path of peace, stability, and more cooperation in the region.

The top diplomat hailed the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as successful, saying Iran has reached its goals through the landmark agreement.

"Billions of dollars have poured into the country as foreign investment," he said as he pointed to one of the achievements of the accord.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China – plus Germany reached the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and began implementing it in January 2016.

Under the agreement, limits were put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related bans against the Islamic Republic.

The UN Security Council later unanimously endorsed a resolution that effectively turned the JCPOA into international law.

China's Xi urges Trump to avoid exacerbating N. Korea tensions

Chinese leader Xi Jinping urged US President Donald Trump on Saturday to avoid rhetoric that could inflame tensions with North Korea as an escalating war of words raised global alarm.

Xi made the plea in a phone call hours after Trump ramped up his warnings, saying Pyongyang would "truly regret" taking hostile action against Washington, AFP reported.

The White House said in a statement that the two leaders "agreed North Korea must stop provocative and escalatory behavior" and that they are both committed to the denuclearization of the peninsula.

But the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Xi urged Trump to avoid "words and deeds" that would "exacerbate" the already-tense situation, exercise restraint and seek a political settlement.

Trump has been engaged all week in verbal sparring with the North over its weapons and missile programs, as US media reported Pyongyang has successfully miniaturized a nuclear warhead.

In a call with Guam Governor Eddie Calvo on Friday, Trump said the US military is prepared to "ensure the safety and security of the people of Guam"

in response to Pyongyang's plans to launch missiles toward the Pacific territory.

Japanese media said Tokyo was deploying its Patriot missile defense system following Pyongyang's threat to fire ballistic missiles over the country

Previously accused by Trump of not doing enough to rein in Pyongyang, China voted in favor of a series of wide-sweeping UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea last weekend.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Trump told Xi over the phone that he "fully understands China's role in the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula".

Trump is expected to visit China later this year. A commentary published in the North Korean state-run newspaper Minju Joeson called the warnings from Trump and "other riffraff of the US, the last-ditch efforts and hysterical fit of those who are in the grip of despair" over the possible "tragic doom" of the "American empire".

Russia and Germany have also urged both sides to tone down the rhetoric, while South Korea expressed appreciation for Xi and Trump's phone call Saturday.

Nearly a week ago, the UN Security Council unanimously passed fresh sanctions against Pyongyang over its weapons program, including export bans, a new punishment that could cost North Korea \$1 billion a year.



toward Guam.

Trump had earlier brandished a threat of unleashing "fire and fury" on Pyongyang, then noted Thursday maybe that statement "wasn't tough enough". On Friday, the US president said the military was "locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely".

China, North Korea's biggest ally and trade partner, has been voicing concern at the mounting exchanges and a state-run newspaper suggested that Beijing should stay neutral if Pyongyang struck the US first.

Europe's tainted egg scare reaches Spain

Liquid egg products tainted by fipronil were discovered at a food company in northern Spain, authorities said Saturday, the first time the chemical that has caused a Europe-wide crisis has been detected in the country.

Fipronil, which can harm human health, has been discovered in eggs in 16 European countries since the scandal came to light on August 1 and has even been found as far afield as Hong Kong.

Millions of eggs have been pulled from supermarket shelves and dozens of poultry farms closed, with the European Commission calling for a special meeting on the crisis.

Spain appeared to have been spared but on Friday afternoon, a batch of "20,000 units of pasteurized liquid egg" tainted with fipronil was discovered at a food company in the Basque Country in northern Spain, a spokeswoman for the regional government's health department told AFP.



"The company had not used them yet," she said, adding that as a result they had not entered the food chain in Spain. They will all be destroyed.

The spokeswoman, who refused to be named, said she did not know where the batch came from, but Spanish media reports suggested it had been imported from neighboring France.

Fipronil, an insecticide, is commonly used to get rid of fleas, lice and ticks from animals but is banned by the European Union from use in the food industry.

Belgium became the first country to officially notify the EU's food safety alert system of the presence of tainted eggs on July 20, followed by the Netherlands and Germany.

The news did not go public until August 1.

The EU insists there is no threat to humans, but the World Health Organization says that when eaten in large quantities it can harm people's kidneys, liver and thyroid glands.

Myanmar ramps up troops, curfews in violence-wracked Rakhine

Myanmar has moved hundreds of troops into northern Rakhine state as it ramps up counterinsurgency efforts there, officers said Saturday, after the UN voiced alarm over reports of a military buildup in the region.

Rakhine has been gripped by violence since October last year when a bloody military crackdown was launched that the UN believes may amount to ethnic cleansing of the Muslim minority Rohingya, AFP wrote.

More than 70,000 Rohingya villagers fled across the border to Bangladesh, carrying with them stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of soldiers. The major part of the military campaign ended several months ago, but fear continues to stalk the region amid sporadic bouts of violence.

Officers said Saturday that the government had deployed a fresh batch of troops after a recent spate of murders. They said soldiers have been sent to a mountainous area where a band of militants is actively training.

"Many battalions with hundreds of soldiers from central Myanmar were deployed to the Mayu mountain range," a military officer said.

State media also reported that the government had imposed new curfews, to be set "in necessary areas" as the army beefs up its "clearance operations".

A Rohingya villager told AFP his community feared a repeat of last year's crackdown. "Some Muslim villages in Rathidaung dare not to go outside," said Hasumyar, who only gave his first name and lives in a township that has been

placed under curfew.

Reports of an army battalion being flown into Rakhine to boost security were met with criticism on Friday by UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee, who warned the development was "a cause for major concern".

The UN has accused the military of committing grave abuses against the Rohingya during its military crackdown.

But Myanmar has dismissed the allegations and vowed to block a UN probe into the violence. Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingya, who are denied citizenship and struggle to access basic services.

The minority group is widely reviled as illegal migrants from Bangladesh, despite having lived in the area for generations.

Three killed in protests against disputed Kenya vote

Three people, including a child, were shot dead in Kenya during opposition protests which flared for a second day Saturday after the hotly disputed election victory of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Demonstrations and running battles with police broke out in isolated parts of Nairobi slums after anger in opposition strongholds against Tuesday's election that losing candidate Raila Odinga claims was massively rigged, AFP reported.

Interior Minister Fred Matiangi blamed the unrest on "criminal elements" looting and robbing businesses and assured Kenyans that "there is no need for alarm", urging them to return to their daily lives.

The uncertainty gripping the nation provided a grim reminder of a disputed 2007 election which led to two months of ethno-political violence that left 1,100 dead and 600,000 displaced.

Kenyatta was declared the victor in the presidential election Friday night with 54.27 percent of Odinga's 44.74, with protests erupting in the opposition leader's strongholds in Nairobi and the western city of Kisumu almost immediately. Local government official Wilson Njega confirmed one person had been shot dead outside Kisumu in protests.



In the southwestern town of Siaya, a police officer speaking on condition of anonymity said a man had been shot dead in a demonstration, but "we have not managed to collect the body... because of resistance from protesters."

On Saturday morning, an AFP photographer saw the body of a nine-year-old boy whose family said he had been shot in the back while watching the protests from a fourth floor balcony in Mathare, a slum in the capital.

Matiangi denied there had been any casualties, and said police had clamped down on "erratic incidents of lawlessness," adding the government would stop at nothing to protect citizens.

"The police have not used live bullets on any peaceful protesters," he said.

Human Rights Watch on Saturday urged police to show restraint.

Odinga, 72, is a veteran opposition politician seen as having taken his last shot at the presidency, which he has sought four times. He believes elections in 2007, 2013 and now 2017 were snatched away from him.

Politics in Kenya is largely divided along tribal lines, and the winner-takes-all nature of elections has long stoked communal tensions.

Hopton: Britain will soon take measures to boost Iran ties

National Desk

Britain's Ambassador to Tehran Nicholas Hopton said on Saturday that London will soon take many measures aimed at expanding relations with Tehran.

He made the remarks in a meeting with East Azarbaijan's Governor General Esmail Jabbarzadeh in the provincial capital city Tabriz, IRNA reported.



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The British official said that "Britain have had age-old ties between Iran, which have experienced ups and downs, but we want to focus on the positive aspects" of the relations.

Pointing to the banking and visa problems on the way of expansion of relations, Hopton expressed hope that they would settle the problems in coming months.

He added that the British government has announced its full commitment to the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement with P5+1 group of countries, which also includes the European country. Britain and Iran exchanged top diplomats three years ago to resume diplomatic ties that were severed in 2011 after protesters angry over London's role in sanctions imposed on Iran, stormed its embassy in Tehran.

Rouhani due in Parliament Tuesday to defend new cabinet

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani plans to attend an open session of Parliament on Tuesday to defend his nominees for cabinet posts, the spokesman for the Presiding Board of the Parliament said.

Behrouz Nemati pointed to the process of approving Rouhani's new cabinet and said, according to internal regulations, the president will attend Parliament to defend his proposed candidates, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He further emphasized that vice presidents and proposed ministers also plan to attend the open session of Parliament.

Nemati added that President Rouhani is slated to brief the lawmakers on his future plans and expound on the major policies of the 12th administration. Earlier on Tuesday, Rouhani submitted a list of his proposed ministerial picks to Parliament for a vote of confidence, three days after his swearing-in ceremony.

The list includes the proposed picks to head 17 out of 18 ministries. The nominee for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is yet to be presented to Parliament.

Rouhani, who was reelected on May 19, has changed eight of his ministers.

Some of the ministers, who have retained their portfolios in the list are Mohammad Javad Zarif as foreign minister, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh as minister of petroleum, Mahmoud Alavi as intelligence minister, Hassan Qazvazadeh Hashemi as minister of health, and Abdolreza Rahmani Fazel as interior minister.



Mohammad Ali Rajebi



Iran, UN call for end to human tragedy in Yemen

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed called for steps to bring the human tragedy in the Arab country to an end.

In a meeting in Tehran on Saturday, Zarif and the UN envoy discussed the latest developments in Yemen.

The two officials highlighted the need for an end to the ongoing human catastrophe in Yemen and called for efforts to find comprehensive political solutions for the country's crisis.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari, who also on Saturday met the UN official, said the Islamic Republic supports all efforts by the UN aimed at putting an end to the war in crisis-hit Yemen.

The Iranian diplomat in his meeting with the UN envoy expressed deep concern about the severe humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Press TV reported.

The UN envoy informed Jaber Ansari about the latest developments concerning the humanitarian situation in Yemen as well as his recent talks to revive efforts aimed at finding a political solution to the Yemeni crisis and called on Iran to support such bids.

The two officials also exchanged views about new initiatives for a solution to the political stalemate in Yemen.

The UN envoy arrived in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Saturday to discuss the Yemeni conflict with Iranian officials.



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Yemen has been facing war by a Saudi-led coalition since March 2015. Leading a number of its vassal states, Saudi Arabia launched the military aggression on Yemen to eliminate the Houthi movement and reinstall a Riyadh-friendly former president. The war, however, has failed to achieve either of the goals, morphing into a protracted conflict and causing a humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

UN-brokered talks between Yemen's warring sides have also failed to end the conflict so far.

Iran has repeatedly called for a swift end to the brutal Saudi-led military campaign.

Death toll rises to 11 as floods hit Iran

Heavy downpours have caused flooding in northeastern and western Iran, killing 11 people and leaving two others missing.

Torrential rains have been battering the Iranian provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Golestan, North Khorasan, and Semnan in the country's northeastern area, and Ilam Province in its west over the past days, causing rivers to overflow their banks.

Morteza Salimi, the head of Relief and Rescue Operations at Iran's Red Crescent Society, said the flooding had claimed eight people in Khorasan Razavi, two in Golestan, and another in North Khorasan, Press TV reported.

Two people have gone missing in Golestan's Aliabad, he said.

In Khorasan Razavi, which has suffered the brunt of the human losses, flooding has hit the cities of Dargaz, Qouchan, Neishabour, and Kalat. Mojtaba Ahmadi, the

director of the Red Crescent Society in the province, said 190 rescue workers had been dispatched to the

in four provinces in Iran's northwest, killing a total of 48 people.



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affected areas, alongside ambulances and aid shipments.

As many as 450 people have, meanwhile, been accommodated in temporary shelters, Ahmadi added.

Mahdi Rezaei, the deputy of operations at the Fire Department in Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi Province, said 40 travelers stranded on roadways had also been safely evacuated in a village in Kalat.

North Khorasan's Shirvan County was the worst hit by the flooding, said Samad Izanloo, a deputy at the local governor's office. Up to four villages sustained substantial infrastructural damages there and were cut off from nearby areas by floodwaters, he added.

Back in April, heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in four provinces in Iran's northwest, killing a total of 48 people.



ISNA

August 12 is the Day of the Caspian Sea. It is considered a turning point in the history of the sea environmental cooperation. In 2003, five Caspian littoral countries signed the "Convention on the Conservation of the Caspian Sea Environment" known as "Tehran Convention". The convention became binding on August 12, 2006, and all countries celebrated the treaty as an important event, and since then it has been called the Day of the Caspian Sea.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said tension with Europe was due to European domestic politics and relations with Berlin would improve after Germany's parliamentary election in September.

Nobel laureates urge Riyadh to halt execution of 14 Shias

Ten Nobel laureates from across the world penned an open letter urging Saudi authorities to hold off on the execution of 14 Shias convicted of protest-linked crimes.

Fears are mounting of the imminent mass execution of the 14 Shia Saudi citizens convicted of charges linked to protests in 2012, including rioting, theft, armed robbery and armed rebellion, AFP reported.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have accused Saudi authorities of coercing confessions which were later retracted in court and of failing to grant fair trials to defendants, including juveniles.

Signed by anti-apartheid leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Yemeni activist Tawakkul Karman and former East Timor president Jose Ramos Horta, the letter released late Friday urged King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, his son, to "extend the hand of mercy" and refrain from ratifying the death sentences.

"Mujtaba al-Sweika, a bright 18-year-old student in Saudi Arabia, was on his way to visit Western Michigan University in 2012 when he was arrested in the airport in Riyadh. Among his charges is starting a Facebook group and posting images of a demonstration online," read the letter.

"Another defendant, Ali al-Nimr, was charged with setting up a BlackBerry page named 'The Liberals' and posting photos of the demonstrations, inviting people to participate," it added.

The 14 were among 24 defendants in a mass trial known as the "Qatir 24" case. In June 2016, the Specialized Criminal Court sentenced the Shia men to death.

The defendants were convicted based on confessions they later repudiated in court. They said the confessions were made under torture.

Saudi media claims that the 24 men were members



of a "terrorism cell," which targeted security forces.

On August 4, the Justice Ministry defended judicial authorities' handling of the case, arguing that the sentences were reviewed and approved by 13 separate judges.

The ministry, however, did not provide any explanation about the allegations that the confessions were made under torture, and why the judges dismissed the

reports without any investigation.

Saudi Arabia carried out 153 executions across the kingdom last year. In the most stunning case of executions in 2016, Saudi Arabia executed on January 2 Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr along with 46 other people in defiance of international calls for the release of the prominent Shia cleric and other jailed political dissidents in the kingdom.

Bahrainis protest in support of top Shia cleric

Scores of Bahraini people staged fresh protests in a northern region to express solidarity with prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim and his supporters, who have been subject to a heavy-handed regime crackdown.



japanimes.co.jp

The protesters took to the streets in the northern village of Abu Saiba on Friday to voice their anger at the Bahraini regime's continued siege against the house of Qassim and the crackdown on anti-regime activists, Press TV wrote.

The demonstration marked the 80th day of the cleric's detention under house arrest.

Sheikh Qassim is the spiritual leader of Bahrain's dissolved opposition bloc, the Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, who was stripped of his citizenship in June last year over accusations that he used his position to serve foreign interests and promote "sectarianism" and "violence."

He has denied the allegations.

In May, the cleric was convicted in a court of "illegal collection of funds and money laundering" and sentenced to one year in jail suspended for three years.

The charges emanate from the collection of an Islamic donation called khums, a religious practice by a senior cleric in Shia Islam to collect and spend donations in the interests of the needy.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the kingdom in mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the Al Khalifa dynasty relinquish power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of Al Khalifa regime's crackdown on anti-regime activists.

Venezuela calls Trump's warning of possible military action a 'crazy act'

US President Donald Trump would not rule out the possibility of a military intervention in Venezuela, he told reporters Friday.

"We have many options for Venezuela. And by the way, I am not going to rule out a military option," Trump said following a meeting with US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at his New Jersey golf club, according to CNN.

"This is our neighbor," he added. "You know, we are all over the world and we have troops all over the world in places that are very, very far away. Venezuela is not very far away and the people are

suffering, and they are dying. We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option if necessary."

On Friday evening, Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon said the Defense Department has not been ordered to make any military movements related to Venezuela — but is prepared for that if need be.

Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino called Trump's talk of possible military action a "crazy act."

"As minister of defense and as a citizen I say this is a crazy act, an act of supreme extremism," Padrino said via phone on state-owned television network VTV.

"There is an extremist elite in the US

government," he added, "and I really don't know what is happening and what will happen in the world. If humanity will end. If planet Earth will end."

The president of Venezuela's new Constituent Assembly — the body elected to rewrite the Venezuelan Constitution amid the country's political crisis — fired off a series of tweets late Friday slamming Trump's remarks as "cowardly, insolent and vile threats."

Assembly president and former foreign minister Delcy Rodriguez added in her tweets that "insults and aggressions" against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro would be rejected by the "anti-imperialist people of Venezuela."

Syrian Army takes new areas in Homs, Raqqa

Syria's Army units, in cooperation with the backup forces, established full control over Sukhneh city, 70 km northeast of Palmira in the eastern countryside of Homs Province after

launching intensive operations against Daesh terrorists. A military source said on Saturday that large numbers of Daesh terrorists were killed and their weapons and equipment were destroyed in the army operations, SANA reported.



theduran.com

The source added that the army units, in cooperation with the backup forces, continued their operations to ensure safety of the surrounding area and hunted the terrorists who fled away.

The engineering units dismantled the mines and explosive devices planted by the terrorists inside the residential buildings and streets, according to the source.

Army units, in cooperation with the backup forces, continued successful operations in the depths of Badyia desert and conducted a night air drop 20 kilometers behind the fronts of the Daesh terrorist group to the south of Kadir town between Raqqa and Homs.

The army's successful air drop contributed to the advancement of the army units and the backup forces 21 kilometers to establish full control over Khibret Makman and Kadir, and to the advancement 12 kilometers to the south-east of Raqqa to establish control over Bei al-Rahoum village.

Huge numbers of the Daesh terrorists were killed in the operations, in addition to destroying three tanks, 17 machine-gun-equipped vehicles and seven cars rigged with explosives and two tanks and a number of artillery pieces were seized, the source said.

Syria has been fighting different foreign-sponsored terrorist groups since March 2011.

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimated last August that more than 400,000 people had been killed until then.

PMU: US jets land on Daesh-held territory in Iraq

Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) said it is in possession of evidence showing that American aircraft have made flights to territory controlled by Daesh, possibly indicating secret interactions between the United States and the terrorist group.

Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the PMU's second-in-command, said during a press conference in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on Friday that there was evidence to prove American aircraft had made landings on Daesh-occupied territory in Iraq, Press TV wrote.

He did not provide more details but seemed to suggest that the US was in some form of cooperation with Daesh on Iraqi territory.

The US and its allies have been conducting a campaign of airstrikes against what they say are Daesh positions inside Iraq and Syria since 2014. However, the air raids have not fulfilled their declared aim of dislodging Daesh.



socialistworker.org

Elsewhere in his comments, Muhandis touched on the situation in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, saying it is encircled by the Iraqi forces, who he said were now awaiting Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's order to launch the liberation operation.

Last month, Iraqi forces fully recaptured the city of Mosul, Daesh's de facto capital in the Arab country.

The Iraqi commander also provided information on the PMU's role in counter-terrorism operations in neighboring Syria, explaining that the group had not advanced into Syrian territory but had rather targeted Daesh positions there with artillery and missile attacks.

Hashd al-Sha'abi (Popular Mobilization Units) is a group of Shia and Sunni fighters that was formed after the emergence of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group in Iraq in 2014. In the early days of Daesh's terror campaign, the then-volunteer fighters played a major role in reinforcing the Iraqi Army, which had suffered heavy setbacks in the face of lightning advances by the terrorists.

Last November, the Iraqi parliament recognized Hashd al-Sha'abi as an official force with similar rights as those of the regular army.



Request for Proposal



Construction of Sea Water Desalination, Storage and Transmission of fresh water in PEIZEZ
Based on Build, Operate, Own (BOO)

South Parsian Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company intends to invite and pre-qualify investors and assess the qualifications of investors for financing, management, engineering design, construction operations, maintenance, commissioning, procurement, installation and operation to provide, storage and transmit fresh water with the following specifications:

- Installation and operation to provide, storage and transmit fresh water in PEIZEZ based on BOO
- Tender authority: Parsian Jonoub Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company
- Total installed capacity: 750,000 m³/day
- Commercial operation period: 30 years
- Land allocation: annual lease
- Price: based on m³ produced water and a sliding

fee financial model

- Technology applied: Thermal/R.O
- Priority selection of bidders: Parties that do not seek guaranteed water purchase
- Project is based on BOO
- Project location: Parsian Energy-intensive Industries Special Economic Zone in Hormuzgan Province, City of Parsian
- Capacity phases:

Planned Schedule	Total Capacity Installed (m ³ /day)
20/03/2019	25,000
20/03/2021	50,000
20/03/2026	250,000
20/03/2031	750,000

Parsian Jonoub Energy-intensive Industrial Development Company hereby invites all investors with financial and technical resources and appropriate executive background to purchase the qualification document (RFQ) within a maximum of 30 days from the date of this advertisement from the address below:

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SPECIAL NEWS

Domestic Economy Desk

Iran to hold exhibition
in Istanbul in October

An exhibition of Iranian products and goods is planned in the Turkish city of Istanbul in late October, announced the Iranian Embassy in Turkey.

The Iran Solo Exhibition will open on October 25 and last until October 28, the embassy's Commercial Attaché Hamid Zadbud said, reported Tasnim News Agency.

The fair will begin after an inauguration ceremony which will be attended by senior Iranian and Turkish officials, he said.



Iranian companies involved in various sectors, including oil and gas, petrochemicals, automotive and spare parts, aerospace industries, wood and cellulose industries, metal industries, food industry, agricultural products, mining and mineral industries, construction materials, ceramic tiles, household appliances, cultural products and arts and crafts, banking, transportation, tourism, free zones and textile industries, are expected to participate in the exhibition.

On May 24, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed their countries' readiness to expand ties especially in the economic field. During a telephone conversation, the two presidents said that Iran and Turkey were keen to open a new chapter in bilateral ties and leap forward in economic cooperation.

"Over the past four years, major steps have been taken to develop and deepen Iran-Turkey ties, but a leap must be made ... toward reaching an annual trade volume of \$30 billion," Rouhani told Erdogan.

The Iranian president also called for further promoting cooperation between the two neighboring countries in the banking sector.

Erdogan congratulated Rouhani on his reelection and voiced Turkey's willingness to boost ties with Iran in all sectors.

Erdogan also reaffirmed Turkey's determination to increase trade with Iran to \$30 billion annually, saying Ankara saw no obstacle to the development of cooperation with Tehran.

He also highlighted cooperation between Ankara, Moscow and Tehran to speed up the Astana talks aimed at facilitating a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

Iranian auto parts suppliers
interested in Azerbaijani market

An official of Iranian Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association said that the manufacturers are ready to cooperate with Azerbaijani counterparts.

Speaking to Trend News Agency, Secretary of the Iranian Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association Mohammadreza Najafi-Manesh pointed to the cooperation between leading Iranian carmaker, Iran Khodro, and Azerbaijan's AzEuroCar LLC, and said Iranian auto parts makers are capable of working with Azerbaijani industrialists.

He added that Iranian and European firms have already formed more than 50 joint ventures for producing car parts in the Islamic Republic.



According to the official, there are about 1,200 auto parts suppliers in Iran.

Iran's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Javad Jahangirzadeh had earlier told Trend that Iranian and Azerbaijani carmakers are expected to launch a joint venture in early September and the first products of the plant in Azerbaijan's Nefchala Industrial Quarter is expected to be marketed in autumn.

In 2016, AzEuroCar LLC and Iran Khodro signed an agreement to set up a joint car plant in the Nefchala Industrial Quarter. The plant, with a capacity of about 10,000 cars per year, will produce four Iranian car brands — Dena, Runna, Soren and Samand. The project is worth \$15 million.

Iran oil output up in July

Iran crude oil production in July recorded a growth along with most other OPEC producers as the 14-nation group continues efforts to check global oil prices.

Iran pumped 3.824 million barrels of oil a day in July — up nearly 7,000 barrels per day from the previous month, OPEC said in its latest monthly report, citing secondary sources, ISNA reported.

That is 30,000 bpd higher than the country's average output in the second quarter of the year and above a ceiling of 3.8 mbd set for Iranian output through March 2018.

Government officials told OPEC that Iran produced 3.900 million bpd in July from 3.880 mbd in June. OPEC uses two sets of figures to monitor its output — figures provided by each country and secondary sources that include industry media.

However, the increase in Iranian supplies was dwarfed by those of Libya and Nigeria — two emerging African producers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Libyan production jumped 154,300 bpd in July to just over one million barrels a day as the country's largest oilfield, Sharara, came back on stream last month. Nigeria also raised output by 34,300 bpd to 1.74 million barrels.

Top exporter Saudi Arabia ramped up output by 31,800 bpd to 10.067 million bpd while Iraq, OPEC's second-largest producer, cut back output by nearly the same amount as that of the kingdom, the secondary sources said.

According to five secondary sources, total OPEC crude oil production averaged 32.87 million bpd in July — an increase of 173,000 bpd over the previous month.

That is bad news for OPEC members



who hold nearly 40 percent of global oil reserves and rely on the fossil fuel as their main stream of revenue.

OPEC and 11 other producers have pledged to cut down output by a total of 1.8 million barrels a day through

March 2018 to ease inventories and lift prices. But oil has seesawed in a range of \$45-55 a barrel in recent weeks, as low compliance of some producers has weakened the crude production cut agreement.

Oil demand also grew in Iran, Iraq, the UAE and Qatar, with transportation fuels, notably jet fuel and gasoline, dominating the increase in all countries. However, demand in the Middle East remained flat year-on-year in 2016.

Iran ranks first in sturgeon production

Iran ranked first in the production of trout and sturgeon in the world, a senior official announced.

According to Fars News Agency, Deputy Minister of Agricultural and Head of Iran Fisheries Organization Hassan Salehi said, "In the Iranian year to March 20, 2017, Iran took a major step in the fisheries sector by producing nearly 1.1 million tons of aquatic."

Salehi reiterated that of the overall output, 54 percent were obtained from the sea while the remaining 46 percent were from fish farms. Thus, the country managed to rank first in the world in fish production, he noted.

The official said that the country gained a good position in the industry last year by exporting 120,000 tons of fishery products earning \$412 million.

"Over 400 processing centers are currently operational in various fishery sectors such as canning, powder production and packaging giving way to the creation of 220,000 direct jobs," Salehi added.

He underlined that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) had played an important role in the Iranian fishery industry, and said, "Russia restricted imports from Europe and the US in retaliation for their sanctions cre-



ating an invaluable market for Iranian products."

The official reiterated that Iran still needs to work on establishing proper infrastructure to meet the demands of foreign buyers such as Russia, and said, "Today Russians are placing demand for 100,000 tons of Iranian fishery

products, shrimp in particular."

He underscored that Iran has a low per capita consumption of fish which is about 10 kilograms while the global average stands at 20kg. "In a bid to boost people's health, the current per capita consumption needs to rise."

In relevant remarks in mid-February,

Norwegian Fishery Minister Per Sandberg in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh welcomed the expansion of Tehran-Oslo cooperation in fish farming and related fields.

"My visit to Iran in October was positive and I assessed Iran as country with great capacities in the field of fishery for broadening of relations," Sandberg said during the meeting in the Norwegian capital.

The Norwegian minister pointed to the extension of financial credit by the Norwegian credit institutes as an appropriate opportunity for fishery companies of Norway to implement joint venture projects with Iranian companies.

Habibollahzadeh pointed to a great joint venture in fish farming area in Iran's Sixth Development Plan (2107-2022), and said, "Tehran is ready to develop cooperation with Norway in the field of fishery and aqua culture."

The Iranian envoy pointed to vast coastlines in northern and southern parts of Iran, and said, "Joint venture for manufacturing special equipment for fish farming and conducting related research are among the grounds for cooperation."

Iran's non-oil exports
via western border rise

Iran nearly doubled its non-oil exports via a western border crossing over a four-month period from March 21 compared to the figure for the same period last year.

Iran's exports from Siranband border crossing in the western province of Kurdistan increased by 90 percent during March-July period against the figure for last year, Head of Baneh Customs Office Saeed Sanjabi said, Fars News Agency reported.

He added that some goods worth \$11.5 million were exported to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region over the four-month period compared to the figure for the same time-span last year which was \$6.1 million.

"The main items exported from Siranband border crossing were cement, glass, pumice, plastic products, and various fruits," Sanjabi said.

He underlined that connecting the Customs system in Baneh to the country's Customs network played a significant role in facilitating export to Iraqi Kurdistan Region, the official said.

According to Sanjabi, exports from the border area are expected to reach \$4 million per month once infrastructure obstacles are removed.

Banah, with a population of 158,000, lies to the west of Sanandaj the capital of Iran's Kurdistan Province.



How global income inequality has shifted since the crisis

During and after the global financial crisis, one trend in global income inequality accelerated while another, opposing trend, appeared to stall. Between-country inequality continued to shrink, as it had been doing for decades.

This makes sense: Growth in advanced economies suffered a deeper and more protracted collapse than in the rest of the world, which had already been catching up quickly, FT wrote.

Income inequality within the typical country is a more complicated story. After a long period of rising, it seems to have reversed only slightly — and the reversal itself might well have been temporary.

It is too soon to know, but it is notable that the trend applies to the world's two biggest economies, the US and China.

Changes in inequality throughout the crisis period also varied dramatically by country. Perhaps most striking is the contrast between the experiences of northern Europe and the periphery.



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Main Indices of TSE

Index	Value	Change	Percent
Total Index	81763.1	2522.5	3.11
Industry Index	70673.0	2306.2	3.29
Free Float Index	89880.8	3826	4.27
First Market Index	57344.5	2388.7	4.21
Second Market Index	177923.5	2030.5	1.14

Overall Index details on 20170812

First	81313.9	Change end of year(%)	919.04%
High	81805.6	Historical highest	89500.6 (20140105)
Low	81613.0	Historical lowest	100 (1369/1/6)
Close	81763.1	Base Value	100 (1369/1/6)
Change	2522.5		

Industry Index details on 20170812

First	70220.9	Change end of year(%)	1034.32%
Max Value	70703.3	Historical highest	75181.9 (20140105)
Max Value	70278.2	Historical lowest	1226.8 (1377/8/25)
Closing	70673.0	Base Value	
Closing	2306.2		

Free Float Index details on 20170812

First	89598.8	Change end of year(%)	
Max Value	89665	Historical highest	105040 (20140105)
Max Value	89154.9	Historical lowest	
Closing	89880.8	Base Value	
Closing	3826		

Main Board Index details on 20170812

First	56939.4	Change end of year(%)	787.77%
Max Value	57364.0	Historical highest	67441.4 (20140105)
Max Value	56380.7	Historical lowest	
Closing	57344.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2388.7		

Secondary Index details on 20170812

First	177435.4	Change end of year(%)	1317.58%
Max Value	178091.3	Historical highest	181353 (20170522)
Max Value	177894	Historical lowest	
Closing	177923.5	Base Value	4740.4 (1381/6/2)
Closing	2030.5		

Russian experts: Trade with China to reach \$80b

Growth of two-way trade between China and Russia has been picking up speed, and is most likely to reach the previously set goal of \$80 billion this year, Russian experts have said.

Alexander Gabuyev, head of the Russia in Asian-Pacific program at the Carnegie Moscow Center, told Xinhua in a recent interview, "Considering the seasonality, reaching \$80 billion is quite possible, especially if we take into account the fact that metal prices have increased very much in the last month, including in anticipation of a decline in Chinese output and closure of ecologically harmful and surplus production capacities."

According to China's General Administration of Customs, the import and export turnover between Russia and China in January-July 2017 amounted to \$46.82 billion — an increase of 21.8 percent year-on-year.

"Given the importance of raw materials in Russian exports, and if oil prices stay at the current level and metal prices remain high, then \$80 billion will be achieved by the end of the year," Gabuyev said.

Meanwhile, statistics show that Russia's non-resource ex-

ports to China are also growing, which in Gabuyev's opinion should be attributed to the cheap ruble and joint efforts of both governments to eliminate tariff barriers and improve infrastructure in order to promote the trade of food products.

"Russia has significantly

mineral water and vegetable oil are especially popular with Chinese consumers.

Currently, Russia's main export items to China include hydrocarbons, timber and timber products, mechanical equipment and machinery, while exports of such goods as lumber,

between Russia and China," Mamonov said.

He said it could well be expected that China and Russia are able to hit the trade target by the end of the year, given the fact that the two sides have achieved almost \$40 billion in trade in the first half of this year.

world commodity market.

Mentioning that the third quarter of each year is usually strong in trade and economic relations, he said the two countries could well reach the commodity turnover of \$80 billion by the end of 2017 if current trends in commodity and currency markets are maintained.

Calling the goal of lifting China-Russia trade to \$200 billion by the year of 2020 "a complex and ambitious task", Monkevich said it is still likely to be achieved if joint investment projects are implemented along with China's "Belt and Road Initiative" and restrictions on agricultural products imports are lifted.

"Also, the growth of trade could be also stimulated by a significant acceleration of economic growth in the Russian Federation and the maintenance of the current growth rates of the Chinese economy," Monkevich said.

Compared to keeping in mind any specific figure, Gabuyev said that it is more important to first take measures to simplify terms of trade to facilitate the cross-border delivery of products, such as removing tariff barriers and setting up a free trade zone.



rt.com

increased the supply of food products to China, and the assortment is gradually expanding," Managing Director of the International Trade Promotion division of the Russian Export Center (REC) Mikhail Mamonov said, specifying that Russia's non-resource ex-

nuclear reactor equipment, turbojet engines, electric equipment and many others are also actively growing, according to the REC.

"The main reasons for such positive dynamics are the gradual recovery of world trade, as well as increased cooperation

Vitaly Monkevich, president of the Russian-Asian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, also sees great possibility of reaching the bilateral trade goal this year, highlighting the recovery of the economy, the near target-level inflation and recovery of demand in the

World oil demand will grow more than expected this year, helping to ease a global glut despite rising production from North America and weak OPEC compliance with output cuts, the International Energy Agency said.

The agency raised its 2017 demand growth forecast to 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) from 1.4 million bpd in its previous monthly report and said it expected demand to expand by a further 1.4 million bpd next year, according to Reuters.

"Producers should find encouragement from demand, which is growing year-on-year more strongly than first thought," said the Paris-based IEA, which advises industrialized nations on energy policy.

"There would be more confidence that rebalancing is here to stay if some producers party to the output agreements were not, just as they are gaining the upper hand, showing signs of weakening their resolve," the IEA said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is curbing output by about 1.2 million bpd, while Russia and other non-OPEC producers are cutting a further 600,000 bpd until March 2018 to help support oil prices.

The IEA said OPEC's compliance



REUTERS

with the cuts in July had fallen to 75 percent — the lowest since the cuts began in January.

It cited weak compliance by Algeria, Iraq and the UAE.

In addition, OPEC member Libya, which is currently exempt from the

output cuts, steeply increased output.

As a result, the overall global oil supply rose by 520,000 bpd in July to stand 500,000 bpd above year-ago levels.

Adding to the challenges of oil producers to support oil prices is rising

non-OPEC output, which is expected to expand by 0.7 million bpd in 2017 and by 1.4 million bpd in 2018 on strong gains in the US, which is not participating in the output caps.

Still, strong global demand growth is helping to clear excess barrels with the IEA registering a decline in stocks in industrialized nations in both June and July.

Stocks remain 219 million barrels above a five-year average — a level that OPEC is targeting with its output cuts.

The IEA also revised historic demand data for 2015-2016 for developing countries, cutting it by 0.2-0.4 million bpd.

As a result of those historic revisions, the IEA cut baseline demand figures for 2017-2018 by around 0.3-0.4 million bpd and hence lowered demand for OPEC crude by the same amount.

"The impact of carrying this lower demand base into 2017 against unchanged supply numbers is that stock draws later in the year are likely to be lower than first thought," the IEA said.

Changes mainly happened as the IEA revised down historic demand data for Indonesia, Malaysia and Iran while revising up India and keeping China largely unchanged.

Major Currencies

Currency	To USD	Currency	To USD
Turkish Lira	0.2825	Chinese Yuan	0.1501
Euro	1.1825	UAE Dirham	0.2721
British Pound	1.3010	Kuwaiti Dinar	3.3077
Australian Dollar	0.7897	Iraqi Dinar	0.0008
Japanese 100 Yen	0.0091	Saudi Riyal	0.2665

Major Commodities

Crude Oil	\$48.79	Silver	\$17.11
Gold	\$1259.00	Platinum	\$987.40
Copper	\$2.91	Wheat	\$438.50

Researchers have warned of the economic consequences for Cambodia if nothing is done to halt illegal deforestation of one of the nation's most important forests — the Veun Sai-Siem Pang National Park.

Britain spends 'twice as much on overseas fossil fuels as renewables'

The UK has spent more than twice as much overseas support on fossil fuels projects as on renewable ones so far this decade, according to research commissioned by the Catholic aid agency Cafod.



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP

The Overseas Development Institute, which analyzed the figures, found that 46 percent of Britain's £6.1 billion energy spending in developing countries between 2010 and 2014 went on oil, coal and gas-fired schemes, compared with 22 percent for renewable energy projects, according to The Guardian.

Overall, fossil fuel support increased by nearly £1 billion this decade compared with the previous five years, with a staggering 99.4 percent of UK export finance support directed towards 'dirty' energy investments.

Cafod called on the government to clarify how it would bring public support for overseas projects into line with climate commitments under the Paris agreement.

Dr Sarah Wykes, Cafod's lead energy analyst, said: "To tackle climate change we have to leave fossil fuels in the ground and switch rapidly to renewable sources of energy."

"Yet the UK carrying on a business as usual spending pattern overseas in recent years suggests a huge inconsistency in policy and a missed opportunity to promote greater investment in renewable technologies, as the Department for International Development (DfID) has tried to do through its spending."

While UK export finance uses public funds to bolster British exports, DfID's energy spending — 32 percent of which went to renewables compared with 22 percent for fossil fuels — is intended as overseas aid.

The top five beneficiaries of UK energy support this decade were Brazil, Vietnam, Turkey, India and the Russian Federation, according to the ODI figures.

Survey captures global picture of air pollution's effects on birds



wikimedia.org

Famously, the use of caged birds to alert miners to the invisible dangers of gases such as carbon monoxide gave rise to the cautionary metaphor 'canary in a coal mine'.

But other than the fact that exposure to toxic gases in a confined space kills caged birds before affecting humans — providing a timely warning to miners — what do we know about the effects of air pollution on birds?, phys.org wrote.

Not as much as you'd think, according to researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tracey Holloway, a professor in

UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, explained, "We know a lot about air pollution's effects on human health, and we know a lot about the impacts of air pollution across ecosystems."

"We were surprised to discover how little we know about how air pollution affects birds."

Writing in the journal Environmental Research Letters, Holloway, an expert on air quality, and her former graduate student Olivia Sanderfoot, sort through nearly 70 years of the scientific literature to assess the state of knowledge of how air pollution directly affects the health, well-being,

reproductive success and diversity of birds.

This work is part of Sanderfoot's ongoing National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

According to the Wisconsin team's survey of the literature, only two field studies since 1950 have looked at any aspect of the health and ecological well-being of wild bird populations in the United States.

Globally, there are only a handful of studies that assess the impact of direct exposure to air pollutants on bird health. Those encompass studies of just a few dozen bird species of the roughly 10,000 or so

species of birds known worldwide.

Part of the problem, said Sanderfoot, are the many variables in play.

Not only are studies of wild bird communities difficult to implement, but factors such as types and levels of air pollution, dynamic atmospheric conditions, species-specific responses, and the difficulty of teasing out direct versus indirect effects of air pollution can confound even the most basic efforts to assess how birds fare when exposed to chemicals in the air.

"There is a lot of work to be done in this area," said Sanderfoot.

"Air quality is an ever-changing problem across the globe. There's a need to look at different types of air pollution and different species all over the world. We have a huge lack of understanding of the levels of pollution birds are exposed to."

Gaps in our understanding, according to the new study, include air pollution's effects on the avian respiratory system; toxic effects on birds, including elevated stress levels and immunosuppression; behavioral changes; and effects on reproductive success and demographics, such as changes in population density, species diversity and community composition.

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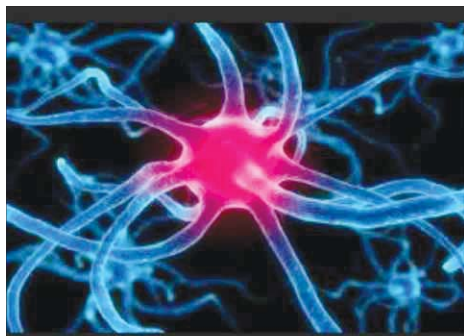
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ویدای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت‌های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت
مالکین محترم املاک میله و غیرمیله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا
و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه‌ها و شرکت‌های خارجی نیازمندیم

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

Obese heart patients

A new study suggested obese heart surgery patients need significantly more intensive care unit resources compared to patients with healthy weights.



Signs you could have MS

Multiple sclerosis — also known as MS — is a condition which can affect the brain and spinal cord. The symptoms of the condition can be unpredictable.

There are more than 100,000 people diagnosed with MS in the UK, express.co.uk wrote.

MS is a neurological condition which is most commonly diagnosed in people in their 20s and 30s.

Multiple sclerosis attacks the central nervous system which includes the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves.

In severe cases the patient can become paralyzed or blind, or experience numbness in the limbs.

MS is an autoimmune condition which means the immune system mistakes part of the body for a foreign substance and attacks it.

Experts are not clear on what causes the immune system to attack the body.

MS has lots of different symptoms and most people won't experience them all — and certainly not at the same time.

National Health Service (NHS) Choices said, "The symptoms are unpredictable. Some people's symptoms develop and worsen steadily over time, while for others they come and go."

Periods when symptoms get worse are known as relapses — these can be triggered by infections. Periods when symptoms improve or disappear are known as remissions.

The most common symptoms of MS include:

Fatigue (or extreme tiredness)

This is one of the most common symptoms of MS. People with the condition often feel an overwhelming sense of exhaustion which means they struggle to carry out simple activities.

Vision problems

Double vision, loss of vision or color blindness can occur in people

with MS. Some people also experience pain in their eye.

Numbness and tingling

The sensations can take place in the arms or legs — or even the main part of the body.

Mobility problems such as difficulty walking

This can also make walking and moving around, clumsiness and dizziness and vertigo.

The condition can also cause muscles to contract painfully and spasm or to become stiff and resistant to movement. It can also cause people to feel weak.

Depression and anxiety

It is not uncommon for people with MS to experience mental health problems such as depression.

This could be caused by MS or could be as a result of having to live with a long term condition.

Bowel and bladder problems — such as incontinence or having to urinate more frequently.

Some people also find they experience more urinary tract infections. Constipation is also one of the most common problems associated with MS. Bowel incontinence is much less common.

Cognitive dysfunction

MS can cause problems with thinking and learning which can include difficulty remembering new things, getting stuck on words and problems understanding and processing information.

Some people also experience difficulty with planning and problem solving.

There is no cure for MS but there are treatments and therapies for the condition.

This comes after it was revealed some MS sufferers experience upsetting problems in public.

Higher income people more physically active

A study by the American Cancer Society found that higher income individuals are more likely to be weekend warriors exercising just a few days a week.



freeshipping.com

The study, published in Preventive Medicine, was a collaboration between the American Cancer Society, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Georgia State University, according to UPI.

Researchers used accelerometer data to analyze physical activity and sedentary behavior in 5,206 US adults of varying income levels enrolled in The National Health and Examination Survey from 2003 to 2006.

The study revealed that individuals making \$75,000 a year or more had 4.6 additional daily minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity compared to those making less than \$20,000 a year.

Individuals with higher incomes engaged in 9.3 fewer minutes of light intensity activity, spent 11.8 more minutes a day sedentary, were 1.6 times more likely to meet guidelines for a weekend warrior and were 1.9 times more likely to meet guidelines for physical activity during a seven-day period.

Dr. Kerem Shuval, of the American Cancer Society, said, "Our findings pertaining to income and the 'weekend warrior' effect underscore the importance of tailoring the physical activity message to reflect the constraints of both low and high income individuals."

"To meet guidelines one can engage in 150 minutes of weekly moderate intensity activity over a two- or three-day period rather than seven days, for example."

"This can be achieved over a long weekend — a message we want to convey to those pressed for time."

"It is important to remember, however, that we should increase the duration and intensity of activity gradually to avoid injury."

"Also, if inactive, consult with a physician before embarking on an exercise program."

Over 600 UK children, teens have type 2 diabetes

The number of children and teenagers with type 2 diabetes has risen 14 percent in a single year amid a 'huge disturbing trend' in youth obesity.

New figures reveal more than 600 young people were suffering from the condition last year, the majority of whom are aged between 15 and 19, telegraph.co.uk wrote.

The data from the Royal College of Pediatrics and

however, that the true number of children and teenagers with type 2 diabetes is likely to be far higher, as the figures only include patients treated in specialist pediatric services.

Black and minority ethnic young people made up a disproportionately large number — nearly half — of the total receiving care for the condition, the data revealed.

Across all ethnic groups, 243 of the diabetes sufferers were aged between 10 and 14,

we are seeing the devastating consequences at an early age.

"It is vital that the measures in the childhood obesity plan improve the health of young people and can help parents make more informed choices about the eating habits and lifestyles of their children."

Unlike type 1 diabetes, type 2 is largely preventable and is closely linked to lifestyle, such as unhealthy eating or lack of exercise.

major public health threat and there needs to be action at all levels to reverse the trend.

"The Soft Drinks Industry Levy — or sugar tax — is a positive step towards reducing the amount of sugar in the nation's diet."

Libby Dowling, senior clinical advisor for Diabetes UK, added, "It is extremely worrying that more young people are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, especially as we know that for nearly 80 percent obesity is the likely cause for developing the condition."

"Type 2 diabetes can lead to devastating complications in adults, like heart disease, kidney failure and blindness and it seems to be even more aggressive in children, who develop high blood pressure and high cholesterol even quicker."

"Not only that, but the diagnosis can have a big impact on a child's psychological health."

A Department of Health spokesperson said, "To halt this trend in future, we are delivering what public health experts call the world's most ambitious plans on childhood obesity and diabetes prevention."

"Our commitment to tackling obesity is clear and comprehensive. We have introduced a soft drinks industry levy as well as an extensive sugar reformulation program — these are already delivering results: In the past year Nestle, Lucozade Ribena Santory, Tesco, Waitrose, Kellogg's and Sainsbury's have all committed to cutting sugar in their products."



telegraph.co.uk

Child Health (RCPCH) also showed that eight in 10 of those with the illness, which was unheard of among children 18 years ago, were clinically obese.

It was published ahead of the first anniversary of the government's childhood obesity plan, which was criticized for being too lenient on the manufacturers of unhealthy food and drink aimed at children.

Experts have warned,

359 aged between 15 and 19, and there were 15 aged between five and nine.

Clr Izzi Seccombe, from the Local Government Association, said, "These figures show a hugely disturbing trend in the increasing number of children and teenagers being treated in Pediatric Diabetes Units for type 2 diabetes, a condition normally only associated with adults."

"Obesity is usually linked with major health conditions later on in life, but already

The first cases of type 2 diabetes in children were diagnosed in overweight girls of Asian ethnic origin in 2000 and first reported in white adolescents in 2002.

Data from the National Child Measurement Program, carried out in schools and funded by councils, shows 9.3 percent of reception children and 19.8 percent of those in year 6 were obese in 2015-16.

Dr Justin Warner, from the RCPCH, said, "Obesity is

Cancer survivors may seek unneeded tests for reassurance

Many people who survive cancer fear recurrence after their treatment ends, according to a study that suggested these concerns may lead to unnecessary tests.

Data from 12 previously published studies involving 849 patients show that after completing treatment, patients want as many follow-up exams and tests as possible to reassure them that tumors have not returned, researchers found, reuters.com wrote.

Senior study author Geertruida de Bock, of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, said, "Patients want intensive follow-up which comprises a lot of testing. "Though this is understandable, it is not desirable since care for cancer is already under pressure due to rising numbers of survivors."

Worldwide, an estimated 33 million people are cancer survivors.

Their ranks are expected to grow due to rising cancer rates in an aging population as well as improved survival odds with advances in diagnosis and treatment.

As cancer increasingly becomes a chronic disease instead of a death sentence, doctors and patients are struggling to strike the right balance between doing enough follow-up tests to catch any new tumors quickly and avoiding too many needless tests that can lead to unnecessary interventions that don't help people live longer.

Cancer survivors typically get care focused on monitoring for the return of tumors or the development of malignancies in other parts of the body.

This can include invasive tests like biopsies as well as expensive imaging like positron emission tomographic (PET) scanning.



money.usnews.com

Guidelines for follow-up tests depend on many factors including the type of cancer, how advanced it was when it was first detected and treated, and individual patient characteristics like age and other health problems.

While the current analysis didn't examine the outcomes of giving cancer survivors too many or too few tests, it offers fresh evidence that patients may often want more testing than doctors should do based on current treatment guidelines.

For example, some patients said the process of getting more tests and waiting for the results made them anxious, but some patients also said they wanted to continue with a lifetime of extensive follow-up testing.

Patients often said they had lost confidence in their body and feared recurrence so much that they requested screenings that they understood might not be needed.

They also expressed a desire for mental health care and psychological support.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to test how or if patients' preferences about follow-up care influence treatment

for cancer survivors.

Even so, the findings suggested that doctors and patients may need to have more frank conversations about how follow-up tests can help and when extensive testing may do more harm than good.

De Bock said, "Patients should understand how many recurrent cancers are typically detected with a specific test and how often they might get what's known as a false-positive result, when the test result suggested that tumors have returned even though that's not the case."

False negatives, when people with new tumors think they're cancer-free, are also possible.

Dr. Carlos Barcenas, of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, said, "Intensive surveillance can lead to false-positive results and to unnecessary tests and potentially harmful biopsies of suspicious lesions seen on body imaging."

"In addition, a false-negative result of a test may also give a false reassurance to a patient."

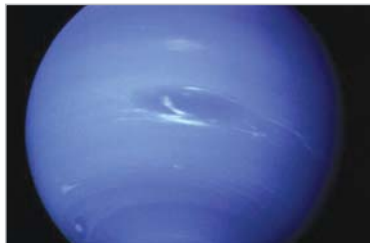
"Patients and doctors should clearly discuss the surveillance plan after active treatments have finished and clarify expectations."

Polish astronomers are trying to account for a mysterious new class of rapidly pulsating blue stars. Researchers first discovered the unusual pulsating stars during a 2013 survey.

Scientists predict chemicals hiding beneath Neptune's icy surface

Thanks to a new computer model, planetary scientists now have a better idea of the types of chemicals hiding beneath Neptune's icy surface.

Often, scientists attempt to replicate planetary conditions in the lab, but Neptune is home to extreme pressures and temperatures, making such a method difficult, UPI reported.



An image of Neptune captured in 1989.

UPI

Instead, scientists at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland developed a model to simulate Neptune's high pressure and extreme cold.

The simulations allowed researchers to study how different chemicals might behave in a frozen state inside Neptune's mantle.

Specifically, scientists were able to simulate interactions between water, ammonia and methane under the ice giant's extreme internal conditions.

Andreas Herrmann, researcher at Edinburgh's Center for Science at Extreme Conditions, said, "Computer models are a great tool to study these extreme places and we are now building on this study to get an even more complete picture of what goes on there."

The simulations suggest Neptune and other ice giants yield a rare and little-understood compound called ammonia hemihydrate.

The findings could help planetary scientists at NASA prepare for future missions to icy giants.

Herrmann added, "This study helps us better predict what is inside icy planets like Neptune."

"Our findings suggest that ammonia hemihydrate could be an important component of the mantle in ice giants, and will help improve our understanding of these frozen worlds."

Researchers shared the details of their chemical simulations in new paper published in the journal PNAS.

A smoother ride over troubled waters

Boating through choppy waters can be an exciting but physically exhausting experience.

Now researchers at Utah State University (USU)'s Splash Lab are taking steps toward the design of an inflatable speedboat that absorbs wave energy and provides a smoother ride for passengers, according to phys.org.

Their findings were recently published in the Journal of Fluid Mechanics and for the first time demonstrate the unique differences in water impact behavior of rigid and elastic bodies.

Randy Hurd, a PhD candidate at USU and lead author on the study, said, "Rigid and elastic materials interact with the water surface quite differently."



phys.org

Researchers at USU's Splash Lab are developing the science that will improve soft-hull watercraft design.

"When an elastic body impacts the surface, the material deforms and oscillates significantly which changes the water-impact physics compared to a rigid body."

Hurd's team used high-speed cameras to record elastomeric spheres dropping into a tank of water.

At 2,000 frames per second, the footage revealed the unique splash curtains and air-filled cavities that form after impact.

The group used the images to track the position and deformation of the elastic spheres to understand how energy transfers from the water to the material.

By analyzing the results, Hurd said his team can accurately predict the water interaction behavior based on the type of soft material and its speed.

Hurd said, "Being able to predict water interaction from a materials perspective is an important first step in understanding which material types would be best for developing an inflatable watercraft capable of providing a smoother ride over a choppy surface."

The findings are particularly useful to the US Navy and other agencies that deploy watercraft in rough seas.

The Splash Lab team worked alongside the US Office of Naval Research in Newport, Rhode Island, and with noted materials scientist Dr. Allan Bower at Brown University.



Paleontologists unearth largest dinosaur species in Patagonia

A model of the newly named titanosaur, 'Patagotitan mayorum' which was found in Patagonia, Argentina.

UPI

Paleontologists have unearthed a new species of titanosaur in Argentina's Patagonia. Researchers believe it is the largest dinosaur species ever discovered.

Titanosaurs are a diverse group of plant-eating sauropods. The group's newest member is Patagotitan mayorum. Its name is an homage to the dino's origins and size — 'mayorum' is the Greek word for titan, UPI wrote.

Scientists first discovered

the dinosaur remains in 2012. Since then, the excavation team has recovered dozens of fossilized bones representing six distinct specimens.

The newly discovered species lived roughly 100 million years ago and grew to be six meters tall at the shoulder.

Patagotitan mayorum stretched a whopping 37 meters in length. A full-grown adult likely weighed between 70 and 77 tons.

Diego Pol, a scientist at the

Egidio Feruglio Paleontology Museum in Argentina, said, "Estimating the body weight of an extinct animal is a challenging task."

"We only have left the bones and from these remains we have to infer the body weight through the use of indirect methods."

Titanosaurs feature a wide spectrum of body sizes, but the largest species have all been found in Patagonia, which suggests the region featured a

unique combination of vegetation and climate conducive to the evolution of large bodies.

Researchers said the new species would have dwarfed more fearsome predators, like Tyrannosaurus rex. But the herbivore was likely slow and docile.

Scientists found the new species' bones among three different layers of sediment, suggesting the dinosaurs frequented the floodplain where they became buried and

preserved.

Researcher Jose Luis said, "In one of the levels there is a femur that, clearly, had been stepped on by another animal."

"At present, this is something common in places where elephants come back frequently, for example: it is very normal that they step on another elephant that was dead before."

Researchers described their latest discovery in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

For the first time, researchers have observed that birds that fly actively and flap their wings save energy.

Biologists at Lund University in Sweden have now shown that jackdaws minimize their energy consumption when they lift off and fly, because the feathers on their wing tips create several small vortices instead of a single large one, sciencedaily.com reported.

The discovery could potentially be applied within the aeronautical industry.

Previously, multiple wingtip vortices have only been associated with large gliders such as eagles, vultures and storks.

Now biologists Anders Hedenström, Christoffer Johansson and Marco Klein Heerenbrink of the Faculty of Science at Lund University in Sweden have discovered the same phenomenon in jackdaws, which flap their wings when they lift off and fly.

The experiments were conducted in a wind tunnel at the Department of Biology in Lund.

The jackdaw lifted off and flew through a thin mist that reflects laser



Jackdaws flap their wings to save energy

sciencedaily.com

The air vortices behind the wings has been processed. Work is done Marco Klein Heerenbrink.

light, which is captured by advanced cameras.

By using multiple images from several cameras, the researchers were able to build up three-dimensional images of the air flow around the jackdaw's wing tips.

Hedenström, professor of theoretical ecology, said, "The feathers on the wing

tips can be compared to the spread fingers of a hand."

"The wing tip generates several small air vortices instead of one large vortex, as on an aeroplane with rectangular or elliptical wing tips."

"It requires more energy and costs more to lift off when only one large wing

tip vortex is generated."

According to the researchers, their success in proving that not only large gliders generate several small vortices around each wing tip could mean that wing tips with slotted feathers originally evolved to make flapping active flight more efficient.

The aeronautical industry has realized that there is money to be made in reducing the strength of the wing tip vortex.

Some planes are already constructed with wing tips that are bent upwards. This reduces the strength of the vortex and thereby fuel consumption.

Hedenström believed that his and his colleagues' discovery could also be significant for the design of future drones.

He said, "We could potentially build more efficient drones to fly with active wingbeats. Within a ten-year period, we could see drones which have the morphology of a jackdaw."

The research findings were published in an article in the Journal of The Royal Society Interface.

Perseid meteor shower set to peak at weekend

The Perseid meteor shower will peak over the weekend, giving stargazers the opportunity to spot scores of shooting stars in the sky.

Astronomers say hundreds of meteors will streak across the sky in a display that may be visible around the world, according to bbc.com.

The Perseid meteor shower occurs every July and August as the Earth passes debris from the Swift-Tuttle comet.

The BBC Weather center said it would peak from 23:00 BST

on Saturday and could be seen in most parts of the UK.

However, experts say the Perseids could be harder to see this year as the Moon will be three-quarters full.

Robin Scagell, vice president of the Society for Popular Astronomy, said he was still hopeful of a good display.

"We can look forward to a decent display, even though they aren't going to be raining down from the sky."

"The Perseids can be very bright and often quite

spectacular. Some meteor showers are slow, but we are moving into the Perseid stream so they are coming at us quite swiftly."

"I think under good conditions you might see one or two a minute, probably more towards Sunday morning rather than Saturday."

But he said stargazers might need some luck, adding, "You could see none at all for a few minutes and then two or three."

"You might be lucky or unlucky; that's the way with meteor showers."



latimes.com

Anti-poverty program takes a whole community approach

The old adage that people who work harder are people who get ahead does not always apply to those living in poverty.

Treasure McKenzie, director of the Muskogee Bridges Out of Poverty program, addressed a group of about 16 community members in the US interested in finding out more about the program. She said Bridges fits into poverty-level residents' lives when they realize they need to make changes, but they are not sure of what or how to change, according to muskogeephoenix.com.

The program offers a path to self-sufficiency. Bridges takes a community overview of addressing poverty issues, McKenzie said.

McKenzie leads a class of community members interested in learning more about the program.

"As a society we tend to think that if you work harder, budget better, make better choices that you'll eventually dig your way out of poverty," McKenzie said.

"We tend to judge people who ask for help and consider they're needy, weak, lazy and not to be trusted — but that's not always the case."

People living in poverty are some of the best problem solvers around, McKenzie said.

"They will figure out how to get what they need," she said. "It may not be the way you would have done it, or the way you think they should have done it, but they will solve their problems."

And, she said, money is not the only issue contributing to poverty.

"Poverty is not just a money problem, it's a mindset," McKenzie said.

About 43.6 million Americans spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing with another 35 percent of their after tax income being spent on food.

McKenzie conducted an informational session at the Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce highlighting the philosophy of the program and how it strives to help residents in living in poverty change their mindset to help remove barriers that keep them from getting ahead.

"That doesn't leave a lot left, does it?" McKenzie said. "We consider success going from an unstable



usdailyreview.com

environment to a stable environment."

It is easier to make positive life changes for people who are in a stable situation, she said.

Contributing factors to Muskogee's cycle of poverty are approximately 77 percent of families living in poverty are comprised of single-parent households, she said.

Statistics indicate that about 86 percent of students attending Muskogee area schools are on free or reduced meal program because of the high level of poverty, she said.

"The middle class is shrinking, and the working poor class is growing and we have to decide 'is that a sustainable model for Muskogee?'" McKenzie said.

"Helping one family at a time is the only thing that seems to work and that's what we're doing with Bridges."

She said a driving force in poverty is relationships and building trust.

"Our definition of poverty is the extent to which an individual, an organization or whole community does without or doesn't have equal access to resources," McKenzie said.

"But, if you ask a person in poverty, that's not what they're going to say. They say it's a sense of shame, a sense of feeling trapped and a sense of hopelessness."

Money is not the only issue that contributes to generational cycle of poverty, said McKenzie.

The program recently kicked off its fall 20-week 'Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World' with enough interest to add an extra session, she said.

Midwives to end campaign to promote 'normal births'

Midwives in the UK are to end their campaign for 'normal births' and change the way they talk about childbirth in a move intended to avoid making mothers who opt for medical interventions feel like failures.

The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) has run an initiative since 2005 encouraging expectant mothers to give birth without medical interventions including epidurals, inductions and caesareans. The Guardian wrote.

Approximately 40 percent of mothers give birth without medical interventions, compared to three decades ago when 60 percent did so.

The midwifery trade union will instead start to use the term 'physiological births' to describe those without interventions as part of an overhaul of professional guidelines but will not change its view that childbirth without medical intervention is best for many women.

Professor Cathy Warwick, the chief executive of the RCM, denied that the decade-long campaign had compromised the safety of new mothers but admitted it had created the wrong impression.

"There was a danger that if you just



theatlantic.com

talk about normal births — and particularly if you call it a campaign — it kind of sounds as if you're only interested in women who have a birth without intervention," she told the Times.

"What we don't want to do is in any way contribute to any sense that a woman has failed because she hasn't had a normal birth. Unfortunately that seems

to be how some women feel."

The campaign was criticized in an inquiry into the deaths of 16 babies and three mothers at Furness general hospital in Cumbria between 2004 and 2013.

The investigation found that a 'lethal mix' of failings led to the unnecessary deaths of 11 babies and one mother treated at the hospital's maternity unit,

part of the Morecambe Bay NHS foundation trust.

It found that midwives, calling themselves 'the musketeers', contributed to unsafe deliveries due to their desire to see the women give birth without medical interventions 'at any cost'.

Their relationship with doctors at the trust was described as 'seriously dysfunctional' with reports of midwives neglecting to alert doctors in time about patient complications.

The inquiry, chaired by Dr. Bill Kirkup, said the hospital's maternity services were beset by a culture of denial, collusion and incompetence.

Kirkup, speaking after the publication of the report in March 2015, said: "Our findings are stark and catalogue a series of failures at almost every level — from the maternity unit to those responsible for regulating and monitoring the trust. The nature of these problems is serious and shocking."

Warwick said she did not believe midwives would have looked at the 'normal births' campaign and thought it meant pushing normal birth "beyond the point of safety."

Promise or peril? Africa's 830m young people by 2050

Last month, Spanish charity workers rescued 167 migrants arriving from Africa aboard a small boat.

2016 was the deadliest for migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean, with at least 3,800 deaths recorded. Most know the dangers they face on the route, yet still choose the possibility of death in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels over the hopelessness of life in areas they reside, ipsnews.net wrote.

Consider this: Every 24 hours, nearly 33,000 youth across Africa join the search for employment. About 60 percent will be joining the army of the unemployed.

A report from United Nations High Commission for Refugees released this month claimed that seven in ten of those heading for Europe are not refugees fleeing war or persecution, but economic migrants in search of better lives.

August 12, 2017, is International Youth Day.

Africa's youth population is growing rapidly and is expected to reach over 830 million by 2050. Whether this spells promise or peril depends on how the continent manages its 'youth bulge'.

According to World Bank, 40 percent of people who join rebel movements are motivated by lack of economic opportunity. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres noted, "The frustration generated in young people that have no hope in the future is a major source of insecurity in today's world. And it is essential that when governments plan their economic activities, when the international community develops forms of cooperation, they put youth employment, youth skills at the center of all priorities."

Some estimates indicated that more than half a million Africans migrated to European Union countries between 2013 and 2016, adding to the millions fleeing in from Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and parts of Asia.



ipsnews.net

Many of Africa's young people remain trapped in poverty that is reflected in multiple dimensions, blighted by poor education, access to quality healthcare, malnutrition and lack of job opportunities.

For many young people the lack of access to reproductive health services is depriving them of their rights and the ability to make decisions about their bodies and plan their families. This is adversely affecting their education and employment opportunities.

According to UNDP's Africa Human Development Report for 2016, gender inequalities cost sub-Saharan Africa US\$95 billion annually in lost revenue. Women's empowerment and gender equality needs to be at the top of national development plans.

Between 10 and 12 million people join the African labor force each year, yet the continent creates only 3.7 million jobs annually. Without urgent and sustained, the specter of a migration crisis looms that no wall, navy or coastguard can hope to stop.

President of African Development Bank (AfDB) Akinwumi Adesina said, "The future of Africa's youth does not lie in migration to Europe, but in a prosperous Africa."

Africa's population is expected to reach around 2.3 billion by 2050. The accompanying increase in its working age population creates a window of opportunity, which if properly harnessed, can translate into higher growth and yield a demographic dividend.

In the wake of the Second World War, the Marshall Plan helped to rebuild shattered European economies in the interests of growth and stability. We need a plan of similar ambition that places youth employment in Africa at the center of development.

World Bank said African agriculture and agribusiness could be worth US \$1 trillion by 2030.

Agriculture can help people overcome poor health and malnutrition. Given the importance of agriculture for the livelihoods of the rural poor, agricultural growth has the potential to greatly reduce poverty — a key contributor to poor health and undernutrition.

In the meantime, the aging demographic in many Western and Asian Tiger economies means increasing demand for skilled labor from regions with younger populations. It also means larger markets for economies seeking to benefit from the growth of a rapidly expanding African middle class. Consumer spending in Africa is projected to reach \$1.4 trillion in the next three years and business-to-business spending to reach \$3.5 trillion in the next eight years.

Whether the future of Africa is promising or perilous will depend on how the continent and the international community moves from stated intent to urgent action and must give special priority to those SDGs that will give the continent a competitive edge through its youth.

The core SDGs of ending poverty, ensuring healthy lives and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education all have particular resonance with the challenge of empowering youth and making them effective economic citizens.

As we mark International Youth Day, there is hope. Many young people in Africa are taking charge of their futures. There is a rising tide of entrepreneurship sweeping across Africa spanning technology, IT, innovation, small and medium enterprises. They are creating jobs for themselves and their communities.

There's another reason why working moms feel so guilty

If you're a working mom who feels guilty about the amount of time you spend away from your kids, there might be something more than just a busy workload at play.

According to a new study, working moms' guilt can often come from their childhood experiences and the way their own parents operated. Apparently, moms who grew up with breadwinning fathers and stay-at-home mothers tend to "work like their fathers but want to parent like their mothers", according to Dr. Ioana Lupu, one of the study's coauthors — and that's a discrepancy that can breed some conflicting feelings, romper.com wrote.

The study, which was published in Human Relations earlier this week, was based on nearly 150 interviews conducted with 78 employees at several firms.

Researchers compared the employees' family dynamics while growing up with the roles they now held in their own families.

And, not entirely shockingly, the researchers found that moms who grew up with stay-at-home mothers tended to



colourtribright.com

feel guilty about their time at work.

What's a little more surprising, however, is that even moms who grew up with working mothers don't always get to escape working mom guilt.

One participant told the researchers, "I remember being picked up by a child-minder, and if I was ill, I'd be out-sourced to whoever happened to be available at the time."

"It's only now that I've started re-thinking about that and

thinking, well isn't that going to be the same for [my son] if I'm working the way I am?"

According to the US Department of Labor, though, most mothers' lives these days no longer fit the "traditional" view society holds of a family (with a breadwinning dad and a stay-at-home mom).

In fact, moms are the breadwinners in 40 percent of American homes, and 70 percent of mothers with kids under 18 participate in the labor force.

We may have grown up with more "traditional" views of parents' roles, but those views no longer match most women's reality — and that should be reassuring for working moms who feel guilty about juggling family and work.

Slowly but surely, workspaces are starting to change to adapt to that new reality, with more family-friendly policies taking over companies around the country.

It's taken some time, but corporations are starting to get on board with the idea of longer, paid parental leave for both moms and dads, the introduction of nursing rooms in offices, and the ability to use flex time or work remotely.

'Satanic' heatwave scorching Europe causes rainstorms

The heatwave christened "Lucifer" that ravaged much of southern Europe last week has now had a response from the heavens in the form of heavy rains and thunderstorms.

Spain, Germany and Poland have all suffered thunderstorms on Thursday, another extreme following temperatures of around 40 degrees at the weekend, dailyemail.co.uk wrote.

The Spanish island of Ibiza recorded an estimated 3,000 lightning bolts in just three hours late yesterday afternoon, with 20mm of rain within an hour.

The Lucifer heatwave has caused the widespread downpours because it has been superheating air around the Mediterranean for the last few weeks.

The hot air has risen and is now interacting with cold air at the top of a high-pressure air system and water vapor then condenses forming huge cumulonimbus storm clouds.

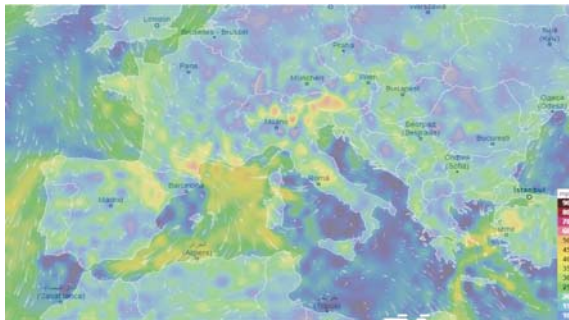
High pressure systems lead to settled weather, meaning the same weather several days in a row.

In addition, the North Atlantic Jet Stream — the air currents several thousand feet above ground which controls the hot and cold air over Europe — is currently positioned more south than normal, which is what has caused the high pressure to remain over southern Europe, explains Emma Sharples, Met Office meteorologist.

In Ibiza, this saw heavy rain and wind overnight, with tourists hitting the streets of San Antonio to party, instead fleeing to shelter in the downpour.

The airport on the Spanish island saw parts of the ceiling caving in around travelers waiting for delayed flights amid the storm late Wednesday night.

The Spanish eastern coast and the Balearic Islands are on yellow alert for heavy rains and



The Lucifer heatwave has caused the widespread downpours because it has been superheating air around the Mediterranean for the last few weeks.



Two young women maneuver themselves down a flooded street, central Poland.



Lightning illuminates the sky over Annaberg-Buchholz, southeastern Germany.



Severe storms passed over Poland.



A fallen tree sits on a damaged car after a heavy storm hit Lodz.



This is what remains in the aftermath of a wildfire in Saint-Pons-de-Mauchamps.



More than 553 firemen and 172 land vehicles are battling the fire in Abrantes.



A local resident looks on as a forest fire at Carreira do Mato, Portugal.



The wildfires in Portugal have been stoked.

strong winds today.

Severe storms passed over Poland causing damage to buildings, trees and electricity and railway infrastructure.

Emergency services in Łódź, Poland, had to be called to help clear up fallen trees as streets in residential areas were flooded on Thursday.

Elsewhere in Europe, emergency services are still struggling with widespread forest fires.

In southern France, a fire ravaged 1,250 acres of pine forest, 25 miles southwest of Montpellier, the fire service said.

Some 200 firefighters were still battling the blaze on Thursday afternoon, with strong winds expected during the day.

The fire service said, "Today's weather conditions call for the greatest prudence."

At the height of the blaze 800 firefighters were involved.

In Portugal, strong winds and rising temperatures are stoking wildfires in Portugal after cooler weather brought a brief respite from a spate of blazes, including one that killed 64 people in June.

The Civil Protection Agency says it is tackling seven forest fires Thursday, deploying more than 1,300 firefighters and 25 water-dropping aircraft.

Formerly abused dog helps abused children

Mistreated and scarred as a puppy, Patriot the Husky now helps children who have been victims of abuse.

Kids who have suffered physical or sexual abuse in Orange County, California, find strength to testify in court through the help of Patriot, who also knows the pain of abuse and neglect, according to sunnyskyz.com.

When they see the scars on Patriot's muzzle, "they know that he's been through a lot, just like they have," said Kevin Marlin, 47, who adopted Patriot, who also knows the pain of abuse and neglect, according to sunnyskyz.com.

"They'll look at me and say, 'Somebody hurt him,'" Marlin told People, "and I'll tell them, 'Yes. Somebody wasn't very nice to him, but he's doing well now'."

"Kids sit and pet him while they talk to attorneys and investigators and they immediately feel more comfortable."

Marlin, who's been involved with pet therapy for the past 10 years, adopted Patriot in 2012. He was four months old at

the time and had severe injuries to his mouth caused by metal wire wrapped tightly around his snout. Patriot needed several surgeries to help repair the damage.

Marlin gradually taught Patriot to trust again by coating his fingers with peanut butter and letting the dog lick it from his hands.

Over time, Patriot allowed himself to be petted on the muzzle, and within a year, he didn't mind wearing a collar again.

Marlin and Patriot currently work with Orange County's PANDA Program — PAWS Assist the Needs of the District Attorney. Patriot is one of 13

therapy dogs that help young victims feel more secure when telling their stories.

"I remember one young girl who was just beginning the process of a trial, and she was visibly uncomfortable until Patriot came over and nudged her with his nose," Marlin told People.

"The girl grabbed hold of him and cried. They made a strong connection, and the girl was able to move on with her story. She didn't want to leave Patriot that day when she was finished."

Volunteers and their therapy dogs have provided child abuse victims with the support of gentle and loving dogs at 65 meetings in Orange County.

"Patriot wears his scars to remind us all about his story of survival and forgiveness," Marlin added.

"He's an incredible dog. It's an honor to have him in my life and spend my days working with him."



KEVIN MARLIN

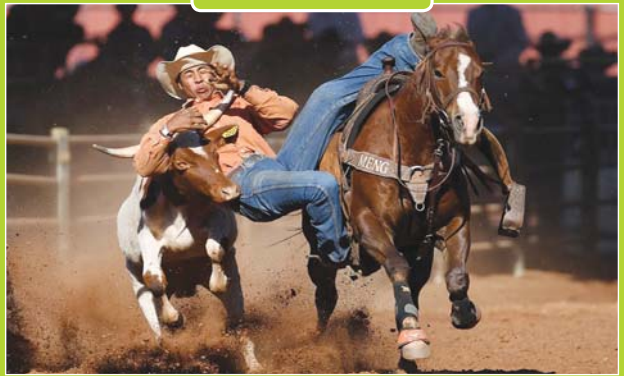


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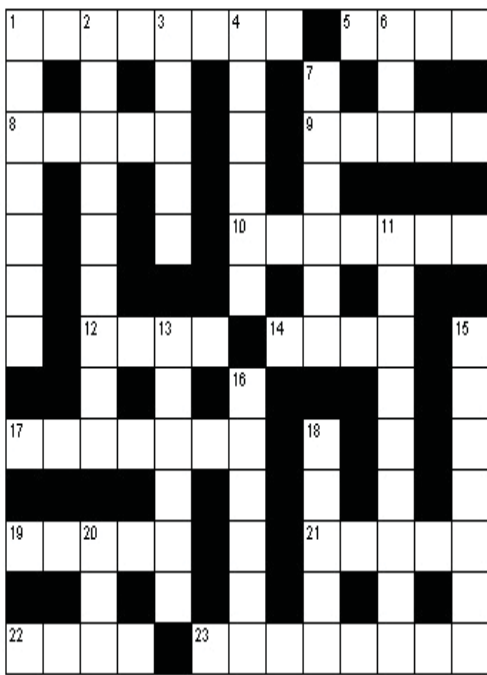
Marlin and Patriot currently work with Orange County's PANDA Program — PAWS Assist the Needs of the District Attorney. Patriot is one of 13

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A cowboy wrestles his steer at the biggest rodeo in the southern hemisphere, Mount Isa, Australia. DAN PELEDEPA

Themed Crossword



DOWN

- Spiny anteater (7)
- Terrestrial burrower that helps aerate soil (9)
- Dog-like nocturnal mammal of Africa (5)
- Arctic mammal with long spiral tusk (6)
- Hog (3) Small Chinese dog
- Small white whale (6)
- Large hairy arachnid (9)
- Cattle pen (6)
- Young male bovine (7)
- Domesticated llama (6)
- An animal with two feet (5)
- Nocturnal flying mammal (3)

ACROSS

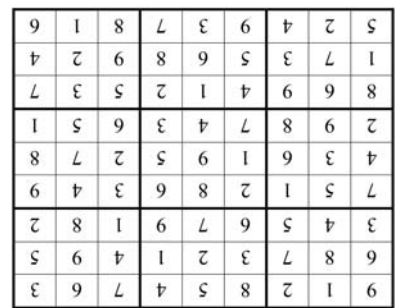
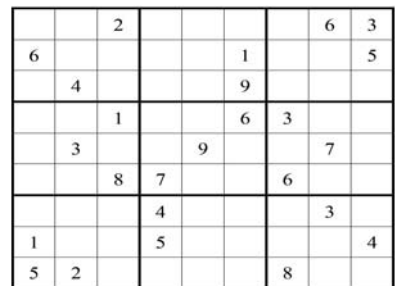
- Five-toed pachyderm (8)
- Simians (4)
- Equine mammal (5)
- Bird of prey (5)
- Living in water (7)
- Killer whale (4)
- Animal den (4)
- Butterfly, Red ___ (7)
- Venomous snake (5)
- Disney cartoon dog (5)
- Small colony insects (4)
- Nocturnal burrowing creature, feeds on termites (8)

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.



Barcelona is turning its attention to Tottenham Hotspur's Danish playmaker, Christian Eriksen, as Liverpool is adamant that Philippe Coutinho will not leave the Reds this summer, The Sun reported.

Iran outpowers Syria in FIBA Asia Cup



Salan Kazemi (L) scores for Iran in a 87-63 victory over Syria in the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 11, 2017.

Iran continued the perfect start to its 2017 FIBA Asia Cup campaign as the Asian powerhouse clinched its second victory over Syria.

On Friday, Iran registered 29 assists on the way to a 87-63 triumph over the western-Asian side to stay undefeated in Group A of the competition in Lebanon, fiba.com reported.

Hamed Haddadi continued to make his case for one of the best passing big men in the game, finishing one assist shy of a triple double with 12 points, 13 rebounds and 9 assists.

Syria struck first just 15 seconds into the game, but Mohammad Jamshidi responded immediately with a three to give Iran a lead it would not relinquish the rest of the way, pulling away in the second period to extend its lead to 20 by halftime.

Jamshidi provided additional support on the ball sharing front, adding 9 assists of his own to go with 16 points, whilst Behnam Yakhchali led the scoring with 25 points on 9 of 13 shooting.

Also on the Gameday 2 of the Group A, Jordan overcame India 61-54 to make it two out of two in the group phase.

Iran had outclassed India in its competition opener by a 101-54 score line on Wednesday. Next for Iran is a fixture against Jordan on the final day of the group games later tonight.

The 2017 FIBA Asia Cup started on August 8 in Nohud Nawfal Sports Complex in the Lebanese capital of Beirut with the final fixture set to be played on August 20.

Esteghlal edges Tractor Sazi, Persepolis seals three in a row

Sports Desk

The third Matchday of Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League saw Esteghlal secure its first victory of the campaign as the holder, Persepolis, eased past Naft Tehran by three goals.

On Friday night, Esteghlal and Tractor Sazi squared off in the capital's Azadi Stadium hoping to end their win drought in the new season.

A sole goal through a long range effort by Tehran's Blues' new signing, Server Djeparov, in the closing minutes of the first half proved to be the match decider as Esteghlal eventually won by a 1-0 score line.

On Thursday, three second-half goals gave Persepolis an easy victory over Naft as the champion continues its perfect start of the season.

Mehdi Taremi opened his account in the new campaign shortly after the interval after Persepolis's playmaker, Molsen Mosalman, put him in a one-on-one situation with the Naft's goalkeeper. Taremi then put things to bed with his second of the game with two minutes left on the clock after Farshad Ahmadvadeh had doubled the champion's lead midway through the second half.

Elsewhere, the surprise package of the competition, Pars Jonoubi Jam, sealed a crucial away point against a ten-man Sepahan as an injury time goal by Ehsan Ta'idi made the final result 1-1 after Shahin Saghebi had put Sepahan in front. Saipa won away at Esteghlal Khuzestan 2-1 to remain undefeated alongside Persepolis and Pars Jam. Mohammad Abbaszadeh and Ali Oolizadeh scored in the space of four minutes of the second half to put Ali Daei's side in the driving seat before Reza Karamolachaab pulled one back for the host to make it a nervy ending to the game.

Persepolis led the table with three consecutive victories. Pars Jonoubi Jam and Saipa sat on the second and third positions respectively, having clinched seven points.



Esteghlal's Server Djeparov (C) celebrates after he scores against Tractor Sazi in Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Iran, on August 11, 2017.

Watford earns dramatic draw in six-goal thriller against Liverpool



Miguel Britos (L) celebrates scoring Watford's third with Tom Cleverley against Liverpool in Vicarage Road in Watford on August 12, 2017.

Miguel Britos scored a dramatic 93rd-minute equalizer for Watford as Liverpool was held in a thrilling game at Vicarage Road.

The Reds, without Barcelona target Philippe Coutinho due to a back injury, fell behind to Stefano Okaka's header, BBC reported.

Sadio Mane equalized with a clinical finish only for Abdoulaye Doucoure to restore the lead from close range.

Roberto Firmino's penalty made it 2-2 before Mohamed Salah thought he had won it only for Britos to equalize.

In Jurgen Klopp's 100th competitive game as Reds boss, Liverpool wasted a string of chances before Uruguay defender Britos headed over the line from close range.

Watford keeper Heurelho Gomes, who conceded the penalty after hauling down Salah, denied Alberto Moreno with a fingertip save.

Joel Matip also hit the bar and Dejan Lovren forced another good save from

Gomes as the Reds dominated the closing stages until Watford's late leveller.

'He's fantastic'

On Friday night, Substitute Olivier Giroud headed in a dramatic late winner as Arsenal fought back to beat Leicester City 4-3 in a thrilling start to the 2017-18 Premier League season.

Arsène Wenger expressed his relief that Giroud, widely considered this summer to be either on the move or a player destined to be very much more than a super sub, remains very much at the heart of life at Arsenal, the Guardian reported.

The Frenchman's thunderous header completed a thrilling comeback for Arsenal, and the idea that any suitors might lure Giroud away was met by "a determined no" from Wenger.

"He's fantastic," the manager added. Giroud had been linked with an exit during the summer, and Wenger admitted he con-

sidered allowing his most authentic target man to leave but the 30-year-old resisted the idea.

"I opened the door for him at some stage as I had many strikers and it's important for him to play but I don't want him to go. In the end he decided to stay and it was one of the great days of the recent weeks for me. I know how important he is not only as a player - he's a fantastic player - but also in the group he has a big weight. It was a relief for me he decided to stay. Giroud in his prime is at the top of his game."

The arrival of Alexandre Lacazette for a club record fee was supposed to spell the endgame in north London for a player who has divided opinion, but Wenger was pleased to imagine room for both - plus a handful more - in his attacking crew.

Lacazette scored on his debut against Leicester City, but Arsenal needed four goals in total to win a wild game shaped as much by loose defending as attacking

Mourinho confident of United's title chances

Second season syndrome has more regularly been an affliction that sees teams found out after a year of success, sent off into a tailspin as results founder.

But during Jose Mourinho's coaching career it has been a cast-iron recipe for success, having won a league title during his sophomore campaign at each club, The Independent reported.

Heading into his second year at Manchester United, though, there is hope, perhaps expectation, of a tilt at the Premier League title. Leaping from sixth place to top may appear ambitious but United is precisely that.

Romelu Lukaku, Nemanja Matic and Victor Lindelof are the only signings so far this summer but they won't be the last; moreover, they are players who will steel this side's core and, after a year of working alongside Mourinho, the existing squad now knows better what is required of them too.

"We have to put ourselves in a position in the Premier League that allows us to fight for the title," said Mourinho, previewing a season where he thinks an improved attack that turns draws into wins will ultimately be the key to United competing at the top again.

"I think the challenge is to win more matches than we did," he said.

"At home, we lost only one match, to Manchester City. In the cups we never lost, and in the Europa League, we never lost, so for the whole season, we lost one match. But there were too many draws.

"It would be better to lose two or three matches but win three or four more matches, and then we would have six to eight more points. With these six to eight more points, our position in the table would be different.

"We had lots of dominance at home, we had lots of chances,

we had lots of matches where the result could or should be 2-0 or 3-0 and in the end was 1-1. I know all of that and I understand your question. But to have a better position in the table we must win more matches than we did last season."

the difference for United.

After a season in which the now-departed (but slated to return) Zlatan Ibrahimovic netted 28 goals, the obvious focus is on Lukaku to step into those boots. But additionally there is an expectation that Lukaku will need his fellow attackers to support him, with only three other players hitting double-figure goals last season.

"At my other clubs, what I



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But what of his remarkable second-season record and what it might mean for the looming campaign?

"I don't think I am going to win it because I always win it in the second season. Not at all. I just think that naturally, a manager in the second season knows the players and knows the club better.

"We are in a position to do quality work better than we did in the first season, so I am convinced - it is not just a hope, I am convinced - that our second season, in terms of the quality of our team, is going to be better. I have conditions to deliver a better team than I did in the first season. If that is going to mean better results and the title, I don't know."

And yet Mourinho hinted at a formula he thinks could make

had was more players scoring goals. I had midfield players scoring goals, wingers scoring goals, central defenders good in the air scoring goals from set-pieces. We always had that.

"In my teams, we always had the goalscorer, we always had the guy who scored more goals, but then we had the winger who scored 15 goals, we had the midfielder who scored 10 goals, we had the central defender who scored goals and last season that didn't happen much.

"We were focused on the goals that our striker was scoring. When he was not scoring, the team were a little bit in trouble to win matches."

Manchester United's Premier League campaign starts today as the Red Devils take on West Ham United at Old Trafford.

Art & Culture

HBO offered \$250,000 to hackers in bid to delay data release

Time Warner Inc.'s (TWX.N) HBO network last month offered \$250,000 to cyber criminals who hacked into its computer system, asking them to extend a deadline for paying a much larger ransom, according to an email reviewed by Reuters.

"You have the advantage of having surprised us," a member of HBO's technology team said in the July 27 email. "In the spirit of professional cooperation, we are asking you to extend your deadline for one week."

The attack came at a sensitive time for HBO: Parent Time Warner is seeking regulatory approval to sell itself to AT&T Inc. (T.N) in an \$85.4 billion deal announced in October.



REUTERS

The note said that HBO was willing to make the payment "as a show of good faith", but needed time to fund an account for sending payments in bitcoin digital currency or obtain account information from the hackers so it could use a conventional bank wire to transmit the funds.

The hackers did not respond to a request for comment through the email address they used to communicate with HBO. The request prompted an automated response that provided a link to an image of the July 27 note from HBO.

A person familiar with HBO's response to the attack told Reuters that the company sent the email "as a stall tactic" and had never intended to make the \$250,000 payment or pay the full \$6 million the hackers had demanded to hold off going public with data stolen from HBO.

Nonetheless, the email failed to achieve that goal. A few days after HBO sent the note, the hackers went to the media with details of the breach.

They released an extortion note and some stolen data, including details about an upcoming episode of the network's popular drama 'Game of Thrones'.

Variety earlier reported details about the \$250,000 offer.

Jemisin wins best novel for second successive year in Hugo awards

A year after N.K. Jemisin became the first black person to win the Hugo award for best novel, the African American author has landed the prestigious science fiction prize for the second year running.

Jemisin was announced as the winner of the best novel Hugo at Worldcon in Helsinki on Friday, The Guardian reported.

She took the prize, which is voted for by fans, for 'The Obelisk Gate', the follow-up to her Hugo award-winning novel 'The Fifth Season'. The series is set in a world that is constantly threatened by seismic activity, and where the mutants who can control the environment are oppressed by humans. The New York Times called Jemisin's writing in the series 'intricate and extraordinary'.



LAURA HANFINTHE GUARDIAN

Hugos administrator Nicholas Whyte said that 3,319 people voted in this year's award — the third-highest vote total ever and the highest participation in the Hugos for a Worldcon outside the US or UK.

"There's been a very high level of genuine engagement and thoughtful participation," said Whyte. "People can read into that what they like."

The Hugos have been running since the 1950s and have been won by authors including Isaac Asimov, Robert A Heinlein and Neil Gaiman.

Some of the other winners of Hugo 2017 were Seanan McGuire (best novella) for the book 'Every Heart a Doorway', Ursula Vernon (best novelette) for the book 'The Tomato Thief', Amal El-Mohtar (best short story) for the book 'Seasons of Glass and Iron' and Ursula K Le Guin (best related work) for 'Words Are My Matter: Writings About Life and Books'.

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 » Managing Director: Sadroddin Moosavi
 » Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji
 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88755761-2
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761869
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Iran to attend BIBF with 80-member team



ISNA

Art & Culture Desk

An 80-member Iranian delegation will take part in the Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF) to be held from August 23-27, 2017.

Speaking at a press conference on the 24th edition of BIBF, Gholamreza Noei, director of Iran Cultural Fairs Institute's international exhibitions section, added that nine well-known Iranian authors will be present in Iran's pavilion during the event to be held at China International Exhibition Center in Beijing, ISNA reported.

Iran's Cultural Attaché in China Mohammad-Rasoul Almasieh as well as one of the directors of the book fair were also present at the press conference which was held in Beijing on August 11.

Noei said three Iranian music ensembles will also put on live performances during the expo.

He listed the other programs of the Iranian pavilion during the exposition as putting more than 950 books in different fields on display, holding Iran's film week at National Museum of China, showcasing 70 illustrations by Iranian artists, introducing a number of contemporary veteran Iranian authors as well as Tehran International Book Fair and presenting the strong points of Iran's publishing industry to the visitors.

Noei said 13 Iranian publishers, three illustrators as well as the representatives of three Iranian literary agencies will be present in Iran's pavilion in this expo.

He said Iran's pavilion will be set up in an area of 500 square meters, adding traditional Iranian architectural features and designs as well as decorative tiles and breaks have been used in designing and decorating the pavilion.

"Some parts of the pavilion have been prepared for holding specialized meetings and roundtables, showcasing the books by partici-

pating publishers, presenting the artworks by Iranian illustrators and introducing the works by authors attending the event."

Noei said as the event's Guest of Honor, Iran's motto in the exhibition will be: 'Iran — the Colorful Dream of Silk Road'.

Speaking at the same conference, Almasieh said Iran and China are proud to be holding Asia's biggest book fairs.

"The two states have longstanding historical backgrounds and boast of ancient civilizations. Iran is located in West Asia and China in the east of the giant continent."

Both countries will do their best to revive the ancient Silk Road and help link other nations in the modern world, he added.

In July, a report in BIBF's website announced that Iran will be the Guest of Honor in this expo.

It added said 'Islamic Republic of Iran', also known as 'Persia' is a country with a long-standing history, splendid culture and ancient civilization. It is located on the Iranian plateau and bound on the north by the Caspian Sea and on the south by the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. The official religion of Iran is Islam (Shia) and its principle ethnic group is the Persian People.

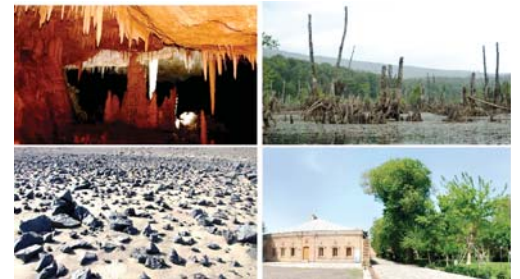
As the Country of Honor of 2017 BIBF, Iran will bring us a cultural feast with the slogan of 'Iran — the Colorful Dream of Silk Road'. The country's pavilion is located at the entrance of West Hall 2, New China International Exhibition Center covering an area of 500 square meters.

Around 100 people including the Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance together with Iranian publishers, writers, illustrators and artists will be present at the book fair. A series of publishing seminars, book promotion events, writers' dialogues, illustrators' shows and art performance will come soon during the book fair.

Iran inscribes 22 natural sites on national heritage list

Art & Culture Desk

Iran registered 22 historical and natural heritage locations on the list of national heritage sites, said an official of Iran's Cultural Heritage Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO).



IRNA

Ali Qomi, the head of the department of the natural heritages of ICHHTO's Office for Inscriptions and Preservation and Revitalization of Intangible Cultural and Natural Heritage, further said that these historical/natural sites and heritages are located in the provinces of South Kho-

rasan (10 sites), Mazandaran (seven sites) and Qazvin (five sites) in the east, north and northwest Iran respectively, IRNA wrote.

He said they include geological phenomena related to Cretaceous and Quaternary periods such as caves,

lakes as well as up to 600-year-old trees.

Qomi added among the most prominent sites are the Lake of Souls and Daniel Cave in Mazandaran Province and the Black Land of Tabaran in South Khorasan Province.



SHAHAB GHAYUOMI/mehrnnews.com

The closing ceremony of the 25th Soureh Theater Festival was held at Andisheh Hall of Art Bureau in Tehran on Friday.



Weather

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